

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 and Partner News

- Walk to END EPILEPSY® Initiative
- VA housed nearly 48,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness in fiscal year 2024

Upcoming Events

- Lest We Forget Concert November 8
- Lexington Sporting Club Hometown Heroes Night
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- Owensboro-KDVA Benefits Claims Clinic

KDVA News and Events

- 2024 KDVA 5K Run Walk
- Strong Women, Strong Coffee
- Women Veterans Coordinator Media Outreach
- New Veteran Treatment Center

I Support Veterans License Plates

Military Women's Memorial "Tell Her Story"

Much, much more...

Veterans Resources

Commissioner's Corner

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Greetings teammates,

It's November, we've got some major things coming up ahead of the holidays including the "Lest We Forget" concert in Elizabethtown, Veteran's Day and Week of Valor. There are also a couple of observances I'd like to highlight for November: the National Family Caregivers, and National Veterans and Military Family month.



I hope you'll give special consideration to the Lest We Forget concert as the songs, which will be performed by country musician Tamara Stewart and the Nashville Smash Band, were written together with our veterans that reside in our veterans centers.

Thanksgiving is coming up and I hope everyone has plans to spend it with family friends and loved ones. Holidays are great for coming together but it can be a difficult time for some. Please check in on your brothers and sisters and know there are resources available to you.

HOOAH!,

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

**KDVA Commissioner
receives honor from
Home State**

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs presented KDVA Commissioner Whitney Allen the Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal, a state flag and a coin to recognize his honorable military service, Oct. 15, 2024, Frankfort, KY. Louisiana Veterans Honor medals are available to all honorably discharged Louisiana Veterans and to the family of those killed in action.



VA and Partner News

Walk to END EPILEPSY® Initiative Returns to Kentucky this Summer *Join with Others in Person or Walk Your Way to Make a Difference*

The Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana (EF Kentuckiana) is once again gearing up for its 2024 Walk to END EPILEPSY® initiative throughout June. This initiative offers in-person events and a Walk Your Way Challenge to raise \$126,000 to benefit the more than 173,000 children, adults, and veterans living with epilepsy and their families throughout Kentucky and southern Indiana. The Epilepsy Foundation's Walk to END EPILEPSY® series is a platform to create awareness, share stories, help educate others, and raise funds to support people living with epilepsy.

"This year's Walk to END EPILEPSY® is back, and it's better than ever," said Gary Zortman, events manager, EF Kentuckiana. "We are offering different ways that people can participate in their community. We invite everyone to join with friends, family, and

colleagues to celebrate one another in person at one of our four local events or opt to make the walk on their own, wherever they live. No matter where people are, each step and fundraising dollar counts.”

Epilepsy can affect anyone. Over a lifetime, one in 10 people will have a seizure, and one in 26 will be diagnosed with epilepsy. Despite its prevalence, epilepsy receives 10 times less funding than other brain disorders.

This June, four in-person Walk events will take place at different locations throughout Kentucky. Walkers are encouraged to go to www.efky.org/walk to register themselves, create their own personal Walk page, and recruit family and friends to register along with them as part of their Walk team. Walkers, no matter in person or Walk Your Way, can earn some great incentive prizes and help the EF Kentuckiana accomplish its goal of raising \$126,000, for the one in 26 diagnosed with epilepsy. Check-in for those attending the in-person Walks will be from 9-10am, with each walk beginning at 10:15 and concluding at noon at the following locations:

Louisville – Slugger Field on June 1

Lexington – Kentucky Horse Park on June 8

Paducah – Noble Park on June 15

Owensboro – Legion Park on June 22

For those who are not able to walk in person, we encourage them to register and recruit their family and friends to participate to complete the Walk by hitting the streets, trails, and treadmills. It doesn't matter whether they stroll, saunter, or power-walk, they can complete their Walk whenever and wherever, while others in their community do the same. No matter how people choose to participate, everyone's support will help raise epilepsy awareness and much needed funds for the EF Kentuckiana's mission.

This event would not be possible without our sponsors:

Every Step Counts Sponsor: UK Healthcare

Making Strides Sponsors: UCB, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Neurelis

Step-by-Step Sponsor: AAA Stow-A-Way Storage

Click [HERE](#) to register.

About Epilepsy

According to the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int), epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide with no age, racial, social class, national or geographic boundaries. The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) estimates that 3.4 million people in the United States are affected by epilepsy. It is the underlying tendency of the brain to produce seizures which are sudden abnormal bursts of electrical energy that disrupt brain functions.

About the Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana (EF Kentuckiana)

Was developed in 1993 by several moms whose daughters were diagnosed with epilepsy. The EF Kentuckiana operates as an independent affiliate of the national Epilepsy Foundation, to lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy. The Foundation connects people to treatment, support, and resources; leads local, state, and national advocacy efforts; funds innovative research and the training of specialists; and

educates the public about epilepsy and seizure first aid. by a grassroots movement and has shone a light on epilepsy to promote awareness and understanding, and to advocate for laws that matter to people with epilepsy, while also funding epilepsy research. In partnership with the CDC, the Epilepsy Foundation has helped to improve access to care for people with epilepsy, expanded its digital reach and online resources in homes across the country, and trained more than 600,000 people in seizure recognition and first aid. The Epilepsy Foundation continues to focus on serving the epilepsy community through advocacy, education, direct services, and research for new therapies. To learn more visit www.efky.org or call 502.637.4440.

VA housed nearly 48,000 Veterans experiencing homelessness in fiscal year 2024

These final FY 2024 numbers surpass VA's goal by over 16%, marking the largest number of Veterans housed in a single year since FY 2019

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced it housed 47,925 Veterans experiencing homelessness in FY 2024, surpassing [its goal to house 41,000 Veterans](#) by 16.9% and marking the largest number of Veterans housed in a single year since FY 2019. VA also ensured that 96% of the Veterans housed during this time did not return to homelessness. This follows last month's announcement that VA had [surpassed its FY 2024 housing goal a month early](#).

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority for VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration. Since FY 2022, VA has permanently housed nearly 134,000 homeless Veterans, and the total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has fallen by over 4% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.

"Nearly 48,000 formerly homeless Veterans now have a safe, stable place to call home — and there's nothing more important than that," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "No Veteran should experience homelessness in this nation they swore to defend. We are making real progress in this fight, and we will not rest until Veteran homelessness is a thing of the past."

VA has also made progress in combating Veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area, permanently housing 1,854 homeless Veterans this fiscal year — the most of any city in America (for the third year in a row) and exceeding VA's [FY 2024 goals](#) for this region by 15.5%. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's recent [Point-in Time count](#) revealed a 22.9% reduction in Veterans experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles between 2023 and 2024.

VA's efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built

on the evidence-based [“Housing First” approach](#), which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing or connecting them with the wraparound services and supports they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more.

Visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://www.va.gov/homeless) to learn about housing initiatives and other programs supporting Veterans experiencing homelessness.

If you are a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) or visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://www.va.gov/homeless).

Upcoming Events

**SAY 'THANK YOU' THIS
VETERANS DAY**



**LEST
WE
FORGET
THE CONCERT**

FRI 8TH NOV 2024

**FEATURING SONGS WRITTEN
WITH OUR KENTUCKY VETERANS**

**THE HISTORIC
STATE THEATER
ELIZABETHTOWN**

**WITH AWARD WINNING
SINGER/SONGWRITER**

TAMARA STEWART
& THE NASHVILLE SMASH BAND

ADMISSION

**\$25 ASSIGNED SEATING
\$20 VETERANS DISCOUNT**

**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE
RADCLIFF VETERANS CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



LEXINGTON SPORTING CLUB

PRO SOCCER

NEW STADIUM

HOMETOWN HEROES NIGHT

HONORING MILITARY, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS

SATURDAY, NOV. 9TH 7PM



VS.



\$10



[HTTPS://LEXSPORTING.GROUP/HOMETOWNHERO](https://lexsporting.group/hometownhero)



Veterans Day Ceremony

**A Celebration of
Patriotism**

Monday, November 11, 2024 at 3PM

**Honoring 16 Black Veterans of the
Civil War, Buffalo Soldiers, and
World War I, buried in unmarked graves.**



**500
Years
Overdue**

**St. Louis Cemetery
1167 Barret Ave, Louisville, KY 40204**



The SBA in partnership with Republic Bank invites you to:

CONTRACTS & CAPITAL FOR VETERANS

A Resource Seminar

Tuesday, November 12
9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

Free Food and Free Parking

9600 Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40241

Community Room

Hear from procurement and bank representatives on how to secure federal contracts and SBA backed lending for your veteran small business. Networking opportunity following seminar.

Guest Speakers Include:



Emily Chambers
Republic Bank Vets BRG



Marilyn Clark
University of Kentucky



Robert Coffey
SBA KY, District Director



Jeff Ford
Republic Bank, Vets BRG Chair



Roxie Keese
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs



Courtney Luckett
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Pamela Pearson
SBA KY, Business Development



Kathy Pleasant
Republic Bank, SBA Lending

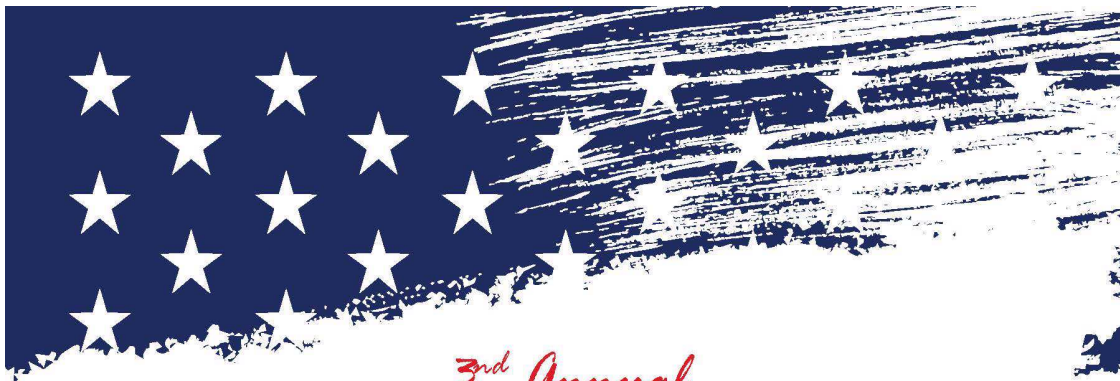
Resource Partners:



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Vets Business
Resource Group



3rd Annual

Veterans Employment & Training Symposium (VETS)

November 14, 2024

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

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

SCAN OR CLICK QR CODE



TO REGISTER





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.

November 18, 2024

9:00 AM to 5:00PM

**Army National Guard Armory
3300 Tamarack Rd.
Owensboro, KY 42301**

PLEASE BRING

DD214

**MEDICAL
RECORDS**

**MARRIAGE
LICENSE**

**SOCIAL SECURITY
NUMBERS**





★ **December 9, 2024** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help the Kentucky Department of
Veterans Affairs honor our local heroes!**

Monday, December 9, 2024
12:00 PM EST
Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, KY

Register to attend by scanning the QR code below.



#LiveWithPurpose

What's New at KDVA?

Campbellsville Benefits Claims Clinic



KDVA held a Benefits Claims Clinic in the Taylor County Public Library, Campbellsville, KY on Oct. 25, 2024. KDVA was able to assist 24 veterans and family members with VA claims. The Taylor County Library played a huge role in the success of the event.

KDVA 5K Run Walk





KDVA held the annual 5K Run Walk at Iroquois Park in Louisville, KY, Oct. 19, 2024. To see more of the photos visit our Facebook page or view the album on our website under Gallery: [here](#).

October: Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month



On Friday Oct. 18, 2024, Frankfort KDVA staff wore pink and purple in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Frankfort, KY. The colors symbolize bringing

awareness: purple is to bring an increase of awareness to domestic violence and pink is to increase awareness of breast cancer.

Strong Women, Strong Coffee



Dina Parrott, KDVA Women Veterans Coordinator, participated in a Strong Women Strong Coffee event which the Women Business Center hosts monthly in Lexington, Oct. 15, 2024. WBC Executive Director Devanny King is working with Dina to collaborate for women veteran events.

KDVA Ambassador Awards

Commissioner Whitney Allen presented an Ambassador Award to Syl Flores Oct. 17, 2024, in Frankfort, KY. Flores received the award for his great work helping establish KDVA's DEI Council and Program, the Veterans Employee Resource Group, and for being an ally to KDVA.



Commissioner Whitney Allen presented an ambassador award and challenge coin to Melissa Smith, Office of State Budget Director, for her partnership and great work with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Oct. 7, 2024, Frankfort, KY.

VFW Kentucky State Department Fall Conference





Commissioner Allen spoke during the VFW Kentucky State Department Fall Conference in Bowling Green, KY from October 04-06, 2024.

KDVA Women Veterans Coordinator Media Outreach



Dina Parrott, KDVA Women Veterans Program Coordinator met with Susie Patrick from Fox56 on Oct. 11, 2024, in Lexington, KY. They discussed advertising and general marketing efforts to help improve KDVA's reach to veterans of Kentucky.

New Veteran Treatment Center Serving Tennessee and Kentucky Veterans



Commissioner Allen attended the grand opening of the new veteran treatment center (VTC) in Clarksville, TN, October 9, 2024. The new VTC provides drug intervention, suicide prevention and mental health care for Ft. Campbell's and surrounding KY/TN counties' military soldiers and veterans.

Klekamp Open House



The Klekamp Open House in Cincinnati reached Northern Kentuckians on Oct. 2, 2024, during the reveal of the renovated Klekamp Family Military and Veterans Center. Over 20 women veterans stopped by the KDVA table to learn what their state VA does for them.

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!"

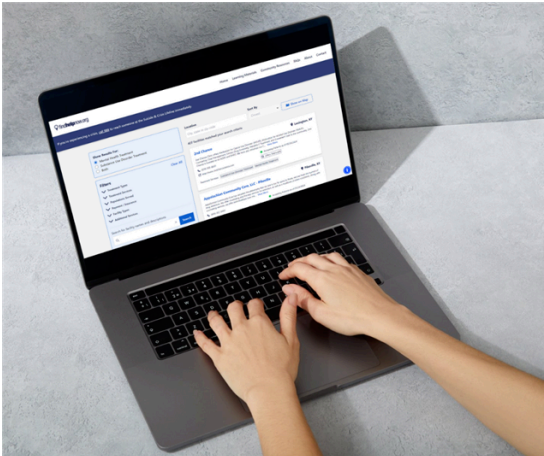
Useful VA Links

- **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

- National Veterans & Military Family Month (**November**)
- National Family Caregivers Month (**November**)
- Warrior Care Month (**November**)
- Daylight Savings Time Ends (**Nov. 3**)
- Lest We Forget Concert (**Nov. 8**)
- Marine Corps Birthday (**Nov. 10**)
- Veterans Day (**Nov. 11**)
- Armistice/Remembrance Day (**Nov. 11**)
- Benefits Claims Clinic (**Nov. 18**)
- Thanksgiving (**Nov. 28**)

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=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.

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