Delaware County
Department
of Veterans Affairs

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OVERVIEW
RALPH W. GALATI
VETERANS LIAISON
September 2011
“We applaud your service,  
Honor your sacrifice,  
Admire your courage”

Delaware County Veterans Affairs is Honored to Serve Veterans and their Families with Dignity, Respect and a Commitment to Excellence

OUR MISSION:

• Increase awareness of all benefits for Delaware County Veterans and their dependents
• Provide the best advice and assistance in obtaining benefits for Veterans and their dependents
• Act as an Advocate for Veterans and their families so they receive all the benefits to which they are entitled

“To Care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan” (Abraham Lincoln)
Program Description

The Delaware County Department of Veterans Affairs will assist Veterans and their families by providing information and guidance concerning Federal, State and Local benefits.
Our office will assist you in document preparation and forms completion for submission of claims and benefits.
Our office will serve as an advocate for county Veterans and their families as they apply for eligible benefits.
Delaware County Veterans Affairs

Services We Provide

• Increase awareness of all benefits for county veterans and families
• Interview, Counsel and Assist veterans and their dependents to determine eligibility, and in applying for entitled Federal, State and County benefits
• Record and maintain records and files for all enrolled veterans and their dependents
• Provide personalized service and one-on-one interviews with veterans and their dependents
• Provide Readjustment and Transition support for Combat Veterans and their families
• Serve as a single-point-of-contact to Veterans for all their benefits and services
The following charts provide expanded details on County, State and Federal veterans programs. These are examples only.

This presentation is provided for your information only, and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all veterans benefits.

All benefits require significant documentation and proof of eligibility.

If you have any questions, or need more information on specific programs, benefits and eligibility, please contact our office.
Veterans Affairs
Fact Sheet

- 24 million veterans today (7.5% are women)
- 37 million dependents
- Percentage of veterans >65 years of age = 39.1%
- 150,000 veterans are homeless
- Suicide rate is > 3x higher than general population
- > 20% suffer from PTSD
VA Programs

Key Definitions

- **Armed Forces** – the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, including their Reserve components
- **Veteran** – a person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- **War Veteran** – served in the active military, naval or air service during a period of war
- **Combat Veteran** – served on active duty in a theater of combat operations
- **Dependents** – generally are surviving spouse, children under 18 years of age, and parents (if depended on veteran for >50% support)
- **Discharge** – multiple categories:
  - Honorable
  - General
  - Other Than Honorable
  - Bad Conduct
  - Dishonorable
VA Programs

Key Terms

- **Disability Compensation** – monthly payment if at least 10% disabled due to military service
- **Disability Pension** – wartime veteran with limited or no income, permanently/totally disabled, and 65 or older. Or, if under 65 and permanently/totally disabled.
  - **Aid and Attendance** – paid in addition to Pension
  - **Housebound** – paid in addition to Pension
- **Post-9/11 GI Bill** – education program for those who served on or after Sept 11, 2001
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- **Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** – survivor monthly benefit
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- **Vocational Rehabilitation** – program to help veterans with service-connected disabilities
Key documents needed for most applications

- DD-214
  - Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
  - WD AGO form used prior to 1950
- Or, Military Service Records
- Birth Certificate, or proof of US citizenship
- Dependent children Birth Certificate, if under 18 years of age
- Marriage License
- Death Certificate
- W-2 and/or Tax Form 1040
- Medical Records

*All benefits are subject to eligibility criteria*
Delaware County VA Programs *

DD 214 Registration
The DD-214 is your official Report of Separation from the military. It is needed to secure many veterans benefits. We encourage all Veterans to register a copy of their DD-214 with the Delaware County Recorder of Deeds so that an official copy is available on demand.

Burial Expenses
The County provides for a wide array of burial and memorial benefits. These include:
- Burial Reimbursement for Wartime Veterans ($75)
- Headstone Foundation Reimbursement ($25)

Grave Markers / Flag Holders
These are available at the County Veterans Affairs Office. We have one for every conflict, going back to the Civil War. If you require a large quantity, please call ahead to ensure we have adequate supply.

Claims Assistance
Our office should serve as a clearinghouse for your veterans benefits applications. We will help you file for all entitled benefits, whether they are provided by the County, State of PA, or the VA.

Tribute Wall
The Delaware County Tribute Wall, prominently located in the Government Center lobby, is meant to acknowledge and honor our brave men and women serving in the Armed Services. Families are encouraged to notify us of their Servicemember’s deployments so that we can refresh our Wall on a regular basis.

Family and Dependent Assistance
There are many benefits available to the families of Veterans. They include:
- Death Pension
- Education Assistance
- Health Care
To determine eligibility, and get further information, please contact our Office.

* Subject to Eligibility
PA State VA Programs *

- Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption
- Pension Benefits (Blind, Paralyzed)
- Education Gratuity
- Emergency Assistance
- Persian Gulf Veterans Benefit Program
- State Veterans Homes (see next page)
- State Grants for Education
- Military Records Management
- Disabled Veterans Hunting/Fishing License
- Disabled Veterans License Plates
- Transition Assistance & Employment Benefits
- Burial and Memorial Benefits

* Subject to Eligibility
Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs

• Pennsylvania Veterans Homes
US Federal VA Programs *

- VA Health Care and Medical Benefits
- VA Disability and Pension Benefits
- VA Burial and Memorials
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Home Loan Guaranty
- GI Bill – Education
- Dependents and Survivors Benefits
- Insurance Programs
- Missing Military Documents/Awards/Medals
- Returning Service Members - OEF / OIF
- Benefits Before Discharge and Career Transition

* Subject to Eligibility
Additional Veterans Programs

- Benefits Delivery at Discharge
- Assistance for Homeless Veterans
- Specially Adapted Housing Program
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business
- Transition Assistance
- OEF / OIF Returnees
- Copy of Military Records
- Military License Plates
- Former Prisoners of War
Veterans Issues

- Jobs
- Health Care (Including Mental Health, Drugs, etc)
- Family Support (Especially during Deployment)
- Homeless Programs
- Suicide Prevention
- Advocacy (Single Point of Contact)
- Knowledge of, and Access to, VA Benefits and Programs
- Social Security Disability
- Education Programs (Including GI Bill)
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Programs and Benefits
- Financial Support and Counseling
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Transition Assistance (Post-Deployment; Post-Military Service)
- Memorials and Burial Assistance
- Pension and Disability Insurance
- Survivor Benefits
- Obtaining a Copy of Military Records
- Application for Service Medal, Award or Decoration
Delaware County Department of Veterans Affairs Salutes Our Clients
Recent Findings – FY10 GDX

- GDX is VA Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures
- FY10 Findings
  - US Veterans = 22,568,578
  - US Expenditures = $108.6B
  - PA Veterans = 964,132 (4th Highest in US)
  - PA Expenditures = $3.8B (6th Highest in US)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>FY09</th>
<th>FY08</th>
<th>FY07</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA Veterans</td>
<td>964,132</td>
<td>995,135</td>
<td>1,025,770</td>
<td>1,057,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA $$ Expend.</td>
<td>$ 3.8B</td>
<td>$ 3.5B</td>
<td>$ 3.1B</td>
<td>$ 2.8B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Delaware County Profile

- # Veterans = 35,982 (5th in PA)
- $ Expenditures = $ 114.377M (7th in PA)
  - Comp & Pension = $ 53.592M (6th)
  - Educ & Voc Rehab/Empl = $ 8.658M (6th)
  - Insur & Indemnities = $ 3.948M (4th)
  - Medical Care = $ 48.180M (7th)
  - Unique Patients = $ 6.866M (12th)
  - Treated at a VA Medical Facility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Allegheny</th>
<th>Phila.</th>
<th>Montgomery</th>
<th>Bucks</th>
<th>Delaware</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Veterans</td>
<td>98,217</td>
<td>76,382</td>
<td>52,116</td>
<td>47,718</td>
<td>35,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$$ Expend.</td>
<td>$ 561.5M</td>
<td>$ 590.6M</td>
<td>$ 123.2M</td>
<td>$ 109.5M</td>
<td>$ 114.4M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent Findings – 2009 Census
Delaware County

U.S. Census Bureau (2009)
- 38,264 Veterans (8.9% of County Population)
  (Down from 11.3% in 2005)
  - 13.8% = Gulf War I and II
  - 33.7% = Vietnam Era
  - 10.5% = Korea
  - 18.2% = WWII
- 96.2% Male; 3.8% Female
- 24.6% Under age 55
- 26% Have College Degree
Recent Findings (Census Cont)

• 2009 Census (Cont)
  – 23.3% Have Some Disability
  – 84.4% White; 14.8% Black
• PA is ranked 33\text{rd} of all States with Percent of Civilian Population, 18 Years of Age or Older Who are Veterans – 10.1%
  – High = Alaska (14.1%)
  – Low = New York (6.6%)
  – US Average = 9.5%
Veterans Issues

- Jobs
- Health Care (Including Mental Health, Drugs, etc)
- Family Support (Especially during Deployment)
- Homeless Programs
- Suicide Prevention
- Advocacy (Single Point of Contact)
- Knowledge of, and Access to, VA Benefits and Programs
- Social Security Disability
- Education Programs (Including GI Bill)
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- Life Insurance
- Transition Assistance (Post-Deployment; Post-Military Service)
- Memorials and Burial Assistance
- Pension and Disability Insurance
- Survivor Benefits
- Obtaining a Copy of Military Records
- Application for Service Medal, Award or Decoration

November 4, 2011

Delaware County Veterans Affairs
• Number of veterans: 995,135
• VA expenditures in Pennsylvania: $3.7 billion
  - Compensation and pensions: $1.5 billion
  - Readjustment benefits: $93 million
  - Medical and construction programs: $1.9 billion
  - Insurance and indemnities: $60 million
• Number of veterans receiving disability compensation or pension payments: 109,172
• Number of Pennsylvania veterans using GI Bill education benefits: 13,011
• Number of home loans in Pennsylvania backed by VA guarantees: 6,283
• Value of Pennsylvania home loans guaranteed by VA: $1.2 billion
• Number of VA life insurance policies held by Pennsylvania residents: 67,675
• Value of VA life insurance policies held by Pennsylvania residents: $746 million
• Number of Pennsylvania participants in VA vocational rehabilitation: 1,895
• Number of veterans buried in Pennsylvania’s VA national cemeteries: 2,956
• Number of headstones and markers provided for graves of Pennsylvania veterans and survivors: 13,052
Inpatient admissions, statewide, fiscal year 2009: 27,243

- Altoona: 959
- Butler: 522
- Coatesville: 2,950
- Erie: 1,441
- Lebanon: 3,153
- Philadelphia: 5,490
- Pittsburgh (including Highland Drive and University Drive): 9,504
- Wilkes-Barre: 3,224

Outpatient visits, statewide, fiscal year 2009: 2,550,000
Veterans Affairs
PA – Vet Centers

- **Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers (Vet Centers) Locations:**
  - Bristol
  - DuBois
  - Erie
  - Harrisburg
  - Lancaster
  - McKeansport
  - Norristown
  - Philadelphia (2)
  - Pittsburgh
  - Scranton
  - Williamsport
Veterans Affairs
PA - Claims

Disabilities and Pensions - Pennsylvania

– Number of veterans receiving monthly disability compensation: 94,917
– Number of VA pensions to veterans in Pennsylvania: 14,255
– Number of disability compensation claims processed: 27,511
Veterans Affairs
PA – Memorial Benefits

- **Memorial Affairs – Pennsylvania**
  - National cemetery burials in Pennsylvania, 2009: 2,956
  - *Allegheny Cemetery Soldiers' Lot* - 0
  - *Ashland Cemetery Soldiers' Lot* - 0
  - *Indiantown Gap National Cemetery* – 2,009
  - *Mount Moriah Cemetery Soldiers' Lot* - 0
  - *Mount Moriah Cemetery Naval Plot* - 0
  - *National Cemetery of the Alleghenies* - 941
  - *Philadelphia National Cemetery* - 6
  - *Prospect Hill Cemetery Soldiers’ Lot* - 0
  - *Washington Crossing National Cemetery* – 0 not open in 2009

- **Headstones and markers provided in 2009 (statewide):** 13,052
- **Presidential Memorial Certificates issued in 2009 (statewide):** 27,276
Veterans Affairs  
Fact Sheet

- 24 million veterans today (7.5% are women) 
- 37 million dependents 
- Percentage of veterans >65 years of age = 39.1% 
- 150,000 veterans are homeless 
- Suicide rate is > 3x higher than general population 
- > 20% suffer from PTSD
36% of the Veteran population received VA benefits and services in FY08

As of 9/30/08, the estimated number of living Veterans was 23,440,000

8,493,700 received VA benefits and services in FY 2008
# Veterans Affairs History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War / Conflict</th>
<th># Served</th>
<th># Deaths</th>
<th># Wounded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revolutionary War (1775-1783)</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>4,435</td>
<td>6,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War of 1812 (1812-1815)</td>
<td>286,730</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>4,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican War (1846-1848)</td>
<td>78,718</td>
<td>13,283</td>
<td>4,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil War (1861-1865)</td>
<td>3,200,000</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>480,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish-American War (1898-1901)</td>
<td>306,760</td>
<td>2,446</td>
<td>1,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War I (1917-1918)</td>
<td>4,734,991</td>
<td>116,516</td>
<td>204,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World War II (1941-1946)</td>
<td>16,112,566</td>
<td>405,399</td>
<td>670,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean War (1950-1953)</td>
<td>5,720,000</td>
<td>36,574</td>
<td>103,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam Conflict (1964-1973)</td>
<td>8,744,000</td>
<td>58,220</td>
<td>303,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)</td>
<td>2,225,000</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global War on Terror (2001-)</td>
<td>2,300,000</td>
<td>5,813</td>
<td>37,000</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Veterans Affairs History

- **Veterans Administration** established July 21, 1930
- **GI Bill of Rights** (Serviceman’s Readjustment Act) – June 22, 1944
  Benefits for: Education, Home Loans, Unemployment Comp.
  - 1944-1956 - 7.8m Vets received training
  - 5.9m Home Loan Guarantees @ $50.1B
  - Veterans Preference Act of 1944 – Help Vets secure Federal jobs
- Vocational Rehabilitation Act – June 1950
- Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952 (**Korean GI Bill**)
  - Help with: Unemployment Ins., Job Placement, Home Loans
- Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 (**Vietnam GI Bill**)
  - Trained 5.5m Veterans
- Post-Vietnam Era (>1976)
  - Veterans Health Care Amendments Act of 1979 – Formed **Vet Centers**
  - Veterans Education Assistance Act of 1984 (**Montgomery GI Bill**)
Veterans Affairs
History

- VA elevated to Cabinet level status – President Reagan, 1988
- Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 – Programs for Women veterans
- Center for Minority Veterans – 1994
- Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) – 22 formed in 1995
- 75th Anniversary of VA – 2005
- Today:
  - > 24m Veterans (75% are War Veterans)
  - 63m Citizens are eligible for VA Benefits/Services
  - > 21m Veterans and families have used GI Bill benefits
  - 150 VA Medical Centers, 1300 Site of Care
  - 200 Veterans Centers
  - Affiliated with > 105 Medical Schools
  - 18m VA Home Loan Guarantees
  - 1.4m new Veterans since 2001 (Global War on Terror)
The following charts provide expanded details on County, State and Federal veterans programs. These are examples only.

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- Marriage License
- Death Certificate
- W-2 and/or Tax Form 1040
- Medical Records

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VA Programs
Health & Medical

- **Eligibility**
  - Active Duty + Honorable Discharge
  - Guard/Reserve on Active Duty, other than Training
  - Enlistments after Sept 7, 1980 or Active Duty after Oct 16, 1981 must have served 24 continuous months (or full period of call-up)
  - Enhanced “Combat Veterans” benefit (Discharged after Nov 11, 1998)
    - Some 5 year restrictions apply

- **Priority Groups**
  - Based on Disability, Medical Conditions and/or Income
  - Groups 1 through 8

- **Costs**
  - Co-Pays may apply depending on Priority Group
  - VA required to bill private insurance providers (not Medicare)
## VA Programs
### Health and Medical

### Priority Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Service Connected Disability 50% or More Determination of unemployability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Service Connected Disability of 30% or 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Service Connected Disability of 10% and 20% Former POWs, Purple Heart recipients. Discharge for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Receiving Aid and Attendance or Housebound Determined to be catastrophically disabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Receiving VA pension benefits or eligible for Medicaid Non service-connected and non-compensable zero percent veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income threshold (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to co-pays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Veterans with gross household income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and the geographic income threshold and who agree to co-pays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disability Compensation

- Monetary benefit paid for disabling injury/illness incurred or aggravated during active military service. These are considered Service-Connected.
- Compensation varies with the degree of disability and number of veteran’s dependents. Income is not a consideration.
- Disability Ratings range from 0% to 100%.
- Additional special compensation available for severe disabilities.
- Benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.
- Some Presumptive Conditions may also apply:
  - ALS
  - Agent Orange
  - Herbicides
  - Prisoners of War
  - Radiation Exposure
  - Radiation Exposure
  - Programs and Allowances available:
    - Vocational Rehab
    - Specially Adapted Housing
    - Automobile
    - Clothing
    - Aid & Attendance
## VA Programs
### Service-Connected Disabilities

#### Compensation Rating Table (Veteran Alone)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability Rating</th>
<th>Monthly Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$ 123.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>$ 243.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>$ 376.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>$ 541.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$ 770.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>$ 974.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>$ 1228.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>$ 1427.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>$ 1604.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$ 2673.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disability Pension

- Veterans with low income (See Table)
- Permanently and totally disabled
- Or age 65 and older
- Must have 90 days or more of Active Military service + at least one day of which was during a period of war
- If entered Active Duty after Sept 8, 1980 – may have to meet longer minimum period of Active Duty
- Payments are reduced depending on countable income of the veteran, spouse and dependent children
- Pension reduced if veteran is without spouse or child, and is furnished nursing home or domiciliary care by VA
• Medal of Honor Pension
• Special Monthly Pension – Aid and Attendance
  – Veteran is a patient in a nursing home; is helpless or blind; or nearly so as to require the regular aid and attendance of another person
• Special Monthly Pension – Housebound
  – Veteran has a single disability rated as permanently 100% disabling and
    • Has additional disabilities rated 60% or more, or
    • Is permanently housebound but does not qualify for A&A
• Income and Net Worth considerations may apply
Income Limits (Veteran and Dependent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Annual Pension Rate Category</th>
<th>Max Yearly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Alone</td>
<td>$11,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Alone with Housebound</td>
<td>$14,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran and Dependent</td>
<td>$15,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran and Dependent with Housebound</td>
<td>$18,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran Alone with Aid and Attendance</td>
<td>$19,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran and Dependent with Aid &amp; Attendance</td>
<td>$23,396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Post-9/11 GI Bill

- Servicemembers and veterans who served on active duty on or after Sept 11, 2001
- Eligibility requirements for servicemember or veteran:
  - Serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after Sept 11, 2001
  - And, remain on active duty or be honorably discharged/released
  - Or – honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after Sept 11, 2001
- Generally, receive up to 36 months of entitlement
- Eligibility for benefits expires 15 years from last period of active duty
- Benefits can be used for any approved program offered by a school in the US that is authorized to grant an associate (or higher) degree
- Breadth of entitlements depend on length of active duty service
- Transfer of entitlement may be offered to spouse or dependent children for members of Armed Forces on or after Aug 1, 2009
VA Programs
Education and Training (Cont)

• Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program
  – Assist with payment of tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed
    the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution
    of higher education
  – VA and schools must jointly participate

• Work-Study Program
  – Work for VA and receive hourly wages
  – Must train at the three-quarter rate of pursuit or higher

• Education Assistance Programs
  – Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)
  – Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP)
  – Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
VA Programs
Home Loan Guaranty

• For servicemembers, veterans, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses
• Help to obtain homes, condos, etc., and to refinance loans
• VA Guaranty helps protect lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan
• **Eligibility:**
  – Most active duty personnel and combat era veterans
  – Discharge under other than dishonorable conditions
  – Good credit rating
  – Sufficient income
  – Valid Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
  – Agree to live in the property
• VA Guaranty amount varies with the size of loan and location of the property
• Borrowers do not need to make a down payment, provide they have enough home loan entitlement
VA Programs
VA Life Insurance

• Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI @ $400,000)
  – Active Duty (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard)
  – Several other categories (Service Academies, ROTC, Guard/Reserve)
• SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection
• SGLI Family Coverage
• Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)
  – Can be converted from SGLI
• Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance (S-DVI)
• Veterans’ Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)
VA Programs
Burial and Memorial Benefits

• Eligibility
  – Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable
  – Servicemembers who die while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training
  – Spouses and dependent children of Veterans and active duty servicemembers

• Burial in VA National Cemeteries
  – 131 national cemeteries
  – No cost to family, and includes gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, headstone or marker, and perpetual care
  – For Veterans, also includes a burial flag and military funeral honors
VA Programs
Burial and Memorial Benefits (Cont)

• Headstones and Markers
  – For graves at any cemetery – National, State Veterans, or Private
  – No cost to Veteran
  – Includes inscription

• Presidential Memorial Certificate and Medallion
  – Provided to next of kin

• Burial Flags

• Reimbursement of Burial Expenses
  – Up to $2,000 if Veteran’s death is service-connected

• Burial Allowance
  – $300 for Veteran entitled to receive pension or compensation

• Plot Allowance
  – $300 for Veteran buried in a cemetery not under US government jurisdiction

• Military Funeral Honors
VA Programs
Reserve and National Guard

• Reservists
  – When serve on active duty may be eligible for full-range of VA benefits depending on length of service and discharge status

• National Guard
  – If activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency

• Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
  – Educational assistance to Guard and Reservists who are called to active duty
VA Programs
Special Groups of Veterans

• Homeless Veterans
  – VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program
    • Case management and residential treatment in the community
  – National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)
    • 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)
  – VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program
    • Funds to non-profit community agencies providing transitional housing and/or offering services to homeless veterans
  – Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supported Housing
    • Permanent housing and ongoing case management
  – Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans Program
  – VA’s Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence
  – Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans Program

• Incarcerated Veterans
  – Benefits affected if convicted of felony and imprisoned >60 days
VA Programs
Transition Assistance

• Joint Transition Assistance
  – Combined effort of Dept of VA, Dept of Defense, Dept of Labor
  – National Resource Directory – provides access to resources across national, state and local levels to support Recovery, Rehabilitation and Community Reintegration

• Transition from Military to VA
  – Focus on OEF / OIF servicemembers
  – Transition Assistance Program
    • 3 day workshops at military installations
  – Pre-Discharge Program
    • Joint VA and DoD program to file benefits claims prior to separation
    • Benefits Delivery at Discharge and Quick Start programs

• Federal Recovery Coordination Program
  – Joint VA and DoD program
  – Coordinate program/service for seriously injured servicemembers
VA Programs
Transition Assistance (cont)

• Pre-Separation Counseling
• Verification of Military Experience and Training
• Educational and Vocational Counseling
• Veterans Workforce Investment Program
• State Employment Services
• Unemployment Compensation
• Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs
• VA Center for Veterans Enterprise (Small Business)
VA Programs
Dependents and Survivors Benefits
Overview

VA Office of Survivors Assistance
- Bereavement Counseling
- Dependents and Survivors Benefits
  - Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
  - Death Pension
  - Home Loan Guaranty
  - Life Insurance
  - Death Gratuity
  - Education Benefits
  - Health Insurance (CHAMPVA)
  - Burial and Memorial Benefits

* All benefits are subject to eligibility criteria *

November 4, 2011
Delaware County Veterans Affairs
### VA Programs

#### Death Pension

Income Limits (Examples)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Annual Pension Rate Category</th>
<th>Annual Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Spouse Without Dependent Child</td>
<td>$7,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Spouse Without Dependent Child With Aid and Attendance</td>
<td>$12,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surviving Spouse Without Dependent Child With Housebound</td>
<td>$9,696</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VA Programs
Dependents and Survivors Health Care

• Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
  – Eligibility:
  • Not eligible for TRICARE (DoD program for civilian dependents)
  • Spouse or child of Veteran rated permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disability
  • Surviving spouse or child of Veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, or who, at time of death, was rated permanently and totally disabled
  • Surviving spouse or child of Veteran who died on active duty service and in the line of duty, not due to misconduct
  – CHAMPVA is secondary payer to Medicare
• Bereavement Counseling
VA Programs
Dependents and Survivors Benefits

• **Death Gratuity Payment**
  – $100,000 to next of kin of servicemembers who die while on active duty (including those who die within 120 days of separation) as a result of service-connected injury or illness

• **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**
  – Primary monthly benefit for surviving dependents of deceased Veteran
  – Survivor Eligibility (not income based):
    • Veterans death must have resulted from one of the following causes:
      – Disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty
      – Injury, heart attack, cardiac arrest, or stroke incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty
      – A service-connected disability or a condition directly related to a service-connected disability
      – Some cases of non service-connected injury or disease

• **Death Pension**
  – Pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service. Income and net worth must be within specified limits; and Veterans death is not service-related
• Dependents’ Educational Assistance
  – Eligibility for qualifying dependents:
    • Spouse or child of a servicemember or veteran who either died of a service-connected disability, or who has permanent and total service-connected disability, or who died while such a disability existed
    • Spouse or child of a servicemember listed for more than 90 days as currently Missing in Action, captured in the line of duty, or detained or interned by a foreign government or power
    • Spouse or child of a servicemember who is hospitalized or is receiving outpatient care or treatment for a disability that is determined to be totally and permanently disabling, incurred or aggravated due to active duty, and for which the servicemember is likely to be discharged from military service

• Montgomery GI Bill Death Benefit
• Children of Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects, or Children of Vietnam or Korean Veterans Born with Spina Bifida
Social Security
Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors

• Military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security

• Expedited processing is used for servicemembers who become disabled while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001

• State Disability Determination Service determines whether impairment is disabling under Social Security Act