



# Veteran's Advocate

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## 60th Anniversary of the Korean War 2010 - 2014



Since 1975, the Republic of Korea has been inviting Korean War Veterans, and family members, to return to Korea on a subsidized visit to thank them for their sacrifices that saved their country from Communism. Thousands of veterans, from all the Allied Countries that participated in the war, have enjoyed this sojourn to the "Land of the Morning Calm." The Korean government pays for hotel rooms, meals and in country tours.

Commencing in June 2010, the Revisit Korea tours will be increased "three fold" and, for the first time, the ROK government is planning to subsidize the airfare of both the veteran and his family member/ companion. The Eligibility Requirements will also be relaxed in view of the age of the veterans.

The exact dates have not been published. However, they are planning on five major commemorations, the first being the Invasion Anniversary, 25 June. This will be followed by the Pusan Perimeter, the Inchon Landing, the Liberation of Seoul and the Northern Winter Campaign of 1950.

It is anticipated that these 2010 tours will be oversubscribed! If you are planning to participate, you must register early. Registrations will be date stamped and will be "First Come - First Served"!

To register, call 800-722-9501 or 703-590-1295. Check the KWVA web site at [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) or [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com). You can also Email to the Revisit Coordinator at [mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com), to request a brochure.

## Additional Phases Identified for Iraq Campaign Medal



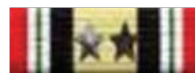
The Department of Defense announced today that additional campaign stars are authorized for wear on the Iraq Campaign Medal (ICM). The campaign stars recognize a service member's participation in DoD designated campaigns in Iraq. Service members who have qualified for the ICM may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated. The stars will be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the campaign medal.

The additional campaign phases and associated dates established for the ICM are:

- \* **Iraqi Surge - Jan. 10, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008.**
- \* **Iraqi Sovereignty - Jan. 1, 2009 through a date to be determined.**

Four other phases, previously identified, include:

- \* **Liberation of Iraq - March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003.**
- \* **Transition of Iraq - May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2004.**
- \* **Iraqi Governance - June 29, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2005.**
- \* **The "National Resolution" phase, which began Dec. 16, 2005, has been determined to end Jan. 9, 2007.**





## St. Cloud VAMC to Honor Former Prisoners of War



St. Cloud, MN—The St. Cloud VA Medical Center will recognize all American Ex-Prisoners of War with a ceremony in their honor on Friday, April 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in Building 8, Auditorium.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. Members of the media are welcome to arrive at 9:00 a.m. to interview and photograph former Prisoners of War and their widows.

Former Prisoners of War, widows of former Prisoners of War, Veterans organizations and elected officials are invited to the event. Twenty-six former Prisoners of War (22 World War II and four from the Korean Conflict) are expected to attend, along with seven widows of former Prisoners of War. Ken Hanson, the National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and David Claypool, Department Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War will also be in attendance.

Mike Mills, a Veteran injured in the Iraq War, will speak at the event.



## County Veteran Service Officers Ask for Special Tax Levy

By **Heather J. Carlson**  
The Post-Bulletin, Rochester MN

ST. PAUL — Faced with a growing number of veterans needing assistance, county veteran services officers are asking state lawmakers to help make it easier to get more dollars for needed services.

The Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers is backing a proposal that would allow counties to use a special tax levy to pay for county veteran service programs. This would give counties an exemption from state established levy limits, which are set to last through 2011.

Assistant House Majority Leader Andy Welti, DFL-Plainview, is sponsoring the bill in the House. He said the idea is to make sure that county veteran service offices get the money they need if they experience a sudden increase in the number of veterans needing assistance. Welti said the governor has indicated he is

OK with the bill.

"With the increase in deployments, especially with the 30,000 additional troops going to Afghanistan, that is going to have more of an effect on the county veteran service officers. The Legislature isn't always going to be able to anticipate and budget for those needs in a two-year time period," Welti said.

Sen. Sharon Erickson Ropes, DFL-Winona, is sponsoring a similar measure in the Senate. Both bills are being considered as part of larger tax bills.

According to Olmsted County Veteran Service Officer Brad Lindsay, the number of walk-in clients jumped from 553 in 2005 to 2,149 in 2009. During that time, Olmsted County hired a second veteran service officer, boosting its staff by 33 percent at a time when the work load has increased 400 percent. While some of the veterans coming in served in recent wars including Iraq and Afghanistan, there also has been a rise in Vietnam vets looking for help.

County veteran services offices took in \$1.48 billion in funding in 2008.

*Note: The bill numbers that this story refer to are **HF 2462** (Welti) and **SF 2270** (Erickson-Ropes).*

## Minnesota Veterans Career Fair



Are you a Veteran looking for a job or exploring a new career?

Or, are you a business with available positions and want to recruit from a pool of qualified applicants?

If you answered yes, you need to attend the Minnesota Veterans Career Fair!

The Veterans Career Fair is a free event open to all Veterans. The event will feature: employer exhibitors, where you can interview with employers about job openings; college representatives who can speak about incentives offered to Veterans; service providers, who can assist with your work and non-work related needs. In addition, workshops will be offered with tips from career experts and strategists. And, you can network and share information with other Veterans who are also in job transition.

**Wednesday, May 5, 2010**  
**11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Earle Brown Heritage Center**  
**6155 Earle Brown Drive**  
**Brooklyn Center, MN**