

This article has something for the younger and the older crowd. Joe, not sure where you fit in, but if you want to read it, go right ahead! Stay tuned for the next couple weeks, hopefully the House of Representatives will pass, and the President will sign, the bill authorizing veterans to render the hand salute to the Colors. It has passed the Senate, but needs to jump through a few more hoops. Be the first to call me and tell me about this bill going into effect, and I'll give you a suitable prize! (Now remember, I get to determine what "suitable" is...)

Hey! Here's a good deal (no pun intended) for any of you troops who have returned from Iraq recently! Grand Casino Mille Lacs would like to thank Minnesota members of the armed forces for the courage and strength they have shown. Putting action behind their words, Grand Casino Mille Lacs will provide one standard overnight package to include a dinner buffet for two, to any Iraq tour returnee. They prefer to keep the eligibility time period as within 6 months from return to the states, but if you want—go for it anyway and see what they say! Soldiers interested should email koslin@grcasinos.com and request the package to be mailed. The email should include name, phone number, mailing address, rank and unit and dates of Middle East tour. All requests will be mailed out and could take 1-2 weeks to be received. If you have any interest in this, contact Amy Doyle, the Area Relations Representative, at Grand Casino Mille Lacs, 777 Grand Ave, PO Box 343, Onamia, MN 56359. Here's a phone number just in case—(320) 532-8239. Have fun!

Looking for a refund? Keep reading. If you served in a combat zone or hazardous duty area anytime from Sept. 11, 2001 through Dec. 31, 2006, you may be eligible for a credit of \$59 for each month you served. In some cases, the credit may be claimed for someone who has died. To claim the credit, complete Form M99, Credit for Military Service in a Combat Zone. You will need to include certain documentation with your form. For more information, see the military credit instructions in the website below. Credits will be issued starting January 2007.

Forms and instructions:

www.taxes.state.mn.us/individ/other_supporting_content/military_credit.shtml

How about those Support Our Troops license plates? They're still available at the local license bureaus, and the money raised goes to a good cause, please think about this and get yours today! Besides, they are pretty neat looking.

Ever wonder how some of our older and/or disabled veterans get to and from their medical appointments? Roseau County veterans are really blessed to have the Roseau County Senior Medical Travel team on their side. I'm sure Senior Medical Travel (463-3177, Gayle Gustafson—Coordinator) can use more volunteer drivers, so if you're looking to pay back some old debts to people who served or who just need some help now, why don't you call Gayle and get the lowdown on this program. Tell her Sam sent you.

Over and Out.