



# POLK COUNTY VETERANS SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

Greetings,

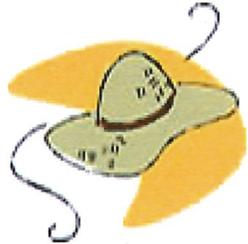
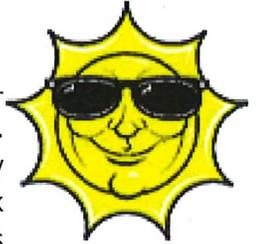
What a year this has turned out to be! Since mid-March, the country has obviously gone through some big changes that have affected our Great Nation. We hope that this Covid Crisis has not overly effected our veteran community and hope that no one hesitates to reach out to us with his/her needs. Polk County Veterans Services is very dedicated to continue serving our veterans and their families with all benefits during this Covid Pandemic. We are doing this of course with safety in mind and ask that you always call before making a trip to come see us. Since mid-March we have adapted in the way, we assist our Veteran Community with non-face to face options. However, we are still seeing our clients face to face in the office by appointment only when in need. Please call our office at 218-281-3066 for assistance or questions.

All of our offices are all currently open except for the East Grand Forks Office, which is currently under a remodel project. We hope that it will be open in early October. In addition, the DAV transportation is closed until further notice and if you are, in need of a ride to your V.A. appointments please call our office and I will try to find other options to get you to your appointment.

All and all we hope that everyone continues to be safe and healthy during this time.

Summer is sadly coming to an end, where does the time go. We hope you were able to do some summer activities: grilling, fishing, boating, golf, camping and spending time with family is so important.

Take Care and please enjoy our Newsletter,



*Kurt*



*Laurie*





## Desk of the Commissioner-August

Going back to school is certainly different this year. From kindergarteners to college kids, students of all ages are going to learn new skills in adaptability, flexibility and technology in addition to their core subjects. But it's not just the kids who must adapt. The coronavirus pandemic has impacted adults in all walks of life, and Veterans are certainly among those who may be reassessing their careers and the need for education. The impact of COVID-19 on the economy has resulted in temporary or permanent job loss for thousands of Minnesota's Veterans. Whether its employment assistance, education support, or a grant to assist with finances, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) is here for our Veterans.

### **Employment**

MDVA works with many of our state's employers, from Fortune 500 corporations to small businesses, who are eager to hire Veterans. Our staff can assist Veterans in making the transition from military life to a civilian career.

Minnesota employers are Veteran friendly! Throughout the state, companies and corporations are making a commitment to those who wear and have worn the uniform. The Yellow Ribbon Company Program is one example of how Minnesota companies go above and beyond.

### **Education**

MDVA's Higher Education Veterans Program staff are ready to assist Veterans and eligible family members with accessing their benefits, school, and programs. For more information on how to contact your Regional Coordinator and Veteran education benefits, visit our Veteran Support Portal.

New education benefits, including the post 9/11 GI Bill® and sustained deployments have dramatically increased the number of Veterans attending college in recent years. Veterans interested in a career in the trades are entitled to receive federal and state GI Bill benefits while in an approved Apprenticeship Program. Call 1-888-LinkVet to find out if your employer is approved.

### **Grants**

Since April, MDVA has been facilitating applications from Minnesota Veterans for COVID-19 Disaster Relief and Special Needs Grants. The Minnesota Legislature allocated \$6.2 million to assist Veterans who have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

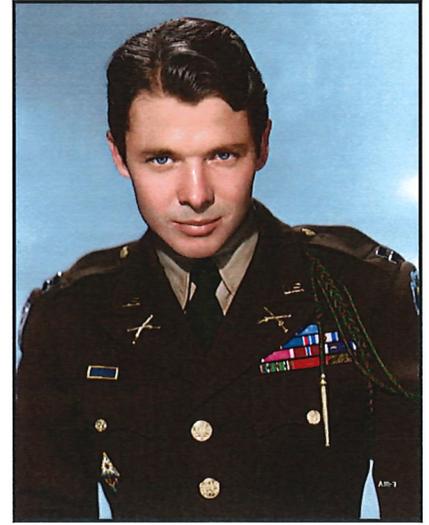
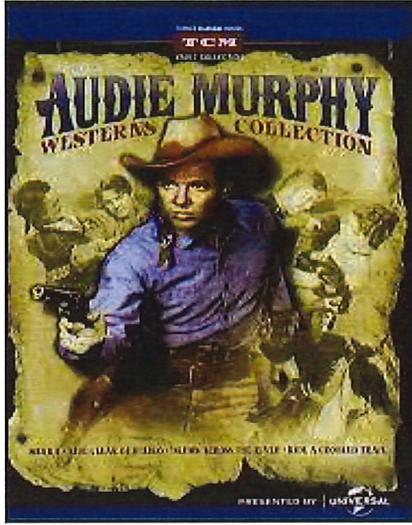
The COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant of \$1,000 is available to Veterans as defined by MN Statute 197.447 who are a Minnesota resident and have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

- The COVID-19 Special Needs Grant provides one-time financial assistance to a Veteran or surviving spouse who needs assistance due to a COVID-19-related event. Items covered by a COVID-19 Special Needs Grant may include utility bills, auto insurance, rent/mortgage, security deposits, medical bills, auto loan payments, auto repairs, furnace/AC repairs or home repairs.
- Because of the economic impact of COVID-19, the grants may also be used to support expenses related to eligible Veterans, spouses or children returning to school, whether online or in-person.

For more information on all the COVID-19 grants, visit our website, contact your County Veterans Service Officer, or contact LinkVet at 1-888-LinkVet.

MDVA is here to serve Minnesota Veterans during this challenging time.

Thank YOU for your service!



Audie Leon Murphy eventually became the most decorated U.S. soldier in WWII. Though he was only 21 years old at the end of the war, he had killed 240 German soldiers, had been wounded three times and had earned 33 awards and medals. After the war, he appeared in more than 40 films. In addition to his acting career—Murphy was a rancher and businessman. He bred and raised thoroughbred horses and owned several ranches in Texas, Arizona and California. He was also a songwriter, and penned hits for such singers as Dean Martin, Eddy Arnold, Charley Pride and many others.

Audie Murphy was born on 20 June 1925, in Kingston, a small rural community in Hunt County in northeastern Texas. He was the seventh of twelve children born to Emmett Berry Murphy (1887–1976) and his wife Josie Bell Murphy (*née* Killian; 1891–1941). The Murphy's were sharecroppers of Irish descent.

As a child, Murphy was a loner with mood swings and an explosive temper. He grew up in northeastern Texas around the towns of Farmersville, Greenville, and Celeste, where he attended elementary school. His father drifted in and out of the family's life and eventually deserted them. Murphy dropped out of school in fifth grade and got a job picking cotton for a dollar a day (equivalent to \$19 in 2019) to help support his family; he also became skilled with a rifle, hunting small game to help feed them. After his mother died of endocarditis and pneumonia in 1941, he worked at a radio repair shop and at a combination general store, garage and gas station in Greenville. Hunt County authorities placed his three youngest siblings in Boles Children's Home, a Christian orphanage in Quinlan. After the war, he bought a house in Farmersville for his eldest sister Corinne and her husband, Poland Burns. His other siblings briefly shared the home.

The loss of his mother stayed with Murphy throughout his life. He later stated:

*She died when I was sixteen. She had the most beautiful hair I've ever seen. It reached almost to the floor. She rarely talked; and always seemed to be searching for something. What it was I don't know. We didn't discuss our feelings. But when she passed away, she took something of me with her. It seems I've been searching for it ever since.*

### Enlistment and initial training:

Murphy had wanted to be a soldier all his youth and dreamed about combat. The death of his mother in May 1941 added even more impetus to his desire to achieve that goal. When he heard the news of Japan's 7 December attack on Pearl Harbor he tried to enlist in the Marines, the Navy and the Army, but was turned down for being underweight and underage. He added weight with a change in diet, and gave the Army an affidavit from his sister Corinne that falsified his birth date by a year. Murphy enlisted on 30 June 1942 in Dallas. During his physical examination his height was recorded as 5 feet 5.5 inches and his weight as 112 pounds. Assigned to the infantry, during basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, Murphy earned the Marksman Badge with Rifle Clasp and the Expert Badge with Bayonet Clasp.

(Continued on Page 4)

While participating in a close order drill during that hot Texas summer, he passed out. His company commander thought his build was too slight for service in the infantry, and tried to have him transferred to a cook and bakers' school, but Murphy insisted on becoming a combat soldier. He completed the 13-week basic training course and in October was given leave to visit his family, after which he was sent to Fort George G. Meade in Maryland for advanced infantry training with the 76th Infantry Division until January 1943.

On January 26, 1945, Audie Murphy and some 40 U.S. troops sat shivering in a frigid, snow-covered clearing near the Alsatian town of Holtzwihr. The battle-weary soldiers had been ordered to hold a vital roadway until reinforcements arrived, but the operation was delayed and the promised relief was nowhere to be seen. Just after 2 p.m., the winter stillness was suddenly broken by the thunderclap of an enemy artillery barrage. In the distance, some 250 German troops and six tanks emerged from the woods.

As he watched the Germans line up for an attack, Murphy felt a wave of panic rise in his belly. It was a familiar feeling, one he'd learned to control during 18 months of bitter fighting across Italy and France. At just 19 years old, the baby-faced Texan had already won two Silver Stars and the Distinguished Service Cross, and he was leading men 10 years his senior into battle. Once the shooting began, he knew his instincts would take over. "The nerves will relax," he later wrote, "the heart, stop its thumping. The brain will turn to animal cunning. The job is directly before us: destroy and survive."

Murphy knew that his men stood no chance against so large a force, so he instructed most of them to withdraw to pre-prepared defensive positions along a nearby tree line. As they ran for cover, he stayed behind and used his field telephone to call in an artillery strike. He had just enough time to radio in his coordinates before salvos of German tank fire erupted around him. One shell immediately drilled a tree near a machine gun nest and showered its crew with deadly splinters of wood; another hit a nearby tank destroyer and set it ablaze.

Murphy's command post was collapsing before his eyes, but he held his ground and continued calling in the Allied artillery. In seconds, a curtain of friendly fire rained down between him and the advancing German infantry, pitting the open field with craters and shrouding everything in a haze of smoke. After emptying his M-1 carbine at the enemy, Murphy grabbed his field telephone and took cover atop the burning tank destroyer. Over the radio, he could hear the artillery commander asking how close the Germans were to his position. "Just hold the phone and I'll let you talk to one of the bastards!" he yelled back.

The tank destroyer was slowly being engulfed in flames, but Murphy saw that its .50-caliber machine gun turret was still operational. He quickly seized the gun and sprayed a withering fire against the German troops nearest his position. "My numbed brain is intent only on destroying," Murphy later wrote in his autobiography. "I am conscious only that the smoke and the turret afford a good screen, and that, for the first time in three days, my feet are warm." He continued firing burst after burst, mowing down Nazi troopers by the dozen and keeping the tanks at bay. All the while, he remained on the phone, directing artillery fire ever closer to his own position and dealing catastrophic damage to the advancing infantry.

From their cover on the edge of the tree line, most of Murphy's troops could only watch in shock. "I expected to see the whole damn tank destroyer blow up under him any minute," Private Anthony Abramski later wrote. In fact, the blaze may have saved Murphy's life. Many of the German troops and tank commanders couldn't see him behind the veil of smoke and flames, and those that did resisted getting too close out of fear that the vehicle was about to explode.

Despite the hail of Allied artillery shells, fresh waves of German infantrymen continued inching toward Murphy's position. One squad tried to make a flanking maneuver on his right side, only to be cut down in a hail of pinpoint fire from his .50-caliber gun. As Murphy continued his one-man attack, German gunners riddled his smoldering tank destroyer with small arms and tank fire. One blast nearly threw him from the vehicle and sent razor sharp shrapnel flying into his leg, but he took no account of the wound and kept fighting. It was only when Murphy ran out of ammunition that he finally withdrew. Dazed and bloodied, he jumped from the still-burning tank destroyer and limped to his men. He later wrote that as he walked away, one thought in particular kept racing through his mind: "How come I'm not dead?"

Murphy's men were no doubt wondering the same thing. It was the "greatest display of guts and courage I have ever seen," a stunned Abramski later wrote. "For an hour he held off the enemy force singlehanded, fighting against impossible odds." Murphy had personally killed or wounded some 50 enemy troops and directed artillery against dozens more. Even after reaching safety, he refused to be evacuated from the field and instead rallied his men in a counterattack that drove the Germans back into the woods.

Audie Murphy was hailed a national hero and awarded the Medal of Honor for his jaw dropping exploits at Holtzwihr. Not wanting to risk the life of its newest celebrity soldier, the Army reassigned him as a liaison officer and did its best to keep him out of combat until the war ended. By then, the battle-hardened G.I. had endured three wounds, a nasty case of malaria, gangrene and more dead friends than he cared to remember. "There is VE-Day without," he wrote of his mixed feelings at the war's end, "but no peace within."

Murphy returned home in June 1945 to a hero's welcome of parades, swarming reporters and his face on the cover of Life Magazine. On the advice of screen legend James Cagney, he later took his boyish good looks to Hollywood, where he forged a film career that included more than 40 credits, most of them in Westerns and war films. His most famous role came in 1955, when he played himself in "To Hell and Back," a blockbuster adaptation of his own memoir about World War II. Reliving the horrors of combat in front of the camera proved difficult for Murphy, who had suffered from nightmares and flashbacks since returning home. He later spoke publicly about his decades-long struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, and urged the U.S. government to provide better mental healthcare for its veterans especially the returning Vietnam War Veterans, he more than most others knew exactly what kinds of problems they were going to have.

"To Hell and Back" was a smash hit—the film was Universal Studios' most profitable release until "Jaws" in 1975—and it helped seal Murphy's reputation as one of the most famous American veterans of World War II. But despite having won several dozen medals for valor, he always resisted attempts to label him a hero. "Bravery is just determination to do a job that you know has to be done," he told reporters upon returning home in 1945. "I just fought to stay alive, like anyone else, I guess."

In 1950, Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division ("T-Patcher") of the Texas National Guard and served with it until 1966.

Even in his darkest hours, he was still a fantastic human being.

He never wanted to sell out

To put it bluntly, Audie Murphy had hit rock bottom in the 60s. He suffered from an addiction to the prescription drug Placidyl - a habit that he kicked by locking himself in a motel room until he was clean - became reclusive, attempted suicide several times, and lost much of his money to gambling and poor investments. He declared bankruptcy in 1968.

Throughout all of his struggles, however, he got offers to star in commercials for cigarettes and alcohol. Taking a single deal would have put him back on his feet, but he knew that if he took the money, he'd be setting a bad example for the countless children who looked up to him — so he declined them all.

He had a short-lived and turbulent marriage to actress Wanda Hendrix. She claimed he had horrible nightmares and held her at gunpoint once. Four days after his divorce from Hendrix was finalized, he married airline stewardess Pamela Archer.

On May 18, 1971, Murphy was aboard a private plane on his way to a business meeting when it ran into thick fog over Craig County, Virginia, near Roanoke and crashed into the side of a mountain, killing all six aboard. Fittingly, his body was recovered two days later on Memorial Day.

On 7 June, Audie Murphy was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. His gravesite is near the amphitheater and it is the most visited gravesite year round.

Murphy died broke and in debt. His widow spent the next 35 years working as a patient liaison at the VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (North Hills, CA ) paying off his debts. She died in 2010, age 90.



Audie Murphy and family, sons James Shannon Murphy and Terrance Michael Murphy and wife Pamela nee Archer. Audie and Pamela were married 1951.

# Armed Forces Service Center at MSP

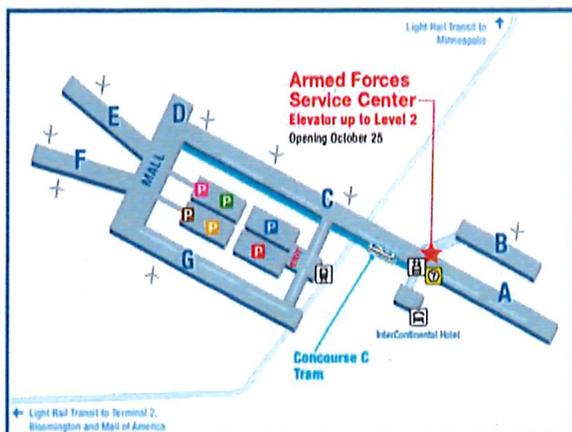
## NEW LOCATION

After 49 years in the ticketing area of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Airport (MSP), the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC), is **moving inside the security perimeter on November 8, 2019 at 12:00 PM.**

The 24 hour facility will expand to over 4,900 square feet, located at the end of Concourse C, across the rotunda area, at the entrance to Concourse A. Follow the signs to the elevator on the left. The AFSC is located on level two.

The AFSC offers numerous amenities including two sleeping bunk rooms and complementary food for travelers with a *current* ID card; Active-Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Dependents, Retirees, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor Recipients, former PoW and DoD/PHS. See ID's accepted on back.

**Center:** (612) 726-9155 / **Web:** [mnausc.org](http://mnausc.org)



## ID CARDS ELIGIBLE FOR ACCESS TO AFSC



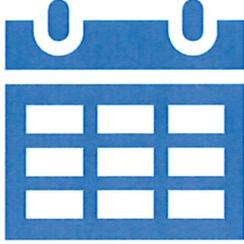
VA Cards are accepted from Purple Heart Recipients, MoH Recipients and Former PoW

Member ID  
1234567890  
Plan ID (80840)  
1234 567 890  
Member  
JANE D SAMPLE

VA HEALTHCARE ENROLLEE  
SERVICE CONNECTED  
MEDAL OF HONOR  
PURPLE HEART  
FORMER POW

# I've Been Referred to Community Care.

## Now what?

			
<p>The Community Care Team will review your referral and contact you to discuss scheduling preferences</p>	<p>If unable to reach you by phone, a letter will be mailed asking you to contact the Community Care Team</p>	<p>An appointment will be scheduled for you with an in-network provider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about your appointment and a copy of your authorization will be mailed to you</li> </ul>	<p>Attend Community Care Appointment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you reschedule your appointment with a community provider contact the Community Care office</li> </ul>



- Keeping your contact information up to date during VA appointment check-in ensures that the Community Care Team has the correct information to contact you about your community care referral
- Do not attend a scheduled community care appointment without preauthorization



- It is important to inform the community care team if you reschedule your appointment to ensure that your authorization is updated
- It is beneficial to take a copy of your authorization to community care appointment to ensure that the provider bills for your care appropriately



- If you visit an Emergency Room or get admitted to a non-VA Hospital, you should notify the VA within 72 hours. Notification can be made by calling 1-844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)
- If you are subject to VA copayments, they will be billed following the same process for your VA appointments

## For More Information

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/>

Fargo VA Community Care Customer Service: 1-866-517-9363

Fargo VA Beneficiary Travel Customer Service: 1-800-410-9723 x3429

Community Care Claims/Payment Customer Service: 1-877-881-7618



# VA Community Emergency Care Information for Veterans

In most instances, Veterans are eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours. The VA medical center (VAMC) nearest to a Veteran's emergent event can identify in-network emergency care providers.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before going to an emergency department in the community or calling an ambulance. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay.

To simplify and streamline this emergency care notification process, VA established a national emergency care contact center.

The Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center allows community providers to report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department. It offers simplified access to VA for care coordination, eligibility determination and payment authorization information. Centralized notification standardizes communication, documentation and collaboration between VA and community providers.

## General Information

VA should be notified within 72 hours of the start of an emergent event that a Veteran has sought emergency care at an in-network facility. This notification ensures VA can authorize the care. This step also assists VA in coordinating the Veteran's transfer to a VAMC and additional care, and ensures that the requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

For each emergent episode of care, treating community providers will receive authorization decision information and, if applicable, directions on how to submit claims. Failure to notify VA of care rendered through an in-network community facility prevents VA from authorizing the emergency treatment and prevents claims and payments from being made through one of VA's third-party administrators.

## Notification Requirements

The person notifying VA should be prepared to supply case-specific information, as seen below.

Veteran Information	Treating Facility Information
Name	National Provider Identifier (NPI)
Social Security Number	Name
Date of Birth	Address
Address	Point of Contact (POC) Name
Date Presenting to Facility	POC Phone#
Date of Discharge	POC Email Address
Admitted? (YES/NO)	Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info
Chief Complaint/Admission DX and/or Discharge DX	



This information is explained in VA Form 10-10143g, Non-VA Hospital Emergency Notification, available online at [https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g\\_Non-VA\\_Hospital\\_Emergency\\_Notification\\_Fill.pdf](https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf).

Case-specific details are necessary for care coordination and eligibility determination. If the person notifying VA is unable to supply all necessary information, VA will contact the appropriate parties to collect the information.

Providers should use one of the following centralized options to notify VA with details about Veterans receiving emergent care in the community:

1. Email: [VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov](mailto:VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov)
2. Phone: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)

If notification is made to a local VA medical facility the notification will be referred to the centralized intake for action.

For information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payment go to: [https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info\\_EmergencyCare.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp).

**Kurtis Ellefson**  
**Polk County Veterans Service Officer**  
**612 Broadway St N, Room 241**  
**Crookston MN 56716**

**Phone: 218-281-3066**  
**Fax: 218-521-7982**



**Fosston Civic Center, Fosston**  
**215 1st St. E**  
**(218-280-5506) 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Bjella Building McIntosh**  
**240 Cleveland Ave SW**  
**(218-280-5506) 1:00 PM-3:30 PM**

**Every Wednesday**

**Office Hours**  
**8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday**  
**Crookston Office 218-281-3066**