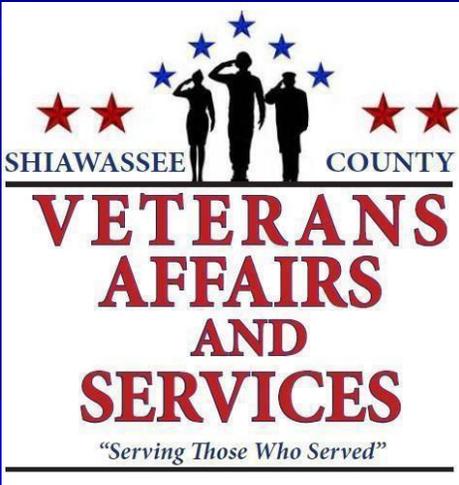


Project Connect

Court Rules
VA

Vietnam Veteran
Ceremony



Serving Those Who Served

Shiawassee County Veteran News

Welcome...

Vet Affairs Monthly Newsletter by Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services.

Each month look for information and current events to keep you updated. All monthly newsletters will be available online and in our office. Sign up at vetaffairs@shiawassee.net to receive monthly newsletter via email.



Calendar of Events:

- May 4 John Moolenaar/Vietnam Veteran Commemorative Lapel Pin Ceremony/1pm
- May 8 **Mother's Day**
- May 18 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Meeting/10am
- May 25 Veterans Affairs Relief Fund Meeting/3pm
- May 30 Corunna-Memorial Day Parade/9am
- May 28 Perry-Memorial Day Parade/11am
- May 30 **Memorial Day/Office Closed**
- May 30 Durand-Memorial Day Parade/11am
- May 30 Owosso-Memorial Day Parade/6pm

MEMORIAL DAY...

...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM. MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE.
GOD BLESS AMERICA.



CRS SCADY.COM

Contact Us:

201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-2231
Fax: (989)743-2393
vetaffairs@shiawassee.net

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight

We're flying!!!!
From our State Capitol to our
Nation's Capitol

Spring flight-June 8, 2016

"It's never to late to thank a veteran"

For more information please contact:

info@midmichiganhonorflight.com

231-803-4255



Clear Captions

Free Caption Telephones

Do you have hearing
loss?



Regardless of age, income,
insurance or veteran status you
may receive this free service. For
more information please contact:

Tracy Salisbury

Michigan Territory Manager

810-360-9364

Nine Ways To Identify Someone In Crisis

For some of us, certain events can mean stress, depression, or feeling overwhelmed. Mounting responsibility or isolation can heighten these feelings until they are impossible to handle alone. It's important to recognize when emotions reach a crisis point, especially when thoughts of suicide arise. Learn to recognize these nine warning signs in yourself or someone you care about.

Signs of crisis to look out for include:

1) Experiencing mood swings

Moving between seeming normal one minute and down-and-out or abnormally cheerful the next — without a reasonable explanation — can be a sign of crisis. Mood swings that go beyond the good and bad days that most people experience, occur without cause or warning, or have the power to disrupt the day, affect relationships, and make it impossible to concentrate, may also be a sign of crisis or even a precursor to suicide.

2) Feeling hopeless, as if there is no reason to live or no way out

Hopelessness, often associated with depression, can manifest itself in a number of ways. Some people who have lost hope feel powerless, while others feel there is no point in living. Hopelessness may be accompanied by feeling trapped or as if there is no way out of a situation. Thoughts, feelings, or behaviors associated with hopelessness are serious signs of crisis.

3) Engaging in risky activities without thinking

When they are out of the ordinary, dangerous behaviors, like recklessly driving a motorcycle or car, gambling away large sums of money, or starting fights, may be a sign of crisis. When someone becomes unconcerned about causing injury or harm to him or herself or others through risky activities, it's time to reach out for help.

4) Abusing alcohol or drugs

Many adults enjoy an alcoholic beverage now and then, but when consuming alcohol becomes a daily habit, a sleeping aid, or a reason to get out bed in the morning — or interferes with daily life — it may be a sign of crisis. Using drugs that are not for medical purposes is also a warning sign that someone may be in emotional pain. Recent onset of alcohol or drug abuse is especially worrisome.

5) Withdrawing from family and friends

Spending less time with friends and family and more time alone, no longer engaging in the activities that used to be pleasurable, or avoiding social interactions of any kind can be signs of distress or, in the worst case, an impending suicide attempt. People can isolate themselves for a number of reasons, but it is almost always a sign that something is seriously wrong.

The following signs require immediate attention:

6) Thinking about hurting or killing yourself

Whether a person has passing thoughts about suicide, experiences frequent or nearly continuous suicidal thinking, or actually begins a routine of self-harm, all of these behaviors point to dangerous levels of crisis and should be handled by a professional immediately.

7) Looking for ways to kill yourself

If a person spends time considering how to kill him or herself — pondering the details of the most effective methods, doing research online, or even making plans for a suicide attempt — this sign of suicide risk should be taken very seriously and requires professional intervention.

8) Talking about death, dying, or suicide

Even passing comments about suicide, or comments about "going away for good" or "not being around anymore," should *never* be taken lightly. Whether people say they wish they could go to sleep and never wake up or talk about "how they would do it" if they decided to kill themselves, it's important to read between the lines and recognize when someone may be in suicidal crisis. Their comment may actually be a sign they want help.

9) Engaging in self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse or reckless use of weapons

When reckless behavior escalates to the point of almost certain self-harm or death, such as overdosing on drugs or harming oneself or others with a weapon, that person and potentially others are in immediate danger, and it is time to reach out for help immediately.

If you or a Veteran you know is exhibiting any of these signs, call the [Veterans Crisis Line](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/chat, or text to 838255 to get confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Veterans Crisis Line responders, some of them Veterans or family members of Veterans themselves, understand what you or your loved one may be going through, and they can provide guidance and support whenever times get tough.

For someone going through a difficult time, one simple act has the power to make a difference. Reach out to the Veterans and Service members in your life today and let them know they're not alone. One conversation can open the door to support.



SHIAWASSEE COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION
JOIN US FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL

PROJECT CONNECT

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Location: Corunna Community Center (Old Casino)
McCurdy Park
Corunna, MI 48817

FREE TRANSPORTATION-IF NEEDED PLEASE CALL (989) 725-9303

"CONNECTING YOU TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES"

FREE EVENT

FOR ALL VETERANS & LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

VETERAN'S EVENT!!!

**EARLY ACCESS
VETERANS ONLY**

TIME: 8:00AM – 10:00AM

ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS

TIME: 10:00AM – 2:00PM

- ◆ **FREE HOT BREAKFAST**
- ◆ **FREE HOT LUNCH**
- ◆ **VA HEALTHCARE**
- ◆ **VA HOMELESS HOUSING ASSISTANCE**
- ◆ **VA NUTRITION & FOOD SERVICE**
- ◆ **VA PEER SUPPORT**
- ◆ **VA SAGINAW MINORITY VETERAN PROGRAM**
- ◆ **VA MENTAL HEALTH**
- ◆ **VA BENEFIT SPECIALIST**
- ◆ **VA VETERAN'S JUSTICE OUTREACH**
- ◆ **VA HOMELESS WORKER PROGRAM**
- ◆ **VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH**
- ◆ **VA REHABILITATION SERVICES**
- ◆ **EMPLOYMENT**
- ◆ **HOME REPAIR GRANTS**
- ◆ **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

ALL LOW INCOME SHIAWASSEE COUNTY RESIDENTS & VETERANS!!!

ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS

TIME: 10:00AM – 2:00PM

- ◆ **FREE HOT LUNCH**
- ◆ **HAIR CUTS**
- ◆ **HYGIENE PRODUCTS**
- ◆ **KID'S CORNER**
- ◆ **FOOD TRUCK**
- ◆ **EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**
- ◆ **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE**
- ◆ **NUTRITION CLASSES & RECIPES**
- ◆ **CONSUMER'S ENERGY**
- ◆ **DEPRESSION SCREENINGS**
- ◆ **HEALTH SCENINGS**

COURT RULES THAT VA HAS SHORTCHANGED VETERANS SINCE 2009 BY REFUSING TO REIMBURSE THEM FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Agrees with National Veterans Legal Services Program Argument That VA Failed to Revise Its Reimbursement Regulations to Comply with 2009 Congressional Mandate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 11, 2016

WASHINGTON – On Friday, a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims struck down a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulation that VA had been relying upon since 2009 to deny reimbursement requests from veterans who incurred emergency medical care costs outside the VA healthcare system. The Court's decision rebuked the VA, emphasizing that VA's reimbursement regulation became "wholly inconsistent" with the governing statute when Congress amended it in 2009, but thereafter the VA unlawfully "declined to remedy this inconsistency."

The case, *Richard W. Staab v. Robert A. McDonald*, was brought by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) on behalf of an Air Force veteran who had a heart attack in 2010 and was rushed to a non-VA hospital, where he underwent open heart surgery and incurred approximately \$48,000 in emergency medical expenses. Medicare covered a portion of this medical bill, and the veteran sought VA reimbursement for the portion of the medical expenses not covered by Medicare.

"This is a major win for veterans, and their families," said Bart Stichman, joint executive director of NVLSP and one of the attorneys in the case. "Often veterans have to seek emergency medical care outside the VA healthcare system, and for years the VA has refused to reimburse these veterans for any of the expenses incurred simply because secondary insurance covered a portion of the medical bill. This practice has violated federal law since at least 2009. The court's ruling means the VA will have to amend the unlawful regulations it should have amended in 2009 and do right by these veterans. It's not just a win for one veteran. Veterans who have pending claims for reimbursement will benefit. Plus, veterans whose reimbursement requests were turned down years ago may now be able to get paid by claiming that the previous denial contained "clear and unmistakable error."

For many years, the VA denied reimbursement claims for emergency medical care for veterans who had partial or secondary insurance, even though VA was required by federal statute to pay these claims. In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency Care Fairness Act to confirm the congressional intent to require the VA Secretary to step in as a "secondary payer" where other health care insurers, such as Medicare, cover only a portion of the cost of a veteran's emergency treatment.

Even after Congress clarified its intent in 2009, the VA refused to change its regulation to make it consistent with what Congress said. VA continued to deny requests for reimbursement from veterans for emergency medical expenses, if they had other insurance that covered a portion of the medical bill. Oddly, the VA did pay emergency medical expense claims for veterans who had no insurance.

Plaintiff Richard W. Staab is an Air Force veteran who served honorably from November 1952 to November 1956. He received the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. His case is typical of many of the denied claims.

In December 2010, Staab suffered a heart attack that was followed by a stroke. He received cardiovascular treatment, open heart surgery, and *rehabilitative care from December 27, 2010, through December 31, 2011*. He incurred expenses of \$48,000 which were not covered by Medicare.

Staab's request for reimbursement of \$48,000 was denied by the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud, Minn. because he had partial insurance coverage through Medicare. The veteran filed a Notice of Disagreement in May 2012. He said that he was incapacitated due to his heart attack and stroke and was unable to secure pre-authorization for non-VA treatment, and neither he nor his family were advised to seek pre-approval.

His case then went through a variety of appeals and made it to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Friday's court win remanded Staab's case back to the Board of Veterans Appeals, which was essentially told by the court to authorize payment for the \$48,000 for his emergency medical expenses.

The judges at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims also ruled the VA's regulation, which had been used for years to deny veterans reimbursement, is invalid, saying in its opinion, "Further, 38 C.F.R. § 17.1002(f) is held invalid and SET ASIDE."

"The court overturned and set aside the VA's own regulation. This means that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be forced to amend its regulations and re-train its staff on the rules, so other veterans who needed emergency medical care outside the VA system are not denied reimbursement, simply because they have partial secondary insurance," said Stichman. "This is a big victory for veterans and their families who have not received the reimbursement that they are legally entitled to for emergency medical expenses."

For veterans who filed reimbursement claims in the past for emergency medical care outside the VA system and were denied because they had partial secondary insurance, the ruling does not require the VA to go back to reopen past reimbursement denials. Stichman believes that the veteran would have to take action to file a new claim and argue that the past denial was based on "clear and unmistakable error." Stichman believes that cases currently pending before the VA will directly benefit from the Court's decision.

The American Legion Owosso Post #57

The American Legion meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00pm.

Poker room Thursday thru Sunday 5:00pm to close

Monday-Burger's	4pm-8pm
Tuesday-Coney's	4pm-8pm
Friday-Taco's	4pm-8pm

The American Legion
201 E. Mason St.
Owosso, MI 48867
Phone: (989)723-1382

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Veterans of Foreign War-Corunna Post #4005

The VFW in Corunna meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00pm.

May 2-Meeting 7pm (Free for Members)

May 16-Meeting 7pm (Free for Members)

May 21-Eucher Tournament & Pot Luck
5pm Pot Luck/\$10
6pm Eucher/\$25

(Sponsored by Post Lighting Committee)

VFW
416 S. Shiawassee St.
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-5015



What To Share Your Upcoming Events???

If a service organization would like to share their upcoming information and/or events in the Vet Affairs Newsletter, please fill out an event information form with the details. The Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services office must receive the completed form by the 15th of each month. This allows adequate time to have your information published in the next month's newsletter. You can obtain an event information form by contacting our office and requesting a form. Once the form is completed you may mail, email, or fax the form to the office.

If you have any questions please call Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services (989)743-2231.

Thank you!



Veterans of Foreign War - Owosso Post #9455

The VFW in Owosso meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm.

May 8-Mother's Day Breakfast

Full Menu 8am-12pm (sponsored by the post)

May 14-VFW CAC Annual Bike Run (Sponsored by Child Advocacy Center & Post)

8am-runs all day (\$15.00)

May 28-Memorial Kick-Start

8am-5pm (Pre-register \$15/\$20 day of event) Spectators free

(Sponsored by Multiple businesses and the post)

VFW
519 S. Chipman St.
Owosso, MI 48867
Phone:(989)723-8655



Men's Auxiliary has a 55" flat screen raffle going on until June 14, 2016-Tickets are \$5 each

Remember their names...



AMVETS-Durand Post #2273

The AMVETS in Durand meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.

Monthly Pancake Breakfast-9am to Noon
2nd Sunday of every month/\$6 per person

(Sponsored by: Riders Chapter of AMVETS Post 2273)

May 14-HotRod Patsey

Annual All You Can Eat Fish Fry
3:00pm-till GONE/\$10 per person

(Sponsored by: Sons of AMVETS Post 2273)

AMVETS
8495 E. M-71
Durand, MI 48429
Phone: (989)288-3655

