



**WDVA**

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

*FAST  
FACTS  
2016*

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wisconsin has earned a distinguished reputation nationally for instituting programs and services that meet the needs of its residents who served in the U.S. armed forces and their families.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) excels in providing modern tools to our nation's heroes so that veterans are able to reintegrate into civilian society with housing, education, health care and meaningful jobs.

We are proud to work on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans community — veterans, their families and their survivors — in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.

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## WDVA Locations/Number of Employees

### Wisconsin Veterans Homes /1149

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls

Wisconsin Veterans Home at King

Wisconsin Veterans Home Union Grove

### WDVA Central Office /83

### Veterans Memorial Cemeteries and Military Funeral Honors /28

### Milwaukee Claims Office /14

### Wisconsin Veterans Museum /12

### Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program /8



# WISCONSIN LEADS IN VETERANS BENEFITS

## BEST IN THE MIDWEST FOR VETERANS BENEFITS

### WISCONSIN | 413,723 VETERANS

- ✓ Free Higher Education for Veterans
- ✓ Tuition Assistance for Families
- ✓ 6 Skilled Nursing Facilities
- ✓ 1 Assisted Living Facility
- ✓ Veterans Museum
- ✓ Homeless Veterans Program
- ✓ Personal Financial Grants Assistance
- ✓ Non-profit Grants
- ✓ 3 State Veterans Cemeteries
- ✓ Free or Reduced State Park Passes for Veterans
- ✓ Free or Reduced Recreational Licenses
- ✓ Fee-free Professional Licenses



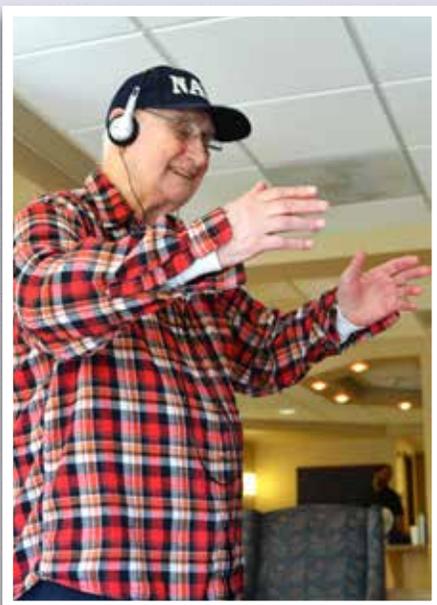
# CARING FOR WISCONSIN'S HEROES

We believe caring for our veterans and their families is an honor. The WDVA provides nearly 1,000 veterans and family members an enjoyable place to live while also receiving the care they deserve at one of the three skilled nursing facilities we operate— **Chippewa Falls, King and Union Grove**. The Wisconsin Veterans Homes are among the best in the country, boasting an excellent safety record and the highest quality of care ratings.

## Music & Memory:

**M**usic and Memory is a program aimed at helping individuals with dementia to reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories.

Members struggling with cognitive issues at our homes may receive iPods loaded with their favorite music. When listening to their personalized playlist, members like veteran “Vinny” Gambuzza (a lover of George Gershwin) have shown a noticeable improvement in mood, mobility and awareness; as well as heightened engagement with the outside world.



**The Wisconsin Veterans Homes provide 5 Star Medical Care to Wisconsin Veterans**, the highest rating possible as determined by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. Nursing homes with 5 star ratings are considered to provide excellent quality care.

## Honoring the Service of Members at Our State Veterans Homes:

Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove  
Union Grove, WI



Wisconsin Veterans Home at King  
Waupaca, WI



Wisconsin Veterans at Chippewa Falls  
Chippewa Falls, WI



- Gulf
- Other
- Peace Time
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Lebanon
- Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm
- Operation Enduring Freedom
- Berlin/Berlin Crisis

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE WORLD GO ROUND

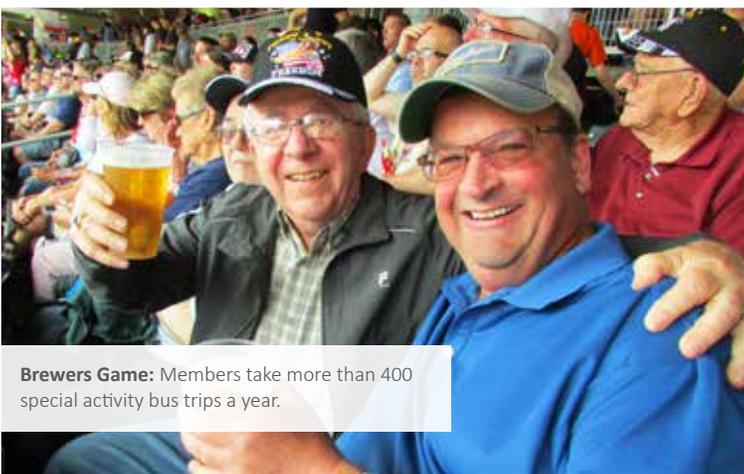
Volunteers make a significant difference in the lives of veterans. **More than 800 volunteers generously share their time with veterans at our Wisconsin Veterans Homes** by supporting recreational activities, visiting with members, reading and writing letters for members, escorting members to church or appointments, and providing assistance on special trips. We are thankful for each and every one of our volunteers!



Members at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King take more than 160 boat trips on Rainbow Lake each year!



Members at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King bowled twelve perfect games last year!



**Brewers Game:** Members take more than 400 special activity bus trips a year.

## Services Provided:

- Dental Appointments
- Doctor Visits
- Laboratory Test Visits
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Medical Transportation
- Mental Health
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Outpatient Services
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Podiatry
- Respiratory Therapy
- Skilled Nursing Care
- Social Services
- Special Care Units
- Speech Therapy
- X-Ray
- Barber/Beautician
- Coffee Shop
- Commissary
- Daily Activities
- Dietary
- Gift Shop
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Library with Computers
- Member Council
- Ministerial
- Museum
- Security/Fire Protection
- And much more!



## WWI Beyond The Trenches: Stories from the Front

A World War I Centennial Exhibit  
April 21, 2017-April 2019

Over 122,000 Wisconsin men and women served on land, sea, and in the air during World War I. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum marks the centennial of the First World War with the opening of a major exhibit featuring an up close and personal look at the Great War through the eyes of Wisconsin veterans.

WWI Beyond the Trenches: Stories from the Front uses the Museum's rich collection and first person accounts to bring to life Wisconsin's role in shaping global history.

## From Madison to [Insert Your Community Here]

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Traveling Exhibit program brings our state's great military history practically right to your doorstep. In the past year, more than 70,000 people in 25 communities – from Prairie du Chien to Plymouth – visited our exhibits to learn more about topics ranging from military mascots to the Vietnam War.

# EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY

Our Wisconsin Veterans Museum consists of exhibits, living histories, informational programs, speakers, and much more, educating the public with the unique stories and history of Wisconsin's veterans. A Smithsonian affiliate, it is a unique treasure that welcomes about 120,000 visitors per year.

## Wisconsin Veterans Museum by the Numbers

**120,000**

Visitors each year

**27,000**

Artifacts in the  
collection

**1,594**

Objects on exhibit

**200**

School groups visit  
each year



**The only remaining Black Hat that saw battle at Gettysburg is in the collection at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.** Color Sergeant Philander B. Wright, Company C, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, wore this hat as he led the charge of the Iron Brigade on the morning of July 1, 1863 outside the town of Gettysburg.



A 17th Century rapier recovered in the ruins of a French museum during WWI by Thorlief Holter, 85th Division, is the Museum's oldest artifact.

# WDVA BY THE NUMBERS

The WDVA Claims Office helps Wisconsin veterans navigate the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs system so they may obtain federal benefits and services such as disability compensation, pension and health care. In FY 2015:

**22,143**

Completed Wisconsin claims represented by WDVA

**43,670**

Wisconsin claims completed by the US Department of Veterans Affairs

**\$413 Million**

Dollars in economic benefit to Wisconsin Veterans



WDVA Claims Representatives at the Milwaukee Claims Office.

## Did you Know?

... the WDVA can help coordinate funeral honors for a loved one so that we may pay our final respects to our nations heroes before they are laid to rest? **We coordinated honors for more than 7,200 funerals in FY 2016.**

...the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery is the **country's 5th busiest state veterans cemetery?**

...our Veterans Benefits Resource Center is here to help veterans and family members with any questions or concerns they have with regard to veterans program, benefits or services. In FY 2016, **our staff fielded 44,443 calls, emails and online chats!**



## Ending Veteran Homelessness:

According to August 2016 figures released by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and HUD:

**Wisconsin saw a 22% decrease in homelessness between 2015 and 2016 but there is still more work to do!**

The Veteran Housing and Recovery Program **houses over 100 veterans**, assisting with job training, education, counseling and other services. The Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program connects veterans with housing and support for behavioral health treatment and substance abuse **services in 49 northern Wisconsin counties.**

.....  
WDVA Marketing Specialist packs and delivers  
Homeless Veteran Outreach Kits  
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