

Vol.3, No.6
June 2024

-UPDATE ON VA NEWS STORY-

Serving Those Who Served

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Department of
Veterans Affairs



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

In this month's issue...

Commissioner Corner

VA News-UPDATE

- **UPDATE-** NCA Adds Options for Commemorative Plaques and Urns
- VA announces new grant program to help service members and their spouses transition from the military to civilian life

Upcoming Events

- Women Veterans State Conference
- Here.Is.Better. Movie Showing-KDVA and VFW
- Central Kentucky Veterans Day of Valor
- Virtual VEAC
- America's Tapestry

KDVA News and Events

- Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony/AAPI ERG
- Radcliff Veterans Center Military Awards Ceremony
- Kentucky Governor's Challenge Action Planning Site Visit
- KDVA sponsors and attends 9th Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit
- Miss America visits Radcliff Veterans Center Veterans

I Support Veterans License Plates

Military Women's Memorial "Tell Her Story"

Much, much more...

Commissioner's Corner

Commissioner's Corner

Greetings teammates,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. It's June and we're closing out the fiscal year with some great stuff here at KDVA. We'll be hosting a second showing of Here.Is.Better. film for PTSD Awareness month on June 12th. Additionally, we have our Women Veterans State Conference on June 25th with several interactive activities planned, as well as guest speakers including our keynote speaker Tanya Bradshear, Deputy Secretary of VA. It's a great opportunity for women veterans to network and learn more about benefits available to them. Finally, we get to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in

which our greatest generation started on a journey of freeing Europe and the ending of World War II.

Let's have a great last month of Fiscal Year 2024.

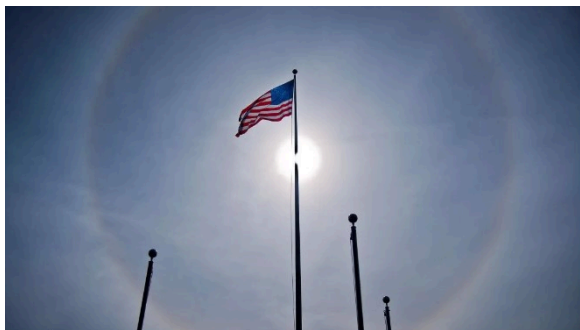
HOOAH!!!!,

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



Latest VA News

NCA Adds Options for Commemorative Plaques and Urns



NCA adds options for commemorative plaques and urns

May 9, 2024

National Cemetery Administration

Update

If a Veteran receives a commemorative plaque and urn from the Federal VA under this program,

Please understand that the veteran will lose their eligibility to be interred into a National Cemetery and or one of Kentucky's 5 State Veteran Cemeteries.

Please contact your local State / National Cemetery for further Information on this program.

Beginning June 10, families of deceased and cremated Veterans can apply to receive commemorative plaques or urns from VA if they do not want to inter their loved ones in a VA National Cemetery or receive a government-furnished headstone, marker or medallion for placement in any cemetery.

Commemorative urns (seen at right) are used to hold the remains of a deceased, cremated Veteran, and commemorative plaques (below, right) are designed to hang on a wall. Both the urns and the plaques honor a Veteran's service and serves as a lasting tribute to the individual's status as a Veteran. Eligible family members can request one or the other, but not both.



It's important to note that, if a family chooses a plaque or an urn to commemorate a Veteran, VA is prohibited by law from interring that Veteran's remains in a VA national cemetery or from providing a headstone, marker or medallion for placement in any cemetery. Families should be certain of their choice. If the family chooses to receive a plaque or an urn to commemorate their Veteran, their decision cannot be undone. The law does not provide a method to restore these benefits.

To be eligible, the Veteran (or service member who died on active duty) must have served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917; the Veteran must be eligible for a headstone or marker under 38 U.S.C. § 2306(d), and the Veteran's remains must have been cremated—with no portion of the remains interred at any location.



More information about NCA memorial options can be found [on the VA website](#). More details, including an application for commemorative plaques and urns, will be available on June 10. Information about VA burial and memorial benefits is available [online](#), at [VA national cemeteries](#), or by calling toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

To make burial arrangements at any VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117. VA also encourages Veterans to apply for [Pre-Need Eligibility](#) to establish eligibility for VA burial and memorial benefits in advance of need.

VA announces new grant program to help service members and their spouses transition

from the military to civilian life

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day, VA announced the creation of a new grant program to help service members and their spouses transition from the military to civilian life. These grants will be awarded to eligible organizations that provide employment-based resources and tools for transitioning service members and spouses — including resume assistance services, interview training, job recruitment training, employment placement services, and additional services that lead directly to a successful transition.

VA expects to award approximately \$4 million in grants in 2024, in increments of up to \$500,000 per organization. These grants will be matched by the receiving organization, thus doubling the positive impact for service members and their families.

The Biden-Harris Administration and VA are committed to providing comprehensive support to the approximately 200,000 service members who separate from the military each year. In addition to this new grant program, VA helps service members and their families transition by [educating them about the VA care and benefits they've earned](#), [helping them apply for VA services before leaving the military](#), [calling to check in throughout the first year of separation](#), [providing educational and career counseling](#), and more. For more information on VA's efforts to support transitioning service members and their families, visit on [VA's transition homepage](#).

"These grants will help our nation's service members —and their spouses — get the tools and assistance they need to get the jobs they deserve," said **Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs**. "Our goal is to put service members and their families into positions where their transition out of the military isn't only manageable — it's successful — and empowers them to continue to lead our country. That's what this new grant program is all about."

VA understands the challenges that transitioning service members encounter during this significant life change. Veterans and their spouses report challenges in employment, physical health, and finances, and VA is eager to provide this additional means of support to those who have served in uniform.

This new program will be one tool in VA's broader effort to help Veterans further their careers and find good jobs. VA offers additional services to help transitioning servicemembers and Veterans find and keep jobs, including the [Personalized Career Planning and Guidance \(PCPG\) program](#), the [Veteran Readiness and Employment program](#), and [more](#). Through these programs, VA provides career counseling, assessment, education planning, and guidance resources unique to Veteran needs, and can help set and achieve personal, career, and education goals.

Additionally, VA is committed to supporting military spouses in the VA workforce. Earlier this year, [VA signed the 4+1 Commitment](#)— a voluntary commitment, [championed by Dr. Jill Biden](#), for employers to adopt the following military spouse employment policies that could expand employment and career opportunities for military spouses: 1) facilitate job transferability; 2) offer remote or telework; 3) offer flexible work hours; 4) provide paid or permissive Permanent Change of Station (PCS) leave. VA has committed to all four of those policies, as well as extending Leave Without Pay status to military spouses whose

active-duty military members receive PCS orders. This effort is part of President Biden's [Executive Order 14100](#), "Advancing Economic Security for Military and Veteran Spouses, Military Caregivers, and Survivors," a plan to address unemployment for the 16,000+ military-connected spouses in the federal workforce.

This program was created as a part of executing the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. A notice of funding opportunity for this program will post in June.



New Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville (SVDP) is excited to expand services to our Veterans Program by adding 24 additional private rooms for male and female Veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or have experienced homelessness in the past.

Renovations to an existing facility on our Shelby Park campus are currently underway and expected to last four to six months. The updated facility will include two self-service kitchens, laundry room facilities, and common spaces for recreation and socialization. Private rooms will come fully furnished.

"We will continue our Veterans Transitional Housing Program, which started two decades ago and provides 20 private rooms to homeless veterans in our Ozanam Inn Men's Emergency Shelter," said Dave Calzi, SVDP's Executive Director. "Now we have the opportunity to increase our commitment to Veterans by providing additional support for our current clients and those in the community to find permanent housing."

James, a Veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, found himself struggling with the transition back to civilian life. He battled with homelessness and poverty and was in need of assistance. With critical support from our Veterans Program, James is now back on track.

“
*This place has given me a second chance.
It's a nice stepping stone to get grounded,
continue on my path, and move forward.*

—James, a Veteran



With your support, we can help Veterans like James and many more go from homeless to being housed by providing both transitional and permanent affordable housing, including support and services.

OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS



Join Us to Support Homeless Veterans

DID YOU KNOW?



1 IN 10 HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE VETERANS
89% ARE HONORABLY DISCHARGED

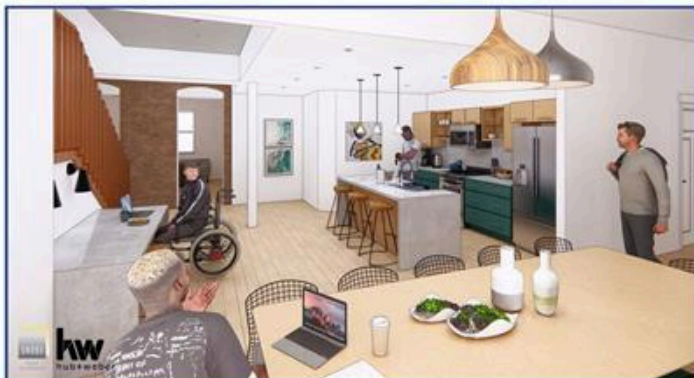


KENTUCKY LOSES 118 VETERANS
TO SUICIDE PER YEAR
HOMELESS VETERANS ARE AT A
HIGHER RISK TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE

Thanks to the generosity of two lead donors, any donations will be matched up to \$250,000. A gift of \$10,000 will help cover the cost of renovating a private, single room.

This includes furnishings, an accessible wash room, and appliances with needed electrical upgrades, all having access to on-site laundry and common area kitchens.

Please consider supporting our efforts to provide transitional and permanent housing and lifesaving services to unhoused Veterans. Any amount will help those who have faithfully served our country. They deserve nothing less! Donate below!



Our mission is to house, feed, and support those in need with compassion and dignity.



St. Vincent de Paul
LOUISVILLE



Upcoming Events



Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Tanya Bradshear will be the keynote speaker.

Women Veterans State Conference



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

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



Cooking Demo
Chair Yoga
Breakout sessions on hair loss
VA Benefits and Job opportunities
And a Women ONLY session on
health concerns.





Here.Is.Better. Showtime

June 12, 2024

Free Admission + Pizza!

* Soda and water for sale.

June is PTSD Awareness Month!

Agenda

4:30 PM to 5:15 PM Networking

5:15 PM to 5:29 PM Meeting Kickoff

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM Movie--Here.Is.Better.



Movie Provided by



Powered By



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Post 2921

Veterans of Foreign Wars
2902 7th Street Road
Louisville, KY 40216

Register
Here



ATTENTION: RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERANS AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL EVENT

June 11 – 13, 2024
10AM – 3PM EST



You're invited to get 1-on-1 assistance to get the VA health care and benefits you've earned.

GET HELP WITH:

- ★ Signing up for VA Health Care ★
- ★ Applying for VA Education Benefits ★
- ★ Submitting a VA Disability Claim ★
- ★ Toxic Exposure Concerns ★
- ★ Mental Health Support ★
- ★ VA Burial Options ★



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.VA.gov/veac

Please note this is available only to those who reside in or are stationed in the listed states, and all times are Eastern Standard Time.



Thank you for your service. We're here for you if you need us.
Download the VA Welcome Kit: VA.gov/welcome-kit/
Subscribe to #VetResources: VA.gov/vetresources/
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, Press 1
The one number to reach VA: 1-800-MyVA411

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The Center for Women Veterans Presents

AMERICA'S TAPESTRY

Women Veteran Stories



Stories that bind the fabric of women Veterans and their journeys.

MODERATOR
Lourdes Tiglao
Executive Director
Center for Women Veterans



Dr. Estacy Colón Porter
Army Veteran

Stories woven from common aspirations, shared history, and sisterhood.

Stories of resilience, progress, unity, and triumph.



Dianna Marie Good Sky
Navy Veteran

Stories that capture the memories, experiences, and emotions that shape and define our identities.



Olivia Nunn
Army Veteran

Stories that quilt together diverse cultures, values, and beliefs.

VA



ONLINE | JUNE 20TH | 12 PM ET

REGISTER

bit.ly/AmericasTapestry





Central Kentucky

Veteran's Day of Valor

Resource Day & Claims

June 28, 2024

George Rogers Clark High School Auxiliary Gym
2745 Boonesboro Rd, Winchester, KY

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

★ Opening Ceremony with state & local officials @ 10:30 a.m. ★

Veterans, bring your families and join us for a Day of Valor honoring you.
Service officers and other community members will be onsite to assist you with:

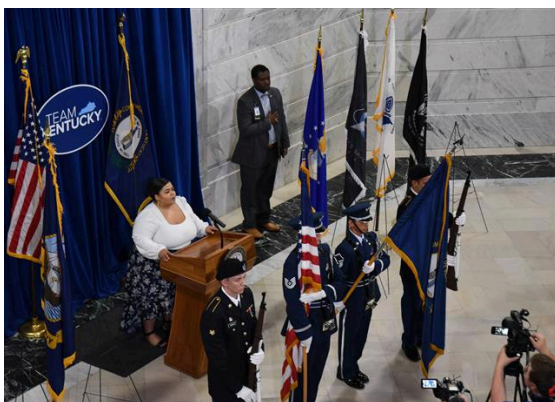
★ Jobs ★
★ Resources ★
★ PACT Act information ★
★ Other available services for Veterans ★

Food and door prizes

For more information contact Phyllis (859) 806-4297 or Kim (731)798-6700

What's New at KDVA?

2024 Memorial Day Weekend Salute



KDVA and the Asian American/Pacific Islander ERG hosted a wreath laying ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort, KY, May 24, 2024. Governor Andy Beshear as the keynote speaker, spoke about the importance of Memorial Day paying our respects to the veterans no longer with us.

Radcliff Veterans Center Military Awards Ceremony



Radcliff Veterans Center Service Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, April 9, 2024 honoring veterans with awards they earned during their service.

Kentucky Governor's Challenge Action Planning Site Visit





The Kentucky Governor's Challenge Action Planning Site Visit meeting was held in Frankfort, KY on May 14, 2024. The meeting featured technical assistance from Veterans Affairs and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. They discussed how to focus on identifying veterans we haven't reached yet.

St. Vincent De Paul Visit





Commissioner Allen, Major General (Retired) Michael Davidson and Army Veteran Alejandro Ramirez toured St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Shelby Park campus on Thursday, May 30, 2024. Commissioner Allen met with CEO and Executive Director David Calzi and his team, visited Waypoint wing, which housed homeless veterans as well as key facilities. Commissioner Allen spoke to staff members and veterans who shared their stories and experiences with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. Founded in 1853, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville, a lay Catholic organization, serves individuals and families in need including those who are homeless, living in poverty, suffering from addiction, enduring mental illness or experiencing acute economic crisis.

Rotary Club



Commissioner Allen served as keynote speaker for the Rotary Club of Louisville May monthly meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at University Club, University of Louisville. Commissioner Allen discussed the mission and purpose of KDVA, and shared KDVA's achievements, the stories of the veterans clients/residents' and KDVA employees' experiences. You can see the taped session at: <https://youtu.be/Oudjiplogt0>

KDVA sponsors and attends 9th Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit





Everett Bracken, acting director State Programs, Dina Parrott, Women Veterans Program coordinator, attended the 9th Annual Workforce Summit in Lexington, KY, May 14, 2024. KDVA was a sponsor for this event.

This was a great networking opportunity to learn about the job market for transitioning veterans from military to private sector as agencies across the state sponsored and attended the event. Additionally, U.S. Army Danny Jennejohn and U.S. Army Karl Fratzke joined KDVA at the event as special guests.

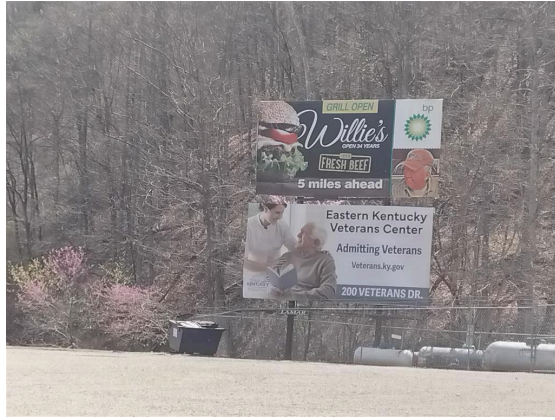
Miss America visits Radcliff Veterans Center Veterans



The 2024 Miss America, Madison Marsh, visited veterans of the Carl M. Brashear Radcliff Veterans Center, May 2, 2024. Marsh is an Active Duty Air Force member and was able to honor the two Air Force women veterans at RVC and meet and greet with all the veterans in attendance.

KDVA Billboards in Louisville

and Hazard KY



KDVA Headquarters Staff Professional Development Day and visit the Tri Ân Monument



The KDVA headquarters staff met for a professional development "retreat" where they learned about shared accountability which is the followup course to personal accountability, in Louisville, KY, May 1, 2024. Following the course, the team was able to visit the Tri Ân Monument which the Veterans Program Trust Fund contributed to the completion of the monument.

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

- PTSD Awareness Month (**June**)
- D-Day (**June 6**)
- Women Veterans Day (**June 12**)
- U.S. Army Birthday (**June 14**)
- U.S. Flag Day (**June 14**)
- National Flag Week (**June 9-15**)
- Father's Day (**June 16**)
- Juneteenth (**June 19**)
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary Birthday (**June 23**)
- Women Veterans State Conference (**June 25**)
- PTSD Awareness Day (**June 27**)

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