

Veteran's Newsletter

December 2008

Welcome to the December edition of the Jefferson County Workforce Center's Veteran's Newsletter. If you have a subject you would like to see covered here, please email Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us.

How will the economy affect the Veterans Administration?

By Alex Keenan, Air Force Times

What does the current meltdown in the economy mean for government spending? For example, will the Veterans Administration, which has seen its funding go up in recent years and has expanded a number of its important programs, continue in that direction?

One of the main reasons Congress even considered increasing education benefits, broadening the VA home loan program and developing a veteran owned business development program, which finally allowed service disabled veterans to compete in the federal acquisition process was because lawmakers realized that without a benefit package to recruit and retain professional military members to serve a full career, our military system would become hollow.

It's important to remind our government officials of that on a regular basis so the many military benefits programs Congress has set forth to improve stay on course and do not backslide. The new leadership and new lawmakers on Capitol Hill, along with the president-elect and his transition team, need to be made aware of the importance of training, education, health care, job skills and career development of the service members who will one day become retirees.

In these changing times, military retirees need to stay the course in one vital respect : continue to send the message loud and clear to our government leaders that they have a moral obligation to fund and support the programs that are so vital to the uniformed retirement community.

How? – By making your voice heard. The veterans' service organizations that lobby on Capitol Hill do a fine job of looking out for our interest, but every individual who adds his /her voice to the mix helps to send our message even louder and clearer

You can go online to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov to find the websites of every lawmaker in Congress. On every one of those websites is a way for constituents to directly email their legislators with their views. If you haven't introduced yourself to your elected officials and let them know where you stand, I highly encourage you to do so.

Other Items of Interest:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LAUNCHES NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS, FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS :

The Department of Defense recently launched the National Resource Directory, a collaborative effort between the departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The directory is a Web-based network of care coordinators, providers and support partners with resources for wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans, their families, families of the fallen and those who support them.

Located at www.nationalresourcedirectory.org , the directory offers more than 10,000 medical and non-medical services and resources to help service members and veterans achieve personal and professional goals along their journey from recovery through rehabilitation to community reintegration.

This combination of federal, state, and community-based resources will serve as a tremendous asset for all service members, veterans, their families and those who care for them.

The National Resource Directory will prove to be a valuable tool for wounded, ill, and injured service members and their families as they wind their way through the maze of benefits and services available to them in their transition to civilian life.

The National Resource Directory is organized into six major categories: Benefits and Compensation; Education, Training and Employment; Family and Caregiver Support; Health; Housing and Transportation; and Services and Resources. It also provides helpful checklists, Frequently Asked Questions, and connections to peer support groups.

VA Benefits and Resources Website

The My Health_eVet program on the VA website at www.myhealth.va.gov is a gateway to VA benefits and resources that help veterans understand and manage all aspects of their health. It provides reliable information, many links to health information to build the quality of a veteran's life, and other tools, such as online medication refill requests and links to health care providers and treatment facilities. My Health_eVet can be accessed by anyone, including people who are not veterans.

We are here for you !

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Jefferson County Workforce Center place great emphasis on service to veterans, especially to recently separated veterans and to those with a service connected disability or some other barrier to employment. If you feel you have a situation that is limiting your job readiness or hindering your job search or would just like some assistance with your job search, please call the Veteran Employment Representative at 303 271-4728 or email David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. He is located at the Laramie Building, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Colorado.