

Here's some news that y'all may not like. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that no veteran is entitled to more than one 10% disability rating for tinnitus, regardless of whether the tinnitus exists in one or both ears. Veterans whose claims are pending should be informed accordingly. The Judicial Appeals Office should be sending letters to all claimants who have cases pending before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Veterans who have appeals pending before the Board of Veterans' Appeals should expect that those appeals will be denied. Might be one or two of you in the county who need to know this.

O.K., so here's some good news! The state has an employment program and there's a division within the program that aims to help put veterans into state jobs. If you're an interested veteran, it would be most wise to call Sandi Satovich at 651-259-3639, or if you have questions about the state hiring process, you can email them to: Jobinfo@state.mn.us. But wait, there's more! Check out the following website: www.doer.state.mn.us. Select the "Employment Info" tab, and then "My State Job Search", the rest you should be able to figure out on your own.

Ever hear of the Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund? If you've served in a combat zone since Sep 2001, you'd better keep reading. If you didn't, pass this info on to someone who did!

Minnesota military personnel who were deployed to a combat zone after September 11, 2001, are eligible to apply for financial grants from MMAF. The grants represent the state's appreciation for their service. The grant amount will vary, however, according to the level of hardship (injuries, death) endured as a result of combat zone deployment. Typical grant amounts are around \$250.

Here are some words on eligibility. Subject to the availability of funds, MMAF intends to provide grants to all active duty or honorably discharged Minnesota military personnel who have served in a combat zone since September 11, 2001. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements stated on the grant application and should apply immediately.

Definition of Terms:

"Minnesota military personnel." Limited to those (1) Minnesota

taxpaying residents on active military duty, (2) Minnesota taxpaying residents assigned to Reserve or Guard units located outside of Minnesota, (3) Non-Minnesota taxpayers assigned to a Minnesota Reserve or Guard Unit, and (4) Member of one of the above-mentioned groups who served after September 11, 2001 and was honorably discharged.

"Combat zones." Those Minnesota military personnel who served in a designated Combat Zone anywhere in the world and received Hostile Fire Pay.

How to apply? Minnesota military personnel (or immediate family, in the case of Minnesota military personnel killed while deployed to a combat zone) may apply for a grant by submitting an application to MMAF, P.O. Box 2070, Minneapolis, MN 55402. If you have questions, call 1-877-668-4269 and ask them. Or, for more details on this program, or to file for a grant on-line, follow these directions:

Visit the website at www.thankmntroops.org

- Click on your appropriate **Version**
- Click on **Troops and Family**
- Click on **Online Grant Application Form**
- Complete **ALL fields**
- Click on **SUBMIT**
- Click on **PRINT**
- Copy, Sign, and attach all necessary documents
- MMAF will be waiting for your paperwork

Last thing, do you know what happened on 23 Feb 1945? Yes, many things, but one of them was the Stars and Stripes going up on Iwo Jima. Thanks again Jack, and thanks to all the rest of you who were a part of that war.

Over and Out!

