



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)

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Jack A Markell, Governor

Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State

Volume 19, Number 4

Paul V. Lardizzone, Chairman

Antonio Davila, Executive Director

Oct-Dec 2012

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

My Fellow Veterans,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Commissioners for their support over the past two years as Chairman. Paul Lardizzone has been elected as the new Chairman and will take the chair in October. Paul has served as Chairman in the past and I know that he will continue to do his utmost to assist all Delaware veterans and their families. I would like to remind all veterans and their dependents to visit our website at www.veteransaffairs.delaware.gov to learn of the services provided by the Commission, the Commission Office, and the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery System. You can also call (800) 344-9900 (In State only) or (302) 739-2792 for information. We had proposed to members of the legislature during their last session that veterans of the recent wars in the Middle East should be provided a \$300 bonus for serving in the same manner that Delaware gave a bonus to veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. They have served our nation well and, although the amount is small, they deserve some recognition for their service. No action was taken; so we are going to again propose the bonus when they reconvene in January 2013. Since this is the last issue for 2012, it is time for the Veterans Commission to wish all of you a Happy Veterans Day, a Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukkah or Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. In closing, I would like to personally thank the 78,000 plus Delaware veterans and their families, as well as all active duty members and their families, for their service to our Nation and State. Through all their efforts we have remained a free country.

Sincerely,
James L. Thompson
Outgoing Chairman

THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER

“Men of genius are admired; men of wealth are envied; men of power are feared; but only men of character are trusted.”



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



The Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Delaware, will host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, 2012. The program will be held at the Memorial Bridge Plaza, Delaware Memorial Bridge, New Castle, Delaware, beginning at 10:30 AM. For further information, please call (800) 344-9900 (in state only) or (302) 739-2792.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS - VETERANS DAY EVENT

White Clay Creek State Park in Newark, Delaware is hosting a Veterans Day Open House at the beautiful Judge Morris Estate on Sunday, November 11, 2012, and seeking the help of volunteers. Were you in combat, working for the war effort, or managing a home or family during a war era? Would you like to share your story with others and be a part of this timeless event? If so, contact Kathleen Sullivan, Kathleen.Sullivan@state.de.us or call (302) 368-6560 to set-up a volunteer interview. Volunteers will be able to share stories and display memorabilia during this open house - style event. Due to space limitations, not all volunteers will be selected.



VETERANS DAY APPLE PIE SOCIAL AT THE JUDGE MORRIS ESTATE

Join us as we honor Veterans in an open house - style Apple Pie Social. Learn firsthand what being a veteran means in this country and how we can honor them for their service. We will be serving coffee and apple pie courtesy of Perkins restaurant. Sunday, November 11, 2012, 1-3 pm at the White Clay Creek State Park, Newark, DE. State Park entrance fee is in effect (Annual Pass or Daily Pass:

\$3 per DE vehicle, \$6 per out-of-state vehicle). To register, call (302) 368-6900.

HOUSING LOANS AVAILABLE

Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA) is pleased to announce that the Housing Development Fund (HDF) Loan application forms are now available and have been posted to DSHA’s website at the following link: http://www.destatehousing.com/Developers/dv_hdf.php. This is a flexible lending source to encourage and finance safe and secure affordable rental housing for low- and moderate - income Delawareans. Applications for HDF loans will be accepted at both DSHA’s Wilmington office: Carvel State Building, 820 N. French St. 10th Floor, Wilmington, DE 19801 and DSHA’s Dover office: 18 The Green, Dover, DE 19901. Applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 5, 2012. If you are planning on submitting an application, DSHA invites you to contact us for technical assistance prior to application submission. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Deakyne at (302) 739-4263 or via e-mail at cindy@destatehousing.com.

UNEMPLOYED VETERANS REQUESTING RETRAINING PROGRAM TO ENHANCE JOB SKILLS

Strong Pace of Applications Puts VA on Course to Meet its VRAP Goals

The Department of Veterans Affairs has approved more than 36,000 applications for the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP), a new training and education program for unemployed veterans to upgrade their skills for in-demand jobs. “The tremendous response illustrates how important this program is in providing veterans the opportunity to find employment in a high-demand field,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. At the current approval rate, VA expects to fill all 45,000 available slots for the fiscal year 2012 phase of the program before the Sept. 30 deadline, and will continue processing new applications for the 54,000 slots available in fiscal

year 2013. The program, a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, which was passed by Congress and signed by the President in November 2011, is managed by VA and the Department of Labor (DOL) and allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of education assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month. The goal of VRAP is to train a total of 99,000 veterans over the next two years in more than 200 job skills that DOL has determined are the most sought-after by employers.

To be eligible for the program, a veteran must:

- Be 35-60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, and not dishonorably discharged;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment;
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job-training program within the last 180 days; and
- Not receive VA compensation at the 100% rate due to individual unemployability (IU).

Veterans who have been approved for VRAP are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to start training full-time in a VA-approved program of study offered by a community college or technical school. The program of study must lead to an associate degree, non-college degree, or certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by DOL. Applicants approved for the 2013 phase should enroll full-time in an approved program and start training by April 2013 in order to take full advantage of this benefit before its termination March 31, 2014. “I’m thrilled that the response to the program has been so strong,” said VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “But we need to keep getting the word out to maintain the momentum.” VA Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Curtis Coy acknowledged the program applies to a small segment of the veteran population that may not have regular interaction with VA or stay informed about veterans’ benefits and opportunities. “We ask anyone who knows an unemployed veteran to tell them about VRAP,” said Coy. “We are counting on the continued help of Veterans Service Organizations and the Department of Labor, as well

as the American public, to reach as many eligible veterans as possible.” Potential applicants can learn more about VRAP and apply online at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. Information about the Department of Labor’s programs for veterans is available at www.dol.gov/vets. Veterans can also visit the nearly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers across the nation, listed at www.servicelocator.org, for in-person assistance. (VA News Release, August 27, 2012)

VA OFFERS A NEW TOOL TO HELP VETERANS PREVENT DIABETES

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the implementation of a pilot version of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a program being promoted nationally by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aimed at reducing the number of veterans who develop diabetes. “The Diabetes Prevention Program will provide veterans with another tool to help them lead healthier, fuller lives, reducing their risk for diabetes,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The DPP was a major multi-center clinical research study aimed at discovering whether modest weight loss through dietary change and increased physical activity or treatment with the oral diabetes drug metformin could prevent or delay the onset of Type 2 diabetes. The study enrolled participants who were prediabetic - overweight and with blood glucose (blood sugar) levels higher than normal, but not high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes. Results showed those who lost a modest amount of weight through dietary changes and increased physical activity sharply reduced their chances of developing diabetes. “Approximately 24 percent of veterans have Type 2 diabetes,” said Dr. Linda Kinsinger, VA’s chief consultant for preventive medicine. “We’ve monitored the DPP’s results and we feel that it could be another tool to make a difference for veterans.” Through VA’s pilot DPP, which will be offered on a strictly voluntary basis, some veterans who are at risk for, but not diagnosed with, diabetes will attend a series of group sessions and will be given predetermined weight loss and physical activity goals. Research has shown that, while

many veterans benefit by establishing their own health goals, others show positive improvement working towards goals determined by the program. Other veterans at risk for diabetes will receive weight management care through MOVE! - VA's current weight management program. The program targets a broad range of patients who are obese or overweight with obesity-related conditions, whereas the DPP specifically targets those obese individuals who have laboratory evidence of prediabetes. Because VA is eager to try new approaches to promoting health and preventing disease, it is implementing a pilot VA version of the DPP. A limited number of veterans with prediabetes will be able to participate in this pilot clinical program at the medical centers in Minneapolis, Baltimore, and Greater Los Angeles with VA Ann Arbor serving as the coordinating center. For more information on this program, contact Jay Shiffler (jay.shiffler@va.gov) at the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. To learn more about the VA's prevention program, visit <http://www.prevention.va.gov/index.asp>. VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. With a health care budget of more than \$50 billion, VA expects to provide care to 6.1 million patients supporting 920,000 hospitalizations and nearly 80 million outpatient visits this year. VA's health care network includes 152 major medical centers and more than 800 community based outpatient clinics. (VA News Release, October 5, 2012)

VA EXPANDS WOMEN'S HEALTH PRACTITIONER TRAININGS

Nearly 1500 Providers Trained through National Mini-Residency Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained nearly 1,500 providers through its flagship National Women's Health Mini-Residency Program, one of many training opportunities for VA clinicians to sharpen their women's health skills. "We have collaborated throughout VA to develop training that keeps VA providers and staff at the forefront on women's health issues," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "This training will help VA prepare for the continuing increase in women veterans and the

accompanying complexity of their health care needs." VA is offering an unprecedented number of creative education opportunities to its health care providers interested in women's health care. The training ranges from traditional lectures with direct instruction to online and audio courses. Several courses target physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners; other courses have sections geared toward wider audiences, including nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and psychologists. VA's Employee Education System and VHA's Simulation Learning Education and Research Network partnered closely with Women's Health Education to develop the courses. "Health care providers throughout VA must understand that women have unique health care needs and that different approaches might be necessary to provide the highest quality care to them," said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel.

Training programs include:

- The flagship Mini-Residency Program on Primary Health Care for Women Veterans, which has educated nearly 1,500 VA primary care providers using techniques like first-hand practice, lectures, and case discussions. This year, an online e-learning version of the mini-residency has been released as well as a mini-residency program for nurses.
- Monthly Women's Health Provider Audio-conferences, which are designed to complement the mini-residency program by supplying providers with up-to-date information about important women's health topics. A new Monthly Women's Health Nursing Audio-conference Series launched in May 2012.
- Women's Health Emergency Medicine Course, a series of 10 online modules that use virtual patient scenarios, interactive content delivery, and videos to educate emergency care providers about common women's health issues in emergency rooms. The first module was released this year and an additional three are slated for release this summer.
- Women's Health Simulation Equipment and Videos enable health care providers at VA facilities nationwide to get hands-on training in breast and gynecologic examinations. One such system is MAMMACARE, involving computerized simulation equipment that gives the provider the

opportunity to hone hand-eye coordination when assessing lumps. To reach VA's more remote locations, Women's Health Services recently partnered with VA's Office of Rural Health to sponsor 15 Women's Health Education Innovation Grants. These grants are providing resources to produce creative ideas for women's health education training at 15 VA locations nationwide. Lessons learned from this grant program will be used to shape future national training initiatives. Additionally, the VA Women's Health Advanced Fellowship Program, which provides stipends to trainees in health care professions, has been expanded from seven to eight sites. Previously available only to physician trainees, the program has begun an inter-professional approach that incorporates training of associated health and nursing professionals. The Women's Health Advanced Fellowship Program is sponsored by VA's Office of Academic Affiliations. Women veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the veteran population. By 2020, VA estimates women veterans will constitute 10 percent of the veteran population and 8 percent of VA patients. For more information about VA programs and services for women veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.womenshealth.va.gov. (VA News Release, August 28, 2012)

ONLINE TOOLKIT AIMS TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS SERVING VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Department of Veterans Affairs has developed a new online Community Provider Toolkit (www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders) aimed at delivering support, therapeutic tools, and resources to community providers treating veterans for mental health concerns. "Many veterans seek mental health care at VA, yet many also choose to go to providers in their community," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA is committed to helping veterans wherever they may seek care. This toolkit will enable those community providers who treat veterans to better understand the specific issues veterans face and help them access VA resources." The goal of the Community

Provider Toolkit is to further enhance the delivery of mental health services to veterans through increased communication and coordination of care between community providers and VA. It not only provides information about accessing, communicating with, and, if needed, making referrals to VA, but also provides effective tools to assist veterans who are dealing with a variety of mental health challenges. The Community Provider Toolkit also includes sections intended to increase providers' knowledge about military culture. On Aug. 31, 2012, President Obama issued his historic Executive Order to improve mental health services for veterans, servicemembers and military families. As directed in the Executive Order, VA is hiring 1,600 new mental health professionals and 300 support staff. The Executive Order also directed a 50 percent increase in the staff of the Veterans Crisis line. Last year, VA provided quality, specialty mental health services to 1.3 million veterans. Since 2009, VA has increased the mental health care budget by 39 percent. Since 2007, VA has seen a 35 percent increase in the number of veterans receiving mental health services, and a 41 percent increase in mental health staff. VA provides a comprehensive continuum of effective treatments and conducts extensive research on the assessment and treatment of PTSD and other mental health problems. Those interested in further information, can go to www.mentalhealth.va.gov or www.ptsd.va.gov to find educational materials including courses for providers and best practices in mental health treatment. They can also learn more about the award-winning VA/DoD PTSD Coach Mobile App, which provides education, resources, and symptom monitoring and management strategies. (VA News Release, September 27, 2012)

NEW DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR MINORITY VETERANS NAMED

The Department of Veterans Affairs has appointed Barbara Ward to the Senior Executive Service and assigned her as the Director of the VA's Center for Minority Veterans. "Barbara Ward is an outstanding fit in her new job and will provide a fresh perspective on women and minority issues," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

“She possesses a unique blend of administrative and leadership skills that will greatly benefit all veterans. We are lucky to have her.” Ward previously served as Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans Affairs, California Department of Veterans Affairs from 2007-2011. She is a United States Air Force, and Vietnam-Era Veteran, who served as a commissioned officer in the Air Force Nurse Corps from 1972-1974. In her new position, she will serve as the principal adviser to the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority Veterans. For more information about the Center for Minority Veterans, please visit: http://www.va.gov/centerforminority_veterans. (VA News Release, August 24, 2012)

VA CONTINUES TO REDUCE GENDER DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE

Report Shows National Initiative to Eliminate the Gap Is Working

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released a report that shows improvement in gender disparities in 12 out of 14 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures in VA since 2008. HEDIS measures are used by 90 percent of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service, such as screening, prevention and chronic disease management. VA consistently scores higher than private sector health care on both gender-specific and gender-neutral HEDIS measures. “We have a solemn obligation to provide high-quality health care to all veterans, regardless of gender. Although we are encouraged by the progress we have achieved, we are not going to stop working until all gaps are eliminated,” said Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. VA began a national initiative to eliminate gender gaps in preventive care in 2008. In 2011, VA asked each health care region across the country to review gender disparity data and create and implement an improvement plan. The Comparing the Care of Men and Women Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs report released by VA's Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA) indicates progress. The report shows that VA improved gender disparities in six

performance measures specific to VA, including the screening rate for persistence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms.

Other findings from the report include:

- VA has improved rates of screening women veterans for depression, PTSD and colorectal cancer.
- VA has improved disease prevention for women veterans through increased vaccination rates.
- VA has improved chronic disease management for women veterans in hypertension, diabetes and hyperlipidemia, all significant risk factors for cardiac disease.
- Although the gender gaps have narrowed, care remains better for men than women in cholesterol control, diabetes management and flu vaccination.

The OIA report includes results of veterans' inpatient and outpatient satisfaction surveys, which show that men and women veterans reported similar satisfaction except in the Getting Care Quickly and Getting Needed Care outpatient sections. VA has implemented a national initiative to improve care for women veterans. Some of the components include training VA providers in basic and advanced women's health care, implementation of women's health primary care teams at VA facilities nationwide and ramped-up communications efforts. The Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group, which leads the initiative, also issued a report looking at gender disparities. That report, Gender Differences in Performance Measures, VHA 2008-2011, identifies best practices for eliminating gender gaps based on success in VA networks. “We're looking at what works and trying to replicate it throughout VA's system,” said Patricia Hayes, chief consultant for the Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group. “We want to sustain this trend toward shrinking gender disparities and become a model for all other health care systems on how to eliminate gender disparities. Most importantly, we want to give every veteran the best health care.” Both reports can be downloaded via www.womens_health.va.gov. For more information about VA programs and services for women veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.womens_health.va.gov. (VA News Release, August 28, 2012)

KENT COUNTY VETERANS TO CREATE A GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

Kent County Chapter 850 of the Vietnam Veterans of America has voted to create a memorial to Gold Star Mothers and Families of all conflicts. The memorial will be built in a place of honor at the Kent County Memorial Park in the circle surrounding the Kent County Vietnam Memorial. "We cannot think of a more appropriate memorial to acknowledge and honor the sacrifices of mothers and families who have lost someone in defense of our great nation," said Joe Startt Jr., Chapter 850 President. The memorial will be made of the same granite as the existing structure and will include a gold star and a timeless inscription. The Chapter has begun a fundraising drive to supplement its own efforts to make the project a reality. A named brick will be placed at the site for donors of \$100 or more. Community organizations, especially veteran related groups, are being asked to consider a slightly larger donation. "No individual donor may have more than one brick at the site," said Delaware VVA Council President Paul Davis. "To our knowledge there is no other such memorial in the state." The memorial will cost approximately \$9,500 and once that goal is reached, no more bricks will be placed at the Gold Star Memorial. However, contributors after that time would be given an inscribed brick or an official, framed certificate for display in their home or business. Any additional funds donated would be used to maintain the memorial site. Click on www.DelawareVVA.com to order a Gold Star brick or call Paul Davis at 302-632-3103 for more information. Because this project includes all generations of Gold Star families, it will also be supported by the Delaware Veterans Coalition and included on its website at www.DelawareVeteransCoalition.com. The target date for the unveiling is Veterans Day, 2012. Checks should be made payable to VVA Chapter 850, with "G/S Memorial" in the memo line and mailed to the following address: G/S Memorial, 5233 S. DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901.

VA HISTORY TIDBITS

Ninety-five (95) years ago Public Law 65-90, signed on October 6, 1917, authorized the first-ever government life insurance and death benefits for World War I servicemembers and veterans. The law also provided for medical and hospital services as well as vocational training. Prior to 1917, the last great expansion of veterans benefits took place during the Civil War and shortly afterwards. The Bureau of War Risk Insurance (BWRI), a VA predecessor, was charged with administering these new benefits. The BWRI was established within the Treasury Department in 1914, just as World War I began in Europe, for the purpose of insuring American trans-Atlantic commercial ships and their cargoes. A new Military and Naval Division was created internally at the bureau aside from the existing Marine and Seamen's Insurance Division. The small bureau was ill-equipped to handle the vast expansion of its duties in October 1917 and quickly outgrew its office space as thousands of new clerks and typists were hired to process or file an avalanche of applications and claims. Temporary offices were set up at various locations in DC, including the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. The bureau soon partnered with its sister bureau, the U.S. Public Health Service (Treasury), to establish hospitals and provide trained medical staff to care for a new generation of veterans. By 1919, the Bureau had mushroomed into the largest insurance provider in the country. Life insurance has remained an important veterans benefit since 1917. The Bureau of War Risk Insurance was the original occupant of the current VA Central Office building in Washington, DC. The brand new building, constructed from the ground up on the former site of the Arlington Hotel, opened in the fall of 1918. In 1921, the bureau was consolidated with other World War I federal programs for veterans to form the Veterans Bureau. Nine years later the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (VHA origins) and Pension Bureau were merged with the Veterans Bureau to form the Veterans Administration. In 1989, the Veterans Administration became the Department of Veterans Affairs. (*Darlene Richardson, Historian, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*)



VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS



Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs

(New Castle County)

Mr. John Williams - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, DE may be reached Monday-Friday, (8:00 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 365-8231. Please call for an appointment.

(Kent County)

Mr. Charles Murrell - Dover office Monday-Friday (8:30 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 739-2792 or (800) 344-9900 (in State). Please call for an appointment.

(Sussex County)

Ms. Laurie White-Corsa may be reached:
Mondays & Fridays - Georgetown Vet Center (8:00 AM-4:30 PM) at (302) 994-2511 Ext 2361
Tuesdays & Thursdays - Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE (8:30 AM-4:00 PM) at (302) 648-3068. Please call for an appointment.



MOBILE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Ms. White-Corsa also provides services for veterans from the mobile Service Center at the following locations:

OCT 17	Nanticoke Cheer Center
OCT 24	Vet Center
NOV 07	Home of the Brave
NOV 14	Georgetown Cheer Center
NOV 21	Nanticoke Cheer Center
DEC 05	Georgetown Cheer Center
DEC 12	Home of the Brave
DEC 19	Nanticoke Cheer Center
DEC 24	Vet Center

American Legion

Joseph T. Houghton, Dept. Service Officer, (302) 993-7256, will visit the following posts between 9:00 AM and 12:00 NOON on the following dates:

OCT 19	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
OCT 26	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160
NOV 02	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (8:00-12:00)	302-945-1673
NOV 09	Walter L Fox, Post #2	302-674-3922
NOV 16	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
NOV 21	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160
NOV 30	Nanticoke Post #6	302-629-9915
DEC 07	Oak Orchard/Riverdale, Post #28 (8:00-12:00)	302-945-1673
DEC 14	Walter L Fox, Post #2	302-674-3922
DEC 21	Laurel Post #19	302-875-9948
DEC 28	David Harrison, Post #14	302-659-0160

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV Dept. Service Officers: 302-697-9061

Paul Lardizzone: 302-382-3448

H. Mark Wischman: 302-382-3449

Kent County Schedule:

DAV Headquarters Building, 183 South Street, Camden, DE 19934

Monday thru Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins)
1:00-3:00 PM (Appt only)

Sussex County Schedule:

Department of Labor (Div of Employment & Trng)
20093 Office Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947
Thursday 8:00-12:00 PM (Walk-ins) 302-856-5230
Kent & Sussex evening appointments prescheduled by request only.

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) 993-7252 or (302) 993-7253. 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, and Frederica the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Purple Heart NSO (MOPH)



Cheryl Yard, National Service Officer, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7263 M-F 8:30 to 4:00. Walk-ins welcome.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Jerry Brooks, VA Regional Office, 1601 Kirkwood Hwy, Room 21, Wilmington, DE 19805, (302) 993-7260.

1ST Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milford VFW (422-4412) 1:30-4:00 PM

2nd Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Milton VFW (684-4975) 1:30-4:00 PM

3rd Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Rehoboth VFW (227-3469) 1:30-4:00 PM

4th Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 8:00-11:00 AM
Seaford VFW (629-3092) 1:30-4:00 PM

5th Thursday

Delaware DOL (993-7260) 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 1-302-993-7260. 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) 993-7250 or (302) 993-7251.

DELAWARE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

New Castle Co. Section (Bear, DE)...302-834-8046
Sussex Co. Section (Millsboro, DE)...302-934-5653

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 Delaware Veterans Blvd.....302-424-6000

Milford, DE 19963

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Cleopatra Jones (Wilmington).....302-761-8077
Allen Jones (Wilmington).....302-761-8141
James Williams (Newark).....302-451-3460
Cliff Rumph (Dover).....302-857-5866
Kevin Gunning (Dover).....302-857-5870
Dawn Smith (Georgetown).....302-856-5230
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
.....302-761-8275

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VA Regional Office (Claims & Benefits)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-827-1000
VA Medical Center (Healthcare)
1601 Kirkwood Hwy
Wilmington, DE 19805.....1-800-461-8262
.....302-994-2511

Dover VA Outpatient Clinic
1198 S. Governors Ave
Dover, DE 19904.....1-800-461-8262 x2400

Georgetown VA Outpatient Clinic
20653 DuPont Hwy
Georgetown, DE 19947 ...1-800-461-8262 x2300

Readjustment Counseling
Vet Center (New Castle Co.)1-800-461-8262 x5434
Vet Center (Kent Co.).....1-800-461-8262 x2430
Vet Center (Sussex Co.).....302-225-9110
The Vet Center provides counseling services for:

- Post Traumatic Stress and Other Disorders
 - Military Sexual Trauma
 - Marital/Family problems
 - Bereavement
- Vet Center services are provided at no cost to eligible veterans who served in combat areas and their families or to those who experienced sexual trauma or bereavement challenges without combat area restriction.

Veterans Outreach Program
Mike Rowe - Listening Post-Lower Delaware

RETIREE ACTIVITIES

Retired Activities Office

MSgt (R) Bill Oldham (William.Oldham.2@us.af.mil), Bldg 520, Room 105, Dover AFB, DE 19902, (302) 677-4610.

Retired Navy Activities Affairs Office

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

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS POC

Air Force Sergeants Association

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

American Gold Star Mothers

Pauline Anderson.....(302) 633-0239

American Legion

Richard "Ric" Santos.....(302) 628-5221

AMVETS

Albert Weir.....(302) 629-4141

Colonial Paralyzed Veterans of America

Ron Hoskins.....(302) 365-5670

Phyllis Palabrica.....(302) 365-5670

Delaware Veterans Coalition

Dave Skocik.....(302) 736-8500

E-mail: delawareveteranscoalition@gmail.com

DELVETS

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

Disabled American Veterans

Paul Lardizzone.....(302) 697-9061

Fleet Reserve Association

James M. Jackson.....(302) 834-1719

40 & 8

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

Jewish War Veterans

Len Markovitz.....(302) 234-4785

Korean War Veterans Association

George Goss.....(302) 424-0461

Marine Corps League

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

Military Officers Association of America

Tom Kelly (New Castle Co.).....(302) 834-9659

Ron Sarg (Kent Co.).....(302) 678-1603

Fred Seth, Jr. (Sussex Co.).....(302) 519-0611

Military Order of the Purple Heart

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