



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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# Helping Veterans Succeed

## Investing in Veterans and Their Families

**Nearly 400,000 veterans call Minnesota home. Our veterans have endured great sacrifice to make our state and country safer. That is why Governor Dayton's budget invests in Minnesota veterans to ensure they receive the education, opportunities, and benefits they earned through their service.**

### How the Dayton Budget Helps Veterans

» **\$1 Million to Expand the Minnesota GI Bill.** The Governor's budget expands the Minnesota GI Bill program to all generations of veterans, not just those serving on or after 9/11. This expansion will ensure all Minnesota veterans have access to the education and training they need to get good paying jobs.

» **\$1 Million for County Veteran Service Office Grants.** The Governor's budget provides increased grant funding for County Veteran Services Offices, which help veterans and their families obtain benefits and services earned through military service.

» **\$400,000 for Honor Guards.** The Governor's budget includes \$400,000 in permanent funding for the Honor Guard Program, which supports veterans and their families by providing military burial honors earned through their service and sacrifice. Governor Dayton is committed to ensuring all veterans who request funeral honors receive them.

» **\$200,000 for the Gold Star Program.** The Governor's budget includes \$200,000 in permanent funding for the Gold Star Program, which supports the families of those service members who lost their lives in combat as they heal from their loss.

» **\$425,000 for new State Veterans Cemetery in Fillmore County.** The Governor's budget includes start-up and ongoing funding for a new state veterans cemetery in Fillmore County, opening in 2015. This State Veterans Cemetery will provide burial space for nearly 40,000 veterans. Governor Dayton believes every veteran deserves a dignified final resting place.

» **\$5 Million for Health Care IT Improvement.** The Governor's budget invests in IT infrastructure upgrades at the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. This investment will allow the department to achieve industry standards in delivering high-quality health care to Minnesota veterans and ensure their safety.