

Virginia Elks Association News

May 24, 2012

New Virginia Veterans ID Card to be Launched May 30



The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) have joined as partners to offer a veteran's ID card. Governor McDonnell will announce the ID card at a news conference at 1 p.m. on May 30 at the McGuire VAMC.

Veterans are frequently asked for an identification card that shows their status as a veteran of the U.S. military. While retired military and veterans with a disability rating from the VA are issued ID cards, these men and women comprise just a fraction of the state's veteran population. The remaining veterans have no way to show veteran status other than by their DD214. The DD214 is the official discharge document and not something most veterans carry with them.

This is unfortunate because thousands of Virginia restaurants and retailers offer discounts and other special promotions to veterans and military, especially around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Virginia's new veterans ID card will enable veterans to easily show veteran status and also will enable retailers, restaurants, and other organizations to easily verify the individuals' status as a veteran. It is a win/win situation for everyone.

Beginning May 30 after the news conference, veterans may apply for the Virginia veterans ID card through DMV service outlets: Visit www.dmvNOW.com to find the nearest issuing DMV Office providing this service.

You must have a valid Virginia driver's license or identification card. You will also need a copy of your DD- 214 indicating any discharge status other than dishonorable. There is a \$10 one-time cost for the card. Virginia Veterans ID cards never expire. You will receive your new Virginia Veterans ID card in the mail within a week.

Additional information will be available on both the DVS and DMV websites after May 30, 2012. If you have questions or need more information, feel free to contact Anne Atkins, Director of Communications, Virginia Department of Veterans Services by phone (804-371-0441) or email (anne.atkins@dvs.virginia.gov).

Submitted by Ken Catterton, Secretary, Woodbridge Lodge 2355