



ODAG-VA Newsletter

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL – VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Contact ODAG-VA:

-Phone: 717-861-8910
-Toll free: 1-800-547-2838
-Fax: 717-861-8589

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www.dvvh.pa.gov

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center:

www.gmvc.pa.gov

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home:

www.hvh.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home:

www.pssh.pa.gov

Southeastern Veterans' Center:

www.sevc.pa.gov

Southwestern Veterans' Center:

www.swvc.pa.gov

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Brigadier General Tony Carrelli Has Been Confirmed As The Adjutant General

The Senate had confirmed Tony Carrelli to serve permanently as Pennsylvania's Adjutant General pending confirmation by the State Senate. Brig. Gen. Carrelli has served in his acting role leading the Pennsylvania National Guard and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs since January 2016.

"Brig. Gen. Carrelli exemplifies all the characteristics we expect from public servants and has served Pennsylvania and our nation with distinction for more than thirty years," Governor Wolf said. "I look forward to working with Tony to continue our work to ensure Pennsylvania National Guard members are safe abroad and that Pennsylvania is ready to respond to emergencies and threats on the home front.

Just as important is our work to provide the care and resources needed by our military members and veterans at home, including working to end veterans' homelessness and better serve veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Injuries. "Legislative leaders from the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee joined Governor Wolf in praising Brig. Gen. Carrelli."

"Brig. Gen. Carrelli has long been engaged with the military and is a veteran of numerous operations. He is highly decorated and well-regarded -- a person of impeccable credentials who has commanded troops in difficult environments," Senate Minority Leader and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Minority Chair Jay Costa said. "He has compiled a distinguished career and has repeatedly demonstrated leadership skills and abilities. As a command pilot and veteran of overseas duty with experience in multi-service military operations, Brig. Gen. Carrelli is exceptionally prepared and qualified to serve the citizens of Pennsylvania."

Prior to his appointment as Acting Adjutant General, Carrelli assumed duties as the Deputy Adjutant General-Air, Pennsylvania National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters on January 22, 2013. He served as the primary advisor to Pennsylvania's Adjutant General on all matters pertaining to air operations and as commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He was responsible for overall operational readiness and ensuring that the 4,100 assigned members are trained and equipped to successfully accomplish their federal and state missions, Brig. Gen. Carrelli joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1999.



Unclaimed Insurance Funds Web Page

The VA Life Insurance program has announced an update to our Unclaimed Insurance Funds web page. The web page can be found on the Insurance website at <https://insurance.va.gov/UnclaimedFunds>. This update is part of a wider initiative to enhance the VA's ability to connect with Veterans and their families.

- The unclaimed funds have accumulated from the policies established under the following life insurance programs:
- United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI, 1919-1951)
- National Service Life Insurance (NSLI, 1940-1951)
- Veterans Special Life Insurance (VSLI, 1951-1956)
- Veterans' Reopened Insurance (VRI, 1965-1966), and
- Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI, 1951-Present),

The unclaimed funds **do not** cover life insurance policies issued under Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) nor Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI).

Since 1917, life insurance programs have generated a number of cases in which monies have gone unclaimed for a wide variety of reasons. The major reason these funds remain unclaimed is because the original beneficiary or an entitled family member is unable to be located.

The new web page is intended to make searching for these funds easier for Veterans and their families. A Veteran or family member can now search for unclaimed funds by entering the Veteran's last and first name to determine if monies may be owed.

If a user finds a match under a Veterans name, the web page will prompt the user to complete VA Form 29-541 Certificate Showing Residence and Heirs of Deceased Veteran or Beneficiary and fax or mail it to the VA Insurance Center, along with Proof of Identity and Proof of Entitlement. If the user is acting as a guardian, executor, administrator, or in some other representative capacity, the user must enclose appropriate documentation demonstrating their entitlement to make a claim.

Once VA Life Insurance receives the user's information, VA representatives will begin the process of verification to establish that the correct payee has been identified. This process can include the user supplying personally identifiable information, completing a form or in some cases providing a photocopy of a death certificate. Each case is unique and different requirements may apply before release of funds.

This web page is designed to give Veterans and their families a place to check and see if there is money due them and also allow the Insurance Center to locate individuals who are entitled to money. Making final financial settlement with our Veterans and their families is a win-win for everyone.

United Heroes League

The United Heroes League was founded in 2009 as Defending The Blue Line. The founder, Shane Hudella, an active National Guard First Sergeant, wanted to help military families overcome the very high costs of hockey participation. Over the years they have provided support to service members and veterans families benefits of more than \$4 million. Benefits have been provided in every state and some overseas locations. Their initial focus on hockey has grown to all sports.

The mission at United Heroes League is ensuring that children of military members are afforded every opportunity to participate in sports. They accomplish this by providing free equipment, camps, special events, and financial assistance for registration fees and other costs associated with sports. They are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. (ID#27-0711063)

Veterans and service members can access benefits through their website at: UnitedHeroesLeague.org

Veterans Pension

The VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension benefit. Veterans Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.

Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a [wartime period](#) to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

- Age 65 or older, **OR**
- Totally and permanently disabled, **OR**
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, **OR**
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, **OR**
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension benefit. Learn more about [income and net worth limitation](#), and see an example of how VA calculates the VA Pension benefit.

Veterans or surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pension and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible for an [additional monetary payment](#).

To apply for Veterans Pension, download and complete [VA Form 21-527EZ](#), "Application for Pension". You can mail your application to the [Pension Management Center \(PMC\) that serves your state](#). You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the [VA Facility Locator](#)

To apply for increased pension based on A&A or Housebound payments, write to the PMC that serves your state and provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's report, that validates the need for an increased benefit.

DMVA Hail And Farewell

We welcome Ms. Joan Hess, the newest employee to DMVA's Office of Veterans Affairs. She comes to us as a clerk typist and will support the Persian Gulf Bonus Program.

Ms. Hess brings a wealth of knowledge to the staff and is an Army Veteran. We look forward to great things from her. Please give her a warm welcome.

Her contact information is 717-861-6491 and by email at joahess@pa.gov.

Outreach Team Calendar Of Upcoming Events

Looking for available benefits, need help, or just want to talk to a Veterans Service Officer? Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Outreach team will be at the following events:

- 153rd Anniversary Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 7:30 a.m.—6 p.m. 965 Pumping Station Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325
- 1st Annual Weekend at Stueie's, July 9 & 10, 10 a.m.—5 p.m. River Front Park, South Eaton Street, Berwick, PA 18603
- Senator White and Representative Nelson Senior Expo, Tuesday, July 12, 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Delmont Volunteer Fire Department, 2360 PA-66, Delmont, PA 15626
- Vet Fest, July 16 & 17, 10 a.m.—9 p.m. Steel Stacks Venue, Bethlehem, PA 18015
- Rolling Thunder Annual Ride, Sunday, July 17, 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, 401 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503
- Representative Brett Miller's Vet Expo, Thursday, July 21, 4 p.m.—8 p.m. Manor West Commons, 2938 Columbia Avenue, Suite 501, Lancaster, PA 17603
- Representative Metzgar's Senior Health Expo, Monday, July 25, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Somerset Area Junior High School, 654 South Columbia Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501
- Congressman Tom Marino's Senior Health Fair, Monday, July 25, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Selinsgrove VFW Post 6631, 940 US-522, Selinsgrove, PA 17870



For a complete schedule of our events visit: <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/Pages/Events-Calendar.aspx>

DMVA's Educational Gratuity Program

DMVA's Educational Gratuity program provides financial assistance to children of honorably discharged Veterans who have service-connected disabilities and served during a period of war or armed conflict or children of veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

The Veteran must have died in service during a period of war or armed conflict, be honorably discharged, served during established war service dates as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs and must have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The child must be between the ages of 16 and 23, live within the commonwealth five years prior to the application and must attend a school within the commonwealth. The applicant must have a financial need.

To learn more view [here](#).

Veterans Designation

Act 176 of 2012 allows for the issuance of a Pennsylvania Driver's License or Identification Card that clearly indicates that the bearer is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces. This is accomplished by adding a Veterans Designation directly to the bearer's drivers license or identification card.

Qualified applicants for a Veterans Designation on their drivers license or identification card include those who have received a Certificate of Release or discharge from active duty/DD214 or equivalent for service in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the National Guard

Once the Veterans Designation is added to your license or ID, it will automatically appear each time your license or ID is renewed.

The Veterans Designation does not entitle a Veteran to any special consideration or discount but rather identifies the bearer as a Veteran, who honorably served their nation and commonwealth. Any other recognition such as a discount, free meal or other token of appreciation is completely and solely determined by the organization, business or entity providing a service.

There is no fee for the Veterans Designation; however qualified applicants must pay any initial issuance, renewal or duplicate driver's license or ID fees.



Misrepresentation will result in the cancellation of your driver's license and/or identification card. Only applicants who have received a DD214 or equivalent for service in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the National Guard, who were discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable, should apply the Veterans Designation to their drivers license or identification card. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs audits submissions to verify Veteran status. Claiming Veterans status when not a Veteran has serious consequences including the loss of driver's license or ID.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadTheWord



**Let Veterans know
they're not alone. Share
to show your support.**

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Events Throughout DMVA's State Veterans' Homes



A big thank you goes to GE Power & Water for holding its community service day at DMVA's Delaware Valley Veterans' Home in Philadelphia. The 140 volunteers worked on a variety of projects including painting "Main Street" and the "B" unit, hosting bingo, painting murals, planting flowers and sponsoring a special BBQ. Thank you for supporting our residents.

Residents, staff and their families of the Southwestern Veterans' Center in Pittsburgh enjoyed a carnival as part of State Veterans' Homes Week complete with games, food and a petting zoo.



Events Throughout DMVA's State Veterans' Homes



The Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center in Scranton hosted a picnic complete with a dunk tank.

Acting Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Tony Carrelli visited DMVA's Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home this week as the home celebrated State Veterans' Homes Week with a flag retirement ceremony and carnival.



*I'm a Veteran.
I know what it's like.
Hear my story.*

MAKE THE CONNECTION
www.MakeTheConnection.net

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home Celebrates the Army's Birthday



DMVA's Delaware Valley Veterans' Home was visited by a trio of special guests including Under Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy, Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey and the Philadelphia Phillies very own Phillie Phanatic. The three visited with residents, staff and their families and celebrated the U.S. Army's 241st birthday.



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