Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

3 April 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

(District 4)
Lisa Pittman 502-356-1551
Thomas Hanner 502-356-6674
Vacant 502-229-6070

Vacant (10)
859-409-6485

Wendi Maxwell (12)
859-409-6551
New Position Vacant (12)

Lee Gordley (20)
859-270-3117

Frank Niederriter (11)
502-799-3588

Penny Lawson (7)
859-432-6121

Linda Knighton (15)
606-585-3833

Jonathan Melton (19)
270-705-3331

Johnny Allen (17)
270-399-1618

Jennifer Lett (2)
270-446-9010

Carol Livingston (6)
270-556-0474

Stephen Buford (9)
270-576-3534

Ashley Talbot (5)
859-325-8288

Mike Miller (14)
859-553-9144

Juanita Hendrickson (16)
606-231-1318

Revised 15 March 2019
Veteran Centers
As of 1 April 2019

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
156/285, 55%

Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
88/156, 56%

Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
58/120 48%

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
105/120 88%
### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West

- **Opened**: March 1, 2004
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 3,167
  - Dependents: 1,168
  - Total: 4,335
- **Cremated**: 1,265

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

- **Opened**: June 1, 2007
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 5,016
  - Dependents: 1,234
  - Total: 6,250
- **Cremated**: 1,874

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

- **Opened**: August 22, 2008
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 1,415
  - Dependents: 311
  - Total: 1,726
- **Cremated**: 665

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East

- **Opened**: October 1, 2010
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 849
  - Dependents: 187
  - Total: 1,037
- **Cremated**: 308

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East

- **Opened**: May 1, 2018
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 19
  - Dependents: 4
  - Total: 23
- **Cremated**: 7

**Total**: 13,371
Homeless Veterans Program

• Operation Victory renovation of a house in Louisville for a homeless veteran. Dedication set for Monday, 22 April 2019.

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

• 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.

• Homeless Veteran 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)
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 $42,664.10
Avg. per veteran $249.50
Veterans assisted with housing 94
Veterans assisted with Utilities 77
Total veterans assisted 171
Women Veterans Program

- Provided resources to 9 women veterans seeking mental health treatment
- Email address
  women.veterans@ky.gov
- Operation Victory house dedication
  - Date: 22 April 2019
  - Location: Teamsters Local Union 89
    3813 Taylor Blvd
    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 is April Brown (502) 564-9203, email april.brown@ky.gov
Veterans Program Trust Fund

13 March 2019 Meeting
• 10 Grant Applicants
• 10 Grants Approved
Total Obligated $186,535.00

Next Meeting 12 June 2019
• Limited to 10 Grant Applicants
• Suspense for grant applications is 13 May 2019
Legislative Update

• Property Tax Exemption for Veteran Service Organizations
  • HB 153: The version that KDVA drafted was sent to A & R where it DIED
  • ACTION NEEDED: VSOs need to contact their legislators.
  • KDVA sent the “preferred” bill draft to DJ Johnson for next session

• Fee Free License Plate for 100% Disabled Veterans
  • HB 277: Extends free plate to those NOT 100% but paid at 100% rate. Died in Transportation Committee.
  • ACTION NEEDED: Establish key contacts in Transportation Committee

• Exempt 100% of a Veteran’s Military Pension from State Income Tax
  • HB 66, HB 58, and HB 15: All died in A & R.
  • ACTION NEEDED: FULL COURT PRESS REP. MOORE AND CONTACTS IN A & R.

• Nurse Student Load Repayment Program
  • HB 296: Signed by Governor Bevin.
  • Next Session: ABR to fund program.
  • Effective Date: 1 January 2020
  • Anticipated first payout: 2021 after one year of satisfactory performance

• Clarify the Veterans Preference Law to Include Veteran Spouses
  • HB 338: Signed by the Governor.

• Amend Current State and Local Rescue Law to Include Green Alerts
  • SB 55: Signed by the Governor.
Events & News
(April)

• 6 Apr 19: American Gold Star Mothers Annual Meeting, Owensboro, KY
• 11 Apr 19: Military Honors Ceremony, Lexington, KY
• 12-13 Apr 19: American Legion Ky Dept Spring Conference, Erlanger, KY
• 14 Apr 19: Military Day at The Races Presented by Marathon, Keeneland, Lexington, KY
• 16 Apr 19: WE Day Community for Kentucky Middle Schools, Louisville, 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
Events & News
(May)

• 9 May 19: Spring Veterans Graduation & Recognition Ceremony, Richmond, KY

• 16 May 19: VRUCK Meeting, Lexington, KY

• 17 May 19: 100th Louisville Armed Forces Dinner, Louisville, KY

• 18 May 19: Patriot Guard Flags Ride For USA Cares, Wickliffe, KY

• 18 May 19: Cub Scouts Troop 168 Veteran Honors Dinner, Olive Hill, KY

• 27 May 19: Memorial Day Ceremony, Kentucky National Guard Memorial, Frankfort, KY

• 28 May 19: Honor Flight Bluegrass, Louisville, KY
Questions?