

Vets Views 2 Aug 07

How about the **Welcome Home Troops** party to be held in Greenbush on the 11th? Heard about it? Here are the details:

Who: Everyone in the north country!

Where: Smith's Pavilion, Highway 32.

When: Saturday 11 Aug, starts at 3:00 PM, dancing until 1:30 AM.

What: Live music, dancing, face painting, clown act, concession stand, beer garden.

Why: Celebrate the return of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion from Iraq.

More: No cover charge for ALL returning veterans, everyone is welcome, donations will be made to the Bryan T. McDonough Foundation and the Minnesota Military Family Foundation.

Thanks Paul.

Breaking News!

An appeals court chastised the Department of Veterans Affairs last week and ordered the agency to pay retroactive benefits to Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and contracted a form of leukemia.

Background--The VA agreed in 2003, to extend benefits to Vietnam vets diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, known as CLL, if they had been in-country Vietnam, and therefore presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange. But the VA did not re-examine previous claims from veterans suffering from the ailment, nor did it pay them retroactive benefits, which was at the heart of the latest dispute.

The court's opinion was on a technical matter, but it is important to realize that the appeals court sided with veterans groups who said the veterans were entitled to retroactive benefits. Note--the VA could appeal this latest ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A very important aspect of all this, is this: If researchers link other disabilities to Agent Orange, the decision will prevent the VA from denying retroactive benefits for those veterans, too. I urge all you veterans to join a local veterans organization, here's proof of the good work they do for all veterans! Stay tuned.

Any of you troops who have recently returned from OIF/OEF like to hunt or fish? If so, read on!

From the 2007 MN DNR License Requirements:

"A resident who has served at any time during the preceding 24 months in federal active service outside the United States and has been discharged from active service may take small game and fish without a license. Discharged residents must carry proof of residency and official military discharge papers. All tags required of a license must be obtained at no fee."

"A free deer license will be issued to residents who have served at any time during the preceding 24 months in federal active service outside the United States and have been discharged from active military service. Eligibility is limited to one deer license per person. Discharged residents must provide proof of residency and a copy of their official military discharge papers."

Got your Support Our Troops license plates yet? Why not?

Over and Out