



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

# Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

6 March 2019

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



# Agenda



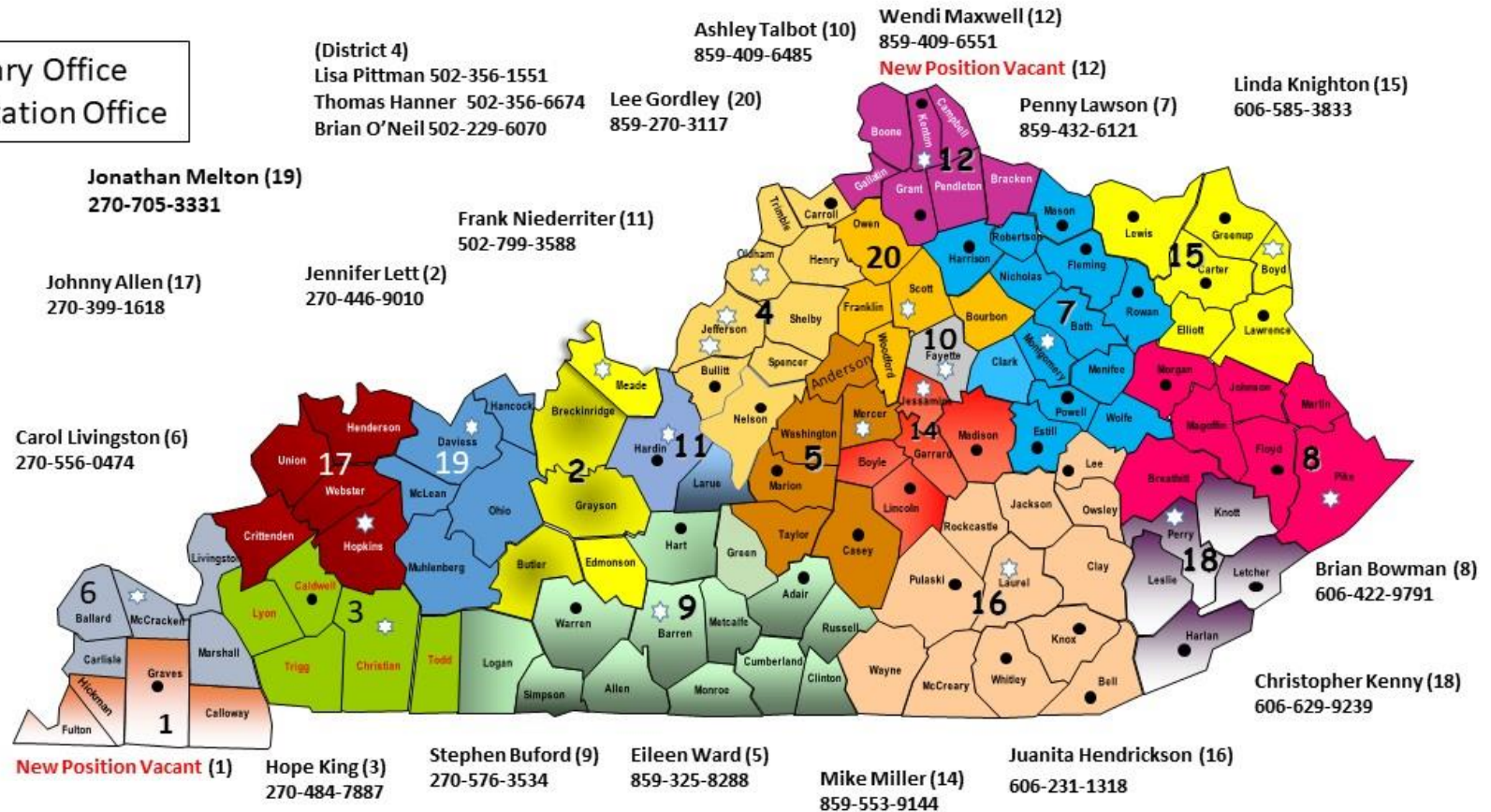
- Veterans Benefits Branch/Field Operations
- State Veteran Centers (Nursing Homes)
- State Veteran Cemeteries
- Homeless Veterans Program
- Women Veterans Program
- KyVETS
- Veterans Program Trust Fund
- Legislative Update
- Events & News

# Benefits Branch

## 22 Field Representatives in 19 Districts



☆ Primary Office  
 ● Outstation Office



# Veteran Centers

As of 1 March 2019



Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY  
153/285 54%



Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY  
85/156 55%



Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff, KY  
59/120 49%



Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY  
108/120 90%

# Veterans Cemeteries

As of 1 March 2019



## Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West



Opened March 1, 2004

### Interments:

Veterans	3,1470
Dependents	<u>1,157</u>
Total	4,304
Cremated	1,251

## Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central



Opened June 1, 2007

### Interments:

Veterans	4,954
Dependents	<u>1,215</u>
Total	6,169
Cremated	1,851

## Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North



Opened August 22, 2008

### Interments:

Veterans	1,402
Dependents	<u>310</u>
Total	1,712
Cremated	659



## Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East



Opened October 1, 2010

### Interments:

Veterans	836
Dependents	<u>184</u>
Total	1,020
Cremated	301

## Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East



Opened May 1, 2018

### Interments:

Veterans	19
Dependents	<u>4</u>
Total	23
Cremated	7

**Total : 13,228**



# Homeless Veterans Program



- Continuing to work with Operation Victory on renovation of a house in Louisville for a homeless veteran. Dedication tentatively set for March 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.
- Continuing to provide financial assistance for veterans to prevent homelessness or help them become housed.
- New Homeless Program Coordinator is Eileen Ward, (502) 564-9203, email [eileen.ward@ky.gov](mailto:eileen.ward@ky.gov)



# 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	<u>130</u>
Total veterans assisted	338

### FY 2019 (1 Jul 18 to Present)

Total assistance paid out	\$38,764.76
Avg. per veteran	\$251.72
Veterans assisted with housing	84
Veterans assisted with Utilities	<u>70</u>
Total veterans assisted	154



# Women Veterans Program



- Provided resources to 9 women veterans seeking mental health treatment
- New email address  
[women.veterans@ky.gov](mailto:women.veterans@ky.gov)
- Operation Victory house dedication
  - Date: March 2019 (tentatively)
  - Location: Louisville, KY
- Women Veterans UNITE 2019 conference.
  - Date: August 10<sup>th</sup> (tentatively)
  - Location: Louisville, KY



## 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>)



Kentucky  
Employment,  
Training, and  
Support  
(KyVets)

## 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 KyVETS Program Coordinator April Brown  
(502) 564-9203, email [april.brown@ky.gov](mailto:april.brown@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 13 March 2019

- Limited to 10 Grant Applicants



# Legislative Update



- Property Tax Exemption for Veteran Service Organizations
  - HB 153: The version that KDVA drafted was sent to A & R where it may die.
  - ACTION NEEDED: VSOs need to contact their legislators.
- Fee Free License Plate for 100% Disabled Veterans
  - HB 277: Extends free plate to those NOT 100% but paid at 100% rate. Stuck in Transportation Committee.
  - ACTION NEEDED: Rep. Moore is on the Transportation Committee. Contact him.
- Exempt 100% of a Veteran's Military Pension from State Income Tax
  - HB 66: To A & R. The problem: this bill would exclude all military pension income but beginning in 2021. It still keeps the current pension exclusion at \$31,110, a 10K reduction enacted last year and hurting veterans now.
  - HB 58: Not moving. Posted in Committee. Excludes \$41,110 of all "pension income"
  - HB 15: Similar to HB 58. Excludes \$41,110 of pension income. Sent to A & R.
  - ACTION NEEDED: PRESS REP. MOORE TO AMEND HB 66 TO INCREASE THE CURRENT EXCLUSION BACK TO \$41,110.
- Nurse Student Load Repayment Program
  - HB 296: Passed the House 95-0. Sent to Senate VMAPP. Should be heard this Thursday.
- Clarify the Veterans Preference Law to Include Veteran Spouses
  - HB 338: Passed the House 95-0. Sent to State and Local Government Committee.
- Amend Current State and Local Rescue Law to Include Green Alerts
  - HB 180 with floor amendment to separate Green Alert from Golden Alert. Sent to Senate VMAPP.
  - SB 55 with committee sub. to separate as above. Passed Senate with committee sub. 37-0. Sent to House VMAPP Committee.



# Events & News

## (March)



- 6 Mar 19: House VMAPP Meeting
- 7 Mar 19: Senate VMAPP Meeting
- 13 Mar 19: Veterans Program Trust Fund Meeting, Frankfort, KY
- 16-17 Mar 19: VFW Spring Conference, Bowling Green, KY
- 19 Mar 19: KDVA Cemetery Directors Conference, Frankfort, KY
- 20-21 Mar 19: Benefits Branch Conference & Training, Louisville, KY
- 22 Mar 19: Meet & Greet New Director at Robly Rex VAMC, Louisville, KY
- 25 Mar 19: Kentucky Commissioner of Military Affairs Executive Committee Meeting, Frankfort, KY
- 28 Mar 19: 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Honors Dinner, Elizabethtown, KY
- 29 Mar 19: Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony, Capitol Rotunda



# Events & News

## (April)



- 6 Apr 19: American Gold Star Mothers Annual Meeting, Owensboro, KY
- 12-13 Apr 19: American Legion Ky Dept Spring Conference, Erlanger, KY
- 18 Apr 19: Governor's Advisory Board Meeting, Frankfort, KY
- 24 Apr 19: NKY Military-Veteran Coalition Gathering, Burlington, KY
- 27 Apr 19: Honor Flight, Lexington, KY
- 28 Apr 19: Military Children's Appreciation Day, Louisville, KY



Questions?