



THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Robbins Bldg. – 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, Delaware 19904
(302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State)
Internet Website: <http://www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov>
Fax (302) 739-2794

Jack A Markell, Governor
Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State
Volume 20, Number 2

Paul V. Lardizzone, Chairman
John R. Knotts, Executive Director
Apr-Jun 2013

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

The General Assembly is again in full session. I encourage you to keep a close eye on all bills introduced or assigned to committees that may have an impact on veterans. I regret to report that Commissioner Robert E. Wasson (Delaware Veterans) passed away while in Florida. A memorial service was held at Delaware Veterans Post 1 in February. I presented a tribute from Governor Jack Markell and Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn for distinguished service and dedication as a member of the Commission. The Blue Wing of Delaware Veterans Home is officially open. The Admissions Committee has approved several applications from the waiting list. The Veterans Cemetery in Bear is back on schedule for the realignment and cleaning of the markers. Hopefully, it will be completed this year, as long as the weather cooperates. The 198th Signal Battalion has deployed to Fort Bliss for intensive training prior to movement to Afghanistan. Let's continue to show our support to the 324 men and women of the 198th. I am proud of the way our veterans' organizations have shown their support for the Delaware National Guard and personnel assigned to Dover Air Force Base. I hope to see you on May 30, 2013 at our Memorial Day ceremonies at the Delaware Memorial Bridge and the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Bear. It is a way to pay our respects to those who gave their all. May God Bless America and keep all our service members out of harm's way.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Lardizzone
Chairman

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES May 30, 2013

The La Societe 40&8 and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host a Memorial Day Service on Thursday, May 30, 2013. The service will be held at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. Following the services at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and Air Force Sergeants Association will conduct a service at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware, at 2:00 PM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

The Kent County Chapter 850, Vietnam Veterans of America, hosted a ceremony to observe Delaware's Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30, 2013, at the Kent County Memorial Park. The guest speaker was Mr. Sam Chick, an Iraq veteran who served with the 101st Airborne Division. The ceremony included the placement of a brick dedicated to SRA Elizabeth Loncki, who was killed at age 23 on January 7, 2007, in Iraq by an IED. It concluded with the reading of the names of the 28 Kent County men killed in action. The ceremony was well attended by veterans and family members.

NEWARK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The city of Newark Parks and Recreation Department is having a wreath laying followed by a silent march downtown on **Sunday, May 19, 2013**. Please contact the City of Newark at (302) 366-7060 for more information.

THE SECOND ANNUAL WILLS MEGA-EVENT

A coordinated joint effort of the Delaware State Bar Association's Wills for Seniors, and Wills for

Veterans programs and Wills For Heroes Delaware, designed to provide free legal estate planning services to eligible senior citizens, first responders and veterans in Delaware. It will be held Saturday, **May 18, 2013**, from 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM at the Dover Public Library 35 E Loockerman St Dover, DE 19901. Contact Jacki Chacona at 302-478-8680 x212 or jchacona@dvls.org to schedule a time slot at the event.



DINNER HELD FOR DEPLOYING NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs would like to thank Kathleen Matty, who was named “Amateur Chef of the Year” by Delaware Today, for hosting a dinner provided by the Deerfield Country Club for deploying members of the 198th Signal Battalion, National Guard, on March 21, 2013. Ms. Matty provided the dinner to show her appreciation for their service. The event was a huge success and provided a great memory for those families in attendance.

DELAWARE'S OLDEST UNIT WILL CARRY THEIR COLORS IN WAR ONCE AGAIN

In front of close family and friends the 324 Soldiers of Delaware's oldest unit the 198th Expeditionary Signal Battalion gathered for a departure ceremony held at Delaware State University on Saturday, April 6, 2013. Once again the 198th ESB answers the call to active service, this time heading to the

Afghan theater of operations. The ceremony was a joyful one despite knowing the unit would be gone for a period of 12 months. Senator Thomas R. Carper, led the crowd in a cheer of "Thank You!" during his speech to thank the members of the 198th for their service. "God Speed!" and "We'll be here when you return," said Carper. The 198th ESB is comprised of Headquarters Company and Company C, which is headquartered in Wilmington and Company A, headquartered in Georgetown. The other component of the 198th ESB deploying is Company B, headquartered in South Carolina. Their departure ceremony was held on the same day at the Little River Multicultural Complex in Hodges, South Carolina. The three units from Delaware will head to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will link up with Bravo Company 198th ESB out of South Carolina to start their intense pre-mobilization training before departing for their tour in Afghanistan. They will continue to hone their satellite communications skills and other mission related tasks during the next four to six weeks in Texas. The 198th ESB has been training Afghan-specific military voice and data communications skills for the past year in preparations for this deployment. "The 198th is well trained and well led to carry out their mission," said Maj. Gen. Francis D. Vavala, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard. "Today Delaware's finest goes forth to protect and defend our nation once again." *(By Staff Sgt. James Pernol, 101st Public Affairs Detachment Apr 8, 2013)*



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

VA is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to supporting Veterans who have experienced Military Sexual Trauma (MST). This year's national theme is "Outreach to Veterans Who Experienced MST: Opening Doors and Building Bridges," to highlight the importance of ensuring all Veterans are aware of the free MST-related services VA provides. About one in five women and one in a hundred men seen in VA medical facilities report they have experienced MST-- that is, sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurred during military service. MST can affect Veterans' physical and mental health for many years afterward. To assist in recovery, treatment for MST-related physical and mental health conditions is available at every VHA facility and provided to Veterans free of charge, regardless of service-connection status. Veterans may be able to receive this free MST-related care, even if they are not eligible for other VA care. Every VHA facility has an MST Coordinator who serves as a point person for Veterans and staff. Every VA employee has the power to help Veterans recover from MST by responding sensitively to inquiries about MST, remaining knowledgeable about VA's MST-related services, and ensuring information about Veterans' MST status is kept confidential. For more information, contact your facility's MST Coordinator, or visit the MST Resource home page at <http://vaww.mst.va.gov>. Veterans can access information at www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp. *(NASDVA, April 9, 2013)*

STATE OF DELAWARE SUPERIOR COURT VETERANS COURT PROGRAM

Veteran's court is a program that has been established in both Kent and New Castle County Superior Court. There are approximately 12 staff members operating Veterans Treatment Court in each county. For more information you can contact Cecilia Gonzalez at (302) 824-9322.

CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS STRENGTHENED BY \$153 BILLION VA BUDGET

WASHINGTON -Continuing the transformation of the Department of Veterans Affairs into a 21st century organization, the President has proposed a \$152.7 billion budget, a 10.2 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2013, that will support VA's goals to expand access to health care and other benefits, eliminate the disability claims backlog, and end homelessness among Veterans. The budget includes \$66.5 billion in discretionary spending, largely for healthcare, and \$86.1 billion for mandatory programs – mostly disability compensation and pensions for Veterans. "This budget will have a positive impact on the lives of Veterans, their families and survivors for generations to come," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The President believes in Veterans and their families and believes in providing them the care and benefits they've earned and deserve." The \$66.5 billion total in discretionary spending includes approximately \$3.1 billion in collections from health insurers and Veteran copayments in addition to the \$63.5 billion in discretionary funding. "VA's commitment to Veterans spans generations," Shinseki added. "From the men and women of 'the greatest generation' to the Veterans who have returned from Iraq and those returning from Afghanistan, VA will make sure our benefits are useful and accessible." VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country with nearly 9 million enrollees; the eighth largest life insurance program; monthly disability pay, pensions and survivors payments to more than 4 million people; education assistance to 1 million students; mortgage guarantees to 1.5 million homeowners; and the largest cemetery system in the nation. Here are highlights from the President's 2014 budget request for VA.

Health Care With a medical care budget of \$54.6 billion, VA is positioned to provide care to 6.5 million Veterans in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The patient total includes 675,000 people whose military service began after Sept. 11, 2001. Major

spending categories within the health care budget are:

- \$6.9 billion for mental health;
- \$4.1 billion for health care for Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn;
- \$2.5 billion for prosthetics;
- \$601 million for spinal cord injuries;
- \$246 million for traumatic brain injuries;
- \$230 million for readjustment counseling; and
- \$7.6 billion for long-term care.

Expanding Access The President's proposed budget would ensure that care and other benefits are available to Veterans when and where they need them. Among the programs that will expand access under the proposed budget are:

- \$460 million in home telehealth funding, which helps patients monitor chronic health care problems through innovative uses of the telephone, a 4.4 percent increase over the current year;
- \$422 million for women-specific medical care, an increase of nearly 14 percent over the present level;
- \$799 million for the activation of new and enhanced health care facilities;
- \$16 million for the construction of three new national cemeteries; and
- \$8.8 million for "VetSuccess on Campus" at 84 facilities, a program that helps Veterans transition to college life.

Eliminating Claims Backlog The President's proposed budget provides for full implementation of VA's robust Transformation Plan -- a series of people, process and technology initiatives -- in FY14. This plan will systematically reduce the

backlog and reach Shinseki's 2015 goal - to eliminate the claims backlog and process all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy. Major transformation initiatives in the budget proposal invest \$291 million to bring leading-edge technology to the claims backlog, including:

- \$136 million for Veterans Claims Intake Program (VCIP); and
- \$155 million for the next generation of the electronic claims processing system Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

Eliminating Veterans Homelessness A major strategic goal for the Department is to end homelessness among Veterans in 2015. The budget request targets \$1.4 billion for programs to prevent or reduce homelessness, which includes:

- \$300 million for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) to promote housing stability;
- \$278 million for the HUD-VASH program wherein VA provides case management services for at-risk Veterans and their families and HUD provides permanent housing through its Housing Choice Voucher program; and \$250 million in grant and per diem payments that support temporary housing provided by community-based organizations.

Veterans Job Corps Too many Veterans take off their uniforms only to join the ranks of the unemployed. In March, 2013, about 783,000 Veterans were unemployed, a figure that includes 207,000 unemployed Post-9/11 Veterans. This budget proposes a Veterans Job Corps, focused on investing in Veterans' skills and experience, putting tens of thousands of Veterans into civilian jobs. Budget features of this initiative include:

- \$1 billion in mandatory funds to help unemployed Veterans;
- A target of putting 20,000 Veterans to work within the next five years in conservation, law enforcement and infrastructure jobs on public lands;
- Developing back-to-work programs for Veterans with other federal

agencies, including the departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Army Corps of Engineers; and

- Supporting job-producing projects with contracts and grants with non-federal organizations, such as states, nonprofits and private businesses.

Other Services for Veterans Other features of the administration's FY 2014 budget request for the department are:

- \$250 million to administer the VA-run system of national cemeteries;
- \$3.7 billion for information technology; and
- \$1.2 billion in construction, cemetery grants and extended care grants.

POACHING VETERANS' PENSIONS

Veterans and their families are a target for some dishonest advisers who are claiming to offer free help with paperwork for pension claims. The scheme involves attorneys, financial planners, and insurance agents trying to get veterans to make decisions about their pensions, without giving them the whole truth. These unscrupulous brokers try to convince veterans to transfer their assets to a trust or to invest in insurance products. What they don't reveal is that these transactions could mean the loss of eligibility for Medicaid services or loss of access to their money for a long time. Adding insult to injury, the advisers are charging fees that range from hundreds to thousands of dollars for their services. Learn more: <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0349-poaching-veterans-pensions> (*Office of Service Member Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, February 20, 2013*)

VA/DOD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ONLINE ACCESS TO BENEFITS INFORMATION

New Functionality Added To Online Benefits Portal

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense (DoD) just released improvements to the functionality of eBenefits, a joint self-service web portal that provides registered users with secure online information and access to a variety of military and Veterans benefits resources. “eBenefits is clearly becoming the platform of choice for Veterans seeking access to the numerous benefits they have earned,” said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “The increasing capabilities of eBenefits give Veterans and Service member’s greater flexibility in securing the information they are looking for.” The latest release, eBenefits 4.3, allows for easy navigation of the online disability compensation claim submission process using interview-style questions and drop-down menus similar to tax-preparation software, instead of a traditional fill-in-the-blank form. The latest release also pre-populates the application with information from a Veteran’s record in VA’s secure database. Veterans can view processing times for each phase of their claim. Other site improvements include a tool to help determine if a Veteran has eligibility for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits, a calculator for military reservists to determine retirement benefits, and a search function that identifies a claimant’s appointed Veterans service representative, with links to Google Maps indicating the location of their nearest representative’s office. Service members and Veterans can also access records like Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment status, VA payment history, and DoD TRICARE health insurance status. The eBenefits application is a key component of VA’s ongoing transformation to a digital environment for Veterans’ benefits delivery and fully supports VA’s Veterans Relationship Management initiative that provides Veterans with the ability to access information about their benefits anywhere, anytime and empowers them to manage those benefits through self-service capabilities. Additional functionality and features will continue to be added to the site throughout the coming months. To access eBenefits, Veterans and Service members must obtain a DoD Self-Service Logon (DS Logon), which provides access to several Veterans and military benefits resources using a single username

and password. The service is free and may be obtained in person at a VA Regional Office, DoD ID Card station or online at www.ebenefits.va.gov. There are currently 2.2 million users with access to eBenefits, and VA is on track to meet the 2013 agency priority goal of 2.5 million users, as outlined for VA on www.Performance.gov. With the most-recent release, eBenefits has successfully completed 13 consecutive quarterly releases since October 2009 with 47 self-service features enabling Service members and Veterans the ability to download copies of their official VA and military correspondence—to include Veterans civil service preference, service verification, and benefits verification letters; military records; and VA home loan certificates of eligibility, just to name a few. For more information about VA benefits go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov> and eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov. (VA News Release, January 28, 2013)

IRS ISSUES WARNING ABOUT BOGUS TAX PREPARERS IN DELAWARE

False promise of “free money” is again on IRS Dirty Dozen list.

The Internal Revenue Service has issued a warning for taxpayers in Delaware about a tax scam that has re-emerged and may be spreading to other areas. The scam involves people posing as tax preparers and luring victims in by promising large refunds from the IRS, frequently involving education credits or the Earned Income Tax Credit.

People who are falling for this scam are discovering that a side-effect is that it will cost them their federal benefits, ranging from certain veterans benefits to Social Security payments or low-income housing benefits.

The IRS recently issued its annual “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams, which again includes schemes similar to this that promise “free government money.”

According to Dianne Besunder, IRS spokeswoman for Delaware, the scammers may operate out of a store front and may appear to be legitimate tax preparers that recently opened for business. Some scammers lure victims in with street corner signs or

flyers. Victims who respond are promised large refunds and asked to provide their personal and financial information, which is then used to file a false claim with the IRS, sometimes without the victim even knowing what was filed.

The IRS says the scheme mainly targets low-income and non-English-speaking people who usually don't have a tax filing requirement. In fact, the IRS was alerted to the scam by victims complaining about losing their federal benefits, such as social security benefits, certain veteran's benefits or low-income housing benefits. The loss of benefits was the result of false claims being filed with the IRS that provided false income amounts.

The scammers often file the false claims using education tax credits, such as the Hope Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit. They may also falsely report that the victim received self-employment income and is entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit. While honest tax preparers provide their customers a copy of the tax return they've prepared, victims of this scam typically are not given a copy of what was filed. Victims also report that the fraudulent refund is deposited into the scammer's bank account. The scammers deduct a large "fee" before cutting a check to the victim, a practice not used by legitimate tax preparers.

The IRS reminds all taxpayers that they are legally responsible for what's on their returns even if it was prepared by someone else. Taxpayers who buy into such schemes can end up being penalized for filing false claims or receiving fraudulent refunds.

The IRS reminds taxpayers to be careful when choosing and hiring an individual or firm to prepare their tax return and recommends using only preparers who:

- Ask for proof of income and eligibility for credits and deductions
- Sign the return as the preparer,
- Enter their IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN), and
- Provide the taxpayer a copy of the return.

Abusive or suspected false tax preparers can be reported using Form 14157, Complaint: Tax Return Preparer. Download Form 14157 at IRS.gov or order it by mail at 800-TAX FORM (800-829-3676). The form includes an address for submission.

For tips about choosing a tax preparer and information on how and when to make a complaint about a preparer, taxpayers can visit www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro. IRS.gov also has general information on reporting tax fraud. (www.irs.gov, April 8, 2013)

VA INTRODUCES NEW AND ENHANCED FEATURES FOR VA BLUE BUTTON

New Functionality Added to Online Benefits Portal
On Jan. 20, 2013, VA released an enhanced VA Blue Button, adding several new categories of information from the VA Electronic Health Record. The Blue Button is the personal health record inside the My HealtheVet self-service platform and through My HealtheVet; VA Blue Button enables Veterans to download an electronic file that contains their personal health information. "We are excited to introduce these new features of VA Blue Button, advancing the quality health care we give Veterans daily. The paradigm of patient-centered care means fully engaging patients in their health and care," said Undersecretary for Health Robert A. Petzel, M.D. "Enabling patients to have better access to their health information is an important step in supporting them as active partners." Veterans now also have access to the VA Continuity of Care Document (VA CCD), which contains a summary of the Veteran's essential health and medical care information. The document can be exchanged between providers and read by a growing number of computer applications. The VA CCD uses recognized standards that support the exchange of information between health care systems and providers for effective continued care of the patient. Veterans can now also access VA Open Notes, which 'opens' clinical notes, allowing Veterans to read their health care team's notes from appointments and hospital stays. VA Open Notes provides Veterans the ability to read and discuss notes with their health care teams, family and caregivers, offering them greater control over their health care. Previously, Veterans with a premium My HealtheVet account could access appointments, allergies and adverse reactions, chemistry/hematology laboratory results,

immunizations and wellness reminders. New features now available in VA Blue Button include: demographics, problem list, admissions and discharges (including discharge summaries), laboratory results (microbiology), pathology reports (surgical pathology, cytology and electron microscopy), vitals and readings, radiology reports, and a listing of Electrocardiogram (EKG) reports. In addition, self-reported food and activity journals are now also available for inclusion in the VA Blue Button. These improvements showcase VA's continued efforts to expand the types of information available to Veterans who have an upgraded or Premium My HealthVet account, which is easily obtained through www.myhealth.va.gov. (VA News Release, January 29, 2012)

VA ISSUES NEW REPORT ON SUICIDE DATA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released a comprehensive report on Veterans who die by suicide. In the past, data on Veterans who died by suicide was only available for those who had sought VA health care services. The report also includes state data for Veterans who had not received health care services from VA, which will help VA strengthen its aggressive suicide prevention activities. The report indicates that the percentage of Veterans who die by suicide has decreased slightly since 1999, while the estimated total number of Veterans who have died by suicide has increased.

"The mental health and well-being of our courageous men and women who have served the Nation is the highest priority for VA, and even one suicide is one too many," said Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "We have more work to do and we will use this data to continue to strengthen our suicide prevention efforts and ensure all Veterans receive the care they have earned and deserve." In accordance with the President's Aug. 31, 2012, Executive Order, VA has completed hiring and training of additional staff to increase the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line by 50 percent. The Veteran Crisis Line has made approximately 26,000 rescues of actively suicidal Veterans to date.

Additionally, VA has initiated a year-long public awareness campaign, "Stand By Them," to educate families and friends on how to seek help for Veterans and Service Members in crisis. VA has launched a national public service announcement "Side by Side." VA is currently engaged in an aggressive hiring campaign to expand access to mental health services with 1,600 new clinical staff, 300 new administrative staff, and is in the process of hiring and training 800 peer-to-peer specialists who will work as members of mental health teams. The report issued is the most comprehensive study of Veteran suicide rates ever undertaken by the Department. On June 16, 2010, Secretary Shinseki engaged governors of all 50 states, requesting their support in helping to collect suicide statistics. With assistance from state partners providing real-time data, VA is better able to assess the effectiveness of its suicide prevention programs and identify specific populations that need targeted interventions. This new information will allow VA to better identify where those Veterans at risk may be located and improve the Department's ability to target specific suicide interventions and outreach activities in order to reach Veterans early and proactively. The data will also help VA continue to examine the effectiveness of suicide prevention programs being implemented in specific geographic locations or care settings in order to replicate them in other areas if they have been effective. VA has implemented comprehensive, broad ranging suicide prevention initiatives, including a toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, placement of Suicide Prevention Coordinators at all VA Medical Centers and large outpatient facilities, and improvements in case management and reporting. Immediate help is available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net or by calling the Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (push 1) or texting 838255. The report can be found on VA's website Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Robert A. Petzel. Suicide Data Report 2012 final <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf> Veterans Health Administration Response - Suicide Data Report 2012 <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Response-and-ExecSum-Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf> (VA News Release, February 01, 2013)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO DELAWARE VETERANS

In January 1946, Walter W. Bacon, then elected Governor, authorized a state award to those who served in World War II. To honor this commitment to Delaware Veterans, Governor Jack Markell is providing a “*Certificate of Appreciation*” to all Delaware residents who shall have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during time of peace, conflict or war. To request a “*Certificate of Appreciation*”, the veteran/spouse or next of kin may submit the enclosed application (see page 12) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (DD Form 214). **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.** Please contact the Commission Office at (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 if you have any questions.



VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS **Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**

(New Castle County)

Mr. John Williams - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE may be reached Monday-Friday, (8:00 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 365-8231. Please call for an appointment.

(Kent County)

Mr. Charles Murrell - Dover maybe reached Monday-Friday (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County)

Ms. Laurie White-Corsa may be reached:
Mondays & Fridays - Georgetown Vet Center (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 994-2511 Ext 2361
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE (8:30 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 648-3068. Please call for an appointment.

American Legion



Joseph T. Houghton, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 993-7256, will visit the following posts on the following dates:

MAY 03	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (10:00-2:00)	302-945-1673
MAY 10	Walter L Fox, Post #2 (11:00-3:00)	302-674-3922
JUN 07	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (10:00-2:00)	302-945-1673
JUN 14	Walter L Fox, Post #2 (11:00-3:00)	302-674-3922
JUN 21	William T. Spooner Post #17 (10:00-2:00)	302-645-1751

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



DAV Dept. Service Officers: 302-697-9061

Paul Lardizzone: 302-382-3448

H. Mark Wischman: 302-382-3449

Kent County Schedule:

DAV Headquarters Building, 183 South Street,
Camden, DE 19934

Monday thru Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins)
1:00-3:00 PM (Appt only)

Sussex County Schedule:

Department of Labor (Div of Employment & Trng)
20093 Office Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947
Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins) 302-856-5230
Kent & Sussex evening appointments prescheduled
by request only.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA
Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26,
Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7252 or (302)
993-7253. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon
request for Vets who do not have transportation to
the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st
Tuesday, Dover the 2nd Tuesday, and Frederica the
3rd Tuesday of each month.

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)



Cheryl Yard, National Service Officer, VA

Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7263 M-F 8:30 to 4:00. Walk-ins welcome.



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Jerry Brooks, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7260.

1ST Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW	(422-4412)	1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW	(684-4975)	1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW	(227-3469)	1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW	(629-3092)	1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL	(993-7260)	8:00-11:00 AM
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NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services should first call our office so that some advance information may be obtained to accelerate the application process. Kent & Sussex County residents may call 1-302-993-7260. NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00 PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and their dependents without respect to veteran service organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT required for service.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7250 or (302) 993-7251.

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE)...302-834-8046

Sussex Co. Section (Millsboro, DE)...302-934-5653

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd.....302-424-6000
Milford, DE 19963

HOME OF THE BRAVE

Main Office - 302-424-1681
Denise Dudley- Intake Coordinator
302-424-0358

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Cleopatra Jones (Wilmington).....302-761-8077
Allen Jones (Wilmington).....302-761-8141
Lisa Smith (Newark).....302-451-3457
Toney Fragier (Newark).....302-451-3453
Cliff Rumph (Dover).....302-857-5866
Kevin Gunning (Dover).....302-857-5870
Dawn Smith (Georgetown).....302-858-5230

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

.....302-761-8275

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office (Claims & Benefits)

1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-827-1000

VA Medical Center (Healthcare)

1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-461-8262
.....302-994-2511

Dover VA Outpatient Clinic

1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904.....1-800-461-8262 x2400

Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic

20653 DuPont Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947 ...1-800-461-8262 x2300

Readjustment Counseling

Vet Center (New Castle Co.)1-800-461-8262 x5434
Vet Center (Kent Co.).....1-800-461-8262 x2430

Vet Center (Sussex Co.).....302-225-9110

The Vet Center provides counseling services for:

- Post Traumatic Stress and Other Disorders
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Marital/Family problems
- Bereavement

Vet Center services are provided at no cost to eligible veterans who served in combat areas and their families or to those who experienced sexual trauma or bereavement challenges without combat area restriction.

Veterans Outreach Program

Mike Rowe - Listening Post—Lower Delaware
302-422-8033x173

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

MSgt (R) Bill Oldham (William.Oldham.2@us.af.mil), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4610.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center, 3920 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19808, (302) 998-5194.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Air Force Sergeants Association

Bill McMullen.....(302) 697-9750

American Gold Star Mothers

Pauline Anderson.....(302) 633-0239

American Legion

Richard “Ric” Santos.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

Albert Weir.....(302) 629-4141

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America

Ron Hoskins.....(302) 365-5670

Phyllis Palabrica.....(302) 365-5670

Delaware Veterans Coalition

Dave Skocik.....(302) 736-8500

E-mail: delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061

Fleet Reserve Association

James M. Jackson.....(302) 834-1719

40 & 8

Eugene “Chip” Rosan.....(302) 678-8077

Jewish War Veterans

Len Markovitz.....(302) 234-4785

Korean War Veterans Association

George Goss.....(302) 424-0461

Marine Corps League

James Thompson.....(302) 284-2708

Military Officers Association of America

Tom Kelly (New Castle Co.).....(302) 834-9659

Ron Sarg (Kent Co.).....(302) 678-1603

Fred Seth, Jr. (Sussex Co.).....(302) 519-0611

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....(302) 655-3820

Military Order of the World Wars

Karen Kelly.....(302) 834-9659

E-mail: karenleakelly@verizon.net

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator

Judy C. Campbell.....(302) 326-7787

The Reserve Officers Association

LTC Richard Chappell (Ret).....(302) 234-1418

E-mail: rwc49ps54ud@comcast.net

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paul Phillips Jr.....(302) 656-5022

Vietnam Veterans of America

Paul Davis.....(302) 697-8384

WAVES Nat’l

Ruth Harden.....(302) 998-1373

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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George T. Goss (Vice Chairman).....KWVA

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Robert P. Corsa.....VVA

Maurice Evans.....American Legion

John Hampton.....At Large

Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT’L

Charles Keithley.....40 & 8

William “Bill” McMullen.....AFSA

Mark Newman.....VFW

Barry Newstadt.....JWV

Ronald Sarg.....MOAA

Angela F. Showell.....At Large

Albert W. Weir.....AMVETS

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Certificate of Appreciation Application

Veterans Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: (Home) _____ **(Work or Cell)** _____

Date Entered Service _____ **Date Separated** _____ **Branch of Service** _____

Date of Birth _____ **Type of Discharge** _____ **Highest Rank Achieved** _____
(Only required if requesting rank on certificate)

Is Veteran Deceased? Yes or No (please circle one)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: A current resident of the State of Delaware or resident when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States and honorably discharged.

Please submit this application with a copy of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD-214) to:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE 19904
Phone: (302) 739-2792 or 1-800-344-9900 (in State only)

Signature of Veteran/spouse or next of kin _____ **Date** _____

Print Name and Relationship if not veteran _____

Provide alternate address if different from above _____

NOTE: Please anticipate 2 to 3 weeks in receiving your Certificate

TO BE COMPLETED BY DCVA

___ **Approved** ___ **Pending** ___ **Disapproved**

Name _____ **Date** _____

Title _____

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STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

