

## VETS VIEWS

8 APRIL 08

I think I've mentioned this program a couple of times, but here it is again, because it's a good one! It's the MN State Soldiers Assistance Program; keep reading for more details, please. You and your family may be eligible for an annual \$400.00 Optical Grant *and* a \$1,000.00 Dental Grant **per person** through the MN Department of Veteran Affairs if:

- You're a Veteran, widow(er) of a Veteran, or a qualifying dependent of a Veteran **and**
- You served at least 181 days of active duty **and**
- Are and recently have been, MN residents for 30+ days **and**
- Your household assets are no more than \$3000 (\$5000 if have a family) total money in the bank, and monthly income of roughly \$1550 (single veteran) and up to \$2300 (family of 5).

**Note:** Assets do not include a home, vehicle, recreational vehicle, and other items.

The dental and optical pieces are just a part of what might be available; there are also provisions to apply for subsistence and special needs help, as well. Please contact me for further details or to make an appointment to apply. There's a bit of paperwork involved, but what the heck, it might just be the best time you've spent in a long while!

Last week Governor Tim Pawlenty signed a bill into law proclaiming March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day in Minnesota. In so doing, he and the entire state will now acknowledge annually, a generation of veterans who came home from war and did not receive the welcome back and thank you they had earned.

Are you a disabled veteran? Want to make a quick trip to Bemidji? The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will present a Veterans Information Seminar on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the National Guard Armory, 1430 23rd Street NW in Bemidji. Highly trained members of DAV's National Service Officer Corps will conduct this workshop and will be ready to assist with veteran's benefits counseling and claim filing. You do NOT need to be a DAV member to take advantage of this service. This DAV outreach activity is designed to educate disabled veterans, their families and the community on specific veterans' benefits and services. The DAV Chapter 7 of Bemidji is hosting the event and is working on light refreshments to offer those

in attendance. If you'd like a second opinion on your issues, by all means attend this event.

Can anyone tell me why the date of 29 Mar 1973 is significant? Be the first to call 463-3308 and leave a message with the correct answer, and you will receive a very nice surprise. Be sure to leave your phone number, too. No, it won't be gift wrapped; we're cutting back here at the county...

Over and Out!