

# VACRICO RUNDOWN

## VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF ROCK ISLAND COUNTY



Courtesy of: WQAD News 8: Watch news story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZHp5b9mFIIs>

### Rock Island Veteran Homes

AUTHOR NAME: PARRIS SILVIS

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#### POINTS OF CONTACT

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VACRICO Superintendent  
Brad Bigford  
(309) 558-3545

VACRICO General Information  
(309) 558-3545

Email: [vac@rockislandcountyil.gov](mailto:vac@rockislandcountyil.gov)  
Address: 4000 46th Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201



Support us by joining your local Veteran Service Organization

We are proud to be a stakeholder in this project to assist housing for Veterans in need. Homes are critical in starting a path for homeless and other struggling Veterans to feel safe, confident, and part of the community. This project will help homeless and other Veterans who struggle to find a safe place to call home as well as make it more affordable for our Veterans who have sacrificed so much. We were honored to take part as a stakeholder in the groundbreaking and although the above was from this past April, I think it is important to show what Community Home Partners, our city, county, local officials, citizens, and organizations are doing to support Veterans in this community. Project is intended to be completed 2026 and application process is in development. Please inform Veterans you may find in need about this development.

### Veterans Affairs Life Insurance

AUTHOR NAME: VA - 9/17/2025

Since its launch in 2023, the Veterans Affairs Life Insurance ([VALife](#)) program has already provided over \$2 billion in total coverage to more than 60,000 Veterans.

VALife provides up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance coverage to Veterans. Veterans age 80 or younger, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0 to 100%, receive guaranteed acceptance in the program without medical underwriting.

VALife premium rates are the same for men and women, not based on medical conditions and will not increase over the life of the policy. Premiums are based on the Veteran's age upon enrollment and the coverage amount selected.

<https://news.va.gov/142642/life-insurance-tops-2-billion-in-coverage/>

In most cases, VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar private sector guaranteed acceptance, whole life insurance programs.

The full table of monthly VALife premium rates can be found [online](#).

Veterans can [apply online](#) and receive a decision within 10 minutes. Veterans enrolled in the program also enjoy self-service functions like electronic payments and beneficiary updates.



### IN THIS ISSUE

VA LIFE INSURANCE

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NEWS



# Letter from the Superintendent

AUTHOR NAME: BRAD BIGFORD

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Rock Island County was invited to the Rock Island County board meeting where Parris and I accepted a proclamation designating November as veteran, active service member, and veteran family month. This was an honor to accept this and to receive the support from the Rock Island county board and citizens of Rock Island County. Myself and Parris have been to two meetings with the board and have been accepted to return in February to brief the board on our yearly assistance outcome numbers. We will continue to brief our commission about interactions and future events with the Rock Island County board to include the local community to support our mission of helping veterans.

During our November meeting we plan to prioritize our By Laws update. Maximum attendance is needed to complete this task. We will communicate/debate the draft that was sent out during last month’s meeting and hopefully have a vote.

We will swear in our new Chaplain Edward Klundt at our November meeting here at the VACRICO office. We appreciate the support from all of you and Edward will be a great addition to the executive committee.

Brian and Damion have passed the VSO beginners course. Currently with the Federal government shutdown, they sadly will have a delay for their accreditation. This will in turn delay their VBMS access.

Jason and Cory attended the CALM training. We plan to have Cory at the meeting this month to discuss the training that was completed and upcoming events that he supports as a VSO in the community.

Brian received his first award (plus more) in the month of October and will be recognized at the VAC board meeting.

Veterans day is upon us. This is your day for serving. The message to the staff that works at your VAC



Space Force Coming Soon!!!

is to do something as a veteran if possible. It is your day!! Activities planned to attend by the staff include: parade in Davenport, shoot with their service organization, honoring Goldstar family nominations. Spending time with other veterans that they served with, and spending time with their family.

# Rock Island County, IL and Scott County, IA Property Tax Benefits

AUTHOR: CORY HAWK

Rock Island County, IL - Provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. A \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50% or a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%. A total exemption from taxes is granted if the percentage of service-connected disability is at least 70%. Percentages from 70% or more covers the first \$250,000 of EAV of the residential property is exempt from taxation under this code. Anything over will become taxable. Spouses receiving DIC qualify and this have a 1 time transfer authorization to a new residence.

Scott County, IA - Veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rating of 100% qualify for this credit. Veterans also qualify who have a permanent and total disability rating based on individual unemployability paid at the 100% disability rate. The veteran must own and occupy the property as a homestead on July 1 of each year, declare residency in Iowa for income tax purposes and occupy the property for at least six months each year. Persons in the military or nursing homes who do not occupy the home are also eligible. A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran receiving DIC payments also qualifies. The surviving spouse as a beneficiary of the estate of a veteran who received the credit may continue to receive the credit as long as the spouse resides in the qualified homestead and does not remarry. Lorem ipsum dolor  
<https://www.rockislandcountyil.gov/192/disabled-veterans-standard-exemption>

<https://revenue.iowa.gov/taxes/tax-guidance/tax-credits-deductions-exemption/tax-credits-and-exemptions>

# VA Benefit answers in your local Area

AUTHOR NAME: PARRIS SILVIS

Davenport, IA – See us Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday every Month at the Quad Cities VA Outpatient Clinic to get any questions answered while maintaining your health. We will be providing information and providing appointment scheduling.

East Moline, IL – Coming Soon!!! Providing services in an additional location every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Vet Center located at 465 Ave of the Cities East Moline, IL 61244. We will be providing information and providing appointment scheduling.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Author Name: Maria King

What have we been a part of lately?



Upcoming Events!!!!

Events with an “\*” are events that our office will take part in.

- \***Bring to Light Veterans Breakfast** – November 1, 2025 8:00am @ Cornerstone Church Eldridge, IA (For all Veterans)
- \***Veteran Appreciation Luncheon at Bally’s Casino and Resort** - November 5, 2025 11:30am (For all Veterans, Reservations required) Rock Island, IL
- \***Veteran Deflection Forum** – November 6, 2025 1:00pm – 4:00pm (Audience is intended for Veteran Organization leaders and agencies focused on veterans. RSVP with Matt Doss at [jdoss@tasc.org](mailto:jdoss@tasc.org) to request attendance)  
[https://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org/chjweb/tertiary\\_page.aspx?id=167&title=Matt-Doss](https://www.centerforhealthandjustice.org/chjweb/tertiary_page.aspx?id=167&title=Matt-Doss)
- \***Thompson Federal Prison Employee Veteran Appreciation Day** – November 13, 2025 (For Employees)(Vendors by reservation)
- \***Illinois Department of Employment Services Success Fair** – November 13, 2025 11:30am – 2:00pm. Rock Island, IL Holiday Inn (For all Veterans)
- \***Quad Cities Veterans Network** – November 20, 2025 5:30pm – 8:30pm. See Facebook for location ( For all Veterans)

If you have or know of events and would us to place in our newsletter please reach out to [mking@rockislandcountyil.gov](mailto:mking@rockislandcountyil.gov)  
We appreciate your support in getting out information to our Veterans and their families.

*November is Veteran, and Families month in Rock Island  
County!!!  
Officially signed by County Board October 21, 2025.*



## About Us

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Rock Island County (VACRICO) is made up of delegates and alternates from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Vietnam Veterans of America, and other Veterans organizations in Rock Island County. These organizations make it possible for Rock Island County to staff full time Veteran Service Officers and administrative staff to support Veterans and their families.

The Veterans Assistance Commission is here to help all qualified Veterans with financial assistance and all VA benefit needs to include but not limited to below:

- **Disability (New, Appeals)**
- **Surviving Family Member benefits**
- **Burial Benefits**
- **Education**
- **VA Health Care Enrollment**

All Services provided here are free and open to all branches of the Armed Forces including all Reserve and National Guard components and their families.

### Monthly Impact Statement for September 2025:

Veterans Served: 414  
VA Disability Claims Decided: 54  
VA Disability Compensation Awarded: \$465,451.42

We are open to performing outreach events supporting Veterans in the community and at your places of employment. Feel free to reach out to us to see if we can perform outreach at your event or places of employment.

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

Please visit below for information and details on our monthly board meetings:

<https://www.rockislandcountyil.gov/671/VACRICO-Board-Meeting-Information>

All Meetings begin at 7:00p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.  
Schedule is on right and is used annually until a change is necessary starting November 2025.

Introduction of **Staff: Members:**

**Brad Bigford – Superintendent / Veteran Service Officer**  
**Parris Silvis – Assistant Superintendent / Veteran Service Officer**  
**Cory Hawk – Veteran Service Officer**  
**Jason Willits – Veteran Service Officer**  
**Damion Daily – Veteran Service Officer**  
**Brian Habel – Veteran Service Officer**  
**Maria King – Administrative Assistant**  
**Erlinda Comstock – Administrative Assistant**

Please visit us at: <https://www.rockislandcountyil.gov/356/Veterans-Assistance>



**January:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL  
61201

**February:** American  
Legion 515 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue W.  
Milan, IL 61264

**March:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL  
61201

**April:** American  
Legion 829 16th Ave, East  
Moline, IL 61244

**May:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL  
61201

**June:** American Legion 515  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue W. Milan, IL  
61264



LinkedIn

**July:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL  
61201

**August:** American Legion 829  
16th Ave, East Moline, IL  
61244

**September:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL  
61201

**October:** American Legion  
515 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue W. Milan, IL  
61264

**November:** RICOVAC 4000  
46<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rock Island, IL

**December:** No Meeting