

Veterans and their survivors are entitled to benefits

Are you a veteran? A survivor of a veteran? The Veterans Association provides benefits for veterans with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia and their survivors.

Rock Larson is the veterans’ service officer for Wood County. He provided an overview of benefits at the July meeting of the Alzheimer’s support group for caregivers. Veterans can receive benefits at the federal, state and county level, including health care, benefits for survivors and dependents and other assistance.

Men and women who served full time in any branch of service are eligible, based on discharge. They may be eligible for disability compensation if they were injured or a condition occurred or was aggravated during their time in the service. PTSD, disease and accidents also count – you don’t have to be wounded in combat to be eligible.

Veterans are eligible for burial benefits at some cemeteries, a government marker or headstone at no cost, a presidential memorial certificate, burial flag and possible burial assistance.

Survivors of a veteran with a service-related death are eligible for compensation and death pension.

VA Health Care benefits are not an insurance plan but meet the requirement for the Affordable Care Act. Veterans can enroll if they meet requirements, but they do not have to

have a service-connected disability. Health care benefits include long-term care, alcohol and drug-dependence treatment, hospice or palliative care, respite care, home-based care, prosthetics, home improvement and structural alterations. Health care benefits include specialty clinics for women, military sexual trauma, geriatric evaluation and suicide prevention.

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs offers grants to needy veterans for health care, subsistence and disaster aid. Veterans’ homes at King, Union Grove and Chippewa Falls serve veterans, spouses and widows. State veterans’

cemeteries are free for veterans and accept registration in advance. Wisconsin veterans and their surviving spouse may be eligible for a property tax credit.

County veterans’ benefits include help for indigent veterans and transportation to VA medical appointments.

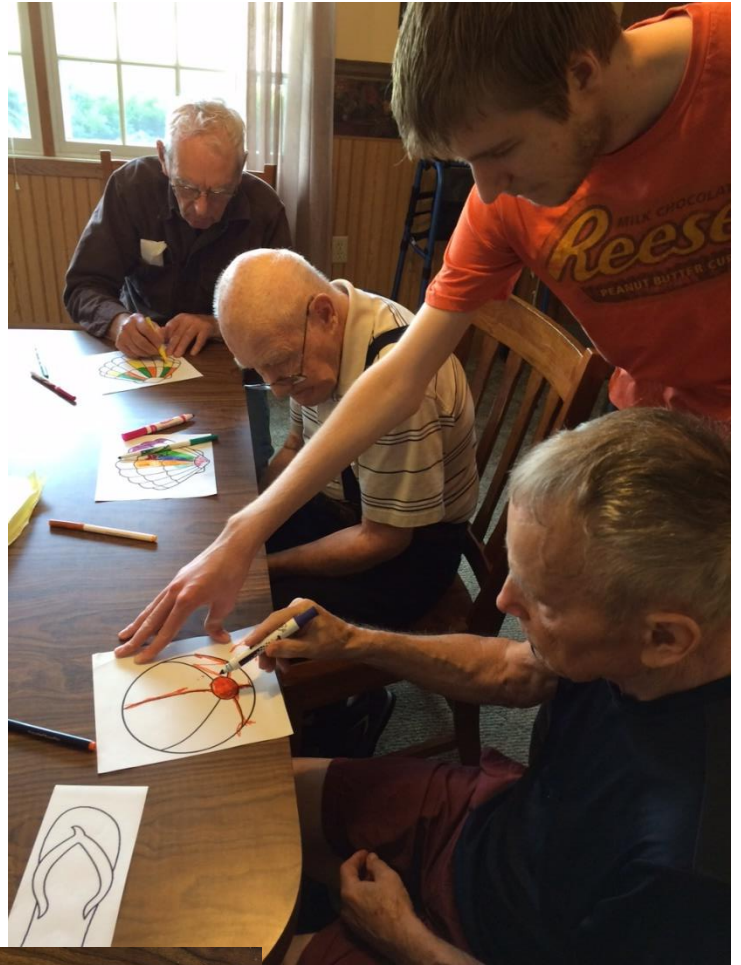
To learn more about benefits for veterans, call Larson at the Wood County Veterans Service Office, 715-421-0420, or email veterans@co.wood.wi.us.



Upcoming support group topics

Learn about health care power of attorney with Katie Schneider of Riverview Medical Center at our next meeting, 9:30 a.m. Aug. 13 at the Aging & Disability Resource Center in Centralia Center. Angela Loucks will talk about the United Way of Inner Wisconsin, the Volunteer Center and building a dementia-friendly community at the Sept. 10 meeting. Join us!

Activities



Kay, right, and Pastor Milt, below, from Baker Street Community Church, began offering weekly church services at Hilltop. We appreciate their service!



In July, we planned a fantasy vacation, clockwise from top left, made an indoor beach scene, celebrated Independence Day and made chocolate chip cookies, among many other activities.



Employee spotlight

Alicia Greuel followed her mom's example – her mom has been an RN for 30+ years -- and found her niche in caregiving. Alicia joined Hilltop several months ago. "I like to help people," she said, by helping them live well, have a good life and lifestyle and make the right choices.



She carries that into her job as a patient care worker at Ravenwood by "making sure the residents are happy." She starts with a positive attitude herself and looks for things the residents will enjoy – playing cards, doing puzzles or crosswords, chatting or helping them with tasks, like filling out a job application.

Alicia is inspired by her boyfriend, Andrew, who encourages her to be her best. He "picks me up when I'm down," she said. Together, they enjoy family-oriented activities with his 14-year-old son and almost 7-year-old daughter. Alicia loves the outdoors, so they spend time camping, hiking, biking and doing other activities and sports. "I like to get my hands dirty," she said. "We love to go camping as a family."

Although she hasn't been there yet, Alicia would love to travel to Europe. Andrew enjoys photography, so they would have plenty of good things to see and photograph while vacationing there.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Hilltop Affiliates has started a team to take part in the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Plover through the Alzheimer's Association. We need your help!

Please join our team for the walk. It will be Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Plover Village Park. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with a ceremony at 9 a.m. and the walk at 9:30 a.m. It is a two-mile route. You can register to be part of our team at <http://tinyurl.com/hilltopalzwalk>. We would love to have you walk with us!



Our team goal is \$2,000, to help raise \$47,500 for the Plover walk. If you can't join us at the walk, please consider making a donation. It's easy to do through the website.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our local chapter is headquartered in Wausau, and the caregiver support group is an Alzheimer's Association sponsored group. The association has a professionally staffed 24/7 Helpline, 1-800-272-3900, which offers information and advice. Learn more about this organization at www.alz.org.

Who's new

Hilltop welcomes these new employees. Tell them hello when you see them.

- Abbee Davis, Hilltop of Pepper
- Michelle McKinney, Hilltop of Pepper
- Dorothy Vanstedum, Hilltop of Pepper
- Sherry Liebenstein, Ravenwood

Remember when?

On Aug. 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing 80,000 and injuring 35,000. Another 60,000 died from effects of fallout. Three days later, a second atom bomb hit the city of Nagasaki, a ship-building center, killing between 60,000 and 80,000 people. The second bombing resulted in Japan's unconditional surrender during World War II.

President Harry S. Truman decided to use the atom bomb to end the war in order to prevent a much larger loss of life were the U.S. to invade the Japanese mainland.

The History Channel features stories every day in its Today in History feature. Check it out at <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>.

Something to do

If you're looking for something to do, check out <http://visitwisrapids.com> for a list of upcoming events as well as numerous places to visit in the Wisconsin Rapids area.

Take a step back in time at the South Wood County Historical Museum, 540 Third St. S., Wisconsin Rapids. This historic home now features Disney animator Grim Natwick's work, displays about the cranberry and lumber industries, and themed rooms, including a country kitchen, school room and train depot. The museum is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays through Labor Day. There is no charge to visit. Call 715-423-1580 for more information.

Lots of zucchini? Try this recipe

Garden harvests are under way. Zucchini squash are among the earliest and most prolific. We keep seeing recipes for chocolate zucchini bread and thought we should give it a try. This recipe is from allrecipes.com.

Ingredients

2 (1 ounce) squares of unsweetened chocolate
3 eggs
2 cups white sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
2 cups grated zucchini
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup semisweet chocolate chips

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease two 9x5 inch loaf pans. In a microwave safe bowl, microwave chocolate until melted. Stir occasionally until chocolate is smooth.

In a large bowl, combine eggs, sugar, oil, grated zucchini, vanilla and chocolate; beat well. Stir in the flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Fold in the chocolate chips. Pour batter into prepared pans.

Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean.

Happy Birthday!


We wish a happy birthday to all on their special day. August birthdays will be celebrated with parties at the facilities featuring cake and games.



IMAGE COURTESY OF STUART MILES AT FREEDIGITALPHOTOS.NET

- **August birthdays:** David, Aug. 14; Bartlet, Aug. 25; Gleniavere, Aug. 30.

Try this!

- Do you know what the numbers on your toaster mean? It's a timer for toasting. One minutes, two minutes, etc.
- Driving a car you're not familiar with? The gas tank symbol on the dashboard will indicate on which side you can find the tank. Look for an arrow. 



Have a suggestion of your own? Send it to Mystique at mystique@hilltopaffiliatesinc.com or mention it to her in the office.