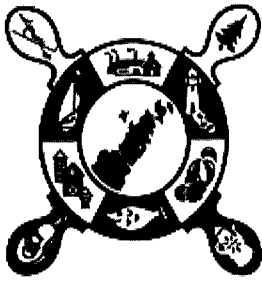


**DOOR COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA  
Tues, 1 Nov 2022  
1030  
Veterans Service Office - Room C203**

1. Call meeting to order 1030.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of minutes from 13 SEP 2022.
4. CVSO Report.
  - a. New Hire
  - b. Pact Act Info Mailer
  - c. Operation Green Light
5. Commission Aid.
  - a. Disbursement of funds to date.
6. Open Forum/Discussion.
  - a. Veterans Day Ceremony 2022.
  - b. Upcoming fundraising opportunities.
7. Next meeting date, time, location, and items to discuss.
8. Adjournment.



## County of Door VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

County Government Center  
421 Nebraska Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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**Beth M. Van Oss**

County Veterans Service Officer  
(920) 746-2226  
bvanoss@co.door.wi.us

**NOTE: These minutes have not been approved by the oversight committee and are subject to approval at the next meeting.**

03 Oct 2022

SUBJECT: Meeting minutes for the Veterans Service Commission, 15 Sep 22.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Bill Karas, Commissioner Bob Gamble, Commissioner Don Sitte, Door County Veterans Service Officer Beth Wartella.

### 1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

### 2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS READ.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Minutes of the 12 Apr 22 meeting were unanimously approved.

### 4. CVSO Report.

- a. Pact Act—explained to Commissioners about the new legislation and how it will potentially impact Door County Veterans.
- b. Camp Lejeune—explained to the Commissioners why they are seeing so many law firms advertising for the Camp Lejeune water contamination and how it is directly correlated to the new legislation regarding the Pact Act.

### 5. COMMISSION AID.

Discussed that the remaining balance in the Commission Aid for the year was being used to pay Ahnapee Hill Cleaning Services to clean a veterans home that was becoming a safety/health concern for the veteran.

### 6. OPEN FORUM/DISCUSSION.

- a. Coordination for the 2022 Veterans Day ceremony has been discussed. A meeting took place with leaders from the local veterans organizations to discuss the responsibilities and post duties for the ceremony at Gibraltar High

School on November 11, 2022. remembrance ceremonies at the cemeteries. The Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Sturgeon Bay Fire Department.

- b. Fundraising opportunities were discussed. Due to the Pandemic and lack of volunteers, fundraising opportunities have been very limited. There has been discussions among the veterans organizations to hold a fundraiser at the local grocery stores to collect donations. I explained that with the new assistant starting, our office will be able to focus more attention on fundraising efforts.
- c. The purpose and responsibilities of the Door County Veterans Council and the frequency of meetings was discussed. There was an open discussion on the history of the Council meetings and the various groups involvements. It was encouraged that the Council meetings still be held on the same day as the Commission meetings are.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, LOCATION, AND ITEMS TO DISCUSS.

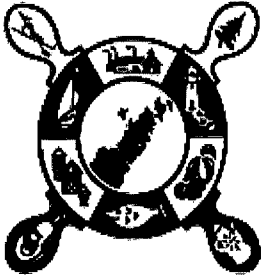
Next meeting will be held on 1 Nov 2022 at 10:30am.

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN:

Beth M. Van Oss, Door County Veterans Service Officer.



## County of Door Veterans Service Office

County Government Center  
421 Nebraska Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

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**Robert Walsh**  
Veterans Benefits Assistant  
(920) 746-2225  
rwalsh@co.door.wi.us

Greetings Door County Veteran,

We are reaching out to touch base in regard to the recent PACT Act ruling that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans that were exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances during their periods of service.

### **What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?**

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. Signed into law on August 10<sup>th</sup> of 2022, it is named in honor of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, a decorated combat medic who died from a rare form of lung cancer, this historic legislation will help deliver more timely benefits and services to more than 5 million veterans—across all generations—who may have been impacted by toxic exposures while serving our country.

### **The PACT Act will bring these changes:**

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

**What burn pit and other toxic exposure conditions are now presumptive?**

The VA has expanded benefits to include Gulf War era and post- 9/11 Veterans and has added more than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions based on the PACT Act.

**These Cancers are now presumptive:**

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type

**These illnesses are now presumptive:**

- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

**How do I know if I have a presumptive burn exposure to pits?**

If you served in any of these locations and time periods, the VA has determined that you had exposure to burn pits and/or other toxins. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

**On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:**

- Afghanistan
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Uzbekistan
- Yemen
- The airspace above any of these locations

**On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:**

- Bahrain
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Somalia
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- The airspace above any of these locations

If you have any questions in regards to your time in service and possible exposure, please reach out to the Door County Veterans Service Office for more information.

Very respectfully,

Robert Walsh

Veterans Benefit Assistant



America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day as we work with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that the former service members in our communities have access to the resources they need to thrive.

This coming Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs to **join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 7 to November 13**. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

## HOW TO JOIN

- Visit [www.naco.org/operationgreenlight](http://www.naco.org/operationgreenlight) to access the Operation Greenlight for Veterans County Toolkit.
- Use the County Toolkit template to pass a resolution declaring your county's participation in Operation Green Light for Veterans.
- Coordinate with your county Director of Facilities or Building & Grounds to light municipal buildings in green. Options include using projections, flood lights or wrapping existing lights with a clear green membrane.
- Use the templates and social media resources in the County Toolkit to promote the campaign to local press, businesses, county residents and Members of Congress.
- Upload details about your county's participation through the form included in the County Toolkit.
- Individuals, businesses and community partners can also show support by turning on a green light from November 7 to November 13!

*Scan the QR code to learn more and access NACo's toolkit for counties*



# AMAZON IS PROUD TO SUPPORT OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

*Amazon values the unique skills and experience that the military community brings and we've pledged to hire 100,000 veterans and military spouses by 2024.*

## Program Honor: Military Community Outreach

We are committed to making Amazon the most military-friendly company in the world by leveraging our diverse resources and technology to solve critical problems. We focus on supporting disabled veterans, mental health, suicide prevention, military families and urgent needs – like homelessness and food insecurity – around the globe. Visit [programhonor.splashthat.com](https://programhonor.splashthat.com) to learn more.

## Corporate Leader In Veteran & Military Spouse Retention

Veterans and military spouses in your community can learn more about career opportunities at Amazon by attending a Global Military Affairs webinars where they can engage with recruiters directly. Visit [amazonmilitarywebinarseries.splashthat.com](https://amazonmilitarywebinarseries.splashthat.com) to join an upcoming webinar.

## World-Class Veteran & Military Spouse Recruiting

We offer veterans the Military Mentoring Program, a network of support and tailored training experiences to assist in their transition from the military, another company or the academic environment. Visit [amazon.jobs/military](https://amazon.jobs/military) to learn more.



## COUNTIES MATTER FOR VETERANS

County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) in 29 states are responsible for successfully processing more than \$52 billion in compensation, pension, health care and other benefits for veterans each year.

Counties across the nation operate Veterans Treatment Courts, through which we can connect justice-involved veterans with programs and benefits that can treat underlying mental health and substance abuse conditions.

Counties support veterans' access to stable housing, employment and education and critical mental health services that treat trauma and prevent suicide.





## **Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans**

WHEREAS, the residents of Door County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Door County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Door County Council appreciates the sacrifices of our United State Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Door County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> 2022 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; therefore, be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Door County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.