



# HOOSIER VETERAN

Newsletter



**"We will fail when we fail to try" – Rosa Parks**

**This Month has meaning for many of our  
Indiana Military & Veteran Community**

**January 16**

**Operation  
Desert Storm  
Anniversary**



**January 27**

**Vietnam  
Cease-Fire  
Anniversary**

**January 31**

**Panama Campaign Ends**



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# HOOSIER VETERAN

## Building a Legacy: Honoring Veterans' Leaders with Bricks on Monument Circle



As 2025 begins, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) reflects on a remarkable 2024, highlighted by the honor of hosting the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) conference in Indianapolis.

This event brought together state veteran affairs directors from all states and territories, supporting our nation's veterans through collaboration and innovation. Topics ranged from mental health support and housing solutions to workforce development and access to healthcare. The IDVA team embraced this honor to host the conference and approached the opportunity with vision by coordinating two other conferences with NASDVA.

For the first time in its history, the NASDVA 2024 summer conference was held in conjunction with the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators. This provided integrated sessions and networking opportunities for state directors and women veteran coordinators. IDVA also partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration to host a two-day Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide conference. Hosting these three events simultaneously provided for unprecedented collaboration.

"Hosting this conference was an incredible honor for Indiana," said Joe DeVito, Outreach Director of IDVA. "It gave us the opportunity to showcase our dedication to veterans while learning from the extraordinary work happening across the country."



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A highlight of the conference was the NASDVA President's Dinner at the Indiana War Memorial, followed with a special ceremony at Monument Circle. As a lasting tribute, each state director was honored with a personalized brick placed on the Circle. These bricks, now part of the fabric of this historic site, symbolize the commitment of these leaders to the well-being of our nation's veterans.



The brick reveal ceremony was a surprise for the directors and was a poignant moment. Attendees shared heartfelt stories and reflected on the unity that defines their work.

"The ceremony at the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial was moving and the bricks were absolutely an honor. Class act!" said one state director.

"The bricks made me cry in public, which is gross, but were so very thoughtful," joked another state director.

The bricks on Monument Circle are a powerful reminder of what is being achieved with states veteran affairs agencies coming together in service to veterans.

Hosting the NASDVA conference showcased Indiana's dedication to our veterans and provided a national platform for IDVAs innovative approach. Honoring our state and territory veterans affairs directors' contributions here in Indiana creates lasting tribute marked a year of pride and purpose. IDVA remains dedicated to supporting, serving, and advocating for our Indiana Veteran Community through these partnerships and innovative national leadership.



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## What's Happening

**11TH ANNUAL INDIANA**

**JANUARY 14, 2025**

**INDIANA STATEHOUSE**  
200 W. WASHINGTON ST. INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FROM INDIANAPOLIS ZOO PARKING

**INDIANA MILITARY VETERAN'S LEGISLATIVE DAY**

**COFFEE, DONUTS & LUNCH PROVIDED 9AM-1PM**

**MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**40 EXHIBITORS**

VeteransLegislativeDay.com

### **SUBMIT A VETERAN EVENT**

Tell us about events to support, serve, and advocate for your veteran community. Visit our site and let us know to add it to our website calendar!

**What's Happening?**

Find events 

[Check out the IDVA event calendar today.](#)



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## VA News & Notes

Six suicide prevention resources all Veterans need to know

LEARN MORE 



Get ahead of winter emergencies

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

### 2025 Disabled Hoosier Veteran Entrance Pass



Indiana's 2025 Disabled Hoosier Veteran (DHV) State Park Pass is a great way for eligible veterans to enjoy the beauty of our state parks and recreation areas for just \$25. Indiana veterans who have or are eligible for a DHV license plate and have a disability award letter from the VA can apply. Learn more or grab your pass today at the Indiana State Parks online store!

[Learn More](#)



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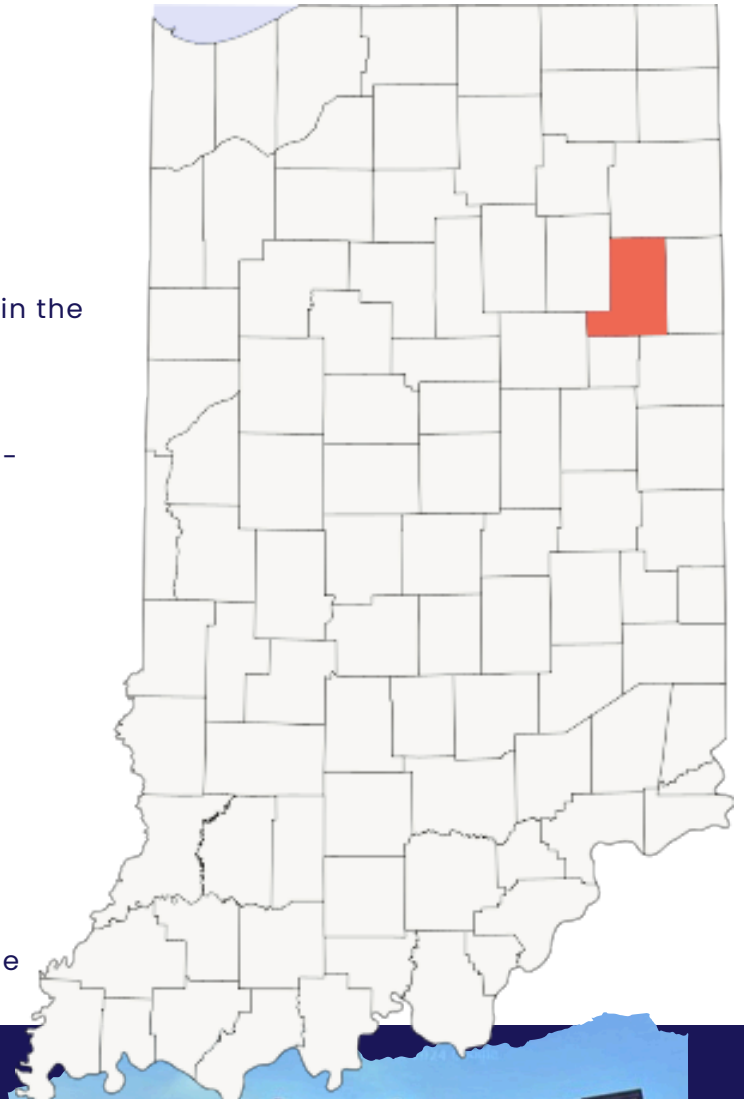
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## CVSO Spotlight

# CVSO SPOTLIGHT

This Veteran Service office 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 WELLS COUNTY

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Monday-Thursdays from 8-1 p.m.

Office: (260) 824-6403  
Fax: (260) 824-9942



[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

### IDVA's 2025 Non-Profit Partner – At Ease Orchard

At Ease Orchard was selected to serve as the agency's Non-Profit Partner (NPP) in 2025. The program partners IDVA with an Indiana non-profit dedicated to enhancing the lives of Indiana's Veterans.



At Ease Orchard was founded by Army veteran Joe Ricker and is dedicated to empowering veterans and their families through sustainable agriculture and beekeeping. Located in northeastern

Hancock County, the organization offers hands-on training, educational resources, and a supportive community to help veterans find purpose and healing in farming. Their programs, such as the VetFarm Network and Beekeeping for Heroes, aim to improve social connections, strengthen physical health, and reduce symptoms of depression and PTSD among participants.

Together, IDVA and At Ease Orchard will plan the annual IDVA golf outing as well as other community events throughout the year to raise funds for At Ease Orchard's mission; raise awareness of state and federal benefits available to veterans; and foster community, camaraderie, and connection.

Learn More at [ateaseorchard.org](http://ateaseorchard.org)



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