

Benton County, Minnesota
Quarterly Veterans Service Officer Report
VSO: George Fiedler
May thru Aug 2025

Notes for above chart:

- A “contact” means a vet or family member was talked to about VA or State Veteran issues and/or some type of benefit/service was requested or completed. A veteran/family member is counted as a “contact” each time they are talked to, i.e. multiple times per day or on different days.
- Periods of War: (This is the category of Veteran on the chart above)
 - WWII- December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
 - Korean War- June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam War – August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975
 - Persian Gulf War- August 2, 1990 to on-going (Date to be Determined)
 - Peace Time: Any time outside the dates of the other categories

Notes for above chart:

- MN SSAP is the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA) State Soldiers Assistance Program (SSAP).
- Outreach means a veteran or multiple veterans or family member were talked to about VA issues outside of the Veteran Services office area.

Notes for above chart:

- This chart shows the amount of money from the State of MN going to qualified Benton County veterans. Funds from the SSAP go to vets for the following areas:
 - Special needs grant
 - Dental program
 - Optical program
 - Education Program
 - Disaster relief

Notes for above chart:

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Notes for above chart:

- This chart show VA statistics about VA Disability Compensation and Pension paid to veterans in Benton County by FY. Much of these dollars are spent by Veterans living in Benton County for various goods and services. Over all in the state of Minnesota, for FY 2023, Veterans got \$1,789,821,000 in Disability Compensation and Pension payments.

Notes for above chart: This chart shows ratings from Veteran clients and family members to rate our service to them. A random sample of clients seen in the office are asked to pick what word (Excellent; Good; Fair; or Poor) best describes the service they got.

Overall Notes:

- For FY 2023 the state and federal governments estimate we have 2218 veterans in Benton County. The Veteran Population for Minnesota is estimated to be: 285,734. The US: 18,182,789.
- For FY 2023, the total expenditure (federal money spent in the county for veterans) was: \$48,862,000. Of that, \$16,976,000 was compensation and pension paid directly to veterans in Benton County.
- VA backlog: As of 1/2/2024 there are approximately 959,453 claims waiting to be worked nationwide. Of that, 256,486 have been waiting over 125 days. (These claims are for compensation and pension. Appeals are not counted here). There are 210,935 Claims pending appeal.
- It is estimated at least 30% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD or some mental health issue.
- Americans still missing from our conflicts, as of Dec 2023: (Source: DPMO- Defense Prisoner of War & Missing Personal Office.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WWII- 73,677• Korean – 8157• Vietnam - 2634	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persian Gulf War - 6• Cold War - 128
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