



Hello fellow Routt County Veterans,

JULY 2016 ISSUE

What a whirlwind year to date, I cannot believe it is already July! With summer finally here everyone is busy enjoying the warm weather and outdoor activities. As veterans you are always given a discount for camping, fishing, and other activities. For National Park access information please see <https://store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html> for discounts. For Colorado State Park access information please see <http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/MilitaryBenefits.aspx>. Be sure to check on what discounts you have available as you plan your trips this summer and enjoy our beautiful countryside.

I am continuing to connect with more and more veterans within the county. When one new veteran comes in I typically give them a couple of my cards and contact information, which they have then been passing on to other fellow veterans. This summer I will be working on setting up an outreach program in which I can be in the outlying towns of Yampa, Oak Creek, and Hayden at least 1 day a month. My goal here is to reach out to those who may not be able to travel into Steamboat to meet with me. I will also be looking into ways to utilize remote conferencing technology for those vets young and old that are more technologically savvy and have the capability to meet this way. My hope is that I am able to connect with each and every one of you at some point in time. Please call me 970-870-5469 or email me at 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 – DENVER VA HOSPITAL GETS NEW LEADERSHIP

I recently attended the State American Legion conference in Longmont, CO during Jun 16th – 19th. One of the guest speakers the first day was the newly appointed head of the Denver VA Hospital Sallie Houser-Hanfelder who is a VA executive with more than 30 years of experience with the agency <http://www.denver.va.gov/about/leadership.asp> “Her sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the veterans we are honored to serve,” said Ralph Gigliotti, director of the regional Veterans Integrated Service Network 19. After hearing her speak I am convinced the construction is going to move along at a much faster pace while also keeping the budget for it on track. They are also going to have an entire new wing dedicated just to PTSD treatment which is outstanding.

Follow the progress from site builder website: <http://www.denvervahospital.com/progress/>

EMPLOYMENT - EMPLOYING VETERANS & VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES



Ferrellgas, a nationwide leader in the propane industry, is looking for full and part time drivers for local delivery in the Steamboat area. Their drivers are critical to their success. We offer in credible pay, great benefits, flexible work schedule, and part time sign on bonus. If you want to work for a company where your experience and dedication make a difference, join the Ferrellgas team. Qualified candidates will have **1 year Driving Experience, Valid Class A or B CDL, with HAZMAT, Tanker and Air brakes endorsement**. Basic computer skills, and be 21 years or older.

For more information, visit our local office at 2020 13th Street or email resume to tonyweiss@ferrellgas.com EOE/AAP/M/F/D/V www.ferrellgas.com

EDUCATION – GI BILL UPDATES & MORE

Pertaining to the employment posting above that requires specific licenses or certifications, Veterans that have recently separated from active duty can utilize their GI Bill to obtain the needed licenses and certifications for a job. Also if a veteran is 20% or more service connected with a disability can apply to get funding through vocational rehabilitation.

See more at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/eligibility_and_entitlement.asp

Follow the GI Bill updates on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation/>

HOUSING – HOME DEPOT HELPING VETERANS WITH HOME IMPROVEMENTS

At a recent conference one of the guest speakers talked about Home Depot Foundation and how they help veterans with home improvements that are needed. You simply need to contact your local Home Depot location and complete a “grant” type form they have and then they will schedule the work to be done with the veteran. The majority of the time they bring all the tools necessary for the job, and supply all the materials and labor free of charge.

See more at: <http://corporate.homedepot.com/community>

The closest store locations are Fort Collins to the east and Avon to the south.

Additionally Home Depot is helping to end veteran homelessness:

<http://corporate.homedepot.com/newsroom/national-coalition-for-homeless-veterans-2016>

TRANSPORTATION – TRANSPORTING VETS TO VA HOSPITALS FROM MOUNTAIN REGION

The American Legion Post 44 has been awarded the VTF – Veterans Transportation Fund grant once again for the amount of \$6,550 for fiscal year 2016-2017. Jim Stanko and myself have been working diligently to get State of Colorado to take action in getting the current CHOICE program reformed so that rural veterans such as ourselves here in Routt County are able to utilize local medical providers in here Steamboat and Craig as much as possible. This has somewhat cut down the amount of transportation needed to the outlying distant VA Hospitals, but there is still a need. Now that summer is here and the roads are dry getting this accomplished is much easier.

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

Steamboat will be hosting for a couple short days 5 veterans taking part in Warrior Expeditions. They are trekking across the continental divide as a therapeutic way to get them reintegrate into society and communities across the country. They are scheduled to be in Dumont Lake on or about July 8th. We will be picking them up and hosting them either at hotels or homes here in Steamboat for a day or two before they make their next leg of the journey. I will be posting more details as the date gets closer.

See more at:

<https://warriorexpeditions.org/expeditions/warrior-hike/continental-divide-trail/cdt-veterans/>

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.