



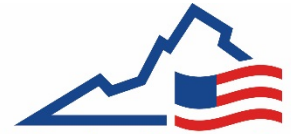
Virginia Department of Veterans Services



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Overview for House Appropriations Committee Public Safety Subcommittee

Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs
January 10, 2019



DVS Locations – FY19

Benefits Services Offices

- 1 Abingdon
- 2 Accomac
- 3 Big Stone Gap
- 4 Charlottesville
- 5 Chesapeake
- 6 Danville
- 7 Emporia
- 8 Fairfax
- 9 Fort Belvoir (planned)
- 10 Fort Lee
- 11 Fredericksburg
- 12 Hampton
- 13 Hampton VA Medical Center
- 14 Henrico
- 15 Loudoun
- 16 Lynchburg
- 17 Manassas
- 18 McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
- 19 Norfolk
- 20 Oceana/Virginia Beach (planned)
- 21 Pentagon
- 22 Petersburg
- 23 Portsmouth
- 24 Quantico
- 25 Roanoke
- 26 Salem VA Medical Center
- 27 South Hill
- 28 Springfield
- 29 Staunton
- 30 Strasburg
- 31 Tazewell
- 32 Virginia Beach
- 33 Williamsburg
- 34 Wytheville

* **VVFS:** Underlined offices indicate co-location of VVFS and Benefits Services offices.

Care Centers

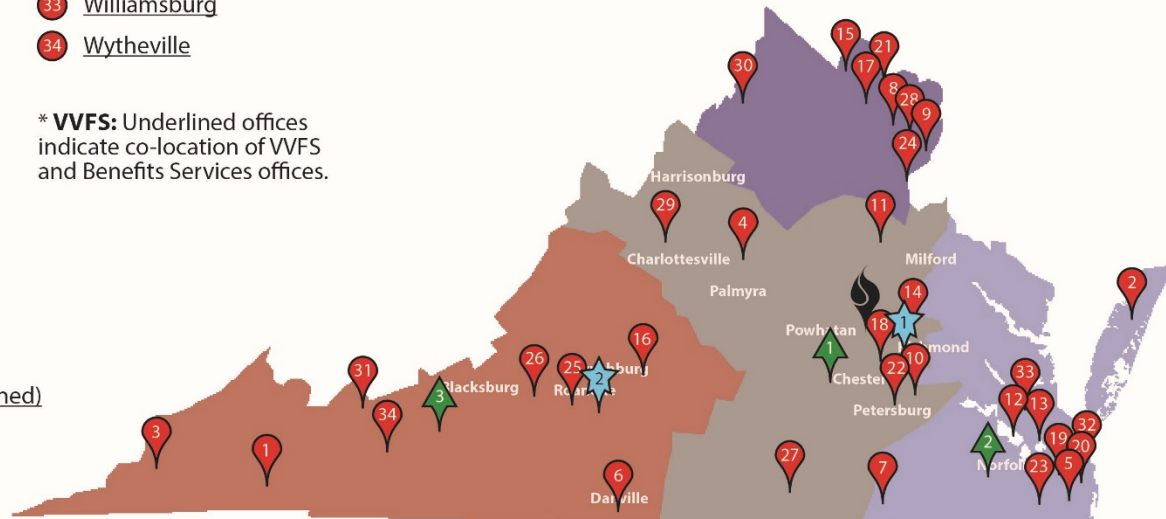
- ★ Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
- ★ Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke

Virginia Veteran and Family Support Regions

- North
- East
- Central
- West

Cemeteries

- ▲ 1 Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
- ▲ 2 Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
- ▲ 3 Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin
- 🕯️ **Virginia War Memorial** Richmond





Making an Impact in 2018

FILED

71,311

benefit claims on behalf of Virginia veterans

CONNECTED

2,107

veterans to behavioral health and supportive services

HELPED

9,703

veterans connect to jobs in Virginia via the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program

PROVIDED

1,865

veterans a final resting place in Virginia's veterans cemeteries

COMPLETED

140,000

patient days of care at our Veterans Care Centers

HOSTED

51,479

visitors at the Virginia War Memorial



Introduced Budget: Benefits Services

- **\$500,000 and 5 FTE**
- Meet rising workload/service demand
- 4 Veterans Service Representatives
 - Add 1 VSR per service region
 - Will enable DVS to better serve veterans and families when other VSRs are sick or on vacation, and during turnover/vacancy periods (new hire training/accreditation takes 4-7 months)
- 1 Claims Specialist
 - Quality check all claims before submission to VA
 - Submissions are time sensitive – must get to VA by the last calendar day of the month or benefits will be lost for entire month
- Training





Introduced Budget: VVFS

- **\$634,000 and 8 FTE**
- Meet rising service demand for military/veteran/family behavioral health and supportive services
- Play critical role in ensuring Virginia maintains “functional zero” for veterans homelessness
 - Requires that programs, people, and procedures be in place to ensure that veteran homelessness is rare, brief, and non-reoccurring
- First major staff expansion since 2008 launch
- 8 Resource Specialists
 - Meet one-on-one with veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists, and family members
 - Identify behavioral health and supportive service needs
 - Connect to resources and monitor progress





Introduced Budget: Education, Transition, and Employment

- **\$460,692 and 4 FTE**
- Meet rising service demand from veteran job seekers, transitioning service members (TSMs), and employers (ex. Amazon HQ2 – will increase demand for tech vets)
- New positions in NoVa, Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Roanoke/SW
- Play critical role in assisting veterans and TSMs to connect to employment and education opportunities
- Sign up additional Virginia Values Veterans (V3) employers, creating even more job opportunities for veterans
- Help student veterans identify and complete credentialing programs that align with the industry needs





Introduced Budget: Virginia War Memorial and Agency

- **Central Appropriation includes \$513,800 for DGS-provided building/grounds maintenance and utilities at Virginia War Memorial**
 - 28,000 square foot expansion opening in September 2019



- **\$140,000 and 1 FTE for new deputy director**
 - Assist with agency administration and oversight





Questions?

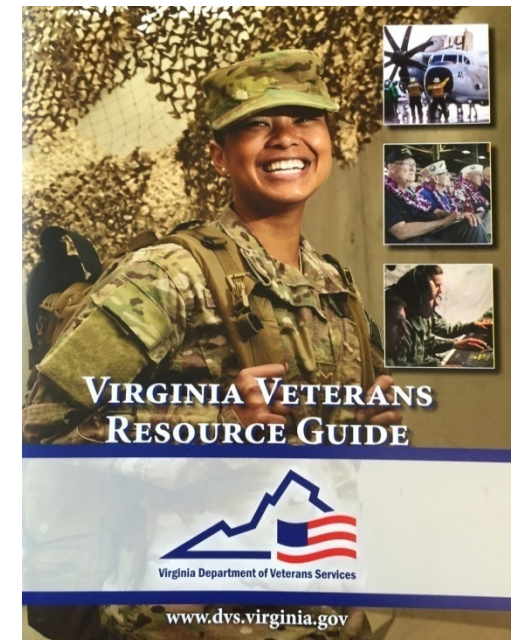


Stay in touch with DVS!

<http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/>

Go online to subscribe to DVS eNews! You will receive email announcements about services, events, benefits, and other opportunities of interest to the veterans' community.

(804) 786-0286 (Phone) (804) 786-0302 (Fax)





Additional Slides

(FYI Only)



Virginia Superlatives

- Military Times “*Best for Vets 2019 Places to Live*” (Sep 2018)
 - **#2 Large City:** Virginia Beach
 - **#1, #2, and #9 Medium City:** Alexandria, Arlington, and Chesapeake
 - **#1 and #7 Small City:** Portsmouth and Suffolk
- Wallethub “*Best States for Military Retirees*” (May 2018)
 - **#2 in the nation**
- Wallethub “*Best Cities for Veterans to Live*” (November 2018)
 - **#7 and #16:** Virginia Beach and Chesapeake



Virginia Veterans By The Numbers

- 8th largest veterans population: 720,000
- 4th largest as % of population: 1 in 11 Virginians is a veteran
- 14% are women: almost 104,000 – highest among all states
- 4th largest military retiree population: 156,000+
- 4th highest % of veterans in the labor force
- 4th highest in veteran working age population

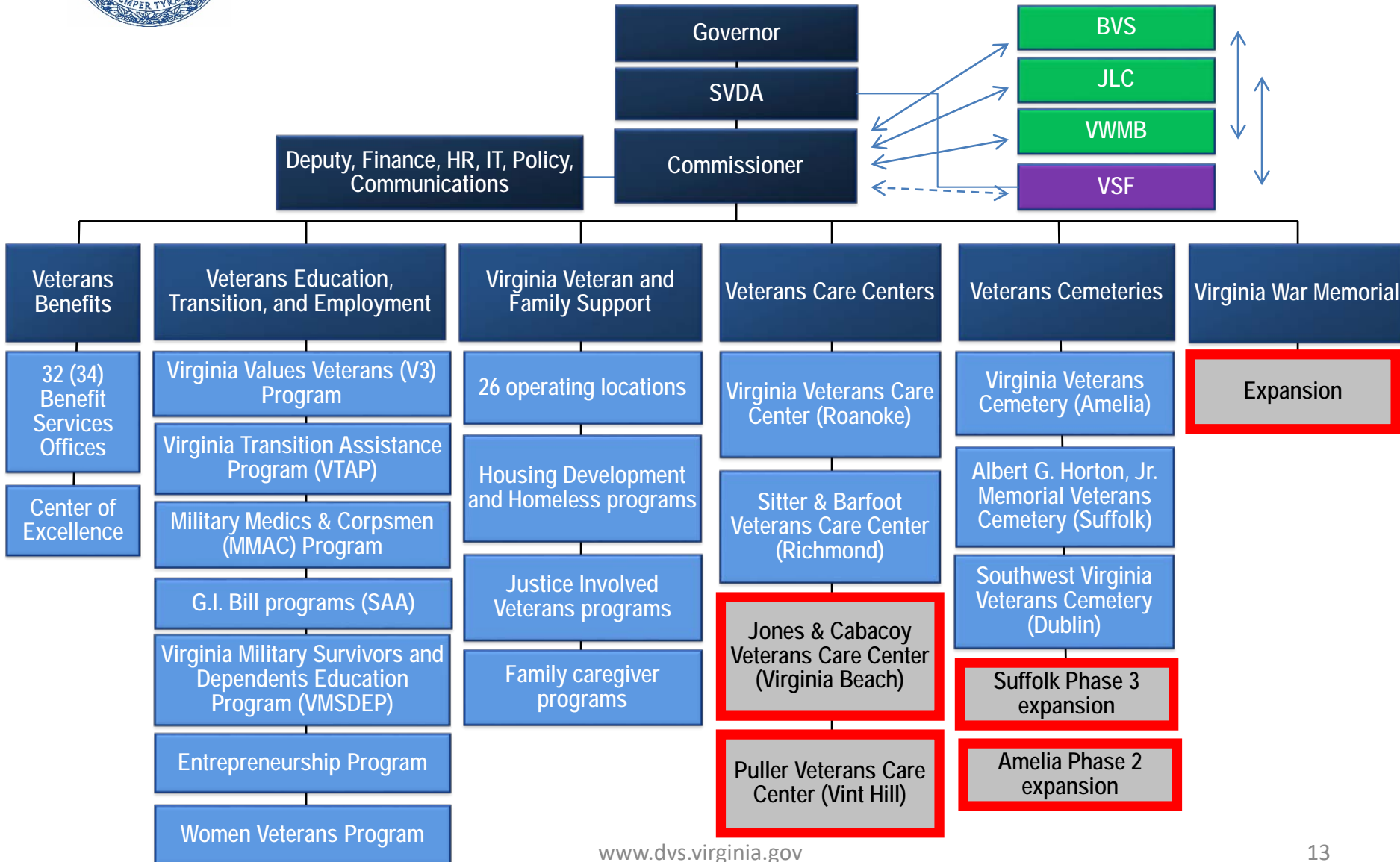
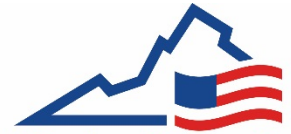


\$11B a Year in Direct Federal Spending

- **\$8.45 Billion paid directly to veterans in FFY17**
 - \$3.2 B in USDVA compensation and pension payments
 - \$5.25 B in DoD retirement pay
- **\$2.75 Billion in additional spending by USDVA, including:**
 - \$1.77 B for medical care
 - \$818 M for education and training
 - \$160 M for general expenses (operating, construction, etc.)



DVS Organization - FY19





Benefits Services

- **Provide Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining their federal and state veterans benefits**
- **Oldest service line in DVS – since 1928**
- 71,311 claims filed in FY18 (Initial, Re-Opened, Notice of Disagreement, Appeals, Dependency)
 - Service-connected Disability Compensation Claims (evidence-based)
 - Veteran Pension Claims (need-based; \$13K max)
 - Aid and Attendance Claims (need-based; \$22K-25K max)
 - Survivor Benefit Claims (non-need-based)
 - Survivor Pension Claims (need-based; \$8K)
- 222,845 client contacts in FY18
 - VA Health Care Eligibility
 - Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Guarantees
 - Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Applications
 - Application for Education Benefits
 - Outreach into Local Communities – Itinerary Visits
 - Referrals to Local, State, and Federal Social Services
 - Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations





Virginia Veteran and Family Support



- **Created 2008 (Delegate Kirk Cox/Senator Toddy Puller)**
- **Fill critical gap in care coordination:** in partnership with veterans and family members, VVFS resource specialists perform needs assessments and develop coordinated resources plans. Over 2,000 served in FY18
- **Connect veterans and families to behavioral, rehabilitative, and supportive services** offered by federal, state, local, and private service providers
- **Deliver focused services:** peer support, family workshops and retreats, caregiver support
- **Ensure that homelessness among veterans is rare, brief, and non re-occurring:** Virginia was 1st state in the nation to functionally end veteran homelessness (1,000 housed in FY18)
- **Serve Justice Involved Veterans:** VVFS provides crisis intervention training for law enforcement agencies; works with courts on veterans dockets; and partners with VADOC, prisons, and jails on re-entry programs (27 in East region alone)





Education, Transition, and Employment

- **Capitalize on veteran talent pool:** Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program helps 1,000+ Virginia employers recruit, hire, and retain skilled veteran employees. Almost 10,000 hires last year and 40,000 hires to date!
- **Create seamless transition from military to veteran status:** Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) helps veterans and family members connect to jobs, education, and services. Nearly 57,000 contacts last year



- **Put veterans on fast track to Healthcare Careers:** Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program connects veterans to jobs at six partner health systems – 100+ hires to date, with over 50 in pipeline

- **Maximize education and training opportunities:** DVS responsible for approving education and training programs for G.I. Bill use: 50,000+ students @ over 1,100 approved programs last year





Virginia War Memorial



- **Honor patriotic Virginians who rendered faithful service and sacrifice in the cause of freedom and liberty for the Commonwealth and the nation in time of war:** inscribed in the Shrine of Memory are the names of the nearly 12,000 Virginians killed in action from WWII to the present
- **Honor all of Virginia's veterans, preserve their history, educate the public, and inspire patriotism in all Virginians:** pass their extraordinary stories of sacrifice forward to future generations through many outreach and on-site educational programs

- Paul & Phyllis Galanti Education Center: Smithsonian-quality exhibits and award-winning educational programs
- 51,479 visitors in FY18
- 28,000 square foot addition under construction (target completion September 2019): expand the Shrine of Memory, new education and exhibit space





Veterans Care Centers

- **Provide skilled nursing, Alzheimer's/memory, and short-term rehabilitative care to Virginia veterans**
- In-patient, residential care facilities
- Virginia Veterans Care Center (Roanoke): 240 beds
- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (Richmond): 200 beds
- Two new veterans care centers (128-beds each) under development
 - Puller Veterans Care Center (Vint Hill, Fauquier County)
 - Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center (Virginia Beach)
 - Target opening: Summer 2021





Veterans Cemeteries

- **Provide a final resting place for our veterans and their families** in a setting of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance at state veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk
- **Operate and maintain cemeteries as national shrines**: same operating procedures and eligibility requirements as national cemeteries like Quantico and Culpeper (veterans, spouses, and some children are eligible)



- Three burial options: in-ground full casket, above-ground cremated, in-ground cremated
- 1,865 interments last year (almost 19,000 to date)
- Developed in phases: \$10.2M federal grant for Suffolk Phase 3 expansion (design underway)
- DVS has applied for \$4M federal grant for Amelia Phase 2 expansion (likely award 2020)