

# Grand Rapids Yellow Ribbon Citizen's Committee



*Our mission is to ensure military families from our community are supported. The GRYRCC will act as the liaison between our community and the military. Our commitment to awareness and support for all service members must not end when they return home from deployment and the yellow ribbons are untied.*



## Yellow Ribbon Community Requirements

- Maintain a community-based steering committee.
- Pass an annual resolution of support by the sponsoring government.
- Maintain an annual work plan to serve military-connected residents.
- Participate in at least one community event annually.
- Participate in the Regional Military & Veteran Exchange.
- Participate in the statewide Joining Community Forces event.
- Maintain a relationship with the Soldier & Family Readiness Specialist.
- Maintain a relationship with the County Veteran Service Officer.
- Maintain a relationship with the DEED Veteran Employment Rep.
- Maintain a relationship with local law enforcement.
- Maintain a relationship with the local school district.
- Maintain relationships with local Yellow Ribbon Companies, elected officials, faith-based organizations, and social and health services.

## Beyond the Yellow Ribbon: A Minnesota Tradition

Minnesota is rich with Veterans and residents currently serving in the military even though the state does not host an active duty military base. Those bases often serve as a center of support for military families, but in Minnesota, we make up for that by way of a Yellow Ribbon Network – the largest community-based military support network in the nation. On December 14, 2011, Grand Rapids was proclaimed the 35<sup>th</sup> Yellow Ribbon Community by Governor Dayton. There are currently 100 Yellow Ribbon Communities in Minnesota. That proclamation established the GRYRCC, which serves to create awareness for the purpose of connecting service members and their families with community support, services and resources.

## Minnesotan's in the Military

MN Veterans:	330,000
National Guard:	13,156
Reserves:	5,042
Active Duty:	2,542
MN Military Dependents:	22,474
Itasca County Veterans:	3,900

## 1-94 Cavalry; D Troop Based in Grand Rapids



The Grand Rapids armory is home to 65 soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry; a Minnesota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Duluth. The 1-94 CAV mission is to perform reconnaissance and security operations for the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. In more general terms, they patrol regions to observe and locate enemy features. There are six major units under the 1-94 CAV: Headquarters and Headquarters Troop in Duluth, A Troop in Hibbing, B Troop in Pine City, C Troop in Cloquet, D Troop in Grand Rapids, and D Company in Chisholm. D Troop is charged with providing armor to the battalion. The soldiers of this unit are tankers, gunners, mechanics and parts specialists.

## Committee Action

- ❖ Soldier and family care package delivery
- ❖ Chad's Meat Wagon, etc. for drill dinners
- ❖ Burger concession fundraising events
- ❖ National Night Out participant
- ❖ Shop With a Hero Sponsor
- ❖ Unit holiday party & picnic organization
- ❖ Veterans Day community activities
- ❖ Statewide & community collaboration
- ❖ Family Readiness Group support
- ❖ Home maintenance volunteer projects