



# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021







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**“Our military men and women, our veterans,  
and their families deserve our full support.”**  
-Governor JB Pritzker

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the 1,300 plus employees of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), I am proud to submit to you, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Annual Report. Last spring, when Governor Pritzker presented me with the opportunity to serve as the Acting Director of the IDVA, it was an easy decision. I knew the challenges were great however, to return to Illinois and lead the effort to establish meaningful change in support of our veterans and their families was something I just could not pass up. Illinois is the place where my Navy career really began. This was an opportunity to give back to a place that had given me so much.

The past several months has been an incredible time of policy development, program review, and action planning for our leadership team. As such, I have immersed myself in hiring the best people while also traveling across the state to strengthen the vital relationships with our communities, friends, and partners of the agency. Drawing from my own experience in health care and the ideas and perspectives of experts from across Illinois and our nation, I developed a Six-Point Plan for the immediate future of IDVA, which has been our guide.

From early 2020 and throughout 2021, the magnificent employees of IDVA have gone the extra mile and served the veterans on the front lines of the war against COVID-19. Thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Governor Pritzker and Lt. Governor Stratton, IDVA veterans living in our four veterans' homes were among the first to receive the lifesaving vaccine. Now, nearly 100% of our resident veteran population is vaccinated. We were the beneficiaries of tremendous support from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Illinois Department of Public Health, who provided lifesaving PPE, infection control experts and, personnel support. The IDVA team established COVID isolation wards at each home and an aggressive testing routine—performing over 100,000 COVID tests.

Despite mandates to work remotely, we continued to make strides across the agency thanks to the exemplary efforts of IDVA staff who administered programs and benefits in our Veteran Service Offices and State Approving Agency that enabled veterans to maximize their opportunities to receive pension, educational, and other benefits. We also awarded nearly \$1 million in grants to non-profit organizations who served veterans across the state through our lottery-based Vets Cash program.

Thanks to the forward-looking vision of the Illinois General Assembly, we are investing in the future of veterans across the state. This year, we will break ground on a \$230 million project to build a new veterans home in Quincy and expect the \$121 million, 200-bed Veterans Home in Chicago to open very soon.

Illinois is home to nearly 600,000 veterans – the tenth largest population of veterans in the U.S. Our mission is to ensure they thrive, by connecting them to veteran centered benefit programs delivered by an incredibly diverse team who, working alongside our dedicated partners across the state, will have a positive and measurable impact on the lives we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,  
**Terry Prince**  
Acting Director

# 6 POINT PLAN: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF IDVA

## 1. Restructure senior leadership

To ensure senior leadership can best manage our dedicated staff, our roles and chain of command must be clearly structured and defined. Our new Chief of Staff is focusing on staff management while the Senior Home Administrator will provide overarching leadership on clinical and administrative decisions at the homes in coordination with the Director and Assistant Director. Central to this restructuring is prioritizing internal communication and senior leadership visibility in everything we do. I am a consistent presence in all our veterans' homes, hearing directly from staff on the ground, and I expect the same from my senior team.

## 2. Improve culture and communication

Communication in our department is a two-way street. In the same way I have been a presence at our homes communicating with staff, I want staff at any level of the department to feel comfortable bringing their suggestions or concerns to me and the senior team. A simple and important channel of communication is email, which we are providing every member of our staff. This will allow leadership to disseminate information to all staff at the same time and will allow staff to better communicate with leadership and each other. Additionally, we are adding a mass text message capability to better inform our staff of an emergency.

## 3. Prioritize infection control

Infection control has been a consistent challenge for veterans' homes here in Illinois and those across the country. This is a top priority and constant focus in our work going forward, not just when there's a crisis, but in everything we do. To immediately begin this work, we established Infection Preventionist positions at each home as well as an Infection Control Director to oversee those positions and ensure consistency across the homes. Each home will have an Infection Control Committee consisting of the Infection Control Director, Infection Preventionist, staff and an administrator. This committee will focus on infection control and infection control only. This began with COVID-19 and will transition to broader infection control work at all our homes.

## 4. Hire experts in key roles

We quickly filled key positions including the La Salle Home Administrator, Chief of Staff, Women's Veterans Program Manager, and Public Information Officer. Angela Simmons, the Anna Home Administrator, recently accepted the role of Senior Homes Administrator. I am also working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and our VA partners to fill the department's need for consistent guidance and policies related to caring for our veterans' medical needs. It is imperative these roles are filled with individuals with strong backgrounds and expertise who can bring best practices to our department.

## 5. Implement clear plans and policies

We have implemented new policies for overall infection prevention as well as COVID-19 policies related to prevention, testing, PPE, masking, cleaning and disinfection, staff health checks, and hand hygiene. We are thoroughly reviewing the department's policies in consultation with senior staff and those on the frontlines at our homes to determine additional areas where clearer policies are needed. I am applying tried and true methods leadership from my previous experience and have begun testing new programs and procedures in our home. Essential to this is staff training. All staff must receive quality training on a regular basis on both new and existing policies.

## 6. Enhance department technology

It is imperative that we can monitor and contact trace infections at our veterans' homes, especially given the vulnerable populations we care for. I hope to bring video technology, like what is used at Walter Reed and the Ohio Veterans' homes I previously oversaw, to allow for monitoring of communal areas. This will help better ensure safety and security in our homes and allow experts to trace diseases and more effectively manage contract tracing.

## AGENCY OVERVIEW



*Team IDVA support Breast Cancer Awareness Month*

Illinois has a long and proud history of service to veterans which began in 1886 with the establishment of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home for Civil War Veterans. Created through legislation enacted in 1945, the Illinois Veterans' Commission was responsible for state services to veterans until 1976, when it was succeeded by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). The IDVA, created by Public Act 79-376, is charged with responsibility for the

welfare and needs of Illinois veterans, their dependents and survivors. IDVA maintains administrative offices in Springfield and Chicago, five veterans' homes, 81 veteran service office locations in 60 of the 102 Illinois counties of the state.

Through the field offices, veterans and their families obtain assistance in navigating the complex system of federal, state, and local resources and benefits. Acting as veterans' authorized representatives, the Department's accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) provide assistance in presenting claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and other state agencies on behalf of veterans and their dependents or survivors; these claims may include disability compensation, education benefits, pensions, insurance, health care and veteran home applications.

IDVA can provide skilled nursing care to more than 800 veterans each month through the Veterans' Homes in Quincy, Manteno, LaSalle, and Anna. Chicago is scheduled to open near the end of 2021. These facilities primarily provide licensed, skilled care beds available to veterans and eligible spouses and widows; Quincy and Anna also have a limited number of domiciliary beds for residents who do not require skilled care. The IDVA's Veterans' Homes are surveyed annually by the USDVA and licensed and inspected by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The IDVA also provides housing and supportive services for homeless veterans at the 15-bed Prince Home in Manteno.

IDVA assists in coordinating services and activities among state and federal agencies, as well as with non-profit organizations that serve veterans. To accomplish this, IDVA staff serve on a number of statutory committees and task forces and work in partnership with several federal agencies, including the USDVA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor. IDVA has established and maintains a network of advocacy with a variety of state agencies including the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Corrections, the Department on Aging, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Military Affairs, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Our team proudly supports nationwide suicide prevention through the Governor's Challenge.

# ADMINISTRATION

**“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.”**

-Barack Obama



Team IDVA.

## **Terry Prince**

Acting Director

## **Anthony Vaughn**

Acting Assistant Director

## **Tony Kolbeck**

(6/1/2021)

Chief of Staff

## **Amy Brennan**

Legislative Liaison

## **Curtis Davis**

Central Division Supervisor

## **Gwen M. Diehl**

Veterans' Homes Coordinator

## **Robert Ferrera**

Southern Division Supervisor

## **Jennifer Franklin**

Assistant to the Director

## **Maureen S. Hartigan**

Public Information Officer

## **Brittany Hawkins**

General Counsel

## **Vacant**

Senior Program Manager/  
Women Veterans' Coordinator

## **Robert Iverson**

Metro Division Supervisor

## **Franklin "Jay" Johnson**

Equal Employment Officer

## **Michele Kuntz**

Chief Fiscal Officer

## **Joel Meints**

Chief Internal Auditor

## **Craig Morrison**

Human Resources Manager

## **Mark Patterson**

Operations and Programs Manager/  
Field Services Manager

## **Joe Petrosky**

Appeals Supervisor

## **Shannon Shymansky**

Assistant to the Chief of Staff

## **Lisa Tisdale**

Labor Relations Manager

## **Connie Watson**

Grants Manager

## **Patricia Watkins-Oliver**

Assistant to the  
Acting Assistant Director

## **Dan Wellman**

Administrator, Veterans' Education  
and Training Section (VETS)

## **Melissa Beckford**

Northern Division Supervisor

## **Crystal Womack**

Senior Program Policy Advisor

## **Angela Simmons**

Senior Homes Administrator

## **Angela Simmons**

Administrator Illinois  
Veterans' Home – Anna

## **T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson**

Administrator Illinois  
Veterans' Home – Chicago

## **Brandi Melton**

Veterans' Home - LaSalle

## **Tanya Smith**

Administrator Illinois  
Veterans' Home - Manteno

## **Troy Culbertson**

Administrator Illinois  
Veterans' Home – Quincy

## CENTRAL OFFICE



The administrative oversight of the IDVA is conducted at Central Office locations in both Springfield and Chicago. The Fiscal, Personnel, Information Technology, Supply & Services, Legal, Communications, and Legislative Divisions are headquartered in Central Office. The Central Office is also home to the Grants Program, Audit, and the State Approving Agency (SAA).

The Fiscal Division is responsible for all agency accounting functions. This includes procurement of goods and services for the agency, invoice vouchering, receipt processing functions, expenditure tracking, preparation and execution of the annual budget, headcount tracking and certification, financial and operational reporting, property control, and lease coordination. In addition, the fiscal division is responsible for telecom, travel, and vehicle coordination.

The **Senior Home Administrator (SHA)** supervises leadership and operations of all five Veterans' Homes and the Prince Home, ensuring compliance with federal and state standards of long-term care and operations. The SHA also develops Department-wide policies for the homes and serves as a key subject-matter expert for Department leadership.

The **Veterans' Homes Coordinator** conducts long-range planning for future capital projects to meet the care needs of residents of the Illinois Veterans' Homes and preserves the State's facilities and capital assets; serves as liaison with the Capital Development Board (CDB), IDPH, the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, and the USDVA for capital improvement projects.

The **Human Resources (HR) Division** is responsible for all matters pertaining to the employees of the Agency such as: talent acquisition, compensation and benefits, time and attendance, training and development, workers' compensation, as well as unemployment claims. This unit also oversees personnel operations at the five Veterans' Homes through their respective Human Resources Offices. Each HR Office works with the veterans' home management team to develop long-term strategies for the growth and development of the Agency. The HR staff also provides essential Agency information and policy guidance.

The **Operations and Programs Division** has two major areas of responsibility that support all areas of the agency. Operations staff consists of the Supply & Services Section and the Records Section. First, Supplies and Services Section, works in conjunction with all other divisions in ordering and distributing supplies, and printed material such as forms, booklets, newsletters, brochures, posters, banners, etc. and, if necessary, coordinates external printing requirements. This section is responsible for the maintenance management of the Central Office automobile fleet of seven (7) vehicles. It is also responsible for the incoming and outgoing correspondence, with 6,205 pieces processed in FY 2021.

Also, part of Operations is the Records Section. It handles requests for discharges from veterans, service verification from authorized third parties (Funeral Homes, VAC's, USDVA and parties authorized by the veteran), Veteran Service Office requests for non-automated records in Central Office. This section is also continuously scanning veteran records that have been obtained through the years that pre-date automated capabilities. There are records for more than 1.9 million veterans. Central Office Reception is also a part of the Records Section and directs callers to the appropriate area to handle inquiries and comments received through our main phonenumber. They also assist in records requests and processing of special program initiatives.



## CENTRAL OFFICE



Programs Staff handles state grants/benefits based on the veteran's service or disability criteria and survivorship based on Illinois Veteran status. The programs based on the veterans war-time participation are, War Compensation (Bonuses for WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Global War on Terrorism); benefits based on Survivors Compensation to a spouse or qualifying dependent; The programs based on service-connected disability criteria are; Specially Adapted Housing Grant and Disabled Veterans Property Tax Relief; The programs based on Vet-

eran Status are War Veterans Grave Registration, Cartage and Erection of Headstone, Marker, or Memorial Marker (USDVA Marker Reimbursement), Military Plate Eligibility Verification for Secretary of State, and Welcome Home Letters, which identifies benefits and directs veterans returning to Illinois to the source or assistance to pursue the benefits.

The **Information Technology Division** is responsible for managing and supporting technological innovation of the Department, improving Veterans' services with technology, and the secure storage of digital data for the systems deployed for DVA staff usage.

The IT Division is made up of employees from the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) which maintains the State of Illinois data centers, where all DVA data is securely stored and safeguarded, and is the central hub for supporting all digital technologies employed at our Veterans' Homes, Springfield and Chicago offices and the Field offices. This includes, but is not limited to, the complete wired and wireless network infrastructure.

The **Veterans Education and Training Section (VETS)** consists of three veterans' education and training programs: one federally funded program and two state programs. The one federal program is the State Approving Agency and the two state programs are the MIA/POW Scholarship and Educational Opportunities for Children.

The **Legislative Division**, as part of the Director's executive staff, works in conjunction with the Governor's legislative office, elected officials, and Senate and House staff. The Legislative Liaison provides assistance with constituent questions and concerns, drafts legislation pursuant to agency needs, and testifies to committees on issues pertaining to Veterans.

The **Legal Division** serves as the Legal Counsel for the Department, and the General Counsel reports directly to the agency Director and the Governor's Office of the General Counsel. The Legal Division staff interprets laws and regulations; provides legal advice and counsel to senior Department staff on agency investigations and employment issues; coordinates and prepares matters for litigation or administrative hearings; attends outreach events concerning veterans in the legal community; and reviews administrative rules or proposed legislation for legislative consideration. In addition, the Deputy General Counsel serves as the Department's Ethics Officer and the Freedom of Information Act Officer. The Assistant General Counsel supports the day-to-day operations and routine legal work product required of the Department. The Legal Division and Chief Legal Counsel welcome questions or concerns from our staff, valued partners, and members of the public.

## CENTRAL OFFICE

The **Communications Division**. The Public Information Officer serves as the primary informational outreach contact for IDVA, helps to plan, craft, deliver, and measure communications to veterans, their families, and the general public. This is accomplished through media engagement, newsletters, social media, special events, leadership support, and response to queries. Information is provided via media advisories and press releases; responses to media and public queries; social media and internet engagement; briefings/ informational packets, speeches, talking points, and fact sheets; communications counsels and supports Agency-wide efforts as needed.

The **Grants Division** is responsible for all grant accounting functions. This includes managing the processing and awarding of state and federal grants, and administration and monitoring of the Vets Cash Scratch-Off Lottery Ticket Program. The division also assists with the design and development of grants and proposals for State, Federal and private sector to acquire funding for veterans' programs, ensuring that requests for federal assistance and grants are submitted to reduce state expenditures.

The **Senior Program Manager** leads, implements or supports the following programs: Gold Star Families, Women Veterans, Illinois Veterans Business Program, and Veterans Entrepreneurship. The Senior Program Manager serves as the liaison to the Illinois Joining Forces Foundation, a legislatively chartered non-profit comprised of member organizations that assist service members, veterans, and their families in navigating the "sea of good will".

The **Gold Star Families Program** works closely with the immediate family of service members lost in combat, assisting them in obtaining their benefits. We serve as the Governor's Office liaison to coordinate and serve Gold Star Families regarding attendance at events held for their benefit and commemoration.

The **Women Veterans Program** advocates for Women Veterans in the areas including compensation, rehabilitation, outreach healthcare and other issues facing Women Veterans in the community. In this role, the Senior Program Manager for the Women Veterans Program determines policy, program objectives, program standards, service output and program services. Through community engagement, the Women Veterans Coordinator partners with local, state, national, and federal organizations to establish a full-bodied outreach program to address the needs of Women Veterans and develop networks for support.

The **Illinois Veteran Business Program** changed its program to be inclusive of community outreach, engagement, training, and certification initiatives of the state. The collaborative partnership between IDVA and Central Management Services (CMS) supports a joint mission to assist veterans and recently transitioned service members with access to information, resources, and technical assistance in becoming successful entrepreneurs.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SERGEANT FIRST CLASS GWEN M. DIEHL



## Sergeant First Class Gwen M. Diehl, U.S. Army Garden Dedicated at Chicago Veterans' Home

In gratitude to Gwen Diehl, IDVA Home Coordinator, the garden at the Chicago Veterans' Home was dedicated in her honor by Governor JB Pritzker. Gwen oversees capital projects for IDVAs network of veterans' homes, champions Illinois projects in front of the federal VA, pursues reimbursements to maximize the impact of taxpayer dollars, supports women veterans, and enthusiastically works the State Fair and served as its Master of Ceremonies for many years.

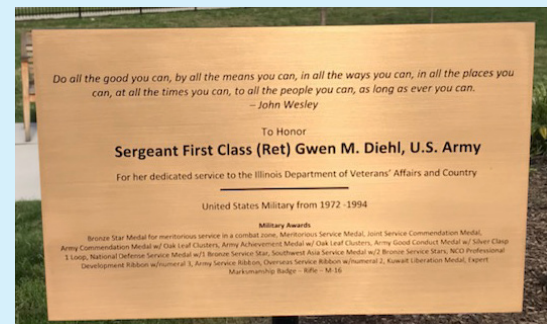
In dedicating the garden, Governor JB Pritzker said, "And today, it's my personal honor to add another accolade to that list. In honor of all her work to make this Chicago home a reality, this garden will forever carry the name of Sergeant First Class Gwen M. Diehl, U.S. Army – an Illinois hero."

Diehl joined the IDVA in 1996 and has served in numerous roles including Data Entry Clerk, Administrative Assistant to Deputy Directors and Senior Public Service Administrators. In her current role, she conducts long-term planning for future capital projects to meet the needs of veterans. Diehl also served six years on the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Women's Advisory Committee advocating for the needs of her fellow women veterans.

Diehl joined the Army in 1972 where she participated in Basic Training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Her stateside assignments brought her around the country including Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Fort Bliss, Texas, the National Training Center Barstow, California and Indianapolis, Indiana. Abroad, she was assigned to New Ulm, Heidelberg/Schwetzingen, and Ansbach, Germany, and Saudi Arabia.

Diehl deployed with Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and was the oldest of 34 women who deployed into the combat theater with the Support Squadron. She maintained continuity of operations for personnel services, mail operations, and Red Cross/Emergency Leave procedures. She served in the deployed Rear Detachment, three miles from the Iraq Border. She is a recipient of the Bronze Star for her valiant efforts.

She has also been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, as well as recognition for her veteran status with local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion chapters, and the Women's Overseas Service League.



## FIELD SERVICES DIVISION



The Field is divided into five divisions: Metro, Northern, Central, Southern, and Appeals. The Field Manager oversees the activities related to claims and services provided through the five division supervisors. Case management is enhanced by the Appeals Division, which is co-located at the VA's Regional Office (VARO) in Chicago.

Through its Field Services Division, IDVA provides a statewide system of Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) who serve local veterans and establish networks within the local communities they serve.

Veterans' needs for services provided by IDVA continues to be a priority due to the Global War on Terrorism and the inherent physical and mental demands placed upon our service members. VSOs are accredited by the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA). They assist veterans and their dependents in filing claims for benefits with state and federal agencies. This assistance includes applications to the USDVA for compensation, pension, and increasing disability benefits. Additionally, VSOs assist in applying for admission to the Illinois Veterans' Homes, state and federal education and burial benefits, and federal health benefits among others. Our accredited Appeals VSOs coordinate directly with the USDVA's Veteran's Benefits Administration to present and represent claims, assist veterans in appealing decisions, and appearing at hearings with the claimants before administrative law judges.

In FY 2021 the Department's VSOs conducted 5,096 in person and 48,497 telephonic interviews and prepared 13,540 state and federal applications for eligible Illinois veterans, dependents, and survivors. These services were instrumental to the establishment of new claims and claims for increases in U.S. Veterans Affairs benefits for Illinois veterans, their dependents, and their survivors. IDVA secured \$2,356,689 in total new benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Service to veterans continues through outreach to the community by participating in special events locally. At these outreach events, VSOs place emphasis on making veterans and their family members aware of the services offered by the IDVA. In addition to the above-mentioned services VSOs make them aware of the Home Loan Programs, and scholarship programs. VSOs also continue to support the survivors and families of Illinois' fallen by assisting with filing claims and receiving services earned by veterans.

### VSOs PIVOT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Throughout this past year of the pandemic, the Veterans Service Officers helped over 95,000 Illinois veterans navigate and obtain their earned benefits and services. As offices were shut down due to the pandemic, the VSOs shifted from in-person to virtual and electronic communication and implemented automated processes that continue to deliver a high-level of service to veterans. Over the long-term, the VSO team is utilizing electronic platforms which facilitate collaboration and learning from one another. While the pandemic presented challenges, it has offered the VSO opportunity to be creative to ensure they are meeting the veteran where they are. Our goal is to create a system that is centered around the veteran and families where everyone is communicating resulting in a streamlined, efficient delivery of service.



# FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

## Field Services Division Summary of Activity for FY 2021

### USDVA BENEFITS

Veterans Pension .....	167
Widows Pension .....	185
Veterans Comp .....	3,183
Widows DIC .....	331
Parents DIC .....	0
Appeals/Hearings .....	406
Hospital.....	428
Champ VA.....	127
Education.....	101
Loans.....	28
Insurance.....	68
Power of Attorney .....	847
Burial Benefits.....	432
Grave markers .....	705
Records Requests .....	580
Discharge/Medals.....	611
VA Intent to File.....	1,540
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>9,739</b>

### IDVA/STATE BENEFITS

New Veterans Records.....	3,601
War Bonus Applications .....	152
Illinois Veterans' Grant.....	8
State Education .....	87
MIA/POW Benefit.....	0
Fishing/Hunting Permit.....	2,685
Camping Permit.....	285
Veterans' Home Applications .....	10
Veteran ID Cards.....	97
3WVGR/4WVGR (Markers/Burial).....	868
Special Events.....	36
DD 214 Certifications for SOS.....	0
Records Request.....	57
Tax Exemption .....	0
SOS Line of Duty Compensation.....	0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>7,886</b>

### VSO OUTREACH

Interviews	
Veterans .....	3,809
Family Members .....	500
Phone Interviews .....	48,497
Emails.....	26,654
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>79,460</b>

# FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS (\* DENOTES PART-TIME OFFICE LOCATIONS)

<p><b>Adams</b>  <b>Quincy Veterans' Home</b>            1707 N. 12th St., Quincy, IL 62301            (217) 222-8641</p>	<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Volunteers of America</b>  <b>Hope Manor II</b>            6002 S Halsted St Chicago, IL 60621            (312) 564-2393</p>	<p><b>Crawford*</b>  <b>VFW Post</b>            812 E. Main St Robinson, IL 62454            (618) 546-5140</p>
<p><b>Bond*</b>  <b>Bond County Health Dept.</b>            1520 S. 4th Street Greenville, IL 62246            (618) 664-1442</p>	<p><b>Cook #1</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            George W. Dunne Cook County Office            69 W. Washington, Suite 1620            Chicago, IL 60602</p>	<p><b>DuPage</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            421 County Farm Rd., Room            2-600A Wheaton, IL 60187            (630) 690-9449</p>
<p><b>Champaign</b>  <b>Illinois National Guard Armory</b>            600 E. University Ave Urbana, IL 61802            (217) 278-3392</p>	<p><b>Cook #3</b>  <b>IDVA - National Guard Armory</b>            1551 N. Kedzie Ave. Chicago, IL 60651            (773) 292-7894</p>	<p><b>Edgar*</b>  <b>Edgar County FSA</b>            11759 IL Highway 1, Paris, IL 61944            (217) 685-2720</p>
<p><b>Christian</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            1100 Cheney St., Taylorville, IL 62568-2225            (217) 287-7474</p>	<p><b>Cook #4*</b>  <b>IL Department of</b>  <b>Employment Security</b>            1515 E. 71st St, Chicago, IL 60619            (773) 947-3648</p>	<p><b>Effingham</b>  <b>County Building</b>            101 N. 4th St, Room 203, Effingham, IL 62401            (217) 342-8493</p>
<p><b>Clinton*</b>  <b>Clinton County Senior Center</b>            630 8th St., Carlyle, IL 62231            (618) 594-2321</p>	<p><b>Cook #5</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            Chicago VA Regional Office            2122 W. Taylor, Suite 127            Chicago, IL 60612            (312) 980-4512</p>	<p><b>Fulton*</b>  <b>American Legion Post #1</b>            260 W. Lincoln Ave. Lewistown, IL 61542            Franklin Dept. of Human Services Building            1602 North Main Street Benton, IL 62812</p>
<p><b>Coles</b>  <b>DHS Family Community Center</b>            1550 Douglas Ave, Charleston, IL 1920            (217) 345-2192</p>	<p><b>Cook #6</b>  <b>IDVA-IDES</b>            16845 S. Halsted St. Harvey, IL 60426            (708) 225-8030</p>	<p><b>Henry*</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            111 North East St. Kewanee, IL 61443</p>
<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Schaumburg Township</b>            1 Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169            (847) 884-0030 Ext. 2019</p>	<p><b>Cook #7</b>  <b>IDVA – Vet Center</b>            1515 S. Harlem Unit 1B Forest Park, IL 60130            (708) 366-5020</p>	<p><b>Jackson</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            Carbondale VA Clinic            1130 E. Walnut St. Rm. 108 Woody Hall, Rm.            B252 Carbondale, IL 62901            (618) 351-1031 ext. 72204</p>
<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Prairie State College</b>            Student Veterans Center 202 S. Halsted St            Chicago Heights, IL 60411</p>	<p><b>Cook #8</b>  <b>Leyden Township</b>            2501 N Mannheim Rd Franklin Park, IL 60131            (847) 451-5111</p>	<p><b>Jasper*</b>  <b>Jasper County Courthouse</b>            204 W. Washington St., Suite 2            Newton, IL 62448            (217) 342-8493</p>
<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Arlington Heights</b>            1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd            Arlington Heights, IL 60004</p>	<p><b>Cook #9</b>  <b>Palatine Township</b>            721 S. Quentin Rd., Suite 102            Palatine, IL 60067            (847) 485-2772</p>	<p><b>Jefferson</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            4105 N. Water Tower.            Rm. #112 Mt. Vernon, IL 62864            (618) 246-2910 ext. 73404</p>
<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Evanston Vet Center</b>            1901 Howard St.            Evanston, IL 60202            (847) 332-1019</p>	<p><b>Cook #11*</b>  <b>Frisbie Senior Center</b>            52 E. Northwest Highway            Des Plaines, IL 60016            (847) 294-4664</p>	<p><b>Jo Davies*</b>  <b>West Galena Township Building</b>            607 Gear St, Galena, IL 61036            (815) 777-2228</p>
<p><b>Cook*</b>  <b>Volunteers of America</b>  <b>Hope Manor I</b>            3053 West Franklin Blvd Chicago, IL 60612            (773) 475-6703</p>	<p><b>Kane #1</b>  <b>IDVA</b>            Elgin National Guard Armory            254 Raymond St., Elgin, IL 60120            (847) 608-0138</p>	

# FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS (\* DENOTES PART-TIME OFFICE LOCATIONS)

## Kankakee

### Manteno Veterans' Home

#1 Veterans' Drive, Manteno, IL 60950  
(815) 468-6581 ext. 230

## Knox

### IDVA

362 N. Linwood Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401  
(309) 343-2510

## Knox\*

### Galesburg VA Out-Patient Clinic

310 Home Blvd, Galesburg, IL 61401  
(309) 343-0311

## Lake\*

### North Chicago VA Med Center

3001 Green Bay Rd.  
Bldg. 135, Rooms 156 & 157  
North Chicago, IL 60064  
(847) 689-4798

## Lake\*

### Lake County Veterans and Family Services foundation

100 S. Atkinson, Unit 110  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
(847) 986-4622

## Lake

### ISAC Deerfield Facility

1755 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield, IL 60015  
(847) 948-6982

## LaSalle

### LaSalle Veterans Home

1015 O'Connor Ave., LaSalle, IL 61301  
(815) 410-8374

## Lawrence

### City Of Lawrenceville

700 E. Main St. Lawrenceville, IL 62439  
(618) 943-6189

## Livingston\*

### National Guard Armory

825 W. Reynolds Room 110  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
(815) 842-2294

## Logan\*

### Oasis Senior Center

2810 Woodlawn Rd., Lincoln, IL 62656  
(217) 362-6644

## Macon

### Millikin Bldg.

132 S Water St Suite 440, Decatur, IL 62523  
(217) 362-6645

## Macon\*

### Decatur VA CBOC

3035 E. Mound Rd. Decatur, IL 62626  
(217) 362-5442

## Macoupin

### IDVA

201 McCausland St., Suite 4,  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
(217) 854-6563

## Massac\*

### County Courthouse

PO Box 429, Metropolis, IL 62960  
(618) 524-5213

## Mason\*

### VFW Post 6408

415 W. Adams, Havana, IL 62644  
(309) 837-5838

## McDonough

### National Guard Armory

135 W. Grant St., Rm 57, Macomb, IL 61455  
(309) 837-5838

## McHenry

### IDVA - Woodstock Armory

1301 Sunset Ridge Rd. Woodstock, IL 60098  
(815) 338-9292

## McLean

### National Guard Armory

1616 S. Main St., Room 15 & 16  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
(309) 820-2567

## Mercer\*

### County Courthouse

100 SE 3RD St., Aledo, IL 61231  
(309) 582-2714

## Morgan

### DHS Family Resource Ctr

45 S. Central Park Plaza Jacksonville, IL 62650  
(217) 245-0551

## Ogle\*

### Rock River Center, Inc.

810 S. 10th St., Oregon, IL 61061  
(815) 732-3252

## Peoria

### IDVA

401 Main St., Suite 650, Peoria, IL 61602  
(309) 671-2499

## Pike\*

### American Legion

1302 W. Washington, Pittsfield, IL 62363  
(217) 245-0551

## Pulaski\*

### Illinois Dept. of Human Services

422 S. Blanche, Mounds, IL 62964

## Randolph\*

### City Hall

1330 Swanwick St., Chester, IL 62233  
(618) 826-2326

## Richland\*

### Senior Citizens Center

308 Main St., Olney, IL 62450  
(618) 395-3223

## St. Clair

### IDVA

Illinois Department of Employment Security Building  
4519 W. Main St. Belleville, IL 62226  
(618) 233-8445

## Saline

### IDVA

320 E. Raymond, Harrisburg, IL 62946  
(618) 253-2005

## Sangamon

### IDVA

833 S. Spring St. PO Box 19432  
Springfield, IL 62794  
(217) 557-0358

## Schuyler\*

### Senior Center

250 N. Monroe, Rushville, IL 62681  
(309) 837-5838

## Stephenson

### IDVA

1631 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032  
(815) 233-5092

## Union\*

### Anna Veterans Home

792 N. Main St. Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-6302 Ext. 230

## Vermilion

### Workforce Development Center

407 N. Franklin, Suite B Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 442-7895

## Wabash\*

### Wabash Valley College

2200 College Dr., Mt. Carmel, IL 62863  
(618) 262-8641

## OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS



The Operations and Programs Division is responsible for the administration of several state programs that award or reimburse claimants based on state laws administered by the department, including Specialty Adapted Housing Grant, Tax Exemptions, Government Marker Reimbursement, Survivors Compensation and Bonuses for conflict participation. This division also houses more than 1.9 million veterans' records, dating from the Civil War Era to

the present, and is responsible for recording discharges and maintaining a Roll of Honor of deceased veterans in Illinois. To further enhance the department's ability to store and utilize these records, an ongoing project to convert these documents into electronic format is underway; to date 4,053,434 military documents have been added to the electronic database.

### BONUS PAYMENTS

**WORLD WAR II.** A one-time bonus payment equal to \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to Illinois residents who served on active duty from September 16, 1940, to September 3, 1945, and received an Honorable Discharge. There were no WWII payments made in FY21.

**KOREAN, VIETNAM, PERSIAN GULF and GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR BONUS.** A one-time \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

Korea	June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953 (1 paid, \$100)
Vietnam	January 1, 1961 – March 28, 1973 (5 paid, \$500)
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990-November 30, 1995 (20 paid, \$2,000)
Global War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001 onward (243 paid, \$24,300)

The claimant must also have received one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam Era), the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Expeditionary Medal or Service Medal (with qualifying overseas service), Iraq Campaign Medal or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, along with having been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service, and having received an Honorable Discharge. Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf or GWOT may apply prior to discharge.

### BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO SURVIVORS

**SURVIVORS' COMPENSATION.** Survivors are entitled to a benefit if the veteran's death was service connected and within the period specified. The one-time grant of \$900 is payable to survivors of veterans who were killed in action in World War II. During the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm, if the deceased had Illinois residency for at least 12 months immediately preceding entry into military service, and was killed in action, a \$1,000 benefit is payable to the next of kin. Global War On Terrorism Compensation, Surviving dependents or family members of military personnel who died in the Global War on Terrorism may apply for \$3,000 compensation.





## OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

**VIETNAM VETERANS COMPENSATION TO SURVIVORS.** If the death of a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict is the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified, survivors are entitled to a \$1,000 one-time payment. (Such as deaths due to Agent Orange Exposure.) There were 106 claimants compensated for a total of \$106,000 in FY21.

**GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM COMPENSATION.** Surviving dependents or family members of military personnel who died in the Global War on Terrorism may apply for \$3,000 compensation. There were 0 claims in FY21.

**POW COMPENSATION.** A person on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the United States Government on or after January 1, 1961, who was a resident of Illinois 12 months prior to entry, and who was taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in Southeast Asia, is entitled to \$50 for each month or portion thereof that they were held captive. There were no claims in FY21.

**ILLINOIS COURT OF CLAIMS.** The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs assists surviving eligible dependents in filing claims for death benefits - up to \$373,263 disbursed - pursuant to the Line of Duty Compensation Act. In the case of an Armed Forces member, "killed in the line of duty" means losing one's life while on active duty in connection with the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Compensation is adjudicated by and, if awarded, disbursed through the Illinois Court of Claims. There were no claims paid and one (1) claim open for FY21.

### Plates and Driver's Licensing

The IDVA provides support to veterans during the application process for any of the statutory vehicle-related benefits under the purview of the Illinois Secretary of State (SOS).

These include:

- Disabled Veterans License Plates
- Special License Plates
- Veteran designation on Driver's License and State Identification



The IDVA Veteran Service Officers (VSO), Operations, Programs, and Records section, provide verification of service-related qualification required by statute (medical disability, service-qualifying information, etc.) using validated records provided by the veteran, or documents currently on file with IDVA in the Operations, Programs and Records section. Applications for any of the vehicle-related benefits are processed through the offices of the Secretary of State. There were 50 requests processed in FY21.

# OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS



*Illinois State Fair - Gold Star Ceremony*

## REAL ESTATE

**SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING.** Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring and remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities. If the entire home was built or remodeled, to meet the needs of the veteran, a grant of \$15,000 or 25% of the remaining mortgage, whichever is less. For homes

that require only minor adaptations, the grant is \$3,000 or 25% of any remaining mortgage, whichever is less. In FY'21, 10 claims were approved at \$15,000 each, and one (1) claim approved at \$3,164. The total benefit of the program was \$153,164.

Implementation of Public Act 98-1145 during tax year 2015, provided that the disabled veteran's exemption for specially adapted housing applied to property with an assessed value of up to \$100,000. It added a requirement that the home must be inspected and certified by a licensed home inspector to be in compliance with applicable standards set forth in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration Pamphlet 26-13 Handbook for Design of Specially Adapted Housing. There were 349 exemptions under this program in FY21.

## RETURNING VETERANS' HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption provides qualifying veterans a one-time \$5,000 reduction to their homes' equalized assessed value (EAV). The exemption is for two consecutive tax years, the tax year that the veteran returns from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States and the following year. The veteran must own and occupy the property as his or her principal residence on January 1 of each assessment year. Qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the U.S. armed forces can file an application upon their return home to receive this exemption from their local County Assessor's Office.

## DISABLED VETERANS' STANDARD HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability. Beginning in tax year 2015, a \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50% and a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%; veterans with a service connected disability of at least 70% are completely exempt from property taxes. Qualifying veterans must file an annual application by their counties' deadlines to continue to receive this exemption with their local County Assessor's Office. The exemption further amended the Property Tax Code to provide that the disabled veterans standard homestead exemption applies even if the veteran did not qualify for or obtain the exemption before death if the veteran was killed in the line of duty.



# OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

## RECORDS AND FILES

**PUBLIC RECORDS.** Certified copies of public records for veterans will be provided by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs with no charge. Additional requests for certified copies of public records or for public records outside of the State may require a fee.

## BURIAL BENEFITS

**CARTAGE AND ERECTION FEES.** When a headstone or marker has been furnished by the Federal government, the IDVA shall pay a maximum allowable reimbursement amount of \$125 for the setting of such marker within Illinois. In FY'21, there were 2,430 claims approved at \$125 or less for a total benefit of \$283,830.

**GRAVES REGISTRATION.** The department maintains a Roll of Honor of all veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Every person, firm, or corporation owning or controlling any cemetery or burial place in this state is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. war veteran or memorial marker erected for this purpose.


### Operations and Programs

	CLAIMS	EXPENSES
Cartage and Erection of Government Headstones	2,430	\$283,830
Bonus Payments	375	\$132,900
Global War on Terrorism / Military Affairs	0	\$0
Specially Adapted Housing	11	\$153,164
Tax Exemption	349	NA

### Summary of Special Services for FY 2021

**SPECIAL SERVICES: TOTAL**

- Tax Exemption Certificates: 349
- Veterans Discharge Certificates: 10,178
- Veterans Burial Certificates: 567
- SOS Special License Plates: 50
- Phone Inquiries: 563
- Correspondence: 2,345
- Image Documents: 17,085
- Emails & Faxes: 1,602
- Total: 32,739**



## VETERANS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTION (VETS)

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs' – Veterans Education and Training Section consists of three veterans' education and training programs: one federally funded program and two state programs. The one federal program is the State Approving Agency and the two state programs are the MIA/POW Scholarship and Educational Opportunities for Children.

### STATE APPROVING AGENCY

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a completely federally funded program established to approve and audit for compliance college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, apprenticeships, on-the-job training (OJT) programs, license and certification tests, and Small Business Development Centers Entrepreneurship Courses, so that educational assistance benefits may be paid to veterans and other eligible persons under programs administered by the USDVA.

The following is a list of entitlement programs for which the SAA has approval and supervisory responsibilities within Illinois:

- Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP Chapter 32)
- Post 9/11 G.I. Bill – (Chapter 33)
- Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- Montgomery G.I. Bill – Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)

In FY 2021, the SAA provided Illinois veterans with opportunities to train at 1,204 approved education and training facilities. These numbers include programs of education at 205 universities, colleges and community colleges, 160 vocational schools, and 244 high schools for dependents using the Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance program. The State Approving Agency also approved 531 apprenticeship and on-the-job training facilities for the use of veterans, military service members, and their families. **The SAA's efforts have resulted in Illinois having the most active apprenticeship and OJT program in the nation.** During FY 2021, the SAA supervised 341 active apprenticeship and OJT training facilities.

In FY 2021, The Illinois State Approving Agency continued distributing a monthly E- Newsletter and other timely communication to all school certifying officials, veterans' coordinators, and veterans' advocates. Furthermore, the Illinois SAA co-hosted a Virtual Speaker Series for Illinois student veterans with Student Veterans of America-Illinois.

Finally, the Illinois State Approving Agency continued a bimonthly professional development webinar series for school certifying officials and veterans' coordinators. Furthermore, the Illinois SAA co-hosted regional school certifying officials' workshops with our partners at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.



## VETS

### PROGRAM APPROVALS AND CANCELLATIONS

New, Revised, Other Institutions of Higher Learning

Approval Actions: 844

Programs and Institutions of Higher Learning Withdrawn: 657

New, Revised, Other Non-College Degree Program Actions: 5,645

Programs and Non-College Degree Programs Withdrawn: 259

New, Revised, Other Apprenticeship Approval Actions: 136

Programs and Apprenticeships Withdrawn: 4

Programs and On-The-Job Training Approval Actions: 373

Programs and On-The-Job Training Programs Withdrawn: 124

New, Revised, Other Flight School Approval Actions: 335

Programs and Flight School Programs Withdrawn: 0

Programs and License and Certification Tests Approval Actions: 49

Programs and License and Certification Tests Withdrawn: 16

Total Approval and Withdrawal Actions: 17,042

### MIA-POW Scholarship

The MIA-POW Scholarship covers tuition and certain fees to an Illinois public university or community college for eligible dependents. The scholarship will cover a maximum of 120 points with points based on a semester hour system.

To be eligible for the scholarship, you must be the spouse, widow, natural child, stepchild or adopted child of the veteran to qualify. The veteran must have been an Illinois resident at the time of entering active military service, an Illinois resident within six months after entering Active military service, or a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years after leaving active duty as of the date of this application. Information about place of entry into active duty may be found on a Veteran's DD214 (Report of Separation) or Enlistment Contract.

Furthermore, the veteran must meet one of the following criteria in order to qualify – (1) Veteran must have been an MIA (Missing In Action) (2) Veteran must have been a POW (Prisoner of War) (3) Veteran must be rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA) as being 100% permanent and totally disabled by service connected causes (4) Veteran must be rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA) as being 100% permanent and totally disabled by service connected causes due to unemployability (5) Veteran's death must be rated service connected by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (USDVA).

If the surviving spouse remarries or if there is a divorce from the veteran or serviceperson, the scholarship benefit for the remarried surviving spouse and stepchildren will terminate on the date of the remarriage or divorce. If the surviving spouse remarries or if there is a divorce from the veteran or serviceperson while the spouse and/or stepchildren are pursuing a course of study, scholarship benefits will be terminated at the end of the term for which they are presently enrolled. The natural child, adopted child, or stepchild must begin utilizing the benefit prior to the age of 26. In FY21, there were 1,236 claims approved representing \$3,943,487 of benefits for the program funded at \$3,500,000. Educational institutions absorbed the remaining \$443,487.



## VETS

### OTHER STATE VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFIT PROGRAMS

The **ILLINOIS VETERAN GRANT (IVG)** waives tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported universities and community colleges for Illinois residents. An individual must:

- be a veteran;
- reside in Illinois six months before entering the service;
- have at least one full year of active duty in the US Armed Forces; and
- return to Illinois within six months of discharge from the service.

Applications and additional information are available from VSOs, college financial aid offices, or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015, phone 800-899-4722. The applicant can seek assistance at any IDVA Veterans' Service Office. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission adjudicates and administers this program.

The **CHILDREN OF VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP** provides each county in the state with three (3) tuition waivers annually to the University of Illinois for the benefit of children of veterans of World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam Conflict, the Siege of Beirut, the Grenada Conflict, Southwest Asia Conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with preference to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Such children shall be entitled to a scholarship at any campus of the University of Illinois for a term of at least four consecutive years. The University of Illinois administers this tuition waiver program and one may acquire further information about the program from the University of Illinois Financial Aid Office.

### Amanda Depew: Veteran Spotlight



#### Amanda Depew Receives 2021 Student Veteran Leadership Award

Amanda Depew, a United States Air Force veteran, is the recipient of the 2021 Illinois Student Veteran Leadership Award. While earning her Masters in Social Work from Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville (SIUE), she was nominated based on her deep commitment to the university's veteran's community. As an integral member of the Office of Military and Veteran Services (MAVS) at SIUE, she was a valued volunteer developing and executing events for over 800 military-connected veterans. She also spearheaded the Green Zone program, an effort to educate SIUE administrators, faculty, and staff about military and veteran culture and bring awareness to the challenges encountered by student veterans. Because of her hard work, Green Zone will live on at SIUE after her

departure and will help countless veterans in the present and future.

Amanda also volunteered to be a part of the university's panel series "From Uniform To University: Veterans in the SIUE Community," where she displayed her bravery by revealing the truths of her military service, as well as educating attendees on the varying realities women confront in uniform. Her willingness to take part in the event brought a unique perspective and was a large part of the overwhelming success of the event.

## GOLD STAR FAMILIES



### Gold Star Families

Throughout the year, we invited Gold Star families to events to honor their loved one and to offer spaces for their community to be together. Their loved one made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our nation, and these gestures demonstrate that we stand by them – they are not alone.

The Springfield and DuQuoin State Fairs Veterans Days were backdrops for Gold Star Remembrance Day ceremonies where Governor JB Pritzker, Acting Director Terry Prince and other elected officials celebrated the lives of each of those lost service men and women. They were solemn and beautiful services steeped in military traditions and ceremony. Each attending Gold Star family is recognized and presented with a rose.

Gold Star Mother's Day was presented virtually this year featuring images of votives illuminating the state capitol representing the lives of 133 lost service men and women. The Governor, First Lady, Lt. Governor, and Acting Director Prince shared remarks of condolence and gratitude to those who joined the program.

Illinois is home to 331 Gold Star families. IDVA continues to support them through these opportunities to gather and assist with services and benefits for families of lost service men and women.



# ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOMES

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Illinois Veterans' Home is staffed with caring and dedicated professionals who provide quality long-term care and services to each resident. Our goal is to ensure that each resident experience the highest possible quality of life, every single day. Additionally, the Homes are supported by dedicated volunteers from the local communities and veterans' organizations who provide many additional supporting services and activities, which enhances the lives of our veterans tremendously. Although this was an extremely difficult year, we are grateful for the support of our communities and veteran organizations.

## QUALITY AND STANDARDS

The Illinois Veterans' Homes are subject to the regulatory standards of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and undergo annual licensure inspections by both agencies in areas of resident care, quality, and safety.

## ELIGIBILITY

Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to admission if he or she:

- Has served in the U.S. Armed Forces at least one day during a period recognized by the USDVA as a war period or served in a hostile fire environment and was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal; or
- Was retired for a service-connected disability or injury; or
- Has served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for 24 months of continuous service or more and enlisted after September 7, 1980; or
- Has served as a Reservist or National Guard member, and the service included being called to Federal Active Duty (excluding service for Active Duty Training only) and completed the term or completed 20 years of satisfactory service and is otherwise eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits; or
- Has been discharged for reasons of hardship or released from active duty due to a reduction in the U.S. Armed Forces before the completion of the required period of service; and
- Entered the service as a resident of Illinois or has been a resident of Illinois for one year immediately preceding the date of application for admission; and
- Is disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise, and because of disability is incapable of earning a living.

Peacetime veterans with one year of honorable military service may also be eligible for admission, and other qualifying conditions, as required, must be met.

Admission to an Illinois Veterans' Home is based upon:

- The ability of the Home to provide adequate and appropriate care and services required by the person's medical diagnoses and assessed needs, and:
- An available bed in the category required by the veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.

## DOMICILIARY CARE

Our Homes in Anna and Quincy have independent living domiciliary services which are open to eligible Veterans, non-veteran Spouses, and National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United States who have completed 20 years of satisfactory service and are eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits.



# ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOMES

## WAITING LISTS

When required, waiting lists are established by each Home. Veterans whose applications are accepted, but who cannot be immediately admitted to the facility, are placed on the facility waiting list and are prioritized on a "first come-first served" basis. COVID-19 impacted admissions of each home as measures were taken to ensure safe admissions.

Separate waiting lists are prepared for general Skilled Care, Special Needs Care, and Domiciliary, if there are separate units for this type of care.

## ADMISSION PRIORITIES

First priority is to serve wartime veterans. If there are no eligible wartime veterans on the waiting list, the second priority is given to peacetime veterans. At homes located in Anna and Quincy, spouses of residents or widows of veterans who are otherwise eligible for admission are eligible for admission to domiciliary units when there are no wartime or peacetime veterans on the waiting list.

## COSTS OF CARE

Residents pay a monthly maintenance fee based on individual income and ability-to-pay. The monthly charge covers room, food (including special diets and supplements), medication, medical care, recreation and activities, and some special therapy or treatments prescribed by the attending physician.

Those residents whose income and assets are within the guidelines specified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) may qualify for an Aid & Attendance (A&A) allowance. Residents who receive this allowance will pay an additional, separate A&A charge, in addition to the monthly maintenance fee. The A&A charge is equal to the amount of the allowance provided by the USDVA.

Some costs of care that are not covered include but may not be limited to: Durable Medical Equipment such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dental care, prostheses, and special wheelchairs or mechanical devices. Such costs must be paid directly to the providers by the resident or responsible party.

The cost of care is met through a combination of the maintenance fee paid by each resident, per diem granted by USDVA and appropriated general revenue funds (GRF).

## ACTIVITIES

The Homes provide a full range of social and therapeutic activities for residents, both inside and outside of the facility. Every member is encouraged to participate in as many of the activities and programs as possible. Some examples of activities include card games, bingo parties, cooking and crafts, religious services, exercise and fitness, entertainment, and outdoor activities. COVID-19 restricted many activities, however, the administrators adapted to provide as much activity as possible.

Representatives of national, state, and local veterans' organizations frequently visit the Homes, Resident Advisory Groups (RAG) and Veterans' Advisory Councils (VAC) at each Home, work to assure that quality standards are maintained, and that the special needs of our veterans are met at all times.



## THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna (IVH-Anna) is a 50-bed, skilled care nursing facility with six adjoining. Situated on a 16.1-acre site in Union County, the Home provides long-term skilled nursing care services, rehabilitative, and social services.

The Home has a staff of 88 employees, who strive to provide individualized care in a homelike environment, by focusing on the wellness and strengths of each person that lives there. They do this through various activities based on individual capabilities.

The Illinois Veterans' Home-Anna offers numerous activities of interest to residents, thanks in part to the strong support and assistance of dedicated volunteers from veterans' organizations and the community. In addition, IVH-Anna members enjoy the serenity and peacefulness of a Sensory Garden designed specifically for residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia.

The plan and initial design for a 44-bed expansion at IVH-Anna is nearly complete, however, capital funding for this project has not yet been appropriated. When constructed, this project will enlarge the dining room and multi-purpose room, construct a new central kitchen, and will also provide a secure unit that will better address the special needs of residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. The USDVA Medical Center at Marion is the hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-Anna.

### Isolation Unit at Anna

Angela Simmons, Administrator for the Veterans Home at Anna, recounts the history of the rapid spread of COVID-19 and immediately putting into action the home's preparedness plan. Protocols such as PPE, screening, and visitation restrictions were swiftly put into place. With five positive COVID-19 patients in a small building, the home to 50 residents, the challenge was how to provide comfortable recovery and quarantining, while preventing the virus' spread to other residents and staff.

Angela and her team brainstormed its option. Outside the doors of the home, a large expanse of land was the perfect setting for an isolation unit. The rented, negative air pressure unit can house up to 14 residents during recovery and appropriated quarantining, keeping the main building's residents and staff completely safe. It is fully equipped with TVs, Wi-Fi, microwaves, and refrigerators. The residents three main meals are delivered to the building.

When Angela asked her team about staffing the building, she anticipated difficulty in filling the shifts. Anyone who worked in the unit would not be permitted in the main building until all tests were negative and quarantine parameters met. Dedicated staff eagerly volunteered to care for residents regardless of the sacrifices they would have to make including potential exposure for themselves and their families, isolation from coworkers, and giving up earned vacation and days off. They answered the call.

Over the course of the year, ten residents have recovered in the unit. Today, thankfully, it remains vacant. However, while the pandemic continues its unpredictable course, the unit is available as a safe sanctuary for recovering residents and a safeguard for the Veterans' Home at Anna.

## THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA

**"Leadership and learning  
are indispensable to one another."**

-President John F. Kennedy



*Anna Home Administrator Angela Simmons*

### Angela Simmons: Administrator Spotlight



Angela Simmons has served as the Nursing Home Administrator of the Illinois Veterans Home at Anna since 2013. Her list of achievements is noteworthy. In 2015, she won the Illinois "Pioneering Culture Change Champion of the Year" award and in 2020, was elected to the Illinois Nursing Home Administrator Board of Directors. Angela is dedicated to changing the culture of long-term care into more of a homelike environment. Angela has a history of excellence in education, presenting on person-centered care, dementia care training and disaster preparedness. Recently, she was a guest lecturer to a statewide audience on best practices for nursing homes against Covid-19.

Angie's advice to her team, "leave yesterday's problems behind, don't bring yesterday's problems with you today, because you just doubled your problems."

Many of Angie's staff have post its with the number "24" – a reminder of Angie's advice to let something upsetting sit for 24-hours before reacting.

This outside the box thinker led the way in protecting her community using a creative and practical approach. She has been diligent in supporting her staff and residents in the important decisions around vaccinations and boosters and has communicated closely with the residents and their families as they have endured long periods of separation.

Angie was raised in Southern Illinois and is the proud daughter of a Vietnam veteran. She graduated from Nursing School at Shawnee Community College in 1997 and earned her Bachelor's Degree at Mid-Continent University. She is committed to service in the community and volunteers much of her personal time supporting the Special Olympics.



## ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT CHICAGO

The Illinois Veterans Home at Chicago is located at 4250 N. Oak Park Avenue in Chicago. Throughout the past fiscal year, the Administrator and leadership have been recruiting, hiring, and training employees including medical professionals, dietary, and housekeeping. Applications for residents is ongoing. When complete, this state-of-the-art home will house 200 veterans. Final construction, interior, and safety measures are being finalized with an expected opening in FY22.

### T'Kira-Siler Wilkerson: Administrator Spotlight



T'Kira Siler-Wilkerson joined IDVA as the home administrator for the Chicago Veterans' home in July 2020 where she has led all efforts to open the doors of the home to veterans. She has breathed life into the building by recruiting, hiring, and training a staff dedicated to caring for veterans with compassion. She zeroed in on details of interactive artwork, green spaces, and comfortable living areas that have made this space a place for its residents to enjoy their surroundings and feel cared for with dignity. Additionally, T'Kira has overseen the important details of safety, compliance, and accreditation. Managing these very different elements of a home requires not just institutional knowledge and best practices, but also an understanding of the standards of an IDVA skilled nursing home. It is just that – it is the veteran's home. Her team has brought their skills, passion, and commitment to care to create this special space.

T'Kira came to IDVA with 20 years of experience in long term and home health care, and in the mental health care. Prior to joining us, she was with Aishling Companion Health Care, Addus Home Care, Atrium Health Care Center, Momence Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation, and Lexington Health Network, where she held leadership roles. She is a graduate of Western Illinois University. She and her husband, Demond, a U.S. Navy veteran, live in Park Forest and have two boys.

## ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE



The Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle (IVH-LaSalle) opened on December 12, 1990. With the 2008 construction of an 80-bed addition, IVH-LaSalle can house 190 veterans in both general skilled care and special needs unit providing care to residents suffering from dementia related health issues.

The IVH-LaSalle provides comprehensive, quality, skilled nursing care to the veterans who live there, with the goal to promote the highest possible quality of life for each individual member. Residents and their families are free to enjoy five secure, landscaped outdoor courtyards for fresh air. A full range of rehabilitation services are provided to assist veterans in meeting their needs.

The Home has a complete staff of medical, nursing, social service, and activity personnel. Ancillary services such as physical, speech, and occupational therapies are available at the Home through contractual arrangements with specialists in the community. The Hines VA Medical Center is the USDVA hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-LaSalle.

### Anthony Vaughn: Administrator Spotlight



With the LaSalle Home Administrator's position vacant, Acting Assistant Director Vaughn stepped in as interim administrator at a critical juncture during the COVID-19 pandemic where he guided the home during challenging and evolving months. He continued to lead the team of 253 caring for up to 184 veterans during the search for a home administrator. As a key member of IDVA's executive leadership team, he was equipped to lead as guidelines and protocols shifted.

After retiring from the Marine Corps in 2005, Anthony joined IDVA where he held several positions including Appeals Division Supervisor, Chicago Metro Area Supervisor, Field Training Coordinator and Field Services Manager. After a career looking after the welfare of his fellow Marines, he has brought this same sense of honor, courage and commitment to the veterans of Illinois.

Anthony earned a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University and Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Ohio University.

## THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno (IVH-M), celebrated its 32nd year of service in April and continues to serve many northern and central Illinois veterans. The IVH-M is located on 122-acre campus 60 miles south of Chicago. Approximately 143 acres of additional property is farmed with the proceeds of that lease being placed in the Manteno Home Fund. The Home provides a comfortable residence for the veterans in a peaceful rural setting and has a post office, library, bank, beauty/barber shop, and commissary which services up to 294 residents. The campus features a 1 ½ acre man-made pond that is stocked and landscaped, with a pavilion where veterans can enjoy the outdoors and "catch- and-release" fishing.

The IVH-M has a complete in-house medical staff to provide the full-range of professional nursing care for veterans. Residents who may require acute hospital services such as surgery, advanced diagnostic workups, or other specialized treatments receive this care at the USDVA Medical Center at Hines, Illinois. Two community hospitals in Kankakee, IL also provide acute and emergency care. Skilled, professional staff members are assisted by a large contingent of dedicated volunteers from local veterans and civic organizations. Weekly religious services of all faiths are held in the facility chapel. The Activities and Volunteer Services Departments provide residents with a variety of social and recreational activities.

### Tanya Smith: Administrator Spotlight



Tanya Smith, Administrator of the Manteno Home and Program Director for the Prince Program, joined IDVA in 2012 and has served in several roles at the home including director of nursing and adjutant. She leads a staff of 310 who care for up to 294 veterans at the home.

"I love the connection with the veterans that live here, and I am inspired by their service and commitment that our community has to them and the Manteno Veterans' Home," Tanya shared in talking about her work.

Tanya has dedicated 23 years to hospital settings in emergency services as a staff nurse, manager, and director. She is a member of the Illinois Nursing Home Administrator Association and the Illinois Pioneer Coalition. She is also an adjunct clinical professor for clinical nursing at her alma mater.

Tanya earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing from Olivet Nazarene University, accomplishments she is proud to share as an example to her daughters. While Tanya is not a baker, she enjoys collecting vintage cake plates from flea markets.

## THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT **MANTENO**

**"Women veterans have shaped our nation through their sacrifices and service."**

-Acting Director Terry Prince



### **Josephine Bogdanich: Spotlight**

Josephine Bogdanich, Women's Army Corps, US Army, has been part of the Manteno Veterans' home family since 2017 where she is an active member of the community.

Josephine enlisted, along with her sister, in 1944 and was assigned to Selfridge Air National Base in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. After a short time, she was sent to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and later to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. At Langley, she received teletype training and served in the Mail Department where she handled mail and packages that were sent to servicemen. At times, she wrote notes to soldiers who did not receive any mail, hoping that a note would lift their spirits and let a soldier know that someone was thinking of them.

Josephine was discharged from the service in Santa Monica, California, in 1946 and returned to her job at Illinois Bell Telephone, before being hired to do office work for the Indiana Railroad Company near the stockyards. Josephine and her husband Andrew have one son Nicholas. They lived on Chicago's southside before she moved to the Manteno Veterans' Home.

This fall, Josephine took her second trip with Honor Flight Chicago as part of Operation HerStory, a partnership between many organizations including Honor Flight Chicago and Daughters of the American Revolution, to provide this special opportunity to the more than 7,000 senior women veterans in Illinois. This one-day, all-expense paid trip originated in Chicago and arrived in Washington, D.C. for visits to historic sites including the Women's Memorial in Arlington Cemetery and the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall, memorials built in their honor. Josephine, at age 104, was the oldest veteran joining the Honor Flight.



## THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

In 1886, the 34th Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to establish a soldiers' and sailors' home for disabled Illinois veterans of the Mexican and Civil Wars. On June 1, 1886 Governor Richard Oglesby, selected Quincy as the site of the new home. On October 19, 1886, the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailor's Home was formally dedicated. In June 1973, the name was changed to the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy (IVH-Quincy).

The IVH-Quincy is the largest and oldest veterans' home of the five in Illinois and one of the larger and older veterans' homes in the country. Today, more than 350 residents call the facility home and represent most of the 102 counties in Illinois. The IVH-Quincy provides domiciliary and skilled nursing care to Illinois veterans, their spouses, and widows/widowers.

The Quincy Home offers levels of healthcare ranging from 52 domiciliary beds to skilled nursing care for up to 352 veterans, with units for those Veterans who have special needs. Full-time physicians, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Veteran Nursing Assistants- Certified (CNAs) provide 24-hour a day, 7-days a week care. In addition to the extensive medical department, the Home has social services, activities, dietary, laundry, housekeeping, security, and maintenance departments.

The USDVA Medical Center at Iowa City is the hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-Quincy.

### Quincy Project

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy celebrated its 135th anniversary by embarking on a \$230 million construction of a new nursing home and domiciliary to accommodate 474 residents. Built in 1886, Quincy is the oldest Illinois veterans' home and sits on 210 scenic acres along the Mississippi River. Its 37 buildings were built between 1886 and 2002, many in need of major repair and upgrades. Additionally, a Legionnaires Disease outbreak in 2015 heightened the need to rectify the home's infrastructure resulting in a \$6.4 million treatment plant to provide high quality water to the home.

To consider the long-term vision of the home, the team researched, documented, evaluated and presented concepts that articulated a unique vision sensitive to the Veterans Home's core purpose and functions, while preserving and improving the overall character of the campus environment. The Plan provided a phased development and implementation to allow priority projects to move forward while completion of the overall Master Plan was underway. The project also includes improvements and connection to existing campus infrastructure. By statute, the buildings must meet at least LEED Silver certification and additional energy efficiencies are being considered. Additionally, the team is coordinating with the Illinois Historic Preservation Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and other projects underway on the campus.

This project, set for completion in 2024, has been submitted to USDVA State Home Construction Grant Program for reimbursement of eligible construction cost and is anticipated to return up to \$197 million to the Capital Development Board for future projects in Illinois.



# THE ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY



## Troy Culbertson: Administrator Spotlight



Troy Culbertson, Administrator for the Veterans Home at Quincy, has served 474 veteran residents on Quincy's beautiful 210-acre campus for over five years. The Quincy Veterans home employs approximately 500 staff with representation from ten different unions. During his tenure, the Quincy Home has seen some great accomplishments including the ongoing \$230 million campus-wide construction project that will include the construction of a 210-bed skilled nursing unit and an 80 bed Independent living center. In 2018, Troy also coordinated the opening of a free standing 77 bed facility serving Veterans just off site and oversees the current enhancements through federal funding to the home's historical veteran cemetery.

For over 30 years, Troy has held leadership roles in the long-term care industry. In the private sector, as Regional Director, he supported dozens of homes in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Tennessee with fiscal and operational oversight. He was actively involved in the health care associations in three states, including 18 years on the board of directors for the Missouri Healthcare Association serving on its legislative committee. He also served on the Post-acute Advisory Board for the Studer Group and is a member of the Illinois Nursing Home Administrator Association, and the Illinois Pioneer Coalition.

Troy holds a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. He has three married children and one grandchild and is a weekend warrior on farming and food plotting for wildlife.



## THE PRINCE HOME AT MANTENO



Located on the grounds of the Manteno Veterans' Home, the Prince Home for homeless and disabled veterans is a separate program with a dedicated staff and program director. The Prince Home opened in 2007 to provide permanent supportive housing for men and women veterans in its 15- bed facility.

The Prince Home staff provides each resident with the skills needed for successful independent living. The Home provides a structured, safe, and caring environment, which instills a sense of dignity, belonging, and achievement enhancing the opportunity to succeed. The Prince Home vision is for residents to leave the program with the confidence to achieve full-time employment, independent housing, and sobriety.

The Prince Home is not a shelter used to temporarily house veterans, it is a home where veterans can rebuild their lives. To reside in the Prince Home, residents must participate in the entire scope of the curriculum, programs, and activities.

As of June 2021, the Prince Home has served 212 residents since its opening.

The Home's leadership advocates for homeless veterans statewide through networks with county and city governments, various state agencies, religious institutions, private and community organizations, the USDVA, and state-wide veterans' organizations.

In FY 21, the Prince Home has had the following events:

- Due to Covid19, recreational outings have been severely impacted. Because we have been so careful, both staff and residents have remained COVID-19 free this fiscal year.
- Several organizations have hosted luncheons and dinners throughout the year. The organizations have had the food delivered to the residents at the Prince Building although they were not able to enter the premises. The residents have appreciated them, knowing that someone was thinking of them through these difficult times.
- The Chas J. & Margaret D. Nash Trust & Arcadia Palace Lodge # 765 donated \$ 9,000.
- This past Christmas Adopt-A-Soldier donated 3 brand new desk top computers along with three executive chairs for the common area. The computers were for the use of all residents.



## INTERNAL AUDIT

The department has implemented a comprehensive full-time program of internal auditing in accordance with the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA) (30 ILCS 10/2001) along with the internal auditing standards and Code of Ethics adopted by the Illinois State Internal Audit Advisory Board. Accordingly, the

internal audit function is authorized to have full, free, and unrestricted access to all Department's records, personnel, property, facilities, and information systems.

The department's internal audit function consists of a Chief Internal Auditor plus one internal audit staff member.

The activities of the internal audit function include:

- Presentation and execution of two-year audit plans, in compliance with FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1)).
- Development and maintenance of an internal audit charter in accordance with professional internal auditing standards.
- Formal certifications that the internal audit personnel are free from impairment or the perception of impairment.
- Assurance and consulting services.
- Coordination of state and federal external audits and reviews; and
- Monitor the corrective action taken by the Department to resolve all internal and external audit findings.

Further, as required by FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1)), the Chief Internal Auditor submits annually, by September 30, a report detailing how the audit plan for the preceding fiscal year was carried out, the significant findings, and the extent to which recommended changes were implemented.

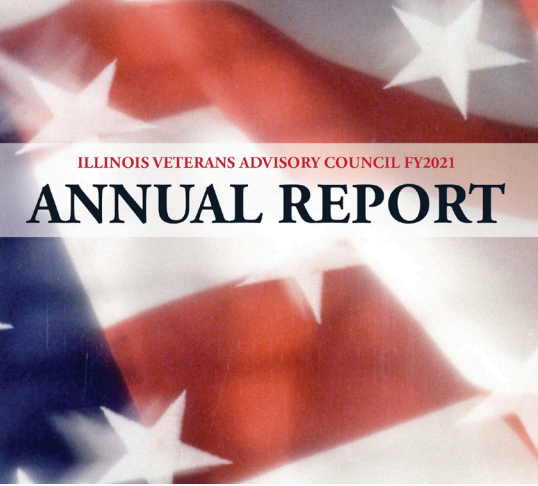
## ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council (IVAC) was established effective July 1, 2004, by Public Act 093-0779. In accordance with the Act, council members include:

- Four members of the General Assembly, appointed one each by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, preferably from a legislative or representative district in which a state-operated veterans' home is located.
- Six veterans appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.
- One veteran appointed by the commander or president of each Veteran Service Organization that is chartered by the federal government and by the State of Illinois and that elects to appoint an IVAC member.

Public Act 96-1266 increased the council Membership to include:

- One person appointed by the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard,
- One person appointed by the Illinois Attorney General
- One person appointed by the Illinois Secretary of State
- One person appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security
- One person appointed by each military family organization that is chartered by the federal government.



# ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

In addition, no member of the council shall be an employee or representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Members of the Council serve without compensation or reimbursement. The Council meets quarterly as required and is available to meet at the call of the Chair or at the call of the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Governor. The Department provides meeting space and clerical and administrative support services for the Council.

The Council is empowered to:

- Advise the Department of Veterans' Affairs with respect to the fulfillment of its statutory duties.
- Review and study the issues and concerns that are most significant to Illinois veterans and advise the Department on those issues and concerns.
- Receive a report from the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's designee at each meeting with respect to the general activities of the Department.
- Report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually describing the issues addressed and the actions taken by the council during the year as well as any recommendations for future action

## Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council 2021 / 2022 Meeting Dates

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 10:00am**

Via WebEx

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 10:00am**

Via WebEx

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021 @ 10:00am**

Via WebEx

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 10:00am**

Location TBD

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 10:00am**

Location TBD

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022 @ 10:00am**

Location TBD

**Wednesday, September 14, 2022 @ 10:00am**

Location TBD

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 10:00am**

Location TBD



# ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

## ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (FY 2021)

Michael Peck, Chairman  
**Military Order of the World Wars**  
Dr Jerry Field, Vice Chairman  
**Jewish War Veterans**

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The Honorable Tony Munoz  
The Honorable Sue Rezin  
The Honorable Lance Yednock  
The Honorable Dan Swanson

### APPOINTED BY

President of the Senate  
Minority Leader of the Senate  
Speaker of the House  
Minority Leader of the House

### EXTERNAL AGENCY APPOINTEES

Command Sgt. Maj. Dena Ballowe  
Thomas Banning  
Greg Curran  
Jorge Bermudez

Illinois National Guard  
Office of the Attorney General  
Secretary of State  
IL Department of Employment Security

### DIRECTOR'S APPOINTEES

Bill Wolff  
Megan Everett  
Vince Long  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Vacant

Veteran Advocate  
Veteran Advocate  
Veteran Advocate  
Veteran Advocate  
Veteran Advocate  
Veteran Advocate

### VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS/AFFILIATES

Al Reynolds  
Stanley Olenjack  
Keith Wetherell  
Peggy Arick  
Pat Noel  
Myron Kirby  
Joe Schaler  
Louis Myers  
John Murray  
Justin Miller  
Roy Dolgos  
Robert Tyler

Disabled American Veterans  
Marine Corps League  
AMVETS, IVAC Secretary  
Blue Star Mothers of America  
Catholic War Veterans  
The American Legion  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Reserve Officers' Association  
Veteran Assistance Commission  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Vietnam Veteran's of America  
Military Officers Association of America



# VETS CASH

The Veterans Cash Lottery ticket is Illinois Lottery’s specialty ticket supporting Illinois veterans. The promotion and sales of this specialty ticket begins in December each year. All net proceeds from the sales of Veterans Cash

Lottery tickets are deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund, an interest-bearing account in the State Treasury. Through the Veterans Cash Committee, the IDVA awards grants to governmental organizations and tax- exempt entities that apply for funding to address veterans’ needs in the areas of post-traumatic stress, homelessness, health insurance costs, long-term care, disability benefits, and employment and training. Since February 2006, the Grant Committee has authorized over 390 grants totaling \$18 million. In FY21, the committee awarded 15 grants totaling \$966,691. The grants typically range from \$25,000 - \$100,000 per year.

The Veterans Cash Grant program has set high standards to meet statutory, reporting, and compliance standards. The result is a more defined, accurate, and transparent granting process. The application, grant agreement, and Quarterly/Final Reports provide for an increased grantee organizational structure of information and accountability through the life cycle of the grant.

The Grant Committee consists of three (3) voting members who meet quarterly to review the grant requests. They evaluate those grant applications against a rubric, make selections, and then forward the selections to the IDVA Director for approval. The voting members of the Grant Committee for FY20 are Edgar Delgado (a Veteran-at Large), Greg Curran (IVAC), and Dr. Jean Douglas.

## Summary of Activity for FY 2021

GRANTS MADE BY CATEGORY	NUMBER OF GRANTS	TOTAL AMOUNT
Post-Traumatic Stress	5	253,898
Veteran Disability Benefits	3	260,012
Health Insurance Costs	0	0
Veteran Long-Term Care	0	\$0
Veteran Employment & Employment Training	4	\$304,698
Veteran Homelessness	3	\$148,253
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$966,951</b>

# DIRECT FEDERAL SPENDING

