

REPORT OF THE VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Port Washington, Wisconsin
March 5, 2008

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is the report of the Veterans Service Commission for calendar year 2007.

The sum of \$3,000.00 was restored on January 1, 2007, with some monies carried forward from FY'2006, to the Veterans Relief Fund as part of the County Budget for FY '07. Of this amount \$2,560 was distributed as loans/grants during the past year. All of these funds were disbursed for emergency shelter/utilities and /or food.

The Veterans Service Office received donations (gift certificates) totaling \$350.00 from local veterans' service organizations, which were distributed to needy veterans as circumstances dictated.

It is possible that the fund could receive repayments during the coming year, for loans that were granted during 2006 and 2007, though three of the "loans" were converted to grants by a unanimous vote of the Commissioners, after reviewing the likelihood that these could ever be repaid by the recipients.

We closed out the year with a balance of \$440.00, which was carried forward, and added to monies from the general fund to bring the starting balance to \$3,440.00 to begin FY'08.

We have continued to seek out other sources of aid for the veterans, as situations have required. This includes enlisted aid from the local Salvation Army Chapter, as well as St. Vincent De Paul.

We seek to qualify these individuals for State and Federal programs, which are better prepared, and better funded to deal with their long-term needs. This policy has proven to be challenging due to changes at the State level in the new "*Aid to Needy Veterans*" program, which now requires veterans to exhaust all locally available resources before applying for assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Commission wishes to express its gratitude for the continuing support of the County Government, the Veterans Service Office, and the County's Veterans Organizations.

Respectfully submitted for the Commission,

Kenneth A. Brown
Executive Secretary