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

Jonathan Melton (19)
270-705-3331

Johnny Allen (17)
270-399-1618

Carol Livingston (6)
270-556-0474

New Position Vacant (1)

Hope King (3)
270-484-7887

Stephen Buford (9)
270-576-3534

Eileen Ward (5)
859-325-8288

Mike Miller (14)
859-553-9144

Juanita Hendrickson (16)
606-231-1318

Wendi Maxwell (12)
859-409-6551

New Position Vacant (12)

Penny Lawson (7)
859-432-6121

Linda Knighton (15)
606-585-3833

Ashley Talbot (10)
859-409-6485

Frank Niederriter (11)
502-799-3588

Jennifer Lett (2)
270-446-9010

Revised 1 March 2019
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 1,157
Total 4,304
Cremated 1,251

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central
Opened June 1, 2007
Interments:
Veterans 4,954
Dependents 1,215
Total 6,169
Cremated 1,851

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North
Opened August 22, 2008
Interments:
Veterans 1,402
Dependents 310
Total 1,712
Cremated 659

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East
Opened October 1, 2010
Interments:
Veterans 836
Dependents 184
Total 1,020
Cremated 301

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East
Opened May 1, 2018
Interments:
Veterans 19
Dependents 4
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
Homeless Veterans Program
Financial Assistance

**FY 2018 (1 Jul 17-30 Jun 18)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total assistance paid out</td>
<td>$74,162.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. per veteran</td>
<td>$219.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans assisted with Housing</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans assisted with Utilities</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total veterans assisted</td>
<td>338</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total assistance paid out</td>
<td>$38,764.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. per veteran</td>
<td>$251.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans assisted with housing</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans assisted with Utilities</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total veterans assisted</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women Veterans Program

• Provided resources to 9 women veterans seeking mental health treatment

• New email address
  women.veterans@ky.gov

• Operation Victory house dedication
  • Date: March 2019 (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 KyVETS Program Coordinator April Brown
(502) 564-9203, email 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.

- **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?