

VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

9/11 WE REMEMBER – 25 YEARS LATER



25 YEARS LATER: WE REMEMBER

By Aimee Cook

September 11, 2001 — September 11, 2026

A Veterans' Tribute to Service, Sacrifice, Sister and Brotherhood

Twenty-five years ago, our nation experienced a day that changed the course of American history. September 11, 2001, brought tragedy to our shores, but it also revealed something powerful about the American spirit: when our country was wounded, people stepped forward to serve.

For those of us who have worn the uniform, September 11 carries a meaning that goes beyond a date. For many veterans, it was the moment the world they knew changed and a new mission began. Some were already serving. Others raised their right hand and took an oath in the years that followed. Many families watched loved ones deploy, waited through long separations, and carried the responsibilities of home while their service members were away.

We remember the people who lost their lives that day. We remember the firefighters, police officers, emergency workers, military personnel, and civilians who demonstrated extraordinary courage. We also remember the men and women who served in the years afterward and those who never returned home.

APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED

Manitowoc County Veterans Service Office

EMAIL: VeteranServices@manitowoccountymi.gov

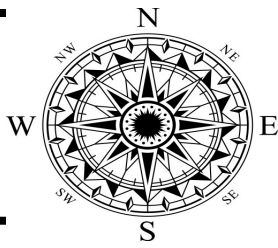
FACEBOOK: [Manitowoc County Veterans Service Office](#) | [Manitowoc](#)

[WI](#) | [Facebook](#)

Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: 920-683-4055



VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

25 YEARS LATER: WE REMEMBER (CONTINUED)

But remembrance is not only about looking backward.

It is about recognizing the bonds created through service. It is about the veteran sitting beside another veteran and understanding without needing many words. It is about families who supported their loved ones through deployments, uncertainty, and sacrifice. It is about passing the lessons of duty, courage, loyalty, and responsibility to the next generation.

Twenty-five years later, the 9/11 Memorial & Museum continues to preserve the history and personal stories connected to September 11 and its aftermath. Its 2026 programming recognizes the 25th anniversary and the continuing impact of those events. ([911 Memorial](#))

For our veterans, this anniversary is an opportunity to pause and say thank you—to those who answered the call, to those who supported them, and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We cannot change the past. But we can decide how we remember it.

We can tell the stories.

We can honor the fallen.

We can support our veterans and their families.

We can teach those who were born after 9/11 why that day matters.

Twenty-five years later, we remain connected by a simple promise:

We remember those we lost.

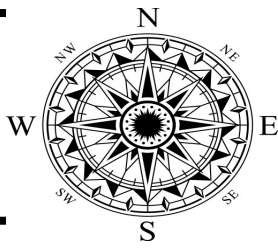
We honor those who served.

We stand with those who continue to serve.

And we will never forget.

Works Cited/References

- National September 11 Memorial & Museum. “**Marking the 25th Anniversary.**” National September 11 Memorial & Museum, 2026.
- National September 11 Memorial & Museum. “**Exhibitions.**” National September 11 Memorial & Museum, 2026.
- National September 11 Memorial & Museum. “**25 Years Later: Reflections on 9/11 and the War on Terror.**” National September 11 Memorial & Museum, 2026.
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. “**Veterans Day.**” U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2026.



VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

VA |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

COMMUNITY CARE

VA community providers offer health care options when and where you need them.



Find out more today.

What is Community Care?

VA Community Care is a program through the Department of Veterans Affairs that allows eligible veterans to receive health care from medical providers outside of the VA.

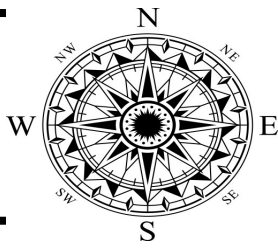
When is Community Care an Option?

This option is available when the VA cannot provide a certain service, when there is a long wait for an appointment, or when a veteran lives too far away from a VA facility.

Common Mistakes Veterans Make When Using Community Care Include:

- Not checking whether their care has been approved before making an appointment
- Going to a provider who is not part of the approved network
- Missing important appointment or referral deadlines.
- Keeping the VA updated about changes to their contact information or health-care needs.
- Assuming that the VA will automatically pay for any medical care received outside the VA.

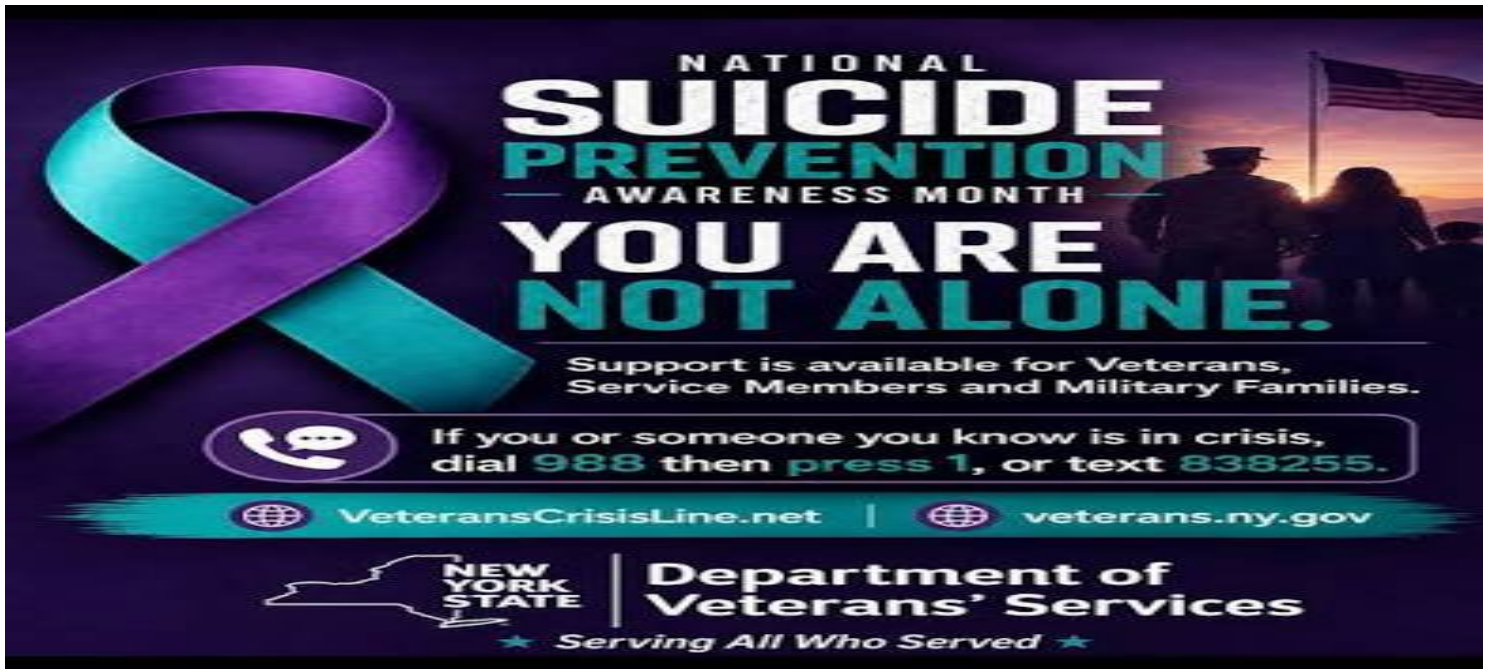
***** Veterans should make sure they understand their referral, know which provider they are supposed to see, and contact the VA if they have questions or problems with their Community Care. *****



VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026



The Conversation That Could Make a Difference

By Aimee Cook

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to remember that people may be struggling in ways we cannot always see. For Veterans, returning home does not always mean leaving the challenges of military service behind. Adjusting to civilian life, finding a new sense of purpose, dealing with difficult memories, or feeling disconnected from others can make life after service difficult.

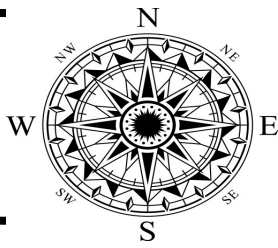
According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), **6,398 Veterans died by suicide in 2023**. Behind that number are individuals who were family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and fellow Veterans. Their loss affects far more people than a statistic can show.

What Can We Do?

Sometimes prevention begins with something simple: **reaching out**.

A phone call, an invitation for coffee, or asking, “How are you really doing?” can give someone an opportunity to talk. We do not have to be mental-health professionals to show someone that we care.

If a Veteran seems unusually withdrawn, hopeless, or different from their normal self, checking in can be worthwhile. We cannot always know what someone is carrying simply by looking at them.



VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

The Conversation That Could Make a Difference (Continued)

Listening matters, too. When someone tells us they are struggling, our first instinct may be to give advice or try to solve the problem. Sometimes the most helpful thing we can do is listen without judgment and remind that person they do not have to face everything alone.

Don't Be Afraid to Ask

Talking about suicide can feel uncomfortable. We may worry about saying the wrong thing, but being willing to have a caring conversation can help connect someone with support.

If you are concerned about a Veteran, let them know you care and encourage them to seek help. You do not have to handle a crisis by yourself.

The **Veterans Crisis Line** is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Veterans, service members, family members, friends, and people concerned about a Veteran can **call 988 and press 1 or text 838255** for confidential support.² If someone is in immediate danger, call 911 or seek emergency medical assistance.

One Conversation Matters

Suicide prevention is not only about responding when someone reaches a crisis. It is also about connection—checking on a friend, remembering a fellow Veteran, inviting someone to sit down for coffee, and being willing to listen.

This September, let's make an effort to connect with the Veterans in our lives. Make the call. Ask the question. Listen to the answer.

Sometimes, knowing that someone cares can be the first step toward getting help.

References

1. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *2025 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report*. 2025. Data reported for 2023.

2. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Veterans Crisis Line*. Information on 24/7 crisis support and the 988/838255 services.



Save the Date

MANITOWOC COUNTY

VETERANS

BANQUET

Saturday | NOVEMBER 14, 2026

at

SEVEN LAKES GOLF

IN REEDSVILLE



SOCIAL STARTS
AT 5:00PM



PROGRAM STARTS
AT 6:00PM

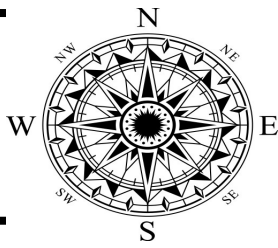


DINNER STARTS
AT 6:30PM



Honoring All Who Served





VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

HELPFUL INTERNET LINKS

Army Retirement Services <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>

Navy Retirement Services <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/SupportServices/Culture-Resilience/Retired-Activities/>

Coast Guard Retirement Services <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/gp/#guides>

Air Forces Retirement Services <https://www.retirees.af.mil/>

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - (DFAS)
<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc>.

html Concurrent Retired Disability Pay (CRDP) - (DFAS)
<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp>.

html Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) www.benefeds.com

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) www.dfas.mil

Express Scripts (Mail Order Pharmacy) www.express-scripts.com

RAPIDS Site Locator (DEERS Enrollment & ID Card Issuing Facilities)
idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/

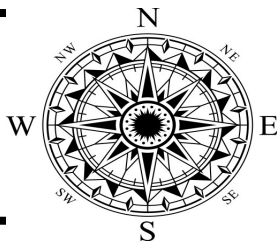
Social Security Administration (SSA) www.ssa.gov

Space Available Travel (Space-A) www.amc.af.mil/AMC-Travel-Site/

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) www.tsp.gov

TRICARE tricare.mil

Military Service and Social Security (Social Security Administration)
<https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>



VETERANS COMPASS

★ NEWSLETTER ★

SEPTEMBER 2026

**Military
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to **838255**

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



Suicide & Crisis Hotline

Call 988 or Text 988



Línea de Prevención del Suicidio y Crisis

1-888-628-9454

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Call 800-799-SAFE (7233)

Trained expert advocates are available 24/7 to provide confidential support to anyone experiencing domestic violence or seeking resources and information. Help is available in Spanish and other languages.

Lifeline Options For Deaf + Hard of Hearing For TTY Users

Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

National Sexual Assault Hotline

Call 800-656-HOPE (4673)

Connect with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area that offers access to a range of free services. Crisis chat support is available at Online Hotline. Free help, 24/7.



Appointments Highly Encouraged

Manitowoc County Veterans Services Office

Website: www.manitowoccountywi.gov

Facebook: Manitowoc County Veterans Services

Hours: MONDAY 8:30 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

TUESDAY – FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Office: **920.683.4055**