

The Gazette

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Veteran service group helps members after flood

I am asked on a daily basis why should I join a veteran service organization? Since the flood, the reason has become crystal clear.

On June 27, our office received word that members of

the American Legion, or veterans who had children and were impacted by the flood, could contact the American Legion and receive financial assistance. Then the Disabled American Veteran's called and offered \$500 to any veteran with service-connected injuries who was ruined by the flood. Veteran of Foreign Wars was offering \$300 assistance to their members.

On June 23, a van full of clothes was on its way, collected from American Legion posts in Indiana, Maryland and Des Moines.

On July 1, we received \$1,000 from American Legion Post 489 in Yorkville, Ill. That money went to gift cards so veterans and their families could buy clean underwear, socks, shoes and gas.

On July 12, American Legion Post 92 from Rochester, Minn., gave \$1,000.

On July 17, VFW gave \$700 to help our annual Stand

Down. All of our donated clothes for the Stand Down had been stored in the basement of Veterans Memorial Coliseum and were destroyed in the flood.

American Veterans lost its building. Even under these harsh realities, AMVET members have taken the lead in raising funds and awareness for Linn County VA's Stand Down and Sleep Out Programs.

Because of these organizations, the quality of life of many has been improved in this harsh environment of the flood.

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