

Serving Those Who Served

**The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Department of
Veterans Affairs**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

In this month's issue...

Commissioner Corner

VA News

- VA accepting grant applications for a new program helping Veterans, their spouses transition from military service.
- VA awards \$26.8M in grants to support legal services for Veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

Upcoming Events

- Benefits Veterans Claims Clinics in Louisville and Henderson

KDVA News and Events

- USAREC Deputy Commanding General Transition
- VFW National Convention
- Council of State Government Southern Legislative Conference
- 3rd Brigade Change of Command
- Women Veterans of Radcliff Veteran Center: Spa, Tea and Cupcakes

I Support Veterans License Plates

Military Women's Memorial "Tell Her Story"

Much, much more...

Veterans Resources-New Additions

Commissioner's Corner

Commissioner's Corner

Greetings teammates,

One month into the new fiscal year and we've got a lot to look forward to. We've been working hard on our Annual Report which should be available online by mid August.

We've got a number of events to support veterans coming up. To start with, we have our KDVA State Commanders Conference August 29-30th where federal, state and VSOs converge to exchange information on all our efforts to help veterans. Our Homeless Veterans Program has its annual 5K Fun Run October 19th. Just ahead of Veterans Day we have the "Lest We Forget" concert on November 8th thanks to our Radcliff Veterans Center. This is just some of the great things we have for veterans in the coming days and weeks.

On a more somber note, this month has been a difficult one for KDVA as we've lost a couple teammates, so I'd ask for thoughts or prayers for their families and friends.

Very respectfully,

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



Latest VA News

VA accepting grant applications for a new program helping Veterans, their spouses transition from military service

Approximately \$4M in awards will support the successful transition of Veterans and spouses.

Eligible organizations providing employment-based resources and tools to help recently separated members of the Armed Forces and their spouses may [now apply](#) for grants from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Through this new program, VA is set to award approximately \$4 million in grants through its Veteran and Spouse Transitional Assistance Grant Program in 2024. Each grant will be in increments of up to \$500,000 and is to be matched by the grantee organization.

Priority preference will be given to applicants that either provide multiple services or are in a state with any one of these criteria:

- A high rate of unemployment among Veterans.
- A high rate of usage of unemployment benefits for recently separated members of the Armed Forces.
- A labor force or economy that has been significantly impacted by a covered public health emergency.

Key services offered by grantee organizations may include resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment training, employment placement services, employment education and training, and referrals to employment. More information on grant eligibility can be found on the [webpage](#).

“Organizations that provide transition services are critical to supporting our more than 200,000 men and women who leave U.S. military service every year. VA — in partnership with these organizations — aims to empower and provide Veterans and their spouses the necessary support to achieve their employment goals and build successful civilian lives following this critical transition period” said **Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs**. “The Veteran and Spouse Transitional Assistance Grant Program underscores

VA's commitment to honoring Veterans and their family's service and sacrifice, and we encourage eligible organizations to apply."

Supporting Veterans and their families is a core pillar of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation. Since day one, the Biden-Harris Administration has focused on supporting an effective transition from military service to civilian life for Veterans and their spouses, including through expanded job training assistance. The Biden-Harris Administration and First Lady Jill Biden, through her [Joining Forces](#) initiative, continue to work to eliminate barriers to employment and increase economic opportunity for Veteran and military families.

This new grant program — the first-ever to be extended to military spouses — builds on the historic [Executive Order signed by President Biden](#) in 2023, which announced a series of new actions aimed at enhancing career stability, expanding employment resources, and improving transition assistance support for military-connected spouses.

VA offers additional services to help Veterans, transitioning service members, and spouses find and keep jobs through programs such as [Personalized Career Planning and Guidance](#) and [Veteran Readiness and Employment](#). These programs provide career counseling, assessment, and education planning tailored to Veteran needs.

Organizations may apply at www.grants.gov. Applications will be accepted for a minimum of 30 days.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-accepting-grant-applications-for-a-new-program-helping-veterans-their-spouses-transition-from-military-service/>

VA awards \$26.8M in grants to support legal services for Veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is awarding \$26.8 million in legal services grants to a total of 108 public and non-profit organizations, all with the goal of increasing access to legal services for [eligible](#) Veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a [top priority for VA](#) and for the Biden-Harris Administration. These grant funds, made available as part of VA's [Legal Services for Homeless Veterans and Veterans At-Risk for Homelessness Grant Program](#), more than double the total dollars and mark a 37% increase in grantees over [last year's inaugural grant cycle](#).

"Every Veteran deserves access to safe, affordable and permanent housing, and we know that legal support is among the most needed services by Veterans experiencing or at risk

for homelessness,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “Through these grants, we are working hard to ensure Veterans’ unique civil legal needs are met and drive towards our ultimate goal of ending homelessness for all Veterans and their families.”

This grant program is enabled by the [Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D., Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#) and ensures at least 10% of funding supports the provision of legal services for women Veterans. Individual grant awards are up to \$300,000 for a 14-month grant cycle starting Aug. 1, 2024. Grant recipients will deliver a variety of legal services to Veterans:

- Providing representation in landlord-tenant disputes to prevent eviction.
- Assisting with court proceedings for child support, custody, or estate planning.
- Helping Veterans obtain benefits like disability compensation.
- Defending Veterans in criminal cases that can prolong or increase their risk of homelessness, such as outstanding warrants, fines, and driver’s license revocation.
- Upgrading characterization of discharges or dismissals of former members of the Armed Forces.

Legal services are one way VA is working to eliminate Veteran homelessness and meet the goal of placing [at least 41,000 Veterans](#) experiencing homelessness into [permanent housing](#) this year. Thanks in part to VA’s efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness has [fallen by nearly 5% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010](#). The department has also [expanded access to health care](#) for homeless Veterans and called for a [moratorium on foreclosures for Veterans](#) with VA-guaranteed loans.

Meeting the needs of Veterans at risk or experiencing homelessness is a whole-of government effort. Today’s grant awards complement other programs delivering needed services to at-risk Veterans, including the [recent \\$57 million announcement](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program to help Veterans experiencing homelessness re-enter the workforce.

For more information, including the list of this year’s grantees, visit [Legal Services for Veterans](#) or email lsv@va.gov.

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838). Visit the [VA Homeless Programs website](#) to learn about housing initiatives and other programs for Veterans exiting homelessness.

Upcoming Events



KDVA Veterans Claims Clinic

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

August 7, 2024
9:00 AM to 4:30PM

Goodwill Industries of KY
2820 West Broadway
Louisville, KY 40211

PLEASE BRING
DD214
MEDICAL
RECORDS
MARRIAGE
LICENSE
SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBERS



KDVA Veterans Claims Clinic

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

August 12, 2024
9:00 AM to 5:00PM

Henderson County Public Library
101 South Main Street
Henderson, KY 42420

PLEASE BRING
DD214
MEDICAL
RECORDS
MARRIAGE
LICENSE
SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBERS



What's New at KDVA?

VFW National Convention





The Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrated their 125th National Convention at the international convention center in Louisville, KY, July 29, 2024. Keynote speakers during the convention include Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, Governor Andy Beshear, Senator Rand Paul, and Representative Morgan McGarvey. VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento recognized Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., the last Vietnam veteran in the Senate, with the Commander-in-Chief Gold Merit of Achievement and others during the session.

USAREC Deputy Commanding General Transition





Commissioner Allen and Deputy Commissioner Renaud had the great honor of attending the United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) Deputy Commanding General Transition and promotion ceremony of Adam D. Smith to Brigadier General at USAREC HQs, Ft. Knox, KY on July 08, 2024. KDVA extends congratulations to BG Smith and family on a successful tour at USAREC and welcomes BG Sara E. Dudley and her family to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a member of the PAYS program, KDVA is proud to be a partner of the U. S. Army and USAREC, and appreciates MG Johnny K. Davis's and Ft. Knox Community's support of KDVA's mission, especially to our Carl M. Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center and Kentucky Veterans State Cemetery – Central located in Radcliff, KY.



Thank you for your 19 years of service!

Eileen Ward, KDVA's Homeless Veterans Program Coordinator is retiring after 19 years with state government. Her time with KDVA has been entirely spent in service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky's veterans.

She's been a Benefits Representative helping veterans get the benefits they deserve and she has been the Homeless Veterans Coordinator for the past few

years helping veterans find and retain their homes in their time of vulnerability and need.

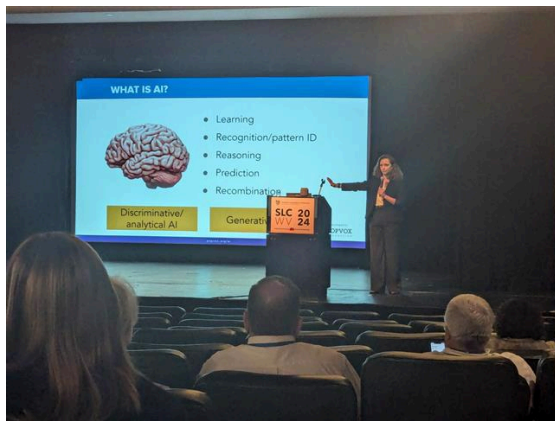
NABVETS/Louisville VAMC Joint Town Hall Event



The National Association of Black Veterans Chapter 125 (NABVETS #125) hosted a joint townhall event with the Louisville Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) team at the John Black Community Center in La Grange, KY, July 23, 2024. The event consisted of regional VA, VAMC and outreach keynote speakers, VA benefits and medical outreach representatives as well as local community partners and KDVA veterans benefit field

representatives. The townhall was coordinated by NABVETS Chapter #125 Commander Alma Wooley and Louisville VAMC outreach coordinator Mark Childress.

Council of State Government - South (CSG – South) Southern Legislative Conference



The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV, Sunday-Wednesday, July 21-24, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner Juan Renaud and Kelsey Sanders, KDVA Legislative Liaison, attended the CSG-South sponsored conference for legislators and government employees. This was a great professional development opportunity for the KDVA's legislative team in preparation for the next Assembly. The team participated in the Government "Staff Track" portion of the conference, which focused on Communication Excellence, Mastering Stress: Powerful Techniques to Boost Your Calm and Confidence,

3rd Brigade Change of Command



KDVA had the honor to attend the United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) 3rd Brigade (3BDE) Change of Command, at the Patton Museum at Ft. Knox, KY, on July 19, 2024. Colonel Scott T. Allen relinquished command to Colonel Whitney O. Jensen. KDVA is honored to be a valued PAYS partner with USAREC, and sharing the Army's story.

Women Veterans of Radcliff Veteran Center: Spa, Tea and Cupcakes





Dina Parrott, KDVA Women Veterans Program Coordinator, visited the Radcliff Veteran Center with women veteran volunteers to provide spa packages and conversation over tea and cupcakes to women veteran residents July 16, 2024. The women veterans they visited are Dorothy “Dottie” Malone and Barbara Boylan.

Malone is 93 years old; she served 23 years in the Army and had many stories to share about her challenges being female and black in the service when it was still segregated. Boylan is 81 years old and she served in the Army reserves for 2 years.

Summary of Kentucky Military and Veterans Benefits Resource Document Now Available on our Website:

veterans.ky.gov

Document Preview Below

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services

Kentucky Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans: Kentucky homeowners who are at least 65 years of age or who are totally disabled are eligible to receive a homestead exemption from Kentucky property taxes <https://warrenky.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2022/11/2023-2024-HFX-Memo.pdf>

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE IN COMMUNITIES AND CONGREGATIONS: A FAITH-BASED APPROACH

This premier event is two days of training for clergy, faith leaders, seminarians, students, and people of faith from the nation's leading experts on developing mental health ministries and doing suicide prevention within faith communities.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Speakers include:

Kay Warren, co-founder, Saddleback Church

Dr. Karen Mason, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

Glen Bloomstrom, Chaplain (Colonel) Ret., USA, LivingWorks

Rev. Dianne Young, The Healing Center, Memphis, Tennessee

Deacon Ed Shoener, Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministries

Bishop John Stowe, Diocese of Lexington

Rabbi Daniel Roberts, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Emanu El, Cleveland, Ohio

Seminarians/Students: FREE

Clergy/Faith Leaders: \$99

In person or online available
Lunch and Training Materials Included

Scan the QR Code or follow
the link below to register

<https://commerce.cashnet.com/EKUPSVD2>



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2024

You will have an opportunity to join a combination of these trainings depending on your preference

LivingWorks safeTALK

With ECU Psychology Clinic's Dr.
Theresa Botts and Colleagues

In LivingWorks safeTALK
you will learn how to
reach out to someone
thinking about suicide and
help them keep safe by
promptly connecting
them to further support.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
or
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer)

With Larry McNabb

Just like CPR, QPR is an
emergency response to
someone in crisis and can
save lives. QPR is the most
widely taught gatekeeper
training in the world.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hope & Connection: Suicide Prevention Training for Faith Leaders

Join Anne Mathews-Younes, Ed.D.,
D. Min., president of the E. Stanley
Jones Foundation, and instructor at
Wesley Theological Seminary, for a
half-day training on the essentials
of suicide prevention, intervention,
and postvention for clergy.

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Email Karyn.Brandenburg@eku.edu with any questions

KY Veterans Higher Education Interest Survey

KDVA and the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) are interested in helping our veteran community understand their educational benefits. Research has shown that a workforce certificate or college degree can significantly increase your annual wages. Additionally, there are a number of programs to help veterans gain these types of certifications and degree programs. Your input will help us assist veterans across the state. Your feedback is very important.

Click on the button below or click [here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Veteran_Survey) to participate in the brief survey.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Veteran_Survey

Survey

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 <http://veterans.ky.gov> . 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.

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 will 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 : www.womensmemorial.org

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>

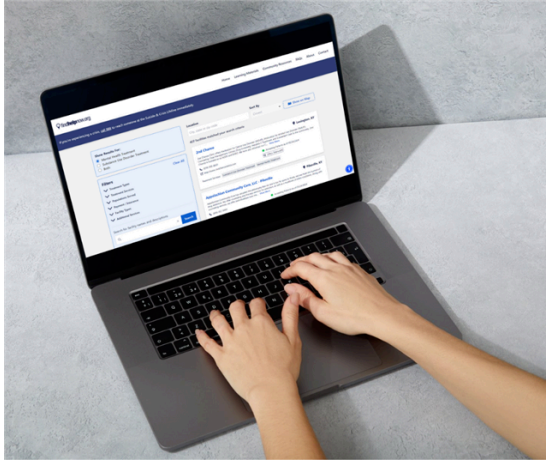
Upcoming Veterans Dates and Events

- Coast Guard Day (**Aug. 4**)
- Purple Heart Day (**Aug. 7**)
- U.S. Department of Defense Birthday (**Aug. 10**)
- Agent Orange Awareness Day (**Aug. 10**)
- Navajo Code Talkers Day (**Aug. 14**)
- National Airborne Day (**Aug. 16**)
- Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (**Aug. 29**)
- KDVA State Commanders Conference (**Aug. 29-30**)

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 FindHelpNow.org - your go-to resource for immediate assistance. Whether you're looking for mental health support,



housing assistance, or employment resources, [FindHelpNow.org](https://www.findhelpnow.org) 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 [FindHelpNow.org](https://www.findhelpnow.org) today to explore these enhanced resources and find the support you need! See YouTube

video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWfaLHnz_kk





Telehealth Urgent Care Services are available:

Monday thru Friday From 8AM-6PM

502-287-4000 / 800-376-8387

Select Option #3, then 1 for primary
care nurse

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Robley Rex VA Medical Center
Louisville, Kentucky

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.

CLARK COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.



P.O. Box 426, Winchester, KY 40392-0426

Located at 18 East Broadway in Downtown Winchester, the Veterans Memorial will honor the World War II and Korean War Veterans killed in action with embedded markers that will lie in front of the Wall of Remembrance. The Wall will list the start and end dates of both World War II and Korea and will be flanked by two end pedestals displaying maps showing the location of each deceased Veteran's action.



Framed by seven trees symbolizing the seven years of war and a flagpole will be lit to honor the service of POWs and MIAs. The Commemorative Brick Pavers will line the walkway recognizing other Veterans and supporters who help fund the Memorial.

The Clark County Veterans Council is launching two Brick Paver Campaigns to help fund this magnificent memorial to Clark County's "Greatest Generation". While the memorial itself will honor Clark County Veterans who were killed in action (KIA) during World War II and Korea, the **Commemorative Brick Pavers** will allow donors to recognize the service of any Veteran (living or deceased).

Each \$100 donation entitles the donor to a laser engraved brick paver with their choice of service emblem and four (4) lines of inscription (18 characters per line). Each 4"x8" paver has a lifetime guarantee. You can help build this permanent tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the nation. Just complete the form below and mail it along with payment to the CCVC address listed below. If you would like to donate but do not want to order a brick, feel free to donate any amount.

NOTE: Brick pavers will be ordered in lots of 50-100 and will be placed at the memorial on a scheduled basis. For more information, call Roy Hudson at 859-744-5365.

Paver inscription may be 18 characters per line-counting spaces and punctuation. 4 line maximum.

Contributions in the amounts below will receive special recognition.

☐ \$1000 1 Star ☐ \$2,500 2 Star ☐ \$5,000 3 Star ☐ \$10,000 4 Star

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____ Donation Amount _____

Make check payable to: Clark County Veterans Council, Inc. P.O. Box 426, Winchester, KY 40392-0426.

The Clark County Veterans Council is launching a two Brick Paver Campaign to help fund a memorial to Clark County's "Greatest Generation". Located at 18 East Broadway in Downtown Winchester, the Veterans Memorial will honor the World War II and Korean War Veterans killed in action (KIA) with embedded markers that will lie in front of the Wall of Remembrance. While the memorial itself will honor WWII/Korean War Clark County KIA Veterans, the Commemorative Brick Pavers will allow donors to recognize the service of any Veteran (living or deceased). For more information about the memorial or how to donate or help, please contact Mr. Roy Hudson at 859-744-5365.

[View this email in your browser](#)

You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. Please [reconfirm](#) your interest in receiving emails from us. If you do not wish to receive any more emails, you can [unsubscribe here](#).

This message was sent to jamesh@ky.gov by KDVA.PIO@ky.gov
1111 Louisville Rd Suite B Frankfort, KY 40601

 **Unsubscribe** SM [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Subscription](#)

