



**Pottawattamie  
County**  
Find Your Fire

# Veterans Service Office - January 2024

"Your Gateway to Veterans Services"

623 6th Ave, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501

(712) 328-5797

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm



facebook.com/pottcova

veterans@pottcounty-ia.gov

www.pottcounty-ia.gov/departments/veteran\_affairs/

## Goodbye 2023. Hello 2024!

2023 was a busy year for the Pottawattamie County VSO. Our representatives could be found at local car shows, the Neola Resource Fair, American Legion Post Family Day, the Council Bluffs Readiness Center, the Carter Lake Resource Fair, and walking in the Veteran's Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair.

The office saw a few staffing changes in July. Our own Peggy Becker was appointed Office Administrator after 22 years of service. Administrative Assistant Rebekah Adair joined the team working alongside current Administrative Assistant, Kara Behrens, who has taken a part-time role. We also celebrated Caseworker Randy Markel's retirement.

We were excited to welcome Dr. Dan Kinney and James Murray who were appointed in January to serve on our Commissioners Board, as well as Mick Gutttau who was reappointed in June.



## VSO Services Note

Iowa's Veteran Treatment Program is looking for mentors to assist at risk veterans as they process through the Veterans Treatment Court. Mentorship includes two phone calls per month to a mentee and presence at the mentee's court date. Veterans interested in volunteering to become mentors can reach out to Pottawattamie County Attorney Matt Wilber's office at 712-328-5649.

We are currently accepting nominations for the "Thank You for Your Service" spotlight of future newsletters. If there is a Veteran you would like to nominate or if you would like to be in our spotlight, call or email our office with the veteran's name, phone number, and reason for nomination.

## Thank you for your service

Nick Jedlicka spent over five years serving as Platoon Sergeant and the Unit Readiness NCO for a 218 soldier infantry company. In 2012, he became the assistant operations NCO for an infantry brigade comprised of six battalions and more than 3,600 soldiers, as well as the senior intelligence sergeant for an infantry brigade combat team managing the brigade's security, counterintelligence and imagery analysis missions. From October 2013 to May 2018, Jedlicka served as the battalion operations NCO responsible for providing tactical and technical guidance, and professional support to subordinate units. He supervised over 30 full time soldiers and eight facilities across Iowa. Over his 22 year military career, Jedlicka has earned numerous awards including the Purple Heart and Bronze Battle Star.



He brought his administrative experience to the VSO when he became Director in July 2019. In January of 2022, Jedlicka left our office to work full-time as the owner of his own business, Arc Fiber Solutions.

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 - office closed for New Year's Day
- Jan 3 - Caseworker in Avoca
- Jan 10 - Caseworker in Carter Lake
- Jan 15 - office closed for MLK Jr. Day
- Jan 17 - Caseworker in Avoca
- Jan 24 - Caseworker in Carter Lake
- Feb 7 - Caseworker in Avoca
- Feb 14 - Caseworker in Carter Lake
- Feb 19 - office closed for Presidents' Day
- Feb 21 - Caseworker in Avoca
- Feb 28 - Caseworker in Carter Lake
- March 6 - Caseworker in Avoca
- March 13 - Caseworker in Carter Lake
- March 20 - Caseworker in Avoca
- March 27 - Caseworker in Carter Lake

# Commissioners and Staff Spotlight - Holly Collins

Commissioner Holly Collins has served on the VSO Board since June 2019. A lifelong resident of Pottawattamie county, Holly grew up in Carter Lake and lived there until she moved to Council Bluffs in 2020.

Along with being a paratrooper in the Army, Holly trained as an electronics engineer and spent time in tactical communications security and strategic telecommunications. She has a Master's degree in forensic science from Nebraska Wesleyan University. In the spare time she has when she is not studying for her doctorate degree, Holly teaches swim lessons at the YMCA and coaches swimming for the Council Bluffs Swim Club. She enjoys reading, writing, connecting with others, and meditating.

Holly's husband of 23 years, John, is an Iraq War veteran. They met at Fort Bragg and have two daughters: Kylie, who was born at Fort Bragg and is a student at Iowa Western, and Sydnie, who is a senior at Lewis Central and will be going to Youngstown State University in the fall. They also have a "very dignified" golden doodle named Wilson. Holly's maternal grandfather was a Navy veteran, and her husband had a paternal grandfather and step-grandfather who were also in the Navy; one serving in Vietnam and the other in Korea. With 15 years of experience in public service and community mental health, Holly proudly represents Veterans on the county and state level. She enjoys advocating for Veterans' unique needs and is passionate about "attending to the intersectional identities of Veterans and bringing awareness to the immensely diversified experiences of Veterans".



## Did you know?

The Council Bluffs American Legion Post was founded in 1919 and, as legend has it, was given the nickname "Rainbow" by Douglas MacArthur.

## Contacts

American Legion Rainbow Post 2 - 712-325-4874 [www.cb-rainbowpost2.org](http://www.cb-rainbowpost2.org)

Omaha VA Medical Center - 402-346-8800

[www.va.gov/nebraska-western-iowa-health-care/locations/omaha-va-medical-center/](http://www.va.gov/nebraska-western-iowa-health-care/locations/omaha-va-medical-center/)

Veterans Affairs- Benefits - 800-838-4692 [dva.iowa.gov](http://dva.iowa.gov)

## Business Highlight - Home Style Laundry



Owned and operated by Army veteran Bobbi Calderon, this laundromat has services that include drop off wash and fold, self-service facility, dry cleaning, and more.

Self-Service open daily, 7:30 am-9:00 pm.  
712-322-6668.

900 Woodbury Ave, suite 13B, Council Bluffs, IA  
[www.homestylelaundrydrycleaners.com](http://www.homestylelaundrydrycleaners.com)

## Resources

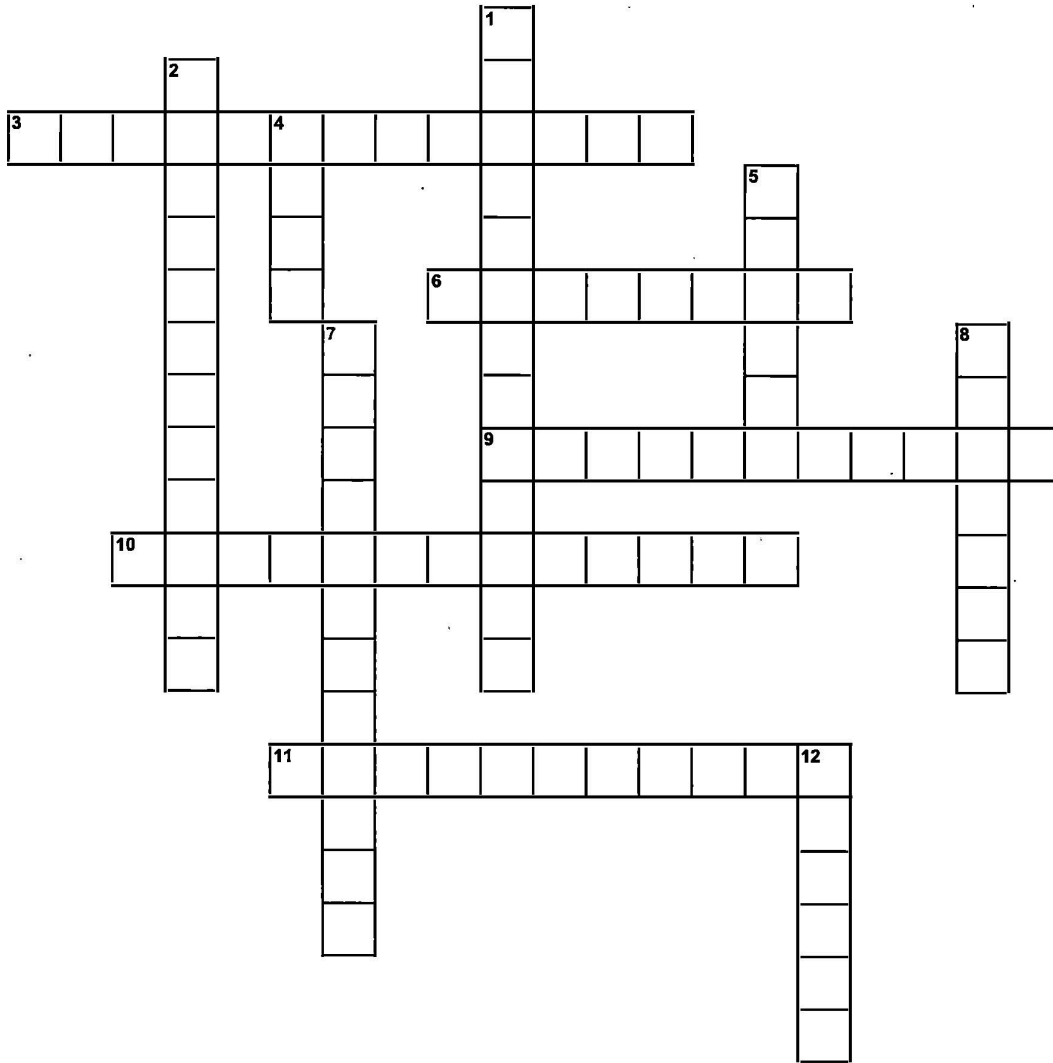
[Records Request](#) - copies of your military service records such as a DD214/Separation document, official military personnel file, medical records, etc can be requested online at [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records). There is no charge for acquiring your DD214.

[Benefits Summary Letter](#) - copies can be obtained through the Federal VA by calling 1-800-827-1000 or logging into your VA account online.

# History & Trivia



**U.S. ARMY**



- Colors: Black, gold, white
- Motto "This We'll Defend"
- March - "The Army Goes Rolling Along"
- Mascot - Army Mules
- Founded June 14, 1775
- Headquarters - Pentagon
- Under control of the War Department until 1947

## ACROSS

- Only US President to serve in the Army who didn't become an officer
- This branch of the armed forces was part of the Army until 1947
- The first woman in US military history to achieve a four-star rank
- The Purple Heart was first awarded during this war
- President Theodore Roosevelt was an Army Colonel and part of this cavalry unit

## DOWN

- Led Army Rangers during the American Revolution in guerrilla warfare raids against British forces, known as "Swamp Fox"
- Name of African American 369th infantry regiment who spent more time in continuous combat than any other American unit of its size during WWI
- In 1779, Gen. Washington chose this color as the primary color for the Continental Army uniform
- Location of amphibious landing site during Korean war, included US Army 2nd infantry division
- Nearly 70% of this medal have been awarded to Army personnel
- First major battle between US Army and the People's Army during the Vietnam war
- Gen. Patton was commander of the US 7th Army during the invasion of this city during WWII

Answers:  
 1. Francis Marion  
 2. Hellfighters  
 3. James Buchanan  
 4. Blue  
 5. Inchon  
 6. Air Force  
 7. Medal of Honor  
 8. La Drang  
 9. Ann Dunwoody  
 10. Revolutionary  
 11. Rough Riders  
 12. Sicily