



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Northwestern Illinois Stand Down and Picnic 2011

Freeport, Illinois – The first Northwest Illinois Stand Down and Picnic for area veterans and their families will be held June 4, 2011. This free event will be held at the band shell at Krape Park, Freeport and is scheduled to start at 12:00pm and conclude at 4:00pm.

The purpose of the event is to provide veterans in northwest Illinois with information about veterans' benefits and services at the local and national level, to provide participating veterans and their families with fun-filled activities and entertainment and to provide information to the community regarding the needs of veterans in this area.

Stand Down is a military term referring to a brief respite from combat. During this Stand Down, assistance will be provided to homeless veterans and veterans in need in the areas of VA medical and mental health counseling, employment and vocational rehabilitation counseling, assistance with VA and Social Security benefits claims, chiropractic, clothing and haircuts.

The VAC of Stephenson County Office and the Freeport Office of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs have partnered with several dedicated service providers, volunteers, military service organizations, community-based organizations and representatives from city, county, state and federal agencies in a collaborative effort to assist our nation's veterans.

Entertainment will be provided by area band Rock Steady, singer Ernie Veer and others. At 1:00pm the State of Illinois Veteran of the Month award will be presented by a representative of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. All veterans and their families are invited to participate in this special event. Veterans in Stephenson County who need a ride to the event are asked to call the Allied Veterans' Van Service at 815-233-5284 by June 1, 2011.

For further information, please contact event coordinators:

Jessica Holm, Veterans' Service Officer, IDVA, 815-233-5092

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