

## TOP HONORS FOR TIRELESS SERVICE: BELINDA BOLDOE RECOGNIZED BY VFW AS SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR



“This is not a job for me, this is my heavenly assignment from my Lord and Savior to take care of his people,” said Belinda Boldoe when receiving the Veteran of Foreign Wars John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year award.

Thanks to her exceptional work as the state of Georgia’s VFW service officer, the VFW recognized Boldoe at their annual convention for her support of the organization’s service mission and related programs.

VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt explained why she is most deserving of this honor during the presentation ceremony.

“Every day, our global cadre of accredited representatives works tirelessly to ensure our government honors the contract. This award, which

Belinda Boldoe so rightfully deserves, exemplifies and honors the very best of the best.”

She not only serves as the state’s VFW Service Officer, but as an Appeals Officer with the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

“This award exemplifies all that we know about her work ethic and compassion for her veterans. She truly deserves this national recognition,” said Shelly Ann Simpson, GDVS Executive Director of Field Operations and Appeals.

Boldoe joined the GDVS in 2017 and has assisted more than 2,500 veterans and their families during her time as an appeals officer.

A Washington, D.C native, Boldoe served in the United States Army for more than 11 years as a signal communication officer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. She was also a company commander, a theater communication manager, and a project manager for testing and procuring new Signal Corps equipment.

Boldoe currently serves as the Post Quartermaster at Henry County VFW Post 12180. She holds a VFW Bronze Legacy life membership.

## VA LAUNCHES NEW HOME LOAN REFORM PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Veterans at risk of foreclosure will soon have a new path to federal assistance under the newly authorized VA Home Loan Program Reform Act. It was signed into law on July 30, 2025.

The program authorizes the Department of Veteran Affairs to create a permanent partial claims program which will allow veterans to defer their monthly mortgage payments temporarily without losing their homes.

Under the program, VA buys a portion of the veteran’s debt and secures a lien on the property. Veterans do not have to pay off the claim until the home is sold or refinanced.

According to VA, more than 3.5 million veterans, active-duty service members, and surviving spouses have utilized VA’s home loan programs.

The new program is expected to impact up to 70,000 veterans with VA-backed loans who are behind on mortgage payments.

VA is working on the processes, so stay tuned for more information.

## SAVANNAH HOSTS VETERANS BENEFITS AND RESOURCE FAIR

At a recent **Veterans Benefits and Resource Expo** hosted by The Warrior Alliance, veterans in South Georgia received help with their veterans benefits claims, appeals, housing, and more at one convenient stop.

Over 250 veterans and families attended the Expo at Savannah State University.

Savannah and the Chatham County area have a large military and veteran community, due in part to nearby Fort Stewart and the Port of Savannah.

“It’s imperative that we all work together,” said The Warrior Alliance Vice President of Operations Mark Eister.

“The VA provides the benefits. GDVVS helps process claims. Savannah State opened its campus to host this event. This is how we reach veterans, by meeting them where they are.”

## ROME RALLIES FOR VETERANS: CONNECTING VETERANS TO CARE AT RESOURCE FAIR

Over 200 veterans received help with their questions and claims for veterans benefits from GDVVS staff during the recent **We CARE Benefits Fair** in Rome.

The third annual fair in Floyd County saw over 1,200 veterans, current military service members and their families throughout the day.

Attendees found help with benefits and appeals, legal matters, employment opportunities, mental health concerns, and more from local, state, and federal resources at the fair.

13 GDVVS officers were on-site to provide real-time updates on veterans claims for state and federal benefits.

“This was a huge success for our veterans and our VSOs,” said GDVVS North Region Director Ken Childre. “I am proud of our ability to provide direct and timely assistance to so many of our veterans and their families.”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GWVH–Milledgeville Transitional Support Unit Grand Opening

September 2, 2025 - Georgia War Veteran Home - Milledgeville (10:30 a.m.)

### We CARE Benefits Fair

September 12th—Columbus Civic Center (8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.)