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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund (V4V) approved \$90,000.00 in Grants to assist Minnesota Veterans

At the August 2018 Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans Trust fund monthly meeting, the following grants were approved by the eight-member board of directors:

Armed Forces Airport Service Center at the Minneapolis Airport, was awarded \$15,000.00 by V4V Trust Fund for its portion to help fund the construction of a new service center being at the Minneapolis International Airport. The Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC) is a nonprofit 24 hour military based facility located at MSP Airport, since 1970. The AFSC provides free food, shelter and various services for traveling military and their dependents; Active-Duty, Reserves, National Guard, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients, military retirees and Department of Defense personnel. After 48 years on the ticketing side of Terminal 1, the AFSC is being relocated to the "secure side" of MSP in the fall of 2019. The service center will be expanding from 1000 Sq. feet to 4000 Sq. feet and needing additional furniture, equipment and appliances needed in our expanded space.

Veterans for Veterans (V4V) Trust Fund is awarding \$75,000.00 for the purchase of 2 of the 5 vehicles necessary to establish a transportation program in the Southeast region of Minnesota. These vehicles purchased by the V4V Trust will provide free transportation to medical appointments for Veterans and their caregivers/spouses. The major focus of this program is to improve access to quality care for greater Minnesota Veterans. Each vehicle will likely provide over 5,000 Veteran Transports during its estimated 4-5 year lifespan or 180,000 miles. The regional coordinator will likely provide scheduling for over 5,000 Veteran transport in the funded year, increase coordination amongst area veterans service officers, schedule over 150,000 miles of transports, and 7,000 volunteer hours.

The Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans (V4V) Trust Fund is a 501c (19) non-profit organization established as the result of the 2006 sale of Lake Minnetonka Big Island Disabled Veterans Camp. The non-profit organization has eight board members, two veterans each who are appointed by the DAV, VFW, MOPH, and American Legion. The board oversees the funds from the sale of the island to the City of Orono and has a grant application process on their website. Grants are made to organizations serving MN veterans in a way that conforms to the criteria the V4V has documented online at their website.....Website: <u>mnv4v.org</u>

To learn more about the history of the Big Island Veterans Camp see: <u>http://editiondigital.net/display_article.php?id=431873</u>

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