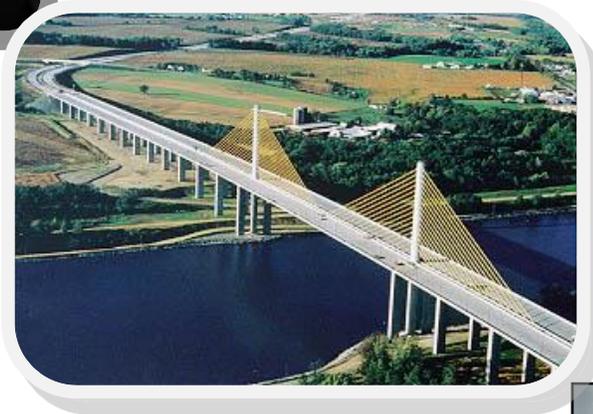




## Annual Report 2014



**Jack Markell, Governor**  
**Jeffrey Bullock, Secretary of State**  
**Ronald Sarg, Chairman**  
**Larence Kirby, Executive Director**

*Veterans **FIRST** in the First State*

**State of Delaware  
Department of State  
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs  
(302) 739-2792  
[www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov](http://www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov)**



**Mission Statement**

*The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs is dedicated to advancing information, providing benefits and creating opportunities for service members, veterans and their families in recognition of their service to the Nation and their value to our community.*

## Introduction

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The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, a division of the Department of State, is dedicated to assisting veterans and their family members in obtaining benefits and services through other government agencies and civic organizations. The Commission is an advisory board appointed by the Governor to represent Delaware's veterans. They coordinate programs and objectives providing state-wide advocacy for veterans' issues. They oversee operations of two Delaware Veteran Cemeteries and provide administrative oversight for Delaware Veterans Home. The Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1987.

### DCVA Mission:

- ✓ Represent the State in concert with other agencies and the US Department of Veterans Affairs on matters of mutual interest and concern.
- ✓ Maintain a repository for Delaware veterans' "Statement of Service".
- ✓ To advise departments and agencies of the State on all matters pertaining to veterans, their dependents and survivors.
- ✓ Augment veteran service organizations in assistance to veterans with assignment of a Veterans Service Officer in each county.
- ✓ Administer operations for the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemeteries.
- ✓ Oversight in the administration of the Delaware Veterans Home.
- ✓ Initiate, review, and sponsor State legislation pertaining to veterans.

The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs is composed of 15 members, 13 serving from veteran service organizations, and 2 serving at-large. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor for a four-year term. The commission also consists of state employees that include the Executive Director, Accountant, Veteran Service Officers, Administrative Specialists, and Veteran Cemetery personnel.

## Contact Information

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### Main Office

802 Silver Lake Blvd. Suite 100  
Dover, DE 19904  
Phone: (302) 739-2792  
Fax: (302) 739-2794

#### **Larence Kirby**

Executive Director  
Phone: (302) 739-2792

#### **Sable Phomphakdy**

Administrative Specialist III  
Phone: (302) 257-3120

#### **Pamela A. Anderson**

Administrative Specialist II  
Phone: (302) 257-3116

#### **Sherri Taylor**

Senior Accountant  
Phone: (302) 257-3117

## Veterans Service Officers

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### **Natasha L. Scott-Knight**

Veterans Service Officer (New Castle County)  
Phone: (302) 365-8231

### **Charles M. Murrell, Jr.**

Veterans Service Officer (Kent County)  
Phone: (302) 257-3119

### **Laurie A. Corsa**

Veterans Service Officer (Sussex County)  
Phone: (302) 648-3068

## Commissioners

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### **Dr. Ronald G. Sarg (Chairman)**

Phone: 678-1603  
Email: [eglrn@comcast.net](mailto:eglrn@comcast.net)  
Organization: MOAA  
*Military Officers Association of America*

*Korean War Veterans Association*

### **Mr. William C. Farley (Vice Chairman)**

Phone: 734-8715/Cell: 242-7926  
Email: [majormustang@verizon.net](mailto:majormustang@verizon.net)  
Organization: MCL  
*Marine Corps League*

### **Mr. John F. Hampton**

Cell: 241-3189  
Email: [john.hamp2011@gmail.com](mailto:john.hamp2011@gmail.com)  
Organization: At Large

### **Mr. Charles T. Armbruster, Jr.**

Phone: 478-7591/Cell: 893-7703  
Email: [armbruct@verizon.net](mailto:armbruct@verizon.net)  
Organization: AMERICAN LEGION

### **Mr. Paul Lardizzone**

Phone: 674-0282/Cell: 382-3448  
Office: 697-9061  
Email: [p.lardizzone@verizon.net](mailto:p.lardizzone@verizon.net)  
Organization: DAV  
*Disabled American Veterans*

### **Mr. Cornelius C. "Bill" Carroll**

Phone: 655-3820  
Email: [jobill8@verizon.net](mailto:jobill8@verizon.net)  
Organization: MOPH  
*Military Order of the Purple Heart*

### **Mr. William C. "Bill" McMullen**

Phone: 697-9750/Cell: 423-0073  
Email: [mcmullenb@aol.com](mailto:mcmullenb@aol.com)  
Organization: AFSA  
*Air Force Sergeants Association*

### **Mr. Robert P. Corsa**

Phone: 933-0119/Cell: 745-1668  
Email: [kco326@aol.com](mailto:kco326@aol.com)  
Organization: VVA  
*Vietnam Veterans of America*

### **Mr. Mark M. Newman**

Phone: 724-6896/Cell: 222-7558  
Email: [mnewman122@gmail.com](mailto:mnewman122@gmail.com)  
Organization: VFW  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars*

### **Vacant**

Phone:  
Email:  
Organization: KWVA

### **Mr. Barry B. Newstadt**

Phone: 475-2820/Cell: 494-3939  
Email: [eagle0699@msn.com](mailto:eagle0699@msn.com)  
Organization: JWV  
*Jewish War Veterans*

**Earl E. Seppala**

Phone: 239-0641/Cell: 290-0274

Email: [eseppala@aol.com](mailto:eseppala@aol.com)

Organization: MOWW

Military Order of the World Wars

Organization: DELVETS

Delaware Veterans

**LTC Angela F. Showell, DNG**

Phone: 326-7755/Cell: 299-8333

Email: [angela.f.showell.mil@mail.mil](mailto:angela.f.showell.mil@mail.mil)

Organization: At Large

**Mr. Albert W. Weir**

Phone: 629-4141

Email: [pro.rooki@comcast.net](mailto:pro.rooki@comcast.net)

Organization: AMVETS

American Veterans

**MyRon W. Smith**

Phone: 397-1011

Email: [myronsmith508@comcast.net](mailto:myronsmith508@comcast.net)**Noteworthy**

**Delaware Joining Forces** is a statewide public and private organizational network to provide services to the State's military and veteran communities. Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs hosts the online directory with application process to list recognized organizations. These organizations connect service members, veterans, and their families with public services, community groups, service providers, health care centers, veteran service organizations, and other agencies. Over 80 organizations have registered with Delaware Joining Forces as service providers.

Benefits of active membership include:

- Recognition for participating in a statewide initiative that demonstrates your commitment to improving the quality of life of service members, veterans, and their families.
- Engagement with public and private entities that are aligned with your interests.
- Increase outreach efforts to a larger community and a broader population through referrals and searches with a web-based platform.
- Opportunity with active participation in work groups and strategic planning to develop policy and establish goals.

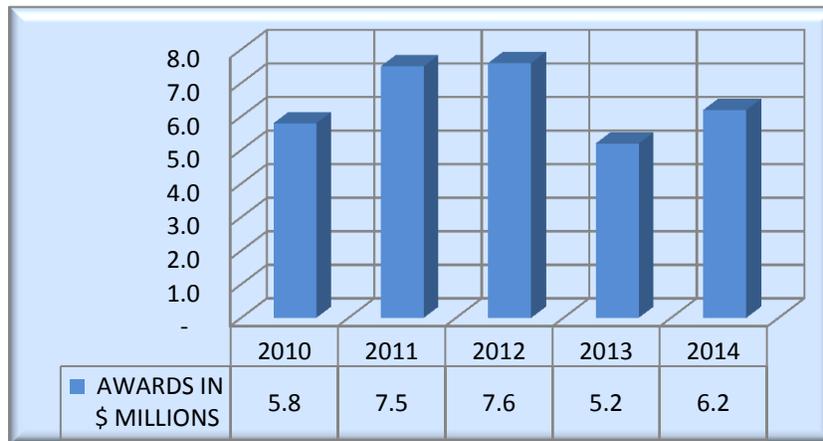
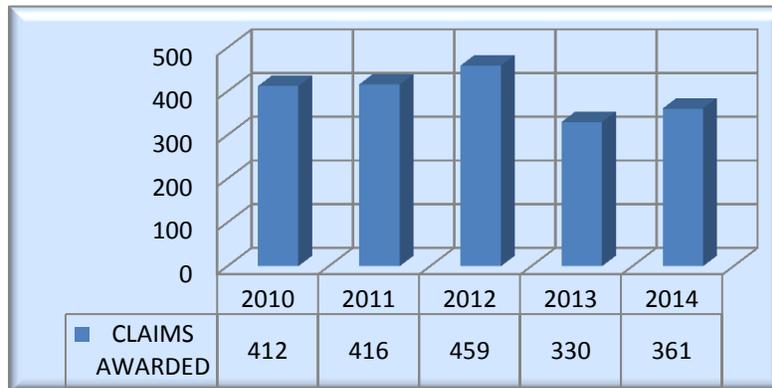
Joining Forces is a national initiative to engage all sectors of society to give our service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned. First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden have highlighted the initiative and encouraged participation.

**Delaware Veterans Trust Fund** continues to assist honorably discharged veterans through financial assistance. The fund was enacted by the 147th General Assembly, House Bill 85 and has provided 85 eligible veterans with grants. Examples include assistance with medical needs, household utilities, and educational programs.

*“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”  
- Charles Dickens*



**State Veteran Service Officers** provide assistance with information and application for veterans' benefits including compensation and pension for service connected disabilities. The State Veterans Service Officers are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to represent veterans and maintain professional membership with the National Association of County Veteran Services Officers (NACVSO).



## Veterans Memorial Cemetery

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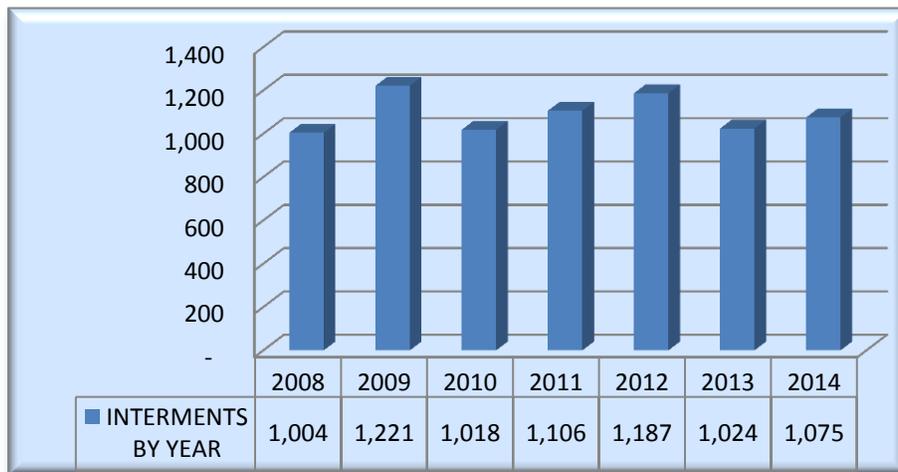
### **Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

2465 Chesapeake City Road  
Bear, Delaware 19701  
Phone: (302) 834-8046  
Fax: (302) 834-3787  
Barbara A. Cooke (Administrator)

### **Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

26669 Patriots Way  
Millsboro, Delaware 19966  
Phone: (302) 934-5653  
Fax: (302) 934-5647  
Gregory A. Bee (Administrator)

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemeteries are dedicated veteran benefits and enjoyed by the community as a beautiful memorial park. In 2014, the Bear cemetery completed a \$679,000 operations and maintenance project to clean grave markers, realign and reset them with revised standards of the National Cemetery Administration. Nearly 12,000 grave markers were cleaned and reset with new sod throughout. The project funded by the State Cemetery Grants Program Office took 18 months to complete by Greenleaf Services, Ind., a disabled veteran owned Delaware Company.



During 2014, the Millsboro cemetery completed a team building and beautification project to dress the island in the center of the roundabout at the entrance. The project called for eliminating weeds, mulch, and shrubs as the soil was reclaimed landscaping with architectural brick. Enhancements included flag poles with solar lighting for each of the service flags. At the base of the poles, preformed concrete molds provided an attractive base with the service emblems seated in the mold. An American eagle graces the rock garden that is complete with attractive flora and a perpetual waterfall. A sitting wall and benches provide seating for visitor remembrance.



## Partnerships

**People’s Place II (PPII)** – The Veterans Outreach Program continues to provide a valuable service to Delaware’s veterans. Funds for this program have been provided through Assistance for Needy and Homeless Veterans (20-01-02) (Pass Through). The budget for FY 2014 was \$49,400. Michael Rowe, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, attends the Commission Meetings monthly to report on the program’s accomplishments. The Veterans Outreach Program continues to be a viable resource in lower Delaware and our continued partnership is considered to be an asset for the community and the Commission of Veterans Affairs.

<b>Veterans Outreach Program – Services FY 2014</b>	
Intake New Veteran	80
Follow Up	622
Visits to Incarcerated Veterans	177
Referrals – Substance Abuse Counseling	59
Transportation to VAMC Wilmington	263
Home Visits	125

**Veterans Law Clinic, Widener University, School of Law -** Provides legal services to veterans with expungements, social service cases, and appeals with the U.S. Department of Veterans Administration, Board of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals. In partnership, the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs provides contractual funding of \$49,500 per annum to defray costs of this service. In 2014, the Veterans Law Clinic worked 254 cases with fourteen interns enrolled in the program. As many more hours are uncompensated by volunteers, the Veterans Law Clinic was a recipient of the 2014 Governor’s Award for Outstanding Volunteerism.

**AmeriCorps – DCVA Awarded Grant** - Grant awarded through the State Office of Volunteerism, AmeriCorps, for First State Veterans and their Families. This program allows up to five AmeriCorps members to assist service members, veterans, and families with benefits and information. AmeriCorps members are located among the three counties: Kent; Sussex; and New Castle in offices of the DCVA. They work with a State Veterans Service Officer to further outreach, provide assistance with information and benefits, and participate with veteran programs and events.

## Legislation – 147th General Assembly

Senate Bill No. 206 – Service Members Civil Relief Act provides protection to residents of Delaware serving in the armed forces and members of the Delaware National Guard who are deployed for more than 30 days with the same protections as required by the federal SRCA.

House Bill No. 296 – allows for professional licensing boards to recognize military education, training, and experience when reviewing credentials and issuing licenses. Assists serve members and their spouses in obtaining or renewing professional licenses when transitioning from active duty and provides for issuance of a temporary license when one is held with another state.

House Bill No. 324 – provides for a specialty license plate for honoring veterans (HV) “I Support Veterans.” This plate is available to any Delaware resident to show their patriotism and support of personnel serving, or who have served, in the armed forces. One half the fee of twenty dollars goes to the Veterans Trust Fund.

## Events

Memorial Day (May 26, 2014) – Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Commissioner William McMullen served as emcee with remarks to commemorate the event by Governor Jack Markell; Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn; U.S. Representative John Carney; Representative Earl Jaques; and Major General Frank Vavala. Music and Honors were rendered by the Delaware National Guard.

Memorial Day (May 30, 2014) – War Memorial Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge. Gene Hebert, Commander of the Military Order of World Wars officiated. Commemorative Remarks were made by Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn; U.S. Senator Thomas Carper; U.S. Senator Christopher Coons; U.S. Representative John Carney; Representative Earl Jaques; and Major General Vavala. Music provided and honors rendered by Delaware National Guard. Military Order of the Purple Heart sponsored the Spirit of '45 Day Express – a national effort to commemorate veterans of World War II.

Flag Day (June 14, 2014) – Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Millsboro. Commissioner Robert Corsa presided. Dr. Mayer Katz, Chief of Surgery, Beebe Medical Center provided the key note address with his experience as a vascular surgeon in Beinh Hoa, South Vietnam during the Tet Offensive 1968. Korean War Veterans of America rendered honors.

Freedom 5K (July 5, 2014) - DCVA conducted a community outreach program with the annual Freedom 5K held at Silver Lake, Dover. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Veterans Trust Fund.

2014 Veterans Mental Health Summit (September 10, 2014) – Embassy Suites, Newark. Jointly sponsored by Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Delaware Health and Social Services, and the Mental Health Association of Delaware. The program provided opportunity for education and advocacy by participating organizations. Keynote speaker was Ginger Miller, “Stand By Them.” Continuing Education Credits were provided to registered attendees.

2014 Delaware Veterans Stand Down (October 3, 2014) – Walter L. Fox, American Legion Post 2, Dover. 90 organizations participated with well over 500 veterans receiving health care screenings; including dental services and flu shots. Clothing, haircuts, meals, and health and comfort items were provided. Service organizations provided information and assistance with benefits, housing, medical services, credit counseling, employment, and more. DCVA provided support with Charles Murrell serving as a member of the Board. An information booth provided resource materials on benefits and services including the web based application for Delaware Joining Forces. DCVA participants included John Knotts, then-Executive Director, Charles Murrell, Veterans Service Officer, Pamela Anderson, Administration Specialist, and Commissioners Bill Farley, Bob Corsa, Bill Carroll, Barry Newstadt, LTC Angela Showell, Bill McMullen, and Myron Smith.

Veterans Day (November 11, 2014) – War Memorial Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge. This event is designated as a regional site for observance of Veterans Day by the National Committee on Veterans Day, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Commander Gary “Mo” Morris, Military Order of the Purple Heart presided. Commemorative Remarks were made by Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn; U.S. Senator Thomas Carper; U.S. Senator Christopher Coons; U.S. Representative John Carney; Representative Earl Jaques; and Major General Vavala. Music by A.I. Dupont High School Band. Honors rendered by Delaware National Guard.

Wreaths Across America (December 8, 2014) - Delaware remembered its fallen veterans during the “Wreaths Across America” ceremony outside Legislative Hall. The commission was represented by Chairman Ron Sarg, the Executive Director, Larence Kirby, the outgoing Executive Director, John Knotts, and the Commissioners. Commission Vice Chairman, William Farley presented remarks and laid a wreath honoring Medal of Honor recipients. Commissioner William Carroll laid a wreath at the World War II Memorial. The ceremony was hosted by the General Assembly.

## Economic Impact Delaware

### VETERANS POPULATION\* (By County and Period of Service)

	Total Veterans	Total Wartime Veterans	Gulf War Era Total	Vietnam Era Total	Korean War Total	WW II Total
DELAWARE	78,016	57,990	21,045	24,960	7,804	4,181
KENT CO.	19,358	14,497	5,261	6,240	1,951	1,045
NEW CASTLE CO.	36,165	26,675	9,680	11,482	3,590	1,923
SUSSEX CO.	22,493	16,818	6,104	7,238	2,263	1,213

Women Veterans in Delaware: 7,589

America's Veterans Population was estimated at 21,972,964 as of September 2013.

Women Veterans Population was estimated at 2,271,222 as of September 2013.

*\* Data Compiled by the Department of Veterans Affairs – VetPop*

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
RETIREES & SURVIVORS (DELAWARE)\***

Total Retirees		8,685
Total Receiving Pay		8,208
Enlisted:		6,941
	Non-Disabled and Reserve	6,392
	Disabled	549
Officers:		1,640
	Non-Disabled and Reserve	1,585
	Disabled	
Survivors Receiving SBP		1,210
Total Monthly Retirement & SBP Pay		\$16,601,000
Total Annual Retirement & SBP Pay		\$199,212,000

**U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Distribution of Expenditures**

Compensation and Pension	\$145,450,000
Education & Vocational Rehabilitation	\$29,797,000
Insurance & Indemnities	\$5,725,000
Medical & General Operating Expenses	\$122,487,000
Total Annual VA Expenditures	\$303,459,000
<b>Grand Total DOD &amp; VA for Veterans</b>	<b>\$502,671,000</b>

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

Budget by Appropriation - Fiscal Year 2014

DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	APPROPRIATED SPECIAL FUNDS	NON-APPRPRIATIED SPECIAL FUNDS	TOTAL  (in thousands)
Personnel	1343.3	0.0	0.0	1343.3
Travel	15	5.0	0.0	19.0
Contractual	235.5	78.5	0.0	314
Energy	79.4	0.0	0.0	79.4
Supplies	28	36.0	0.0	64.0
Veterans Trust Fund	25	0.0	0.0	25.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1726.2</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1844.7</b>

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs				
Actual Expense by Program - Fiscal Year 2014				
DESCRIPTION	DCVA DOVER Program 20143	DVMC BEAR Program 20144	DVMC MILLSBORO Program 20145	TOTAL  (in thousands)
Personnel	278.8	366.7	185.1	830.6
Travel	8.2	.9	0.0	9.1
Contractual	159.6	6	4	169.6
Energy	0.0	33.8	19.1	52.9
Supplies	25.3	0	0.0	25.3
Capital	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>471.9</b>	<b>407.4</b>	<b>208.2</b>	<b>1087.5</b>