



VETERANS AFFAIRS



Honoring Our Nation, Honoring Our Veterans

Dear Veterans, Families, and Members of Our Community,

July is a special time to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday and reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

To every Veteran in our community, thank you for raising your right hand and answering the call to defend our nation. Your service has protected the liberties we cherish, and your sacrifices have helped preserve the American way of life. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the families who have stood beside our Veterans through every challenge and sacrifice.

As we commemorate 250 years of American history, we recognize that the story of our nation is inseparable from the story of its Veterans. Their service continues long after they leave the military as they strengthen our communities through leadership, volunteerism, public service, business, and family.

July is also filled with community events honoring our Veterans. I encourage you to attend local ceremonies, parades, celebrations, and Veteran-focused events throughout the month. Your participation is a meaningful way to show appreciation and ensure the service and sacrifices of our Veterans are never forgotten.

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve the Veterans and families of Indiana County. Whether you have questions about VA disability compensation, pensions, health care, survivor benefits, state benefits, or simply aren't sure where to begin, our office is here to help at no cost. Many Veterans have earned benefits they may not realize they qualify for, and one conversation can make all the difference.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us remember that America's strength has always come from ordinary people willing to do extraordinary things for a cause greater than themselves. Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve our nation. I wish you and your family a safe and meaningful Independence Day.

Jessica
Jessica Walker
Director

Highlights
Hog Roast & Ride
Parsonage Car Show
Connection Saves Lives
TSA PreCheck
PTSD Screening
VA Math
Farmer's Market Voucheres

During the
STAR SPANGLED BANNER
CELEBRATION
AT MACK PARK
SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

*** Celebrate our ***
VETERANS
8:30PM

This tribute to the men and women who have proudly fought for our country will be led by Sheriff Robert Fyock.

11 July 2026
HOG ROAST & RIDE
Ride for Our Heroes

START & FINISH
AT
HOMER CITY CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE
3513 US HIGHWAY 119
HOMER CITY, PA 15748

TOGETHER, WE RIDE.
TOGETHER, WE REMEMBER.

HONOR OUR PAST * SUPPORT OUR PRESENT * BUILD OUR FUTURE

RIDE INFORMATION
REGISTRATION 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
KICK STANDS UP 10:10 AM
LUNCH STARTS 12:30 PM
RIDE & LUNCH \$15
LUNCH ONLY \$15

RIDE CLOSING CEREMONY
Provided by the
Homer City American Legion
HONOR GUARD

HEROES HALL OF HONOR
Visit the Social Hall
A special tribute honoring Western
Pennsylvania's Fallen Heroes through
photos, names, and stories.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - FOLLOWING THE RIDE

VETERANS VILLAGE
9:30-1:00
• Veteran Resources
• Community Organizations
• Benefits & Support
OPEN TO VETERANS, FAMILIES & THE COMMUNITY

Operation Vet NOW
Be There for Our Veterans

The
VETERAN'S Parsonage
CAR SHOW

SUNDAY JULY 12TH
2PM TO 6PM

Live MUSIC | DASH PLAQUES | 50/50

FREEDOM CHURCH
905 McKNIGHT ROAD, INDIANA, PA 15701

VETERANS OUTREACH POKER RUN
BENEFITS
LOCAL
VETERANS

July 18th 2026
STARTS AT DIXONVILLE MOOSE
F.O.E. PUNXSU
REYNOLDSVILLE LEGION
DUBOIS LEGION
STARLIGHT MAHAFFEY
END'S AT DIXONVILLE MOOSE FOR AN AFTER PARTY
DJ WAYNE
BASKET RAFFEL 50/50 EVENT T-SHIRTS
OPEN TO ALL STREET LEGAL VEHICLES
\$20 DRIVER - \$5 PASSENGER
REGISTRATION 9:00A.M. TO 10:30AM
KSU 11AM

VOG
Veterans Outreach Group Inc.

3rd Annual Homeless Veterans Ride
Sponsored by B.A.C.K CoalHounds
Bikers Against Cop Killers
July 26, 2026
Registration 10am Kickstands up at 12pm
•Rider \$20 •Passenger \$10 •Food Only \$10

Starting Location: Ben Franklin Elementary School
95 S Ben Franklin Rd, Indiana, PA 15701
End Location: Blairsville VFW
9626 US-22, Blairsville, PA 15717
All Street Legal Vehicles Welcome
RAIN OR SHINE

Indiana County
BACK TO SCHOOL BASH
Register online now!
VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFO!

The [Indiana County Back to School Bash](#) is a faith-based community initiative that provides low-income children in Indiana County with school supplies. Free school supplies, fun activities, and lunch provided for all registered families on the day of the event, August 15th, 2026 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Online Registration open now thru - July 17th at 2:00 pm. Click the link to register:
<https://forms.gle/bKCCwNwBzy7akUHN7>.

VA News and Information



Eat Your Vegetables

Adding more vegetables to your meals is a simple way to improve overall health. Vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants while being naturally low in calories. Eating a variety of colorful vegetables may support heart health by helping lower blood pressure and cholesterol, improve digestion, strengthen the immune system, aid weight management, and reduce the risk of certain chronic diseases. Easy ways to eat more vegetables include adding mushrooms, peppers, and onions to omelets, choosing a salad or broccoli instead of fries, topping sandwiches with fresh vegetables, mixing broccoli or asparagus into pasta, or loading baked sweet potatoes with vegetables and herbs. Visit a local farmers' market to try new produce and include vegetables in every meal and snack. VA also offers nutrition and healthy cooking resources through programs like [MOVE!](#) and the [Healthy Teaching Kitchen](#), where Veterans can learn practical cooking skills, discover nutritious recipes, meet with registered dietitians, and build lasting healthy eating habits to support long-term wellness. [Read More](#)



Social Connection Saves Lives

Leaving military service is a major life transition that can affect a Veteran's sense of identity, purpose and connection. While many Veterans adjust successfully, others may experience isolation or uncertainty as they build a new civilian life. Family members, friends and communities play an important role by offering support, listening without judgment and encouraging meaningful conversations. Simple gestures—such as including Veterans in activities, introducing them to new social circles or asking for their input—can foster a sense of belonging and purpose. VA's [Don't Wait. Reach Out.](#) campaign provides transition resources, benefits information and personal stories from Veterans who have successfully navigated civilian life. The [Make the Connection](#) campaign also shares real experiences that remind Veterans they are not alone. If additional support is needed, the Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 for Veterans, families and friends. Call 988 and press 1, text 838255, or chat online. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to receive confidential support. [Read More](#)



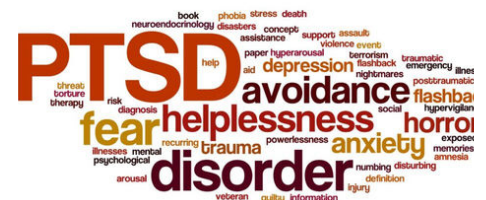
TSA PreCheck

The VETS (Veterans Expedited TSA Screening) Safe Travel Act, signed into law on January 4, 2025, allows eligible Veterans to receive TSA PreCheck enrollment at no cost. Veterans qualify if they are enrolled in VA health care and have a VA-rated service-connected disability requiring a VA-issued wheelchair or prosthetic limb due to loss of use of an extremity, paralysis, or permanent blindness. Eligible Veterans can access their TSA PreCheck fee waiver letter through their VA account and must present it during enrollment. Standard TSA security and background requirements still apply. Veterans needing airport screening assistance may also request support through [TSA Cares](#). Enrollment fee waivers remain subject to available funding and TSA approval requirements. [Read More](#)



Fraud Alert

Veterans should be alert for a new scam involving fraudulent postcards claiming they qualify for additional VA benefits, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE, or dental coverage, regardless of disability rating. Scammers create urgency, pose as VA representatives, and attempt to obtain personal information such as Social Security numbers or bank account details. Never share sensitive information with unsolicited callers or messages. Ignore suspicious postcards, emails, texts, social media contacts, or payment requests, and verify benefit questions directly with VA at 1-800-827-1000. If you suspect fraud or notice issues with your benefits, report it immediately through [VSAFE.gov](#) or by calling 1-833-38V-SAFE. Staying vigilant helps protect your identity and earned benefits. [Read More](#)



PTSD Screening

National PTSD Screening Day was observed on June 27, encouraging Veterans and others who experienced trauma to learn about PTSD and seek help if needed. PTSD can develop after events such as combat, accidents, disasters, or assault, causing symptoms like intrusive memories, avoidance, negative thoughts, and heightened alertness. A [PTSD self-screen](#), including the five-question PC-PTSD-5, can help identify whether professional evaluation is recommended. A score of three or more suggests speaking with a health care provider. PTSD is treatable, and early intervention can make a significant difference. Veterans can access screening tools, treatment resources, and specialized mental health services through VA whenever they are ready. [Read More](#)

Resources

VA DISABILITY CALCULATOR

Wondering how VA "Math" works?
See ways how VA calculates service-connected disabilities to get to your final rating below.




PA Home Life

Stay At Home For The Best Life!

- ✓ Family Owned & Locally Operated
- ✓ Fully Licensed & Insured
- ✓ Background Checked Caregivers

Our Services

- ✓ Personal Care & Hygiene
- ✓ Dementia & Alzheimer's Support
- ✓ Meal Prep & Light Housekeeping
- ✓ Companionship & Respite

- Medication Reminders
- Bathing, Dressing, Shaving
- Grooming & Oral Care
- Meal Prep & Feeding
- Light Housekeeping
- Laundry & Linens
- Toileting & Incontinence
- Skin Care
- Turning & Transfers

Customized Careplans available from hourly to 24-hour care.

- ✓ Private Pay
- ✓ Veterans Affairs Community Network
- ✓ Long Term Care Insurance

Learn More At:

 **Pahomelife.com**

 **PA Home Life**




VETERAN VOUCHERS

Have you or anyone in your household served in the Military?

You can receive up to \$10 in Veteran Vouchers to purchase locally-sourced produce. These vouchers can ONLY be used at the Indiana County Farmers' Market for fresh fruits and vegetables on certain days until allocated funds are depleted.

Community Health Days

9:00 AM-12:00 PM
8th & Church St. Indiana, PA 15701

June 20th, July 18th, August 15th



VA Launches Partial Claim Program to help Veterans avoid home foreclosure.

On June 15, 2026, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the VA Partial Claim Program, a new initiative designed to help Veterans experiencing financial hardship avoid foreclosure and remain in their homes. Authorized by the VA Home Loan Reform Act, signed into law on July 30, 2025, the program allows mortgage servicers to identify eligible Veterans in default and place them on a three-month trial payment plan. After successful completion, the servicer brings the loan current by paying the overdue balance, which VA then reimburses. The servicer repays VA when the loan is paid off, refinanced, or the home is sold. The Partial Claim Program complements other VA foreclosure prevention options, including repayment plans and loan modifications. Veterans struggling with mortgage issues can contact VA at 877-827-3702 (option 6) for assistance. Through its home loan guaranty program, VA continues to help Veterans achieve and maintain homeownership with competitive benefits and foreclosure prevention resources. For more information visit: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-launches-partial-claim-program-to-help-veterans-avoid-home-foreclosure/>

Thank you for reading!

Indiana County Department of Veterans Affairs	(724) 465-3815
https://www.indianacountypa.gov/departments/veteran-affairs/	825 Philadelphia Street Second Floor, Court House Indiana, PA 15701

