



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



20 West 12th Street • St. Paul, MN, 55155 • (651) 296-2562
Fax: (651) 296-3954 • MinnesotaVeteran.org • 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, 2020

RE: FY19 "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 2019.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Herke", is written over a large, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Larry Herke
Commissioner, MDVA

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

Attachment: Support Our Troops Grant Expenditures for FY2019

An Equal Opportunity Employer

This document will be made available upon request in an alternative formats by contacting the MDVA Office for Diversity and Equality at 612-548-5961 or at diversity.mdva@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

Support Our Troops Grant Expenditures for FY2019

\$173,508 - 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 were used to support the assistance provided to veterans and their families by Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations. These SOT 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.

\$45,025 – American Legion “100 Year Convention” – Funds used to promote and enhance the American Legion’s 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN in August 2018. *\$74,000 grant was executed In FY2018 with \$28,974 of expenditures. The balance was expended in FY2019.*

\$78,335 – AMVET’s “Veteran’s Hall”– Purchased and installed 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.*

\$73,027– DAV “SE Minnesota Transportation Program” – Enabled DAV to expand their transportation program by supplementing the salary of a DAV Transportation Coordinator, along with the purchase of two new vans for the southeast portion of the state. *Grant was executed in FY2018 for \$87,408 with expenditures occurring in FY2019 and the balance in FY2020.*

\$2,820– Eagle Group of Minnesota – "Battle Buddy" - Expand "Battle Buddy" program to multiple twin city locations including Cargill. *\$18,000 grant was executed in FY2019 with grant expenditures of \$2,820 occurring in FY2019, with the remaining balance expected to be expended in FY2020.*

\$13,684 – Every 3rd Saturday - “Veteran Case Management” – Provides 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 for \$50,000 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019 of \$13,684, with the remaining balance expected to be expended in FY2020.*

\$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.*

\$50,000 –Honor Flight Twin Cities – “Honor Flight Twin Cities” - Fly America's WWII, Korean War Veterans as well as terminally ill Vietnam Veteran to Washington DC to visit those

memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends. *Grant was executed and expended 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.*

\$1,176 – 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. *Additional services contracted in FY19 for \$135,000 with additional amount needed for services in FY19 of \$1,176.*

\$13,150 – 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 for \$45,000 with \$3,538 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2018. \$13,150 was expended in FY2019 with balance of \$28,313 refunded.*

\$19,000 – Middle River Veterans Outdoors – “Tracked Wheelchair” Provide differently-abled veterans (and/or family members) fishing and hunting outdoor experiences with the aid of a “tracked wheelchair”. *Grant was executed in FY2019 for \$20,000 with grant expenditures occurring in FY2019 of \$19,000, with the remaining \$1,000 balance expected to be expended in FY2020.*

\$10,000 – State Employee Veteran Summit – Support to MMB and DNR in holding a one-day state employee veterans’ summit. The goal of the summit was not just connecting veterans to services, but to also focus on transferring their skills into state government. Minnesota has about 3,000 veterans working in state government. *Cost of venue space for the event held at the Riverside convention center in St. Paul on September 13, 2018.*

\$30,087– Nightware – “VA Clinical Trial” – Conduct VA Clinical Trial of digital -therapeutic program (iWatches) designed to interrupt nightmares and other disrupted sleep disorders. *Grant was executed in FY2019 for \$100,000 with \$30,087 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2019 with balance expected to be expended in FY2020.*

\$74,016 – NW Technical College “LinkVet” - to support MDVA service 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.

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

\$5,100 – Source Link “SOT Advertising” – Contracted with DEED to include a SOT flyer in February 2019 mailing to car owners who had to renew their tabs to encourage them to purchase SOT license plates. MDVA split the cost with Military Affairs.

\$2,375– Statewide Systems Costs – Expenditure to support statewide systems costs for SWIFT, SEMA4 and other systems managed by MMB.

\$35,000 – Wilder Foundation Homeless Survey – In support of the state goal to end veteran homelessness, we contracted with Wilder Research for veteran specific reports based on data collected during the 2018 homeless survey.

\$25,240 – YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities – Veterans Rendezvous Program - YMCA will expand Veterans Rendezvous Program from one YMCA location to four additional locations. *\$82,775 grant was executed in FY2019 with \$25,240 of grant expenditures occurring in FY2019 with balance expected to be expended in FY2020.*

FY2019 Total SOT Expenditures = \$824,043