



# Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

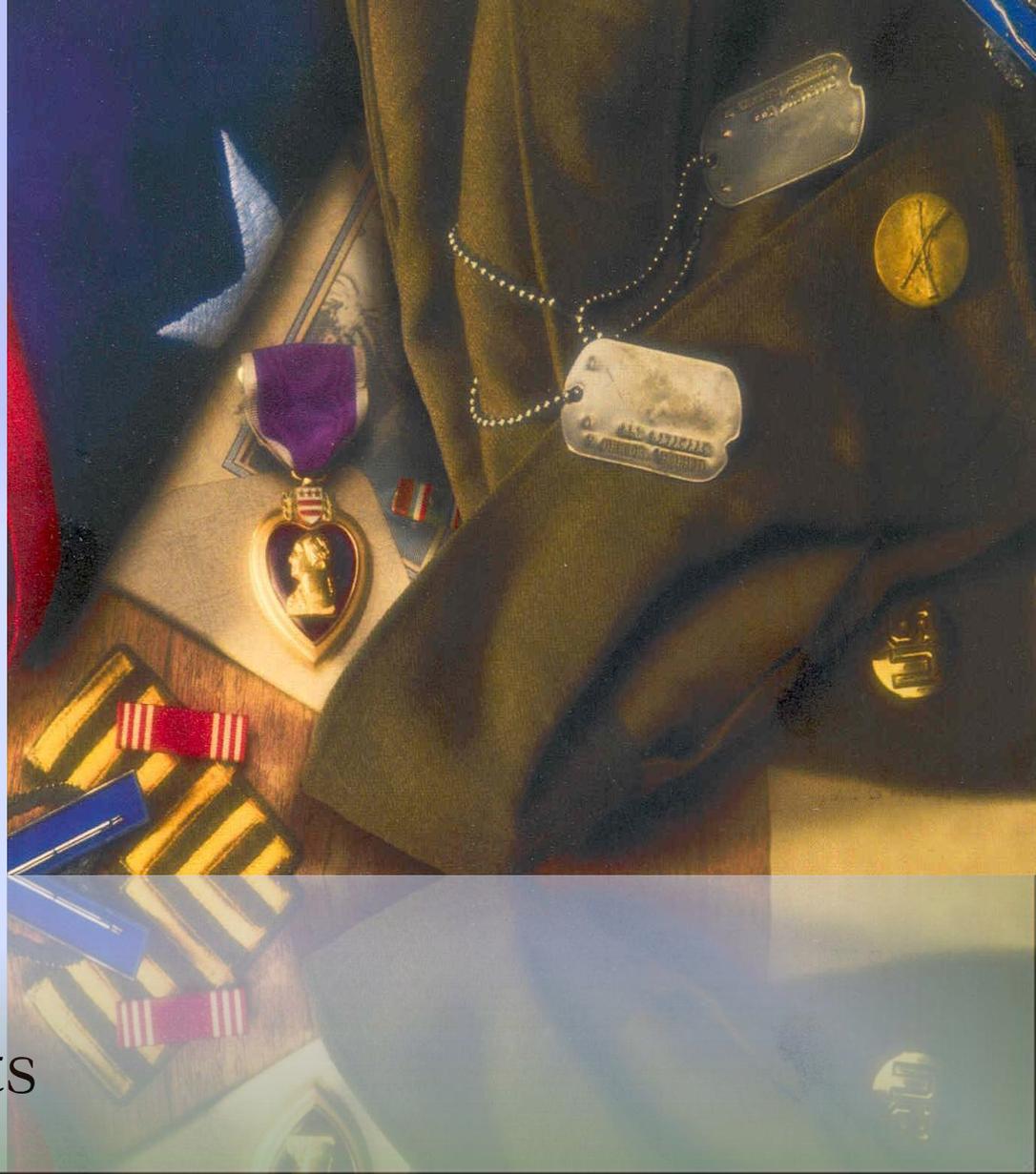
Briefing prepared for ...

# JECVO

December 3, 2014

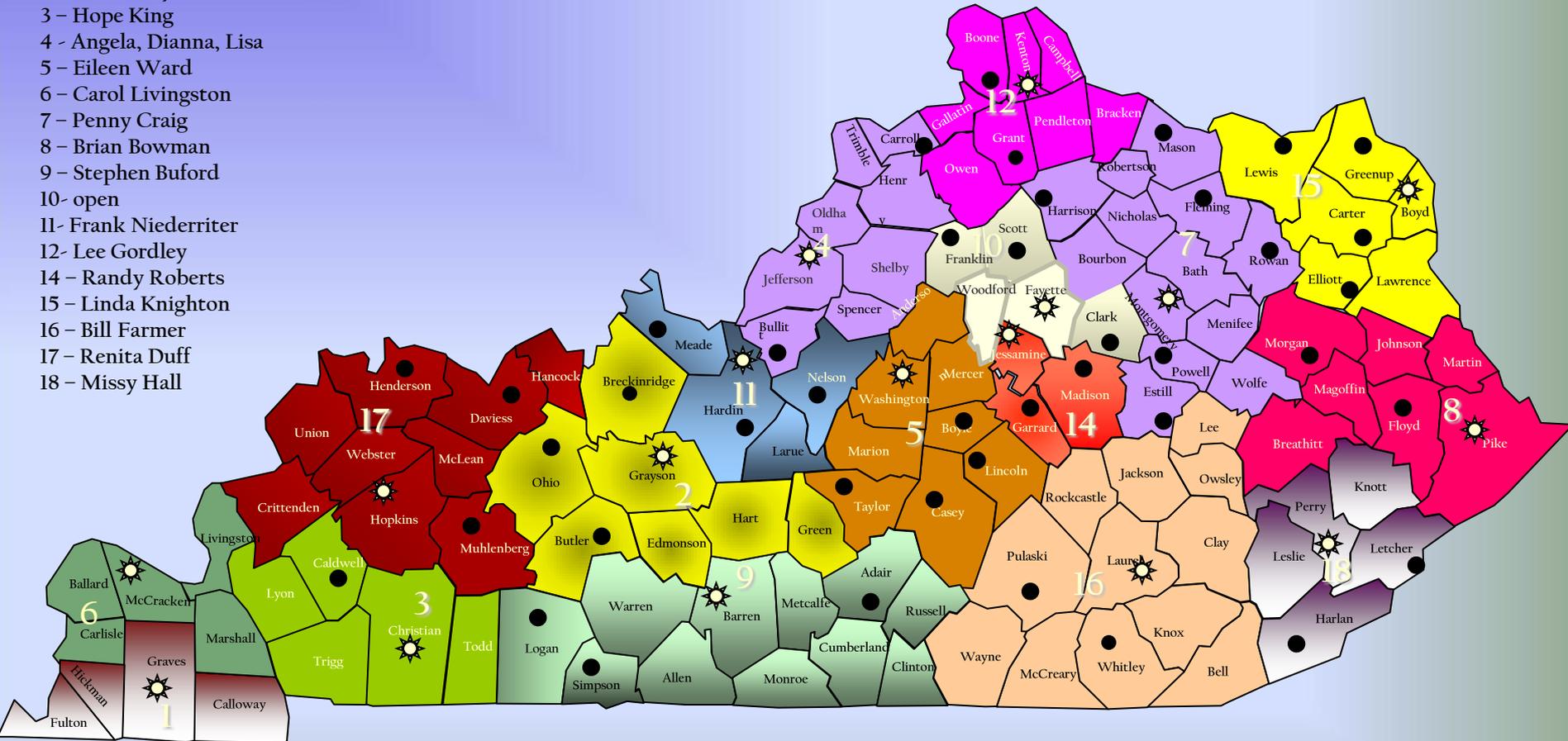
# Agenda

- Field Operations
- Cemeteries
- Homeless
- Legislative Issues
- November in Review
- Women Veterans
- 2015 Upcoming Events



# Field Representatives

- 1- Ron McClure
- 2- Trina Patty
- 3- Hope King
- 4- Angela, Dianna, Lisa
- 5- Eileen Ward
- 6- Carol Livingston
- 7- Penny Craig
- 8- Brian Bowman
- 9- Stephen Buford
- 10- open
- 11- Frank Niederriter
- 12- Lee Gordley
- 14- Randy Roberts
- 15- Linda Knighton
- 16- Bill Farmer
- 17- Renita Duff
- 18- Missy Hall



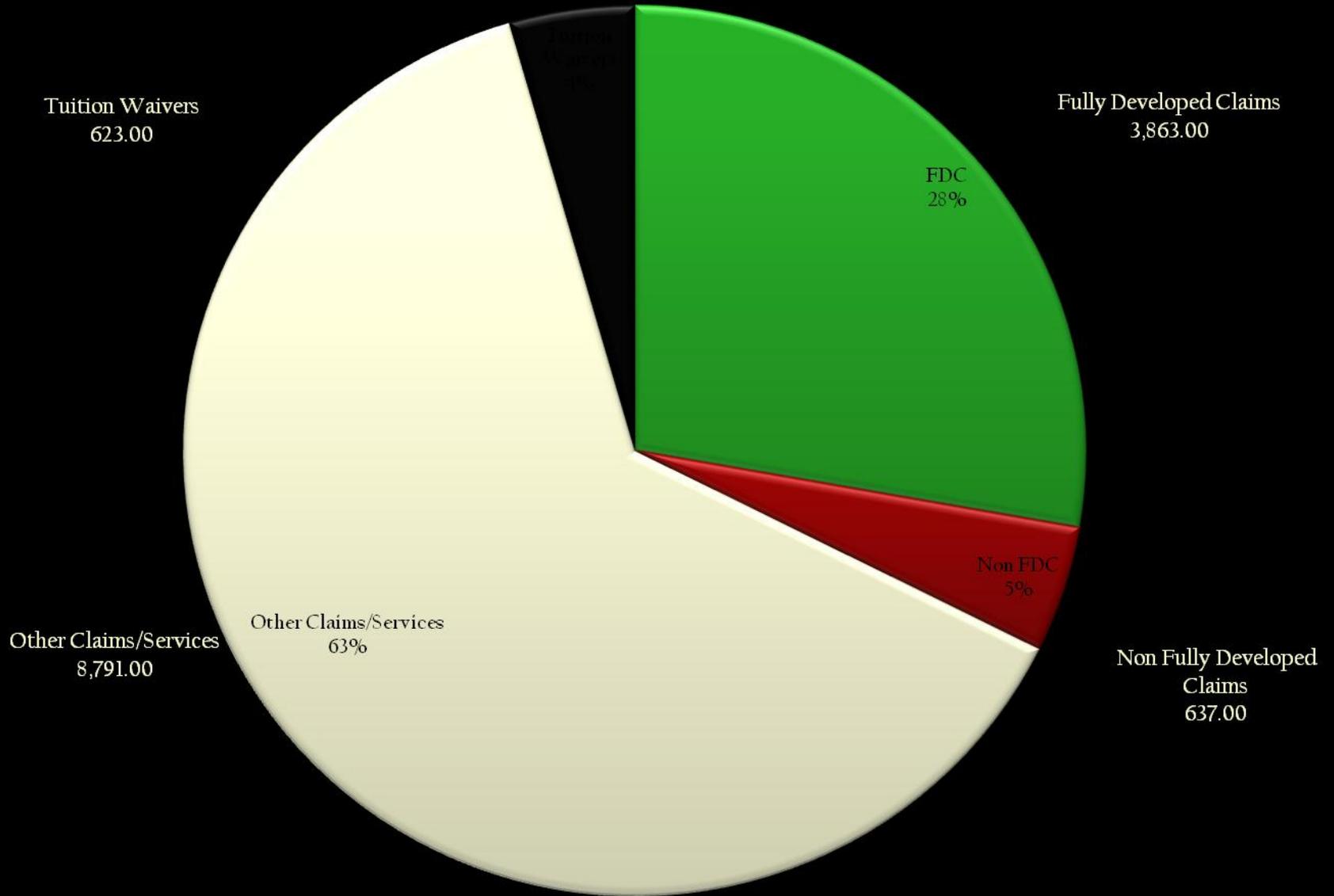
-  Denotes VBFR home office
-  Denotes VBFR Outstation

Effective Sept 1, 2014

# Priority One Claims

- Fully Developed Claims
- Death Indemnity Claims
- Hardship
- Homeless
- Terminal
- Fully Developed Appeals

# Veterans Served by KDVA



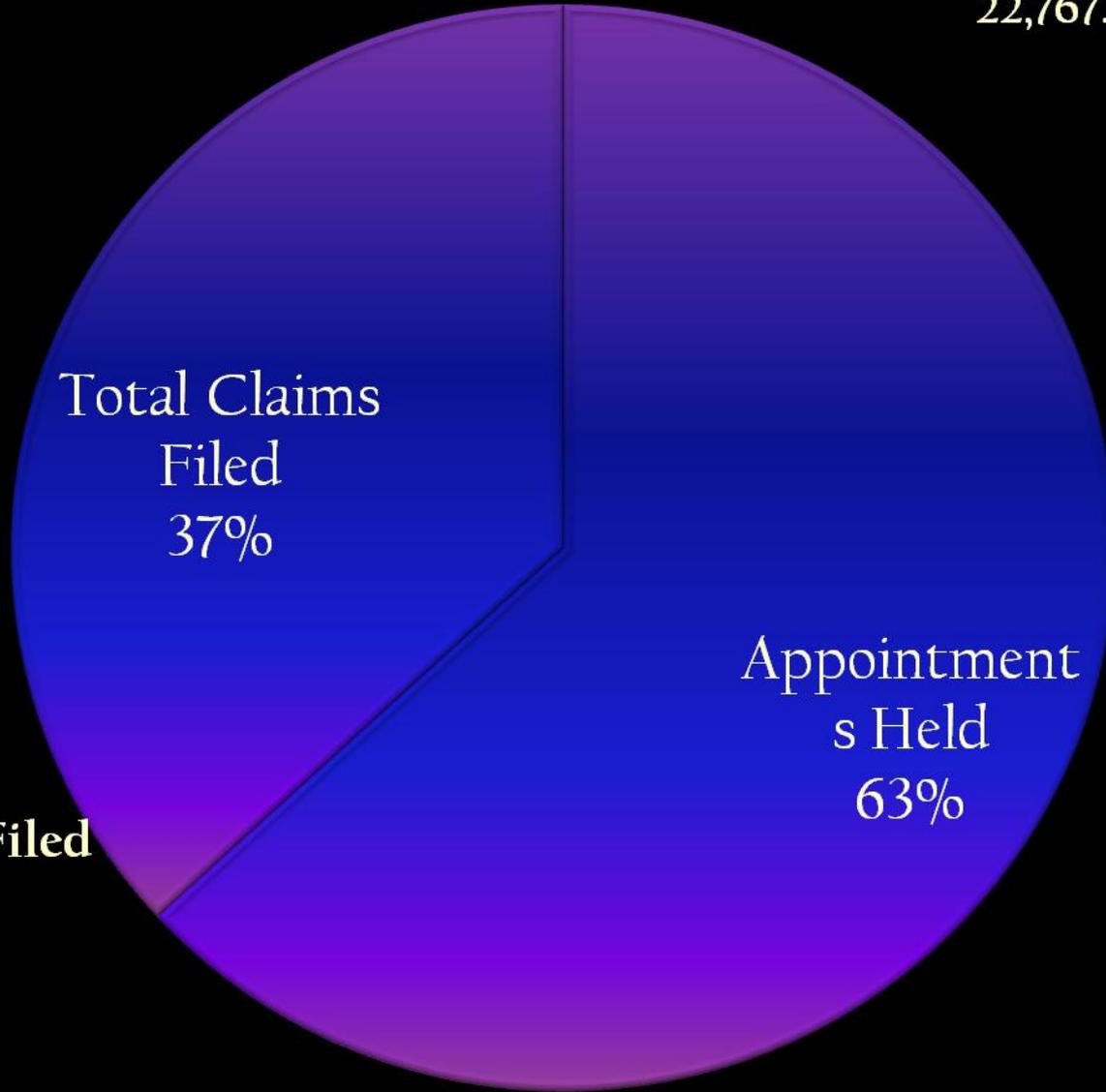
# Veterans Served by KDVA

Appointments held  
22,767.00

Total Claims  
Filed  
37%

Appointm  
ents Held  
63%

Total Claims Filed  
13,291.00



# Digits-to-Digits - D2D

- Digits to Digits (D2D) is a service that integrates a Veteran Service Organization's (VSO) claims management system directly to the VA for claims submissions.
- Program development started with six states in the Pilot Program; (KY, IL, CA, TN, VA, GA). After less than three months into the program some states dropped from the program leaving the development to the four remaining States: ( KY, TN, GA and VA)
- D2D has completed testing for the Fully Developed Claims. KY was the first state to successfully electronically connect to the VA through D2D program

# Digits-to-Digits - D2D Cont'd.

- D2D has completed testing for the Fully Developed Claims. KY was the first state to successfully electronically connect to the VA through D2D program beginning December 2014, the states of Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee along with 2 national VSO's will participate in live submissions with an expected claim count of 300 being send directly to the VA.
- By the end of FY 15 approximately 20 states . 4 national , and multiple county VSO's will participate with an expected 115,000 Fully Developed Compensation, Pension and DIC claims being filed.

# Compensation and Pension

● Disability Compensation Recipients	56,625
● Compensation estimated Monthly Pay	\$67,307,979
● Compensation estimated Annual Pay	\$807,695,748
● Veterans Pension Recipients	5,422
● Pension estimated Monthly Pay	\$4,670,599
● Pension estimated Annual Pay	\$56,047,183

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# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West

Opened March 1, 2004

As November 2014

## Interments:

Veterans	2,080
Dependents	724
Cremated	<u>757</u>
Total	2,804



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
WEST

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

Opened June 1, 2007

As of November 2014

## Interments:

Veterans	3,609
Dependents	634
Cremated	<u>1,058</u>
Total	3,609

The image shows the entrance to the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central. In the foreground, a long, low, light-colored stone wall serves as a sign, with the words "KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY" in large, bold, black capital letters, and "CENTRAL" in smaller, bold, black capital letters below it. Three black benches are positioned in front of the wall. Behind the wall, a tall, white, cylindrical monument stands on a stone base. The monument is topped with a golden eagle sculpture with its wings spread. An American flag flies from a tall pole behind the monument. The background consists of green trees and a clear blue sky.

**KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY**  
**CENTRAL**

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

Opened August 22, 2008



KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
NORTH

As of November 2014

## Interments:

Veterans	809
Dependents	151
Cremated	<u>379</u>
Total	960

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East

Opened October 1, 2010

As of November 2014

## Interments:

Veterans	370
Dependents	64
Cremated	<u>135</u>
Total	434

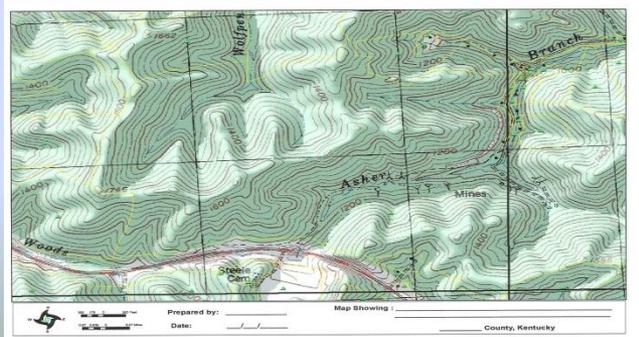


**KENTUCKY VETERANS CEMETERY  
NORTHEAST**

# Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East

As of: August 1, 2014

- Suitable parcel of land purchased by Leslie County.
- Proposals & surveys approved by VCGS (Washington, DC).
- Major improvements began October 2013 nearing completion.
- Land title work started for deeding property to the state.
- VA Grant Funding targeted for Fiscal Year 2016 (Oct 2015).



# Burial Honors Stipend Program

As of: November 4, 2014



## FY 14 Honors

- 2,373 performed
- \$136,380 expended

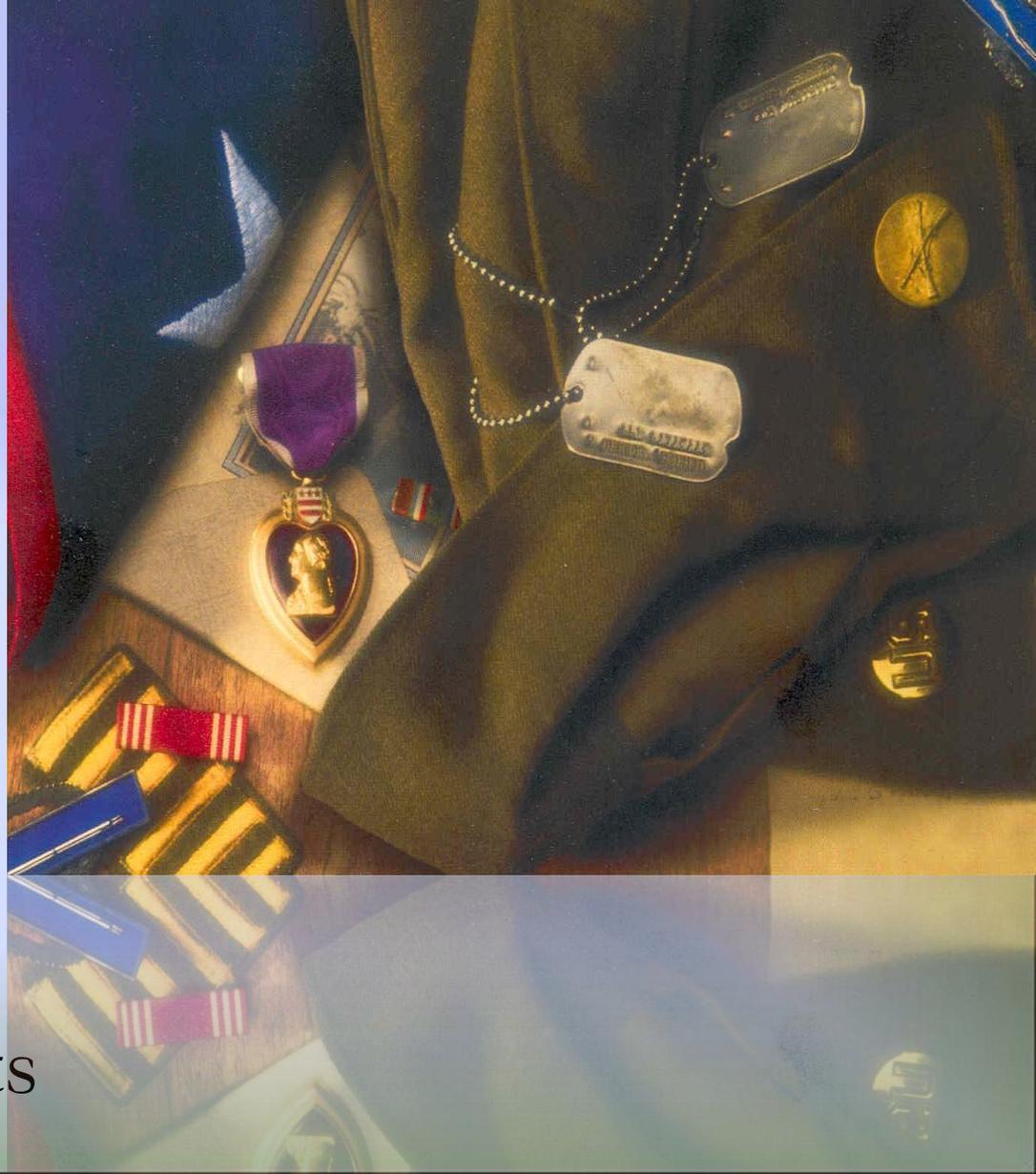
## FY 15 Honors

- 811 performed
- \$46,525 expended



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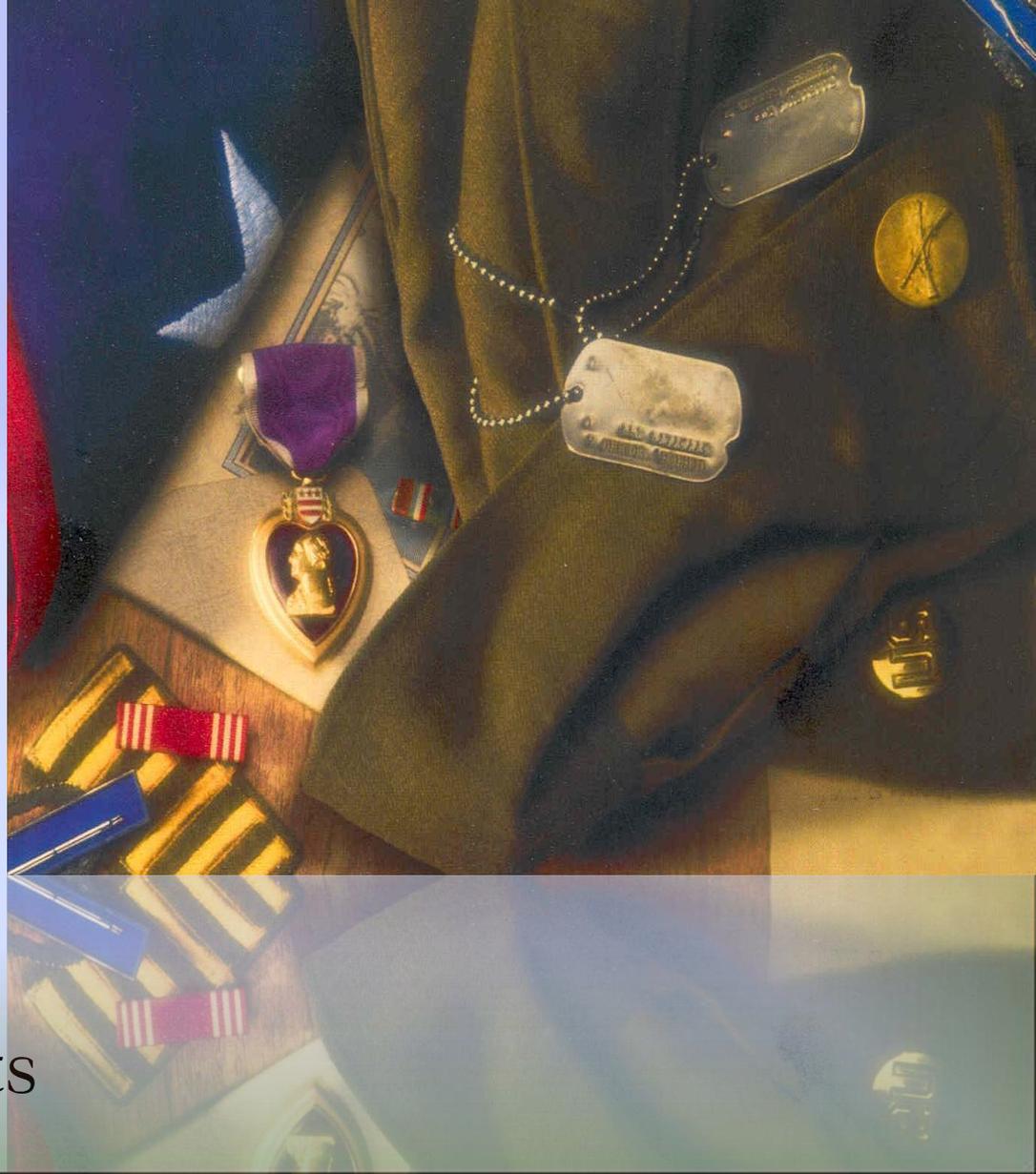


# Homeless Veterans Program

- Job Posting for Homeless Veteran Coordinator
- VOA Homeless Veterans Program at 29-2 in Lexington, KY
  - VFW donated money for new furniture – THANK YOU!
  - Search for new facility ongoing
- St. James Place – Lexington, KY
  - Great Article in Herald Leader featuring Pat McKeirnan
- Interlink Counseling – Louisville, KY
  - Partnered with Sgt. Hibbs w/ Louisville Metro Homicide to deliver over 120 turkeys for Thanksgiving – Great Media Coverage about Homeless Veterans

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# Legislative Issues

- **Korean Conflict**

- The facts are that a KY statute (KRS 158.140) defines the Korean Conflict as the period from June 27, 1950 to July 25, 1953 (or until January 31, 1955 if the veteran qualified for the Korean medal). Federal law defines a Korean veteran having served from 1950-1955 for VA benefits

- **Disabled Veteran Owned Business**

- Certification for Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses in KY
- \*Advantages the DVOB applying for out of state contracts that offer set asides or points during that state's bidding contract process
- \*KY currently offers certification for women and minority owned businesses in the state

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# November Events Review - Commissioner

- Survivors Day at Churchill Downs
- Louisville Week of Valor press Conference
- Northern KY / Cincinnati Rotary Club w/ Past DAV National Commander
- Jefferson County Veterans Treatment Court - Graduation
- RSVP Veterans Concert – Maysville, KY
- DAV 5 K Run/Walk/Ride
- VFW Veterans Day Dinner – Maysville
- Greenup County Veterans Memorial
- Taylor County High School Veterans Day Ceremony
- Purple Heart City Unveiling – Crestwood, KY

# November Events Review – Commissioner Cont'd.

Southern Indiana Veteran Treatment Court Graduation

Kentucky Veterans of the Year

Louisville Veterans Day Parade

Vietnam Veterans Flag Pole Dedication

Elizabethtown American Legion Veterans Day program

Kent School of Social Work – Homeless Veterans Summit

VA Veterans Appreciation Day

Interlink Counseling Turkey Drop-Off

Patriot Plaza Dedication, Sarasota – National Veterans Cemetery

Monroe County, NY Women's' Veterans Celebration of Service



# 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Commemoration

- Update on 50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Anniversary Commemoration – Sept. 25, 2014
  - Over 500 in attendance
  - Great Collaboration with the Governor, KY National Guard, Memorial Committee, & KDVA
- UK Football Heroes Day – October 11, 2014
  - Members of VVA & KDVA on the field
  - Honored Vietnam Veterans at 1<sup>st</sup> Down
- Future Plans being scheduled - TBA



UK Heroes Day 2014



50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Anniversary  
Commemoration

# Past Veteran Events

## Kentucky Harvest & Interlink Counseling 2014



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KENTUCKY WOMEN VETERANS

UNITE!

2015



# Women Veterans Program

- KY Female Veteran Population – Approximately 31,000 and growing

**Mission and Goals:** The mission of the Kentucky Women Veterans Program shall be to ensure that Kentucky's women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits. The goals are to:

- Perform outreach to improve women veterans' awareness of eligibility for federal and state veterans' services and benefits;
- Assess the needs of women veterans with respect to improve the Women Veterans Programs
- Make recommendations to the Commissioner to improve benefits and services
- Review programs, research projects, and other initiatives designed to address or meet the needs of Kentucky's women veterans
- Incorporate women veterans' issues in the Department's strategic planning; and Participate in National forums and committees for women veterans.

KENTUCKY WOMEN VETERANS

UNITE

2015



# Women Veterans Program

- Awareness each month: Examples
  - January: National Mentoring Month
    - Athena Sisters Writing Workshop – January 24, 2015
  - February: National Heart Month
    - Partnership with American Heart Association
  - March: Women’s History Month
    - Honoring a Legacy of Service in our Nursing Homes

KENTUCKY WOMEN VETERANS

UNITE

2015



# Women Veterans Program

- Statewide Women Veterans Conference
  - April 11, 2015 – Louisville, KY
    - Papa Johns Stadium
    - Breakout Sessions
    - Documentary : “Service: When Women Come Marching Home”
    - KY Center for the Arts

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# Upcoming Events & News

- December 2, 2014 – Filming PSA's for Veterans Services & Benefits
- December 4, 2015 - Garlin Connor Medal of Honor Hearing – Dennis Shepherd has an oral argument in Cincinnati Court
- December 8, 2014 – Laying of the Wreath at the Capitol
- December 12, 2014 – Veterans Trust Fund Meeting at KDVA
- December 13, 2014 – Wreaths Across America at KDVA Cemeteries
- January 24, 2015 – Athena Sisters Writing Workshop
- February 6, 2015 – Go Red for Women Veterans
- February 9-14 – National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
- TBA - Veterans Gun Lock Tour – Partnering with Department of Behavioral Health on Suicide Prevention
- Year Long - Kentucky Women Veterans UNITE! 2015

# Upcoming Events & News Cont'd.

- January 16, 2015 – Governor's Advisory Board
- January 24, 2015 – Athena Sisters Writing Workshop
- February 6, 2015 – Go Red for Women Veterans
- February 9-14 – National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
- TBA – Veterans Gun Lock Tour – Partnering with Department of Behavioral Health on Suicide Prevention
- Year Long – Kentucky Women Veterans UNITE! 2015