

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

2017 AFTER ACTION REPORT



Respecting Our Past While Honoring Our Future!

www.vetaffairs.la.gov



about us

We exist for you!

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's Veterans, and their families, with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care, and burial honors.

our team

JOEY STRICKLAND

Secretary

HOMER RODGERS

Undersecretary

JULIE BAXTER PAYER

Executive Counsel

LISA BRUHL

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Homes

VANESSA MELANCON

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Benefits

BILLY ROBBINS

Cemetery Program Director

ALEJANDRA JUAN

Communications Director

commission

RUDY BOURG

AMVETS

BILL DETWEILLER

American Legion

THOMAS GREEN

Member at Large

PAUL HERMANN

Disabled American Veterans

WYATT LOBRANO

Veterans of Foreign Wars

CARROLL KNOTT

Veterans of Foreign Wars

MARY MILLS

American Legion

RICK O'BRIEN

Military Order of the Purple Heart

department highlights

BENEFITS

Our Veterans Assistance Counselors (VAC's) helped bring \$1,325,975,000.00 in VA compensation and pension to 287,383 Louisiana Veterans and their families during fiscal year 2016. Our Parish Service Offices are now fully manned and serving military families.

VETERANS HOMES

The LDVA proudly operates five state-of-the-art veterans homes across the state. We continue to deliver valuable services in a professional and steadfast way to our Louisiana Veterans and their families. In November, we opened the doors to the new Southeast LAVeterans Home Recreational Building in Reserve, La. We have major renovation projects occurring at all of our homes that will improve the quality of care we provide.

CEMETERIES

The LDVA is committed to honoring the memories of the brave men and women who are buried on these sacred grounds located right here in Louisiana. In 2017, LDVA paid tribute to the lives of 886 of our fallen service members and their eligible dependents. LDVA received \$7 million in grant funding to construct a fifth cemetery in Jennings. The first planning meeting between state and Federal VA is on December 12, 2017.

LOUISIANA HONOR MEDALS

To date, close to 70,000 Louisiana Honor Medals have been presented. In 2017, over 1,100 medals were presented or sent to the homes of eligible Veterans across the state.

significant contributions

SUICIDE PREVENTION

LDVA Secretary Strickland has been extremely proactive in ensuring that all Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs personnel are trained in both Military Sexual Trauma and Suicide Prevention.

MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

For the first time in this Department's history, all the LDVA VAC's that work in 71 locations across our state received both Military Sexual Trauma and Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training which helps them serve even more Veterans that may be suffering in silence.

MILITARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

In 2017, the MFA Fund awarded \$111,798.53 to deploying LANG members and Louisiana Veterans facing financial hardships.

LOUISIANA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

The LDVA was instrumental in the renaming process and dedication of the Old Arsenal Park into the new Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park.

VETERANS LEGISLATION

The LDVA was able to successfully advocate for the passing of various bills that have improved the lives of our Veterans and their families.

SAFETY

Our first priority is ensuring the safety of our LDVA team members and our Veterans, their military families, and the community whom we serve. We are enhancing our safety program by offering additional training to our staff and volunteers.

innovative programs

WOMEN VETERAN LUNCH & LEARNS

Secretary Joey Strickland has made women Veterans a priority by assigning a full-time staff member to oversee the LDVA's Women Veterans Outreach Program initiatives.

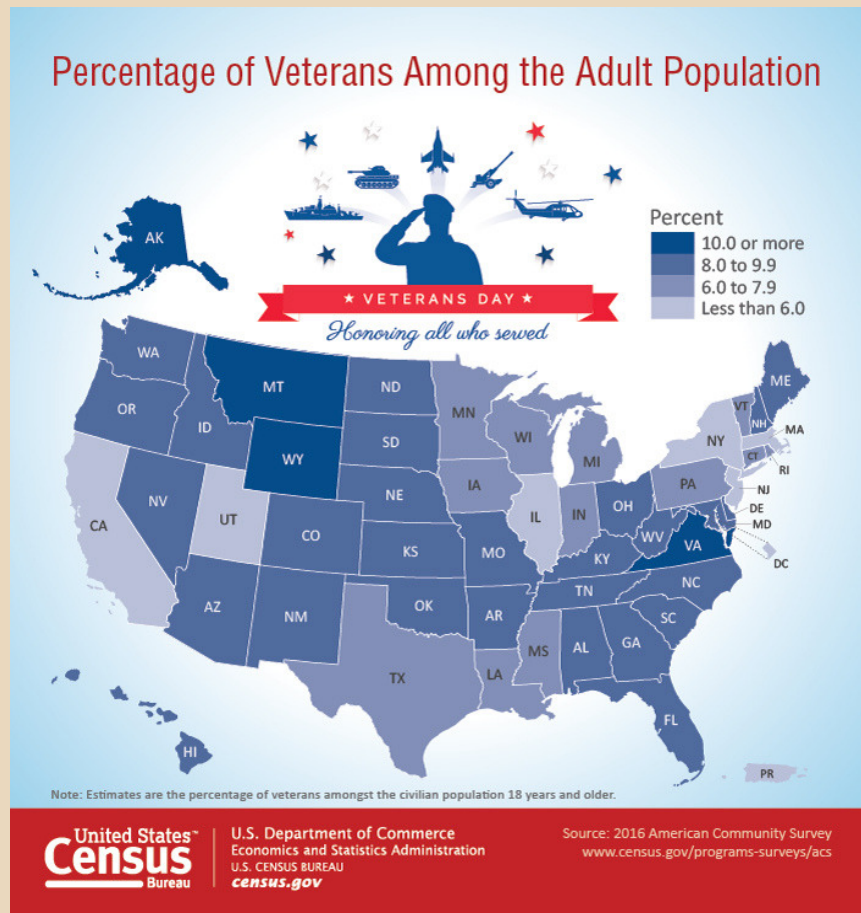
LVEAP

The LDVA partnered with various organizations to create the Louisiana Veteran Entrepreneurship Program to boost business opportunities for Veterans as they leave active-duty.

COFFEE CONVERSATIONS

There are currently 32,411 female Veterans living in Louisiana, and the LDVA is committed to addressing their needs and to helping them make meaningful connections.

vet population statistics



summary

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs continues to meet its Mission of providing quality services to our Veterans and their families. Our vision is to be a "veteran friendly state," and we are ensuring that starts with us. Our goal as a Department is to provide quality services across the spectrum. Whether it is quality care in our nursing homes, or interring our veterans with dignity and honor in our cemeteries, we are making an all-out effort to ensure that our Veterans receive the benefits they have earned through their service. We are working very hard to create a model Department of self-sufficiency, and accomplishing our Mission by relying on minimal State General Funds.

We connect you with the benefits you earned!