

N.S. Vol. 26 No. 8 September 2022 #3768

## *Chicago Chapter Recognizes July 4*



*City Clerk  
Anna Valencia*



*Ed Urgitis & Al Treb*

## American Independence Day 2022

The Chicago Chapter of AVER celebrated July 4 by placement of a wreath at the AVER Veterans Monument at the NW corner of Addison and Halsted. **Larry Simpson**, Chicago Chapter Treasurer, and **Bruce Inman**, AVER member, posed for the wreath laying this year. The Halsted Monument was unveiled and dedicated five years ago in 2017. At the dedication of the Halsted memorial, U.S. Representative **Jan Schakowsky** noted that “Every veteran should be remembered and honored for their service,” and Chicago Mayor **Rahm Emanuel** wrote that the monument is “a tribute to the sacrifice of our soldiers.” A second Chicago area memorial is housed at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL, near Joliet, and was erected and dedicated by the Chicago Chapter of AVER in 2015. Only a handful of memorials commemorate the service and sacrifice of LGBTQ+ veterans and armed forces servicemembers, so we are very proud to have two of these sites in the Chicago area.

July 4 commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress in 1776 and the political separation of the thirteen colonies from Great Britain. On July 4, 1965, forty gay and lesbian activists held the first Annual Reminder demonstration in Philadelphia, PA, in front of Independence Hall to recognize the inequality of civil rights afforded the LGBT community at that time. **Frank Kameny** and **Barbara Gittings** were the principal organizers of that event, and it was a precursor to the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969 that ignited the LGBT movement across the country. You have a double incentive to celebrate on the Fourth of July!!

## JBVAMC Townhall Meeting

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center is hosting a Community-Based Outpatients Clinics' (CBOC) Tele-Townhall meeting on Tuesday, August 16, at 5-6pm (Chicago, Central time zone). Veterans will have the opportunity to engage in a two-way discussion with leadership about the resources and services at Auburn Gresham, Adam Benjamin Jr., Chicago Heights, and Lakeside CBOCs. To participate: Join by calling **1-833-380-0741**, or stream the audio and chat live via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/VAChicago>). For more information, call **Larry Nazimek** at 773-772-2633, join google group: [coalitionofvets@googlegroups.com](mailto:coalitionofvets@googlegroups.com), or <https://www.coalitionofvets.org/>.

## No-Fee Chicago City Parking Sticker

On July 20, the Chicago City Council voted to pass and codify the City Clerk's *No-Fee Veterans City Sticker* pilot into a permanent program that now also includes small trucks. Veterans who have a “Veteran” designation of their Illinois Driver's License or IL State ID are eligible to receive a free Vehicle City Sticker for a vehicle designated as either a Passenger (P), Large Passenger (LP), Motorbike (MB), or Small Truck (ST). Veterans with Prisoner of War (PW), Purple-Heart Recipient (PR), I-Served (IS), or Disabled Veteran (DV) license plates will continue to be eligible for the program. *The Chicago Chapter of AVER supported this program, and provided guidance and a letter of support to rally for this program.* **Anna Valencia**, City Clerk, and **Jorge Ramirez**, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, recognized and thanked the Chicago Chapter of AVER for their support. “I'm thrilled that we are making the No-Fee Veterans City Sticker option permanent,” said Clerk Valencia. “Our goal at the Office of the City Clerk is to serve as the link between communities and government. We are here to create policies that are inclusive for all our residents—especially our nation's heroes. As leaders, we should always be looking for small and big ways to honor our veterans.” City Council Chair **Walter Burnett** noted that “This expansion represents one less barrier for those that deserve it the most, our veterans. Veterans can at times face financial difficulties and employment barriers. I applaud Clerk Valencia's work to help our nation's heroes across the services they need, all while honoring them.” Alderman **Gilbert Villegas**, 36<sup>th</sup> Ward, stated “I am proud to be a long-time supporter of this ordinance, and to finally see the No-Fee Veterans City Sticker option formally implemented. It's policies like these that provide some relief to our residents in these unprecedented times, especially for our brave men and women that have sacrificed so much for our city and country.” Implementation took effect immediately.



## Monthly In-person AVER Meetings for the Chicago Chapter Started Up!

We now meet up every month on *First Thursdays* at 7pm (Chicago, Central time zone) at the **Center on Halsted**. **Everyone** is welcome to attend our monthly Board meetings *in-person* or via Zoom!! For Zoom, check the [averchicago.org](http://averchicago.org) website for the active link (click on the highlighted "Zoom" link near the bottom of the webpage) to get into the Zoom meeting. To join via audio: call 312-626-6799 with ID 488-863-384 and passcode 328090.

## Tenth Annual Valor Games Midwest

The Chicago Park District will host the Tenth Annual Valor Games Midwest from August 16-18. This is a three-day Paralympic sports competition for disabled Veterans and wounded, ill, or injured servicemembers. As part of the event, the park district will host a Resource Fair at Soldier Field (Gate O, inside Concourse) on Tuesday, August 16, from 11am to 1pm. Veterans, active duty, and military family members are invited to connect with employment, housing, legal, disabilities, mental health, and family services. Unfortunately, the registration deadline was in July, but for information visit <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/valor-games-midwest>.

## Al Treb Memorial

We reported that **Alfred J. Treb**, 96, passed away on May 11, 2022. A memorial to celebrate his life was hosted by **Ed Urgitis** and a group of friends at the Center on Halsted on Saturday, July 9. Al was a U.S. Navy veteran and provided dozens of desserts for AVER fundraising events at Buck's Saloon, Replay, and Little Jim's. We miss him!!

## Veteran Boat Cruise

Chicago Veterans are hosting a few events in August. A Boat Cruise is scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 6:30-8:30pm, at the Chicago Fireboat Tours, 111 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL hosted by Team RWB, Chicago Veterans, Merging Vets and Players, and the VFW. Veterans, spouses, and supporters are welcome to join on a sunset cruise along Lake Michigan on the Fred A. Busse.

Also hosted is an Axe Throwing event on Wednesday, August 17, 6:30-8:30pm, at BATL Axe Throwing, 4842 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641. Whether you are an experienced axe thrower or a first-timer, you are welcome to join in with other Chicago area veterans. Chicago out <https://chicagovets.org/>.

## = Chicago Chapter =

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## Please help us reduce publication costs!

A **digital** version of *VetPride* is also now available. If you wish to receive a **PDF file of the newsletter by email**, instead of a printed copy by U.S. postal mail, **please send an email message to [avernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:avernewsletter@gmail.com)**.

Thanks! You get less postal mail and it *helps to reduce our newsletter printing and postage costs*.

**American Veterans for Equal Rights**, Chicago Chapter, P.O. Box 29317, Chicago, IL 60629, Telephone: 773-752-0058, [www.aver.us](http://www.aver.us) and [www.averchicago.org](http://www.averchicago.org). You can email any of the Chicago Chapter officers with the following address: [president@averchicago.org](mailto:president@averchicago.org), [secretary@averchicago.org](mailto:secretary@averchicago.org), or [treasurer@averchicago.org](mailto:treasurer@averchicago.org).

## SNAP!

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits millions of adults and families every year, including individuals who have served in the U.S. military. In 2019 alone, SNAP-participating households included over one million veterans. The number of qualifying individuals is probably even higher when you consider that 7% of the adult U.S. population, 18M, are veterans with a median age of 65; post 9/11-veterans experience a 43% chance of having a service-related disability, often rely on a fixed monthly income, and are therefore probably eligible for program assistance. The food pantry at JBVAMC is currently closed, due to the pandemic, but those eligible are encouraged to apply for SNAP benefits. See the attached flyer for more information, or contact **Larry Nazimek**, 2733 N. Monticello Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647-1131, or call him at 773-772-2633.

# SNAP BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

## Do you suffer from food insecurity?

You are not alone, 1.5 million Veterans live below the federal poverty level (FPL). You may be eligible for USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

## What is SNAP?

SNAP offers monthly benefits on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card in order to help you provide food for you and your family. SNAP is used by over 1 million veterans.

## Who is eligible to receive SNAP benefits?

Most households with low income qualify for SNAP benefits.

Number of People in Your Household	Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Maximum Gross Monthly Income (60+ or Disabled)	Maximum Benefit
1	\$1,771	\$2,147	\$250
2	\$2,396	\$2,903	\$459
3	\$3,020	\$3,660	\$658
4	\$3,644	\$4,417	\$835
5	\$4,268	\$5,173	\$992
6	\$4,893	\$5,930	\$1,190

## Are my veteran's benefits counted as income for SNAP eligibility?

Yes, most earned and unearned income is counted. Examples of countable income are:

- Wages
- Self-employment earnings
- Rental income
- Social Security benefits
- Veterans benefits (Retirement, Disability, GI Bill)

**Access the FREE benefits you fought for!!!**



CALL OUR HUNGER HOTLINE

**1-800-359-2163**

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