



HOOSIER VETERAN

Newsletter



12TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO VETERANS GOLF OUTING

Friday, May 9, 2025, at Brookshire Golf Club

Limited Spots left, sign up today!

Registration Includes:

- Loaded goodie bag
- Boxed lunch
- Reception Dinner
- Raffles, 50/50, games, and more!

Sign Up



All funds raised for At Ease Orchard

A veteran-led nonprofit dedicated to supporting military veterans and their families through agriculture and beekeeping. At Ease offers hands-on training, farm-based education, and opportunities for career development in agriculture.



317.232.3910



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May 2025

Important dates for the Indiana Military & Veteran Community

May 1

Silver Star
Banner Day

May 8

Victory in
Europe Day

May 9

Military Spouse
Appreciation
Day

May 17

Armed
Forces Day

May 23

The American
Legion 500
Festival
Memorial
Service

Month of the Military
Caregiver

Military Appreciation
Month

May 26
Memorial
Day

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HOOSIER VETERAN

Your Voice, Your Story

We invite you to share your story with IDVA and each other!

Let us know about your experience with our team.

Post your personal stories and experiences that have shaped your lives while in service, as a veteran, or as a family member.

Your narratives can serve as a guiding light, encouraging fellow veterans to open up and share their own meaningful journeys.

Each story has the potential to foster connection and understanding within our community.



Highlights from those who submitted their story

I can't thank Bryan Schmidt enough for helping me, and I imagine there's countless other veterans who would say the same.

-Army Veteran from Boone Co.

"I truly appreciate Bryan's encouragement, as I never expected that outcome! Thank you, Bryan."

-Eric, Army Veteran from Hamilton Co.

"I was directed to "Phil". Great decision. I simply told him I desperately needed help. He listened to my story and directed me to Cambria"

Sibling on behalf of her Army Veteran Brother from Franklin Co..

"I want to compliment Cambria. We all feel much better now having Cambria's help and guidance."

Thank you Bryan Schmidt, Phil Krumm, and Cambria Sparks. Your desire to help our Indiana Veteran Community is outstanding.



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Veteran Community Spotlight

Wayne County Veteran Community Drive-Through Food Pantry

The Wayne County Veterans Drive-Through Food Pantry, a vital resource for local veterans, has reached a significant milestone, celebrating five years of service. Launched during the pandemic, this initiative was spearheaded by Al Bledsoe, a prominent veteran advocate in Richmond. With sponsorship from Cronin Toyota and food supplies from Circle U, the pantry quickly grew beyond its initial capacity. Cronin Toyota provided essential space for storage and staging, while VFW Post 1108 generously offered their parking lot for distribution and contributed funds for meat options in each food box. The pantry operates with a seamless efficiency, thanks to a dedicated team of veterans who manage the logistics with warmth and camaraderie. Originally serving 20-30 vehicles, the pantry's popularity necessitated a move to the Richmond VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic, where it currently serves an average of 120 veterans per session. With its continued success, the pantry will now relocate to a larger, permanent home at Glenn Miller Park in Richmond, ensuring it can meet the growing demand and continue to support the veteran community effectively.



Preparation and teamwork. It takes a village, or as Al Bledsoe call them, "A good bunch of guys" to prep and load 100+ boxes in about an hour!

Front Row:

Joe Wernlig, Barry Bussen, Steve Coates, Al Bledsoe

Back Row:

Robert Benedict, Charley Hapner, Bill Engle, Buddy Struck, Richard Pease, Mark Rowe



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HOOSIER VETERAN

VA News & Notes

Apply to host
VA-recognized
2025 Regional
Veterans Day
Observances

LEARN MORE



**Bring a local connection to
Veterans Day!**

The 2025
National
Veterans Day
Poster Contest
is now open

LEARN MORE



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Your IDVA

[Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#)



[Learn More](#)



[Learn More](#)



[Indiana Veterans Home](#)

[Military Family Relief Fund \(MFRF\)](#)



[Learn More](#)



Indiana Benefits Spotlight:



Serving all Women veterans who are residents of Indiana. Every branch, every era, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard.

WINVets can bridge the gap between challenges and being aware of services, resources, and benefits

- Providing a dedicated space to address your questions
- A safe place to share your stories
- Build a community of strength and support
- Serving by connecting you to federal and state benefits tailored to your needs
- Advocating access to healthcare, education, employment, and opportunities



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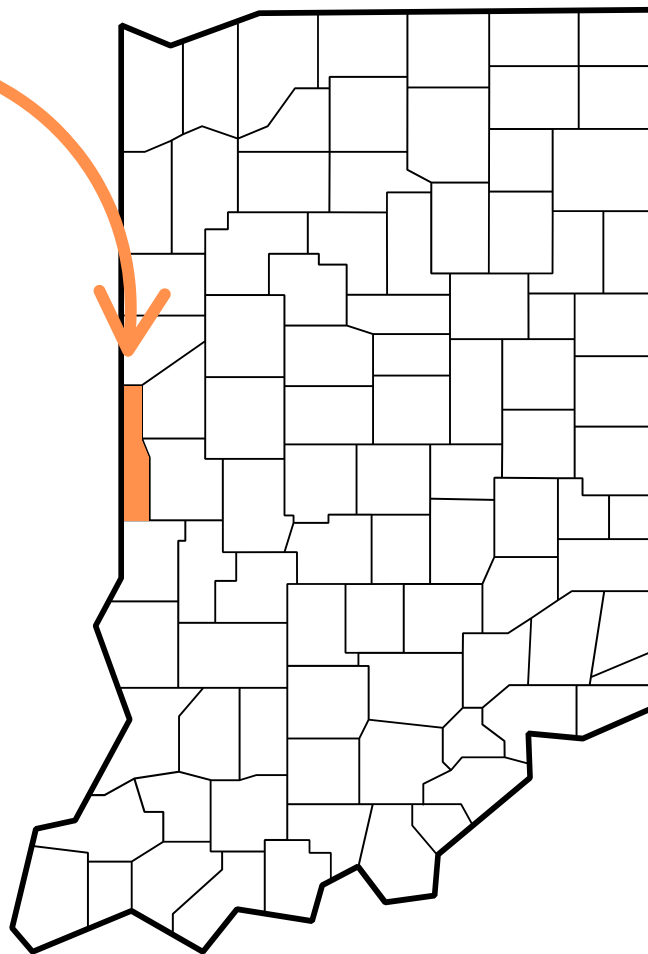


HOOSIER VETERAN CVSO SPOTLIGHT

Vermillion County

Your CVSO offers assistance in the following:

- Obtaining your DD-214
- Discharge Review
- Filing claims for service connected or non-service connected disabilities
- Education benefits
- Low Income Wartime Pension Benefits
- Survivor Benefits
- VA Medical Care
- VA Home Loans
- G.I. Bill Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Burial Benefits
- Property Tax Abatement
- Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans
- Motor Vehicle License Plates
- Resident Veteran Hunting & Fishing License



CONTACT VERMILLION COUNTY

Inee Mahan, CVSO

P.O. Box 503
255 S Main Street
Newport, IN 47966

veterans.affairs@vermillioncounty.in.gov

Monday – Friday: 7 am – 3 pm

Office: 765-492-5346 Ext. 346
Fax: (765) 492-5347



[Read More](#)

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.



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IDVA Partner Spotlight

This Indiana Veteran Community consists of veterans, family members, caregivers, friends, organizations, and providers that touch veteran lives in some way. IDVA salutes the organizations, agencies, and foundations that deliver resources, benefits, and hope. Check out our Partner Feature, follow the links, learn about them and help us support them.



The Military Assistance Project (MAP)

"The Military Assistance Project is a statewide project that provides free civil legal advice and direct representation to eligible low-income Hoosier military members, veterans, and their dependents."

MAP Represents

- Military members, veterans, and their dependents in Indiana
- Out-of-state military members, veterans, and their dependents with legal cases in Indiana

MAP handles a variety of civil cases, including but not limited to:

- Adult Guardianship
- Advance Directive/Simple Wills
- Access/Correct Military Records
- Child Support, Custody, Visitation Modification
- Criminal Record Expungement
- Divorces-Limited Circumstances
- Driver's License Restoration
- Eviction Avoidance
- Eviction Sealing
- Military Discharge Upgrades
- Reentry Veteran Services
- VA Overpayments

Online Intake:
24/7



Phone Intake:

1 (844) 243-8570

Mon-Thur, 10am – 2pm EST.



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LIKE & SHARE

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Join our IDVA text system today!

Text IDVA to 79848

**You will only receive messages
curated just for you!**



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