

# Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

## Meeting Agenda

June 7, 2024, at 1000 AM

Location: Arrowheads Community Club

1000	Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chair Constance Snavelly
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Introduction of Commission Members	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Vice-Chairman's Opening Remarks	Vice-Chair Constance Snavelly
	Chairman's Opening Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	TAG's Opening Remarks and Comments	Mr. Marc Ferraro
	Approval of 3 May 2024 Meeting Minutes	<b>Requires Vote</b>
	Reading of Official and Other Communications	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	DAG-VA Opening Remarks and Report	BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PPL, BVH, PIRO</li><li>• Programs Report</li></ul>	<b>Requires Vote</b>
	VISN 4	Mr. Jeff Beiler
	Committee Reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legislative</li><li>• Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings</li><li>• RETX</li><li>• MAL</li><li>• Transportation</li><li>• Veterans' Health</li><li>• VSO Grant</li><li>• Women Veterans</li><li>• PAWVC Update</li></ul>	TBD
	Unfinished Business	Mr. Larry Googins
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hall of Fame SOP</li></ul>	Mr. Jesiah Schrader
	New Business	Ms. Constance Snavelly
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SVC Attendance VetCon</li><li>• Presentation: The Women Veterans Museum</li></ul>	Mr. William Hines
	Good of the Order	Mr. Mark Baylis
	Agenda Items for Next Meeting	TBD
	Closing Remarks	Ms. Lisa Kaye
	Next Meeting	President David Gyger
	September 5, 2024, at 1 PM	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Wyndham Grand Hotel	Discussion
	600 Commonwealth Place	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Pittsburgh, PA 15222	Ms. Claudette Williams
	Retiring of the Colors	SVC Commissioners
	Adjournment	SVC Commissioners
		Chairman Nicholas Taylor



**State Veterans' Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2024**  
**10:00 AM to 1121 AM**  
**Arrowheads Community Center, Fort Indiantown Gap**

Call to Order		Chairman
Nicholas Taylor		
The Pennsylvania State Veterans’ Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.		
Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance		
Chairman Taylor led the moment of silence: I would ask you to please stand. The month of May is known as national military association month, dedicated to the personnel who are currently serving in the United States Military. Later this month we will observe memorial day, that commemorates all the men and women who have died in military service in the United States. Let us now take a moment to reflect on the contributions on soldiers, sailors, airmen, marine, guardians for the freedoms that we now enjoy.		
Commission Introductions		
MG Mark Schindler	DMVA-Adjutant General	
BG (PA) Maureen Weigl	DMVA-OVA Deputy Adjutant General	
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	SVC Chairman; President, MOAA	
Mr. Paul Foresman	Commander, AMVETS	
Mr. David Gui	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans	
Mr. Jesiah Schrader	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs	
Ms. Constance Snavely	SVC V-Chair Woman, Representative, Korean War Veterans	
Mr. James Hogan	Adjutant, The American Legion	
Mr. Larry Googins	President, Vietnam Veterans of America	
Ms. Lisa Kaye	Member-at-Large	
Mr. Mark Baylis	Member-at-Large	
Mr. Michael Brooker	Member-at-Large	
Mr. Leonard M. Johnson	Member-at-Large	
Mr. Gerald Hawk	Executive Director, AMVETS	
Mr. Michael Rang	Commander, Catholic War Veterans	
Mr. Philip Arnold	Adjutant, Military Order of Purple Hearts	
Mr. Charles L. Jackson	Designee, Veterans of Foreign Wars	
Mr. Tim Liezert	VISN 4	
Absent		
Mr. Timothy Alexander	Commander, Disabled American Veterans	
Mr. Steven Lavelle	Commander, The American Legion	
Mr. David Gyger	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars	
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars	
Mr. Chris Fidler	Director, Keystone Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America	
Mr. Richard Fine	Commander, Jewish War Veterans	
Mr. Stanley Majocka	Commander, Italian American War Veterans	
Mr. William Albert	President, PA Blind Veterans Association	
Others Present		
Ms. Dennis Weaver, USN	Caseworker, US Congressman Dan Meuser	
Mr. Nate Silcox-TEAMS	Executive Director, PA Senate VAEP	
CMS Shawn Phillips	PANG-Army	

Ms. Angela Watson	Director, DMVA-Communications
Mr. Gregory Holler	SVC Administrator, DMVA-OVA
Mr. David George	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)
Mr. Craig Andrews-TEAMS	DMVA-Communications
Mr. Michael Hillman	Executive Director, PA House VAEP
Ms. Kerry Vanyo-TEAMS	Research Analyst, PA House VAEP
Ms. Taylor Dippery-TEAMS	Executive Secretary, DMVA-OVA DAG
Mr. Bradley Rank-TEAMS	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)
Mr. Rick Hamp	Special Assistant-DAG-DMVA-OVA
Mr. Joel Mutschler	Director-PIRO
Mr. Travis Davis	Ex. Director DMVA-BVH
Mr. Dusty Durand	Director, DMVA-PPL
Ms. Sara Herr	DMVA-PPL
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)
Mr. Edward Cherry-TEAMS	DMVA-OCC
Mr. Joseph Batt	DMVA-OCC
Mr. Jeff King-TEAMS	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)
Ms. Jennifer Snyder	DMVA-OVA
Ms. Erica Moore	DMVA-PIRO (Outreach-VETConnect)
Mr. Charles Matter	DMVA-OVA
Ms. Marilyn Kelly-Cavotta-TEAMS	DMVA-OVA
Mr. Carl Curtis	VVA
Mr. Matt Hollenbeck	TAL
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA
TEAMS Virtual Guests	16
<b>Award Presentation</b> <b>MG Mark Schindler/Chairman Taylor</b>	
Mr. Matthew Hollenbeck, VSO with The American Legion, was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated work as chairman of the SVC VSO Grant Committee.	
<b>Vice Chairwoman's Opening Remarks</b> <b>Vice Chairwoman Snavelly</b>	
Vice Chairwoman Snavelly was absent/No Remarks	
Questions/Discussion	
None	
<b>Chairman's Opening Remark</b> <b>Chairman Taylor</b>	
Chairman Taylor briefed the SVC members on the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman Taylor welcomed U.S. Congressman Dan Meuser's congressional office caseworker Ms. Denise Weaver to the meeting.</li> <li>Advised of the productive Tuesday meetings with DMVA senior staff, and again informed members the September meeting will be held in Pittsburgh.</li> <li>Advised on April 14<sup>th</sup> he represented the SVC at the Military Association of America luncheon.</li> <li>Met with federal legislators in DC and advocated for the Richard Starr Act.</li> <li>Signed three Educational Gratuities for a total of \$23,000.00</li> <li>Announced SVC will host the organization Clearing House for Family Readiness at the September meeting for a brief presentation.</li> <li>Repeated the Japan NHP Broadcasting Corp will be sending a filming crew to the U.S. and will be in PA in search of Veterans who survived the Battle of Saipan as part of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Asking if any of their service organizations were able to find a veteran.</li> </ul>	
<u>Questions/Discussion</u>	

None.	
<b>TAG's Opening Remarks</b>	<b>MG Mark Schindler</b>
<p>TAG greeted the members and briefed them on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAG directed the members to the PA National Army and Air Guard deployment slides. Currently just over 1,000 PANG service members deployed overseas- mobilization status remains the same.</li> <li>• The 28<sup>th</sup> Military Police company of 100 service members will mobilize soon for 9-10 months.</li> <li>• Advised the members that there will be many upcoming Memorial Day events and asked members if in the area during the events and across the state to please attend.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>Approval of the April 5, 2024, Meeting Minutes</b>	
<b>Motion:</b> Mr. Paul Foresman, AMVETS, made a motion to approve the minutes.	
<b>Second:</b> Mr. Larry Googins, VVA, seconded the motion.	
The body agreed; motion carried. Minutes approved.	
<b>Reading of Official and Other Communications</b>	<b>Chairman Taylor</b>
<p>Chairman said only official communication he received was the resignation of Mr. Matthew Hollenbeck from the position of commission chairman of the VSO Grant Committee. Chairman Taylor complimented Mr. Hollenbeck on this dedication to the commission's committee and his devoted work for veterans and veterans service officers throughout the state.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>Deputy Adjutant General-OVA</b>	<b>BG (PA) Maureen Weigl</b>
<p>DAG-OVA briefed on the following: She reminded the commission members to save the date for the VetCon meeting in September in Pittsburgh; and the agenda for the conference will follow soon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>DMVA Policy, Planning, and Legislation</b>	<b>Mr. Durand</b>
<p>Mr. Durand briefed members on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported SB 973-veterans of armed forces benefits for separation, HB1627-veteran benefits at the workplace, HR1532-veteran discounts at state parks are moving out of committee</li> <li>• Resolutions: 404-PA Legislators supporting Richard Starr Act and 415 supporting Armed Forces Day.</li> <li>• Informed members about National Guard Day at the Capitol with the theme of: together we serve, past, present and future.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<b>DMVA Bureau of Homes</b>	<b>Mr Davis</b>
<p>Mr. Davis briefed members on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported BVH learned that many veterans are unaware of DMVA-BVH homes existence, and that they are available to spouses. In fact, the homes have a 80-85% female occupancy.</li> </ul>	



- Veterans were aware that they can keep \$450.00 a month from their Medicare unlike other private nursing homes that only let residents have \$45.00 per month.
- BVH is still experiencing staffing issues. However, care is still outstanding.
- BVH is moving to hire a full-time medical physician, and to have two full-time nurse practitioners on each campus.
- Announced the annual TAG Fishing Derby.
- Announced the upcoming Veterans Homes carnivals in the week of June 10 to 15.

#### Questions/Discussion

Mr. Googins asked about veteran denials at the homes if it was over staffing issues.

Mr. Davis said they experience about 10 denials per month, but it is over various reasons such as violent behavior issues, felonies and psychiatric issues that pose an extreme challenge for staff. However, BVH is filling their beds with eligible veterans.

Question over TEAMS: Is there an age requirement for the homes?

Mr. Davis, no requirement for age.

### **DMVA Bureau of PIRO**

**Mr. Mutschler**

Mr. Mutschler briefed on the following:

- DMVA Digest now focused more on department with inputs from across the agency.
- The Shapiro Administration awarded \$800,000 through the DMVA Veterans Trust Fund to support veterans' initiatives, County VA Offices, veteran food programs, transportation, and service dogs.
- DMVA had over 5000 veteran interactions, over 300 outreach events, over 2000 referrals to PA VETConnect partners since July 1, 2023.
- Virtual VEAC on May 7-9 offering 1-on-1 assistance for VA health care, benefits, education, disability claims, toxic exposure concerns, mental health support, and burial options.
- Program Highlights: Education Gratuuity increased 372 ytd a 27% increase. RETX over 1K per year for past 4 years, over 19K on RETX with an estimated \$57.14M in exemptions to disabled veterans and surviving spouses.

#### Questions/Discussion

None

### **Approval of State Veterans' Programs Reports**

**Motion:** Mr. Paul Foresman, AMVETS, approve the programs report.

**Second:** Mr. Leonard M. Johnson, MAL, seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried. Programs reports approved.

### **VISN-4**

**Mr. Liezert**

Mr. Liezert directed the members to his materials in the read ahead and slides. And Mr. Liezert briefly highlighted some information:

- VISN 4 had a performance rating of 94 out of a 100 (were top rated) which can be contributed to their focus on decision making.
- VISN 4 enrolled 400,000 new veterans into VA healthcare a 30% increase.
- Congressional hearings ongoing for the budget with the VA secretary which should be resolved soon.
- Directed members attention to a public facing webpage regarding the implement of the PACT Act.

#### Questions/Discussions

None

<b>Legislative Committee</b>	<b>TDB</b>
<p>No report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Question/Discussion</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<b>Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings/State Military Cemetery Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Googins</b>
<p>Mr. Googins, No official report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussions</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>RETX</b>	<b>Mr. Schrader</b>
<p>Mr. Schrader, No official report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussions</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>Member-At-Large Committee</b>	<b>Vice Chairwoman Constance Snavelly</b>
<p>Vice Chairwoman Snavelly was unable to present so Mr. Googins presented what Ms. Snavelly wrote regarding the MAL committee: The Committee is in the process of reviewing our recommended changes and updates for the Member-at-Large SOP, Candidate Evaluation Guide, and scoring sheets to improve the process prior to the next round of open Member-at-Large positions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussions</u></p> <p>Mr. Googins asked a question separate from the MAL committee. Mr. Googins asked about the inconsistent dates from time of expiration to date of assignment with the home's advisory councils. Mr. Durand then explained that even at the expiration date the advisory council member remains until replaced. Mr. Durand further explained it is done this way, so the positions and terms don't change.</p>	
<b>Transportation Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Gui</b>
<p>Mr. David Gui, DAV Adjutant, reported on behalf of committee chairman Mr. Hines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics as of March 2024: 311 volunteers, volunteering hours 4,837, miles traveled 114,970 and 2047 veterans transported.</li> <li>12 new vans were purchased.</li> <li>Applied for \$100,000 with the VTF</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussions</u></p> <p>Chairman Taylor the committee needs to address the reutilization or apportionment of vehicles targeting the vehicles at the most highly trafficked locations so that some vehicles are sitting around unused. Mr. Gui agreed.</p>	
<b>Veteran Health Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Baylis</b>
<p>Mr. Baylis, No official report</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p>	
<b>VSO Grant Committee</b>	<b>Mr. Hollenbeck</b>
<p>Mr. Hollenbeck briefed the members on the new direction in conjunction with DMVA how better to utilize the funding of the grant cycle.</p>	

- The VSO recipients met a few weeks ago with DMVA staff to discuss changing the grant contract from a single year contract to a multi-year contract or changing the performance period. The reason for this request is to eliminate a gap in funding that currently takes place between July through approximately September/October. Currently some of the organizations must take out a loan to cover the VSO costs until they get the grant funds and by changing to either a multi-year contract or moving the performance period from July-June to Jan-December they are hoping this would prevent them from having to take out a loan.
- DMVA Executive Secretary Mr. Marc Ferraro stated that he is currently working through this with Legal to make it work.

#### Questions/Discussions

Chairman Taylor stated the VSO Grant Committee needs a motion from the commission to move forward on this new way to budget the VSO grants. Chairman Taylor called on Mr. Hollenbeck to make a motion on changing how the VTF funds the VSO grants with multi-year contracts to Jan-Dec.

**Seconded:** Mr. Jesiah Schrader, PSACDVA, approve the motion

Body agreed, motion carried

#### **Womens Health**

**Ms. Kaye**

Ms. Kaye, No official report.

#### Questions/Discussion

None

#### **PAWVC**

**Designee, Mr. Jackson**

In Mr. Gyger's absence Mr. Jackson as the designee reported on the following:

- PAWVC has been discussing the BVH advisory council appointment situation.
- PAWVC has agreed on a path forward in what legislative issues they want to pursue.

#### Questions/Discussions

None

#### **Unfinished Business**

Chairman Taylor said HOF SOP is still unfinished.

#### Questions/Discussions

None

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Good of the Order**

Mr. Rang, CWV, announced the Catholic War Veterans will hold a Memorial Day event at Fort Indiantown Gap on May 26.

Mr. Johnson stated that he had recently been at a meeting at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and one of the main topics was the inaccuracy of filling out the death certificates of veterans not placing on the death certificate service-related causes or contributions to the death, thus causing the spouse to not receive the benefits so entitled.

Chairman Taylor offered that maybe VSOs could be better briefed and able to inform the spouse about ensuring the service-connected disabilities are on the death certificate as a contributor to the death.

DAG mentioned it is difficult to get the death certificate amended.

Mr. Durand introduced Ms. Sara Herr as a new member of PPL. She will be working on identifying issues and designing solutions.

<b>Agenda for Next Meeting</b>
None
<b>Closing Remarks</b>
None.
<b>Next Meeting</b>
Friday, June 7 and, 2024, at 10:00 AM Arrowheads Community Center, FIG

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

BG (PA) Maureen Weigl  
Deputy Adjutant General-Office of Veterans Affairs

# **WELCOME TO THE**

## **Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission**

**JUNE 7, 2024**

**This meeting, and all content, is being recorded to aid in producing meeting minutes and executive documentation only. Your continued participation is acknowledgement and approval of recording.**

**Please ensure all telephones are muted.**

**--We will begin shortly--**



**STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 7, 2024**





A

**VICE CHAIRWOMAN OPENING REMARKS  
JUNE 7, 2024**







A

**CHAIRMAN OPENING REMARKS**  
**JUNE 7, 2024**





**TAG OPENING REMARKS/COMMENTS**  
**DMVA MILITARY UPDATE**



CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS



2025																		
MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP		
ET 1 B - SWB -23 PAX																		
112 IN - HOA#1 -1041 PAX																		
LEE / FLEW - 14 PAX																		
28 MP - GTMO -111 PAX																		
			56 SBCT - JMTG-E -167 PAX															
			56 SBCT - HOA#2 -685 PAX															
				213 PC - OSS -16 PAX														
				213 PC - OSS -20 PAX														
					213 PC - OIR -8 PAX													
								528 FIN - OSS - 25 PAX										
									3622 ODCO - OSS - 159 PAX									

ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 1,064  
ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB Site: 103  
ARNG Individual Mob: 6  
Total ARNG Mob: 1,173

Total PANG  
Mobilized: 806

Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 113  
Current ANG Individual Mob: 15  
Total: ANG Mob: 128

## CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



<u>PAANG Current Deployments</u>		
Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	OFS-OIR-OSS, Other	8/1
111 ATKW	IPR (HS), OFS-OIR-OSS, TS	36/6/40
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS), OFS-OIR-OSS	37
Total PAANG Deployed		128

Total PANG Deployed 806



## CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



PAANG Current Deployments		
Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	CENTCOM, AFRICOM	2/14
111 ATKW	IPR (HS)	36
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS), OFS-OIR-OSS	37/1
Total PAANG Deployed		90

***OVA Reorganization  
Final Draft***

June 4, 2024

- ✓ Problem Statement
- ✓ Goals and Endstate
- ✓ Considerations
- ✓ Lessons Learned
- ✓ Recommended Structure
  - OVA
  - Long Term Care
  - Veterans Services

DRAFT



*How does OVA increase capacity, provide necessary outreach and flexibility through staff reorganization and realignment to meet the demands of its current mission set?*

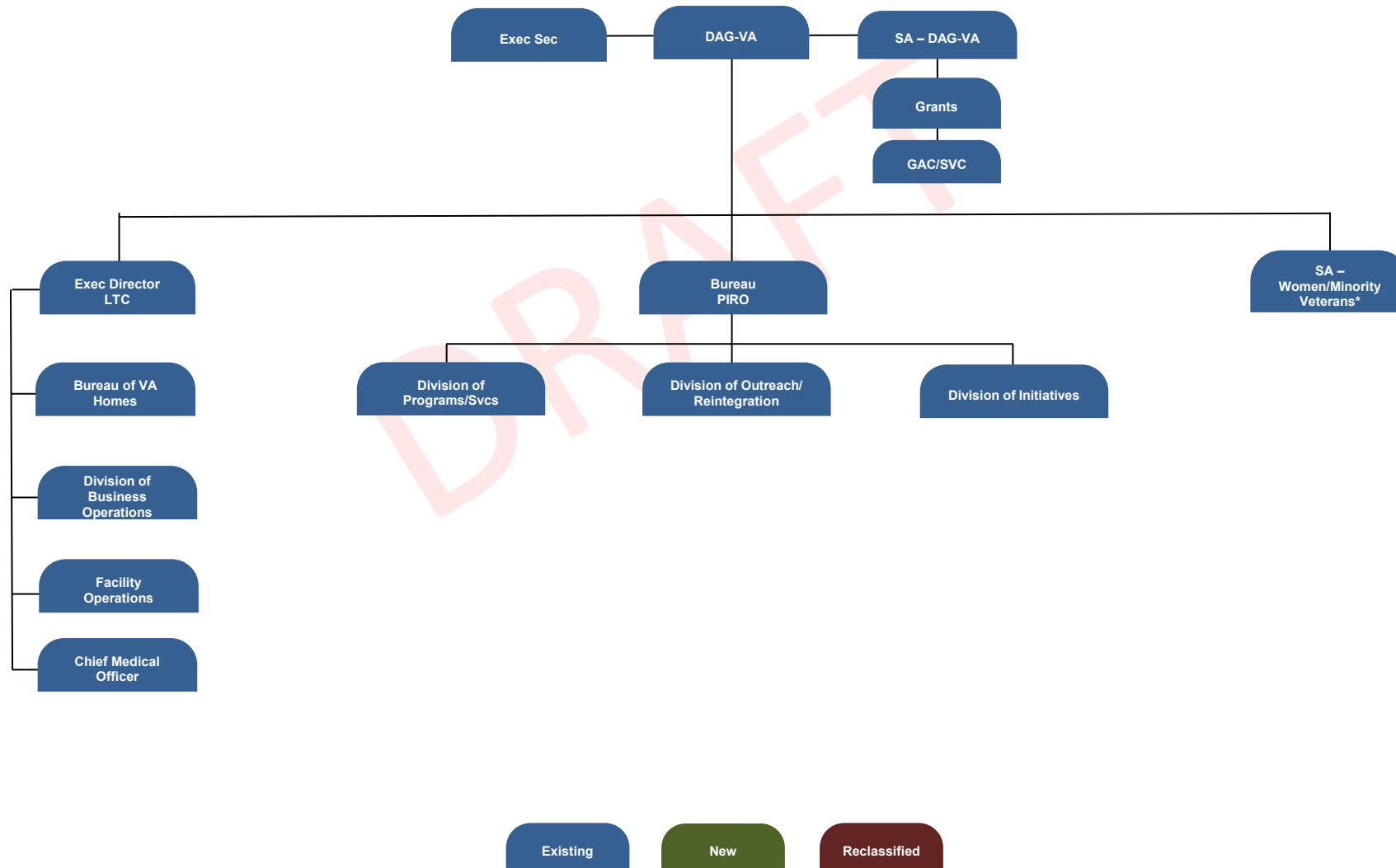
- ✓ The complexity of today's changing environment requires organizations to be flexible and agile to meet the demanding needs of its customers.
  - Building trust through leadership, empowerment and the delivery of quality services provides for that flexibility.
  - OVA does not possess the organizational structure to be able to manage the multitude of functions it is responsible for and plan for future programs, provide proper oversight, conduct program assessment or provide for staff development.
- ✓ This reorg will also adjust changes needed within our outreach mission on lessons learned during the past 3 years

- ✓ Improve our ability to deliver Veteran Benefits, Services and Programs
- ✓ Improve Customer Satisfaction
- ✓ Provide capacity to respond to the needs of Veterans and rapidly develop policy and programs
- ✓ Improve capacity to collect, manage, and analyze data to better inform decision-making and strategic planning
- ✓ Improve capacity to effectively and efficiently manage projects.
- ✓ Improve the capacity to provide scheduled and on-demand professional development and skills training to improve performance, of stakeholders and employees
- ✓ Improve Community based Outreach to SMVF

- ✓ On-going and emerging needs of Veterans
- ✓ Needs of the Department and the State Veterans Homes management, staff and residents
- ✓ Guidance from The Adjutant General
- ✓ Lessons learned from the COVID 19 pandemic
- ✓ Input from internal leaders/employees, governmental agencies and as well as outside organizations
- ✓ Input from SVC, County Commissioners, USDVA, GAC-VS, business partners
- ✓ What are the trends in VA support

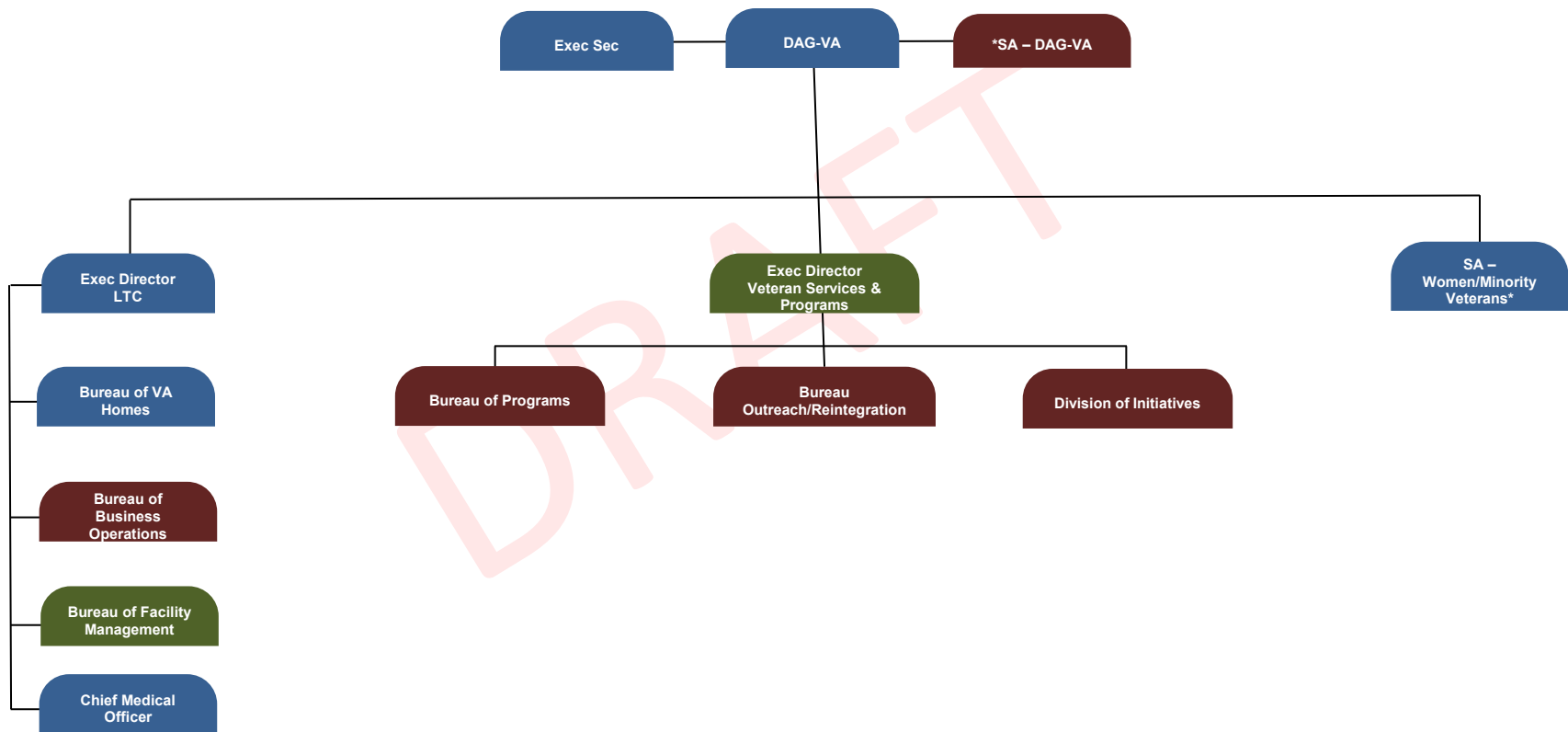
- ✓ Communication is key – it needs to flow openly both up and down, between leadership, employees, residents, families and supporting organizations
- ✓ Leadership guidance needs to be clear, concise and from the leadership top down.
- ✓ Fact gathering from all perspectives should be presented to leadership.
- ✓ An organizational structure that is rigid with too many supervisory layers (span of control) and not enough input from subject matter experts can cause miscommunication and misdirection.
- ✓ Guidance from outside regulating agencies can be conflicting.
- ✓ Agency training should be made a priority

# Current OVA Org Structure



- ✓ Office will be similar to all others in the Department
  - SADAG-VA will revert to Executive Assistant when SADAG-VA retires in Nov 25
- ✓ Creates office of Executive Director for Veterans Services and creates 3 distinct Bureaus
- ✓ Functions from SA-DAG-VA will move to EDVS

# Proposed OVA Org Structure



**Notes:**

- ✓ Special Assistant to DAG-VA will revert to Executive Assistant once Mr. Hamp retires. Grants, GAC-VS, SVC will move under EDVS

Existing

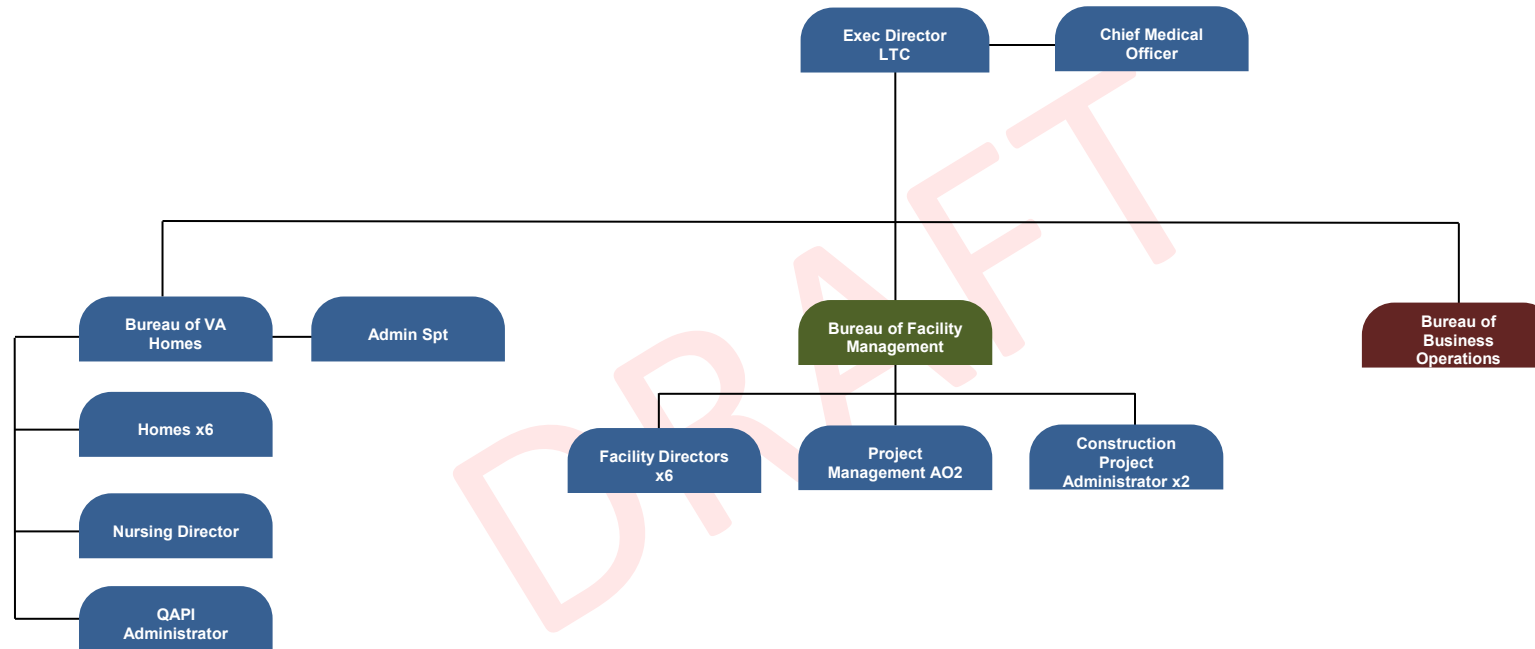
New

Reclassified

- ✓ Elevate Division Business Operations to a Bureau level office (Division Chief already at appropriate pay grade)
- ✓ Create the Bureau of Facility Management that oversees all facility issues for the homes – the homes have unique facility requirements, and this allows for those requirements to be met (Facility Manager already at appropriate pay grade)
- ✓ There would be no costs associated with these moves as the structure already exists but is not formalized

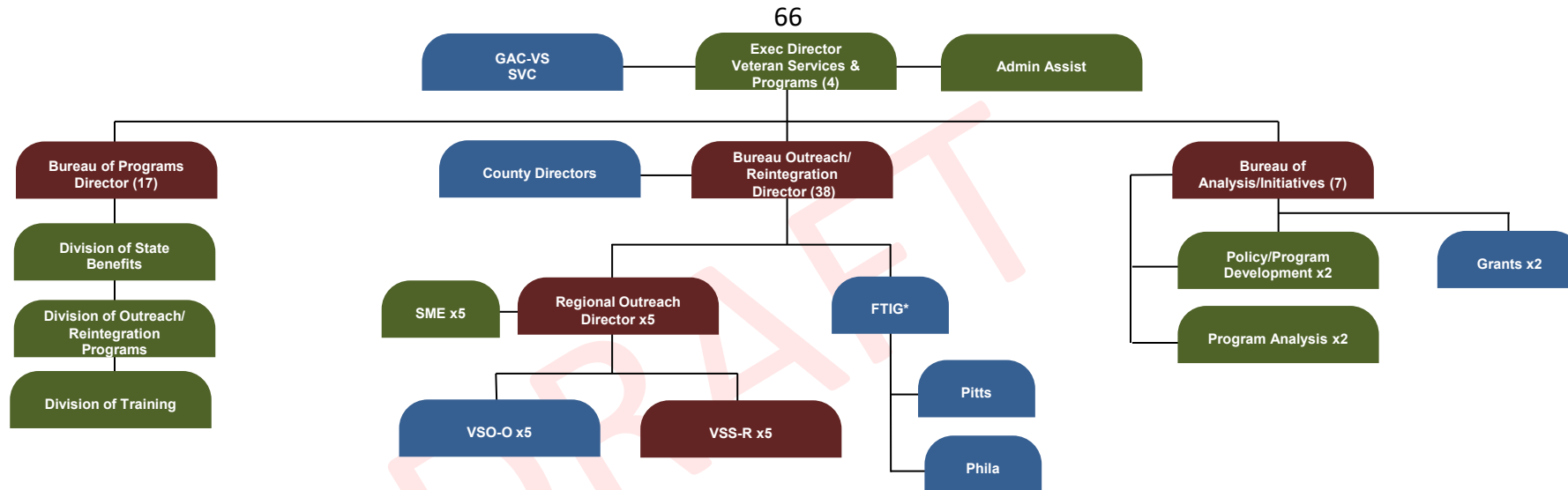


# Proposed Long Term Care Org



- ✓ Establishes the Executive Office for Veteran Services
  - Executive Director
  - GAV-VS
  - SVC
  - Administrative Assistant
- ✓ Bureau of Programs – This Bureau is responsible for the management of state-run veterans’ benefit programs that are enacted by law or mandated through Executive Orders (Act 66, Transportation, RETEX, etc.) It will also have SMEs that will manage and run programs in the following areas:
  - Division of State Benefits: VTA, MFRAP, RETX, BVP, APVP, Etc)TAP, Enhanced Yellow Ribbon, Justice, Vet Courts, VSUs
  - Division of Outreach/Reintegration Programs: Mental Health Programs, Employment, Education, Homelessness, Transpiration, etc
  - Division of Training: Provides training programs for partners
- ✓ Bureau of Outreach and Reintegration – This Bureau is responsible for outreach services and reintegration to veterans and other governmental and non-governmental agencies. Regional offices currently under Veterans Service Programs will fold into this Bureau.
  - Consist of regionally placed multi-functional teams
  - Each Region will have the following
    - A Regional Director
    - A VSO that will focus on outreach to attend functions within the community and interact with partners (VetConnect)
    - A VSO that will focus on reintegration
    - SME on (Homelessness, Employment, Education, Mental Health, Transportation)
- ✓ Bureau of Analysis & Initiatives– This Bureau will conduct data analysis and focus on the development of new programs for the Department. It will not be limited to programs funded by the Department, but also programs that we can participate in with other partners in and out of Government. They will have SMEs in Homelessness, Employment, Education, Mental Health, Transportation. The Grants Team will fall under this Division as well.

# Executive Director for Veteran Services



## Notes:

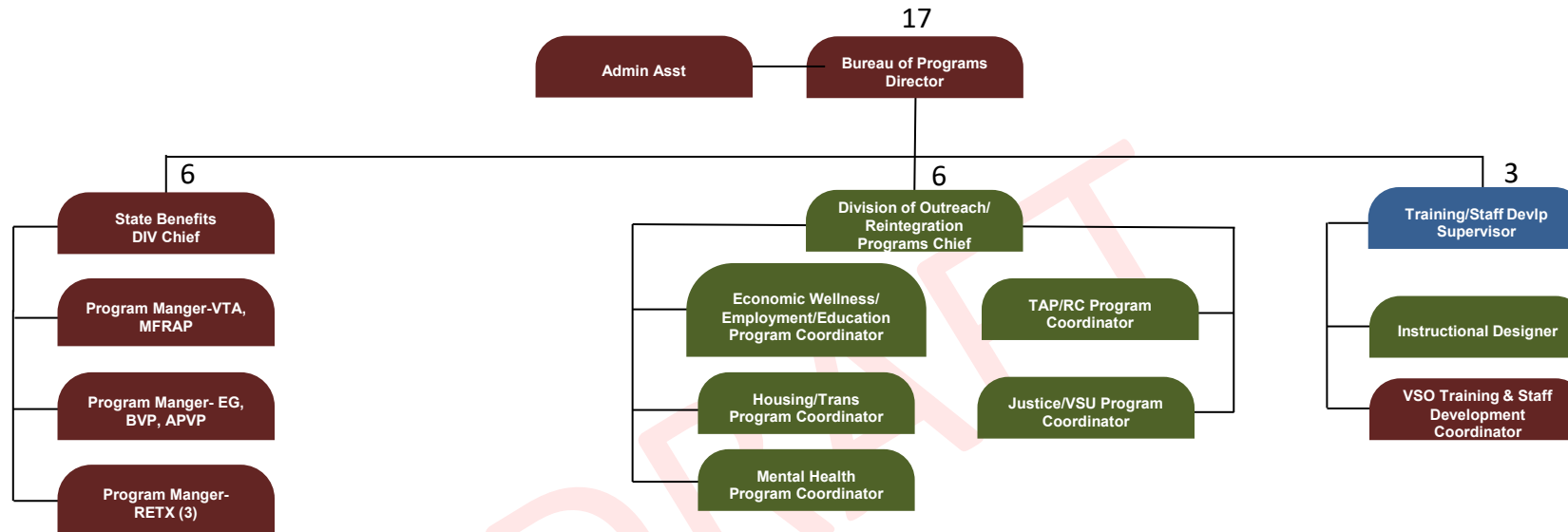
- ✓ Total personnel required for new structure = 66
- ✓ Current total PIRO structure = 49 (2 positions must be migrated from Homes)
- ✓ Migration of other positions w/i OVAHQ = 4
- ✓ PRR SFY 24-25 add-ons = 3
- ✓ Total Available = 56
- ✓ Added growth = 10 new positions
- ✓ All VSS positions will be reclassified as VSO – this enables to increase output for enrollment
- ✓ Structure will be phased in over a 3-year period

Existing

New

Reclassified

# Bureau of Programs

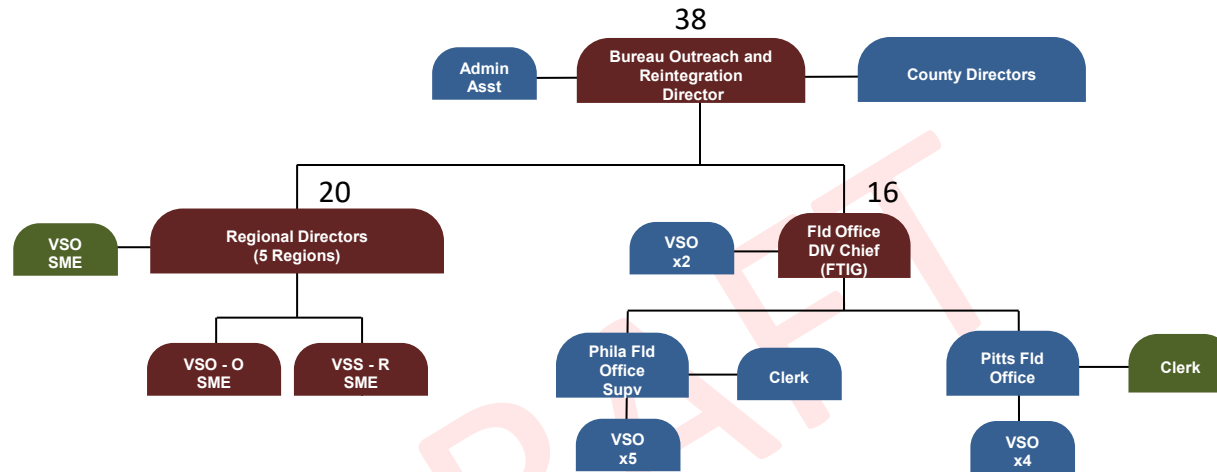


Existing

New

Reclassified

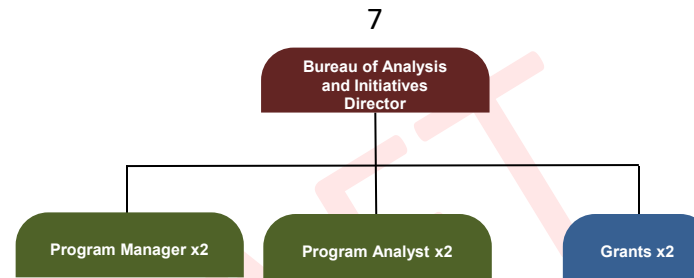
# Bureau of Outreach/Reintegration



Existing

New

Reclassified



Existing

New

Reclassified



## **OFFICAL AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**





## **DAG-VA OPENING REMARKS/REPORT**







**DMVA  
POLICY, PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS  
MR. DUSTY DURAND**



### New/Moving

**HB 1963 (Pielli)** Amends the Vital Statistics Law, in records, further providing for fees for copies. Exempts the surviving spouse and dependents of a member of the armed forces of the United States during a term of active service and after the member's death, whether or not in service or the member's honorable discharge therefrom, from being charged fees for copies. **First consideration in the House 5/21/2024**

**HB1926 (Deasy)** Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), providing for veterans' benefits and services workplace posting; and making an editorial change. Provides definitions. Provides for the creation, placement and contents of a workplace posting advertising various resources available to veteran employees. **Referred to the SVAEP 05/17/2024**

**SB 973 (Pennycuik)** An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for veteran of Korean Armed Forces. **Referred to HVAEP 5/07/2024**

**SB 1139 (Mastriano)** An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, providing for burial benefits. **Referred to HVAEP 5/07/2024**

### Currently Tracking

**HB 325 (Staats)** Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) in Department of Military Affairs, providing for burial benefits. **05/23/23 Awaiting 2nd Consideration, laid on the table.**

**SB 531 (Baker, L)** Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for Veterans' Trust Fund. (Has not crossed opposite chamber). **10/03/23 Passed Senate, referred to House VAEP Cmte.**

**SB 447 (Mastriano)** Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in Department of Military Affairs, establishing the PA VETConnect Program. **10/31/23 1st Consideration in House.**

**HB 892 (Kaufer)** Identical. **06/13/23 Pass House, referred to Senate VAEP Cmte.**

### Blind, amputee and paralyzed veteran's pensions

**HB 1091 (Williams, D)** \$270/month. **05/23/23 Awaiting 2nd Consideration, laid on the table.**

**HB 542 (Gregory)** \$250/month. **3/20/23 Introduced and referred to House VAEP Cmte.**

**SB 189 (Ward, J)** \$200/month. **05/01/23 Awaiting 2<sup>nd</sup> Consideration, re-referred to Senate Appropriations.**

### RETX

**HB 1227 (Sappey)** [Companion Bill SB 177 Bartolotta] A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions. **11/15/23 Voted favorably from House VAEP Cmte, awaiting 1st Consideration.**

[Report on RETX bills:](#) HB 248, HB 674, HB 717, HB 1227, HB 1401, HB 2044, SB 177, SB 194, SB 450, SB 844, SB 947

[Report crossed chambers bills:](#) HB 269, HB 363, HB 877, HB 892, HB 1086, SB 126, SB 146, SB 209, SB 248, SB 411, SB 429, SB 438, SB, 447, SB 477, SB 531, SB 933, SB 915, HB 502, **HB 71, HB 105**

[Report on passed bills:](#) HB 157, HB 404, HB 804, HB 1094, SB 141, SB 829, HB 157, SB 146

## 2024 Significant Dates

**Continuing Resolutions: Federal Budget has passed to fund all federal departments until October 1, 2024**

### **General Assembly**

**Senate:** June 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

**House:** June 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

**Last day to REGISTER before General Election:** October 21, 2024

**General Election:** November 5, 2024

General Assembly Schedule can be found at: [Session Information - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](https://www.state.pa.us/session-information)

For all Pennsylvania Election dates: [Upcoming Elections \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/upcoming-elections)



**DMVA BUREAU OF VETERANS HOMES  
MR. TRAVIS DAVIS**



# PVH Current Licensure Status



## SVH Survey Table as of 24 May 2024

SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
DVVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	12/18/23 - 12/21/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	01/11/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Incident	12/06/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/07/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	09/26/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	09/14/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/14/23	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	02/20/24	POC accepted, date certain 05/31
	VA	Annual Recertification	12/19/23 - 12/22/23	POC accepted, date certain 02/19
GMVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/29/23 - 09/01/23	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	09/12/23	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/27/24 - 03/01/24	POC under development
HVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/21/23 - 08/24/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	01/17/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/12/23 - 12/13/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/08/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	06/15/23	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	07/17/23 - 07/19/23	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	03/05/24 - 03/06/24	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	06/05/23 - 06/08/23	Cleared

Each DMVA Pennsylvania Veterans' Home is currently licensed by the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Human Services and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. HVH, PSSH and SEVC have a Personal Care program.

*Last updated: 8-24-2023*

# PVH Current Licensure Status



SVH Survey Table as of 24 May 2024

SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
PSSH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	04/23/24 - 04/26/24	POC accepted, date certain 06/07
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	04/16/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Occupancy Inspection	06/28/23	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	01/25, 01/26, 04/11	POC accepted, date certain 06/05
	DHS	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/30/23	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	03/18/24 - 03/22/24	POC under development
SEVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/21/23 - 08/24/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	03/14/24	POC accepted, date certain 05/07
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	10/25/23	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	08/07/23	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	10/04/23	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/26/24 - 03/01/24	CAP accepted, date certain 11/01/24
SWVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	05/06/24 - 05/10/24	POC under development
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	01/30/24 - 01/31/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/20/23 - 01/06/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/21/23, 11/28/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/08/23	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/17/23	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	06/28/23 - 06/29/23	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	05/07/24 - 05/10/24	Results Pending

05.22.24

Each DMVA Pennsylvania Veterans' Home is currently licensed by the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Human Services and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. HVH, PSSH and SEVC have a Personal Care program.

Last updated: 8-24-2023



## Infection Prevention Update

COVID-19, Influenza, RSV Data							
Friday, May 17, 2024	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC	TOTAL
Total # of COVID + residents	0	0	0	0	1	1 hospitaliz ed	2
Total # of COVID + staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of residents + for RSV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of residents who ONLY received the 2nd 2023/2024 VACCINE	80	107	18	89	0	95	389
Total # of residents who have received the RSV vaccine	128	140	149	112	72	132	733

5 Star rating- last updated: April 24, 2024						
	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Overall	5	5	3	3	4	4
Health Inspection	5	4	2	2	3	2
Quality Measures	5	5	4	3	5	5
Staffing	4	5	5	5	4	5
Changes from Feb/Mar 2024	Staffing 5 to 4	Unchanged	Unchanged	Unchange d	Overall/ Staffing 5 to 4	Unchanged

Resident Status: May 17, 2024			
Veteran Home	Isolation COVID	Quarantine	Isolation RSV
DVVH	0	0	0
GMVC	0	0	0
HVH	0	0	0
PSSH	0	0	0
SEVC	1	0	0
SWVC	1	0	0

\*Covid vaccines residents only (2<sup>nd</sup> dose): 389  
 Positive Resident at SEVC, 1 Positive Resident at SWVC

\*RSV vaccines (residents): 733

\*COVID: 1  
 \*RSV: None



## BUREAU OF VETERANS' HOMES



### Pennsylvania Veterans Homes COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 links for information related to the Veterans Homes and skilled nursing facilities.

- <https://www.dmva.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/LTCF-Data.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx>
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19MpLoPxayE1MDwQJJYCZxISN64V4FJSJPGzfvVBb5Mw/edit#gid=1511961664>





**BUREAU OF VETERANS PROGRAMS,  
INITIATIVES, REINTEGRATION, AND OUTREACH  
MR. JOEL MUTSCHLER**



- Our Servicemember, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Community
  - Comprises approximately 14% of Pennsylvania's total population
  - Find resources and link to our team through PA VETConnect – [dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect](https://dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect)
- PACT Act Impact:
  - Over 1.3M Total Veterans/Survivors nationwide completed PACT Act-related claims
    - Pennsylvania is 8<sup>th</sup> out of 55 state/territories in received claims
    - Over 44,000 from PA Veterans/Survivors PACT Act-related; over 60,000 non-PACT related claims (as of 24 May 2024)
    - PACT Act-related impact across state veterans' programs, i.e., Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemptions, Pensions, and Educational Gratuity.
  - Visit [www.va.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to get the latest information and updates
- Expanding Outreach Efforts
  - Pennsylvania Salutes You for Your Service: [www.pa.gov/welcome-back-veterans](https://www.pa.gov/welcome-back-veterans)
  - Sign up for PA Veterans Registry and the *DMVA Digest* – [register.dmva.pa.gov](https://register.dmva.pa.gov)





# PA VETConnect



**We build relationships that amplify service to the SMVF community**

- Region 1 - RPOC was made aware that the Vietnam veterans gas line was not fixed due to the underground utilities not being marked correctly. Upon talk to the Vet, given his hospice situation and how much pain he is in, he told RPOC he was done trying with anything anymore. RPOC sent her husband and another Veteran over to check on him and if it wasn't for that visit, the Vet confirmed he was going to end his life. RPOC & her husband have checked on him daily, taking him dinner, and her husband fixed the gas line 5/9. RPOC will be making frequent visits until veteran's end of life.
- Region 2 – Planned MVP enrollment at a VLP Military Food Share event, organized the Breaking Bread event in Erie, and initiated virtual VTA training for Service Navigators at VLP.
- Region 3 – Enhanced cross-state collaboration with NY and WV VAMCs serving PA Veterans. Will work state travel requests for RPOCs to facilitate meetings at these locations.
- Region 4 – RPOC was referred a PANG service member who recently lost their home in a house fire and is going through a difficult custody issue with ex-spouse. RPOC was able to connect the service member to Helping Heroes NEPA, who provided the service member and kids food, clothing, and toiletries. This connection then allowed another organization, Fight4Vets, to learn about his story, and they are now holding a fundraiser to house him in a hotel until he can return. RPOC referred the service member to the PANG SFRS, who is helping him acquire a lawyer to deal with child custody issues and insurance issues.
- Region 5 – Presented PA VETConnect to AMVETS DSOs, coordinated a meeting with Erie Reentry services, and arranged support for a training session with Perry County VA Director and Lebanon VAMC.

## ■ **Successes**

- >20,100 Connections
- > 2,146 resources
- Building trust within the network



[www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect](http://www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect)

> community > commonwealth > country

## Reintegration and Outreach Events Overview



Outreach Statistics					
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	87	88	54	20	<b>278</b>
Mobile Outreach Van Events	8	9	9	0	<b>26</b>
Veteran Interactions	2,202	1,471	1,183	358	<b>6,003</b>
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	684	369	203	82	<b>1,338</b>
Claim referrals to other state, county and local organizations assisting Veterans	626	371	233	67	<b>1,297</b>
Health Care Enrollment Referrals	438	182	105	48	<b>773</b>
Number of Veterans Registry Cards distributed	350	143	187	33	<b>713</b>
County Directors Office Attended	45	41	22	11	<b>119</b>
Legislative attended events	56	42	3	9	<b>111</b>

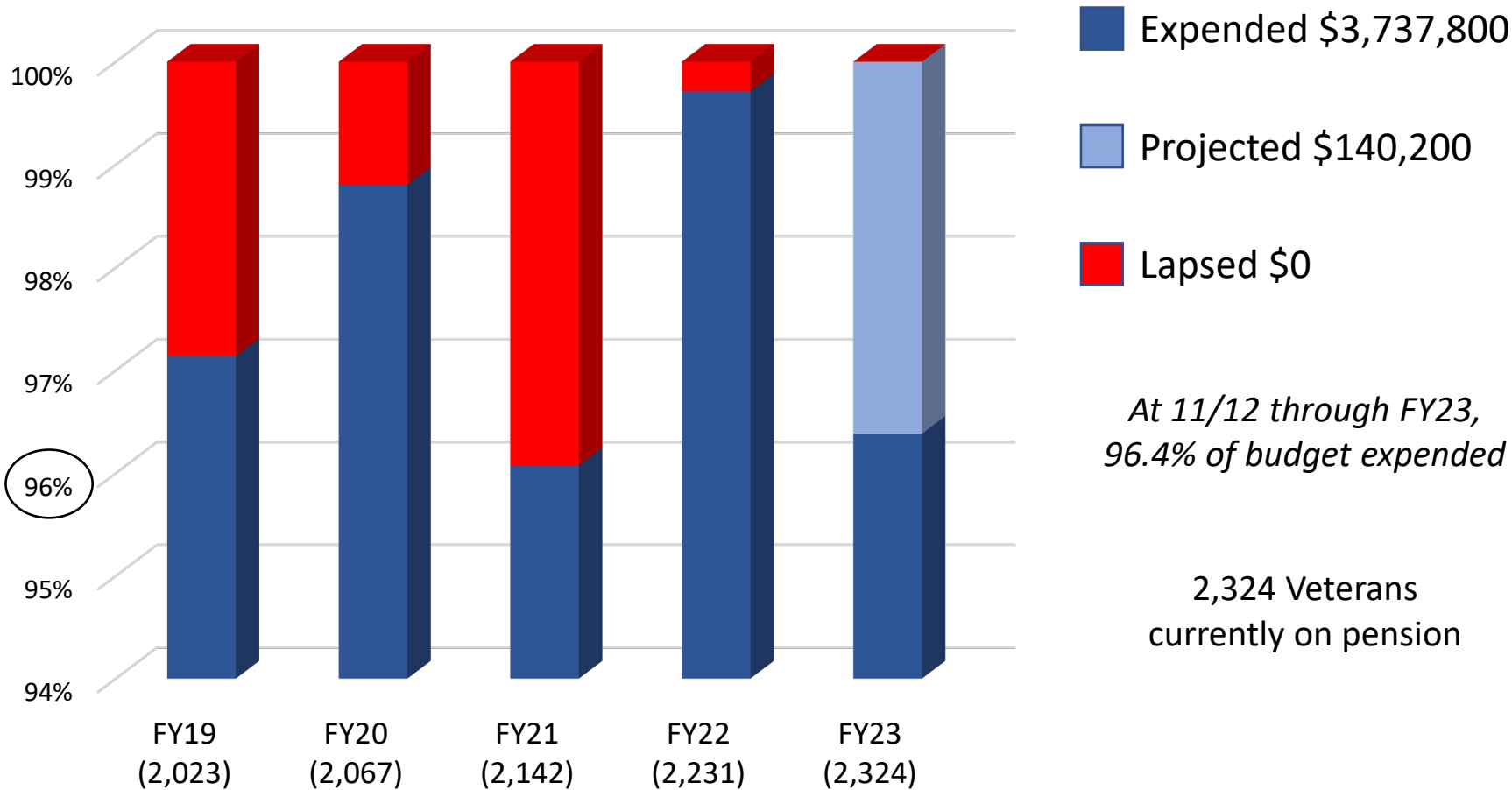
As of 22 May 2024

> community > commonwealth > country

# AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS' PENSION



\$3,878,000

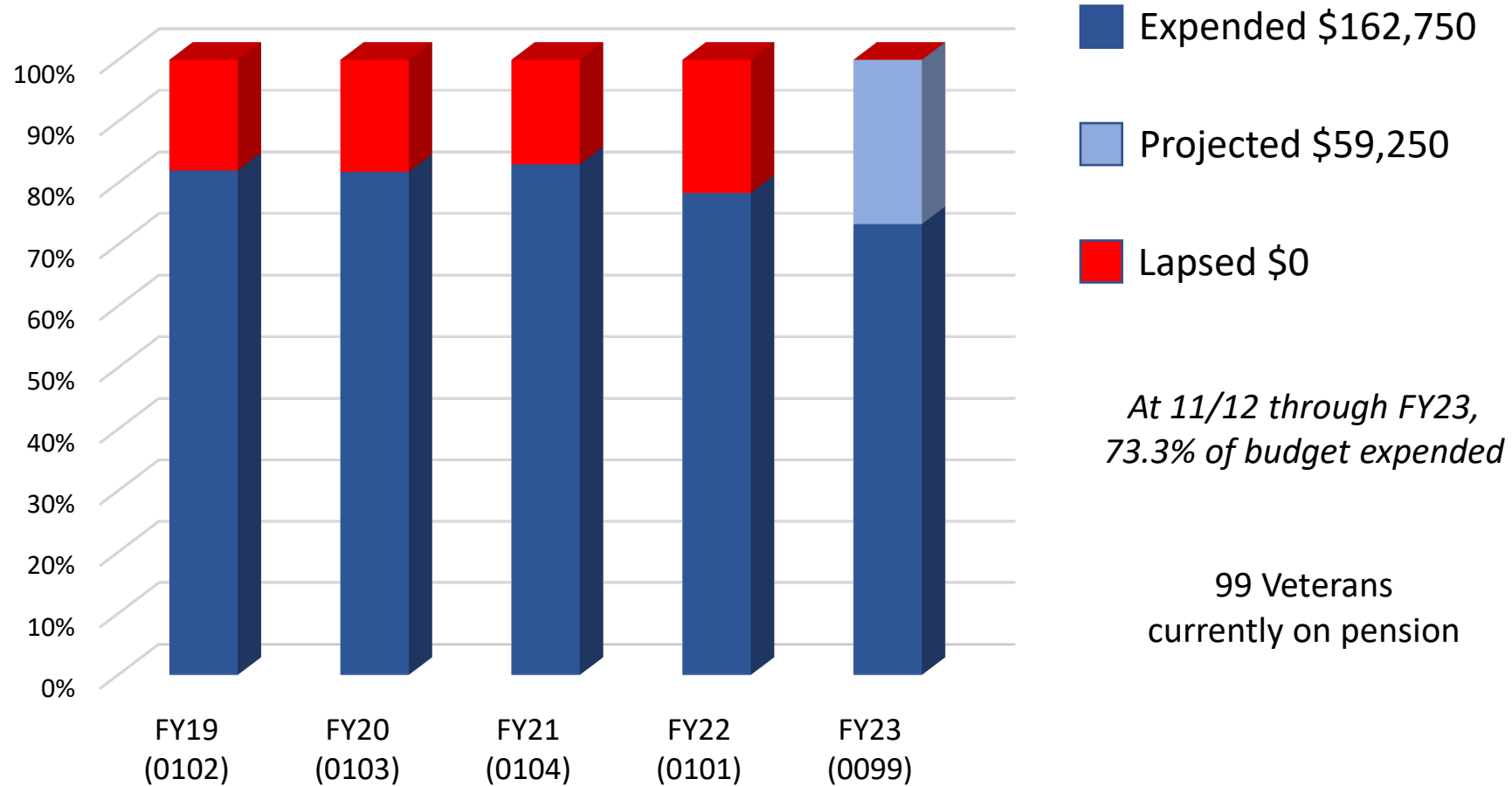


As of 23 May 2024

## BLIND VETERANS' PENSION



\$222,000



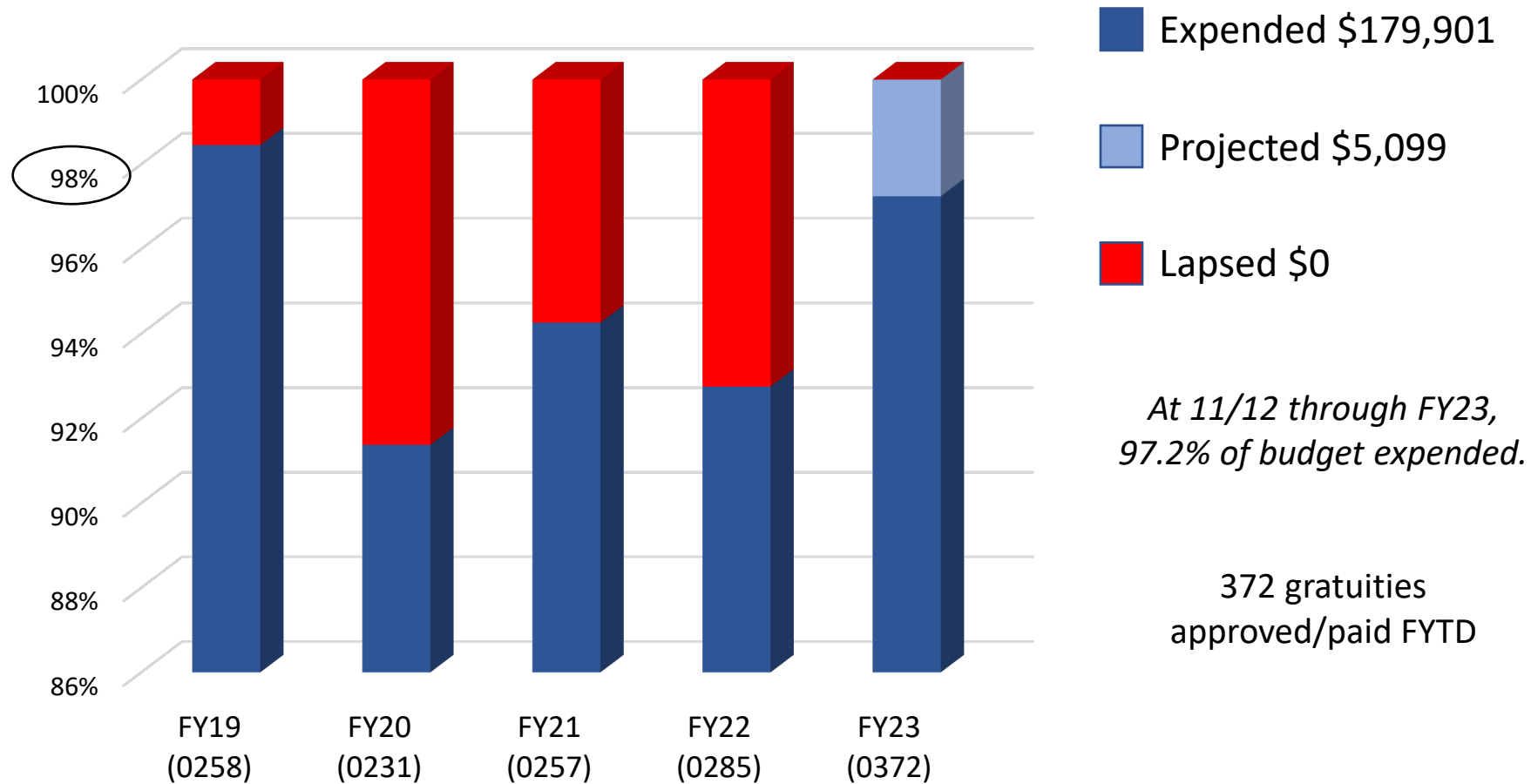
As of 23 May 2024

> community > commonwealth > country

## EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



\$185,000



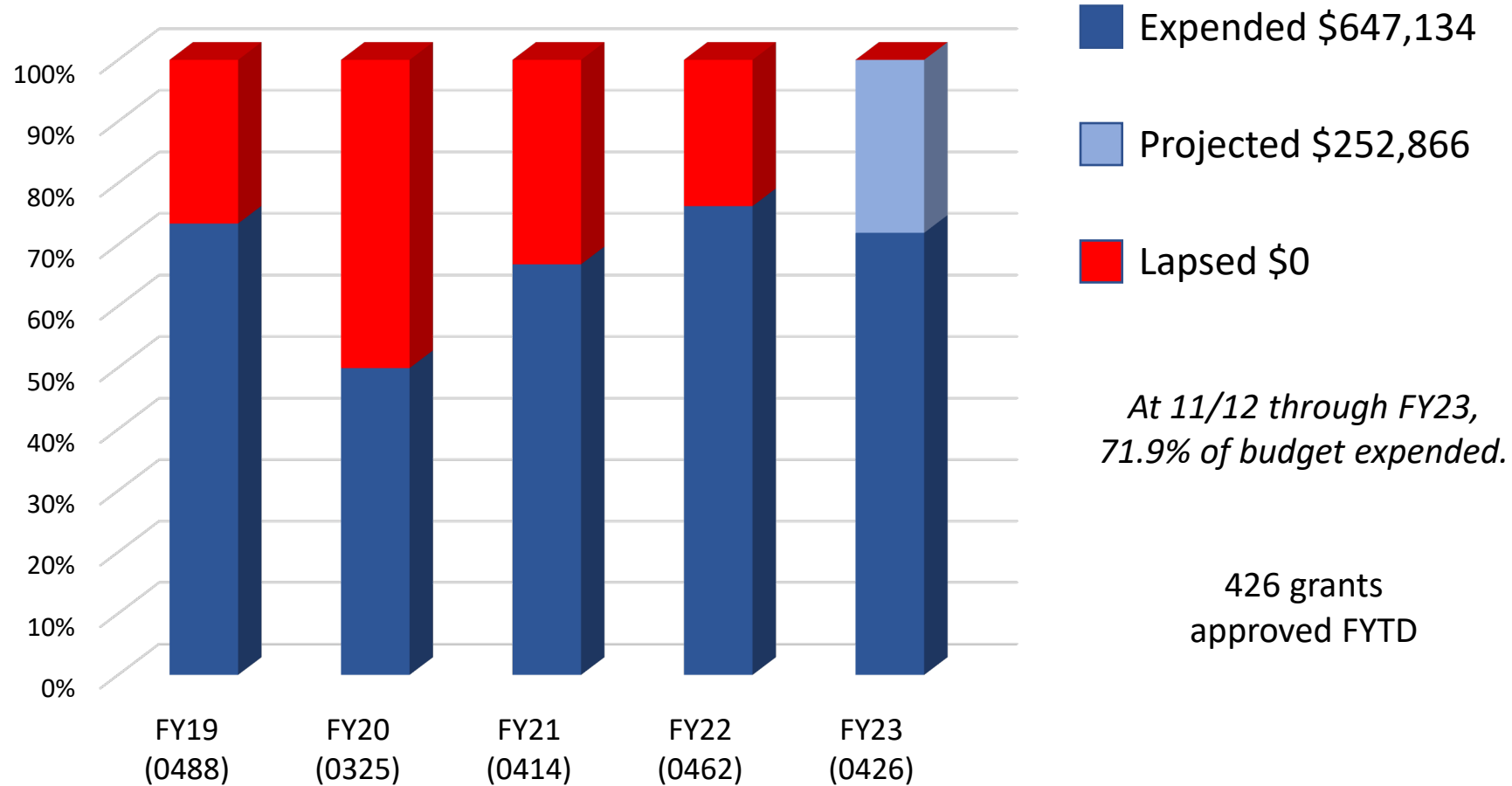
As of 23 May 2024

> community > commonwealth > country

## VETERANS' TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$900,000



As of 23 May 2024

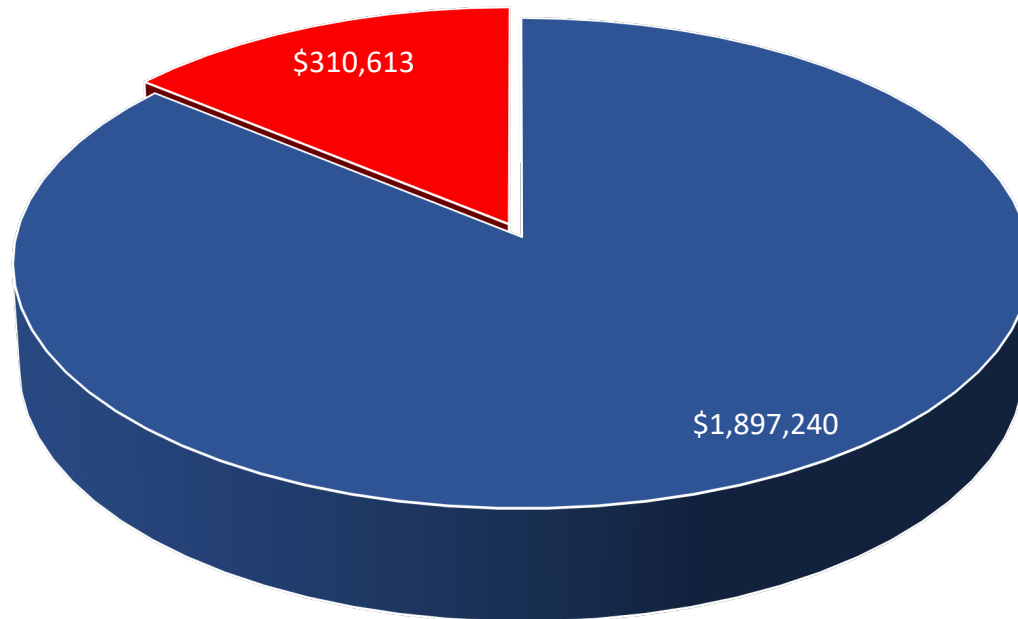
> community > commonwealth > country



## MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE



**MFRAP Balance \$1,182,832**



Total Donations FY 05-23: \$2,214,452

- Personal Income Tax Donations
- Private/Cash/Other Donations

Total Grants FY 05-23: **\$1,031,620**

**FY23 Total Donations: \$16,108\***

**FY23 Total Grants: \$53,618**

*\* \$5,000 donation received from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.*

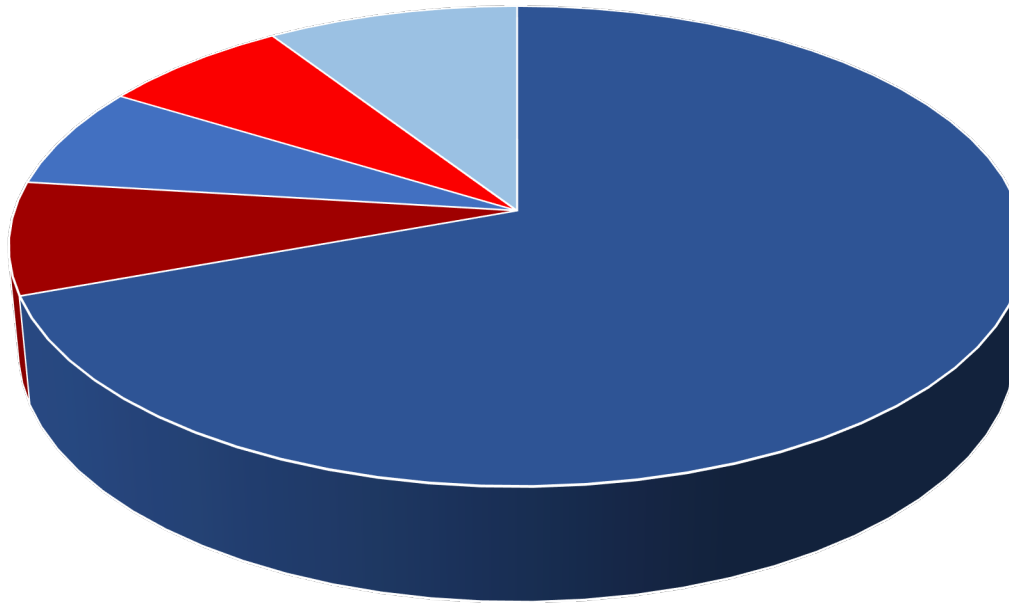
As of 23 May 2024

[> community](#) [> commonwealth](#) [> country](#)

## DISABLED VETERANS' REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION



**673 Total Adjudications**  
24 Apr to 23 May 2024



- 467 Approved (69%)
- 51 Denied: Financial Need
- 46 Denied: Eligibility\*
- 62 Removed: Eligibility Change
- 47 Removed: No Response

**\* 45 Applications Ineligible by Reason**

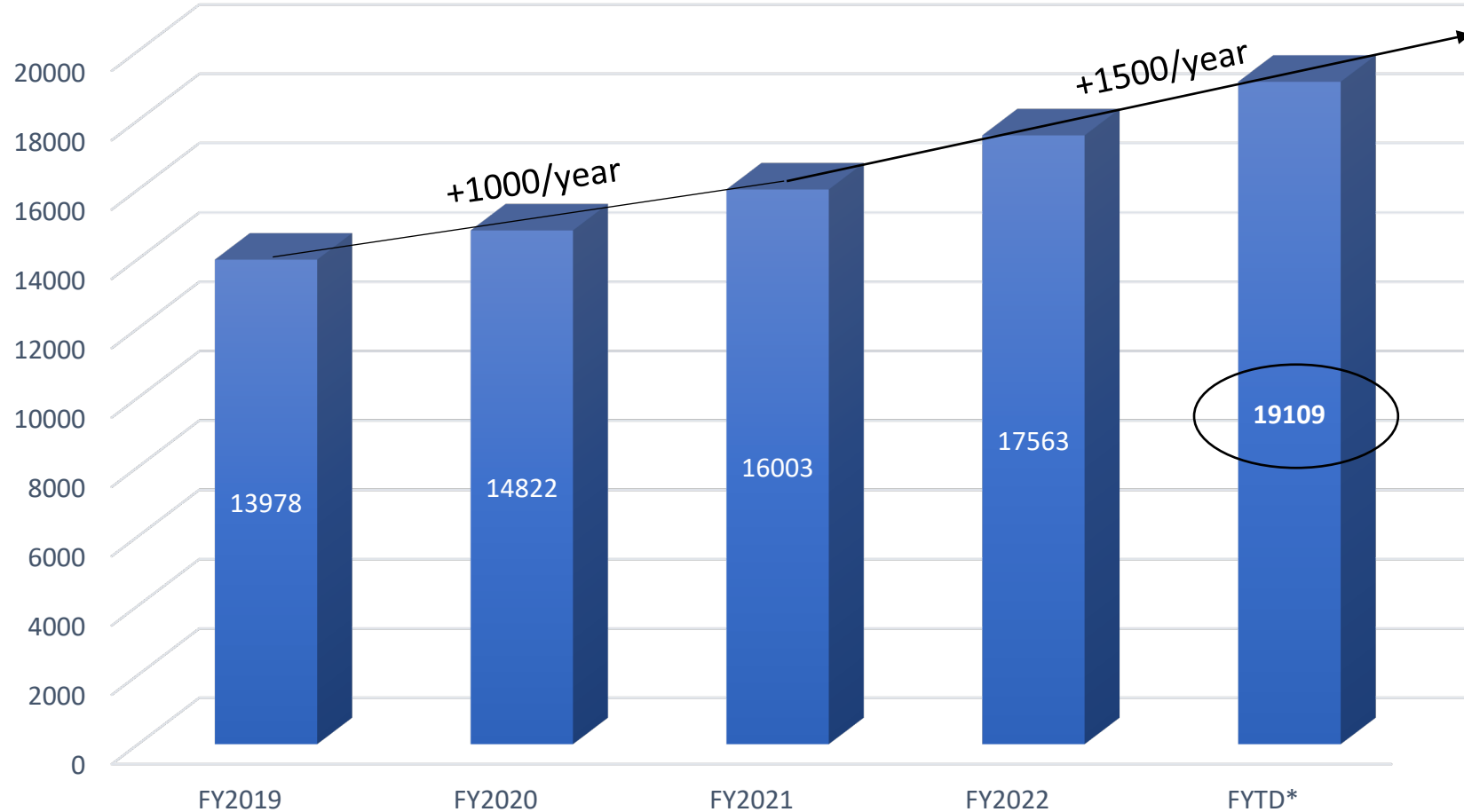
- 01 – No response for requested information
- 01 – Not a resident of the Commonwealth
- 08 – Veteran did not have total or 100% permanent disability during lifetime
- 09 – Property not owned solely by Veteran or jointly/estate by entirety with spouse
- 12 – Veteran did not have service during a period of war or armed conflict
- 15 – Veteran's disability not rated 100% permanent due to future exams

*Note: Program surpassed 19,000 beneficiaries over this period.*

As of 23 May 2024

> community > commonwealth > country

## DISABLED VETERANS' REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION



*\* Estimated **\$57.67M** in real estate tax exemptions to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.*

As of 23 May 2024

> community > commonwealth > country



**VISN 4**

**MR. TIM LIEZERT**



## VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2024 Wait Times



Clinics FY24 thru MAY 15	Number of Appointments	Average Wait
Mental Health	237,785	5.3
Primary Care	315,258	4.9
Specialty Care	654,954	9.9
Other	478,479	6.4
ALL	1,686,476	7.3

FY24 data updated 5/15/2024 with appointment info as of 5/13/2024.

June 2024 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

## VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care	
	New Patients	Returning Patients
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	11	2
Abie Abraham HCC	11	2
Coatesville VAMC	17	8
Erie VAMC	16	3
Lebanon VAMC	11	4
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	36	5
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	N/A	13
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (H.J. Heinz)	30	10
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	12	1
Wilmington VAMC	22	6

FY24 data updated 5/15/2024 with wait times as of 5/14/2024 for the last 30 days.

[www.accesstocare.va.gov](https://www.accesstocare.va.gov)

June 2024 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

### Improvements to the Access to Care website

Average wait times for all VHA medical centers and clinics are now calculated to include additional steps in the appointment process that had not been captured in the past.

- For **new patient** appointments, average wait time is calculated from the earliest time a request for care is consistently recorded in the scheduling system to the date the appointment is completed – or the date it is scheduled to occur if not yet completed.
- For **established patient** appointments, average wait times are measured from the date agreed upon between a Veteran and provider for future care and ends on the date care is received, or the date that care is scheduled to occur if it has not yet occurred.

The upgraded calculation makes the website more reflective of the complete process of requesting and receiving care. Averages are representative of general performance and may not represent individual experience. Average wait times are never used to determine eligibility for community care.

FY24 data updated 4/17/2024 with wait times as of 4/16/2024 for the last 30 days.

**[www.accesstocare.va.gov](http://www.accesstocare.va.gov)**

## VISN 4 Care in the Community



Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)		Non-VA Unique Patients*
FY22	168,180	89,682
FY23	190,810	99,167
FY24 (as of 5/15/24)	132,491	83,050

\*Number of unique enrolled Veterans who receive community care at VA expense

FY24 data updated 5/15/2024 with consult info as of 5/15/2024.



## CMS Star Ratings – Publicly Reported July 2023



Facility Name	Peer Grouping	Overall Star Rating	Hospital Summary Score
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	4	★★★	0.12
Lebanon VAMC	4	★★★★	0.33
Corporal Michael J. Crescenzo VAMC	5	★★★★★	0.41
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	5	★	-1.31
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	4	★★★★	0.39
Wilmington VAMC	4	★★★	0.10

- The CMS Star ratings, available publicly, show 50% of applicable VISN 4 facilities performing at 4 or 5 stars (5 stars being the highest rating).
- Six facilities are included in star ratings due to number of patient discharges.
- CMS Star ratings update annually.

- 1 star facility trending ‘no different than the national rate’ in Patient Safety Measures
  - Indicates improved performance
- April 2024 CMS Preview report shows neutral performance compared to July 2023 release
  - Anticipate no change in overall star rating

Note: Reporting period of April 2024 preview reports Q3 2021 – Q2 2022

# SAIL Radar



FY 24 Q1 Rank (FY23 Q4 Rank) • Ranked out of 18 Total VISNs

↓

Rank Improved = 7 (5)

↑

Rank Worse = 9 (10)

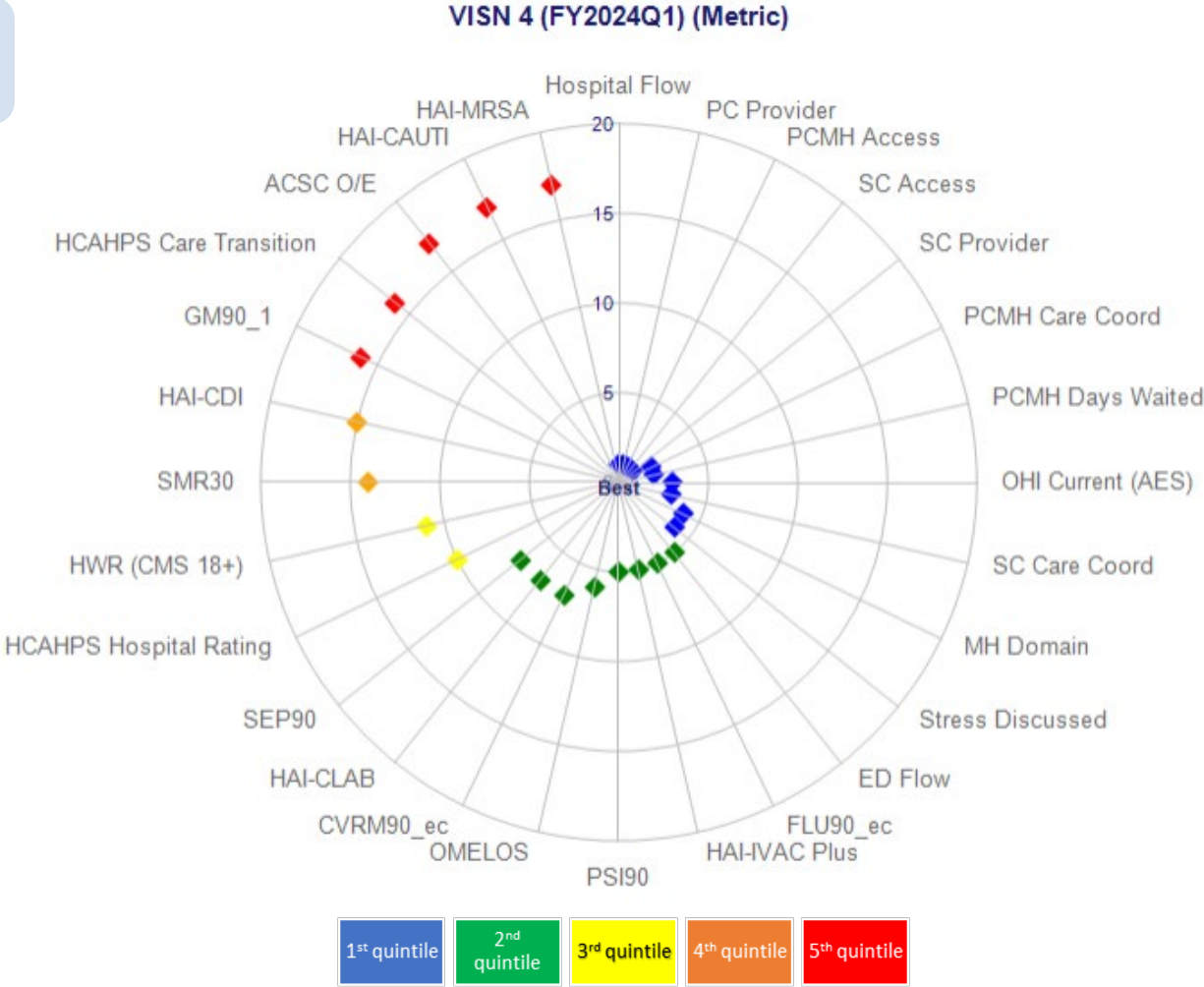
↔

No Change = 11 (12)

\*\*Note – preferred direction in rank is down

4 Main Measures ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in performance among 18 total VISNs

15 Main Measures in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quintile among 18 total VISNs





## **SVC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**





**SVC PENSIONS & RELIEF/ GRAVE MARKING/  
MILITARY CEMETERY COMMITTEE**





## **SVC RETX COMMITTEE**





A close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is waving, creating a sense of movement. The colors are vibrant, with the red stripes and white stars standing out against the blue field.

## **SVC MEMBER-AT-LARGE COMMITTEE**



## **SVC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**







## **SVC VETERANS' HEALTH COMMITTEE**





## **SVC VSO GRANT COMMITTEE**





## **SVC WOMEN VETERANS COMMITTEE**





## **PAWVC UPDATE**







## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**





**NEW BUSINESS**





**WOMEN VETERANS MUSEUM**  
**MS. CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS**













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**Women Veterans Museum & Military Family Services  
Operation Charts 2023**

**Large Circle (Blue) = 50% ----- Veterans Service**

**Medium Circle (Yellow) = 35% ----- Aware of the Museum and Service**

**Small Circle (Blue) = 15% ----- Visitors to Museum**



**GOOD OF THE ORDER**







## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**





## **CLOSING REMARKS**







NEXT MEETING



**Thursday, September 5, 2024  
at 10:00AM**

**WYNDHAM GRAND HOTEL  
600 COMMONWEALTH PLACE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222**

**\*VISIT [www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans/commissionsandcouncils](http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans/commissionsandcouncils) FOR SVC INFO\***



## **VISN 4 Update**

**June 7, 2024**

### **Leadership Update**

Kathryn Barley is currently serving as the Acting Associate Director at the Lebanon VA.

Robert Wentling is currently serving as the Acting Assistant Director at Lebanon.

Paul Woodland, the Chief of Police at the Wilmington VA continues to serve as our Acting VISN 4 Security Officer.

### **Patient Experience Update- Trust**

VISN 4 has consistently received the highest trust score in the nation at 94.7% and continues to trend up. Our network also has the highest number of compliments at 79.1% and the lowest number of concerns at 10.8%.

### **Other Than Honorable Discharge Rule Changes**

The Department of Veterans Affairs on April 26, 2024, posted a final rule amending its regulations regarding character of discharge determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial.

When former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) apply for VA benefits and services, we carefully review their records to determine if we can provide them the requested care and benefits.

This process helps ensure that VA can provide services to deserving former service members – including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military.

VA's new regulation will expand access to care and benefits for certain former service members by:

- Eliminating the regulatory bar for "homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty" as a bar to benefits.
- Creating a "compelling circumstances exception" for certain former service members
- Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply for benefits.

VA encourages former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) to apply for VA care and benefits today. Over the past 10 years, VA's eligibility determination rate for these former service members has been 75% – meaning that VA provided care or benefits to 75% of them (57,000+ former service members).

The final rule becomes effective June 25, 2024. VA is currently developing policy guidance for claims processors to be issued coincident with the effective date of the final rule.

### **"Closer to Me" Cancer Moonshot Effort**

As a part of the Biden Cancer Moonshot, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced on April 25, 2024, an [expansion of its Close to Me cancer care program](#). This expansion will bring new cancer diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance services to an additional 9,000 Veterans and 30 locations by the end of October 2025.

Under this program, VA clinicians travel to provide Veterans with the full continuum of cancer care at nearby community-based outpatient clinics, often in rural locations. This reduces the need for Veterans to travel to medical centers for cancer care, affording Veterans and their caregivers more time to go about their daily lives and focus on healing. It also allows more Veterans to utilize VA care, which is proven to be the best care in America for Veterans.

### **PACT Act Update**

The PACT Act is the biggest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in generations, making it so the millions of Veterans who fought our wars – who breathed in debris from sandstorms, fumes from burning trash, chemicals like Agent Orange and more while overseas – are taken care of for the conditions that followed them home from war.

**Benefits** (as of 5/4/2024):

- PACT Act-related claims submitted: 1,616,969
- PACT Act-related claims processed: 1,284,130
- Grant Rate: 75%
- Backdated benefits awarded: More than \$5.1 billion

**Health Care** (as of 5/5/2024):

- New enrollees over past year: 404,336 (27.9% increase, 88,265 more enrollees from the same time period last year)
- Toxic exposure screenings: 5,465,530 (approximately 44% reporting at least one potential exposure)

**Outreach:**

- More than 550 in-person events are already scheduled in 2024
- Record total claims submissions in 2023: 2.43 million, 39% increase over 2022
- Record total intent-to-file submissions in 2023: 2.3 million, 62% increase over 2022
- Earned media: 82,000+ PACT Act news articles since passage
- Paid media: \$10+ million in paid media, contributing to 21+ million total views of VA.gov/PACT
- PACT Act events since passage: More than 2,600

**"Memorial May" Activities**

Between now and Memorial Day, May 27, the Department of Veterans Affairs will participate in a 20,000-mile nationwide march across the United States with 214,000 volunteers honoring our nation's Veterans, service members and families.

The annual partnership between [Carry The Load](#) and VA's National Cemetery Administration supports rallies at 32 VA national cemeteries covering 20,000 miles along five separate routes across 48 states. Teams will walk throughout the 'Memorial May' campaign, converging on Memorial Day weekend for a final rally in Dallas, Texas. View the full list of NCA national cemeteries and the dates and times of Carry the Load marches.

VA national cemeteries will be open for visitors from sunrise to sunset every day of the Memorial Day weekend. Families are encouraged to visit on any day – not just Memorial Day – and place flowers or flags on their Veteran’s grave.

We welcome members of the public to join us as we honor Veterans and servicemembers with the solemn dignity and respect they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

Ceremonies will consist of a wreath laying, moment of silence, the playing of taps, speeches, and other patriotic activities where all are welcome.

### **Ending Homelessness among Veterans**

The VA has taken aggressive action to combat Veteran homelessness. In calendar year 2023 [VA permanently housed 46,552 homeless Veterans, exceeding its goal to house 38,000 by 22.5%.](#)

[VA announced its 2024 goals](#) in support of its efforts to prevent and end Veteran homelessness on March 14, 2024.

Specifically, in fiscal year 2024, VA will:

- Place at least 41,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness into permanent housing.
- Ensure that at least 95% of the Veterans housed in FY 2024 do not return to homelessness during the year.
- Engage with at least 40,000 unsheltered Veterans to help them obtain housing and other wraparound services.

As of March 31, 2024:

- 22,507 Veterans have been permanently housed, representing 54.9% of the goal. VA is on track to meet this goal at the end of the year.
- 98.2% of the Veterans housed so far have remained in housing. 414 Veterans have returned to homelessness, representing 1.8% of the Veterans housed. VA is monitoring this goal closely to ensure that Veterans stay housed or are re-engaged by VA services if they return to homelessness.
- 21,156 unsheltered Veterans have been engaged, representing 52.9% of the goal. VA is on track to meet this goal at the end of the year.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and the entire Biden Administration. Thanks in part to VA’s efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing

homelessness [has fallen by nearly 5% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.](#)

We all have a part to play in ending Veteran homelessness. There are many ways that Americans can help end Veteran homelessness:

- If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838 for assistance. It is staffed 24/7 with trained counselors who can talk with you right now and connect you with your nearest VA for help.
- If you are a landlord or housing provider with housing units, rent to Veterans participating in VA homeless programs.
- If you are a business owner, hire homeless and formerly homeless Veterans.
- For more information on renting to or hiring homeless Veterans, visit [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless).
- And to everyone else, please keep the call center's number handy – 877-424-3838 – and use it if you know of homeless Veterans needing assistance.

### **HRO (High Reliability Organization) Highlight- Coatesville VAMC**

One of VHA's seven HRO values is "It's About the Veteran." Recently, a Veterans Transport Service Motor Vehicle Operator (VTS MVO) at the Coatesville VAMC exhibited "It's About the Veteran" during an interaction with a transfer to dialysis.

VTS MVO Brooklyn Anderson was transporting a veteran to dialysis for a treatment. Brooklyn is a PA National Guard with the 2nd 104 Calvary Scout and was deployed with the Composite Truck company into Kuwait and Iraq. Brooklyn had a great relationship with the veteran as the veteran was also a PA National Guard soldier and they were both 88M motor transportation operators. Brooklyn and the veteran often shared stories about Fort Indiantown Gap, a military base in Lebanon PA, and comparisons of their military experience - differences between meals, gear, vehicles, and weapons throughout the years. She transported him multiple times a week, from his hotel residence to his dialysis treatments.

On this day, Brooklyn noticed the veteran was delayed with his greeting. The greeting was different and not as exciting as usual. This was not their normal interaction. The veteran was not up and smiling, waiting for Brooklyn's arrival as usual. As she was standing next to the veteran, she asked how he was doing and if he was ok. The veteran was complaining that his stomach hurt and thought he had food poisoning.

Brooklyn asked the veteran what he ate to see if she could provide additional assistance.

The veteran requested that Brooklyn help him to stand as was unable to stand on his own and was experiencing severe knee pain. Another hotel resident, who was a medic, tried to help without success. The resident also shared that she had given him some food earlier. Immediately following this conversation, the veteran fell back onto the chair and lost consciousness. Brooklyn immediately went into action to help the veteran, instructing the front desk personnel to call 911. Brooklyn moved the veteran to the floor safely and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Brooklyn continued to administer the lifesaving procedures for what seemed like an extended period as she, the hotel resident, and staff anxiously awaited paramedics. There was an extensive delay with the paramedic's arrival as the ambulance went to the wrong hotel location. Brooklyn continued CPR until the paramedics arrived and took over. While the paramedics were working on the veteran, Brooklyn called the VTS office to inform her supervisor of what took place. She asked to confirm any medical changes in the veteran's chart for the paramedics since the veteran was unresponsive. Ms. Anderson's quick response and attention to detail allowed her to stabilize the veteran until he was transported to the local emergency room for continued care. Brooklyn's actions saved the veteran's life. Her actions are a true illustration of ICARE values and the HRO principle, 'It's About the Veteran'.

### Authorized Monthly Status Report April 1 to 30 2024 Midnight

#### Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia PA - Margo Coleman - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	171	157	14	92%	6%	5	3	59	27

#### Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton PA - Vito Ruggiero - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	196	167	29	85%	15%	10	8	17	22

#### Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh PA - Richard Adams - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	236	150	86	64%	14%	3	2	12	21

#### Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg PA - Christina Dambeck - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	257	183	74	71%	13%	12	10	11	6
Personal Care	167	76	91	46%		4	1	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>61%</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie PA - Cheri Spacht - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	107	103	4	96%	11%	5	5	4	7
Personal Care	100	57	43	57%		1	0	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>77%</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>

#### Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City PA - Brian Gula - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	238	179	59	75%	9%	2	4	59	13
Personal Care	54	37	17	69%		0	1	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74%</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>15</b>

### Summary / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes

Veteran Census/Events	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Filled %	Non-Veteran Census %	Admissions	Discharges/ Expirations	Attaining Adm Veteran	Attaining Adm Non-Veteran
Nursing Care	1205	939	266	78%	11%	37	32	162	96
Personal Care	321	170	151	53%		5	2	10	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1109</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>73%</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>98</b>
Veteran Status: NonVeteran/ Veteran	Male Vets	Male Non-Vets	Female Vets	Female Non-Vets	Total Vets	Total Non-Vets	Toatal Vets %	Total Non-Vet %	VH Totals
DVVH	144	1	3	9	147	10	94%	6%	157
GJMVC	139	0	3	25	142	25	85%	15%	167
SWVC	126	2	3	19	129	21	86%	14%	150
HVH	212	1	13	33	225	34	87%	13%	259
PSSH	137	2	5	16	142	18	89%	11%	160
SEVC	183	2	14	17	197	19	91%	9%	216
<b>Totals</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>1109</b>



# RETX - Exempt List

mvfigsqlprod01  
5/23/2024  
rep\_VADC\_RETX\_Exempt\_List\_New

## Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
19109	18587	494	28	189

## Summary of Activity from 04/24/2024 to 05/23/2024

Apps Created: 452	
New	283
Review	169

Apps Approved: 467	
New	285
Review	182

Apps Denied: 296	
Denied for Need	51
Denied for Eligibility	46
Removed (Eligibility change)	62
Removed (No response)	47

## Summary of Ineligible Reasons

Reason	Count
No Response to requested information.	1
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	9
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not have a total and/or 100% permanent disability during their lifetime.	8
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	12
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stated that you have a future exam, therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	15
You are not a citizen or resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.	1

**Summary of Activity: 24 Apr - 23 May 2024**

<b>Applications Approved</b>	<b>467</b>
New	285
Review	182

<b>Applications Denied</b>	<b>296</b>
Financial Need	51
Ineligible	46
No Response	62
Change of Eligibility	47

<b>Over Income</b>	<b>56</b>
New	51
Review	5

<b>12%</b>
18%
3%

<b>Applications Created</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>Total Adjudicated</b>	<b>763</b>



## Pennsylvania Veterans Service Award (PA VSA)

3 June 2016

DEFEND AND SERVE

### Current State Awards



PENNSYLVANIA  
CROSS FOR VALOR



PENNSYLVANIA  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
LTG HENRY K. FLUCK GUARDSMAN MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
KEYSTONE FREEDOM MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTAVIUS V. CATTO MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMENDATION MEDAL



Pennsylvania  
Achievement Medal



PENNSYLVANIA  
RECRUITING AND RETENTION MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



PENNSYLVANIA  
SERVICE RIBBON



PENNSYLVANIA  
GEN WILLIAM MOFFAT REILLY MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
TWENTY YEAR SERVICE MEDAL



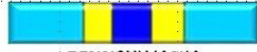
PENNSYLVANIA  
FIRST SERGEANT RIBBON



Pennsylvania  
Veterans Service Award



PENNSYLVANIA  
MG THOMAS R. WHITE JR MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
THOMAS J. STEWART MEDAL



PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S UNIT CITATION

# PA VSA RECOMMENDATION

## PROPOSED PA VSA Ribbon



### COLOR DEFINITIONS

- GOLD – Symbolizes achievement and honor (State Color)
- BLUE – Symbolizes commitment, loyalty and integrity (State Color)
- BLACK – Protection, strength, power

## Criteria

**Purpose:** The Pennsylvania Veterans' Service Medal is awarded to any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other foreign or domestic active or reserve military component of the Armed Forces, or any civilian who has provided meritorious support to Veterans of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Criteria:** The individual must have demonstrated meritorious service supporting Veterans within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### **Submission Requirements:**

- (1) DA Form 638 and one page, double spaced narrative for Army, or PaANG IMT 9 for Air, which clearly describes the service/achievement for which the individual is being recognized.
- (2) Recommendations must be forwarded to TAG -PA, ATTN: G1-MPM-SS (Awards) or TAGPA/ANG (State Awards Monitor).

**Approval Authority:** The Adjutant General.

**Order of Precedence:** The PA VSA will be worn after the First Sergeant Ribbon and before the PA MG Thomas R. White Jr Ribbon

**Subsequent Awards:** Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Sixth Award will be Silver Oak Leaf Cluster.

<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD</b> <small>For use of this form, see PMR 600-8-22; the proponent agency is PAARNG JFHQ, G-1.</small>							
<b>For all State Awards, refer to PMR 600-8-22</b>							
<b>PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT</b>							
<b>AUTHORITY:</b>	51 Pa.C.S.A § 3701 and 3702, Decorations, Medals, Badges, and Awards; Army Regulation 600-8-22, Military Awards; and Pennsylvania Military Regulation 600-8-22, Pennsylvania Decorations, Medals, Badges and Awards Program.						
<b>PURPOSE(S):</b>	To consider individual nominations for awards and/or decorations; record final action; maintain individual award case files.						
<b>ROUTINE USES:</b>	In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, these records contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DoD as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows: Information may be disclosed to public and private organizations including news media, which grant or publicize awards or honors.						
<b>DISCLOSURE:</b>	Disclosure of personally identifiable information is voluntary. However, failure to provide identifying information may delay processing of this application.						
<b>1. TO</b> EDS, DMVA, FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002	<b>2. FROM</b> Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #23 718 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, PA 17042	<b>3. DATE (YYYYMMDD)</b>					
<b>PART I - SOLDIER DATA</b>							
<b>4. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)</b> Boeshore, Russell J.	<b>5. RANK</b> Civilian	<b>6. SSN</b> 000-00-0000					
<b>7. ORGANIZATION</b> Honor Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #23 718 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, PA 17042	<b>8. PREVIOUS AWARDS</b> NO AWARDS						
<b>9. BRANCH OF SERVICE</b> Civilian	<b>10. RECOMMENDED AWARD</b> PAVSA	<b>11. PERIOD OF AWARD</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><b>a. FROM</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><b>b. TO</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">19960622</td> <td style="border: none;">20240601</td> </tr> </table>		<b>a. FROM</b>	<b>b. TO</b>	19960622	20240601
<b>a. FROM</b>	<b>b. TO</b>						
19960622	20240601						
<b>12. REASON FOR AWARD</b>							
<b>12a. INDICATE REASON</b> ACH	<b>12b. INTERIM AWARD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, STATE AWARD GIVEN	<b>12c. POSTHUMOUS</b> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>13. PROPOSED PRESENTATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)</b> 20240701				
<b>PART II - RECOMMENDER DATA</b>							
<b>14. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)</b> Snavely, Constance J.		<b>15. ADDRESS</b> 1822 Janet Avenue Lebanon, PA 17046-1844					
<b>16. TITLE/POSITION</b> Honor Guard Secretary	<b>17. RANK</b> CW4 (Ret)	<b>19. SIGNATURE</b>					
<b>18. RELATIONSHIP TO AWARDEE</b> Coworker							
<b>PART III - JUSTIFICATION AND CITATION DATA</b>							
<b>20. NARRATIVE</b>							
<p>Mr. Russell J. Boeshore, a US Army veteran, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to Commonwealth veterans and their families while serving as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #23 Honor Guard from June 1996 to present. Russell served the veteran community in Lebanon, Dauphin, and Lancaster Counties for twenty-nine years by providing military funeral honors for departed veteran service members at private cemeteries and at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery (IGNC). In that time, he conducted over 15,000 military funeral honors.</p> <p>Mr. Boeshore conducted military funeral honors at the IGNC continuously since 1996, after retiring from the Mechanicsburg Navy Depot as a DoD civilian. From 1996 until 1999, when other veteran service organization honor guards joined into the rotation for conducting military funeral honors, Russell averaged 1,000 military funeral honors per year at the IGNC alone. This number does not reflect the annual number of military funeral honors conducted at private cemeteries in the surrounding counties.</p> <p>Mr. Boeshore is an indispensable member of the Honor Guard adept at conducting all aspects of military funeral honors which includes the rifle volley; folding and presenting the US Flag to next of kin; presenting spent casings from the rifle volley to the family; and using the ceremonial bugle. Russell, a 91-year-old veteran, conducted many of these military funeral honors in extreme weather conditions, rarely missing a funeral detail.</p> <p>Russell also served with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #23 Color Guard at numerous local community events and programs around Lebanon to include the Cedar Crest School District's Veterans Day breakfast, Memorial Day parades and ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies, Patriot Day concerts and events, Relay for Life ceremonies, Flag Day ceremonies, special programs and ceremonies held at the PA Soldiers' Memorial, the Prisoners of War Missing in Action ceremony at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and numerous other veteran and patriotic events. He is also active in the Londonderry Village Veterans' Club.</p> <p>Russell is a special, dedicated veteran with a passion for serving and honoring his fellow veterans. He serves as a role model for other veterans to emulate. Despite his own health issues, he is there to provide the last military funeral honors to departed comrades in arms.</p>							
<b>21. PROPOSED CITATION</b>							
<p>Mr. Russell J. Boeshore distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to Commonwealth veterans and their families while serving as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Honor Guard from 1996 to 2024. Russell, an Army veteran, served the veteran community in Lebanon, Dauphin, and Lancaster Counties for twenty-nine years by providing military funeral honors for departed veteran service members at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery and private cemeteries. In that time, he conducted over 15,000 military funeral honors. Russell is an indispensable member of the Honor Guard adept at conducting all aspects of Military Funeral Honors. Russell conducted many of these military funeral honors in extreme weather conditions. Russell's dedication to the mission made him well known throughout the veteran community as the go-to person to request Military Funeral Honors as well as other special honors for veterans. Mr. Boeshore's extraordinary efforts and accomplishments during this period reflect great credit upon himself, his community, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.</p>							

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Boeshore, Russell J.		SSN 000-00-0000	
<b>PART IV - RECOMMENDATIONS/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL</b>			
22. I certify that this individual is eligible for an award in accordance with AR 600-8-22; and that the information contained in Part I is correct.		22a. SIGNATURE	22b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
23. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
24. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
26. APPROVAL AUTHORITY	a. TO Orders Issuing Authority	b. FROM TAG-PA, DMVA, FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Ferraro, Marc		f. RANK CIV	
g. TITLE/POSITION Executive Deputy Sec.		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
<b>PART V - ORDERS DATA</b>			
27a. ORDERS ISSUING HQ G1-MPM-A, Awards Section, FTIG, Annville, PA 17003-5002		27b. PERMANENT ORDER NO.	31. DISTRIBUTION 1-File 1-OMPF 1-Unit 3-Individual
28a. NAME OF ORDERS APPROVAL AUTHORITY Ropski, Sara A.		28b. RANK CPL	
28c. TITLE/POSITION Awards NCOIC		29. APPROVED AWARD	
28d. SIGNATURE		30. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Boeshore, Russell J.		SSN 000-00-0000	
<b>ADDENDUM - INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY</b>			
25-A1. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25-A2. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25-A3. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25-A4. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			
25-A5. INTERMEDIATE AUTHORITY	a. TO	b. FROM	c. DATE (YYYYMMDD)
d. RECOMMEND: <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPGRADE TO: <input type="checkbox"/> DOWNGRADE TO:			
e. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		f. RANK	
g. TITLE/POSITION		h. SIGNATURE	
i. COMMENTS			



# Pennsylvania VetCon



**PITTSBURGH 2024**

PA National Guard Association | PA Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs

## ★ *Join Us in Pittsburgh* ★

**September 4-7, 2024**

**Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown**

PA VETCON 2024 is designed to unite federal, state, and local stakeholders with the broader veteran's community.

This event brings veterans advocates to network and learn.

For More Information, Contact:

**Chad M. Rettew, Executive Director**

**Pennsylvania National Guard Association**

**[executivedirector@pngas.org](mailto:executivedirector@pngas.org)**

**(717)756-0902**





# 2 DAYS OF EVENTS

## JUNE 8TH 2024

### 9:30AM - 4PM



**JOIN US ONCE  
AGAIN IN  
CELEBRATING  
OUR BRAVE  
WOMEN  
VETERANS.**

#### EXPO VENDORS INCLUDING

FOOD - WOMENS HEALTHCARE - FINANCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT  
MENTAL HEALTH - PERSONAL CARE & PAMPERING

#### **FEATURING THESE INCREDIBLE SPEAKERS**

**KATHY SILVIA**  
(US ARMY VETERAN)

**EMILY LEVAULT**  
(VETERAN SUPPORT PACT ACT VFW CLAIMS)

**RACHEL RUETIMAN**  
(VETERAN SUPPORT LEBANON VAMC WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAM MANAGER)

**DR. TAMMY SHAY**  
(VETERAN SUPPORT LEBANON VAMC LCSW CAADC SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATOR)

**NIKI FALZONE**  
(USMC/ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PLATOON 22 MARYLAND)

**JAIMIE AIMES**  
(US ARMY/ BOOKKEEPER)



**WWII MUSEUM**  
845 CROOKED CREEK RD  
GETTYSBURG, PA 17325

## JUNE 9TH 2024

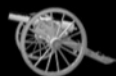
### REGISTRATION 9AM - KSU 11AM



### RIDE THROUGH GETTYSBURG



**MOTORCYCLIST FOR JESUS**  
WILL BE LEADING A RIDE  
THROUGH THE GETTYSBURG  
BATTLEFIELDS AND  
SURROUNDING AREAS. ALL  
PROCEEDS WILL AID IN  
PROGRAMS SUCH AS PEER  
LEAD SUPPORT GROUPS, PEE  
LEAD TRAINING, SUICIDE  
PREVENTION TRAINING/  
CERTIFICATIONS, AWARENES  
TO THE DOMESTIC ISSUES  
STEMMING FROM MST



Rolling out of  
**BATTLEFIELD**  
**HARLEY-DAVIDSON®**  
21 CAVALRY FIELD RD  
GETTYSBURG, PA 17325

Presented By



**TEAM  
JENNIFER  
CAHILL  
CHARITIES**



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