



VILAS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER



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Wisconsin Veterans Homes -- Quality of Care for Veterans

The State of Wisconsin offers two outstanding veterans homes that proudly serve military members and spouses who have served our country. The Wisconsin Veterans Homes at King (in Waupaca County) and Union Grove (in Racine County) offer veterans and their spouses quality care in an enriching environment that fits the need of the veteran.

To be admitted to a Wisconsin veterans home, veterans must meet criteria for military service and state residency. The veteran must have entered service from the state of Wisconsin, or must have resided in the state of Wisconsin for 12 consecutive months since his/her discharge from military service. Spouses and widows of eligible veterans may also qualify for admission to the Homes. Additional information regarding eligibility may be obtained by contacting your local County Veterans Service Office

“Our Wisconsin Veterans Homes provide top quality care to veterans and their families,” said Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Secretary Ken Black. “These quality facilities provide veterans with an opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow veterans with the support of caring and professional staff, and with many added amenities,” said Secretary Black.

Under the current leadership of Acting Commandant Jackie Moore, a licensed nursing home administrator, the Veterans Home at King is a self-contained community on a 320-acre campus in Waupaca County on the shores of Rainbow Lake near the city of Waupaca. The King Home includes four separately licensed nursing facilities that provide comprehensive nursing care including a memory care unit, an on site dentist, a licensed librarian, pontoon boats, a bowling alley, and a complete woodworking shop.

The King Home is one of the largest skilled long-term care facilities in the United States. Approximately 500 nursing staff and over 300 support staff provide quality care for about 700 veterans and spouses who call “King” their home.

The Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove in Racine County is led by Commandant Randy Nitschke. Mr. Nitschke, a Vietnam Veteran, has extensive experience as a nursing home administrator. The Veterans Home at Union Grove includes assisted living facilities with many recently remodeled rooms, as well as a new skilled nursing facility and activity center. The Home at Union Grove, which offers a wide range of care for about 220 members, also offers Medicare services as well as a memory care unit.

The Union Grove Home has recently received notification that its nursing home (Boland Hall) has again received a "5-Star Rating" for overall quality of care for the second time in a row. Out of 16,000 nursing homes across the country only 15% receive this honor, and Boland Hall is one of them. The facility is a state-of-the-art skilled nursing home that is connected to a beautiful recreation center where veterans enjoy a library with computer/internet access, pool tables, pub, chapel, ceramics, and leather and woodworking activities.

In addition, WDVA's Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) helps homeless veterans and those veterans at risk of becoming homeless (male and female) to receive job training, health care, counseling and rehabilitative services to give them the skills to reintegrate back into the community, while providing them with a stable, safe and secure shelter. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, established the VAP in 1994. This statewide "back-to-work" program operates Veterans Assistance Centers, with convenient access to nearby VA medical centers. The centers are located at: Fort McCoy, the campus of the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, the campus of the Southern Wisconsin Center near Union Grove, and the campus of the Northern Wisconsin Center in Chippewa Falls.

A project is still in the planning stages for the proposed construction of a third state veterans home, in Chippewa Falls. Initial funding requests have been approved, but the final approval by the Federal VA may not be announced until 2010.

Scott Jensen, Vilas County Veterans Service Officer, said, "Our Wisconsin Veterans Homes are a tremendous benefit for veterans and their spouses to receive the best health care possible and at a cost that is significantly less when compared with similar facilities."

For photos and information about the Homes, including admissions and eligibility, please visit www.WisVets.com/Homes, or contact Scott Jensen, Vilas County Veterans Service Officer, at 715-479-3629.

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