

Scott County Iowa Veteran Affairs
600 West 4th Street, 4th Floor
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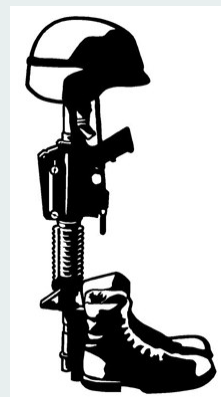


Welcome Home

MORE VETERANS BEING ALLOWED TO USE BASE COMMISSARY, BASE EXCHANGE, AND MWR

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, DOD and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are expanding in-store commissary, Military Service exchange, and MWR retail facility use to Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with service-connected disabilities rated less than 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and caregivers or family caregivers enrolled as the primary caregiver for veterans in the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. This provision also lists Medal of Honor recipients and includes veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities, both of whom are already authorized broader patronage benefits within DOD policy. Implementation of this patronage expansion applies only to the newly specified groups. As provided for in Section 621 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, and codified into law at Section 1065 of Title 10, United States Code, DOD is launching this Jan 1, 2020. The patronage expansion working group comprised of key stakeholders from DOD, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Veterans Affairs has been working out the details of credentialing, access, ops, and IT.

- Are you newly discharged from the military? Were you injured or do you have health issues that may be related to your service? Make an appointment to see if you qualify for disability compensation.
- Are you a service member, veteran, or the surviving spouse of a service member? Make an appointment to see what types of benefits may be available to you.



SCOTT COUNTY VETERAN AFFAIRS

The Veteran Services program provides assistance to all veterans and their dependents in applying for federal and/or state benefits and other related matters. Federal benefits include:

Applying for:

- Compensation (Service connected disability)
- Pension (Non-service connected disability)
- Widow's Benefits
- Survivors Benefits Plan
- Certificates of Eligibility for Home Loans
- Aid and Attendance for Nursing Home and Housebound Veterans
- Iowa's Veteran's Home Admittance
- Apportionments
- Overpayments
- Appeals
- Obtaining military records and medals
- Upgrading discharge
- Distributing grave markers and flag holders

BIG CHANGES COMING TO QUAD CITIES VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER

To eliminate long lines on the Saturday Giveaways, Veterans will now be able to get their grocery basket on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Veterans will still be able to get 1 food basket per month. The basket will be much larger and contain a better selection without having the long wait. Also available will be fresh fruits and vegetables, toiletries, paper goods, and many different food and meat choices. The Center will still be open normal hours with the same services and daily food choices. This does not include Wednesdays which will have longer hours. There will be a Thanksgiving basket given away on November 16th. Any questions, contact The Center at 563-529-4782.



VA REFUNDS \$400 MILLION IN MISTAKEN HOME LOAN FEES

Veterans Affairs officials have paid out more than \$400 million in refunds of home loan funding fees in the wake of an inspector general's report that tens of thousands of veterans were improperly tagged with extra costs when applying for the loans. Department officials said they reviewed 130,000 cases over the summer to look for errors, which mostly involved simple clerical mistakes or disability ratings changes after veterans settled on their loans. Under existing rules, veterans and service members must pay a VA funding fee when they apply for a VA home loan, with costs between 0.5 percent and 3.3 percent of total money lent. The money is designed to defray some administration costs for the department, but disabled veterans are exempt from the fee. However, an inspector general report released earlier this year found that at least 53,000 disabled veterans had been charged the fees in recent years. VA officials announced in May they would review current and past loans, and contact veterans eligible for refunds. In a statement, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the effort stretched back as far as 20 years ago. "Our administration prioritized fixing the problems and paid veterans what they were owed." The payout total was significantly above the nearly \$290 million total investigators estimated earlier this year. Those refunds ranged from a few thousand dollars to more than \$20,000 for some individuals. VA officials also announced a new policy guidance for lenders to ensure they are asking veterans applying for the loans about their disability status, and establishing new internal processes for oversight over future loan applications which may qualify for waived fees. The department has also planned new outreach efforts to help inform veterans of the waivers they are eligible to receive.

Officials said they consider their review of the issue now complete, but veterans who believe they may be entitled to a refund for mistaken fees can contact the department's regional loan center office at (877) 827-3702 or visit [the VA's website](#) for more information.

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