Virginia Department of Veterans Services

BUDGET ITEMS FOR THE 2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

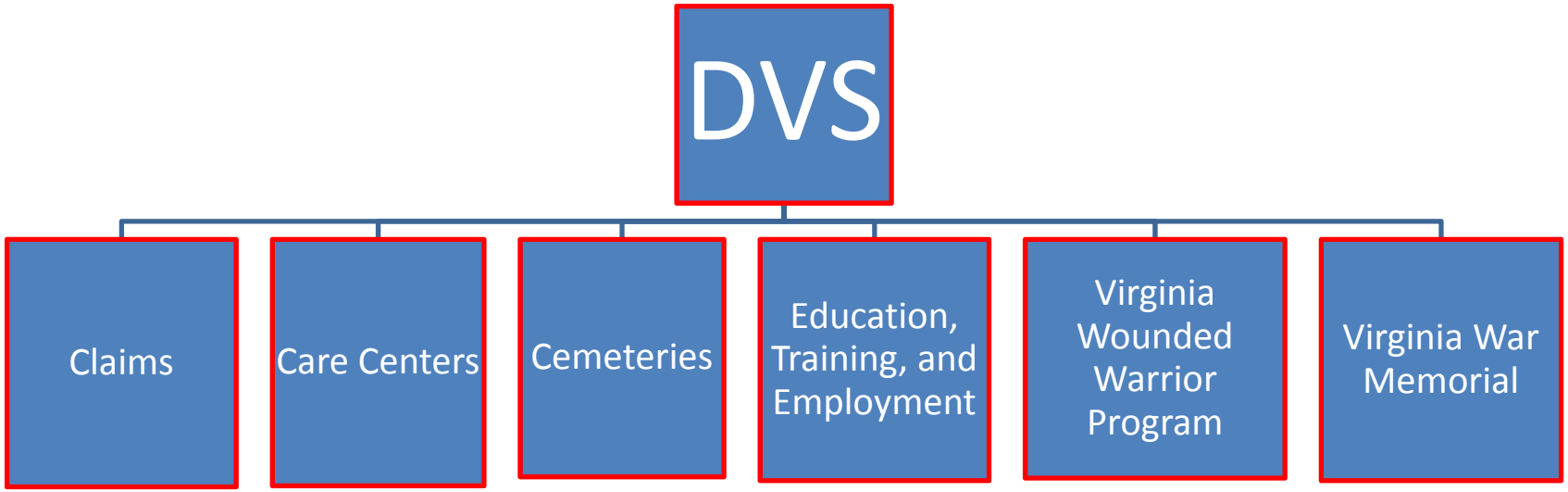
Presentation to
Senate Finance Committee
General Government Subcommittee
February 4, 2014

Paul E. Galanti
Commissioner

Mission

Serve Virginia's veterans and their dependents by ensuring they receive the benefits, support, quality care, and recognition they have earned through service and sacrifice

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS CORE SERVICES



DVS Locations

Benefits Services Offices

1. Accomac
2. Alexandria
3. Big Stone Gap
4. Bristol
5. Cedar Bluff
6. Charlottesville
7. Danville
8. Fairfax
9. Front Royal
10. Hampton
11. Hampton VA Medical Center
12. Henrico
13. Lynchburg
14. McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
15. Portsmouth
16. Quantico
17. Roanoke
18. Salem VA Medical Center
19. South Hiil
20. Staunton
21. Tidewater (Norfolk)
22. Virginia Beach
23. Wytheville

Care Centers

1. Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
2. Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke

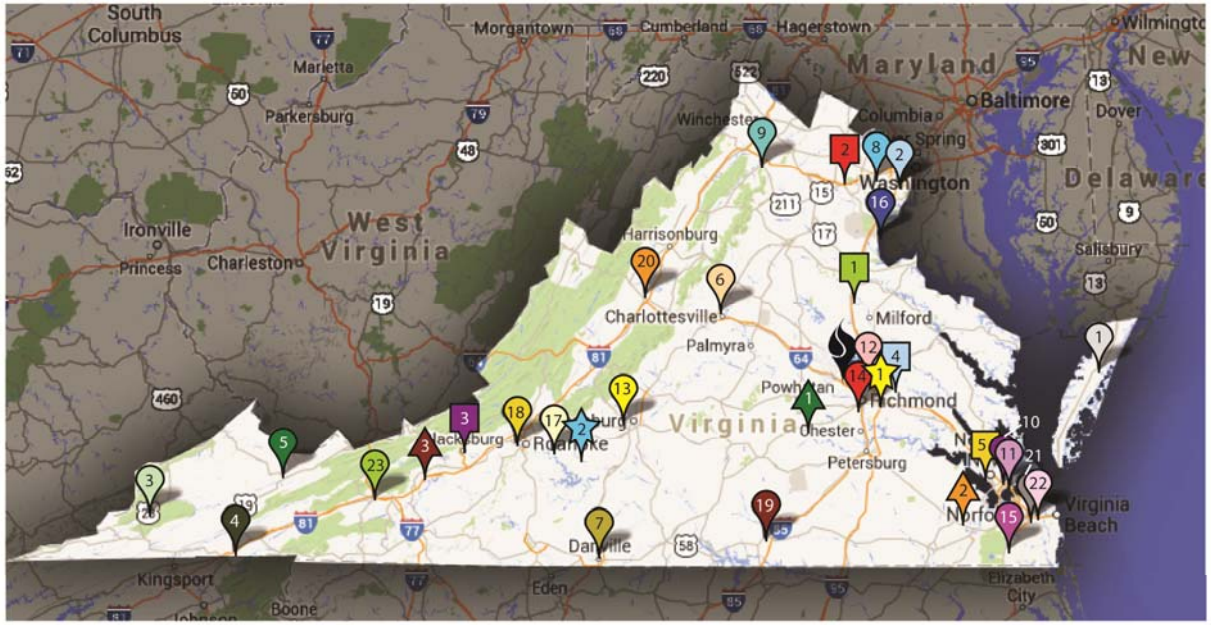
Virginia War Memorial

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

1. Region I - Fredricksburg
2. Region II - Leesburg
3. Region III - Blacksburg
4. Region IV - Richmond
5. Region V - Hampton

Cemeteries

1. Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
2. Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery Suffolk
3. Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin



BUDGET SUMMARY

- Targeted investments in veterans services are needed in FY15 and FY16
- Approval of introduced budget and Senate member-requested amendments will provide resources necessary to meet DVS service requirements

CLAIMS

- Goal: support the hiring and retention of DVS claims agents. #1 priority of BVS and JLC
- Introduced budget: $164,640 (GF) in FY15 and $149,640 in FY16
- Member amendments:
  - Puller: 461 #3s: $500,000 (GF) in FY15 and FY16
  - Reeves: 461 #2s: $500,000 (GF) in FY15 and FY16
- Results: DVS will have resources to more effectively use state HR compensation tools (acquisition and retention), leading to better service for veterans

VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

- Goal: ensure that veterans and their families, especially those affected by stress related conditions and traumatic brain injuries, have access to a network of community-based services for healthcare, behavioral healthcare, rehabilitative services and other critical support
- Introduced budget: $372,835 (GF) in FY15 and FY16
- Member amendments:
  - Puller: 461 #5s: $600,000 (GF) in FY15 and FY16
  - Marsden: 461 #1s: $500,000 (GF) in FY15 and FY16
- Results: resources necessary to effectively coordinate service delivery in VWWP's five regions and measure results

HOUSING/HOMELESS PROGRAMS

- Goal: plan, implement, and sustain an effective housing development/homeless program for Virginia veterans
- Introduced budget: $0
- Member amendments:
  - Puller: 461 #6s: $450,000 (GF) in FY15 and $970,000 (GF) in FY16
- Results: improved coordination of services to improve housing outcomes and reduce homelessness among Virginia's veterans

NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

- Goal: reassess current access to a variety of needs to include health care, behavioral healthcare, and supportive community services including employment, housing, and financial assistance for veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserves, and their families
- Introduced budget: $0
- Member amendments:
  - Puller: 463 #2s: $190,000 (GF) in FY15 only
  - Howell: 463 #1s: $190,000 (GF) in FY15 only
- Results: timely, up to date, and accurate information to effectively meet current and future service requirements

SUMMARY

- Demands for DVS services are increasing and has or will exceed agency capacity to deliver
- Introduced budget and member-requested amendments will provide necessary resources and position DVS to effectively serve Virginia's veterans

Questions & Answers

Virginia Department of Veterans Services