



Department of Veterans Affairs

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The Department of Veterans Affairs was created by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle in December 2012 to serve the County's employee veterans and veterans who live in Cook County through outreach and support services.

Contact Us

Bill Browne: 312-603-6423

Email: veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov

Website: www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs

A Message from Veterans Affairs

Dear Veterans:

This newsletter contains information on the following veteran-related issues: VA transition assistance; benefits for a dependent or survivor; a new web tool to help veterans track their benefits; a service-connected matrix to determine benefits; and housing grants for disabled veterans.

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child. It's a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas.

I get many calls from veterans and dependents that ask about benefits available to them. All veterans should take the time and opportunity to talk with a veterans service officer (VSO) at the VA regional office. The VSO can pull up your records and give you information as to what you or your dependents are entitled to. Many of the benefits are based upon when you served in the military. The Veterans Benefits Administration offers a variety of benefits and

services to spouses, children, and parents of service members.

Cook County will host the Silver Star Banner program at the Cook County Board on June 5. We ask all veterans who were wounded in any type of war action from any war, who served in a war zone or who were injured or contracted a serious illness that is rated at least 10 percent by the VA, to complete the attached application. We would like to recognize you and thank you for your service. If you qualify, please complete and return the application to veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov. We will invite you and your family to be recognized by President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board. The deadline to apply is May 11.

If you have a particular subject or topic that you would like to see Veterans Affairs address, please email your ideas or suggestions to veterans.affairs@cookcountyil.gov.

Cook County Veterans Affairs encourages you to share this information with other veterans and their dependents, and to use this newsletter as a reference tool for upcoming veteran activities, events, and workshops. Please visit the Cook County Veterans Affairs website at www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs.

Bill Browne, Director
Cook County Veterans Affairs



Department of **Veterans Affairs**

Helpful Links

VA Transition Assistance: Where are you in the Military Life Cycle?

Dependents or Survivor: The Veterans Benefits Administration offers a variety of benefits and services to spouses, children, and parents of Service members.

VA and US Digital Service launched a new web tool to help veterans track their benefits appeals.

Service Connected Matrix: There are additional benefits that you may be eligible for.

Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans.

Looking for a job?

When applying for employment with Cook County Government, preference is given in the application process to honorably discharged veterans who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States for more than 180 consecutive days, or during war time. For current employment information, please visit the links below.

Offices Under the President:
[www.cookcountyil.gov/
current-job-listings](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/current-job-listings)

Forest Preserves District:
<http://fpdcc.com/about/jobs/>

Health and Hospitals System:
[www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-
cchhs/human-resources/careers/](http://www.cookcountyhhs.org/about-cchhs/human-resources/careers/)



Department of **Veterans Affairs**

Upcoming Events

April 21

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Job and Veterans Resource Fair
Greater Walters AME Zion Church
8422 S. Damen Ave., Chicago
For more information, please call (773)
507-7350.

May 19

10 a.m. – 3 p.m

5th Annual Homeless Veteran
Standdown
Hosted by A Safe Haven
A Safe Haven Warehouse
2501 W. Taylor St., Chicago
Volunteers, please call: (773) 435-8386
Visit www.asafehaven.org/veteran-stand-down for more information.

Free White Sox Tickets For Veterans, Active Duty Military, National Guard and Reserves

Sign Up for a Veterans Discount Card
at the Recorder of Deeds' Office to
participate. Some exclusions apply.

For more information, call the
Recorder of Deeds: Veterans Service
Office at (312) 603-5788 or visit
[www.cookrecorder.com/veteran-
services/](http://www.cookrecorder.com/veteran-services/)

Silver Star Service Banner

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and County Commissioners will recognize military veterans on June 5, 2018 for their sacrifice and service to nation under the annual **Silver Star Service Banner** program.

The veterans will be saluted for their service in wartime during the Board Meeting and at a reception.

To be eligible for the **Silver Star Service Banner** program, a veteran must have been wounded or become ill while serving in a war zone. Silver Star Service Banner is a national program run by the not-for-profit Silver Star Families of America.

Fill out the attached application to participate. You must submit the application before May 11.

SILVER STAR BANNER



FOR OUR WOUNDED

REQUEST A SERVICE BANNER

PLEASE READ OVER QUALIFICATIONS FIRST

To request a Silver Star Service Banner for a wounded or ill service member or veteran, please type or print legibly and completely fill out the form. ONE (1) FREE 8.5" X 14" Service Banner per recipient. Veterans MUST reside within Cook County to participate in the June 5th, 2018 Silver Star Service Banner Ceremony, with this application completed and received by the office of Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs no later than May 11th, 2018.

Qualifications for the Silver Star Service Banner Program

Silver Star Families of America define a wounded service member as any Armed Forces personnel either currently serving honorably or those who have served honorably from ANY war, who having served in a war zone, has been wounded by enemy action or who have been injured or contracted a serious illness that could be rated at least 10 percent disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. All wounds, injuries or illnesses must have originated in a war zone, including: Purple Heart recipients, victims of friendly fire, injured in a war zone, and those who suffer from PTS, TBI, Agent Orange Effects and Gulf War Syndrome.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Rank: _____ Branch: _____ Date of Combat Injury/Illness: _____

Location of War Zone/country where injury and/or illness occurred: _____

Nature of injury/illness from combat/conflict zone: _____

Do you have an email address? If yes, Email address: _____

"I hereby authorize the Silver Star Service Banner Program photographer and The Silver Star Families of America (SSFOA) to use images without regard for reimbursement or acknowledgement. The photographs will become property of The Silver Star Families of America organization to use at their discretion." The Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs will return all pictures submitted with application package to the SSFOA recipients.*

**By typing my name and date below, I am electronically signing my application.*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send Silver Star Application, Short Biography and Pictures by USPS Mail, E-Mail, or Fax, to:

Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs | Bureau of Administration
Cook County Building Rm. 801 | 118 North Clark Street | Chicago, Illinois 60602

E-Mail: Veterans.Affairs@CookCountyIll.gov | Fax: 312.603.4479

To confirm your attendance or for more information regarding the 2018 Silver Star Banner Program, please contact Cook County Veterans Affairs: **Bill Browne** at **312.603.6423**

***The Silver Star Families of America - www.SilverStarFamilies.org - "Silver Star Shining for Sacrifice"
Honoring our combat wounded, injured, and ill troops and veterans from 2004-2018***