

Vol.2, No.3
March 2023

Serving Those Who Served

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



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Commissioner's Corner



Women Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Commissioner Corner March Newsletter

Team,

Seems like time is flying by as we close out the first quarter of 2023. As the month of March begins, we're headed into spring with new life and energy after a frigid but not so snowy winter. And I hope you, along with the KDVA family, will harness this energy to propel us forward in doing great works for our fellow brother and sister veterans for the remainder of the year.

As you know, March is a very important month for millions of veterans across our great nation. It is filled with important dates which mark anniversaries of past war campaigns/conflicts, honors our Medal of Honor recipients (March 25th), set a day of appreciation for our Vietnam War brothers and sisters (March 29th), and brings to light our sister veterans' contributions to our *Nation* as part of Women History Month. This year, March is especially special, because it honors the 50th anniversary of end of the Vietnam War for American troops (March 29, 1973) and the 20th anniversary of the ground invasion of Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 19, 2003).

Furthermore, March 2023 serves as a prelude to the upcoming 75th anniversary of the integration of women into the Armed Services (June 12, 1948). So, as

we're coming into the month, I'd like us to recognize our brave and dedicated women veterans who have served and are currently serving our *Nation* around the world. As part of KDVA efforts to recognize women veterans in March, and in partnership with the University of Louisville, we're hosting a women veteran's symposium for free at University of Louisville on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. We would love to see our Commonwealth's women veterans, and all veterans, turn out to participate.

Finally, I would like to say congratulations to the Commonwealth and KDVA in winning its third straight Department of Veterans Affairs Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award in the category of "Increasing Access for Better Services". It is a great honor to be recognized as the best in the nation in serving our Commonwealth's veterans and family members and shows the dedication and hard work of our KDVA teammates.

Thank you all for your service to our Nation, and your continuing service to your communities.

Commissioner Whitney P. Allen, Jr.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), United States Army

Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs

Latest VA News and Updates



Veterans Can Now Access Their Disability Benefit Decisions Online

From the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

Veterans can now access their disability benefit claim decision notice letters electronically on VA.gov, empowering them to quickly and easily see their disability decisions.

Before this option was available, Veterans had to wait for a paper copy of their decision notice to be mailed to them. While previous iterations of VA.gov allowed Veterans to access benefits summary letters, they could not access the full copy of these decision notification letters from their electronic claims folders.

This service became available to Veterans on VA.gov on Jan. 17. Since launching, nearly 280,000 decision notice letters have been downloaded.

“Veterans now have access to their benefits decisions anytime, anyplace – right at their fingertips,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “VA disability benefits can also open the door to other federal and state benefits, so quick and easy access to a decision means quicker access to the additional benefits Veterans deserve.”

The new electronic option is also expected to reduce calls to the National Call Centers, freeing up call center respondents to answer other questions and requests from Veterans and their families.

To access their decision letters, Veterans can log in to VA.gov and [check the status of their claim](#). For more details, visit VA News.

VA increases maximum life insurance coverage for Veterans and service members by \$100,000

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

Beginning March 1, VA is increasing the maximum amount of life insurance coverage available to Veterans and service members from \$400,000 to \$500,000 for Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) and Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI). This increase in coverage reflects the current cost of living and helps ensure that the families of Veterans and service members will have the financial support they deserve after their loved ones pass away.

Veterans who are under age 60 and currently enrolled in VGLI will be able to purchase additional coverage in \$25,000 increments up to \$500,000. All active duty, guard, and reserve service members eligible for SGLI will automatically receive the increased coverage on March 1.

"All Veterans and service members deserve to know that when they pass away, their families will be taken care of," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This increase in coverage will help our country keep that promise, ensuring that the families of these heroes will get the financial support they need."

VA currently serves nearly 6 million Veterans, service members, and their families with more than \$1.2 trillion of insurance. Life insurance options include SGLI, which eligible service members are automatically signed up for while serving; VGLI, which Veterans can transition to from SGLI or apply for within 1 year and 120 days of leaving the service; VA Life, a new option that provides up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all Veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%; and more.

Under this increase, the SGLI premium rate will remain the same, meaning that service members will receive maximum coverage for \$30 per month, plus \$1 for Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) coverage. Service members who separate from service with SGLI coverage at the new higher amount can convert their coverage to VGLI. Service members who do not wish to keep the increased SGLI coverage amount can elect a reduced coverage amount or

decline coverage online through the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) on milConnect. If coverage is reduced or declined by March 31, service members will not be charged for the increased coverage amount.

This increase in life insurance is a part of the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act. For more information about life insurance options, Veterans and servicemembers can visit VA's life insurance portal.

Veterans' Emergency Room Bills Could Get Repaid by VA Thanks to Change

1 Mar 2023

Military.com | By [Amanda Miller](#)

Veterans who received care at non-VA emergency rooms since 2010 could now get some of their out-of-pocket costs reimbursed years later, even if their claims were previously denied.

The VA is [finalizing a new rule](#), published Feb. 22 and taking effect April 24, that would cover those past costs and reimburse veterans going forward.

The prior patients will have to file a new claim with the VA by Feb. 22, 2024, to get the money. The retroactive reimbursements apply only to VA patients who received emergency treatment for a non-service-connected condition and who also had health insurance through a third-party insurer.

The VA will reimburse only coinsurance -- defined as the patient's out-of-pocket, cost-sharing percentage with their third-party insurer -- at non-VA emergency departments and won't reimburse flat-rate copayments or payments toward flat-rate deductibles.

Emergency transportation such as an ambulance ride also counts as care.

Veterans and Paying for Emergency Care

Typically, the VA can pay for emergency medical care if the treated condition is service-related or caused by a condition tied to a veteran's service, and care isn't available at a VA facility, [according to its website](#).

For conditions not considered service-connected, VA can also pay for emergency medical care but only under certain conditions: Care must be provided in a hospital emergency department; care must be given to treat life or health-threatening conditions; the required care must not be available to the veteran at a VA; and the veteran must have received care at a VA facility within the past two years. In an emergency, the VA says the veteran should [go to the "nearest emergency department."](#)

The new reimbursement rule affects veterans who are covered by both VA and private insurance.

Covering Vets Who Had Private Insurance

The VA will pay the reimbursements retroactive to care received on or after Feb. 1, 2010, the effective date of the Expansion of Veteran Eligibility for Reimbursement Act. The change was made after a prolonged series of court battles, public comment periods, letters from both houses of Congress and the consideration by VA of some existing precedent.

The initial case was filed by a veteran who went to the emergency room at a non-VA hospital in December 2010, sued the VA and won in 2016. The VA addressed the decision in 2018 with a new interim rule, but other patients [later challenged](#) the agency's interpretation of what it would cover. A court order in 2022 then triggered the latest change.

Copays and Deductibles Won't Qualify

After the initial 2016 court decision, the VA decided it wasn't legally obligated to reimburse copayments, deductibles or coinsurance because it interpreted the deductibles and coinsurance as "similar" to copays under the law.

A federal court decision in 2022, however, ruled on what constituted a "similar payment" to a copay -- excluding coinsurance because it's not a flat fee -- and ordered the VA to update its rules accordingly.

That means the VA still doesn't have to reimburse copays and deductibles for the non-VA emergency care, but it must reimburse coinsurance if the veteran files a new claim within the year.

If You Never Filed a Claim in the First Place, You Still Get Another Chance

The VA acknowledged in its [final rule](#) that some veterans may never have filed a claim because they knew the claim would have been denied.

The agency said patients who never filed the claim at the time they received their care can still file a new claim by the Feb. 22, 2024, deadline.

-- Amanda Miller can be reached at amanda.miller@military.com.

Related Topics: [Military Headlines](#) [Veteran Benefits](#) [Veterans Health Care](#) [Department of Veterans Affairs - VA](#) [Personal Finance](#) [VA Claims and Appeals](#)

Protecting Your PACT Act benefits

By Veterans Benefits Administration

Office of Strategic Engagement Outreach, Transition and Economic Development

Have you seen television commercials, social media posts, or other advertisements from companies telling you to "act now" to claim your Camp Lejeune or [PACT Act](#) benefits? Are you wondering if you're eligible for the new presumptive benefits and need their legal representation? Here's the information you need to know to protect yourself from predatory third-party companies.

How to safely file for and claim your PACT Act benefits

VA wants you to know there are some predatory companies, not recognized by VA, that are targeting you by offering to assist you with your VA benefit claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require you to pay a portion of your VA benefits. VA will never charge you to apply for the benefits you may be entitled to. If you think you're entitled to benefits, please review the following preventive measures to help guard against fraud and scams.

- Apply directly to VA. If you plan to file a claim, you may submit your claim in person at any regional office or [online](#). VA will help you gather the evidence you need to support your claim. There are no costs or hidden fees to file a claim for benefits.
- Be cautious of media advertisements from companies who provide information about the recent changes in law for toxic-exposure benefit claims and suggest Veterans can only obtain VA benefits with their help. These companies may not be recognized with VA and may be trying to charge Veterans illegal fees. Use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) [Accreditation Search](#) to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.
- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are [accredited](#) Veterans Service Organizations, agents and attorneys who may assist you.
- Only VA-accredited agents and attorneys may charge Veterans for assistance on their VA claim, and only when they provide assistance in connection with a proceeding after VA has made an initial decision on a Veteran's claim. No individual or organization may charge a claimant a fee for filing an initial VA claim.
- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

Helpful resources and tools

Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

If you are ever uncertain about a contact or believe you or someone you know is a victim of VA benefits scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General at [\(OIG\) Hotline \(va.gov\)](#).

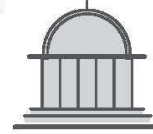
If you suspect a company is using predatory practices, file a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#). For more information on how to avoid scams, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>.



BE VIGILANT OF PACT ACT SCAMS

On August 10, President Biden [signed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act \(PACT Act\) into law](#). This law helps millions of Veterans and their survivors by:

- Extending VA health care eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 (Post-September 11, 2001) eras
- Expanding benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances and their survivors



Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in PACT Act-related [phishing \(email\)](#), vishing (phone), and [social media scams](#) targeting Veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or submit claims on their behalf.

Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.

Do's

- ✓ You may submit your application securely [online](#) via VA.GOV or in person at any Regional Office. You may file your claim directly with VA and then, VA will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.
- ✓ Be cautious of aggressive companies who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
- ✓ Be cautious of companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA. Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- ✓ Validate: If you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](#) to confirm and validate their credentials.

Don'ts

- ✗ Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been [accredited by VA](#) to assist you.
- ✗ Do not sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- ✗ Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- ✗ Do not provide your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel [Accreditation tool](#).
- ✗ Do not sign forms that are not [VA generated](#) or third-party authorization for someone to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance.

[www.VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) is the official source of PACT Act information.

We want Veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act-related benefits. To report suspected scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General ([OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)](#)). File a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#). Visit the [Cybercrime Support Network](#) for additional [resources](#) to help Veterans, service members, and their families combat cybercrime.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

What's New at KDVA?

KDVA Wins Pillar of Excellence Award



The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs has won its third Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award in a row, this time for Customer Experience with VA Benefits and Services. KDVA won for The Homeless Veterans Trust Fund in 2021 and Kentucky Veterans' Songwriting Project in 2022. (Feb. 23, 2023)



House Bill 2 Signing



Governor Andy Beshear signed House Bill 2 into law, this Bill provides much-needed support to complete the Bowling Green Veterans Center. Governor Beshear spoke at

length about HB-2 which provides the remaining \$16,630,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund being added to the previously appropriated budget items for the construction of the \$53 million Veterans Center in Bowling Green. The center is expected to be completed in 2024. (February 15th, 2023)



Governor Andy Beshear with KDVA Staff.

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and The University of
Louisville Commonwealth Center for The Humanities and Society
Present...

***Telling Their Stories:
A Celebration of Women Veterans***

SAVE THE DATE!

March 22, 2023 @ 6pm

UofL, Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library

**Guest Speaker Martha L.
Kotite, Retired Captain, U.S.
Coast Guard, Award Winning
Author & TEDx Speaker**



Introduction by Heather French Henry

****Parking in Speed Art Museum Parking Garage
(Entrance on 2nd Street—FREE to the first 100
RSVPS upon arrival at the event****

To RSVP, send an email to women.veterans@ky.gov

To RSVP, send an email to women.veterans@ky.gov

Congratulations!



Our Benefits Division teammates Stephen Buford, Director of Benefits, and Hope King, Regional Administrator, have been selected to the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program (GMMTP).

They are the first KDVA employees to be selected for the program.

Since 1995, the GMMTP has worked to increase the availability of trained minority manager candidates within Kentucky state government. Through the innovative programming, mentoring, and networking opportunities that are provided to program participants, the GMMTP has become a valuable tool for those interested in learning more about leadership and how to be a conduit for solving the workforce issues.

28th Annual Kentucky Chamber Day Dinner



Members of KDVA attended the 28th Annual Kentucky Chamber Day Dinner at Rupp Arena in Lexington, KY, Feb. 9, 2023. The dinner had several guest speakers including Governor Andy Beshear who spoke at length on concerns and successes

for Kentucky. It was an opportunity for leaders to speak with organizations across the Commonwealth who've invested back into the state of Kentucky.

Radcliff Veteran Center New Veteran Admission



Army Veteran Richard Claywell presented the Carl M. Brashear coin to Air Force Veteran Phillip Watts at the Radcliff Veterans Center, Feb. 9, 2023. Watts is a new

admission to the Radcliff facility.

Women's History Month

Colonel Lelia Jeanette Jones Busler

By SFC (R) John Trowbridge

The modern American idea of the Korean War is greatly influenced by "*M*A*S*H: A Novel About Three Army Doctors*," the popular novel, movie, and television series of the 70's and 80's. The fictional 4077th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) was based on the wartime experiences of Dr. H. Richard Hornberger, a surgeon in the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), writing under the pseudonym Richard Hooker.

Kentucky's connection with the real-life Korean War MASH unit, nicknamed the Eight-O-Double Nickel, was Lelia Jeanette *Jones* Busler, then a young Army Nurse Corps Captain. Jones was described as feisty and full of fight despite her 5-foot-3-inch height. Busler served in the 8055th from July 1951 to January 1952. By the time of her retirement from the military in 1973, Colonel Busler's military career had spanned nearly three decades, the Korean War being a small, but memorable part of her illustrious career.

Lelia Jeanette Jones was born on November 6, 1921, in Irvine, Estill County, Kentucky, one of six children born to Henry Clay (1888-1971) and Amanda Elizabeth *Williams* Jones (1893-1971). Her father worked as a shop foreman for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L&N). Lelia

attended local schools in Estill County, graduating from Irvine City High School on May 18, 1939. In 1940, the Jones family moved to Ravenna, Kentucky. Lelia attended and graduated from the 36-month nursing program at Middletown Hospital School for Nurses in Middletown, Ohio, on February 28, 1943, and became a registered nurse on April 2, of that year.

America and countries across the globe were embroiled in the Second World War at this time. Lelia's older brother, Henry C. Jones, Jr., was already serving in the Army Air Corps.

TSgt Jones was a member of the 3rd Squadron, 1st Ferry Group, Air Transport Command, as a Flight Engineer aboard a C-87 Liberator Express whose mission was to transport heavy cargo and personnel from India to American and Chinese forces over "The Hump,"



the treacherous air route that crossed the Himalayas. Jones' aircraft was reported as missing in the Himalayas on April 9, 1943. Eventually, all six crewmembers were listed as dead.*

The loss of her brother was the incentive for Lelia to serve her country.

She applied for admission into the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) on April 20, 1943. Initially rejected, she attained the Corps' minimum weight requirement by eating bananas. She also applied for enrollment in the Red Cross Nursing Service and was appointed on November 24. She was accepted into the ANC on March 10, 1945, and left for Fort Knox, enlisting in the Army on April 8, 1945.

Private Lelia J. Jones completed her Basic Training Course at Fort Knox on May 3, 1945, and became a general duty nurse at the post hospital. Her promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant came on August 13, 1945. On April 8, 1948, she was promoted to First Lieutenant, and in February 1949, began her first overseas tour of duty.

Her arrival in Korea quickly became a baptism of fire, landing in Pusan the day before the City of Seoul, South Korea, fell to Chinese Communist forces. Lelia's new assignment was with the 14th U.S. Army Field Hospital. While serving with the 14th Field Hospital, Jones became ill and, on February 24, 1951, was evacuated to the Medical Holding Detachment of the 361st Station Hospital in Tokyo, Japan, for hospitalization and treatment. During her recovery, she was promoted to Captain on July 24, 1951, at the same time being ordered to report as a general duty nurse to the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital then located at Uijongbu, Korea.

Nurse Frances Barnes of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whose tour of duty with the 8055th nearly mirrors that of Jones' remembered her friend and colleague in her 2000 book, *Memoirs of an Army MASH Nurse in Korea*: "Lelia, or 'Little Bit,' as she was nicknamed, was an excellent, devoted nurse. She could be moody at times, but usually liked to talk. A beautiful woman with curly, brown hair and hazel eyes that were striking, you noticed her eyes right away. She had a great figure even in the fatigues that we wore every day. She was the only woman stationed at the MASH who did not wear a bra; she was a decade ahead of her time. A Southern woman who oozed charm and gentility when she had a mind to, she let you know right away what she thought about something."

Barnes also recalled Jones' "hush-hush affair" with a married Army doctor, a romance that did not survive the war.

One memorable incident occurred during her tour with the 8055th. General Matthew Ridgway, commander of the Eighth Army and later in command of all United Nations Forces in Korea, was a proponent of the surgical hospital concept and often visited his wounded soldiers. Known for his aggressive nature and habit of hanging live grenades on the front of his uniform, which earned him the nick-name of "Tin Tits," the general arrived at the Double Nickel on a day when Jones was in charge of the pre-op ward.

Because MASHs treated soldiers of both sides, it was a violation of Army procedure to possess loaded weapons or munitions within hospital wards. When Ridgway attempted to walk into pre-op, Jones immediately stepped in front of him, informing the commanding general that she would not allow him inside the ward unless he removed his grenades and secured his pistol. Seeing that the young nurse was not intimidated by his rank and meant to stand her ground, Ridgway wordlessly gave the offending items to an aide and was then allowed to continue his tour.

Captain Jones' tour of duty included stints at the 8168th U.S. Army Hospital at Yokohama, Japan, U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, at Fort Clayton in Panama, Rodriguez Army Hospital, Fort Brooke, Puerto Rico, Army Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, and the 2nd MASH located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

She attended the Advanced Nursing Administration Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas during September 1957, and the Medical Service School Nurses Advance Course in 1958. Throughout her military career, Lelia took college courses while assigned at various Army posts, including Kansas State College, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, and the University of Maryland. She completed her associate's degree on November 18, 1958.

On April 8, 1959, Captain Jones was promoted to the rank of Major and was assigned to the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, serving as Head Nurse of the Female Surgical Ward and the Male Medical Ward. While stationed in Germany Lelia Jones was married on September 2, 1960, in Switzerland. The marriage only lasted a very short time and ended in divorce.

Major Busler then went on to serve at the 345th Surgical Hospital at Fort Rucker, Alabama and Weed Army Hospital at Fort Irwin, California, where she served as chief of Nursing Services at the hospital and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on August 26, 1968. Following another stint at Rodriguez Army Hospital at Fort Brooke, Puerto Rico in 1969, Lelia was assigned to the Army Hospital at Fort Polk, Louisiana, as the assistant chief nurse of Nursing Services.

Lelia was later assigned to the Army Hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as the assistant chief nurse. While at Fort Campbell, she was once again sent to Brooke Army Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, this time to attend the chief orientation course and upon completion of the course was appointed acting chief nurse of Nursing Services. Later, while assigned to Reynolds Army Hospital at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Lelia was promoted to the rank of Colonel. She seemed to be on the fast track in the military; however, due to her on-going battle with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), which had started while she was serving in Korea during the war, she made the decision to retire from the military. On June 30, 1973, after 28 years of honorable service, Colonel Lelia J. Busler retired from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Her superior officer, Colonel Arthur W. Boswell, wrote of her: "If she chose to remain on active duty, she has the understanding, knowledge, and ability to become the ultimate Chief, of the Army Nurse Corps."

Returning home to Kentucky, Lelia settled in Richmond, near her sister's family. She volunteered at a religious book store and spent Sundays at Christ Episcopal Church. Her health worsened, she became dependent on bottled oxygen, and the medication she took weakened her bones. Busler fell and broke a hip in 1980 and while a patient at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, died at the age of 59, on May 29, 1981. She was buried in the Jones' family plot in West Irvine Cemetery, Irvine, Estill County, Kentucky.

There is no question that Colonel Lelia Busler served her country well and at times in the worst of conditions for nearly three decades.

Was she the inspiration for "Hot Lips" Houlihan? The facts point in that direction. Major Houlihan was described as a woman of considerable passion, she was also a stickler for military correctness. Traits which had been displayed by Busler who was known to be

“Feisty,” outspoken and strong-willed—and known for her romance with a married doctor—she had served in the 8055th with Captain H. Richard Hornberger, author of the book, *M*A*S*H*. These same traits were portrayed by Major Houlihan, (actress Loretta Swit) in the television production. We can only assume that this young lady from Eastern Kentucky may have been the real-life inspiration for Hornberger’s, Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan, of the 4077th MASH.

*In 2006, the plane’s crash site was discovered by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Located on a jungle-covered slope at an elevation of 8,978 feet in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, near the town of Tezu.

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Charleston,

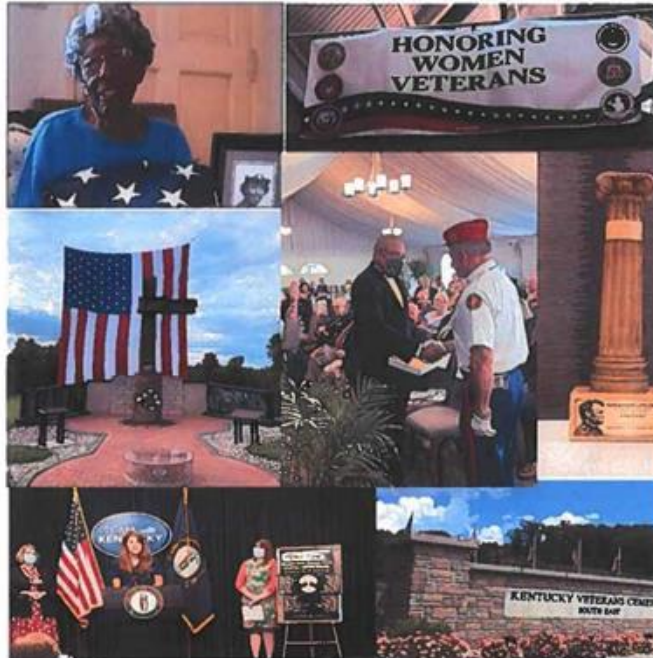
SC: The History Press, 2008.



By SFC (R) John Trowbridge. He's a Kentucky Guardsman and former Command Historian. For more information, please contact Mr. Trowbridge at the following: john.m.trowbridge.nfg@army.mil or 502-607-1166

KDVA State Conference

Empowering and Encouraging Veterans to Serve



AUGUST 24-25, 2023 STATE CONFERENCE

SAVE-THE-DATE

KDVA looks forward to connecting the Commonwealth's Veteran Service Organizations, State Commanders, and State Adjutants with Federal, State, and Local leaders in a two-day executive level forum on critical veteran issues and policies.



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

LATEST INFO ON VA
BENEFITS AND
ENTITLEMENTS

DISCUSS VETERANS'
ISSUES & CHALLENGES
ACROSS KENTUCKY

UPDATE ON KDVA
INITIATIVES,
PROCEDURES, AND
VARIOUS VETERANS
PROGRAMS

VSO REFRESHER
TRAINING

EMBASSY SUITES LEX

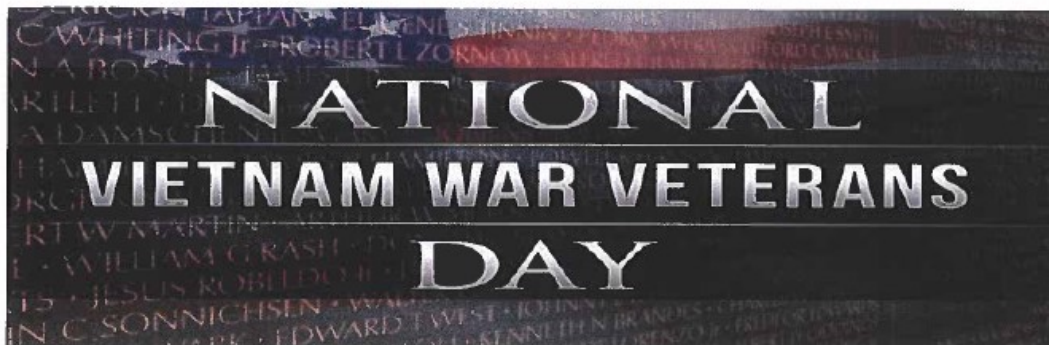
1801 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511

For more information:

(502) 782-5736

veterans.ky.gov

Upcoming Outreach Events



March 29, 2023

Please join us at the Frankfort Kentucky Vietnam War Veterans Memorial located at 365 Vernon Cooper Lane, Frankfort KY.



Opening Ceremony will start at 12:00 pm

There will be an induction of names for the Fallen Franklin County Vietnam Veterans.

Our local Frankfort chapters will perform the day's ceremonies.

Whitney Allen, the Commissioner of Veteran Affairs will be our special guest speaker.

Join the Nation... Remember those who did not come home and thank a Vietnam Veteran for their Service to our Nation.

You are cordially invited to join us for lunch following the Vietnam War Veterans Day program. Lunch will be served at the VFW Post 4075, 104 E 2nd Street.

Bring your chairs and dress warm.





SAVE THE DATE
Military, Veterans
& First Responders
Children's 
7th ANNUAL APPRECIATION DAY
APRIL 30th
12 PM - 3 PM
at the
"Jeffersonian" Community Center
in Jeffersontown, KY



FREE
ACTIVITIES
BOUNCY HOUSE
ART & CRAFT PROJECTS
FREE PRIZE DRAWINGS

Open to all children of
Military, Veterans & 1st Responders
with their families.
Event will be held rain or shine

Any questions?
Contact Wynella via email at:
icejean51@twc.com
or
call (502) 267-8095



IRAQ WAR 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY AND BANQUET

25 MARCH 2023
VFW POST 10281
299 BRIGGS LANE
VINE GROVE



HOSTED BY

DAV CHAPTER 003 ELIZABETHTOWN
VFW POST 10281 VINE GROVE
CVMA® KY 1-2 RADCLIFF

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN
ON 1 FEB. STAY TUNED FOR
DETAILS

COMPLEMENTARY DINNER
FOR IRAQ VETERANS AND ONE GUEST

SEATING LIMITED TO 160
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 7:00 PM

REGISTER THRU: FACEBOOK PAGE:
IRAQ WAR 20TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET .

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

- The Navy Reserve Birthday (**Mar. 3**)
- K9 Veterans Day (**Mar. 13**)
- American Legion Birthday (**Mar. 15**)
- Telling Their Stories: A Celebration of Women Veterans (**Mar. 22**)
- National Medal of Honor Day (**Mar. 25**)
- Vietnam Veterans Day (**Mar. 29**)

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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