Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

5 June 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
KDVA Benefits Branch Field Offices

22 Field Representatives in 19 Districts

- **Primary Office**
- **Outstation Office**

### Field Representatives in 19 Districts

- **District 1**: Darrin Toler (1), 270-484-7887
- **District 2**: Lisa Satcher (2), 270-576-3534
- **District 3**: Ashley Talbot (5), 859-325-8288
- **District 4**: Frank Niederritter (11), 502-229-6070
- **District 5**: Johnny Allen (17), 270-446-9010
- **District 6**: Jonathan Melton (19), 270-705-3331
- **District 7**: Penny Lawson (7), 859-432-6121
- **District 8**: Christopher Kenny (18), 606-629-9239
- **District 9**: Mike Miller (14), 859-553-9144
- **District 10**: Bryan Merch (12), 859-409-6551
- **District 11**: Patrick Monk (12)
- **District 12**: Penny Lawson (7)
- **District 13**: Frank Niederritter (11)
- **District 14**: Wendi Maxwell (12)
- **District 15**: Linda Knighton (15), 606-585-3833
- **District 16**: Lisa Pittman, 502-799-3588
- **District 17**: Jennifer Lett (2), 502-799-3588
- **District 18**: Penny Lawson (7)
- **District 19**: Larrissa Roach (1), 859-409-6551
- **District 20**: Thomas Hanner, 502-454-8000

**Revised 8 May 2019**
Veteran Centers
As of 1 June 2019

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
165/285, 58%

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

Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff, KY
65/120 54%

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

**As of 1 June 2019**

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West

- **Opened**: March 1, 2004
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 3,195
  - Dependents: 1,182
  - Total: 4,377
- **Cremated**: 1,263

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central

- **Opened**: June 1, 2007
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 5,102
  - Dependents: 1,258
  - Total: 6,360
- **Cremated**: 1,971

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North

- **Opened**: August 22, 2008
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 1,450
  - Dependents: 322
  - Total: 1,772
- **Cremated**: 685

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East

- **Opened**: October 1, 2010
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 873
  - Dependents: 190
  - Total: 1,063
- **Cremated**: 319

### Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East

- **Opened**: May 1, 2018
- **Interments**:
  - Veterans: 22
  - Dependents: 4
  - Total: 26
- **Cremated**: 9

**Total**: 13,598
Homeless Veterans Program

• Construction begins on Saturday June 8, 2019 on the newest project for Operation Victory. The home is located at 3805 Parthenia Ave in Louisville. Completion expected by September 2019.

• Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 2 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: **$56,255.87**
- Avg. per veteran: **$242.48**
- Veterans assisted with housing: 117
- Veterans assisted with Utilities: 115
- Total veterans assisted: 232
Women Veterans Program

• Email address: women.veterans@ky.gov

• April Brown is acting program manager for Women Veterans Program. Can be reached via cell 502-234-4854
  • Please share any women veterans events with KDVA for us to post on our web page and social media

• Planning Women Veterans Conference for November 2019
Employment Support Program

KyVets Veteran Services:
• Resume review and update
• Referral to employers
• Referral to other resources
• Education & Training
• HireKy 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 or kyvets@ky.org
Veterans Program Trust Fund

13 March 2019 Meeting

• 10 Grant Applicants
• 10 Grants Approved
Total Obligated $196,525

Next Meeting 12 June 2019

• 11 Grant Applicants
• Suspense for grant applications was 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: Deputy Commissioner, Chief of Staff, and General Counsel met May 17 with Transportation key players (Brian Ingle, Godwin Onodu, and Ainsley Snyder) and established important bridge for next legislative session.
  - Next meeting: July 26

- 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
(June)

• 3 June 19: Governor Bevin Signing Bills, including Nurses Tuition
• 5 June 19: Groundbreaking for Gold Star Family Monument
• 6 June 19: Bravo Zulu WWII Veterans Appreciation
• 7 June 19: WWII Veteran Appreciation Flight
• 7 June 19: French Legion of Honor Presentation to Alvin Perry at THVC
• 8 June 19: VFW Department of Kentucky State Convention
• 8 June 19: Demolition Day for Third Operation Victory House
• 10 June 19: KY Habitat for Humanity Award Ceremony
• 12 June 19: Veterans Program Trust Fund Meeting
Events & News (July)

- 18 June 19: KCMA Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 June 19: VEAC Meeting
- 20-23 June 19: American Legion Department of Kentucky State Convention
- 21 June 19: DAV Annual State Convention
- 27 June 19: VEAC Meeting
- 4 July 19: Independence Day
- 11, 18, and 25 July 19: VEAC Meeting
- 6 August 19: Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- July 11-16 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Louisville
Questions?