



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



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



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."



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

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

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.



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

What's Happening

11TH ANNUAL **INDIANA**

JANUARY 14, 2025
INDIANA STATEHOUSE
200 W. WASHINGTON ST. INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE
FROM INDIANAPOLIS
ZOO PARKING

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

**MEET
YOUR
LEGISLATORS**

**40
EXHIBITORS**

VeteransLegislativeDay.com


Seals of the United States Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, and Army National Guard.

Facebook icon and QR code.

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.](#)



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

VA News & Notes

Six suicide
prevention
resources all
Veterans need
to know

LEARN MORE



Get ahead
of winter
emergencies

LEARN MORE



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

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](#)



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

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

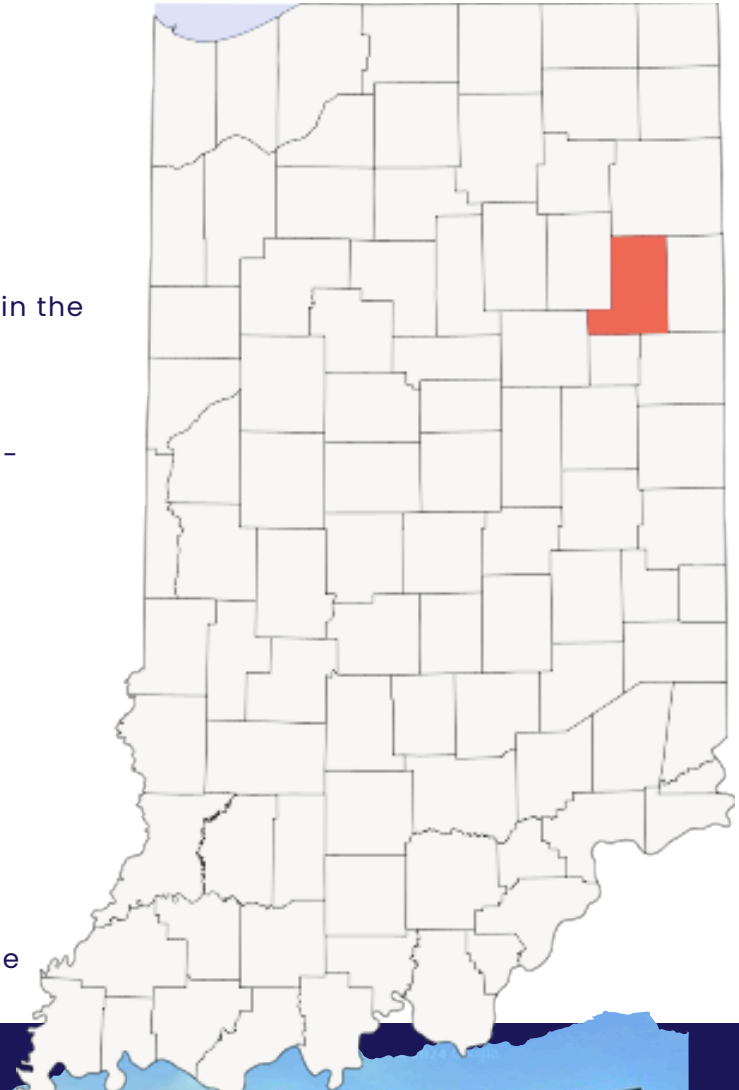
Dewey Randall

223 W WASHINGTON ST
SUITE #102
BLUFFTON, IN 46714

veterans@wellscounty.org

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>.



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

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



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva



HOOSIER VETERAN

Connect with IDVA



**Text VET to
79848**

**LIKE &
SHARE**



317.232.3910



outreach@dva.in.gov



www.in.gov/dva