



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



20 West 12th Street, 2nd Floor • St. Paul, MN 55155 • Phone: 651-296-2562 • Fax: 651-296-3954
www.mdva.state.mn.us • 1-888-LinkVet

Sen. Bruce Anderson, Chair
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Rep. Rob Ecklund, Chair
Veterans and Military Affairs Division

Sen. Jerry Newton, Minority Lead
Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Rep. Bob Dettmer, Minority Lead
Veterans and Military Affairs Division

Date: January 31, 2019

RE: FY18 "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 amounts, recipients and a description of uses of grants and expenditures made by MDVA from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2018.

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

Sincerely,


Larry Shellito
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Cc:

David Raisanen, Committee Administrator, Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
Owen Wirth, Committee Administrator, House Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
Division

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

“Support Our Troops” Grants for FY2018

\$199,903 - 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 of \$353,000 that is provided pursuant to Minnesota Laws 2017, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 38, Subdivision 2.

\$12,921 - Veterans Service Organizations – Construction costs to remodel the Veterans Services building to reconfigure Veteran Services Organizations offices to help them work more efficiently and effectively in order to better serve Veterans and their families.

\$74,000 – American Legion “100 Year Convention” – Funds used to promote and enhance the American Legion’s 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN in August 2018. *Grant was executed and \$28,974 of expenditures occurred in FY2018. Balance of grant expenditures will occur in FY2019.*

\$26,000 – American Legion “Wrap II” – Provide advertising awareness of the Veteran Service Organizations through the manufacture and display of vehicle, boat, and motor wraps. Branding shall be applied to vehicles that attend Minnesota outdoor sporting events (i.e. fishing and hunting), at which Minnesota Veterans are recognized as in attendance. *Grant was executed in FY2017 with grant expenditures of \$20,400 occurring in FY2018.*

\$25,000 – American Legion “Wrap III” – Provide advertising awareness of the Veteran Service Organizations through the manufacture and display of vehicle, boat, and motor wraps. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$32,500 – AMVET’s “Tech Upgrade for AMVET Posts” – Provided communication hardware and networks along with other related improvements to support all AMVET Posts.

\$81,000 – AMVET’s “Veteran’s Hall” – To purchase and install state-of-art conferencing equipment, conference hall chairs and tables in the Minnesota Veteran Service Building to enable Minnesota Veteran Service Organizations to conduct trainings and disseminate information to its members. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$87,408 – DAV “SE Minnesota Transportation Program” – Enable DAV to expand their transportation program by supplementing the salary of a DAV Transportation Coordinator as well as the purchase two new vans for the south east portion of the state. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$10,000- Disabled American Veterans “Military Radio” – DAV co-hosted an outreach event on Sept. 29-30, 2017 with Military Radio with the purpose of bringing stakeholders together to discuss spreading the Veteran message. *Grant was executed in FY2017 with grant expenditures of \$3,602 occurring in FY2018. The remaining balance was returned to the SOT Fund.*

\$20,000 – Disabled American Veterans “Veteran Outreach” – Provided the continuation and operation of the DAV of MN Outdoors Program.

\$50,000 – Every 3rd Saturday “Veteran Case Management” – Provided case management assistance to Veterans and their family members who are either currently in crisis or who have made recent positive changes in their life, such as exiting homelessness, or completing a mental health or a substance abuse program. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$20,000 – Fishing for Life “Veteran Outdoor Programs” – Providing outdoor and recreational opportunities for Veterans and their families.

\$37,500 – Freedom Flight Inc. “Wheelchair Accessible Hot Air Balloon Basket” – For the purchase of a mobility impaired/accessible hot air balloon basket, trailer, and other related equipment. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$100,000 – Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe “Wheelchair Accessible Van” – For the procurement and operation of a handicapped accessible van to transport wheelchair bound Veterans and other Veterans to various US Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$135,000 – Lutheran Social Services –for behavioral health, housing, and financial counseling services provided to MN Veterans throughout MN by Lutheran Social Services and third party network providers.

\$45,000 – Lutheran Social Services “Veteran Respite 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 FY2017 with \$3,538 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2018. Balance will be expended in FY2019.*

(\$8,830) – Lutheran Social Services – Refund from prior year funding that assisted with staff salary for intensive counseling for homeless Hearth Connection Veteran Clients.

\$1,500 – Military Order of the Purple Heart “Americanism” – The purchase and distribution of 50 MOPH community road signs to Minnesota cities and counties throughout the state. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

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

\$25,000 – Paralyzed Veterans of America “Wheelchair Games I” – Travel expenses for participation in National Wheelchair Games. *Grant was executed in FY2017 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2018.*

\$35,000 – Paralyzed Veterans of America “Wheelchair Games II” – Travel expenses for participation in National Wheelchair Games. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019.*

\$65,000 – Pets Loyal to Vets “Service Dogs for Veterans” – Provided Training and service dogs to Veterans with PTSD. *Grant was executed in FY2016 with \$29,795 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2018. Balance returned to SOT fund.*

\$5,000 – S.E. MN Workforce Development “Salute Southern Minnesota Project” – Funding for three Veterans’ networking events titled “Salute Southern Minnesota” which provided opportunities for employers and Veterans to build relationships. *Grant was executed in FY2017 with \$3,779 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2018. Balance returned to SOT fund.*

\$836– Statewide Systems Costs – Expenditure to support statewide systems costs for SWIFT, SEMA4 and other systems managed by MMB.

\$2,500 – Twin Cities News Talk Radio – Memorial Day advertising on iHeart Radio and website to promote programs & services for Veterans and their families.

\$30,000 – Twin Cities Public Television, “Ken Burns – Vietnam War Series” – MDVA sponsorship of the Vietnam War series documentary which included advertising to promote programs & services of the agency along with LinkVet (1-888-LinkVet or <https://linkvet.custhelp.com>) Veterans resource and referral system.

\$3,034 – Veterans of Foreign Wars “Staff Training” – Provide job training to the employees of the headquarters office on Access and QuickBooks Computer Software Programs. *Grant was executed in FY2018 with \$253 of expenditures. The remaining balance was returned to the SOT Fund.*

\$12,500– 12th Annual Veterans Career Fair – Bringing great companies and Minnesota’s finest together for family sustaining employment.

\$ 746,445 = FY2018 Total Executed Grants

\$ 634,187 = FY2018 Total SOT Expenditures