



Georgia Department of Veterans Service

Cultivating community connections
– empowering Georgia’s veterans
and their families to flourish.

March 2024

NEW RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR VETERANS



What's your location?
We'll locate resources closest to you.

Atlanta, Georgia



It's now easier than ever to find the help you need close to home!

Unite Georgia recently launched a public resource directory which empowers users to search for nearby resources who fit their needs.

It's as simple as entering your ZIP code to start searching.

You can find partners offering assistance with transportation, food, employment, utilities, mental and behavioral health, housing, and more.

The tool is free - no registration required. Start finding resources near you by visiting <https://gdvs.resources.uniteus.io/?locale=en!>

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM FOR VETERAN HOMEBUYERS

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) recently announced a new initiative for veterans seeking home ownership—the Georgia Dream Peach Select Veterans Assistance Loan Program.

An extension of the Georgia Dream initiative, the program offers a low interest rate. However, it differs in one major way—there is no down payment assistance provided as part of the Peach Select Veterans Assistance Loan program.

The program's low interest rates are expected to yield significant cost savings, serving as an alternative to traditional down payment assistance benefits.

Any borrower who qualifies for a traditional Georgia Dream VA loan is eligible to apply starting March 15, 2024. It is available to first-time home buyers, buyers who have not owned a home in the last three years, or those who purchase homes in certain areas. Some income requirements apply.

Have questions or want to apply? Visit [DCA's website](https://tinyurl.com/DCAPeachVeterans) at <https://tinyurl.com/DCAPeachVeterans>.

GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME UNVEILS CLASS OF 2023



On March 12, 2024, JROTC cadets lined the staircase at the Georgia state capitol to unveil the 15 inductees of the 2023 Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame (GMVHOF).

Notable inductees for 2023 include former Governor Deal, 2 former Prisoners of War, and GDVS Commissioner Col. (ret.) Patricia Ross, Ed.D.

Governor Kemp, state legislators, veteran service organizations, and Georgia's veterans and their families also celebrated the relocation of the GMVHOF. Guests can now view and read citations for all 177 members during a visit to the State Capitol Building.

The GMVHOF is the only state veteran hall of fame to be located inside of a capitol building.

Inductees are chosen for their Valor, Achievements, or Service to the military and veteran community. The Hall of Fame also works with JROTC cadets to educate and connect them with current and former military service members.



GET TO KNOW YOUR VSO: VERONICA DAILEY



“Filled with joy” are the three words that Carrollton Veteran Service Officer Veronica Dailey uses to describe herself.

A Shreveport, Louisiana, native, Dailey served 10 years in the Army. She joined the GDVS in 2022. “I love empowering veterans and making sure they know they are appreciated for serving our country,” said Dailey.

Dailey is a key member of the Carrollton office team. “When I provide service to veterans and their families, I am demonstrating the kind of service that I would want for myself. I want veterans to know I care about them,” said Dailey.

In her free time, Dailey enjoys gardening and spending time with her Australian Labradoodles, Cocobella and Sparkles, but what truly brings a smile to her face is spending priceless moments with her grandchildren.

Dailey says her greatest strength is being a good listener, which is much-needed asset in this field.

For future and new VSOs, “...be patient, listen to the veteran and most importantly, engage them to ensure clarity of their situation and needs,” advised Dailey.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

GDVS Veteran Service Officers continue to receive notes of gratitude for the excellent service they provide Georgia’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Most recently, a note of gratitude went directly to Governor Brian Kemp’s office in appreciation for the hard work of Canton VSO **Melissa Pritchett** and administrative assistant **Latoya McCallum**. It praised Ms. Pritchett for being “very professional, knowledgeable, and proficient with her duties. [Pritchett’s] dedication to assisting and supporting the veterans is very commendable.”

Other notes of a job well done include gratitude to **Miguel Rivera** in Savannah. “Mr. Rivera’s always willing to help people who are not thoroughly familiar with the system and would walk away frustrated. His attention to detail in making sure that the correct paperwork is filled out is excellent,” said the veteran.

Roderick Gray received a special note of gratitude for his excellent customer service. He “has always been available when we visit the clinic, and we wish there were more people like him. Roderick is an asset to GDVS.”

Bobby Hogan in Glennville received a note a gratitude for his professionalism while navigating through a difficult claim.

Macon office manager **Tonjala Moton – Williams** was recognized for her “excellent customer service.”

“Sitting in **Chris Mckan**’s office on Fort Moore and speaking with him, the stress just fell away,” said the daughter of a veteran looking for help with a claim.

WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNIZED IN DUBLIN CEREMONY

Women veterans in Dublin were honored at a Women’s History Month recognition on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

GDVS Lyons office manager Debbie O’Neal and Dublin office manager Nicole Clark attended the program and met with women veterans.

Organized by the Dublin VAMC’s Women Veteran Outreach Coordinator Marla Roche, local VFW Post Commander Denisa Dee Hash Adams, and the VFW Department of Georgia Commander Dean Rakoskie, the program honored forty eight women veterans—including Georgia’s Woman Veteran of the Year, Connie Baptiste.

Attendees met with members of VA staff, local partners and groups, and their fellow women veterans at the event. Updates on the unique kinds of care available through VA for all veterans and upcoming programs were shared.

Women veterans across the state are encouraged to reach out to their local VA Medical Center’s Women Veteran Outreach Coordinator for more information on programs like this in their area.

Find more information at VA’s Center for Women Veterans at <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>.

