# Serving Those Who Served

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs



### KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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## **Commissioner's Corner**

### **Commissioner's Corner**

Greetings teammates,

Spring is here and we have completed a full 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 2025 calendar year! Looking back, we have had successful events and initiatives to include the inaugural Veterans and Military Family Conference, launching of the HereNOW Help App to support veterans self and clinical care needs, and the KY Veterans Program Trust Fund granted five veterans service organizations over \$200K in grants. Our Benefits Division VBFRs and State Program Division coordinators have



been crisscrossing the Commonwealth engaging our veterans and their families in their communities. In addition, the KDVA team has added new teammates in its Frankfort headquarters (OVLS Executive Director, Budget Manager and Homeless Veterans Coordinator) and throughout the agency to include its soon to open Bowling Green Veterans Center.

Looking ahead, we continue to have a very busy quarter engaging veterans throughout the Commonwealth. Starting this month, we will have a regional Benefits Claims clinic in Mayfield, KY (April 24<sup>th</sup>) and the kickoff of KDVA's monthly KY Virtual Job Fair (April 16<sup>th</sup>). In May, we have our annual Community and Faith Based Forum in Louisville, KY (May 17<sup>th</sup>) and state capitol (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) and state cemeteries (May 26<sup>th</sup>) Memorial Day Ceremonies. And will conclude the quarter with Women Veterans Retreat (June 06-08<sup>th</sup>). So, a busy time ahead for the KDVA team.

Finally, I like to close by recognizing our Kentucky Women Veterans as we complete Women History Month, and our Vietnam War Veterans in this 12<sup>th</sup> and final year of the National Vietnam War Commemoration Celebration. Thank you all for your service and sacrifice as well as what you have for or Nation and Commonwealth after service. We are forever grateful to you.

As always, HOOAH!

Very respectfully,

Whitney P. Allen, Ir.

Commissioner Whitney P. Allen, Jr. Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs

## **CBO Nonpartisan Analysis Report**

Team,

For your situational awareness and information sharing with your teammates and veteran service organizations. Use the link at the bottom to view the Congressional Budget Office Nonpartisan Analysis Report for budget options and deficit reduction. Produced in October 2024, this report recommends multiple options for reducing the deficit in the years 2025 to 2034. <u>It is important to note that this</u> <u>report provides estimates for potential</u> <u>upcoming legislative proposals.</u> In the area concerning veterans, Options 23 thru 26 are specific to Veterans.



CBO was established by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (the Budget Act) to provide objective, nonpartisan information to support the Congressional budget process and to help the Congress make effective budget and economic policy. The agency offers an alternative to the information provided by the Office of Management and Budget and other agencies in the executive branch.

Please note this report are only recommendations for legislation at the federal level and may have been updated since production. You can find this report and previous reports at <u>https://tinyurl.com/36nn4f7w</u>

To learn more about the CBO go to Introduction to CBO | Congressional Budget Office

https://veterans.ky.gov/About/Documents/CBO%20Nonpartisan%20Analysis%20Report% 20%28Oct%202024%29.pdf

## **Latest VA News**

## VA to complete Federal EHR deployment at nine additional sites in 2026

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will complete deployment of the Federal Electronic Health Record system at nine additional medical facilities, bringing the total to go live in 2026 to 13, with complete deployment of the EHR at all VA medical facilities as early as 2031.

Today's announcement follows <u>December 2024 news</u> that four VA sites in Michigan would go live in 2026. The nine additional VA facilities will be announced later this year following planning sessions among officials from VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization Office, regional and local VA medical leaders, VA clinicians, and EHR vendor Oracle Health.

The Federal EHR system seamlessly manages data exchange between VA and the Department of Defense, improving customer service and convenience for VA and DOD patients.

"America's Veterans deserve a medical records system that's integrated across all VA and DOD components, and that is exactly what we will deliver. We can and will move faster on this important priority. But we're going to listen to our doctors, nurses and vendor partners along the way in order to ensure patient safety, quality and customer service," said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

VA is pursuing a market-based approach to site selection for its deployments going forward. This will enable the department to scale up the number of concurrent deployments, while also enabling staff to work as efficiently as possible.

VA will adopt a standard baseline of products, workflows, and integrations aligned with subject-matter-expert recommendations. The standardized national baseline will ensure successful Federal EHR implementation, accelerate deployments, simplify decision-making, and support future optimizations.

For more information about VA's overall EHR modernization effort, see here.





## **KDVA Veterans Claims Clinic**

This is an opportunity for veterans and families to file claims for veterans disability compensation, nonservice connected pensions, survivor benefits, healthcare, and educational benefits.

## April 24, 2025 9:00 AM to 5:00PM

PADD Purchase Area Development District 1002 Medical Dr. Mayfield, KY 42066

PLEASE BRING

**DD214** 

MEDICAL RECORDS

MARRIAGE LICENSE

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS











Register Here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1255832150769?aff=oddtdtcreator

What's New at KDVA?



Use the QR Code to get the app. Use this access code: 219378





## **OKVS Training Day**



KDVA's Offices of Kentucky Veterans Services held an all OKVS training day in General Butler State Resort Park, in Carrollton, KY, March 19, 2025.

## **Veterans Program Trust Fund Quarterly Meeting**



Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund (VPTF) Board members and KDVA staff discuss potential grant applications during VPTF quarterly board meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Six grants were approved for a total of \$232,500. To see the meeting minutes posted on our website click here.

## KDVA: Recognizing One of our Own

Jimmy Wooton, Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center licensed practical nurse (LPN) received a recognition certifcate from the KDVA Commissioner Whitney Allen for his hard work, professionalism, and dedication. In November he received the prestigious Silver Scholarship Award at the KHCF awards banquet.



Jimmy Wooton, LPN at the Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, was honored as the recipient of the Silver Scholarship Award at the KHCF awards banquet on November 21, 2024. This prestigious recognition highlights his commitment to excellence in healthcare and his dedication to serving veterans with compassion and professionalism. Jimmy's achievement reflects his hard work, passion for nursing, and unwavering support for the veteran community.





## Commonwealth Veterans Participate in Statewide "Veterans for Smart Power Roundtables"



Kentucky veteran advocates and leaders participated in U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) Veterans for Smart Power roundtables held in Louisville, Lexington, and Bowling Green from March 25-27, 2025. Along with networking with fellow veteran advocates, attendees of the roundtables were able to participate in timely discussion on how America's international engagement—through development and diplomacy, alongside our defense—directly protects the security and prosperity of America. Guest speakers General Lawrence Nicholson, USMC (Retire) and Vice Admiral Matthew Kohler, USN (Retired) gave insights based on their military and post military experience on how international assistance strengthens our national security and counter our adversaries. USGLC Senior for Veteran Outreach, Jolan Jolivette, served as moderator of the discussions and events coordinator. KDVA wishes to thank Mr. Jolivette and USGLC for hosting these roundtables and look for to future USGLC events in the Commonwealth. According to their website, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition is a broad-based influential network of 500 businesses and NGOs; national security and foreign policy experts; and business, faith-based, academic, military, and community leaders in all 50 states who support strategic investments to elevate development and diplomacy alongside defense to build a better, safer world. To learn more about or participate in USGL Veterans for Smart Power events you can visit their website at <u>Veterans for Smart Power – USGLC</u> Pictures courtesy of USGLC

## Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star Families and members of the Frankfort community gather at the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday, March 29, 2029. VFW 4075 and Ms. Edna Taylor organized the annual event to recognize the Commonwealth's Vietnam War veterans, both living and deceased. VFW 4075 Commander Ronnie Conquest served as the event's master of ceremonies.

Commissioner Whitney Allen and Vietnam Veteran Larry Montgomery were the keynote speakers, Retired Brigadier General Les Beavers read Governor Beshear's proclamation honor Vietnam Veterans and local school and JROTC programs served as color guards and ceremonial roles at the event. Following the event, the community was invited to VFW Post 4075 for lunch and refreshments. Pictures courtesy of Mr. Andrew H. Drane and KDVA Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star Families and members of the Frankfort community

gather at the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day on Saturday, March 29, 2029.

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### **Women History Month**



Dina Parrott, KDVA Women Veterans Program Coordinator, gathered 10 women veterans to attend and be recognized by the Lt. Governor at the Women History Month Ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, KY, March 10, 2025. Governor Beshear signed a proclamation designating March as Women History Month in KY.

### Vietnam Veterans Day March 29

## Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear Governor

of the

## Commonwealth of Kentucky



### To MI To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was the longest war in United States history at the time, resulting in more than 58,000 casualties. The names of these men and women are forever inscribed in granite at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and
- WHEREAS, The names of Kentucky's 1,108 casualties also are inscribed at the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Frankfort, where the shadow of a giant gnomon falls on each veteran's name on the anniversary of their death; and
- WHEREAS, An estimated 100,000 Vietnam veterans live in Kentucky today, and many continue to serve their communities and fellow veterans through volunteerism, counseling and camaraderie; and
- WHEREAS, More than 125,000 Kentuckians served during the Vietnam War, and, although the conflict ended, through powerful emotions and memories of war, the battle continues unseen for many of these veterans and their families; and
- WHEREAS, Sacrifices by our Vietnam veterans have improved all aspects of service for our modern warriors, and Vietnam veterans remain mentors, leaders and heroes; and
- WHEREAS, Because Kentucky's Vietnam veterans and their families gave much and asked for little, they deserve our utmost respect and dedicated support. In recognition of their sacrifices, the Commonwealth has become a "commemorative partner" of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration and is thus committed to conducting events and activities that will recognize these veterans and their families' service, valor and sacrifice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2025, as

### VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in Kentucky, and urge all communities to recognize, honor and thank all Vietnam War-era Veterans.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the  $13^{\rm th}$  day of March, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Five and in the  $233^{\rm rd}$  year of the Commonwealth.

ANDY BESHEAR GOVERNOR

michae

Michael G. Adams Secretary of State

Governor Signed Proclamation Recognizing March 29, 2025 Vietnam Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

### **Farming Training Program focused on Veterans**

### **CONNECT WITH US**

Farming for Cash is being implemented in these locations

Lexington, KY

Frankfort, KY

London KY and nearby

Guthrie and Russellville KY and nearby

If you live nearby and are ready to start farming or expand your current farm
with new growing and selling techniques, please connect with us.



# FARMING FOR CA\$H!

A training program for beginning and prospective farmers! Focus on military veterans and small scale farms

#### CONTACT US

KENTUCKY STATE

Sid Dasgupta at Siddhartha.Dasguptal @kysu.edu James Howard at James. Howard@kysu.edu You can also reach out to Michael Lewis at NCAT (mikel@NCAT.org)and Wayne Riley of the Laurel County African American Heritage Center at KYhistoryman@yahoo.com



### WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

DO YOU KNOW THE EARNING CAPACITY OF SMALL SCALE

#### FARMING?

Using 1,000 square foot as our reference, the plot will produce: Head lettuce 420 heads/crop, retail value \$840, wholesale \$15 Tomatos 1,000 lb/season, retail value \$2,000, wholesale \$1,000 Cucumbers 2,000lb/season, retail value \$2,000, wholesale \$1,000

HOW WILL "FARMING FOR CASH" TRAIN YOU?

Two types of trainings: workshops and apprenticeships WORKSHOPS TOPICS Finding land and money to start your first farm

Deciding what no grow, how much land to farm, how to sell, etc. Income and costs predictions for farming Understanding direct and wholesale sales and regs (GAP and FSMA) Selling to grocery stores, selling via social media, Paypal Licensing and insuring a farm

Farm business planning, book keeping, and farm tax preparation APPRENTICESHIP TOPICS

"ARMED TO FARM" training for military veterans through our partner National Center for Appropriate Technology TRACTOR SCHOOL: learn safe use and maintenance of tractors and implements in soil prep, hay making, planting, cultivation, etc. TOMATO SCHOOL: learn advanced organic tomato production,

tomato management from Michael O'Gorman HYDROPONICS SCHOOL: learn hydroponic strawberry, tomato, and greens production in low-cost high tunnels SMALL-PLOT INTENSIVE FARMING SCHOOL: learn to grow an

intensive garden using fertigation, plastic mulching, and labor-saving methods

CHECK OUT ARMED TO FARM: https://www.armedtofarm.org/

### HOW WILL YOU LEARN?

#### **BE TRAINED TO FARM IN 12 MONTHS**



This is a 3 year project funded by the USDA You can enroll for free. You will learn to farm in 12 months You will receive support and assistance to farm after the 12 month raining GOAL: start a farm after 12 months, start earning money, after 2 years expand your farm

#### APPRENTICESHIP



Once enrolled, you will become a hands-on apprentice farmer where you will learn high tunnel and inground production. You will also attend other farms to learn new farming methods, attend workshops, and travel to conferences all paid by the project.

#### STARTING YOUR FARM



After your 12-month training, we will help you start a small farm with the goal to earn money. We will onnect you with land access We will connect you with other new farmers for mutual support We will connect you with farming mentors who can answer your questions We will connect you with USDA resources for you to buy your own farm

### TBI/PTSD: THE SIGNATURE INVISIBLE BRAIN WOUNDS FROM VIETNAM, IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN:

Have you been Exposed to 70,000+ IEDs, Breaching, Large Weapons or Explosions?



TBI/PTSD Veterans can finally be treated with something different than off-label prescription medications! Could this be you?

### 2-YEAR STATE FUNDED FREE HBOT TREATMENT PROGRAM FOR KENTUCKY TBI/PTSD VETERANS

Have you been knocked unconscious in combat, exposed to IEDs, explosions, or sexually assualted? Are you suffering from routine migraine headaches, sensitivity to light, having memory issues, trouble finishing sentences, difficulty expressing thoughts, self medicating? If so, you are only one of over an estimated 877,450 TBI/PTSD Veterans across America suffering from TBI/PTSD in the same manner.

- The HBOT introduction video is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=oa3SVLqvdzQ&t=324s
- TBI is a phyisical wounding of the brain when the brain hits the inside of the skull. Over 21 Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) evidence based clinical trials and with over 12,500 successful Veteran outcomes. The medical meta-analysis may be viewed here <u>https://treatnow.org/dr-harch-systematic-review-improving-mtbipersistent-post-concussion-syndrome</u>.
- View TBI/PTSD Veteran video testimonials here <u>https://www.youtube.com/@treatnowdotorg/videos</u>.
- You may read all about the treatment process at <u>https://treatnow.org/treatments/overview-hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy-hbot/</u>.
- HBOT enacted laws in 10 states which may be viewed here: https://treatnow.org/knowledgebase/the-national-treatnow-summary-of-state-bystate-hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy-hbot-legislative-and-resolution-effort-10-23-2023/
- Five major VSOs support HBOT here <u>https://treatnow.org/knowledgebase/veteran-</u> service-organization-members-support-hbot-for-mtbi-ptsd/.
- The state of Kentucky and KDVA is in partnership with HBOT4KYVETS, Inc., and the KY medical community testing and treating TBI/PTSD Veterans. Veterans helping Veterans with financial support from the state to receive alternative medical treatment earned and deserved!
- Veterans may receive 40, 60, or 80 HBOT treatments, one (1) hour per day, 5 days per week, over

2-4 month period. If you're a Kentucky Veteran with diagnosis of TBI, you may qualify.

 The HBO<sub>2</sub> 1.5 ATA protocol for mTBI with post-concussive symptoms with or without PTSD was safe and could be used in multiple centers. The neurocognitive test scores for subjects improved in 21 of 25 measures. (National Brain Injury, Rescue, and Rehabilitation (NBIRR) Study: Jan-Mar 2019).

HBOT4KYVETS, Inc is a 501C3 non-profit which opened HBOT chambers to TBI/PTSD Kentucky Veterans for treatments in 2018 under KRS 217.930-942. If you are a Kentucky TBI/PTSD Veteran resident seeking a safe and effective treatment, **WE WANT TO SPEAK WITH YOU**. You may visit our website for more information at HBOT4KYVETS.com to review requirements and to sign up for the FREE state funded treatment program.

### I Support Veterans License Plates



### Who is eligible

Any owner of a noncommercial motor vehicle required to be registered for use on Kentucky Highways.

### **Steps Requirement**

Application must be made at your local County Clerk's office. Upon receipt of this plate, your regular (special) issue license plate must be turned in or issued to another vehicle.

### Decal Expires Customer's Birth Month

\$10.00 of the initial and \$5.00 of the renewal registration fee goes to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs. For more information, please visit <u>http://veterans.ky.gov</u>. This plate is available for personalization with an additional \$25.00 fee annually. Personalization is limited to a maximum of 5 characters.

### Relevant KRS 186.162

## Military Women's Memorial "Tell Her Story"

The Military Women's Memorial (MWM) is the only major national memorial honoring all servicewomen – past, present and future. The MWM honors more than 3 million women who served and continue to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces since the American Revolution.

MILITARY WOMEN'S

MEMORIAL

Women's military service should be no less recognized than men's but historically the focus of history and preservation has been on men.

### Why it's Important to Register?

EVERY STORY is important, EVERY STORY deserves to be told. Yet we have lost most of our WWI women veterans and our WWII women are fast coming to their final chapter. What history we have not recorded with be lost with them. We absolutely CANNOT let another generation go by without ensuring that our collective contributions are captured and remembered.

Please REGISTER HERE : <u>www.womensmemorial.org</u> There is no cost to register! You can register any woman you know who is in or has served in the military. Let's keep "HER-Story alive!

### **Useful VA Links**

- VA Housing Assistance Page - Information about home loans, eligibility, interest rates reductions and other related topics: https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/
 - National Center for PTSD - Provides information and resources to veterans, care

providers and organizations relating PTSD: https://www.ptsd.va.gov/

- Covid-19 Vaccine Updates - Latest updates on Covid-19 guidance and vaccinations: https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/

- VA Life Insurance (VALife) - https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp

- Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) - job training, education,

employment coaching, etc.: https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp

### **Upcoming Dates and Events**

- Month of the Military Child
- · Military Saves Month
- Gold Star Spouses Day (April 5)
- National Former POW Recognition Day (April 9)
- Air Force Reserve Birthday (April 14)
- Army Reserve Birthday (April 23)
- National Military Brats Day (April 30)

## **Resources for Veterans**

At the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, we are committed to supporting our veterans with the resources they need.

Discover a wealth of services and support options through <u>FindHelpNow.org</u> - your go-to resource for immediate assistance. Whether you're looking for mental health support, housing assistance, or employment resources, <u>FindHelpNow.org</u> has got you covered! Be



sure to look for the "Veterans/Military" population filters available. The website displays near real-time available openings at substance use disorder and mental health facilities, recovery houses, naloxone distribution sites, and social services resources.Visit <u>FindHelpNow.org</u> today to explore these enhanced resources and find the support you need! See YouTube video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=SWfaLHnz\_kk</u>



## Be seen at home or on-the-go

Telehealth Urgent Care Service at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center

#### Care you can get with Telehealth:

- Influenza, Covid-19
- Prescription Management
- Urgent care issues like colds, coughs, and stomach aches
- Back pain
- Urinary symptoms
- Dental Pain
- Sore throat
- Ear pain
- Arthritis
- Gout

### Telehealth Advantages

- Can be seen anywhere if you have internet or access to a phone.
- Time flexibility
- Avoid the ED waiting room
- Friendly and professional staff



Be seen at home or on-the-go with Robley Rex VA Medical Center Telehealth Urgent Care Service. Available Monday thru Friday from 8AM - 6PM. Call (502) 287-4000 or (800) 376-8387. Select Option "#3", then Option "1" for primary care nurse.

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