



**Georgia Department
of Veterans Service**

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

May 2026

ROLLING FORWARD TOGETHER: KUMHO TIRES AND THE GVSF SUPPORT GEORGIA VETERANS

Kumho Tire (KUSA), and the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation (GVSF) today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), formalizing a long-term, collaborative partnership in service of Georgia’s approximately 680,000 veterans and their families.

These organizations, spanning private industry, state government, and nonprofits, come together around a shared belief that those who have served deserve the active, sustained support of the communities they protected. Through this partnership, KUSA, and GVSF commit to identifying and delivering programs that create meaningful impact for Georgia’s veteran community. Specific initiatives will be announced as the partnership develops.

“At Kumho Tire USA, we believe that doing business in America means giving back to America. We are honored to stand alongside the GVSF in this commitment, and we look forward to building something lasting together for Georgia’s veterans,” said Edmund Cho, CEO, Kumho Tire USA, Inc.

The partnership first came into public view earlier this year, when GVSF representatives were honored as Co-Captains at Kumho Tire Night at State Farm Arena, a moment before the Atlanta Hawks vs. Boston Celtics game that reflected the spirit of recognition and respect at the heart of this collaboration.

“The Georgia Veterans Service Foundation exists to connect Georgia’s veteran community with the resources and support they deserve, and that work is always stronger when the private sector steps forward as a true partner. We are grateful for Kumho Tire USA’s commitment and excited about what this three-way collaboration will make possible,” said Joe Higgins, Board Chair, Georgia Veterans Service Foundation.



MEMORIAL DAY IN GEORGIA: A TIME TO REFLECT, REMEMBER, AND UNITE



Memorial Day is a time to remember America’s service men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country and our freedom. GDVS Commissioner Patricia Ross joined Governor Brian Kemp, Gold Star families, members of the state legislature, veteran service organizations, and veterans for the state’s annual Memorial Day ceremony on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

On Memorial Day, the state’s veteran memorial cemeteries in Milledgeville and Glennville held their annual ceremonies.

EXCELLENCE IN CARE: GEORGIA VA HOSPITALS STAND OUT IN NATIONAL RATINGS

VA hospitals in Georgia earned strong marks in the latest quality report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

According to the report, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center received a 3-star rating, while the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta earned an impressive 4-star rating.

Nationally, VA hospitals made up nearly 15% of all 5-star facilities, and for the second year in a row, none received a one-star rating.

The CMS ratings reflect performance across more than 50 measures within five key domains: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care.

GET TO KNOW YOUR VSO: DEJA WILLIAMS

In just a short amount of time working for the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, Statesboro VSO



Deja Williams has found the selfless sacrifice of Georgia veterans an inspiration to serve to the best of her ability.

“I am committed to doing my best to help veterans and their family members achieve positive and favorable outcomes,” said Williams.

A Salters, South Carolina native, Williams served in the United States Army from November 2009 to July 2013. During her service, she was awarded several honors, including the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Medal. She completed her term as Specialist E4.

When Williams isn’t busy helping veterans and learning new skills as a VSO, she enjoys gardening, spending time with her daughter, attending her flag football games, and laughing with her 9-month-old poodle, who always makes her smile.

Her advice to herself, new, and future VSOs?

“Focus on providing quality customer service and submitting quality disability compensation claims for the veterans we serve. Our veterans deserve the best.”

FUELING BUSINESS SUCCESS: FIN FIT HEADS TO COLUMBUS

Veteran small business owners and entrepreneurs have a chance to learn more about fundraising at the Secretary of State’s upcoming FIN FIT “Fearless Fundraising for Your Small Business” seminar in Columbus on June 16, 2026!

The event is free and open to all Georgians.

Starting a business is challenging—this free seminar can help equip you with the tools and knowledge to make your business a success.

The seminar includes a panel discussion, networking opportunities, and a hands-on learning lab with a free workbook for each registered attendee.

Reserve your spot by registering at the Secretary of State’s website at:

<https://sos.ga.gov/event/fearless-fundraising-your-small-business-columbus>.

UNITE GEORGIA

Did you know Georgia has a tool to help connect you directly with resources and services in your local community?

Unite Georgia helps veterans find critical resources in a matter of days, instead of weeks or months.

You can find help in applying for veterans benefits, employment resources, utilities or housing assistance, food pantries, mental and behavioral healthcare, and more.

Unite Georgia makes it easy to find care, wherever you are.

You can access a public resource directory and start finding help now at <https://gdvs.resources.uniteus.io/>!