



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

For Immediate Release

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# Veterans Center Expansion Starts Construction

*Buildings with 36 new beds expected to open in late 2012*

**HANSON, Ky (April 19, 2011)** Construction began today on the long-awaited expansion of the Eddie Ballard Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Ky.

“We are so very pleased that this will enable us to serve 36 more veterans who need nursing care,” said Ken Lucas, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. “Veterans in Western Kentucky have been persistent in seeking this expansion, and now their patience will be rewarded.”

WKVC opened with 120 beds in 2002. For several years, it has maintained a waiting list of 50 or more veterans, which necessitated the expansion.

The \$9.9 million project is funded 65 percent by the federal government, and the remainder by the state of Kentucky. The General Assembly approved and Governor Beshear signed a bond issue to cover the state’s share.

The expansion will consist of three living centers containing 12 bedrooms and private baths with a home-style kitchen, dining room, and living room. This design is known as the community living concept and personalizes the care for a veteran in a home-like environment. KDVA's first veterans nursing center opened in Wilmore in 1991, the second and third in Hazard and Hanson in 2002.

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