DMVA News

DMVA Launches PA VETConnect, A Statewide Outreach Initiative That Better Serves Veterans In Need Of Assistance:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) launched PA VETConnect, a statewide outreach initiative designed to better serve the commonwealth's nearly 800,000 veterans. PA VETConnect identifies and cultivates new community partnerships to simultaneously broaden referral capabilities and connect veterans to the best possible resources, regardless of the township, county or region where they reside. [Website.]

Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP):
Governor Tom Wolf signed several bills into law recently, including Senate Bill 1076 that amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in military leave of absence, further providing for military family relief assistance. [Website.]

Donate To Support Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial During The Holiday Season:
In the spirit of the holiday season, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) reminds Pennsylvanians that this is a great time to give to programs that support the commonwealth's veterans, active military and their families. Located at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Lebanon County, and maintained by the DMVA, the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial is the first in the commonwealth to honor veterans of all eras from the Revolutionary War forward and it is the largest veterans memorial located in any of the national cemeteries. Donations are accepted online or by mail to help fund the maintenance and repair of the memorial. [Website.]

Immediate Job Openings Statewide At DMVA's Pennsylvania Veterans Homes:
The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is hiring custodial worker 1, food service worker 1, and security officer 1. Did you serve in one of the branches of the Armed Services? Are you looking for a way to continue to serve others who served? DMVA operates six extended care facilities for veterans. You can be part of the mission. DMVA has immediate openings for custodial workers, food service
workers and security officers. The commonwealth offers veterans preference. Apply today at Website.

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

Armstrong County Honors Veterans:
A pair of local veterans who have continued serving their communities long after their military service ended, were honored last week by Armstrong County. Kathy Rashlich, the county's director of veterans affairs, announced that Betty Reeseman Calhoun of Dayton was named the 2020 Veteran of the Year in Armstrong County, while Walter "Butch" Confer of Parker was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. "I have a chance to work with the greatest members of our community," Rashlich said in presenting the awards, adding that local veterans should be appreciated all year, and not just on Veterans Day. Website.

Former Navy Officer Starts Veterans Support Group At East Huntingdon Counseling Center:
Keith Medley, native of Orange County, N.Y., moved to Scottdale, PA (Westmoreland County) to be close to his mother. But, like many veterans, the chief petty officer and aircraft electrician with more than 23 years of experience found adjusting to civilian life wasn't so simple. "I kind of struggled to find out where I fit," Medley said. Now, in his second career as a counselor, he's reaching out to help other former military members who are struggling. Medley is leading a veterans support group that will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Synergy Springs Soul Center, the East Huntingdon counseling center where he helps clients from all walks of life. Website.

Department Of Corrections Recognizes 293 Military Veterans:
The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections recognized 293 employees who serve or have served in the United States military by participating in Governor Tom Wolf's "Pennsylvania State Employee Military Recognition Campaign," which was implemented through executive order in June 2019. Website.

Gibsonia Veteran To Supply Craft Brewers:
Devin Winklosky and his brother-in-law, Sam Stoner, are preparing to overwinter nearly 1,500 perennial hop plants they planted on Memorial Day weekend on a two-acre section of Stoner's Unity farm in Westmoreland County, previously used as a cattle pasture and grain field. The new hop yard is the latest effort to diversify the Stoner farm, which formerly concentrated on raising dairy cattle. Winklosky has dubbed the enterprise Teufel Hunden Hops Co., which translates as "Devil Dog," a name German soldiers had for U.S. Marines in World War I. [Website]

**Operation Troop Support To Send Troops Holiday Care Packages:**
The Hampden Township (Cumberland County) Veterans Recognition Committee (HTVRC) is organizing "Operation Troop Support Holiday Care Packages 2020" to salute soldiers with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade (ECAB) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. The 28th ECAB has more than 700 members currently serving in the Middle East. Organizers of Operation Troop Support said care packages were a great way to show the community cares about deployed soldiers. "You like to think that people are thinking of you, but when you get a care package, it's so real. All of a sudden, that connection is so much stronger," said Sherri Chippo, an HTVRC board member. [Website]

### Across the Nation

**Delays In Obtaining Military Documents For Eligibility Determinations:**
Due to COVID-19 exposures occurring with increasing frequency, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has informed VA National Cemetery Administration they have shut down most of their remaining operations indefinitely. This decision negatively impacts the ability to obtain documents to determine eligibility for interment in national cemeteries. [Website]

**How Veterans Can Still Serve After They Take Off The Uniform:**
For many veterans, volunteering can ease the transition to civilian life, according to a 2017 study from Saint Louis University. The study looked at veterans volunteering with The Mission Continues, a nonprofit that partnered with other organizations to put veterans in meaningful leadership roles. That program ceased in 2018, but the organization has other programs focusing on community support. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic they've launched Operation Nourish, a nationwide effort addressing the food shortage crisis by mobilizing veteran volunteers in the distribution, growing, and supplementing of food support capacity. [Website]

**Adapt Your Car With Automobile Allowance And Adaptive Equipment Grants:**
If you have a service-related disability that prevents you from driving, VA can help you buy a specially adapted vehicle or adapt an existing vehicle to make it drivable for you. Learn how to apply for automobile allowance and adaptive equipment grants. [Website]
**Hiring Our Heroes Vehicle Giveaway:**
Hiring Our Heroes is saying thank you to America's military with a vehicle giveaway. One lucky, active duty service member, veteran or military spouse can win a brand-new Toyota. The third annual Hiring Our Heroes "Committed to America's Heroes Sweepstakes" is currently underway and will close out on December 1. [Website](#).

**Stay Safe from Scammers, Tips from the Better Business Bureau:**
The Better Business Bureau (BBB) found that online purchase scams have been in the top three types of scams since 2017. With this year's social distancing to limit exposure, and many businesses previously closed and now slowly reopening with limited hours, many consumers are turning to online purchases for home delivery. But predators have been taking advantage of this increase in online purchases. [Website](#).

**Pay Off Your School Debt Quickly With This VA Program:**
One of the most comprehensive education support programs in the nation, VA's Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP), provides up to $40,000 a year or $200,000 over a five-year period in loan repayment. EDRP has helped more than 20,000 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) employees in the hardest to fill direct patient care positions repay their student loans faster. "The beauty of the program is that it really is structured very well, making it a win-win-win for all, the participant, VHA and ultimately the veterans receiving care from some of the most skilled providers out there," said Teresa Culpepper, manager of Education Loan Repayment Services and VHA Pathways Programs officer. [Website](#).

**2020 Holiday Shipping And Mailing Dates To Military Service Members:**
To ensure delivery of holiday cards and packages to military service members by Dec. 25, the Postal Service suggests that mail be sent by the these dates. [Website](#).

**Delays In Obtaining Military Documents For Eligibility Determinations:**
Due to COVID-19, the National Personnel Records Center's Military Personnel Records facility has temporarily scaled back on-site operations to less than 10 percent of its normal operating capacity. They will continue to respond to emergency requests, but they are closed to the public and unable to service most records requests. This change in operating status became effective on Nov. 7, 2020. [Website](#).

**VA Recruiting Volunteers For COVID-19 Clinical Trials:**
As part of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the VA announced its nationwide effort to recruit volunteers for COVID-19 clinical trials at select VA facilities across the country. More than 50 VA medical centers are participating in trials to test vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. [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

DMVA Is Hiring:
DMVA is hiring custodial workers, food service workers, and security officers. Did you serve in one of the branches of the Armed Services? Are you looking for a way to continue to serve others who have served? We have the job for you! The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs operates six extended care facilities for veterans. These facilities offer eligible veterans and their spouses the highest quality of dedicated nursing care. You can be part of this amazing mission. Apply today! Website.

Virtual Veterans Expo And Job Fair For Lancaster Area:
- Now through Nov. 22, 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.

Transition From Service To The Trades:
- Nov. 19, 2020, 7 p.m.
- Preparing to transition out of the military? Consider the skilled trades training, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and appliance repair. Join the USO and Lowe’s for a series of virtual sessions to explore the skilled trades. Hear from veterans who have successfully transitioned to the trades industry and learn how to get started with training and apprenticeship opportunities.
- To register visit Website.

Waste Management Virtual Hiring Event:
- Nov. 23, 2020, on the spot interviews
- To reserve your interview time please email your name, contact phone number, and area of interest to ggilber1@wm.com or call Gia Gilbert at 402-718-1825.
- Waste Management is hiring for CDL drivers (commercial and residential), heavy equipment operators, mechanics, route managers, and operations specialists
- Waste Management offer unmatched benefits, up to $5,000 in sign-on bonuses, and career advancement opportunities.
Governor Wolf New Apprenticeships In Water Treatment, Abatement, And Industrial Manufacturing And Mechatronics:
Governor Tom Wolf announced new apprenticeship programs in Southcentral and Southeastern Pennsylvania in water treatment, abatement, and industrial manufacturing and mechatronics. The Wolf Administration is commitment to helping workers increase their skills and attracting more businesses throughout the commonwealth. [Website](#).

IBM Has A Program To Connect Vets With Technology Jobs:
IBM has a free resource that provides online job training designed for veterans looking to enter the workforce after their service and gain new skills, along with one-on-one mentoring support, to make them more resilient and successful amid COVID-19. SkillsBuild for Vets focuses on helping military veterans gain valuable technology and professional skills as they move out of the armed forces. [Website](#).

UNFI Is Hiring Order Selectors:
- Every Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., and every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- 3900 Industrial Rd., Harrisburg, PA (Dauphin County)
- Starting at $21.75-$23.75, plus incentive
- [Website](#).

VA Adds Tens Of Thousands Of Jobs, Increases Remote Options:
Even during challenging economic times, VA has added to its workforce and is poised to continue growing, according to Jessica Bonjorni, chief officer of human capital management at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Bonjorni recently joined Mike Owens, VHA marketing specialist, for "Talk About It Tuesday," a weekly broadcast on LinkedIn. [Website](#).

Launch Your VA Research Career At The VA Center Of Innovation In Health Equity Research And Promotion (CHERP) In Philadelphia:
CHERP welcomes applicants for a two-year postdoctoral research fellowship in Philadelphia. Fellows come from a range of disciplines, including health services research and policy, nursing, public health, social work, epidemiology, health economics, medical sociology, and other relevant fields. CHERP's Pittsburgh site offers five fellowship programs, including health services research, and the applications are considering on a rolling basis. [Website](#).

The 12 Coolest And Best Jobs In The Marine Corps:
With more than 180 military occupational specialties, the Marine Corps offers everything from aviation to intelligence to special operations. [Website](#).

TE Lickdale Is Hiring:
TE Lickdale is a manufacturing plant located in Jonestown, PA (Lebanon County) where it produces terminals and connectors primarily utilized in appliances. The company
employs over 500 full-time workers and 50 agency workers in various machine operator, material handling, maintenance, machining, engineering, quality, logistics, and other support positions. Website.

Veterans Employment Representative 1, Allegheny County: This position is responsible for providing employment and training services in a PA CareerLink office to eligible veterans and eligible spouses who meet the statutorily-specified definitions of an individual with a significant barrier to employment, or are members of a veteran population as identified by statute and regulation. Website.

An Essential List Of Fall Virtual Events VA job Seekers Should Attend: While in-person events are currently off the table, there are still plenty of chances to catch the VA at virtual career events. Website.

Corrections Refrigeration Mechanic Trade Instructor: Are you a journey level refrigeration or HVAC technician looking for predictability in your career? Are you seeking the next step in your professional development? If so, The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has the perfect opportunity for you as a Corrections Refrigeration Mechanic Trade Instructor. You will maintain a work crew by instructing, coaching, and educating individuals in the trade of refrigeration mechanics. This rewarding opportunity will give you the chance to change someone's life by sharing your technical expertise while also growing your own knowledge of different HVAC and refrigeration systems. Website.

PA Options For Wellness, Inc. Hiring: PA Options For Wellness, Inc. is hiring for a corporate position, general manager, dispensary position, dispensaries pharmacist and cultivation processing position for its Harrisburg, Duncannon and Lancaster locations. Their mission, through clinical research partnerships, is to be a preferred provider of medical cannabis to qualified and approved patients by providing the highest quality of product, with the greatest service, in a dignified and professional manner. PA Options for Wellness is an equal opportunity employer. For more information visit Website.

Redesigned PA CareerLink Website Helps Pennsylvanians Find Work: The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Secretary is launching a redesigned PA CareerLink website that makes it easier than ever for Pennsylvania workers, employers and workforce development groups to connect to vital job search and career development tools. "L&I is focused on training Pennsylvanian workers for the new economy emerging in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic," said Labor & Industry Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. Website.

Wolf Administration Announces New Funding For Apprenticeship Advancements And Outreach In Harrisburg:
Governor Tom Wolf announced the approval of new funding for the Iron Workers Local 404 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) through the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Apprenticeship Grant Program. This funding will support the governor's commitment to expanding job training-related opportunities throughout Pennsylvania. Website.

**Governor Wolf Announces New PPE Manufacturer Project, New Jobs In Lackawanna County:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced that Gentex Corporation, a fourth-generation, family-run, advanced manufacturer of personal protection equipment (PPE) and situational awareness systems for defense, law enforcement/first responder, and industrial safety applications has partnered with the commonwealth to expand its operations at its headquarters in Fell Twp., Lackawanna County, creating 60 new jobs and retaining 484 jobs at the facility. Website.

**PA State Police Application Process Streamlined:**
Interested in a career in law enforcement? The PA State Police has streamlined the application process for state police cadet. Website.

**Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority Awards Funding To Support Business Expansion, Job Creation In Lebanon And Snyder Counties:**
Governor Tom Wolf announced two new low-interest loan approvals through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) that will assist in the construction of a produce growing, processing, and warehouse facility in Snyder County and the demolition, renovation, and construction of an existing manufacturing property in Lebanon County that could create a combined over 60 full-time jobs. Website.

**Post 9-11 Veterans Can Find New Team With Fire Corps:**
Post-9/11 veterans looking to find a new team have a unique opportunity through the Southeast Conservation Corps Veterans Fire Corps. SECC is an AmeriCorps-affiliated nonprofit that engages recent-era veterans, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service Southeast Region. SECC started the Veterans Fire Corps program in 2018. The 10-month intensive training program engages recent-era military veterans up to age 35 in fuels reduction, fuels management, and wildland firefighting. Website.

**ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages LLC is Hiring:**
ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages LLC is one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States. ABARTA knows first-hand the benefits that come with hiring veterans as team members. Join ABARTA Coca-Cola Beverages’s work force community at Website.

**PepsiCo Is Hiring:**
Thousands of veterans have made PepsiCo their professional home, as they are one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States. PepsiCo has seen first-hand how the skills, training, and dedication to teamwork veterans bring to the team drive results. Join PepsiCo’s veteran talent community at Website.

**Waste Management Is Hiring:**
Waste Management is in need of a heavy equipment mechanic, junior diesel technician and diesel technician. Waste Management has been recognized as best employer of veterans by Military Times Top 75 and CivilianJobs.com. To see all Waste Management job listings, visit 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.

### Veteran Events

*This listing is offered as a service to individuals and organizations to promote their veteran and military-oriented events being held in Pennsylvania. The information is taken directly from emailed submissions from requestors. DMVA is not responsible for incorrect information submitted. Please send details on events to RA-VA-Newsletter@pa.gov and include the following key pieces of information: 1. Name of event, 2. Date of event, 3. Time of event, 4. Address of event, 5. County of event, 6. Event website, 7. Point of contact name, 8. POC phone number, 9. POC email address, and 10. Additional details/coordinating instructions (fees, pre-registration, etc.)*

**Humana Medicare 101:**
- Nov. 19, 2020, 1-2 p.m.
- Healthcare planning presented by Humana. Medicare eligibility, what Medicare is, Medicare options, important dates, costs and more.
- Register at Website.

**VBA Tele-Town Hall For Pennsylvania Veterans:**
- Nov. 19, 2020, 4 p.m.
- Dial 833-380-0417 (suggested 10 minutes prior)
- Join the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a Tele-Town Hall for veterans in Pennsylvania. AGENDA: Under VA Secretary, Dr. Lawrence will remark on COVID-19 response and VBA program updates and veterans will have the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered.

**Veterans Town Hall And Drive-In Free Movie:**
- Nov. 21, 2020, 1 p.m.
Humana Medicare 101:
- Dec. 3, 2020, 1-2 p.m.
- Healthcare planning presented by Humana. Discussions on Medicare eligibility, what Medicare is, your Medicare options, important dates, costs and more.
- Register at 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.

Veterans Resource Rally On Site Services Available Open To Veterans And Their Families:
- 3rd Wednesday of the month
- For the love of a veteran, 1082 Carlisle St., Hanover, PA (York County)
- For more information contact Chris Waltz 717-451-2511 or email at chris@fortheloveofaveteran.org
- Representatives on site to assist with veteran benefits, housing resources, employment, VA eligibility, military share food program

Virtual VA Benefits Appointments:
- Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- To schedule an appointment email PCU.VBAPIT@va.gov
- Do you have questions about your VA benefits? Contact Pittsburgh RO to schedule a virtual appointment.

Walkthrough Of Veterans ASCEND Virtually:
- Every Friday
- This brief covers how easy it is for service members, veterans, and military family members to setup a profile, shows a glimpse of how the business side works, and gives you an opportunity to ask questions about the program. Walkthrough the process of creating a profile, sneak a peak of the business view, and ask your questions.
- Website.

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