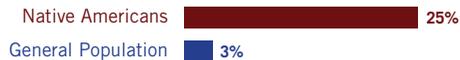




## FACTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

- Native Americans have one of the highest records of military service per capita of any ethnic group.
- Twenty five percent of able-bodied, adult Native Americans enlist in the armed forces, compared to three percent of the general population.
- Native Americans apply for and receive fewer veterans benefits than veterans groups; less than 50 percent of eligible American Indian veterans in Minnesota apply for the benefits they have earned.

### % OF ABLE-BODIED AMERICANS ENLISTING IN ARMED FORCES



*Thank you*  
for serving in the military with courage, honor and bravery.  
*Native American Veterans have given the most,  
yet asked for the least.*

Available in alternative formats such as brail,  
large print, audio tape and computer disc.

## TVSO CONTACTS

For questions or assistance, please contact your TVSO:

### **Bois Forte**

Ernie Steel – (218) 757-0111  
[ernest.steel@state.mn.us](mailto:ernest.steel@state.mn.us)

### **Grand Portage**

Clarence Everson – (218) 475-2780  
[clarence.everson@state.mn.us](mailto:clarence.everson@state.mn.us)

### **Mille Lacs**

Greg Davis – (320) 532-7731  
[greg.davis@state.mn.us](mailto:greg.davis@state.mn.us)

### **Red Lake**

Jim Loud – (218) 679-3309  
[jim.loud@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.loud@state.mn.us)

### **Twin Cities Metro Area**

Todd Dionne – (651) 231-5064  
[Todd.Dionne@state.mn.us](mailto:Todd.Dionne@state.mn.us)  
Wendy Sederstrom – (651) 231-5581  
[Wendy.Sederstrom@state.mn.us](mailto:Wendy.Sederstrom@state.mn.us)  
St. Paul Claims Office – (612) 970-5662

### **Upper Sioux Community**

Galyn Minkel – (320) 564-6388  
[Galyn.Minkel@state.mn.us](mailto:Galyn.Minkel@state.mn.us)

### **White Earth**

Sam Mason – (218) 983-3285  
[lenard.mason@state.mn.us](mailto:lenard.mason@state.mn.us)

### **Fond du Lac sponsored TVSO**

Chuck Smith – (218) 878 2670  
[chucksmith@fdlrez.com](mailto:chucksmith@fdlrez.com)

### **Leech Lake sponsored TVSO**

Frank Bowstring – (218) 335-3691  
[frank.bowstring@llojibwe.com](mailto:frank.bowstring@llojibwe.com)

## TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM

*Serving Native American Veterans and their families*



[www.minnesotaveteran.org](http://www.minnesotaveteran.org)

## MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Service Building  
20 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street | St. Paul, MN 55155-2006  
Phone: (651) 296-2562

[www.minnesotaveteran.org](http://www.minnesotaveteran.org)





Are you a Native American Veteran? If so, you should be getting the benefits and services that you're entitled to.

Native Americans have one of the highest levels of participation of military service per capita of any ethnic group. Although they serve in the military in large numbers, they apply for and receive fewer Veterans benefits than other ethnic groups.

That's why the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) created the Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO) Program: to make sure that you have access to the benefits and services that you have earned.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*The TVSO Program:*

- Provides community outreach and advocacy to traditionally underserved Native American Veterans and their dependents.
- Acts as a liaison to various state and federal programs that provide Veterans benefits.
- Works to ensure Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

## WHAT TVSO'S DO

Tribal Veterans Services Officers (TVSO's) — located on eight reservations in Minnesota and in the Twin Cities metropolitan area — are highly experienced, trained professionals who understand your needs and concerns. They will work with you to:

- File service-related disability claims.
- Ensure you're aware of the benefits available to you through a variety of programs on reservations and in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Act as a liaison between you and other services available with the state, federal and Tribal governments.

## SPECTRUM OF SERVICES

*As a Veteran, you and your family are eligible for these services:*

- Emergency financial assistance
- On-the-job training
- Federal claims assistance
- Higher education support
- Burial services
- Individual and family counseling
- Financial counseling

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

***Federal Claims Assistance:*** Helps you file a claim at the St. Paul and Fargo Claims division offices.

***LinkVet Call Center:*** Links you to trained MDVA staff for immediate crisis intervention and information on Veterans' benefits, healthcare, education and reintegration.

***State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP):*** Provides direct, emergency financial assistance for shelter, utilities, optical and dental benefits, and cash grants for food and personal needs.

***Minnesota Veterans Preference Act (VPA):*** Ensures that state-granted Veterans preference rights are upheld and enforced.

***Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery (Little Falls, MN):*** Provides you with several options for dignified burial services.

***Minnesota State Approving Agency (SAA):*** Allows you to receive payments for federal G.I. Bill education benefits.

***On-the-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program:*** Provides opportunities to use earned federal G.I. Bill's education benefits.

***Higher Education Veterans Program:*** Provides information on benefits and resources to help you succeed in college.

***Women Veterans Program:*** Ensures equitable access for female Native American Veterans eligible for federal and state benefits and services.

***Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. (Case Management, Outreach, Referral and Education):*** Brings essential services to communities in Minnesota at no charge.

**So pick-up the phone and call us today – we're here to help you get the benefits you need and deserve!**

*Note: See back panel for TVSO contacts and phone numbers*