



THE CENTURION

DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robbins Bldg – 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, Delaware 19904

(302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State)

Internet Website: <http://www.state.de.us/veteran>

Fax (302) 739-2794

Ruth Ann Minner, Governor

Dr. Harriet Smith Windsor, Secretary of State

Volume 13, Number 2

Gary “Mo” Morris, Chairman

Antonio Davila, Executive Director

Apr-Jun 2006

CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

As we close out the first quarter of the year, I looked back on how we got to where we are today. Like many before us, we owe our successes to the people around us. I recalled that February was Black History Month. We have been introduced to many honorable African American veterans who have paved the way for today’s leaders. Their leadership and friendship will long be on our minds. History has shown that African Americans Veterans have served with Distinction and Honor and have paid an enormous price as they broke barrier after barrier for future generations. Speaking on behalf of all the veterans around Delaware I want to thank you for your service. We are also moving into the second quarter of the year. We observe Memorial Day on the 30th of May. We are thankful for our freedoms and rights as citizens of this great country. No group on earth can appreciate the value of what we enjoy every day, more than the military veteran. No group on earth detests war, more than the military veteran. But no group on earth has given so much for the protection of our freedoms, than the military veteran. I say military veterans because the term “veteran” is used by society to recognize people who have done something for a long period of time. Military Veterans are my Heroes. They are the ones who have died for our freedoms. They are the ones who knowingly place themselves in harms way. They are the ones who march away from families willingly to stand on the front line with their comrades. They are the ones who taught me humility for what we do as, “Just doing my job like anyone else would do”. As we observe Memorial Day this year, let it touch your heart with their memories.

Gary “MO” Morris
Chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

"Before you give somebody a piece of your mind, be sure you can get by with what you have left."

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

The Military Order of The Purple Heart and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host Memorial Day Service, Tuesday, May 30, 2006. The first service will be at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. Following the services at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and the Marine Corps League will conduct a service at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware, at 2:00 PM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, INITIATES WEBSITE

A major concern of the Disabled American Veterans Department and Chapters in Delaware has been the inability to communicate effectively with its members. Paul V. Lardizzone, the State's Adjutant, and Mr. Steve LePage, Webmaster, have developed a DAV Website now available to all disabled veterans and veterans seeking information on membership. Chapters and Auxiliary Units, as well as links to our National Headquarters and Department of Veterans Affairs, are listed. To learn more about the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Delaware, go to <http://www.dav.in-delaware.com>.

CRAIG AND AKAKA INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO INCREASE COLA FOR VETERANS

U.S. Senators Larry Craig and Daniel Akaka have introduced legislation (S.2562) to increase the amount of money veterans with service connected disabilities will receive. The legislation will also increase the compensations for the survivors of some disabled veterans. If approved by Congress,

the increase will become effective on December 1, 2006. "Senator Akaka and I have joined together in introducing bipartisan legislation to help our nation's disabled veterans. This compensation increase will also impact the survivors of veterans and servicemembers who died, or who will die, as a result of military service," Craig said. "This is vitally important legislation." Every year since 1976 Congress has enacted an annual COLA adjustment for veterans with disabilities and survivors. "The regularity of Congress's action on COLA legislation underscores its importance. Without it, inflation would erode the purchasing power of millions of beneficiaries," Craig said. Those who crunch the numbers at the Congressional Budget Office estimate that the Craig-Akaka legislation will increase Direct Spending on disabled veterans and their survivors by \$530 million in fiscal year 2007. Among the veterans estimated to receive such compensation are 5 World War I veterans; 335,180 World War II veterans; 160,889 Korean conflict veterans; 992,360 Vietnam era veterans; and 762,230 veterans of the Persian Gulf War era. The COLA legislation will also benefit an estimated 348,479 survivors. "This legislation is critical to the lives of over 3 million beneficiaries who have served our country well and faithfully," Craig said. (*Veterans Affairs, April 07, 2006*)

VA APPOINTMENTS

The numbers of war veterans enrolled in the VA medical care program has continued to grow, and many feel the strain. According to Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson, last year, 97% of those who requested an acute care appointment got it within 30 days. But an inspector general's found real problems with the way the VA has come up with those numbers. The audit found that some VA staff, feeling pressured, actually fudged the numbers, and error rates were as high as 61%. In Atlanta, one veteran who the VA said got an appointment within a week actually waited

nearly a year. Another veteran in Boston who reported seeing a VA doctor within hours actually waited 472 days. The VA said it has been steadily improving the system, but many veterans' groups worry the situation will only get worse as new Iraq veterans keep pouring in. David Gorman, spokesman for the advocacy group Disabled American Veterans asserts, "The numbers are simply going to overwhelm them, and they are not going to have the proper funds to deal with these folks on a long-term, chronic basis." At least tens of thousands of veterans with non-critical medical issues could suffer delayed or even denied care in coming years to enable President Bush to meet his promise of cutting the deficit in half – if the White House is serious about its proposed budget. After an Increase for next year, the Bush budget would reverse present trends of increased annual funding. According to the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal – learning Washington think tank, in an unreleased 673-page computer printout they obtained from the White House budget office cuts are outlined for 2008 with additional reductions in the following two years. Even with recent funding increases, cost-cutting moves have locked more than a quarter million veterans out of the system. Those excluded have no illnesses or injuries attributable to their military service and earn more than the average wage in their community. (*ABC News report www.abcnews.go.com/ WNN March 11 & AP article February 28, 2006*)

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS ON FUTURE PLANS

This is a tough day for me. I am announcing that I will not run for re-election and will retire at the end of my current term in the U.S. House of Representatives. When I announced in 1998 that I had Parkinson's Disease, my doctor said that this condition would not interfere with my work and that I would be able to perform at a high level for a number of years. That window of opportunity is now closing. I fully expected that I would continue my work for the foreseeable future following this current break from the office. But I have come to

recognize that the time needed to address my health makes it difficult to wage a campaign and carry out my work as representative. I will return soon and to the best of my ability complete the important work of this term in my roles as representative and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. This decision is especially tough because this job means so much to me. I believe strongly in serving people and working to make a positive difference in their lives. Every day has been rewarding and I'm proud of what I've been able to accomplish and the fights I've made. I thank my family and everyone who has worked with me – great friends, terrific colleagues, a dedicated staff, fellow vets. And I appreciate the support of people I never met before who would ask how I was doing and tell me to keep up the good fight. I'll be doing that in the weeks and months ahead and look forward to thanking every one of you personally for all you have meant to me. To my constituents and veterans across this country, it is an honor and privilege to represent you. Semper Fi, Lane Evans (*Veterans Affairs Committee, March 28, 2006*)

FRAUDULENT INTERNET COUPONS

Defense Commissary Agency officials who are alerting customers about a recent rise in the use of fraudulent Internet or home-printed coupons and steps the agency has taken to address the issue. Commissaries gladly accept Internet or home-printed coupons provided they meet these requirements: -The coupons must have "dot-scan" bars below expiration dates or bar codes with Product Identification Numbers (PINS), and - The coupon cannot be for free products. This is an expansion of acceptance criteria for home-printed coupons because counterfeit coupons have shown up recently in commissaries and other supermarkets nationwide. Officials are pointing to Internet trading as the source of the counterfeit coupons. Counterfeit coupons are circulating on the Internet through auction services, message boards, e-mails and other means causing million of dollars in losses to the grocery industry. Fraudulent coupons presented recently at commissaries were for products ranging from laundry detergents, air

fresheners and deli meats to sodas, chips and over-the-counter medications. Defining more stringent requirements for stores to accept home-printed coupons is one phase of action the agency is taking to combat the problem. Educating customers about how to avoid getting taken by counterfeit coupons is the other phase, and it's been described as the best line of defense against possible fraud. People who purchase or trade coupons are inherently at risk of receiving counterfeit coupons, therefore customers shouldn't buy or trade for coupons. The sale or transfer of coupons is a violation of virtually all manufacturers' coupon redemption policies, according to the Coupon Information Center, a coupon industry watchdog. These policies are printed on the coupons. Customers can be assured they are not obtaining counterfeits if they get their coupons directly from newspapers or magazines, directly from a manufacturer or from some other legitimate coupon channel, including Internet sites. Legitimate Internet coupons are featuring new dot-scan bars below their expiration dates. The dot-scan bars look like bar codes with broken bar patterns. Internet coupons also usually have PINs and bar codes, and they are not for free products. Here are some tips to avoid possible counterfeit coupons.

- Look for the dot-scan bar below the expiration date on Internet coupons. If they don't have a dot-scan bar, look for a Pin and bar code. Many now have both a dot-scan bar along with a PIN and bar code.

- Look out for coupons printed on photocopy, plain white, photographic or card stock and coupons with fuzzy images or misspelled words.

- Look out for unusually long expiration dates.

- Look out for coupons sent to you in electronic format by someone other than a manufacturer or its authorized representative.

- Look out for coupons with printing on only one side.

- Look out for multiple coupons for the same products with identical PINs. (*DECA News Release, March 13, 2006*)

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MEMORIAL

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is located in Washington DC at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. With the exception of federal grants to restore the existing structure and to complete the Memorial, it has been financed solely through private donations to its governing Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of a commemorative coin are a continuing resource as well as donations needed to operate and maintain the Memorial Education Center. The Memorial officially opened to the public on October 20, 1997. It reflects the history of women in the armed forces which began more than 220 years ago with the women who served during the American Revolution and continues thought the present day. The Memorial site is the 4.2 – acre Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. A 30 – foot high curved neoclassical retaining wall stands at the entrance. Its design places the 33,000 square-foot Education Center in the Arlington cemetery hillside behind the existing retaining wall. The Memorial incorporates a reflecting pool on the plaza in front of the curved gateway, or hemicycle, with an arc of glass tablets on the upper terrace. The roof is an arc of glass tablets, 250 feet in diameter, inscribed with quotations by and about women who have served in defense of their country. Sunlight passing over these quotes, creates changing shadows of the texts on the walls of the gallery below and brings natural light into the interior of the Education Center. The glass tablets illuminate the cemetery hillside at night and during the day, serve as skylights to the interior of the Education Center, which houses the Hall of Honor, exhibits and artifacts of women's military service, a 196-seat theater, a gift shop and the Memorial's computerized Register. Four staircases pass through the hemicycle wall, allowing visitors access to a panoramic view of Washington, DC, from the terrace. A floor plan can be viewed at www.womensmemorial.org/Visit/floorplan.html. The Register, which serves as the heart of the Women's Memorial, is a computerized database of information about the women who are registered. Visitors can access the photographs, military

histories, and individual stories of registrants by simply typing names into a computer terminal. The Register serves as an active resource, creating an ongoing record of history as it is made. The Foundation is actively seeking to register as many veterans, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve servicewomen as possible. Women from service organizations, who served overseas during time of war, as well as Cadet Nurses, are also eligible to register. To check if you or someone else is registered you can contact the Registration Department at (703) 533-1155, (800) 222-2294 or at regdept@womensmemorial.org. Registration can be done online. Approximately 250,000 of the two million women eligible have been registered thus far. The Memorial is open every day except Christmas between 08-1700 hrs October 1 thru March 31 and 08-1900 hrs April 1 thru September 30. Admission is free. Parking is available for a modest fee at the Visitor's Center at Arlington National Cemetery about 2 city blocks away. You can also come by Metro using the Blue Line-Arlington Cemetery stop. It is handicap accessible; including elevators to the upper terrace. The entrance to Arlington National Cemetery extends across the Potomac River to the Lincoln Memorial at the eastern edge of Memorial Bridge. Memorial Bridge was intended as a symbolic link, binding together what had been the Civil War's North and South into one Union. The bridge design extends along an axis joining the Lincoln Memorial and the Robert E. Lee Memorial at Arlington House in Arlington National Cemetery. Connecting the bridge to the cemetery gates in a parkway known as Memorial Drive. Along this parkway is a traffic circle intersection with the George Washington Memorial Parkway. At night, as visitors approach Arlington Cemetery along Memorial Drive, the eternal flame that marks President John F. Kennedy's grave is visible on the hillside. There are monuments located along Memorial Drive that are not formally part of Arlington National Cemetery. These include the Seabees Memorial, the United Spanish War Veterans Memorial, the monument to Admiral Richard Byrd, the 101st Airborne Division Memorial, the Mechanized Armor Memorial and

the 4th Infantry Division Memorial. (www.womensmemorial.org, March 2006)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR VETERANS

The national coalition for homeless veterans (NCHV) annual conference will run from June 5-8, 2006, at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. this conference is regarded as the nation's premiere training ground for homeless service providers who want to strengthen and expand their assistance programs. workshops and three all-day pre-conference institutes will provide information on how to better access federal mainstream programs, how to increase your eligibility for funding, and guidance on developing programs for special populations, including women, incarcerated or recently released veterans, and the unemployed. Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), who introduced the sheltering all veterans everywhere act in the 109th congress, will speak during the opening session, along with assistant secretary of labor Charles "Chick" Ciccolella. The Department of Veterans affairs will present a special tribute to its partner community-based organizations that are leading the nation's campaign against homelessness. The program includes a public policy briefing to help attendees prepare for visits with their senators and U.S. representatives, and the annual NCHV awards luncheon, which honors the men, women and organizations who have distinguished themselves in their service to help homeless veterans. The L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, in the heart of the nation's capital monument district, is offering a room discount rate of **\$153.00 for NCHV annual conference attendees** through May 8, 2006. Please note that the room block reserved for this conference usually sells out before the registration deadline date, so don't wait! Call 202-484-1000 to reserve your rooms as soon as possible. Pre-Conference institutes include:

- **Cost allocation and audits** -- to familiarize participants with the audit process and regulations under the OMB circular a-133. Information will be presented on proper cost allocation, grant management, and preparing for a successful audit.

- **Income-producing business ventures** -- organizations that have succeeded in establishing income-producing ventures as part of their nonprofit veteran assistance programs will walk participants through the necessary steps of creating a profitable small business.
- **Accessing mainstream programs** -- a day-long exploration of the various federal mainstream services and programs that are available to help the homeless, including your homeless veterans. You may be surprised how many programs are available to help you serve your clients. Training workshops include:
- **faith-based organizations** -- presenters from faith-based organizations will discuss how to work more closely with community service providers to enhance and expand services available to their clients. Topics include joining service networks, resource development and accessing government grants.
- **HUD continuum of care and CHALENG** -- learn how being fully involved in both programs will increase your competitive edge for federal and state grants, and contribute to a stronger local service provider network.
- **Foundation grants** -- there are hundreds of thousands of foundation and corporate grants out there, and each has its own set of funding priorities and guidelines. Yet, there are essential elements a proposal must contain. A couple of foundation "insiders" will tell you what they look for.
- **Operating a homeless court** -- during this session, presenters will discuss this unique approach to addressing legal issues that bar homeless people from housing and employment opportunities. Representatives of the homeless court in San Diego will provide firsthand knowledge of how to establish, coordinate and conduct a successful program.
- **Incarcerated veterans** -- chances are you're going to be asked for help by a homeless person with a criminal history. The presenters in this workshop are among the most successful transition specialists in the country. Bring your toughest questions.
- **Women veterans and their special needs** -- as the number of women in the military continues to

rise and their role in combat increases, VA and community-based assistance programs need to prepare for the fastest-growing veteran subpopulation in America today.

- **Employment assistance** -- employment is one of the most critical elements in a successful homeless assistance program. This session is designed to help organizations develop, enhance and expand their employment assistance initiatives. For NCHV annual conference program and registration information, go to www.nchv.org, and click on the 2006 annual conference logo. (*NCHV Conference Notification, April 12, 2006*)

DFAS MYPAY LOOK ALIKES

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is cautioning members of the military community to be aware that several look-alike myPay Web sites now can be found on the Internet. While these Web sites contain the word "myPay" and may be legitimate business concerns, they are not in any way affiliated with DFAS's official myPay Web site. Examples of Web sites that contain the word "myPay" in their Web address include:

- <http://www.mypay.com>
- <http://www.mypaysolutions.com>
- <http://www.mypayloanservices.com>

The official myPay web site is located at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Servicemembers and their families are advised to make sure they are at the official myPay Web site before they share any personal information, which potentially could be used for unscrupulous purposes. The Air Force has mandated the use of myPay for receipts of payroll products, such as leave and earnings statements, net pay advices, etc. the myPay Web site also allows users to update certain segments of their pay, including changing the number of federal withholding exemptions they claim. Many servicemembers currently receive their information via myPay, which has helped save on postage and other operating expenses. Military members and their families are encouraged to continue using myPay and simply take a moment to verify they are

at the official myPay Web site. (*MOAA News Exchange March 17, 2006*)

HEALTHY DELAWAREANS WITH DISABILITIES 2010

Healthy Delawareans With Disabilities 2010 is a two-year health and disabilities project to assess and address health and life satisfaction of individuals with disabilities in Delaware. This statewide project stems from the national program "Healthy People 2010. Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities is the first time that Delaware will formally address the disability and secondary conditions section from the National Healthy People 2010 report. The project currently looking for the following populations to take a health survey:

- 1) Adults with cognitive/intellectual disabilities including degenerative/disabling conditions that cause cognitive disabilities such as dementia, Alzheimer's and traumatic brain injury:
- 2) Adults with physical disabilities and
- 3) Adults with significant sensory impairments (visual or hearing).

The survey will be completed with an interviewer, and should last about 30-40 minutes long. Individuals completing the survey will receive a \$15 check. The survey can be completed by phone, at a public site, or in the home. We will provide interpreters and assistive devices as needed. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the project and taking the survey...please contact Annie Tanverdi at the University of Delaware, Center for Disabilities Studies, 166 Graham Hall, Newark, DE 19716. 302-831-8802; Fax 302-831-4690 E-mail: anniet@udel.edu.

ID CARD W/O SPONSOR PRESENT

Issuance of a military dependent's ID card without the sponsor bring present can be done under the following circumstances:

- 1) Deceased: Obtainable if the surviving spouse or eligible child presents a death certificate along with their other documentation providing their association to the deceased sponsor.

- 2) Abandoned: Obtainable if efforts on the part of the spouse or eligible child to get the sponsor provides a response telling the spouse that he/she will not provide or sign a DD 1172. In these cases an official attempt is made by the ID card issuing office to contact the sponsor. If the member refuses then the ID card office can, once the official association is established by marriage certificates, birth certificates, etc., issue a card to the beneficiary.

- 3) Deployed: A temporary card can be issued to cover the time that it takes to obtain the DD 1172 if dependents cannot easily obtain it in a timely manner due to their sponsor being deployed. If the spouse has a power of attorney a card can be issued for a full four year period. Once children are registered in DEERS they are eligible until their 21st birthday even though they may never obtain an ID card. If they marry or join the military the sponsor should report the change of status of the child and return the dependents ID card. If sponsor for whatever reason takes away the ID card and sends the card to the Service Personnel office and tells them to remove a child's privileges they cannot comply with the request. Under the law dependent children are entitled to the benefits associated with having an ID once they have been enrolled in the Realtime Automated Personnel ID System (RAPIDS). Marriage or joining the military removes that dependency status. Spouses will remain eligible for benefits even if their ID card expires as long as she/he was initially enrolled in RAPIDS unless there is a divorce or change in status. (*DMDC msg, March 9, 2006*)

THE ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Gulfport Mississippi was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina last year and many residents were relocated to the Washington, D.C. AFRH campus (formerly the Soldiers & Airmen's Home). During a House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs hearing, Timothy Cox, chief operations officer of the AFRH, outlined five options for the future of the Gulfport facility:

1. Renovate the existing structure: A seven-phase plan involves moving all electrical and hydraulic systems off the first floor, enlarging room size and eliminating structural problems that create barriers for residents. The process would take 13 years and cost an estimated \$589 million.

2. Tear down and construct new: The estimated cost is \$383 million and would take about two years.

The remaining three options involve aligning/combining the Gulfport and DC facilities and not returning residents to Gulfport. These would use the property for other purposes, reposition and relocate the homes as non-profit entities, or sell the property. Congressional approval is required to move ahead with any of the five proposals, which are outlined in a special report that was recently sent to Congress. Reconstruction of the Gulfport facility is a high priority of military community whose fraternal organizations are tracking the issue with members of Congress and others to ensure timely action on the Gulfport Home. FRA's National Executive Secretary Joe Barns raised the issue of rebuilding the Home during a recent meeting with Command SGTMAJ William Gainey, senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mississippi Rep. Gene Taylor, whose congressional district includes Gulfport, and Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott are also concerned about the status of the facility and are urging DOD officials to expedite the decision-making process (*FRA Newsbytes, April 1, 2006*)

VA MEDICARE SUBVENTION

Under current law, Medicare-eligible veterans are not allowed to use Medicare coverage at local VA hospitals. Instead, they are forced to decide between receiving medical coverage at a VA hospital without being able to use Medicare to help them make their bill payments, or using Medicare at a non-VA hospital and losing the personalized veterans' care of a VA hospital. Rep. Sue Kelley (NY) March 16, 2006 introduced HR 4992, the Veterans Medicare Assistance Act that would provide Medicare eligible veterans with Medicare Subvention. This would give vets the right to use Medicare benefits to help pay their bill at local VA

hospitals. Kelly pointed out that veterans pay into Medicare for most of their lives, yet the law prohibits them from using Medicare benefits at a VA hospital should not be forced to choose between cost and comfort. Veterans should be eligible for the same Medicare benefits at a VA hospital that they would have at any other hospital. (USDR Action Alert, April 11, 2006)

REEBOK SNEAKERS ALERT

Stars and Stripes reports that a heart-shaped charm bracelet given away with various styles of children's Reebok sneakers and sold through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service was recalled by the manufacturer due to high levels of lead. AAFES sold the shoes with the free bracelet from May 2004 until this March 2006. Consumers should immediately throw the bracelet away. For more information, contact Reebok at 1-800-994-6260, or log on to www.reebok.com. (*Military.com Report April 3, 2006*)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO DELAWARE VETERANS

In January 1946, Walter W. Bacon, then elected Governor, authorized a state award to those who served in World War II. To honor this commitment to Delaware Veterans, Governor Ruth Ann Minner has announced that the State of Delaware will provide a "Certificate of Appreciation" to all Delaware residents who shall have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during time of peace, conflict or war. To request a "Certificate of Appreciation" the veteran/spouse or next of kin must submit the enclosed application (see page 13) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

CURRENT DELAWARE VETERANS LEGISLATION

SB 81 An act to amend Title 9 and Title 29 of the DE Code relating to Certifications of Release or Discharge from Active Military Service (Passed 03/16/06)

SB 95 An act to amend Title 30 of the DE Code relating to Military Pensions and Personal Income Tax (Senate Ready List)

HB 129 to allow a maximum of four years military credit to current State Employees, A Stipend of \$240 paid to retired State Employees who qualified for a State Service pension after July 1, 1976. (Appropriations Committee 06/09/05)

COMBAT VETERANS COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE

KENT COUNTY

Angela Hoag, MSW, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker is presently conducting a *War Veteran's Support Group* every Thursday afternoon at 2:00 PM. This group is for combat veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Ms. Hoag also facilitates a *Significant Other Support Group* every Friday morning at 9:00 AM for wives, significant others, and family members of a veteran diagnosed with PTSD. This group is a Psycho-Educational program to assist family members in understanding the symptoms of PTSD, and teaches effective coping techniques. Ms. Hoag also facilitates a *Military Sexual Trauma Group* every Friday morning at 11:00 AM for female veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma during their active duty service. All groups are held at the Dover Vet Center Outreach Office located at the Commission of Veterans Affairs Office, 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, in Dover, DE.

SUSSEX COUNTY

A War Veteran's Support Group has been formed in Sussex County. The group meets every Wednesday, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, at AMVETS Post 2, 32369 Long Neck Rd, in Millsboro, DE. For additional information, please contact Ms. Hoag, MSW, LCSW, at (302) 739-2792 ext. 1003 or (800) 344-9900 x. 1003.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Similar services are available through the Vet Center in Elsmere, Wilmington, DE, (302) 994-1660 or (866) 442-4106.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100, Dover, DE. The meeting schedule varies for June and December of each year. These meetings are open to the public. Any individual requiring special accommodations, shall contact this office one week prior to the meeting date. If you would like to attend, please call 1-800-344-9900 (in State) or (302) 739-2792.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Ms. White will be providing services for veterans from the mobile Service Center at the following locations:

MAY 09	Bridgeville Town Hall
MAY 10	Ocean View Town Hall
MAY 16	Laurel Town Hall
MAY 19	Seaford Cheer Center
MAY 23	Bethany Beach Town Hall
MAY 24	Georgetown Cheer Center
JUN 06	ShIPLEY Service Center
JUN 07	Georgetown Service Center
JUN 20	Bridgeville Town Hall
JUN 21	Ocean View Town Hall
JUN 27	Laurel Town Hall
JUN 28	Georgetown Cheer Center

For more information, contact Ms. White at the Pyle State Service Center, (302) 732-9560.

American Legion

Robert McBride, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 633-5323, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM on the following dates:

MAY 12 Walter L Fox, Post 2 674-3922
MAY 19 Laurel Post #19 875-9948
MAY 26 David Harrison, Post 14 633-1711

JUN 02 Oak Orchard/Riverdale, 945-1673
Post 28 (8:00-12:00)

JUN 09 Walter L Fox, Post 2 674-3922
JUN 16 Laurel Post #19 875-9948
JUN 23 David Harrison, Post 14 633-1711
JUN 30 Nanticoke Post #6 629-9915

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(Kent County) – Ms. Melanie E. Bronov - Dover office - may be reached Monday –Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(New Castle County) - Mr. John K. Williams - located in Bear, DE, may be reached Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, (302) 834-8046. Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County) - Ms. Laurie A. White - Pyle State Service Center located in Roxanna, DE, may be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, (302) 732-9560. Please call for an appointment.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

www.dav.in-delaware.com

Paul Lardizzone, Dept. Service Officer (DAV).
Every Tuesday: DAV Headquarters Building
& Wednesday 183 South Street
(Kent) 8:00-12:00 Camden, DE 19934
(302) 697-9061
Every Thursday: Department of Labor
(Sussex) 8:00-12:00 Div. of Emp & Trng
(302) 856-5230 600 N. DuPont Hwy.
Georgetown, DE 19947

Paralyzed Veterans of America (DE/MD PVA)

Darrell Johnson, Sr., National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 26, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5325 or (302)

633-5392. Mr. Johnson will make home visits upon request for vets who do not have transportation to the VA. He will be in the Oak Orchard area the 1st Tuesday, Dover the 2nd Tuesday, Frederica the 3rd Tuesday and at the Home of the Brave on the 4th Tuesday of each month. In addition to our service officer at the Wilmington VA Regional Office, we also have a representative, David Timberman, National Liaison Service Officer, at the Home of the Brave on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Home of the Brave is located at 6632 Sharps Rd, Milford, DE (302) 424-1681 or 1682.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Richard Magner, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5508.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Terry Baker, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 633-5357

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

James Withrow, Dept. Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 461-8262 ext. 5326 or (302) 633-5326.

1ST Thursday
Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday
Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday
Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday
Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday
Delaware DOL (633-5326) 8:00-11:00 AM

NOTE: All persons interested in Outreach Services should first call our office so that some advance information may be obtained to accelerate the application process. Kent & Sussex County residents may call 1-800-461-8262 ext 5326. New Castle County residents may call 633-5326.

NOTE: persons desiring assistance at the Thursday-downstate locations should be at the Delaware DOL no later than 9:00 AM or at the afternoon locations by 2:00 PM. The VFW provides services to veterans and their dependents without respect to veteran service organization affiliation; membership in the VFW is NOT required for service.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Air Force Sergeants Association

Tony Lee.....(302) 698-5144

American Ex-Prisoners Of War

Howard Melson.....(302) 539-1808

American Legion

Ed Phillips Jr.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

Loyd Harris.....(302) 945-0406

Black Veterans of All Wars, Inc.

Urie B. Glass.....(302) 674-2430

DE/MD Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wayne Carter.....(302) 368-4898

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061
40 & 8

Eugene "Chip" Rosan.....(302) 678-8077

Jewish War Veterans

Barry Newstadt.....(302) 475-2820

Korean War Veterans Association

Richard Ennis.....(302) 653-6765

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Bill Carroll.....(302) 655-3820

Military Order of the World Wars

COL (Ret) Eugene A. Hebert.....(302) 335-0110

E-Mail gene@hebert.net

The Reserve Officers Association

CWO John V. Hawkins, Sr. (Ret)...(302) 328-8115

U.S. Navy Veterans Association

Jim Anderson.....(302) 295-7051

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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

Vietnam Veterans of America

Tom Daws.....(302) 738-8875

WAVES Nat'l

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

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

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

Sussex Co. Section (Georgetown, DE).....934-5653

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Claims, Benefits, Veterans Services

(Regional Office).....1-800-827-1000

VA Hospital Scheduling.....1-800-461-8262

.....302-994-2511

Veterans Outreach Center

(New Castle County).....302-633-5360

(Kent and Sussex Counties).....302-422-8011

Women's Veteran Program Manager

(Regina A. Lane, RN).....(302) 633-5580

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Al Barclift (Wilmington).....302-761-8093

Michael Companion (Wilmington).....302-761-8096

James Williams (Newark).....302-368-6622

Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473

Charley Roberson (Dover).....302-739-5473

Norris Townsend (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

Sandria D. Johnson (USAF-Ret.) Counselor / Associate Director, Delaware State University, 1200 N DuPont Hwy, Dover DE 19901, (302) 857-6135. E-mail sjohnson@desu.edu.

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

Lt. Col Ken Smith, (USAF RET), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4612.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

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

COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Commissioners may be reached by calling (800) 344-9900.

Gary Morris (Chairman).....AMERICAN LEGION
Richard Ennis (Vice Chairman).....KWVA
Cornelius "Bill" Carroll.....MOPH

John Endres.....40 & 8
Ruth B. Harden.....WAVES NAT'L
Jesse Kitson.....VFW
Joseph "Joe" Lank.....MOWW
Lou Spitzfaden.....MOAA
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Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS
George Webb.....VVA

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

If you are not already on our mailing list and wish to receive this newsletter on a continual basis, please provide the following information below: (Articles should be submitted to the Commission Office directly)

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

**MAIL TO: DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
802 SILVER LAKE BLVD, SUITE 100
DOVER, DE 19904**

If you have a name or address change, please contact our office immediately at (302) 739-2792 or in Delaware, 1-800-344-9900

U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

VETERANS' BUSINESS WORKSHOP

When: Tuesday, May 9, 2006
1:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Where: SBA's Delaware District Office
Nemours Building
1007 North Orange Street, Suite 1120
Wilmington, Delaware

Who: Veterans who own or wish to start a small business
Although the program is geared towards veterans, non-veterans will also be welcome.

Why:

- Learn about federal contracting opportunities for veterans
- Learn about Small Business Administration financing programs
- Learn about business counseling services through the Small Business Development Center ("SBDC") and Service Corps of Retired Executives ("SCORE")

Seating is limited. Please call Bob Williamson at (302) 573 – 6294 x223 to register.

All of the SBA's programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for the disabled will be made if requested. Contact Bob Williamson, SBA, 1007 N. Orange Street, Ste. 1120, Wilmington, DE (302) 573-6294 x223.



U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Women's Business Ownership

Program Announcement **OWBO-2006-024** will be posted Wednesday, April 12 at **www.grants.gov and** **www.sba.gov/onlinewbc**



Is your organization strongly committed to community development?
Is it ready to take an active leadership role in a dynamic program?
Or, do you know of an organization that would be a good candidate?

We are looking for established community organizations
to run women's business centers that train women
how to start and grow successful businesses.
Grants of up to \$150,000* per year.

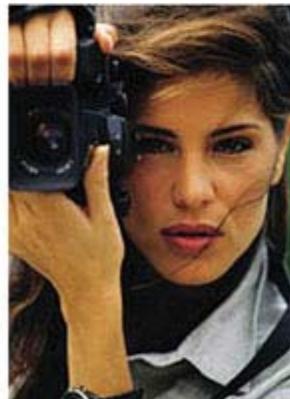
* Match required, performance based after first year

Participate in the nation's only government-funded small business
management-and-technical-assistance program focused on women,
especially those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.
Become part of a nationwide network of women's business centers
that are bringing real change to communities like yours.

Eligible applicants must be private, nonprofit organizations
with 501(c) status and may include but are not limited to:

- Community- and business-development organizations
- Community-service organizations
- Faith-based organizations

Submission period opens Wednesday, April 12, 2006
Closes Wednesday, May 17, 2006

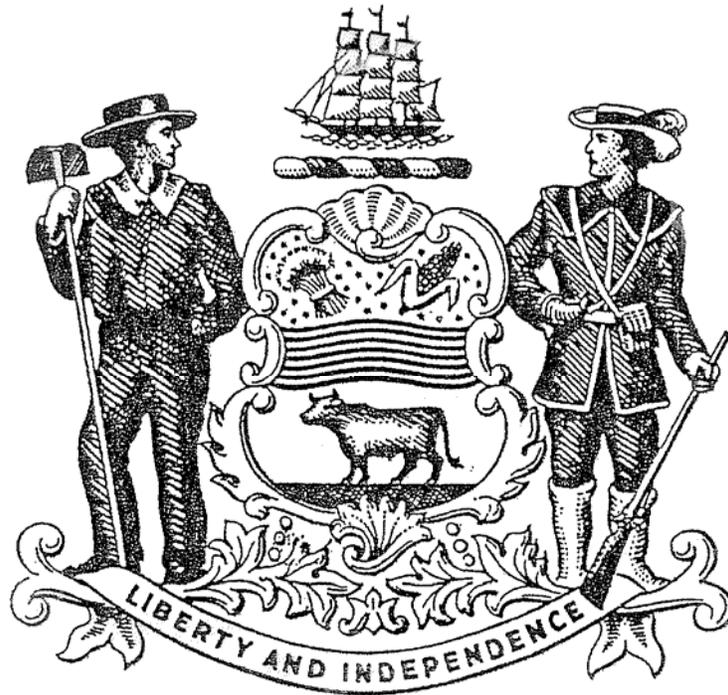


FREE TRAINING ON ELECTRONIC FILING AT WWW.GRANTS.GOV!

All SBA programs and services are provided to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

STATE OF DELAWARE

"Serving Delaware's Veterans"



Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs
Robbins Building
802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, Delaware 19904

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