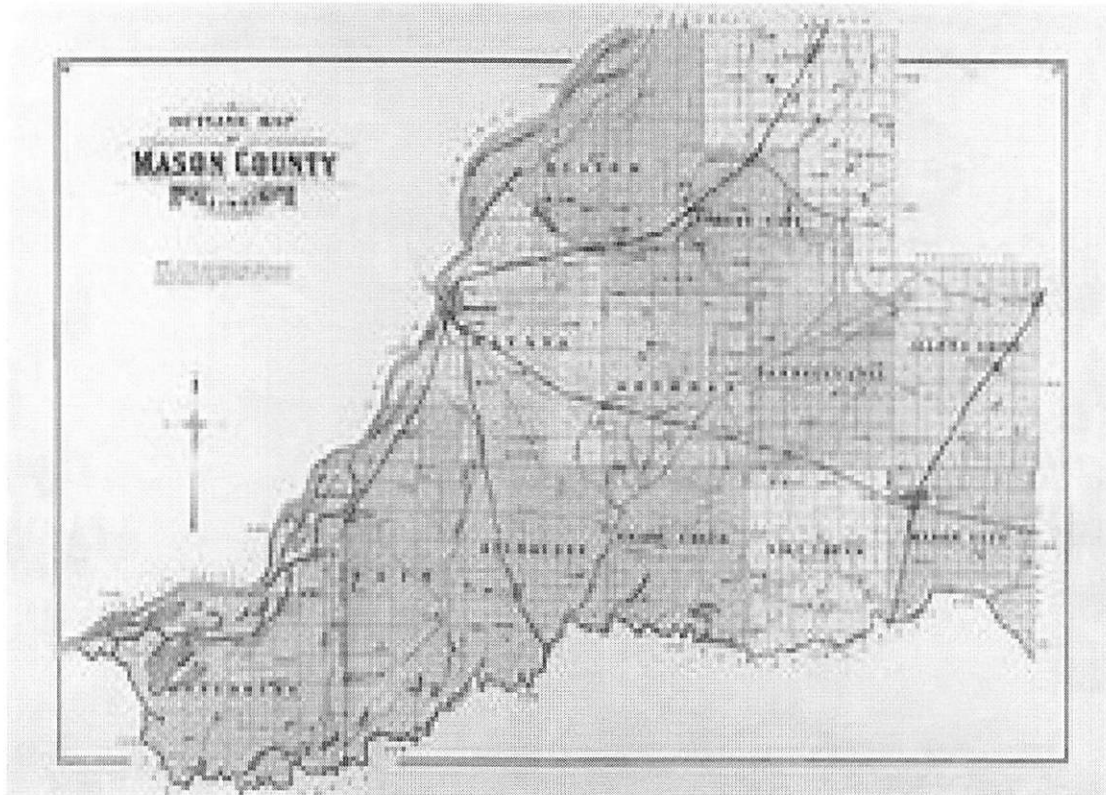


**VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
OF
MASON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Ricky Yocum
Superintendent



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023

**MASON COUNTY
VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**



RICKY YOCUM

Superintendent

MASON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

125 N Plum St

Havana, IL 62644

Phone: 309-543-8907 Option 8

Fax: 309-543-0032

masonvac@masoncountyl.gov

www.masoncountyl.gov

State of Illinois
The Honorable JB Pritzker
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706-0001

December 04, 2023

Dear Governor Pritzker,

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the annual report of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Mason County, Illinois, pursuant to Chapter 330, Part 45, Section 8 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

As the foremost veteran advocacy agency in Illinois, we are a small county providing services for Mason County Veterans in the following categories:

- 1.) Advocacy
- 2.) Benefits Application Filing and Claims Management
- 3.) Financial Assistance for Veterans

In Fiscal Year 2023, ending on November 30th, our Commission was able to help our veterans with a total of \$7,272.00 for Transportation, Rent, Utilities, Groceries and Miscellaneous. I helped our veterans by assisting them in accessing VA health care and helped get \$176,688.56 in VA compensation, and I am helping Fulton County file claims for VA health care and helped get \$140,948.40 in VA compensation. I am helping Tazewell County file for VA health care and help get \$3,203.90 in VA compensation. I am helping Cass County file for VA health care and help get \$10,616.57 in VA compensation. I am helping Sangamon County file for VA health care and VA compensation. Making the total VA compensation \$338,541.39 for our veterans. Since getting the Mason District Hospital into the VA Community Care program they have been seeing veterans from several counties using this service, making it an asset to the community. Consequently, the Commission continues to be a significant governmental entity at the county level.

Thank you for your support of our county's veterans. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Very Respectfully,

Ricky Yocum, Superintendent

Veterans Assistance Commission Delegates and Alternates 2022

Alternate Dan Gunter – Havana American Legion Post 138

Delegate Charles Lane– Havana American Legion Post 138

Delegate Lee Hottell – Manito American Legion Post 561

Alternate Josh Harbourn – Manito American Legion Post 561

Delegate James Baird - San Jose American Legion Post 1269

Alternate Harold Squires - San Jose American Legion Post 1269

Alternate Dave Knioeriem – Mason City American Legion Post 496

Delegate Dick Whiney – Mason City American Legion Post 496

Delegate Stephan Pilger – Havana Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6408

Alternate Timothy Shay - Havana Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6408

The Mission of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Mason County

To promote the welfare of honorably discharged Veterans of military service and their families through maximizing all possible benefits through effective and dynamic advocacy and by serving as a central service for all Veterans residing in the County of Mason.

This mission is accomplished through three key areas:

- 1.) Veterans Assistance
- 2.) Advocacy
- 3.) Partnerships

I am looking forward to getting more information out about the Mason County Veterans Assistance Commission and let veterans know of the assistance that is here to help them.

Thank you for the continued support of our veteran community.

Respectfully submitted,

Ricky Yocum
Superintendent, VACMC

Cc: Mason County Board
VAC Mason County
Veteran Service Organizations of Mason County