

Agenda

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

7 June 2019 at 10:00 AM

Pa Soldiers' and Sailors' Home

1000 (5)	CALL TO ORDER	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
	Pledge of Allegiance	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
1005 (5)	Commission introductions	
1010 (5)	Oath of Office	Brig Gen Michael Regan
	Nicholas Taylor, Catholic War Veterans	
1015 (5)	Approval Apr 5 th meeting minutes	REQUIRES A VOTE
1020 (10)	DMVA Military Update	Brig Gen Michael Regan
1030 (15)	VISN 4 Update	Mr. John Gennaro
	OLD BUSINESS	
1045 (3)	DMVA, Chief Counsel	Ms. Elizabeth Pettis
1048 (2)	DMVA, Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs	Ms. Katie Merritt
1100 (5)	DMVA, Bureau of Veterans Homes	Mr. Andrew Ruscavage
1105 (15)	DMVA, Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach (PIRO)	Mr. Joel Mutschler
1120 (2)	Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA)	REQUIRES A VOTE
1122 (5)	Act 66 Committee report	Mr. Kit Watson
1127 (5)	RETX Committee report	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
1132 (2)	Legislative Committee report	Chairman Sam Petrovich
1134 (3)	Pensions & Relief/Grave markings Committee report	Mr. John Brenner
	NEW BUSINESS	
1137 (5)	Discussion HB 863 support/not support-recommendation	REQUIRES A VOTE
1142 (5)	Hall of Fame	REQUIRES A VOTE
	Ms. Mary Archey, Mr. Eugene Passarella, Mr. Edward Comly	
1147 (7)	Good of the Order	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
1154 (3)	Discussion Topics for next meeting	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
1157 (3)	Next Meeting:	
	Friday, September 6th, 2019 @ 10:00am	
	Southwestern Veterans' Home	
1200	ADJOURNMENT	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris
	RETIRING OF COLORS	Vice-Chairman Ed Burris



**STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 7, 2019**



CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



PAARNG Current Deployments

MDATE	MSAD	UNIT	OPN	PAX	MISSION	Projected Return Date
30 SEP 15	03 OCT 15	DET 1 2/104th	OEF-KU	24	MEDEVAC	02 NOV 16
07 JAN 16	09 JAN 16	2IBCT	KFOR	96	SECURITY	07 JAN 17
29 JAN 16	01 FEB 16	2 IBCT NATO 33	KFOR-OJG	29	POSTAL	27JAN 17/18 FEB 17
11 MAY 16	14 MAY 16	28ID 1-110th	OEF UAE/OIR	370	SECFOR/TNG	o/a 14JUN17
Various Individual MOB Soldiers				19	Various Missions	TBD
Total PAARNG Deployed: 538						

PAANG Current Deployments

Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	OIR/SS	76/29
111 ATKW	IPR (HS)/Various	36/31
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS)/OIR	37/19
Total PAANG Deployed		228

Total PANG Deployed 725

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2019 Wait Times



Clinics FY19 thru March 17	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	1,506,284	1,423,021	95.7%	5
Mental Health	219,393	211,098	97.6%	3.5
Primary Care	342,251	335,176	97.9%	3.5
Specialty Care	593,241	536,668	93.0%	7.4

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care		Mental Health Care	
	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>	<i>New Patients</i>	<i>Returning Patients</i>
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	25	2	6	4
Abie Abraham HCC	13	1	7	3
Coatesville VAMC	13	1	8	2
Erie VAMC	26	4	9	1
Lebanon VAMC	17	5	10	2
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	28	5	16	2
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	21 (Hz)	6 (Hz)	10 (Hz)	4 (Hz)
	26 (UD)	7 (UD)	22 (UD)	2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	17	3	11	7
Wilmington VAMC	17	3	10	2

Data updated 5/6/19 with wait times for last 30 days.

accesstocare.va.gov

June 2019 Update

> [community](#) > [commonwealth](#) > [country](#)

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018	85,879
FY19 (10/1-4/30)	52,771

VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 thru Feb</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	88.9	86.4	88.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	83.5	82.2	83.5
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	85.0	85.0	85.1
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	86.6	85.4	85.2

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 thru Feb</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	87.5	87.8	82.9
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81.3	81.2	75.1
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.5	81.7	83.0	83.0	77.9
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.4	77.7	80.5	79.4	75

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Trust Data – Specialty Care Outpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>All of FY18</i>	<i>FY19 thru Feb</i>	<i>National</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	84.2	84.8	85.6	84.6	83.2
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	75.8	77.9	78.0	78.2	74.2
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	79.2	79.3	80.2	81.1	77.9
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	73.9	76.2	76.5	78.1	75.3

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

DMVA Priority Legislation – Veterans

Global War on Terror Bonus – draft provided to the Senator Costa who passed it to the Democratic Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Committee (VA&EP). (awaiting introduction)

Real-estate Tax Exemption – draft language provided to Rep Sainato Democratic Chair of the House VA&EP Committee. Includes the SVC recommendations (awaiting introduction)

Veterans Preference Language – draft provided to House and Senate VA&EP Committee Executive Staff. (awaiting introduction)

DMVA Special Programs grant authority – draft language provided to House VA&EP Committee Executive Staff. (awaiting introduction)

VETERAN BILLS	Bill #	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DATE OF LAST MOVEMENT
Veteran	HB 233	O'Neal	Amending P.L. 723, No. 230 providing for in special powers and duties of the county, further providing for flags to decorate graves	Passed House; now in Senate VA&EP	2019-02-04
Veteran	HB 397	Masser	Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, adding provisions relating to patient care monitoring.	Passed House Health, now in House Aging	2019-05-14
Veteran	HB 857	O'Mara	Amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), in personal income tax, providing for tax deductible contributions for Veterans' Trust Fund.	Set on the Tabled Calendar	2019-5-22
Veteran	HB 863	Barrar	Amends the State Lottery Law, in State lottery, further providing for statement of purpose, for powers and duties of secretary and for disposition of funds and providing for instant lottery game to benefit veterans.	Introduced; In House Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness	2019-03-18
Military/Veteran	HB 1380	Boback	Amends Titles 30 (Fish) & 34 (Game), in fishing licenses, for active duty military fishing reciprocity & disabled veteran annual fishing license reciprocity; &, for active duty military & disabled veteran hunting reciprocity.	Set on House Tabled Calendar	2019-05-22
Veteran	SB 62	Ward	Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for veteran plates and placard	Set on Senate table	2019-03-27
Veteran	SB 298	Baker	Titles 18/Crimes & 51/Military Affairs: Stolen Valor Fines to Veterans Trust Fund	Passed Senate; now in House VA&EP	2019-04-02

Current Licensure Status

Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Dates of Last Inspection						
PA Department of Health	03/18/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	12/07/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/25/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/30/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	09/27/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/17/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status
PA Department of Human Services	N/A	N/A	06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	N/A
US Department of Veterans Affairs	04/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/2019 Full Standard Licensure Status

Initiatives

- Opioid Use Disorder Response
- Regionalization Update
 - Vision: To establish regional offices, develop partnerships with federal, state and local government, Veteran Service Organizations and regional service providers to identify and meet the emerging needs of Veterans and their families.
 - Resource database in development and with the focus group for feedback

Meetings/Events

- 12 June – Guard Day at the Capitol
- 13-15 June – DAV
- 13-16 June – VFW, Erie
- 17-21 June – PA CDVA Conference, Greensburg
- 11 -14 July – American Legion, Harrisburg
- 21 August – Governor’s Advisory Council for Veterans Services

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at www.dmva.pa.gov

GAC-VS

- Judiciary Committee
 - Conducted outreach to the Veteran Service Units
 - 25% increase in the number of PA Veterans Courts in 2019. Five new VTCs include: Armstrong, Lycoming, Lebanon, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties.
- Aging Committee
 - Partnership between DMVA and PDA to reach veterans through PACE. Education on PACE for VSOs, VISN, and community providers
 - Established Expanding Long-Term Care Services Options to Veterans subcommittee

Contact Us

We want to hear from you. If you have ideas/initiatives that you want to share with DMVA, please contact Mr. Joel Mutschler, PIRO Bureau Director, at 717-861-8910 or RA-VA-Info@pa.gov.

Community Outreach Event may be found by clicking on the Events Calendar at www.dmva.pa.gov

OVA / VSO GRANT PROGRAM (Act 66 of 2007) SUMMARY



FY 18 - 19	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
19,020	\$210,619,245.00

FY 17 - 18	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
34,708	\$225,309,603.00

OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	32	30	10	5	77
Mobile Outreach Van Events	29	16	4	3	52
Veteran Interactions	434	313	553		1,404
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	107	54	42	5	208
Legislator Attended Events	17	15	0	2	34

Upcoming Events – June

- **Legislative Events** – None
- **Events** – Rural Veterans Outreach, Duncansville – Guard Day at the Capitol, Harrisburg – Bradford/Sullivan Counties Veteran Picnic, South Monroeton
- **Legislators Attending Events** – Senator Laughlin, Representative Gillen

As of 30 April 19

> community > commonwealth > country

VETERANS' TRUST FUND



VTF Report

Source	Week	Month to Date	Fiscal Year Total		Total	# HOV Sold
Appropriation Transfer to VTF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,700,000.00	
HOV License Plate	\$0.00	\$195.00	\$2,565.00	171	\$47,295.00	3,153
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$23,345.00	-1,015	\$0.00	0
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$300.00	20	\$2,805.00	187
HOV Women's License Plate	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	2	\$30.00	0
Checkoff & Donations	\$37,895.00	\$92,652.00	\$1,356,138.93		\$8,940,592.86	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$355.00		\$4,340.00	
SECA Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,157.23		\$2,447.37	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,414.47		\$115,009.75	
VSO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$700,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 14-15)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
PENNDOT Costs (SFY 13-14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$194,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 18-19)	\$305,309.00	\$305,309.00	\$272,084.90		\$305,309.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 17-18)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$778,929.18	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$641,329.75	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$502,126.03	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 14-15)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$472,473.67	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 13-14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$442,020.00	
Veteran Programs Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,900.00		\$4,900.00	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	-\$157.66	-\$157.66		\$22,901.34	
VTA	\$14,213.00	\$21,013.00	\$741,921.00		3,557,299.32	
Working Balance	-\$281,627.00	-\$233,257.34	\$366,867.39		\$2,609,231.69	3,340

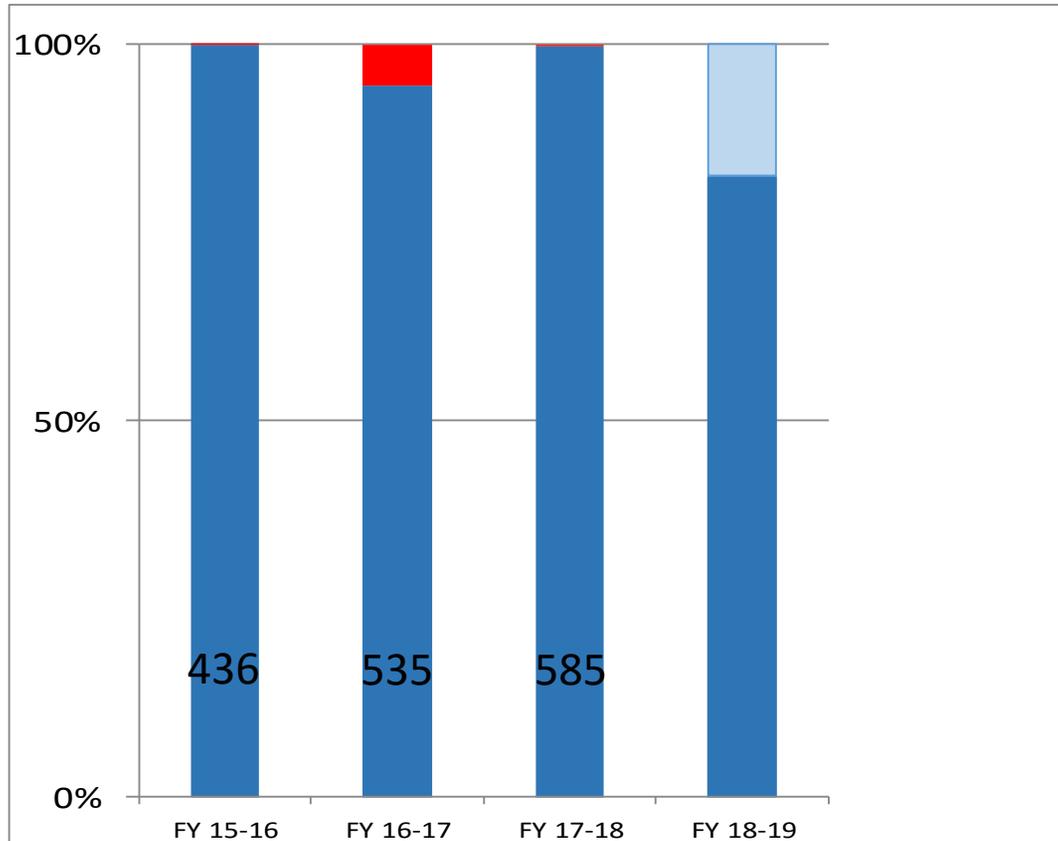
As of 15 May 19

> community > commonwealth > country

VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$900,000



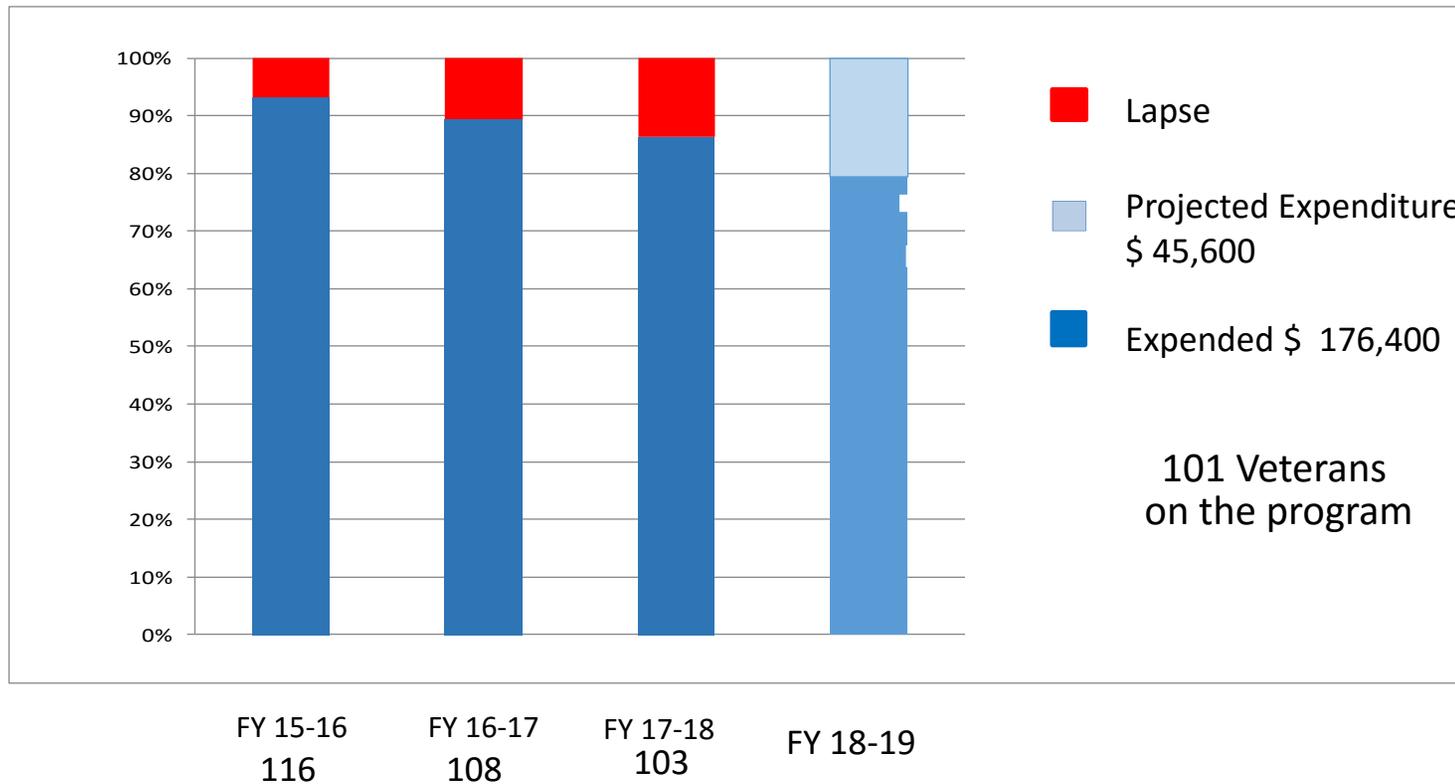
- Lapse \$0
- Projected Expenditures \$ 156,693
- Expended \$ 743,307

521 Claimants
on the program

BLIND VETERANS PENSION



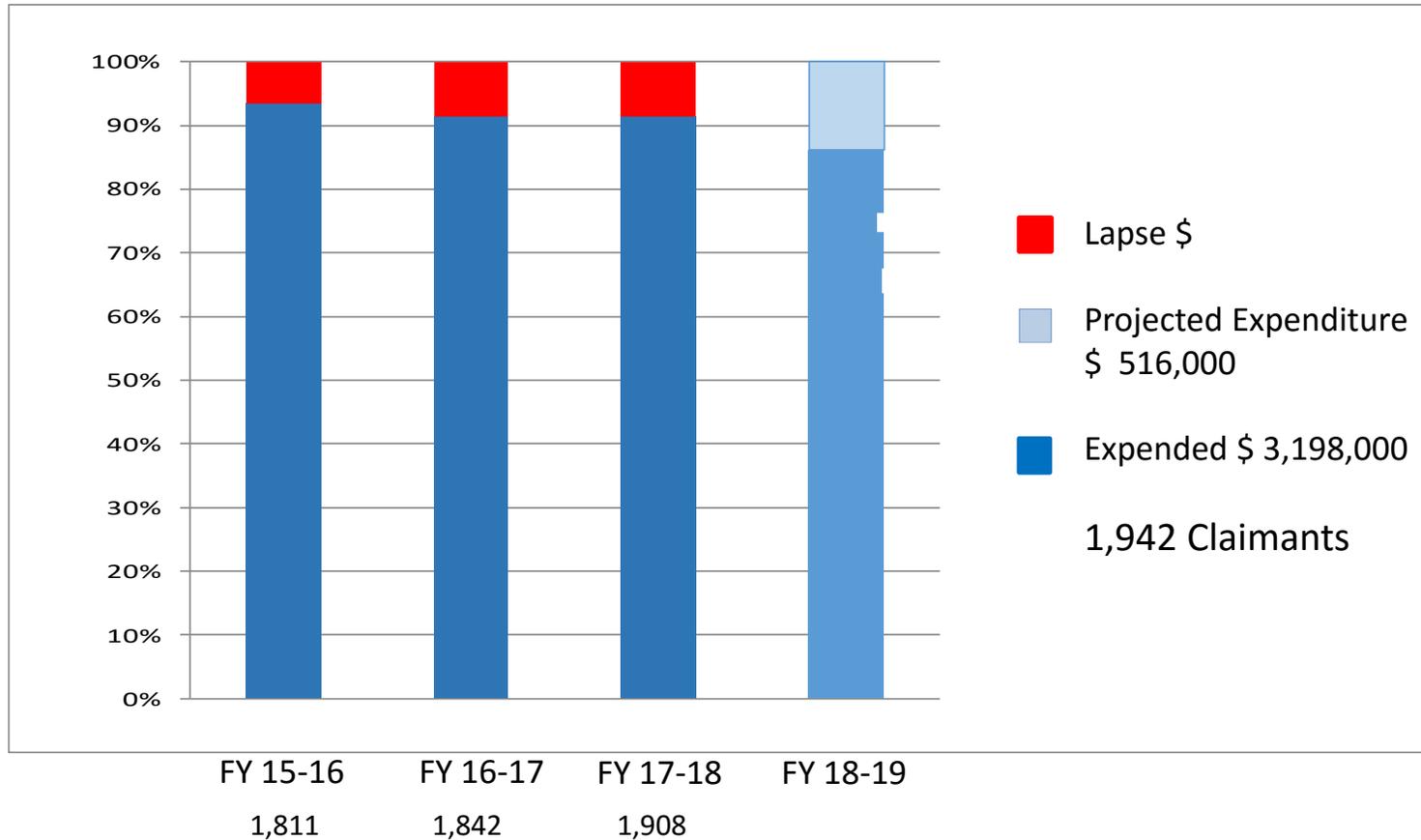
\$222,000



AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



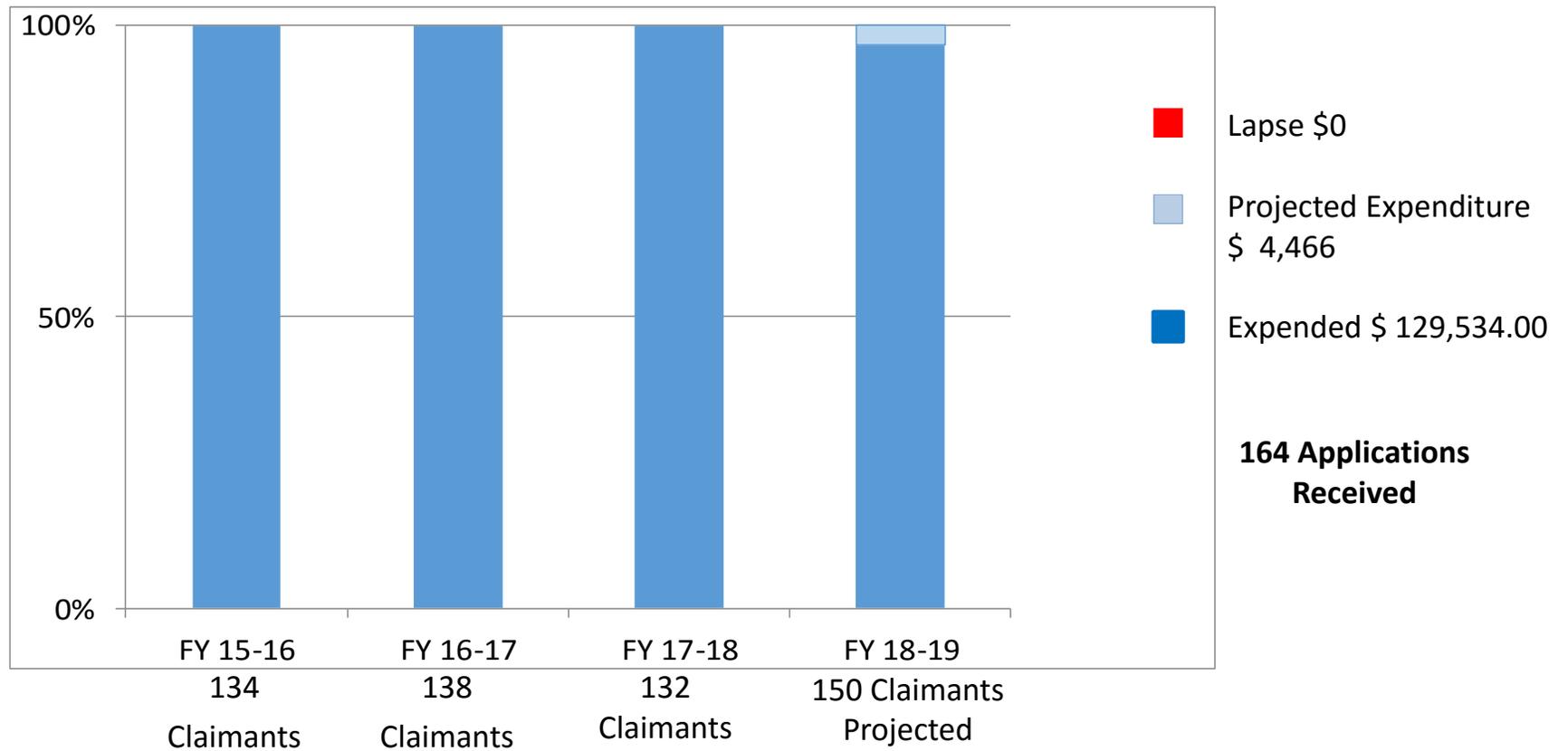
\$3,714,000



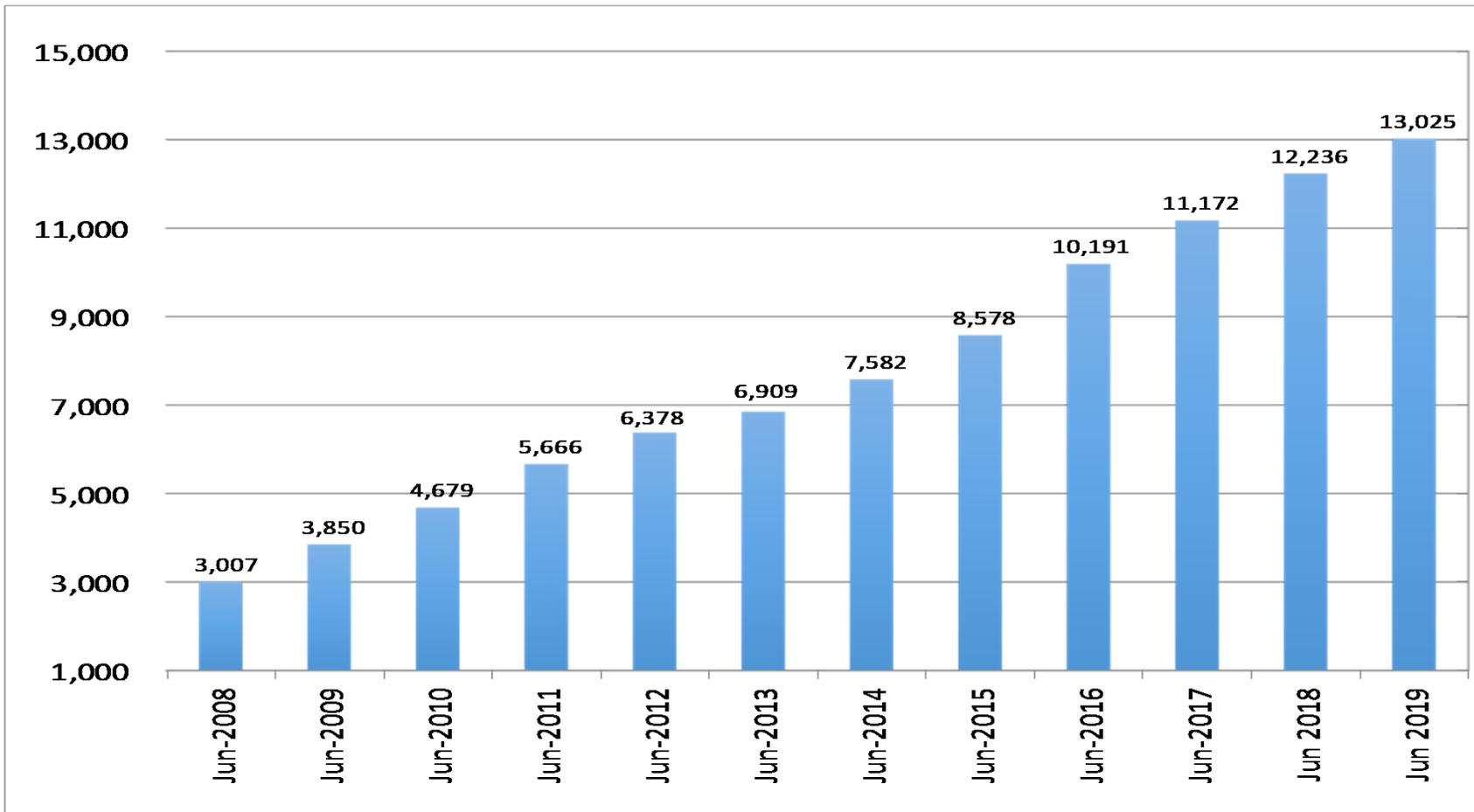
EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



\$134,000



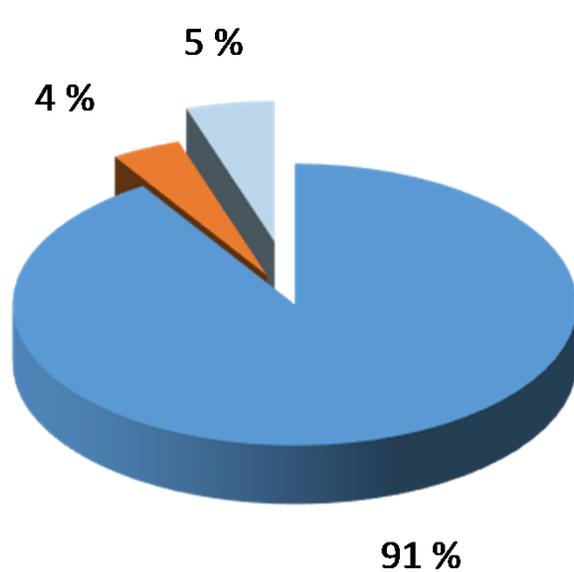
DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 17 May 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM



■ Applications (Approved): 752

■ Applications Denied (Financial Need): 33

■ Did not meet Eligibility criteria: 42

Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria:

2: Property not solely owned by Veteran and Spouse

4: Did not have 100% Permanent Disability in their lifetime

18: No war time service

13: Not total or 100% Disabled - Future Exam

1: Surviving Spouse Remarried

2: Property Ownership Change

1: Veteran Deceased

1: Veteran did not occupy the property as his principal dwelling

42 Applications Ineligible by Reason Code

*641 Applications Received since 16 March 2019

As of 17 May 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



Total Applications: 13,121

Payments Sent: 10,046

Total Payments: \$ 4,231,487.50

Average Payment: \$421.21

Average Processing Time: 7.89 days

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 17 MAY 2019

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 130,346.83
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,760,093.42
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,890,440.25
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 864,421.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 1,026,018.39

As of 17 May 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2018)	\$360,657.35
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$7,990.85
License Plate Donations	\$24,288.00
Interest	\$6,664.65
Refunds of Expenditures	\$0
Total Receipts	\$38,943.50
Expenses	(\$114,209.36)
Ending Balance	\$285,391.49

15 May 2019

> community > commonwealth > country

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Kit Watson (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	TAL
Mr. John Pliska	AMVETS
Mr. Charles Jackson	MOPH (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. John Getz	VFW
Mr. Chip Gilliland	DMVA

RETX Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Matthew Zamosky (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	CDVA
Mr. John Brenner	MAL
Mr. Jeffrey Elliot	AMVETS
Mr. Harold Cooney	MOAA
Mr. Kit Watson	TAL
Mr. Thomas Bremer	MAL
Mr. Cory Bender	DMVA

Legislative Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Samuel Petrovich (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	DAV
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Robert Gray	MOAA (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Christopher Fidler	KPVA
Mr. Mr. Charles Jackson	MOPH (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. John Brenner	Member-at-Large
Mr. <u>Bruce</u> Foster	TAL (Subject Matter Expert)
Mr. Gilbert Durand	DMVA

Pensions & Relief/Grave Marking/Cemetery Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. John Brenner(COMMITTEE CHAIR)	MAL
Mr. Thomas Haberkorn	VVA
Mr. Louis Santangelo	KWV
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	CDVA
Mr. Chris Fidler	KPVA
Ms. Constance Snavelly	MAL
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA

By-Law Committee



Members:

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Sam Petrovich (COMMITTEE CHAIR)	DAV
Mr. John Cyprian	MAL
Mr. Neil Appleby	BVA
Mr. Robert C. Ziltz	MCL
Mr. Thomas Hanzas	VFW
Mr. Rick Hamp	DMVA

NEXT MEETING



Friday, **SEPTEMBER 6**, 2019

at **10:00AM**

Southwestern Veterans' Home

7060 Highland Drive

Pittsburgh, Pa 15206

Visit www.svc.pa.gov for all SVC info.

State Veterans Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 5th, 2019
10:00 AM to 11:41 AM
Arrowhead Community Center
Annville, PA 17003

Call to Order	Chairman Samuel Petrovich
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The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Samuel Petrovich.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence by Vice-Chairman Burris and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Samuel Petrovich.

Commission Introductions

Brig Gen Michael Regan	Deputy Adjutant General-Air
Chairman Samuel Petrovich	Chairman, State Veterans Commission
Maj Gen (Ret) Eric Weller	Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs
Mr. Jeffrey Elliot	Commander, AMVETS
Mr. John Pliska	Executive Director, AMVETS
Mr. Thomas Hanzes	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Harold Cooney	President, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Edgar Burris	Member at Large/SVC Vice-Chairman
Mr. Neil Appleby	President, Blind Veterans of America
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	Designee, Catholic War Veterans
Mr. Matthew Zamosky	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs.
Mr. Thomas Haberkorn	President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Mr. Chris Fidler	Representative, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. Louis Santangelo	Representative, Korean War Veterans
Mr. Charles Jackson	Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Ms. Constance Snavely	Member at Large
Mr. John Cyprian	Member at Large
Mr. Robert Ziltz	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Bruce Foster	Designee, The American Legion
Mr. Gary Stopyra	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. John Brenner	Member at Large

Others Present

Mr. David Cowgill	VISN 4
Stephen Lew	Disability Rights of PA
Richard Hudzinski	Vietnam Veterans of America
Brenda Zechman	PSACDVA/Schuylkill County
Belinda Albright	PSACDVA/Northumberland County
Jayes R. Lewis	Chief of Staff/VFW
Nancy Burris	Guest
Gilbert E. Condorsa	Korea War Veterans

Anthony DeFrancesco	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Thomas Coreau	PSACDVA/Dauphin County
Norman Marden	Office of Attorney General
Robert Cudworth	MOAA/DAV
Andrew Ruscavage	DMVA-BVH
Rick Hamp	DMVA-OVA
Chip Gilliland	DMVA-OVA
Brian Natali	DMVA-OVA
Elizabeth Pettis	DMVA-CCO
Janette Krolczyk	DMVA-OVA
Katie Merrit	DMVA-PPL
Greg Holler	DMVA-OVA
Kim Webber	DMVA-OVA
Approval of the Oct 12th and Dec 7th, 2018 Meeting Minutes	
Motion: Mr. Jeffrey Elliot made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.	
Second: Mr. Gary Stopyra seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
Military Update	Brig Gen Regan
General Regan briefed SVC members on PANG deployments. He said this year the PANG will have 800 plus troops assigned to Poland in support of European operations. He said over the next several months there will be PANG-Air deployments in smaller numbers.	
Questions/Discussions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Haberkorn inquired as to whether the PANG deployments include the reserve component. General Regan said “no”, we do have a great relationship, but we don’t track the reserve component. 	
VISN 4	Mr. David Cowgill
Mr. Cowgill noted that SVC members had received his slides with updated information on leadership changes, community care, high reliability journey, clinic relocations and VA Secretary priorities in the read-ahead Mr. Cowgill briefed on the following:	
Leadership/Staffing Update: Mr. Cowgill reminded the SVC members that Dr. Adelman had retired at the end of January after 20 years of VA service, three years as the VISN 4 director. He said Tim Liezert, director of the Orlando VAMC, is leading the network while VA Central Office works to replace Dr. Adelman permanently. He noted, Karin McGraw, director of VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and Daniel Hendee, Director of Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, both retired at the end of 2018. VISN 4 will continue working through the process of recruiting replacements for both facility directors. In the interim, Patricia O’Kane, Associate Director for Clinical Operations at the Philadelphia VA, is serving as the director there. Barbra Forsha, Deputy Director at VA Pittsburgh, is serving as the director in Pittsburgh.	
Care In The Community: Mr. Cowgill said all the VISN 4 medical centers are working diligently to expand community care access when we cannot provide services within one of our facilities. We’ve partnered with a third-party administrator, currently Tri West, and ensured that outreach is occurring to large and small community health systems and providers to ask them to become part of their network.	
VISN 4 staff continue to coordinate and schedule care seamlessly and timely, serving as the veteran’s point of contact.	
As of March 18 th , 2018, from 10/1/2018-2/285/2019 VISN 4 Community Care Offices scheduled and completed 36,445 community care consults.	
High Reliability Journey: Mr. Cowgill said the VA announced the selection of 18 medical centers that will lead the way in the department’s efforts to transform the nation’s largest integrated health care system into a high reliability organization (HRO). In VISN 4, the Erie VA Medical Center is one of the 18 sites selected.	

Pioneered in highly complex environments, such as aviation and nuclear energy, HROs put procedures and protocols in place that maximize safety and minimize harm, which in the medical industry assures every patient receives excellent care.

Research shows that high reliability organizations experience fewer accidents despite being high-risk environments where small errors can produce catastrophic results. A February Leadership Summit kicked off the HRO journey and introduced high reliability concepts and practices to the 18 sites. Lessons learned from these 18 sites will guide a more impactful rollout across every VHA medical facility in 2020.

The VHA journey to become an HRO is consistent with national safety goals set forth by the Joint Commission, an independent, nonprofit organization that accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs. In addition to safer environment focused on reducing errors and preventing patient harm, HRO principles and values call for deference to expertise; oftentimes, the patient's family caregiver is that expert. HRO will empower veterans and their family caregiver, along with employees who work hands-on with veterans, to make decisions and impact improvements that aim for excellent care for every patient.

Clinic Relocations: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare system is relocating and expanding two of its outpatient clinics. These relocations will almost double in the usable square footage at each site, which will allow for additional primary care, behavioral health, and specialty exam rooms as well as new space to provide audiology services. This move will allow the clinic to officially transition to Patient Aligned Care Team model of health care. The Belmont County clinic, in St. Clairsville, Ohio, began treating Veterans at their new location at the end of March.

The Washington County Clinic in Washington, Pennsylvania, began treating veterans at their new location this week.

VA Secretary Priorities: VISN 4 Accomplishments in past 3 months:

1. **Customer Service:** Staff attended a National conference on Patient Experience where expectations were set. VISN 4 has hired Amy Stewart as the full time Veterans Experience Officer.
2. **Mission Act Implementation: Community Care and Urgent Care Proposed Regulations.** VA's proposed regulation for veterans community care under the VA Mission Act, which includes access standards, was published for public comment on the Federal Register website, with comments due March 25, 2019. Publishing these proposed rules represents a major milestone in VA's journey to implementing improvements to community care as required by the VA Mission Act. This regulation joins VA's proposed regulation for the new Urgent Care benefit which was published on the Federal Register website at the end of January.
3. **Employee Health Record:** The employee Health Record road show came to VISN 4 . A 4-hour training session with demonstrations on the new Employee Health record system was given to top Administrative and Clinical Leaders in VISN 4. The purpose was to better understand the goals, objectives and timeline of VA's historic Electronic Health Record Modernization Program.
4. **Modernize Systems:** Our VISN Human Resources Program is being consolidated under VISN. There is one VISN Human Resources Officer who has leadership and oversight over the HR staff VISN-wide at the Medical Centers.

Question/Comments:

- Mr. Zamosky asked about the Mission Act's proposal of expanded care within the community and what the budgetary impact will be on other VA programs. Mr. Cowgill said the VA leadership was aware of and has discussed the issue. However, he didn't have an answer to Mr. Zamosky's question. Mr. Appleby asked Mr. Cowgill to advise the SVC members on the monthly teleconference meetings the VA holds. Mr. Cowgill said the VA tried various venues to keep veterans informed and found the monthly teleconference meetings to be the most successful in covering key topics to veterans. Mr. Cowgill invited all members and attendees of the SVC to join the teleconference meetings. Ms. Snively asked if the electronic modernization involved the partnering with Apple allowing patients to download their files on Apple. Mr. Cowgill said "yes."

Mr. Lew said at the Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP), we provide advocacy and legal services for disabled Pennsylvanians under our mandate to protect the rights of people with disabilities so that they may live the lives they choose, free from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and segregation. This includes our Veterans and former service members.

For the members of the United States Military, transitioning from service to civilian life can be fraught with what feels like an insurmountable obstacle that must be faced entirely alone. We are producing a resource guide for this group of former service members so that they may be connected to services and support in their communities and re-enter civilian life more easily and with hope. We are asking for donations to help with the printing costs of 10,000 resource books which would be freely distributed to those discharged. We are seeking to raise a total of \$80,000 dollars and donations in any amount could help us towards that goal.

Due to their status of discharge, they are cut off from the benefits and support that are traditionally thought of for veterans and service members. This isolation can lead to poverty, homelessness and mental health crisis as the less than honorably discharged deal with disabilities caused by their time in active service.

We know that you are as invested as we are in seeing that those who served this country in the military are cared for and not forgotten. By helping us print and distribute the guide, you are helping us reaching those that feel disconnected and bringing them back into the arms of their community.

Questions/Comments

- Mr. Burris asked when will the resource guide books be available and will they be distributed throughout PA. Mr. Lew said the resource guide books will be distributed throughout PA and they anticipate distribution July/August 2019. Mr. Cyprian asked how many veterans they are servicing and are they able to get updated discharge information. Mr. Lew did not have a specific number of veterans serviced and said DRP is aggressively working on getting targeted discharge information to help those that are isolated.

OLD BUSINESS

DMVA Chief Counsel

Ms. Elizabeth Pettis

Ms. Pettis stated she didn't have anything to report. Ms. Pettis asked if there were any questions, there were none.

DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs

Ms. Katie Merritt

Ms. Merritt reported that PPL is monitoring the introduction of the Global War on Terrorism bill, bills related to the RETX program and Veterans' preference language. Ms. Merritt reported that SB 298 was introduced making it an offense for a non-veteran to wear a military uniform and insignias, and HB 980 which would allow a Navy Club within the SVC. She stated PPL is supporting resolutions to the US Congress to amend the Selective Service law to include both men and women to register for the draft, a resolution to have the US Congress grant all veterans access to the VA. Also, a resolution to have the US Postal Service develop a stamp dedicated to the 65th Infantry Division, the only all Hispanic division in US history.

DMVA Bureau of Veterans' Homes

Mr. Andrew Ruscavage

Mr. Ruscavage stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead regarding Veterans' Homes addressed the licensure status of all Veterans' Homes, which was green, and included an update on all the construction projects.

Questions/Discussion

- Mr. Appleby congratulated Mr. Ruscavage and his staff for all the excellent work they do every day. Mr. Appleby asked Mr. Ruscavage where DMVA-BVH gets all its funds to do the construction work. Mr. Ruscavage stated that 65% of the funds are from Federal government grants and 35% from the PA State government.
- Mr. Ruscavage stated June 9th-15th, 2019 is PA Veterans' Homes week and recommended all SVC members participate. He said on June 18th, 2019 the Annual Fishing Tournament will be held by TAG at the Dauphin Creek fishery. He invited all veterans organizations to participate by helping the veterans fish. He noted the Marine Corp League will be helping again this year like they have in previous years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Weller asked Mr. Ruscavage to update the SVC members on telemedicine and meetings with the VA regarding veterans being placed in DMVA-BVH after leaving a VA. Mr. Ruscavage stated the telemedicine program is moving rather quickly and will launch next week in the Philadelphia region. It will allow the veteran to be seen by a doctor at his/her home via internet which saves on transportation costs and excess visits to the VA clinics. The DMVA-BVH is working with the VA to ensure that when a PA veteran is being discharged and recommended for placement in a personal care or skilled care nursing home that DMVA-BVH gets notified so the veteran can be placed in one of our Veterans' Homes. • Mr. Haberborn asked for an update on the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home new community living center and whether some of the land is still for sale. Mr. Ruscavage stated the administration building had been "knocked down." The new community living center will have 200 beds with a completion date of five to six years out. The land is still for sale. 	
DMVA PIRO	Mr. Chip Gilliland
Mr. Mutschler was absent. Mr. Gilliland presented on Mr. Mutschler's behalf and on Outreach and Reintegration. Mr. Gilliland stated all materials were presented in the read-ahead. Mr. Gilliland informed the members the DMVA-OVA had hired a project manager for the regionalization project. The project was meeting its milestones in a timely manor.	
<u>Questions/Discussion</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Foster asked why the Act 66 summary presented in the read-ahead didn't show fiscal year to fiscal year. Mr. Gilliland stated he would address it in the next read-ahead. 	
DMVA Services & Programs	Mr. Brian Natali
Mr. Natali stated that all materials were presented in the read-ahead, asked for questions. The reports were accepted	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Foster asked if it would be possible to show the programs requiring the veteran's home of record to be PA who still reside in PA compared to those who reside in a different state. Mr. Natali will provide that information in the next read-ahead. 	
Approval of Programs Reports	
Motion: Mr. Nicholas Taylor made a motion to approve the programs reports as presented in the readahead.	
Second: Mr. Edgar Burris, Jr. seconded the motion.	
The body agreed, motion carried.	
SVC Act 66 Committee	Mr. Charles Jackson
Mr. Jackson reported his committee met three times and are making "great progress." He stated they are developing a program to present as a suggestion to TAG for consideration.	
SVC RETX Committee	Mr. Matthew Zamosky
Mr. Zamosky had no report.	
SVC Legislative Committee	Chairman Samuel Petrovich
Chairman Petrovich reported that he received communications from PA House Representative Barrar regarding HB813 which addresses lottery funds for veterans. He stated he will present it to all SVC members once the Legislative Committee has reviewed it.	
SVC Pensions & Relief/Grave Marking/State Military Cemetery Committee	Mr. John Brenner
Mr. Brenner had no report.	
Announcement	Chairman Petrovich
Chairman Petrovich informed the members, DMVA-OVA executive secretary, Ms. Krolczyk will present a training brief. Ms. Krolczyk handed out training packets. She explained that members and designees who have a non-commonwealth number must sign for the training packets and read the materials to continue to receive reimbursements.	
NEW BUSINESS	
Bylaws Discussion	Chairman Petrovich

Chairman Petrovich stated he recently learned the Bylaws presented in the read-ahead were changed. He requested Chief Counsel (CC) Pettis to explain the changes to the members. CC Pettis said the first change was the effective date, it was moved to April 6th, 2019. The second was section 4.2 where it read “sole and absolute discretion of TAG for cancellation” was changed to read “sole discretion of TAG for cancellation”. General Regan stated the Bylaws are for the TAG to establish without the consensus of the SVC. However, TAG was willing to discuss the Bylaws with Chairman Petrovich and General Regan, but not in this type of forum. Chairman Petrovich stated he totally disagreed with TAG’s approach to the Bylaws. He said the SVC is a thinking body, has worked on the Bylaws for quite some time, and capable to design its own Bylaws.

Question/Discussion

- Mr. Taylor asked if it would be possible for the SVC to develop their own Bylaws. Chairman Peterovich explained there had been a committee established to develop Bylaws but were rejected by TAG. Mr. Hanzas commented that he didn’t understand why he had been assigned to the SVC Bylaws committee if they weren’t allowed to develop their own Bylaws. Chairman Petrovich agreed. Mr. Taylor asked if the Bylaws that were going into effect were policy or guidance. CC Pettis informed the members that they are an advisory commission as outlined in Title 51 Chapter 17 and thus subject to the direction of TAG. CC Pettis stated that General Regan gave them direction as to scheduling a meeting with TAG to discuss the Bylaws. However, CC Pettis noted that the TAG is within his full discretionary scope to design the Bylaws and they will go into effect tomorrow.
- Mr. Taylor made motion to schedule a meeting with TAG as soon as possible. Mr. Brenner seconded it.
- Mr. Jackson made the motion to assign the SVC Legislative Committee to review and research the Bylaws and render an opinion to the SVC members as to their best course of action. Mr. Foster seconded it.
- Mr. Appleby motioned that all SVC meetings begin and end with a prayer. Mr. Brenner seconded the motion. CC Pettis pointed out that the SVC is a commission within the DMVA; therefore, subject to the Establishment Clause. Furthermore, TAG, in agreement with the Governor’s Office of General Counsel, had written a policy memo addressing the invocation issue; and one had been provided to the members. If not, CC Pettis stated she would make sure they received TAG’s written policy. Mr. Taylor stated he did his own legal research and CC Pettis was incorrect and “courts” have upheld generic prayers. CC Pettis pointed out that Mr. Taylor was confusing what the SVC is with legislative bodies. CC Pettis stated if you still have issues with this please call General Counsel, she is in full agreement with TAG’s written policy. Mr. Taylor told CC Pettis to “count on it.”
- Mr. Foster asked CC Pettis to share the policy from the Office of General Counsel with SVC members. CC Pettis stated there isn’t any written policy in the Office of General Counsel and again told the members to call the head of General Counsel. CC Pettis reminded the members that the invocation issue was addressed at the February 1st, 2019 executive session meeting. Mr. Foster questioned CC Pettis. Chairman Petrovich asked for a motion to have the SVC Legislative Committee tasked with reviewing, researching the invocation issue and offer an opinion. Mr. Taylor made the motion; Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.
- General Regan noted to the members that they have taken exception to the manner in which they received the Bylaws; and should address the issue with TAG. However, General Regan expressed to the members that the Bylaws are generic for use to guide the meetings. He then informed the members that as an official commission they are subject to the laws and must adhere to the guidance we all get from Chief Counsel.
- General Weller said regarding the multiple motions made requesting a meeting during the OVA budget formulation he was willing to arrange that meeting. He informed the members that it is a short window between the end of August to the beginning of September. He told the members the meeting will give them an insight into the OVA budget process and they will be able render their opinions.

Motion: Mr. Taylor motioned to schedule a Bylaws meeting with TAG.

Second: Mr. Brenner seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried.
Motion: Mr. Jackson motioned to have Legislative Committee review/research Bylaws and then opine.
Second: Mr. Foster seconded the motion.
The body agreed; motion carried.
Motion: Mr. Appleby motioned that all SVC meetings being and end with a prayer.
Second: Mr. Brenner seconded it.
The body agreed; motion carried.
Motion: Mr. Taylor motioned to have the Legislative Committee research the prayer issue and then opine.
Second: Mr. Stopyra seconded the motion.
The body agreed; motion carried.
Good of The Order/Announcements
Mr. Cooney reported he had responded to a request for help posted on the MOAA website. A family of a Korean War Veteran needed the veteran's DD214 to secure a burial with honors. Mr. Cooney reached out to Mr. Natali who in turn contacted the Erie County Veterans Affairs Office, and they were able to secure the necessary documentation.
Ms. Snively reported that some veteran organizations are charging up to \$250.00 to provide an honor guard for funeral services even though their websites list donations only for the service. She wanted all organizations to be aware.
Mr. Appleby wanted all SVC organizations to announce the US census will start soon and it will require thousands of jobs. He supplied the website: census.gov
General Weller reported the regionalization project has identified gaps in services to veterans and is paying dividends in the relationships developed with different agencies. He pointed to one agency that is providing a million dollars in two \$500,000.00 amounts to address the opioid epidemic; in fact, that agency recently contacted DMVA-OVA and pledged more money in the future. The regionalization project has opened up other agencies' "pocketbooks." Good news for our veterans.
For Next Meeting
Chairman Petrovich stated Bylaws and prayers are primary topics for the next meeting.
Next Meeting
Friday, June 7 th , at 10:00 AM Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home 560 East Third Street Erie, PA 16512
Adjournment
Chairman Petrovich adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM.

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

Maj Gen (Ret) Eric G. Weller
Deputy Adjutant General
Veterans' Affairs

MEMO

TO DMVA Staff and members of DMVA's Councils/Commissions

FROM Anthony J. Carrelli
Major General, Pennsylvania
Air National Guard
The Adjutant General 

DATE February 21, 2019

RE Policy Guidance on Invocations and Benedictions during DMVA Public Meetings

1. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is committed to protecting and defending First Amendment freedoms. As our Commonwealth and US military becomes increasingly diverse, so do the religious affiliations and belief systems of its residents and veterans. DMVA must be mindful and respectful of the diverse belief systems and the First Amendment rights of all its employees, veterans, stakeholders, and others in the conduct of DMVA business (e.g. - public meetings).
2. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the government from making any law respecting an establishment of religion. The First Amendment has been interpreted to prohibit the government from endorsing, favoring, or inhibiting religion. The practice of having an invocation and/or benediction during DMVA public meetings could be a violation of that prohibition.
3. To ensure that DMVA is not perceived as endorsing or favoring one religion over another, DMVA shall not include an invocation and/or benediction during any of its public meetings (e.g. – State Veterans Commission meetings, Advisory Council meetings for the Pennsylvania Veterans Homes, etc.). As an alternative, DMVA may include a moment of silence to allow employees, board members, and other attendees to silently and personally reflect in any manner they so choose.
4. One of DMVA's missions is to provide quality service to the commonwealth's veterans, service members, and their families. With that in mind, it is essential that all DMVA staff understand that, as of April 2017, the United States Department of Defense recognizes 221 different religions. Therefore, in the interest of inclusion, DMVA staff must be mindful of, and sensitive to, the diverse belief systems of all veterans, service members and their families.
5. The intent of this policy is to ensure compliance with the First Amendment and to bring DMVA's policies and practice in line with the current policies and practice of other Commonwealth agencies, the United States Department of Defense, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Thank you for your understanding and adherence to this policy guidance.

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

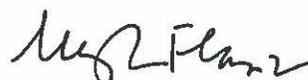
Date: AUG 19 2016

From: Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration (006)

Subj: Update of Policy Guidance on Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property Under the Charge and Control of VA, dated November 7, 2014 (VAIQ 7718000)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to maintaining a diverse workforce and inclusive work environment and to protecting First Amendment freedoms. As our Nation becomes increasingly diverse, so do the religious affiliations and belief systems of its citizens. VA must be mindful and respectful of the diverse belief systems and the First Amendment rights of all its employees, Veterans, stakeholders, and others in the conduct of VA business.
2. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment has been interpreted to prohibit the government –including its employees acting in their official capacities – from endorsing, favoring, or inhibiting religion.
3. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, among other bases, and protects all aspects of an employee's religious beliefs or practices. According to the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the purposes of Title VII, religion includes not only traditional, organized religions, but also beliefs that are theistic, non-theistic, new, uncommon, or unaffiliated with a formal church or sect. Accordingly, VA prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion and shall not endorse, favor or disfavor any faith or belief system.
4. VA honors and respects the humanity of all, and protects the freedoms and rights guaranteed for each of us. Please ensure that all managers and supervisors are informed and understand their responsibilities regarding this guidance and the attached Frequently Asked Questions document. Thank you for your unwavering support.


Meghan Flanz

Attachment

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

1. May the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees exercise and express their faith in the VA workplace?

Yes. Both the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended permit religious expression and exercise in the government workplace. The First Amendment states that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Title VII prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, and requires employers to accommodate the religious beliefs and practices of their employees unless such accommodation poses an undue hardship to the organization and its business operations. For more detailed information, please see The Guidelines on Religious Exercise and Religious Expression in the Federal Workplace: <http://clinton2.nara.gov/WH/New/html/19970819-3275.html>.

2. May Veterans exercise and express their faith in VA facilities?

Yes. VA must ensure that where Veterans are in its care and charge, their rights to exercise and express their faiths are protected and that they are free from governmental establishment of religion. VA may need to take affirmative steps to provide opportunities for them to practice their religion. For example, VA provides chaplains and arranges for community clergy for Veterans who are hospitalized and wish to receive religious counseling. While in VA facilities, Veterans are subject to the rules regarding the use of those facilities including 38 C.F.R. 1.218. These rules include the requirement in 38 C.F.R. 1.218(a)(14) that any service, ceremony, or demonstration must be authorized by the head of the facility or designee. The decision whether to authorize the event must be justified by a purpose other than one to sponsor, endorse, or inhibit a particular religion or religion generally.

3. May members of the public exercise and express their faith in VA facilities?

To the extent that members of the public have a valid reason to be in VA facilities, VA must ensure that their rights to express and exercise their faiths are protected and that they are free from governmental establishment of religion. Members of the public while in VA facilities are subject to the rules regarding the use of VA facilities including 38 C.F.R. 1.218. These rules include the requirement that any service, ceremony, or demonstration must be authorized by the head of the facility or designee. See 38 C.F.R. 1.218(a)(14). The decision whether to authorize the event must be based on a ground other than to sponsor, endorse, or inhibit a particular religion or religion generally.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

4. Is it permissible for Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Facilities to receive donations of cards and gifts for distribution to patients and residents in VHA facilities if the cards and gifts include a religious message?

Yes. VA greatly appreciates holiday donations, gifts, and volunteerism by individuals and organizations on behalf of Veterans of all faiths and backgrounds. Only certain officials at VHA facilities have been delegated authority to accept donations and gifts. See VHA Handbooks 4721 and 1620.01. Those officials are the facility Director, the Chief of Chaplain Service and the Chief of Voluntary Service. These VHA officials have discretion to accept donations of cards and gifts, including cards and gifts with religious messages, for distribution to patients and residents. Chaplain Service and Voluntary Service will collaborate to review holiday cards and gifts and distribute them in accordance with the individually expressed preferences of patients and residents. The recipients will be informed of the name of the donor, cards and gifts.

5. Does VA allow outside groups or individuals to sing religious and secular songs during holidays on VA property (under the charge and control of VA)?

On VA property (under the charge and control of VA), events by outside groups or individuals, such as services, ceremonies, or demonstrations, are welcomed but must be authorized by the head of the facility or designee. See 38 C.F.R. 1.218(a)(14). When deciding whether to allow outside groups or individuals to sing holiday songs in a particular location (e.g., in the lobby, an auditorium, or a chapel), the director of the VA facility must determine whether doing so will benefit VA patients, beneficiaries and/or employees and whether the activity will interfere with the operation of the facility.

If a VA facility director authorizes an outside group or individual to perform holiday songs, similarly-situated groups or individuals also must be permitted to use the space for such activities. Once the director authorizes holiday singing in a designated location, VA must remain neutral regarding the views expressed by the group or individual generally or in its holiday songs (e.g., religious or secular). Directors are encouraged to seek advice from VA Chaplain Service in making these decisions.

At all times, the government must ensure that it does not act in a manner that would lead a reasonable observer to conclude that it is sponsoring, endorsing or inhibiting religion generally or favoring or disfavoring a particular religion. The government must also ensure that it does not require or pressure its employees or others to participate in religious activities or to refrain from participation in such activities.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

6. Does VA allow outside groups or individuals to set up displays with religious and secular items on VA property (under the charge and control of VA)?

On VA property (under the charge and control of VA), events sponsored by outside groups or individuals, such as services, ceremonies, or demonstrations, are welcomed but must be authorized by the head of the facility or designee.

See 38 C.F.R. 1.218(a)(14). When deciding whether to allow outside groups or individuals to set up a display in a particular location (e.g., in the lobby, an auditorium, or a chapel), the director of the VA facility must determine whether doing so will benefit VA patients, beneficiaries and/or employees, and whether the activity will interfere with the operation of the facility.

If a VA facility director authorizes an outside group or individual to set up a display, similarly-situated groups or individuals also must be permitted to set up a display. Once the director authorizes a display in a designated location, VA must remain neutral regarding the views expressed by the group or individual generally (e.g., religious or secular) or as part of its display. Directors are encouraged to seek advice from VA Chaplain Service (to include the National Chaplain Center, the District Chief Counsel and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion) when making these decisions.

At all times, the Federal government must ensure that it does not act in a manner that would lead a reasonable observer to conclude that it is sponsoring, endorsing or inhibiting religion generally or that it is favoring or disfavoring a particular religion. The federal government must also ensure that it does not require or pressure its employees or others to participate in religious activities or to refrain from participation in religious activities.

Example:

If the head of the facility or designee approves a Veteran Service Organization's request to set up a display recognizing Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA), the decision to authorize the display must be based on whether doing so will benefit VA patients, beneficiaries and/or employees, and whether the activity will interfere with the operations of the facility. VA must remain neutral regarding the views expressed by the group, to include the use of any religious or secular items in the display. VA may request the Veteran Service Organization to clearly indicate ownership of the display through signage.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

7. May a VA-sponsored display, such as a holiday display, include religious symbols in a public area of a VA facility?

Religious symbols may be included in a VA display in a public area of a VA facility provided the display does not favor one religion over another and conveys a primarily secular message. For guidance specifically about holiday displays, see VA Directive 0022, Religious Symbols in Holiday Displays in VA Facilities. Note that different policies govern displays for religious services in VA chapels or in employees' workspaces that are not generally accessible to the public. For more detailed information, please see paragraph 20 of VHA Handbook 1111.02, Spiritual and Pastoral Care Procedures, as well as the Guidelines on Religious Exercise and Religious Expression in the Federal Workplace:
<http://clinton2.nara.gov/WH/New/html/19970819-3275.html>.

8. Are VA employees authorized to have office holiday celebrations?

Yes. VA employees may organize holiday celebrations. Supervisors holding or permitting VA office holiday parties must conform to the following ethics rules:

- a) Participation must be voluntary. Employees must not be coerced to participate in any way, including planning, preparation, financing, cleanup, or attendance.
- b) Supervisors must not solicit contributions. Employees may pool funds for the purchase of office party supplies and refreshments. To prevent any appearance of coercion, however, non-supervisory employees should do the soliciting and collecting. A contribution amount may be suggested, but a required contribution amount may not be set, e.g., \$5 for GS-12 and under, but \$10 for GS-13, is not allowed.
- c) Employee gift exchanges must follow the ethics rules. In general, an employee may not accept a gift from an employee who earns less or give to an official superior. There are a number of exceptions to these general rules. For example, an employee can accept a gift from an employee earning less if the two employees are not in a senior-subordinate relationship and there is a personal relationship between the two employees that would justify the gift, or the gift is for an "occasional basis" event (like a holiday) and is valued at \$10 or less.

9. Is prayer permitted at VA-sponsored events?

Prayers such as invocations and benedictions at VA-sponsored events are permitted depending on the type of event and the following considerations. For example, invocations, and benedictions at swearing-in and retirement ceremonies

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

are permitted provided the subject individual requests such observances. Such observances are not appropriate for routine staff meetings. VA officials must ensure that such observances do not suggest government endorsement or preference for one faith over another. Participation in such observances must be strictly voluntary, and the religious message must not coerce or solicit adherence to the beliefs contained therein or disparage any faith or belief. VA officials should be mindful of and sensitive to the diverse belief systems of all individuals, and should consider whether the nature of the event makes it appropriate to solemnize the occasion with prayer. Also, Title VII requires that the employer accommodate an employee who asks to be excused from an employer-sponsored event for religious reasons, unless the employer can show undue hardship.

10. What constitutes religious harassment under Title VII?

The law against discrimination in the Federal workplace (Title VII) protects Federal employees from being subjected to a hostile environment, or religious harassment, in the form of religiously discriminatory intimidation, or pervasive or severe religious ridicule or insult, whether by supervisors or fellow workers. Whether particular conduct gives rise to a hostile environment, or constitutes impermissible religious harassment, will usually depend upon its frequency or repetitiveness, as well as its severity. The use of derogatory language in an assaultive manner can constitute statutory religious harassment if it is severe or invoked repeatedly. A single incident, if sufficiently abusive, might also constitute statutory harassment. However, although employees should always be guided by general principles of civility and workplace efficiency, a hostile environment is not created by the bare expression of speech with which some employees might disagree. In a country where freedom of speech and religion are guaranteed, citizens should expect to be exposed to ideas with which they disagree.

The examples below are intended to provide guidance on when conduct or words constitute religious harassment that should not be tolerated in the Federal workplace. In a particular case, the question of employer liability would require consideration of additional factors, including the extent to which the agency was aware of the harassment and the actions the agency took to address it.

Examples:

- a) An employee repeatedly makes derogatory remarks about their faith or lack of faith to other employees with whom she is assigned to work. This typically will constitute religious harassment. An agency should not tolerate such conduct.
- b) A group of employees subjects a fellow employee to a barrage of comments about his sex life, knowing that the targeted employee would be discomfited and offended by such comments because of his religious beliefs. This

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

typically will constitute harassment, and an agency should not tolerate it.

- c) A group of employees who share a common faith decide that they want to work exclusively with people who share their views. They engage in a pattern of verbal attacks on other employees who do not share their views, calling them heathens, sinners, and the like. This conduct should not be tolerated.
- d) Two employees have an angry exchange of words. In the heat of the moment, one makes a derogatory comment about the other's religion. When tempers cool, no more is said. Unless the words are sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the insulted employee's employment or create an abusive working environment, this is not statutory religious harassment.
- e) Employees wear religious jewelry and medallions over their clothes or so that they are otherwise visible. Others wear buttons with a generalized religious or anti-religious message. Typically, these expressions are personal and do not alone constitute religious harassment.
- f) In her private work area, a Federal worker keeps a Bible or Koran on her private desk and reads it during breaks. Another employee displays a picture of Jesus and the text of the Lord's Prayer in her private work area. This conduct, without more, is not religious harassment, and does not create an impermissible hostile environment with respect to employees who do not share those religious views, even if they are upset or offended by the conduct.
- g) During lunch, certain employees gather on their own time for prayer and Bible study in an empty conference room that employees are generally free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Such a gathering does not constitute religious harassment even, if other employees with different views on how to pray might feel excluded or ask that the group be disbanded.

11. Can a VA supervisor threaten to penalize or penalize an employee because the employee is gay on the ground that the supervisor's religious beliefs define homosexuality as a sin?

Executive Order 11478 and Office of Personnel Management regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in Federal employment. A VA supervisor who threatens to penalize or penalizes an employee because the employee is gay—whether because of the supervisor's religious beliefs about homosexuality or for other reasons—would violate that prohibition.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

12. When must VA accommodate employees' exercise of their religion?

Federal law requires an agency to accommodate employees' exercise of their religion unless such accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the conduct of the agency's operations. Though an agency need not make an accommodation that will result in more than a de minimis cost to the agency, that cost or hardship nevertheless must be real rather than speculative or hypothetical: the accommodation should be made unless it would cause an actual cost to the agency or to other employees or an actual disruption of work, or unless it is otherwise barred by law.

In addition, religious accommodation cannot be disfavored vis-a-vis other, nonreligious accommodations. Therefore, a religious accommodation cannot be denied if the agency regularly permits similar accommodations for nonreligious purposes.

Examples:

- a) An agency must adjust work schedules to accommodate an employee's religious observance -- for example, Sabbath or religious holiday observance - if an adequate substitute is available, or if the employee's absence would not otherwise impose an undue burden on the agency.
- b) An employee must be permitted to wear religious garb, such as a crucifix, a yarmulke, or a head scarf or hijab, if wearing such attire during the work day is part of the employee's religious practice or expression, so long as the wearing of such garb does not unduly interfere with the functioning of the workplace.
- c) An employee should be excused from a particular assignment if performance of that assignment would contravene the employee's religious beliefs and the agency would not suffer undue hardship in reassigning the employee to another detail.
- d) During lunch, certain employees gather on their own time for prayer and Bible study in an empty conference room that employees are generally free to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Such a gathering may not be subject to discriminatory restrictions because of its religious content.

In those cases where an agency's work rule imposes a substantial burden on a particular employee's exercise of religion, the agency must go further: an agency should grant the employee an exemption from that rule, unless the agency has a compelling interest in denying the exemption and there is no less restrictive means of furthering that interest.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

Examples:

- a) A corrections officer whose religion compels him or her to wear long hair should be granted an exemption from an otherwise generally applicable hair-length policy unless denial of an exemption is the least restrictive means of preserving safety, security, discipline, or other compelling interests.
- b) An applicant for employment in a governmental agency who is a Jehovah's Witness should not be compelled, contrary to her religious beliefs, to take a loyalty oath whose form is religiously objectionable.

13. Does VA recognize the public's right to religious expression at National Cemeteries?

Yes. VA cares deeply that the First Amendment rights of the families of those patriots who are interred in our National Cemeteries and the rights of all who visit these national shrines, are fully respected.

14. Does VA accommodate religious expression at public ceremonies held at VA National Cemeteries?

Yes. VA National Cemeteries are consecrated ground for all Veterans who are honored there. VA ceremonies, such as those held on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, are inclusive and honor the faith traditions of every Veteran who served and sacrificed on behalf of this Nation. VA's paramount concern for special events/ceremonies is to ensure public safety and security and to preserve the dignity and solemnity of VA National Cemeteries as national shrines.

15. Does VA accommodate religious expression at committal services held at VA National Cemeteries?

Yes. VA values and respects Veterans and their families' right to committal services held at VA National Cemeteries that honor their faith tradition. The wishes of a deceased Veteran's family remain paramount in determining what, if any, religious expression will take place at a Veteran's committal service. Families are free to have a committal service with or without religious references or the display of religious or other symbols.

16. How does VA handle requests from the public not to engage in religious expression at National Cemeteries?

VA recognizes that our Veteran community is diverse in many aspects, and we respect the very private nature of the way families mourn the loss of loved ones

Department of Veterans Affairs
Religious Exercise and Expression in VA Facilities and Property
Under the Charge and Control of VA
Frequently Asked Questions
August 2016

based on their specific belief system, religious or cultural traditions and practices. For example, committal services at VA national cemeteries do not include religious elements, if the families do not request them. In the event VA receives a complaint about an activity that is perceived as an unwelcome religious expression involving a loved one's gravesite, VA takes these comments seriously and honors the wishes of those individuals or family members to opt out of any activity.

For additional Frequently Asked Questions on Religious Expression, Religious Accommodation, and Religious Discrimination please visit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Web site at:

http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/publications/qa_religious_garb_grooming.cfm

<http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/religion.cfm>

http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/wysk/workplace_religious_accommodation.cfm

For more information on office holiday celebrations, including a fuller specification of the various exceptions, contact: governmentethics@va.gov

If you have any questions regarding this Policy Guidance Memorandum or Frequently Asked Questions, please contact the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at (202) 461-4131.



VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence

VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 863 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, DEASY, GABLER, MURT, POLINCHOCK,
READSHAW, RYAN, STRUZZI AND MULLINS, MARCH 18, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 18, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), entitled
2 "An act providing for a State Lottery and administration
3 thereof; authorizing the creation of a State Lottery
4 Commission; prescribing its powers and duties; disposition of
5 funds; violations and penalties therefor; exemption of prizes
6 from State and local taxation and making an appropriation,"
7 in State lottery, further providing for statement of purpose,
8 for powers and duties of secretary and for disposition of
9 funds and providing for instant lottery game to benefit
10 veterans.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Sections 301, 303(a)(11) and 311 of the act of
14 August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery
15 Law, are amended to read:

16 Section 301. Statement of purpose.

17 This chapter is enacted to establish a lottery to be operated
18 by the State, the net proceeds of which are to be used after
19 June 30, 1972, for the purposes of providing property tax relief
20 for the elderly for taxes paid in 1971 and thereafter to persons
21 65 years of age or older and for providing certain free fixed

1 route local transit services to persons 65 years of age or older
2 and reduced fare on group ride transit service to persons 65
3 years of age or older and for establishing an instant lottery
4 game to benefit veterans. It is further intended to provide a
5 means through which to curb illegal gambling operations in
6 Pennsylvania.

7 Section 303. Powers and duties of secretary.

8 (a) Powers and duties enumerated.--In addition to the powers
9 and duties provided by law and the act of April 9, 1929
10 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, the
11 secretary shall have the power and it shall be his duty to
12 operate and administer the lottery, and to promulgate rules and
13 regulations governing the establishment and operation thereof,
14 including, but not limited to:

15 * * *

16 (11) The apportionment of the total revenues accruing
17 from the sale of lottery tickets or shares and from all other
18 sources among:

19 (i) ~~[the]~~ The payment of prizes to the holders of
20 winning tickets or shares~~;~~.

21 (ii) ~~[the]~~ The payment of costs incurred in the
22 operation and administration of the lottery, including
23 the expenses of the division and the costs resulting from
24 any contract or contracts entered into for promotional,
25 advertising or operational services or for the purchase
26 or lease of lottery equipment and materials~~;~~ ~~and~~.

27 (iv) ~~[for]~~ For property tax relief and free or
28 reduced fare transit service for the elderly as provided
29 in section 311. For fiscal years beginning before July 1,
30 2014, no less than 27% of the total revenues accruing

1 from the sale of lottery tickets or shares shall be
2 dedicated to this subparagraph. For fiscal years
3 beginning after June 30, 2014, no less than 25% of the
4 total revenues accruing from the sale of lottery tickets
5 or shares shall be dedicated to this subparagraph.

6 (v) The payment to the Veterans' Trust Fund for
7 veterans services, outreach and benefit programs as
8 provided in section 316. All proceeds accruing from the
9 sale of instant lottery games under section 316, after
10 the payment of prizes and operational and administrative
11 costs, shall be dedicated to this subparagraph.

12 * * *

13 Section 311. Disposition of funds.

14 (a) State Lottery Fund.--All moneys received from the
15 operation of the State lottery shall be deposited in a State
16 Lottery Fund which is hereby created. Such moneys shall be used
17 to the extent necessary for the payment of lottery prizes but
18 the amount so used shall not be less than 40% of the amount of
19 which tickets or shares have been sold. All payments of lottery
20 prizes and for expenses of operation of the lottery shall be
21 made as provided by law. All moneys remaining after payment of
22 prizes and operating expenses shall remain in the State Lottery
23 Fund and shall be allocated for the purpose of providing
24 property tax relief for the elderly for taxes paid in 1971 and
25 thereafter pursuant to [the provisions of the act of March 11,
26 1971 (P.L.104, No.3), known as the Senior Citizens Rebate and
27 Assistance Act] Chapter 13 of the act of June 27, 2006 (1st
28 Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, and
29 for the purpose of providing free or reduced fare transit
30 service for the elderly pursuant to Chapter 9 and the act of

1 February 11, 1976 (P.L.14, No.10), known as the Pennsylvania
2 Rural and Intercity Common Carrier Surface Transportation
3 Assistance Act and for veterans services, outreach and benefit
4 programs as provided in section 316. In the event sufficient
5 funds are not available from the lottery receipts to meet the
6 requirements of [~~the Senior Citizens Rebate and Assistance Act~~]
7 Chapter 13 of the Taxpayer Relief Act or for providing free or
8 reduced fare transit service for the elderly under Chapter 9 and
9 the Pennsylvania Rural and Intercity Common Carrier Surface
10 Transportation Assistance Act or for veterans services, outreach
11 and benefit programs as provided in section 316, additional
12 funds to fulfill these obligations shall be appropriated from
13 the General Fund for this purpose.

14 (b) Appropriations.--The moneys in said State Lottery Fund
15 shall be appropriated only:

16 (1) For the payment of prizes to the holders of winning
17 lottery tickets or shares.

18 (2) For the expenses of the division in its operation of
19 the lottery.

20 (3) For property tax relief and free or reduced fare
21 transit service for the elderly as provided under subsection
22 (a).

23 (4) To the Veterans' Trust Fund for veterans services,
24 outreach and benefit programs as provided in section 316.

25 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
26 Section 316. Instant lottery game to benefit veterans.

27 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall operate an instant
28 lottery game to benefit veterans of the armed forces of the
29 United States who reside in this Commonwealth. The game tickets
30 must clearly state that the game proceeds are used to benefit

1 veterans in this Commonwealth.

2 (b) Advertisement.--

3 (1) The secretary shall market and advertise the instant
4 lottery game operated under this section to inform the public
5 that the game tickets are available for purchase daily and
6 that the game proceeds will be used to fund the following:

7 (i) Veterans' day-care services as established and
8 administered by the Department of Military and Veterans
9 Affairs.

10 (ii) Veterans' benefit programs as provided by the
11 Commonwealth.

12 (iii) Veterans' outreach as determined by the
13 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

14 (2) The secretary shall change the design or theme of
15 the game regularly to ensure that the game remains
16 competitive with all instant lottery games offered by the
17 State lottery.

18 (c) Transfer of funds.--On April 30 of each year, the
19 secretary shall transfer all proceeds from the sale of the
20 instant lottery game tickets as provided under section 303(a)
21 (11)(v) to the Veterans' Trust Fund for purposes specified in 51
22 Pa.C.S. § 1721(c) (relating to Veterans' Trust Fund).

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 180 days.

RETX- Exempt list(New)

mvfigsprod01
5/20/2019
rep_VAOC_RETX_Exempt_List_New

Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
13025	12654	332	39	216

Summary of Activity from 03/16/2019 to 05/17/2019

Apps Created 641	
New	388
Review:	253
Apps Approved 752	
New	375
Review	377
Apps Denied Fin:	33
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	42
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	66
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibility Changed):	82

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	Count
Property Ownership Change	2
Spouse Remarried	1
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	2
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not have a total and/or 100% permanent disability during their lifetime.	4
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	15
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stated that you have a future exam , therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	13
The U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs has determined that you did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict and you have a future exam, therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	3
Veteran Deceased	1
You do not occupy the property for which you have claimed exemption as your principal dwelling.	1

DAUPHIN	20
LEBANON	16
ADAMS	11
ALLEGHENY	47
ARMSTRONG	2
BEAVER	12
BEDFORD	4
BERKS	33
BLAIR	17
BRADFORD	3
BUCKS	46
BUTLER	6
CAMBRIA	13
CAMERON	2
CARBON	11
CENTRE	7
CHESTER	29
CLARION	1
CLEARFIELD	8
CLINTON	6
COLUMBIA	7
CRAWFORD	9
CUMBERLAND	8
DELAWARE	17
ELK	5
ERIE	18
FAYETTE	13
FOREST	1
FRANKLIN	2
FULTON	2
GREENE	7
HUNTINGDON	1
INDIANA	4
JEFFERSON	6
JUNIATA	1
LACKAWANNA	23
LANCASTER	18

LAWRENCE	9
LEHIGH	20
LUZERNE	25
LYCOMING	11
MCKEAN	5
MERCER	5
MIFFLIN	4
MONROE	22
MONTGOMERY	28
NORTHAMPTON	10
NORTHUMBERLAND	11
PHILADELPHIA	41
PIKE	9
POTTER	2
SCHUYLKILL	14
SNYDER	5
SOMERSET	4
SUSQUEHANNA	2
TIOGA	7
UNION	4
VENANGO	6
WARREN	4
WASHINGTON	7
WAYNE	9
WESTMORELAND	17
WYOMING	5
YORK	29

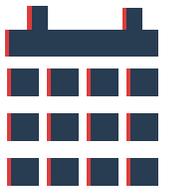
Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Available Beds Monthly Status Report
from April 1 to 30, 2019

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	100	95	5		95%	38
Secured	30	29	1		97%	18
Placing						0
TOTAL	130	124	6	1	95%	56
Non-Veteran Census Percent				4	4%	
Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	156	145	11		93%	3
Secured	40	40	0		100%	0
Placing						3
TOTAL	196	185	11	27	94%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				19	13%	
Holidaysburg Veterans' Home, Holidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	231	207	24		90%	2
Secured	26	23	3		88%	0
Personal Care	101	61	40		60%	0
Domiciliary	66	51	15		77%	0
Placing						2
TOTAL	424	342	82	74	81%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				78	11%	
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	75	74	1		99%	1
Secured	32	30	2		94%	2
Personal Care	80	52	28		65%	0
Domiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
Placing						0
TOTAL	207	176	31	26	85%	3
Non-Veteran Census Percent				29	13%	
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	208	203	5		98%	45
Secured	30	29	1		97%	4
Personal Care	54	52	2		96%	13
Placing						6
TOTAL	292	284	8	13	97%	56
Non-Veteran Census Percent				11	13%	
Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	196	191	5		97%	2
Secured	40	24	16		60%	0
Placing						2
TOTAL	236	215	21	12	91%	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent				17	16%	
Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	966	915	51		95%	91
Secured	198	175	23		88%	24
Personal Care	235	165	70		70%	13
Domiciliary	86	71	15		83%	0
Placing						13
TOTALS	1,485	1,326	159	143	89%	115
Non-Veteran Census Percent				151	12%	

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVVH	4	4%
GMVC	23	13%
HVH	37	11%
PSSH	22	13%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	33	16%
Total	154	12%

2019 PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' HOMES UPCOMING EVENTS



JUNE 2019 OPEN HOUSES

HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS' HOME	TUE., JUNE 11, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.
GINO J. MERLI VETERANS' CENTER	WED., JUNE 12, 1-4 P.M.
PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' HOME	WED., JUNE 12, 1-4 P.M.
SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER	THUR., JUNE 13, 6-8 P.M.



2019 VETERANS HOMES WEEK, JUNE 9-15, 2019

DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS' HOME	SUN., JUNE 9, 11:30 A.M., KICKOFF PICNIC TUE., JUNE 11, 11:30 A.M., CARIBBEAN DAY
GINO J. MERLI VETERANS' CENTER	FRI., JUNE 14, 10 A.M., FLAG DAY CEREMONY FRI., JUNE 14, 2 P.M., CARNIVAL
HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS' HOME	THUR., JUNE 13, 9:15 A.M., FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY THUR., JUNE 13, 10 A.M., CARNIVAL
PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' HOME	TUE., JUNE 11, NOON, CARNIVAL FRI., JUNE 14, 9:30 A.M., FLAG DAY CEREMONY
SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS' CENTER	TUE., JUNE 11, 1 P.M., CARNIVAL THUR., JUNE 13, 1:30 P.M., PETTING ZOO
SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS' CENTER	WED., JUNE 12, NOON, FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH WED., JUNE 12, 1 P.M., CARNIVAL



ANNUAL TAG FISHING TOURNAMENT, TUE., JUNE 18, 10 A.M.

Veterans from DVVH, GMVC and SEVC meet at: Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists 201 Clarks Valley Rd., Dauphin, PA, 17018