



VETERANS AFFAIRS



Honoring our Heroes

Dear Indiana County Veterans and Families,

As March arrives, we take a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the final evacuation of U.S. personnel from Vietnam, a significant moment in our nation's history. March 29th also marks National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a time to honor those who served during one of the most challenging conflicts in American history.

The Vietnam War lasted from 1955 to 1975, with over 2.7 million Americans serving in uniform. These brave men and women endured grueling conditions, faced unimaginable hardships, and returned home to a country that did not always welcome them with the respect they deserved. Today, we must ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten and that they receive the recognition they have long been owed.

According to recent data, Indiana County is home to approximately 2,000 Vietnam-era Veterans. These Veterans reside in our community, each carrying their own stories of courage and resilience. Many still face lingering challenges, including health issues related to Agent Orange exposure and PTSD. The transition from military to civilian life was particularly difficult for Vietnam Veterans, as they returned to a divided nation, often without the support networks available to today's Veterans. Despite these hardships, they have continued to serve our country and communities in countless ways, as mentors, public servants, and advocates for their fellow Veterans.

To honor these brave individuals, the Indiana County 2025 National Vietnam War Veterans Day Program will be held on March 29, from 6:30-8:30 PM at the American Legion Post 141, with doors opening at 5:30 PM. All Vietnam Veterans in attendance will receive a special commemorative coin. RSVP is required—please see the flyer on page two for two options to register for the event.

As we recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day, let us take time to show our gratitude. Whether through a simple "thank you," attending a local event, or supporting Veteran organizations, every effort helps in honoring these heroes.

To all Vietnam Veterans: Welcome home. Your bravery and dedication will never be forgotten.

Jessica
Jessica Walker
Director

Highlights

Vietnam Veteran Program

PA Career Link Job Fair

Veteran Peer Support

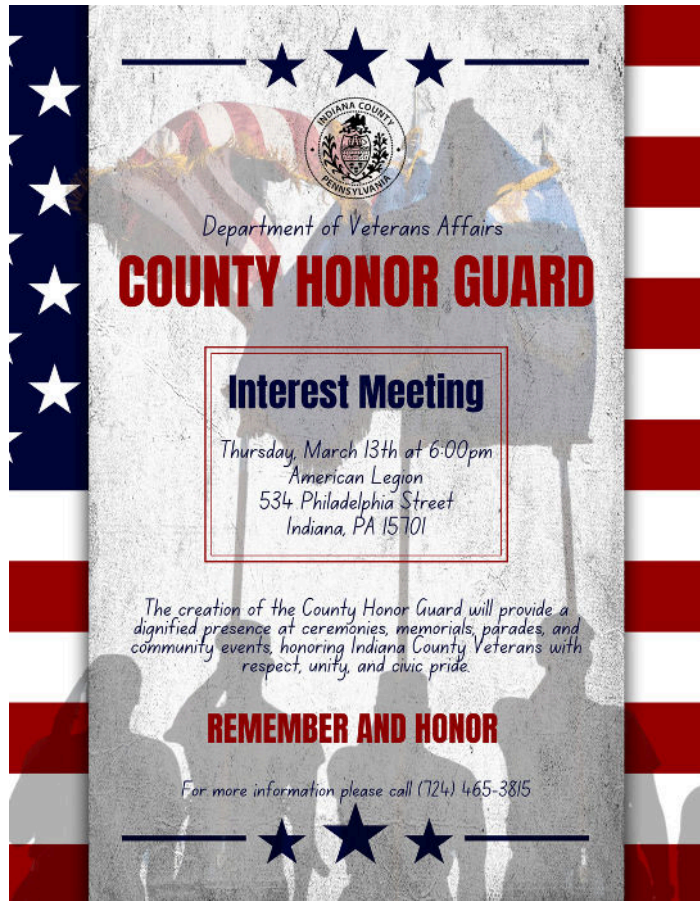
Custom Devices

Caregiver Support Line

Boots to Business

Military ID Card

Community News



Indiana County
Pennsylvania

Department of Veterans Affairs

COUNTY HONOR GUARD

Interest Meeting

Thursday, March 13th at 6:00pm
American Legion
534 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA 15701

The creation of the County Honor Guard will provide a dignified presence at ceremonies, memorials, parades, and community events, honoring Indiana County Veterans with respect, unity, and civic pride.

REMEMBER AND HONOR

For more information please call (724) 465-3815



6th Annual Vietnam War Era Veterans Appreciation Day Program

Saturday, March 29th 6:30 pm

American Legion Post 141
534 Philadelphia Street
Indiana, PA

A program dedicated to honor United States Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975

Free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 for photo opportunity.

RSVP required (724) 463-9600; www.hgsic.org

Program Sponsors



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY POST 141

VFW
POST 1909

AMERICAN LEGION
POST 141

HISTORICAL &
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF INDIANA
COUNTY

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 141


March 28, 2025
Noon — 3:00 pm

For additional accommodations, please contact:
PA CareerLink - Armstrong County — 724-548-5893 / TTY 724-543-4318
PA CareerLink - Indiana County — 724-741-7220 / TTY 878-844-3027

Elderton High School * 239 S. Lytle Street * Elderton, PA 15736

Pennsylvania CareerLinkSM

- Up to 75 employers are expected to participate across multiple industries
- Properly dress to be interviewed
- Bring plenty of resumes with you
- Staff / Partner Staff will be on-site to discuss Career Services
- Jobseekers can Register online at <https://rb.gy/9csn5c> or scan the QR code above




Indiana County
Pennsylvania

Department of Veterans Affairs hosts

Battle BREW

A Veteran only coffee group with meetings the First Friday of each month.

April 4th	May 2nd	June 6th
9:00 - 10:00 am	9:00 - 10:00 am	9:00 - 10:00 am
Gibson's Frosty Kiss, LLC	Dean's Diner	Country Junction
6000 PA-240	2175 Rt. 22 Hwy W	81 Eileen Drive
Cherry Tree, PA 15724	Blairsville, PA 15717	Smicksburg, PA 16256

We are dedicated to fostering a supportive community for Veterans through the power of connection and conversation. Our mission is to create a welcoming space where Veterans can come together to share experiences, build friendships, and provide mutual support over a cup of coffee. We honor the sacrifices made by our service members while promoting well-being and camaraderie within our community. Together, we brew strength and resilience.

For more information please contact (724) 465-3815



Veteran Spotlight



Michael Gensburger Sr. proudly served in the United States Navy from July 1972 to December 1984, dedicating over a decade of his life to duty, honor, and service. His journey began at the Great Lakes Training Center, where he completed boot camp before heading to San Diego to join a Destroyer Escort bound for Vietnam.

During the Vietnam War, Michael served on the Gun Line in I Corps and Yankee Station, supporting naval operations and "chasing the bird farms" – the aircraft carriers that were crucial to the war effort. His service continued with several West Pacific deployments. After reenlisting, Michael transitioned to the East Coast, stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. His career took him on a Mediterranean cruise before embarking on the challenging Unitas deployment—a journey that saw him travel through the Panama Canal, down the west coast of South America, around the Straits of Magellan, and back up the eastern coastline, ultimately returning to Charleston. Michael also served in Navy as an instructor at the Great Lakes Training Center, however, his career was cut short when a knee injury led to a medical discharge.

Since retiring from the Navy, Michael spends his time gardening, building intricate models of all kinds, and target shooting and hunting alongside his buddies. He has been happily married to Ione Mae Gensburger for 21 years and has one daughter, three sons, thirteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

VA News and Information



VA Facility Flag Policy

VA has announced a new policy limiting the display of flags at VA facilities, effective immediately. The policy is intended to establish consistency across the department and aligns with longstanding Department of Defense guidelines. Under the new directive, only specific flags may be publicly displayed or depicted at VA facilities. These include the United States flag, flags of U.S. states and territories, military service flags, VA flags and official flags of U.S. agencies. Additionally, flags representing prisoner of war/missing in action (POW/MIA), Senior Executive Service (SES), military command units and burial flags for honoring Veterans and reservists are permitted. [Read More](#)



National Nutrition Month

March's National Nutrition Month allows us to celebrate traditions and focus on Whole Health. This year's theme, "Food Connects Us," reminds us that the foods we enjoy are linked to family, culture, and social connections. With a VA dietitian nutritionist's help, Veterans can choose nutritious foods to meet long-term health goals. Nutrition and Food Services' mission is to provide Veterans with complete, evidence-based nutrition care. VA facilities nationwide offer Healthy Teaching Kitchen programs that teach Veterans and their support persons about food, nutrition, and preparing balanced, healthy meals. Classes are open to VA-enrolled Veterans and a "plus one." [Read More](#)



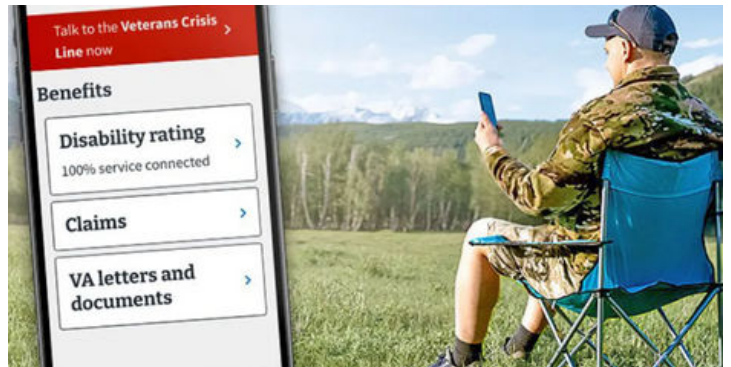
Peer Support

When facing cancer, it's not just your body that's affected—your mind struggles too. You might feel scared, angry, or overwhelmed, worrying about treatment, family, or the future. These feelings are normal, and you're not alone. Peer support groups create tight-knit communities where Veterans share experiences, discuss treatment concerns, and exchange practical tips like healthy recipes or coping strategies. Conversations range from managing anxiety to finding joy in daily life. These connections remind Veterans they're never alone in their journey. Visit [My HealtheVet](#) or call your health care team to learn more about the peer support available at your local facility. [Read More](#)



Devices to improve quality of life

Are you a Veteran with an injury or disability who has an idea for a device that could improve your mobility, independence or ability to enjoy the activities you love? The Quality of Life Plus Program (QL Plus) is here to help—at no cost to you. QL Plus creates one-of-a-kind personalized solutions. Each year, QL Plus works with Veterans to design and build custom devices that enhance their daily lives or enable them to participate in sports, hobbies and other activities. Past projects include hiking prosthetics, kayak and bike lifts, wheelchair tire cleaners, specialized archery equipment, a rollerblading attachment for a prosthetic leg, and many more. QL Plus teams up with engineering students at 25 universities across the country. These students take on these individual projects as part of their senior Capstone course, dedicating an entire academic year to designing and building the custom device. [Read More](#)



VA Health and Benefits App

Managing your VA health care and benefits has never been easier. With the VA Health and Benefits App, you can refill prescriptions, message your care team, and check your benefits—all from your smartphone. The app's secure messaging feature allows you to communicate with your VA care team just like using your favorite chat app. Refilling medications is now as simple as ordering takeout, eliminating the hassle of long pharmacy lines. You can also track your claims in real-time, giving you peace of mind with just a quick glance at your phone. Keeping up with appointments is effortless with the app's scheduling feature, which allows you to view upcoming visits and even add them to your phone's calendar. For urgent needs, always call 911, dial 988 (then press 1), or visit the nearest emergency room. The app also provides direct access to the Veteran Crisis Line for immediate support. Download the VA Health and Benefits App and stay connected anytime, anywhere! [Read More](#)

Resources

Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Line (CSL)

 <h3>Learn</h3> <p>more about CSP, its various services, and program eligibility.</p>	 <h3>Navigate</h3> <p>barriers to accessing care.</p>	 <h3>Connect</h3> <p>with the CSP team at your local VAMC, who assist with referrals to local services and enrollment in CSP.</p>	 <h3>Discover</h3> <p>additional VA and community resources available to help care for a Veteran.</p>	 <h3>Receive</h3> <p>supportive counseling.</p>
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VA Caregiver Support Line
1-855-260-3274 (toll-free)

www.caregiver.va.gov

James E. Van Zandt
VA Medical Center

Caregiver Support Team
814-943-8164 ext. 4776




SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Clarvida, facilitated in partnership with the **Indiana County Suicide Task Force**, will be hosting open gatherings that are led by peers & clinicians, to offer comfort and understanding to those grappling with the loss of a loved one to suicide.

Our Group Facilitators are Beth Heller & Chelsey Baroni, NCC, LPC, CCTP.
This support group will be for adults, 18 years and older.

 **3rd Tuesday of Every Month**
6:30pm to 8:00pm

 **Clarvida Indiana Office**
655 Church Street
Suite E327
Indiana, PA 15701

MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 724-762-5265 OR EMAIL
CHELSEY.BARONI@CLARVIDA.COM



Boots to Business & Boots to Business Reboot

Boots to Business

Offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as a training track of the U.S. Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP), this course is hosted by military installations worldwide and targeted to:

- Service Members
- Military Spouses

1. Visit sba.my.site.com for information and to confirm your interest in the course.
2. Contact the transition office on your military installation to register.

Boots to Business Reboot

No access to a military installation? Boots to Business Reboot brings the Boots to Business course off installations and into communities, extending access to:

- Veterans of all eras
- National Guard or Reserve member
- Military Spouses

1. Visit sba.my.site.com to view a list of upcoming Boots to Business Reboot courses in your area.
2. Create an account to join the B2B online community.
3. Sign up for your desired course date using your online B2B account.

Start your small business journey with Boots to Business or Boots to Business Reboot, SBA's entrepreneurial training programs for transitioning service members (including National Guard and Reserve), veterans of all eras, and spouses.

Beginning Your Journey
"Introduction to Entrepreneurship" Course

What is it? The "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" course is the foundational piece of Boots to Business (B2B). This in-person or online course provides participants with an introductory understanding of business ownership.

What will I learn? Partnerships are introduced to the business fundamentals they need to launch a business:

Introduction to Business Ownership	Basics of Opportunity Recognition	Market Research	Economics of Small Business Startup
Legal Considerations	Financing Your Business	Introduction to Business Planning	Resources to Support You

Continuing Your Journey
Optional Courses and Follow-on Support

After completing the "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" course, participants can elect to further their study through optional online courses, such as B2B Revenue Readiness and the SBA Learning Center.

Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot participants are also encouraged to take advantage of the many resources and services offered by the SBA and its partner network including Veterans Business Outreach Centers, Women's Business Centers, Small Business Development Centers, and SCORE.

To find help, visit sba.gov/local-assistance.

All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

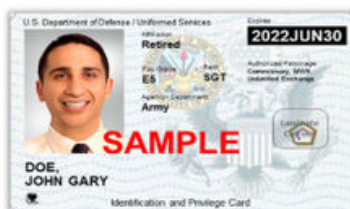
Contact Us
Phone: (202) 205-8381 (VET1)
Toll Free: (844) 610-8381 (VET1)
Email: boots-to-business@sba.gov

Follow Us
Facebook: [/Boots2Business](https://www.facebook.com/Boots2Business)
Twitter: [@Boots2Business](https://twitter.com/Boots2Business)
LinkedIn: Office of Veterans Business Development

Learn More
sba.my.site.com

March 2023

Uniformed Services ID Card



The Department of Defense transitioned from its legacy paper-based Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card to a more secure, next generation USID card. Recipients of the new card can include retired members entitled to retired pay, retired members of the Reserve and National Guard, 100% Disabled Veterans, and dependents of above Veterans. The ID card allows access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases.

Frequently Asked ?

Getting your ID Card

Scheduling

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

