



**Hello fellow Routt County Veterans,**

**OCTOBER 2016 ISSUE**

I am approaching one year of service to all of you this coming November. It has been a great honor to meet with some of you to date and to help you get the benefits you deserve. It makes me feel very good to know that I have made a great impact on some of your lives to date, and I look forward to helping many other veterans going forward. I am doing my best to provide outreach and to “spread the word” and to get new veterans in to see me. There is a large population of Vietnam Campaign veterans among us that have never filed for any disability claims that are very overdue for what they deserve. Please help me round them up.

Please call me 970-870-5469 or email me at [nbreitung@co.routt.co.us](mailto:nbreitung@co.routt.co.us) to set up an appointment with me and please continue to help pass on my contact info to other fellow veterans young and old in Routt County. My hours are as follows: Mon: 8-4, Tues: 10-2, and Wed: 8-4

### **TOPICS THIS QUARTER:**

#### **HEALTHCARE – VA TAKING STEPS TO PROVIDE BETTER HEALTHCARE TO RURAL VETERANS**

One quarter of all veterans in the United States, 5.2 million people, call rural communities home. Three million of these veterans are enrolled in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care. Most rural veterans (82%) have other health insurance and many of them use it to see community providers in addition to their VA health care professionals. In addition, the Veterans Choice Act of 2014 created new avenues for VA and community health care providers to work together in providing veterans primary and specialty care closer to home.

Read more here >

[http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/docs/NRHAjournal\\_VA\\_RuralHealthCommentary\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/docs/NRHAjournal_VA_RuralHealthCommentary_2016.pdf)

Follow issues on rural VA Healthcare at:

[http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/providers/research\\_library.asp](http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/providers/research_library.asp)

#### **VA DENTAL – FINDING A DENTIST**



As many of you already know the VA has very limited guidelines on which they cover for dental insurance. If you do not have dental insurance and need to see a local dental provider please see Dr. McCreight at McCreight Progressive Dentistry. They have a great dental savings program for people without dental insurance. In the case of a vet who found a good job in the civilian world...but wants a fellow vet dentist to give him a discount...this dental savings plan has MANY huge savings opportunities far beyond the yearly membership fee. You might have seen it advertised as "MPD VIP" on social media. They also have a Foundation for local victims of domestic violence called the McCreight Smile Foundation. ([www.mccreightsmilefoundation.com](http://www.mccreightsmilefoundation.com)) Sometimes these local victims of

domestic violence are vets. This Foundation is run for them by the Yampa Valley Community Foundation. Funds are available there to help local victims of domestic violence.

For more information: <http://www.steamboatdentistry.com/>

Dental Guidelines for VA

[http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-442\\_dental\\_benefits\\_for\\_veterans\\_2\\_14.pdf](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB10-442_dental_benefits_for_veterans_2_14.pdf)

#### EMPLOYMENT – HIRING VETERANS IS IMPORTANT

Please see some recent interesting numbers on veteran unemployment.

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USVAVBA/2016/09/02/file\\_attachments/614154/BL\\_S%2BEmployment%2BData%2B-%2BAugust%2B2016.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USVAVBA/2016/09/02/file_attachments/614154/BL_S%2BEmployment%2BData%2B-%2BAugust%2B2016.pdf)

If you own a veteran owned business, it is important that you hire fellow veterans, and that you do business with other veteran owned companies to support each other.

[The Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS) and [Hire Our Heroes](#) have teamed up to offer training for Veterans in cybersecurity, in support of Veterans join our nation's cybersecurity workforce. DHS's Federal Virtual Training Environment (Fed VTE) offers free online, on-demand cyber security training to government employees and Veterans. Veterans can sign up for an account through the [Hire Our Heroes website](#) and follow instructions through "ID me" to verify veteran status and register for a FedVTE account.

#### EDUCATION – GI BILL UPDATES & MORE

**September 27, 2016 10:40 AM** You may have seen or heard that the Department of Education has terminated ACICS's recognition as a nationally accredited agency because of scrutiny from the Department of Education (ED) for allegedly failing to provide consumer protection measures. See [affected schools](#).

**How does this impact you?** GI Bill benefits may only be used at higher education institutions that are accredited by a federally recognized accreditor. Fortunately, just this week, the Congress passed and it is expected the President will sign legislation that provides an 18-month grace period for schools to seek accreditation by another federally recognized accreditor.

**Bottom line – you can continue to attend school using your GI Bill for another 18 months.**

See more > <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/news.asp>

#### HOUSING – ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS FOR WINTER MONTHS

With winter and snow season right around the corner it is important that we work on a plan for making sure that no veterans are without food and shelter this coming winter, even if just for a short period. I would like to ask those of you veterans that are "well off" to consider opening your home to a homeless veteran at my request if necessary. Perhaps you have an extra empty room or two at your home, or an empty guest house. I have recently become a member of the Routt County task force on homelessness. We are looking for solutions to house folks so they are not left to the elements during our harsh winters here. If you would like to be put on a volunteer list for this please contact me via email.

## TRANSPORTATION – VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED

First I would like to start by saying thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help drive veterans to their appointments at our various VA locations. I have added you all to a DRIVER email database group. When I get a request for a driver, I will email out the date/time/location that the vet needs to be driven. Please reply back to me if you can drive for that vet. I will take the first DRIVER that replies back to me for the task. Once you have driven a vet to their appointment, please come and see me to get reimbursed for your trip. If you want to drive your own vehicle, that is fine. If you choose to drive the vet in a rental, I will need to know well in advance so I can make arrangements with Enterprise for a vehicle, they will cover the insurance on the rental.

If you would like to be a volunteer driver please send me an email acknowledging you would like to drive and what days you are available M-F.

In addition, coming from Grand Junction we now have a fully handicap accessible van if the need ever arises to transport a veteran that needs this service.

If you are a Routt County veteran needing transportation to either Grand Junction or Denver VA hospital or clinic in Craig please complete the online request form. You may find information, the forms that need to be completed and the request form at:

<http://co.routt.co.us/index.aspx?NID=507> and submit these forms and gas receipts to county VSO for reimbursement.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOU

Please email me any specific topics of interest to you and I will do my best to uncover the latest up to date information possible of your topic and include it in upcoming issues of my newsletter.