

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

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Greetings teammates,

It's May! We've got a ton going on this month from Derby Weekend to Memorial Day. Additionally, it's the Month of the Military Caregiver and National Military Appreciation Month. On May 24, we will have a wreath laying ceremony at the capitol rotunda at 10AM to honor the legacy and sacrifice of fallen service members across all branches of service. On Memorial Day, we have ceremonies planned out at each of our five state veteran cemeteries. Stay tuned for details and schedules.



Something to keep in mind while you have a great three to four day weekend, Memorial Day is for those who've made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. It's also important to distinguish it from Veteran's Day because, as a veteran myself, we're still here. This is the time to pay respect to those veterans no longer among us, I encourage all veterans to attend or support Memorial Day ceremonies in their communities.

I hope to see you all out at one of these events.

HOOAH!!!!,

Commissioner Whitney P. Allen, Jr.

Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs

PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICES FOR WOMEN

VA Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) collaborates closely with the VA Center for Women Veterans, and VA Women Health Services to provide comprehensive and advanced prosthetic devices, sensory aids, and associated services to specifically meet the unique medical needs of women Veterans. The term "prosthetic" includes any medical device that supports or replaces loss of a body part or function. Any medically indicated item that is commercially available may be procured based on the Veteran's individualized needs, including customized devices such as bracing, artificial limbs and orthotic items, and wheelchairs.

ELIGIBILITY

General eligibility for prosthetic services includes Veterans who are:

- Enrolled in the VA health care system, and
- Have a medical need for a prosthetic service/item

Additional eligibility criteria may apply for certain programs.



WOMEN SPECIFIC PSAS

Items are custom sizes and include but are not limited to:

- Breast Pumps
- Nursing Bras
- Post Mastectomy Items
- Wigs for Alopecia
- Long Acting Reversible Contraception (e.g. Intrauterine Devices)
- Maternity Support Belts Items
- Vaginal Dilators

VA HEALTHCARE FOR WOMEN

A Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) is designated at each VA medical center to advise and advocate for women Veterans. The WVPM can help coordinate all services a woman Veteran might need, from primary care to specialized care for chronic medical or reproductive health conditions. Women Veterans interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the WVPM. Women Veterans can also call the Women Veteran Call Center at 1855-VA WOMEN (1-855-829-6636) for more information about care in VA.

For more information at: www.prosthetics.va.gov

Last Updated: December 2022



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration

VA will soon expand coverage for health care for Veteran family members and caregivers through CHAMPVA program

Author: Veterans Health Administration

VA will soon expand coverage for medical services, including mental health care, for family members and primary family caregivers participating in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). Starting at the end of May, these beneficiaries will have new coverage for audio-only telehealth, extended mental health care, and contraceptive services.

“Our mission is to provide world-class care to our nation’s heroes, which includes care provided through CHAMPVA to eligible family members and caregivers of Veterans,” **said VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal**. “The extension of these additional services is part of VA’s continuing efforts to ensure CHAMPVA beneficiaries can access high value care where they need it, when they need it.”

Here’s what this means for CHAMPVA beneficiaries:

- **Access to audio-only telehealth:** With audio-only telehealth coverage, beneficiaries will have expanded access to care – which is particularly important for rural beneficiaries. The coverage will also be retroactive: providers and beneficiaries who received audio-only telehealth services on or after May 12, 2020, will have until November 26, 2024, to file claims for reimbursement of covered care.
- **Elimination of caps on visits for mental health and substance use visits:** CHAMPVA beneficiaries will no longer be limited in the number of visits for mental health and substance abuse services. Additionally, beneficiaries and providers will no longer need pre-authorizations for outpatient mental health visits in excess of 23 visits per calendar year and/or for more than two sessions per week.
- **Eliminating deductibles and cost sharing for certain necessary contraceptive services:** VA is also eliminating deductibles and cost sharing for contraceptive services or contraceptive products approved, cleared, or granted by the Food and Drug Administration.

Currently, there are more than 737,500 CHAMPVA beneficiaries. [CHAMPVA](#) is a health care program for certain spouses, surviving spouses, children, and primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans. Through CHAMPVA, VA shares the cost of medically necessary health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. This includes mental health services, inpatient and outpatient services, prescription medications, transplants, ambulatory surgery, family planning and maternity care, and more.

To learn more and apply for CHAMPVA care today, visit our [CHAMPVA website](#).

Upcoming Events

KDVA and the Asian American Pacific/Islander Employee Resource Group, 2024 Memorial Day Weekend Salute

Join Governor Beshear, Commissioner Allen, and other state leaders as we honor the legacy and sacrifice of fallen service members from all branches of service.

May 24, 2024, 1130-12pm

Capitol Rotunda, 700 Capital Avenue Frankfort, KY 40601

A brief reception will follow in the Mezzanine.



Use the QR Code to Register:





**HORSESENSING
HORSE
ACTIVITY DAY**

**GOLD STAR
FAMILY DAY**

May 18, 2024, 10am to 1pm
270 Bagdad Road, Shelbyville,
Ky 40065
650-776-4313 or
info@horsesensing.com





*Celebrate
Elevate
Motivate*

MEET/CONNECT W/FED,
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

LATEST INFO ON
VA BENEFITS
AND ENTITLEMENTS

DISCUSS WOMEN VETERANS'
ISSUES & CHALLENGES
ACROSS KENTUCKY

UPDATE ON KDVA INITIATIVES,
PROCEDURES, AND VARIOUS
VETERANS PROGRAMS

9 AM to 4PM

UofL Shelby Campus
Conference Center
450 N. Whittington Pkwy
Louisville, KY 40222

For more information:
(502) 564-9203
Veterans.ky.gov

Women Veterans State Conference



TEAM
KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

What's New at KDVA?

KVCSE Received NCA Stewardship Award



On April 15, 2024, Glenn Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs, presented Kentucky Veteran Cemetery South East (KVCSE) the National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) Stewardship Award in recognition of superior performance results as verified during the NCA-led compliance review on April 25, 2023.

NCA recognizes State and Tribal Veterans Cemeteries that meet specific targets for applicable operational requirements. To qualify for the Stewardship Award, a cemetery

must meet 100 percent of applicable critical priority standards, at least 90 percent of high priority standards, and at least 85 percent of medium priority standards.

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East achieved this high performance and is one of the few state veterans cemeteries in the country to be awarded this recognition.



Gov. Beshear recognizes Pillar of Excellence Award for RVC's Red Carpet Program



Governor Andy Beshear recognized some of Carl M Brashear Radcliff Veteran Center veteran residents during the weekly Team Kentucky update April 11, 2024. This recognition was in relation to the Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award RVC received for their Red-Carpet Program which greets new residents with a warm welcome upon arriving to their Veteran Center.



Governor Advisory Board visits Willett Distillery, Presents Ambassador Award



The Governor Advisory Board and KDVA visited the Willett Distillery to present them an Ambassador Award, April 26, 2024, in Bardstown, KY. The award is for all the work the Distillery does to help employ and take care of veterans.

During the visit Dr. Silas Session gave a briefing to veterans and staff employed by Willett Distillery that details everything available to veterans through KDVA.

They are actively recruiting veterans for all current openings which include a Distillery Operator, Line Cook, and Whiskey Host.

Additionally, Willett will again be sponsoring a veteran, or military spouse to attend the prestigious Bourbon Women conference this year. All conference fees, additional events and hotel accommodations are covered by the scholarship. The scholarship recipient will receive access to industry mentorship with hands-on coaching from Britt. The scholarship application window closes at midnight on Friday.

Governor Challenge Lethal Means Summit Erlanger, KY



Commissioner Whitney Allen spoke to participants at the Governor's Challenge Northern, KY Lethal Means Summit at the DAV Headquarters in Erlanger, KY, April 18, 2024. The participants consisted of veteran service organizations, local leaders and various medical providers all geared towards preventing suicide amongst out veterans. Allen reiterated his and KDVA's commitments to work with all VSO's to support veterans.

KDVA meets with Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs



KDVA hosted Miran Jo, Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Korea to discuss Veteran Centers and Veteran mental health care initiatives. Ms. Jo is currently completing a Master of Public Administration at the University of Kentucky, International Public Policy and

Management Institute (IPPMI). She was accompanied by Doo Oak Kim, Ph.D., Director of IPPMI.

A Decade of Care and Service



Mark Bowman, Executive Director of the Office of Kentucky Veteran Centers, has been with KDVA for ten years. He started off running Thomson-Hood Veteran Center and was selected by the Commissioner to become the Executive Director of the OKVC. During his ten years he served six commissioners making him one of the most senior leader employees. The recognition certificate comes straight from the Governor.

2024 Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program Graduation



KDVA had two GMMTP candidates graduate from the 2024 Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program which held its Graduation Ceremony in Frankfort, KY, April

24, 2024. They are US Army Veteran/Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephen Buford, Benefits Division Director, and Ms. Hope King, Benefits Division's West Regional Administrators. Both individuals are KDVA's first GMMTP graduates.

KDVA Leadership Team Information Exchange/Visit with South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs



KDVA senior leadership team visited South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) in Columbia, SC to discuss each agency's challenges/issues, initiatives/programs, and best practices. SCDVA provide an excellent briefing on its strategic plan, transition plan of taking over five state veterans centers, improving cemetery operations, and exploring new initiatives to reach veterans. In its fourth year of existence the agency is doing well for South Carolina veterans.

Military, Veterans, & First Responders Children's 8th Annual Appreciation Day





Commissioner Whitney Allen and Everett Bracken, acting State Programs Director, attended the Military, Veterans, & First Responders Children's 8th Annual Appreciation Day April 28, 2024, in Jeffersontown, KY. The event was a fun celebration for children and grandchildren of active military, vets, and first responders and their families.

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](#) 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

- Month of the Military Caregiver (**May**)
- National Military Appreciation Month (**May**)
- National Nurses Week (**May 6- May 12**)
- Armed Forces Week (**May 11 to May 18**)

- Victory in Europe Day (**May 8**)
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day (**May 10**)
- Mother's Day (**May 12**)
- Children of Fallen Patriots Day (**May 13**)
- Armed Forces Day (**May 18**)
- Memorial Day (**May 27**)

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