

The Journal-Standard

OUR OPINION

Veterans clinic is fitting tribute

The issue: Freeport gets a local Veterans Administration Health Clinic

Our view: Veterans deserve the best care our country can afford, and opening a clinic in Freeport is a step in the right direction.

Our veterans should be honored for the time they served our country, but as we all know they often are taken for granted by our government and our citizens. Many still struggle with ailments or injuries caused during the time that they served, and access to health care under the veteran's program is usually challenging due to the restrictive number of clinics that typically reside in larger communities.

Last week's announcement that Freeport will be getting a local Veterans Administration Health Clinic was really a positive move in the right direction to help and honor our local veterans. Instead of having to travel to Rockford or Madison for services, next year they will be able to be treated right here in Freeport. This is great not only for our local economy, but also for our 5,000 Stephenson County veterans that need services.

U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo had it right when he said "The price of this clinic was paid for years ago by the people you see here. This is the least we can do for the people that fought the battles for the freedom we enjoy."

We could not have said it better and we salute all involved who helped make this a reality.