DMVA News

**Blind Veterans Pension:**
The Blind Veterans Pension program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and provides eligible blind veterans with a pension of $150 per month. For more information visit [Website](#).

**Veterans benefits 2020 - Largest Or Most Successful State Employer Of Veterans:**
"One of Pennsylvania's largest employers of veterans is the state itself. The state's pride in its veterans recently led to an initiative spearheaded by the governor that saw more than 14,000 state employees who also served in the military honored with a lapel pin. The pin features the U.S. and Commonwealth flags signifying dual service status. Pennsylvania also boasts strong state support through the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans' Services ""Pennsylvania's first interagency cooperative approach to providing veteran services," said PA's adjutant general and head of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli. [Website](#).

**Pennsylvania Keeping Pace With State Veterans' Benefits During COVID-19:**
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' (DMVA) commitment to provide benefits to the state's nearly 800,000 veterans during COVID-19 has yielded stronger collaboration with county and federal advocates. "Veterans are an important part of Pennsylvania's population, having served our country by fighting for our freedoms and keeping us safe," said Maj. Gen. (ret.) Eric Weller, deputy adjutant general of Veterans Affairs at DMVA. [Website](#).

**Avoiding Foreclosure, Resources For Veterans:**
If you're having difficulty making your mortgage payment, contact your loan servicer right away. PA's Attorney General Josh Shapiro issued a press release stating that Pennsylvanians cannot be evicted during a state of emergency. The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has an emergency grant called Veterans Temporary Assistance. Veterans need to contact their county director of veterans affairs, or call DMVA's Office for Veterans Affairs at 717-861-8910 to initiate that process. Also, PA Care Package looks to focus on partnering with banks throughout the
commonwealth and ensure consumers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for economic relief. Website.

**PA Veterans Homes-Specific COVID-19 Updates:**
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs puts the highest priority on the health and safety of the nearly 1,300 veterans homes residents we serve and the dedicated staff who serve them. To learn how our six veterans homes continue to serve Pennsylvania veterans during COVID-19 visit Website.

**DMVA's Southeastern Veterans' Center Is Hiring:**
The Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring City (Chester County) is hiring. Immediate positions are available for Nurse Aide Trainees, Certified Nurse Aides and Security Officers. Website.

**DMVA Is Hiring Nurses:**
At the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, we currently have immediate openings for rewarding careers in nursing across Pennsylvania. Website.

### Around the State

**Local Congressman Advocates For Bedford County WWII Veteran To Receive Medal Of Honor:**
Congressman John Joyce is advocating for a former Bedford County resident, who was killed in WWII, to be awarded with the Medal of Honor. Joyce has introduced a measure for Lt. Eric Fisher Wood Jr., who was killed in action in January of 1945, to receive the accolade for his "acts of valor during the Battle of the Bulge." Website.

**Local Veteran Publishes First Book Through Pretzel City Press LLC:**
L.D. Zane's first published short story anthology, "It's Always My Fault & Other Short Stories" is now available for purchase on Amazon, with autographed copies available through the publisher. A percentage of profits from each book will be donated to Veterans Making a Difference, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit helping veterans in need in Berks County, founded by veterans Doug and Liz Graybill. Website.

**Recorder Of Deeds Office To Bring Facemasks To Southeastern Veterans' Center:**
Officials from the Recorder of Deeds office of Chester County will deliver face masks to residents at the Southeastern Veterans' Center branded with their respective branch of military. The masks were handmade in the United States and gifted by an anonymous donor. They vary in size and are printed with designs relating to the U.S. Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. Website.
African Americans In Erie County "“ A Trail Of Shared Heritage:
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home is one of 29 sites on the Trail of Shared Heritage, a new Black history initiative in Erie County. To see the full list visit Website.

Midland Cemetery, Home To Graves Of Black Civil War Veterans, Is Now Owned By Group That Is Restoring It:
For decades, the nonprofit Friends of Midland group has been working to restore the historic Midland Cemetery in Swatara Township (Dauphin County) which holds the graves of many Black Civil War veterans and generations of community leaders. With the stroke of a pen, a Dauphin County judge has just made that group the official owner of the 225-year-old burial ground, which had been abandoned and left to fall into ruin. Website.

How Delaware County Marked Triumph Of Victory Over Japan Day:
As Japanese officials took to the airwaves on the morning of Aug. 15, 1945, to proclaim the nation would soon accept the surrender terms of the Potsdam Declaration, the American people, who had toiled for years to ensure that result, waited by their radios across the date line on the evening of Aug. 14. Website.

Across the Nation

Navy Veteran Finds New Mission Playing 'Taps':
After being laid off from his job in the electronics industry about 12 years ago, Navy veteran Jim Reynolds revisited his roots for a new sense of purpose. Figuratively dusting off the bugle of his youth, Reynolds has been on a mission to play taps wherever and whenever he's needed as a solemn message of mourning and thanks for military service. Website.

Learn To Market To The Department Of Defense As A Veteran Owned Small Business:
Pursuing Department of Defense (DoD) contracts is not for everyone; it requires patience, persistence and an in-depth understanding of federal acquisition rules. The guide to marketing to the DoD will provide you with what you need to know. Website.

Here Are The Two Veteran-Supporting Bills President Trump Just Signed Into Law:
President Donald Trump signed legislation recently that will broaden options for troubled veterans in the legal system and expand a home renovations grant program for disabled and blind veterans. Website.

More Dental And Vision Insurance Plans To Be Offered For 2021 Open Season:
Federal employees and military retirees will have more insurance plans to choose from this year, as the Office of Personnel Management announced that it has selected the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program insurance carriers that will be available for coverage in 2021. [Website.]

**Consumer Resources For COVID-19 Scams:**
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the United States, the FCC has learned of scam text-message campaigns and robocalls that prey on virus-related fears. If you think you've been a victim of a COVID-19 scam, contact law enforcement immediately. [Website.]

**WWII Aircraft Arrive In Hawaii Aboard Amphibious Assault Ship Essex For End Of WWII's 75th Anniversary:**
Historic World War II aircraft made it to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the war. The aircraft, which were hauled from San Diego aboard the amphibious assault ship Essex, arrived in Hawaii for multiple flyovers to take place this and next month. [Website.]

**VA Decreases Mail Processing Time For Claims Intake:**
The VA announced the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has improved procedures by incorporating an artificial intelligence solution to reduce the time it takes to process incoming mail from 10 days to just one day. The software reads the mail document contents and automatically routes it to VA employees working the next step of the claims process which means faster processing of the information veterans send to VBA in support of their claims. [Website.]

**Employment Opportunities**

*This listing is offered as a resource to both Pennsylvania's veterans and businesses that seek to employ veterans. The DMVA has not investigated the positions being offered or the businesses listed, and does not warrant or guarantee either the availability or the terms and conditions of the positions listed. Please contact the employers represented in this listing directly. To have an employment opportunity listed please email: RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov*

**Become A Commonwealth Nurse:**
Help a veteran who has served their country. Comfort a person in need. The commonwealth is hiring nurses throughout Pennsylvania, offering a competitive benefits package including a state retirement, high starting salary and more. Apply today! [Website.]

**DMVA Is Hiring:**
WE'RE HIRING! The needs of Pennsylvania’s veterans do not diminish during this time, and the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) needs staff to
serve and care for veterans at each of our six veterans homes. Working at one of the homes is a rewarding career with great benefits. The DMVA has immediate job openings for: certified nurse aides; licensed practical nurses; registered nurses; registered nurse supervisors; registered PRN nurses; custodial workers; food service workers and security officers. Apply online at Website.

**Pittsburgh Virtual Career Expo:**
- Aug. 20, 2020, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Exhibitors from various industries will be actively seeking candidates for hundreds of positions. Live chat with local employers, access resume writing services and visit with community resources at the expo.
- Register at Website.

**Virtual Job Fair Hosted By Jobs717.com:**
- Sept. 15-30, 2020
- For more information Contact Us.
- Register before Aug. 28, 2020. During the two-week job fair, potential candidate notifications will be sent to you via email. From there you can schedule a follow up time that works for you.
- To register, visit Website.

**Virtual Veterans Expo And Job Fair For Camp Hill, Lebanon And York Areas:**
- Sept 15-30, 2020
- A virtual job fair to learn about job opportunities and businesses and organizations that offer products and services to the community.
- To register and for more information go to Website.

**Looking For Some Country Air? These Rural VA Sites Have Jobs:**
Are green, open spaces calling your name? You're not alone. A growing number of Americans are opting out of cities in favor of rural areas and small towns. As the only nationwide health care system in the U.S., VA has more than 2,000 locations in every state in the nation, the District of Columbia and several U.S. territories. Clinics and medical centers can be found in some of America's best small towns, and many locations are currently hiring. Website.

**Awards Funding To Support Business Expansion And Job Creation In Three Counties:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced four new low-interest loan approvals through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority that will support the purchase of new technology and equipment; construct new warehouses, distribution facilities, and business parks; and support the creation of new full-time jobs across the commonwealth. Website.
Army National Guard Career Management Fields Specialist For NCO Academy:
Strategy Consulting Team is seeking to hire a career management fields specialist for the Army National Guard to provide career management fields training services for NCO Academy in Annville, PA (Lebanon County), starting August 2020. For more information and to apply visit Website.

Brewery BGBC LLC Is Hiring Cooks:
- Part-Time Cooks
- 1250 Simon Blvd. K100, Easton, PA (Northampton County)
- For more information contact Thomas Thomasik at 610-704-0413 or email at tthomasik@gmail.com
- The Brewery BGBC LLC is looking for two part-time cooks for their small brew pub
- Facebook.

Butcher Apprenticeship Program:
Penn State Extension is hosting a 40-week butcher apprenticeship program. Apprentices will receive four months of in-classroom instruction and meats lab training in State College, followed by a six-month paid external apprenticeship from January to September 2021 at a Pennsylvania meat processor. For more information visit Website.

Don Farr Moving And Storage Is Hiring In Allegheny County:
Don Farr is hiring for driver helper/laborer, delivery driver CDL A and delivery driver non-CDL. The positions include benefits package, promotion opportunities and job training. All positions are full-time with guaranteed minimum weekly hours. Don Farr moves military and veterans year round locally, regionally, and across the country. To apply, email Stefanie.Doyle@careerlinkpittsburgh.org or at Website.

Exide Technologies Is Hiring In Lancaster, PA:
Exide Technologies is a global provider of stored electrical energy solutions, batteries and associated equipment and services for transportation and industrial markets. Your valiant service is not taken for granted at Exide Technologies. The skills you gained will be put to good use to help drive their mission forward. Exide Technologies offers a veterans-friendly culture from the executive suite to every other level in the company. Check the company out to see where you fit in. Website.

Immediate Need To Fill VA Housekeeping Staff Positions Nationwide:
VA is seeking housekeeping staff to fill numerous, immediate openings at health care facilities across the country. Temporary, permanent, part-time and full-time positions are available. The housekeeping staff supports the mission to help veterans get better fast by keeping facilities clean and safe for patients, staff and visitors. And veterans who become housekeeping aides will work alongside fellow veterans, who make up 85 percent of VA’s custodial staff. Website.
PA Department Of Health Is Hiring Contact Tracing Field Managers:
Contact tracing field managers are being hired for regions across the state. If you’re interested in coordinating and leading COVID-19 contact tracing efforts in PA, visit Website.

Jockey In Hershey, PA Is Hiring Veterans And Military:
- Part time opportunity for key holder and sales associate
- Tanger Outlets, 159 Outlet Square, Hershey, PA (Dauphin County)
- For more information call 717-520-0880
- The Jockey clothing outlet in Hershey has two job openings available to military members, veterans and their families.

Virtual Digital Media Internships For Students:
A Virtual Student Federal Service internship with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Digital Media Engagement Team provides the perfect opportunity to gain practical work experience, apply current skills, learn new skills, network and collaborate with a team of dedicated interns from across the country and VA employees while supporting and honoring our nation's veterans. College students interested in work experience at VA on projects in social media, writing, graphic design, web design and more should apply now. Website.

Apprenticeship Pilot For Transitioning Service Members Will Boost Career Skills:
A new VETS Apprenticeship program assists transitioning veterans and spouses define a post-service career path. Apprenticeships connect talented workers with employers and networks in their desired industries and post-service locations. Learn how to gain paid, relevant workplace experience, classroom instruction and a nationally recognized credential. Website.

Career Link-Translate Your Military Skills And Experience:
PA Career Link helps find civilian occupations that best align with your military skills, experience and training. Career Link offers a variety of veteran services for transitioning to civilian professions. Website.

Post-Military Career At VA:
Job changes can be stressful and transitioning to your first civilian career after life in the military only adds another layer of complexity. VA understands the challenges that come with that transition. VA patients are veterans, and many of VA employees are former military as well. Many have walked in your shoes. Pursue a career at one of the most veteran-friendly employers in the country. Website.
Veteran Caregiver Respite Weekend "Presented By Pennsylvania Outdoor Veterans:"
- Aug. 21-23, 2020, check-in after 2 p.m. Friday and check-out on Sunday after 11 a.m.
- 289 Starlight Rd., Starlight, PA (Wayne County)
- Contact Miranda Moyer at 610-390-0963 (Text preferred) or email mmoyer1219@gmail.com
- Pre-registration is required. You will need the veterans DD214 or other form of ID for the veteran to attach to the online registration. There is a $25 fee which is refundable upon arrival.
- Register at Website.

Gino J. Merli Veterans Benefit Ride:
- Aug. 22, 2020, Registration, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
- Electric City Harley Davidson, 1534 Scranton Carbondale Hwy, Scranton, PA (Lackawanna County); 30-35 minute ride (starts and end at Electric City Harley Davidson)
- For more information call Joe Kester at 272-800-8990.
- The event including food, drinks, and a band that will be playing at Harley Davidson. All proceeds for the event will be given to veterans living at the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center in Scranton.

27th Annual POW/MIA Ride For Freedom:
- Aug. 30, 2020, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Start at Reading Motorcycle Club, 208 Jefferson St., Oley, PA (Berks County)
- It is not an organized ride but more like a poker run of small groups or by yourself but without the dots so you can take any route you want.
- For more information visit Website.

Military Share Food Distribution:
- Aug. 31, 2020, 1 p.m.
- 727 Goucher St., Johnstown, PA (Cambria County)
- Call Kim Portser at 814-255-7209 or email at portserk@vlpwpa.org
- Fresh produce and shelf-stable goods. Strict safety and social distancing practices will be in place. Drive-through and walk-up available. All veterans and military families in need of food assistance are welcome. No pre-registration or R.S.V.P. required.
- For more information visit Facebook.
**Battling PTSD With Equine Assisted Therapy:**
- Sept. 3, 2020, eight-week veteran group course
- To register for a group email info@takeheartcounseling.com
- Meal and activities focused on overcoming PTSD, reintegration, emotion regulation, meaning and purpose after the war, build camaraderie.
- For more information visit [Website](#).

**Glenn Hope Farms Is Training Veterans:**
- Sept. 17, 2020
- Schedule with Aimee Jo Morris at 717-891-7797 or email at aimee@glennhopeagricare.com
- Glenn Hope Farms is looking for at least 10 veterans for a program that is a vocational training introduction. The one-day teaching event would be an introduction about riparian buffers (trees, shrubs, and other types of vegetation in a streamside forest make up a filter strip along waterways known as a forest riparian buffer). These plants buffer waterways from the impacts of surrounding land use. There will be three instructors from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who would do some powerpoint presentations along with a hands-on tree planting demo and maintenance of invasive species removal, if any are present.

**8th Veteran Shark Tank:**
- Submission deadline Oct. 20, 2020, midnight
- If you are a veteran business owner and want to participate, please sign up using the online portal. The final event in Philadelphia on Dec. 7, 2020, will feature five veteran business owners who pitch and compete for a large cash prize. Each contestant gains valuable experience to professionally grow while creating relationships that will last a lifetime.
- Application form [Website](#).

**Veterans Breakfast Club Webinar:**
- Every Monday at 7 p.m. and every Wednesday at 1 p.m.
- Contact Ellie DePastino at ellie@veteransbreakfastclub.com
- Veterans share their stories and take questions from a live online audience.
- To access the live-streamed events visit [Website](#).

**Adult/Youth/CPS Virtual Drop-In:**
- Adult Virtual Drop-In, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., Meeting ID: 131-337-859, [Website](#).
- Youth Virtual Drop-In, Mondays and Fridays, 1-2 p.m., Meeting ID: 410-999-098, [Website](#).
- Certified Peer Specialists Virtual Drop-In, Mondays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Meeting ID: 305-863-445, [Website](#).
- Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers Association (PMHCA), Youth MOVE PA, and the Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC) understand the toll social isolation can take on our mental health. Connecting online can be a good way to alleviate this issue. The agencies have collaborated in hosting a series of Virtual Drop-In Zoom meetings to help reduce the sense of social isolation we can experience during this difficult time. [Website].

Stay Connected with the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs:
On the Web
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
View our Flickr photos
Email us at DMVA Veterans Affairs - Email Contacts

Click here to Unsubscribe
PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Bldg. 0-47 Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003