



STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, LARRY SHELLITO



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Rep. Paul Rosenthal, Minority Lead  
Veterans Affairs Division

From: Larry Shellito, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)

Date: January 31, 2018

RE: FY17 "Support Our Troops" Account Activity for MDVA

Per Minnesota Statute 190.19, Subdivision 3; the adjutant general and commissioner of veterans affairs must report by February 1 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over military and veterans' affairs on the number, amounts, and use of grants made by each agency from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in the previous year.

The attached report includes the number, amounts, and use of grants and expenditures made by MDVA from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2017.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me.

Thank you.

Cc:

Paul Carlson, Committee Administrator, Senate State Government Finance and Policy and Elections  
John Hultquist, Committee Administrator, House State Government Finance/Veterans Affairs  
Division

David Raisanen, Committee Administrator, Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy

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## **Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Support Our Troops Grants for FY17**

**\$192,329 – Veterans Service Organizations** – Grants to the American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Disabled American Veterans. Funds are used to support the assistance provided to veterans and their families by Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations. These grants supplement grant funding provided pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2017, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 38, Subdivision 2.

**\$74,000 – American Legion** – Promotion and enhancement of the American Legion’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Minnesota (August 2018). Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$20,400 – American Legion** – Advertising and promotion of Veterans Service Organizations, County Veterans Service Offices, MDVA and LinkVet through vehicle and boat wraps for professional fishermen. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$32,500 – AMVET’s** – Office technology improvements and computerization. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$10,000 – DAV** – Minnesota Military Radio outreach event. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$25,000 – Paralyzed Veterans of America** – Travel expenses for participation in National Wheelchair Games. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$18,515 – ARS Bellum** – Improving the mental health of veterans through art therapy. FY17 expenditures were \$5,586, the remaining amount of \$12,929 is expected to be accounted for in FY18.

**\$20,000 – Fishing for Life** – Providing outdoor and recreational opportunities for veterans and their families. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$45,000 – Lutheran Social Services** – Provide in-house counseling, consultation and coaching for immediate family members caring for veterans and/or veterans caring for their family members. Grant was executed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**(\$2,900) – Lutheran Social Services** – refunds from prior year funding to assist with staff salary and LSS intensive counseling for homeless Hearth Connection Veteran Clients – to move individuals out of the GPD (Grants Per Diem) into independent living with counseling/support services.

**\$25,000 – KSTP TV Advertising** – This initiative was a partnership with the Minnesota Association of County Veteran Service Officers (MACVSOs) to run a series of TV ads for outreach to Veterans and families about important state and federal benefits. The ads specifically encouraged Veterans to contact their CVSOs. This advertising also promoted the LinkVet network, and used the LinkVet number as main contact option. The TV station produced 15 second ads that ran from February to June in various markets

**\$74,016 – NW Technical College** – Expenditure to support the department’s contract with NW Technical College, which provides staff and support services for LinkVet (1-888-LinkVet or <https://linkvet.custhelp.com>) veterans resource and referral system.

**\$65,000 – Pets Loyal to Vets** – Training and providing service dogs to veterans with PTSD. FY17 expenditures were \$20,580, the remaining amount of \$44,420 is expected to be accounted for in FY18.

**\$5,000 – S.E. MN Workforce Development** – Funding for 3 veterans’ networking events titled “Salute Southern Minnesota” which provide opportunities for employers and veterans to build relationships. Grant was executed and funds committed in FY17, actual expenditures will occur in FY18.

**\$1,445 – Statewide Systems Costs** – Expenditure to support statewide systems costs for SWIFT, SEMA4 and other systems managed by MMB.

\$606,760 = FY17 Total Executed Grants

\$316,055 = FY17 Total SOT Expenditures