

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

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

**Visitors** Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS  
**Present:** Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer, Chief Finance Officer, GDVS  
Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS  
Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS  
Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW Service Officer, Appeals Division, GDVS  
Ms. Tonjala Moton-Williams, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer  
Mr. Lou Zayas, Jr. Vice Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Mr. Joe Higgins, Veterans Service Foundation Board  
Mr. Kevin Loncher, Veterans Service Foundation Board  
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA  
Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS  
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS  
Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director, Human Resources, GDVS  
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training Division, GDVS  
Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS  
Mr. Ken Childre, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS  
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS  
Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator, GDVS  
Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homeless Coordinator, GDVS  
Mr. William Wilson, Network Administrator, GDVS  
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS  
Ms. Monica Dorsey, Communications & Outreach Specialist, GDVS  
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Wednesday, November 20, 2024, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Kopsie called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. Mr. Kopsie gave the invocation. Mr. Hanley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Hanley made a motion to approve the November Agenda. Ms. Swan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

Mr. Hanley made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and the November 5 special-called meeting minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Paslawski 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 a Georgia Department of Veteran Service (GDVS) SSG Fox Grant training session held on November 6, 2024 at 8AM – 9AM. The topic was Lethal Means Safety.
- The Department Service Officer attended an Atlanta Regional Office VSO VSC-Vet Talk symposium hosted by Adrienne Becnel-Taylor, VSCM and Brian Starke, AVSCM at the Atlanta Regional Office 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA 30033. The meeting was held on November 26, 2024, at 10AM. The purpose of the meeting was to give VSOs updates on what's happening with the VSC.
- The Department Service Officer attended a Military Appreciation Luncheon hosted by Tabernacle Of Praise Church held on November 9, 2024, at 10AM at 1640 SR-42, McDonough, GA 30253. The purpose of the luncheon was to recognize and honor veterans.
- The Department Service Officer attended a Veterans Recognition Day hosted by Greenforest Community Baptist Church held on November 10, 2024, at 0845AM service at 3250 Rainbow Drive, Decatur, GA 30034. The purpose of the luncheon was to recognize and honor veterans.
- The Department Service Officer attended a FY25 Board of Veterans Appeal (BVA) virtual meeting hosted by Salvador Ambriz, Deputy Chief, BVA. The meeting was held on November 13, 2023, at 12PM.
  - Discussed the VSO's issues and concerns.
  - BVA Update
  - Discussed Projected Hearing for FY25

**Ms. Tonjala Moton-Williams, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer**

- October 20-25, 2024, DSO Symposium was held at 18665 Conference Center Dr., Leesburg, VA. DSO Tonjala Moton-Williams attended and completed the course successfully.
- October 25-27, 2024, The American Legion Department of Georgia Fall Conference was successfully held at Sonesta Place, 1775 Pleasant Hill Rd, Duluth, GA.



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

- November 5, 2024, 1:00 pm, The American Legion Department visited the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home, 2249 Vinson Highway, Milledgeville, GA 31062. The Commander and his delegation were given a brief presentation and Q&A by Russell Feagin and Dennis Mize.
- November 6, 2024, 9:00 am, The American Legion Department visited the Dublin VA Medical Center, 1826 Veterans Blvd., Dublin, GA 31021. They were given a brief presentation concerning operations and upcoming events by Chandra D. Miller, Executive Director Intern, and escorted by Keith Griffin, Chief of Voluntary Services.

**Upcoming events:**

- November 13-14, 2024, Hospital visit to Montgomery Campus and Tuskegee Campus was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Rescheduled for February 2025.
- November 15-17, 2024, 12:00 - 3:00 pm, Georgia Legion College will be held at the American Legion State of Georgia Headquarters, 3035 Mt Zion Rd, Stockbridge, GA, United States.
- November 17 -22, 2024, National Legion College will be held at the National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN, United States.
- November 26, 2024, 7:00 - 8:30 pm is virtual National Training Tuesday.
- December 5-8, 2024, The Commander and his delegation will visit Augusta VA Medical Center, 1 Freedom Way, Augusta, Georgia 30904 and Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home, 1101 15th Street Augusta, Georgia 30901.
- Monthly Virtual Post service officer training will be held for new service officers. Training topics will be on the roles and responsibilities as a post service officer. This training will continue to be held monthly as new service officers arrive.

**Commissioner Patricia Ross**

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, Commissioner Ross and her leadership team met with Kaitlin Little, Program Analyst for the Georgia State Senate Budget and Evaluation Office. She then attended the Veterans Service Board meeting. Later she attended the Dept of VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative (SMRC) Agreement meeting to discuss the timeline for the grant deliverables.

On Thursday, October 24, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Korean War Memorial Dedication ceremony in Columbus at the National Infantry Museum. She also attended the We Care Vet Fair weekly In Progress Review with the VA's Veterans Experience Office.

On Friday, October 25, 2024, Commissioner Ross was the keynote speaker at The American Legion's Department of Georgia Fall Conference in Duluth.

On Monday, October 28, 2024, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She also met with two members of the Veterans Service Board for an update. She then attended the Fox Grant Update Meeting.



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the SMRC Weekly Meeting.

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with Samantha Sliney, the Southeastern Regional Liaison for the Defense State Liaison Office, which provides state policymakers with expert insight on priorities affecting military families and their quality of life. She is working on some policy changes within the state to make Georgia more veteran friendly. She also attended the We Care Vet Fair weekly In Progress Review.

On Friday, November 1, 2024, Commissioner Ross was the guest speaker at the Fort Moore Retiree Appreciation Day. She also toured The Plummer House for Homeless Veterans in Columbus and attended the We Care Vet Fair.

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the We Care Vet Fair and worked at the registration desk.

On Monday, November 4, through Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the VA Coordinating Committee meetings in Washington, DC. She is now appointed by SecVA to assist with transitioning military and oversight of the VetCenters.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Special Called Meeting of the Georgia Veterans Service Board to discuss directives regarding the Georgia Veterans Service Foundation.

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, Commissioner Ross spoke at Governor Kemp's Veterans Day Proclamation Ceremony, which was re-located this year to the Georgia Supreme Court of the Nathan Deal Judicial Center on Capitol Avenue. She then met with Shelley Seiberg regarding the draft of a confidentiality agreement for the SMRC grant. Later in the day she took part in a Fraud Risk interview as part of an annual audit process with the Department of Audits and Accounts.

On Friday, November 8, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Valor Ventures Summit at the Atlanta City Hall. The Summit was designed to honor and empower veteran entrepreneurs, highlighting their contributions to the community and economy. She then attended the Georgia Suicide Mortality Review meeting. Afterward, she was the guest speaker at the Mental Health is Wealth Symposium in Atlanta.

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the annual Georgia Veterans Day events. This included speaking at the opening ceremony then being transported in one of the corvettes leading the 2024 Georgia Veterans Day Parade from the Observance Ceremony to the Parade Reviewing Stand, where she was seated to watch the Veterans Day Parade. She spent the evening at the Freedom Ball, where she was awarded the 2024 Marvin Myers Leadership Award.



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

On Monday, November 11, 2024, Commissioner Ross was the guest speaker at the LaGrange DAV Local Chapter 31 annual Veterans Day program.

On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She then attended the SMRC Weekly Meeting, the We Care Fair Leaders After Action Report, and the Grant Manager Meeting. The VA's after action report showed that over 3,200 veterans and their families attended the We Care Veterans Fair in Cobb County and GDVS filed 144 claims or intent to file documents.

On Wednesday, November 13, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the WSI Social Services Workgroup Quarterly Meeting, the VRCN Office Hours meeting, the Capital Requests meeting and the Medical Disability Examinations VSA Quarterly meeting.

On Thursday, November 14, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with Dave Shapiro, an Atlanta-based nationally award-winning video producer, to discuss ways to develop powerful video content for GDVS. She also took part in the Monthly VSO/Community Partner PACT Act Information and Listening session. Afterward, she attended the Georgia VA SMR Cooperative Agreement Check-In meeting and the SSG Fox SPGP meeting. Her evening was spent at the Athens Area MOAA Chapter meeting, where she was the guest speaker.

On Friday, November 15, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Veteran Suicide Collaboration Discussion and met with the GDVS Leadership Institute.

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Nature Gratitude Walk with women veterans and firefighters at the Sweetwater Creek State Park.

On Monday, November 18, 2024, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She also participated in the NASDVA Southeast Director's meeting, the Unite Us Bi-weekly meeting and the DeCA/VA Collaboration of the Commissary Benefit.

On Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Joint Senate/House Committee Meeting in Augusta. They are looking at potentially introducing legislation this next session to open benefits assistance to third parties, i.e. those organizations that charge veterans without necessarily being accredited. There was a group out of North Carolina that showed up every time and were extremely convincing. She also attended the Veterans for Freundschaft event, celebrating The Berlin Airlift's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta.

Commissioner Ross added to her report that she attended the Senate Study Committee on Veterans Mental Health and Homelessness held November 20 at the CLOB. The recommendations that directly relate to GDVS are:

- They want to establish a fail safe for those transitioning service members between the Department of Defense and GDVS to make sure we connect them to resources.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- They want to increase GDVS presence on military installations.
- They want to support GDVS data monitoring, which we can do through Unite Us and Veterans Benefits.

We continue discussions with OPB on the renovations that are required for our homes. We won't know if we are successful in receiving these funds until the Governor's budget is published in January. We will go through the legislative process on any initiatives explaining them to both the House and Senate Appropriations committees.

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

**GENERAL**

- The Cobb County the We Care Resource Fair was held on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta. Over the 2-day event GDVS met with 300 veterans and families and filed 120 claims. GDVS local area offices and the outreach team attended.
- On November 5, I attended the Behavioral Health and Coordinating Council Meeting on behalf of Commissioner Ross.
- On November 9, I attended the Georgia Veterans Day Association Observation Ceremony and Parade.
- On Monday, November 11, I attended the Veterans Day Celebration held at Atlanta Metropolitan State College, where I served on a panel to discuss accessing resources for Veterans.
- On Thursday November 14, I participated in the Goodwill Roundtable held at the Goodwill in Decatur.
- On Saturday November 16, along with VA and VHA partners, we joined Saint Philip AME Church in Decatur at their Second Annual Veterans Symposium.
- On Monday November 18, I along with women veterans in the department, attended the screening for The Six Triple Eight. It will be coming out on Netflix on December 20. It was a great event, and we had a question and answer session with Tyler Perry and the actresses after the movie.
- **DD 214's and Welcome Home Letters: 568** Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in October 2024.

**Projected Positions:** Two openings in Appeals.



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Ms. Ramona Roper, Director of Training Division:**

- October 30, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper and Mr. Glenn Massey, conducted in-person Customer Service training at the Joseph Maxwell Cleland VAMC VFSO. This training consisted of team building exercises, recognizing difficult clients and how to deescalate the situation, proper ways to conduct interviews, role play, question and answer period, and suggestions on how to perform to a high volume, highly visible VFSO.
- October 31, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper, assisted the South Region Director, Sherri Whitfield, and her District Managers, with interviews for the vacant Brunswick VFSO Office Manager position.
- November 1, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper, Mr. Steven Fay and Mr. Glenn Massey, attended the We Care Veterans Resource Fair at the Cobb Civic Center. This event assisted veterans with benefits, on-site VA claim decisions, VA Healthcare enrollments, and many other services, not only for the VA but the community. The Training Division participants assisted with filing claims and advising veterans on their benefits.
- November 1, 2024, Ms. Sandra Bennett, attended the Fort Moore Retiree Appreciation ceremony. Ms. Bennett answered questions pertaining to VA benefits.
- November 5-7, 2024, Mr. Steven Fay and Mr. Glenn Massey, provided new hire training at the Augusta – Georgia War Veterans Home. This training included the responsibilities of a Veterans Service Officer, Standards of Conduct, and an introduction to the Absorb Training Portal.
- November 7, 2024, Mr. Charles Isaac and Ms. Sandra Bennett conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Hybrid Training via MS Teams. This class covered the Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization (POA) and Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- November 12, 2024, Mr. Charles Isaac conducted an office inspection of the Dublin VFSO. Mr. Isaac ensured the VFO's customer service was pleasant and welcoming. The information being provided was current and correct. No deficiencies were found.
- November 13-15, 2024, Mr. Steven Fay and Mr. Glenn Massey, provided new hire training at the Rome VFSO. This training included the responsibilities of a Veterans Service Officer, Standards of Conduct, and an introduction to the Absorb Training Portal.
- November 13, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper participated in a Veterans Benefits Zoom meeting with the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Upsilon Iota Sigma Alumni Chapter. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of presenting a benefits briefing informing the chapter members/veterans of benefits pertaining to VA Compensation, the PACT Act, VA healthcare programs, burial benefits, state benefits and the ways the Georgia Department of Veterans Service can assist on these benefits.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- November 14, 2024, Mr. Charles Isaac and Ms. Sandra Bennett conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Hybrid Training via MS Teams. This class covered the Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization (POA) and Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- November 19-21, 2024, Ms. Sandra Bennett will conduct new hire training at the Fort McPherson VFSO. This training includes the responsibilities of a Veterans Service Officer, Standards of Conduct, and an introduction to the Absorb Training Portal.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Daily continued ongoing support to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices
- Continuation of performing duties as VSO's
- Mentoring classes will resume

**Mr. Edwin Berry, Director of Appeals Division**

- The total number of hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for **October 2024** was **60**. Retroactive payments of **\$606,884.00** were paid in October to the veterans or family members based on positive outcomes from previous hearings that the Appeals team assisted with.
- As of **October 31, 2024**, the Atlanta VA Regional Office processed benefits as follows for GDVS and the Service Organizations represented by GDVS during the month of October 2024:

Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid
Compensation	108,692	\$248,320,998
DIC	4,298	\$7,386,404
Survivor Pension	686	\$672,181
<u>Veteran Pension</u>	<u>1,314</u>	<u>\$1,548,748</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>115,224</u>	<u>\$257,928,331</u>

YTD through 10/31/2024 Total Compensation, Pension and other benefits paid: **\$2,504,932,681** for the veterans that we represent who receive VA benefits.

Mr. Berry explained that the Board of Veterans Appeals has decided to start running two dockets of hearings each day to help deal with the backlog of appeals cases. This will double how many cases are being handled each day.



**Mr. Kenneth Childre, Director Veterans Benefits North Region**

**Retro Awards:** \$1,523,205.99

**Director Site Visits/Inspections:** 6 (Site Survey of new office at Ft. Eisenhower)

**Community Involvement:**

10/05-10/06/2024-Marie Lundquist (Jasper)

Worked side-by-side with the American Legion at the Marble Fest Outreach. Connected with 60 Veterans. Made appointments for 11 attendees that lived in the local area and provided contact numbers for those outside of the local area.

10/07/2024-Tanya Rogers & Rico Johnson (Gainesville)

Supported the UNG-Dahlonge students and staff by being available on campus to answer questions about VA and State benefits.

10/09/2024-Tanya Rogers (Gainesville)

Represented the GDVS during a Blue Star Family Breakfast.

10/17/2024-Rob Johnson & Randy Brown (Griffin) and Danny Moreno (Zebulon)

Attended the Veteran Resource Fair at the Southern Crescent Technical College in Griffin. Assisted 34 Veterans with claims, POA changes and Intent to Files.

**North Area Gains/Losses: 5**

Vet Hueitt-Ft McPherson-Resigned 11 Oct

Nick Gavalas-Canton-New Hire 16 Oct

David Flanagan-Augusta VAMC-New Hire 16 Oct

Shaunda Mathieu-Atlanta Balcony-Resigned 18 Oct

ChanDreas Barkley-Rome-Resigned 23 Oct

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

<b>Average Visits Per VFSO</b>							
<b>Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO</b>							
<b>Region:</b>			North				
<b>Month:</b>			October-24				
A	B	C	D / E		G		G / E
			D	E	F		H
					Average	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	Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	52	7,675	22	348.86	2,194	99.73
<b>Number of Offices:</b>		29	<b>Average Visits/Office:</b>		264.66	<b>Average Claims/Office:</b> 75.6551724	

\*Total monthly office visits include: 2,520 In-Person and 5,155 phone calls/emails.

**Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director Veterans Benefits South Region**

- On November 18, 2024, we welcomed a new Veteran Service Officer, Ms. Kaisha Givens, to our Brunswick Field Office.
- On November 7, 2024, Mr. Seymour Parrish in the Waycross Field Office participated in the Waycross Veterans Day Job and Resource Fair. Seymour displayed a table and spoke to veterans about benefits and discharge upgrades.
- On November 21, 2024, Mr. Christopher McKan in our Ft. Moore Field Office will be participating in a special event hosted by Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers. The event will be at the National Infantry Museum on Ft. Moore. He will provide a display table and be available to answer questions regarding veterans' benefits.
- Since the last board meeting, South region offices reported total lump sum payments of \$336,477.74, with the Waycross Field Office having the highest single lump sum of \$84,206.34.
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 237,759.



**Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)**

- October 21, 2024, Ms. Brooks completed the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network Narcan Training.
- October 25-26, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the Georgia National Guard Youth Leadership training.
- October 30, 2024, Ms. Brooks completed the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network LGBTQ/Sensitivity Awareness.
- November 6, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the AMES Lethal Means Safety virtual training. Ms. Brooks had a meeting with possible participants for the Let's Connect Summit 2025. Ms. Brooks completed the TAT's Training Stopping Human Trafficking.
- November 8, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Veterans Thanksgiving Mental Health Brunch.
- November 11, 2024, Ms. Brooks was the keynote speaker at the Gwinnett County's Veterans Day Ceremony.
- November 13, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the Q4 2024 Connecting Cobb Veterans Meeting.
- November 14, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the SVA Southern Crescent Technical College meeting.

**Current committees:**

- Violence Prevention Task Force
- VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team
- 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**

- October 29 - Ms. Ferguson taught Suicide Prevention to the residents of Clayton County.
- November 1 - Ms. Ferguson attended this Qtrs. "We Care Event" and distributed Gun Locks and Suicide Prevention Material.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- September 30-1 October - Ms. Ferguson provided Suicide Prevention Materials during the 2024 Military Influencers conference.
- November 6 – Ms. Ferguson participated in the Lethal Means Safety Training.
- November 8 – Ms. Ferguson partnered with the Douglas County Community Service Board to provide a round table discussion with Veterans surrounding Mental Health.

**Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator**

- October 25-27, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended the American Legion Annual State Conference to network with veterans' service providers, employers, and community leaders, gathering resources and building partnerships to support veterans' employment and transition needs.
- October 31, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended a session in Gainesville focused on veteran benefits and strategies for supporting justice-involved veterans, with key discussions on resources, best practices, and collaborative approaches between Transition and Employment, Probation, and Prevention Services. During this session, the Transition and Employment Coordinator met with Judge Deal to discuss future events for VET Court.
- November 1, 2024, Transition and employment Coordinator participated in the Veterans We Care event, engaging with veterans and community partners to provide resources, support services, and employment opportunities tailored to veterans' needs.
- November 11, 2024, Transition and Employment Coordinator represented the organization at the Georgia Tech Veterans Day Luncheon, fostering connections with veteran students and alumni while promoting employment and transition support services.
- November 11, 2024, Transition and Employment coordinated with the VA to arrange a color guard for their Veterans Day ceremony, partnering with Towers High School to provide a student-led presentation. I have certificates to give to the participants.
- November 13, 2024, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended a job fair at Goodwill in Duluth, GA, connecting with employers and providing career resources to support veterans and job seekers in their employment transition.
- November 15, 2024, Transition and Employment Coordinator participated in a job fair in partnership with the VA VR&E program at Georgia Tech, engaging with veterans and employers to facilitate connections and promote career opportunities for veterans in transition.



**Upcoming events:**

- October Dave and Busters (reoccurring)
- St Philips Veterans resource fair
- Ceremony for Towers High School Cadets
- DCS Re-entry Information Session
- Vetlanta Q4

**Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homelessness Coordinator**

- October 25, 2024: I attended the Macon standdown event. I was able to reach 30 veterans and provide aid to local resources.
- October 26, 2024: Participated in the Norcross standdown event. I was able to connect with 20 veterans and I was able to network with other agencies. I was also able to get toiletries for a veteran in need.
- November 13, 2024: I will be participating in Dekalb's housing authority event. I will use this opportunity to network and to learn more about collaborating with HADC and the needs of veterans in Dekalb county.

**Upcoming events:**

- A community day to pass out hygiene packets to the homeless during winter.

Ms. Thompson was able to meet with a Councilman from the City of Tucker and will attend some meetings and roundtables. This will allow her to see what the actual needs are from the veterans and inform them of what GDVS can provide.

Ms. Thompson answered Mr. Kopsie's question regarding HUD-VASH Vouchers – We don't have any yet.

**Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer/Chief Financial Officer**

**Accounting/Procurement/Compliance:**

- Routine operations are continuing. We are continuously working to improve all accounts payable processing, to apply proper coding, accountability, organization of purchase orders, and on time payments.
- We are continuing to work with the SAO Shared Services to prepare the procurement and accounting data in Team Works for migration to GA@Work.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- 22 of 24 end of year reports have been submitted to SAO. The remainder will be completed once the forms open up for submission.
- Kirsten Dennis continues to monitor Staples and Moore Business invoices, receipting out invoices for payment and tracking purchase orders.
- Kirsten Dennis completed the SPD-Contract Administration course and test on 11/8/2024. She will be attending her final course to complete her Georgia Certified Procurement Manager course in December 2024.
- Mark Demers attended the NASACT Webinar on Ethics in State and Local Government on 11/7/2024.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended meetings with DOAA auditors relating to the War Home ongoing audits. We are working with the War Home staff and Russell to work through audit requirements in the Case Ware Cloud program.
- Irene Mackson and Mark Demers are working on the P-Card Policy which should be completed in December 2024.
- Irene Mackson will schedule P-Card refresher training in January 2025.

**Budget/Travel:**

- As part of the fall legislative development process, we have responded to multiple inquiries from the Office of Planning and Budget. This is a follow-up regarding the department's budgetary submission with most questions focused on the war home budget.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the NextGen FIN/PRO Agency preview session on November 12-13, 2024.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended FDM Mapping, Project Costing and Billing, Vendor Liaison session on November 13, 2024.
- Overall budget at the program level is well within spending limits. Currently we have spent 27.38% of the total budget. (Based on the average expected monthly budget percentage of 8.33%, calculated at 24.99% for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, we are very close to that amount spent).

**Grant Program:**

- Ssg Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program- (\$747,464 year 2 and **\$722,747 year 3**)
  - We submitted draw-down #11 for \$151,163.51 on November 1, 2024. Remaining funds to expend for FY 2024 is \$29,138.32



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- The SSG Fox Grant Year 3 NOFO was submitted on April 26, 2024, we received notification that we were one of 8 organizations approved for all 3 years on September 16, 2024. Year 3 will start on January 2, 2025.
- The SSG Fox Grant Mid-Year Report was submitted on October 18, 2024, the next report will be the year 2 audit after closing in January 2025.
- Unite-Us Grant- (American Rescue Plan-Negative Impact Grant)- \$6.1m per year (\$18.3m) over the course of 3 years starting July 1, 2022:
  - Data ingestion and secure data transfer for the platform and social connector are moving forward. As of November 5, 2024, we have **275,134** veterans in the system. We have submitted **1,092** community partners and **313** healthcare partners for inclusion to the platform since August 2022.
  - Irene Mackson completed address changes for 11,000 veterans on the data file.
  - We received the advance payment request for the entire year on September 16, 2024, for \$6,088,640.28. We continue to pay invoices from this advance until June 2025.
  - Below is an activity snapshot from Unite Us Insights:



- Veterans Mental Health Services Program Grant (HB 414)-
  - AFY2023- The grant was awarded to two vendors: \$750,000
    - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) for \$650,000.
    - Emory Healthcare for \$100,000.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- The end of year report for Cohen was received on July 31, 2024, and the report from Emory was received on September 13, 2024.
- AFY2024- The grant was awarded to two vendors: \$1,000,000
  - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) for \$776,132
  - Emory Healthcare for \$212,500
  - GDVS indirect rate awarded by Senate and House \$11,368
  - All monies have been distributed to awardees in May 2024.
  - First quarter reporting will be due on October 31, 2024.
- FY2025- \$1,000,000 (competitive grant)
  - The grant is currently in the application stage in Survey Monkey with applications due on October 25, 2024, for the remaining amount.
    - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) (asking \$776,132)
    - 3 applicants at closing – selections in progress.
- VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement - (\$502,124.68)
  - We were notified that we have received the grant for period September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025.
  - The agreement with DBHDD is currently in legal review with agency.
  - SMRC Orientation was on November 8, 2024, and check was on November 14, 2024.

**Veterans Service Foundation:**

- The next board meeting is on December 5, 2024, at 1000. All meetings will occur monthly.
- Completed the Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program paperwork so the foundation could be listed as a charitable organization eligible for payroll deduction. Our application was approved for FY 2025 with open enrollment starting on September 16, 2024, and ending on November 16, 2024.

**Events/Other:**

- Mark Demers and Irene Mackson attended the Governors Veterans Day Ceremony on November 7, 2024 at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center in Atlanta, GA.



Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS

### State Veterans Homes

#### State Veterans Homes Census (Through November 8, 2024) +

Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	92	104	196
Service Connected *	29	36	65
Total Patients	121	140	261
Last Month			
Regular Patients	92	106	198
Service Connected *	30	35	65
Total Patients	122	141	263

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

+ The numbers reported to the VSB are the total numbers from Oct. 12 through Nov. 8, 2024.

### Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

Normal operations continue.

Held a BBQ lunch/concert for the residents this year. Morrison's Healthcare catered the lunch and a local artist by the name of Christopher Hardy played patriotic music in addition to other music that morning/afternoon. We also had special Bingo that afternoon called by Miss Teen Georgia Jr. It was well received by both residents and families.

### Georgia War Veterans Home

Normal operations continue.

Held a Veterans Day program. (A copy of the program is included with this report.) Georgia Power provided the meal and assisted with the event. The event was well received by the residents, staff, and visitors.

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

Mr. Feagin added to his report that the Milledgeville Home is finally operating with electronic medical records after all these years of paper records.

Mr. Feagin and Mr. Carlton Deese thanked Green Veterans and Shawn Hanley for providing the Thanksgiving dinners at the Homes next week.

**State Veterans Cemeteries**

**Burial Statistics (through November 8 2024)+**

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	2,602	2,615	13
Milledgeville	5,618	5,639	21
Total	8,220	8,254	34

+ The report to the VSB is the total numbers from Oct. 12 through Nov. 8, 2024.

**Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville**

Cemetery operations continue as normal.

The cemetery will host a Wreaths Across American ceremony on December 14, 2024, at 12:00PM. They have enough wreaths to place on all gravesites within the cemetery.

**Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville**

Cemetery operations continue as normal.

The cemetery will host a Wreaths Across American ceremony on December 14, 2024, at 12:00PM. They have enough wreaths to place on all gravesites within the cemetery.

Both cemeteries have started renovations, expanding the number of casketed burials. A major part of that work will be taking place the first of the year as they come in and start installing vaults and putting in new roads. They have already started clearing land in Milledgeville, taking care of the trees. The work should take about a year, with about ten years of burial capacity being added. It is the first expansion for Glennville and the fourth for Milledgeville.



Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia

**General Robert Magnus, USMC (Retired)**  
(Continued)

His medals and awards are the Navy Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal (two stars), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (one star).

Following retirement, General Magnus has served as an outside director for several companies including EnerSys (global manufacturer of energy solutions), Xylem Kendall (vegetation management company), Agusta-Westland NA (Anglo-Italian aerospace manufacturer), All My Sons (moving company), Elbit Systems of America (defense systems), and Fairway (retail marketing chain).

He has consulted for American Defense Systems (ballistic protection), Booz-Allen-Hamilton (defense), General Dynamics (combat vehicles), Huntington Ingalls (amphibious ships), Judlau (heavy construction), Lockheed Martin (aviation), Northrop Grumman (unmanned aircraft), QinetiQ NA (defense) and Sterling (equity investments).

He was Chairman of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (2009-2011) and is a member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Marine Corps League, Navy League of the U.S., Military Officers Association of America, Disabled American Veterans, Association of the US Army, and Jewish War Veterans. He is a past Governor of Israel's Technion engineering and science university.

General Magnus is married to Meredith Edge Magnus, a multi-generation Georgian born in Macon and the daughter of a WWII Marine. They live on St. Simons Island, GA.



**GEORGIA WAR VETERANS HOME**  
**Where Everyday is Veterans Day!!!**



**Georgia War Veterans Home**  
**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

**November 11, 2024 at 11:00 am**



**General Robert Magnus, USMC (Retired)**

Robert Magnus was born on April 28, 1947, in Brooklyn, NY, the youngest child of a bookkeeper and a seamstress. His family moved from Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood to the working class community of Levittown, NY. During his junior year of high school, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve in Freeport, NY.

Recipient of an NROTC scholarship, he graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts degree and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1969. His military training included The Basic School, Naval Air Training Command, Amphibious Warfare School, Command and Staff College, and the National War College. In 1993, he received a Masters in Business Administration from Strayer College.

Including four deployments with the Landing Force, Sixth Fleet, his operational duties included Intelligence Officer, HMM-264; Operations Officer, Legal Officer, HMM-263; H&MS-15 SAR Detachment, Task Force Delta, Nam Phong, Thailand; Training Officer, SOES, MCAS Quantico; Aviation Safety Officer for HMM-261 and MAG-26; Weapons and Tactics Instructor for HMM-261 and MAG-26; Operations Officer, MAG-29; CO, HMM-365; Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and Commanding General, MCAS El Toro and Miramar; and Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Pacific.

General Magnus' staff assignments were Aviation Assault Medium Lift Requirements Officer; Chief, Joint Staff Logistics Readiness Center; Executive Assistant to the Director of the Joint Staff; Head, Aviation Plans and Programs Branch; Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation; Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations; and Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources.

He was the 30th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (2005-2008), retiring after more than 39 years of service. He was the last active-duty Marine Corps officer who had served during the Vietnam War.

(Continued on the Back)

**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

Welcome.....	Russell Feagin, USA (Retired) Executive Director of Health and Memorials Georgia Department of Veterans Service
Invocation and Prayer.....	Willie Duncan, USA, Vietnam Veteran Veteran Council President, 2024
Presentation of Colors.....	Wilkinson County Air Force Junior ROTC Torrance Martin, Senior Master Sergeant, USA (Retired) AFJROTC Instructor, Wilkinson County High School
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Truett Elton, Merchant Marines, Centurian, WWII Veteran, GWVH Resident
National Anthem.....	Rebecca Berry-Joliff, USMC, Veteran Ms. Georgia Senior America, 2023
Introduction of Guests.....	Dennis Mize Executive Director, GWVH
America the Beautiful.....	Claudia Bruner Georgia Hospice Care Liaison
Proclamation.....	Mayor Mary Parham-Copelan First Female Mayor for the City of Milledgeville, GA
Introduction of Speaker.....	Russell Feagin, USA (Retired)
Speaker.....	General Robert Magnus, USMC (Retired)
God Bless American.....	Rebecca Berry-Joliff, USMC, Veteran
Pass in Review.....	The GWVH "Veterans Platoon"
Benediction.....	Willie Duncan, USA, Vietnam Veteran

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY GEORGIA POWER AND WILL BE SERVED IN  
THE BIRDSONG RECREATION CENTER**



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer**

On Thursday October 24, 2024, Kerry Dyer processed 1 new hire packet and 1 resignation packet. He also spoke to Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager regarding the quote for the Balcony Office renovation and the invoice for the window shades. Later that day he contacted Cheryl Talley, Senior Sales Manager, Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah to discuss the accommodations for FY26 National Associations of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) conference.

On Friday, October 25, 2024, Kerry Dyer contacted Roger Richardson, Carl Vinson VAMC Strategic Planner to discuss the opening of the Houston VA Multi-Specialty Clinic. He also spoke with Scott Duncan, Carrollton Furniture CEO about swapping out the desk stands and timeline for the completion of the cubicle installation. Later that day he attended the State Entity Sourcing & Contract Pipeline Workbook Webinar.

On Monday, October 28, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director's meeting. He also processed 1 new hire packet. Later that day he posted the Appeals vacancy externally and internally.

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, Kerry Dyer spoke with Nickole Terrazas, Kepro Account Representative regarding the FY2024 Utilization Report. He also contacted Kathy Skates, Vice President of Administration, Albany Tech to discuss a site visit. Later that day he spoke to Scott Cochran, GBA lead electrician regarding the power disconnection in the cubicles.

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, Kerry Dyer along with Mark Demers attended the Georgia at Work Security Education Overview & Finance Security Role Mapping Session. He also distributed the November Alpha Roster to the Senior Leadership. Later that day he contacted Mr. Austin Taylor, Grovetown Field Office Landlord to discuss some deficiencies with the office.

On Thursday, October 31, 2024, Kerry Dyer along with Mark Demers, Will Wilson met with Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager, Scott Cochran, GBA Electrical Engineer and Scott Duncan, President of Carrollton Furniture to discuss the Power/Data removal & installation for the cubicles. He also processed one new hire packet for the Milledgeville Cemetery.

On Friday November 1, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the 2024 Veterans Day Planning Call along with Reganne Hart, Senate Legislative Liaison & Policy Advisor. Later that day he traveled to Columbus GA to assist with the setup of the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame (GMVHOF) Induction Ceremony.

On Saturday November 2, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the GMVHOF Class 2024 Ceremony in Columbus GA.

On Monday, November 4, 2024, Kerry Dyer contacted Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager to discuss the replacement of the floor electrical outlets. He also attended the Perry VA clinic bi-monthly



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

meeting. Later that day he contacted Ms. Dixie Moss, Gainesville Field Office Landlord to discuss office deficiencies.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, Kerry Dyer spoke to Don Maloney, AT&T Regional Engineer Team Lead regarding the Data/Voice cabling for the Veteran Education Training Division. He also contacted Yettel Jimenez, Vet Center Director, regarding Office Space.

On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Kerry Dyer reviewed and emailed 28 Appeals Resumes to Ed Berry. He also emailed the Agency Sourcing & Contract Pipeline Workbook to DOAS.

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the Annual Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony at the Nathan Deal Judicial Center. Later that day he contacted Mr. Lott, Waycross Field Office Landlord to discuss the Carpet replacement.

On Friday, November 8, Kerry Dyer traveled to Albany Technical College to conduct a site visit for a potential Field Office.

On Tuesday November 12, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director's meeting. He also contacted GBA to discuss the quote for the Carpet Replacement for the Balcony Field Office. Later that day he took the IT Van to get its semi-annual service.

Below are the Personnel Actions Kerry Dyer and Shareka Monday-Robinson processed from October 16, 2024 – November 16, 2024.

Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Atl Balcony	Office Mgr(VFSO2)	Resign	Shaunda Mathieu	10/18/24
Rome	VFSO 1	Resign	ChanDreas Barkley	10/23/24
Rome	VFSO 1	New Hire	April Davenport	11/1/24
Ft. McPherson	VFSO 1	New Hire	Frederick young	11/1/24
Brunswick	Office Mgr (VFSO2)	New Hire	Kaisha Givens	11/16/24

On the horizon: Veterans Field Service Office in the Perry VA Clinic, Fort Eisenhower and Albany Tech.

**Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency)**

- The approval, risk-based surveys, and supervisory visits 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 2,192 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill® educational benefits.

Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	484
Approved Training Establishments	1,708

\* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, WEAMS

\*Source for Veterans Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions has been discontinued due to VA system migration. Will work to find another source.

Ms. Snyder was asked about the access to student numbers being taken away. She said that the chapter 33, the majority of the students, is the number she can no longer access. When she goes to her December meeting in Washington, D.C. she will try to find out where we can get the numbers moving forward.

**Ms. Charlotte May, Director, External Affairs & Communications**

**INFORMATION OUTREACH**

**Division Updates**

1. GDVS Newsletter – The department’s monthly e-newsletter features top stories from the month at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>.
  - a. The October edition featured information on the department’s new Suicide Mortality grant award, a reminder for the We CARE Vet Fair in Marietta, information on how to get assistance with hurricane recovery efforts, a PSA to remain cyber vigilant to avoid scams as we head into the holiday season, a notice from VA about the return of travel pay kiosks to VA clinics, and a spotlight on Employee of the Quarter Denoris Lane in Valdosta.
2. Press releases:



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

- a. Georgia Department of Veterans Service Awarded VA Suicide Mortality Grant – this release highlighted the department’s new grant award and detailed what this will mean for the development of a Suicide Mortality Review Committee in Georgia. This first of its kind grant from VA is a significant achievement for the department and will tie in with existing suicide prevention and awareness efforts.
3. Southeastern Regional Liaison for the Defense State Liaison Office – attended a virtual meeting with Commissioner Ross on October 30 to discuss national and state legislative priorities to support military families. The meeting compared national initiatives Georgia has already achieved in parity with other states, as well as ideas for potential new policies in the future.
4. We CARE Vet Fair – attended the annual Cobb We CARE event on Friday, November 1. Assisted veterans seeking information about state programs, suicide prevention and awareness, and general benefits questions. Referred veterans to additional resources available at the event and assisted them in seeking help with claims from GDVS VSOs present at the event.
5. State of Georgia Veterans Day Ceremony – assisted department staff in setting up, displaying flags, and cleaning up after the Governor’s Veterans Day ceremony at the Nathan Deal Justice Center on November 7, 2024.
6. Benefits outreach – External Affairs and Communications continues to work with GDVS staff and partners to educate Georgia’s veterans and families on the availability of benefits and resources. In addition to providing information on hiring fairs, business building programs, and resource fairs, we focused on several key areas for messaging:
  - a. Veterans Day activities – shared information on activities in multiple areas of the state.
  - b. Berlin Airlift 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – shared an invitation from the Consulate General of Germany and the Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta for a friendship and fellowship gathering on November 19, 2024 to honor veterans who spent time in service in Germany.
  - c. KSU Veterans Legacy Grant Program initiative – shared a press release from our partners at the KSU AMES Center on a new initiative to research and preserve histories of WWII veterans who also participated in the civil rights movement.
  - d. Citizen Honor Awards – the Congressional Medal of Honor Society are seeking nominations for everyday heroes whose selflessness make a profound difference. They provided an invitation for Georgians to submit nominees.

Ms. May highlighted a meeting with the Defense Commissary Agency where she agreed to get some marketing material from them so that we can help advertise that benefit more efficiently.



**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.  
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Public Information Division Contacts** *(Since December 11, 2023)*

- Replies to VA eBenefits Messages = 320
- Replies to General Questions = approximately 570
- Individual Request for the State Certificate of Honor = approximately 110





**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business to discuss.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Lou Zayas announced that MOPH will be providing Thanksgiving lunch at three nursing homes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next Board meeting was scheduled for December 19 at 12:30pm. It will be a combination virtual and in-person meeting, set up at the GDVS.

Mr. Hanley made a motion for the Board to move into Executive Session. Mr. Paslawski seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board moved into Executive Session at 1:06 p.m.

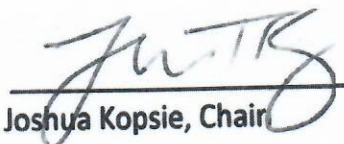
The Board members returned from Executive Session at 2:56 p.m.

Mr. Hanley made a motion that moving forward, all appointments from the Commissioner for Individuals to serve on the Foundation Board must be approved through the Veterans Service Board via three interviews at minimum before any type of vote is taken on that person. Ms. Swan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Swan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:57 p.m.

SIG NED:

  
Joshua Kopsie, Chair

ATI EST:



Steve Mendez, Secretary