

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Present Mr. Shawn Hanley, Chair
Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Secretary
Mr. Steve Mendez, Member
Mr. Tim Paslawski, Member
Mr. Pete Peterson, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner

Visitors:
Present Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Mr. Mark Bannister, Executive Dir., Health, Memorials, Finance & Development, GDVS
Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
Mr. Matthew O'Brien, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW Service Officer, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Tonjala Moton-Williams, American Legion Assistant Service Officer
Mr. Lou Zayas, Jr. Vice Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Rick White, Director, Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame
Mr. Don Layne, VECTR Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Shea Vela, VA Community Engagement & Partnerships Coordinator
Mr. Bermiso Mattis, Veteran
Ms. Ellen Mattis, Wife of Veteran
Mr. Vince Pritchett, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Ken Childre, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training and Professional Development, GDVS
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
Ms. Tonya Jarrett, Clinical Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Frank Kollig, Coordinator, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Mr. Neil Slay, Coordinator, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director, Human Resources, GDVS
Mr. Mark Demers, Grant Program Implementation Manager, GDVS
Ms. Kirsten Dennis, Purchasing/Procurement, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Hanley called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Mendez gave the invocation. Mr. Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the May Agenda. Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Mendez made a motion to approve the April minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Kopsie seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

The following reports were submitted for the Board meeting:

Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW

- The Department Service Officer attended the Monthly VSO/CMA meeting hosted by Brian Morgan, Change Management Analyst (CMA). The virtual meeting was held on April 13, 2023, at 10AM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the VSO's issues and concerns.
- The Department Service Officer attended the VFW Annual Proficiency Training Conference held at the Doubletree Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401. The VFW annual recertification training provided updated information on VBA matters, the PACT Act, Camp Lejeune Justice Act, and COMPACT Act 2022. The training was held on April 16-19, 2023. The Department Service Officer participated in VFW Annual Proficiency Training examination on April 28, 2023.
- The Department Service Officer attended the GA Veteran of Foreign Wars Department Council of Administration meeting to discuss department business. The virtual meeting was held on April 17, 2023, at 6:30PM
- The Department Service Officer attended a GDVS Leadership training session – Peer Yesterday- Leader Today. The training was hosted by Richard Marley, Central Georgia Technical College. The virtual training was held on April 21, 2023, from 8:30AM – 10:30AM. The training objectives were:
 - Identify the role as a supervisor/manager.
 - Identify challenges resulting from promotion.
 - Setting boundaries and strategies.
- The Department Service Officer attended an IASIS MCN Pilot – Study: Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury presentation hosted by Peter Hackney Deck on the Optimal rehabilitation treatments for Traumatic Brain Injuries. The virtual meeting was held on April 24, 2023, at 12:30PM – 1:30PM.
- The Department Service Officer attended a GDVS Leadership training session – Supervising Others. The training was hosted by Richard Marley, Central Georgia Technical College. The virtual training was held on April 21, 2023, from 8:30AM – 10:30AM. The training objective were:
 - Define requirements for particular tasks.
 - Set expectations for your staff.

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- Set SMART goals for yourself (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Based),
 - Help your staff set SMART goals.
 - Assign work and delegate appropriately, provide effective, appropriate feedback to your staff.
 - Manage your time more efficiently.
 - Understand how to manage effectively in particularly challenging situations.
 - Identify the role as a supervisor/manager.
 - Identify challenges resulting from promotion, setting boundaries, and strategies.
- The Department Service Officer attended the VFW GA Commander's PACT Act Forum coordination meeting with the GDVS and the Atlanta Regional Office Representatives. The virtual meeting was held on May 03, 2023, at 1:30PM
 - The Department Service Officer attended a GDVS Leadership training session – How to Deal with Difficult People and Conflict Resolution. The training was hosted by Richard Marley, Central Georgia Technical College. The virtual training was held on May 05, 2023, from 8:30AM – 10:30AM. The training objective were:
 - Understand what conflict and conflict resolution mean.
 - Understand all six phases of the conflict resolution process.
 - Understand the five main styles of conflict resolution.
 - Be able to adapt the process for all types of conflicts.
 - Be able to break out parts of the process and use those tools to prevent conflict.
 - Be able to use basic communication tools, such as the agreement framework and open questions.
 - Be able to use basic anger and stress management techniques.
 - The Department Service Officer attended an unscheduled Atlanta VAHCS VSO virtual meeting with Lovetta O. Ford, Deputy Director, and Staff. The virtual meeting was held on May 05, 2023, at 12:30PM. The purpose for the meeting was to provide an update on VAMC initiatives and the VAMC operational status.
 - The Department Service Officer participated in the VFW GA PACT Act Forum at the Georgia Southern University – Statesboro campus. The event was held on May 06, 2023, from 9AM – 1PM. The purpose of the forum was to provide information to veterans and their families on the PACT Act, the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, and the COMPACT Act. The GDVS and the VA Atlanta Regional Office claim teams answered veterans' questions and processed claims.

Ms. Raven Holstick, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer

- The Assistant Department Service Officer (Ed Kent) assisted 27 veterans with VA benefits related inquiries this month.

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- Department service officer (Raven Holstick) met with Post Commander Walt of Post 29 on May 9, 2023 to discuss future events his post would like to volunteer to sponsor for GDVS to show their appreciation for the department and everything that GDVS does for veterans.
- Post 163 held a Veteran breakfast on May 10, 2023. 64 Veterans attended. The breakfast was held to allow veterans to connect with each other and learn about other resources available in the community.
- In person Post Service Officer training will be held May 20, 2023 at Post 3 in Macon, GA from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

Upcoming events:

- Department service officer (Raven Holstick) will meet with Post Commander Walt of Post 29 to discuss future events his post would like to volunteer to sponsor for GDVS to show their appreciation for the department and everything that GDVS does for veterans.
- Monthly Virtual Post service officer training will be held for new service officers on May 25, 2023. Training topics will be on the roles and responsibilities of a post service officer. This training will continue to be held monthly as new service officers arrive.

Ms. Amy Stevens, Georgia Military Women and VETLANTA

May 2023 Georgia Military Women and VETLANTA Update. My big announcement is confirmation that UPS will sponsor the VETLANTA Women's Summit in September. The location is the UPS Headquarters in Sandy Springs. I walked the space last week and it is beautiful. The tentative date is September 12th. I would love for all of you to attend and participate. I will have all the major women veteran organizations with guests. We had 400 attendees last time and expect at least the same. There will be tables for VA and GDVS as usual. Our current format is breakouts starting at about 3:30pm. Then heavy networking until 6:30pm followed by the main stage presentations. More information will be provided soon.

Updates: These are the big ones. We have many other events in the events tab inside the FB group. These are ones where GMW will have a resource table.:

May 11th: Veteran EXPO on Thursday at the Summit YMCA in Newnan from 4pm to 7pm.

May 18th: We Care Fair in Rome from 8am to 4pm.

May 23rd: VETLANTA at the GA College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

June 3rd: Vet Motorcycle Rally followed by Vet Resource Fair at Johns Creek Memorial Park.

June 10th: Women Veteran Day event at John's Creek Memorial Park from 8am to 2pm.

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June 10th: Women Veteran Day Gala with GDVS in Macon.

August 4-5th: We Care Fair in Marietta at the Cobb Civic Center. 2 Days. 1000s of vets expected.

Sept 12th: (Tentative) VETLANTA Women's Summit at UPS.

Sept 13th: We Care Fair in Decatur from 8am to 4pm.

Commissioner Patricia Ross

On Wednesday, April 19, 2023 Commissioner Ross attended the GWVH Cost Proposal Opening meeting. Also in attendance were Kerry Dyer, Dan Holtz, Tonya Jarrett and Russell Feagin. She then attended the April Veterans Service Board Meeting.

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, Commissioner Ross spoke at the Capitol for the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Unveiling Ceremony for the 2021 and 2022 inductees.

On Friday, April 21, 2022, Commissioner Ross took part in the first Leadership Training session being offered to GDVS employees. Rick Marley taught on the topic "Peer Yesterday, Leader Today." Later in the day she had a phone appointment with Mr. Smoke from Veterans Rally Point and was interviewed by The Warrior Alliance.

On Monday, April 24, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a weekly Director's Meeting. She then attended a meeting with Unite Us. She also attended a briefing and demonstration on IASIS, a micro current neurofeedback tool for helping create new neural pathways with individuals experiencing trauma or chronic pain.

On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended the Governor's signing of legislation for veterans at the Capitol, where she gave introductory remarks and introduced Gov. Kemp. She then had a kick-off meeting with SurveyMonkey, the application being used by GDVS to accept applications and award the grant for mental health clinics as prescribed in HB 414. Later in the day she met with Russell Feagin, Kerry Dyer, Mark Bannister and Tonya Jarrett regarding the contract for the GWVH.

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, Commissioner Ross completed the entry of information into SurveyMonkey and the grant application process went live. This is the first time GDVS is a grantor.

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Senator Islam to discuss a bill the Senator is planning to introduce. She then met with Eran Magen of Early Alert, an organization that focuses on suicide prevention for veterans. She ended the day with a GWVH Cost Discussion with Kerry Dyer, Russell Feagin, Tonya Jarrett, Mark Bannister and Dan Holtz.

On Friday, April 28, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended Session 2 of the Leadership Training being offered to employees at GDVS. The topic was "Supervising Others."

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On Monday, May 1, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended ePerformance Manager Training, the Unite Us bi-weekly meeting, and the Fox Grant Update meeting.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Donna Tebought from the Department of Corrections to discuss data sharing. Also in attendance were Kerry Dyer, Mark Demers, Gerald Lahr, Shelly-Ann Simpson, and Julie Hammond. She then departed for Hinesville for a meeting on Wednesday morning, along with Mark Demers and Calandra Ferguson. While on the road she took part in a meeting to discuss the digitalization of the DD214s housed at GDVS.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Commissioner Ross toured the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic in Hinesville. She was a panelist for the roundtable discussion that followed, along with Lt. Governor Burt Jones and the clinic's leadership.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended Session 3 of the Leadership Training being offered to employees at GDVS. The topic was "How to Deal with Difficult People and Conflict Resolution." She and Mark Demers also met with members from Fulton County on their SSG Fox grant submission. Later that day, she met with the Department of Revenue concerning homestead tax exemptions and surviving spouse license plates.

On Monday, May 8, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a weekly Director's Meeting. She then attended a meeting with Unite Us. Commissioner Ross also met with the Governor's policy director on the Memorial Day Ceremony.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Commissioner Ross had introductory phone calls with individuals recommended for the Georgia Veterans Foundation Board.

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended a meeting with Amazon regarding a business account for GDVS. Also in attendance were Kerry Dyer, Shareka Monday-Robinson and Kirsten Dennis. She also met with Unite Us, and with DOAS for cost clarification on the GWVH.

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended the Fort Moore Redesignation Ceremony. In the evening, she was awarded the lifetime achievement award at The Warrior Alliance's annual gala.

On Friday, May 12, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended Session 4 of the Leadership Training being offered to employees at GDVS. The topic was "Teamwork and Team Building."

On Monday, May 15, 2023, attended the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony and offered brief remarks. She then attended the Unite Us bi-weekly meeting and the Fox Grant Update meeting.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Commissioner Ross held the weekly Director's meeting. She also attended the Georgia Governor's Challenge Suicide Prevention Task Force monthly meeting and the Transition Advisory Committee Meeting.

Highlights:

The state of Georgia indicated they will fund the second and third years of the grant which provides Unite Us state-wide (\$12.2M).

Upcoming Events

SSG Fox grant submission option year 1, due 19 May 2023

Retiree Appreciation Day (Savannah) and Augusta Armed Forces Day, 20 May 2023

Suicide Prevention Symposium – Let’s Connect, 24-25 May 2023, Marietta (KSU)

Women Veterans Gala, 10 June 2023, Macon (Middle Georgia State University)

Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations and Appeals

GENERAL

- The Returning Veterans Task Force met this morning to discuss resources and employment opportunities for veterans. Kim Scofi of We CARE was in attendance and reiterated her focus on Georgia’s veterans.
- On April 27th, I attended the planning meeting for the We Care Veterans Resources Fair. This event will be held August 4-5 at the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta. The Department will be assisting veterans with the filing of claims and appeals particularly with the PACT Act, as well as provide information on suicide prevention, services provided through UNITE GA and information about our homes and cemeteries.
- For the last 4 weeks, the managers and GDVS leadership with the assistance of Central Georgia Technical College have been participating in leadership training. This 4-week course was an opportunity for our new and seasoned managers to learn or refresh themselves with tools to navigate the daily challenges of leadership. The Topics were: Peer Yesterday - Leader Today, Supervising Others, How to Deal with Difficult People and Conflict Resolution, and Teamwork and Team Building. We hope to have these sessions to guide future managers in the department.
- We are continuing to plan Annual Training. The dates are June 12-16.
- Department Electronic Claim’s Assistance Processing System (Veterans Benefits) actively serving 250,733 veterans.
- **DD 214’s and Welcome Home Letters:** 539 Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in April, 2023.

PROJECTED POSITIONS

- Current opening in Appeals, Augusta, Glennville, and Atlanta Balcony. Due to the timing we plan to have those filled after Annual Training and beginning with the new fiscal year.

Ms. Ramona Roper, Training and Professional Development Division:

- April 14, 2023, Ms. Ramona Roper finalized the training agenda with the National Veterans Legal Service Program (NVLSP) for June 13, 2023. NVLSP will teach 6 classes, led by their instructors. One class, VA Benefits for Family Caregivers will be presented via videoconference.
- April 25-26, 2023, Mr. Charles Isaac made an office visit to the St. Mary's VFSO to perform a follow up training on Mr. Brett Kuppler. Mr. Kuppler is a new hire. Mr. Isaac observed Mr. Kuppler's interviewing and interaction with the veterans/clients. He offered some pointers on the interview and easy accessibility to the VA systems.
- May 1-31, 2023, the Training Division will be meeting weekly to finalize the 2023 GDVS Annual Training Conference for June 12-16, 2023. These meetings will consist of modifying the schedules to accommodate the trainers, incorporating proper breaks in the schedules, and pointing out designated break areas (if needed). The next collaboration meeting to discuss annual training is scheduled for May 12 at 9:00am.
- May 3, 2023, Ms. Sherri Whitfield made an office visit to the Warner Robins VFSO to perform an office check. Ms. Whitfield spent time with Nakezia Whitehead, VSO1. Ms. Whitfield observed Ms. Whitehead's interviewing and claims preparations. Ms. Whitfield offered some advice on simplifying some issues and answered questions.
- May 9, 2023, the Training Division will host a team building workshop. This workshop will consist of conversations on constructive criticism, appropriate behavior, customer service to internal and external customers, empathy, and respect.
- May 20, 2023, Ms. Ramona Roper will conduct a benefit briefing for the Lambda Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity on May 20, 2023. This briefing will be via videoconference from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This is the second year to be invited to this event.
- Linda Jenkins of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs has requested our assistance in setting up their training division. They want to replicate what we have in Georgia.

Upcoming Events:

- Daily continued ongoing support to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices

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- Continuation of performing duties as VSO's
- Continuation of Quality Review checks of VSO's work

**** RETRO PAYMENTS FOR CLAIMS FILED BY THE TRAINING DIVISION MEMBERS: \$224,336**

Mr. Edwin Berry, Director of Appeals Division

- The Board of Veterans Appeals has requested that we serve on a panel that will be a training session for them. They want to determine best practices for encouraging veterans not to cancel their hearings. Not every state was asked to participate, so this is a testament to our Department.
- The total number of hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for April 2023 was **46**.
- The total number of pre-hearing actions for April 2023 was **136**.
- The total number of post-hearing actions for April 2023 was **29**.
- The total number of correspondence conducted by the Appeals Division (with veterans, BVA/VA employees, and VSO field offices) for the month of April was **772**.
- As of **May 1, 2023**, the Atlanta VA Regional Office processed benefits as follows for GDVS and the Service Organizations represented by GDVS.

Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid out
Compensation	103,187	\$214,381,405
DIC	3,641	\$6,065,219
Survivor Pension	797	\$729,982
<u>Veteran Pension</u>	<u>1,552</u>	<u>\$1,811,614</u>
Grand Total	109,177	\$222,988,219

Mr. Kenneth Childre, Director of North Region

Retro Awards: April 2023-\$898,768.27

Director Site Visits/Inspections: 4

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Community Involvement:

4 April 2023-Kyle Hungarter (Marietta), Ken Stearns (Canton), Steven Hungarter and Kristi Jones (Cartersville), Raven Holstick (Appeals)-Represented GDVS during the Kennesaw State University PACT Act event. 26 Veterans registered for assistance, with 23 being provided with the guidance needed for their claim. The 3 that we were not able to assist were for the following reasons: 1-Represented by a lawyer, 1-Still on Active Duty, and 1-Left before being seen.

14 April 2023-Ken Childre (North Area Director)-Presented at the Canton First Veterans Ministry. Over 60 Veterans/family were briefed on the PACT Act, Pension/Survivors Pension, Veterans Nursing Homes, and Burial Benefits. Yes, the briefing was geared toward the crowd.

***After the presentation, Rita Barnhart (Canton) was presented with a Quilt of Valor. Rita is the Office Manager and Sr VSO that works at the Canton office and has done so for nearly 40 years (8/8/83). Information about it is in the GDVS Newsletter.**

21 April 2023-Barbara Serrano and Roger McDonald (Newnan)-Moved from old office in Newnan to new office located at 87 Newnan Station Rd, Newnan, GA. Facility was a movie theater at one time and has been transformed into new county offices.

25 April 2023-Rob Johnson (Griffin)-Presented at the Sun City Military Affairs Group in Griffin. 64 attendees were briefed on the PACT Act, Camp Lejeune Water Contamination, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC), the War Veterans Homes and the Caregiver Program.

18 May 2023-Four offices will be closed for the We CARE event in Rome in order to service the veterans in attendance and file claims on-site. They expect 500 veterans to attend the event.

North Georgia Gains/Losses:

Patrick O'Reilly-Augusta VAMC-New Hire Effective 3 April

Winslow Hill-Grovetown-Retired after 10 years with GDVS Effective 14 April

Dkendrick "DK" Roebuck-Grovetown-New Hire Effective 17 April

Jessica Hardin-Marietta-New Hire Effective 1 May

Trenise Jones-Augusta VAMC-Let go effective 8 May.

Sheenah Thrasher-Atlanta Balcony-Let go effective 9 May.

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Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		North					
Month:		April-23					
A	B	C	D	E	D / E	G	G / E
					F	Total	Average
			Total	Work	Office	Claims	Claims
	Veterans' Field		Monthly	Days	Visits	Submitted	Submitted
	Service Officer (VFSO)		Office	In	Per	To	By VFSOS
Office Name	Last Name	#	Visits	Month	Day	VA	To VA
			Monthly	Month	Day	Monthly	Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	53	11,402	904	12.61	2,354	2.60
Number of Offices:	30		Average Visits/Office:		380.07	Average Claims/Office:	78.4666667

*Total monthly office visits include: 2915 In-Person and 8,847 phone calls/emails.

Mr. Vincent M. Pritchett, Director Veterans Benefits South Region

- On April 27, 2023, Debra O’Neal (Lyons) was interviewed on a 30-minute episode of the “Straight Talk with Wilson Johnson” radio show. They discussed the PACT Act, filing claims, and the services provided by GDVS field offices.
- On April 29, 2023, Vincent Pritchett represented the department at United in Uniform Recognition and Remembrance ceremony in Warner Robins. Dignitaries in attendance were Senator Ed Harbison, ex-mayor of Warner Robins Chuck Shaheen, Ron Goodbub, District Manager, Washington DC office of Congressman Rick McCormick, and T.J. Hudson, South Field Director for Lt. Gov. Burt Jones.
- On May 6, 2023, Shannon Daniel (Hinesville) and Dennis Boothe (Hinesville) supported the VFW National Service Day event in Statesboro while Debbie O’Neal (Lyons), Sheri Shellman (Savannah), and Miguel Rivera (Savannah) supported the same event in Savannah.
- On May 13, 2023, Debra O’Neal (Lyons) organized and hosted a Women Veteran’s ceremony in Hazlehurst GA. Certificates and pins were presented to each of the veterans who attended the event.
- On May 15, 2023, Brett Kuppler (St. Marys) supported a VA outreach event at American Legion Post 130. He explained the Veterans Service Officer role in the claim process and provided some information about the PACT Act.

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- On May 17, 2023, Debra O’Neal (Lyons), Melissa Ingle (Americus), Amber Haire (Lagrange), and Sonja Martin (Macon) participated in the VA 2K Walk and Roll event at the Dublin VA Medical Center.
- On May 18, 2023, Nicole Clark (Dublin) set up an information table to support the “Live Life with Zest” event at the Dublin VA Medical Center. Tonjala Moton-Williams (Macon) represented the American Legion at the event.
- South region offices reported lump sum payments since the last board meeting of \$726,163.00 with the highest payment reported by Warner Robins of \$148,311 for a widow based on a PACT Act award which went back to 2013. Also, our Warner Robins office helped a veteran appeal a VA debt of \$101,766. A higher-level review reduced the debt to \$10,363, saving the veteran \$91,403.00.
- South Region Gains/Losses: Effective May 1, 2023, Ms. LaSaundra Hester joined our Columbus field office.
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 237,759.
- Office Visits for April: South Georgia offices handled 5,317 phone calls and emails.

Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		South Region					
Month:		April-23					
A	B	C	D	E	D / E	G	G / E
					F	Total	Average
					Average	Claims	Claims
	Veterans' Field		Total	Work	Office	Submitted	Submitted
	Service Officer (VFSO)		Monthly	Days	Visits	To	By VFSOS
Office Name	Last Name	#	Visits	Month	Per	VA	To VA
			Day		Day	Monthly	Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	39	2,835	730	3.88	1,953	2.68
Number of Offices:	24	Average Visits/Office:			118.13	Average Claims/Office: 81.38	

Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)

- April 18, 2023, Ms. Brooks conducted Mental Health Claim Training in Augusta.

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- April 19, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the April Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference, Dublin.
- April 21, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in Mental Health First Aid Training.
- April 22, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in Voices of Women Warriors Roundtable, Augusta, GA.
- April 26, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the Fox Grant 2023-2024 Budget Meeting and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPPS).
- April 27, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the Voices of Women Warriors planning meeting.
- April 28, 2023, Ms. Brooks toured the new sub-acute therapy unit at the Georgia War Veteran Home in Milledgeville. Ms. Brooks also conducted five Women Veteran interviews for the Gala Slide show.
- May 1, 2023, Ms. Brooks hosted an “Ask & Tell” event at the “Out Front Theater Company” in Atlanta, GA.
- May 9, 2023, Ms. Brooks hosted a meeting with The Veteran Support Group to talk about collaboration.
- May 16, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the Walk and Roll event at the Dublin VA.

Current committees:

- Women’s Veterans Health Committee (monthly meetings and joint outreach events)
- Georgia State VFW Homeless Committee
- VA/SAMHSA Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team
- Atlanta Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans
- The Birdwell Foundation Board Member
- Coweta County Race, Equity, and Justice Committee Unite Georgia Community Advisory Committee
- Farmer Street Cemetery Commission

Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator (SPOC)

- April 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended the weekly Fox Grant Update Meeting.
- April 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended the weekly KSU/AMES meeting to plan for Suicide Prevention Summit in May 2023.

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- April 10-13, Ms. Ferguson and her Governor’s Challenge Priority Groups Leads/Co-Leads attended a Policy Academy for the Governor’s Challenge TF.
- April 15, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted Suicide Prevention Training for American Legion, Statesboro, GA.
- April 18, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted outreach training for VSOs in Augusta, GA.
- April 18, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted her monthly Governor’s Challenge TF meeting.
- April 19, 2023, Ms. Ferguson participated in Sexual Assault Awareness events in Dublin, GA.
- April 20-21, 2023, Ms. Ferguson offered Suicide Prevention Training via Zoom through Event Brite. (Free Training)
- April 21, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended Youth Mental Health Suicide Prevention First Aider Certification course.
- April 22, 2023, Ms. Ferguson, and the Governor’s Challenge Task Force Members participated in “Feed 1,000 Homeless & Hungry Veterans” sponsored by the Honorable Davie Scott of Clayton County, GA.
- April 24, 2023, Ms. Ferguson participated in IASIS MCN Pilot Study, Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury study.
- April 24, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended Priority Group 3 Lethal Means Safety monthly meeting.
- April 28, 2023, Ms. Ferguson toured the Georgia War Veteran Home, scheduled Suicide Prevention Training for the staff and interviewed Women Veterans for the upcoming Women’s Gala.
- May 1, 2023, Ms. Ferguson and the Outreach team hosted an event with the LGBTQ+ IA Community. We shared resources, how to file a claim, and Suicide Prevention.
- May 2-3, 2023, Ms. Ferguson toured the Cohen Veterans Clinic (Mental Health) Hinesville, GA.
- February 23, 2023, Ms. Ferguson met with Atlanta Pride to partner with them for an Information Panel.
- February 27, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended Virtual the Governor’s Challenge & Mayor’s Challenge Teams Call.

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- February 28, 2023, Ms. Ferguson interviewed 5 candidates for Suicide Prevention Specialist (Fox Grant).
- March 1, 2023, Ms. Ferguson interviewed 4 candidates for Suicide Prevention Specialist (Fox Grant).
- March 1, 2023, Ms. Ferguson submitted the monthly Fox Grant outreach report.
- March 2-3, 2023, Ms. Ferguson taught ASIST to SM in Macon.
- March 8, 2023, Ms. Ferguson was on the Veteran Suicide Prevention Discussion and Resource Roundtable event with Highland Rivers, Fox Grant Recipient.
- March 10, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended a Substance Abuse Summit in Coweta County.
- March 14, 2023, Ms. Ferguson met with American Legion to provide guidance on using the UNITE GA platform to provide resources for SMVF.

Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information & External Affairs

INFORMATION OUTREACH

Division Updates

1. GDVS Newsletter – PID published a monthly newsletter in April. The e-newsletter features top stories from the month and encourages readers to get the full issue at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>. The April edition featured a story on the signing of new legislation for military servicemembers, veterans, and their families - including HB 414 and the Veteran Mental Health Services program, information on the state’s veteran cemeteries, a Quilt of Valor for Rita Barnhart, Melissa Ingle's selection as EOQ, and a spotlight on Kevin Whitlock in our Milledgeville office.
2. Veterans Mental Health Services Program Grant – coordinated a joint news release with the Governor’s communications office to announce the signing of veterans’ legislation, including HB 414 – the Veterans Mental Health Services Program. Additionally, PID assisted in finalizing and launching the grant application portal, a topic page at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/veterans-mental-health-services-program-grant> to boost and promote the program, and digital media alerts to drive traffic to the application portal.

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3. Let's Connect Summit – PID will provide support to the upcoming *Let's Connect* suicide prevention summit on May 24-25, 2023. Information on the Summit is featured prominently on the department's website's main navigation bar to increase visibility of the event.
4. Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame Unveiling – coordinated with Col. (ret.) Rick White to promote the addition of the classes of 2021 and 2022 to the GMVHOF. PID provided photography support at the event.
5. PACT Act updates – PID is continuing to communicate with different groups about the availability of PACT Act benefits.
 - a. PACT Registration Rallies – shared information on upcoming events, including an upcoming event at the Georgia International Convention Center on June 3. A PACT rally will also be held on June 3 in College Park.
6. Veterans Benefits Outreach
 - a. Women Veterans Gala – worked with Ms. Brooks to develop a flyer, save the date, and invitation to the 75th Anniversary Gala: Honoring the Past, Present, and Future of Women in Service. Continuing to support the event, PID releases weekly reminders with information about notable women veterans in Georgia. PID assisted Ms. Brooks in setting up an Eventbrite website for tickets and donations to the event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-veterans-of-georgia-celebrating-75-years-of-courage-tickets-602794212717>. PID will also provide support on the day of the event.
 - b. GDVS attends VFW's National Day of Service – shared information on the three events at Georgia Southern University's campuses and a photo from Debra O'Neal.
 - c. We CARE Rome Veterans Fair – promoted the upcoming We CARE fair, including a registration form for veterans to receive free groceries.
 - d. Ask & Tell – shared information on a collaborative town hall discussion hosted by the Atlanta Pride Committee. GDVS and VA representatives provided information and assistance on veterans' benefits.

Public Information Division Contacts *(Since December 9, 2022)*

- Replies to VA eBenefits Messages = 280
- Replies to General Questions = approximately 335
- Individual Request for the State Certificate of Honor = approximately 75

GOVERNOR'S (VIETNAM VETERAN) CERTIFICATE of HONOR PROGRAM-

- The latest and most accurate totals (since March 2015) –

State Certificates of Honor issued via GDVS – An estimated **29,855**
(Honors Ceremonies and Central Office Mail Outs)

DoD Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins presented via GDVS – An estimated **23,855**

Honors Ceremonies supported/coordinated by GDVS – **357**

Defense Department's Vietnam Veteran Surviving Spouse CoH – **291**

Mr. Mark Demers, Grant Program Implementation Manager

- Unite-Us Grant- (American Rescue Plan-Negative Impact Grant)- \$6.1m per year effective July 1, 2022:
 - We received data this month with information of 300k veterans from Tyler Technologies. We are working on preparing the data for inclusion in Unite Us platform and social connector.
 - Data ingestion and secure data transfer for the platform and social connector is moving forward. As of May 10, 2023, we have 30,905 in the system. We have submitted 956 community partners and 313 healthcare partners for inclusion to the platform since August 2022.
 - Our Warner Robins GDVS office is ranked #6 (1496 Unite Us referrals received during the pilot program) and #8 (1299 Unite Us referrals received from October 25, 2022, to present) in the entire national network.
 - Grant financial management- payments are 100% up to date since we received the advance.
 - Application for year 2 and 3 of the grant were submitted on May 4, 2023, to OPB.
- SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program- (\$747,464 for one year with the possibility to extend two more years).
 - We are in partnership with Kennesaw State University AMES Center to implement the grant. KSU started analyzing data collection and the latest submission to the VA on May 5, 2023.

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- Calandra Ferguson provided the outreach and training data reports, and we transmitted them to the VA on April 28, 2023.
- Our first quarterly report due on April 21, 2023, was submitted to the VA on April 20, 2023.
- Fox Grant renewal notice was sent out to all recipients and is due to the VA via UDPaaS on May 19, 2023 (no exceptions).
- Calandra Ferguson or Veda Brooks will report all the outreach and training events regarding Suicide Prevention under the Fox Grant.
- **Veterans Mental Health Services Program Grant (HB 414)**- Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed HB 414 on April 25, 2023, with the support of state legislators and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS). The bill creates the Veterans Mental Health Services Program, which is a grant program to improve access to mental health services for military service members, veterans, and their families in the state of Georgia. The grant program is funded through state appropriations in Fiscal Year 2023. The total grant funding is \$750,000 for FY2023 (executed by no later than 30 June 2023). If multiple applicants are approved for funding, the cumulative total of grant dollars awarded cannot exceed \$750,000.
 - This is a competitive grant which opened on April 24, 2023, and will close on May 10, 2023, at 1600.
 - Those interested can apply via our Survey Monkey application at <https://gdvsmentalhealthgrant.smapply.io/>
 - The applications are now under review, and we hope to announce the award next week.

Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency)

- The approval and compliance surveys of educational institutions, training establishments and training programs approved for veterans training is continuing with no significant problems in any area being noted.
- Approval of new veteran's On-The-Job training sites (OJT) continues to increase. As of this date the State Approving Agency (SAA) has granted approval to 1,828 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill® educational benefits.

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Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	399
Approved Training Establishments	1,429
Veteran Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions	19,390

* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, April 2023.

Ms. Tonya Jarrett, Clinical Director, Health & Memorials Division

1. Georgia War Veterans Home (GWVH) is COVID-free for veterans and staff.
2. Ms. Calandra Ferguson and Ms. Veda Brooks were onsite at the GWVH campus on 4/28/23. We toured the campus, discussed our treatment programs, and collaborated on methods to combine resources to assist our resident veterans when discharged into the home environment.
3. Ms. Veda Brooks interviewed four female resident veterans for the upcoming celebration honoring Georgia women in service on June 10, 2023.
4. I am working with the Executive Director of GWVH to coordinate TEAMS virtual training with Ms. Calandra Ferguson for some of the GWVH staff on suicide prevention training.
5. We continue working with the Georgia Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) to evaluate vendor responses for bidding on the Georgia War Veterans Home contract to become effective on 7/1/23.
6. Status of staff training and program development:
 - a. Ongoing modality training for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy (EMDR), biofeedback training, and dynavision training for sensory processing.
 - b. Pruitt staff continues to provide patient de-escalation and safety training campus-wide to all Pruitt employees.
7. Our mental health behavioral team and marking team will be attending the KSU summit next week.

Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA

This is National Skilled Nursing Care Week. Our theme for the week is “Cultivating Kindness.” We have lots of activities planned for everyone, to help give the facility a more home-like environment. This includes each person planting a flower, herb or vegetable.

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Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, Kerry Dyer was the Guest Speaker at the North Cobb Christian School in Kennesaw, Georgia. Later that day he met with Leslie Davis, Leasing Specialist from State Properties and Ken Childre to discuss the relocation of the Newnan Field Office.

On Friday, April 21, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the Manager Leadership Training hosted by Mr. Richard Marley, Business & Industry Services Specialist. He also spoke with Teesha Prieto, Sales Manager at Embassy Suites Hotel regarding an updated list of confirmed reservations. Later that day he met with Commissioner Ross and Patrick Bean, Transition Service Manager at Fort Stewart to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between GDVS and Fort Stewart Garrison Command.

On Monday, April 24, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director's meeting. He also spoke to Barbara Serrano, Newnan Field Service Office Manager regarding the furniture pick-up and its relocation to Fort Benning, Georgia. Later that day he rented a U-Haul in preparation for the furniture pick-up and trip to Fort Benning.

On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, Kerry Dyer traveled to the Newnan Field Service Office to pick up furniture and deliver it to Fort Benning, Georgia.

On Wednesday April 26, 2023, Kerry Dyer spoke with William Chromik, Acme Auto Leasing Manager regarding the delivery of the Chevy Equinox. Later that day he met with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager regarding Georgia War Home 6-month contract extension. He also processed the New Hire Packet for the Columbus Field Service Office.

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, Kerry Dyer coordinated the delivery of the Chevy Equinox to GDVS. Later that day he processed the resignation packet for Jasmine Spruill, Appeals Division. He also spoke with Leslie Davis, State Properties Leasing Specialist about adding the New Lease Number in the Building, Land and Lease Inventory of Property.

On Friday, April 28, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the Supervisor Leadership Training hosted by Mr. Richard Marley, Business & Industry Service Specialist. Later that day he participated in the 2023 Days of Remembrance for the Georgia Commission on The Holocaust.

On Monday, May 1, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the Eperformance Training hosted by Ms. Monique Jenkins, Senior Manager at DOAS along with the Office Managers, Regional Directors, and Commissioner Ross. He also scrubbed the monthly Gains/Loss Roster, Promotion Merit List, Department Alpha Roster, Position numbers Roster and distributed to the Senior Leadership.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Kerry Dyer met virtually with Angelique McClendon, Attorney at the Department of Driver Services (DDS) to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between GDVS & DDS. He also attended a meeting with Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) along with

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Commissioner Ross to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between GDVS & GDC. Later that day he spoke with Natasha Simoes, Access Project Manager regarding the Access Conversion Project for the DD214's.

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Kerry Dyer traveled to Hinesville, Georgia along with Commissioner Ross, Calandra Ferguson and Mark Demers to attend a tour of the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Aspire Health Partners.

On Thursday May 4, 2023, Kerry Dyer along with William Wilson met virtually with Eric Denny, Account Manager with Edge to discuss the replacement of the Department's two copier machines. Later that day he coordinated the pick-up of the lease vehicle.

On Friday, May 5, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the monthly Atlanta VA Health Care System VSO Stakeholder update. He also spoke with Tania Tompkins, Edge lease coordinator regarding the Vendor Management Number and Purchase Order for two Canon copiers. Later that day he attended the weekly Leadership Training along with the Supervisors in the Department.

On Monday, May 8, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the monthly Director's meeting. He also finalized the Memorandum of Understanding between GDVS & Fort Stewart Garrison Command. Later that day he processed a new hire packet for the Glennville Cemetery.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross and Julie Hammond reviewed, edited, and added the Active Shooter policy to the Department Directives. He also spoke with Samantha White, DOAS Accounting Manager regarding the steps that employees must take to request a Travel in Advance Payment. Later that day he processed two termination packets.

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross, Kirsten Dennis and Shareka Monday-Robinson met with Ben West, Amazon Account Manager to discuss the possibility of purchasing items through a Purchase Order. He also met virtually with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager to discuss the Cost Clarification and Negotiations methods between the Georgia Veterans War Home and PruittHealth.

On Monday, May 15, 2023, Kerry Dyer spoke at Retiree Appreciation Day at the Clay National Guard Center in Marietta. There were approximately 200 in attendance at the event.

Below are the Personnel Actions Kerry Dyer and Shareka Monday-Robinson processed from April 16, 2023- May 16, 2023.

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Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Appeals Division	VCAO 1	Resigned	Jasmine Spruill	04/24/23
Columbus	VFSO 1	New Hire	LaSaundra Hester	05/01/23
Marietta	VFSO 1	New Hire	Jessica Hardin	05/01/23
Augusta VAMC	Office Mgr (VFSO 2)	Terminated	Trenise Jones	05/08/23
Milledgeville	Grds Maint Tech 1	Resign	Aaron Andrews	05/09/23
Atlanta Balcony	VFSO 1	Terminated	Sheenah Thrasher	05/10/23
Glennville	Grds Maint Tech 1	New Hire	Robert Tyler	05/16/23

Highlights: Relocation of the Newnan Field Service Office.

On the horizon: Digitalization of the DD214's, New Field Office on Fort Stewart, Garrison Command.

Mr. Mark Bannister, Executive Director, Health, Memorials, Finance & Development

FINANCE

Accounting

Routine operations are continuing.

Through accounting procedural guidance and assistance from the State Accounting Shared Services, we continue to work together efficiently as a team to complete required end – of – year budget reports, monthly allotments, and amendments. As we continue with our accounting and budget operations, we're making adjustments and improvements in the areas of better management and oversight of our operating budget, general ledgers, timely submission of invoice payments and processing of purchase orders. We've re-established greater communication with our vendors – payments to vendors of our State Veterans Homes.

Budget and General

Governor Kemp signed H.B. 19, the FY 2024 appropriations bill into law on Friday, May 5th, 2023, ending the 2023 – 2024 Biennial Session of the General Assembly. There was no line – item vetoes from the Governor affecting the GDVS. The total funding for the GDVS for FY 2024 of \$49,379,212 is broken out as follows:

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Fund Source	Amount (\$\$)
State General Funds	27,294,616
Other (Daily Fees at war veterans' homes and construction funds)	3,465,491
Federal Funds	24,210,246
Total Funds	54,970,353

HEALTH AND MEMORIALS

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes Census (Through May 5, 2023) +

Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	99	113	212
Service Connected *	30	40	70
Total Patients	129	153	282
Last Month			
Regular Patients	98	114	212
Service Connected *	28	41	69
Total Patients	126	155	281

* One hundred percent of the cost of these services is paid by the VA. No state funds are involved.

+ The report to the VSB are the total numbers from April 7, 2023, through May 5, 2023.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

State Veterans Cemeteries

Burial Statistics (through May 5, 2023)+

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	2,268	2,285	17
Milledgeville	5,096	5,121	25
Total	7,364	7,406	42

+ The report to the VSB are the total numbers from April 7, 2023, through May 5, 2023.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Rick White, Director of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame announced that the deadline for applications this year is July 31. The induction ceremony will be on Nov. 4 in Columbus. He expressed thanks to Commissioner Ross, Kerry Dyer and Charlotte May for their assistance in the recent ceremony at the Capitol.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hanley thanked Commissioner Ross and Mr. Mark Demers for their assistance with Fulton County's grant application.

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Mr. Mendez was able to be present for an Honor Flight in Brunswick, GA. Korean, Vietnam and WWII veterans were welcomed home.

Mr. Hanley explained the new legislation regarding the Foundation. To be a board member, one previously had to be a veteran. Now we can have veteran advocates as well. The focus of these board members is fundraising. The Commissioner appoints the board members, but the Veterans Service Board has to approve. The following candidates were offered for approval today:

Shon Barnwell – Warner Robins

Shon Barnwell served in the United States Air Force for 25 years reshaping organizations on five continents. She currently provides unique and premier hospitality experiences, conducts impactful workshops on Leadership and Workforce Development, and mentors fellow veteran entrepreneurs and their spouses. Shon resides in Middle Georgia.

Wyatt Batchelor – Atlanta

Wyatt Batchelor began his career in the military as an officer in the U.S. Army Special Operations Ranger Regiment. Following three combat deployments to Afghanistan, he worked as a finance analyst at Goldman Sachs before beginning a career with Restaurant Brands International. At RBI, Wyatt worked in several roles, culminating in running a division for the company. Capitalizing on his experience, he later co-founded MBN Brands and began acquiring various retail concepts across the country. Currently, he owns over 150 fast food restaurants between Burger King, KFC, and Jimmy John's. He has a B.S. in economics from West Point where he lettered in football and an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

Samantha Brown-Parks, MD, MPH – Atlanta

Dr. Brown-Parks served in the U.S. Army. She is a physician with Nurx and a medical consultant with experience in academia, medical focused film and television production, epidemiology, emergency medicine, global health policy and healthcare management. Dr. Brown-Parks is also a member of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, Veteran Empowerment Committee and Childspring International Medical Committee.

Colonel (ret.) David Goode – Athens

Colonel (ret) David Goode retired in 2022 after 30 years of service in the Air Force, serving in various roles in logistics, legislative affairs, and strategy development. He commanded at both group and squadron levels, both deployed and in-garrison. Dave currently serves as a Principal Operations Lead with Chick-fil-A, Inc. in Atlanta. He and his wife, Kristyn, and daughters, Ashlyn and Avery, currently reside in Athens.

Joe Higgins – Savannah

U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force Reserve. 2020 to present, Chairman of the Veterans Council of Chatham County, Commander American Legion Post 184. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, VFW 4392, 8th Air Force Historical Society (Birthplace Chapter), the 40&8 (honor society to the

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Legion), the Military Order of the Cootie (honor society to the VFW), Auxiliary Vietnam Veterans of America, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division and Savannah St. Patrick's Day parade.

John Phillips – Canton

U.S. Army, retired. Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (North). Co-founder and Vice-President of VETLANTA. He is the former Finance Director at the Coca-Cola Company; former board member of the USO of Georgia, and 2020 Inductee of the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame. Author of *Boots to Loafers*, a guide used by Georgia Tech in their military transition programs.

Colonel (ret.) Rick White – Johns Creek


A Georgia Native, a two-tour Vietnam War Veteran, a retired U.S. Army Colonel with 31 active-duty years of service and is currently the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame Director and Chairman of the Board. He and his wife, Pamela, make their home in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Mr. Kopsie made a motion to accept all seven nominees as members of the Veterans Service Foundation Board. Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The June 28 Board meeting was scheduled. It will be a combination virtual and in-person meeting, set up at the GDVS.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:17 p.m.

SIGNED:



Shawn Hanley, Chair

ATTEST:



Joshua Kopsie, Secretary

The next Veterans Service Board meeting will be held in person at GDVS but will also be available via video/telephone conference call on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. The Webex link is: <https://georgiadepartmentofveteransservice.webex.com/georgiadepartmentofveteransservice/j.php?MTID=mf55aeb3f1ebf20143f9337435cee9286>

Meeting password: **Bump5j2MuE8 (28675526 from video systems)**

Or you can call: **1-844-621-3956**

Access Code: **2349 333 5828**