



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



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Sen. Erin Murphy, Chair  
Senate State and Local Government and  
Veterans Committee

Rep. Jerry Newton, Chair  
House Veterans and Military Affairs  
Committee

Sen. Bruce Anderson, Minority Lead  
Senate State and Local Government and  
Veterans Committee

Rep. Matt Bliss, Minority Lead  
House Veterans and Military Affairs  
Committee

Date: January 30, 2023

RE: FY22 "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 the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs from the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" account in Fiscal Year 2022.

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

Sincerely,

Larry Herke  
Commissioner, MDVA

Cc: Teresa Mozur, Committee Administrator, Senate State and Local Government and Veterans  
Committee  
Adam Kopel, Committee Administrator, House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Attachment: Support Our Troops Grant Expenditures for FY2022

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

**Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**Support Our Troops (SOT) License Plate Funds**  
**FY2022 Grants & Expenditures = \$384,988**

**\$65,416- Veterans Service Organizations** – Grants to the American Legion, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans and the American Veterans Association. 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 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2b.

**\$3,564 - American Heroes** – Grant enabled American Heroes Outdoors to provide therapeutic outdoor adventures and activities to the Minnesota Veterans. *\$60,000 grant was executed in FY2022 with grant expenditures of \$3,564 occurring in FY2022 and the remaining \$56,436 balance in FY2023.*

**\$63,365 - AMVETS** – Grant provided funding to produce a “mini” documentary which will feature Minnesota veterans who served “in country” and elsewhere. By utilizing video technology, AMVET members throughout the state will be able to learn about their fellow AMVET member’s time in combat.

**\$12,500 – Department of Employment & Economic Development** – For the Minnesota Veteran Career Fair which is a partnership between MDVA and DEED to promote Veteran access to state jobs. MDVA assists in the statewide marketing initiative, facility procurement, print material, and refreshments for the attendees.

**\$3,400 – Disabled Veterans Rest Camp** - Grant enabled grantee to purchase three multi-passenger Golf Carts to transport differently-abled and elderly veterans to the activities located throughout the 69 camp acres. *\$34,000 grant was executed in FY2020 with \$30,600 in grant expenditures occurring in FY2020 and \$3,400 in FY2022.*

**\$5,600 – Homeless Risk Mitigation Fund** – Used to cover any property loss at an apartment after an eligible Veteran moves out. This fund can cover up to \$2,000 beyond the security deposit, acting as an insurance policy for the Property Managers.

**\$7,774 – Jewish War Veterans** – Grant enabled JWV to set-up office headquarters in Minnesota to support veterans. Funding will assist the Grantee to, 1) Contract with an IT and Grant Administrator, 2) Purchase new office equipment, 3) Expand social media presence, 4) Perform JWV Chapter Advocacy Training, and 4) Increase JWV membership

**\$5,000 – Military Radio** – Promote MDVA by increasing the public’s awareness and knowledge about MDVA and other Minnesota Veteran organizations by conducting a weekly radio broadcast targeted to Veterans and military personnel.

**\$152,000 – 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.

**\$19,327– Snow Globe Public Relations** – Expenditure for 9/11 event planning and support.

**\$13,637 – 9/11 Remembrance Coin** – In recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and subsequent Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), MDVA created a commemorative coin as an expression of appreciation to honor Minnesota Veterans who have served since 9/11. Veterans were given coins at the event as well as other events, they could also be requested via the Veterans CVSO.

**\$6,365– Department of Public Safety** – Security for the 9/11 event at the State Capital.

**\$1,121 – Statewide Systems Costs** – Expenditure to support statewide systems costs for SWIFT, SEMA4 and other systems managed by MMB.

**\$1,655 – SOT Advertising** – Advertising in the Minnesota Legionnaire to encourage Veterans and their families to purchase SOT license plates.

**\$24,264 – Wreaths Across America** – Holiday wreaths are placed annually on each headstone at our State Veterans Cemeteries to honor and remember the sacrifices that Minnesota Veterans have made.