



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the



**Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America Inc.
and
Veterans Assistance Commission of St. Clair County, Illinois**

Purpose:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to recognize and enhance the partnership between the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America Inc. and the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois. Both organizations share in a common mission to serve America's Veterans, their family members, and survivors. The Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America Inc. and the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois seek a stronger relationship that will deliver improved quality of care and services of America's Veterans. The hallmarks of this relationship will be effective communication, exchange of ideas and information, identification of emerging needs and continuous reevaluation of existing programs. The shared goal is more uniform and efficient programs that ensure a seamless continuum of care and services at the Federal and state and county levels.

Background:

The tradition of caring for the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States dates back to the beginning of our Nation's struggle for independence. However, the beginning of formalized services and care for the wounded and disabled and their widows and orphans was codified during the Civil War. At that time, Congress, state and county governments began to realize Veterans required more than pensions and began to create programs and services for these men, and later women, to meet the ever-changing tasks of healing the wounds of war. VBA traces its timeless mission to the Civil War to fulfill President Lincoln's promise-"to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan..."

Goals:

Collaboration and coordination between the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America Inc. and the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois encourage a seamless approach and greater awareness of the quality of care and accessibility of services for the Veterans they both serve. It can enhance Veterans/client satisfaction as well. The VSO is right there with the veterans on a daily basis and is the best feedback to the VBA on veteran needs because of our proximity to the veteran, their families and survivors.

The parties acknowledge and agree to the following:

NVSO CWV will:

- Provide for cross-accreditation based on the designee's accreditation with the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois.
- Establish that the Veterans Assistance Commission of St. Clair County, Illinois will only be liable for actions taken by the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois.
- It is understood that all training requirements will be provided by the Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois for all accreditation of their personnel IAW VA rules.
- Promote and develop and support outreach initiatives and provide feedback to help identify emerging and for unmet needs of the veterans, their families and survivors.
- Improve the quality and accessibility of benefits, while optimizing value.
- Adopt and support VA's core values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (ICARE).
- NVSO will work with Department of Veterans Affairs and member State Legislators to promote effective legislation that shall ensure VA Core Values.
- Participate in NVSO Annual Training Conference.
- Share the use of facilities where possible.
- Conduct quarterly meetings/conference calls with NVSO leadership to:
 - Exchange information, share expertise and knowledge, and discuss issues of mutual concern to enrich the lives of Veterans.
 - Seek methods to erasure the most effective use of existing resources.
 - Exchange information on VBA and County resources that could be shared under current legislative authority.
 - Identify emerging and/or unmet needs of Veterans and their families and engage in Reciprocals discussions and deliberations on potential responses and solutions.
 - Identify and share best practices, which could be adopted by counties to improve programs and the delivery of care for Veterans.
 - Work together to identify and formally recognize outstanding programs that support or exemplify VBAs strategic goals and priorities.
- Partner with NVSO in communicating with Department of Veterans Affairs to provide effective solutions that ensure the delivery of veteran benefits and services.

Review and Termination:

This MOU shall be reviewed annually. The parties reserve the right to update, change, or terminate this agreement at any time as deemed necessary with thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

Authorized Representatives

Therefore, in the spirit of this partnership, the undersigned are authorized to act in their respective areas related to this agreement and agreed to designate appropriate representatives to establish objectives with strategies to meet the goals of this MOU; and the undersigned hereby endorse this MOU in the City of New York, NY, on the 3rd day of March, 2025.

X _____

John D. Lawson, Superintendent
Veterans Assistance Commission of St Clair County, Illinois

X _____

Jose M. Garcia
National Service Officer