

ANNUAL REPORT



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 1, 2005—June 30, 2006

December 31, 2006

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Annual Report



2005-2006

Table of Contents	3
Executive Director's Message	4
I. Mission, Vision, and Core Values	5
II. Overview	6
III. Significant Events, July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006	11
IV. Divisions and Equivalents of the Department of Veterans' Affairs	15
Division of Benefits and Assistance	
State Veterans' Homes Program	
Division of Administration and Public Information	
Information Technology	
V. Department Expenditure Report	23
Appendices	
Appendix I	24
Actions Taken by the Department Relevant to s 292.05(4), (5), and (7) Florida Statutes	
Appendix II	26
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Staff	
Appendix III	30
Associated Veterans' Service Organizations	
Appendix IV	31
Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs	
Appendix V	32
Certified County/City Veteran Service Officers	
Appendix VI	38
County Veterans Population & Monetary Benefits	
Appendix VII	44
Annual Report, State Veterans' Domiciliary Home, Lake City	
Appendix VIII	46
Annual Report, State Veterans' Nursing Home, Daytona Beach	
Appendix IX	48
Annual Report, State Veterans' Nursing Home, Land O' Lakes	
Appendix X	50
Annual Report, State Veterans' Nursing Home, Pembroke Pines	
Appendix XI	52
Annual Report, State Veterans' Nursing Home, Springfield	
Appendix XII	54
Annual Report, State Veterans' Nursing Home, Port Charlotte	

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

December 31, 2006

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) is responsible for the coordination of assistance to veterans and their families. This Annual Report summarizes the major areas of service provided to veterans by the department. It highlights the assistance made available to help veterans gain access to earned federal benefits; it summarizes the high quality operations of the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home and five State Veterans' Nursing Homes in providing long-term care services for eligible veterans; and, it relates other successes FDVA has achieved during 2006.

FDVA continues to expand veterans' facilities and services in Florida. FDVA has undertaken growth in the State Veterans' Homes Program providing by high quality assisted living and skilled nursing home care to veterans in six state veterans' homes. A 15.3 acre site for a sixth new 120-bed State Veterans' Nursing Home (SVNH) proffered by St. Johns County was approved by the Governor and Cabinet. The legislature funded the state's 35% share of the \$17 million dollar construction cost in FY 2006-2007. The corresponding 65% federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) has been applied for and is dependent upon Congressional appropriation.

The USDVA in both Washington, DC and in Florida continues to enhance facilities and services with the 109th Congress authorization for a new VA Medical Center in Orlando, a new 238 bed tower at the Gainesville VA Medical Center, and a new VA Outpatient Clinic in the Cape Coral area. The VA will also study the need for a VA hospital in the Eglin AFB area of the Florida Panhandle. The VA continues to implement CARES Commission recommendations for new VA Outpatient Clinics opening them in Port Charlotte, and The Villages in Lake County, and planning for others in Marianna, Palatka, and Camden, GA (North of Jacksonville) in the near future.

FDVA has initiated new outreach programs to contact more of the veteran population in Florida. Florida's military service members continue to return to Florida along with veterans from other states. Over 13,000 veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) are enrolled for health care services in six major USDVA medical centers and 35 clinics in Florida. A major goal for the immediate future is to enhance communications and outreach efforts within veterans' communities and organizations in Florida.

The USDVA continues to be challenged in processing large volumes of veterans' benefits claims and appeals. The return of thousands of active duty, reserve, and National Guard military personnel to Florida will directly impact the mission of FDVA serving new and previous veterans and their families. FDVA is maintaining quality representation before the Veterans Benefits Administration even with the increasing veteran population in Florida.

Florida's state veterans' service programs enhance the ability of our veterans to receive earned federal benefits. In 2006, Governor Bush directed enhanced support to severely injured veterans. FDVA has piloted a new program which enables early identification, tracking, and support to this special group of seriously wounded veterans and the families of the fallen. FDVA leads in coordinating state agency responses to veterans needing transition and family assistance, employment assistance, education opportunities, and local community support upon their return.

FDVA envisions continued growth of support services to assist veterans in the pursuit of all available federal resources to maximize delivery of federal benefits due Florida's veterans which might otherwise require funding by state government. We will enhance outreach efforts to ensure the contributions veterans have made to the nation are recognized, and veterans know about and can access the benefits they have earned by virtue of their military service to our nation.



Warren R. McPherson
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

MISSION

Veterans' Advocacy

VISION

Help Florida veterans, their families and survivors to improve their health and economic wellbeing through quality benefit information, advocacy, education, and long-term health services.

CORE VALUES

Shaping the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs for the 21st Century

Quality of Services

Cost-Effective Operation

Accessing Resources

Customer Satisfaction and Perception of Service

Collaboration and Information Sharing

Employee Satisfaction

External Awareness of FDVA

We:

- Are a repository for state and national values with respect to military veterans, their families and survivors. Loyalty, duty, selfless service, integrity, respect for human dignity and a sense of justice are essential parts of our identity.
- Draw on the rich history of American veterans and their unique contributions for inspiration and direction.
- Encourage all employees in FDVA to be imaginative, innovative, and flexible.

We will:

- Inform Florida citizens and their leaders why we exist and the positive outcomes Florida veterans derive from our services.
- Be a multi-dimensional, comprehensive resource for Florida veterans.
- Strengthen relationships with veterans and stakeholders to improve programs and access to new resources.

We are committed to:

- Respecting the dignity of each individual with no tolerance for bigotry or sexual harassment.
- Open and effective communication that builds trust and improves performance.

II. OVERVIEW

Since 1944, the State of Florida has recognized the need for a state government entity to ensure that Florida's military veterans have maximum access to benefits guaranteed by federal law. In 1988, the citizenry of Florida favorably endorsed a constitutional amendment to create a separate agency, the FDVA, with the charter to provide advocacy and representation for Florida's veterans in their dealings with the USDVA. It is useful to reflect on *why* Florida has an agency to advocate for veterans. *There are two fundamental reasons:* The first has to do with the public policy of honoring veterans whose contributions over the years have guaranteed the freedoms we all enjoy in our nation today. The other reason is such advocacy correspondingly increases federal benefits for Florida's veterans, raises the quality of life for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and provides access to federally-funded medical care for eligible veterans.



Florida's Korean War Veterans' Memorial
Tallahassee

The FDVA Annual Report reflects the department's vision to help Florida veterans, their families and survivors to improve their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy, education, and long-term care services. We continue the vision of Governor Bush to make government more responsive and more accessible to Florida's citizens. We provide assistance to the highest number of disabled veterans in America and daily support for many of Florida's **almost 1.8 million** veterans and their families.

The Global War On Terror and the ongoing goal of the establishment of democracy in Iraq is impacting both the nation's and Florida's veterans. The national involvement of hundreds of thousands of active duty, reserve, and National Guard military personnel will also directly impact the mission of the FDVA in its attempt to serve new veterans and their families. The Florida National Guard states that overall, Florida had the third highest number of servicemembers deployed at the start of the conflict in Iraq. Currently, more than 13,000 veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) are enrolled in USDVA health care facilities in Florida. Florida has more than 21,000 veterans from the OIF and OEF era.

FDVA takes pride in helping all veterans, regardless of age or gender, and their families. FDVA continues to support veterans from all past conflicts as well as directly handling the claims of new OIF and OEF combat veterans.

Honoring Veterans

Dating back to colonial times, America has maintained a commitment to address and resolve the needs of citizens who have served in its Armed Forces. In order to encourage enlistments, keep morale up, and reduce the number of deserters, the Continental Congress, by means of a resolution passed on August 26, 1776, promised pensions to soldiers and officers who were disabled during the course of service.

From relatively meager beginnings, this nation's present day commitment to veterans now exceeds \$73 billion annually. This includes an increase in spending of over 65% in the Veterans Health Administration budget since fiscal year 2001. Almost 1.8 million veterans now call Florida home. Honoring these citizens is reflected in FDVA plans, programs, and budgets, and is intended to visibly convey the message that all citizens of Florida value veterans for their national service.

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Value-Added and Cost Avoidance

A key FDVA goal is the enhancement of quality of life for veterans, their family, and survivors.

The FDVA has a significant role in the direct infusion of over \$9 billion for veterans from the federal government into Florida's economy.

- \$3.82 billion in military retirement pay
- \$2.5 billion in direct payment for USDVA Compensation and Pension
- \$2.2 billion in medical care and vocational rehabilitation
- \$217 million in education benefits
- \$19 million in construction funding

Payments and expenditures represent:

- Direct payments to individuals
- Additional spending power for Florida families
- Contracts for construction and for outsourcing to non-government organizations

Veterans do not present a distinct appearance:

- They blend into the general population and it is difficult to isolate their spending habits and traits
- They cross lines of race, gender, and age
- They represent a distinct group in their ethic of work and sacrifice
- They expect economic opportunity for their families and are willing to work to achieve it

Currently the state has the second largest veteran population but is projected to have the largest veteran population before 2020.

Every time the federal government funds a service required by a Florida resident, the State of Florida is not required to make that same or similar expenditure. Likewise, every additional dollar paid to veterans, their families or survivors, as disability, education or other benefits, is a dollar either spent in Florida's economy or used in lieu of requesting assistance from the state. Such "cost avoidance strategy" is the functional core of FDVA's veterans' advocacy mission and statutory mandates.

Veterans' affairs has evolved into a major federal program in the United States. Within the context of access to a proportionate share of federal resources, Florida is particularly well positioned among states to justify veteran resource needs given its large and aging veteran population. Currently the state has the second largest veteran population but is projected to have the largest veteran population before 2020. Florida has the highest percentage of totally disabled veterans, and the third highest dollar amount in total compensation and pension at \$2.5 billion.

FDVA has developed programs to recognize this rapid increase in both the general and aging veteran population. Innovative programs and increasing services to meet veterans' needs have been enhanced by the growth of contracts and outsourcing in the public sector to provide an additional level of services.

In 2005, the USDVA directed priority access to health care for veterans with severe service-connected disabilities and those seeking care for their service-connected disabilities. USDVA's growth is more apparent in Florida than any other state. Last year, more than 486,811 of Florida's almost 1.8 million veterans were treated in USDVA's health care facilities, up from 290,000 in 2000. In addition, 54% of the veterans treated were 65 or older. In 2005, 2.5 billion federal dollars were committed to the health care of Florida's veterans.

Federal medical services will need to continue to grow in Florida. FDVA has worked closely with USDVA Central Office, VISN 8, and local governments and elected officials in advocating the need for the increased services for Florida. The USDVA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission identified and recommended current and future medical delivery services nation-wide. The CARES report was approved in fiscal year 2004, and implementation commenced with the budgeting of funding in the federal fiscal year budget of 2005. CARES plans for Florida includes:

- A new 120-bed VA Hospital in Orlando; final site selection under way
- New bed tower design under way at medical centers in Gainesville and Tampa
- 40 new beds in Lake City medical center
- Four new VA outpatient clinics
- Enhanced DoD/USDVA medical services delivery in Jacksonville, Pensacola, and Niceville (Eglin AFB)

Long-term care is a vital concern for an aging veteran population. There are more than 760,737 veterans in Florida over the age of 65, and 109,922 veterans over the age of 85, with a projected increase of age 85+ veterans to 126,010 by September 2013. For more than 15 years, Florida has participated in the State Veterans' Homes Program offered by the USDVA. This program is a benefit to the state as it enables cost avoidance for the Medicaid program. The majority of our nursing home residents do not rely solely on Medicaid funding to pay for their care. Instead, federal per diem payments are received, and many veterans also qualify for an additional 'Aid and Attendance' allowance. This results in estimated cost avoidance to the state Medicaid program of \$4,570,000 annually.

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760,737 veterans in
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FDVA continues to expand veterans' facilities and services in Florida. FDVA has undertaken growth in the State Veterans' Homes Program by providing high-quality assisted living and skilled nursing home care to veterans in six state veterans' homes and new outreach programs to contact more of the veteran population in Florida. A 15.3 acre site for a new 120-bed State Veterans' Nursing Home (SVNH) in St. Johns County was approved by the Governor and Cabinet. The FY 05-06 Legislature funded the state's 35% share of the \$17 million construction cost in the 2006-07 budget. Funding is required in the state budget to obtain the corresponding 65% federal share provided by USDVA. The department has also undertaken efforts to update and renovate older homes to meet new standards and rules. In June 2005, a \$713,000 grant was awarded for renovation at the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home in Lake City. In April 2006, a \$650,000 grant was awarded by the USDVA that will pay 65% of the cost for renovations at the State Veteran's Nursing Home in Daytona Beach.

The USDVA continues processing large volumes of veterans' benefit claims and appeals, including the processing of appeals from other states. The quality representation before the Veterans Benefits Administration will continue as Florida's veteran population increases from other states and in relation to the service our own National Guard and military reserve from the ongoing Global War on Terror. The Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services will work directly with the decision makers in the USDVA Regional Office to expedite clients' claims and to influence, through proactive advocacy, the most positive outcome.

Florida's programs are on the cutting edge of support to our servicemembers. In 2005, an interim study conducted by the U.S. House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee ranked Florida highest overall in providing benefits to veterans. During April 2006, the Governor addressed Florida military servicemembers in Afghanistan and Iraq and briefed the U.S. Secretary of Defense regarding care for military and recently separated personnel on transition and family assistance, employment, education opportunities, and general military support to bases, servicemembers and families.

FDVA's continued expansion on a seamless transition program with the USDVA and Department of Defense is part of our initiative of veteran support. Working with federal agencies we are presenting information on benefits, medical services, dependents, and reemployment with the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) for separating active duty servicemembers. Special emphasis is on returning members from OEF and OIF. We have implemented a special case management program called the Florida Seamless Transition Program for severely injured military servicemembers returning to Florida and families of those military service members who have been killed in action. All service members and family members in this program will be visited by field supervisors and tracked in our V-BOLTS database for follow-up assistance and coordination with other state and federal agencies based upon individual case requirements.

FDVA also honors those who served in past wars. On June 6, 2005, the Governor dedicated Florida's World War II Monument honoring the service of Floridians who fought in World War II. The ceremony was held on the 61st anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy. The monument is the final element in the multi-faceted Florida World War II Memorial which is comprised of a permanent museum exhibit in the Florida Museum of History titled: *Florida Remembers World War II*; a World War II Heritage Trail booklet; a Web site reference for World War II information; the World War II Educational Curriculum Supplement; and the centerpiece, the Florida World War II Monument. The central pillar is an exact replica of the Florida Pillar at the National World War II Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Today, more than 300,000 World War II veterans call Florida home.



Florida's World War II Monument
Tallahassee

Future Direction

FDVA retains two consistent overarching strategic goals which serve to identify the needs of our constituency, and thus define the Department's fundamental direction:

- 1) Provide information, advocacy and quality health care services to Florida veterans.
- 2) Improve the economic status of Florida veterans, their families and survivors.

FDVA's mission is to be an advocate and facilitator for progress on Florida's veterans' issues. Our goal is to perform these tasks with quality and a level of honor befitting Florida's veterans. We will continue to strive to improve the Department's delivery of advocacy for and services to Florida's veterans.

Florida's 2005 Veteran-Related Accomplishments

- Architectural and engineering funding for a sixth State Veterans' Nursing Home to be located in Northeast Florida.
- Cabinet approved updated State Veteran Nursing Home Site Selection criteria.
- Homestead exemption benefits extended to surviving spouses of 10-90% disabled veterans under certain circumstances.
- Extended post secondary educational benefits to dependent children of certain deceased or disabled veterans.
- Created the Military Gold Sportsman's Hunting/Fishing License for active/retired members of the Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves Forces.
- Expanded the number of medical staff able to renew disabled parking permits.
- Authorized veteran and military memorials at Interstate highway rest stops.
- Dedicated Florida's World War II Monument, thus completing the multi-phased memorial authorized by the 1999 legislature.
- Created the Florida Military Family Readiness Act, establishing a \$5 million relief trust fund.
- Created the Citizen Soldier Matching Grant Program for private employers of activated Florida Reserves and National Guard military servicemembers.
- Stabilized automobile insurance rates for activated personnel and their covered dependents.

Florida's 2006 Veteran-Related Accomplishments

- Governor Bush visited Florida military service members in Afghanistan and Iraq in April.
- Governor Bush briefed U.S. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld regarding care for military and recently separated personnel on transition and family assistance, employment, education opportunities, and general military support to bases, servicemembers and families.
- A 15.3 acre site for a sixth new 120-bed State Veterans' Nursing Home (SVNH) in St. Johns County was approved by the Governor and Cabinet.
- Legislature funded the state's 35% share of the \$17 million construction project in the 2006-07 state budget which will enable the 65% matching federal share.
- The new staffing standard effective January 1, 2007 will increase minimum weekly average from 2.6 hours per patient per day of CNA care to 2.9 hours of CNA care and a minimum of 2.7 hours of CNA care daily.
- Willful interruption or disruption of assembly gathered to acknowledge the death of a military veteran garnered increased penalties in Florida.
- Permanent free license plates for active members of the Florida National Guard enacted.
- Free undergraduate tuition at state colleges and universities to Florida recipients of the Purple Heart (PH) and combat-related decorations ranked superior in precedence to the PH was enacted.
- Ballot initiative requiring counties to reduce property taxes for disabled veterans 65 years of age or older, in proportion to the percentage of their combat disability was passed on the November 2006 General Election ballot.
- Deployed the Veterans Outreach Kiosk Pilot Project using touch screen technology that provides veteran benefits and employment contact information.

III SIGNIFICANT EVENTS FOR JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006

Executive Director Activities:

Interaction with Federal, County, and Local Government on behalf of Florida Veterans:

- July 7, 2005—USDVA Hospital Administrator selection panel, Redington Beach.
- July 18, 2005—Representative Anne Gannon regarding women veterans.
- July 28, 2005—Sandy Bowron, VBA Regional Office Director, Bay Pines.
- August 8, 2005—Governor’s Base Commanders meeting, Orlando.
- August 15, 2005—Forest Farley, Administrator, James A. Haley VAMC.
- September 1, 2005—VISN 8 conference call regarding Hurricane Katrina.
- September 13, 2005—Representative Jennifer Carroll, Tallahassee.
- September 15, 2005—Representative Stan Jordan, Tallahassee.
- September 26, 2005— Family Day event in Capitol Courtyard.
- October 5, 2005—VISN 8 Executive Leadership Board Meeting, Redington Beach.
- November 17, 2005—Representative Dave Murzin and local veteran and civic leaders regarding a SVNH for Pensacola.
- February 16, 2006—Presidential Veterans Disability Commission meeting, Tampa.
- February 21, 2006—USDVA Secretary R. James Nicholson’s visit to the Tampa VA Medical Center.
- March 2, 2006—USDVA Network 16 meeting, Jackson, MS.
- March 24, 2006—Check presentation from the USDVA with Lt. Governor Toni Jennings at Daytona Beach State Veterans’ Nursing Home representing the federal portion of the funding for renovations.
- April 26, 2006—House leaders concerning Philippine resolution, Tallahassee.
- April 28, 2006—USDVA officials on tracking disabled veterans in Florida, VA Regional Office, Bay Pines.
- May 1, 2006—Town Hall meeting regarding the new USDVA Medical Center, Orlando.
- May 2-3, 2006—site visits for proposed USDVA Medical Center, Orlando.
- May 31, 2006—USDVA Undersecretary Perlin and Congressman Boyd regarding future of Tallahassee and Marianna Outpatient Clinics.
- June 2, 2006—Clayton Hollis, Vice President for Public Affairs, Publix Supermarkets, regarding placements of Veterans’ Outreach Kiosks, Lakeland.



Governor Bush and FDVA Executive Director, Rocky McPherson, at Dedication of Florida World War II Monument

Agency and Florida Government Activities:

- July 14, 2005—Visited Pembroke Pines State Veterans' Nursing Home (SVNH).
- August 1, 2005—Visited Land O' Lakes SVNH.
- August 17, 2005—Visited Springfield SVNH.
- September 22, 2005—DOEA Older Americans Celebration, Tallahassee.
- October 17, 2005—Accompanied Governor Bush during tour of James Haley VA Medical Center, Tampa.
- October 25, 2005—Cabinet meeting, Tallahassee.
- October 26, 2005—SVNHs in Port Charlotte and Pembroke Pines.
- November 8, 2005—Cabinet meeting, Tallahassee.
- December 6, 2005—Senate HHS Appropriations Subcommittee budget presentation, Tallahassee.
- January 13, 2006—Worknet Pinellas Employment awards luncheon, Clearwater.
- January 26, 2006—Visited the St. Johns County SVNH site, and the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home in Lake City.
- January 31, 2006—Cabinet meeting, newest nursing home site selection.
- February 6, 2006—State Domestic Security Exercise, Tallahassee.
- February 17, 2006—Visited Springfield SVNH.
- March 8, 2006—Budget presentation to House Veterans Committee, Tallahassee.
- March 9, 2006—Budget presentation to Senate Community Affairs Committee, Tallahassee.
- April 20, 2006—Met with the Agency for Workforce Innovation on rehabilitation employment.
- April 24, 2006—Visited Port Charlotte SVNH.
- May 4, 2006—Director Susan Paraegis, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Tallahassee.
- June 7-8, 2006—Strategic Planning Meeting offsite with all department senior management, Largo.

Ceremonial Events:

- July 21, 2005—USDVA 75th Anniversary Observation, Washington, DC.
- August 20, 2005—Marion County Veterans' Park rededication, Ocala.
- November 1, 2005—FDVA presentation to Bay County Commission, Panama City.
- November 3, 2005—Hire a Veteran Month Kickoff event, NAS Jacksonville.
- November 7, 2005—United States Marine Corps 230th birthday luncheon, Tallahassee.
- November 11, 2005—Veterans Day Breakfast at the White House, Washington, DC.
- November 12, 2005—Pasco County World War II Day event, Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite.
- November 14, 2005—Citrus County Veterans Clinic dedication, with Congresswoman Brown-Waite and USDVA Secretary Nicholson.
- January 28, 2006—Cuban American Veterans' annual dinner, Miami.
- March 14, 2006—Represent FDVA at the naming ceremony of the new South Florida National Cemetery, West Palm Beach.
- April 19, 2006—Military Appreciation Day, House Chambers, Tallahassee.
- April 22, 2006—Grand opening of new Disabled American Veterans state headquarters office, Gainesville.

Veterans' Planning Activities:

- July 8, 2005—American Legion State Convention, Orlando.
- July 26, 2005—Central Florida Veterans Association, Orlando.
- August 10, 2005—Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs meeting, Orlando.
- August 23-27, 2005—National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Conference, Seattle, Washington.
- September 22, 2005—Monthly State Veterans' Planning Group meeting.
- September 22, 2005—Meeting with Santa Fe Community College veterans, Gainesville.
- October 3, 2005—County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) conference, St. Petersburg.
- October 20, 2005—Veterans' Planning Group meeting, Tallahassee.
- October 25, 2005—Disabled American Veterans Chapter meeting, VA cemeteries update, Tallahassee.
- November 16, 2005—Florida Veterans' Commission meeting, Tallahassee.
- February 9-10, 2006—Base Commanders Meeting, Homestead Air Force Base.
- February 22, 2006—Veterans' Planning Group meeting, Tallahassee.
- March 19-23, 2006—National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs Conference, Washington, DC.
- April 13, 2006—Bay County Veterans' Council Meeting, Panama City.
- May 18, 2006—Veterans' Planning Group meeting, Gainesville
- May 7, 2006—County Veteran Service Officer Conference opening session, Daytona Beach.
- June 2, 2006—AmVets State Convention, Orlando.
- June 3, 2006—Military Order of the Purple Heart State Convention, Clearwater.
- June 9, 2006—Disabled American Veterans State Convention, Altamonte Springs.
- June 10, 2006—Vietnam Veterans State Council meeting, Tallahassee.
- June 20, 2006—Boys' State Conference, Tallahassee.
- June 22, 2006—Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention, Daytona Beach.

Other:

Veterans' Outreach Kiosks –Design and development of interactive self-service kiosks. The kiosks are being placed in selected government service centers to reach veterans who may not be aware of the federal and state veterans benefits to which they may be entitled. Initial placement of kiosks are in counties with the highest veterans' population. The counties are Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach and Pinellas, with additional Kiosks planned for Escambia County and MacDill AFB.



National Cemeteries Update:

- **South Florida National Cemetery**, Palm Beach area: USDVA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs William F. Tuerk unveiled a model for the new VA cemetery near West Palm Beach on March 14, 2006 and announced the facility would be called the "South Florida National Cemetery." More than 350,000 veterans live within the area it will serve. On June 14, 2006, USDVA Secretary Nicholson approved the award of the Fast Track construction contract. This new 313-acre cemetery will serve veterans for the next 50 years. It is located in Lake Worth on U.S. 441 just south of Lantana Road and north of Boynton Beach Boulevard. The USDVA named A², a minority contractor from Miami, to complete the fast track construction for early interments. An 8-acre area will be developed and available for burials in Spring of 2007, weather permitting.



St. Augustine National Cemetery

- **Sarasota National Cemetery:** USDVA Secretary Nicholson approved the recommendation of the Hawkins Ranch Site, a 466-acre parcel as the best site, which is seven miles east of I-75 on State Highway 72, east of Sarasota. Although site location has been determined, this site is still in the third stage of the selection process – land acquisition. Before the final sales contract is signed, the Department of Justice, acting on behalf of the USDVA, reviews all documents to ensure that the contract and title meet all the requirements for a legal transfer of ownership. The National Cemetery Administration expects to officially acquire the land in FY 06-07. The cemetery is anticipated to be open for burials between late 2008 and mid 2009. It will have approximately 10,000 of the first 33,000 sites in phase one available for use. More sites will be added as needed.
- **Jacksonville National Cemetery:** USDVA Secretary Nicholson approved the recommendation of a 569-acre site owned by the City of Jacksonville, which is pastureland north of the airport on Lannie Road. This site is also in the third stage of the selection process – land acquisition. Funds for purchase of Jacksonville and Sarasota cemetery sites have been appropriated by Congress. Additional funding will be required for design and construction in future years. If the land is purchased in the next few months and design begins next year, the USDVA could start burials in the summer of 2009.

Hurricane Outreach

- The Douglas Jacobson SVNH temporarily housed the USDVA's Port Charlotte Outpatient Clinic. The clinic's original site was so badly damaged in a hurricane in 2004 that it could not operate. The Jacobson Home generously offered to share facilities so that medical services to the area's veterans were not interrupted, and veterans and their families already hard hit by the storms were not further aggravated by a long drive to another facility. The USDVA moved to its new facility in April and FDVA was able to reopen all beds at this facility in May 2006.

IV. DIVISIONS/EQUIVALENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE

The Division of Benefits and Assistance provides professional assistance to Florida's veterans, and their dependents, in their efforts to obtain financial benefits and medical treatment from the USDVA. The Division is comprised of a Division Director, support staff, and three bureaus: Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services, Bureau of Veterans' Field Services, and the Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training.

Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services

The Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services provides counseling and assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors with the preparation, submission, and prosecution of claims and appeals for state and federal entitlements as well as applications to correct military records.

The Bureau's primary responsibility is to work directly with the decision resources in the USDVA Regional Office to expedite clients' claims and to influence, through proactive advocacy, the most positive outcome. To this end, Veterans' Claims Services provides a quality control function by reviewing completed USDVA benefits rating decisions and paralegal due process assistance in the prosecution of veterans' disagreements with and appeals of USDVA rating decisions and debt identification/relief.

Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services Statistics

<i>EVENT</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY TO THIS QTR</i>
Retroactive compensation	\$18,635,126	\$21,449,746	\$21,097,372	\$24,637,972	\$85,820,216	\$72,482,565
Largest single retroactive benefit	\$341,654	\$323,294	\$307,433	\$188,259	\$341,654	\$406,034
Debt relief	\$115,814	\$13,384	\$89,566	\$76,409	\$295,173	\$521,969
Notices of Disagreement	273	208	195	330	1006	1167
Statements of Argument in Appeals Cases*	312	322	388	360	1382	1729
Act as Representative at Hearings*	63	49	47	39	198	198
Veterans' Appeals Hearings*	75	40	69	99	283	314

* The appeals representation process includes formal filing of the appeal application, and paralegal representation with the veteran at the Regional Office and in teleconferences with the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA).

Bureau of Veterans' Field Services

Veterans' Field Services provides benefits counseling services to inpatients and outpatients in 15 of the USDVA's medical facilities in Florida and the State Veterans' Homes, as well as outreach activities for FDVA throughout the state, to include supporting the Transitional Assistance Program at military installations. The Bureau's primary responsibility is to help veterans initiate, develop, submit, and prosecute claims and appeals for state and federal veterans' entitlements.

The focus of Field Services is face-to-face contact with the client/customer and the resolution of any number of issues related to the submission of claims to the USDVA

The focus of Veterans' Field Services is face-to-face contact with the client/customer and the resolution of any number of issues related to the submission of claims to the USDVA.

The Bureau of Veterans' Field Services also provides invaluable advocacy assistance to all veterans who utilize the USDVA medical facilities by interacting with medical staff to resolve eligibility, access, billing issues, and prosthetic problems. This is done on a daily basis at all USDVA medical facilities in Florida.

EVENT 2005-2006	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr
Issue Resolution	2,923	2,679	2,911	2,719	11,232	8,408
Total Amount	\$7,342,527	\$7,221,523	\$8,754,480	\$8,016,939	\$31,335,469	\$20,393,613
Outreach Visits	115	77	28	41	261	283
Veterans Served	2,049	2,457	2,435	1,878	8,819	8,454
Bedside Interviews	7,427	7,245	7,476	6,559	28,707	31,124
Walk-ins/ Counseling	20,870	18,528	21,314	20,598	81,310	73,235
Claims	4,756	4,280	4,794	4,774	18,604	17,809
Voter Registration/ Pref forms	1,344	985	759	432	3,520	3,987

Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training (SAA)

SAA is charged under the provisions of Title 38, United States Code (USC), and the federal contract entered into between the FDVA and the USDVA, and governed by Florida Statute 295.124.

The Bureau reviews, evaluates and approves programs of veterans' education (secondary and post secondary, public and private), and training.

SAA conducts annual on-site supervisory visits to approved educational institutions to determine continued compliance with appropriate state and federal laws and regulations so that Florida's veterans may avail themselves of federal veterans' educational programs.

The Bureau reviews, evaluates, and approves programs of veterans' education (secondary and post secondary, public and private), and training.

<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</i>
SAA Programs Approved	5,782	3,150	1,455	2,358	12,745	12,256
Other Approvals	1,792	399	223	402	2,816	5,475
Supervisor Visits	23	117	174	118	432	465
Inspection Visits	6	15	10	10	41	55
Outreach Activities*	51	66	88	105	310	461
Liaison Activities**	30	14	6	32	82	136
Technical Assistance***	303	221	225	213	962	1,783

* Any activity designed to inform or encourage those with entitlement to use it.

** Liaison activities are those that foster education about the SAA with other education and training professionals which promote and encourage the exchange of information and support to raise awareness of the professional nature of the SAA approval function.

*** Technical assistance is an interaction to assist an individual or a facility with any aspect of the approval function.

STATE VETERANS' HOMES PROGRAM

The Program Director for State Veterans' Homes is responsible for the overall efficient operation of the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home, and the five State Veterans' Nursing Homes. In addition, the Program Director directs the grant application, design, and construction processes for new and planned future state veterans' homes.

FDVA continues to expand veterans' facilities and services in Florida. FDVA has undertaken growth in the State Veterans' Homes Program by providing high quality assisted living and skilled nursing home care to veterans in six state veterans' homes and new outreach programs to contact more of the veteran population in Florida. A 15.3-acre site for a sixth new 120-bed State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Johns County was approved by the Governor and Cabinet. The FY 05-06 Legislature funded the state's 35% share of the \$17 million construction cost in 2006-07 General Appropriations Act. Funding is required in the state budget to obtain the 65% federal share provided by the USDVA budget. State funding for design completion, permitting, and pre-construction activities is underway.

FDVA has undertaken growth in the State Veterans' Homes Program providing high quality assisted living and skilled nursing home care to veterans in six state veterans' homes.

A critical need exists, as identified by the Governor's Alzheimer's Disease Council, for nursing home care for veterans with mental disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease. Utilizing the unique funding sources of the USDVA, as well as federal dollars traditionally provided via the Medicaid program, Florida can lower its out-of-pocket obligated costs to provide nursing home care for these veterans by more than 50%. This scenario has been reviewed and approved by Medicaid officials, who agree with its accuracy.

The information contained in this section includes additional data on revenue and expenses and the fiscal status of the SVNH Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund. Summary remarks regarding occupancy, fiscal status, and quality of care follow.

Detailed individual facility Annual Reports are included as Appendices.

State Veterans' Homes Occupancy Rates:

During FY 05-06 occupancy decreased slightly to 87% overall in the homes when the two new homes are included in the occupancy averages. This is due mainly to the Lake City facility where a renovation project to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements is underway and resulted in 38 beds being unavailable for occupancy. Lake City started operating in May 1990 and many laws have changed during this period requiring renovations and upgrades.

Until May 2006, the Port Charlotte SVNH had provided the equivalent of 20 bed spaces to the USDVA for a temporary Veterans' Outpatient Clinic. The USDVA clinic was destroyed in Hurricane Charley. All State Veterans' Nursing Homes will continue to strive to achieve a 90% or higher occupancy rate.

Occupancy Rates Fiscal Year Comparison

Facility	FY 01-02	FY 02-03	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	Percent Difference
Daytona Beach	85%	90%	93%	89%	90%	+1%
Land O' Lakes	88%	88%	91%	91%	94%	+3%
Pembroke Pines	32%	70%	88%	88%	95%	+7%
Lake City	79%	83%	83%	70% **	68%**	-2%
Springfield	*	*	48%	83%	91%	+8%
Port Charlotte	*	*	15%	65% **	75%	+10%
Facility Average	71%	83%	88%	81% **	87%	+6%
Adjusted Average	*	*	*	91%	93%	+3%

* Springfield operations started in October 2003. Port Charlotte operations started in February 2004.

** Lake City had 38 beds unavailable for occupancy based on renovations for Americans with Disabilities Act and Port Charlotte SVNH had 20 beds unavailable until May 2006 based on a contract with the USDVA for use as a Veterans' Outpatient Clinic as the clinic was destroyed by Hurricane Charley. The overall adjusted occupancy rate is 93%.



Revenues/Expenses:

Annual revenues were \$596,893 more than expenses. This was an increase of positive operating expenses of \$547,001 over FY 04-05.

An additional factor that affects operations is Temporary Agency Nurse Staffing costs. The Department is working diligently to decrease the costs expended for Temporary Agency Staff and is in the process of developing an Agency staffing contract to reduce costs.

Overall State Homes' Fiscal Data
 (For individual statistics, please see the Appendices)

<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$7,639,725	\$11,391,661	\$13,250,760	\$11,367,352	\$43,649,498	\$38,125,139
Total Expenses	\$7,349,981	\$11,462,008	\$12,508,466	\$11,732,151	\$43,052,606	\$39,085,247
Balance	\$289,745	(\$70,347)	\$742,294	(\$364,799)	\$596,893	\$49,892
Average # of Residents/ Available Beds	446/472	557/592*	637/692**	628/692	641/692	428/472
Occupancy Rate *	95%	95%	92%	91%	93%	91%

* Census data for the second quarter (and ongoing) reflects the inclusion of the Springfield facility.

** Census data for the third quarter (and ongoing) reflects the inclusion of available beds at the Port Charlotte facility.

Statistics do not include the full capacity data for Lake City, as the facility was limited by ADA renovations, nor the full capacity for Port Charlotte as the co-location of the VA Outpatient Clinic limited capacity.

Quality of Care:

Several task forces have been formed to address standardization in admissions, clinical protocols, staff development, and medical supply procurement. Members represent homes and headquarters staff. The admissions task force and medical supply procurement have been disbanded as their goals have been accomplished.

The task forces for clinical protocols and staff development will remain as standing committees, thereby reducing the number of potential deficiencies and maintaining the overall high quality of care in these facilities.



DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION

The division is responsible for performing all management functions for the department. These functions consist of personnel, fiscal and budgeting, purchasing, planning, training and staff development, veterans’ preference, and research and statistical analysis.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT.

Major training accomplishments in fiscal year 2005-2006 include the following:

TRAINING	Training Man Hours
State Certification Course for County Veteran Service Officers Annual Update, Veteran Service Personnel Re-certification Training Program for Veteran Service Personnel American Legion Post Service Officers Training	4,760
Employee On-Going Training	3,374
New Employee Training	3,971
Health Direct Care Training	15,500
Supervisory/Management/Professional Development Training	59

VETERANS’ PREFERENCE.

Chapter 295, Florida Statutes, sets forth certain requirements for public sector employers to accord preferences in appointment, retention and promotion, to certain veterans and spouses of veterans. The relevant portions of the law apply to “the state and its political subdivisions,” Section 295.07 and Section 295.09, Florida Statutes. Public utilities, state universities, school districts and special taxing districts are subject to the requirements of Chapter 295. Section 295.11 Florida Statutes, tasks the FDVA, upon the written request of any eligible person, to investigate complaints filed alleging violation of veterans’ preference rights. FDVA reviews each case and issues an opinion to the Public Employees Relations Commission as to the merit of each case. Veterans’ Preference statistics are provided in the table below.

Veterans’ Preference Statistics

EVENT	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03	FY 03-04	FY 04-05	FY 05-06
Invalid Claims	88	51	80	66	77	71	48
Valid Claims	5	5	10	41	17	18	20
Settled Claims	14	5	3	1	0	6	3
TOTAL CLAIMS	107	61	93	108	94	95	71

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Information Technology program provides the technical support and enabling technologies to support FDVA's vital business processes.

These activities support the operations of the Department's information technology infrastructure for data and voice network and migration to MyFloridaNet at 24 statewide locations, access to the State's legacy computer applications (i.e., People First, FLAIR & LAS/PBS, My Florida Market Place, etc.), health care informatics initiatives, automated systems analysis, design and development, information technology policies, creation and maintenance of FDVA's Web presence (Internet and Intranet), technical compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA) privacy and security rules, support of FDVA business office Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement billing and pharmacy systems support, and review of computer systems training.

The IT program's responsibilities require close coordination with the Department of Management Services' (DMS), Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS), the Legislature's Technology Review Workgroup (TRW), the State CIO Council and its Subcommittees, the Agency for Health care Administration (AHCA), the Governor's Health Care Information Infrastructure Advisory Board (GHIAB), the USDVA, and all FDVA business units.

The IT program supported a wide variety of technical services, but also accomplished new IT projects in FY 2005-2006, including:

- Deployed the Veterans' Outreach Kiosks Pilot Project using touch screen technology that provides veterans' benefits and employment contact information.
- Implemented the Veterans Care and Reporting System (V-CARES) using wall computers in our veterans' long-term health care facilities to enhance residents' quality of care.
- Collaborated with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of Children and Families, and six Florida County governments to share veterans' benefits and employment contact information.



V. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS			
EXPENDITURE REPORT			
JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006			
	GENERAL	TRUST	
	REVENUE	FUND	TOTAL
Salary and Benefits	\$7,136,505	\$18,867,591	\$26,004,096
Other Personnel Services	0	\$871,662	\$871,662
Expense:			
Purchased Medical Services	0	4,092,800	4,092,800
Purchased Nursing (Agencies)	1,675,985	4,586,643	6,262,628
Operations	99,039	648,809	747,848
Custodial/Janitorial	676	1,240,152	1,240,828
Communications	127,421	331,267	458,688
Postage & Freight	27,745	46,185	73,930
Printing and Reproduction	58,435	121,921	180,356
Repair and Maintenance	20,800	572,471	593,271
Travel & Training	183,133	207,996	391,129
Utilities	0	1,979,566	1,979,566
Supplies - medical	0	1,320,207	1,320,207
Supplies - other	49,694	1,383,889	1,433,583
Subscription & Books	22,414	264,453	286,867
Rent	4,241	86,558	90,799
Miscellaneous (Expenses)	1,566	59,090	60,656
Furniture & Equipment	3,003	259,321	262,324
Total Expense	\$2,274,152	\$17,201,328	\$19,475,480
Food Products	135,947	2,738,569	2,874,516
Operating Capital Outlay	163,784	81,727	245,511
Acquisition Motor Vehicles	50,117	98,795	148,912
Risk Management Insurance	158,308	578,190	736,498
Recreation Equipment	0	26,463	26,463
Exec Aircraft Pool	0	0	0
TR/DMS/HR SVCS/STW CONTRACT	49,583	207,794	257,377
Total Operating Costs	\$9,968,396	\$40,672,119	\$50,640,515
Non-Operating Expenses	0	\$223,836	\$223,836
Fixed Capital Outlay:			
Daytona Renovation	0	70,400	70,400
Lake City Renovation	0	895,337	895,337
Repairs/Improvements	0	71,071	71,071
Florida WWII Memorial	0	181,254	181,254
Total Fixed Capital Outlay	0	\$1,218,062	\$1,218,062
TOTAL	\$9,968,396	\$42,114,017	\$52,082,413

APPENDIX I

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT RELEVANT TO s 292.05(4), (5), & (7), FLORIDA STATUTES

s 292.05(4) F.S. The Department may apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and services from the state, the United States Government or any of its agencies, or any other public or private source and may use funds derived from these sources to defray clerical and administrative costs as may be necessary for carrying out its duties.

State Approving for Veterans' Training

FDVA maintains a contract with the USDVA to provide for State Approving for Veterans' Training. Costs are 100% reimbursed by the USDVA and include coverage of clerical and administrative expenses of the Bureau.

Veterans' Nursing and Domiciliary Homes

The Veterans' Domiciliary and Nursing Homes operated by this Department apply for and receive federal funds from the USDVA. These funds cover more than 28 percent of the cost of operating the homes.

s 292.05(5) F.S. The Department shall conduct an ongoing study on the problems and needs of those residents of this state who are veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and the problems and needs of their dependents. The study shall include but not be limited to:

- *A survey of existing state and federal programs available for such persons that specifies the extent to which such programs presently are being implemented, with recommendations for the improved implementation, extension, or improvement of such programs.*
- *A survey of the needs of such persons in the areas of social services, health care, education, and employment, and any other areas of determined need, with recommendations regarding federal, state, and community services that would meet those needs.*
- *A survey of federal, state, public, and private moneys available that could be used to defray the costs of state or community services needed for such persons.*

Continuous efforts include feedback through counseling thousands of veterans, training critiques, participation on numerous governmental committees concerned with veterans, regular meetings with veterans' organizations and their leadership, and analysis of official USDVA data and reports. In 1999, FDVA commissioned a needs survey that was conducted by Florida State University. The results of the survey have been posted on the FDVA web site and are being incorporated into the long-range planning process. In 2004, the FDVA commissioned a nursing home site selection study by Health Strategies, Inc., Tallahassee. The results of the study were presented to the Governor, the Cabinet, and State Legislature outlining future priority site considerations. FDVA will site the next SVNH in St. Johns County.

A survey of existing state and federal programs available to veterans and their dependents and a survey of federal, state, public, and private monies available has been completed previously. A comprehensive list by agency resources is available for reference.

s 292.05(7) F.S. *The Department shall administer this chapter and shall have the authority and responsibility to apply for and administer any federal programs and develop and coordinate such state programs as may be beneficial to the particular interests of the veterans of this state.*

State Approving for Veterans' Training

Under the provisions of Title 38 USC, and the contract maintained between the FDVA and the USDVA, State Approving for Veterans' Training is charged with inspecting, approving, and supervising programs and courses offered by accredited and non-accredited educational institutions (public and private). A list of such educational institutions, and specific courses which it has approved, is furnished to the USDVA Regional Office at Bay Pines so that eligible veterans or other eligible persons enrolled in such courses may receive veterans' education benefits.

State Veterans' Homes Program

The Department operates the Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida in Lake City, and State Veterans' Nursing Homes in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Springfield, and Port Charlotte.

The Homes' Program receives federal funds that provide approximately 28 percent of the cost of operations. The Veterans' Homes of Florida Annual Reports are included in this report as Appendix VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII.

Florida's veteran population continues to age. There are over 760,737 veterans in Florida over the age of 65, and 109,922 veterans over the age of 85 with a projected increase of 85+ veterans to 129,152 by September 2010. Long-term health care is a vital concern for our aging veteran population, as well as the general population. For over 15 years, Florida has participated in the State Veterans' Nursing Home program offered by the USDVA and will continue to do so. This program is a benefit to the State as it enables cost avoidance for the Medicaid program. The majority of our nursing home residents do not rely solely on Medicaid funding to pay for their care. USDVA per diem payments are received as a subsidy on a per resident basis. This results in estimated cost avoidance to the state Medicaid program of \$4,570,000 annually.

According to USDVA estimates, Florida offers fewer than one bed per 1,000 veterans.

With the start up of Springfield and Port Charlotte facilities, FDVA brought the total number of beds in the Florida State Homes Program to 750, of which 600 are in nursing homes. According to Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida has 29.1 nursing home beds per 1,000 seniors in the general population. According to USDVA estimates, Florida offers fewer than 1 bed per 1,000 veterans and the State will still be in "great need" of additional veterans' long-term care beds.

FDVA continues to evaluate the trends and conditions that are evolving in our state. Adjustments to FDVA's long-range plans will be made to better meet the needs of Florida's veteran population. Preliminary plans are to begin an additional phase of the State Homes program in 2005-2010. The Federal Grant pre-application for additional homes has been submitted and Florida's additional requirements are now listed in USDVA planning for this program.

Each new State Veterans' Nursing Home is subject to approval by the Governor and Cabinet, 35% funding by the Florida legislature, and matching funds of 65% of construction costs by the USDVA.

APPENDIX II

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS STAFF

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director	Rocky McPherson
Personal Secretary	Nancy Schiellerd
Chief of Staff	Earl Daniell
Legislative Affairs Director	James Brodie
Legislative Affairs Administrator	Joseph Marino
General Counsel	David Herman
Assistant to General Counsel	Ron Lynn
Communications Director	Steve Murray
Public Relations Manager	Courtney Heidelberg
Inspector General	Phil Lemons
Chief Information Officer	James Lieupo

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Director	Mel Lyons
Administrative Assistant	Sue Farkash
Personnel	Tami Klee
Fiscal/Budget	Ray Kikel
Purchasing	Ken Dirmitt
Staff Development	Cat Mills
Management Analyst/Planning	Don Post
TQM/Veterans' Preference	John Burns

DIVISION OF VETERANS' BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE

Director

Barbara Harker

Executive Assistant

Edwin Ortiz

Bureau of Veterans' Claims Services

Bureau Chief

Renee Day

Supervisor

Alene Tarter

Veterans' Claims Examiners

Jim Ansboury

Matt Peters

Ron Basedow

Heidi Peters

Clyde Butts

Fred Laurente

Juan Acevedo

Tony McGary

Ernie Kuykendall

Don Stout

Larri Gerson

John Ulm

John Newman



Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training

Bureau Chief

Steve Turbee

Office Operations Manager

Cora Stagner

Program Specialists

Patrick Burch

Richard Gouin

Jenny George

Marcus Hurston



Bureau of Veterans' Field Services

Bureau Chief

Robert Bauer

VAMC Bay Pines

George Calder—Supervisor
Neal Yarosz—VCE
Richard Whitmyer—VCE
Patricia Blair—VCE
Reginald Fugimoto—VCE

VAMC Gainesville

Bernie Fowler—Supervisor
David Hill—VCE
Joe Coats—VCE

VAMC West Palm Beach

Cheryl Olden—Supervisor
Angela Choice—VCE

VAMC Miami

Tonia Francis—Supervisor
Ketina Olowu—VCE
Gary McKenzie—VCE

VAMC Tampa

David Ramga—Supervisor
Tom Dixon—VCE
Matt Guzik—VCE
David Austin—VCE

VAMC Lake City

William C. Peeler—Supervisor
Ed Hodge—VCE
Rosa Stewart—VCE

VAOPC Daytona Beach

Bridgit A. Pena—VCE

VAOPC Ft. Myers

Rodney Van Ness—VCE

VAOPC Orlando

Dennis Latta—VCE
Andrew McCormick—VCE

VAOPC Oakland Park

Morris Atkins—VCE

VAOPC Port Richey

Brenda Thurmond—VCE

VAOPC Pensacola

Bob Frank—VCE
Alesia Hall—VCE

VAOPC Tallahassee

Robert St. John—VCE

VAOPC Viera

Rick Morrell—VCE

VAOPC Jacksonville

Linda McGrath—VCE
Jim McFarland—VCE
John Michel—VCE

Douglas T. Jacobson SVNH

Rodney Van Ness—VCE

Clifford Sims SVNH

Sally Ferland—VCE

STATE VETERANS' HOMES PROGRAM

Program Director Greg Puckett
Program Administrator Dan Newland
Accounting Services Administrator Walter Gilchrist
Registered Nurse Consultant Wanda Wolfe
Executive Assistant Joanne Cox

Administrator Paulette Tyler
Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Veterans'
Domiciliary Home, Lake City



Administrator Sheri Schultz
Emory L. Bennett
State Veterans' Nursing Home, Daytona Beach



Administrator Rebecca Yackel
Baldomero Lopez
State Veterans' Nursing Home, Land O' Lakes

Administrator K. G. Simmons
Alexander "Sandy" Nininger, Jr.
State Veterans' Nursing Home, Pembroke Pines

Administrator Wallace Warren
Clifford Chester Sims
State Veterans' Nursing Home, Springfield



Administrator Elizabeth Barton
Douglas T. Jacobson
State Veterans' Nursing Home, Port Charlotte

APPENDIX III

ASSOCIATED VETERANS' SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Over the years, FDVA has been closely associated with all veterans' organizations active in Florida. As the accredited representative of 12 veterans' organizations, FDVA has the opportunity to prosecute claims before the USDVA on behalf of veterans who have placed their trust in these organizations by completing an "Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative" designation. There are no fees charged veterans for FDVA services.

Listed below are the Veterans' Service Organizations which this Department represents in claims processing with the USDVA:



American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc.



American Legion

American Red Cross



Blinded Veterans Association

Fleet Reserve Association

Jewish War Veterans



Marine Corps League

National Association of County Veteran Service Officers

Non-Commissioned Officers Association

The Retired Enlisted Association

Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A.



Vietnam Veterans of America



APPENDIX IV

2005 – 2006 FLORIDA COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honorable Al Linden, Chairman

2015 SW 75th Street
Gainesville, FL 32607

352-466-4084 (W)

352-377-4025 (H)

352-466-3406 (Fax)

Email: allinden@aol.com

ALACHUA COUNTY

Honorable Curt Ebitz, Vice Chair

89 Douglas St.

Homosassa, FL

352-382-3847 (H & Fax)

Email: curt247@tampabay.rr.com

CITRUS COUNTY

Honorable Tony Armbrister, Secretary

17774 SW 12th St

Pembroke Pines, FL 33029

954-538-0498 (H)

954-431-2391 (Fax)

954-559-0214 (C)

Email: tonita_arm@msn.com

BROWARD COUNTY

Honorable Joseph Martory

3521 SW 88th Court

Miami, FL 33165-4323

305-551-8110

Email: jmartory007@aol.com

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Honorable Eileen Watson

3482 Royal Tern Circle

Boynton Beach, FL 33436

561-731-3289 (H)

Email: EKW194@aol.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Honorable Robert Creger

16682 Bob Cat Drive

Ft. Myers, FL 33908

239-489-1946 (H)

Email: creger01@aol.com

LEE COUNTY

Honorable William Coleman

2942 Pineloch Blvd.

Orlando, FL 32806

407-246-8499 (H)

Email: scruffyjak@aol.com

ORANGE COUNTY

Honorable Richard (Rick) Jensen

68 Star Lake Dr.

Pensacola, FL 32057

850-457-2958

Email: rick_jensen@cox.net

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Honorable Fred Raymond

5609 Cannonade Drive.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

813-994-1454 (H)

Email: fraymond@earthlink.net

PASCO COUNTY

APPENDIX V

CERTIFIED COUNTY/CITY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

In rendering assistance to the veterans of Florida, the Department of Veterans' Affairs works closely with 67 county and city Veteran Service Officers.

County Veteran Service Officers	
<p><u>ALACHUA (1)</u> James W. Lynch, Director 218 SE 24th St. Gainesville, FL 32641 Phone: (352) 264-6740, SUNCOM: 625-6740 Fax: (352) 264-6703 E mail: jlynch@co.alachua.fl.us</p>	<p><u>BROWARD (6)</u> Floyd D. White, CVSO 2995 N. Dixie Highway Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334 Phone: (954) 537-2836, Fax: (954) 537-2914 E mail: fwhite@broward.org</p>
<p><u>BAKER (2)</u> Herbert O. Hicks, Director 55 N. 3rd Street A-6 Center Office MacClenney, FL 32063 Phone: (904) 259-2516, Fax: (904) 295-7610 E mail: vet@bakercountyfl.org</p>	<p><u>CALHOUN (7)</u> Tammy Rushing Calhoun County Courthouse 20859 SE Central Ave. E. Room 4 Blountstown, FL 32424 Office: (850) 674-8305, Home: (850) 674-4243 Fax: (850) 674-2449 E mail: CalhourVSO@gtcom.vet</p>
<p><u>BAY (3)</u> Ray Carroll, CVSO Director 647 Jenks Ave. Panama City, FL 32401 Phone: (850) 784-4044/4078 SUNCOM: 777-4044, Fax: (850) 784-6181 E mail: rcarroll@co.bay.fl.us</p>	<p><u>CHARLOTTE (8)</u> James A. Barrett, Director 2280 Aaron St., Cultural Center Port Charlotte, FL 33952 Phone: (941) 625-4422, Fax: (941) 625-0561 E mail: James.Barrett@charlottefl.com</p>
<p><u>BRADFORD (4)</u> Nathan Hines Bradford County Courthouse PO Drawer B Starke, FL 32091 Ph: (904) 966-6385, SUNCOM: 838-0111 Toll: 1-800-280-9262 Fax: (904) 966-6386 E mail Nathan_hines@bradford-co-fla.org</p>	<p><u>CITRUS (9)</u> John J. Kenney - CSO Citrus County Government Center 3600 W. Sovereign Path-Suite 180 Lecanto, FL 34461-7718 Phone: (352) 527-5411, Fax: (352) 527-5437 E mail: john.kenney@bocc.citrus.fl.us</p>
<p><u>BREVARD (5)</u> Glenn A. McGuffie 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940 Phone: (321) 633-2012, SUNCOM: 322-1706 Fax: (321) 637-5432 E mail: glenn.mcguffie@brevardcounty.us</p>	<p><u>CLAY (10)</u> Madelyn Proctor P0 Box 1366 Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 Phone: (904) 269-6326, SUNCOM: 827-1326 Fax: (904) 284-6346 E mail: Madelyn.Proctor@co.clAy.fl.us</p>

<p><u>COLLIER (11)</u> Peter P. Kralej, Director Collier County Government Center, 3301 Tamiami Trail E. Bldg. H , Suite 212 Naples, FL 34112 Phone: (239) 774-8448, SUNCOM: 751-8448 Fax: (239) 774-1667 E mail: veteranservices@colliergov.net</p>	<p><u>ESCAMBIA (17)</u> *DAV Contracted Operation Jerry White 150 W Maxwell St. Room 2 Pensacola, FL 32501 Phone: (850) 595-3288 (No E mail)</p>
<p><u>COLUMBIA (12)</u> Robert (Bob) Little, CVSO 264 NE Hernando Ave. Suite 101 Lake City, FL 32055 Phone: (386) 758-1013/1012/1106 Fax: (386) 758-2184 E mail: robert_little@columbiacountyfla.com</p>	<p><u>FLAGLER (18)</u> Salvatore Rutigliano VSO Office: 206 E. Moody Blvd. Mail: 1200 E. Moody Blvd #8 Bunnell, Fl 32110 Ph: (386) 586-2120, Fax: (386) 586-2135 E mail: srutigliano@fcbcc.org</p>
<p><u>DADE (13)</u> Edward C. Van Loan, Jr. 150 NW 79th St., Room 503 Miami, FL 33150 Phone: (305) 795-1511, Fax: (305) 795-1542 E mail: dadevet@aol.com</p>	<p><u>FRANKLIN (19)</u> William E. Scott Franklin County Courthouse Apalachicola, FL 32320 Office: (850) 653-8096, Fax: (850) 653-4139 Home: (850) 653-8665 E mail: franklinvets@gtcom.net</p>
<p><u>DESOTO (14)</u> Paul M. Erickson 201 E. Oak Street, Suite #202 Arcadia, FL 34266 Phone: (863) 993-4858, SUNCOM: 740-4858 Fax: (863) 993-4857 E mail: paul@co.desoto.fl.us</p>	<p><u>GADSDEN (20)</u> Wess Hinson Office: 5-B East Jefferson Street Mail: PO Box 1799, Quincy, FL 32351-5799 Ph: (850) 875-8661, Fax: (850) 875-8792 Email: hinson@gadsgov.net</p>
<p><u>DIXIE (15)</u> Jerry Prater 405 SE 22nd Ave. Mail: PO Box 1119, Cross City, FL 32628 Phone: (352) 498-1246, Fax: (352) 498-1286 E mail: dixievet@inetw2.net</p>	<p><u>GILCHRIST (21)</u> Major L. Stroupe, CVSO PO Box 367, Trenton, FL 32693 Phone: (352) 463-3188, (800) 236-1739 SUNCOM: 640-3188, Fax: (352) 463-3189 E mail: cvso@gilchrist.fl.us</p>
<p><u>DUVAL (16)</u> Dan McCarthy; Chief, VSD 117 West Duval St # 175 Jacksonville, FL 32202 Phone: (904) 630-3680, SUNCOM: 986-3680 Fax: (904) 630-3422 E mail: hallen@coj.net</p>	<p><u>GLADES (22)</u> Jim Herrington, CVSO PO Box 1018, Moore Haven, FL 33471-1018 Ph: (863) 227-5020, Fax: (863) 946-2860 No e-mail</p>

<p><u>GULF (23)</u> James C. Kennedy 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. Port St. Joe, FL 32456-1648 Monday Phone: (850) 639-3019 Tuesday-Friday Phone: (850) 229-6125 Fax: (850) 229-7180 E mail: vsgulfcogtcom.net</p>	<p><u>HILLSBOROUGH (29)</u> Tom Fletcher, Manager 1101 E. 139th Ave., Tampa, FL 33613 Ph:(813) 975-2181, SUNCOM: 541-2181 Fax: (813) 975-2187 E-mail: fletcher@hillsboroughcounty.org</p>
<p><u>HAMILTON (24)</u> Herbert Lumpkin, VSO 313 Hatley St. NE Suite 2, Jasper, FL 32052 Ph: (386) 792-1272, SUNCOM: 892-1272 Fax: (386) 792-6446 E mail: hamcvso@alltel.net</p>	<p><u>HOLMES (30)</u> Joey Marsh 812-B S. Waukesha Street Bonifay, FL 32425 Ph: (850) 547-2897, Fax: (850) 547-9252 E mail: vetsrmyjob@wfeca.net</p>
<p><u>HARDEE (25)</u> Vacant 320 N. 7th Avenue Wauchula, FL 33873-2606 Ph: (863) 773-9853, Fax: (863) 773-3561 E mail: larry.pelton@hardeecounty.net</p>	<p><u>INDIAN RIVER (31)</u> Ronald L. Tesnow, Director Office: 1900 27th Street, Room 147 Vero Beach, FL 32960 Ph: (772) 567-8000, Ext. 1499 SUNCOM: 268-5035 E mail: rtesnow@ircgov.com</p>
<p><u>HENDRY (26)</u> Richard Marquith CVSO Courthouse Complex Labelle, FL 33975 Ph: (863) 675-5250, Fax: (863) 675-5317 E- mail: rmarquith@hendryfla.net</p>	<p><u>JACKSON (32)</u> John H.F. Turner, Jr. CVSO Julie Warren, Assistant 2851 Jefferson Street, Marianna, FL 32448 Ph: (850) 718-0003/4 SUN 789-0003 Fax: (850) 482-9987 E mail: turner_jcvso@earthlink.net</p>
<p><u>HERNANDO (27)</u> Larry Davis, CVSO Airport Industrial Park 16110 Aviation Loop Drive Brooksville, FL 34604-6803 Ph: (352) 754-4033, SUNCOM: 669-4033 Fax: (352) 754-4094 E mail: ldavis@co.hernando.fl.us</p>	<p><u>JEFFERSON (33)</u> Carol Ellerbe PO Box 45, Monticello, FL 32345 Ph: (850) 342-0211 Fax: (850) 342-0214 E mail: carolellerbe@earthlink.net</p>
<p><u>HIGHLANDS (28)</u> Joseph Dionne, CSO Office: 7205 S. George Blvd PO Box 1926 , Sebring, FL 33871-1926 Phone: (863) 402-6623 Fax: (863) 402-6796 E mail: jdionne@bcc.co.highlands.fl.us</p>	<p><u>LAFAYETTE (34)</u> Carlton Black, Manager LaFayette County Courthouse PO Box 294, Mayo, FL 32066 Phone: (386) 294-5010, Fax: (386) 294-4231 E Mail: lafvso@alltel.net</p>

<p><u>LAKE (35)</u> Tom Osebold PO Box 7800 Tavares, FL 32778-7800 Phone: (352) 343-9753, Fax: (352) 343-9896 E mail: tosebold@co.lake.fl.us</p>	<p><u>MANATEE (41)</u> A. Dale Keen, CVSO Office: Manatee County Government Center 1112 Manatee Ave. W., #300; PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000 Ph: (941) 749-3030, SUNCOM: 527-3030 Fax: (941) 745-3796 E mail: dale.keen@co.manatee.fl</p>
<p><u>LEE (36)</u> John Ebling, Director 3691 Evans Ave. #208 Ft. Myers FL 33901 PO Box 398, Ft Myers, FL 33902 Ph: (239) 938-1100, Fax: (239) 938-1101 E mail: leo911@aol.com</p>	<p><u>MARION (42)</u> Jeffrey Askew, Director 111 SE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL 34471-9179 Ph: (352) 620-3422/3; SUNCOM: 667-3422/3 Fax: (352) 620-3424 E mail: Alvin.wiley@marioncountyfl.org</p>
<p><u>LEON (37)</u> DeLean Johnson, Director Office: 918 Railroad Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32310 Ph: (850) 488-8462, SUNCOM: 278-8462 Fax: (850) 922-3080 E mail: johnsondl@leoncountyfl.gov</p>	<p><u>MARTIN (43)</u> John L. Haddox, CVSO 2401 SE Monterey Road Stuart, FL 34996 Ph: (772) 288-5448/9 SUNCOM: 239-5449; Fax: (772) 221-2312 E mail: jhaddox@martin.fl.us</p>
<p><u>LEVY (38)</u> George Hermansen, CVSO Office: 353 South Court St. Mail: PO Box 310, Bronson, FL 32621 Phone: (352) 486-5210, (800) 733-5389 SUNCOM: 645-5210, Fax: (352) 486-3329 E mail: levyvet@inetw.net</p>	<p><u>MONROE (44)</u> Charles L. Ingraham, Director / CVSO Harvey Government Center 1200 Truman Blvd. # 204, Key West, FL 33040 Ph: (305) 295-5150, SUNCOM: 472-4540 Fax: (305) 295-5175 E mail: Ingraham-Charles@monroecounty-Fl.gov</p>
<p><u>LIBERTY (39)</u> John B. Eubanks PO Box 454, Bristol, FL 32321 Ph: (850) 643-5960, Fax: (850) 643-3334 E mail: jbe@gtcom.net</p>	<p><u>NASSAU (45)</u> John Martin 2837 S. 14th Street Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 Ph: (904) 225-9021 Home:(904) 261-5801 Fax: (904) 321-5723 E mail: jmartin@nassauclerk.com</p>
<p><u>MADISON (40)</u> Oliver J. Bradley Office: County Courthouse Annex-Room 215 Mail: PO Box 237, Madison, FL 32341 Ph: (850) 973-3208; Fax: (850) 973-2923 E mail: veteranserviceoffice@digitalexp.com</p>	<p><u>OKALOOSA (46)</u> Beatrice Love-Moore Director 601-A N. Pearl St., Suite 100 Crestview, FL 32536 Phone: (850) 689-5923 Fax: (850) 689-5566 E mail: blovemoore@co.okaloosa.fl.us</p>

<p><u>OKEECHOBEE (47)</u> Elizabeth D. Grinslade 462 Highway 98 North Okeechobee, FL 34972-2586 Ph: (863) 763-8124, Fax: (863) 763-9203 E mail: bgrinslade@co.okeechobee.fl.us</p>	<p><u>POLK (53)</u> John Hopkins, CVSO Office: 1290 Golfview Avenue, Suite 116 PO Box 9005, Bartow, FL 33830 Phone: (863) 534-5220, Fax: (863) 534-7378 E mail: JohnHopkins@polk-county.net</p>
<p><u>ORANGE (48)</u> Mike Dixon, Program Manager 2100 E. Michigan St. Orlando, FL 32806 Ph: (407) 836-8990, FAX: (407) 836-8999 E mail: Rachel.Newborg@co.orange.fl.us</p>	<p><u>PUTNAM (54)</u> Thomas D. McDermott, Service Officer Office: 515 Reid Street #1D P. O. Box 771, Palatka, FL 32178 Ph: (386) 329-0327/8/9/ Fax: (386) 329-0329 E mail: thomas.moltimore@putnam-fl.com</p>
<p><u>OSCEOLA (49)</u> Julio C. Cruz, Director 108 Park Place Blvd., Bldg C Kissimmee, FL 34741 Ph: (407) 870-2019, Fax: (407) 870-2950 E mail: jcru2@osceola.org</p>	<p><u>ST. JOHNS (55)</u> Joseph D. McDermott, CVSO Office: 1995 US 1 South #550 PO Box 657, St. Augustine, FL 32085-0657 Ph: (904) 823-2463, Fax (904) 823-2702 E mail: jmcdermott@co.st-johns.fl.us</p>
<p><u>PALM BEACH (50)</u> Craig Carr Office: 810 Datura St., Mail: PO Box 1989 West Palm Beach, FL 33401-5211 Phone: (561) 355-4761, Fax: (561) 355-4801 SUNCOM: 245-2040 E mail: ccarr@co.palm-beach.fl.us</p>	<p><u>ST. LUCIE (56)</u> Paul J. Hiott, Director 250 NW Country Club Drive #217 Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 Phone: (772) 871-5416, SUNCOM 259-5416 Fax: (772) 871-5492 E mail: phiott@co.st-lucie.fl.us</p>
<p><u>PASCO (51)</u> Bill Klinger, Supervisor 8620 Galen Wilson Blvd. Port Richey, FL 34668 Ph:(727) 834-3282, Fax: (727) 834-3339 E mail: wklinger@pascocounty.fl.net</p>	<p><u>SANTA ROSA (57)</u> Karen L. Haworth 6491 Caroline Street, Suite #2 Milton, FL 32570 Phone: (850) 626-8724, Fax: (850) 623-1208 E mail: karenh@co.santa-rosa.fl.us</p>
<p><u>PINELLAS (52)</u> Bill Hayes, Director 1100 Cleveland St., #1400 Clearwater, FL 33755 Ph: (727) 464-8460, SUNCOM: 570-8460 Fax: (727) 464-8463 E mail: whayes@co.pinellas.fl.us</p>	<p><u>SARASOTA (58)</u> Jerry Derrick, CVSO 2200 Ringling Blvd, #125 Sarasota, FL 34237 Ph: (941) 861-2899, Fax: (941) 861-2571 E mail: jderrick@scgov.net</p>

<p><u>SEMINOLE (59)</u> George Tingle, Acting VSO 400 West Airport Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773 Phone: (407) 665-3374, SUNCOM: 355-3374 Fax: (407) 665-3249 E mail: gtingle@seminolecountyfl.gov</p>	<p><u>VOLUSIA (64)</u> Donald W. Priem, Jr. 123 West Indiana Ave, #100 Deland, FL 32720 Phone: (386) 740-5102 SUNCOM: 377-5102, Fax: (386) 740-5101 E mail: dpriem@co.volusia.fl.us</p>
<p><u>SUMTER (60)</u> Dan Baker 416 Lawrence St. Bushnell, FL 33513 Phone: (352) 793-0235, Fax: (352) 793-6880 SUNCOM: 665-0235 E mail: dan.baker@sumtercountfl.gov</p>	<p><u>WAKULLA (65)</u> Alfred Nelson 196 Ochlockonee St. PO Box 849 Crawfordville, FL 32326 Phone: (850) 926-5289, Fax: (850) 926-6255 E mail: anelson@mywakulla.com</p>
<p><u>SUWANNEE (61)</u> William A. Fletcher 224 Pine Ave. Live Oak, FL 32060 Phone: (386) 364-3403, SUNCOM: 889-3403 Fax: (386) 364-4038 Email: wfletch@alltel.net</p>	<p><u>WALTON (66)</u> Phil McMillian 312 College Ave. Unit A Defuniak Springs, FL 32435 Phone: (850) 892-8140/8141, Fax: (850) 892-8148 E mail: mcmphil@co.walton.fl.us</p>
<p><u>TAYLOR (62)</u> Joe Collins, CVSO Perry-Foley Airport 401 Industrial Park Dr. Perry, FL 32348 Phone: (850) 838-3519, Fax: (850) 838-3407 E mail: veterans@gtcom.net</p>	<p><u>WASHINGTON (67)</u> Amy Simmons, CVSO 1331 South Blvd. Chipley, FL 32428 Phone: (850) 638-6140, SUNCOM: 769-6140 FAX: (850) 638-6145 E mail: vetsrus@washingtonfl.com</p>
<p><u>UNION (63)</u> 15 NE First Street Lake Butler, FL 32054 Phone: (386) 496-4248, Fax: (386) 496-4810</p>	

**APPENDIX VI
COUNTY VETERAN POPULATION AND MONETARY BENEFITS**

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2005

Veteran population estimates as of September 30, 2005. Data from VetPop 2004 Model adjusted for Census 2000

Expenditures in \$000

COUNTY	VETERAN POPULATION	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	COMPENSATION & PENSION	EDUCATION & VOC REHAB	INSURANCE & INDEMNITIES	CONSTRUCTION	MEDICAL & GOE*
ALACHUA	18,270	588,247	33,682	4,989	1,724	149	547,704
BAKER	2,525	3,513	3,080	194	238	--	--
BAY	22,108	60,835	53,393	5,356	2,086	--	--
BRADFORD	3,411	5,734	5,146	266	322	--	--
BREVARD	75,183	138,623	123,819	7,711	7,093	--	--
BROWARD	126,261	161,995	138,250	11,833	11,912	--	--
CALHOUN	1,174	2,535	2,379	45	111	--	--
CHARLOTTE	27,123	36,462	33,099	804	2,559	--	--
CITRUS	22,934	33,183	30,348	671	2,164	--	--
CLAY	24,422	48,092	40,876	4,912	2,304	--	--
COLLIER	36,115	28,156	23,685	1,064	3,407	--	--
COLUMBIA	7,772	19,261	17,865	650	733	9	4
DE SOTO	3,340	3,677	3,323	39	315	--	--
DIXIE	2,056	6,315	6,034	87	194	--	--
DUVAL	95,358	168,562	128,801	30,765	8,996	--	--
ESCAMBIA	45,648	117,401	96,401	15,220	4,307	541	933
FLAGLER	9,558	15,127	12,717	1,508	902	--	--
FRANKLIN	1,563	2,137	1,947	42	147	--	--
GADSDEN	3,921	6,951	6,160	420	370	--	--
GILCHRIST	1,636	4,302	4,018	129	154	--	--
GLADES	1,245	1,436	1,249	70	117	--	--
GULF	1,853	3,113	2,810	128	175	--	--
HAMILTON	1,288	2,685	2,472	91	121	--	--
HARDEE	1,945	2,447	2,222	41	184	--	--

*Medical and General Operating Expense are allocated to each VA Medical Center.

APPENDIX VI
COUNTY VETERAN POPULATION AND MONETARY BENEFITS

COUNTY	VETERAN POPULATION	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	COMPENSATION & PENSION	EDUCATION & VOC REHAB	INSURANCE & INDEMNITIES	CONSTRUCTION	MEDICAL & GOE*
HENDRY	2,427	3,294	2,993	72	229	--	--
HERNANDO	24,071	53,732	50,127	1,335	2,271	--	--
HIGHLANDS	13,618	21,369	19,671	413	1,285	--	--
HILLSBOROUGH	101,105	800,687	173,733	17,527	9,538	3,486	596,403
HOLMES	2,311	6,467	6,055	194	218	--	--
INDIAN RIVER	17,760	20,506	18,251	579	1,675	--	--
JACKSON	5,201	11,050	10,086	473	491	--	--
JEFFERSON	1,534	3,087	2,525	417	145	--	--
LAFAYETTE	673	2,287	2,211	13	64	--	--
LAKE	35,645	51,331	46,144	1,824	3,363	--	--
LEE	65,518	79,495	69,934	3,380	6,181	--	--
LEON	19,799	32,646	23,432	7,345	1,868	--	--
LEVY	4,908	11,176	10,423	291	463	--	--
LIBERTY	624	1,236	1,151	26	59	--	--
MADISON	1,943	3,530	3,213	134	183	--	--
MANATEE	38,658	46,616	41,134	1,836	3,647	--	--
MARION	42,086	66,134	59,955	2,209	3,971	--	--
MARTIN	19,789	23,870	21,493	510	1,867	--	--
MIAMI-DADE	74,580	467,737	103,321	12,613	7,036	10,394	334,373
MONROE	11,400	12,992	11,357	559	1,076	--	--
NASSAU	8,478	10,376	9,031	545	800	--	--
OKALOOSA	33,362	85,660	75,241	7,272	3,147	--	--
OKEECHOBEE	3,889	6,192	5,692	133	367	--	--
ORANGE	79,387	152,589	128,646	16,453	7,490	--	--
OSCEOLA	16,889	34,391	30,253	2,545	1,593	--	--
PALM BEACH	128,281	407,003	124,161	5,445	12,102	3,014	262,280
PASCO	52,408	104,486	95,067	4,475	4,944	--	--
PINELLAS	115,756	664,899	182,494	9,863	10,921	1,365	460,257
POLK	56,236	86,495	77,984	3,206	5,305	--	--
PUTNAM	8,911	16,364	14,945	578	841	--	--
ST. JOHNS	17,600	23,917	20,747	1,497	1,660	--	12
ST. LUCIE	25,342	38,382	34,452	1,539	2,391	--	--

*Medical and General Operating Expense are allocated to each VA Medical Center.

APPENDIX VI
COUNTY VETERAN POPULATION AND MONETARY BENEFITS

COUNTY	VETERAN POPULATION	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	COMPENSATION & PENSION	EDUCATION & VOC REHAB	INSURANCE & INDEMNITIES	CONSTRUCTION	MEDICAL & GOE*
SANTA ROSA	20,157	49,804	43,705	4,197	1,902	--	-
SARASOTA	51,176	60,066	53,679	1,559	4,828	--	-
SEMINOLE	39,161	63,546	53,229	6,622	3,694	--	-
SUMTER	9,098	18,274	12,875	183	858	359	3,999
SUWANNEE	4,671	9,586	8,838	307	441	--	-
TAYLOR	2,487	3,752	3,405	112	235	--	-
UNION	1,627	1,829	1,620	55	153	--	-
VOLUSIA	61,339	108,130	93,801	8,541	5,787	--	-
WAKULLA	2,806	5,556	3,939	1,352	265	--	-
WALTON	6,336	16,588	15,489	501	598	--	-
WASHINGTON	2,602	9,051	6,934	1,872	245	--	-
TOTALS	1,768,359	5,156,967	2,547,217	217,636	166,831	19,317	2,205,966

*Medical and General Operating Expense are allocated to each VA Medical Center.

APPENDIX VII

ROBERT H. JENKINS, JR.
VETERANS' DOMICILIARY HOME OF FLORIDA
LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator	Paulette (Polly) Tyler, RN, B.S.N.
Health Services	Marjorie Rigdon, RN
Business Services	Debbie Dawsey

Regulatory Compliance

This facility was surveyed by the USDVA in May 2006. The facility operates in compliance with both state and federal regulations for Assisted Living and Domiciliary Homes.

Condition of the Home

This facility opened in 1990 and is the oldest of all the State Homes buildings. This facility has undergone a Phase I renovation of resident wing "C" which updated the flooring, walls, ceilings and bathrooms. This wing will receive new furniture as well. Also during Phase I, the flooring was replaced in the hallways and the dining room had flooring, furniture, and wall furnishings replaced. A Phase II renovation will start in 2007.

Community Outreach

This facility receives outstanding support from the local community. Organizations such as the American Legion, AMVETS and local Elks Club come into the facility and interact with the residents in various ways, i.e., Bingo, Barbeques, etc. The Administrator and Admissions Coordinator are active in reaching out to the community at large, as well as other veteran's organizations such as the adjacent County Veterans Service Officers and the USDVA.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$462,838	\$618,510	\$663,399	\$605,284	\$2,350,031	\$2,655,239
Total Expenses	\$608,713	\$908,023	\$748,677	\$1,031,208	\$3,296,621	\$2,944,586
Balance	(\$145,875)	(\$289,513)	(\$85,278)	(\$425,924)	(\$946,590)	(\$289,347)
Average # of Residents *	103	103	99	102	102	105
Occupancy Rate (<i>Adjusted</i>)	92%	92%	88%	91%	91%	94%

* ADA construction projects temporarily limited this facility to 112 beds.

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	120	57		
Discharges	104	50		

APPENDIX VIII

EMORY L. BENNETT MEMORIAL **STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME** **DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA**

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator	Sheri Schultz, MBA, NHA
Nursing Services	Debra Manis, RN
Business Services	William Heath

Regulatory Compliance

The annual AHCA survey was conducted in May 2006. The USDVA surveyed the facility in July 2005. Survey results in both inspections reflect that the facility continues to operate in compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.

Condition of the Home

The second oldest facility is scheduled for a Phase I renovation in 2006. The renovation will include patient areas, and some mechanical systems. This home received wind damage from last year's hurricane season, and all repair work has been completed.

Community Outreach

This facility receives extraordinary support from local veterans' groups and the community at large. Groups such as the VFW, AMVETS, American Legion, Marine Corp League, Vietnam Veterans, DAV, Jewish Federation, Jewish War Veterans, Korean War Veterans, and New Smyrna Beach Elks all regularly participate in facility activities such as bingo, barbeques, etc. Each year in the Spring, the facility hosts an annual "Chili Cook-Off" event on the property which helps to bring attention to the services offered in a fun and relaxing way.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$1,830,706	\$2,393,045	\$2,483,540	\$2,302,081	\$9,009,372	\$8,114,849
Total Expenditures	\$1,603,121	\$2,262,906	\$2,195,454	\$2,086,414	\$8,147,895	\$7,999,787
Balance	\$227,585	\$130,139	\$288,086	\$215,667	\$861,477	\$115,062
Average # of Residents	113	113	107	101	108	107
Occupancy Rate	94%	94%	89%	84%	90%	89%

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	65	59		
Discharges	72	96		

APPENDIX IX

BALDOMERO LOPEZ

STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME LAND O' LAKES, FLORIDA

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator	Rebecca Yackel, RN, BSN, MS, NHA
Nursing Services	Sue Guthrie
Business Services	Diane Jackson

Regulatory Compliance

The AHCA annual inspection took place in August 2005. The USDVA Annual Inspection took place in September 2005. This facility continues to operate in compliance with state and federal licensure standards and guidelines.

Condition of the Home

Completed in early 1999 this facility has had some remodeling done in 2004 to improve resident care. Overall the facility is in excellent condition.

Community Outreach

This facility receives excellent support from the local community and the Administrator and Admissions Coordinator are active in promoting the facility and participating in county-wide initiatives and events. The Administrator is active in participating with Pasco County for county-wide emergency drills and contingency planning. The Administrator participates in the Advisory Boards for Gulf Coast High School and Pasco Hernando Community College. The facility serves as a training center for local clinical students as well as AHCA State Surveyor Trainees.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$1,744,411	\$1,977,989	\$2,507,543	\$1,873,182	\$8,103,125	\$7,693,977
Total Expenditures	\$1,380,342	\$2,196,243	\$2,115,971	\$2,126,548	\$7,819,104	\$7,757,940
Balance	\$364,069	(\$218,254)	\$391,572	(\$253,366)	\$284,021	(\$63,963)
Average # of Residents	112	113	113	113	113	110
Occupancy Rate	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%	91%

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	43	60		
Discharges	54	55		

APPENDIX X

ALEXANDER "SANDY" NININGER, JR.

STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME

PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator

K. G. Simmons, CNHA, SMQT

Nursing Services

Alex Johnstone

Business Services

Georgiana Dorado

Regulatory Compliance

The AHCA annual inspection took place in January 2006. The USDVA Inspection took place in January 2006. The facility is operating in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Condition of the Home

This facility received some wind damage from the past two hurricane seasons. The repair work was completed in 2006. Initial construction was completed in 2001.

Community Outreach

This facility receives a great deal of support from the local community. Local groups such as the Jewish War Veterans, St. Marks Catholic Church, the City of Pembroke Pines, American Legion, DAV, AMVETS, and Nova Southeastern University reach out to the residents in various ways. The Administrator and Admissions Coordinator are active in the local community in order to raise awareness of facility services.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$1,258,406	\$2,722,052	\$2,739,443	\$2,925,537	\$9,645,438	\$8,428,267
Total Expenses	\$1,335,251	\$2,178,880	\$2,873,513	\$2,369,524	\$8,757,168	\$8,020,869
Balance	(\$76,845)	\$543,172	(\$134,070)	\$556,013	\$888,270	\$407,398
Average # of Residents	118	117	113	113	115	105
Occupancy Rate	98%	98%	94%	94%	95%	88%

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	81	66		
Discharges	54	93		

APPENDIX XI

CLIFFORD CHESTER SIMS **STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME** **SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA**

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator	Wally Warren, NHA
Nursing Services	Judy Howell, RN
Business Services	Vacant

Regulatory Compliance

The AHCA annual inspection took place in December 2005. The USDVA inspection took place in June 2006. The facility is operating in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Condition of the Home

Built in 2003, this home remains in excellent condition.

Community Outreach

This facility receives wonderful support from the local community and groups such as the American Legion, Tyndall Air Force Base, AMVETS, and the Marine Corps League. The Administrator and Admissions Coordinator are active in reaching out to local organizations and hospitals to raise awareness of what the facility has to offer Florida veterans.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$1,197,448	\$1,163,144	\$2,715,786	\$1,783,442	\$6,859,820	\$6,063,809
Total Expenses	\$1,075,687	\$1,931,425	\$2,178,070	\$2,041,037	\$7,226,219	\$6,833,621
Balance	\$121,762	(\$768,281)	\$537,716	(\$257,595)	(\$366,399)	(\$769,812)
Average # of Residents	108	111	107	109	109	93
Occupancy Rate	90%	93%	89%	91%	91%	83%

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	112	93		
Discharges	54	80		

APPENDIX XII

DOUGLAS T. JACOBSON
STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOME
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA
ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Administrator	Elizabeth Barton, NHA, MSM, RMA
Nursing Services	Ann Marie Valenti, RN
Business Services	Chaun Jones

Regulatory Compliance

The AHCA annual inspection took place in January 2006. The USDVA inspection took place in June 2006. The facility is operating in substantial compliance with state and federal regulations.

Condition of the Home

Initial construction was completed in 2004. This home remains in excellent condition.

Community Outreach

This facility receives outstanding support from the local community and groups such as the American Legion, MacDill Air Force Base, AMVETS, and Marine Corps League. The Administrator and Admissions Coordinator are active in reaching out to local organizations and hospitals to raise awareness of what the facility has to offer Florida veterans.

In partnership with the USDVA, the facility temporarily housed the VA Outpatient Clinic until a permanent location opened in April 2006. The VA Outpatient Clinic was severely damaged due to Hurricane Charley in 2004. This facility returned to full capacity in May 2006.



<i>EVENT 2005-2006</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to date</i>
Total Revenues	\$1,145,916	\$2,516,921	\$2,141,049	\$1,877,826	\$7,681,712	\$5,168,998
Total Expenses	\$1,346,867	\$1,984,531	\$2,396,781	\$2,077,420	\$7,805,599	\$3,347,902
Balance	(\$200,951)	\$532,390	(\$255,732)	(\$199,594)	(\$123,887)	\$1,821,096
Average # of Residents *	93	97	98	90	94	65
Occupancy Rate (Adjusted)	93%	97%	98%	90%	94%	65%

*VA Clinic project temporarily limited this facility to 100 beds.

Number of Residents Received and Discharged				
	FY04-05	FY05-06		
Admissions	97	82		
Discharges	60	75		



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