



IDVA

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

MEDIA ADVISORY
January 9, 2023

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Media Advisory: 202³ Veterans Day on the Hill, State Capitol Rotunda, Jan. 18th

CAMP DODGE, JOHNSTON, IOWA - The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting our annual Veterans Day on the Hill in the State Capitol Rotunda, Jan. 18th, from 9 a.m. to noon, with speakers starting at 10 a.m.

Media are invited to attend. Plans are for a return to our traditional in-person, public event, with about 30-45 minutes of speakers. It will also be broadcast state-wide and recorded on our facebook page at [facebook.com/iowaDepartmentofVeteransAffairs](https://www.facebook.com/iowaDepartmentofVeteransAffairs). After the ceremony, veterans are strongly encouraged to meet with their elected representatives to discuss the Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs 2022 Legislative Initiatives introduced at the event.

WHAT: Iowa Veterans Day Ceremony

WHO: Veterans from across Iowa; Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds; Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg; Key Legislative Leaders on Veterans Affairs; Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director and Iowa Veterans Home Commandant, Todd Jacobus; Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs Chair, Elizabeth Ledvina; Jackie Schmillen, Singer and Iowa Army National Guard Public Affairs Director; Iowa National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Ben Corell; 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command; and Home Base Iowa Program Manager, Jathan Chicoine (or appointed).

WHEN: Wednesday, January 18th, at 9 a.m.

WHERE: State Capitol Rotunda

RSVP: This is a public ceremony, free and open to all.

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Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs 2023 Legislative Initiatives

In order to continue the programs that support Iowa veterans and their families, we support the protection of the financial integrity of the following agencies and programs:

- Iowa Veterans Home
- Military Home Ownership Program
- Iowa Veterans Trust Fund
- County Allocation Funds
- Injured Veteran Grant Program
- Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
- Iowa Veterans Cemetery
- Veterans License Fee Fund

TOP PRIORITIES

1. **Align 'Veteran' Definition:** We fully support changes to the Iowa Code *definition of a "Veteran"* to match the *Federal Code* definition, and we support the *Veteran Modernization Act* to improve and update Iowa Code sections 35 through 35B.
2. **Property Tax Relief:** We fully support upgrades to the *Military Property Tax Exemption Program* and other exemptions for our veterans and military community.
3. **Update the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund:** We fully support increasing the annual deposit of Lottery funds to the *Iowa Veterans Trust Fund* spendable account to \$800,000.00, to achieve the intended 2012 purpose, and meet veteran needs in the 2023 economy.
4. **Enable the Iowan-American Dream They Protect:** We fully support access to home and property ownership for veterans and military members by increasing funding for the *Military Home Ownership Assistance Program* to meet demand.

AWARENESS ISSUES:

- A) We support Iowa state sales tax *exemption* on the purchase of *wheelchair accessible vehicles* for veterans' vehicles modified by the VA.
- B) We support any legislation pertaining to *Mental Health* for our veterans, their families and all Iowans suffering from these diverse life-taking conditions.
- C) We support the *Green Alert Act* H.R.2797 – Establishing a 'green alert advisory' which would be activated when a Veteran with a history of mental health issues goes missing.
- D) We support the use of the *Iowa Veterans Trust Fund and the Veteran's license fee fund* to the greatest degree possible to assist Veterans programs throughout the state.
- E) We support adoption of the *Sgt. Brandon Lay "Green Alert" Bill* to help prevent veteran suicide by augmenting existing "Amber Alert" capabilities.