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# HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

## Capitol Update

By Senator Howard Marklein

November 11, 2016

### Investing In Veterans

Nearly 5% of Wisconsin's veterans live in the counties of the 17th Senate District. We have 18,242 living residents who have served in the military. Thank you to each and every man and woman who has served our country. I appreciate your sacrifices and dedication to protect our freedoms.

I am honored to be the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs. During the last legislative session, my legislative colleagues and I sought ways to strengthen and advance Wisconsin's commitment to veterans and their families and to invest in programs that support veterans and their families.

I co-authored the bill to create the Veterans Employment and Entrepreneurship Grant Program which was signed into law on April 25, 2016. This program sets aside a half-million dollars annually for the Department of Veterans Affairs to fund programs that help improve employment and entrepreneurship for veterans.

The grant monies may be awarded directly to veterans, employers or nonprofit organizations. The grants may be made to assist veteran entrepreneurs, give employers incentives to hire veterans – especially disabled veterans, fund employment training for veterans and more.

Many veterans experience challenges when they are discharged from the service. One major challenge is finding employment outside of the military that utilizes the skills, expertise and experiences gained during military service. It is often difficult to convey the application of these skills to the private sector or public sector in non-military settings. This initiative is meant to remove obstacles, encourage entrepreneurship and give veterans opportunities to put their skills to work in the Wisconsin workforce.

Each veteran has skills and experience from their service to our nation that cannot be duplicated in the civilian workforce. Perhaps their job included strategies and planning. Maybe they fixed heavy machinery. A veteran may have been a medic, a driver or a cook. Whatever the job, they also learned the value of respect, honor, training, teamwork and service that we need in our workforce.

The grant program was just recently launched by the Department of Veterans Affairs and I look forward to studying the outcomes, meeting the entrepreneurs and hearing the success stories of investing in veterans.

There are many other state and federal programs that assist veterans. From home loans to healthcare, most veterans are eligible for a wide variety of programs. To find out more, please contact your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). These men and women are there to serve you and connect you to state and federal programs. You will find a list by county here: <http://wicvso.org/locate-your-cvso/>

Again, on this Veterans Day, I extend my deep gratitude and thanks to all veterans who have served our nation. Thank you for your time and talent. Your legacy is an important part of our state's history.

For more information and to connect with me, visit my website <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/17/marklein> and subscribe to my weekly E-Update by sending an email to [Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Marklein@legis.wisconsin.gov). Do not hesitate to call 800-978-8008 if you have input, ideas or need assistance with any state-related matters.

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