



# THE CENTURION

## DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

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*Fax (302) 739-2794*

*Ruth Ann Minner, Governor*

*Dr. Harriet Smith Windsor, Secretary of State*

Volume 14, Number 2

*Gary “Mo” Morris, Chairman*

*Antonio Davila, Executive Director*

Apr-Jun 2007

## CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

The General Assembly is again in full session. Veterans must keep a close eye on all bills introduced, assigned to committees and passed. All legislation will in some way effect the quality of life for veterans in the First State. We should approach these issues, not just because we feel we deserve them but because the veterans of Delaware have earned them. Many veterans still serve by working fundraisers to support local and state issues that directly affect veterans and their families. Delaware is unique in that countless veterans either know their elected officials personally or enjoy virtually unrestricted access to air their views. Work at the Veterans Home continues. I recently had the opportunity to visit and was pleased to see an old style Barbers Pole up and lit. It will add some nostalgia to the area. Televisions have been delivered and the phone and electronics systems are just about complete. Employment postings are on the web and in the newspaper, with a number of positions currently being filled and others to be phased in by mid-2008. Before opening, a training session is being planned for a VAVS program. Many veterans’ organizations have expressed an interest in volunteering time. With the ability of drawing from both Kent and Sussex Counties, there should be no problem in making sure our veterans are well cared for and provided as much opportunity to enjoy life as possible.

Gary “Mo” Morris  
Chairman

## THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

*“Have you found a penny in the street lately? It was probably a dime when someone dropped it.”*

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### MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

The American Legion and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs will host Memorial Day Service, Wednesday, May 30, 2007. 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 Vietnam Veterans of America 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.

### VA VET CENTERS COMING TO 23 MORE COMMUNITIES

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Vet Center program, which provides readjustment counseling and outreach services to combat veterans, is expanding into 23 new communities across the nation in the next two years. These facilities are an important resource for veterans returning from the Global War on Terror and their families. “Our vet centers lead the world in helping combat veterans successfully readjust to life at home,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. “It’s an important service which combat veterans have earned. VA continues to expand into more communities with our vet centers to bring our services closer to the veterans who need them.” New vet centers will be located in Montgomery, AL; Fayetteville, AR; Modesto, CA; Grand Junction, CO; Orlando, Fort Myers, and Gainesville, FL; Macon, GA; Manhattan, KS; Baton Rouge, LA; Cape Cod, MA; Saginaw and Iron Mountain, MI; Berlin, NH; Las Cruces, NM; Binghamton, Middletown, Nassau County and Watertown, NY; Toledo, OH; Du Bois, PA; Killen, TX and Everett, WA. During 2007, VA plans to open new facilities in Grand Junction, Orlando, Cape Cod, Iron Mountain, Berlin and Watertown.

The other new vet centers are scheduled to open in 2008. All vet centers are community-based. They provide counseling on mental health and employment, plus services on family issues, education, bereavement and outreach, to combat veterans and their families. They are staffed by small teams of counselors, outreach specialists and other specialists, many of whom are combat veterans themselves. The vet center program was established by Congress in 1979 in recognition that a significant number of Vietnam veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Today, all veterans who served in combat are eligible for care at a VA vet center at no cost, as are their families for military-related issues. Also eligible are veterans who were sexually assaulted or harassed while on active duty and the families of service members who die on active duty. Currently, VA maintains 209 vet centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (*VA Intergovernmental Affairs, February 7, 2007*).

### CREDIT SCORE

Your credit score is a three digit number from 350 to 850. Half of all Americans have a score above 720. The higher your credit score the lower will be your assessed interest and fees on purchases and loans. Your credit report generally reflects how you have handled your credit in the last 24 months. There is no shelf life for a score. It is recalculated every time a lender requests it. If your 30 days late with a payment and your creditor reports it, a score in the mid 700s can plummet more than 50 points into the checkered 600 category. Typically a low score in the 600 range can be pulled up over time by doing the right things but it is a slow process. Your score might move up just 30 points in a year even if you are doing the right things. Factors that will hold you back are personal bankruptcy or more than one payment that exceeds the due date by three months or more. You can still build up your score;

it will just take a little more time. Five ways to raise your score:

1. Pay your bills on time. Payment history affects about 35% of your score. To ensure timely payments set up automatic payments online, keep stamps on hand, and maintain your budget.
2. Keep credit balances at 30% of your credit limit or lower. Around 30% of your credit score is based on how much credit you have access to and how much you are using.
3. Do not cancel credit cards to up your score. About 10% of your credit score is based on how long you have held your credit cards.
4. Do not apply for too many credit cards. About 10% of your credit score is determined by the number of times lenders request your credit reports. Lots of requests might indicate you are desperate for credit and might be headed for trouble, or are already there.
5. Watch the kinds of credit you use. About 10% of your score is based on the types of credit you are using. Secured loans such as car loans and mortgages, or unsecured loans such as student loans and credit cards. Unsecured loans are considered riskier in your credit report.

According to the Public Interest Research Group one out of four credit reports contain a serious error that could lower your score and/or could stop you from getting a loan, or one with the best terms. You should check your report for outdated data, paid-off loans listed as due, or money owed by someone with a similar name to yours. It can easily take up to six months to get an error fixed. Never using credit can actually hurt you because you have no record to rate. (*USAA Magazine Kerry Hanon article winter 06*)

## **RESERVE REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS**

The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act require reservists to be fairly and quickly re-hired after deployment. However, it is often not enforced. The point of contact for reservists who cannot get their jobs back is the “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve” (ESGR) office. It is staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for

Reserve Affairs (OASD/RA) [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org), which is in itself a part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Returning reservists are directed to contact OASD branches indicated on their website to air their complaints. Veterans with job problems can call an ombudsman between 0800 – 1700 CT M-F at 1 (800) 336-4590. Sometimes you can get a real person. An investigation of the military’s employer-support office last year for Denver magazine, by Maximillian Potter, argued that although it should be a “tremendous resource” for returning U.S. troops, it is a “a bureaucratic mess, mired in incompetence, undermined by conflict of interest and accountable to no one.” A new report in February 07 by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the Pentagon does not even know the scope of the problems reservists face when they try to go back to work. In 2005, one out of seven was thought to return jobless. For example an Air Force nurse with 32 years in the military, seven in active duty, and nearly two-dozen medals for valor and service was terminated from her civilian health-care job of 10 years when she was sent to Iraq for four months last year. She is not alone. Increasingly, as reservists and Guard members return home after service in Iraq, they are finding their jobs were eliminated or their pay checks were smaller or promised promotions disappeared. The Denver magazine report told of a 53-year-old Marine, in the service for 29 years, who deployed for nine months in Kuwait and Iraq in 2002 and 2003. When he got home, he was fired from his \$88,000-a-year job in a firm where he’d worked for 19 years. He was allegedly told by the Department of Labor, where his commanding officer referred him, that he didn’t have a legal case unless he heard somebody say he was fired because of his military service. The officer, a lawyer, was so outraged, that he fought for the Marine, who won \$324,082 in U.S. District Court in Colorado. As of late last year, reporter Potter said the Marine was still looking for a job with health insurance for his family. Under the 1994 law, there are about 12,400 formal complaints filed each year alleging that employers refused to give returning reservists and Guard members their old jobs. The GAO said Congress hears about 2,400 of those complaints.

Their report concluded that the Department of Defense, Justice and Labor and the Office of Special Counsel have different ways of approaching the law and don't compare cases, one reason for the chaos and confusion. The Department of Veterans Affairs, which is taking heat for the problems that returning soldiers face, oddly, is not involved in employee claims under the 1994 law. Last November, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management sent its annual report to Congress on veterans and disabled veterans working for the federal government. The press release said, "And by every measure, the Bush administration is living up to its commitment to make career opportunities available to soldiers, sailors and airmen." The report said the total number of veterans employed in 2005 out of a federal government work force of 1.8 million was 456,254. But the number of veterans newly hired in 2005 was only 5,000 more than the number hired in 2004. That was also when 36 members of the Florida National Guard got letters, while serving in combat in Iraq, informing them that their jobs in a federal drug-interdiction program were abolished. (*Scripps Howard Ann McFeatters, March 07*).

### **VA VISION CARE**

The VA announced in January 07 that more than a million visually impaired veterans will receive enhanced health care services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) under a reorganization of VA's vision rehabilitation services. VA will make approximately \$40 million available during the next three years to establish a comprehensive nationwide rehabilitation system for veterans and active duty personnel with visual impairments. The system will enhance inpatient services and expand outpatient services throughout the 1,400 locations where VA provides health care. Under the reorganization plan, each of VA's 21 regional networks-called Veterans Integrated Service Networks, or VISNs-will implement a plan to provide eye care to veterans with visual impairments ranging from 20/70 to total blindness. Basic low-vision services will be available at all VA eye clinics, and every network will offer intermediate and advanced low-vision services, including a full spectrum of optical

devices and electronic visual aids. VA's 10 existing inpatient blind rehabilitation centers will continue to provide the Department's most intensive eye care programs, but each VISN now will also provide outpatient-based blind rehabilitation care. VA estimates there are more than 1 million visually impaired veterans over the age of 45 in the United States. Within this group, approximately 157,000 are legally blind, and 1,026,000 have low vision. About 80% of all visually impaired veterans have a progressive disability caused by age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy. (*NAUS Weekly Update, January 26, 2007*)

### **MILITARY ACCEPTING MORE EX-CONS**

More recruits with criminal records, including felony convictions, are being allowed to join the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, as the armed services cope with a dwindling pool of volunteers during wartime. The military routinely grants waivers to take in recruits who have criminal records, medical problems or low aptitude scores that would otherwise disqualify them from service. Most are moral waivers, which include some felonies, misdemeanors, and traffic and drug offenses. Defense Department statistics show that the number of Army and Marine recruits needing waivers for felonies and serious misdemeanors, including minor drug offenses, has grown since 2003. Some recruits may get more than one waiver. The Army granted more than double the number of waivers for felonies and misdemeanors in 2006 than in 2003. The number of felony waivers granted by the Army grew from 411 in 2003 to 901 in 2006, according to the Pentagon, or about one in 10 of the moral waivers approved that year. Other misdemeanors – from petty theft or writing a bad check to some assaults – jumped from about 2,700 to more than 6,000 in 2006, representing more than three-quarters of moral waivers granted by the Army. Army and Defense Department officials defended the waiver program as a way to admit young people who had made a mistake but overcome past behavior. Lawmakers and other observers said they were concerned that the struggle to fill military

ranks in this time of war had caused standards to fall. "Our armed forces are under incredible strain, and the only way that they can fill their recruiting quotas is by lowering their standards," said Rep. Marty Meehan, a Massachusetts Democrat who has been working to get additional data from the Pentagon. "By lowering standards, we are endangering the rest of our armed forces and sending the wrong message to potential recruits across the country." Army spokesman Paul Boyce said he was concerned that the Pentagon data differed from Army numbers, but said that "anything that is considered a risk or a serious infraction of the law is given the highest level of review." "Our goal is to make certain that we recruit quality young men and women who can keep America defended against its enemies," Boyce said. The data was obtained through a federal information request and released by the California-based Michael D. Palm Center, a think tank that studies military issues. "The fact that the military has allowed more than 100,000 people with such troubled pasts to join its ranks over the past three years illustrates the problem we're having meeting our military needs in this time of war," said Aaron Belkin, director of the center. The military also does not have programs that help convicted felons adjust to military life, according to a new study commissioned by the center, Belkin said. As the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have dragged on, the military also has relaxed some standards in order to meet recruitment demands. The Army, for example, increased its age limit for recruits from 35 to 42, and accepting more people with lower scores on a standardized aptitude test. The Pentagon said in its report that "the waiver process recognizes that some young people have made mistakes, have overcome their past behavior, and have clearly demonstrated the potential for being productive, law-abiding citizens and members of the military." The military in its report divides moral waivers into six categories: felonies, serious and minor non-traffic offenses, serious and minor traffic offenses and drug offenses. According to the Pentagon, nearly a quarter of military recruits in 2006 needed some type waiver, up from 20 percent in 2003. Roughly 30,000 moral waivers were approved each

year between 2003 and 2006. About one in five Army recruits needed a waiver in 2006, up from 12.7 percent in 2003. More than half of the Marine recruits needed a waiver in 2006, a bit higher than in 2003, and largely due to their stricter drug requirements. About 18 percent of Navy recruits required a waiver, up slightly from 2003. Just 8 percent of Air Force recruits had waivers, down a bit from 2003. (*SSA Publication No.05-10008, Sept 2004*)

## **DOD VA RECORD TRANSITION**

After nearly a decade of attempting to exchange information stored in separate systems, the Veterans Affairs Department and the Pentagon have agreed to join together to establish an updated electronic health records system. While details remain sparse, the Defense Department announced January 24<sup>th</sup> that the two agencies would jointly acquire and use a new in-patient electronic health system. The VA developed its current system, known as VistA, in 2001. Work began on the Pentagon's Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, or AHLTA, in 1997. Both systems are in need of an upgrade. The agencies have agreed to study their clinical processes and requirements and assess the benefits and the potential effects on their timelines and costs, before making a final decision on a joint acquisition strategy for the upgraded system. Until now, the VA and Defense have been working independently on enhancing and improving their existing systems. They have made various attempts to share health information. According to Defense, millions of records and data messages are regularly moved electronically between the agencies. VA Secretary James Nicholson, who announced plans for the joint venture January 23<sup>rd</sup> at a meeting of the American Health Information Community called the agreement "groundbreaking" and said that "it has the potential to further transform the way we care for our nation's veterans and active duty service members." A joint system for documenting in-patient health information will smooth the process of transferring active duty service members to veteran status, according to the Pentagon. The system will also make the in-patient

health care data on shared beneficiaries immediately accessible to both Defense and VA health care providers. The joint acquisition and development of the system could result in significant cost savings, the Pentagon said in a statement. The two existing systems have diverse missions. Defense needs its system to support patients in its combat theaters, and pediatric and obstetrical patients. The VA's system supports domiciliary care. But both agencies "believe that the similarities in clinical and business processes may make the adoption" of a joint system a viable option, according to the Pentagon. Robert McFarland, former VA chief information officer, said it made no sense for the two organizations to have separate systems. The two agencies have more similarities than differences, he said, and should have combined their efforts a long time ago. He predicted that hundreds of millions of dollars could be saved as a result of the joint effort. (GOVEXEC. com Daniel Pulliam article, January 25, 2007)

### **STATE INCOME TAX**

DFAS-Cleveland does not withhold states taxes unless asked to do so by the retiree. Amounts withheld are not as with Federal Tax (based on marital status and exemptions), but by the dollar amount specified by retiree. To have state income tax withheld from retired pay, contact DFAS-CL in writing or visit a local Retirement Services Office to complete a form. Following is a listing of how states deal with the military community in accessing their income tax. These are merely guidelines; individual states should be contacted to determine if information is still accurate:

- States with no income tax: Alaska, Florida (Imposes tax intangible personal property tax), New Hampshire & Nevada (Imposes tax on certain capital gains, dividend and interest income.), South Dakota, Tennessee (Imposes tax on certain dividend and interest income), Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.
- States Which Exempt All Military Disability Retired Pay: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of

Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

- States Which Exempt All Military Retired Pay: Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan (Does not exempt USPHS or NOAA retired pay), New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin (Full exemption for those in Armed Forces as of 31 December 1963, or those who retired as of 31 December 1963). (*Ft. Gordon Retiree Newsletter, January 07*).

### **SSA NAME CHANGE**

If you legally change your name because of marriage, divorce, court order or any other reason, tell Social Security so that you can get a corrected card. If you are working, also tell your employer. If you do not tell SSA when your name changes, it may delay your tax refund and may prevent your wages from being posted correctly to your Social Security record. This would lower the amount of your future Social Security benefits. To change your Social Security card complete an Application for a Social Security Card (Form SS-5) and provide SSA proof of your U.S. citizenship (if you have not previously established your citizenship with them) or immigration status. For legal name and/or identity change take (or mail) your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office. All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. SSA will not accept photocopies or notarized copies of documents. Included in our application must be a recently issued document as proof of your legal name change. Documents Social Security may accept to prove a legal name change include:

- Marriage document;
- Divorce decree;
- Certificate of Naturalization showing a new name;
- Court order of name change.

If the document you provide as evidence of a legal name change does not give SSA enough information to identify you in their records or if you

legally changed your name more than two years ago, you must provide SSA with additional documentation. In addition to showing a legal document providing your marriage, divorce or annulment, you must provide an identity document. That document must show your old name, as well as other identifying information or a recent photograph. SSA can accept an expired document as evidence of your old name. In addition to showing legal document citing your new name, such as court order, adoption decree or Certification of Naturalization, you must provide two identity documents that show identifying information or a recent photograph. The two documents needed are one identity document in your old name (which can be expired); and one identity document in your new legal name, which must be current (unexpired). If you are a U.S. citizen born outside the United States and SSA's records do not show you are a citizen, you will need to provide proof of your U.S. citizenship. If you are not a U.S. citizen, Social Security will ask to see your current immigration documents. Your new card will have the same number as your previous card, but will show your new name. SSA will mail your number and card as soon as they have all of your information and have verified your documents. ([www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), January 2007)

### **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 11) along with a copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, (DD Form 214). DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.

### **COMBAT VETERANS COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN KENT & SUSSEX 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 Veteran's Affairs Office, 802 Silver Lake Blvd., Suite 100, Dover, DE 19904. Similar services are held at the Vet Center Outreach Office in Georgetown, Sussex County, and the Vet Center in Elsmere, Wilmington, DE. For additional information or to request individual therapy, please contact Ms. Hoag, MSW, LCSW, at (302) 739-2792 x. 1003 or (800) 344-9900 x. 1003.

### **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**

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs



Wilmington, DE 19805, (800) 461-8262 ext. 5326  
or (302) 633-5326.

1<sup>ST</sup> Thursday

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

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

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)**

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

**VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC**

Air Force Sergeants Association

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

American Legion

Don White.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

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

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America

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

**DELVETS**

Robert Wasson.....(302) 798-2951

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

Marine Corps League

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

Military Officers Association of America

Lou Spitzfaden.....(302) 697-6805

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](mailto: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

**USN Veterans Association**

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

**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

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Al Barclift (Wilmington).....302-761-8093  
James Williams (Newark).....302-368-6622  
Steve Flaherty (Dover).....302-739-5473  
Joann Johnson (Dover).....302-739-5473  
Cliff Rumph (Georgetown).....302-856-5230

**VETERANS UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM**

Sandria D. Johnson (USAF-Ret.) Counselor/  
Associate Director and James A. Perrine Delaware  
Counselor/Recruiter State University, 1200 N  
DuPont Hwy, Dover DE 19901, (302) 857-6135  
and 6137. E-mail sjohnson@desu.edu or  
jperrine@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  
Paul Lardizzone.....DAV  
Richard M. Magner.....AMVETS  
Lou Spitzfaden.....MOAA  
Barry Newstadt.....JWV  
David W. Timberman.....PVA  
Jim Thompson .....MCL  
Robert E. Wasson.....DELVETS  
George Webb.....VVA

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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  
1-800-344-9900 (In State only)

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Veterans Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Date Entered Service \_\_\_\_\_ Date Separated \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

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

Is Veteran Deceased Yes or No (please circle one)

**LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

To meet the legal residency requirement (in addition to honorable military service) the veteran must have been:

- a. A legal resident of Delaware when he or she entered the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- b. A legal resident of Delaware at time of death

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

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

Signature of Veteran/spouse or next of kin \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship if not veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Provide alternate address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Please anticipate 4 to 6 weeks in receiving your Certificate

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY DCVA**

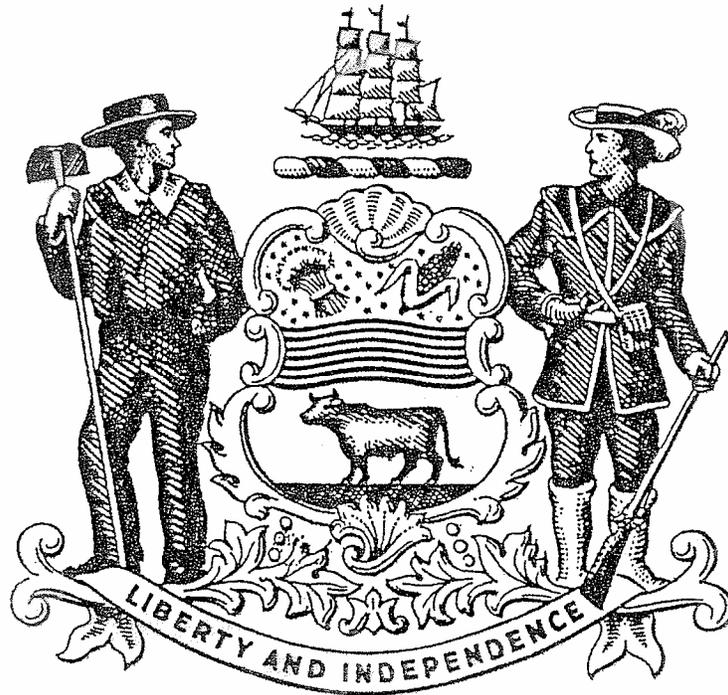
\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_ Pending \_\_\_ Disapproved

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

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