



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 1

Paul V. Lardizzone, Chairman
John R. Knotts, Executive Director
Jan-Mar 2013

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our past Executive Director, Antonio "Tony" Davila, for his dedicated service to the Commission for the past 21 years. Tony retired on November 16, 2012. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Executive Director, John Knotts. I want to thank and congratulate Commissioner James Thompson for the outstanding job he performed as chairman. His service to the Commission, as well as to all Delaware veterans, is to be commended. Please remember that a tax deductible donation can be made to the Veterans Home with a check payable to the following: Delaware Veterans Home Fund, Department of State, 401 Federal St., Suite 3, Dover, DE 19901. As a result of the recent elections, we will be seeing some new faces in Legislative Hall. The Commission looks forward to working with our legislative members who have continually provided their support in the past. Don't hesitate to contact your organization's representative should you have any questions. You are welcome to attend the Commission's monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday at 10:00 am, at our address listed above. God Bless you and may God Bless America.

Sincerely,
Paul V. Lardizzone
Chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER
“If everyone is thinking alike, someone isn’t thinking.”



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

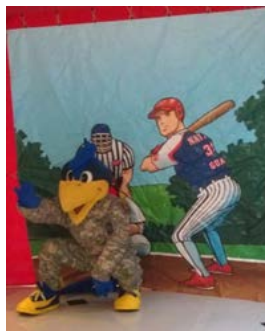
The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Delaware, hosted a very successful Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, 2012. The program began with a fly over by the Delaware Air National Guard, Presentation of the Colors by the USMC Reserves and an Invocation by Reverend Donald Hamilton. In attendance were numerous public officials and hundreds of veterans and their families; many of whom participated in the Floral Tribute Presentation. The ceremony was enhanced by concert music performed by A.I. DuPont High School Band, the singing of the National Anthem by the Kishkapella Quartet and God Bless America by Mrs. Cindy Goldstein. The ceremony concluded with a Benediction by Reverend John Bailey, Honor Volley and Retirement of the Colors by USMC Reserves and Taps by A.I. DuPont High School Band.



Article submitted by Pamela Anderson, Admin II.

DELAWARE MILITARY VETERANS AND FAMILY SUICIDE PREVENTION EXPO

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs participated in a very successful Suicide Prevention Expo that was held on September 12, 2012 at the Embassy Suites in Newark, DE. The morning session, which offered Free CEUs and was taught by noted instructors, was filled to



capacity. The evening portion of the event was designed to accommodate veterans and their families. The attendees enjoyed free food, face



painting, balloon animals, a clown, games, and visits by both The Blue Rocks “Rocky Bluewinkle” and the University of

Delaware mascot, “YoUDEe”. Live entertainment was provided by The Delaware Army National Guard Rock Band. *Article submitted by Pamela Anderson, Admin II.*



2012 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EVENT



Another successful Wreaths Across America event took place here at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery on December 15, 2012. Headed up by Lieutenant Colonel John Lierenz with the Civil Air Patrol, we had approximately 500 volunteers to place the



over 800 wreaths

throughout the cemetery. The wreaths were stored here several days before and were brought to the fields by cemetery staff. It was an exciting event! To see so many people taking an interest in our veterans is truly a moving experience. Their goals for next year exceed what they accomplished this year and I have no doubt they’ll reach it! Thank you to all who participated! *Article submitted by Barbara Cooke, Cemetery Administrator.*



VETERANS DAY APPLE PIE SOCIAL AT JUDGE MORRIS ESTATE, WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK, NOVEMBER 11 2012

The Judge Morris Estate opened its doors to veterans and others for a free Apple Pie Social this past Veterans Day. Several local veterans volunteered at the social held at the estate and attended by the public. Veterans, including Warner Schlaupitz and Bill Kitchen, both WWII vets set up displays and talked with attendees about their experiences. George Taylor-Korean War vet- brought his bugle and played the always moving Taps and talked about its origins. Bill Kniskern a park volunteer and veteran also helped with the program. Music from the



40's played in the background as everyone enjoyed coffee and delicious pies donated by our local Perkins Restaurant. The park has offered a Veterans program at the Judge Morris Estate with the assistance of veterans from the area for over 10 years. Everyone that attended and participated in the program enthusiastically agreed that it was a wonderful way to honor our veterans and the day. *Article submitted by Kathleen Sullivan, Program Coordinator: Judge Morris Estate.*



HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING LICENSES UPDATE

Previously the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs has issued disabled veterans a basic Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Licenses in compliance with Title 7, Chapter 5, Section 502 of Delaware Code. Newly imposed regulations require that the license be issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNREC). Delaware veterans with a sixty percent disability or greater are eligible for the *fee exempt* license. There are several methods available for making your application.

DNREC does require a letter of disability rating from the VA and proof of residency. For additional information contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 302-739-9918, or www.dnrec.delaware.gov.

ATTENTION FEMALE NAVY VETERANS BOTH ACTIVE and RETIRED!!!!

Do you continue to have a desire to serve your country??? Why not become actively involved with Delaware's Unit 10 Navy Waves Committee?? They are currently soliciting new members to help with the political process as it affects women Veterans and their benefits. If you are interested in joining ... contact 302-328-4914.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program provides assistance to Veteran Families who are experiencing transient housing and homelessness. This national program is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs. In the state of Delaware, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. (Connections) and its community partners Catholic Charities and People's Place are the agencies providing housing stability services. Veteran families in need can access housing supportive services such as case management and temporary financial assistance, in addition to employment and health care services. Eligibility is based on active duty military service and income. For more information in New Castle County please contact Catholic Charities at 302-655-9624, and in Kent and Sussex Counties please contact People's Place at 302-422-8033.

NEW TAX CREDIT – DELAWARE'S "VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT" SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

The Veterans Opportunity Tax Credit program was signed by the Governor on July 31st. The new program provides a tax credit equal to 10% of the qualifying employee's wages, with a maximum annual credit of \$1,500. The credit can be claimed for up to 3 consecutive years, resulting in a

maximum 3-year credit of \$4,500. The tax credit program is effective for hire dates from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015. It focuses narrowly on a qualifying group of honorably discharged veterans who served in overseas missions, and who work at least 185 days during the applicable tax year(s). In part, the bill reads as follows: "Qualified military service" means military service for which a veteran received: (i) the Afghanistan Campaign Medal; (ii) the Iraq Campaign Medal; or (iii) the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. "Qualified veteran" means either a Delaware resident who engaged in qualified military service, or a nonresident who, as member of the Delaware National Guard, engaged in qualified military service, and who: (i) has provided to the qualified employer documentation showing that he or she was honorably discharged or is a current member of a National Guard or Reserve unit; and (ii) was initially hired by the qualified employer on or after January 1, 2012 and prior to January 1, 2016. Read the entire bill and its legislative history on the Delaware General Assembly's website: <http://www.legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS146.NSF/vw/Legislation/HB+275?Opendocument> *Written by Vaughn Hromiko, August 10, 2012.*

MANDATORY USE OF ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER (EFT) SYSTEM OR DIRECT EXPRESS® DEBIT MASTERCARD® PROGRAM PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE PURPOSE

This letter provides procedural guidance for implementing the final rule by the Department of Treasury (Treasury) Financial Management Service (FMS) regarding the mandatory use of EFT or Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® Program.

Background

The final Treasury rule was published in the Federal Register on December 22, 2010. On May 6, 2011, VBA Letter 20-11-13 informed all regional offices (ROs) and centers of the mandate by the Department of Treasury and the two phases of VBA implementation. In phase one, effective May 1, 2011, all new beneficiaries will be instructed to receive payment via EFT or prepaid debit card. In

phase two, effective March 1, 2013, all remaining recipients of VBA paper checks will be identified and contacted directly by the Treasury Department.

Procedure

Compensation Service has developed two standard paragraphs that involve notification upon initial development on all claims received on or after May 1, 2011 (1) Treasury Mandate Development Notification) and for all claims that are promulgated after May 1, 2011(2) Treasury Mandate Award Notification).

Treasury Mandate - Compensation or Pension Claims - All Claims Received after May 1, 2011

You recently claimed VA benefits and did not elect an electronic payment method. The Department of Treasury mandated that new recurring benefit payments must be made via EFT or prepaid debit card. You must contact the U.S. Treasury at 1-888-224-2950 to discuss options available for receiving your future payments that are in compliance with U.S. Treasury regulations.

Before you call the Treasury, we can help! If compensation or pension is awarded, you can receive your payments through electronic funds transfer (EFT). To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to your designated financial institution (e.g. bank) call VA at 1-800-827-1000 with your banking information or go online to www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Treasury Mandate - All Awards Promulgated After May 1, 2011 Award Notification

This verbiage will be included on all claims where the beneficiary has not identified any banking information. We noticed that you did not provide us with your banking information to allow your federal benefits to be sent directly to your bank. The Department of Treasury has mandated that all recurring federal benefits be administered through either Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®. Select the method in which you would like to receive your VA benefits before March 1, 2013. If you do not change your payment method before March 1, 2013, the Treasury will contact you directly. To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to your designated financial institution (e.g. bank) call VA at 1-800-827-1000 with your banking information

or go online to www.ebenefits.va.gov. To have your federal benefits issued through Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® issued by Comerica Bank call 1-888-213-1625 to enroll in the program. This verbiage will be included on all claims where the beneficiary has not identified any banking information. We noticed that you did not provide us with your banking information to allow your federal benefits to be sent directly to your bank. The Department of Treasury has mandated that all recurring federal benefits be administered through either Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®. Select the method in which you would like to receive your VA benefits before March 1, 2013. If you do not change your payment method before March 1, 2013, the Treasury will contact you directly. To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to your designated financial institution (e.g. bank) call VA at 1-800-827-1000 with your banking information or go online to www.ebenefits.va.gov. To have your federal benefits issued through Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® issued by Comerica Bank call 1-888-213-1625 to enroll in the program.

VA, SSA AND IRS CUT RED TAPE FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

New Policy Eliminates Paperwork, Allows More VA Staff to Focus on Eliminating Claims Backlog

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is cutting red tape for Veterans by eliminating the need for them to complete an annual Eligibility Verification Report (EVR). VA will implement a new process for confirming eligibility for benefits, and staff that had been responsible for processing the old form will instead focus on eliminating the compensation claims backlog. Historically, beneficiaries have been required to complete an EVR each year to ensure their pension benefits continued. Under the new initiative, VA will work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits. "By working together, we have cut red tape for Veterans and will help ensure these brave men and women get the benefits they have earned and deserve," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. VA

estimates it would have sent nearly 150,000 EVRs to beneficiaries in January 2013. Eliminating these annual reports reduces the burden on Veterans, their families, and survivors because they will not have to return these routine reports to VA each year in order to avoid suspension of benefits. It also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees that usually process EVRs to work on eliminating the claims backlog. "Having already instituted an expedited process that enables wounded warriors to quickly access Social Security disability benefits, we are proud to work with our federal partners on an automated process that will make it much easier for qualified Veterans to maintain their VA benefits from year to year," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "The IRS is taking new steps to provide critical data to help speed the benefits process for the nation's Veterans and Veterans Affairs," said Beth Tucker, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support. "The IRS is pleased to be part of a partnership with VA and SSA that will provide needed data quickly and effectively to move this effort forward." All beneficiaries currently receiving VA pension benefits will receive a letter from VA explaining these changes and providing instructions on how to continue to submit their unreimbursed medical expenses. More information about VA pension benefits is available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension> and other VA benefit programs on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov. (*VA News Release, December 20, 2013*)

VA RELEASES NEW PSA TARGETING WOMEN VETERANS

"The Right Place" Assures Female Vets of High-Quality VA Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new public service announcement (PSA) to let women Veterans know they've come to "The Right Place" when seeking VA health care. "We want to send a very clear message to women Veterans that VA is here to meet your health care needs," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It is important that women Veterans receive the high-quality health care and benefits they have earned

through their service.” The number of women using VA health care has doubled in the past decade and that number is expected to double again soon. The 30-second video PSA, produced by VA’s Women’s Health Services office, addresses key themes defined by Secretary Shinseki. Key messages in the PSA include: assuring women Veterans that VA is ready to serve them; encouraging viewers to rethink assumptions that all Veterans are male; and reminding Americans that women Veterans are coming home, separating from service, or returning to Guard or Reserve status. The PSA was developed for nationwide release along with a new employee awareness video created as part of VA’s ongoing efforts to change its culture to be more understanding and accommodating of women Veterans. It also promotes the recognition of women Veterans around Veterans Day, honoring their service to our country. “Not all women who served their country identify as Veterans and many women Veterans are unaware that VA offers high quality women’s health care,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, Undersecretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration. “One of the most important aspects of our efforts to serve women Veterans is to make sure each one of them knows we’re here.” Women serve in every branch of the military, representing 15 percent of today’s active duty military and nearly 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve forces. By 2020, VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population. VA is disseminating its culture-of-change message to employees and Veterans through a multi-faceted campaign, which includes a toolkit for outreach to women Veterans. To access additional campaign materials, visit www.womenshealth.va.gov/culture_change.asp. To access the toolkit, visit www.womenshealth.va.gov/toolkits.asp. The PSA is available for viewing on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5FGIZ2uYiU> and www.womenshealth.va.gov. Broadcast organizations interested in obtaining a broadcast-quality version of the PSA can download it by accessing the following link: https://downloads.va.gov/files/VA_OPIA/VDPDVAPSA/, then right clicking on “VDPDVAPSA5H.mov” and selecting “save target as.” Visit www.va.gov/womenvet and

www.womenshealth.va.gov to learn more about VA programs and services for women Veterans. (VA News Release, November 26, 2012)

VA SEEKS TO EXPAND TBI BENEFITS Proposes Adding 5 Diagnosable Illnesses Secondary to Service-Connected TBI

The Department of Veterans Affairs is publishing a proposed regulation in the Federal Register that would change its rules to add five diagnosable illnesses which are secondary to service-connected Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). “We must always decide Veterans’ disability claims based on the best science available, and we will,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence that ensure they receive benefits earned through their service to the country.” VA proposes to add a new subsection to its adjudication regulation by revising 38 CFR 3.310 to state that if a Veteran who has a service-connected TBI also has one of the five illnesses, then the illness will be considered service connected as secondary to the TBI. Service connection under the proposed rule depends in part upon the severity of the TBI (mild, moderate, or severe) and the period of time between the injury and onset of the secondary illness. However, the proposed rule also clarifies that it does not preclude a Veteran from establishing direct service connection even if those time and severity standards are not met. It also defines the terms mild, moderate, and severe, consistent with Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines. Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 60 days. A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received. VA’s decision is based on a report by the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (IOM), “Gulf War and Health, Volume 7: Long-Term Consequences of TBI.” In its report, the IOM's Committee on Gulf War and Health concluded that "sufficient evidence of a causal relationship" - the IOM's highest evidentiary standard - existed between moderate or severe levels of TBI and diagnosed unprovoked seizures. The IOM found "sufficient evidence of an association" between moderate or severe levels of

TBI and Parkinsonism; dementias (which VA understands to include presenile dementia of the Alzheimer type and post-traumatic dementia); depression (which also was associated with mild TBI); and diseases of hormone deficiency that may result from hypothalamo-pituitary changes. Specific information about the Defense and Veteran Brain Injury Center is available at <http://www.dvbic.org/>. Information about Gulf War and VA's services and programs are available at: http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/hazardous_exposures.asp. (VA News Release, December 7, 2012)

REPORT REVEALS FURTHER REDUCTION IN VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

VA Also Announces \$300 Million to Expand Homeless Prevention Program

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by approximately 7 percent between January 2011 and January 2012. The decline keeps the Obama Administration on track to meet the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in 2015. "This report continues a trend that clearly indicates we are on the right track in the fight to end homelessness among Veterans. While this is encouraging news, we have more work to do and will not be satisfied until no Veteran has to sleep on the street," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The success we have achieved is directly attributable to the hard work by all of our staff, and the federal, state, and community partners who are committed to ending Veteran homelessness." HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan added, "This decline tells us that the Obama Administration is on the right path, working together across agencies to target Federal resources to produce a measurable reduction in Veteran homelessness. Key to this success has been VA and HUD's implementation of the Housing First approach endorsed by the Administration's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. As our nation's economic recovery takes hold, we will make certain that our homeless veterans find stable housing so they can get on their path to recovery."

The 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, prepared by HUD, estimates there were 62,619 homeless Veterans on a single night in January in the United States, a 7.2 percent decline since 2011 and a 17.2 percent decline since 2009. The AHAR reports on the extent and nature of homelessness in America. Included in the report is the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which measures the number of homeless persons in the U.S. on a single night in January 2012, including the number of homeless Veterans. VA has made ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 a top priority, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to dramatically increase awareness of VA services available for homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk of becoming homeless. While the number of homeless people in the U.S. dropped by less than 1 percent, according to the 2012 AHAR, Veteran homelessness has shown a more robust decline. VA also announced the availability of \$300 million in grants for community organizations, estimated to serve approximately 70,000 Veterans and their family members facing homelessness. The deadline for applying to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program, is Feb. 1, 2013. "Homeless prevention grants provide community partners with the opportunity to help prevent and end homelessness on the local level," said Secretary Shinseki. "This is a crucial tool in getting at-risk Veterans and their families on the road to stable, secure lives." SSVF grants promote housing stability among homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. The grants can have an immediate impact, helping lift Veterans out of homelessness or providing aid in emergency situations that put Veterans and their families at risk of homelessness. Through September 2012, SSVF has aided approximately 21,500 Veterans and over 35,000 individuals. Since SSVF is able to help the Veteran's family, 8,826 children were also assisted, helping Veterans keep their families housed and together. Grantees provide a range of supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing, including case management, legal assistance, financial counseling, transportation, child care, rent, utilities

and other services aimed at preventing homelessness. The availability of SSVF funds was announced in a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) posted in the Federal Register and on VA's SSVF website at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. A video on www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp offers guidance for community organizations interested in applying for SSVF funds. Community organizations seeking more information on the SSVF program may also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or at SSVF@va.gov. (VA News Release, December 10, 2012)

MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM ENROLLS 100,000TH VOLUNTEER

The Department of Veterans Affairs Million Veteran Program (MVP) recently enrolled its 100,000th volunteer research participant, and now stands at more than 110,000 enrollees, marking a major milestone in the nearly 90-year history of VA research. "MVP is a truly historic effort, in terms of both VA research and medical research in general," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Veterans nationwide are helping to create a database that has the potential to help millions around the country – Veteran and non-Veteran alike. They are continuing to serve the nation well beyond the time they stopped wearing the uniform." Launched in 2011, MVP is a landmark research effort aimed at better understanding how genes affect health. Up to a million Veterans are expected to enroll in the VA study over the next six years. Data and genetic samples collected through the study are stored securely and made available for studies by authorized researchers, with stringent safeguards in place to protect Veterans' private health information. MVP is now at 40 VA medical centers nationwide, with additional VA sites opening for enrollment in the coming year. With more than 110,000 enrollees to date, MVP already far exceeds the enrollment numbers of any single VA study or research program in the past. "This milestone has come about thanks to our Veteran participants and lots of hard work and dedication on the part of VA researchers and the entire MVP team," said VA Undersecretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel. VA Chief Research and

Development Officer Dr. Joel Kupersmith added, "VA could not have achieved this without our altruistic Veteran volunteers." He called MVP "an extremely important partnership that is paving the road toward the world's largest database of health information and improved health care for future generations." MVP provides researchers with a rich resource of genetic, health, lifestyle, and military-exposure data collected from questionnaires, medical records, and genetic analyses. By combining this information into a single database, MVP promises to advance knowledge about the complex links between genes and health. Authorized researchers are able to use MVP data to help answer important questions on a wide range of health conditions affecting Veterans, from military-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury, to common chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. MVP-related discoveries also promise to advance the field of personalized medicine, which aims to tailor medical care based on people's individual genetic profiles. Personalized medicine is expected to yield more effective treatments and reduce costs, given its emphasis on prevention. Veterans' privacy and confidentiality are top priorities in MVP, as in all VA research. Rigorous measures are taken to protect MVP participants' personal information, including secure storage of data and samples using a bar-code system. Researchers approved for access to MVP data do not receive the name, date of birth, social security number, or address of participating Veterans. Furthermore, authorized researchers conduct their analyses only within VA's secure, centralized computing environment, known as GenISIS (Genomic Information System for Integrated Science). For more information about MVP, visit www.research.va.gov/MVP (VA News Release, November 30, 2012)

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO VA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS

Five new members have been appointed to the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert panel that advises VA on issues and programs affecting women Veterans. "VA relies on the Advisory

Committee on Women Veterans to provide insight on key issues that impact the women Veteran population. The Committee's recommendations provide guidance that direct VA's efforts to identify and address the diverse needs of women Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA welcomes the newest members." Established in 1983, the committee makes recommendations to the Secretary for administrative and legislative changes. The new committee members, who are appointed to two-year terms, are: Gina Chandler, Bryant, Ark.; Larri Gerson, Dunedin, Fla.; Mary Morin, Raymond, N.H.; Charlotte S. Smith, Farmington, N.M.; and Mary Westmoreland, Bronxville, N.Y.. "Women serving in the military continue to demonstrate their dedication in defense of our great Nation," Shinseki added. "VA remains committed to providing women Veterans with equitable, quality benefits and services that appropriately meet their needs." Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veterans population. Of the approximately 22 million living Veterans, about 1.9 million are women. They comprise nearly 9 percent of the total Veterans population and nearly 5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates that by 2020 women Veterans will comprise 10 percent of the Veteran population. VA has women-Veterans-program managers at VA medical centers and women-Veterans coordinators at VA regional offices to assist women Veterans with health and benefits issues. (VA News Release, November 29, 2012)



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 office 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 & 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:

- FEB 01 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-2:00)
- FEB 08 Walter L Fox, Post #2 302-674-3922
(11:00-3:00)
- MAR 01 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 302-945-1673
Post #28 (10:00-2:00)
- MAR 08 Walter L Fox, Post #2 302-674-3922
(11:00-3:00)
- MAR 15 William T. Spooner 302-645-1751
Post #17 (10:00-2:00)

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

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

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: rw49ps54ud@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

Paul Lardizzone (Chairman).....DAV

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

Cornelius “Bill” Carroll.....MOPH

Robert P. Corsa.....VVA

Maurice Evans.....American Legion

Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L

Charles Keithley.....40 & 8

Joseph “Joe” Lank.....MOWW

William “Bill” McMullen.....AFSA

Mark Newman.....VFW

Barry Newstadt.....JWV

Ronald Sarg.....MOAA

Angela F. Showell.....At Large

Jim Thompson.....MCL

Albert W. Weir.....AMVETS

The Centurion is published for informational purposes only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission of Veterans Affairs or the State of Delaware. Paid for with State Funds.

As a result of the state’s current economic climate, “The Centurion” newsletter will be distributed electronically. To receive your copy by email, subscribe to “The Centurion” at our web site: www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov. To obtain a hard copy of the newsletter, visit one of our office locations or your local veterans post home. This policy will remain in effect until further notice. Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"

