



TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Steven A. Saal, Superintendent
335 Court Street, Pekin, IL 61554
309-477-2271

January 29, 2024

THE HONORABLE JB
PRITZKER GOVERNOR OF
ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL,
ROOM 207 SPRINGFIELD, IL
62706

THE HONORABLE JB PRITZKER:

I AM WRITING THIS REPORT AS INSTRUCTED BY THE ILLINOIS COMPILED STATUTES, ACT 45, MILITARY VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT.CHAPTER 330 ILCS, SECTIONS FOUR AND EIGHT, CONCERNING THE V.A.C. SUPERINTENDENTS ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2023.

THE TAZEWELL COUNTY IS ONE OF THE HIGHER RANKED COUNTIES IN THE STATE. WE PROVIDE NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE ARE VERY ACTIVE IN FIVE GENERAL VETERAN SERVICE AREAS. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS.

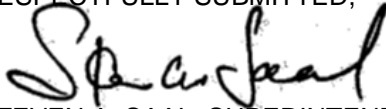
1. **ADVOCACY WORK:** WE WORK ON BEHALF OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED ANY ASSISTANCE FROM ANY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ENTITLEMENTS; COVERING LANDLORDS, UTILITY COMPANIES, SOCIAL SECURITY, IL. DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES, TOWNSHIPS SALVATION ARMY, LIHEAP, VA CLINICS, VA HOSPITALS, IL. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, FUNERAL HOMES, AND I.D.E.S.
2. **CASE MANAGEMENT:** WE HELP THE VETERAN AND/OR THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY FILL OUT ANY AND ALL FORMS FOR ANY ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS IN WHICH THEY MAY BE ENTITLED TO. WE ALSO ASSIST IN HELPING VETERANS TO OBTAIN/ OR MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT WITH REFERRALS TO SAID I.D.E.S.
3. **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** WE ISSUE TAZEWELL COUNTY VOUCHERS TO VENDORS PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES TO THOSE NEEDY MILITARY VETERANS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE NO OTHER MEANS IN WHICH TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES. THESE COULD INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, HOUSING, UTILITIES, MEDICAL TREATMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND BURIAL, AND OF COURSE OUR FOOD PANTRY.
4. **TRANSPORTATION:** TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION PAID \$344.00 OR 35% OF TOTAL COST TO PEORIA COUNTY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION, WHICH PROVIDES CITY V.A. HOSPITAL, DANVILLE, V.A. HOSPITAL, AND MAKES CONNECTIONS TO INDIANAPOLIS V.A. HOSPITAL. WE PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION OF TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS TO PEORIA V.A. CLINIC, AND HOSPITALS IF THEIR APPOINTMENTS OR HEALTH REQUIRES ADDITIONAL SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION.
5. **FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE:** FROM DECEMBER 2022 TO DECEMBER 2023 THE TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION HAS CONTINUED OUR IN

TAZEWELL COUNTY V.A.C.
SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT FY2023

HOUSE FOOD PANTRY FOR HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. IT HAS MAINTAINED THE CONSIDERABLE GROWTH SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND WE ARE ASSISTING IN EXCESS OF OVER 1,020 VETERANS WITH A TOTAL OF 2,220 FAMILY MEMBERS. THE PANTRY IS SUPPLIED FROM DONATIONS FROM NUMEROUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOL FOOD DRIVES, PRIVATE DONATIONS, AS WELL AS FROM PRIVATE LOCAL BUSINESSES. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ITEM IN OUR ANNUAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,000.00. TO START OF THE PANTRY YEARLY ACCOUNT. OUR OFFICE ASSISTED UNTOLD HUNDREDS OF TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES BY PHONE AND IN PERSON. WE ISSUED 289 EMERGENCY VOUCHERS FOR \$83,940.00. THESE VETERANS AND/OR FAMILY MEMBERS HAVE MET ALL STRICT FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. THE V.A.C. UTILIZES THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION GUIDELINES. WE CONTINUE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL TAZEWELL COUNTY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AS ALL OF US BENEFIT FROM A TAX PAYING VETERAN.

THIS OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU AND YOUR OFFICE FOR SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS VETERANS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Saal", written over a light blue horizontal line.

STEVEN A. SAAL, SUPERINTENDENT
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF TAZEWELL COUNTY