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Serving Those Who Served

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

**Kentucky Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Serving Kentucky's Veterans

KDVA 

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Commissioner's Corner

Greetings teammates,

It's November which is both National Family Caregivers Month and National Veterans and Military Family Month.

Veterans Day on the 11th is not just about discounts but rather a chance to show support and appreciation to our Commonwealth's veterans. You can make their whole day simply by saying "Thank you for your service." As a veteran myself, I can say that we don't expect anything, but when we do receive thanks we can't thank you enough for the support.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Very respectfully,



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

Latest VA News



2023 VA State of Innovation Report

Fostering trust and transforming care for Veterans

October 18, 2023

By Madison Coffey
Communications Officer, VHA Innovation Ecosystem

For decades, innovation has supported VA's mission to deliver exceptional health care to Veterans. Early inventions like the cardiac pacemaker and recent innovations like the radiotherapy bolus that helps protect cancer patients' healthy tissue during treatment and every creative solution in between serve as a testament to VA's dedication to delivering high-quality health care.

Introducing the State of Innovation Report

Since 2019, VA's Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning (OHIL) has published an annual report—the State of Innovation (SOI) Report—that highlights how notable VA innovations are advancing care for Veterans.

[The 2023 SOI Report is now here](#), and with a clear focus, it's delivering on VA's mission of serving those who have served. With the theme of "Delivering on the Mission: Fostering Trust and Transforming Care," the 2023 SOI Report focuses on educating and empowering Veterans to engage with the innovative projects and programs that are most relevant to their health care journeys.

A glimpse Into the 2023 State of Innovation Report

This year's report features projects organized into four categories: Expanding Access to Care, Transforming Care Delivery, Improving Experiences and Fostering Health and Wellness.

Each section calls attention to the innovative programs and products that support the advancement of Veteran care, such as [Compassionate Contact Corps](#) and [VHA Office of Advanced Manufacturing's](#) Radiotherapy Bolus device. While some programs and products are in early stages of development, many are available to Veterans now at VA facilities across the United States.

VA providers work tirelessly to give Veterans the care they deserve, and the providers behind the innovations in the report are no exception. These products and programs are the result of providers being keenly in tune with the needs of their Veteran patients and devising solutions to fill gaps in care.

Debra Cole, a VA radiology technologist in Richmond, VA, has served Veterans for 43 years. She developed the [Atlas Knee Supporter](#) to help reduce Veterans' pain when receiving specialized knee injections.

Evan Davis, a Marine Corps Veteran and VA recreational therapist in Indianapolis, is dedicated to helping his fellow Veterans with chronic pain and PTSD through virtual and augmented reality programs using [VA Immersive](#).

Melissa Tran, a VA marriage and family therapist in Orlando, saw an opportunity to bring maternal and reproductive support services in-house to VA facilities through her [PREPARE](#) program, and she helped host VA's first ever [Maternal Health Summit](#) this past July.

What Veterans can expect

Each article in the report informs Veterans about the need each innovation was designed to meet, how it was developed, how it has impacted other Veterans and to whom they should reach out if they want to learn more.

To help Veterans further connect to these innovations, the report's index lists the highlighted programs and demonstrates each program's scale, including the exact VA facilities where each may be available and where to find more information online. Nearly every existing VA facility supports these programs in some way. The goal of the index—and the entire SOI Report—is to inform Veterans and give those who are eligible a clear path to taking advantage of the services featured in the report.

[You can read the full 2023 SOI Report on innovation.va.gov](#) to learn more about VA innovations and the VA providers who brought them to life. Eligible Veterans are encouraged to connect with the innovations that are relevant to their health care journeys where possible.

Want to learn more about innovation at VA? Visit our [websites](#), [subscribe to our weekly newsletter](#), and [visit VA Pathfinder](#) to learn more about our opportunities.

What's New at KDVA?

KDVA's 25th Anniversary Celebration





On October 5th, KDVA celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the Frankfort Capitol Building in Kentucky. Along with Governor Andy Beshear, current leaders and members of KDVA; our guest speaker was the first Commissioner for KDVA: Retired General Les Beavers.

"This 25 year mark is a milestone, a moment in time of recognition and appreciation," Beavers said. "But it's also recognizing the continuing services and care of our veterans that's got to go on. Some of us won't be here for the 50th, but I want it to exist and live on, its mission to live on of serving our veterans. There's no more honorable mission than that after you're out of uniform. I look at it as a milestone but also as a start to the next 25 years."

Quarter of a century with a swath of talented veterans and state employees trying to help veterans following their time in the service. This is arguably one of the most difficult transitions for veterans as they go from having a support system of the military back into the civilian world where they most likely have to rebuild that kind of network. KDVA has been here to help them.

"I wanted to impart from the beginning to all the people of KDVA that it was a passion for serving veterans and let that infect the whole organization," Beavers said. "That's what we're here for. It's not about us and I try to live that everyday. The bottom line is that it was an absolute honor to have that job. To be in the beginning where we're actually building something from nothing and see it last."

Marty Pinkston, KDVA's second Deputy Commissioner recalls his time with KDVA...

"I tell people all the time that the very best job I ever had in my life was my time with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs," Pinkston said. "Because I knew for a fact, that when I went home everyday, there were veterans who were better off than when I got to work that morning. It just does not get better than that."

While KDVA gets to celebrate this milestone, they also know the progress made has to continue for the younger veteran generations. Caring for our veterans is of national importance.

"With the way the world is today, the defense of our nation rests on it," Beavers said. "If people don't want to serve their country because of the way they're treated afterwards, then we'll lose our identity as a sovereign nation. National Defense is part of taking care of veterans because it impacts those who step up next. I think were a part of a bigger issue of supporting people who defend the country, continue to do that so others will want to defend the country. People who are doing the day-to-day work need to hear that."

KDVA's Women Veterans Coordinator Becomes an Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial

Dina Parrott was appointed as the Kentucky State ambassador by the Military Women's Memorial, a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to recognizing America's service women, past and present. As an ambassador, Dina will help the Military Women's Memorial broaden the nation's perspective of service, commitment and valor to include the stories of military women past and present. By expanding public knowledge of women's roles the Military Women's Memorial expects Americans of all ages to be able to envision opportunities for success to have an impact to lead and make a difference. In a statement about the appointment, Dina said "I love that our stories will be told and live on forever. I am delighted to play a part in Her-Story 😊"

Click the link to learn more about the Military Women's Memorial. <https://womensmemorial.org/>

Click the button below to register your story if you're a woman veteran.

Register HERstory

KDVA Run, Walk and Stroll 5K



KDVA held its Run, Walk and Stroll 5K on October 21st in Iroquois Park in Louisville, KY. The purpose was to bring attention to the importance of preventing veteran homelessness. AARP helped to sponsor this event and 4 volunteers from AARP came to help with the check in process.

Race Winners

1st Place Men

Pat Mangeot ran 5K in 24:26.30

1st Place Woman

Summer Davidson ran 5K in 27:20.31

2Nd Place Men

Ronnell Camp ran 5k in 24:44.43

2nd Place Women

Gabriella Domiray ran 5K in 27:53.67

3rd Place Men

Chaz Ellis ran 5K in 25:47.79

3rd Place Women

Kirthi Rao ran 5K in 29:15.23

Want to see more on the event see the interview with KDVA's Eileen Ward and Commissioner Whitney Allen in the linked story below:

<https://www.wky.com/article/louisville-iroquois-park-kentucky-department-veterans-affairs-run-walk-stroll-5k/45605324>

Suicide Awareness & Lethal Means Safety Summit



2023 Governor's Challenge Suicide Awareness & Lethal Means Safety Summit, Paintsville, KY, Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Over 40 representatives across the state attended the first of four regional training summits sponsored by the Kentucky Governor's SMVF Task force in Paintsville, KY. The purpose of the summit is designed to engage local providers, professionals and community partners to prevent suicide among service members and veterans. The agenda focused on mental health challenges of veterans, suicide prevention techniques and lethal means safe training. The summit concluded with members proposing ideas and an action plan to combat suicide and mental health challenges for the state. The event was in partnership with the VA VISON 9 health network work, CHFS, KDVA and many community/nonprofit organizations. See interview on WYMT: [One suicide is too much': Officials come together for veterans mental health \(wyvt.com\)](https://www.wyvt.com/story/news/2023/10/24/one-suicide-is-too-much-officials-come-together-for-veterans-mental-health/704824700270001)

U.S. Senator Rand Paul's Veteran Outreach Event



Deputy Commissioner Juan Renaud, RA Brian Bowman, and Christy Burke, KDVA Veterans Benefits Field Representative, attended U.S. Senator Rand Paul's Veteran outreach Event in Whitesburg, KY, on Oct. 17, 2023. During this event KDVA provided the Veteran community of Whitesburg with information on VA Disability Compensation, Non-Service Connected Pensions, Survivor Benefits, and other resources offered through KDVA. Team members were also given the opportunity to interact with other local organizations on the state and federal levels.

KDVA Professional Development Session with Kim Mitchell



On Oct. 18, 2023, KDVA had a Professional Development session with Kim Mitchell, Senior Advisor to the VSO Liason, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs. She told her story of how she came to be where she is today and the struggles along the way.

Veteran Friendly Job Posting

HELP WANTED

Delivery Drivers

Must be able to lift feed bags and hay repeatedly each day. Hay grabber, forklift and dollies are used as much as possible. Responsible for staging feed, hay, shavings and supplies for delivery, loading delivery truck,



delivery to beautiful farms. Forklift certification provided. Must have clean driving record. Attendance is very important. Monday through Friday, full-time or part-time positions. Small business, friendly work environment. Starting pay \$15-16 with significant raise after delivery routes are learned, benefits, paid vacation & Holidays.

Feed Bucket
6791 Shelbyville Rd.
Simpsonville, KY 40067
CALL (502) 722-8850
TEXT to order (859) 619-8570
Find us on Facebook & Instagram
www.feedbucketkentucky.com

Upcoming Events

**University of Kentucky Veterans Resource and
Business Summit, Nov. 8, 2023**

CREATE NEW

Possibilities



Veterans Resource and Business Summit - November 8, 2023

Cornerstone Innovation and E-Sports Theatre, 8:30-11am

The University of Kentucky is extremely proud of its longstanding relationship with the Men and Women who bravely serve this country. Thousands of veterans transition from active military service each year. We are here to help veterans find opportunities to advance their education, find meaningful careers and build sustainable businesses. At the University of Kentucky our mission is to Advance Kentucky. We are creating an atmosphere for inclusion to thrive.

REGISTER

<https://forms.gle/IJAdI7QdYf7wmqsGA>



- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:00am | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30am | Color Guard and Welcome |
| 8:40am | Guest Speaker |
| 9:00am - 10:00am | Informational Sessions |
| 10:00am - 11:00am | Visit Resource Tables |

SPONSORED BY

UK Procurement Services and Economic Inclusion Program
UK Veterans Resource Center
The Kentucky Veterans Business Alliance (KVBA)
Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Lexington Public Library Workforce Development
The US Small Business Administration (SBA)
Kentucky Finance Cabinet
Louisville Metro
UK Economic and Development Collaborative
UK Sustainability

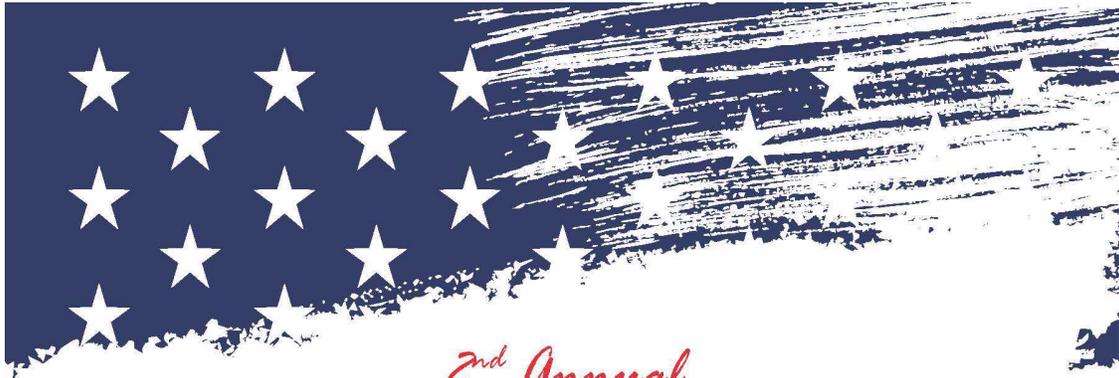


The Esports Lounge is located on Level 1 of the Cornerstone (Parking) Garage located at 411 South Limestone. Take the elevator or stairs located at the corner of South Limestone and Winslow Street (inside the red circle on the map above) to Level 1. ADA spots available.



An Equal Opportunity University

Click Here or use the QR Code to Register



2nd Annual

Veterans Employment & Training Symposium (VETS)

Nov. 16, 2023 • 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST
Kentucky Community & Technical College System
300 N. Main St., Versailles, KY 40383

Check-In at 9:30 a.m. EST - Event starts promptly at 10 a.m. EST

Employers, educators, and workforce professionals will provide information on types of positions/training available to veterans and spouses.

There is no charge to attend. Limited seating is available.

SCAN OR CLICK QR CODE



TO REGISTER



**Kentucky
Career Center**



EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

KY VALOR can help you find the right job and community based on your specific needs.

KY VALOR helps transitioning service members and their spouses find fulfilling careers in Kentucky. Whether your spouse is currently serving or you are looking for your next home, our personalized, one-on-one approach recognizes your unique goals and family needs to match you with employers and communities based on what's important to you.



GET PERSONALIZED SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Whether you are looking to continue your occupation or pursue a new career, we'll help you make the most of your experience and education with our personalized approach and employer connections.



BRING YOUR CURRENT LICENSURE TO KENTUCKY

We have established pathways and experience navigating licensure reciprocity, so you won't have to start from scratch or struggle keeping up your licensure when looking for work.



FIND FLEXIBLE REMOTE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN KENTUCKY

KY VALOR will match you with potential employers even if you aren't located in Kentucky, so you can work remotely while your spouse is serving. From healthcare to manufacturing, you can find a flexible job to suit your current needs.



YOUR NEW KENTUCKY HOME

There's no better time to live in Kentucky. With more than 150,000 open jobs and record-breaking economic growth, there are more professional opportunities than ever. From vibrant cities to beautiful rural landscapes — all with affordable cost of living — you're sure to find your ideal home in Kentucky.

kyvalor.com

GET PERSONALIZED SUPPORT



FIND A CIVILIAN CAREER PATH IN KENTUCKY.

KY VALOR will help you skip lengthy job searches and make Kentucky your post-service home.

KY VALOR helps transitioning service members capitalize on their military experience to find a fulfilling post-service career in Kentucky. Our personalized, one-on-one approach recognizes your unique career goals and family needs to match you with employers and communities based on what's important to you.



PUT YOUR MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO WORK IN CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS - GET CREDIT FOR OVER 180 MILITARY SPECIALTIES!

Did you know Kentucky offers 44 accelerated pathways to licensure that credits the education and experience you obtained in military? These pathways cover over 55 licensed/certified civilian occupations.



GET PERSONALIZED SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

Whether you are looking to continue your military specialty in the civilian sector or pursue a new career, we'll help you make the most of your military experience. Plus, your family can take advantage of these free services, too!



CONNECT WITH EMPLOYERS AND COMPETITIVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIES.

KY VALOR will help you navigate Kentucky's accelerated pathways and match you with potential employers. From healthcare to manufacturing, you can find your dream job in the Commonwealth.



YOUR NEW KENTUCKY HOME

There's no better time to live in Kentucky. With more than 150,000 open jobs and record-breaking economic growth, there are more professional opportunities than ever. From vibrant cities to beautiful rural landscapes — all with affordable cost of living — you're sure to find your ideal home in Kentucky.

kyvalor.com



OUR NEXT CAREER



Use your military experience to find a fulfilling post-service career.

KY VALOR helps transitioning service members capitalize on their military experience to find a fulfilling post-service career in Kentucky. Skip lengthy job searches and quickly advance to your next career using 44 pathways only available in Kentucky. These pathways lead to 55 licensed/certified occupations covering more than 180 Military Occupational Specialties.

HEALTHCARE

- Counseling
 - Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)
 - Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA)
- Dental Hygienist
- Nursing
- Medical Imaging (ARRT)
- Phlebotomy
- Psychology
 - Licensed Psychological Associate (LPA)
 - Licensed Psychological Practitioner (LPP)
 - Psychologist
- Respiratory Specialist (CRT, RRT)
- Social Work
 - Licensed Social Worker (LSW)
 - Certified Social Worker (CSW)
 - Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Veterinarian

SKILLED TRADES

- Building and Mechanical Inspectors
 - Building Inspector One and Two Family Dwellings
 - Building Inspector I
 - Building Inspector II
 - Building Inspector III
- Electrician
 - Electrical Contractor
 - Journeyman
 - Master Electrician
- Electrical Inspector
 - Electrical Inspector One and Two Family
 - Electrical Inspector General
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Industrial Maintenance Technician
- Licensed Home Inspector
- Welder

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- Emergency Medical Services
 - Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT/A-EMT)
 - Paramedic
- Firefighter

TRANSPORTATION

- Aviation Maintenance Technician
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Diesel Mechanic
- Merchant Mariner
- Pilot

BUSINESS

- Project Manager and Business Analyst
 - Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)
 - Project Management Professional (PMP)
 - Certified Business Analyst Professional (CBAP)
 - Entry Certificate in Business Analysis (ECBA)

EDUCATION

- Early Childhood Education
- Teacher K-12
- Career and Technical Education

kyvalor.com



FOR MORE & PATHWAY



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](#)

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

- National Veterans and Military Family Month (**November**)
- Warrior Care Month (**November**)
- National Family Caregivers Month (**November**)
- Daylight Savings Time Ends (**Nov. 5**)
- National Veterans Small Business Week (**Nov. 1-5**)
- Marine Corps Day/Birthday (**Nov. 10**)
- Veterans Day (**Nov. 11**)
- Armistice Remembrance Day (**Nov. 11**)
- Thanksgiving Day (**Nov. 23**)

Resources for Veterans



Flood Relief

Have you been affected by flooding in Eastern Kentucky? The Governor's Office has prepared a list of resources designed to help you make it through this challenging time.

Click here for more information:
<https://governor.ky.gov/disaster-response/flood-resources>

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This message was sent for the sole purpose of testing a draft message.