



THE HOOSIER VETERAN

ISSUE 8-23 • AUGUST 2023

in.gov/dva

Coast Guard Day
Aug. 4
Purple Heart
Day Aug. 7



WELCOME!

BY JOE DEVITO
IDVA OUTREACH DIRECTOR

August means Back to School and the Indiana State Fair! Stop by our table at the Indiana State Fair Aug. 11 to 13 & Aug. 18 and sign up to win a free IDVA t-shirt. Get ready for Back to School with the Military Family Relief Fund (see if you are eligible [here](#)). In August, join us and our partners at INVETS and Visit Indy as we attempt the world's largest single-day cornhole tournament benefiting the Indiana War Memorials Foundation! ([Sign your team up here.](#)) IDVA remains committed to making Indiana the best place for all Indiana Veterans to Live, Work and Thrive! We welcome contributions and feedback to outreach@dva.in.gov.

THE HOOSIER
VETERAN
NEWSLETTER

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Find an Event Near You! vetsgift.com



INDIANA VIETNAM VETS GIFT



FREE GIFT INCLUDES:
A *Time To Honor* - HARDCOVER BOOK, EXPANDED DIGITAL BOOK & E-BOOK
A DVD DOCUMENTARY: *The Journey Home* & WELCOME HOME LAPEL PIN



**A FREE GIFT OF GRATITUDE FOR
INDIANA VIETNAM
ERA VETERANS**
WITH MILITARY SERVICE DURING 1955-1975
REGARDLESS OF DUTY STATION



Info:

317-549-5900

jill@WHV.org



FIND ★ THANK ★ REPAY
www.VETSgift.com
INFO, EVENTS & PHOTOS



RIDE WITH PRIDE

GET YOUR PLATE AT YOUR LOCAL BMV TODAY



DID YOU KNOW?

100%

OF REVENUE FROM THESE PLATES
FUNDS THE MFRF



Employee

RESOURCE GROUP

Attention all veterans and veteran supporters who work for the state of Indiana! The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) is excited to announce a new Employee Resource Group (ERG).

What is an ERG? Employee Resource Groups are voluntary, employee-led groups promoting diversity and inclusion. They inherently provide support, enhance career development, and contribute to personal development. These groups are led by employees who share characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, lifestyle, or a common interest.

This ERG will be the forefront of resources and networking opportunities for state employees who are currently serving or have served in the military, and employees who support the veteran community. This veteran ERG will include and promote the ideas brought forth by those within the group.

Joining this resource group is voluntary and will be supported by an executive sponsor. Dennis Wimer, Director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, will honorably serve as the initial executive sponsor. The group will be led by Indiana state employees currently serving or who have served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The first organizational meeting will convene in September 2023. Monthly meetings will be conducted on Microsoft Teams with an opportunity to attend in person at the Indiana Veterans' Center located at 777 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis and other selected locations.

Those interested in learning more about Indiana's Veteran ERG can e-mail Laura McKee at lamckee@dva.in.gov.



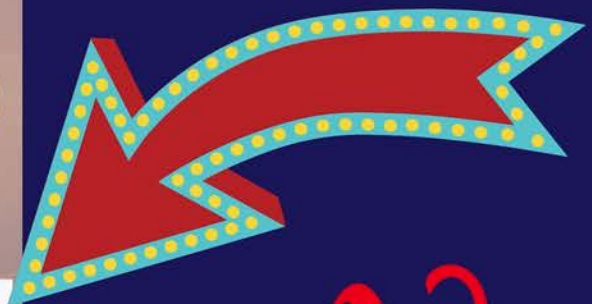
THE STATE THAT GREW THE GAME
INDIANA STATE FAIR
PRESENTED BY
PRICERS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

IDVA State Fair Schedule

JULY 28-30 Locate us in front of the
Agriculture Horticulture building

AUGUST 11-13 south of the covered bridge

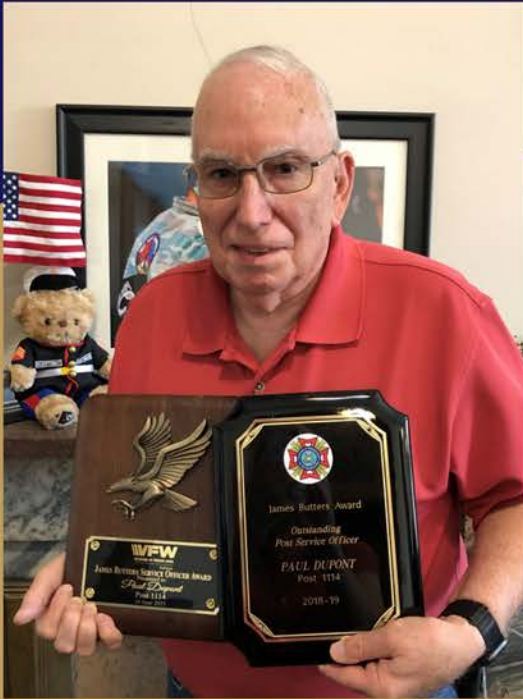
MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS DAY AUGUST 18



Join Us!

Vanderburgh County service officer wins VFW award

by Alexis Morris, Holsapple Communications



Courtesy photo

EVANSVILLE - Paul Dupont, a dedicated member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has been honored with the prestigious VFW James Butters Service Officer of the Year award for the state of Indiana. This well-deserved recognition celebrates Paul's unwavering commitment to serving his fellow veterans and his exceptional contributions as a service officer for Post 1114, located in Evansville.

Paul's service began when he served in the U.S. Army as a combat photographer from 1966 to 1969, bravely capturing moments in both Korea and Vietnam. Following his military service, he joined the VFW in January 1970 and his dedication to the organization's cause has been evident ever since.

Over the years, Paul has held several significant positions within the VFW, including commander from 1975 to 1976 as well as 1989 to 1990. He has also served intermittently as the member quartermaster since 1980, a position that he currently holds, overseeing the financial aspects of the post.

Paul was nominated for the award by Jerry Blake, the current post commander, and Roger Ferguson, the previous post commander. Jerry has known Paul for approximately 20 years, having met at VFW Post 1114, where they both hold membership. Jerry describes Paul as an easy-going individual who goes above and beyond to fulfill his responsibilities.

The VFW is here to help and to teach veterans without regards to their branch or service. If veterans need help, the VFW is there to help them. We help with family matters, we help with claims," said Jerry. "The mission of service officers, and the VFW, is to support veterans and Paul truly set himself apart by going above and beyond for them."

He emphasized that the post has been eagerly anticipating this honor, believing that Paul is one of the best service officers in the state.

Paul's outstanding qualifications for this recognition include successfully processing 98 VA claims and executing 40 powers of attorney for veterans in need over the course of 2022. This is Paul's second time receiving this accolade, having first been honored in 2019. In addition to his work with the VFW, he also serves as the quartermaster of the Veteran's Council of Vanderburgh County, which represents various veteran organizations such as the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans Charity.

In reflecting on his award, Paul humbly expressed his gratitude and the satisfaction he feels when he sees the positive impact his work has on veterans' lives. He acknowledged that while the job can be challenging, there are always veterans who genuinely appreciate the assistance.

"Knowing that I have made a difference makes it all worthwhile," Paul shared.

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Paul for being recognized as Indiana's VFW Service Officer of the Year.



Did you know?

**All 92 counties in Indiana
have a Veteran Service
Officer.**

[Find yours here.](#)

LOCATE YOUR COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

CVSO SPOTLIGHT

Lindsay Smith, CVSO

Courtney Freeman-Kemp, Vet Services
Manager

MORGAN COUNTY

This Veteran Service office offers assistance in the following:

- Obtaining your DD-214 military discharge
- 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
- Peddlers, Vendors License
- Resident Veteran Hunting & Fishing License
- Golden Hoosier Passport



LEARN MORE

10 East Washington Street
Suite 124A
Martinsville, IN 46154

Monday to Friday by appointment
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Office: (765) 349-5505
vsoassist@morgancounty.in.gov

ROLL CALL!



Visit our website for more about the Cemetery.

INDIANA VETERANS HOME NEWS

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery



A place of honor for those who served

ELIGIBILITY FOR BURIAL

Military Discharge:

Veterans separated under conditions other than Dishonorable are eligible for burial.

National Guard & Reservist:

Must have been eligible for retirement pay at time of death.

Active Duty Death:

Service members who die on active duty, in the line of duty.

Surviving Spouse:

The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran can be buried at the IVMC.

The Child of a Veteran:

Child must be under age 21 or permanent dependent of the veteran.

ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND SPOUSES

No Cost For:

- Opening & closing of the burial plot
- Outer burial container
- Monument
- Use of chapel

Types of Burials:

- Casket Burial "Vault"
- In-ground Cremation
- Columbarium
- Scatter Garden

INDIANA GOVERNOR'S MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE

- Certificate can be requested by the family or funeral home
- Request form and application process:
 - <https://www.in.gov/dva/veterans>
- Completed forms faxed to:
 - IVMC (812) 273-9221

Harvey was admitted to IVH for a short-term rehab stay in May. His wife, Carol, noted he needed strengthening so he could one day be self-sufficient at home with minimal assistance.

Carol is grateful for the therapy team at IVH allowing her to come in and assist him with therapy.

"They listened to me and I'm glad they allowed me to be involved in Harvey's therapy," she said. "I thought that he was going to be here far longer, so I am impressed that he met his goals early and gets to come home. Now he will make it to this year's family reunion!"

Carol admires the staff on the unit for all they do. She also said if Harvey ever had to go to a nursing home again, it would be IVH.



Success

August

Two slices of watermelon with green rinds and red flesh, one slightly overlapping the other, positioned to the left of the word 'August'.

19: Indy Cornhole Classic. 2 to 6 p.m. in the American Legion Mall, Indianapolis. Join us for the largest single-day cornhole tournament in the country! Fun for the whole family. Register [here](#).

24: PACT Act Veteran Benefit and Resource Fair. Fort Benjamin Harrison Veteran Center.

26 & 27: Indianapolis Gun & Knife Show. Aug. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Aug. 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. National Guard Armory 2002 South Holt Road, Indianapolis.



For more events and to see what's coming up in September and October, check out our calendar [here](#).

SUBMIT A VETERAN EVENT!

Tell us about your event to support, serve, and advocate for the veteran community in your area! We want to know about events happening all across our great state. [Visit our site](#) and let us know to add it to our website calendar!

Veteran Events for All 2022



RHI | R
SPORTS PROGRAM

ARCHERY CLINICS

for people with physical disabilities
Highsmith Guns

SATURDAYS 10 - 11:00 AM
APRIL 1, JUNE 3, AUG. 5, OCT. 7, & DEC. 2

COST: \$12

MOVE UNITED MEMBER [HTTPS://2023RHISPARCERY.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://2023RHISPARCERY.EVENTBRITE.COM)

RHI | R
SPORTS PROGRAM

PUNCH FOR VETERANS BOXING CLINICS

For disabled veterans or civilians with a disability

Saturdays
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Fitness Clinic of Indy
2160 W 86th St., Suite 101
Indianapolis, IN 46260

\$5 Per class
FREE for disabled veterans

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO

<https://punchforveterans23.eventbrite.com>

fitness clinic **MOVE UNITED MEMBER**

Journaling & Creativity Workshops to Inspire Guided Action

He said.
She said.
They said.

with Meghan Barich

He said. She said. They said. - Veteran Writing Workshop

This workshop focuses on using dialogue to enhance characters and move narratives forward

Join us for our next installment of Journaling & Creativity Workshops to Inspire Guided Action.

In this two-hour workshop, we will craft dialogues that express nuance, personality, emotions, and that move a story forward with meaning. Through written dialogue, participants will gain understanding of the conversations they have with themselves and others.

Your facilitator is Meghan Barich. Megan is most passionate about helping folks reclaim their highest self—the part of you who embraces curiosity, play, and creativity to be conscious to the decision they make. She helps folks build a new toolkit to stop people pleasing and start choosing and creating their own joy and satisfaction. Meghan is a Journal to the Self® certified instructor and is studying to be a Certified Journal Facilitator through the Therapeutic Writing Institute. She is a certified creativity coach and knows first-hand how a daily art and personal expression practice lowers stress and deepens connection to self and to others.

Workshop is for veterans only. Learn More [Here](#).

Veterans Helping Veterans

FREE VETERANS FOOD PANTRY

4th Tuesday of Each Month
From 0900 to 1200

At the Richmond Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

For Questions Please Call (765) 983-2183

TOYOTA **CRONIN Richmond** **TWO CIRCLE**

HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

LETS CONNECT *Socially*

IDVA Events Calendar: [Click Here](#)



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