

# **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 Announces \$42 Million in Grants to fight Veteran Homelessness

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Commonwealth of Kentucky Virtual Job Fair July 16
- KYNECT-A-Vet Applications July 1-15
- 5K Run Walk Oct. 11

#### **KDVA News and Events**

- Women Veterans Conference and Retreat
- Homeless Veterans Program receives donated flashlights from Home Depot
- Homeless Veterans Program receives Kits from Corning
- Women's Summit at Rupp Arena

#### **I Support Veterans License Plates**

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

**Much, much more...**

### **Veterans Resources**

# Commissioner's Corner

## Commissioner's Corner

Greetings teammates,

July kicks off the new the fiscal year for the KDVA team and we have a lot of initiatives and programs on the horizon for our Kentucky veterans and families. But before I procede to mentioning the great things we have planned for the new fiscal year; I just want to highlight some of our big wins over the FY2024/25.

First, I would like to say I'm very proud of the great achievements and services the Commonwealth of Kentucky has provided our Commonwealth's estimated 300,000 veterans and their families through our enduring partnerships of federal VA, KY State Government, our great veterans service organizations and KDVA. Also, I am very proud the great collaboration has served as the vanguard for the legacy of our Kentucky combat and peacetime veterans past, present, and future. Some big wins by the KDVA and the Commonwealth include:



- Kentucky Veteran Cemetery Southeast won the National Cemetery Administration Stewardship Award for superior ratings during their NCA inspections.
- Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center and Western Kentucky Veterans Center won America Healthcare Association Quality of Care Bronze Awards.
- Completed several joint endeavors/partnership events with federal VA and Veteran Service Organizations to include the American Legion:
  - Two (2) military hiring academies with Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
  - Four (4) Lethal Means/Suicide Prevention Summits across the state through the Governor's Challenge program.
- KDVA is assisting ~ 40,000 veterans and beneficiaries (widows, dependents) in receiving some form of VA compensation, generating over \$44.9 million dollars per month totaling \$538.8 Million Dollars in annual compensation and pensions for the state.
- We granted ~ \$32 million dollars in college tuition waivers for 986 dependents attending twenty-four universities, colleges, and technical colleges.
- The Benefits Division completed 199 outreach events to include six benefit claims' clinics.
- Our Homeless Veterans Program has helped 480 veterans with over \$263K of grants; preventing them from losing their homes or having their

utilities shut off.

Going into the new fiscal year, KDVA is currently working on/planning several initiatives and projects for next year:

- Joint State Community Service Collaboration for Veterans and the Families Working Group with Syracuse University's D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IMVF). Potential initiative with IMVF, Kentucky veteran organizations and community organizations to develop a comprehensive and collaborative network to assist veterans and their families across the Commonwealth.
- KDVA State Commander's Conference, Lexington, KY (Aug. 28-29).
- Lethal Means Safety and Community Engagement Summit, Louisville, KY (Sept. 24).
- KDVA Homeless Veterans 5K Run/Walk, E.P. Tom Sawyer Park, Louisville, (Oct. 11).
- Commonwealth of Kentucky Virtual Job Fair on the third Wednesday of each month (excluding December)

My top priorities for the upcoming year:

Enacting the second year of KDVA's four-year strategic plan with the focus on:

- Helping veterans get their full entitlements, especially under the PACT ACT.
- Working with VA, state agencies and the Governor Challenge team on Suicide Prevention/Mental Health access for the Commonwealth veterans,
- Promote Women Veterans Advocacy in the state.
- VSOs recruit new veterans to join veteran service organizations.
- Maintain high standards of state services and quality products for the Commonwealth's veterans and their families.
- Promote teamwork and joint endeavors among veteran service organizations, federal VA, state government agencies and KDVA to improve our fellow veterans' and families' lives.

I hope you have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend with your family and friends. I look forward to another great year, collaborating with you all in taking care of our great veterans and their families.

As always, HOOAH!

Very respectfully,

*Whitney P. Allen, Jr.*

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

**Latest VA News**

# VA announces \$42M in grants to fight Veteran homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the availability of [\\$42 million in grants to eligible organizations](#) to assist homeless Veterans and those at risk of homelessness with various legal services.

Grant applications are due by 4 p.m. ET, July 7. Organizations can apply for grants worth up to \$500,000, which will fund operations for a two-year period beginning Oct. 1, 2025, through Sept. 30, 2027.

The funds are being made available through VA's [Legal Services for Veterans Grant Program](#) and are designed to help Veterans in several ways, including:

- Providing Veterans with 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.

"Services to help Veterans obtain benefits, maintain access to housing and navigate other common legal issues can make a huge difference in preventing or resolving homelessness," said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "These important grants will help us make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of Veterans."

Learn more about the grant program eligibility and award process [online](#) or by emailing [lsv@va.gov](mailto:lsv@va.gov).

## Upcoming Events

# KYNECT-A-VET

## What is KYNECT-A-VET?

If you are a Kentucky veteran aged 60 or older OR a veteran of any age with a traumatic brain injury as defined by KRS 211.470, you may qualify to receive a Samsung mobile device that is preloaded with the "Here Now Help" app to increase veteran access to resources and supports.

This pilot program is a partnership with the KY Department of Veteran Affairs and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Aging and Independent Living.

## How do I apply?

Kentucky agencies serving veterans may complete an application to nominate a veteran who meets the eligibility criteria.

## How can I obtain an application?

The application is located on the KDVA website at:

[kynectavet@ky.gov](mailto:kynectavet@ky.gov)

An announcement will be sent to agencies serving veterans. All completed applications will be sent to a secured KDVA email box.

## What is the deadline to submit an application?

Applications can be submitted starting July 1, 2025 through midnight EST July 15, 2025. Applications must be fully completed and submitted by the due date to be considered. Selected nominees will be notified no later than

## Who do I contact for more information?

Email [millie.stevens@ky.gov](mailto:millie.stevens@ky.gov)



## 100 Veterans

Eligible to Receive  
a Samsung  
Mobile Device



### Here Now Help App

Increase Veteran Access to  
**Local, State & Federal  
Resources & Supports**

Connectivity to  
**Mental & Physical  
Health Services, Crisis  
Intervention  
Resources, &  
Much More!**

[Click here](#) to access the the application form.

Complete the form, save it, and attach it to an email to be sent to [kynectavet@ky.gov](mailto:kynectavet@ky.gov)



**Register now!**

## **JOB SEEKERS**

**Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs**  
*presents*

# **Commonwealth of Kentucky's Virtual Job Fair**

**Employer Cost: Zero | Job Candidate Cost: Zero**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST**



**10-11 AM *Only* Veterans + Military Families**

**11 AM - 1 PM All Job Candidates**

*\*Including Veterans and Military Families*

*The future 2025 schedule is below (3rd Wednesday of each month):*

**July 16, 2025**

**October 15, 2025**

**August 20, 2025**

**November 19, 2025**

**September 17, 2025**

**December - No Event**

**Brought to you by**

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY**

**TEAM  
KENTUCKY®**  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

We're excited to announce the fourth Commonwealth of Kentucky's Virtual Job Fair, presented by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, and we'd love for you to be a part of it!

Register Now!

To Register, click the link below or use the QR Code

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/W2wpQ8>

Event Details: Virtual Job Fair

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST

Employer & Job Seeker Cost: Zero

Schedule:

- 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Veterans & Military Families

- 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Open to All Job Candidates

This event is completely free for both employers and job candidates / seekers, providing an excellent opportunity to connect and explore career opportunities. Looking ahead, our job fair will take place on the third Wednesday of each month in 2025.

Here's a preview of the upcoming dates:

- August 20, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- December 2025 – no virtual job fair

Make sure to mark your calendars, and feel free to share this with anyone who might benefit from attending. We look forward to seeing you there!



# KDVA 5K Run Walk

Registration is free (donations accepted!)  
All proceeds will go to the Kentucky  
Homeless Veterans Trust Fund.

**Saturday Oct. 11, 2025**  
**8 a.m. Check-in**  
**9 a.m. Start**

**REGISTER**



E.P. Tom Sawyer Park  
3000 Freys Hill Road  
Louisville, KY 40241



TEAM KENTUCKY  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Register using the QR Code or clicking this link:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/KY/Louisville/KDVARunWalkandStroll5K>

## What's New at KDVA?

# HereNOW HELP



HereNow Help has been developed to assist veterans in self care, peer care and clinical care. The application will provide veterans with ease of access to services and resources. The free app is available now on the Google Playstore and Apple Store.

TEAM  
KENTUCKY  
CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

TEAM  
KENTUCKY  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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

## Women Veterans Conference and Retreat







From June 6 to June 8, 2025, KDVA held its Women Veterans Conference and Retreat at the General Butler State Resort Park, in Carrollton, KY. There were several activities including yoga, hiking, paint & sip session, animal therapy and more for the women to partake in. It was a great networking opportunity for all who attended. (Photos by Olivia Adkins park photographer, and KDVA Staff)

## **Dave Jarrett receives Recognition for his 12 Years with the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund**



KDVA recognized US Navy Veteran, DAV life member and Kentucky Veteran Program Trust Fund Board of Directors member, Dave Jarrett, for his 12 years of service on the KYVPTF board at the 2025 DAV State Convention in Lexington, KY. Over the years, Mr. Jarret has help approved an estimated \$4-5 million dollars in grants to numerous Kentucky veteran service organizations, projects, and initiatives. Congratulations to Mr. Jarrett for his outstanding work in taking care of our Commonwealth's veterans and families.

## Home Depot donates to the Homeless Veterans Program





Donnie Spickard, Operations Assistant Manager of Home Depot Store # 2315, brought in 272 donated flashlights for the Homeless Veterans program in Frankfort, KY, June 5, 2025.



# 5th Annual Women's Summit in Lexington at Rupp Arena.

## Update for the KDVA 5K Run Walk for Oct. 11, 2025



Commissioner Allen models items for the Homeless Veterans Survival Kit which will be issued to homeless veterans at our upcoming KDVA Homeless Veterans 5K Run/Walk on October 11, 2025. Items sponsored by Home Depot Store #2315 and KY Veteran Program Trust Fund. For more information about the 5K event visit the registration page here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/KY/Louisville/KDVARunWalkandStroll5K>





Tracye Estes and members of Corning showcase some of the items Corning has gathered to donate to the program in Harrodsburg, KY, June 30, 2025. Corning donated clothing and hygiene products to the Homeless Veterans Program to contribute to care kits for the veterans in need.

## Farming Training Program focused on Veterans

## CONNECT WITH US

Farming for Cash is being implemented in these locations

1. Lexington, KY
2. Frankfort, KY
3. London KY and nearby
4. 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.



## CONTACT US

Sid Dasgupta at [Siddhartha.Dasgupta1@kysu.edu](mailto:Siddhartha.Dasgupta1@kysu.edu)

James Howard at [James.Howard@kysu.edu](mailto:James.Howard@kysu.edu)

You can also reach out to Michael Lewis at NCAT ([mikel@NCAT.org](mailto:mikel@NCAT.org)) and Wayne Riley of the Laurel County African American Heritage Center at [KYhistoryman@yahoo.com](mailto:KYhistoryman@yahoo.com)



# FARMING FOR CASH!

A training program for beginning and prospective farmers!

Focus on military veterans and small scale farms



## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

### • DO YOU KNOW THE EARNING CAPACITY OF SMALL SCALE FARMING?

#### FARMING?

Using 1,000 square foot as our reference, the plot will produce:

Head lettuce 420 heads/crop, retail value \$840, wholesale \$315  
Tomatoes 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 to 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 training  
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 in-ground 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 help 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 assaulted? 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 physical 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 <https://treatnow.org/dr-harch-systematic-review-improving-mtbi-persistent-post-concussion-syndrome>.
- View TBI/PTSD Veteran video testimonials here <https://www.youtube.com/@treatnowdotorg/videos>.
- You may read all about the treatment process at <https://treatnow.org/treatments/overview-hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy-hbot/>.
- HBOT enacted laws in 10 states which may be viewed here: <https://treatnow.org/knowledgebase/the-national-treatnow-summary-of-state-by-state-hyperbaric-oxygen-therapy-hbot-legislative-and-resolution-effort-10-23-2023/>
- Five major VSOs support HBOT here <https://treatnow.org/knowledgebase/veteran-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](http://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 <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](http://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!"

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## 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>

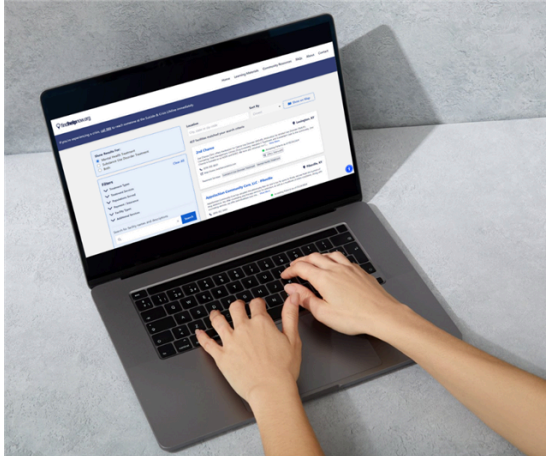
## Upcoming Dates and Events

- Independence Day (**July 4**)
- National Hire A Veteran Day (**July 25**)
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (**July 27**)
- National Buffalo Soldiers Day (**July 28**)
- Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary (**July 29**)

## 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](https://www.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=SWfaLHz\\_kk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWfaLHz_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.



Share



Share



Share

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