

2022 Annual Report



**Georgia Department
of Veterans Service**

About this Report

In accordance with state law, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service annually submits a report of the agency's activities to the Governor and the General Assembly. The GDVS Annual Report also serves as a repository of general information about the department.

Throughout this report, many references are made to Fiscal Year 2022; this refers to the State of Georgia's fiscal year from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Where information refers instead to calendar year 2022, this will be noted.

Where federal data are concerned, the latest available data is sometimes from Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021). Such cases are noted where they occur.

An electronic version of this report is available online at veterans.georgia.gov/annual-report. An archive of the most recent editions of the GDVS Annual Report may be found in the same location.

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About the Cover

Veterans Service Officer Kareem Reddick assists a veteran with a claim for veterans benefits at United Military Care's We CARE Resource Fair in Cobb County on May 13, 2022.

(Credit: Photo, GDVS/Charlotte May)



PATRICIA ROSS
COMMISSIONER

Department of Veterans Service

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June 30, 2023

Governor Brian Kemp
Members of the General Assembly
Members of the Veterans Service Board
Citizens of the State of Georgia

Greetings:

Section 38-4-11 of the Code of Georgia reads:

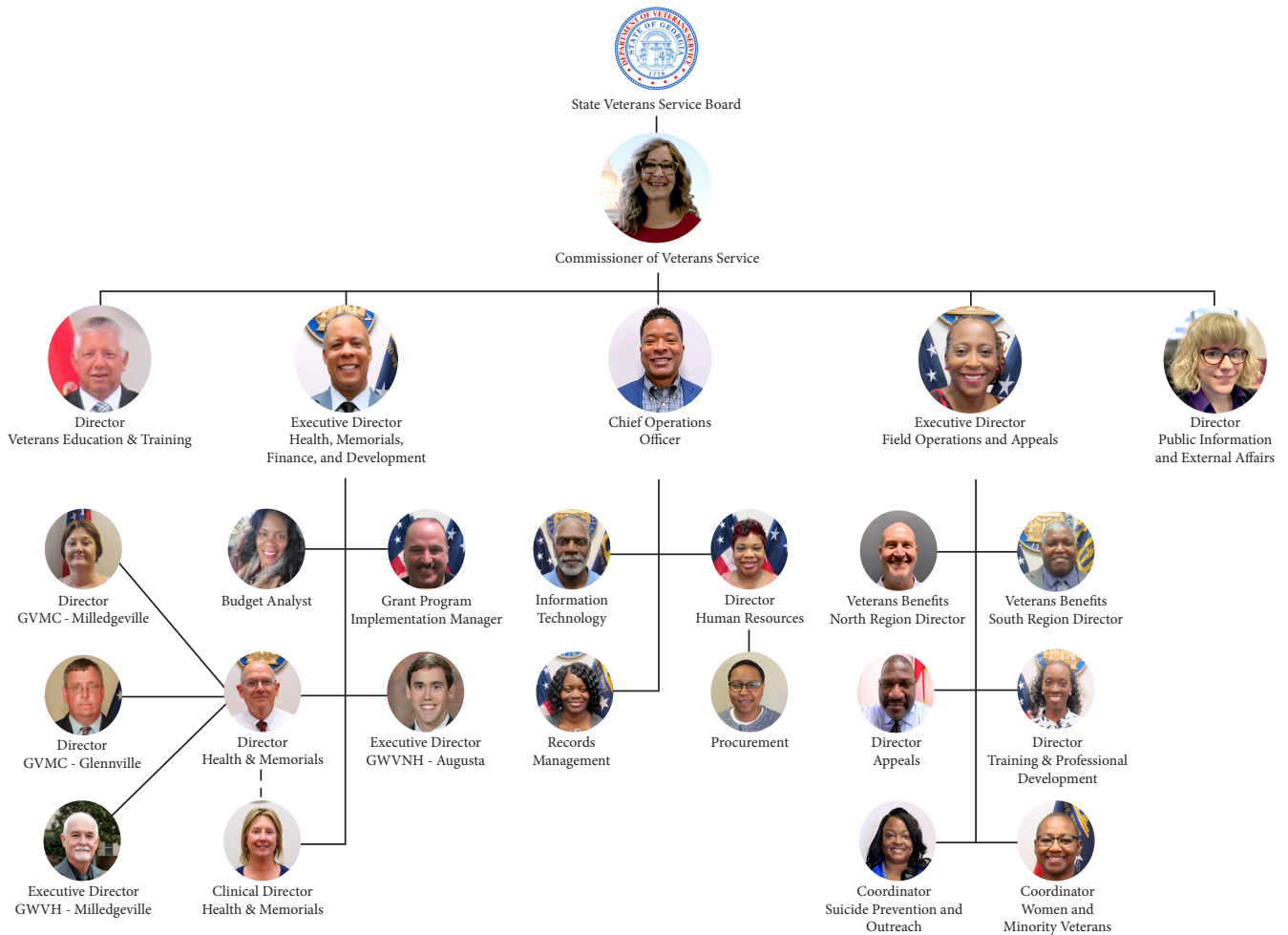
“The Commissioner of Veterans Service shall furnish to the Governor, the members of the General Assembly, the Veterans Service Board, veterans' organizations, and the public generally an annual report with reference to claims presented on behalf of veterans of this state, concerning veterans aided under federal, state, or local legislation, and otherwise to report the activities and accomplishments of the Department of Veterans Service.”

In compliance with the above section, I have the honor to present herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Veterans Service for the year 2022. A copy of this report is also available at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/annual-report>.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Ross
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



MISSIONS:

To assist Georgia's 689,000+ veterans with benefits claims to obtain compensation, pension and services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

To provide nursing care to veteran patients at the Augusta and Milledgeville state veterans homes.

To provide memorial benefits to Georgia's veterans who served faithfully and honorably in the armed forces of our nation and to their families at the Glennville and Milledgeville state veterans cemeteries that are shrines to the memory of our state's heroes.

VISION:

We will provide the highest quality assistance to Georgia's veterans to aid them in obtaining all the benefits from the federal and state governments to which they are entitled.

We will provide the highest quality nursing home services to Georgia's veteran patients, as judged by VA surveys, state inspections and other accrediting agencies.

We will provide shrine standard services at Georgia's state veterans cemeteries to memorialize our state's fallen and deceased heroes who faithfully and honorably served in the armed forces.

VALUES:

We value the service Georgia's veterans have provided to our nation and our state in the armed forces of our nation and the freedoms we all enjoy because of that service.

We value the ongoing partnership our state has with the VA to provide assistance and service to Georgia's veterans and their families.

VETERANS SERVICE BOARD

The constitution of the State of Georgia specifies the State Veterans Service Board be composed of seven members. Each member must be a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and must have served honorably during wartime.

The Governor appoints members, subject to confirmation by the State Senate. Board member terms are staggered and are for seven years. From its membership, the Board elects a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. Every four years the Board appoints a Commissioner, through whom the Board controls the overall policy of the Department of Veterans Service.

Longtime board member Eddie Whitted passed away on January 8, 2022. Mr. Whitted was first appointed by Governor Nathan Deal in 2011 and reappointed in 2018.

Governor Kemp appointed Steve Mendez and Pete Peterson to the Board in 2022.



Joshua Kopsie



Shawn Hanley



Takosha Swan



John Kubinec



Steve Mendez



Tim Paslawski



Pete Peterson

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD MEMBER

SHAWN HANLEY
TAKOSHA SWAN
JOSHUA KOPSIE
JOHN KUBINEC
STEVE MENDEZ
TIM PASLAWSKI
PETE PETERSON

POSITION

CHAIRMAN
VICE CHAIRMAN
SECRETARY
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER
MEMBER

CITY

ATLANTA
CONYERS
MARIETTA
WARNER ROBINS
BRUNSWICK
STATESBORO
STOCKBRIDGE

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

Serving Those Who Served

The mission of the Department of Veterans Service is to serve Georgia's 689,000+ veterans, their dependents, and survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans benefits.

This responsibility falls into two basic tasks: informing veterans and their families about veterans benefits; and directly assisting and advising veterans and their families in securing the benefits to which they are entitled.

To support our mission, the department maintains an appeals division, field service offices, two veterans nursing homes, two veterans cemeteries, and a public information division.

The Appeals Division's mission is to process appeals of Georgia veterans.

The Veterans Field Service Offices, located throughout the state, provide direct assistance to veterans at the local level. The department representatives provide counsel and assist veterans in gathering the documents and information required to support their claims.

The Training Division ensures all veteran service offices are staffed by VA accredited veteran service officers. They provide continuing education courses to staff throughout the year.

The War Veterans Nursing Homes provide skilled nursing care to Georgia's war veterans who need those services.

The Veterans Memorial Cemeteries provide final resting places for Georgia's veterans and their spouses and serve as shrines to their memory and their service to our nation.

The Public Information Division's mission is to keep Georgia veterans informed about these issues.

Some may use the phrase "duplication of effort" when referring to the functions of the Department of Veterans Service and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs while nothing could be further from the truth.

To a veteran seeking benefits from the VA, the role played by the Department of Veterans Service might be compared to that of an attorney representing a client in court.

The necessity for personal assistance in filing and pursuing claims and in maintaining a continuing information program results from the legal principle that veterans benefits are not awarded automatically – all must be applied for.

The VA pays a veteran exactly what he or she applies for when they are entitled, and no more. The aim of the Department of Veterans Service is to obtain for a veteran or dependents the earned benefits to which they are entitled, to tell them when they are entitled, and to assist them in gathering and preparing evidence needed to justify a claim and prove their entitlement.

The advancing age of Korean and Vietnam War veterans, and the frequent changes that occur in veterans benefits legislation, will necessitate the continuance of a variety of veterans programs in the years ahead.

As Congress continues to seek ways to reduce the deficit, veterans benefits will continue to be in a state of flux.

This means veterans will continue to need assistance in interpreting changes in law and determining how they impact their personal situation.



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

Department Functions

Effectuate and carry out the laws of the state pertaining to veterans.

Inform veterans, their dependents, and survivors as to their rights and benefits under federal and state legislation, or local ordinances.

Assist veterans, their dependents, and their beneficiaries in the preparation, presentation, proof, and establishment of such claims, privileges, rights and other benefits accruing to them under federal, state, and local laws.

Report any evidence of incompetence, dishonesty, or negligence on the part of any employee dealing with veterans affairs.

Promote and protect the rights of Georgia's veterans under federal and state law.

Apply for and accept gifts, grants, and other contributions from the federal government or from any other governmental units.

Construct and operate nursing homes and personal care homes for the benefit of eligible war veterans.

Construct and operate state veterans cemeteries for the benefit of eligible veterans and their dependents.

Advise the Governor, the Veterans Service Board, and the General Assembly as to needed veterans legislation.

Maintain files on all veterans who have filed claims for veterans benefits through the department.

Conduct educational programs by personal appearances before veterans organizations, service clubs, fraternal groups, and other such organizations so as to acquaint the public generally with the work of the department.

Conduct outreach to women veterans to improve awareness of eligibility for federal and state veterans benefits and services.

Make representatives of the department available throughout the state to assist all veterans, their dependents, and survivors in preparing and filing claims for benefits and to acquaint them with all legal rights and privileges.

Cooperate with all national, state, and local governmental and private agencies, to secure or offer services or any benefits to veterans and their dependents.

Assist and cooperate with all veterans organizations in their work.

Promote enlargement and improvement of VA hospital facilities in the state.

Sponsor observance of Veterans Day in the state.

Certify eligibility for veterans driver licenses and honorary driver licenses.

Certify eligibility for disabled veteran discounts at Department of Natural Resources facilities.

Issue, to qualified veterans, Certificates of Exemption from certain business taxes and fees.

Assist qualified veterans in obtaining honorary hunting and fishing licenses.

Assist in obtaining special motor vehicle license plates for qualified veterans, including veterans of specific military campaigns, retired veterans, and recipients of certain medals, as well as special tax-exempt license plates for Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, disabled veterans, and Medal of Honor recipients.

As State Approving Agency, enter into contracts with the federal government for the qualification, approval, certification, and supervision of educational institutions and training establishments applying for or participating in federal programs for educating and training veterans.

As Chair Agency of the Returning Veterans Task Force, investigate how state services can be provided to veterans returning from military service, issue recommendations to agencies to improve service delivery, and transmit specific suggestions for legislation to the Governor and senior leaders of the General Assembly.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE SERVICES



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Benefits Administration - provides military-to-civilian transition assistance services, disability compensation, pension, fiduciary services, educational opportunities, Veteran readiness, and employment services

National Cemetery Administration - provides burial and memorial benefits to Veterans and their eligible family members

VA Health Administration - provides a broad range of primary care, specialized care and related medical and social support services that are uniquely related to Veterans' health or special needs in 1,506 healthcare facilities.



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS SERVICE**

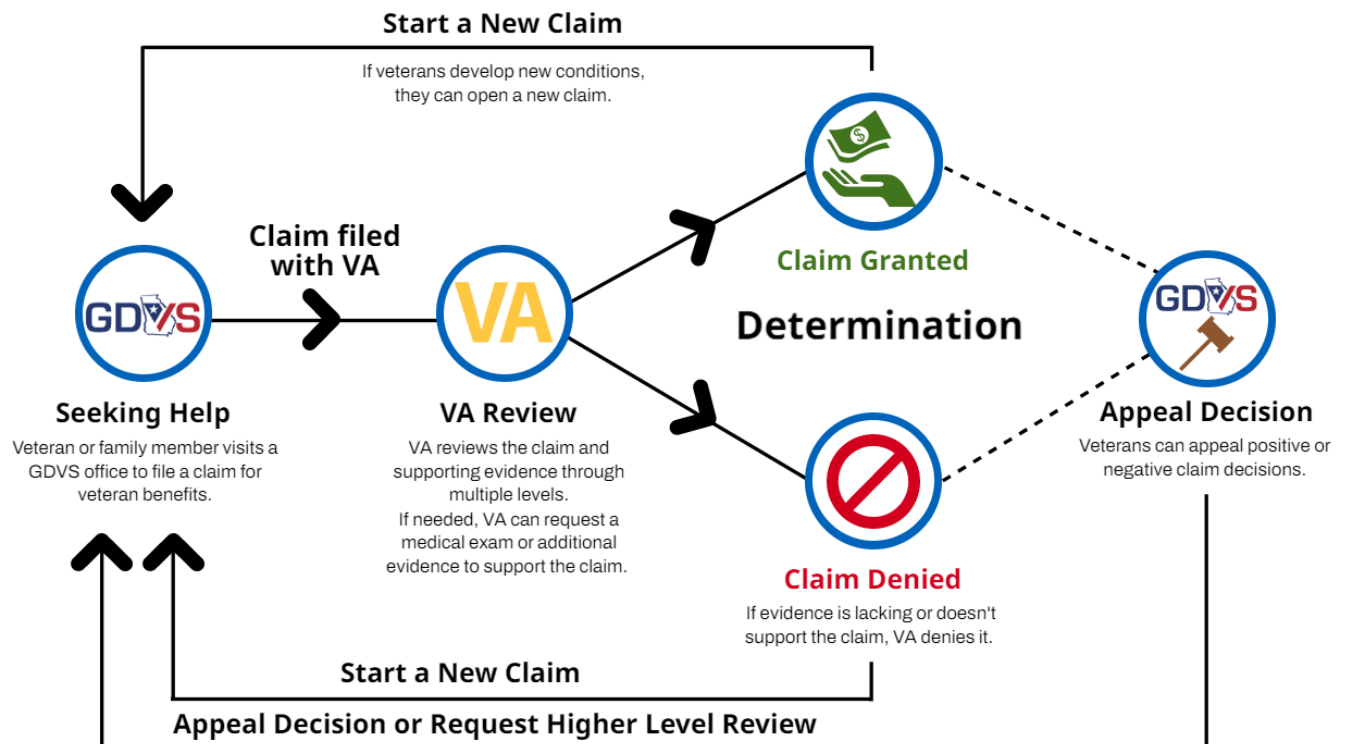
Field Operations and Appeals – provides counseling, assistance, and advisement to military veterans and their families on earned benefits and submits claims and/or appeals benefits decisions to the **VA Benefits Administration**

State Cemeteries (Glennville & Milledgeville) - provides burial and memorial benefits to Veterans and their eligible family members

State War Veterans Homes (Augusta & Milledgeville)- provides skilled nursing care for Georgia wartime veterans with other than dishonorable service

****Does not have healthcare facilities or providers****

CLAIM LIFE CYCLE



The GDVS is ready and available to help veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors at every step of the claims and appeals process when seeking benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

VETERANS EDUCATION & TRAINING DIVISION

State Approving Agency

By law, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service is designated as the State Approving Agency, responsible for approving and supervising all institutions and establishments in Georgia, which offer education and training under the provisions of the Veterans Educational Assistance Program.

Within the GDVS, the State Approving Agency (SAA) function is performed by the Veterans Education & Training Division. This division is responsible for ensuring approved institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

This includes all public and private schools and all establishments offering apprenticeship and other on-the-job training (OJT). The satisfactory performance of these duties requires extensive knowledge in education administration and understanding the laws and regulations that govern and control the Veterans Educational Assistance Program.

In 2022, the GDVS continued to expand opportunities for Georgia veterans to receive their education benefits while enrolled in approved on-the-job training (OJT) and apprenticeship programs.

The Montgomery GI Bill education program, initiated in 1985, remains a great success. This program expanded the education benefits program to include vocational, technical, flight, correspondence, and OJT/apprenticeship training for reservists and veterans.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 program expanded the benefits available to certain service members and veterans with active duty military service after September 11, 2001.

The Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010 made significant improvements such as adding OJT/apprenticeship

and non-college degree schools, vocational schools, and flight schools to what is covered under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

The Department of Defense also offers a “Transferability of Education Benefits” option for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This retention program requires eligible active duty veterans with at least six years of service to commit to an additional four years of service upon approval.

On August 16, 2017 the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the “Forever GI Bill” was signed into law, which will bring significant changes to veterans’ education benefits. This includes removing the 15-year limitation to use education benefits for veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013.

In total, 17,125 Georgia veterans were enrolled in college degree and professional programs, technical career programs, vocational programs, flight training, and OJT programs during fiscal year 2022.

In FY 2022, the approval of educational institutions and training establishments for the education of Georgia veterans resulted in the processing of numerous individual actions in the approval, re-approval, withdrawal and compliance survey process.

At the close of 2022, there were 1,808 approved educational institutions and approved training establishments in Georgia. The Veterans Education & Training Division monitors all approved educational institutions and training establishments.

The division conducts regular inspection visits to ensure approval criteria and schools’ standards of progress are being followed as prescribed by law.

For more information on all GI Bill programs, visit benefits.va.gov/gibill or call the GDVS Education & Training Division at 404-656-2306.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION

The Public Information Division collects, evaluates, and disseminates information to veterans regarding changes in benefits laws, and proper procedures to be followed in the filing of claims.

When appropriate, the division mails news and information releases concerning veterans affairs to newspapers, radio and television stations throughout Georgia.

The releases are used to inform veterans about the latest changes regarding veterans affairs and to provide information on the status of proposed or pending legislation that may affect them.

Through an aggressive internal communication program, the division keeps the field offices informed about changes in law and policy interpretations impacting veterans.

The division also supports the department's internal training website for field and appeals officers in cooperation with the Professional Training and Development Division. Together, both teams ensure the department's personnel have access to timely training modules on issues impacting veterans.

The division supports the department's field personnel in their efforts to promote the department and the services it provides by their frequent contacts with the news media in their respective areas.

Public speaking forums are an important ingredient of the department's overall information program. All department personnel are encouraged to accept speaking engagements at meetings of veterans organizations and civic clubs. These personal appearances provide excellent opportunities for telling the veterans benefits story. Department personnel also participate in local radio talk shows and make presentations at local schools.

The division compiles, edits, and publishes a series of print materials explaining in detail the various benefits available to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. These include books, flyers, and pamphlets, all of which are updated as changes occur in laws, regulations, or benefits.

In 2022, the division launched a newsletter which covers changes to veterans law, departmental

achievements, events, public interest stories on notable veterans, and more. The newsletter is available through the department's website and a robust mailing list of subscribers.

This division is responsible for the department's online presence, including its

website, blog, and several social media channels.

Those interested in more in-depth news and a chance to interact with other veterans and veteran advocates are encouraged to "like" the Georgia Department of Veterans Service's page on Facebook: facebook.com/gavetsvc.

Although the division strives to utilize the latest available new media tools, the department's website, veterans.georgia.gov, remains the top source for official Georgia Department of Veterans Service information.

The GDVS website is a repository of information about veterans benefits, including the most up-to-date version of *State Benefits for Georgia Veterans*, and detailed information concerning all aspects of the department: the Commissioner's Office, Georgia War Veterans Homes, Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemeteries, Veterans Field Service Offices, Appeals Division, and Veterans Education & Training. The website is also home to the department's official news feed and calendar of events.



Georgia Department
of Veterans Service
Cultivating community connections
- empowering Georgia's veterans
and their families to flourish.

December 2022



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY RETURNS GDVS HONORS FALLEN HEROES

It was a spectacular sight to behold as thousands of holiday wreaths blanketed Georgia's cemeteries during annual *Wreaths Across America* events on December 17th. At Georgia's Milledgeville and Glenville veterans memorial cemeteries, hundreds of volunteers placed over 3,000 sponsored wreaths on the headstones of our fallen veterans.

"Everyone attending will leave knowing the freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price," said Linda Lavender, Director of the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville.

Remember, Honor, Teach - the motto of *Wreaths Across America* - is a fitting theme for the ceremonies. "We honor them, our living veterans, our current military personnel, and their families for the sacrifices they made and continue to

GEORGIA WAR VETERANS NURSING HOME

Augusta

The Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home in Augusta is a 192-bed skilled nursing care facility located adjacent to the campus of Augusta University and the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home is operated under an interagency agreement between the Georgia Department of Veterans Service and Augusta University.

Primarily, the facility provides medical, rehabilitation, and skilled nursing services to Georgia's aged and infirm war veterans.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home also serves as a teaching facility to acquaint medical, dental, pharmacy, and allied health students with the medical conditions and diseases of the aged. This provides students with practical experience and helps them gain expertise in treating the disabled and the elderly.

Also located at the facility is a GDVS Veterans Field Service Office that serves residents of the home and veterans of Richmond and Columbia counties. This office also serves the veterans of the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home by assisting with compensation and pension claims, counseling services, and family-related issues.

Dedicated in 1969, the facility was the first of its kind in the nation to be built with financial grant assistance from the federal government. It is one of a select group of such institutions accredited by the Joint Commission.

In fiscal year 2022, the nursing home provided 43,035 days of care to Georgia's veterans with an average age of 81. During the year, there were 64 admissions and 57 discharges with an average length of stay of 482 days.

Services to patients included 2,620 physical therapy treatments and 7,858 individual occupational therapy procedures.

Veteran patients were treated by a medical director and family medicine residents providing daily physician coverage.

Other services were provided by a certified activities therapist and staff, three facility social workers and a staff of

registered, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants.

To help provide care and treatment, the federal government, through the Department of Veterans Affairs, provided financial assistance totaling in excess of \$7.8 million during fiscal year 2022.

Throughout the year, veteran service organizations, civic and fraternal organizations and religious groups demonstrated their concern for the well-being of veteran patients through numerous donations, visits, and sponsorship of frequent activities for Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home residents.



GEORGIA WAR VETERANS HOME

Milledgeville

The Georgia War Veterans Home, situated on approximately 17 acres in Milledgeville, is a 375-bed facility licensed and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide skilled nursing care to aged and infirm Georgia war veterans. United Veteran Services of Georgia, Inc., a subsidiary of UHS-Pruitt Corporation of Norcross, operates the home for the Department of Veterans Service under a contractual agreement.

The home operated three skilled nursing care facilities in 2022. The Carl Vinson Building remains at an 84 – bed capacity, the Joe T. Wood Building remains at a 140 – bed capacity and the Alzheimer's Unit remains at a 24 – bed capacity.

The Richard B. Russell Building is undergoing major renovations for a new 58 – bed skilled care sub-acute therapy unit which will treat service-connected disabled veterans as part of the home. Construction of a 14 – bed facility to support the sub-acute therapy unit and a food service facility to provide on campus meal was completed in 2022.

Once renovations are complete and staffing is available by Summer 2023, the Georgia War Veterans Home will have a capacity of 320 beds provided state funds are available.

2022 was another challenging year for the GWVH. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to require extraordinary measures to help ensure the health and safety of our veteran patients, staff members, and visitors. As a result visitations, to include volunteers, admissions, veteran patients travel off campus, and veterans coming into the Veterans Service Office located inside the Wheeler Building were limited.

During fiscal year 2022, veteran patients at the home received 60,637 days of skilled nursing care. The nursing home admitted 86 patients during the year and had 103 discharges/deaths.

The average length of stay for current skilled veteran patients is 1,583 days or 4.3 years.

During fiscal year 2022, federal assistance in funding a portion of the cost of providing care to veterans in the home amounted to \$11,247,517.

With the lifting of some COVID-19 restrictions, veterans service organizations, civic groups, and church groups are again sponsoring numerous activities such as movies, games, dance parties, bingo, picnics, and other activities and programs for the general well-being of the veteran patients at the home.

With some of the restrictions lifted, groups and individuals that comprised the equivalent of 559 individual volunteers provided more than 2,092 hours of time valued at over \$25,104 and presented 82

activities during fiscal year 2022.

The value of donated items made available to the home during fiscal year 2022 was \$84,695. Groups and individuals also provided direct monetary donations of \$24,686 in support of special activities and projects.

The GDVS Veteran Field Service Office serving veterans in the home and in Baldwin, Hancock, Putnam, Washington, and Wilkinson counties is located in the Wheeler Building. This office also serves the 200 veterans of the Georgia War Veterans Home by assisting with compensation and pension claims, counseling services, and family-related issues.

Veteran-related contacts for this field office totaled over 5,810 for calendar year 2022. These contacts resulted in more than 9,327 transactions in support of their well-deserved benefits.

The home also hosts a VA community clinic which provides outpatient care to veterans in Baldwin and the surrounding counties.



GEORGIA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Milledgeville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville is located approximately five miles south of downtown Milledgeville along Georgia Highway 112.

This cemetery, established on 142 acres the Georgia Department of Veterans Service received from the Georgia Forestry Commission, includes an administration/visitor center with a state-of-the-art information booth, a committal chapel, a carillon, and 12 columbarium shelters for cremations. Cemetery grounds also include a six-acre lake and a three-acre, multi-tier walled ceremonial area.

The cemetery will eventually be the final resting place for more than 100,000 eligible

veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents.

As of December 31, 2022, there were 4,988 veterans, spouses and dependents buried at GVMC. Burials are composed of 3,324 casketed burials, 978 cremations, 658 in ground cremations, and 28 memorial markers.

Cemetery operations expanded in October 2018. The expansion included 15 acres of developed land and added space for 1,520 pre-placed crypts and 320 columbarium niches. Planning and requests for additional expansions and renovations resumed in 2021.

As the cemetery continued to operate throughout the pandemic, celebrations and remembrances continued in 2022.

The avenue of flags is displayed when ceremonies are held at the cemetery, such as Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America. In addition, it is displayed on Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

Flags were placed by volunteers and cemetery staff on all burial sites and at the front entrance of

the cemetery in recognition of Memorial Day.

The Patriot Guard, Knights of Columbus, and American Legion conducted a ceremony attended by approximately 500 people.

On December 17, 2022 the cemetery hosted its annual Wreaths Across America ceremony in honor of our past and present military.

Seven wreaths, provided by the Worchester

Wreath Company, were presented at the entrance of the cemetery to honor each branch of our Armed Forces, Merchant Marines and POWs/MIAs. The ceremony included members of the Morris Little American Legion Post, the Patriot Guard Riders, Honor Guards from the Retired

Marine Corps League and Wilkinson County Junior ROTC, music by Briana Wilson, and guest speaker Army Chief Warrant Officer (ret.) George Canavaggio.

The cemetery typically has many visitors each year. Some are visiting grave sites, some are seeking information about the cemetery and burial requirements, and many have just heard about the cemetery and want to see the grounds.

Cemetery staff members remained active in the local community and met with business groups, veterans organizations, and church groups through teleconferences.

The GVMC's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding official state holidays.

The cemetery is open to families, visitors, and the general public seven days each week from 8 a.m. to dusk.



GEORGIA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Glennville

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville is situated on the 42.6 acre site of the former Dyess Farm, just north of the Glennville city limits on U.S. Highway 301, 25 miles west of the main post of Fort Stewart.

The initial 26-acre phase of the cemetery contains 1,400 pre-placed in-ground double vaults, for eligible veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents; 766 conventional single depth sites; 1,384 cremation interment sites, which include a columbarium and in-ground sites; and 429 spaces for memorial markers. These memorial markers are placed in memory of those veterans whose remains are unavailable for burial.

GVMC–Glennville was dedicated on November 28, 2007, and will eventually be the final resting place for more than 21,000 veterans, their spouses, and eligible dependents. As of December 31, 2022, there were 2,211 veterans, spouses, and family members interred.

A key feature of the cemetery is the co-location of the Glennville Veterans Field Service Office, which provides assistance to veterans and their families in Bryan, Long, Tattnall, and Wayne counties.

In 2022, GVMC–Glennville was able to host its annual Memorial Day ceremony and saw a large crowd gather to honor the sacrifice paid for by the country's fallen members of the Armed Forces. U.S. flags were placed on each veteran's gravesite for the weekend by local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 929, along with other volunteers. The ceremony included a keynote address by LT COL Joseph Handke, a battalion commander from Fort

Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division. Members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery provided a Color Guard to open and close the event with a flag display, along with a rifle team providing a gun salute. Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division's band provided a bugler to play "Taps" and a vocalist to provide a patriotic rendition of the National Anthem.

For Veterans Day, local Scouts and volunteers placed U.S. flags at the grave sites of the veterans interred in the cemetery. They assist the cemetery staff yearly with this task and give honor to veterans buried here.

In December, cemetery staff held a Wreaths Across America ceremony to place remembrance wreaths on graves



throughout the cemetery.

The patriot event recognized veterans of the past and present. Elaine Lester, the WAA location coordinator, welcomed the large crowd. Effingham County High School's JROTC cadets placed ceremonial wreaths for all who served in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, along with wreaths for Merchant Marines and POW/MIAs. The ceremony closed with a solemn playing of "Taps" and visitors placed wreaths throughout the cemetery at gravesites.

Cemetery staff members remained active in the local community and met with business groups, veterans organizations, and church groups through teleconferences.

GVMC–Glennville's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding official state holidays.

The cemetery is open to families, visitors, and the general public seven days each week from 8 a.m. to dusk.

GDVS FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2022

Class Name	Program Name	Budget	Expenditures
Personal Services	Administration	1,760,690.00	1,656,399.00
Regular Operating	Administration	70,802.00	56,804.00
Computer Charges	Administration	58,561.00	50,857.00
Real Estate Rentals	Administration	26,750.00	62,832.00
Telecommunications	Administration	75,618.00	47,295.00
Contracts	Administration	131.00	
		1,992,552.00	1,874,187.00
Personal Services	Milledgeville Cemetery	480,506.00	396,889.00
Regular Operating	Milledgeville Cemetery	529,365.00	392,932.00
Motor Vehicle Purchase	Milledgeville Cemetery		
Telecommunications	Milledgeville Cemetery	3,896.00	903.00
		1,013,767.00	790,724.00
Personal Services	Glennville Cemetery	348,932.00	375,958.00
Regular Operating	Glennville Cemetery	221,021.00	134,359.00
Telecommunications	Glennville Cemetery	7,656.00	2,427.00
		577,609.00	512,744.00
Personal Services	Field Operations	5,867,521.00	5,822,436.00
Regular Operating	Field Operations	324,197.00	479,602.00
Real Estate Rentals	Field Operations	281,765.00	202,475.00
Telecommunications	Field Operations	80,052.00	77,508.00
Capital Outlay	Field Operations		
Contracts	Field Operations	46,512.00	
ROE For Projects And Insurance	Field Operations	80,120.00	100,867.00
		6,680,167.00	6,682,888.00
Personal Services	Appeals	1,112,685.00	937,990.00
Regular Operating	Appeals	27,406.00	3,110.00
Telecommunications	Appeals	16,148.00	421.00
		1,156,239.00	941,521.00
Personal Services	Education And Training	734,842.00	674,541.00
Regular Operating	Education And Training	102,759.00	20,189.00
Real Estate Rentals	Education And Training	72,141.00	67,593.00
Telecommunications	Education And Training	11,989.00	11,521.00
Capital Outlay	Education And Training	1.00	
		921,732.00	773,844.00
Personal Services	Augusta	58,259.00	58,740.00
Regular Operating	Augusta	50,000.00	50,000.00
Op Exp/Pay Med College of GA	Augusta	15,455,325.00	13,514,266.00
		15,563,584.00	13,623,006.00
Personal Services	Milledgeville Skilled Care	193,735.00	70,661.00
Regular Operating	Milledgeville Skilled Care	200,003.00	754,768.00
Vehicle Purchase	Milledgeville Skilled Care	150,000.00	
Capital Outlay	Milledgeville Skilled Care	11,427,424.00	10,660,701.00
Contracts	Milledgeville Skilled Care	22,469,696.00	17,729,577.00
		34,440,858.00	29,215,707.00
Totals		62,346,508.00	54,414,621.00

ASSISTING VETERANS STATEWIDE



689,000+

Veterans living in
Georgia



279,238

Veterans received help
via phone calls and
virtual visits



64,683

Veterans received help
via in-person office visits



1,120

Appeals hearings for
previously denied claims



115

Employees serving
veterans in **55**
field offices



7,199

Veterans and spouses
interred in a Veterans
Memorial Cemetery



263

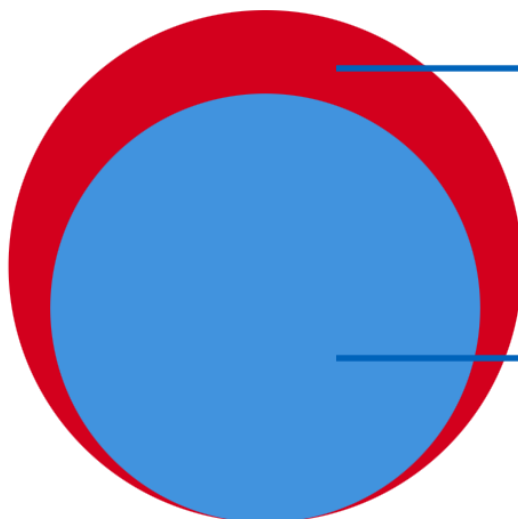
Veterans receiving
care at a War
Veterans Home



3,200

Appeals decisions received
through other actions

Compensation and Pension Payments



\$5,137,530,000

Total Compensation and Pension
payments received by Georgia
veterans in Federal FY21

\$3,596,271,000

Compensation and Pension
payments received by veterans
with GDVS assistance

VA MONETARY REPORT

Benefits & Definitions

Listed below is a report of the monetary benefits received by the veterans and the dependent survivors of deceased veterans in Georgia during federal fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021). The figures were provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and were the latest available at the end of 2022. (See the end of this report for a more detailed breakdown of these figures.)

Compensation and Pension
\$5,137,530,000

Medical Care
\$2,664,865,000

Construction
\$5,683,000

Insurance and Indemnities
\$40,151,000

***Education and Vocational
Rehabilitation***
\$493,321,000

General Operating Expenses
\$33,758,000

Total Expenditure
\$8,375,308,000



Compensation and Pension: Benefits expenditures for the following categories: compensation payments, pension payments, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and burial allowances.

Medical Care: Operating expenses incurred through the provision of health care services to veterans. The specific programs reported for this category are: medical care, General Post Fund, medical and prosthetic research, and miscellaneous accounts.

Construction: Funding for Major Projects, Minor Projects, Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities, and Grants for Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries.

Insurance and Indemnities: Expenditures for death claims, matured endowments, dividends, cash surrender payments, total disability income provision payments, and total and permanent disability benefits payments.

Education and Vocational Rehabilitation: Expenditures in this category include: automobile and adaptive equipment, specially adapted housing, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans (Chapter 31), Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance (Chapter 32), Montgomery G.I. Bill for Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606), Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), Montgomery G.I. Bill (Chapter 30), Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (Chapter 33).

General Operating Costs: General Operating Expenses represent the costs necessary to provide administration and oversight for the benefits provided by VA. This includes costs for overhead and human resources [to operate VA's regional office, hospitals, health clinics, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities in Georgia]. This category does not include payments made directly to beneficiaries.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Activities



Commissioner Ross joined Governor Kemp and local, state, and federal leaders at a military roundtable in January to discuss how to best support our active-duty military, Reservists, Guardsmen, veterans, and families.



In April, Commissioner Ross met with the Blinded Veterans Association for their annual convention. She provided information on veterans benefits and updates on the department.



In June, the department resumed our women veteran conferences. Commissioner Ross selected the inaugural Georgia Woman Veteran of the Year, Dr. Qwynn Salazar, and presented her with a commemorative plaque.



In December, Commissioner Ross joined members of the Daughters of the American Revolution for a Wreaths Across America ceremony in the Georgia State Capitol.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Memorial Day in Georgia



Governor Brian Kemp and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service celebrated Memorial Day at the Georgia State Capitol on May 11, 2022.

Commissioner Ross, members of the Veterans Service Board, state legislators, veterans service organizations, and veterans attended the ceremony in remembrance of the military service members who gave their lives while serving the United States.

YEAR IN REVIEW

We CARE Fair



The GDVS joined United Military Care for the first We CARE Veterans Resource Fair at the Cobb County Civic Center on May 13-14, 2022.

During the two day resource fair, veterans and their families were able to meet with a variety of local, state, and federal agencies and nonprofit groups.

The GDVS assisted nearly 400 veterans in filing claims, getting status updates on their claim or appeal, and shared information on state and federal veterans benefits.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Women Veterans Day in Georgia

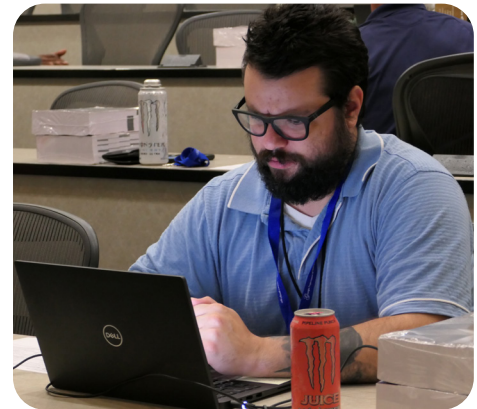


Commissioner Ross joined state legislators for the first Women Veterans Day in Georgia as decreed in State House Resolution 978 of the 2021-2022 regular legislative session.

The inaugural Women Veterans Day in Georgia celebration was held on June 13, 2022, at the Georgia State Capitol.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Annual Training



The Georgia Department of Veterans Service annually gathers its Veterans Field Service Officers and Appeals Officers for training to ensure all employees maintain certification and stay up-to-date on the latest changes to regulations governing veterans benefits. Employees also take regularly scheduled classes on a monthly basis for accreditation hours.

Annual training was held in July 2022. In addition to group trainings on essential skills, service officers were split into small groups to focus on vital competency areas and foster collaborative discussions on changes to veterans benefits policies. Service officers were also able to participate in learning based games to reinforce their skills and build a collaborative team bond with their fellow employees.

The department's Training Division plans and coordinates lessons for all department employees. Following the year's annual training, employees completed a comprehensive test to maintain their accreditation with VA.

YEAR IN REVIEW

GDVS Praises Signage of PACT Act into Law



PACT ACT UPDATES

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service commended President Biden on signing the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act into law. The legislation marks the most significant expansion of benefits and services to America's war veterans in more than 30 years.

“The passage of the PACT Act is potentially life-changing for hundreds of thousands of Georgia's veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals during their active military service,” said Patricia Ross, Commissioner of Georgia Department of Veterans Service. “Our agency and its accredited veteran service officers are available and ready to support this community.”

“Even if a veteran or their family has been denied a claim in the past, we encourage them to file a claim again,” added Ross. “We invite Georgia's veteran population to contact any of our 51 offices across the state to schedule an appointment.”

As a state government agency, the GDVS has more than 100 VA-accredited veteran service officers who work to help the veteran community or their survivors at every step of the claims process. The new law significantly increases the number of veterans eligible for benefits. The VA is expected to contact veterans on the burn pit registry and encourage them to file a claim through their website; however, not all veterans may be registered.

- The bill creates over 20 new presumptive conditions for which Gulf War and Post 9/11-era veterans may now be eligible to receive service-connected compensation.
- Over one-third of Georgia's veteran population, almost 300,000 Gulf War and Post 9/11 veterans, may now qualify for benefits.
- For Vietnam veterans, presumptive conditions and exposure locations have been expanded to include conditions such as hypertension.
- Historically, veterans have been denied benefits related to hypertension.
- Thailand, Guam, and American Samoa are now included in presumed exposure locations.
- Veterans who have a previously denied claim for toxic substance exposure may re-apply for benefits.
- Surviving spouses and their children may also now be eligible to receive benefits.

YEAR IN REVIEW

GDVS Awarded VA Suicide Prevention Grant

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS) is working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prevent veteran suicide in Georgia. The GDVS received a grant of \$747,464 from VA to support its mission through the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP), a three-year program that provides funding to community-based organizations with innovative ideas for preventing veteran suicide.

With its SSG Fox SPGP award, the GDVS will work with the Center for the Advancement of Military and Emergency Services (AMES) Research at Kennesaw State University to identify emerging trends of suicidality in veterans in Georgia. Together, the GDVS and AMES will develop and deliver scalable veteran and family-appropriate suicide prevention programming for both in-person and virtual delivery. The AMES team will also develop predictive analytic models of areas of emerging concern and improve equity in access to services for service members, veterans, and their families.

The SSG Fox SPGP is a pilot, community-based grant program that provides financial assistance to eligible entities to provide or coordinate providing suicide prevention services to eligible veterans and their families.

Suicide in veterans is a complex problem, which requires coordinated, evidence-based solutions beyond the traditional medical model of prevention. The GDVS joined the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide in Servicemembers, Veterans, and their Families in 2020 with the support of Governor Kemp.

Georgia's Governor's Challenge team is a network of resources with representation from local, state, and federal agencies and non-profit community-based organizations. The network partners provide or facilitate access to clinical services, peer support, case management, outreach, education, and help obtaining veterans benefits.

The GDVS suicide prevention program will be enhanced by the support of the SSG Fox SPGP. In 2020, the GDVS suicide prevention team conducted 10,851 unique program visits and worked with the Atlanta VA Healthcare System to address suicide prevention at 336 unique events. The GDVS recognized an increased need to provide expanded services in suicide prevention and health promotion through these outreach efforts.



**We're proud to work with VA to
prevent Veteran suicide
in our community.**

YEAR IN REVIEW

GDVS Launches Unite Georgia



UNITE GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service and Unite Us, the nation's leading technology company connecting health and social care, are partnering to help meet the unmet needs of Georgia's veteran population through a coordinated care network called Unite Georgia.

The GDVS received an award of \$6.1 million through the Georgia State Fiscal Recovery Fund's Negative Economic Impact grant program. The grants are aimed at addressing financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and are intended to assist in speeding the recovery of the employment, tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors, as well as other industries.

Unite Georgia is a coordinated care network that allows veterans and their families to connect directly to the resources they need in a matter of days instead of weeks or months. Currently, there are more than 720 programs available in the statewide network, and that number continues to grow each day.

The Unite Us platform securely connects the veteran population to much-needed resources and services, such as assistance with veterans benefits, employment, education, and mental and behavioral health programs. The program enables the GDVS to pinpoint where veterans need help and implement improvements for future services through community partnerships.

"Unite Us makes it simpler for Georgia's veterans and their families to find care wherever they are," said Georgia Department of Veterans Service Commissioner Patricia Ross. "If you're currently serving, recently separated from military service, or have been out for years, help is available through a robust network of community partners."

The Unite Georgia program will initially be available through the 54 GDVS veterans field service offices located across the state. Following the launch, Unite Us will partner with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and Georgia's Workforce Boards to expand access to services.

"Our vision is to build a world of connected communities working together to improve the health and well-being of veterans," said Anthony Fulton, State Network Director at Unite Us. "The Unite Georgia network delivers the ability for government agencies, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations to better address people's needs in a secure and efficient ecosystem."

Nonprofits, community-based organizations, and other providers interested in connecting their clients and patients to services within the network can reach out on uniteus.com/contact/.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Veterans Day in Georgia



Governor Brian Kemp and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service held the state's annual ceremony to designate November 11 as Veterans Day in Georgia.

Commissioner Patricia Ross, members of the Veterans Service Board, state legislators, veterans service organizations, and veterans attended the ceremony under the Gold Dome of the capitol building.

VA STATISTICAL DATA

FY21 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State
Expenditures in \$000s

County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
APPLING	1,049	\$ 9,525	\$ 5,174	\$ -	\$ 275	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,065	342
ATKINSON	361	\$ 4,529	\$ 2,439	\$ -	\$ 86	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,005	167
BACON	715	\$ 4,858	\$ 2,921	\$ -	\$ 128	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,798	184
BAKER	188	\$ 2,106	\$ 1,286	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 804	75
BALDWIN	2,747	\$ 35,008	\$ 18,480	\$ -	\$ 1,041	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,229	1,100
BANKS	1,150	\$ 9,198	\$ 5,901	\$ -	\$ 356	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,885	336
BARROW	3,784	\$ 42,575	\$ 28,667	\$ -	\$ 2,776	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,931	1,248
BARTOW	5,940	\$ 58,113	\$ 38,651	\$ -	\$ 3,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,047	1,653
BEN HILL	1,033	\$ 13,281	\$ 7,932	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,052	387
BERRIEN	1,319	\$ 18,351	\$ 12,057	\$ -	\$ 657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,615	536
BIBB	11,926	\$ 144,151	\$ 86,285	\$ -	\$ 5,331	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,676	4,286
BLECKLEY	922	\$ 12,263	\$ 6,583	\$ -	\$ 310	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,331	318
BRANTLEY	1,118	\$ 11,862	\$ 6,201	\$ -	\$ 238	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,335	495
BROOKS	1,067	\$ 11,491	\$ 5,812	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,337	520
BRYAN	4,281	\$ 85,170	\$ 61,184	\$ -	\$ 9,649	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,096	1,980
BULLOCH	4,441	\$ 44,415	\$ 25,610	\$ -	\$ 3,725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,831	1,412
BURKE	1,631	\$ 19,299	\$ 9,035	\$ -	\$ 483	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,712	620
BUTTS	1,478	\$ 18,251	\$ 12,403	\$ -	\$ 703	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,113	470
CALHOUN	311	\$ 4,820	\$ 3,487	\$ -	\$ 334	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 983	124
CAMDEN	7,319	\$ 87,127	\$ 54,850	\$ -	\$ 7,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,080	2,492
CANDLER	737	\$ 7,026	\$ 3,971	\$ -	\$ 177	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,834	272
CARROLL	6,686	\$ 84,911	\$ 47,990	\$ -	\$ 5,015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,711	2,087
CATOOSA	4,352	\$ 34,485	\$ 19,111	\$ -	\$ 784	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,505	1,360
CHARLTON	927	\$ 9,446	\$ 5,210	\$ -	\$ 305	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,915	320
CHATHAM	28,093	\$ 300,923	\$ 191,671	\$ -	\$ 28,955	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 78,955	9,144
CHATTAHOOCHEE	1,951	\$ 6,008	\$ 4,147	\$ -	\$ 407	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,449	186
CHATTOOGA	1,642	\$ 13,892	\$ 9,317	\$ -	\$ 463	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,063	410
CHEROKEE	15,266	\$ 130,132	\$ 91,274	\$ -	\$ 9,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,561	3,201
CLARKE	6,460	\$ 47,005	\$ 28,294	\$ -	\$ 4,057	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,444	1,348
CLAY	254	\$ 2,008	\$ 1,289	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 677	69
CLAYTON	18,271	\$ 214,037	\$ 116,190	\$ -	\$ 10,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87,016	7,213
CLINCH	328	\$ 3,946	\$ 1,897	\$ -	\$ 116	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,933	147
COBB	44,962	\$ 368,991	\$ 231,611	\$ 28	\$ 32,928	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,583	\$ 101,837	9,727
COFFEE	2,076	\$ 27,787	\$ 13,853	\$ -	\$ 664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,204	868
COLQUITT	2,315	\$ 25,108	\$ 14,609	\$ -	\$ 712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,645	820
COLUMBIA	16,920	\$ 384,440	\$ 256,233	\$ -	\$ 33,364	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 93,020	8,487
COOK	1,224	\$ 14,378	\$ 7,494	\$ -	\$ 379	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,476	478
COWETA	9,900	\$ 100,503	\$ 69,670	\$ -	\$ 6,784	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,443	3,126
CRAWFORD	950	\$ 7,166	\$ 3,350	\$ -	\$ 94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,711	359

VA STATISTICAL DATA

FY21 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State

Expenditures in \$000s

County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
CRISP	1,309	\$ 14,711	\$ 7,910	\$ -	\$ 553	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112	\$ 6,137	405
DADE	1,093	\$ 10,039	\$ 6,143	\$ -	\$ 403	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17	\$ 3,477	349
DAWSON	1,601	\$ 17,055	\$ 11,901	\$ -	\$ 892	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33	\$ 4,229	428
DECATUR	1,643	\$ 15,900	\$ 8,441	\$ -	\$ 577	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56	\$ 6,826	615
DEKALB	40,287	\$ 548,669	\$ 252,220	\$ 2,610	\$ 24,991	\$ -	\$ 31,039	\$ 2,947	\$ 234,861	13,660
DODGE	1,470	\$ 14,951	\$ 7,709	\$ -	\$ 545	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 6,662	459
DOOLY	765	\$ 6,387	\$ 3,823	\$ -	\$ 154	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ 2,405	211
DOUGHERTY	6,472	\$ 95,156	\$ 63,730	\$ -	\$ 3,921	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 667	\$ 26,838	2,530
DOUGLAS	9,639	\$ 126,496	\$ 83,185	\$ -	\$ 8,251	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 404	\$ 34,655	3,591
EARLY	602	\$ 6,695	\$ 4,407	\$ -	\$ 184	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44	\$ 2,060	218
ECHOLS	194	\$ 926	\$ 287	\$ -	\$ 14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 625	63
EFFINGHAM	4,935	\$ 67,395	\$ 45,983	\$ -	\$ 4,360	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 239	\$ 16,812	2,019
ELBERT	1,337	\$ 15,672	\$ 8,440	\$ -	\$ 424	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 302	\$ 6,506	451
EMANUEL	1,255	\$ 18,472	\$ 8,567	\$ -	\$ 527	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127	\$ 9,251	542
EVANS	686	\$ 6,297	\$ 4,347	\$ -	\$ 147	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 1,801	208
FANNIN	2,272	\$ 21,409	\$ 14,078	\$ -	\$ 405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72	\$ 6,854	795
FAYETTE	9,869	\$ 111,331	\$ 82,566	\$ -	\$ 7,012	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 454	\$ 21,298	2,792
FLOYD	5,375	\$ 43,580	\$ 28,235	\$ -	\$ 1,482	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315	\$ 13,549	1,425
FORSYTH	10,309	\$ 58,986	\$ 37,965	\$ -	\$ 3,675	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ 16,747	1,989
FRANKLIN	1,381	\$ 13,448	\$ 8,279	\$ -	\$ 345	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 4,760	427
FULTON	49,876	\$ 562,819	\$ 310,598	\$ 1,447	\$ 40,906	\$ -	\$ 153	\$ 4,159	\$ 205,557	14,492
GILMER	2,699	\$ 23,553	\$ 15,233	\$ -	\$ 463	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 141	\$ 7,716	799
GLASCOCK	175	\$ 2,193	\$ 767	\$ -	\$ 9	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,416	60
GLYNN	7,571	\$ 66,171	\$ 40,621	\$ -	\$ 2,256	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 892	\$ 22,402	2,357
GORDON	3,147	\$ 24,764	\$ 16,379	\$ -	\$ 949	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135	\$ 7,301	722
GRADY	1,583	\$ 15,579	\$ 7,938	\$ -	\$ 273	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 7,344	635
GREENE	1,346	\$ 10,196	\$ 6,568	\$ -	\$ 258	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 3,331	343
GWINNETT	40,238	\$ 378,761	\$ 226,848	\$ -	\$ 27,677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,367	\$ 121,868	11,651
HABERSHAM	2,575	\$ 23,631	\$ 15,732	\$ -	\$ 523	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95	\$ 7,281	821
HALL	11,886	\$ 78,697	\$ 52,510	\$ -	\$ 3,228	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 661	\$ 22,298	2,811
HANCOCK	569	\$ 7,204	\$ 4,152	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109	\$ 2,852	220
HARALSON	1,492	\$ 13,145	\$ 8,726	\$ -	\$ 598	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ 3,778	479
HARRIS	3,071	\$ 49,085	\$ 36,526	\$ -	\$ 2,539	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 83	\$ 9,936	1,415
HART	1,530	\$ 12,157	\$ 6,413	\$ -	\$ 235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ 5,473	552
HEARD	699	\$ 4,548	\$ 3,027	\$ -	\$ 115	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27	\$ 1,379	214
HENRY	18,614	\$ 319,601	\$ 220,109	\$ -	\$ 22,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,582	\$ 75,246	7,649
HOUSTON	19,037	\$ 311,509	\$ 217,198	\$ -	\$ 19,126	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,056	\$ 74,129	7,799
IRWIN	566	\$ 5,066	\$ 2,843	\$ -	\$ 61	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 2,152	214
JACKSON	3,871	\$ 50,111	\$ 33,866	\$ -	\$ 2,423	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 566	\$ 13,256	1,221

VA STATISTICAL DATA

FY21 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
JASPER	925	\$ 7,548	\$ 4,452	\$ -	\$ 156	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,839	297
JEFF DAVIS	714	\$ 11,076	\$ 5,120	\$ -	\$ 269	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,654	305
JEFFERSON	1,016	\$ 18,693	\$ 7,728	\$ -	\$ 304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,598	468
JENKINS	434	\$ 6,923	\$ 2,806	\$ -	\$ 108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,007	172
JOHNSON	475	\$ 7,420	\$ 3,300	\$ -	\$ 130	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,970	221
JONES	2,162	\$ 16,813	\$ 8,251	\$ -	\$ 361	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,188	723
LAMAR	1,216	\$ 14,389	\$ 7,707	\$ -	\$ 592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,924	389
LANIER	793	\$ 8,608	\$ 4,892	\$ -	\$ 533	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,172	292
LAURENS	3,433	\$ 90,912	\$ 31,201	\$ 212	\$ 1,345	\$ -	\$ 1,028	\$ 495	\$ 56,632	1,957
LEE	2,245	\$ 31,462	\$ 22,261	\$ -	\$ 1,785	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,290	952
LIBERTY	13,920	\$ 214,305	\$ 144,093	\$ -	\$ 20,949	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,719	5,360
LINCOLN	577	\$ 8,944	\$ 4,666	\$ -	\$ 218	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,994	259
LONG	2,275	\$ 47,410	\$ 32,854	\$ -	\$ 4,773	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,743	1,303
LOWNDES	10,029	\$ 120,903	\$ 71,822	\$ -	\$ 9,213	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,548	3,607
LUMPKIN	2,404	\$ 16,994	\$ 11,352	\$ -	\$ 810	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,761	610
MCDUFFIE	1,469	\$ 23,050	\$ 12,911	\$ -	\$ 563	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,494	666
MCINTOSH	1,430	\$ 11,744	\$ 7,154	\$ -	\$ 362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,194	421
MACON	744	\$ 8,827	\$ 4,829	\$ -	\$ 222	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,763	276
MADISON	1,768	\$ 17,591	\$ 11,776	\$ -	\$ 551	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,159	561
MARION	833	\$ 7,600	\$ 5,485	\$ -	\$ 311	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,780	239
MERIWETHER	1,235	\$ 11,909	\$ 7,489	\$ -	\$ 422	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,976	488
MILLER	293	\$ 3,181	\$ 1,849	\$ -	\$ 141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,189	108
MITCHELL	1,320	\$ 12,204	\$ 7,810	\$ -	\$ 401	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,989	398
MONROE	1,902	\$ 16,834	\$ 10,789	\$ -	\$ 622	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,342	584
MONTGOMERY	473	\$ 6,620	\$ 3,288	\$ -	\$ 186	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,142	204
MORGAN	1,353	\$ 11,436	\$ 7,270	\$ -	\$ 288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,818	342
MURRAY	1,858	\$ 16,715	\$ 10,124	\$ -	\$ 456	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,109	590
MUSCOGEE	23,352	\$ 413,862	\$ 311,207	\$ -	\$ 28,542	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,618	8,693
NEWTON	6,670	\$ 103,282	\$ 64,461	\$ -	\$ 4,970	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,541	2,923
OCONEE	1,927	\$ 15,486	\$ 10,731	\$ -	\$ 760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,698	414
OGLETHORPE	965	\$ 6,932	\$ 3,547	\$ -	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,212	325
PAULDING	8,368	\$ 89,765	\$ 56,100	\$ -	\$ 5,993	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,233	2,986
PEACH	2,222	\$ 45,353	\$ 33,175	\$ -	\$ 2,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,879	973
PICKENS	2,609	\$ 19,113	\$ 12,687	\$ -	\$ 803	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,545	606
PIERCE	1,301	\$ 15,772	\$ 9,157	\$ -	\$ 305	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,270	599
PIKE	1,417	\$ 10,089	\$ 7,056	\$ -	\$ 592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,371	339
POLK	2,465	\$ 23,447	\$ 15,726	\$ -	\$ 716	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,840	645
PULASKI	728	\$ 9,734	\$ 6,387	\$ -	\$ 136	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,165	252
PUTNAM	1,733	\$ 15,249	\$ 8,896	\$ -	\$ 292	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,031	487

VA STATISTICAL DATA

FY21 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State
Expenditures in \$000s

County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
QUITMAN	172	\$ 2,716	\$ 1,902	\$ -	\$ 89	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 709	87
RABUN	1,396	\$ 10,620	\$ 6,338	\$ -	\$ 142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ 4,111	440
RANDOLPH	360	\$ 4,301	\$ 2,731	\$ -	\$ 103	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 1,433	141
RICHMOND	22,325	\$ 457,146	\$ 230,455	\$ 1,387	\$ 17,602	\$ -	\$ 1,536	\$ 942	\$ 205,225	11,081
ROCKDALE	6,306	\$ 96,887	\$ 61,165	\$ -	\$ 5,129	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 454	\$ 30,138	2,633
SCHLEY	333	\$ 2,392	\$ 1,708	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 648	76
SCREVEN	909	\$ 9,477	\$ 5,484	\$ -	\$ 337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 3,639	333
SEMINOLE	634	\$ 6,360	\$ 3,793	\$ -	\$ 173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76	\$ 2,319	209
SPALDING	4,691	\$ 43,595	\$ 28,413	\$ -	\$ 1,480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 151	\$ 13,551	1,409
STEPHENS	1,753	\$ 17,102	\$ 10,908	\$ -	\$ 433	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ 5,682	509
STEWART	303	\$ 4,212	\$ 3,005	\$ -	\$ 152	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,054	114
SUMTER	1,841	\$ 19,547	\$ 11,727	\$ -	\$ 595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 155	\$ 7,071	569
TALBOT	534	\$ 8,476	\$ 6,217	\$ -	\$ 249	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22	\$ 1,988	196
TALIAFERRO	104	\$ 2,246	\$ 474	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18	\$ 1,753	63
TATTNALL	1,583	\$ 21,338	\$ 14,071	\$ -	\$ 819	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66	\$ 6,381	548
TAYLOR	457	\$ 5,086	\$ 2,995	\$ -	\$ 153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 1,928	169
TELFAIR	716	\$ 10,734	\$ 4,325	\$ -	\$ 160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21	\$ 6,228	258
TERRELL	598	\$ 6,652	\$ 3,684	\$ -	\$ 142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74	\$ 2,752	210
THOMAS	3,026	\$ 37,396	\$ 21,372	\$ -	\$ 1,340	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 290	\$ 14,395	1,210
TIFT	2,172	\$ 28,536	\$ 17,510	\$ -	\$ 1,108	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86	\$ 9,832	894
TOOMBS	1,719	\$ 21,296	\$ 10,169	\$ -	\$ 441	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ 10,639	627
TOWNS	1,145	\$ 13,154	\$ 8,391	\$ -	\$ 128	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 103	\$ 4,533	508
TREUTLEN	467	\$ 6,377	\$ 2,158	\$ -	\$ 122	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,098	158
TROUP	4,002	\$ 45,784	\$ 30,755	\$ -	\$ 1,919	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 12,997	1,282
TURNER	568	\$ 7,155	\$ 4,117	\$ -	\$ 292	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 2,634	205
TWIGGS	665	\$ 9,038	\$ 4,188	\$ -	\$ 199	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13	\$ 4,639	264
UNION	2,455	\$ 27,893	\$ 17,451	\$ -	\$ 323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 157	\$ 9,962	1,129
UPSON	1,801	\$ 17,631	\$ 10,034	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59	\$ 6,837	554
WALKER	4,362	\$ 42,912	\$ 29,039	\$ -	\$ 1,251	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 122	\$ 12,500	1,356
WALTON	5,737	\$ 84,735	\$ 59,840	\$ -	\$ 5,544	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 576	\$ 18,775	1,731
WARE	2,479	\$ 30,532	\$ 18,278	\$ -	\$ 855	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60	\$ 11,338	1,053
WARREN	269	\$ 3,927	\$ 2,037	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48	\$ 1,811	129
WASHINGTON	1,248	\$ 17,687	\$ 8,989	\$ -	\$ 531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114	\$ 8,052	542
WAYNE	2,231	\$ 26,708	\$ 16,934	\$ -	\$ 967	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99	\$ 8,709	840
WEBSTER	135	\$ 1,389	\$ 718	\$ -	\$ 60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 611	46
WHEELER	358	\$ 5,434	\$ 2,367	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,018	179
WHITE	2,415	\$ 19,847	\$ 13,080	\$ -	\$ 480	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88	\$ 6,199	665
WHITFIELD	3,871	\$ 34,095	\$ 21,603	\$ -	\$ 1,047	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 252	\$ 11,193	1,159
WILCOX	458	\$ 5,609	\$ 3,235	\$ -	\$ 163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9	\$ 2,202	155

VA STATISTICAL DATA AND NOTES

FY21 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

FY21 Summary of Expenditures by State
Expenditures in \$000s

County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
WILKES	625	\$ 9,326	\$ 5,161	\$ -	\$ 186	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27	\$ 3,952	280
WILKINSON	483	\$ 8,203	\$ 4,836	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 3,260	265
WORTH	1,387	\$ 12,608	\$ 7,050	\$ -	\$ 277	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 5,279	512
GEORGIA (Totals)	689,274	\$ 8,375,308	\$ 5,137,530	\$ 5,683	\$ 493,321	\$ -	\$ 33,758	\$ 40,151	\$ 2,664,865	231,820
CONG. DIST (01)	78,179	\$ 968,899	\$ 628,816	\$ -	\$ 81,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,957	\$ 254,864	28,289
CONG. DIST (02)	53,997	\$ 753,507	\$ 507,937	\$ -	\$ 37,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,304	\$ 204,596	20,339
CONG. DIST (03)	54,283	\$ 672,648	\$ 462,736	\$ -	\$ 40,083	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,720	\$ 167,109	17,753
CONG. DIST (04)	44,578	\$ 631,354	\$ 312,359	\$ 665	\$ 30,159	\$ -	\$ 30,997	\$ 2,980	\$ 254,194	17,165
CONG. DIST (05)	38,803	\$ 480,456	\$ 242,808	\$ 690	\$ 28,426	\$ -	\$ 194	\$ 2,749	\$ 205,589	12,844
CONG. DIST (06)	34,224	\$ 298,484	\$ 201,344	\$ 1,930	\$ 25,464	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,480	\$ 67,266	5,736
CONG. DIST (07)	33,932	\$ 288,003	\$ 177,239	\$ 271	\$ 20,957	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,992	\$ 87,544	8,578
CONG. DIST (08)	57,603	\$ 758,675	\$ 476,672	\$ 227	\$ 37,975	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,700	\$ 241,102	21,740
CONG. DIST (09)	49,725	\$ 429,520	\$ 277,050	\$ -	\$ 14,531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,932	\$ 135,007	14,555
CONG. DIST (10)	45,224	\$ 552,852	\$ 348,375	\$ (18)	\$ 30,106	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,201	\$ 171,188	15,046
CONG. DIST (11)	45,275	\$ 383,136	\$ 256,038	\$ 528	\$ 30,358	\$ -	\$ (4)	\$ 2,588	\$ 93,628	9,735
CONG. DIST (12)	60,665	\$ 1,128,402	\$ 615,493	\$ 1,389	\$ 57,668	\$ -	\$ 2,563	\$ 3,832	\$ 447,456	28,058
CONG. DIST (13)	54,043	\$ 676,956	\$ 406,667	\$ -	\$ 44,300	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 3,049	\$ 222,937	20,316
CONG. DIST (14)	38,744	\$ 352,416	\$ 223,996	\$ -	\$ 14,363	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 1,667	\$ 112,388	11,666
GEORGIA (Totals)	689,274	\$ 8,375,308	\$ 5,137,530	\$ 5,683	\$ 493,321	\$ -	\$ 33,758	\$ 40,151	\$ 2,664,865	231,820

Notes:

* Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2021, are produced by the VA Predictive Analytics and Actuary Service (VetPop 2018).

Prior to FY 08, "Loan Guaranty" expenditures were included in the Education & Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) programs. Currently, all "Loan Guaranty" expenditures are attributed to Travis County, TX, where all Loan Guaranty payments are processed. VA will continue to improve data collection for future GDX reports to better distribute loan expenditures at the state, county and congressional district levels.

** Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility. Data are provided by the Allocation Resource Center (ARC).

Expenditure data sources: USASpending.gov for Compensation & Pension (C&P) and Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) Benefits; Veterans Benefits Administration Insurance Center for the Insurance costs; the VA Financial Management System (FMS) for Construction, Medical Research, General Operating Expenses, and certain C&P and Readjustment data; and the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) for Medical Care costs.

1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. For example, \$500 to \$1,000 are rounded to \$1; \$0 to \$499 are rounded to \$0; and "\$" = 0 or no expenditures.

2. The Compensation & Pension expenditures include dollars for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for nonservice-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.

3. Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.

4. Medical Care expenditures are allocated to the patient's home location, not the site of care.



Georgia Department of Veterans Service

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Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4800

veterans.georgia.gov
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Veterans Field Service Offices

Albany 229-430-1798
Americus 229-931-2546
Athens 706-369-5630
Atlanta 404-656-5940
Augusta 706-721-4301
Augusta VAMC 706-733-0188, x 32277
Bainbridge 229-248-2599
Blairsville 706-835-3980, x 344584
Brunswick 912-264-7360
Brunswick CBOC 912-261-2355, x 46050
Canton 770-720-3538
Carrollton 678-423-4970, x 352589
Cartersville 770-387-3746
Cedartown 770-749-2209
Columbus 706-649-1265
Conyers 770-388-5075
Dalton 706-272-2355
Decatur VAMC 404-728-7611
Decatur 404-297-1540, x 315427
Demorest 706-894-1049
Dublin 478-272-4266
Fort Benning 706-545-5338
Fort McPherson 404-230-5683, x 394801
Gainesville 770-531-6060
Glennville 912-654-5159
Greensboro 706-453-7455
Griffin 770-412-4074
Grovetown 706-210-2067
Hartwell 706-376-4461
Hinesville 912-408-2948, x 352750
Jasper 706-301-5720, x 504712
LaFayette 706-996-8056
LaGrange 706-845-4355
Lawrenceville 678-255-0350, x 431964
Lyons 912-526-8860

Veterans Field Service Offices

Macon 478-476-8868, x 46695
Marietta 770-528-3254
Marietta - Cobb Multispecialty Clinic 877-852-3400, x 611569
Marietta - VECTR 770-528-4920
Milledgeville 478-445-6900
Moultrie 229-891-7135
Newnan 770-254-7260
Oakwood 404-321-6111, x 498225
Rome 706-295-6026
Savannah 912-920-0214, x 412194
St. Marys 912-510-3440
Statesboro 912-871-1104
Thomasville 229-225-4050
Tifton 229-391-6080, x 46233
Valdosta 229-316-2970
Warner Robins 478-218-3905
Waycross 912-285-6340
Waynesboro 706-554-3874
Zebulon 770-567-7500, x 592223

GDVS Central Office

Public Information 404-656-5933
Appeals Division 404-929-5345
Veterans Education & Training 404-656-2306

We value your input.
Give feedback at gavetsvc@vs.state.ga.us,
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or 404-656-5933.