



STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION MEETING
June 1, 2018



CURRENT AND FUTURE UNIT MOBILIZATIONS



FY18															
OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
C 1-151 - 26 PAX															
FICO- 25 pax															
1902 CCD - 2 PAX															
28th HQ DIV & HQ B - 519 PAX															
28 MP CO - 163 PAX															
1928 SPT DET - 5 PAX															
201 RHS (193)-TS- 3 PAX															
28 pax															
171 SFS- OIR- 17 PAX															
171 ARW-OFS- 125 PAX															
52 pax															
201 RHS (111)- TS- 2 PAX															
171 ARW - UFG - Returned															
112 COS (111)- TS- 10 PAX															
OIR - 18 pax															
171 ARW- ALERT STATUS (HS)- 35 PAX															
111 ATKW- RPA (HS)- 36 PAX															
Total Number Mobilized / Projected, by month:															
488	220	195	739	632	632	632	773	773	773	631	779	753	748	748	780

ARNG Unit Soldiers in Theater: 545
 ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB/WTU Site: 1
 ARNG Individual Mob: 20
 Total ARNG Mob: 566

**Total PANG
 Mobilized: 835**

Current ANG Unit Airmen Mob: 233
 Current ANG Individual Mob: 36
 Total: ANG Mob: 269

As of 15MAY18

> community > commonwealth > country

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2018 (to date) Wait Times



Clinics	Number of Appointments	Wait <30 Days	Wait <30 Days	Average Wait
ALL	1,357,679	1,298,949	97.1%	3.9
Mental Health	197,460	191,410	98.5%	2.7
Primary Care	308,247	303,307	98.4%	3.7
Specialty Care	524,267	482,162	94.9%	5.8

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	15	4	8	2
Abie Abraham HCC	14	1	9	1
Coatesville VAMC	12	2	6	4
Erie VAMC	24	8	7	1
Lebanon VAMC	13	4	13	2
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	19	14	11	1
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System	13 (Hz) 28 (UD)	8 (Hz) 8 (UD)	8 (Hz) 6 (UD)	2 (Hz) 2 (UD)
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	19	2	13	6
Wilmington VAMC	22	3	9	2

Data updated 4/23/18 with wait times for last 30 days.

accesstocare.va.gov

VISN 4 Trust Data – Inpatients



<i>Statement for Response</i>	<i>All of FY16</i>	<i>All of FY17</i>	<i>FY18 thru Jan</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	88.1	87.8	89
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	83.4	83.5	82.1
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	84.3	84	86.6
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	83.6	84	87.7

% 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>FY18 thru Jan</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	85.9	86	88.1
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	79.1	80.2	81
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	80.5	81.7	82
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	75.3	77.7	81.7

% 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>FY18 thru Jan</i>
"I got the service I needed" <i>(Effectiveness)</i>	84.2	84.8	85.8
"It was easy to get the service I needed" <i>(Ease)</i>	75.8	77.9	77.8
"I felt like a valued customer" <i>(Emotion)</i>	79.2	79.3	79.7
"I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans" <i>(Trust)</i>	73.9	76.2	76.5

% of responses with agree or strongly agree

VISN 4 Care in the Community



Provider Agreements	
October 2016	789
December 2017	1,617
February 2018	1,718
April 2018	1,743

Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)	
Fiscal Year 2016	64,013
Fiscal Year 2017	70,193
Fiscal Year 2018 (to date as of April 30)	43,806

Special Assistant/PIRO Update



Governors Advisory Council for Veterans Services – May 16, 2018

Health and Behavioral Services continue to expand

Veteran-Centric Fairweather Lodge Visits/Update

Carlisle PA, Newville PA and Lebanon Pa, working Lackawanna County

DMVA participated in 6 Opioid Warm Hand-off Summits in March/April

Joint Committee for reducing Homelessness for Veterans

Resources are being identified and consolidated by county

New sub-committed formed for Transitioning Homeless Veterans

includes incarcerated Veterans

Suicide Prevention PEER Committee is “On Fire!”

Mental Health First Aid courses are being held and are full

Suicide Prevention Resources document has been created/maintained

Community interactions are increasing

We are growing our community partnerships on a daily basis

New Vitae Wellness and Recovery

Retreat Premier Addiction Treatment Centers

Single County Authorities

New providers throughout the Commonwealth

Special Assistant/PIRO Update



Korea Commemoratives – We have been advised that a new edition of Korea Reborn – Hyundai Edition and Korea Reborn – Kia Edition have been published and are available for distribution. We have requested a number of these books which should be delivered in June 2018.

BUREAU OF VETERANS' HOMES



Regulatory Agency	DVVH	GMVC	HVH	PSSH	SEVC	SWVC
Date of Last Inspection - Status						
PA Department of Health	02/06/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	01/26/2018 Full Standard Licensure Status	12/15/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	11/02/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	10/11/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	09/15/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status
PA Department of Human Services	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	License Vacated on 11/27/2012	11/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	08/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	License Vacated on 01/16/2015
US Department of Veterans Affairs	04/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	01/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	03/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	02/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status	05/2017 Full Standard Licensure Status

As of 30 APR 18

> community > commonwealth

> country

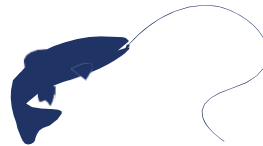
Upcoming Events for the Pennsylvania Veterans' Homes

State Veterans' Homes Week, June 10-16, 2018

Events across the homes during the week are for the residents, staff and veteran service communities. Some Highlights:

Delaware Valley Veterans' home	Sunday, June 10	11a.m., Kickoff Picnic
Southwestern Veterans' Center	Wednesday, June 13	1 p.m., Carnival
Southeastern Veterans' Center	Wednesday, June 13	7:15 p.m., Chester City Band
Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home	Thursday, June 14	1 p.m., Carnival
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home	Thursday, June 14	9:15 a.m., Flag Ceremony 10 a.m., Carnival
Gino Merli Veterans' Center	Friday, June 15	2 p.m., Carnival

Upcoming Events for the Pennsylvania Veterans' Homes



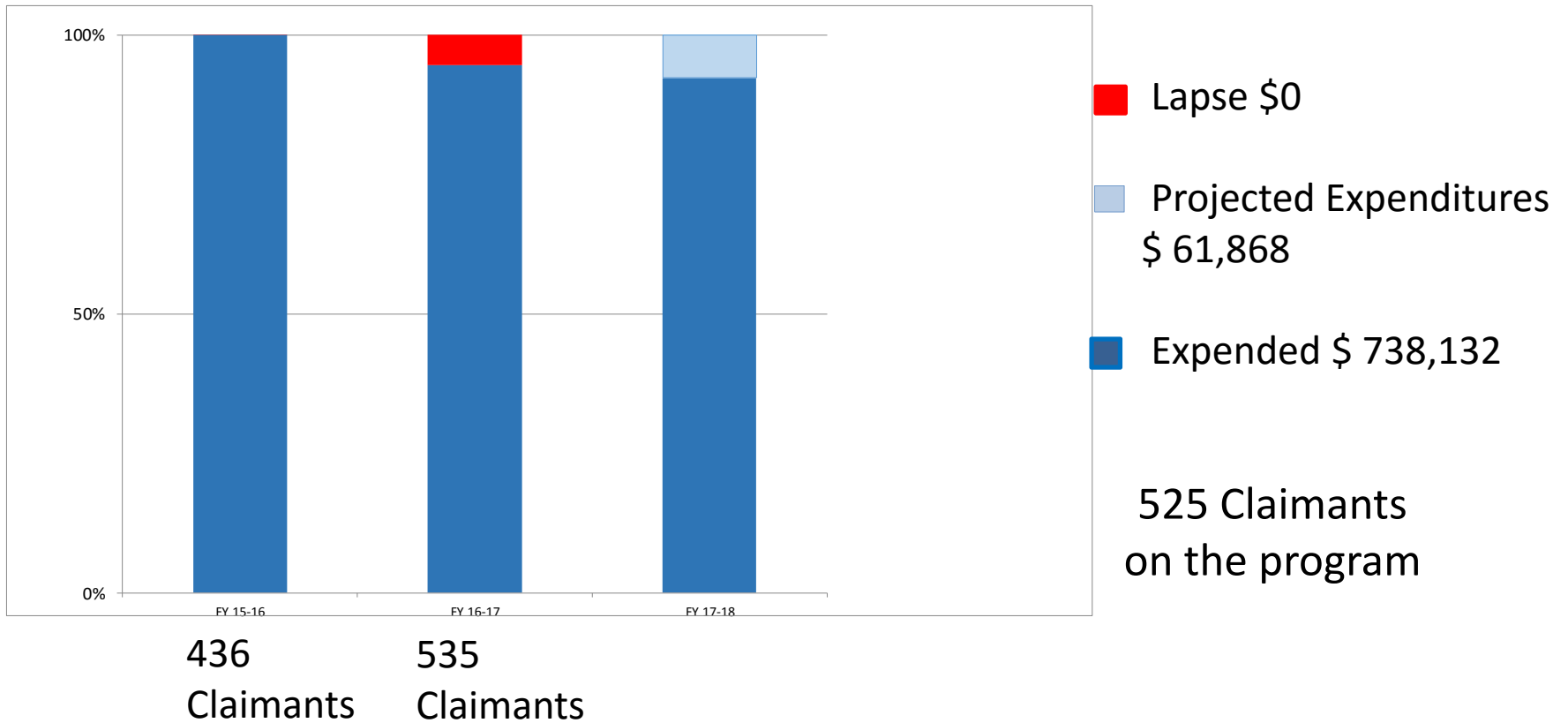
ANNUAL TAG FISHING TOURNAMENT, TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018, 10 a.m.

Veterans from the Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, the Southeastern Veterans' Center, and the Gino Merli Veterans Center will meet at: The Dauphin County Anglers and Conservationists location, 201 Clarks Valley Rd., Dauphin, PA, 17018

VETERANS TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



\$800,000

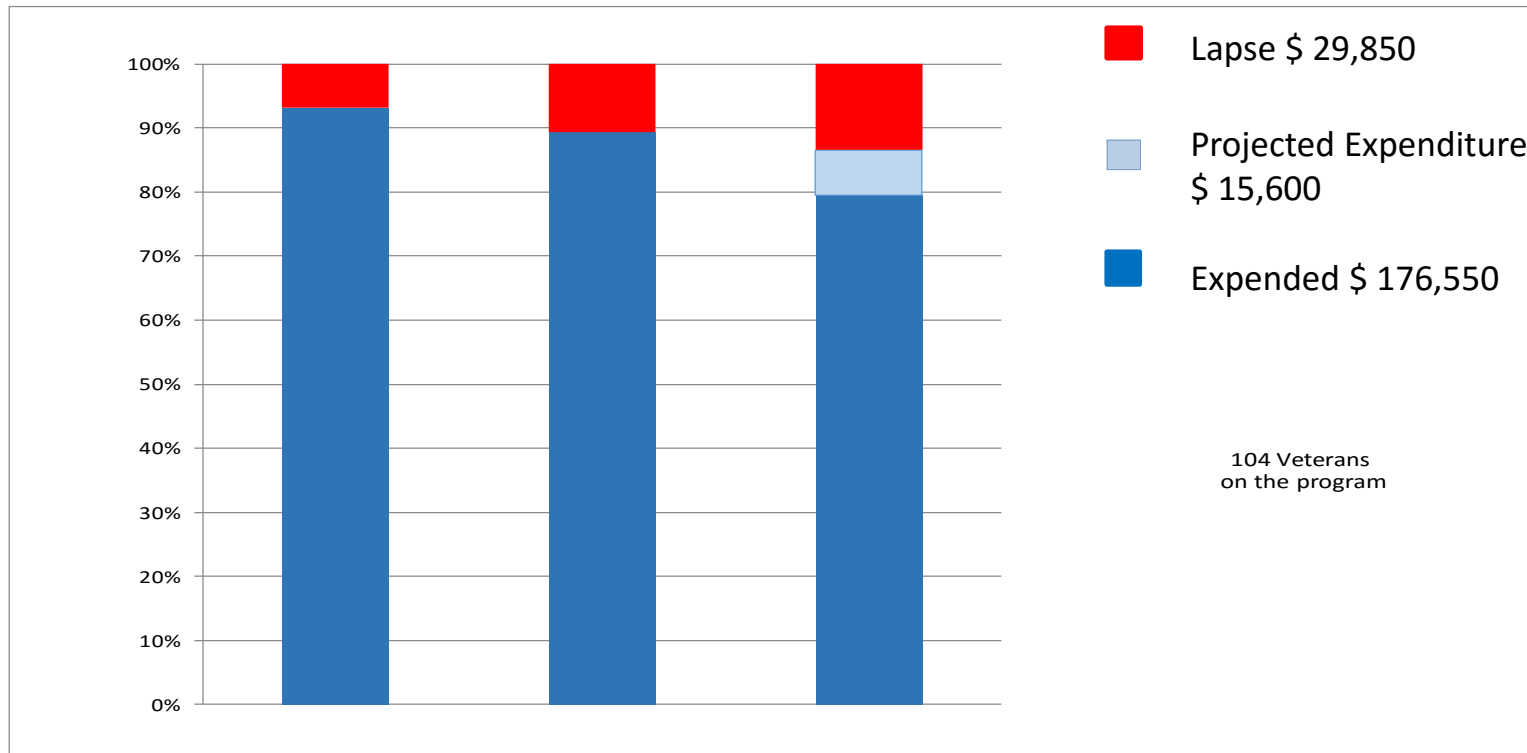


As of 14 May 2018

BLIND VETERANS PENSION



\$222,000



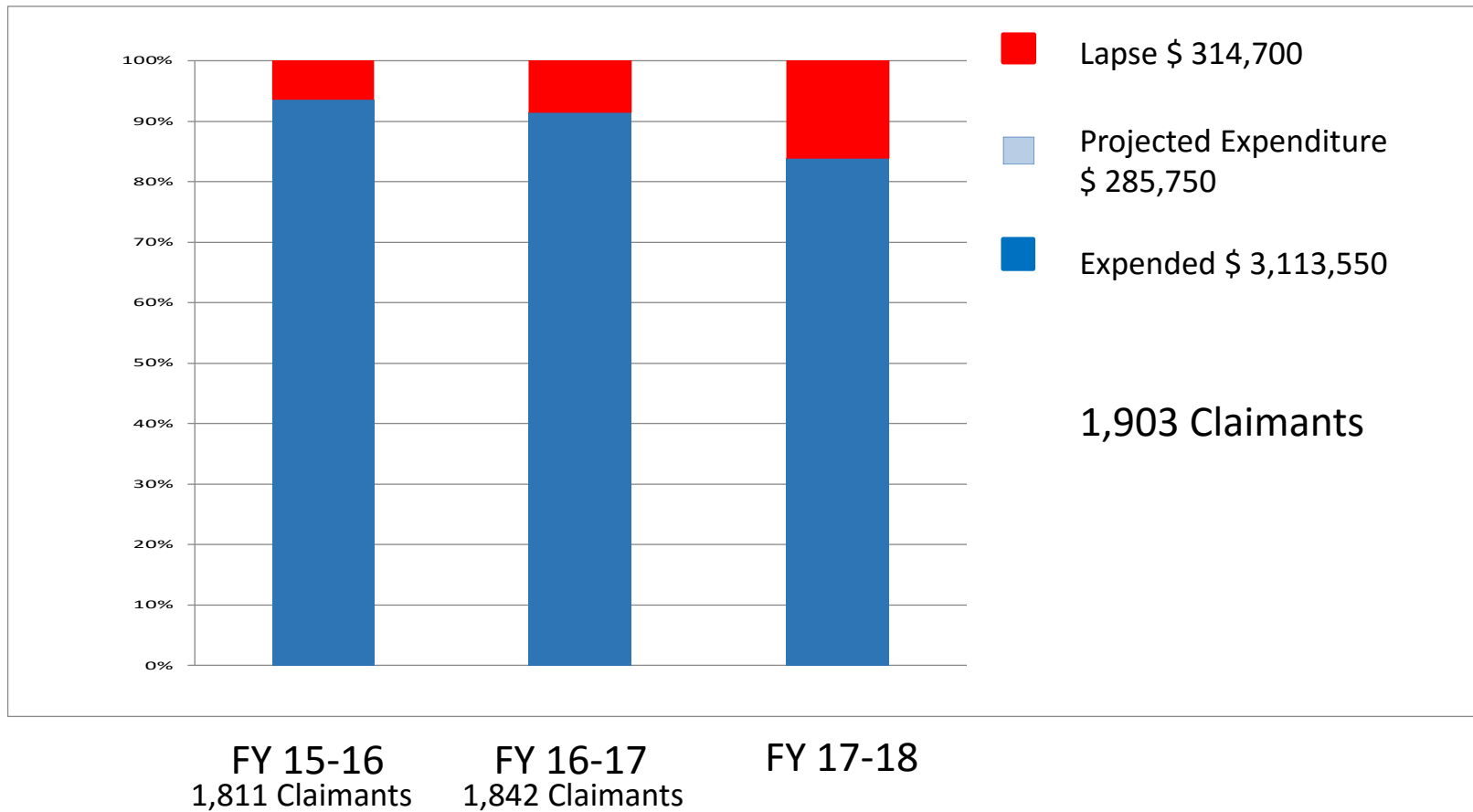
FY 15-16
116 Claimants

FY 16-17
108 Claimants

AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS PENSION



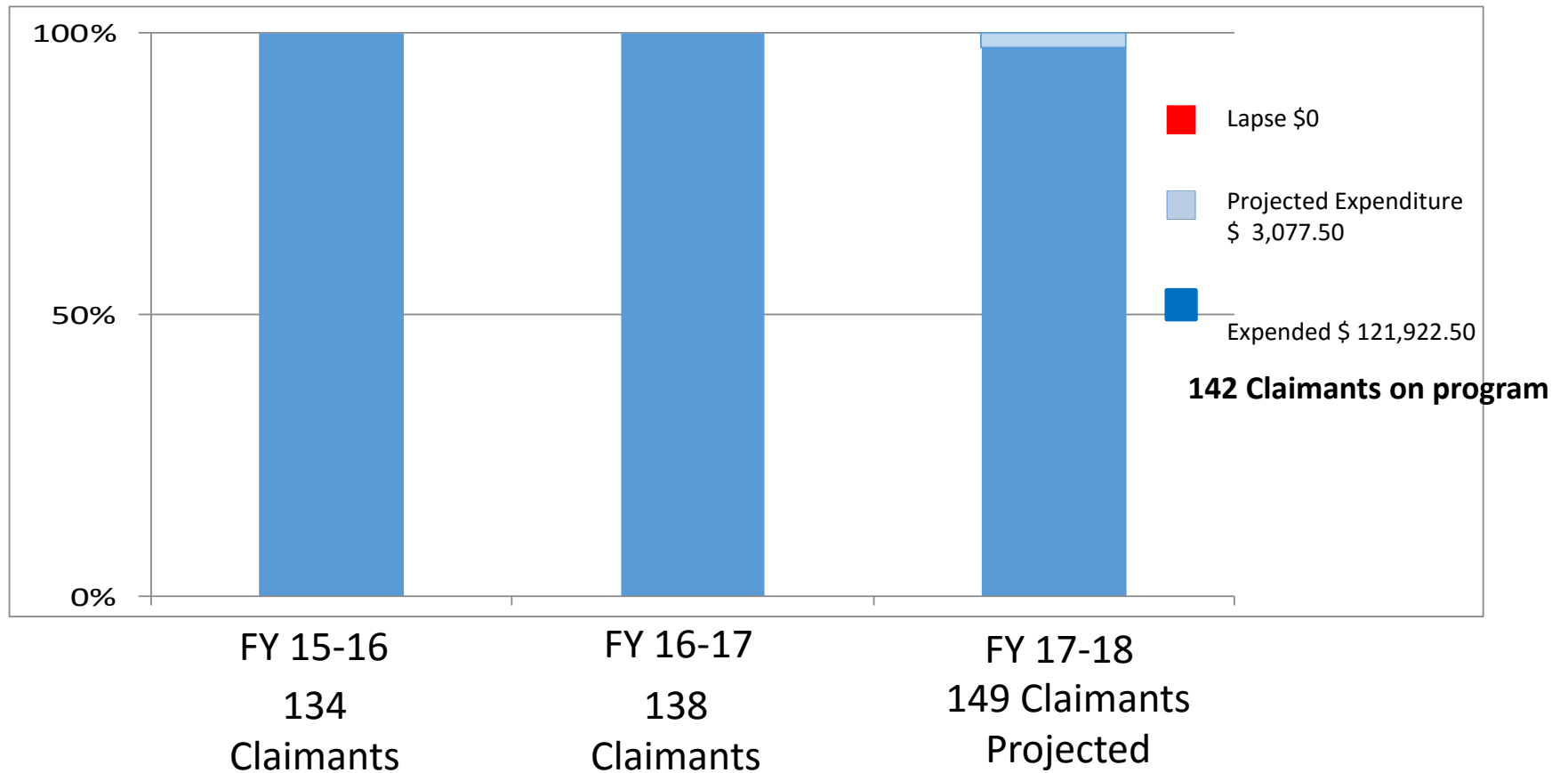
\$3,714,000



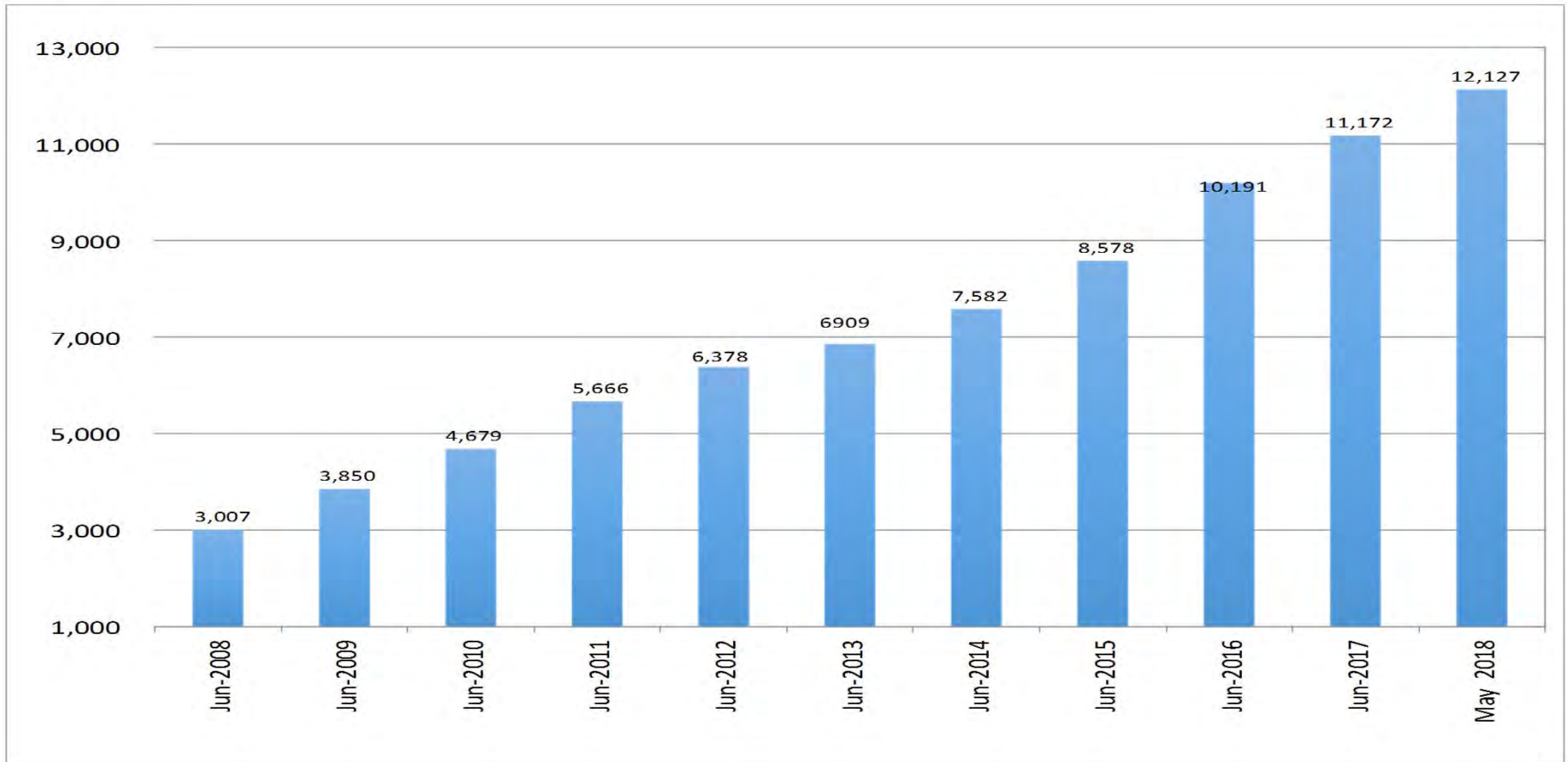
EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



\$125,000



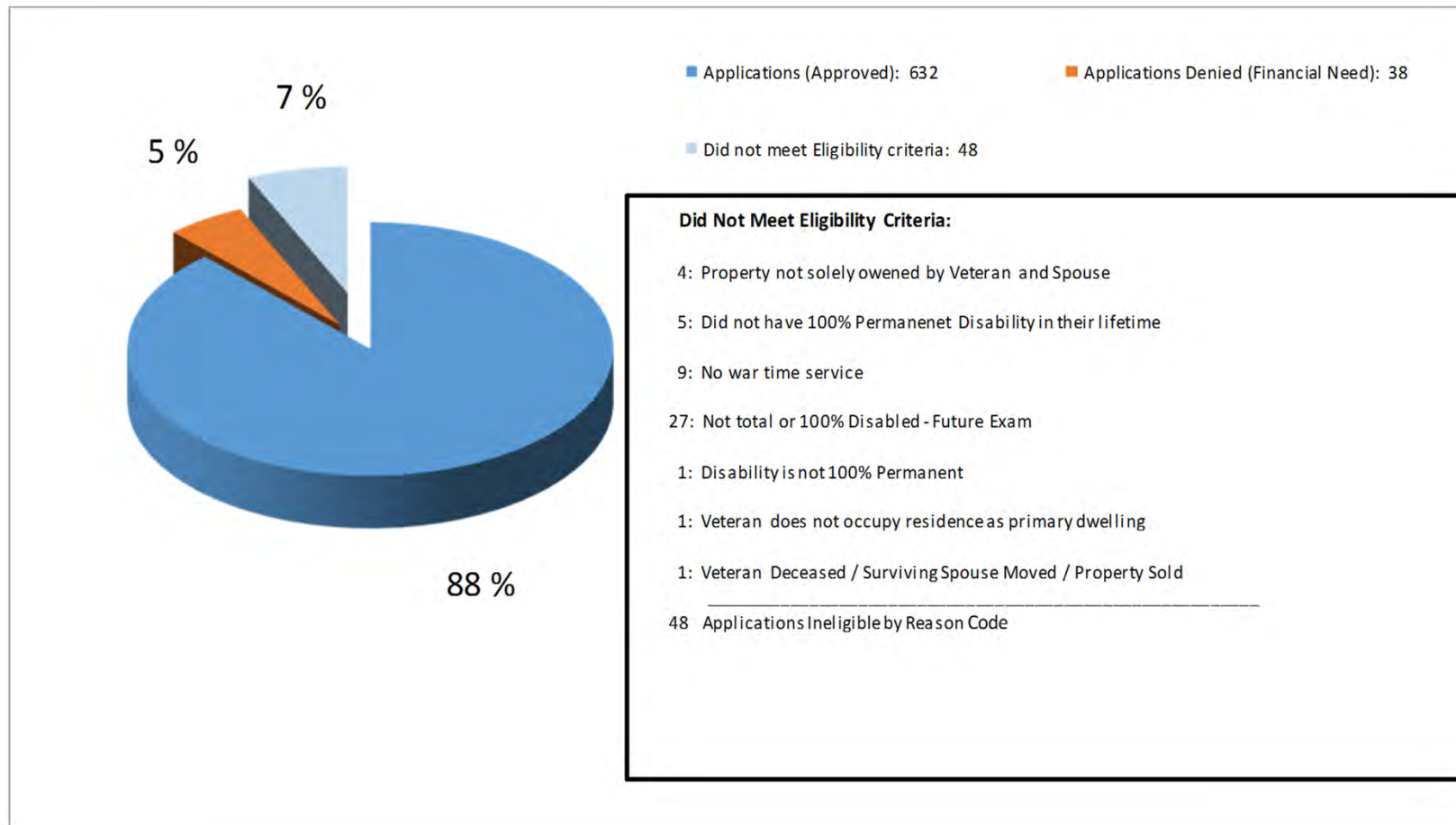
DISABLED VETERANS TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM



As of 14 May 2018

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

DISABLED VETERANS' RETX PROGRAM



*676 Applications Received since 17 March 2018

PERSIAN GULF VETERANS BENEFIT PROGRAM



Total Applications: 12,445

Payments Sent: 9,573

Total Payments: \$ 4,051,737.50

Average Payment: \$423.25

Average Processing Time: 6.34 days

As of 14 May 2018

> community > commonwealth > country

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



OVERALL MFRAP CONTRIBUTIONS - FY 2005 THRU 14 MAY 2018

TOTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 125,203.80
DEPT OF REVENUE - PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,687,664.45
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS - PRIVATE & PIT DONATIONS	\$ 1,812,868.25
APPROVED GRANT APPLICATION PAYMENTS	\$ 816,263.86
ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$ 996,604.39

As of 14 May 2018

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PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS MEMORIAL



Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

Beginning Trust Fund Balance (July 1, 2017)	\$437,082.29
Grants Received	0
Public / Private Donations	\$6,051.50
Interest	\$4,371.84
Refunds of Expenditures	\$171.96
Total Receipts	\$10,595.30
Expenses	(\$77,252.19)
Ending Balance	\$370,425.19

As of 30 Apr 2018

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ODAGVA / ACT 66 SUMMARY



FY 17 - 18	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
27,942	\$116,378,821.00

FY 16 - 17	
Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Year to Date Claims Submitted	Year to Date Value of Awards
40,818	\$179,368,987.00

As of 16 May 18

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OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS



Outreach Statistics

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	43	38	13	10	104
Mobile Outreach Van Events	40	31	7	9	87
Veteran Interactions	695	414	372	123	1,604
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	111	52	47	15	225
Legislator Attended Events	17	16	3	3	39

Notes

- Two outreach vans are operational and supporting outreach events

Upcoming Events – June

- **Legislative Events** – Rep. Murt Military Family Day
- **Events** – Sons of the American Legion Veterans Appreciation, 33rd Donald Jones Memorial Event, Vettes for Vets Car Show, Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony, Vietnam Veterans Recognition Ceremony, Bradford County Veterans Picnic, TAGPA State Homes Fishing Derby,
- **Legislators Attending Events** – Representatives Keller, Culver, Krueger-Braneky, Dowling, Metcalfe and McNeill

As of 16 May 18

> community > commonwealth > country

VETERANS' TRUST FUND



VTF Report						
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	\$45.00	\$3,945.00	263	\$44,040.00	2,936
PA Monuments LP	\$0.00	\$3,013.00	\$4,439.00	193	\$20,355.00	885
HOV Motorcycle License Plate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$435.00	29	\$2,400.00	160
Checkoff & Donations	\$28,420.00	\$68,685.00	\$1,485,120.50		\$7,389,029.93	
Veterans Trust Fund Online Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$830.00		\$3,835.00	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,377.69		\$56,838.89	
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 17-18)	\$275,000.00	\$275,000.00	\$248,446.53		\$275,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 16-17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$650,000.00	
VTF Grant NOFA (SFY 15-16)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$521,301.68	
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	
Veterans Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$157.66		\$22,901.34	
VTA	\$10,612.00	\$24,840.00	\$743,342.00		2,760,641.32	
Working Balance	-\$257,192.00	-\$228,097.00	\$529,516.32		\$2,596,160.81	3,981

As of 16 May 18

> community > commonwealth > country

Agenda**Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission**

1 June 2018 at 10:00 AM

Hollidaysburg Veterans Home

- | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1000 (10) | CALL TO ORDER | Chairman Ed Burriss |
| | Invocation | |
| | Pledge of Allegiance | Vice-Chairman Sam Petrovich |
| | Commission Introductions | |
| 1010 (5) | OATH OF OFFICE | Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli |
| | Mr. Robert W. Hill | |
| 1015 (2) | Approval of the April 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes | REQUIRES A VOTE |
| 1017 (10) | DMVA Military Update | Maj Gen Anthony Carrelli |
| 1027 (5) | VISN 4 Update | Mr. Chuck Tilges |
| | OLD BUSINESS | |
| 1032 (2) | DMVA, Chief Counsel | Ms. Elizabeth Pettis |
| 1034 (3) | DMVA Policy, Planning & Legislative Affairs Update | Mr. Joel Mutschler |
| 1037 (3) | DMVA Special Assistant/PIRO Update | Mr. Rick Hamp |
| 1040 (3) | DMVA Bureau of State Veterans' Homes Update | Mr. Andrew Ruscavage |
| 1043 (3) | Approval of Programs Report (Report provided by DMVA) | REQUIRES A VOTE |
| | DMVA Division of Services & Programs Update | Mr. Brian Natali |
| 1046 (3) | DMVA Division of Outreach & Reintegration | Mr. Chip Gilliland |
| 1049 (5) | SVC By-Law Committee | Mr. Sam Petrovich |
| 1054 (5) | SVC Act 66 Committee | Mr. Edward Hanke |
| 1059 (5) | SVC RETX Committee | Mr. Henry Desrosiers |
| 1104 (5) | SVC Legislative Committee | Mr. Paul Kennedy |
| 1109 (5) | SVC Pensions/Relief/Grave Marking/Military Cemetery Committee | Mr. John Brenner |
| 1114 (10) | SB 1037 Discussion | Chairman Ed Burriss |
| | NEW BUSINESS | |
| 1124 (5) | Hall of Fame Nominations | REQUIRES A VOTE |
| | Service Organization Updates: | |
| 1129 (5) | Disabled American Veterans | Mr. Ed Hanke |
| 1134 (5) | Catholic War Veterans | Mr. William Wright |
| 1139 (5) | Vietnam Veterans of America | Mr. Tom Haberkorn |
| 1144 (5) | Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America | Mr. Chris Fidler |
| 1149 (5) | Good of the Order/Announcement | |
| 1154 (5) | Discussion Topics for next meeting | Chairman Ed Burriss |
| | Next Meeting: Friday, Sept 7, 2018 @ 10:00AM | |
| | Southeastern Veterans Center | |
| | 1 Veterans Drive, Spring City, PA 19475 | |
| | ADJOURNMENT | Chairman Ed Burriss |
| 1159 | RETIRING OF COLORS | Vice-Chairman Sam Petrovich |

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**Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Authorized Beds Monthly Status Report
from April 1 to 30, 2018**

Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Philadelphia - Peter Ojeda - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	100	100	0	0	0	100%	2		1		1		31	19
Secured	30	30	0	0	0	100%	1		0		0		4	8
Personal Care	41	11	0	0	0	27%	0		7		0		1	4
TOTAL	171	141	0	0	0	82%	3	6	8	12	1	5	36	31
Non-Veteran Census Percent						4%		5		10		3		

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton - James Miller - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	156	124	32	0	0	79%	9		4		3		13	13
Secured	40	32	8	0	0	80%	3		2		0		2	0
TOTAL	196	156	40	0	0	80%	12	8	6	5	3	5	15	13
Non-Veteran Census Percent						11%		10		6		4		

Holidaysburg Veterans' Home, Holidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	231	208	23	0	0	90%	11		5		4		2	2
Secured	26	23	3	0	0	88%	0		1		1		1	0
Personal Care	101	60	41	0	0	59%	2		2		0		1	0
Domiciliary	66	47	19	0	0	71%	0		0		0		0	0
TOTAL	424	338	86	0	0	80%	13	7	8	4	5	5	4	2
Non-Veteran Census Percent						12%		10		6		5		

Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie - Barbara Raymond - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	75	51	24	24	0	100%	0		0		0		24	9
Secured	32	31	1	0	0	97%	2		0		1		23	9
Personal Care	80	54	26	0	0	68%	1	0	5		0		6	2
Domiciliary	20	20	0	0	0	100%	0		0		0		0	0
TOTAL	207	156	51	24	0	75%	3	6	5	4	1	8	53	20
Non-Veteran Census Percent						13%		5		5		5		

Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	208	200	8	0	0	96%	5		6		3		47	6
Secured	30	28	2	0	0	93%	0		1		0		6	3
Personal Care	54	53	1	0	0	98%	4		1		0		11	2
TOTAL	292	281	11	0	0	96%	9	12	8	4	3	6	64	11
Non-Veteran Census Percent						13%		11		6		5		

Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh - Richard R. Adams - Commandant

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	196	192	4	0	0	98%	9		0		10		2	0
Secured	40	37	3	0	0	93%	3		2		1		0	0
TOTAL	236	229	7	0	0	97%	12	8	2	6	11	7	2	0
Non-Veteran Census Percent						14%		10		4		9		

Recapitulation / Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Homes

Level of Care	Authorized Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Infrastructure Beds on Hold	Suspended Beds	Percentage Filled	Admissions	Average Admissions since 2014	Discharges	Average Discharges since 2014	Expired	Average Expirations since 2014	Waiting List Veteran	Waiting List Non-Vet
Nursing Care	966	875	91	24	0	91%	36		16		21		119	49
Secured	198	181	17	0	0	91%	9		6		3		36	20
Personal Care	276	178	68	0	0	64%	7		15		0		19	8
Domiciliary	86	67	19	0	0	78%	0		0		0		0	0
TOTALS	1,526	1,301	225	24	0	85%	52	40	37	18	24	25	174	77
Non-Veteran Census Percent						12%		46		28		25		

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVH	5	4%
GMVC	16	11%
HVH	39	12%
PSSH	19	13%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	30	14%
Total	144	12%

CAMPAIGN	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BRANCH OF SERVICE	PLACE OF BIRTH	COUNTY OF BIRTH	PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	COUNTY OF ENLISTMENT	RANK	DATE & LOCATION OF EVENT
Civil War	Brown	Charles E.	Army	Schuylkill Co, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Schuylkill Haven, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Sergeant Company C 50th PA Infantry	19 August 1864 Weldon Railroad, VA
Civil War	Cart	Jacob	Army	Carlisle, PA	CUMBERLAND	Carlisle, PA	CUMBERLAND	Private Company A 7th PA Reserve Corps	13 December 1862 Fredericksburg, VA
Civil War	Davis	Charles C.	Army	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Major 7th PA Cavalry	27 June 1863 Shelbyville, TN
Civil War	Frick	Jacob G.	Army	Northumberland, PA	NORTHUMBERLAND	Pottsville, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Colonel 129th PA Infantry	13 December 1862 Fredericksburg, VA; 3 May 1863 Chancellorsville, VA
Civil War	Graul	William L.	Army	Reading, PA	BERKS	Reading, PA	BERKS	Corporal Company I 188th PA Infantry	29 September 1864 Fort Harrison, VA
Civil War	Hill	Henry	Army	Schuylkill County, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Corporal Company C 50th PA Infantry	6 May 1864 Wilderness, VA
Civil War	Ilgertitz	Charles Henry	Army	York County, PA	YORK	York, PA	YORK	Sergeant Company E 207th PA Infantry	2 April 1865 Fort Sedgewick, VA
Civil War	Kinsey	John	Army	Lancaster County, PA	LANCASTER	Maytown, PA	LANCASTER	Corporal Company B 45th PA Infantry	18 May 1864 Spotsylvania, VA
Civil War	Lewis	Dewitt Clinton	Army	West Chester, PA	CHESTER	West Chester, PA	CHESTER	Captain Company F 97th PA Infantry	16 June 1862 Secessionville, SC
Civil War	Marquette	Charles D.	Army	Lebanon County, PA	LEBANON	Campbelltown, PA Lebanon County	LEBANON	Sergeant Company F 93rd PA Infantry	2 April 1865 Petersburg, VA
Civil War	Miller	William Edward	Army	West Hill, PA	CUMBERLAND	Newville, PA	CUMBERLAND	Captain Company H 3rd PA Cavalry	3 July 1863 Gettysburg, PA
Civil War	Pennypacker	Galusha	Army	Valley Forge, PA	CHESTER	West Chester, PA	CHESTER	Colonel 97th PA Infantry	15 January 1865 Fort Fisher, NC

Civil War	Reigle	Daniel P.	Army	Adams County, PA	ADAMS	Gettysburg, PA Adams County	ADAMS	Corporal Company F 87th PA Infantry	19 October 1864 Cedar Creek, VA
Civil War	Rohn	Ferdinand Frederick	Army	Patterson, PA	JUNIATA	Juniata County, PA	JUNIATA	Chief Bugler 16th PA Cavalry	25 August 1864 Reams Station, VA
Civil War	Sands	William	Army	Reading, PA	BERKS	Reading, PA	BERKS	First Sergeant Company G 88th PA Infantry	6-7 February 1865 Dabney's Mills, VA
Civil War	Watson	George Washington	Army	Upper Oxford, PA	CHESTER	Upper Oxford, PA	CHESTER	Private Company C 97th PA Infantry	29 August 1864 Fort Hell, Petersburg, VA
Indian Campaign	Hoover	Samuel	Army	Dauphin County, PA	DAUPHIN	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Bugler Company A 1st U.S. Cavalry	6 May 1873 Santa Maria Mountains, AZ
Indian Campaign	Kirk	John	Army	York, PA	YORK	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	First Sergeant Company L 6th U.S. Cavalry	12 July 1870 Wichita River, TX
Indian Campaign	Kitchen	George Krause	Army	Lebanon County, PA	LEBANON	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Sergeant Company H 6th U.S. Cavalry	9 September 1874 Upper Wichita, TX
Indian Campaign	Springer	George	Army	York County, PA	YORK	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	Private Company G 1st U.S. Cavalry	20 October 1869 Chiricahua Mountains, AZ
Indian Campaign	Strayer	William	Army	Maytown, PA	LANCASTER	Carlisle, PA	CUMBERLAND	Private Company B 3rd U.S. Cavalry	26 April 1872 At Loupe Forke, Platte River, NB
Indian Campaign	Witcome	Joseph	Army	Mechanicsburg, PA	CUMBERLAND	Carlisle, PA	CUMBERLAND	Private Company B 8th U.S. Cavalry	August - October 1868 Arizona

Korean War	Reem	Robert Dale	USMC	Lancaster, PA	LANCASTER	Elizabethtown, PA	LANCASTER	Second Lieutenant Company H, 3rd Bn. 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division	6 November 1950 Vincinity Chinhung-ni, Korea
Spanish-American	Ressler	Norman W.	Army	Dalmatia, PA	NORTHUMBERLAND	Dalmatia, PA	NORTHUMBERLAND	Corporal Company D 17th U.S. Infantry	1 July 1898 El Caney, Cuba
Vietnam War	Etchberger	Richard L.	USAF	Hamburg, PA	BERKS	Hamburg, PA	BERKS	Chief Master Sergeant Detachment 1 1043d Radar Evaluation	11 March 1968 Phou Pha Thi Laos

WWII	Hallman	Sherwood H.	Army	Spring City, PA	CHESTER	Spring City, PA	CHESTER	Staff Sergeant 175th Infantry 29th Infantry	13 September 1944 Brest, Brittany, France
WWII	Horner	Freeman Victor	Army	Mount Carmel, PA	NORTHUMBERLAND	Shamokin, PA	NORTHUMBERLAND	Staff Sergeant Company K 119th Infantry 30th Infantry	16 November 1944 Wurselen, Germany

WWII	Roeder	Robert E.	Army	Summit Station, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Summit Station, PA	SCHUYLKILL	Captain Company G 350th Infantry 88th Infantry	27-28 September 1944 Mt. Battaglia, Italy
China (Boxer Rebellion)	Mathias	Clarence Edward	USMC	Royalton, PA	DAUPHIN	UNKNOWN		Private	13 July 1900 Tientsin, China
China (Boxer Rebellion)	Foley	Alexander Joseph	USMC	Heckersville, PA	SCHUYLKILL	UNKNOWN		Sergeant	13 July 1900 Tientsin, China
Civil War	Vaughn	Pinkerton Ross	USMC	Downingtown, PA	CHESTER	UNKNOWN		Sergeant	14 March 1863 Port Hudson
Civil War	Denig	J. Henry	USMC	York, PA	YORK	UNKNOWN		Sergeant	5 August 1864 Mobile Bay

Haitian Campaign	Butler	Smedley Darlington	USMC	West Chester, PA	CHESTER	UNKNOWN		Major	17 November 1915 Fort Riviere, Haiti
Mexican Campaign	Butler	Smedley Darlington	USMC	West Chester, PA	CHESTER	UNKNOWN		Major	22 April 1914 Vera Cruz, Mexico
Peace Time	Huber	William Russell	Navy	Harrisburg, PA	DAUPHIN	UNKNOWN		Machinest's Mate	11 June 1928 Navy Yard, Norfolk, VA
WWII	Damato	Anthony Peter	USMC	Shenandoah, PA	SCHULYKILL	UNKNOWN		Corporal	19-20 February 1944 Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands

MOH CITATION

Capture of flag of 47th Virginia Infantry (C.S.A.)

Capture of flag of 19th Georgia Infantry (C.S.A.), wresting it from the hands of the color bearer.

Led one of the most desperate and successful charges of the war.

At Fredericksburg seized the colors and led the command through a terrible fire of cannon and musketry. In a hand-to-hand fight at Chancellorsville, recaptured the colors of his regiment.

First to plant the colors of his State on the fortifications.

This soldier, with one companion, would not retire when his regiment fell back in confusion after an unsuccessful charge, but instead advanced and continued firing upon the enemy until the regiment reformed and regained its position

The color bearer falling, pierced by 7 balls, he immediately sprang forward and grasped the colors, planting them upon the enemy's forts amid a murderous fire of grape, canister, and musketry from the enemy

Seized the colors, the color bearer having been shot, and with great gallantry succeeded in saving them from capture.

While retiring with his men before a heavy fire of canister shot at short range, returned in the face of the enemy's fire and rescued an exhausted private of his company who but for this timely action would have lost his life by drowning in the morass through which the troops were retiring

Sergeant Marquette, although wounded, was one of the first to plant colors on the enemy's breastworks

Without orders, led a charge of his squadron upon the flank of the enemy, checked his attack, and cut off and dispersed the rear of his column.

Gallantly led the charge over a traverse and planted the colors of one of his regiments thereon, was severely wounded

For gallantry while rushing forward to capture a Confederate flag at the stone fence where the enemy's last stand was made.
While his regiment was retiring under fire voluntarily remained behind to succor a wounded officer who was in great danger, secured assistance, and removed the officer to a place of safety.
Grasped the enemy's colors in the face of a deadly fire and brought them inside the lines.
Went outside the trenches, under heavy fire at short range, and rescued a comrade who had been wounded and thrown out of the trench by an exploding shell
Gallantry in action, also services as trailer in May 1872.
Gallantry in action
Gallantry in action
Gallantry in action
Gallantry in action
Bravery in scouts and actions against Indians

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon commander in Company H, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Grimly determined to dislodge a group of heavy enemy infantry units occupying well-concealed and strongly fortified positions on commanding ground overlooking unprotected terrain. 2d Lt. Reem moved slowly forward up the side of the ridge with his platoon in the face of a veritable hail of shattering hostile machine gun, grenade, and rifle fire. Three times repulsed by a resolute enemy force in achieving his objective, and pinned down by the continuing fury of hostile fire, he rallied and regrouped the heroic men in his depleted and disorganized platoon in preparation for a fourth attack. Issuing last-minute orders to his noncommissioned officers when an enemy grenade landed in a depression of the rocky ground in which the group was standing, 2d Lt. Reem unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and, springing upon the deadly missile, absorbed the full impact of the explosion in his body, thus protecting others from serious injury and possible death. Stouthearted and indomitable, he readily yielded his own chance of survival that his subordinate leaders might live to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. His superb courage, cool decisiveness, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon 2d Lt. Reem and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Gallantly assisted in the rescue of the wounded from in front of the lines and under heavy fire of the enemy.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Chief Etchberger and his team of technicians were manning a top secret defensive position at Lima Site 85 when the base was overrun by an enemy ground force. Receiving sustained and withering heavy artillery attacks directly upon his unit's position, Chief Etchberger's entire crew lay dead or severely wounded. Despite having received little or no combat training, Chief Etchberger single-handedly held off the enemy with an M-16, while simultaneously directing air strikes into the area and calling for air rescue. Because of his fierce defense and heroic and selfless actions, he was able to deny the enemy access to his position and save the lives of his remaining crew. With the arrival of the rescue aircraft, Chief Etchberger, without hesitation, repeatedly and deliberately risked his own life, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in order to place three surviving wounded comrades into rescue slings hanging from the hovering helicopter waiting to airlift them to safety. With his remaining crew safely aboard, Chief Etchberger finally climbed into an evacuation sling himself, only to be fatally wounded by enemy ground fire as he was being raised into the aircraft. Chief Etchberger's bravery and determination in the face of persistent enemy fire and overwhelming odds are in keeping with the highest standards of performance and traditions of military service. Chief Etchberger's gallantry, self-sacrifice, and profound concern for his fellow men at risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. On 13 September 1944, in Brittany, France, the 2d Battalion in its attack on the fortified city of Brest was held up by a strongly defended enemy position which had prevented its advance despite repeated attacks extending over a 3-day period. Finally, Company F advanced to within several hundred yards of the enemy position but was again halted by intense fire. Realizing that the position must be neutralized without delay, S/Sgt. Hallman ordered his squad to cover his movements with fire while he advanced alone to a point from which he could make the assault. Without hesitating, S/Sgt. Hallman leaped over a hedgerow into a sunken road, the central point of the German defenses which was known to contain an enemy machinegun position and at least 30 enemy riflemen. Firing his carbine and hurling grenades, S/Sgt. Hallman, unassisted, killed or wounded 4 of the enemy, then ordered the remainder to surrender. Immediately, 12 of the enemy surrendered and the position was shortly secured by the remainder of his company. Seeing the surrender of this position, about 75 of the enemy in the vicinity surrendered, yielding a defensive organization which the battalion with heavy supporting fires had been unable to take. This single heroic act on the part of S/Sgt. Hallman resulted in the immediate advance of the entire battalion for a distance of 2,000 yards to a position from which Fort Kerarroux was captured later the same day. S/Sgt. Hallman's fighting determination and intrepidity in battle exemplify the highest tradition of the U.S. Armed Force

S/Sgt. Horner and other members of his company were attacking Wurselen, Germany, against stubborn resistance on 16 November 1944, when machinegun fire from houses on the edge of the town pinned the attackers in flat, open terrain 100 yards from their objective. As they lay in the field, enemy artillery observers directed fire upon them, causing serious casualties. Realizing that the machineguns must be eliminated in order to permit the company to advance from its precarious position, S/Sgt. Horner voluntarily stood up with his submachine gun and rushed into the teeth of concentrated fire, burdened by a heavy load of ammunition and hand grenades. Just as he reached a position of seeming safety, he was fired on by a machinegun which had remained silent up until that time. He coolly wheeled in his fully exposed position while bullets barely missed him and killed 2 hostile gunners with a single, devastating burst. He turned to face the fire of the other 2 machineguns, and dodging fire as he ran, charged the 2 positions 50 yards away. Demoralized by their inability to hit the intrepid infantryman, the enemy abandoned their guns and took cover in the cellar of the house they occupied. S/Sgt. Horner burst into the building, hurled 2 grenades down the cellar stairs, and called for the Germans to surrender. Four men gave up to him. By his extraordinary courage, S/Sgt. Horner destroyed 3 enemy machinegun positions, killed or captured 7 enemy, and cleared the path for his company's successful assault on Wurselen.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Roeder commanded his company in defense of the strategic Mount Battaglia. Shortly after the company had occupied the hill, the Germans launched the first of a series of determined counterattacks to regain this dominating height. Completely exposed to ceaseless enemy artillery and small-arms fire, Capt. Roeder constantly circulated among his men, encouraging them and directing their defense against the persistent enemy. During the sixth counterattack, the enemy, by using flamethrowers and taking advantage of the fog, succeeded in overrunning the position. Capt. Roeder led his men in a fierce battle at close quarters, to repulse the attack with heavy losses to the Germans. The following morning, while the company was engaged in repulsing an enemy counterattack in force, Capt. Roeder was seriously wounded and rendered unconscious by shell fragments. He was carried to the company command post, where he regained consciousness. Refusing medical treatment, he insisted on rejoining his men. Although in a weakened condition, Capt. Roeder dragged himself to the door of the command post and, picking up a rifle, braced himself in a sitting position. He began firing his weapon, shouted words of encouragement, and issued orders to his men. He personally killed 2 Germans before he himself was killed instantly by an exploding shell. Through Capt. Roeder's able and intrepid leadership his men held Mount Battaglia against the aggressive and fanatical enemy attempts to retake this important and strategic height. His valorous performance is exemplary of the fighting spirit of the U.S. Army.

In the presence of the enemy during the advance on Tientsin, China, 13 July 1900, Mathias distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

In the presence of the enemy in the battle near Tientsin, China, 13 July 1900, Foley distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

Serving on board the U.S.S. Mississippi during her abandonment and firing in the action with the Port Hudson batteries, 14 March 1863. During the abandonment of the Mississippi which had to be grounded, Sgt. Vaughn rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer, remaining with the ship until all the crew had landed and the ship had been fired to prevent its falling into enemy hands. Persistent until the last, and conspicuously cool under the heavy shellfire, Sgt. Vaughn was finally ordered to save himself as he saw fit.

On board the U.S.S. Brooklyn during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee, in Mobile Bay, 5 August 1864. Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Sgt. Denig fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious 2-hour battle which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

As Commanding Officer of detachments from the 5th, 13th, 23d Companies and the marine and sailor detachment from the U.S.S. Connecticut, Maj. Butler led the attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti, 17 November 1915. Following a concentrated drive, several different detachments of marines gradually closed in on the old French bastion fort in an effort to cut off all avenues of retreat for the Caco bandits. Reaching the fort on the southern side where there was a small opening in the wall, Maj. Butler gave the signal to attack and marines from the 15th Company poured through the breach, engaged the Cacos in hand-to-hand combat, took the bastion and crushed the Caco resistance. Throughout this perilous action, Maj. Butler was conspicuous for his bravery and forceful leadership.

For distinguished conduct in battle, engagement of Vera Cruz, 22 April 1914. Maj. Butler was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion. He exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through the action of the 22d and in the final occupation of the city.

For display of extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession on 11 June 1928, after a boiler accident on the U.S.S. Bruce, then at the Naval Shipyard, Norfolk, Va. Immediately on becoming aware of the accident, Huber without hesitation and in complete disregard of his own safety, entered the steam-filled fireroom and at grave risk to his life succeeded by almost superhuman efforts in carrying Charles H. Bryan to safety. Although having received severe and dangerous burns about the arms and neck, he descended with a view toward rendering further assistance. The great courage, grit, and determination displayed by Huber on this occasion characterized conduct far above and beyond the call of duty.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with an assault company in action against enemy Japanese forces on Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, on the night of 1920 February 1944. Highly vulnerable to sudden attack by small, fanatical groups of Japanese still at large despite the efficient and determined efforts of our forces to clear the area, Cpl. Damato lay with 2 comrades in a large foxhole in his company's defense perimeter which had been dangerously thinned by the forced withdrawal of nearly half of the available men. When 1 of the enemy approached the foxhole undetected and threw in a hand grenade, Cpl. Damato desperately groped for it in the darkness. Realizing the imminent peril to all 3 and fully aware of the consequences of his act, he unhesitatingly flung himself on the grenade and, although instantly killed as his body absorbed the explosion, saved the lives of his 2 companions. Cpl. Damato's splendid initiative, fearless conduct and valiant sacrifice reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his comrades.

Spring City World War II veteran receives French Legion of Honor in Philadelphia

By Gary Puleo, gpuleo@21st-centurymedia.com, [@MustangMan48](https://twitter.com/MustangMan48) on Twitter



At age 95, World War II veteran Frank Horvath maintains his love of playing many stringed instruments, including the banjo. Gary Puleo — digital first media



U.S. Army veteran Frank J. Horvath will receive France's highest award for valor during a ceremony on Sept. 21 at the Consul of France in Philadelphia. Submitted photo

SPRING CITY >> He made a tenderhearted, war-torn decision that day in France that earned him a Bronze Star from the U.S. Army, and now, at long last, the French government is acknowledging his compassion too.

U.S. Army veteran Frank J. Horvath, a former master sergeant, received France's highest award for valor during a ceremony Sept. 21 at the Consul of France in Philadelphia.

Even after 73 years, the dates and every last detail are as vivid for Horvath as if they happened yesterday.

"I do have a very good knack of remembering dates, events and all that kind of stuff," noted the 95-year-old, reaching for his trusted banjo in his residence at the Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring City.

The banjo, which the multi-instrumentalist strums frequently, is similar to the one that accompanied Horvath from his native Palmerton to the sands of Omaha Beach and kept him grounded through the turmoil so far from home.

“When I went onto the ship in Brooklyn I had it strapped to my back,” he said, “and when I got off the ship in Liverpool headed for Normandy people were looking at me wondering, ‘What is this guy doing with an instrument strapped to his back?’”

Horvath served in the K Company’s 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division, landing on Omaha Beach on June 16, 1944.

The 83rd Division had been ordered to replace the 101st Airborne Division in the vicinity of Carentan, France, creating a breakthrough to Brittany, Horvath noted.

On July 21 Horvath was awarded a Bronze Star “for something I’d done in the hedgerows,” he recalled.

“What happened in those hedgerows was that the Germans would have a tank in one corner and a machine gun in another corner, and they’d have snipers in trees,” he said. “So when you wanted to go into that area you’d have to pass through this entrance. If you weren’t careful you’d walk into an ambush that nobody could survive. So we lost quite a few men that way.”

As platoon leader during Operation Cobra, which was the code name for an offensive launched by Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley following the D-Day landings during the Normandy Campaign, Horvath found himself confronting a concrete bunker that he learned was occupied by both Germans and French.

“I got my bazooka man to fire two shells, which had no effect because the walls were probably 2 feet thick. But it injured two of my soldiers through shrapnel because, for some reason, they were not in the right position,” Horvath remembered. “I noticed the steps going down with a steel door and I hollered in to them. They yelled back asking if we were going to shoot them.”

Horvath responded that he had no intention of firing at them.

“I also heard French people inside that bunker,” he said. “Whether they were holding them as hostages, I have no idea. But I looked in there and then decided to cease all operations against this bunker. There was no way they could hurt us, and I figured in due time they would come to their senses, which they did. About three or four hours later the Germans decided to give up.”

Horvath did not escape unscathed from the confrontation.

“As I was looking into the entryway I heard this gun go off and they hit me in the leg,” he explained.

Horvath said that his action to protect French citizens is what earned him the Legion of Honor Medal, which was presented by Michael Scullin, honorary consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington, at the Consul of France, located at the law offices of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter LLP, 1 Penn Center, Suburban Station, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1500, Philadelphia.

In addition to two Bronze Stars, Horvath was also awarded a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in battle, a Good Conduct Medal, an American Theater Service Medal and a Victory Medal.

American veterans who fought on French territory in one of the four main campaigns of the liberation of France (Normandy, Provence, Ardennes, or Northern France) qualify to be considered for decoration as chevaliers, or knights, of the Legion of Honor.

“I think the French government is awarding me their medal in honor of the fact that I did not order artillery on this bunker, which would probably have killed most of the people inside, which would have been French people too,” Horvath said.

After spending four months recuperating in a hospital in England, Horvath entered Gen. Dwight Eisenhower’s Information and Education Division — “which meant that instead of sending me back to the states on limited service, I was going back into France on a retraining regimen for officers,” he noted — and eventually studied music at Biarritz University in France, where he met his future wife, Jacqueline Marie Antoinette Seres.

The couple raised three daughters — Carolyn Arnold, the late Patricia Horvath and Giselle Knoblauch, currently a nursing teacher at Norristown Area High School — in Palmerton, where Horvath returned to his job as a zinc machinist accountant after the war.

He ultimately left the zinc industry for an administrative job with the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1984.

With a timorous grin, he recalled initially being sent home to recover from a tummy ailment after attempting to enlist in the U.S. Air Force in 1942.

“I wanted to enlist in the Air Force and I took a trolley from Allentown to Philadelphia to go to the customs house, where all the military people who were entering the different armed forces were examined. On the way down,” he said, “I got sick on the trolley, and when I got down there to take my physical exam the doctor said ‘You look pale. What happened to you?’ I told him the truth, that I felt sick.”

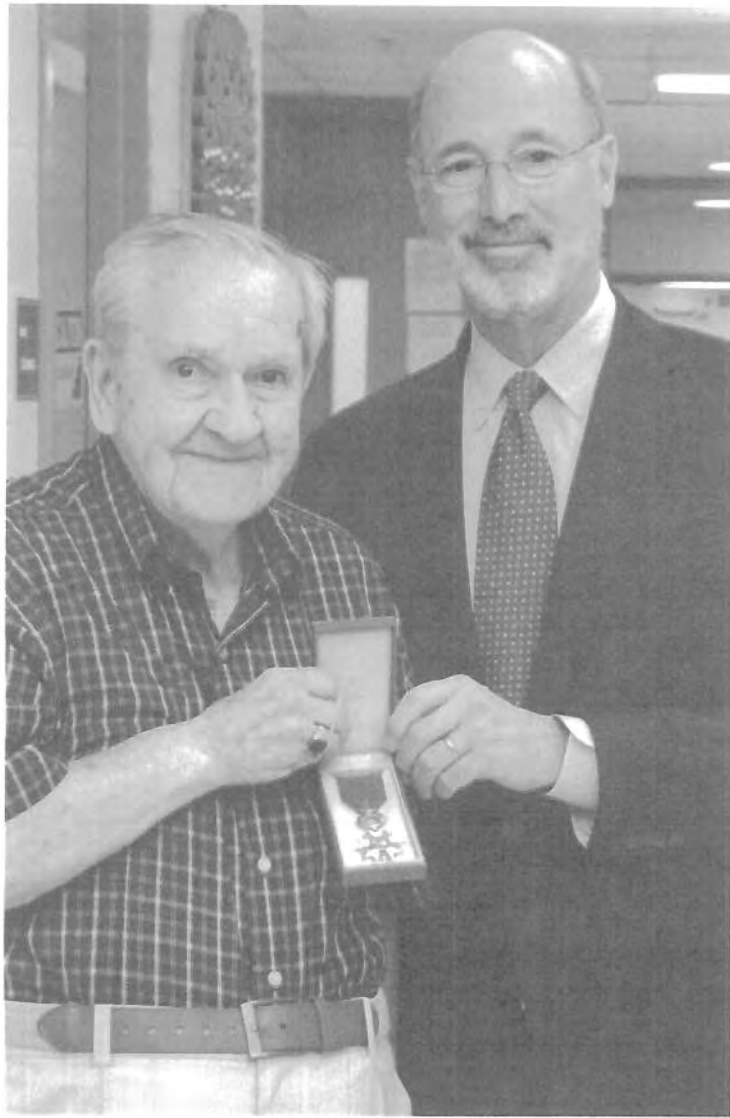
The prompt medical advice that followed was to head back home, get better and come back in three months.

“Two months later, I was drafted,” said Horvath, whose wartime memories are never shelved for long, emerging every summer when he speaks to a gathering of history teachers from all over the country at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

“The kids today have no idea what we went through to provide the education they have now,” he said.

Of course, Horvath never forgets to tote along his banjo to accompany himself when he’s treating his audience to those “happy World War II songs.”

“They’re happy because we won the war,” he added with a smile.



Albert S. Damiano
U.S. Navy

Mr. Damiano served in the U.S. Navy for a period of five years. His enlistment date was Dec. 3, 1950, and he received his Honorable Discharge on Dec. 2, 1955. At discharge, his rating was ADE3 (engine mechanic). He was stationed at the Willow Grove (PA) Naval Air Station for three years and the Corpus Christi, TX, Air Station for two years.

Upon Mr. Damiano's death, on Nov. 14, 2016, he left his entire estate to the Southeast Veterans' Center Resident Welfare Fund.

Charles E. Brown
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Charles E. Brown, a native of Schuylkill County, PA, served in the U. S. Army during the Civil War. He achieved the rank of Sergeant, with Company C of the 50th PA Infantry.

On Aug. 19, 1864, at Weldon Railroad, VA, Charles captured the flag of the 47th Virginia Infantry, part of the Confederate States Army (CSA).

Smedley Darlington Butler
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, Haitian and Mexican Campaigns

As Commanding Officer of detachments from the 5th, 13th, 23d Companies, and the marine and sailor detachment from the U.S.S. Connecticut, Maj. Butler led the attack on Fort Riviere, Haiti, Nov. 17, 1915. Following a concentrated drive, several different detachments of marines gradually closed in on the old French bastion fort in an effort to cut off all avenues of retreat for the Caco bandits. Reaching the fort on the southern side where there was a small opening in the wall, Maj. Butler gave the signal to attack and marines from the 15th Company poured through the breach, engaged the Cacos in hand-to-hand combat, took the bastion and crushed the Caco resistance. Throughout this perilous action, Maj. Butler was conspicuous for his bravery and forceful leadership.

Also, Maj. Butler was recognized for distinguished conduct in battle during the engagement of Vera Cruz on April 22, 1914. Maj. Butler was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion. He exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through the action of the 22d and in the final occupation of the city.

Jacob Cart
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Jacob Cart, a native of Carlisle, PA, serviced in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He reached the rank of Private, serving with Company A of the 7th PA Reserve Corps.

During his service, he captured the flag of the 19th Georgia Infantry, part of the Confederate States Army (CSA), wresting the flag from the hands of the color bearer. This event occurred during battle in Fredericksburg, VA on Dec., 13, 1862.

Anthony Peter Damato
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, World War II

Cpl. Damato received the Medal of Honor for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with an assault company in action against enemy Japanese forces on Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, on the night of Feb. 19-20, 1944. Highly vulnerable to sudden attack by small, fanatical groups of Japanese still at large despite the efficient and determined efforts of our forces to clear the area, Cpl. Damato lay with two comrades in a large foxhole in his company's defense perimeter, which had been dangerously thinned by the forced withdrawal of nearly half of the available men. When one of the enemy approached the foxhole undetected and threw in a hand grenade, Cpl. Damato desperately groped for it in the darkness. Realizing the imminent peril to all three, and fully aware of the consequences of his act, he unhesitatingly flung himself on the grenade and, although instantly killed as his body absorbed the explosion, saved the lives of his two companions. Cpl. Damato's splendid initiative, fearless conduct and valiant sacrifice reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his comrades.

Charles C. Davis
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Maj. Charles C. Davis, of the 7th PA Cavalry, led one of the most desperate and successful charges of the Civil War. The date of the event for which he received the Medal of Honor was June 27, 1863, in Shelbyville, TN. He was native of Harrisburg, PA.

J. Henry Denig
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, Civil War

Sgt. Denig served on board the U.S.S. Brooklyn during action against rebel forts and gunboats and with the ram Tennessee, in Mobile Bay, Aug. 5, 1864. Despite severe damage to his ship and the loss of several men on board as enemy fire raked her decks, Sgt. Denig fought his gun with skill and courage throughout the furious two-hour battle, which resulted in the surrender of the rebel ram Tennessee and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

Richard L. Etchberger
Medal of Honor Recipient
USAF, Vietnam War

Richard Etchberger, a native of Hamburg, PA, served as Chief Master Sergeant with Detachment 1 of the 1043d Radar Evaluation Squadron during the Vietnam War.

On March 11, 1968, while stationed in Phou Pha Thi, Laos, Chief Etchberger and his team of technicians were manning a top secret defensive position at Lima Site 85 when the base was overrun by an enemy ground force. Receiving sustained and withering heavy artillery attacks directly upon his unit's position, Chief Etchberger's entire crew lay dead or severely wounded. Despite having received little or no combat training, Chief Etchberger single-handedly held off the enemy with an M-16, while simultaneously directing air strikes into the area and calling for air rescue. Because of his fierce defense and heroic and selfless actions, he denied the enemy access to his position and saved the lives of his remaining crew. With the arrival of the rescue aircraft, Chief Etchberger, without hesitation, repeatedly and deliberately risked his own life, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire in order to place three surviving wounded comrades into rescue slings hanging from the hovering helicopter waiting to airlift them to safety. With his remaining crew safely aboard, Chief Etchberger finally climbed into an evacuation sling himself, only to be fatally wounded by enemy ground fire as he was being raised into the aircraft. Chief Etchberger's bravery and determination in the face of persistent enemy fire and overwhelming odds are in keeping with the highest standards of performance and traditions of military service. Chief Etchberger's gallantry, self-sacrifice, and profound concern for his fellow men at risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Alexander Joseph Foley
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, China (Boxer Rebellion)

In the presence of the enemy in the battle near Tientsin, China, July 13, 1900, Foley distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

Jacob G. Frick
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Jacob G. Frick, a native of Northumberland, PA, served in the U.S. Army as a Colonel in the 129th Infantry, during the Civil War.

Jacob exhibited bravery in two noted instances: First, in the Dec. 13, 1862 battle at Fredericksburg, VA, he seized the colors and led a command through significant canon and musket fire. In a second instance, Jacob became involved in hand-to-hand combat during a battle in Chancellorsville, VA, on May 3, 1863. He eventually recaptured the colors of his regiment during this battle.

William L. Graul
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

William L. Graul, of Reading, PA, served in the U.S. Army as a Corporal with Company I, of the 188th PA Infantry, during the Civil War.

On Sept. 29, 1864, he was the first soldier to plant the colors of his state on the fortifications.

Sherwood H. Hallman
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, World War II

Sherwood Hallman, a native of Spring City, PA, served as a Staff Sergeant, 175th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division, during World War II.

On Sept. 13, 1944, in Brittany, France, the 2d Battalion, in its attack on the fortified city of Brest, was held up by a strongly defended enemy position, which had prevented its advance despite repeated attacks extending over a three-day period. Finally, Company F advanced to within several hundred yards of the enemy position but was again halted by intense fire. Realizing that the position must be neutralized without delay, S/Sgt. Hallman ordered his squad to cover his movements with fire while he advanced alone to a point from which he could make the assault. Without hesitating, S/Sgt. Hallman leaped over a hedgerow into a sunken road, the central point of the German defenses, which was known to contain an enemy machine gun position, and at least 30 enemy riflemen. Firing his carbine and hurling grenades, S/Sgt. Hallman, unassisted, killed or wounded four of the enemy, then ordered the remainder to surrender. Immediately, 12 of the enemy surrendered and the position was shortly secured by the remainder of his company. Seeing the surrender of this position, about 75 of the enemy in the vicinity surrendered, yielding a defensive organization which the battalion with heavy supporting fires had been unable to take. This single heroic act on the part of S/Sgt. Hallman resulted in the immediate advance of the entire battalion for a distance of 2,000 yards to a position from which Fort Keranroux was captured later the same day. S/Sgt. Hallman's fighting determination and intrepidity in battle exemplify the highest tradition of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Henry Hill
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Schuylkill County, PA native Henry Hill served as a Corporal in Company C of the 50th PA Infantry, in the U.S. Army, during the Civil War.

Hill, along with one companion, would not retire when his regiment fell back in confusion, after an unsuccessful charge. Instead, he and his companion advanced and continued firing upon the enemy until the regiment re-formed and regained its position. This event occurred in Wilderness, VA, on May 6, 1864.

Samuel Hoover
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

Samuel Hoover, a native of Dauphin County, PA, served as a bugler in Company A of the 1st U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Campaign.

While serving in Arizona's Santa Maria Mountains on May 6, 1873, Samuel performed gallantry in action. He was also commended for his services as trailer in the same area in May 1872.

Freeman Victor Horner
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, World War II

Freeman Horner, a native of Mount Carmel, PA, served as a Staff Sergeant in Company K, 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry, during World War II.

S/Sgt. Horner and other members of his company were attacking Wurselen, Germany, against stubborn resistance on Nov. 16, 1944, when machine gun fire from houses on the edge of the town pinned the attackers in flat, open terrain 100 yards from their objective. As they lay in the field, enemy artillery observers directed fire upon them, causing serious casualties. Realizing that the machine guns must be eliminated in order to permit the company to advance from its precarious position, S/Sgt. Horner voluntarily stood up with his submachine gun and rushed into the teeth of concentrated fire, burdened by a heavy load of ammunition and hand grenades. Just as he reached a position of seeming safety, he was fired on by a machine gun, which had remained silent up until that time. He coolly wheeled in his fully exposed position while bullets barely missed him and killed two hostile gunners with a single, devastating burst. He turned to face the fire of the other two machine guns, and dodging fire as he ran, charged the two positions 50 yards away. Demoralized by their inability to hit the intrepid infantryman, the enemy abandoned their guns and took cover in the cellar of the house they occupied. S/Sgt. Horner burst into the building, hurled two grenades down the cellar stairs, and called for the Germans to surrender. Four men gave up to him. By his extraordinary courage, S/Sgt. Horner destroyed three enemy machine gun positions, killed or captured seven enemy, and cleared the path for his company's successful assault on Wurselen.

William Russell Huber
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Navy, Peace Time

Machinest's Mate Huber received the Medal of Honor for his display of extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession on June 11, 1928, after a boiler accident on the U.S.S. Bruce, then at the Naval Shipyard, Norfolk, VA. Immediately on becoming aware of the accident, Huber, without hesitation and in complete disregard of his own safety, entered the steam-filled fireroom and at grave risk to his life succeeded by almost superhuman efforts in carrying Charles H. Byran to safety. Although having received severe and dangerous burns about the arms and neck, he descended with a view toward rendering further assistance. The great courage, grit, and determination displayed by Huber on this occasion characterized conduct far above and beyond the call of duty.

Charles Henry Ilgenfritz
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

U.S Army Sergeant Charles Henry Ilgenfritz, a native of York, PA, served with Company E, 207th PA Infantry, during the Civil War.

On April 2, 1865, at Fort Sedgwick, VA, he sprang forward and grabbed the colors as the color bearer was felled by 7 balls. Charles planted the colors upon the enemy's forts amid a murderous fire of grape, canister, and musketry from the enemy.

John Kinsey
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Lancaster native John Kinsey served as a Corporal with Company B in the 45th PA Infantry during the Civil War.

On May 18, 1864, he seized the colors, the color bearer having been shot, and with great gallantry succeeded in saving them from capture.

John Kirk
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

John Kirk, a native of York, PA, served as a First Sergeant in Company L of the 6th U.S. Cavalry, during the Indian Campaign.

On July 12, 1870, during a conflict in Wichita River, TX, John performed an act of gallantry in action.

George Krause Kitchen
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

George Krause Kitchen, a native of Lebanon County, PA, served as a Sergeant in Company H of the 6th U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Campaign.

On Sept. 9, 1874, George exhibited gallantry in action during a skirmish in Upper Wichita, TX.

Dewitt Clinton Lewis
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Dewitt Clinton Lewis, a native of West Chester, PA, served as Captain of Company F in the U.S. Army's 97th PA Infantry during the Civil War.

One June 16, 1862, while retiring with his men before a heavy fire of canister shot at short range, returned in the face of the enemy's fire and rescued an exhausted private of his company, who but for this timely action would have lost his life by drowning in the morass through which the troops were retiring.

Charles D. Marquette
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Charles Marquette, a native of Lebanon County, PA served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army's Company F, 93rd PA Infantry, during the Civil War.

On April 2, 1865, in Petersburg, VA, he was one of the first to plant colors on the enemy's breastworks, and did so while wounded.

Clarence Edward Mathias
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, China (Boxer Rebellion)

In the presence of the enemy during the advance on Tientsin, China, July 13, 1900, Mathias distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.

William Edward Miller
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

William Miller, a native of West Hill, PA, served in the U.S. Army as Captain of Company H, 3rd PA Cavalry, during the Civil War.

On July 3 1863, during the battle at Gettysburg, he led a charge of his squadron, without orders, upon the flank of the enemy, checked his attack, and cut off and dispersed the rear of his column.

Galusha Pennypacker
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Galusha Pennypacker, a native of Valley Forge, PA, served in the U.S. Army during the Civil War as a Colonel in the 97th Infantry.

On Jan. 15, 1865, at Fort Fisher, NC, he led the charge over a traverse and plant the colors of one of his regiments thereon, and was severely wounded.

Robert Dale Reem
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, Korean War

Robert Reem, a native of Lancaster, PA, served as a Second Lieutenant in Company H, 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, USMC.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, on Nov. 6, 1950, as a platoon commander in Company H, in action against enemy aggressor forces. 2nd Lt. Reem was determined to dislodge a group of heavy enemy infantry units occupying well-concealed and strongly fortified positions on commanding ground overlooking unprotected terrain. He moved slowly forward up the side of the ridge with his platoon in the face of a veritable hail of shattering hostile machine gun, grenade, and rifle fire. Three times repulsed by a resolute enemy force in achieving his objective, and pinned down by the continuing fury of hostile fire, he rallied and regrouped the heroic men in his depleted and disorganized platoon in preparation for a fourth attack. Issuing last-minute orders to his noncommissioned officers when an enemy grenade landed in a depression of the rocky ground in which the group was standing, 2d Lt. Reem unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and, springing upon the deadly missile, absorbed the full impact of the explosion in his body, thus protecting others from serious injury and possible death. Stouthearted and indomitable, he readily yielded his own chance of survival that his subordinate leaders might live to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. His superb courage, cool decisiveness, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon 2d Lt. Reem and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

Daniel P. Reigle
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Daniel Reigle, a native of Adams County, PA, served as a Corporal in Company F of the 87th PA Infantry during the Civil War.

He received the Medal of Honor for gallantry in battle in Cedar Creek, VA on Oct. 19, 1864, for rushing forward to capture a Confederate flag at the stone fence where the enemy's last stand was made.

Norman W. Ressler
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Spanish-American War

Norman W. Ressler, a native of Dalmatia, PA, served as a Corporal with Company D in the 17th U.S. Infantry during the Spanish-American war.

On July 1, 1898, Norman gallantly assisted in the rescue of wounded soldiers from in front of the lines and under heavy enemy fire during a battle at El Caney, Cuba.

Robert E. Roeder
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, World War II

Robert Roeder, a native of Summit Station, PA, served as Captain of Company G, 350th Infantry, 88th Infantry, during World War II.

During the 27-28 of September 1944, Capt. Roeder commanded his company in defense of the strategic Mount Battaglia. Shortly after the company had occupied the hill, the Germans launched the first of a series of determined counterattacks to regain this dominating height. Completely exposed to ceaseless enemy artillery and small-arms fire, Capt. Roeder constantly circulated among his men, encouraging them and directing their defense against the persistent enemy. During the sixth counterattack, the enemy, by using flamethrowers and taking advantage of the fog, succeeded in overrunning the position. Capt. Roeder led his men in a fierce battle at close quarters, to repulse the attack with heavy losses to the Germans. The following morning, while the company was engaged in repulsing an enemy counterattack in force, Capt. Roeder was seriously wounded and rendered unconscious by shell fragments. He was carried to the company command post, where he regained consciousness. Refusing medical treatment, he insisted on rejoining his men. Although in a weakened condition, Capt. Roeder dragged himself to the door of the command post and, picking up a rifle, braced himself in a sitting position. He began firing his weapon, shouted words of encouragement, and issued orders to his men. He personally killed two Germans before he himself was killed instantly by an exploding shell. Through Capt. Roeder's able and intrepid leadership his men held Mount Battaglia against the aggressive and fanatical enemy attempts to retake this important and strategic height. His valorous performance is exemplary of the fighting spirit of the U.S. Army.

Ferdinand Frederick Rohm
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

Patterson, PA native Ferdinand Frederick Rohm was the chief bugler for the 16th PA Cavalry during the Civil War.

On Aug. 25, 1864, he voluntarily remained behind while his regiment was retiring under fire at Reams Station, VA, to succor a wounded officer who was in great danger, secured assistance, and moved the officer to a safe place.

William Sands
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

William Sands, a native of Reading, PA, served as First Sergeant of Company G in the 88th PA Infantry during the Civil War.

On Feb. 6-7, 1865, William grasped the enemy's colors in the face of a deadly fire at Dabney's Mills, VA, and brought them inside the lines.

George Springer
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

George Springer, a native of York County, PA, served as a Private in Company G of the 1st U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Campaign.

On October 20, 1869, George exhibited gallantry in action while serving in the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona.

William Strayer
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

William Strayer, a native of Maytown, PA, served as a Private in Company B of the 3rd U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Campaign.

On April 26, 1872, William exhibited gallantry in action while serving at Loupe Forke, Platte River, NE.

Pinkerton Ross Vaughn
Medal of Honor Recipient
USMC, Civil War

Sgt. Vaughn served on board the U.S.S. Mississippi during her abandonment and firing in the action with the Port Hudson batteries on March 14, 1863. During the abandonment of the Mississippi, which had to be grounded, Sgt. Vaughn rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer, remaining with the ship until all the crew had landed and the ship had been fired to prevent its falling into enemy hands. Persistent until the last, and conspicuously cool under the heavy shellfire, Sgt. Vaughn was finally ordered to save himself as he saw fit.

George Washington Walton
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Civil War

George Washington Walton, a native of Upper Oxford, PA, served as a Private in Company C of the 97th PA Infantry during the Civil War.

On Aug. 29, 1864, George went outside the trenches at Fort Hell in Petersburg, VA, while under heavy fire at short range, and rescued a comrade who had been wounded and thrown out of the trench by an exploding shell.

Joseph Witcome
Medal of Honor Recipient
U.S. Army, Indian Campaign

Joseph Witcome, a native of Mechanicsburg, PA, served as a Private in Company B of the 8th U.S. Cavalry during the Indian Campaign.

From August through October 1868, Joseph exhibited bravery in scouts and actions against Indians while serving in Arizona.

Directions to Hollidaysburg Veterans Home:

Traveling on **Plank Road** from Interstate 99

Pass the Wal-Mart Plaza

Pass the Convention Center Boulevard intersection/ traffic light

Traffic Light / intersection of Fox Hollow Road (on left) and HVHs Power Plant Entrance (on right) – **DO NOT ENTER**

Next Traffic Light is our Main Entrance . . . BLUE sign

Building on the Right is **Eisenhower Hall** . . . BLUE sign

Parking is at the front

Entrance is near the flag poles

Security Desk Officer will direct guests to **Veteran Hall**.

HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS' HOME - VIA INTERSTATE 99



HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS' HOME - VIA INTERSTATE 99

Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home Address (GPS): 536 Municipal Drive, Duncansville, PA 16635.

Please note: **THIS ADDRESS** will take you to the vicinity of the HVH Campus.



**Eisenhower Hall
(Main Office)**

**HVH Main Entrance
via Plank Road**

Listing of who received letters of support for HB 304 and HB 980:

Representative Stephen Barrar, Majority Chairman
Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
18 East Wing
P.O. Box 202160
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Jay Costa, Minority Chairman
Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Senate Box 203043
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Chris Sainato, Minority Chairman
Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
30 East Wing
P.O. Box 202009
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Randy Vulakovich, Majority Chairman
Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Senate Box 203038
168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE VETERANS COMMISSION

Building 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA 17003-5001

www.svc.pa.gov ♦ 717-861-8910

May 5, 2018

Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for House Bill 304

Dear Senator -----:

During the April 6, 2018 meeting of the State Veterans Commission we had the pleasure to review House Bill 304 of 2018 as it relates to increasing the pension payment for the Blind Veteran's Pension and the Amputee and Paralyzed Veteran's Pension. This is a favorable piece of legislation that provides a much-deserved increase in these two state Veteran's Pension programs.

I am pleased to report that our membership has voted to support this bill by unanimous vote of the member organizations of the State Veterans Commission. We therefore provide you with our stance on this legislation and ask that you provide your support when this bill comes to the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Thank you for your support and all you do for the service members, Veterans' and their families of this great commonwealth.

Respectfully:



Edgar Burris, Jr.
Chairman, State Veterans Commission

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE VETERANS COMMISSION

Building 0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA 17003-5001

www.svc.pa.gov ♦ 717-861-8910

May 5, 2018

Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for House Bill 980

Dear Senator -----:

During the April 6, 2018 meeting of the State Veterans Commission we had the pleasure to review House Bill 980 of 2018 as it relates to providing exclusion of Veterans' compensation benefits from income calculations for state benefit programs. This legislation that will favorably impact how the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs determine financial need when calculating eligibility for state benefits.

I am pleased to report that our membership has unanimously voted to support this bill. We therefore provide you with our stance on this legislation and ask that you provide your support when this bill comes to the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Thank you for your support and all you do for the service members, Veterans' and their families of this great commonwealth.

Respectfully:



Edgar Burris, Jr.
Chairman, State Veterans Commission



Legislation Update to the State Veterans Commission

DMVA Policy, Planning, and Legislative Affairs 717-861-8719
Bills are hyperlinked to the appropriate website if you wish to review the legislation.

Bills Pending in Second Chamber
3/19/2018 to 5/16/2018

- [HB 215](#) [Boback, Karen\(R\)](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, further providing for special plates for veterans and providing for special plates for recipients of legion of merit.
- Companions:** [HCO 248](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)
- Bill History:** 03-26-18 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
03-26-18 S First consideration
05-21-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar
- [HB 653](#) [Masser, Kurt\(R\)](#) Amends Title 68 (Real & Personal Property), in real property, providing for real estate foreclosure of vacant and abandoned property and for sheriff's commission and credit or attorney fees.
- Companions:** [HCO 463](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)
[SB 471](#) (Related)
- Bill History:** 04-16-18 S Laid on the table
04-16-18 S Removed from the table
05-21-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar
- [HB 1409](#) [Wentling, Parke\(R\)](#) Amends Title 34 (Game), in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for resident license & fee exemptions & for license costs & fees; providing for permit exemptions; and making editorial changes.
- Companions:** [HCO2048](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)
[SB 240](#) (Related)
- Bill History:** 03-12-18 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 187/N: 0)
03-16-18 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Game and Fisheries

03-28-18 S Discussed during informational meeting,
House Game and Fisheries -- House Game and Fisheries

[HB 1641](#) [Cutler, Bryan\(R\)](#)

Act providing for competitive integrated employment in State & County agencies & any entity providing services for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability; est. Employment First & Employment First Oversight Commission; imposing duties.

Companions: [HCO 482](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)
[SB 21](#) (Related)

Bill History: 12-11-17 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 191/N: 0)
01-02-18 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry
04-17-18 S Press conference held

[HB 1964](#) [Rader, Jack\(R\)](#)

Act designating a portion of State Route 115 in Monroe County as the Submarine Veterans Memorial Highway.

Bill History: 04-25-18 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
04-25-18 S First consideration
05-21-18 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[HB 2018](#) [Goodman, Neal\(D\)](#)

Act designating a portion of PA Route 54 in West Mahanoy Township, Schuylkill County, as the Francis V. "Angie" McAndrew Memorial Highway.

Companions: [HCO2760](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)

Bill History: 04-10-18 Third consideration 4: 34pm
04-10-18 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 190/N: 0)
04-11-18 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Transportation

[SB 21](#) [Mensch, Bob\(R\)](#)

Act providing for competitive integrated employment in State, county & local agencies & entities; est. Employment First, the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities & the Employment First Oversight Commission.

Companions: [HB 1641](#) (Related)
[SCO 284](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)

Bill History: 02-08-18 H Received in the House and referred to House Labor and Industry
02-26-18 H Discussed at budget hearing with Department of Labor &, Senate Appropriations Industry -- Senate

Appropriations
04-17-18 H Press conference held

SB 552 Aument, Ryan(R)

Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), & 75 (Vehicles), in Dept. of Military Affairs, providing for PA Vet. Memorial Fund; providing for Veterans Memorial Commission, and for expiration of the Trust Fund; further providing for plates.

Companions: [SCO 714](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)

Bill History: 04-10-18 H Set on the House Calendar
04-10-18 Second consideration 4:11pm
04-10-18 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

SB 1002 White, Donald(R)

Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1041 over the Mahoning Creek in Grant Township and Canoe Township, as the Army SPC Christine L. Mayes Memorial Bridge; & designating the Sgt. Edward John Parada Memorial Bridge.

Companions: [HB 1881](#) (Related)

Bill History: 03-19-18 Third consideration 4:41pm
03-19-18 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 49/N: 0)
03-20-18 H Received in the House and referred to House Transportation

SB 1041 Bartolotta, Camera(R)

Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veteran-owned small businesses, providing for defs., repealing provisions relating to defs., further providing for exemption and providing for veteran-owned business logotype.

Companions: [SCO1201](#) (Co-sponsor Memo)

Bill History: 04-24-18 Third consideration 4:11pm
04-24-18 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 49/N: 0)
04-26-18 H Received in the House and referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

Resolutions

HR 682 Stephens, Todd(R)

Resolution urging the US Sec. of Health & Human Services to select the former Naval Air Stations in Willow Grove, Warminster & Horsham for study on implications of perfluoroalkyl & polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination.

		Last Action:	4- 9-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 703	Longiotti, Mark(D)	Resolution honoring and recognizing the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces and their families on the occasion of "Armed Forces Day," May 19, 2018.
		Last Action:	5- 2-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:191/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 718	Barbin, Bryan(D)	Resolution designating May 11, 2018, as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	5- 2-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:191/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 753	Kinsey, Stephen(D)	Resolution designating April 17, 2018, as "Tuskegee Airmen Day" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	4-17-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:195/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 755	Benninghoff, Kerry(R)	Resolution designating the month of April 2018 as "Professional Counselor Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	4-10-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 774	Keefer, Dawn (F)(R)	Resolution recognizing March 29, 2018, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	4-11-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:193/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 780	Rader, Jack(R)	Resolution recognizing the Vet 22 campaign and raising awareness for the ongoing epidemic of veteran suicide and the war at home with a symbolic color.
		Last Action:	5- 1-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 790	Gillen, Mark(R)	Resolution designating March 21, 2018, as "Rosie the Riveter Day" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	4- 9-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HR 823	Frankel, Dan(D)	Resolution designating April 8 through 15, 2018 as "Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust" and recognizing April 12, 2018 as "Holocaust Remembrance Day" in Pennsylvania.
		Last Action:	4-10-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HR 826 Brown, Rosemary(R) | Resolution designating the month of April 2018 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. |
| | Last Action: | 4-30-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:193/N: 0) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HR 856 Turzai, Mike(R) | Resolution recognizing "The Wall That Heals," a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, which will be on display at the State Capitol from May 9 through 13, 2018. |
| | Last Action: | 5- 1-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:194/N: 0) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HR 872 McClinton, Joanna(D) | Resolution recognizing the month of May 2018 as "National Drug Court Month" in Pennsylvania. |
| | Last Action: | 5- 1-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:194/N: 0) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HR 878 Mako, Zachary (F)(R) | Resolution recognizing the month of May 2018 as "Blue Star Mothers of America Month" in Pennsylvania. |
| | Last Action: | 5- 2-18 H Adopted (Vote: Y:191/N: 0) |
-

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- 21 May 18 – Senate State Government Committee to consider SB 1037, Civil Service Reform.

Budget Bills

- [HB 2121](#) sponsored by Representative Saylor
- [HB 2077](#) sponsored by Representative Markosek
- [SB 980](#) sponsored by Senate Hughes

Congress: Legislation of Interest as of 5/16/18

Bill	Description	Status
H.R. 4910	The Veterans Cemetery Benefit Correction Act	5/8/18 – Received in Senate
H.R. 4335	Servicemember Family Burial Act	5/8/18 – Received in Senate
H.R. 5674	VA MISSION Act	5/8/18 – Reported House VA
H.R. 5520	VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2018	5/8/18 – Reported House VA
H.R. 4958	Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018	5/8/18 – Reported House VA
H.R. 4345	Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2017	13 Dec 17 – House Judiciary referred to subcommittee
H.R. 1472	Military/Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017 (Companion: S. 591)	5 Apr 17 – House Veterans Affairs
S. 1086 H.R. 5121	Expand TRICARE Reserve Select Coverage (TRS)	10 May 17 – Senate Armed Services 27 Feb 18 – House Armed Services
S. 2416 H.R. 5038	National Guard and Reserves Benefits Parity Act (Rep. Rothfus signed on as a co-sponsor on 4/18/18)	12 Feb 18 – Senate Armed Services 15 Feb 18- House Armed Services

RETX- Exempt list(New)5/16/2018
rep_VADC_RETX_exempt_List_New**Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)**

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
12117	11771	288	58	191

Summary of Activity from 03/17/2018 to 05/14/2018

Apps Created : 694	
New	459
Review:	235
Apps Approved :632	
New	369
Review	263
Apps Denied Fin:	38
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	48
Apps Removed from Exempt List (No Response):	56
Apps Removed from Exempt List(Eligibility Changed):	87

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	Count
The property for which you claim exemption is not owned solely by you, or as an estate by the entirety with your spouse.	4
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.	5
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	9
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.	27
Veteran Deceased	1
You do not occupy the property for which you have claimed exemption as your principal dwelling.	1
Your disability has not been declared by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs to be a total or 100% permanent disability.	1

Summary of Activity from 3/17/2018 to 5/14/2018

APPS APPROVED	632
NEW	369
REVIEW	263

APPS DENIED	
Financial Need	38
Ineligible	48
No Response	59
Change of Eligibility	87

HH Over Income	158
NEW	57
REVIEW	44

25%
15%
17%

APPS CREATED	676
TOTAL ADJUDICATED	864

Bureau of Veterans' Homes
Available Beds Monthly Status Report
from April 1 to 30, 2018

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	100	0		100%	31
Secured	30	30	0		100%	4
Personal Care	41	11	0		27%	1
TOTAL	171	141	0	3	82%	36
Non-Veteran Census Percent				2	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	124	32		79%	13
Secured	40	32	8		80%	2
TOTAL	196	156	40	14	80%	15
Non-Veteran Census Percent				27	11%	
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg - Deborah Nesbella - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant	Average Beds Vacant	Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	231	208	23		90%	2
Secured	26	23	3		88%	1
Personal Care	101	60	41		59%	1
Domiciliary	66	47	19		71%	0
TOTAL	424	338	86	74	80%	4
Non-Veteran Census Percent				80	12%	
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	51	51	0		100%	24
Secured	32	31	1		97%	23
Personal Care	80	54	26		68%	6
Domiciliary	20	20	0		100%	0
TOTAL	183	156	27	21	85%	53
Non-Veteran Census Percent				24	13%	
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City - Rohan Blackwood - Commandant						
Level of Care	Available Beds	Beds Assigned	Beds Vacant		Percentage Filled	Waiting List Veteran
Nursing Care	208	200	8		96%	47
Secured	30	28	2		93%	6
Personal Care	54	53	1		98%	11
TOTAL	292	281	11	16	96%	64
Non-Veteran Census Percent				14	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	192	4		98%	2
Secured	40	37	3		93%	0
TOTAL	236	229	7	11	97%	2
Non-Veteran Census Percent				9	14%	
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	942	875	67		93%	119
Secured	198	181	17		91%	36
Personal Care	276	178	68		64%	19
Domiciliary	86	67	19		78%	0
TOTALS	1,502	1,301	201	129	87%	174
Non-Veteran Census Percent				165	12%	

Non-Veteran Census Number

DVH	5	4%
GMVC	16	11%
HVH	39	12%
PSSH	19	13%
SEVC	35	13%
SWVC	30	14%
Total	144	12%