Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

16 January 2019

Update presented by
Brig Gen (Ret) Benjamin F. Adams, III
Commissioner
Agenda

• Veterans Benefits Branch/Field Operations
• State Veteran Centers (Nursing Homes)
• State Veteran Cemeteries
• Homeless Veterans Program
• Women Veterans Program
• KyVETS
• Veterans Program Trust Fund
• Legislative Update
• Events & News
Benefits Branch
20 Field Representatives in 19 Districts

[Map showing various districts and field representatives with contact information]
Veteran Centers

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
151/285 Beds 53%

Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
87/156 Beds 56%

Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
48/120 for 40 %

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
106/120 Beds 88%
Veterans Cemeteries
As of 31 Dec 2018

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West
Opened March 1, 2004
Interments:
Veterans 3,092
Dependents 1,133
Total 4,225
Cremated 1,223

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central
Opened June 1, 2007
Interments:
Veterans 4,904
Dependents 1,199
Total 6,103
Cremated 1,830

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North
Opened August 22, 2008
Interments:
Veterans 1,385
Dependents 305
Total 1,690
Cremated 655

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East
Opened October 1, 2010
Interments:
Veterans 814
Dependents 175
Total 989
Cremated 292

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East
Opened May 1, 2018
Interments:
Veterans 19
Dependents 3
Total 22
Cremated 7

Total : 13,029
Homeless Veterans Program

• Continuing to work with Operation Victory on renovation of a house in Louisville for a homeless veteran. Dedication tentatively set for 14 Feb 19.

• Will begin renovation of the next Operation Victory home in April.

• Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 4 homes through Operation Victory.

• The Affordable Housing program in Cincinnati has approved a grant for Operation Victory in the amount of $125,000 for the purchase and renovation of the homes.

• Continuing to provide financial assistance for veterans to prevent homelessness or help them become housed.
Homeless Veterans Program

Financial Assistance

FY 2018 (1 Jul 17-30 Jun 18)

Total assistance paid out $74,162.61
Avg. per veteran $219.00
Veterans assisted with Housing 208
Veterans assisted with Utilities 130
Total veterans assisted 338

FY 2019 (1 Jul 18 to Present)

Total assistance paid out $29,741.81
Avg. per veteran $234.00
Veterans assisted with housing 56
Veterans assisted with Utilities 71
Total veterans assisted 127
Women Veterans Program

• Monthly newsletter
• Provided resources to 9 women veterans seeking mental health treatment
• New email address
  women.veterans@ky.gov
• Operation Victory house dedication
  • Date: Feb 14th (tentatively)
  • Location: Louisville, KY
• Women Veterans UNITE 2019 conference.
  • Date: August 10th (tentatively)
  • Location: Louisville, KY
Employment Support Program

KyVets Veteran Services:
• Resume review and update
• Referral to employers
• Referral to other resources
• Education & Training
• KireKy website & App (https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky)

KyVets Employer Services:
• Education on why hiring veterans is good business
• Matching veterans skills and experience to employer needs
• Free advertisement of positions
• Top talent referrals
• HireKy website & App (https://login.bfacmobile.com/m/hireky)

New email address: KyVets@ky.gov
Veterans Program Trust Fund

12 December 2018 Meeting
- 15 Grant Applicants
- 14 Grants Approved
- 1 Grant Deferred

Total Obligated $281,020.05

Next Meeting 12 March 2019
- Limited to 10 Grant Applicants
Legislative Update

- Property Tax Exemption for Veteran Service Organizations
  - HB 153 filed, but language is not suitable
  - Working with Rep. Tim Moore to add section 46 to KRS 14A.1-070
- Fee Free License Plate for 100% Disabled Veterans
  - Provided Rep. Moore how to amend current statute
- Exempt 100% of a Veteran’s Military Pension from State Income Tax
  - Rep. Blanton’s bill (HB 15) excludes $41,110 and is retroactive to 1 January 2018
  - Rep. Moore’s bill (HB 66) exempts 100% of a Military Pension, but not until 2021
  - Requires more contacts to roll back the current law to the $41,110 level of exemption and restore the $10,000
- Tuition Waiver for Nursing Students
  - Established a Nurse Pipeline Working Group with CPE
  - Focusing now on “tuition forgiveness” versus tuition waiver
- Clarify the Veterans Preference Law to Include Veteran Spouses
  - Requires more contact with legislators
- Amend Current State and Local Rescue Law to Include Green Alerts
  - Monitoring Senate Bill 55. Currently sufficient without amendments.
Events & News
(January/February)

• 17 Jan 19: Governor’s Advisory Board meeting, Frankfort, KY

• 17 Jan 19: VRUCK Meeting, Lexington, KY

• 24 Jan 19: New Robley Rex VAMC Director Stephen Black Open House, Louisville, KY

• 25 Jan 19: Lexington VAMC Director Emma Metcalf Retirement, Lexington, KY

• 31 Jan 19: Jeff Acob Retirement, Frankfort, KY.

• 6 Feb 19: JECVO Meeting, Frankfort, KY

• 7 Feb 19: Installation Ceremony for New VARO Director Karen Gooden, Louisville, KY

• 21 Feb 19: VRUCK Meeting, Lexington, KY

• 24-27 Feb 19: NASVDA 2019 Winter Conference, Alexandria, VA
Questions?