

New Opportunities to help Michigan Veterans

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Once in a great while a rare opportunity to serve veterans and their families appears AT [NO COST TO TAXPAYERS](#). Such an opportunity is about to materialize. Earlier this year the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that New Jersey can implement a sport gaming system. That means that other states can do the same. In Michigan this would represent at new source of revenue. A frequent comment of many [elected officials](#) is, "We cannot do enough for our veterans." This is a way that they can!



"The most dynamic feature of this resolution is that it will fund the veterans' programs and services of Michigan Veterans in perpetuity AT NO COST TO MICHIGAN TAXPAYERS. It is a golden opportunity to fund all of Michigan's present and future veterans' programs & services without relying on General Fund resources. As proposed, the anticipated fund would produce \$50 million a year [at an earning rate of 5%]. That would allow the state to cover the cost of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) Emergency Grant Program, the operations of all the state veterans' homes, the grant funding of Veterans Service Organizations (including the county offices of veterans affairs), all currently existing smaller programs, and future programs such as veterans housing initiatives and cemetery expansions, said John Riling, State Council President".

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John H. Riling III

It is also important to note that the funding of the

expanded trust could come from other sources such as medical and/or recreational marijuana. Enabling these actions can put Michigan in a unique position of creating a template for funding veterans' services state-by-state throughout the country. Once again, this would be without relying on General Fund resources.

It is election time and soon the State Legislature will be in its lame duck session. This is the time for every citizen that wants to help support our brave Michigan Veterans to tell the candidates and elected officials to support a bill that will earmark these funds to support our Veterans. Make it clear that you support our Veterans and you want them to do the same. You can make this happen.

The Michigan State Council-Vietnam Veterans of America (MSC-VVA) wants your support and to be ready to act – NOW. The legislature will need to amend the current Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) statutes to enable the funding of a full range of veterans programs & services. Among them should be the expansion of the MVTF Board of Trustees to oversee the major programs mentioned above. Another goal should be the establishment and solidification of a Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs. Call, write, attend rally's; do what you can to talk to the candidates and elected officials about creating this legislation that will secure the financial funding for our Michigan Veterans.

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