

THOREAU FARM TRUST
BIRTHPLACE OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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The beautifully restored Henry David Thoreau Birth House at 341 Virginia Road.

Thoreau Farm Trust is a nonprofit whose original mission was to restore the house in which Henry David Thoreau was born. In an increasingly virtual world, people who had been informed and inspired by the works of Thoreau came together to preserve a physical space, one they intended would eventually serve as a living legacy to his ideas which remain vitally important in the 21st century. The house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was meticulously restored and rehabilitated by historic architect Larry Sorli in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's

Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Most of the original interior elements survived and the exterior of the house was returned to its 18th-century appearance using physical evidence and historic photographs provided by Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library. The birth house and surrounding property continues to attract visitors from around the world and serve as a model of environmental sensitivity in historic restoration having integrated green materials and systems into the project while maintaining the historic integrity of the structure.

The mission thus evolved into one of effecting social change, primarily by challenging both our members and visitors in a call to action – one application of Thoreau's dictum "to live deliberately." So in addition to acting as steward of this historic property, the mission of Thoreau Farm Trust is to help people – individually and collectively – change, improve, and enrich the world we live in through the writing and legacy of Henry David Thoreau.

The house is open May through October and this season's opening will introduce a digital application as a way to explore the property and connect both with Thoreau and the stories of those who, influenced by his ideas, have changed our world.

VETERANS SERVICES

Richard Krug
Veterans Officer

The Veterans' Services program is mandated by Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 and administered under State guidelines to provide information, advice and assistance regarding benefits to veterans and their families. Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required to have a benefits program for its resident veterans and their dependents, as well as a full-time Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available full time to provide assistance. The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program. With the support of the Commonwealth's House, Senate and Executive Office, Massachusetts is now recognized as having one of the most comprehensive veterans' programs in the nation.

The Office of Veterans' Services, located at 105 Everett Street, provides critical services to those who have worn

the uniform, and to their loved ones. For decades, the Department of Veterans' Services has been the leading advocate for veterans and their families in the Commonwealth. In addition to administering benefits in accordance with Chapter 115, the Veterans' Services Officer's role has grown to encompass the full range of VA federal benefits, rehabilitation, employment and training services, military records, tax exemptions, annuities, burials and care and decoration of veterans' graves. Financial assistance to qualified veterans and their dependants is provided in accordance with State and federal regulations.

Program Implementation

The Veterans' Services Officer responds to daily calls requesting information, advice and assistance. With so many veterans and their families facing profound challenges related to their service and the current economy, the Veterans' Services Officer has become more important than ever. Calls come from Concord residents as well as veterans and dependents from surrounding communities, and the numbers are constantly increasing as a result of the aging veteran population and more than 26,000 veterans having returned to Massachusetts from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Veterans' Services Officer often helps veterans obtain assistance from veterans' organizations as well as other local, State, and federal organizations, such as community services and Social Security. The Veterans' Services Officer has also been called upon to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for veterans. Currently there is one individual receiving financial assistance for qualifying Chapter 115 benefits.

The Veterans' Services Officer currently serves on the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Veterans' Services Officers Association and has been networking with local civic groups, senior citizen groups and area veterans' organizations as well as families of service members currently deployed. He has assisted at veterans' funerals, worked with students during Veterans' Day and Memorial Day exercises, served as a guest speaker in some high school and elementary school classes, as well as for Rotary Club of Concord, the Lions Club of Concord, Concord Deaconess, and Concord Park Assisted Living. In addition to reaching out to veterans in obtaining "alternative sources of income," he has

generated veteran-related programming for the local cable television channel and human interest articles for the local newspaper about resident veterans and their service to the country. The articles may include some facts and perhaps a bit of humor that might be of interest to residents, as well as information on how to contact the local Veterans' Services Officer.

The following is a list of applications applied for or services requested from Concord Veterans' Services during the year 2011:

VETERANS SERVICES APPLICATIONS	
Prescription Benefits	11
Death Benefits	10
Housing Benefits	14
Assisted Living	2
Upgrade VA Disability	3
Aid & Attendance	12
Chapter 115	18
Surviving Spouse	9
VA Forms	27
Financial Assistance	11
Social Security	10
Hugh Cargill Trust	2
Military Medals and Flags	20
Military Records	13
Health Benefits	27
Employment	4
Concord Journal Veteran Article	6
Disability Filing	5
Disability Tax Abatement	5
Veterans' Outreach	30
Hearing Aids	4
Post GI Bill	2

For information or assistance on Veterans' Services please call 978-318-3038 or e-mail dkrug@concordma.gov. For information about services, events, and other veterans' organizations please visit Concord's web page at www.concordma.gov/clerk/veterans.htm.



Concord Veterans raising flag at November 11 Flag Retirement Ceremony at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.