

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Allegan County
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ALLEGAN COUNTY RECEIVES VETS TRUST FUND AWARD

ALLEGAN COUNTY – During the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) training in Kalamazoo, a surprised and pleased Allegan County Veterans Coordinator and committee were honored by receiving the 2009 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Award.

There are 15 Counties in Region 4 (Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren) and only one award is presented for each region per year.

“We were very delighted that we received this award since our office has only been in operation for the last couple of years,” shared Tammy Grigg, Allegan County Veteran Services Coordinator of the Allegan County Dept. of Veteran Services. “Some agents have been doing this work for 20-30 years!”

Anne Dutcher (Director of MVTF) and John Skinner (MVTF Board of Trustee) presented the award to Tammy and the Allegan County Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Committee for the excellent work that they did this past fiscal year. Anne Dutcher commented on the thoroughness of the paperwork and their ability to be consistent in carrying out board policy correctly.

“This has been a real team effort with buy-in and support on all levels of the organization”, stated Rob Sarro, Allegan County Administrator. “This is one example of what can be accomplished when we get everyone working together.”

Sarro went on to say that while meeting the county’s responsibility to Allegan County veterans, we are honored as a county to be able to help and assist veterans in their time of need.

The Michigan Veteran Trust Fund was established by the Michigan Legislature to provide grants for the emergency needs of veterans, tuition grants to dependents of disabled and deceased veterans, and emergency education loans to veterans and their children. The Legislature established the Trust Fund with a transfer of \$50 million of investments from which earnings are to support the Trust Fund

operations. The Trust Fund also provides administrative support for the Michigan Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Monument Fund.

“This designation afforded to us is quite a compliment,” shared Max Thiele, County Commissioner. “In two years we’ve gone from a county that has provided services to veterans with one part time person twice a month to a point where we have significantly increased our participation, and we facilitated additional services to other counties.”

Thiele explained that the county has been recognized for what a great job these people have done, and it is a compliment to our Board and County Administrator, and specifically to the staff that show up to do their job each day.

It’s fantastic,” stated Thiele.

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund is just one program that the County has operated for many years. The current Allegan County Department of Veterans Services began in November 2007, in conjunction with the Department of Senior Services. In this coming 2010 year, there will be reorganization efforts that will allow the department to be more of a one-stop shop for our veterans.

For more information see the contacts above.

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