Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission
Meeting Agenda

February 7th, 2025 at 10AM **Location: Hartranft Conference Room**

1000	Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chair Constance Snavely
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Administration of Oath	BG John Pippy
	• Mark Baylis reappointment as MAL	
	Introduction of Commission Members	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Chairman's Opening Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Vice-Chair's Opening Remarks	Vice-Chair Constance Snavely
	TAG's Opening Remarks and Comments	BG John Pippy
	Approval of 06 December 2024 Meeting Minutes	**Requires Vote**
	Reading of Official and Other Communications	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	DAG-VA Opening Remarks and Report	BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
	• PPL, BVH, PIRO	
	• Programs Report	**Requires Vote**
	VISN 4	Mr. Timothy Liezert
	Committee Reports	
	• Legislative	TBD
	• Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings	Mr. Larry Googins
	• RETX	Mr. Alvin Loveless
	• MAL	Vice-Chair Constance Snavely
	• Transportation	Mr. William Hines
	• Veterans' Health	Mr. Mark Baylis
	• VSO Grant	Mr. John Getz
	• Women Veterans	Ms. Lisa Kaye
	• PAWVC Update	President John Fritz Chairman
	Unfinished Business	Nicholas Taylor Chairman
	New Business	Nicholas Taylor SVC
	Good of the Order	Commissioners
	Agenda Items for Next Meeting	SVC Commissioners
	Closing Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Next Meeting	
	04 April 2025, at 10AM	
	Arrowheads Community Club	
	Building 9-65	
	Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003	
	Retiring of the Colors	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Adjournment	Chairman Nicholas Taylor

Rfgn

State Veterans' Commission Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2024
10:00AM
Arrowhead Community Club, Fort Indiantown Gap

Call to Order	**Chairman Nicholas Taylor**
The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order	
Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance	
Vice Chairwoman Constance Snavely led the moment of silence.	
Commission Introductions	
BG (PA) John Pippy	Acting TAG
Mr. Keith Graham	Designee- DAG DMVA-OVA
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	SVC Chairman; President, MOAA
Mr. Robert Hammaker	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans
Ms. Wanda Grover - TEAMS	Commander, Blinded Veterans of America
Mr. Alvin Loveless - TEAMS	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs
Ms. Barbara Loncar	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Ms. Diana Henry	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Troy Michaels	Designee, Adjutant, The American Legion
Mr. Mark Baylis	Member-at-Large
Mr. Leonard Johnson	Member-at-Large
Mr. Michael Brooker	Member-at-Large
Mr. Larry Googins- TEAMS	President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mr. Stanley Majocka	Commander, Italian American War Veterans
Ms. Constance Snavely	SVC V-Chairwoman, Representative, Korean War Veterans
Mr. Michael Rang	Commander, Catholic War Veterans
Mr. Gerry Hawk	Adjutant, AMVETS
Mr. Peter Verbos	MOPH
Mr. Richard Hudzinski- TEAMS	VVA/LVMAC
Absent	
Mr. Paul Foresman	Commander, AMVETS
Mr. David Gyger	Designee, Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. John Fritz	Commander, The American Legion
Mr. Richard Fine	Commander, Jewish War Veterans
Mr. Philip Arnold	Commander, Military Order of Purple Hearts
Mr. Jesiah Schrader	CDVA
Ms. Lisa Kaye	Member-at-Large
Mr. William Hines	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Timothy Alexander	DAV
Mr. Robert Heister	MOAA
Mr. David Gui	DAV
Mr. James Hogan	TAL
Others Present	
Mr. Tim Liezert	VISN 4

Mr. Marc Ferraro	DMVA-EDS
Mr. Chris Fidler- TEAMS	Director, Keystone Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. Nathan Silcox	Executive Director, PA Senate VAEP
Mr. Dusty Durand- TEAMS	DMVA-PPL
Mr. Seth Benge	DMVA- PPL
Mr. Troy Michaels	AM Legion
Ms. Jennifer Hagaman	DMVA
Mr. David Cowgill-TEAMS	VISN-4 Direct of Communications
Ms. Elizabeth Cooper	DMVA
Ms. Michelle Brandt-TEAMS	Closed Captioner
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA

Remarks **Vice-Chair Constance Snavely**

Let us remember Pearl Harbor and honor the 2,403 servicemen and civilians killed in the Japanese surprise attack on December 7, 1941. Also, the 1,178 people who were injured in the attach which sank six U.S. Navy battle ships and destroyed 188 aircraft. The attack led to the U. S. declaring war on Japan the next day and entering World War II.

Presentation of Award **Acting TAG- BG (PA) Pippy**

Award presented to Mr. Robert Lithgow for his outstanding achievement while serving the Commonwealth of PA 2024. Selflessly applying his skills as a registered nurse, quickly giving aid to a Veteran who collapsed at an event and treated injuries.

Vice-Chair Opening Remarks **Ms. Constance Snavely**

"A reminder, Wreaths Across America being held on December 14th at cemeteries across the U.S and abroad. The mission is to remember, honor, teach by placing wreaths on Veteran's Graves and Memorials. I know the national cemetery was at 62% coverage this year usually they make a 100%. So, there is a shortage of 17,000 or so wreaths."

Chairman's Remarks **Mr. Nicholas Taylor**

Mr. Taylor read an e-mail received from Mr. Michael Hillman, Executive Director of the house Veterans Affairs and emergency preparedness committee. "Chairman Solomon is looking to connect with any of your members who live in or serve in the city of Philadelphia" Mr. Taylor wrote back to Mr. Hillman that on the commission we have one person who lives in the city of Philadelphia, Mr. Lin Johnson.

Mr. Taylor relayed that he also wrote an email to both Mr. Silcox and Mr. Hillman asking for a list of general assembly members who are Veterans. Waiting on that item, once received it will be distributed.

Questions/Discussion

None

TAG's Opening Remarks **BG Pippy**

General Pippy provided an introduction and his background. General Pippy mentioned that one of his goals within the next year is to sit down with the stakeholders to talk about issues and how to inform more veterans about all the available programs.

General Pippy mentioned the great turn out for the Fort Indiantown Gap open house even and spoke about the upcoming events- Tree lighting ceremony, Wreaths Across America, 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, and the Farm show recognition ceremonies.

General Pippy spoke highly of Four-Star General Chris Donohue. He recognized that he was just confirmed and is now the commander U.S. Army Europe and Africa leading one of the most critical missions in all parts of the world.

Questions/Discussion

None.

Approval of the October 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ms. Barbara Loncar, Commander, Veterans of Foreign War, made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second: Ms. Diana Henry

The body agreed; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Reading of Official and Other Communications **Chairman Taylor**

None.

Deputy Adjutant General-VA Remarks **Designee – Mr. Keith Graham**

Keith discussed the National Guard deployments and support during the blizzards. Keith discussed Vet connect and broke down the different programs in the five regions of the state. Spoke on the reintegration and outreach events. One focus he would like to see the Veteran registry grow by 10,000 next year.

Turned over to Jeff King to discuss the program reports: Amputee & Paralyzed Veterans Pension program experiencing a little bit of a surge and are at 42% execution rate. Blind Veterans Pension 99 Veterans on that program. Education Gratuity program paying $500 a semester with 150% increase over the last few years making it about 300 students on the program. Veterans' Temporary Assistance is at about 58% budget, budget allotted is $850,000 and on track to hitting that number this year. Military Family relief program paid out 28,000 and are on pace with budget. Real Estate Tax Exemption Act 27 is a need base program and added just about 2,000 people to the programs since the beginning of the fiscal year.

Questions/Discussion

Mark Baylis, MAL, question why a recently referred vet who makes $1400 a month was denied assistance. Jeff requested to take down the name and will investigate it once he has the file. BG Pippy highlighted PAVet benefits that have 2000 Veteran partners that would want to help.

Another question about the process of the Real Estate Tax Exemption. Jeff stated it was to go through the county to get the application.

BVH Bureau of Veterans Homes **Mr. Marc Ferraro**

- Currently no residents with COVID, but two employees with COVID currently.
- Erie is functioning well with 6 feet of snow.
- The homes have been awarded a grant with the VA which wills allow to give incentives for many hiring workers. Well over 350 vacancies across the homes and the grant will assist with this. Each

home will get about $8,000. Next year will be about $700,000 per home. Working through some advertising to get the word out.

- Construction on Hollidaysburg is ongoing, issue with getting transformer has pushed back the timeline. Once there is a firm date for the ribbon cutting everyone will get an invite.

DMVA Bureau of PIRO **Mr. Keith Graham**

None

Approval of State Veterans' Programs Reports

Motion: Mr. Mark Baylis, MAL, made the motion to approve the programs report.

Second: Mr. Robert Hammaker seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried. Programs reports approved.

DMVA Policy, Planning, and Legislation **Mr. Seth Benge**

Briefed on the pass legislation 2023-2024. Briefed on the 2025-2026 session. Mentioned new Senator in the state, Mr. Dave McCormick and two new congressmen as well. Three out of the four House members are resigning to be cabinet members and there will be a special election. All bills that have been briefed in the past two years have gone away. The bills will be changing numbers and will be reintroduced

Questions/Discussion

Question on the house bills, specifically looking for the paralyzed pension bill up for increase. Answer: Influx shouldn't have to much of an influence on the increase, but the bills will have to be reintroduced.

VISN-4 **Mr. Tim Liezert**

MyHealthy Vet sign on will be retiring January 31. Moving towards two different types of sign-on, either ID.me or Login.gov. Teams will be available to help with transition.

Flu Vaccines continue to be available at any of the care sites.

Questions/Discussions

Keith Graham highly recommended using ID.me.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee **TDB**

Still looking for Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Nick Taylor sent out to commissioners on 21 November the ask from the house, VA, emergency preparedness committee, to weigh in on bills. House bill, 2466, prohibits charging compensation for veteran-related services except for permitted by federal law. House bill 2469, providing for mental health evaluation for 911 dispatchers. House bill 2576 ensures ambulance availability by providing a waiver for statutory requirements. House bill 2578 requires State Veterans Commission to review eligibility to our Veterans real estate tax exemption every 10 years rather than 5 years. House bill 2602 expand emergency for stream clearing and maintenance activities by Department of Environmental Protection from 50 feet of a bridge to 250 feet of bridge during disaster declaration. House bill, 2659, modifies training and certification requirements for certain emergency medical personnel, for advanced life support,

ambulances and exigent circumstances. Passed this on to Mr. Hillman and Mr. Silcox to see if they could give more than a week or so turn around time.

Questions/Discussion

None.

Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings/State Military Cemetery Committee **Mr. Larry Googins**

Mr. Googins recognized Greg Holler and his outstanding work.

Questions/Discussions

None.

RETX **Mr. Alvin Loveless**

No official Report

Questions/Discussions

None.

MAL **Vice-Chairwoman Constance Snavely**

Applications were gathered and results submitted to Mr. Taylor and DMVA with information of primary and alternate selectees. TAG approved and applications were hand delivered to the Governor's office. Letters for the non-selectees are currently being worked on.

Transportation Committee **Mr. William Hines**

Mr. Hines was absent

Mr. Nick Taylor would like to see some vehicles that are not being utilized move. Theres a need in some counties and would like that committee to make some recommendations on how to utilize these vehicles.

Questions/Discussions

Mr. Brooker, driver for Westmoreland County, mentioned there are a lot of unintended consequences. For example, the maintenance, a group of VAs used to have a maintenance person who would assist if there was an issue with a van. Mr. Taylor mentioned he will work with the committee and come up with some possible solutions.

Veteran Health Committee **Mr. Mark Baylis**

No report, but Mr. Baylis wanted to recognize Greg Holler for taking the time to make phone calls so that Veterans can go hunting at the prison grounds at Dallas State Correctional Institute.

Questions/Discussions

None

VSO Grant Committee **TDB**

Mr. John Getz agreed to take on the responsibility of this committee.

Questions/Discussions

None.

Womens Health **Ms. Lisa Kaye**

No Offical Report
PAWVC **Mr. John Fritz**
Questions/Discussions None
Unfinished Business
Rich Hudsinski questioned about the status on the Vetcon reports. Mr. Taylor mentioned that it was all wrapped up and will be sent to Nick.
New Business
On behalf of General Pippy, An invite to the commissioners to attend the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on 16 December at Fort Indiantown Gap.
Good of the Order
None
Agenda for Next Meeting
None
Closing Remarks
Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held at the DMVA, Hartranft Conference Room.
Next Meeting
Friday, April- 4th, 10:00 AM Forum: Arrowheads Community Center, FIG Annville, PA 17003

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
Deputy Adjutant General
Veterans Affairs

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

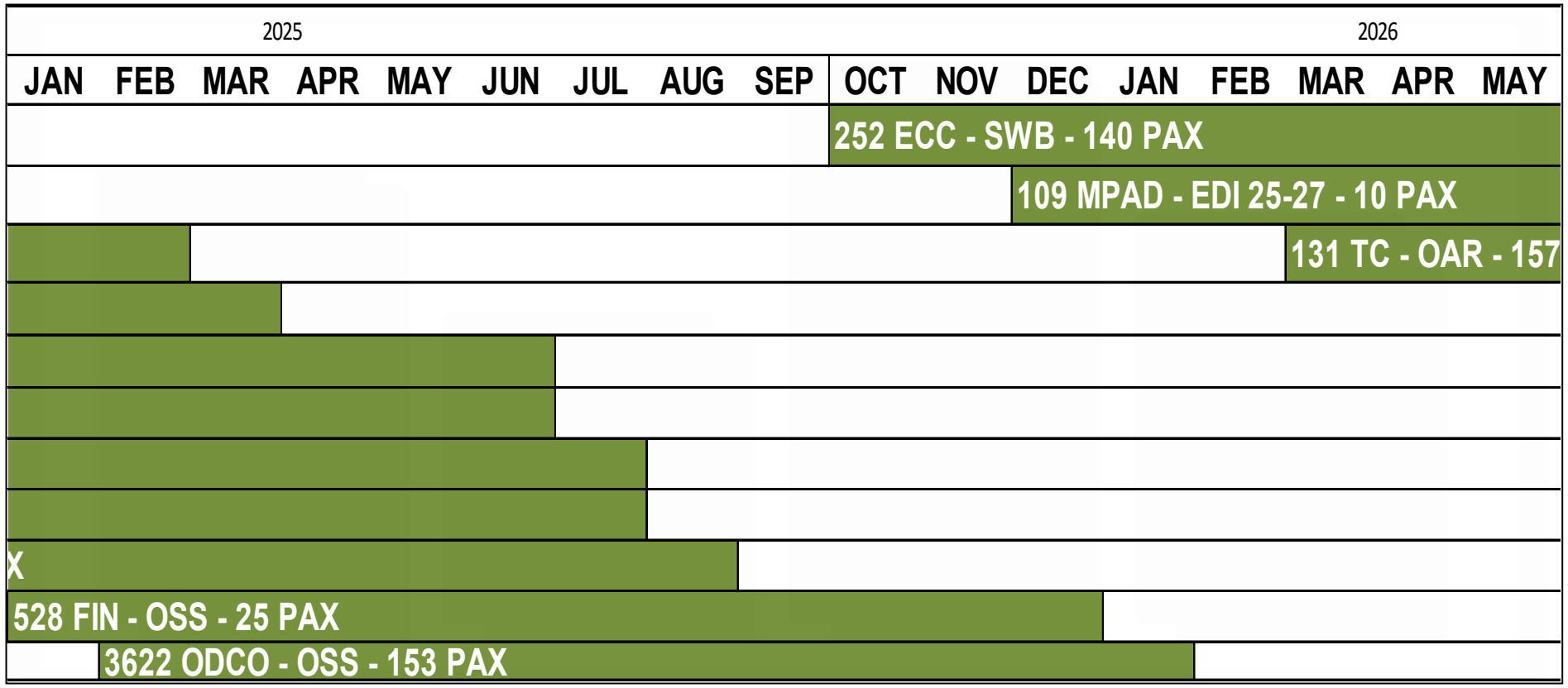
STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING
07 FEBRUARY 2025

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

DMVA MILITARY UPDATE

CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



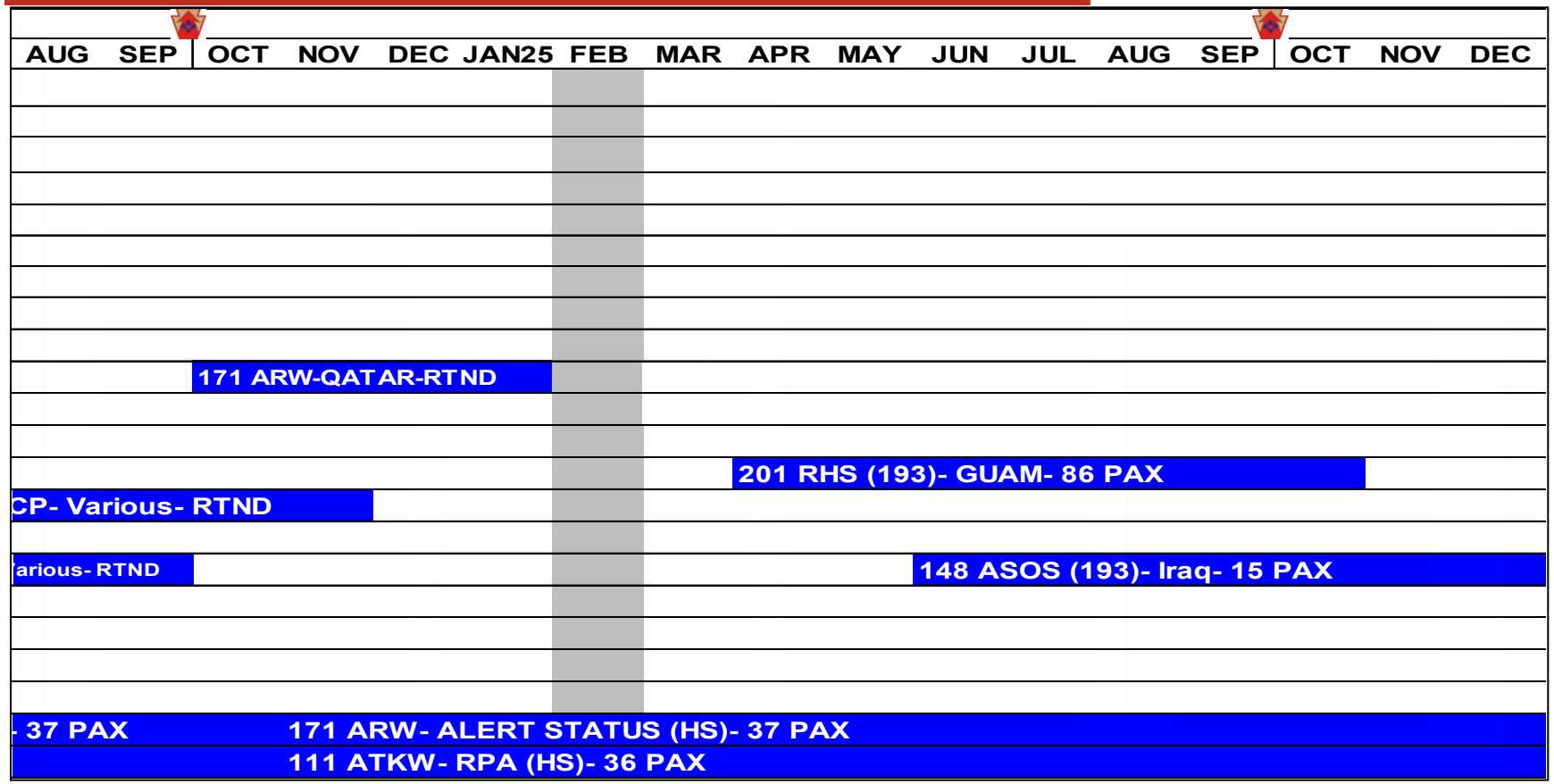
ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 1, 012
ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB Site: 27
ARNG Individual Mob: 3
Total ARNG Mob: 1,042

Total PANG Mobilized: 806

Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 73
Current ANG Individual Mob: 15
Total: ANG Mob: 88

CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS



Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 73
Current ANG Individual Mob: 16
Total: ANG Mob: 89

CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

PAANG Current Deployments		
Unit	**Opn**	**Pax**
193 SOW	CENTCOM, AFRICOM, PACOM	**5/5/2**
111 ATKW	IPR (HS), EUCOM, PACOM	**36/2/2**
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS)	**37**
Total PAANG Deployed		**89**

Total PANG Deployed 806

BUREAU OF VETERANS PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, REINTEGRATION, AND OUTREACH

Mr. Keith Graham

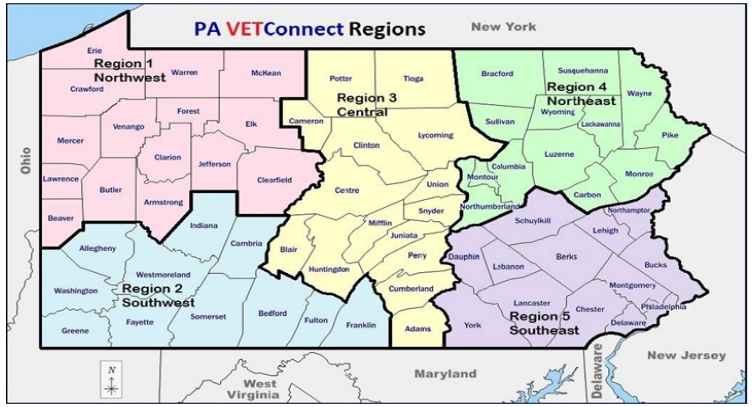
PA VETConnect

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

We build relationships that amplify service to the SMVF community

- Region 1 – RPOC was able to deliver the Marine uniform for the Veteran in Clarion County. Veteran is on Hospice and not expected to make it much longer. Rodney Sherman, Clarion County Director was able to take it directly to the wife who was extremely grateful we could fulfill her husband's last wish.
- Region 2 – VSS Portser received a call about a homeless veteran and contacted him immediately and then reached out to VLP's Johnstown Office to provide a quick intake with them on the veteran. VLP contacted the veteran within a few minutes of the request and began providing assistance to work several housing options for him.
- Region 3 – R3 through VSS Cooper was able to get Rabbit Transit to agree to start picking Adams Co. veterans up for transportation to Lebanon and Martinsburg VA medical center and CBOC trips as part of their route in picking up Franklin Co. veterans as they already had a veterans transportation program for Franklin Co. veterans to get them to these medical centers.
- Region 4 – RPOC was approached by a developer based in Wilkes-Barre and NY who is looking to develop veterans housing in Hazelton and Carbondale. Jen is working on setting up a couple of follow up meetings with the WB VAMC for grants opportunities, Camp Freedom, DCED, Grimm Construction, and St. Luke's as possible partners to further the discussion as there is interest from those parties also to develop veterans housing in the Carbondale area.
- Region 5 – RPOC has been working with a recent SS of a veteran to get her VTA to pay her mortgage payment and she mentioned that she was completely out of oil and had been using space heaters. Erica called the VFW in Parkesburg, PA and they were able to get oil delivered.

- **Successes**
  - >24,000 Connections
  - Building trust within the network
  - PA VETConnect now Powered by PA Navigate – Connecting Veterans with resources and support



Reintegration & Outreach Events

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Outreach Statistics					
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	111	128	12		**248**
Veteran Interactions	1,894	1,551	541		**3,986**
Women Veterans		141	65		**206**
Family Members or Caregivers		357	228		**585**
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	661	557	105		**1,323**
Claim referrals to other state, county and local organizations assisting Veterans	537	395	66		**998**
Health Care Enrollment Referrals	381	286	57		**724**
Number of Veterans Registry Cards distributed / enrolled	291	432	219		**942**
County Directors Office Attended	55	64	3		**122**
Legislative attended events	50	77	0		**127**

Amputee & Paralyzed Veterans' Pension

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SFY24/25 Budget: $4,408,050

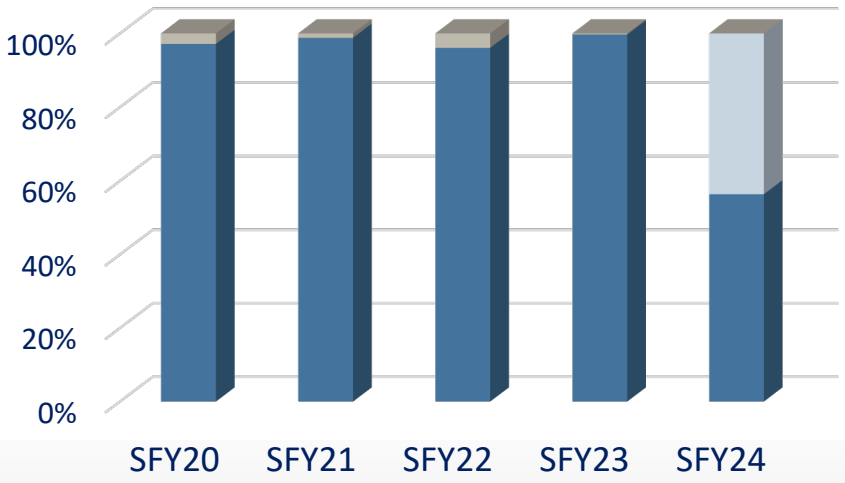
Expended $2,485,300 .....

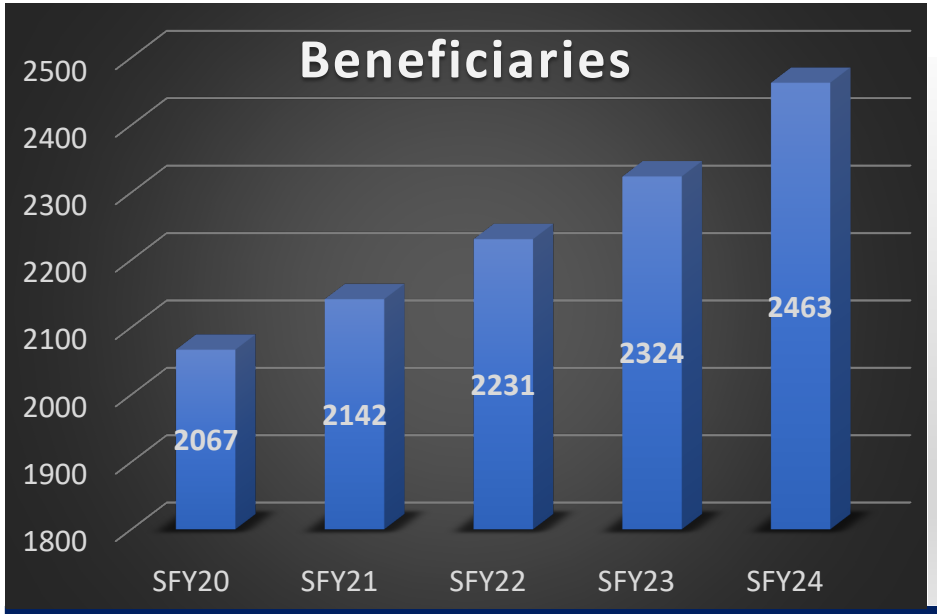
Projected $1,922,750 .....

Lapsed $0 .....

At 7/12 thru SFY, 56.4% of budget expended.

Budget Execution





Notes: 2,463 Veterans currently on pension.

Five-year trend shows a 15% beneficiary increase largely attributable to positive external factors such as the federal PACT Act of 2022.

Currently experiencing surge in applications covered by a supplement to the budget.

Blind Veterans' Pension

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SFY24/25 Budget: $222,000

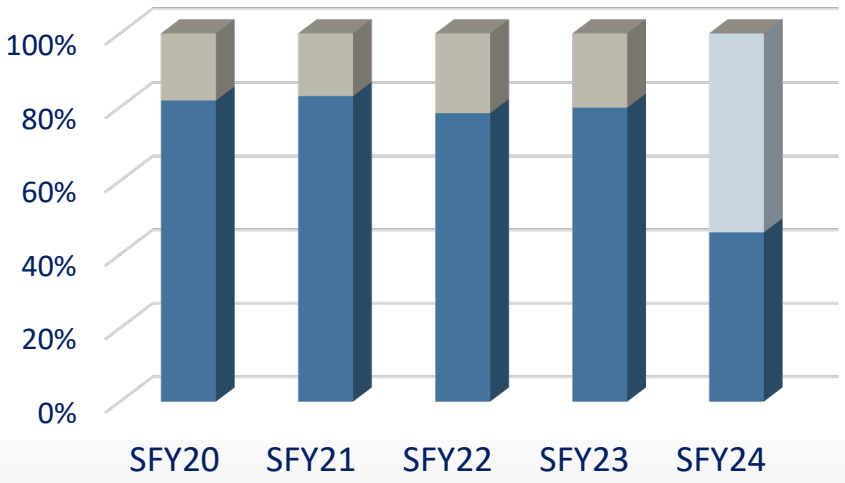
Expended $102,150 .....

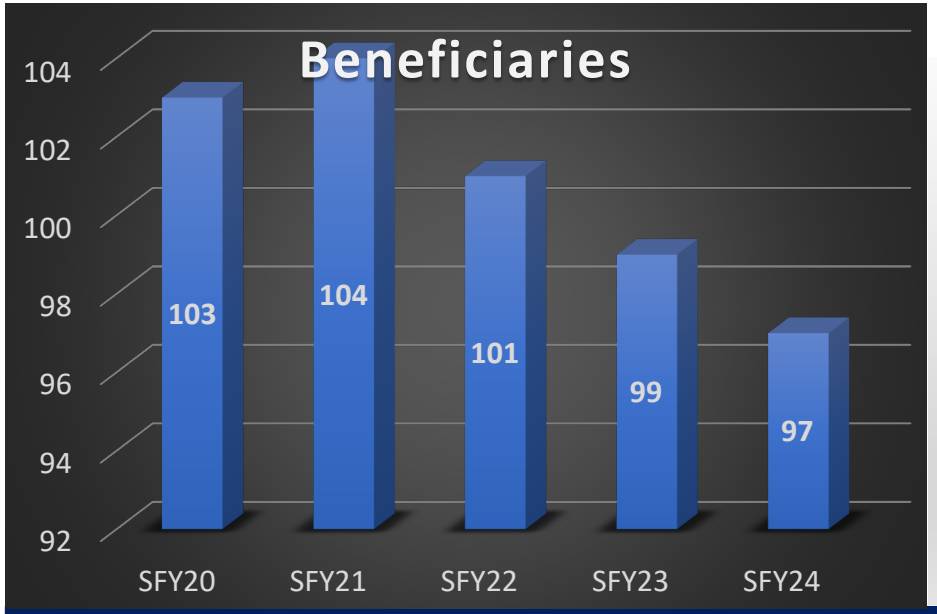
Projected $119,850 .....

Lapsed $0 .....

At 7/12 thru SFY, 46.0% of budget expended.

Budget Execution





Notes: 97 Veterans currently on pension.

Five-year trend shows a steady average of 100 pensioners. This beneficiary population is not significantly affected by the federal PACT Act of 2022 or other current external factors.

Expect continued stability.

Educational Gratuity

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SFY24/25 Budget: $196,599

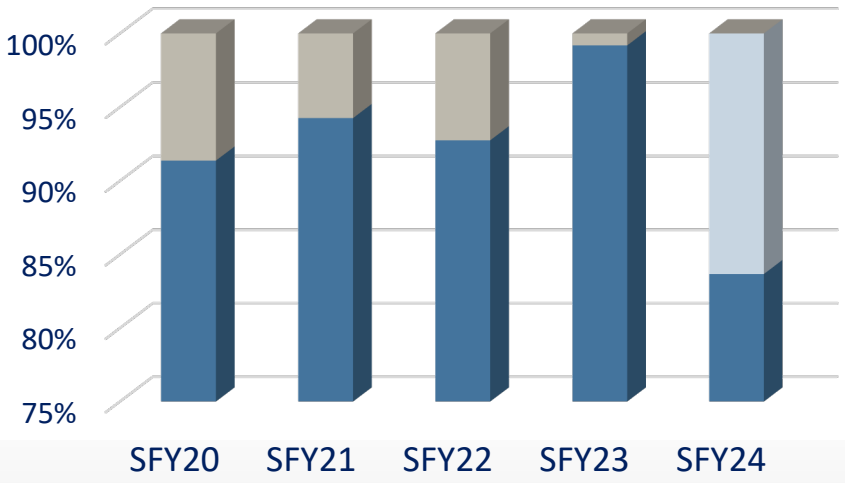
Expended $164,500 .....

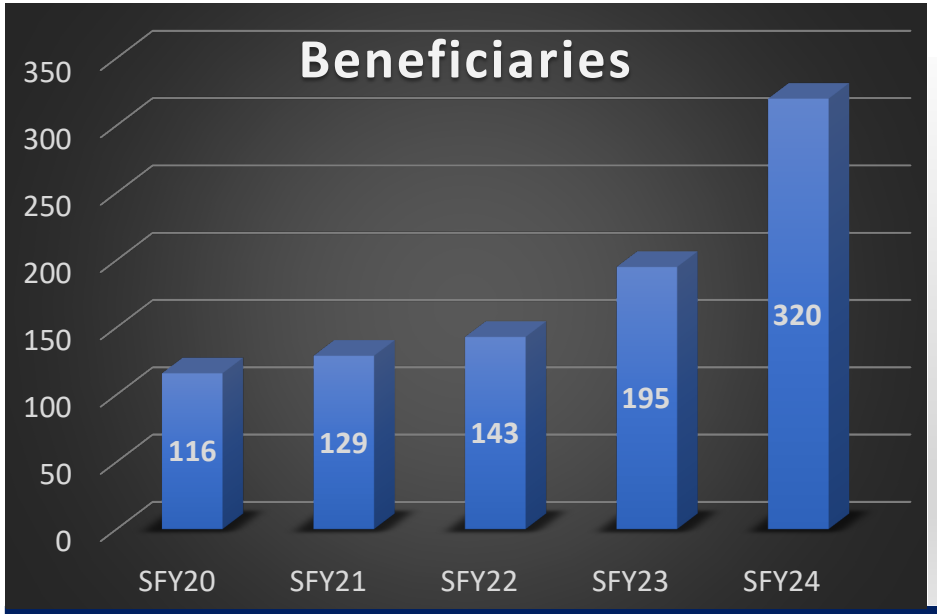
Projected $32,099 .....

Lapsed $0 .....

*At 7/12 thru SFY, **83.6%** of budget expended.*

Budget Execution





Notes: 320 students are receiving EG this SFY.

Five-year trend shows **150%** beneficiary increase since SFY20 attributable to positive external factors such as the PACT Act of 2022, Act 27 of 2024, and children of early GWOT veterans now aging into higher education.

Supplement to budget requested.

Veterans' Temporary Assistance

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SFY24/25 VTF Allowance: $850,000

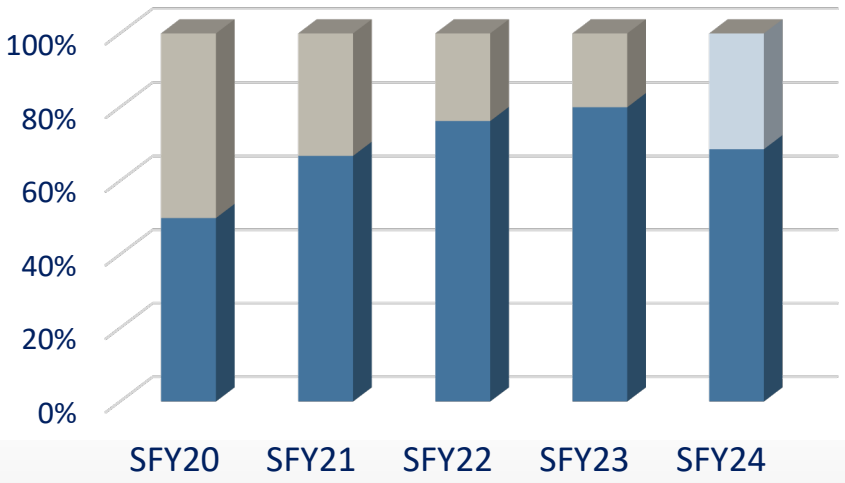
Expended $583,009 .....

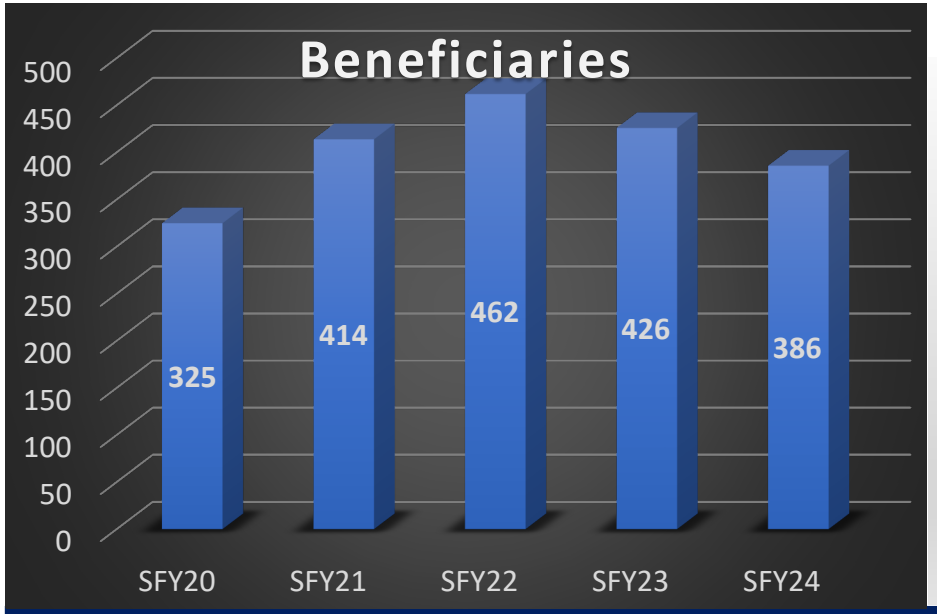
Projected $266,991 .....

Lapsed $0 .....

*At 7/12 thru SFY, **68.5%** of budget expended.*

Budget Execution





Notes: 386 grants issued SFY to date.
($87,400 in TS Debby disaster-related assistance granted to Tioga and Potter county veterans.)

Five-year trend shows an average of 400 VTA grants per year.

Expect to exceed that average and expend the total $850,000 allowance this SFY.

Military Family Relief Assistance

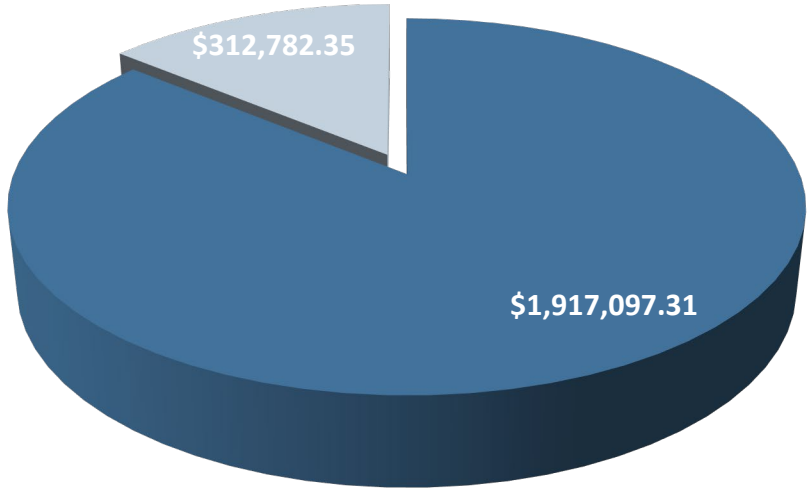
Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

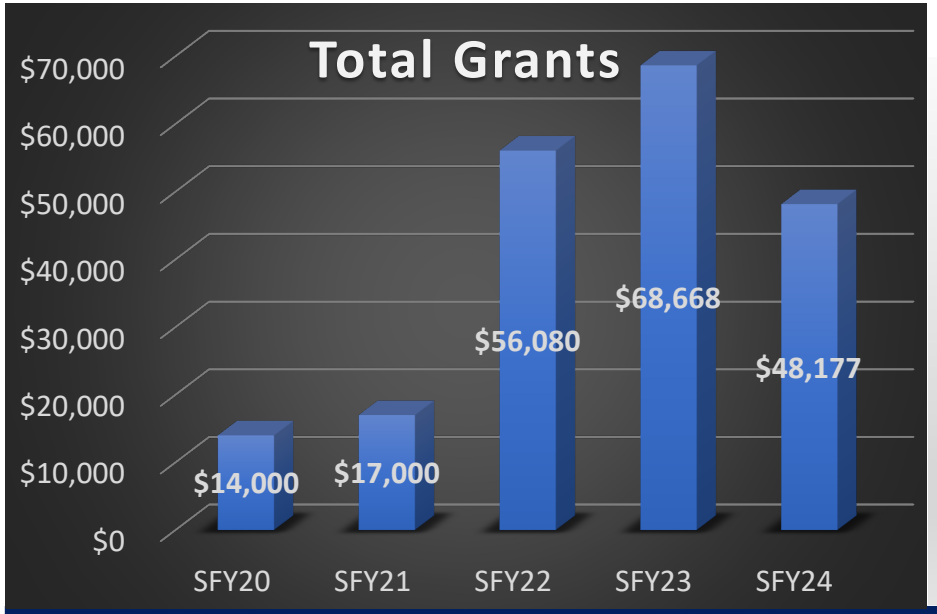
Personal Income Tax Donations .....

Private/Cash/Other Donations .....

Total Donations SFY05-24: $2,229,880
Total Grants SFY05-24: $1,051,669

MFRA Fund Balance: $1,178,209.80





Notes: $48,177 in total grants SFY to date.

Five-year trend shows large grant increases over the last two years with low points in 2020-2021 (Covid-19). Overall, the current grant trend is low compared to earlier years with higher active-duty mobilization rates.

Expect continuing low grant trends.

Disabled Vets' Real Estate Tax Exemption

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

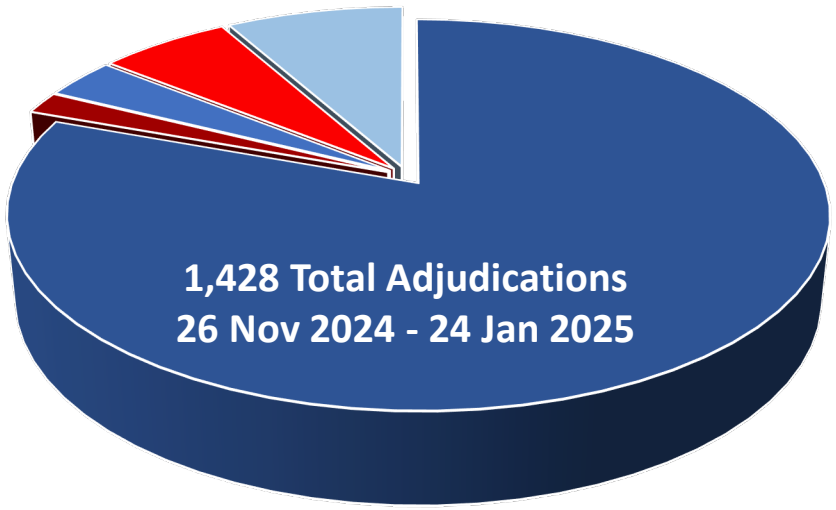
1,150 Approved (80.75%) .....

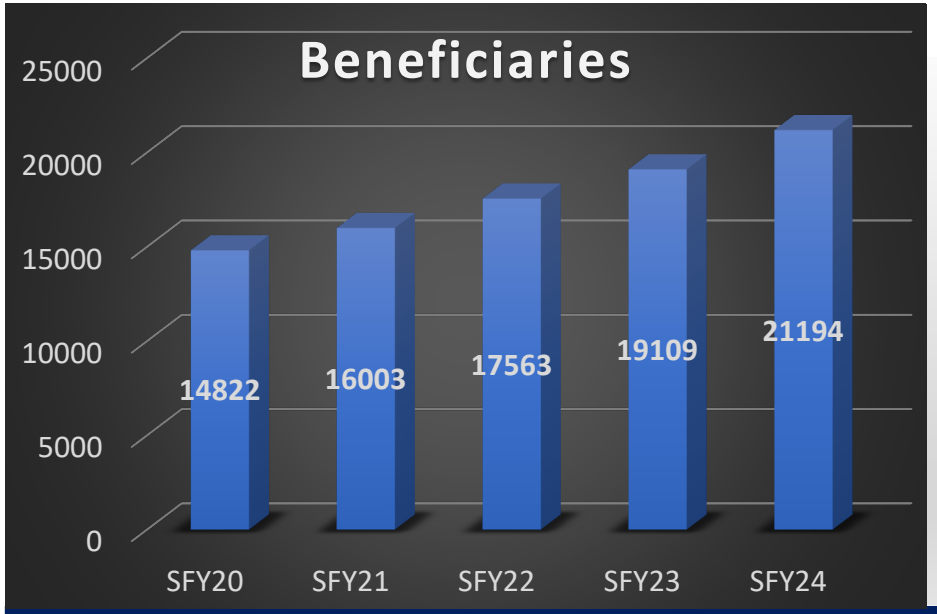
26 Denied: Financial Need .....

48 Denied: Eligibility .....

117 Removed: Change of Eligibility/Need .....

87 Removed: No Response to 5-Year Review .....





Notes: **21,194** Veterans and surviving spouses currently receive est. **$72.5M** in exemptions.

Five-year trend shows beneficiary increases of approx. 1,500 per year over the last two years attributable to positive federal PACT Act and Act 27 of 2024 effects on eligibility and need.

Expect continuing increases.

As of 24 Jan 2025

> community > commonwealth > country

Regulation #13-6: State Veterans' Programs

Updates and clarifies the application, adjudication, appeal, and administrative procedures for State Veterans' programs.

Regulation Details

IRRC Number	3429	**Proposed Regulation Received**	January 15, 2025
Agency Name	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	**PA Bulletin Publish Date**	February 15, 2025
Regulation Status	Proposed	**Close of Public Comment**	March 17, 2025
PA Code	43 Pa. Code Chapter 5	**Final Due By**	March 17, 2027
Analysts Assigned	Fiona E. Cormack (FEC) Shawn Good (SAG) Scott R. Schalles (SRS)	**IRRC Comments Due**	April 16, 2025
		Final-Form Regulation Received	N/A
		Public Meeting Date	N/A
		Published as Final	N/A

Actions Taken

No IRRC Actions taken at this time

Proposed Regulation | Final Regulation | Related Documents

Download proposed regulation

Public Comments on Proposed Regulation

There are currently no public comments on the proposed regulation.

Legislative Comments (on the Proposed and Final Regulation)

There are currently no legislative comments on the proposed or final regulation.

IRRC Comments on Proposed Regulation

There are currently no IRRC comments on the proposed regulation.

House of Representatives VAEP Committee Members

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

***Solomon, Jared**
Chair
202nd District
Philadelphia

Borowski, Lisa
108th District
Northumberland, Snyder

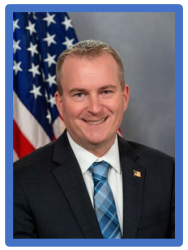
Brown, Amen
10th District
Philadelphia

+Dougherty, Sean
172nd District
Philadelphia

***Guenst, Nancy**
152nd District
Montgomery

Haddock, Jim
118th District
Luzerne, Lackawanna

+Inglis III, John
38th District
Allegheny



***Munroe, Brian**
144th District
Bucks

O'Mara, Jennifer
165th District
Delaware

***Pielli, Chris**
156th District
Chester

Sappey, Christina
158th District
Chester

Scott, Greg
54th District
Montgomery

Takac, Paul
82nd District
Centre

***Webster, Joe**
150th District
Montgomery

Gillen, Mark
Republican Chair
128th District
Berks

***Banta, Jacob**
4th District
Erie

+*Bashline, Josh
63rd District
Armstrong, Butler

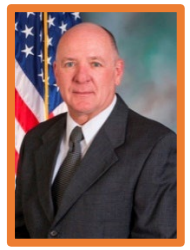
+Cooper, Jill
55th District
Westmoreland

***Hamm, Joe**
84th District
Lycoming, Sullivan

+*Kerwin, Joe
125th District
Dauphin

Krupa, Charity Grimm
51st District
Fayette

+*Major, Abby
60th District
Armstrong, Westmoreland



Rigby, Jim
71st District
Cambria, Somerset

Stender, Michael
108th District
Northumberland, Montour

***Watro, Dane**
116th District
Schuylkill, Luzerne

***Williams, Craig**
160th District
Delaware, Chester

*** Military Service** **+ New member of VAEP**

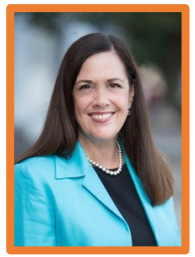
Senate VAEP Committee Members

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

***Mastriano, Doug**
Chair
33rd District
Adams, Franklin

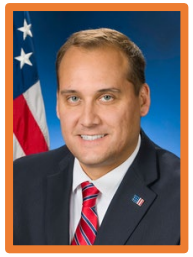
***Pennycuick, Tracy**
Vice Chair
24th District
Berks, Montgomery



+Baker, Lisa
20th District
Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

Brooks, Michele
50th District
Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer

***Dush, Cris**
25th District
Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Mckean, Potter



Langerholc Jr., Wayne
35th District
Cambria, Centre, Clearfield

Muth, Katie
Minority Chair
44th District
Berks, Chester, Montgomery

Kane, John
9th District
Chester, Delaware

Lindsey Williams
38th District
Allegheny

+Pisciottano, Nick
45th District
Allegheny

*** Military Service** **+ New member of VAEP**

House of Representatives Appropriations Committee Majority Members 2025-2026 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Harris, Jordan
Chair
186th District
Philadelphia

Mullins, Kyle
Vice Chair
112th District
Lackawanna

Young, Regina
Secretary
185th District
Philadelphia, Delaware

Abner, Aerion
19th District
Allegheny

+Bellmon, Anthony
203rd District
Philadelphia

Guzman Jr., Manuel
127th District
Berks

Kinkead, Emily
20th District
Allegheny

+Friel, Paul
26th District
Chester

Benjamin V. Sanchez
153rd District
Montgomery

Brennan, Tim
29th District
Bucks

+Khan, Tarik
194th District
Philadelphia

Curry, Gina
164th District
Delaware

Fleming, Justin
105th District
Dauphin

Gallagher, Pat
173rd District
Philadelphia

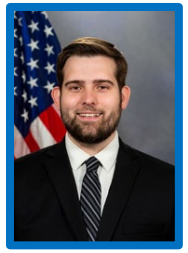
Kosierowski, Bridget
114th District
Lackawanna

Madsen, Dave
104th District
Dauphin

Malagari, Steven
53rd District
Montgomery

Mayes, La'Tasha
24th District
Allegheny

Salisbury, Abigail
34th District
Allegheny



Siegel, Joshua
22nd District
Lehigh

Waxman, Ben
182nd District
Philadelphia

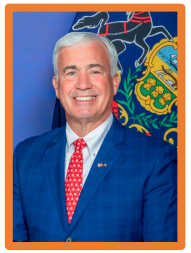
***Webster, Joe**
150th District
Montgomery

*** Military Service** **+ New member of VAEP**

House of Representatives Appropriations Committee Minority Members 2025-2026 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Struzzi II, James
62nd District
Indiana



+Barton, Jamie
124th District
Berks, Schuylkill

+Brown, Marla
9th District
Lawrence

+Davanzo, Eric
58th District
Westmoreland

Ecker, Torren
193rd District
Adams, Cumberland

Flood, Ann
138th District
Republican Secretary
Northumberland

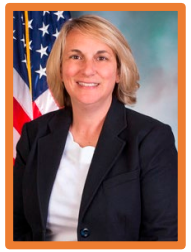
+Kail, Joshua
15th District
Beaver, Washington

+Krupa, Charity Grimm
51st District
Fayette

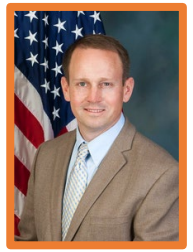
Kutz, Thomas
87th District
Cumberland

***Mako, Zachary**
183rd District
Northampton, Lehigh

Marcell, Kristin
178th District
Bucks

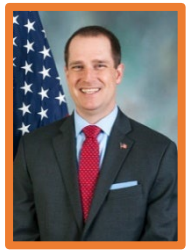


Mustello, Marci
11th District
Butler



***Nelson, Eric**
57th District
Westmoreland

+Olsommer, Jeff
139th District
Pike, Wayne



Warner, Ryan
52nd District
Fayette, Westmoreland

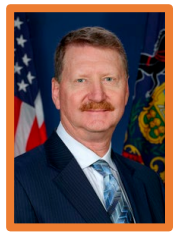
*** Military Service** **+ New member of VAEP**

Senate Appropriations Committee Members

2025-2026 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Martin, Scott
Chair
13th District
Berks, Lancaster



Vogel Jr. Elder
Vice Chair
47th District
Beaver, Butler, Lawrence

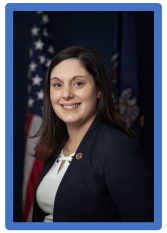
Brown, Rosemary
40th District
Lackawanna, Monroe, Wayne

+Coleman, Jarrett
16th District
Bucks, Lehigh

Culver, Lynda Schlegel
27th District
Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder

***Dush, Cris**
25th District
Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Mckean, Potter

Hughes, Vincent
Minority Chair
7th District
Montgomery, Philadelphia



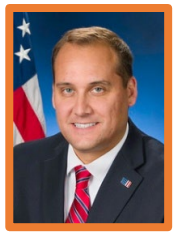
+Cappelletti, Amanda
17th District
Delaware, Montgomery

Haywood, Art
4th District
Montgomery, Philadelphia

Kearney, Timothy
26th District
Delaware

+Kim, Patty
15th District
Dauphin

+Gebhard, Chris
48th District
Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon



Langerholc Jr., Wayne
35th District
Bedford, Cambri, Clearfield

***Pennycuick, Tracy**
24th District
Berks, Montgomery

Phillips-Hill, Kristin
28th District
York

+Picozzi, Joe
5th District
Philadelphia

***Rothman, Greg**
34th District
Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry

Schwank, Judith
11th District
Berks

Street, Sharif
3rd District
Philadelphia

*** Military Service** **+ New member of VAEP**

Survey Update

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

SVH Survey Table as of January 24, 2025				
SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
DVVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	10/15/24 - 10/18/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	09/10/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/19/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	10/21/24	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	12/17/24 - 12/20/24	CAP under development
GMVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/13/24 - 08/16/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	08/21/24	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/27/24 - 03/01/24	Cleared, full certification
HVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	07/15/24 - 07/18/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/02/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	07/15/24 - 07/17/24	Cleared
	DHS	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/06/24	Cleared
	DHS	Abbreviated - Incident	08/15/24	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	03/05/24 - 03/06/24	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	06/10/24 - 06/14/24	Cleared, provisional certification

SVH Survey Table as of January 24, 2025				
SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
PSSH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	04/23/24 - 04/26/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	04/16/24	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	01/25, 01/26, 04/11	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	03/18/24 - 03/22/24	Cleared, full certification
SEVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	06/11/24 - 06/14/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	11/18/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	10/01/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	03/14/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	06/10/24	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	11/13/24	Cleared
	DHS	Abbreviated - Incident	01/03/25	Results Pending
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/26/24 - 03/01/24	Cleared, provisional certification
SWVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	05/06/24 - 05/10/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/27/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/07/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	07/03/24	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	06/13/24	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	05/14/24 - 05/15/24	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	05/07/24 - 05/10/24	Cleared, provisional certification

Infection Prevention Update

Pennsylvania
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

COVID-19, Influenza, RSV Data

Friday, January 24, 2025	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC	TOTAL
Total # of COVID + residents	1	0	0	0	14	6	21
Total # of COVID + staff	0	0	0	0	9	3	12
Total number of residents who have received the 2024/2025 COVID vaccine	119	145	160	116	137	115	792
Total number of Influenza+ residents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of Influenza+ staff	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total # of residents who received the 2024/2025 Influenza vaccine	139	163	196	129	153	133	913
Total # of staff who have received the 2024/2025 Influenza vaccine	119	94	72	50	50	95	480
Total # of + RSV residents	2 (1) hospital	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total # of residents who received a dose of RSV vaccine	3	23	53	4	3	14	100

5 Star rating - last updated: January 23, 2025

	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Overall	5	5	4	4	5	3
Health Inspection	4	4	2	3	4	2
Quality Measures	5	5	5	2	3	4
Staffing	5	5	5	5	5	5
Changes from December 2024/ January 2025	Unchanged	Unchanged	Overall Changed 3 to 4	Quality Measures Changed 3 to 2	Health Inspection 3 to 4 Quality Measures 5 to 3	Unchanged

Resident Status: January 24, 2025

Veteran Home	Isolation COVID	Quarantine	Isolation Influenza	Isolation RSV
DVVH	0	0	0	2 (1) hospital
GMVC	0	0	0	0
HVH	0	0	0	0
PSSH	0	0	0	0
SEVC	14	1	0	0
SWVC	6	0	0	0

*Influenza vaccines residents only : 913

COVID vaccines residents only: 792

Vaccine Numbers since 9/16/24

*COVID: 1 resident at DVVH, 14 at SEVC, 6 at SWVC

*RSV: 2 residents at DVVH

Influenza: None

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/19MpLoPxayE1MDwQJJYCZxlSN64V4FJSJPGzfvVBb5Mw/edit#gid=1511961664

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2025 Wait Times

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Clinics FY25 thru Jan. 15	Number of Appointments	Average Wait
Mental Health	116,524	5.0
Primary Care	148,373	4.1
Specialty Care	308,454	10.2
Other	240,995	6.8
ALL	814,346	7.3

FY25 data updated 1/17/2025 with appointment info as of 1/15/2025.

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care	
	New Patients	Returning Patients
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	13	2
Abie Abraham HCC	12	2
Coatesville VAMC	24	4
Erie VAMC	16	2
Lebanon VAMC	12	4
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	24	6
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	21	9
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (H.J. Heinz)	37	12
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	13	2
Wilmington VAMC	22	5

FY25 data updated 1/17/2025 with wait times as of 1/17/2025 for the last 30 days.

www.accesstocare.va.gov

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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.

FY25 data updated 1/17/2025 with wait times as of 1/17/2025 for the last 30 days.

www.accesstocare.va.gov

VISN 4 Care in the Community

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)		Non-VA Unique Patients*
FY23	190,810	99,167
FY24	211,729	103,827
FY25 (as of 1/17/25)	63,332	53,538

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

FY25 data updated 1/17/2025 with consult info as of 1/17/2025.

CMS Star Ratings – July 2024

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Facility Name	Peer Grouping	Overall Star Rating	Hospital Summary Score
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	4	★★★	0.04
Lebanon VAMC	4	★★★★★	0.68
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	5	★★★★	0.23
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	5	★	-1.20
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	4	★★★★	0.58
Wilmington VAMC	4	★★★★	0.35

- The CMS Star ratings, available publicly, show 67% of applicable VISN 4 facilities performing at 4 or 5 stars (5 stars being the highest rating).
  - Lebanon increased from 4 to 5 stars
  - Wilmington increased from 3 to 4 stars
- Six facilities are included in star ratings due to number of patient discharges.
- CMS Star ratings update annually.

SAIL Radar

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

FY 24 Q4 Rank (FY24 Q3 Rank)

- **Ranked out of 18 Total VISNs**

Rank Improved = **11** (7)

Rank Worse = **7** (6)

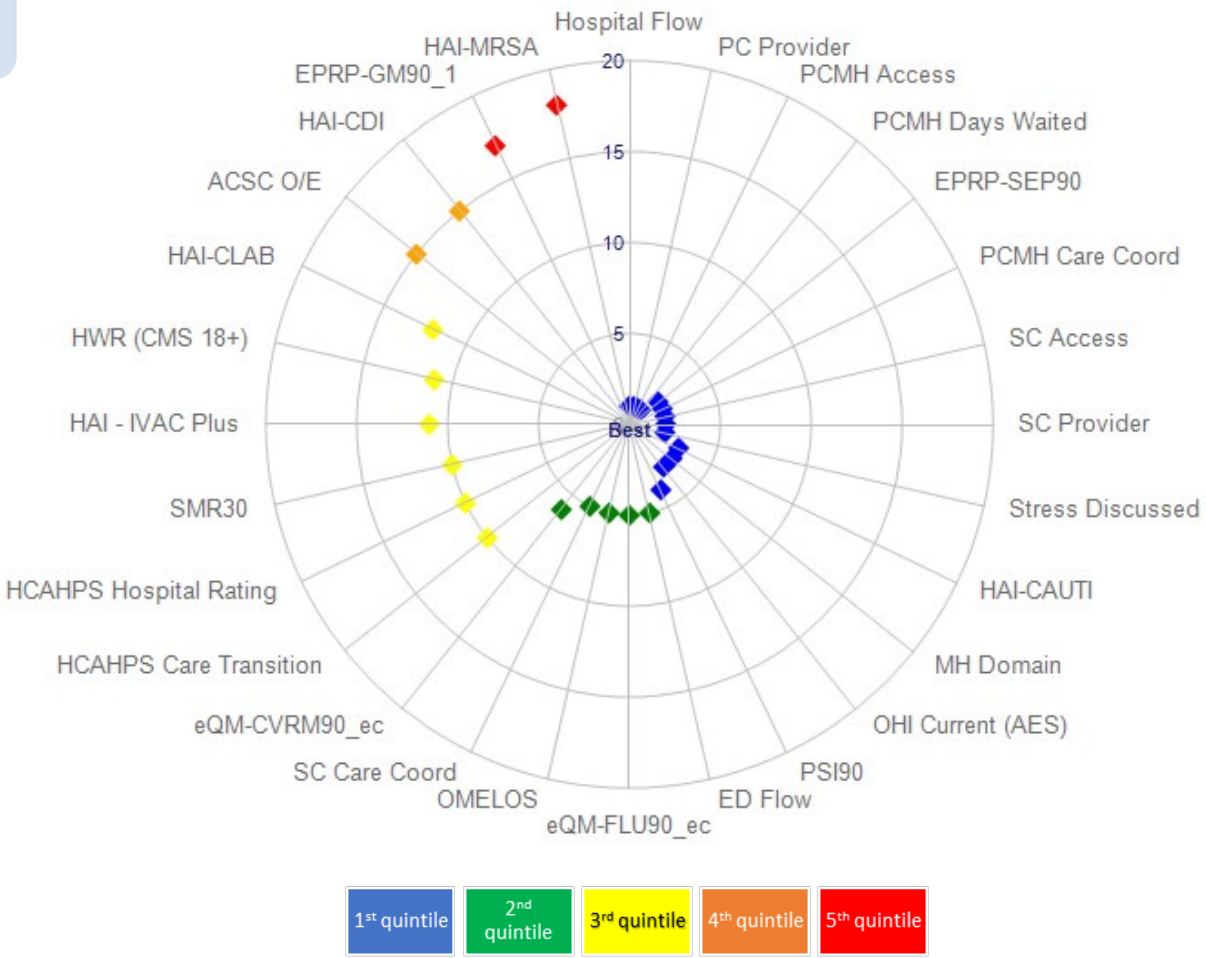
No Change = **9** (16)

**Note – preferred direction in rank is down

12 Main Measures in the **1st Quintile** among 18 total VISNs

2 Total 5th quintile Main Measures – previously 4

VISN 4 (FY2024Q4) (Metric)



NEXT MEETING

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

04 APRIL 2025 at 10:00AM

Arrowheads Community Club
Building 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

FOR SVC INFO VISIT: www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans/commissionsandcouncils

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Healthcare–VISN 4

VISN 4 Update

February 7, 2025

Leadership Update

Vamsee Potluri, Director of the Wilmington VA Medical Center, is currently detailed to Acting Director of the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center. He is scheduled to return from his detail on February 16th.

Dr. Matthew Morris, Associate Director for Patient Care Services at Wilmington, is currently serving as the Acting Director.

Wendy Reismiller, Deputy Associate Director for Patient Care Services at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, is currently serving as the Acting Associate Director for Patient Care Services at the Wilmington VA.

Dr. Rick Hong was selected as Wilmington's Chief of Staff. Dr. Hong joined the Wilmington team in 2023 as their Chief of Emergency Medicine, bringing with him a wealth of experience in health care administration, public health, and government services.

Dr. Yusef Sayeed was selected for the Chief of Staff at Coatesville. Dr. Sayeed previously served as the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Columbia, South Carolina VA. His previous VA roles also include serving as the Acting VHA Executive Director of Telehealth Services.

Eric Haycisak, Associate Chief Nurse, Outpatient Services at the Altoona VA, is currently serving as their Acting Associate Director of Patient Care Services.

Thomas Bennett, the Chief of Police at the Butler VA, is currently serving as the Acting Chief VISN 4 Security Officer.

VA's Secure Sign-In Transition Update

VA has extended the Sign-In Transition deadline for the use of the My HealtheVet user ID and password from January 31, 2025, to March 4, 2025. This means Veterans will not be able to use their My HealtheVet user ID and password to sign in to their My HealtheVet account, VA.gov, VA mobile applications, or other VA online services after March 4, 2025. The date for the DS Logon option to be removed remains the same,

September 30, 2025. Veterans will require one of the two secure sign-in accounts: Login.gov or ID.me to sign in to their My HealtheVet account, VA.gov, VA mobile applications, or other VA online services.

For those Veterans who do not transition to a Login.gov or ID.me account by these dates, their stored information will not be lost. Veterans can manage their VA benefits and care by telephone, mail, or in person. However, to access their information and manage their benefits and care online again, Veterans will need to create a Login.gov or ID.me account. If Veterans have trouble creating a Login.gov or ID.me account, they can contact the facility My Health*e*Vet Coordinator, facility Virtual Health Resource Center, or other facility staff. Other assistance can be provided by each sign-in account provider's help center at www.Login.gov or www.ID.me.

Flu Vaccines

Just a reminder that VA Health and Wellness Clinics will continue to sponsor the Flu Shot Campaign through early Spring. The flu vaccine is given at many VA facilities as well as community clinics and pharmacies. A link where eligible Veterans can receive their flu shots is included in the read ahead.

Patient Experience Update – Trust

VISN 4 has consistently received the highest trust score in the nation at 94.8%.

Our network also has the highest number of compliments at 79.7% and the lowest number of concerns at 10.4%. The top 5 compliments recently are cleanliness of facility, interactions with staff, satisfaction with specialty care, quality of care, and Podiatry Services.

HRO Highlight: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

The HRO Principles is "Deference to Expertise" and HRO Values "Duty to Speak Up" were exhibited by the Medical Support Assistant (MSA) at the Pittsburgh VAMC who observed an interaction with a veteran and their significant other during check-out leading to the suspicion for domestic abuse.

The MSA trusted their intuition and judgement and escalated the situation to their lead and to the Outpatient Surgical Clinic Nurse Manager. The Outpatient Surgical manager provided contact information to the MSA for the Outpatient Clinical social worker and advised the MSA to contact social work as soon as possible. The MSA contacted the Surgical Clinic social worker who was able to appropriately guide staff through the national VHA Directive 1199, Reporting Cases of Abuse and Neglect and the current Medical Center Policy for External Abuse Reporting Policy.

Everyone that works at the VA has a "duty to speak up". There can be some gray areas to policies like this one (e.g., staff other than the primary provider witnessing concerning information) and staff may not be sure whether an encounter is reportable or not. The message here is that it is better to err on the side of caution and submit the report to the proper authorities as soon as possible. The agency receiving the report will then determine if it will be accepted for investigation. It is only our job to submit a timely report, not investigate. In these situations, it is best to report the information to the treating provider as well as to alert Social Work as soon as possible.

Even though they are not "clinical" staff, the MSAs and other ancillary staff in the VA are a necessary and vital part of our frontline staff and may witness or become involved in situations out of their scope of practice. All VA staff should feel prepared and knowledgeable about how to act (including who to contact to escalate concerns to) in situations like this. This supports the HRO Pillar: Culture of Safety, Principle: Sensitivity to Operations & Deference to Expertise, and Values – Duty to Speak Up and Deference to expertise, and Values.

Following this event, the Medical Center Policy and national directives for reporting suspected abuse and neglect were widely shared throughout all clinic areas (clinical and non-clinical), social work's contact information was shared widely and placed in areas of easy access/reference for staff and social work followed up with non-clinical staff to strengthen their relationship as a resources/support.

VA expands access to Veterans Legacy Memorial, allowing Veterans to chronicle their life story

On January 16, expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) — the nation's largest digital platform dedicated to the memory of Veterans and service members — to allow Veterans to tell their own story before they pass away. The new "Your Story, Your Legacy" feature will allow Veterans who have been approved for VA's pre-need eligibility determination for burial in a VA national cemetery to log in to a secure website where they can privately submit images, autobiographies, military and life milestones, and historical documents.

VLM already offers family, friends, and others a way to chronicle the life of a Veteran by uploading written tributes, photos, biographies, documents, and other information. It contains nearly 10 million interactive VLM pages for those interred in VA national cemeteries, Department of Defense-managed cemeteries, VA grant-funded state/tribal cemeteries, National Park Service cemeteries, and private cemeteries around the world.

VA will keep a Veteran's content secure until they pass away and VA approves a request for a burial or memorial benefit. Following approval, the content the Veteran submitted will become public and appear on their VLM page on the public-facing website.

Veterans who have provided their email address and been approved for pre-need eligibility will receive an email directing them to the "Your Story, Your Legacy" landing page. Here's where to apply online. For more information about the feature. visit the Your Story, Your Legacy landing page.

Since the VLM website launched in 2019, more than 165,000 submissions have been made to Veteran profile pages. NCA moderators review all content submissions before being posted to a Veteran's page to ensure it conforms to the VLM User Policy.

For information about VA burial benefits, visit one of VA's National Cemetery Locations in-person, visit online at VA burial benefits and memorial products, or call toll free at 800-827-1000. To plan for you and your family, visit NCA's pre-need eligibility website.

VA announces plans to award hundreds of millions in grants, launches new initiative to help homeless Veterans

On December 18, VA announced three key steps to help Veterans experiencing homelessness:

- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Grants:** Within the coming year, VA will award hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to organizations that help rapidly rehouse Veterans and their families, prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home, or identify new, more suitable housing situations for Veterans and their families. The exact funding amount will be determined by VA's budget, and funding will support operations beginning Oct. 1, 2025.
- **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Case Management Grants:** VA will award approximately $15 million per year for three years to existing GPD Case Management grantees to renew their grants. The awards will range from $75,000 to $300,000, depending on factors such as the number of case managers funded. VA expects to fund approximately 90 renewal grants, supporting around 120 full-time equivalent (FTE) case manager positions. Awards may not exceed $150,000 total costs per FTE case manager position per year. Awards made for grants will fund operations for three years beginning on or around Oct. 1, 2025.
- **New Mayor's Pledge to House Homeless Veterans:** VA is launching a new Mayor's Pledge to House Homeless Veterans — a national initiative encouraging mayors to engage landlords within their communities to pledge their available rental units to Veterans participating in VA's homeless programs. This is critical because VA's permanent housing programs — which help Veterans exit homelessness — depend on access to affordable rental units.

RETX - Exempt List

mvfigsqlprod01
1/24/2025
rep_VADC_RETX_Exempt_List_New

Summary of Current Exemptions

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
21194	20726	430	38	293

Summary of Application Activity from 11/26/2024 to 01/24/2025

Apps Created: 996	
New:	694
Review:	302

Apps Approved: 1,150	
New:	742
Review:	408

Apps Denied (Need):	26
Apps Denied (Eligibility):	48
Exemptions Removed (No Response):	87
Apps Removed (Eligibility Change):	117

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	Count
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.	3
No Response to requested information	4
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or jointly or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	12
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	16
The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict and has a future exam, therefore disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	2
The veteran's disability has not been declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	2
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stated that the veteran has a future exam, therefore disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	9

Summary of Activity: 26 Nov 2024 - 24 Jan 2025

Applications Approved	**1,150**
New	742
Review	408

Applications Denied	**278**
Financial Need	26
Ineligible	48
No Response	87
Change of Eligibility	117

Over Income	**46**
New	46
Review	0

FALSE
6%
0%

Applications Created	**996**
Total Adjudicated	**1,428**

Headstones & Markers

When burial is in a VA national, state, or tribal Veterans' cemetery, the type of headstone or marker will depend on the cemetery and the section. Cemetery officials will assist with applying for the headstone or marker. When burial is in a private cemetery or local government cemetery, the type of headstone or marker will depend on the family's wishes and any cemetery restrictions on type. The types of headstones and markers available for private cemeteries are:

- Upright granite or marble headstone;
- Flat bronze marker or bronze niche marker; or
- Flat granite or marble marker.

Upright Granite or Marble

42" x 13" x 4"

Approx. 24"-26" above ground

Weight approx. 230 lbs.

Flat Granite or Marble

24" x 12" x 4"

Weight approx. 130 lbs.

Flat Bronze

24" x 12"

Weight approx. 18 lbs.

Bronze Niche

8 ½" x 5 ½"

Weight approx. 3 lbs.

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

- Abraham Lincoln
Second Inaugural Address
March 4, 1865

For More Information Contact
Memorial Products Service
Phone: 1-800-697-6947
www.cem.va.gov

I CARE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

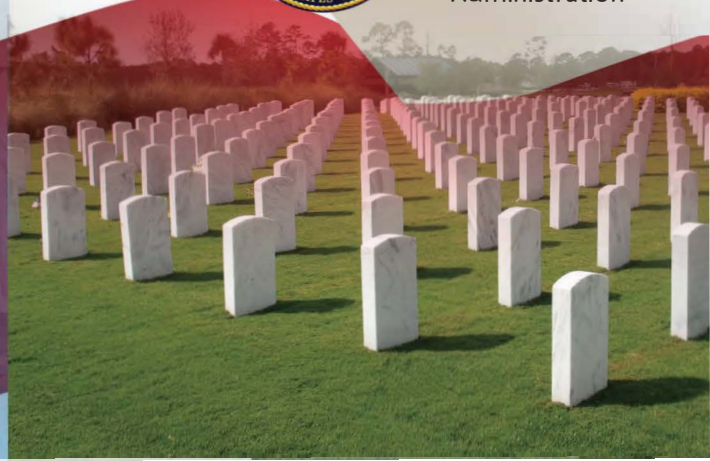
NCA IS 4
#P96781
12/2017

Veteran Headstones, Markers and Medallions

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration



VA National Cemetery Administration Website: www.cem.va.gov

About

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of his or her date of death. Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state Veterans' cemetery, or military post/base or tribal cemetery. There is no charge for the headstone or marker; however, arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense. VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the marked graves of Veterans who died on or after November 1, 1990.

Forms

If choosing burial in a VA national or state or tribal Veterans cemetery, the cemetery official will assist with applying for the headstone or marker. Use VA Form 40-1330, Claim for Standard Government Headstone or Marker to apply for a headstone or marker for installation in a private cemetery. This form must be signed by the applicant, the consignee and the cemetery official: www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330.pdf. Use VA Form 40-1330M, Claim for Government Medallion for Placement in a Private Cemetery to apply for a medallion. Only the signature of the applicant is required on this form:www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330m.pdf. Please send copies of military discharge documents or award citations to verify receipt of any awards requested for inscription on the marker. Do not send original documents, as they cannot be returned. Photocopies or photographs of actual medals will not be accepted as verification of the award.

Eligibility

Most Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable are eligible to receive a headstone, marker or medallion. Headstones and markers are furnished for eligible spouses and dependents who are buried in a VA national, state or tribal Veterans' cemetery. Headstones and markers are not furnished for spouses and dependents for Veterans buried in a private cemetery.

Inscriptions

Government-furnished headstones and markers consist of Mandatory, Optional, and Additional inscription items. Below are the inscription items by order of precedence:

- VA approved emblem(s) of belief (Optional);
- The Veteran's name (legal name or the diminutive of a legal name such as Bob for Robert or Bill for William), years of birth and death, and branch of service (mandatory)
- Highest rank attained; (Optional)
- War service active duty dates must align with the period of war or conflict; (Optional) and
- Nicknames, military units, professional titles, terms of endearment, etc., are authorized to be inscribed at the bottom of the headstone or marker and must be requested at the time the application is submitted. Some restrictions apply.

Shipment

Medallions, headstones and markers must be shipped to a cemetery's business address. Medallions can be shipped to private residences for placement on the Veteran's privately purchased headstone or marker by the next-of-kin. VA cannot ship headstones or markers to Post Office boxes. Rural route box addresses are acceptable, and a telephone number must be provided for delivery directions.

Medallions

VA provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing, privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased status as a Veteran. This device is furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or grave marker for those Veterans who served on or after April 6, 1917, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Medallions come in three sizes:

- Small (2" W x 1-1/2" H x 1/3" D)
- Medium (3-3/4" W x 2-7/8" H x 1/4" D
- Large (6-3/8" W x 4-3/4" H x 1/2" D)

Use VA Form 40-1330M. An installation video is available at https://youtu.be/qA5eaD6ndwc.

CLAIM FOR GOVERNMENT MEDALLION TO AFFIX TO A PRIVATE MARKER
GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

RESPONDENT BURDEN - Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it has a valid OMB number. Your response is voluntary, however, your response is required to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the VA Clearance Officer (005R1B), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please DO NOT send applications for benefits to this address.

PRIVACY ACT - VA considers the responses you submit confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may only disclose this information outside the VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 48VA40B, published in the Federal Register. VA considers the requested information relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law.

BENEFIT PROVIDED - MEDALLION (Only for eligible deceased Veterans who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, regardless of their date of death**)**

VA will furnish a medallion upon receipt of claim for affixing to an existing privately-purchased headstone or marker placed at the gravesite of an eligible deceased Veteran who is buried in a private or local Government cemetery. The medallion is made of bronze and available in three sizes: Large, Medium, Small. Each medallion is inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom *(see Note in Block 11 of the claim for further information*).

Shown below are the three medallions with the actual dimensions (+/- 1/32") for width and height.

Large Medallion
Dimensions: 6 3/8" W, 4 3/4" H, 1/2" D

Medium Medallion
Dimensions: 3 3/4" W, 2 7/8" H, 1/4" D

Small Medallion
Dimensions: 2" W, 1 1/2" H, 1/3" D

WHO IS ELIGIBLE - Any deceased Veteran discharged under honorable conditions, who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917, and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. Any Servicemember of the Armed Forces of the United States who served on or after April 6, 1917, and died on active duty and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. **Service after September 7, 1980 for enlisted, and October 16, 1981 for officers, must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances, e.g., death on active duty**. Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, e.g., death while on active duty, or as a result of training. Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60, are eligible; please submit a copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter with the claim. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible.

WHO CAN APPLY - An "applicant" for a Medallion may be any of the following:

(i) A decedent's family member, which includes the decedent's spouse or individual who was in a legal union as defined in 38 CFR 3.1702(b)(1)(ii) with the decedent; a child, parent, or sibling of the decedent, whether biological, adopted, or step relation; and any lineal or collateral descendant of the decedent;

(ii) A personal representative, defined as a family member or other individual who has identified himself or herself as the person responsible for making decisions concerning the interment of the remains of or memorialization of a deceased individual;

(iii) A representative of a Congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organization;

(iv) An individual employed by the relevant state, tribal organization, or local government whose official responsibilities include serving veterans and families of veterans, such as a state or county veterans service officer; or

(v) Any individual who is responsible, under the laws of the relevant state or locality, for the disposition of the unclaimed remains of the decedent or for other matters relating to the interment or memorialization of the decedent.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE - A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed bearing the signature of the current president, to honor the memory of Veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. VA will provide the applicant with a PMC if the Veteran is eligible for a headstone, marker, or medallion. The applicant may request additional PMCs by indicating how many in block 19 of this form. Applicants may use a VA Form 40-0247, Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form to order additional PMCs to other addresses.

HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM - Please attach a copy of the deceased Veteran's discharge certificate (DD Form 214 or equivalent), the VA Pre-Need Eligibility Determination letter, or a copy of other official document(s) establishing qualifying military service. If you are unable to locate copies of military records, apply anyway, as VA will attempt to obtain records necessary to make an eligibility determination. **Do not send original documents**; they will not be returned.

ELECTRONICALLY submit your claim and supporting documents by using Quick Submit at **https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/**. You will be instructed to register during your first sign-on attempt. **Multiple claims can be submitted electronically via Quick Submit.**

If you prefer, you may
MAIL claims to: NCA FP Evidence Intake Center
PO Box 5237
Janesville, WI 53547

FAX VA Form 40-1330M claims and supporting documents to **1-800-455-7143**.
IMPORTANT: *If faxing more than one claim - fax each claim package (claim plus supporting documents) individually, i.e., disconnect the call and redial for each submission.*

VA will furnish a medallion only upon receipt of a fully completed and signed claim with required supporting documentation.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED - The claimant signs in block 20; the cemetery or other responsible official signs in block 25. If there is no official on duty at the cemetery, the signature of the person responsible for the property listed in block 24 is required. Entries of "None," "Not Applicable," or "NA" will not be accepted.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED - Should you have questions when filling out this form, you may contact our Applicant Assistance Unit toll free at: 1-800-697-6947, or at: ask.va.gov. If additional assistance is needed to complete this claim, contact the nearest VA Regional Office, national cemetery, or a local veterans' organization. No fee should be paid in connection with the preparation of this claim.

DELIVERY - VA will ship the medallion without charge to the name/address designated in Block 22. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker. Appropriate affixing adhesives, hardware and instructions will be provided with the medallion.

CAUTION *- To avoid delays in the production and delivery of the medallion, please check carefully to be sure you have accurately furnished all required information and documents before faxing or mailing the claim. The Government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the privately purchased headstone or marker. Medallions furnished remain the property of the United States Government and may not be used for any purpose other than to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone or marker of an eligible deceased Veteran buried in a private or local Government cemetery.*

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS.

OMB Approved No. 2900-0222
Respondent Burden: 15 minutes
Expiration Date: 09/30/2027

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

CLAIM FOR GOVERNMENT MEDALLION FOR PLACEMENT IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY

IMPORTANT: Please read the General Information Sheet before completing this claim. Type or print clearly all information except for signatures. Illegible printing could result in incorrect delivery of the medallion. Failure to complete each block may result in delayed processing. **PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF MILITARY DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS AND DEATH CERTIFICATE.**

1. TYPE OF REQUEST
☐ INITIAL REQUEST *(First Time)* ☐ REPLACEMENT

2. REASON FOR REPLACEMENT
☐ DAMAGE ☐ NON-RECIEPT ☐ INCORRECT BRANCH OF SERVICE
☐ WRONG SIZE *(Incorrect Type)*

3. NAME OF DECEASED VETERAN

FIRST *(Or Initial)*	MIDDLE *(Or Initial)*	LAST	SUFFIX	4. ARE REMAINS BURIED?
				☐ YES ☐ NO

5. THERE MUST BE A SET HEADSTONE, MAUSOLEUM, OR CRYPT IN PLACE TO AFFIX THE MEDALLION. IS GRAVE CURRENTLY MARKED WITH A PRIVATELY PURCHASED PERMANENT AND DURABLE MARKER?
☐ YES ☐ NO

6. RACE OR ETHNICITY *(You may select more than one. Information will be used for statistical purposes only)*
☐ ASIAN OR ASIAN AMERICAN
☐ AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
☐ BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
☐ HISPANIC OR LATINO
☐ NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO
☐ NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
☐ WHITE

7. SEX *(Information will be used for statistical purposes only)*
☐ MALE
☐ FEMALE
☐ UNSPECIFIED OR ANOTHER GENDER IDENTITY

VETERAN'S SERVICE AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION *(Use numbers only, e.g., 05-15-1941)*

8. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. AND/OR SERVICE NO.

SSN *(999-99-9999)*:	SVC. NO *(99999999)*:

9. PLACE OF BIRTH *(City and State or Country)*

PERIODS OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

10A. DATE OF BIRTH *(MM/DD/YYYY)*	10B. DATE OF DEATH *(MM/DD/YYYY)*	11A. DATE(S) ENTERED *(MM/DD/YYYY)*	11B. DATE(S) SEPARATED *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

12. BRANCH OF SERVICE (BOS) *(Check applicable box(es))* ***NOTE:*** *If one BOS is selected, it will be spelled out on the medallion, i.e. U.S. ARMY, U.S. AIR FORCE, etc. If more than one BOS is selected, they will be abbreviated on the medallion, i.e. USA, USAF, USN, USMC, USCG, etc.*
☐ ARMY ☐ MARINE CORPS ☐ COAST GUARD ☐ MERCHANT MARINE ☐ NAVY ☐ AIR FORCE ☐ ARMY AIR FORCES *(WWII)*
☐ SPACE FORCE ☐ PUBLIC HEALTH SVC. ☐ NATL. OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN. ☐ OTHER *(Specify)*: _____

13. MEDALLION SIZE REQUESTED *(Check one) (Refer to general information sheet for exact sizes)*
☐ LARGE *(M5)* ☐ MEDIUM *(M3)* ☐ SMALL *(M1)*

14. APPLICANT IS:
☐ FAMILY MEMBER *(Specify Relationship)*: _____
☐ VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
☐ PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE *(Person responsible for decisions concerning burial of decedent; include written authorization)*
☐ OTHER *(Specify)*: _____

15. IF REMAINS ARE UNCLAIMED, APPLICANT IS:
☐ FUNERAL HOME *(that received remains)*
☐ CEMETERY *(where remains are buried)*

16. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT *(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)*	17. DAYTIME PHONE NO. OF APPLICANT	18. E-MAIL ADDRESS *(Optional)*

19. PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE *(bearing the signature of the current President) (the number you request to be mailed to you. VA will send one certificate if no quantity is indicated and "none" is not selected)*
NUMBER REQUESTED: _____ ☐ NONE

NAME OF DECEASED VETERAN	DECEASED VETERAN'S SSN OR SERVICE NUMBER	
	SSN *(999-99-9999)*:	SVC. NO *(99999999)*:

CERTIFICATION: By signing below I certify the medallion will be affixed to a privately purchased headstone or marker in the cemetery listed in Block 24 at no expense to the Government, and that I (or the party listed in Block 22) have agreed to accept delivery, and all information entered on this claim is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the decedent has never committed a serious crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life, has never been convicted of a serious crime, and has never been convicted of a sexual offense for which the Veteran was sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment or a period of 99 years or more.

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties, which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false or for the fraudulent acceptance of any benefit to which you are not entitled.

20. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	21. DATE *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

22. NAME AND DELIVERY ADDRESS FOR MEDALLION *(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)*; *(If same as applicant, please enter SAME)*	23. DAYTIME PHONE NO. *(Include Area Code)*	24. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CEMETERY WHERE PRIVATELY PURCHASED HEADSTONE, MARKER, MAUSOLEUM, OR CRYPT TO AFFIX THE MEDALLION OF THE DECEASED VETERAN IS LOCATED *(No., Street, City, State, and ZIP Code)*

CERTIFICATION: By signing below I certify the size medallion indicated above is permitted in the cemetery.

25. SIGNATURE OF CEMETERY OFFICIAL	26. DATE *(MM/DD/YYYY)*