



Georgia Department of Veterans Service

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

September 2025

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT: GDVS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT UNIT AT GEORGIA WAR VETERANS HOME – MILLEDGEVILLE

On September 2, 2025, the GDVS hosted the official ribbon cutting of the Transitional Support Unit (TSU) at the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville.

This is the first state-run veteran’s home facility offering skilled nursing care and comprehensive mental and behavioral health services in the nation.

Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp joined state and local officials, veteran service organizations, members of Georgia’s Veteran Service Board, and GDVS staff to recognize and celebrate this milestone achievement for Georgia’s veterans.

The unit will provide comprehensive physical, mental, and behavioral health services to Georgia veterans suffering from a variety of ailments, including PTSD, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and limb amputations.

Veteran patients at the TSU will have access to a range of therapies and services, tailored to their individual needs.

Georgia veterans from all eras of war are eligible for treatment at the TSU after being admitted to the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville for initial treatment. The facility is equipped to serve aging veterans who may not have previously had access to advanced therapeutic services and younger veterans bearing both physical injuries and psychological trauma from the past two decades of warfare.



HOPE IN ACTION: GDVS RECOGNIZES SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH



September’s Suicide Prevention Month kept the Georgia Department of Veterans Service’s Suicide Prevention team in constant motion, with weekly events unfolding across the state to support veterans and their families.

Calandra Ferguson, GDVS Suicide Prevention Coordinator, was elated that GDVS suicide prevention specialists were able to offer consistent support and outreach to veterans and their families across the state.

“While suicide prevention is recognized throughout September, our team and the Governors Challenge Task Force work tirelessly throughout the year to educate others and spread awareness of help available to anyone in crisis,” said Ferguson.

The GDVS helped support activities like a Suicide Prevention Walk in Lagrange; a Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk/Run in Gainesville; a Veterans Health Fair in Fairburn; a Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Rho Sigma Omega Chapter sponsored suicide prevention awareness event in Americus; a Norfolk Southern Railways Mental Health Briefing in Atlanta; and the VA’s annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk-n-Roll in Decatur.



GEORGIA JOINS HERENOW HELP NETWORK

HereNOW Help is now available at no charge to Georgia’s veterans.

HereNOW Help is a mobile mental and behavioral health application which offers a holistic and personalized approach to mental health support.

Veterans are able to understand, track, and improve their mental health and resilience while using the app.

A key part of the HereNOW Help app is community engagement. Veterans are able to join forums and talk with their fellow veterans with similar experiences, like the same branch or era of service, from around the state.

Users have free 24/7/365 access to a network of licensed peer coaches and licensed mental health professionals. There are also hot links to national crisis management resources.

Learn more and download the app at <https://herenowhelp.com/veterans/>.



SUPPORT IN ACTION: COLUMBUS HOSTS FIRST WE CARE VETERANS FAIR

Georgia’s largest veterans resource fair opened its doors for the first time to the military community in Columbus on September 12, 2025.

Hosted by United Military Care, the We CARE Veterans Resource Fair provided assistance to over 2,000 veterans who attended free of charge.

Over 100 local, state, and federal organizations were in attendance to provide help with legal issues, housing assistance, financial management, employment, nutrition, and more.

GDVS Veterans Service Officers were available on-site to help answer questions about veterans benefits and provide same day assistance with claims or appeals.

“The goal was to change or positively impact at least one person. We helped over 120. It was a phenomenal event,” said Sherri Whitfield, GDVS South Regional Director. “We look forward to continuing the momentum at the next We CARE event.”

