



THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES *Serving Those Who Served*

Presentation to

# Senate Finance Committee Public Safety Subcommittee

by

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Virginia Department of Veterans Services

January 28, 2011

823,000: Number of veterans living in Virginia (FY10)



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# Serving those who served

*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*

- Claims Representation
- Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
- Education and Training
- Care Centers
- Cemeteries

The USDVA predicts that by 2016 Virginia will rank 4th in nation in terms of the veteran population



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# Claims Representation

Assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining compensation and pension benefits from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

26,431	Number of claims submitted (FY10)
135,906	Number of client contacts (FY10)
\$1.57B	Compensation and disability payments to veterans and dependents (FFY09)

**\$2.9B: Total USDVA expenditures in Virginia in FFY09**



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# Claims Representation

\$402,000

Budget amendment (sponsored by Senator Stosch) for GF dollars to provide adequate staffing to serve Virginia's veterans and their dependents. Supports JLC objective #2.

More than 15% of Virginia veterans received disability compensation in FFY09



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# Cemeteries

Provide burial and perpetual care services to veterans and eligible dependents.



*Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk*



*Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia*



*Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin  
Opening April 2011*

**1,015: Total burials at state veterans cemeteries during FY10**



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## Cemeteries

\$387,164

Governor's proposed budget amendment to ensure state veterans cemeteries meet national shrine standards and operate in a safe, efficient manner through adequate staffing, replacement of obsolete equipment, and appropriate highway signage. GF dollars. Supports JLC objective #3.

\$280,000

Governor's proposed budget amendment to purchase for resale and install outer burial containers at the Suffolk and Amelia Cemeteries. Program was authorized by 2010 General Assembly. NGF dollars.

*Applied for federal grant funding to retrofit Suffolk and Amelia cemeteries with outer burial containers; funding could be available as early as FFY12*

**17,053: Number of Virginia veterans forecast to die during FFY10**



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# Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

Serves veterans, members of the National Guard and Armed Forces not in active federal service, and their family members by coordinating support services for veterans with stress-related and traumatic brain injury; ensures veterans and their families receive timely assessment, treatment, and support.

573 Number of military education and community outreach events attended by VWWP staff, reaching more than 19,000 veterans and family members (FY10)

1,650 Number of veterans and family members served by the VWWP (FY10)

4,841: Number of deployed active duty troops listing Virginia as home of record



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# Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

**\$300,000** Three-year federal grant awarded to VWWP, Virginia Department of Health, and Office of Rural Health for *Rural Veterans Health Access Program*.

Governor's proposed budget amendment requests increased appropriation for VWWP to reflect receipt of this federal grant.

**2,193:** Number of deployed Guard and Reserve forces listing Virginia as home of record



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# Virginia Wounded Warrior Program

\$72,000

Grant from Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to VWWP and Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to develop and implement a targeted educational program for judges, court personnel, and other criminal justice partners about the unique characteristics and needs of the veterans population.

67% of Virginia's veterans are age 64 or younger



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## Care Centers

Provide long-term skilled care and assisted living services to veterans.

118,213 Number of patient days of nursing care provided (FY10) – 96% of capacity

18,839 Number of patient days of assisted living care provided (FY10) – 86% of capacity



*Virginia Veterans Care Center,  
Roanoke*



*Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center,  
Richmond*

**252,364: Projected number of veterans age 65+ living in Virginia in 2010**



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## Care Centers

\$4M

Governor's proposed budget amendment to increase NGF appropriation to Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center to reflect a full year of operation.

\$30M

Governor's proposed budget amendment to authorize grant application for \$19.5M federal funding for construction of a new veterans care center in Southwest Virginia (state's share of construction cost is \$10.5M).

*Virginia is on the federal priority list for funding to build new care centers in Hampton and Northern Virginia and expand the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. (65%: federal funding of project costs; 35%: state funding of project costs). Federal funding could be available as early as FFY12.*

**295,000: Projected number of veterans age 65+ living in Virginia in 2017**



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## Education and Training

Review and approve post-secondary education programs operating in the Commonwealth, ensuring the programs meet strict federal qualification guidelines, thereby enabling veterans and dependents to use G.I. Bill and other educational benefits.

- 963 Number of educational and training institutions in Virginia where veterans can use G.I. Bill benefits (FFY10).
- 42,092 Number of Virginia veterans and dependents receiving G.I. Bill benefits (FFY10).
- 913 Number of students enrolled in the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (FY10).

Old Dominion University has the highest number of VMSDEP recipients



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# Education and Training

SB824 (sponsored by Senators Edwards, McWaters, and Barker) increases educational opportunities for recently-discharged veterans by waiving the one-year residency requirement needed to qualify for in-state tuition rates. Supports JLC objective #6.

George Mason University has 518 programs approved for G. I. Bill payment



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# Education and Training

Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits available to veterans today:

- Tuition and fees paid at highest in-state tuition rate
- Monthly housing allowance may be available
- Up to \$1,000 annually for books and supplies
- Payable only at Institutions of Higher Learning
- One-time rural benefit available for eligible participants
- 36 months of education benefits generally payable for 15 years following release from active duty
- Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Improvement Act (2.0) will enhance and add benefits (effective 8/1/11)

**\$204M: Total Education and vocational rehabilitation employment expenditures by USDVA (FFY09)**



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# Virginia War Memorial

Honor veterans, preserve history, educate children, and inspire patriotism in all.

*The Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center opened September 17, 2010.*

21,000 Number of visitors to the Memorial (2009)

19,640 Number of visitors to the Memorial during the first 3.5 months after the Education Center opened (9/17—12/31)



**11,639: Number of names inscribed on the Virginia War Memorial Shrine of Memory**



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# Virginia War Memorial

\$255,000

Budget amendment (sponsored by Senator Colgan) for the operation and maintenance of the Virginia War Memorial including the new Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center. GF dollars. Supports JLC objective #5.

Virginia War Memorial honors veterans from WWII to the present day



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# County Veteran Service Officer Program

\$82,306

Governor's proposed budget amendment to improve access to claims representation for Virginia's veterans; this would provide funding for a DVS liaison officer to provide training and technical support and assistance to the county veterans service officers.

\$50,000

Budget amendment (sponsored by Senator Stosch) for funding to assist a locality in establishing a county veterans service officer program. This compliments the Governor's proposed budget amendment by providing start-up funding to the locality.

USDVA projects that Virginia's veteran population will rank 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation by 2016



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## Additional Legislation

SB1385 (sponsored by Senator Colgan) proposes additional funding for the Department of Veterans Services by changing the priority of assignment of the year-end General Fund balance surplus. After other obligations are met 10% of the remaining balance would go to DVS.

SB1386 (sponsored by Senator Colgan) proposes to appropriate 3% of the monies credited to the Lottery Proceeds Fund to the Department of Veterans Services.

SB1385 and SB1386 support JLC objective #1.

