THE UTAH

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

VETERANSVOICE

VETERANS.UTAH.GOV • MARCH 2016

Director's Message 2016

GARY R. HARTER
Executive Director, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

Utah truly is an amazing place! This issue of the Voice, focuses on a collection of information, some of it getting ready for upcoming events – Vietnam Veterans Recognition events, Veterans' Owned Business Summit, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Honor Flights and many others.

While we continue to look forward, there is so much always going on. Since our last edition in January 2016 the Secretary of the Navy announced the naming of a new submarine, the USS Utah, a Veterans' Job Fair was held in St. George, the VFW held their Mid-Winter Conference, Utah's veterans unemployment rate dropped to 3.1% (second lowest in the country), I met with members of the Congressional delegation, Secretary Bob McDonald and my counterparts from across the country, and, as this issue of The Veterans' Voice goes final, the 2016 Legislative Session has just finished up. It was a very good session with many important efforts brought up and discussed. Some of the legislative items include: >

House Bill 46: Veterans Affairs Amendments - modifies appointments, membership and board procedures for Veterans' Nursing Homes and Cemetery advisory boards;

House Bill 98: National Guard Death Benefit Amendments – provides a death benefit for a National Guardsman who dies while on state military orders;

House Bill 135: State Parks Fee Exemption Amendments – allows veterans with a service connected disability rating of 50% or higher to be admitted to Utah State Parks at no cost;

House Bill 254: Resident Student Tuition Amendments – allows dependents of Utah military residents who are serving outside the State of Utah to attend Utah public colleges and universities at resident tuition rates;

Senate Bill 18: Workforce Service Job Listing Amendments - requires all public service jobs to be listed on the Department of Workforce Service job website;...

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WORLD WAR II/KOREAN WAR • VIETNAM WAR • COLD WAR/PEACETIME • GULF WAR/OIF/OEF • FAMILY

Senate Bill 35: Veteran License Plates Amendments – allows the department to designate appropriate combat and campaign decals to be displayed on Utah vehicle license plates;

Senate Bill 53: Veterans' Definition Amendments - makes modifications to state statute to implement the provisions of the new veterans definition that is effective 1 July 2016;

Senate Bill 96: Uniformed Deployed Parents Custody Act and Parent-Time Act - creates a notification requirement, addresses temporary custody, establishes jurisdiction, and designates content for custody and child support orders. This will be discussed further in the Veterans and Military Affairs Commission;

Concurrent Resolution Honoring Those Who Have Assisted Korean War Veterans;

Concurrent Resolution Approving the Test and Training Range Land Exchange;

Concurrent Resolution on Utah's Vision for Enduring Contribution to the Common Defense;

Joint Resolution Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of JROTC Programs;

Joint Resolution Recognizing Utah as a Purple Heart State;

Another bill that received a committee hearing was House Bill 99: Military Retirement Income Tax Exemptions, which proposed exempting military retiree pay from state taxes. While the discussion was very good, in the end the committee decided that additional information was needed . The proposal will be studied during the Interim Session (the time between the end of the 2016 General Session and start of the 2017 General Session).

Thanks to everyone who provided comments, view points, testimony and kept track of the myriad legislative efforts and bills that were proposed, discussed and actioned during the 2016 General Session.

I look forward to seeing many of you at various events being held throughout the state in the next couple of months.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

National Veteran Wheelchair Games in SLC are Fast Approaching!

By Jill Atwood, Salt Lake Regional Medical Center

Mark your calendars for the last week in June. If you are a Veteran interested in participating or a member of the community wanting to volunteer please visit: http://wheelchairgames.org/

Wheelchair games clinics and training are happening right now. For more information contact Recreation Therapist Heather Brown at 801-582-1565 ext. 1559.

We need volunteers and fans to fill the stands in support of these extraordinary Veteran Athletes — get involved today!

Helpful Links

Outreach, Websites, Claims Assistance, Events, and Resources

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
veterans.utah.gov

Register your information with the Veterans Information System:
uvisreg.utah.gov/vtsreg/public/Register

CLAIMS ASSISTANCE CALENDAR
veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar

COORDINATION OF VETERANS SERVICES
veterans.utah.gov/coordination-of-veteran-services

Upcoming Events — *veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar*

MARCH

Thursday – 10 March • 1900 - 2030
US Army Concert Band and Chorus
• Desert Hills Middle School, St. George

Friday – 11 March • 1830 - 2100
US Army Concert Band and Chorus
• Orem High School, Orem

Saturday – 12 March • 1900 - 2000
US Army Concert Band and Chorus
• Mountain Crest High School, Hyrum

Sunday – 13 March • 1900 - 2030
US Army Concert Band and Chorus
• Libby Gardner Concert Hall, Salt Lake

Wednesday – 23 March • 0830 - 1630
Boots to Business Reboot
• SLCC Miller Corporate Bldg, 3rd Floor #333, Sandy

Thursday – 24 March • 0830 - 1630
Boots to Business Reboot
• SLCC Miller Corporate Bldg, 3rd Floor #333, Sandy

Tuesday – 29 March • 1400 - 1500
Vietnam War Commemorations for Veterans Spouses (Pinning Ceremony)
• Capitol Rotunda Bldg, Salt Lake

Wednesday – 30 March • 1800 - 1900
Vietnam War Commemorations for Veterans Spouses (Pinning Ceremony)
• Historic County Courthouse, Provo

APRIL

Saturday – 2 April • 1800 - 1900
Vietnam War Commemorations for Veterans Spouses (Pinning Ceremony)
• Central Davis Jr. Highschool, Layton

Wednesday –6 April • 1800 - 1900
Vietnam War Commemorations for Veterans Spouses (Pinning Ceremony)
• SUU Hunter Conference Cntr Gilbert Great Hall

Saturday – 9 April • 1800 - 1900
Vietnam War Commemorations for Veterans Spouses (Pinning Ceremony)
• VFW Post 1481, Ogden

MAY

Friday – 13 May • 0830 - 1500
Veterans Business Conference
• SLCC Larry H Miller Campus, Sandy
Register: *http://business.slchamber.com/events/details/utah-veteran-business-conference-2016-5895*

Friday – 27 May • 1900 - 2030
Honoring Utah's Fallen
• University of Utah Union Ballroom, Salt Lake

HILL AFB TAX CENTER NOW OPEN

By 75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

1/29/2016- **HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah** -- The Hill AFB Tax Center is located in the Poe Conference Center, building 1295. It is open now - April 18 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This is a free service for active duty, Reserve and Guard on Title 10 orders, dependents and military retirees. Monday through Thursday will be by appointment only. Walk-ins will be welcome on Friday for non-complicated returns. Those interested in preparing their own taxes can visit *myfreetaxes.com*, *IRS.gov* or *militaryonesource.mil*. The service is free for those who make less than $62,000 a year, otherwise there is a small fee.

* For mor information or to schedule and appointment, call 801-777-1040. No federal endorsements intended.

Utah Veterans Owned Business Partnership (UVOBP)

By Cory Pearson

2nd Annual Veterans Business Conference 2016

A number of conferences are being held to increase education and awareness of business resources that are available to Utah Veterans. The Utah Veterans Owned Business Partnership is happy to announce the 2nd Annual "Veterans Business Conference" on May 13th 2016. This conference is currently in the planning phase; registration and sponsorship opportunities will be available in the near future.

This conference will be facilitated by the Utah Veterans Owned Business Partnership, which consists of several major players including: the State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, Salt Lake County, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Small Business Administration, American Legion, private business leaders, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. Last year's conference was attended by approximately 200 Veterans. The event will be at the Larry H. Miller, Salt Lake Community College campus located in Sandy Utah. For more information in the coming weeks please visit the UVOBP webpage at: *www.veterans.utah.gov/business*

2015 Veterans Business Conference photo

Final Flight for Only Army Aviator to Reach 10,000 Hours in Apache

By Ileen Kennedy
Utah National Gaurd Public Information Officer

West Jordan, Utah, - The final AH-64 Apache helicopter flight for a Utah National Guard Army aviator, who is recognized as the senior Apache aviator in the world to achieve more than 10,000 flying hours in the Apache, was held at the West Jordan Army Aviation Support Facility Jan 29.

Cheif Warrant Officer 5 Ken Jones, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation, most recently served as an Apache standardization instructor pilot and has since retired from the National Guard after serving for more than 35 years in the military.

"You stick a pilot with Ken and you expect him to be trained quicker and to higher level," said Lt. Col. Ricky Smith, commander for 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation. Smith calls Jones a tenacious teacher and says he often sees flyers lined up waiting for a turn in the helicopter with Ken."This guy doesn't get tired," said Smith. "Not one time have I ever seen Ken turn down an opportunity to fly. He has a passion for it like no other. I love training pilots to do combat arms," said Jones. "I never wanted to give it up. I'm giving it up because I'm hitting 60 and it's time to move on."

The expertise and professionalism of Jones is contagious and multi-generational, his son, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones also serves in the Utah National Guard as an Army aviator and joined his father as a co-pilot during the one-hour, final flight. "The Apache has been a fundamental part of my life since my first memory," said Jared Jones. Jared Jones says his career highlight now, and may forever remain, was flying missions with his father during their deployment to Afghanistan in 2005. "Not many fathers get to do a battle airborne hand-off with their son," said Ken Jones describing a different mission when the two went back-to-back to aid troops on the ground, with the senior Jones replacing his son on a mission near Kunduz.

Jones has served in four combat tours in the Middle East with 2,270 combat-flight hours. One of these missions involved a night landing in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, evacuating numerous special-operations personnel to safety. "I didn't think about 10,000 until I got to 9,000. I hit 9,000 in Afghanistan," said Jones. "Deployments add a lot of flight time to your record. "

Jones has served with the Utah National Guard since 1992, following 12 years of service with the active component. "The continuity that the National Guard has provided me for the last 23 years has allowed me to develop an outstanding AH-64 Apache combat-flying program, which has also allowed me to fly more than 10,000 flight hours in the AH-64," said Jones. "I have enjoyed every minute being in the Apache and the Utah Army National Guard. It has been a truly great opportunity and honor for me to serve my country in this capacity."

The vast experience and knowledge of Jones was also utilized as he briefed the National Committee on the Future of the Army members during its evaluation of the Army Aviation Restructuring Initiative which, if unchanged, will reallocate all Apache helicopters to the active component of the Army. His final flight occurred within a day of the release of the finding of the commission's report. "Chief Jones is a valued member of our organization who has demonstrated his patriotism and dedication every day during his more than 35 years of service," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

"Men and women like this are the invaluable assets to our nation's defense that will be squandered should the Army Restructuring Initiative take the Apaches from the Guard's formations."

Smith says Jones' retirement will be a loss to the unit, "but his legacy will live here a long time."

HOOK UP, STAND UP!

VA researchers take the first step in the next generation of prostheses for Veteran amputees.

By Jill Atwood, Salt Lake Regional Medical Center

Researchers and physicians hold their collective breath as Veteran Ed Salau clicks his new prosthetic leg into place and stands on it for the first time.
"Oh my gosh, I can't believe this is day is here, it's so surreal, I have goosebumps." Says Dr. Sarina Sinclair, a key researcher on the team.

And then fist pumps all around as Ed jokes about the Hokey Pokey dance being a whole lot easier now. In 2004, Salau's platoon was ambushed by the enemy while out on patrol in Iraq. Two rocket propelled grenades (RPG's) penetrated his patrol vehicle. His left leg was so badly damaged it later had to be amputated just above the knee.
"It's so weird. I can feel the ground again. I haven't had that sensation in eleven years." Says Salau.

What started as scribbled ideas on posted notes all over the wall of a research lab, is now a reality that could impact the lives of these two Veterans and countless others in the future. The device is called a percutaneous osseointegrated prosthesis, or POP. It features a titanium rod surgically implanted into the bottom of the thigh bone. The rod allows a prosthetic leg to be securely attached without the need for a socket.

This team has worked years to get to this day. Peter Beck, an attending orthopedic surgeon for VA and an adjunct professor for the University of Utah, has been invested for over a decade. He says the big barrier for years was preventing infection and perfecting the surgical procedures for inserting the rod into the femur bone.
"Bryant, you're up." Says Bart Gillespie, VA Salt Lake City Physical Therapist

Veteran Bryant Jacobs was also injured in Iraq in 2004. He sees himself as a trailblazer willing to take this risk for other Veterans that may follow. He wife is right by his side as he stands on the POP for the first time.
"It's perfect, that's what we want. I'm stoked"
Bryant wants to be able to use the rowing machine without a prosthetic sleeve jabbing him in the groin. He also wants to snowboard again in the Utah mountains. After voluntarily having his leg amputated two years ago, Bryant begged to be a part of the clinical study.

"I'm really excited...this is going to be a game changer for him." Says Gillespie
Ed hopes to be able to climb Kilimanjaro one day, but in the near future, a long walk on the beach with his wife is a good start.

The pair is the first ever in the United States to receive the POP implant. Their first surgery was on December 7, 2015 to insert the metal rod. In a follow-up procedure on Feb. 8, 2016, doctors attached a docking mechanism, extending from the implanted rod and through the skin, to which the leg is attached.

Both Veterans are already raving about the comfort and fit of the new device. Initial first steps have now become

HOOK UP CONT.

longer stretches of walking and stair climbing. Each day the muscle grows stronger as the rod fuses with the bone, and each day our Veterans feel a little more confident and comfortable with their new legs.

But researchers and physicians warn this is just the beginning of a long process, and there may be more barriers to overcome along the way. "As researchers we are anxious to gather our results and allow for future improvements. The exciting thing about research is we don't have all of the answers when we start." says Dr. Larry Meyer, Director of Research, VA Salt Lake City Health Care System. This is a VA-funded clinical trial, approved by the Food and Drug Administration. It will assess the feasibility and safety of the new implant in 10 VA patients over the course of several years. It could be five years or more before this technology is widely available.

DUGWAY

By Aaron Goodman, Family and MWR at Dugway Proving Ground

- Dugway Proving Ground hosted Lt. Gen. (R) Kevin Sullivan, executive director of the Utah Defense Alliance, and project analysts John Downen and Levi Pace from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah. We are working with them to provide input into a study of the economic impact of DPG in Utah. The study will capture spending (payroll/contract) and employment data for Fiscal Years 2013 to 2015 and will be included with other DoD organizations in the state. Final report is expected to be produced by late summer.
- Use of the Sportsman's Lodge has proved to be a major winner for quality of life or our community in this remote and isolated environment at Dugway. Community members can sign for the keys and have a great place to go and socialize, watch recently released movies and classics for free that are part of the Navy Motion Picture Program, as well as for DPG to host community events such as the Super Bowl Party, which was a huge success. We have demonstrated that repurposing a major failing golf operation into a multi-use community space with diverse activities can pay huge dividends on quality of life with little to no cost.
- Outdoor Recreation ran some great trips during 2nd QTR FY16
  - ◊ 29-31 Jan - Yurt Back-Country Ski trip
  - ◊ 7 Feb: Super Bowl Party
  - ◊ 12 Feb: Wendover
  - ◊ 19-21 Feb - Yellowstone Snowmobile Trip
  - ◊ 23 Feb – Cross Country Ski Instruction class

Among Heroes

By Todd Hansen, UDVMA State

In our State Veterans Homes, we honor our aging heroes who served and defended our country in their younger years. Now we have a young "Hero" among them, whose job is to brighten their days and bring a smile to their faces. Charley the Kangaroo is a one year old red kangaroo who spends his days hopping through the halls of the William E. Christoffersen Veterans Home in Salt Lake City looking for someone who needs some cheer. He loves to nuzzle up to residents and staff members, hoping someone will hold him in their laps and feed him a bottle or another snack. He not only brightens the days of the residents, he makes it more comfortable for young family members to visit as well. "Sometimes young grandchildren are uncomfortable visiting grandpa in the nursing home because he doesn't look the same, or talk the same as he did before", says Noralyn Kahn, Administrator at the home, "but if they know that they will get to visit with Charley as well, they are much more excited to come and visit".

"Charley doesn't care if someone is in a wheelchair or can't talk well or has other disabilities. He just gives unconditional love to everyone in the building", continued Mrs. Kahn, who has raised 14 baby kangaroos in her nursing homes over the years. Charley takes time off to visit with schoolchildren, hospice programs, hospitals, other nursing homes and other care facilities. Because of his charming nature and community activities, Charley has been named the Utah Animal Hero of the Year by the Red Cross.

"This is a well-deserved honor for a wonderful addition to our Veterans Home" says State Officer, Todd Hansen. "Charley takes time almost every day to bounce into my office for a visit, to mooch some peanuts, and to brighten my mood. Then he is off to spread cheer to the rest of the building." Charley joins other animals as part of the animal therapy at the home, including a giant tortoise, birds, reptiles and assorted dogs and cats. But Charley, our Hero, is the star of the show!

(Photo) Marine Corps veteran Dottie Lee enjoys a quiet moment with Charley

HONORING UTAH'S FALLEN

Come help dedicate a new memorial honoring Utah's fallen heroes. The Military & Veteran Counseling Center (MVCC) invites you to show your appreciation for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in laying down their life for our country. Please come support their families in an exclusive memorial service.

We will assemble Utah's first monument consisting of 732 "dog tags" engraved with the names of every fallen Utah service member from the Korean conflict to present.

Speakers include Utah's Senator Mike Lee, Utah's Adjutant General Maj Gen Burton and MVCC Director and trauma therapist Melanie Squire.

Anyone who would like to attend the event is welcome including organizations, veterans and community members. Seating is limited.

Get free tickets at *www.military-counselingcenter.com*
Families of Utah's fallen are invited to contact the Military and Veteran Counseling Center to help personally participate with their family member's engraved dog tag. Please help spread the word.

Call us at (385)231-8387 for more information.

When: Friday, May 27, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM (MDT)

Where: University of Utah Union Ballroom - 200 S. Central Campus Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Who is the Military and Veteran Counseling Center (MVCC)?

MVCC is a private organization not associated with the VA that specializes in providing mental health therapy to those who have served our country and their families. Our therapists have advanced education and specialized training and experience in working with the military.

For more information please visit www.militarycounselingcenter.com

Who is invited?

Anyone who would like to attend the event is welcome including organizations, veterans and community members.

HERO2HIRED – MARCH 23, 2016 AT SOUTHTOWNE EXPO(

H2H Job Fair, set for Guard and Reserve Service members, Active Duty Military Members, Veterans and Military Spouses

Several local, state and federal agencies are teaming up to help Utah military veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserve Components and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities. This "FREE" hiring event will take place on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the Southtowne Exposition Center, 9575 South State, Sandy, Utah. Job Fair will be conducted from 11:00 am through 3:00 pm.

Veterans from active duty, the National Guard and Reserve components who are currently unemployed, under-employed and looking for a career are highly encouraged to attend. This program is also open to military spouses who are seeking employment. Interested job seekers can register online at *www.jointservicessupport.org/Reg/74H416*.
This H2H event will host over 80 top rated employers that all have open positions. Also, selected Veterans Benefits Providers and Employment Specialist will be available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Additionally, a Job Fair Preparation Workshop will be conducted at the Utah National Guard Headquarters, 12953 S Minuteman Drive, Draper, Utah on March 16, 2016. For more information on this workshop call (801) 432-4242.
This "FREE" H2H event is being conducted by the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition, the Utah Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Hreo2Hireed, the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, the Utah Department of Workforce Services, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) and many other local partners. For more information on this event call (801) 432-4536 or (801) 432-4492.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES VETERANS TEAM

By William Greer DWS

In a state where the veteran unemployment rate is lower than the general state unemployment rate, you know something is going right. Here in Utah, our veteran unemployment rate is a mere 3.1 percent (compared to the state's 3.5 percent), and the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Veteran Services Team has been working hard to help make that happen.

First, DWS is focused on education. The Department works closely with the state's higher education resources to assist graduating veterans to gain good, sustainable employment. Plus, veterans are frequently assisted through the Accelerated Credentialing to Employment (ACE) Program to obtain certifications and required tools to further their training for high-wage jobs.

VET TEAM CONT.

To aid job-seeking veterans, DWS regularly partners with the Hero 2 Hired and Employer Support of the Guard & Reserves, and the State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs programs to host Veteran Job Fairs around the state. These fairs have seen great success in helping veterans to find employment or obtain better employment. DWS also sponsors Veteran and Community Job Fairs, in conjunction with community partners like chambers of commerce, higher education institutions, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) and State Corrections. With successful events held in Provo, Richfield, Cedar City and Price, more employers are requesting to participate in these fairs, all of which will be held again in 2016.

With the collaboration between DWS and many other state and private entities, 2015 saw reduced numbers of veterans receiving unemployment insurance, Medicaid and food stamps and more veterans with jobs. DWS is looking forward to seeing the same success in 2016.

Learn more at jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/veteran.html.

THE AMERICAN LEGION – "Still Serving America"

By Greg Rowley

The American Legion, as a Veterans Service Organization, operates on four pillars:

1. Support of the military and veterans,
2. Teaching Americanism,
3. Supporting our Youth and Communities,
4. Assuring a strong National Security.

Three premier programs the American Legion has in Utah for our Youth and teaching Americanism are the American Legion High School Oratorical Program ("A Constitution Speech Contest"), The American Legion Boys State Program, and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program.

State level competitions in the Oratorical Contest have just concluded with the three top winners receiving $1,600 in scholarship monies, and the first place winner, Jeremiah Edwards, home schooled, from Holliday moving on to Indianapolis April 16-17, 2016 for the National competition, and receiving $1,500 scholarship money for participating in the first round. The scholarships at the National competition level for first/second/third place are $18,000/$16,000/$14,000. It is always amazing what we learn from our Youth about their thoughts on the U.S. Constitution. Our future is in good hands.

Utah Boys and Girls State is a one-week, on campus program run by The American Legion at Weber State University each June. Three college credits in Political Science are awarded upon completion, and scholarships awarded at the end of each program have exceeded $1 million in the past several years. The program teaches hands on about America's form of government, starting at the city, county, and state levels, with two students elected to each Boys Nation and Girls Nation as Senators, spending one week in Washington, DC representing Utah and learning the national level of government. High school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one senior semester are eligible. Interested students should contact their school counselors and may go to *www.weber.edu/boysstate* or *www.weber.edu/girlsstate*. These programs take place in forty-nine states (less Hawaii) through the American Legion.

AMERICAN LEGION Boys STATE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Girls STATE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement?

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement using the military service-connected disability rating percentage is available for disabled Veterans, their un-remarried widows, or minor orphans. The Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10% in order to qualify for this abatement.

Here is the formula used to determine eligibility: The maximum property tax abatement rated at 100% military service-connected disability is $244,064. Multiply your percentage of disability by 244,064. Example: a 10% disability X 244,064 = $24,406.40 tax abatement. This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount.

How do I apply for the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement?

To apply for Utah Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement, request a Summary of Benefits Letter from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Once received, submit the letter with a completed Property Tax Abatement application, on or before 01 SEP, to the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor, or clerk / recorder located in the county courthouse or county government building of the county in which the property is located. All property must be on record as of 01 JAN of the year you wish to file. However, a recent change allows qualified widows and orphans an exemption to that rule. Disabled Veterans only have to file for the abatement one time; after which it will automatically renew each year. However, Veterans will have to re -file if:

- all or a portion of their abatement is used towards tangible personal property
- their service connected disability percentage changes
- the Veteran dies, sells the property, or no longers claims that property as the primary place of residence

Ref: (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)..

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For more information, visit any Zions Bank financial center; call Military Banking Customer Service at **888-673-3380**; Military Lending at **800-510-4598**; or visit **zionsbank.com/military**.

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The 2016 Utah Honor Flight "sentimental journey's" will begin on 21 April with three spring flights booked. These flights, with 50 WWII veterans on each flight, are preparing these heroes for their opportunity to go to our Nations' Capitol to see the memorial built in honor of their service and sacrifices.

The Utah Honor Flight Team is excited to have this opportunity to pay it forward to those veterans who served our country in the most horrific global war of all time. Those of the "greatest generation" are in the last chapters of their lives and these flights are a small salute to that service more than 70 years ago.

After these three spring flights, we will have exhausted all our applications for WWII veterans. Our spring flights are full at this time. If you know a WWII veteran who has not participated in one of our flights, go to our website and fill out an application. We will then begin to fundraise and focus on those of the Korean War era. We have in our files, approximately 130 applications. Again, we take veterans according to the date of application in that era.

Utah Honor Flight is a non-profit organization that has successfully and safely flown nearly 700 veterans over the past 2 1/2 years to see their memorials. We have booked on our first three flights, an additional 150. We will reach our 1,000th participant in the very near future. We are grateful for our sponsors and the generous donations from Utahans and for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the great State of Utah for their on-going support of this program.We are pleased to announce we now have our office in the Utah State Capitol.
For applications or information on how to donate or volunteer, go to our webpage at *www.utahhonorflight.org*

Spring Flights: April 21-13 (50 WWII vets), May 12-14 (50 WWII vets), May 26-28 (50 WWII vets)
June 2-6 (BYU sponsored flights with mixed era, 35 vets)

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WORLD WAR II/KOREAN WAR • VIETNAM WAR • COLD WAR/PEACETIME • GULF WAR/OIF/OEF • FAMILY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2372
http://veterans.utah.gov

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Benefits Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
1 (800) 827-1000

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 582-1565
http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov

American Legion Service Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2380

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2471

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2385

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4536

Utah National Guard
Bart Davis, Transition Assistance
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4937

U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Employment and Training Service
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