DMVA News

Governor Wolf Announces Veterans' Trust Fund Grant Opportunities:
Governor Tom Wolf announced that the 2020-21 Veterans' Trust Fund (VTF) is accepting grant applications for programs and services benefiting Pennsylvania veterans. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) will award up to $800,000 in VTF grants to non-profit organizations, veteran service organizations and county directors of veteran affairs across the state. Grant applications must be received no later than 2 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Website.

DMVA Digest Holiday Schedule:
There will be no DIGEST sent out on Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. We'll be back on schedule following the holidays for the Jan. 6, 2021, Digest.

DMVA Featured On Pennsylvania Heroes Podcast:
Catch Joel Mutschler, director, Bureau of Veterans Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration, and Outreach at the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, speaking on programs and services available to Pennsylvania's nearly 800,000 veterans, including newly-launched VETConnect. Website.

Holiday Season Great Time To Support Pennsylvania's Heroes:
In the spirit of the holiday season, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) reminds Pennsylvanians that this is a great time to give to programs that support the commonwealth's nearly 800,000 veterans, active military and their families. The four tax-deductible programs administered by the DMVA are: 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

Wolf Administration Highlights Resources For Pennsylvanians As Opioid Crisis Continues To Affect Pennsylvania:
The Wolf Administration called for an end to the stigma surrounding the disease of addiction and highlighted the work that has been done by the administration in response to the ongoing opioid crisis. December is typically a challenging month for many who struggle with the disease of addiction. With the need for people to social distance and avoid gathering due to COVID-19, Pennsylvanians who have struggled with the disease of addiction may be at increased risk of relapsing this year. Website.

Tobyhanna Army Depot Develops Critical PPE Parts And Power Supplies, Designs Masks To Support Employees Who Are Deaf Or Hard Of Hearing:
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin applauded Tobyhanna Army Depot for its response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the availability of personal protective equipment. The Army depot partnered with its local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Luzerne County to make parts for Power Air Purifier Respirators for staff members, designed and supplied clear face masks to support employees who are deaf or hard of hearing, and worked with the U.S. Army Medical Material Agency's Medical Maintenance Division-PA to create a new power supply to increase the sustainability of ventilators used by members of the armed forces. Website.

South Fayette To Honor Veterans With Military Banners Next Year:
South Fayette (Allegheny County) officials plan to honor veterans from the township by hanging military banners next year. The banner program started six years ago in Castle Shannon and has expanded to 41 municipalities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, said Harry Munson, whose HTM Designs in Castle Shannon prints the banners and maintains a website listing the names and photos of honorees. Website.

By Localizing It, Bonnie Loy Has Taken Wreaths Across America To The Next Level:
Bonnie Loy is a 69-year-old resident of Jackson Township. Her mission is to place a wreath on the grave of every veteran, who ever served and is buried in Lebanon County. Through the Wreaths Across America program, more than 600 wreaths will be delivered to Loy's local cause at Ebenezer Fire Company in North Lebanon township, on Saturday, Dec. 12. A week later, on Saturday, Dec. 19 at noon, on Wreaths Across America day nationally, those wreaths will be laid on the graves of local veterans buried at Covenant Greenwood Ebenezer Cemetery, during a 30-minute ceremony. [Website]

DMVA's Veterans Temporary Assistance Program:
This program provides financial assistance to service members, veterans, and eligible family members who experience unforeseen financial challenges. So far this year DMVA has assisted over 65 people with Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA). Since its inception in November 2005 this program has awarded $890,921.86 to eligible service members and their families who are experiencing financial difficulties related to an activation. For more information on VTA visit [Website].

Across the Nation

Veterans Help Communities, Mentor Next Generation Through Civil Air Patrol:
Veterans looking to use their military background while helping the community and mentoring young people have an opportunity through the Civil Air Patrol. Created Dec. 1, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol carries out emergency services and disaster relief missions nationwide. [Website].

Plan For Free National Park Access For Wounded Vets Signed Into Law:
A proposal from New England senators to ensure free lifetime entry to national parks for all disabled U.S. veterans has been signed into law. Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine proposed the Wounded Veterans Recreation Act to provide the free access to veterans who suffered or aggravated disabilities while serving in the military. [Website].

How U.S. Military Invented America's Favorite Snacks:
From instant coffee to Cheetos, packaged cookies and energy bars, the U.S. military helped invent many of the snacks Americans love to eat. The effort accelerated during World War II, when military scientists needed to develop compact yet nutritional ways to feed the troops. [Website].

End of Life Care And Minority Veterans:
VA has identified and addressed health disparities in a wide range of clinical areas, but little research has focused on racial and ethnic differences in VA quality outcomes among seriously ill veterans near end-of-life. [Website].
AT&T Added To VA Video Connect Telehealth Program:
Veterans using the VA Video Connect app on their mobile phones through AT&T’s cellular network will no longer incur data charges when using this video telehealth technology to connect and meet with their VA health care providers and teams. Website.

VA Releases COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, Vaccinations Began This Week:
The VA announced publication of its dynamic VA COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan, being executed at 37 sites across the country. VA began vaccinating veterans and frontline employees this week, following the Food and Drug Administration’s Dec. 11 decision to issue an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. Website.

VA Begins COVID-19 Vaccinations:
The VA announced the New Orleans and Bedford, MA VA Medical Centers are the first two department facilities to begin administration of COVID-19 vaccinations to frontline health care employees and veterans residing in long-term care Community Living and Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder centers. Website.

Five Resources To Help Veterans Recharge This Holiday Season:
As you prepare for the holidays and new year, fight the urge to tackle long to-do lists. Instead, take time to recharge and get the rest you need, so you have energy to do the activities you enjoy. Website.

Here’s Why The National Guard Is Over 100 Years Older Than The Other Military Services:
The Army, Navy and Marine Corps can beef over which service was created first in the year before the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, but the National Guard claims to have them all beat by more than a century. 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]

DMVA Is Hiring Installation Police Chief:
Are you a certified law enforcement professional who wants to lead a diverse organization serving Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County? The Pennsylvania Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is looking for a dedicated, experienced individual to serve as the installation police chief. If you are ACT 120 certified and looking for the next step in your career as you grow your experience in law enforcement, we have the job for you! The job closes at Dec. 18, 2020, 11:59 p.m. Apply at [Website].

Amazon Is Hiring:
Amazon is hiring warehouse workers fulfillment center in Imperial, PA (Allegheny County). Amazon remains open as an essential business to serve our communities delivering critical supplies directly to the doorsteps of people who need them. Find out what Amazon is doing to provide a safe environment for employees at this time on our COVID-19 FAQ page. Join Amazon and become part of the dedicated team that gets orders ready for customers. Stay active during your work day in this fast-paced warehouse environment. You'll be on the move for your whole shift. For more information and apply visit [Website].

More Than 500 Employers Are Now Looking To Hire Military Spouses:
The number of companies and organizations committed to hiring military spouses surpassed 500 recently, with the addition of 86 new partners in the Military Spouse Employment Partnership. [Website].

Patient Care Technician - EIC Program:
UPMC is hiring full-time Patient Care Technicians for a training program. If hired, you will be enrolled in a four week long starting Jan. 4, 2021, hands on, paid training program. The training is held during daylight hours, Monday through Friday only. After the training program, your full time PCT position will require rotating availability - including daylight, evening, overnight, weekend, and holiday shifts. Upon successful completion of the training program, you will be offered a full-time position at one of our four urban hospitals. Your full-time placement will be at UPMC Presbyterian, Shadyside, Mercy, or Magee Hospitals - and candidates must be open to all locations. For more information call 412-482-3365 or email at AMumich@EICPittsburgh.org or visit [Website].

Senior LIFE In York Is Hiring:
Senior LIFE York is happy to announce that we are now accepting referrals and ready to enroll new folks into the LIFE program. Senior LIFE is an all-inclusive community based program for adults over 55 who need skilled nursing services and wish to stay at home. Partner with members to manage all healthcare services including hospital stays. You can make a referral by calling any of our outreach coordinators. Call 717-757-5433 to speak with our outreach coordinators Mercedes Johnson, Ann Lucille Mong, or Donna Strine. Website.

Veterinary Technician/Assistant At Spay Neuter Clinic Penn Hills, PA (Allegheny County):
If you're an animal lover at heart and have veterinary education and/or clinical experience, and want to spend your days helping to ensure pet wellness and do your part to end overpopulation, we'd like to hear from you! At Spay Neuter Clinic, our mission is to provide high quality spay and neuter services, microchipping, and vaccinations at the lowest possible cost. Hourly wage depends on experience with pay increase possible at the end of the probationary period. For more information contact Stefanie Doyle at Stefanie.Doyle@careerlinkpittsburgh.org or visit Website.

Governor Wolf Announces Life Sciences Partnership To Create Jobs, Develop COVID-19 Vaccine:
Governor Tom Wolf announced that U.S. Specialty Formulations, LLC, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company, will expand its operations in Allentown, Lehigh County to continue its work developing a COVID-19 vaccine in partnership with VaxForm, LLC. This project will create at least 97 new, high-paying positions at the site. Website.

Smart Indoor Vertical Farm To Open In Pennsylvania, Bringing New Jobs, Sustainability, And Food Security:
Governor Tom Wolf announced that New York City-based Bowery Farming, Inc., the largest vertical farming company in the country, has selected Pennsylvania as the best place to expand its operations. The new facility will be the fourth vertical farm operation in the U.S. and first in the commonwealth. Website.

Remote Work Could Be Silver Lining Of Pandemic For Some Veterans, Including Those With PTSD:
The global coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented increase in remote work arrangements for Americans. A Gallup Survey conducted in early August revealed that more than 30 percent of American workers are mostly or completely remote, and record levels of cases and hospitalizations may keep people working from home for the foreseeable future. Post 9/11-era veterans stand to benefit from this shift, according to experts and veterans interviewed by Military Times. Website.

CAT Veterans Employment Transportation Program:
The veterans employment transportation program provides an 11-Ride Pass for the fixed route systems of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin and York counties to attend job interviews. Once a job has been secured, they will provide a monthly pass for four months. The first month is FREE with pro-rated options to follow. All vehicles are ADA accessible. For more information, call 717-846-5562 ext 1630 or visit Website.

**Center For Women Veterans Seeks Nominees For 2021 Women Veterans Trailblazers:**
VA's Center for Women Veterans (CWV) is seeking nominees for the 2021 Women Veterans Trailblazers Initiative 2.0. The initiative defines a "women veteran trailblazer" as a woman who has served and separated from military service and makes an impact by enhancing the lives of other veterans, veteran families, or veteran caregivers. The deadline for the 2021 CWV Trailblazers 2.0 Initiative is Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021. The nominees will be announced in March 2021 for Women's History Month. Website.

**Code Platoon Offers Software Development Training For Veterans And Spouses:**
Code Platoon trains veterans and their spouses with the skills and certificates necessary to find employment as a full stack developer. Code Platoon’s Coding Bootcamp, is an immersive, hands-on training program with opportunities for paid internships (in Chicago only) and job placements as a web developer upon graduation. Website.

**Gateway Shelter Supervisor:**
The primary role of the gateway shelter supervisor will be to implement and assume day-to-day responsibility for the programmatic operation of the Shelter families in accordance with its written goals and objectives. The shelter supervisor will be responsible for case management, emergency food and shelter. For more information visit Website.

**These Are The States And Jobs Where Veterans Make The Most Money:**
It pays to be a veteran, according to a new study by veterans claims law firm Hill and Ponton. The average annual income for veterans was about $65,000 in 2019, the study reported. Those who didn't serve brought home nearly $11,000 less, with an average annual income of about $54,000. Website.

**UPMC Health Plan, Pathways To Work:**
UPMC Health Plan recently launched a new initiative, Pathways to Work that aims to increase access to employment through training, education, and dedicated support from UPMC staff. Pathways to Work makes a concerted effort to engage individuals in the community who are unemployed or underemployed and those with an intellectual, physical, or behavioral disability who are looking for employment and no-cost job training programs. Interested individuals can email pathwaystowork@upmc.edu and
they will receive a response within one-two business days from one of the Pathways recruiters. Website.

**Why Military Veterans Make Natural Entrepreneurs:**
The vim and vigor of a patriotic spirit can easily transition to entrepreneurial pursuits. Military veterans and entrepreneurs require dedication and drive, along with faith and optimism. These all-too-familiar characteristics are what carried many veterans through their daily military routines and duties. 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.

**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.
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.](#)

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.)_

Disaster Mental Health-How Long Has Your "Check Engine" Light Been On?:
- Dec. 17, 2020, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Understanding our own early warning signs of emotional trouble (like the check engine light in your car), our personal responses to adversity and the current state of well being are essential components of being able to help others cope and heal. However, compounded stressors related to the pandemic such as social distancing, facility surges, and limited resources have created challenges for recognizing these early signs of stress and have led to an increase in complex behavioral health risks, including compassion fatigue, caution fatigue, moral injury and complex grief.
- To register to the webinar, visit [Website.](#)

VBA Nationwide Tele-Townhall For Veterans:
Dec. 17, 2020, 5 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-Townhall for veterans. AGENDA: Under VA Secretary, Dr. Lawrence will remark on MST. Veterans will have the opportunity to ask questions (press *3) and have them answered.

National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony Virtually:
- Dec. 19, 2020
- Virtual event Facebook.
- There will not be a public ceremony this year
- For more information contact wreathsindiantowngap@gmail.com or visit Website.

VBA Nationwide Tele-Townhall For Veterans:
- Dec. 22, 2020, 5 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. AGENDA: Under VA Secretary, Dr. Lawrence will remark on veterans in crisis suicide prevention. Veterans will have the opportunity to ask questions (press *3) and have them answered.

REBOOT Combat Recovery Training In York County:
- Jan. 7, 2021, 6 p.m.
- James A. Danner VFW Post 537, 1095 Pines Road, Etters, PA (York County)
- For more information contact Charles Yost at 724-630-4956 or email at yost.ch@gmail.com
- To register visit Website.
- Created to aid servicemembers and their families work through their post-traumatic stress. The training focuses on healing the spiritual and moral wounds of war, whether a recent conflict or from 50 years ago. The training is a unique blend of clinical insight and faith-based support in the form of weekly classes that include topic-based instruction, class discussions, homework, group exercises and a family-style meal.

Blood Drive In York County:
- Jan. 30, 2021, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- BPOE 213, Social Hall, 223 N George St., York, PA (York County)
- To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit Website.

Mini Stand Down - Berks County:
- Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-Noon
- Parking Lot at 40 S. Front St., Reading, PA (Berks County)
- Point of contact: call 610-372-8267 or email: info@TeamVCOP.org
- Rain or shine, clothing, a hot meal and more free stuff.
- Website.
Mini Stand Down - Montgomery County:
- Fourth Saturday every month, 10 a.m.-Noon
- Douglass Municipal Park, 31 Park Lane, Gilbertsville, PA (Montgomery County)
- Point of contact: call 610-372-8267 or email info@TeamVCOP.org
- Rain or shine, clothing, a hot meal and more free stuff.
  - [Website](#)

Medically Assisted Recovery Support Group:
- Every Tuesday, 6 p.m.
- JFT Recovery and Veterans Support Services, downstairs meeting room, 300 Market St., Lemoyne, PA (Cumberland County)
- This is a 12-Step based program of recovery for those utilizing medically assisted treatment; however, anyone is welcome, no matter your program of recovery.

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 servicemembers, veterans, and military family members to set up 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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