



Pearl Harbor Day

In wheelchairs and on walkers, veterans across the nation attended ceremonies in honor of Pearl Harbor Day on Wednesday, December 7th to remember the day 70 years ago when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which brought the United States into World War II.. President Barack Obama hailed veterans of the bombing in a statement proclaiming Wednesday as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

"Their tenacity helped define the Greatest Generation and their valor fortified all who served during World War II. As a nation, we look to December 7, 1941, to draw strength from the example set by these patriots and to honor all who have sacrificed for our freedoms," he said.

In Racine County a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony was held at the Wisconsin Veterans Home. I joined the more than 30 Racine residents who were in attendance to honor the memory of those who gave of their lives on December 7 as well as those who fought and survived.

Tax Season

Yes it is almost tax time again! Here are some simple things that veterans and their spouses can do to make tax time a much easier process.

- Using e-file is the best way to ensure accurate tax returns and get faster refunds according to the IRS.
- For individual Assistance with filing tax returns, please call the IRS at **Toll-Free, 1-800-829-1040**.
- **The IRS** also cautioned taxpayers with foreign accounts to properly report income from these accounts and file the appropriate forms on time to avoid stiff penalties.

Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provide eligible veterans and un-remarried, surviving spouses a refundable property tax credit for their primary, in-state residence.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs verifies the veteran's eligibility for the program. The credit is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue through the state income tax return.

For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009:

The definitions of an **eligible veteran** and an **eligible, unremarried, surviving spouse** are expanded to include:

- A veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran, who had been a Wisconsin resident for a consecutive 5-year period after entering active duty or was a Wisconsin resident when entering active duty.
- The veteran must have either an SCD rating of 100 percent under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or a 100% disability rating based on individual unemployability. Individual unemployability means a condition under which a veteran has an SCD rating of either 60% under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or two or more SCD conditions where one condition has at least a 40% scheduler rating and the combined scheduler rating for all conditions is at least 70%, and has an administrative adjustment added to the SCD, due to individual unemployability, such that the VA rates the veteran 100% disabled.
- The age requirement was eliminated.

Applicants who believe they may qualify should contact the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) at (262)638-6667/6702 or email me at Aloysius.nelson@goracine.org. Our office is open Monday thru Friday from 0800 AM to 5 PM daily.