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### Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs 2009 Annual Report

"Dedicated to serving Minnesota Veterans and their families"

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#### Leadership:

Clark Dyrud *Commissioner* 

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 Gilbert Acevedo Deputy Commissioner, Veteran Health Care

Michael Pugliese Deputy Commissioner, Programs and Services

Mission:

Dedicated to serving Minnesota Veterans and their families.

#### Vision:

Fulfilling the needs of Minnesota Veterans and their families by providing proven and innovative programs and services to maximize quality of life.

## Who we are

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is a cabinet-level state agency serving Minnesota Veterans and their families. MDVA was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1943. The original service program offered by the Department was the State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP), which is still in existence today. Since then, MDVA has enhanced the lives of Minnesota heroes through the development and implementation of new Veteran-focused services. The services have been tailored to meet the current and ongoing needs of Veterans, service members and their families.

## What we do

- promote self-sufficiency and personal responsibility through a safety net of benefits and services
- supply representation to clients pursuing claims for federal Veterans benefits
- ensure a smooth transition for Veterans from military service to civilian life
- provide the highest quality programs for housing, health care and supportive services to Residents of the five Minnesota Veterans Homes
- ensure the most timely, cost-effective delivery of benefits and services
- provide dignified and compassionate burial services at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery
- provide leadership and direction to the Veterans community by collaborating with public and private service providers



## Minnesota Veterans

The state is home to an estimated 400,000 Veterans

Gender breakdown: Female - 22,945 Male - 376,552

#### Veterans by Era



WWII: 44,610

Korean War: 50,900

- Vietnam War: 144,509
- Gulf War: 63,952
- Peacetime: 104,949



Data provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics wwwl.va.gov/vetdata.



- Black non-Hispanic : 52,137
- American Indian non-Hispanic : 843
- Asian non-Hispanic : 747
- Pacific Islander non-Hispanic : 55
- Other or multiple race : 1,780
- Hispanic if any Race : 2,395

## 2009 Financial Summary





Net balance forwarded to 2010, \$4,440,690

Net 2009 revenues \$102,104,125

Net 2009 expenditures - \$97,663,435

Veterans Health Care expenditures - \$16,429,603 Veterans Services expenditures - \$81,233,833







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## Charting a Strategic Course

Over the past two years, the Department has experienced tremendous growth and change, including the merger of the five Minnesota Veterans Homes with the Department in November 2007. As a result, a comprehensive strategic plan and direction was needed.

In March 2008, MDVA began the process of creating a five year strategic plan. The 2008-2013 plan acts as a roadmap guiding the Department and allowing MDVA to effectively carry out its mission of "serving Minnesota Veterans and their families."

The strategic planning process for the Department was filled with energy and a strong desire to improve the care and service for Minnesota Veterans. The planning process was divided into phases and was used to solidify the Department and build a strong leadership team with one purpose - caring for Veterans.

The complete plan was delivered to the Minnesota Legislature in January 2009. The plan and periodic updates are posted for public viewing at <u>www.mdva.state.mn.us/reports</u>.

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## The Minnesota Veterans Homes

The Minnesota Veterans Homes provide a continuum of long-term care for Residents with a strong emphasis on remembering and recognizing the service and sacrifices of all Veterans. There are five Veterans Homes operating in Minnesota, located in Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, Minneapolis and Silver Bay. These five Homes provide a combination of skilled nursing care, domiciliary programs and Alzheimer's units.

**Quality is Our Standard:** MDVA is committed to fulfilling the needs of Minnesota Veterans and their families by providing programs and services that maximize quality of life.

To fulfill this vision, the Department established a Quality Program to identify strategic quality initiatives within each Home. This program organizes, coordinates, evaluates and oversees the implementation of MDVA's plan.

In 2009, the program:

- created a leadership team with representation from all five Homes
- hosted the first annual MDVA Quality Retreat
- conducted site visits and quality reviews/assessments at each Home

- analyzed electronic medical record implementation and tools
- developed an agency-wide two-year quality plan
- implemented training plans for core staff
- conducted the first annual agency-wide employee satisfaction survey
- preformed agency-wide mock surveys to assess VA, Centralized Medical System and Department of Human Services rules and regulations
- implemented two network-wide process improvement teams, looking at quality in skin care and undetected pain management
- developed a center for Medicare and Medicaid services feasibility study

Visit the Minnesota Veterans Homes at <u>www.mvh.mdva.state.mn.us</u>.

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#### Resident Profile:

Total - 333

<u>Type of Care</u> Domiciliary 49 Skilled Nursing 195 Skilled Special Care unit 89

<u>Gender</u> *Male 291 Female 42* 

<u>Resident Makeup</u> Veteran 290 Spouse 37

Era of Service WWII 130 Korean War 59 Vietnam War 54 Gulf War 1 Peacetime 52 **Minnesota Veterans Home – Minneapolis** Established in 1887, this Home was once known as the Old Soldiers Home and served needy Veterans of the Civil War. Founders of the Home intended for it to be a peaceful, beautiful and comfortable community for Minnesota Veterans who required care during their "golden years." The Home sits on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River near picturesque Minnehaha Falls.

The current Minneapolis campus consists of 341 skilled nursing care beds and 161 licensed domiciliary beds. It provides nursing care and related health and social services to Veterans and their spouses who meet eligibility and admission requirements.



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**Minnesota Veterans Home** – **Hastings** In 1978, the State Hospital in Hastings was converted into a domiciliary residence for Veterans. The home is located 21 miles southeast of St. Paul on 128 beautiful wooded acres along the Vermillion River. Today, the Hastings Veterans Home has 200 domiciliary beds and works to serve Veterans in need of medication management, psychosocial support and personal care reminders, but not those requiring skilled nursing level care. Fifty percent of admitted Veterans are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

The Home also provides a supportive housing program. This transitional opportunity is designed to support Veterans being discharged from the Home. The five bedroom home, located in a residential Hastings neighborhood, has a large kitchen, two living room areas and two laundry rooms. The program offers Veterans independence and support by offering psychological, vocational, recreation, and case management services when needed.



#### Resident Profile:

Total - 175

<u>Type of Care</u> Domiciliary 175 Supportive Housing 4

<u>Gender</u> Male 174 Female 1

<u>Resident Makeup</u> Veteran 175 Spouse O

<u>Era of Service</u> *WWII 5 Korean War 13 Vietnam War 76 Gulf War 3 OIF/OEF 1 Peacetime 77* 



#### Resident Profile:

Total - 81

<u>Type of Care</u> Skilled Nursing 59 Skilled Special Care unit 22

<u>Gender</u> Male 66 Female 15

<u>Resident Makeup</u> Veteran 66 Spouse 15

Era of Service WWII 33 Korean War 16 Vietnam War 8 **Minnesota Veterans Home** — **Silver Bay** In 1991, the Silver Bay Elementary School was converted into a skilled care facility. The Silver Bay Veterans Home is located on the scenic North Shore overlooking Lake Superior. The Home is licensed for 87 skilled care nursing beds and has a 25-bed special care unit for Residents with cognitive loss (dementia). The Home's programs and services focus on helping Residents reach their highest level of independence.



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**The Minnesota Veterans Home - Luverne** has a 42-bed cognitive loss care wing of which 17 beds are designated for Alzheimer's/dementia. The other 43-bed wing is home to Residents who can initiate and participate in social activities provided in a more independent manner.



#### Resident Profile:

Total - 80

<u>Type of Care</u> Skilled Nursing 80

<u>Gender</u> *Male 68 Female 12* 

<u>Resident Makeup</u> Veterans 68 Spouses 11

Era of Service WWII 37 Korean War 18 Vietnam War 9 Peacetime 5



#### **Resident Profile:**

Total - 84

Type of Care Skilled Nursing 84

<u>Gender</u> Male 72 Female 12

<u>Resident Makeup</u> Veterans 72 Spouses 12

Era of Service WWII 43 Korean War 13 Vietnam War 7 Peacetime 9 **Minnesota Veterans Home - Fergus Falls** This 85-bed skilled nursing care facility opened in 1998. The Home is designed much like the main street of a small town, including a barber shop, general store, library, family inn and clinical exam rooms.

Unique to the facility is its U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC). The clinic is maintained under a shared use agreement with the VA and is the first nurse practitioner nursing home-based clinic in the nation. The CBOC provides on-site medical care for eligible Veterans and access to care within the VA system. The Home has also introduced a new concept of nursing care with the innovative "universal worker position." This approach increases the accountability of nursing personnel and expands their influence over the care of the Residents.



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## Providing Innovative Programs and Services

**Programs and Services Division:** Creates and administers nation-leading programs to address Veterans needs including: the State Soldiers Assistance Program, Grants to Counties, Operational Improvement Grants, MDVA surviving spouse/dependent education benefit, LinkVet, Minnesota GI Bill, the Higher Education Veterans Program, Tribal Veterans Service Officers, outreach, a women veterans coordinator, funding to Veterans Service Organizations and Support Our Troops license plates.

**The Claims Division** represents Veterans and their dependents who seek benefits from the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) concerning compensation, non-service connected pension, insurance or educational benefits. The division also participates in hundreds of community events each year, educating Veterans about the benefits they have earned.

The Division has offices located at the St. Paul VA Regional Office (VARO) in the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, and at the Fargo VA Regional Office in North Dakota.

The St. Paul Office represented 6,755 new clients and submitted 11,942 claims on behalf of these Veterans and their dependents in 2009. The office received 9,992 rating decisions. Throughout the year the staff served 2,772 walk-in clients.

The Fargo office served 562 new clients and received 1,521 rating decisions. The office assisted 849 walk-in clients.







**The Outreach Division** works to educate and assist underserved Veterans on how to access federal and state benefits, and provides referrals to other agencies for additional services. In 2009, the Division gained 468 new clients, and served 936 walk-in clients, including 200 women Veterans and 156 homeless Veterans. Outreach was able to secure emergency subsistence funding through MDVA's State Soldiers Assistance Program for 97 Veterans and their families. The Division connects directly with underserved communities in which Veterans live, this year participating in over 200 events.

These events included:

- Over 50 women Veterans specific events
- The third annual Outreach Communication Forum for service providers hosted by the Division
- The 2009 Government on Display Expo
- The National Association of County Veterans Service Officers conference in San Diego
- Regular appearances on KMOJ 89.9 FM "Know Your Options" radio show

**The MDVA Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO)** program began in 2007 with the cooperation of governmental and tribal agencies. The purpose of the TVSO program is to provide services to a targeted group of traditionally underserved individuals located on Minnesota's Native American reservations.

Native Americans have one of the highest rates of military service per capita of any ethnic group. Twenty-five percent of able-bodied, adult Native Americans enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces, compared to three percent of the general population. However, this group applies for and receives fewer Veterans benefits than other Veterans groups.

This year the program assisted over 190 Native American Veterans and brought in over \$1 million in monthly and onetime federal compensation payments to Minnesota Veterans. The Program participated in numerous community and tribal events and outreach initiatives.

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**The Minnesota Veteran's Preference Act (VPA)** grants most Veterans a limited preference over non-Veterans in hiring and promotion for most Minnesota public employment positions. The Department helps Veterans pursue relief when their Veteran's preference rights have been violated and/or denied. In fiscal year 2009, the Department closed seven VPA cases, has 13 active cases pending and seven still open.

The Department provides enforcement of the Minnesota Veteran's Preference in Hiring Act (VPA). In 2009, the Department provided information and assistance to 53 Veterans who received a "notice of intent to terminate" and were offered a local VPA hearing. In addition, MDVA provided information to over 21 public employers regarding their role in the termination hearing process.

MDVA ensures that service providers, employers and Veterans are aware of Veteran employment rights and protections through outreach and educational activities. This year, MDVA provided four VPA educational and informational presentations.

During the 2009 legislative session, MDVA provided testimony for legislation expanding VPA rights to teachers, state civil service employees, recently separated Veterans and post 9/11 military active duty service members.

#### **Resources:**

The current VPA Minnesota statutes are located at www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us

To view reports and other documents helpful to Veterans and employers, visit www.mdva.state.mn.us/vetspref

The Minnesota VPA Statutes do not have authority related to U.S. federal employment. Questions regarding rights relative to federal positions should be directed to The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment & Training Service (VETS) office in Minnesota at (651) 259-7511.





**The State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP)** provides direct, emergency financial assistance to Veterans, their dependents and survivors. Assistance is given for shelter and utilities, optical and dental benefits and cash grants for food and personal needs.

During 2009, the program received 3,319 applications for assistance and allocated over \$6.4 million in funds to needy Veterans and their dependents. SSAP helped keep 582 Veteran families in their homes through this program.

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Benefit	Amount
Dental	\$905,121.60
Extractions	\$355,457.00
Dentures	\$944,550.62
Optical	\$446,096.54
Subsistence Shelter	\$302,788.53
Special Needs Shelter	\$1,163,924.38
Total Special needs	\$2,283,612.16

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**The Minnesota Higher Education Veterans Program** is a nation-leading program that provides assistance to Veterans at all public and private higher educational institutions in Minnesota.

The program has twelve regional coordinators who work with educational institutions to support the success of Veterans, current military members and their families by providing on-campus Veterans Resource Centers, information about benefits and resources as well as creating institutional readiness in support of the unique needs of these students.

During 2009, three new Veterans Resources Centers were established on the campuses of Riverland Community College, Concordia College in St. Paul and Southeast Technical College in Red Wing. The program assisted nearly 350,000 individuals this year.

**The Minnesota State Approving Agency (SAA)** is responsible for the approval of education and training programs, ensuring that each program meets the requirements of Titles 38 and 10 of the United States Code.

For Veterans to receive GI Bill education benefit payments, the education or training program in which they are enrolled must be approved by the SAA.

SAA approved 12,497 institutions, non-college degree, apprenticeship, on-the-job-training and flight training programs as well as flight training, license and certification programs. SAA assisted nearly 7,000 students in fiscal year 2009.

#### Minnesota Higher Education Veterans Program Contacts

Veterans	8,238
Current Military	2,109
Former Military	275
Family of Military	1,117
Status Not Declared	2,174
Total	349,987







## Final Honors for Heroes

Burial in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery is open to all Veterans discharged from active military service under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouses, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Army, National Guard and the Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.

The Cemetery is located in Little Falls, Minn. adjacent to Camp Ripley. This year the cemetery laid 189 Veterans and 93 dependents to rest.



#### 2009 Burials

# Minnesota C.O.R.E.

Through a partnership with Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of Minnesota, MDVA launched Minnesota C.O.R.E. (Case Management, Outreach, Referral and Education) in 2008. This new program is designed to bring essential, community-based services directly to Veterans, military members and families at no cost to them.

In response to a long-standing need identified by MDVA and County Veterans Service Officers, the program was developed to provide counseling and case management services to Veterans and family members.

Due to its unique structure, this program also provides resources to previously underserved rural areas around the state. By working with LSS, Minnesota C.O.R.E. provides comprehensive assistance through an existing statewide network of resources. During the inaugural year, 208 individuals were served by the Minnesota C.O.R.E. program.

#### Services Provided

- Individual and family counseling
- Financial counseling
- Debt management
- Addiction counseling
- Disability services
- In-home counseling

LSS case staff are based in field offices located strategically throughout the state, including the Twin Cities, Alexandria, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud and Willmar.



## Minnesota "Month of the Military Child"



Children of service members deal with many issues unique to their situation. Some move frequently, worry about a loved one in harm's way or just feel the stress of being separated from a parent for extended periods of time. All of these issues can make normal childhood activities, such as going to school, watching TV and playing with friends more difficult. It is estimated that over 15,000 children in Minnesota have been affected by a parent's deployment.

In partnership with the Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives, MDVA takes time each April to recognize the Month of the Military Child, which emphasizes the important role military children play while a parent or important adult is serving. Governor Tim Pawlenty sent 1,772 military children a letter of gratitude in honor of their service and sacrifice. MDVA also offers an extensive list of resources to those caring for military families.



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## Partnerships Working to Strengthen the Support Network for Veterans and their Families

MDVA works with many organizations in order to best serve this state's Veterans. Through collaboration, MDVA works to strengthen the support network available to Minnesota Veterans. The goal is to offer the most complete support, care and advocacy network possible. Here are a few of the of MDVA close partner organizations:

**Office of the Governor**: As a cabinet level agency, the Commissioner has a direct and consistent line of communication with the Governor's office. The Governor's office provides support through initiative and policy development. The Commissioner provides the Governor's office with timely and relevant updates on Veteran -related issues at the state and federal level.

**Minnesota National Guard**: The Minnesota National Guard is the largest source of Veterans in the state. MDVA works closely with the Minnesota National Guard on reintegration, raising awareness on Veteran-related issues, legislation relating to Veterans, service members and their families, promotion of the Minnesota C.O.R.E. program and various marketing and communication projects. MDVA also partners with the National Guard on Veterans events, forums and roundtables.

**Minnesota State and Federal Elected Officials**: MDVA works closely with state and federal elected officials on legislation to better the lives of Minnesota's Veterans and their families. The Department works with elected officials to raise awareness of Veteran-related issues in their communities. Upon request the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs attends in-district Veterans events, town-hall meetings, forums and roundtables.

**Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)**: MACV is a non-profit organization that serves Veterans and their families affected by homelessness. This valued partner provides and coordinates clean, safe, drug-free supportive housing; transitional homes for use during extended medical care; job skills training; assistance in finding permanent housing, food resources and health care; mortgage assistance; chemical dependency treatment and sobriety aftercare; and counseling and legal assistance.



**Veterans Service Organizations:** The Commanders' Task Force is comprised of the nine congressionally-chartered Veterans organizations, including: the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Marine Corps League and the American Veterans (AMVETS). During the legislative session, the group acts as a strong lobbying force for Veterans issues. In addition, the group collaborates with the Department to cosponsor the state's annual Veterans Day program.

Minnesota Veteran 4 Veteran (V4V) Trust Fund Board of Trustees: The Big Island Veterans Camp of Minnetonka Board of Governors, comprised of representatives from several state-wide Veterans organizations, sold the Big Island Veterans Camp on Lake Minnetonka to the city of Orono in January 2006. The \$5 million proceeds from the sale were placed in a trust fund to be used for grants to address the needs of Veterans across the state.

MDVA works closely with the V4V Trust Fund Board of Trustees, comprised of appointed representatives from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The trust provides grants to help Minnesota Veterans integrate into society and lead healthier, independent lives by funding recreational, employment, health, education and social programs for Veterans, their families and caregivers. The MDVA commissioner is involved in the approval of these grants.

**County Veterans Service Officers:** County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) are a vital part of the overall success of MDVA's mission to serve Veterans. The Department partners with them on many programs and events, including reintegration, outreach events and initiatives to heighten awareness of programs and services available within the Veterans community. CVSOs are the first stop for Veterans in their community for services and benefits.

## Assisting Minnesota Counties

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) currently administers two grant programs to counties.

The Operational Improvement Grant awards counties a set dollar amount – triennially – to assist with the costs of purchasing office equipment and technology needs.

The Enhancement Grant is an annual competitive grant to which all 87 County Veterans Service Offices may apply. Counties may apply under one or all of the following categories:

- Outreach to Veterans
- Reintegration of combat Veterans
- Collaboration with social service agencies, educational institutions and other community resources
- Reduction of homelessness among Veterans
- Digital Records Management
- Transportation program
- Marketing/advertising
- Staff management and training

During the 2009 cycle, the Department received 145 applications from 63 individual counties and three applications for joint county projects totaling \$2.7 million. MDVA was able to award 121 grants with the \$1.45 million allocated to the grant program.



The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) Working Group was created by 2008 legislation in order to review the findings and recommendations of the 2008 Office of the Legislative Auditor's (OLA) report on CVSOs.

The original members of the group included Sen. Sharon Erickson-Ropes; Sen. David Hann; Rep. Al Juhnke ; Rep. Steve Smith; Michael Pugliese, MDVA Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Services; Reggie Worlds, MDVA Senior Director of Programs and Services; Christine Kiel, MDVA Legislative Director; Brad Lindsay, President, Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Offices (MACVSO); Jim Golgart, Vice President, MACVSO; Milton Schoen, Legislative Chair, MACVSO; Dean Ascheman, Chair, Commanders' Task Force (CTF); Dave Rooney, Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) and Tom Warmka, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).

The Working Group was tasked with providing recommendations to the Legislature as to whether, and to what extent, the findings of the OLA report should be addressed. The group was free to propose draft legislation if deemed necessary and suggest additional recommendations that would enhance the services CVSOs provide to Minnesota Veterans. This working group presented an opportunity for parties with a stake in the Veteran community to discuss policies and procedures that would improve the timely delivery of benefits and services to Veterans.

The CVSO Working Group created guidelines for MDVA and County Veterans Service Offices to follow in the future. The CVSO Working Group will present their language changes to the legislation during the 2010 legislative session.

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## In the Community

Throughout the year MDVA hosts and participates in community events in order to honor, celebrate and educate Veterans and the Minnesota community about the accomplishments of those who have served this country and the issues they and their families face.



10th Anniversary of the Minnesota Korean War Memorial : MDVA and the Minnesota Korean War Veterans Association Chapter #1 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Minnesota Korean War Memorial on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul. *State Fair*: Each year the Department hosts a booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Thousands of visitors stop by to learn about state and federal Veterans benefits and programs.





*Faith Based Round Table*: MDVA worked with the Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives and the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs to present this Minnesota Veterans Outreach Forum, which focused on the faith community.





*Minnesota Honors Vietnam Era Veterans*: Minnesota Honors Vietnam Era Veterans was held on June 13, featured guest speakers, a KIA roll call, unit reunions, displays, a parade of colors, music, food and more. This day-long event was held to honor, show respect for, remember and celebrate those members of the community who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam era.

More than 5,000 Veterans and Minnesotans attended the celebration at the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul. The event was highlighted by the Honor, Respect, Remember program which included comments from Gov. Pawlenty, Commissioner Clark Dyrud and keynote speaker, author and Vietnam Veteran, Jon Hovde.

Veterans Day: The Official State of Minnesota Veterans Day Program, presented by MDVA and the Minnesota Commanders' Task Force. was held at the Veterans Memorial **Community Center in Inver Grove** Heights. Approximately 400 Veterans, family and community members gathered to honor those who have served. The morning began with a buffet breakfast and was followed by remarks from Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau. Commissioner Clark Dyrud, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard Maj. Gen. Larry Shellito, Cmdr. Dean Ascheman Disabled American Veterans, Chair, Commanders' Task Force.



#### Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day:

Three Pearl Harbor Survivors, Ken Swedberg, Herman Heinrich and Donald Pepin were honored at the remembrance ceremony Dec. 7 at the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul. Joseph Aragon, a Vietnam Veteran who lived in Hawaii during the attack, shared his memories of the event and life in Hawaii during the war. The documentary "First Shot," by Bonnie Beaston, was shown. The film, provided by the Minnesota Historical Society, told the story of the USS Ward and its 84-member Minnesota crew who fired the first shots of World War II, sinking a Japanese submarine at the entrance to Pearl Harbor.





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