Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Joint Executive Council for Veterans Organizations

7 August 2019

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

- Barbourville Outstation closed 1 July 2019 (Use Corbin or Pineville outstations, or London field office)
- Cynthiana Outstation closing 1 September 2019 (Use Williamstown outstation, or Mt. Sterling, Lexington, or Georgetown field offices)
- Maysville Outstation closing 1 September 2019 (Use Flemingsburg outstation)
- Irvine Outstation closing 1 September 2019 (Use Berea, Stanton, Beattyville, or Mt. Sterling outstation)
Veteran Centers

As of 1 August 2019

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center, Wilmore, KY
165/285 = 58% (+3% since last meeting)
Opened in 1991

Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, KY
91/156 = 58% (+2% since last meeting)
Opened in 2002

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center, Hazard, KY
110/120 = 92% (+4% since last meeting)
Opened in 2013

Radcliff Veterans Center, Radcliff KY
71/120 = 59% (+9% since last meeting)
Opened in 2017
Veterans Cemeteries
As of 1 August 2019

KVCW, Hopkinsville, KY
Opened March 1, 2004
Interments:
Veterans 3,231
Dependents 1,196
Total 4,427
Cremated 1,279

KVCC, Radcliff, KY
Opened June 1, 2007
Interments:
Veterans 5,194
Dependents 1,283
Total 6,477
Cremated 2,024

KVCN, Williamstown, KY
Opened August 22, 2008
Interments:
Veterans 1,479
Dependents 330
Total 1,809
Cremated 705

KVCNE, Grayson, KY
Opened October 1, 2010
Interments:
Veterans 896
Dependents 201
Total 1,097
Cremated 332

KVCSE, Hyden, KY
Opened May 1, 2018
Interments:
Veterans 26
Dependents 4
Total 30
Cremated 11

Total: 13,840
Homeless Veterans Program

- The current Operation Victory home on Parthenia Ave in Louisville is expected to be completed in September.
- Operation Victory will began construction on the next home as soon as the home on Parthenia Ave is completed.
- Accepting applications from homeless veterans for the next 3 homes through Operation Victory.
- Continuing to provide financial assistance for veterans to prevent homelessness or help them become housed.
- **Onetime assistance raised to $500 ($750 maximum) effective 1 July 2019.**
- **Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator is Eileen Ward, (502) 564-9203, email** [eileen.ward@ky.gov](mailto:eileen.ward@ky.gov)
Homeless Veterans Program
Financial Assistance

FY 2019 (1 Jul 18-30 Jun 19)
Total assistance paid out $62,457.65
Avg. per veteran $243.98
Veterans assisted with Housing 131
Veterans assisted with Utilities 125
Total veterans assisted 256

FY 2020 (1 Jul 19 to Present)
Total assistance paid out $13,3520.10
Avg. per veteran $409.70
Veterans assisted with housing 23
Veterans assisted with Utilities 10
Total veterans assisted 33
Women Veterans Program

• Email address
  women.veterans@ky.gov

• Women Veterans’ Town Hall Meeting:
  • We are seeking feedback on women veterans’ issues in preparation for a future women veterans’ conference 2019-2020
  • We will publish several dates for Town Hall meetings

• Please share any women veterans events with KDVA for us to post on our web page and social media

• Acting Women Veterans Program Coordinator April Brown, cell 502-234-4854, email april.brown@ky.gov
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 kylvets@ky.org
Veterans Program Trust Fund

Last Meeting 12 June 2019

• 12 Grant Applicants
• 10 Grants Approved
Total Obligated $245,582.96

Next Meeting 18 September 2019

• 10 Grant Applicants
• Deadline for submitting grant applications is 19 August 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 NEXT: Briefing to Interim Joint VMAPP Committee
  • 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. Died in Transportation Committee during last session.
  • ACTION TAKEN: KDVA continues to meet with Transportation Cabinet key players for next legislative session.
  • ACTION NEEDED: VSOs need to contact their legislators.

• 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 TAKEN: 9 July 2019 Met with Sen. Chris McDaniel
  • ACTION NEEDED: FULL COURT PRESS REP. MOORE AND CONTACTS IN A & R.

• Nurse Student Loan Repayment Program
  • HB 296: Signed by Governor Bevin.
  • ACTION NEXT: Request ABR to fund program during next legislative session.
  • Effective Date: 1 January 2020
  • Anticipated first payout: 2021 after one year of satisfactory performance
Events & News
(August/September)

• 9 Aug 19: Gold Star Families Day at the Ball Park and Military Appreciation Night, Louisville Slugger Field, Louisville, KY

• 10-15 Aug 19: National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference, Omaha, NE

• 20 Aug 19: Deadline to submit Korean War Medallion Applications to KDVA

• 6-7 Sep 19: KY Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Lexington, KY

• 18 Sep 19: KY Veterans Program Trust Fund Board Meeting, Frankfort, KY

• 20 Sep 19: Korean War Veterans Commemoration Ceremony, Frankfort, KY

• 11 Oct 19: VMAPP Committee Meeting, Frankfort, KY

• 18 Oct 19: Korean War Commemoration Presentations, Hansen, KY

• 29 Oct 19: Community Information Exchange, Ft. Knox, KY

• 3-11 Nov 19: Week of Valor events and activities, Lexington & Louisville, KY
Questions?