

# Veterans' Bills Assist and Honor

Legislators will consider two bills from the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) to assist and honor Iowa veterans.

First, the IDVA has recommended we exempt certain benefits from the individual income tax. The proposal will mean that qualified veterans who receive reimbursement from the Veterans Trust Fund for travel assistance for medical care or unemployment assistance will not be taxed for this benefit.

The Veterans Trust Fund provides relief for Iowa veterans and their families. Currently, funds are used for unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes; assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs; counseling and substance abuse services; housing repair; and transitional housing in an emergency. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission.

Secondly, the IDVA proposed a bill that allows the department to promote and support the preservation of the battleship U.S.S Iowa as a permanent naval museum at the naval shipyard at Mare Island, Vallejo, CA.

The U.S.S Iowa was commissioned in 1943 and used extensively during World War II and during the Korean War. The battleship was decommissioned for the last time in 1990 and is the only member of her class not open to the public.

The Iowa Legislature will consider both proposals in the coming 2010 legislative session.