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**For Immediate Release**  
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**DELAWARE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE DEDICATED**  
**Upgraded Veterans Services, Military Displays Unveiled**

The relocated Delaware County Veterans Affairs office to provide easy access for veterans was dedicated Oct. 18 with the unveiling of a display of military articles on loan from the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum.

County Council Chairman Jack Whelan said the prominent new location in the lobby of the Government Center, adjacent to the Courthouse, Media, is the final step in an upgrade of service and outreach established to help veterans access benefits and programs to which they are entitled because of their military service.

“We have introduced a VIMS system, the Veterans Information Management System, to assist veterans,” Whelan said. “The system is used extensively to help veterans by maintaining vital information of veteran clients, preparing computer-generated forms, extracting data to assist in filing claims and other forms, tracking actions and maintaining data.

“An upgrade of the veterans webpage on the County website provides links for county, state and federal programs, information about other programs and links for forms and publications. Veterans outreach seminars are being conducted to alert those who come in contact with veterans through education and other activities of the services that are available.”

The Veterans Affairs webpage can be accessed on the Delaware County website at [www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us) and going to Veterans Affairs under “departments” on the home page.

Articles on display from the Veterans Museum features items from as far back as the Spanish-American War of 1898 and includes World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and up to the present time.

It is a companion to the Armed Services Tribute Board placed by County employees in the Government Center lobby which features photographs of Delaware County residents who are currently serving in hostile areas in the world such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Any visitor who enters the Government Center lobby is greeted by these tributes to those serving in the military today and to those who served in all our nation’s wars, even those remembered only in history,” Whelan said.

Joining in the dedication, hosted by Councilman Mario J. Civera Jr., a veteran of the U. S. Air Force, were County Veterans Liaison Ralph Galati, a former Air Force fighter pilot and Prisoner of War in Vietnam, who joined the staff this year to implement a veterans outreach program, and a Vietnam veteran, Tom Clay, who has been served by the county office.

An honor guard from the 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, a World War II Living History Association, stood during the dedication ceremony in tribute to those who served heroically in the American armed forces.