

Veteran's Newsletter

November 2008

Welcome to the November 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 either Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us or Del Atencio at datencio@jeffco.us.

As retirement funds and fun fade, it's time to go back to work for some seniors. By Nora Caley, Denver Post

As savings vaporize and retirement becomes boring, more senior workers are delaying leaving the workforce or are going back to work.

Sixteen percent of the American labor force in 2007 was aged 65 and older, almost 4 percent more than the 12.2 percent working in 1997, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The trend is growing. While the total U.S. workforce is projected to increase by 8.5 percent from 2006 to 2016, the number of workers aged 55 to 64 is expected to increase 36.5 percent. The ranks of older workers aged 65 to 75 years and up are predicted to increase by more than 80 percent, based on BLS data.

Many retirees are going back to work because they are bored with the non-working life. They enjoy a few years off. They do all the travel, and relax and visit grandchildren. But, they need something to do for themselves.

Other mature workers are heading back to work because they are running out of retirement savings, especially during this economic downturn. Many want an income, and more.

For many seniors, going to work is not just about the money and the benefits. It provides them with the opportunity to be amongst co-workers and friends once again.

To transition successfully back into the workforce, seniors need to stay current with industry advances. This includes learning the newest Microsoft software to work in an office environment as well as keeping up with other computer skills. There are refresher classes online and on-site at some area recreation centers.

Also, update that resume, adding new skills, even from volunteer positions that have been held.

Finally, consider going back to school to earn a certificate or degree in areas with labor shortages, such as in the medical care fields.

Other Items of Interest:

18th Annual Homeless Veterans Standdown: This year's Homeless Veteran's Standdown is scheduled for **November 6, 2008** at the National Guard Armory, 5275 Franklin St., Denver. Services from many Denver area agencies will be available for homeless veterans. These include the VA Medical Center; Veteran Service Organizations; Social Security; Social Service agencies; Housing Referrals; Legal Services; and Employment and Rehabilitation services. Eligible veterans will be provided items such as boots, sleeping bags, clothing, flu shots, as well as breakfast and lunch. Hearing aid and eyeglass repair and dental screening and haircuts will also be available.

3rd Annual HireVetsFirst Job Fair: Come network with over 46 Vet-Friendly employers at the 3rd Annual HireVetsFirst Job Fair scheduled for **November 4th, 2008** at the Police Protective Association (PPA) building located at 2105 Decatur Street, Denver, Colorado 80211 (Near Invesco Field). The fair is for veterans only and is scheduled from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

Parking is free and the PPA building is RTD accessible. Bring several copies of your resume and please come dressed for success.

2008 Aurora Veterans Salute: KEZW, Raytheon, and Buckley AFB will be sponsoring the 2008 Aurora Veterans Salute on **Wednesday, November 12th** at the Wings Over the Rockies Museum, 7711 E. Academy Blvd, Denver CO. Tickets are \$15 for veterans and military personnel, and \$20 for non-military guests. Tickets may be purchased by credit card over the telephone by calling the Aurora Senior Center at 303 739-7950 and these tickets will be mailed to you. A coffee social and museum tours will run from 9 to 10:45 AM. Luncheon and the veterans salute will run from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Lunch will be provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Golden Corral Restaurants Salute America's Heroes with Free Dinner: On Monday, November 17, 2008 from 5 to 9 pm, all 485 Golden Corral restaurants across America will offer any person who has served in the United States Military (including National Guard and Reserves) a free "thank you" dinner buffet and beverage - no identification required. This will be the eighth annual "thank you" dinner for our nation's heroes from Golden Corral restaurants, who have provided over 1,835,000 complimentary meals to military personnel over the history of the event.

Retirees Get 5.8% COLA for 2009: The 2009 cost-of living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay will be 5.8%. This increase, which goes into effect on December 1, 2008, also applies to SBP annuities.

Now a message from our Jefferson County Veteran's Service Officer:

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November 11th, 2008 is Veterans Day - take time to honor those who have served in the military!

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, was started in 1938 to commemorate the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the Allied and German governments signed the armistice agreement ending World War I many years earlier. As World War II came and went, people began recognizing the efforts of all military veterans on *Armistice Day*. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill officially declaring November 11 **Veterans Day**.

Although many have died defending our nation and serving it in wartime, the focus of Veterans Day is to honor the 25 million living veterans among us...our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends and neighbors – ordinary citizens called upon to perform extraordinary service. On Veterans Day we celebrate their patriotism, service and sacrifice.

Jefferson County does its part to help the county's more than 45,000 veterans year-round with the assistance of the Jefferson County Veterans Service Officer (VSO), Tom Zunker. He may also serve the surviving spouse, administrator, executor, guardian, conservator or heir of a veteran.

The VSO may assist with the filing of claims for pensions, disability compensation, health care benefits, vocation training, education, burial benefits, or any other benefits these persons may be entitled to receive.

The VSO is an honorably discharged veteran from military service, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution, and certified by the Colorado Division of Military and Veterans Affairs.

To contact the Jefferson County VSO, call 303-271-4205 or visit Suite 160 in the Human Services Building. You can also email Tom at tzunker@jeffco.us.

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 situation that is limiting your job readiness or hindering your job search or would just like some assistance with your job search, please call one of the Veteran Employment Representatives at 303 271-4787 or 4728 or send an email to Del Atencio at datencio@jeffco.us or to David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. We are located at the Laramie Building, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Co.