



**2011 Annual Report
of the
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs**

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Members

James Stanko, Chair – Steamboat Springs
William Robinson, Vice Chair – Castle Pines
Jay Bobick, Secretary - Denver
Ralph Bozella - Longmont
Jason Crow – Denver
Franklin Jackson – Denver
Kathleen Dunemn - Littleton
Marvin Meyers, Emeritus - Denver

Division of Veterans Affairs
1355 S. Colorado Blvd. Bldg C,
Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80222
Phone: 303-343-1268
FAX: 303-343-7238
William Conroy
Director

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Major General
H. Michael Edwards
The Adjutant General



December 1, 2010

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Co 80203

Representative Jim Kerr, Chairman
State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Co 80203

Senator Rollie Heath, Chairman
State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee
Colorado Senate
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Co 80203

Subject: 2011 Annual Report of the Board of Veterans Affairs

In accordance with the Colorado Revised Statutes, I am pleased to provide you the 2011 Report of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA). This report covers the period of December 1, 2010 through November 30, 2011.

The CBVA is comprised of seven members, all honorably discharged veterans of United States of America Military Service. Members serve for a four-year term. Dr. Kathleen Dunemn was appointed and Dr. Franklin db Jackson was reappointed to the Board by you in 2011. Both veterans bring a wealth of experience in serving veterans. Ms. Dunemn served in the US Army Nurse Corp for 29 years, retiring as a Colonel. She currently is an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Jackson completed his first term on the Board this year. He is the Commander for the National Association for Black Veterans. Other members that have served during the reporting period include Jay Bobick, Ralph Bozella, Jason Crow, Robby Robinson, Jim Stanko, George Thomas, and Marvin Meyers, emeritus.

Board leadership changed this year and three new officers were elected: Chairman Jim Stanko, Vice-Chairman Robby Robinson, and Secretary Jay Bobick. Officers serve for a two-year period so the current officers will serve until May, 2013.

During the reporting period, the Board of Veterans Affairs met eleven times to address issues and plan programs of service to Colorado Veterans. Meetings held within the Denver-Metro area are held at a variety of places: The American Legion State Headquarters, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the VA Regional Office, the Fitzsimons Veterans Home and Wings Over the Rockies. The July meeting held at the Fitzsimons Veterans Home was held in conjunction with the State Board of Human Services. The one meeting held outside of the Denver area was at the Burlington VFW which included a tour of the VA Telehealth Clinic there. The meetings frequently attract leadership from veteran service organizations as well as staff from state and federal agencies that service veterans in Colorado. Representatives from state and federal legislators also attend.

Some of the events and activities in which Board members participated during the reporting period were:

- The Military and Veterans Appreciation Day at the State capitol and provided a briefing to the legislators in attendance at lunch that day.
- Board members attended Stand-Downs in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Denver, Ft. Collins and Longmont. A Stand Down is where homeless veterans were provided with access to services and goods to help them prepare for the coming cold season .
- Board Members are in frequent contact with each other between meetings to communicate concerning issues and events affecting Colorado's veterans and their families. Each member maintains contacts with various state veterans service organizations, the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, other Colorado agencies and a variety of agencies within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Board members have made public appearances at various community functions for veterans, including but not limited to, Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs and conventions of the state veteran service organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- The Board welcomes the change in the VA burial allowance from \$300 to \$700 effective 01 October 2011. To the extent that the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado receives the allowance from the family, it will improve the operations, maintenance and capital funding available for this important resource that receives minimal general fund support.

The following provides a summary of the most significant activities completed by the Board for 2011. The necessary attachments are included.

- The Board initiated a veteran's survey to update the Strategic Plan and information on veterans knowledge of VA benefits.
- Assisted state wide efforts to coordinate a plan to help veterans with information and assistance in using their VA education benefits. The Board formed Veterans in Higher Education Committee to help implement the plan.
- Supported an effort to utilize Challenge America and Warrior Gateway websites to connect to the Colorado Veterans Clearing House.
- The Board supported the addition of Wounded Warriors for free admission to State Parks.
- Appointed Board member Jason Crow to represent the Board in working with the Governor's Staff to develop a strategy to eliminate veteran homelessness.
- The Board directed the largest portion of the Veterans Trust Fund Grants to support homeless veterans programs.
- Monitored the progress on resolving issues concerning construction of the new VA medical center on the Fitzsimons medical campus. Two Board members participated in design planning and one Board member is working with other groups to insure veteran subcontractors are hired.
- Kept the Veterans Trust fund intact.

The Board appreciates the State fiscal position but remains concerned about the increased workload within the Division of Veterans Affairs. Charged with training the County Veteran Service Officers, budget constraints have forced the Division to reduce the sessions to one per year. The result is untrained and uncertified County Veteran Service Officers (mandated by statute). This lack of training and certification translates directly to loss of earned veteran benefits for county veterans. We also note that Powers of Attorney submitted to the Division are up by 24%, phone calls by 20% and claims by 10% with no concurrent increase in FTE to handle the workload. There are direct results: longer wait times and fewer claims completed.


The Board has a Legislative Committee which reports to the Board on Bills that affect veteran issues during the Legislative session. Board members Ralph Bozella, Jay Bobick, George Thomas, Robby Robinson and Emeritus member Marvin Meyers spent a great deal of their personal time at the General Assembly. This time was spent proposing, planning, testifying and working on legislative issues which would impact Colorado veterans.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to you, Adjutant General Mike Edwards, leadership from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the State Legislature for its support of veterans' issues throughout the year. We look forward to working with our State leadership to make 2012 a most successful year for veterans.

We are pleased that you worked with the United Veterans Committee to hold a reception for veteran leadership at the Governor's mansion in October. CBVA members attended this event and appreciated the opportunity to interact with state political leadership. Board members will continue to work with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and your office to provide advice on issues that impact Colorado veterans.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely yours,


James W. Stanko, Chairman
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.

2011 REPORT OF BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As part of a long-term strategic planning process, in 2010 the Board developed and published a five-year Strategic Plan to guide its agenda setting and advisory processes. The current plan covers the years 2010 through 2014. Each year the Board reviews the Strategic Plan to ensure that it is meeting or working towards its goals.

In 2011, the Board reviewed the Strategic Plan on an annual basis. These reviews indicated that the Board continues to meet its goals both with respect to Board governance and administrative issues, as well as external advisory and advocacy issues. The Board will continue to review the Strategic Plan to ensure it is operating effectively and addressing the constantly changing needs of Colorado's veterans.

The results of the Board's internal assessment and Strategic Plan review are communicated to the Governor's office through the Governor's staff on an ongoing basis.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND ACTIONS BY COLORADO BOARD OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Significant legislative initiatives for veterans 2011 are as follows:

FEDERAL: The most important federal issue was the passing of the federal budget for FY 2011 in mid-April. Within this bill was the \$450.7 million needed to complete the construction of the new VA Medical Center at Fitzsimons Campus. Keiwi-Turner was named the Joint Venture Team for the \$800 million construction project. Members of the Board played key roles in insuring this Medical Center is constructed and veterans are hired for that construction.

STATE:

The continuing budget challenge in Colorado limited many opportunities to fund veteran services as needed in the State. The Board worked to protect the current levels of support for Colorado's veteran and military communities. The State Veteran Nursing Home budget did not suffer significant cuts following adjustments from the sale of the Trinidad Nursing Home. The Board opposed and helped to defeat HB 1038, a measure that would have prevented the sale of the Trinidad home. The Trinidad home was not a qualifying veterans' home, yet suffered losses totaling nearly \$5 million over ten years - losses subsidized by VA funding to the 505 fund that oversees all State Veterans' Nursing Homes (SVNH). Also, veterans opposed several attempts to change the Medicaid reimbursement rates that apply to the SVNH residents, measures that could have raised rates paid by veterans on fixed incomes. SB 170 and HB 1285 were defeated, and SB 125 was amended to prevent harm the SVNH residents.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs also received reductions to its budget, yet relative to other departments the impact was minimized. One of two new armories was funded using a portion of the Veterans Trust Fund, funds which are to be restored with interest within a few years. The Department is now eligible for Federal matching funds to complete construction. Funding for the second armory was postponed until 2012, when matching funds must be provided to avoid loss of Federal funds.

The Board also supported the State Division of Veterans' Affairs measure to make processing applications for the disabled veteran property tax exemption more efficient, allowing for more timely responses. The Board also assisted in the defeat SB 033, a measure that would have required the flying of the Honor & Remember flag over state buildings on specific days. Two measures designed to make voting easier for military members deployed overseas were passed, HB 1219 and SB 189. HB 1237 provides authorization for a new billeting fund for the National Guard to improve training facilities and quarters. Two measures (HB 1013 and HB 1100) were passed that allow military members in professions that require licensing to maintain licenses during and immediately following a deployment,. A Department of Defense child care pilot program was established (HB 1027).

While supporting education initiatives, veterans opposed a provision in SB 109 that would have given a new tax refund check- off for education top-line priority on Colorado income tax forms. The bill was amended to drop that provision.

OPERATION RECOGNITION

In 2001 the Board initiated Operation Recognition, a program for World War II veterans who dropped out of high school to serve our nation during the War to receive postponed diplomas. The program received the support and cooperation of the Colorado Department of Education and many school boards throughout the state. In 2003 Senate Bill 03-100 statutorily authorized local school boards to issue high school diplomas to veterans who left high school to join the armed forces during a time of war, to include WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. The legislation included language stating that recipients must be at least 60 years old to be eligible.

The Board believes that this belated recognition serves to spotlight veterans' contributions and, at the same time, does not encourage our students to drop out of school. More than 500 veterans have received their high school diplomas since the spring of 2001. Not all school districts report their veteran graduates, but we have accounted for 10 veteran graduates from various high schools throughout the Denver metro area for the 2011-2012 school year. Board member Ralph Bozella also volunteers his time to provide information and coordinate this worthy program for Colorado veterans.

VSO TRAINING

Under the supervision of the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, the annual Colorado Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) training was held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Northglenn Colorado May 3rd thru 6th, 2011. Eighty three County VSO's attended the training which included level one and level two training. Twenty Two presenters provided the VSO's information on a variety of veteran issues that will help them provide accurate and updated information to veterans in their county's. A test was given at the end of each level and only four failed to receive a passing score which equals a success rate of ninety five percent. It would benefit CVSO's if this training could be offered more frequently.

COLORADO VETERANS MONUMENT

C.R.S. 24-80-1401(2) requires that one member of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA) be a member of the Preservation Trust Committee (PTC) for the Colorado Veterans

Monument located off Broadway just West of the Colorado State Capitol. Dr. Franklin db Jackson Sr. of the CBVA holds that position. The current Preservation Trust Fund (PTF) is \$81,000.00. User fees for Lincoln Park, where the monument is located, generated \$1,500.00 into the PTF this past year. Interest income and donations contributed \$3,500.00. The annual operating expenses for the Monument are approximately \$4,000.00. Maintenance upgrades this year included \$2,500.00 for new lights and \$1,500.00 on sand stone inserts. The Committee is planning to spend an additional \$3,000.00 for litter receptacles, one for each side of the Monument. Presently the Committee feels that it can sustain with the present income, but additional funding will be welcomed to assist in sustaining needed maintenance and upgrades for the Monument. Tim Drago will continue ensuring that the Monument and grounds are well maintained in a high standard that reflects the State of Colorado's pride in those men and women who have served our great nation and the State of Colorado.

COLORADO VETERANS SURVEY

The VA Web site lists 421,300 Veterans living in Colorado. Thus far, the Veterans Survey of 2011 has received 670 replies. The age range of the 670 respondents is 25 – 88. Among this group of 670 all periods of service (e.g., WWII, Korea, Vietnam, etc) are represented. Additionally the respondents are from all but the very rural of Colorado counties.

The most important Veterans' services listed by the 670 respondents are: Pension/Disability, Medical Treatment, Mental Health, and Education. The survey also asks each veteran what federal and state Veterans' Services they need that are not being provided by the Federal VA or the State Division of the VA. The top responses to this question are: Medical Treatment (Prescription Drugs), Pension, and Education.

Over the last three or more years, responses to this survey have been extremely low. Other states who conduct a similar survey also experience very low responses. It is recommended that in the future, that a common master database be established that houses real time information (data) about Colorado Veterans and the services that they access. Currently, a small task force is meeting about this issue.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

The report provides updates on statutory changes impacting a variety of Department activities including free and reduced cost access for veterans to State Parks and hunting/fishing licenses. The detailed report is attachment 1.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

As of 1 January 2011, there were 118,568 vehicles registered with one of the following veterans or military license plates:

- 1) Free; Medal of Honor Recipient, Disabled Veteran (50% or more disabled), Former Prisoner of War, Disabled Veteran Handicap, Purple Heart, Pearl Harbor Survivor, and Medal of Valor.
- 2) Payment of a one-time fee and required taxes and fees; U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division, U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S.

Coast Guard Commemorative, North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command Commemorative Plate, Vietnam Veteran, Korean War Veteran, Fallen Service Member, Honorably Discharged Veteran, Veteran of Afghanistan War, Veteran of Iraq War, Veteran of World War II, Bronze Star Medal and Bronze Star with "V" medal. The detailed report is attachment 2.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

The Division of Property Taxation calculates that 3012 properties owned by disabled veterans qualified for property tax exemption. The exempted tax amount for the 2010 tax year is \$1,548,458.68. The detailed report is attachment 3.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (CDLE)

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) delivers the entire array of labor and employment services to Colorado veterans at all 59 of its State and County-run One Stop Workforce Centers and satellite offices around the state. All CDLE and County Labor and Employment Specialists provide veterans with employment services such as Job Matching and Referral to posted job openings, Vocational and Career Guidance, Labor Market Information, Workshops on Resume Preparation and conducting effective Job Searches. One Stops also refer eligible and qualified veterans to appropriate Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training programs as well as referrals to skilled trade apprenticeships programs throughout the state. Additionally, One Stops are tied in to and make appropriate referrals to multiple Federal, State, and local agencies in the community that provide supportive services to people in need. As illustrated in the chart below, 49,087 veterans registered for employment assistance with the Department last Fiscal Year. This represents a slight increase in registrations from the previous year. Colorado Veterans enjoyed over a \$1.60 an hour higher average wage at placement than non-veterans. The complete report is attachment 4.

Colorado Veteran Demographics

		Age Demographics								
	Total Vets	18-44	45-54	55+	Male	Female	Campaign Badge	Disabled Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated
FY 10	51,956	23,063	14,124	14,754	31,940	5,959	8,584	6,126	2,110	4,570
FY 11	49,087	21,575	13,169	14,327	43,181	5,906	8,249	5,107	2,982	4,950

(Source: 9002)

DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Division of Veterans Affairs (which includes the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado) serves as the "hub" of the State's network of County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO). Claims from veterans normally flow from the CVSO to the Division which processes them and then forwards them to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for action or adjudication. Service Officers in the Division are accredited with the USDVA to represent veterans as their "attorney in fact" for appeals. During the year, 13,286 entitlement claims were

processed. Settled claims generated about \$100,000,000.00 in new entitlements to Colorado veterans. The complete Division report is attachment 5.

VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF WESTERN COLORADO

The Grand Junction Cemetery was opened in 2002 and now holds the remains of 1631 veterans, 498 spouses and two dependents. Customer satisfaction with services and maintenance continues its enviable record with an average rating of 4.89 out of a possible 5.0. The annual operating costs of about \$250,000 are offset by three sources of revenue: a GF appropriation, USDVA burial fee reimbursements, and the Colorado Income Tax Check-off. The complete report from the Cemetery is attachment 6.

VETERANS TRUST FUND

The Board continued to use the 90 percent of the new funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement and the interest on the fund principle to support the statutory uses for these funds (Fund administration costs not to exceed 5 percent, State Veterans Nursing Homes, Operation of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs and grant requests from qualified veterans service organizations). The total appropriation in FY 10-11 for these purposes was \$1,082,784. Administrative costs were \$26,616 (2.5%) and \$15,460 was provided for Veterans Nursing Homes at Fitzsimons and Homelake. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery received \$62,222 for construction of two new columbaria. The Board approved \$976,689 in grant requests to veterans service organizations. Of that, \$887,851 was expended. Total expenditures for the FY were \$976,689. The unspent balance was returned to the Fund principal.

The Board would like to note that the Fund principal was depleted by expenditures for Department Armory Capital Construction Projects. The Board supported the legislation that permitted that use, but hopes that the legislative intent to return the funds (with interest) can be effected within the next three years, since grant requests for FY2011-12 totaled nearly \$1.7 million and only \$811,000 was available.

Grants were provided to American Legion Posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts, Disabled American Veterans Chapters, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. Seventy percent of the grant funds were provided to urban areas and used primarily for homeless veterans stand downs (one day, one stop help and assistance) , homeless shelters, job assistance and financial aid. The thirty percent of the funds that went to 14 rural areas were used primarily for veterans' transportation to VA medical facilities. A total of 9776 veterans were reported to have been served by these grants. New this year were grant requests for incarcerated veterans programs, pets for vets and women veterans transitional housing. The full report is attachment 7.

Attachments:

1. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
2. Department of Revenue
3. Department of Local Affairs
4. Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)
5. Division of Veterans Affairs
6. Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
7. Veterans Trust Fund



COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
1313 Sherman Street, Room 618 • Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-3437 • FAX (303) 866-3206
wildlife.state.co.us • parks.state.co.us



October 24, 2011

Colorado Board of Veterans
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
James Stanko, Chairman
1333 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Mr. Stanko:

Thank you for your letter requesting the current statutory authority provided to the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to offer passes, hunting and fishing licenses and services to Colorado veterans. Specifically, Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers the following:

C.R.S. 33-12-106 has been amended via SB 11-024 to include several new services including free entrance to State Parks on Veteran's Day and free entrance to State Parks for those enrolled in a Wounded Warrior Program. Section 33-12-106 now reads:

(1) Any resident who displays on the resident's vehicle a Colorado disabled veteran's license plate pursuant to section 42-3-304 (3) (a), C.R.S., shall be allowed free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, on any day of the year such park or area is open. For the purpose of this section, display of such license plates shall entitle the disabled veteran and passengers in such veteran's vehicle to enter such park or recreation area free of charge.

(2.3) The board may promulgate rules to allow free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, yurts, or other amenities and services offered, for veterans on one day each year. The board may determine by rule which day veterans are allowed free entrance to state parks and recreation areas.

(2.7) (a) (I) (A-E) provides background on Wounded Warriors injured during combat from Post September 11, 2001 Overseas Contingency Operations.

(2.7) (II) – The General Assembly therefore recognizes the need to provide opportunities for Colorado's severely injured "wounded warriors" to enjoy the

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian
Dorothea Faris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary
Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

natural resources of the state as part of their rehabilitative care. Furthermore, offering free entrance to State Parks and Recreation Areas to such recovering service members is a small, but recognizable acknowledgment of their selfless service and sacrifice.

(2.7) (II) (b - c) -The Board may promulgate rules to allow free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, yurts, or other amenities or services offered for participants in the United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior Programs who are residents of, or stationed in Colorado. Any such rules must allow for free admission of persons accompanying the wounded warrior program participant in the same vehicle. The United States Armed Services Wounded Warriors Programs means:

The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2)

The Air Force Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2)

The Navy Safe Harbor Program

The Coast Guard Wounded Warrior Regiment

Any successor program administered by a branch of the United States Armed Services to provide individualized support for service members who have been severely injured in overseas contingency operations undertaken since September 11, 2001.

In addition to those very specific programs, Veterans may also qualify for:

C.R.S 33-12-103.5 (1) – Columbine annual pass - As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, a person is “disabled” if the person has been determined to be totally and permanently disabled by the social security administration, the division of worker’s compensation or pursuant to rule or regulation of the division.

The current fee for the Columbine annual pass is \$14.00 and also provides entry into any of the 42 State Parks. Again, this pass does not provide for further discounts such as camping or cabin/yurt rentals. Disabled Veterans are encouraged to apply for a Columbine Pass even if they have the Disabled license plate. The applicant must be a Colorado resident and complete an application at either our Denver office or one of our Regional Offices. If the applicant is on VA disability, they may contact the Veteran’s Administration to request a letter of documentation as to their disability. In return, The Veteran’s Administration can provide a form letter which will fulfill the required documentation.

Veterans who are 64 years of age or older and a Colorado resident may also qualify for either the Aspen Leaf (Senior Citizen) Annual Pass at a cost of \$60 per year or the Aspen Leaf Lifetime Pass (\$300 one-time charge).

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources

Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian

Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary

Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield

Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

C.R.S 33-4-104 – (1) Any active or retired member of the United States armed forces while stationed as a resident patient at any United States armed forces hospital or convalescent station located within Colorado, any resident patient at a veterans administration hospital ...may obtain a fishing license free of charge, valid for taking fish during the period of residency only, under rules and regulations of the commission.

(2) Any Colorado resident on active duty outside this state with any branch of the armed forces of the United States may obtain, from the division of wildlife, a fishing license free of charge, valid for taking fish while such person is in this state on temporary leave from such duty, but not to exceed a total of thirty days during any year. (3) (a) Any resident of this state who has received a purple heart for service in the United States armed forces or who is a disabled veteran may obtain from the division of wildlife, free of charge, a lifetime resident combination small game hunting and fishing license.

Commission Regulation #206(B)(4)(f) Wounded Warrior Hunting Licenses - The Director may make certain deer, elk, and pronghorn licenses available to qualified participants in any United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior programs.

1. Applicants must be members of the United States Armed Forces, who are residents of, or stationed in, Colorado returning from post-September 11, 2001 overseas contingency operations who have been so severely injured during combat, including combat-related support activities that they will require years of intense, ongoing care or assistance. Additionally, applicants must be members of a United States Armed Services Wounded Warrior program, as defined in 33-4-102(1.9) C.R.S., and must be assigned to a military medical treatment facility at the time of application for this program.

Commission Regulation - #206(B)(4)(h)(1) (bb) In addition to the \$3 application fee, an unsuccessful applicant (except youth as defined by Section 33-4-117, C.R.S., lifetime license holders and Colorado resident military personnel on active duty outside Colorado), or one who applies using a first choice hunt code established for the purpose of accumulating a preference point only, for deer, elk, pronghorn or bear will be assessed a \$25 fee to receive a preference point unless they have purchased one of the following: an annual license (fishing, small game or resident combination small game/fishing license, furbearer) for the year previous to which they are seeking a preference point; any big game license for the previous year or a current draw license for the species for which they are seeking a preference point. The \$25 fee, per species, shall entitle the hunter to preference points for any unsuccessful deer, elk, and pronghorn or bear application in that year.

Commission Regulation-#206(B)(4)(h)(1)(ee) In lieu of applying through the regular limited license draw, any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources

Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian

Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary

Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield

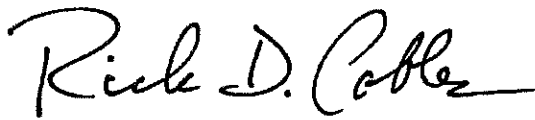
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

States, or any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is a Colorado resident and is deployed outside the United States, shall, upon their return to the United States, be eligible to apply for preference points for any limited license draw that occurred during their absence. Applications for preference points shall be made on forms provided by the Division and filed within six months upon the member's return to the United States.

Commission Regulation- #206(B) (6) (d) Any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United States, or any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is a Colorado resident and is deployed outside the United States, shall be allowed a preference for the purchase of leftover licenses prior to their sale to the general public.

We look forward to continuing to serve those who have sacrificed so much for our country. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Rick D. Cables
Director

cc: Mike King, Department of Natural Resources Executive Director
Kim Burgess, Chief Operating Officer

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Mike King, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Rick D. Cables, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Parks and Wildlife Commission: David R. Brougham • Gary Butterworth, Vice-Chair • Chris Castilian
Dorothea Farris • Tim Glenn, Chair • Allan Jones • Bill Kane • Gaspar Perricone • Jim Pribyl • John Singletary
Mark Smith, Secretary • Robert Streeter • Lenna Watson • Dean Wingfield
Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

State Capitol Annex
1375 Sherman Street, Room 409
Denver, Colorado 80261
Phone (303) 866-3091
FAX (303) 866-2400



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Roxanne Huber
Executive Director

July 6, 2011

Mr. Ralph P. Bozella, Chairman
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
7465 E. 1st Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Re: State Board of Veterans Affairs Annual Report to the Governor

Dear Mr. Bozella,

Below you will find a list of the services provided by the State of Colorado, Department of Revenue.

With regard to tax services, we have no programs aimed specifically at veterans. We are aware of several statutes that speak to active members of the U.S. military C.R.S. 39-22-103(8)(b) which allows Colorado military personnel who are out of the country for 305 or more days in a year to classify their military income as non-resident for tax purposes, and 39-22-610 CRS which allows a filing extension for military personnel in a combat zone. The extension, which defers interest and penalty, lasts 180 days after the particular assignment has ended.

The Division of Motor Vehicles, Title and Registration Sections has special accommodations for veterans obtaining vehicle license plates as follows:

Alignment with the Service Members Civil Relief Act (HB07-1352)

On August 8, 2007 Colorado statutes were revised to align with the Service Members Civil Relief Act including clarifying the application of property tax laws and voter registration laws to service members.
C.R.S. 42-3-104(9)

Authorization of Military Special License plates for Motor Vehicles Owned by Trusts (HB08-1151)

The Department of Revenue is required to issue certain military special license plates for a motor vehicle owned by a trust if the trust is created for the benefit of a natural person who is qualified to receive the special license plate and the trust name includes a natural person who is qualified to receive the special license plate. C.R.S. 42-3-213(1)(g)

Registration Late Fee

The owner of a vehicle who is active military serving outside of Colorado when the registration grace period expires, if the vehicle has not been operated on any public highway in Colorado between the time the registration period expired, including the grace period and the time the vehicle is registered will be exempt late fees. C.R.S. 42-3-112(3)(b)

U.S. Air Force License Plate

On or after January 1, 2008, this plate may be issued to a serving member, honorably discharged or retired member of any component of the U.S Air Force upon presenting a DD214 form issued by the U.S. government or any other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a serving member, honorably discharged or retired member of any

component of the U.S. Air Force. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(17)

U.S. Army License Plate

On or after August 1, 2001, this plate may be issued to any person upon presenting a DD214 form issued by the U.S. government, an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, or sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the applicant is an active, reserve or retired member of the U.S. Army. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(12)

U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division License Plate

On or after January 1, 2009, this plate may be issued to a person who supports the U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(20)

U.S. Army Special Forces License Plate

On or after January 1, 2008, this plate may be issued to a person who has received an honorable discharge or is an active or reserve member of the U.S. Army Special Forces upon presenting proof of honorable discharge or retirement or proof that the applicant is currently an active or reserve member of the U.S. Army Special Forces. The applicant must submit orders or DD214 form that shows an awarded prefix "3" or suffix "S" or a designation or "5G", 18/180 Series MOS, Special Forces Tab, OSS, or UNPIK-8240. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(18)

Bronze Star Medal License Plate

On or after January 1, 2007, this plate may be issued to any person who has been awarded the Bronze Star medal. The applicant must present to the department, a copy of the military order awarding the Bronze Star and a DD214 form issued by the U.S. government showing that the applicant received the award. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(14)(a)

Bronze Star with the "V" Medal License Plate

On or after January 1, 2007, this plate may be issued to any person who has been awarded the Bronze Star with the "V" for valor distinction medal. The applicant must present to the department, a copy of the military order awarding the Bronze Star with the "V" and a DD214 form issued by the U.S. government showing that the applicant received the award. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(14)(b)

U.S. Coast Guard License Plate

On or after January 1, 2008, this plate may be issued to retired, honorably discharged, active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the U.S. Coast Guard upon presenting a DD214 form issued by the U.S. government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant has an honorable discharge or proof that the applicant is currently an active, auxiliary, or reserve member of the United State Coast Guard. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(16)

Disabled Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to qualified applicants who provide documentation of authorization from either the Veteran's Administration or their branch of military service to support that they are 50% or more, permanently disabled due to a service connected injury. One set of plates may be issued without paying specific ownership tax and license fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104 and 42-3-213(5)

Disabled Veteran Handicap License Plate

This plate permits a disabled individual (must be a mobility disability) to park their vehicle, or a vehicle in which they are a passenger, in designated disability parking spaces. The application must meet two (2) requirements for this plate. Qualified applicants must have (1) a 50% or more permanent, service connected disability AND; (2) a physical impairment verified in writing by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Colorado or a Commissioned Medical officer. Only one set of these plates may be issued per applicant. Applicants may obtain one set without paying the specific ownership tax and license

fee. Additional Disabled Veteran license plates (not handicapped) may be issued upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104, 42-3-204 and 42-3-213(5)(a)(II)

Fallen Service Member License Plate

On or after January 1, 2007, this plate is issued to a the current or past spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, or parent of a person who died in the line of duty while serving in the armed forces and deployed in a combat zone. The applicant for a Fallen Service Member license plate will be required to provide a DD214 form for the Fallen Service member and other sufficient documentation to prove eligibility. The plate types include Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine and Navy. The first set of plates per applicant will be issued upon payment of a one-time fee of \$25.00 and the required taxes and fees. Subsequent sets of plates per applicant will be issued upon payment of a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(15)

Former Prisoner of War License Plate

This plate may be issued to those individuals that were on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of armed conflict and were incarcerated by an enemy of the U.S. One set of plates may be issued without paying specific ownership tax and license fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. If a deceased former prisoner of war was issued a Former Prisoner of War license plate, the surviving spouse may retain the registration of the Former Prisoner of War license plate by paying all required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104 & 42-3-213(3)

Honorably Discharged Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to any person who has received an honorable discharge from any branch of the U.S Armed Services or who is retired from a branch of the Armed Services. The applicant must present the form DD214 or their honorable discharge documents to obtain this plate. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213 (4)

Korean War Veteran License Plate

On or after August 1, 2002, this plate may be issued to any natural person upon providing proof to the county motor vehicle office that he/she was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955. The applicant must present the form DD214 or other military separation papers that indicate the dates of time served in the Armed Forces. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(9)

Medal of Honor License Plate

On or after August 1, 1997, this plate may be issued to qualified applicants who are a recipient of the Medal of Honor. The applicant must present to the department, a letter of verification from the appropriate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that the applicant has been awarded a medal of honor. These individuals may obtain one set of plates without paying the specific ownership tax and license fee. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(7)

Medal of Valor License Plate

On or after August 1, 2003, this plate may be issued to a natural person who has been awarded a military award for valor. When applying for this license plate, the applicant must present a copy of the military order awarding the military award for valor, which includes the following awards:

- Navy Cross
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Air Force Cross
- Silver Star

These individuals may obtain one set of plates without paying the specific ownership tax and license fee. Currently the plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104 & 42-3-213(10)

National Guard License Plate

This plate may be issued to an individual that provides proof that he/she is an active or retired member of the Colorado National Guard. An applicant shall submit a proof of eligibility form prepared by the Department of Military and Veterans

Affairs verifying active or retired status. If the owner of a vehicle registered with National Guard plates ceases to be an active member of the Colorado National Guard and has not qualified for retirement from the Colorado National Guard, such person shall return the special license plates to the Department upon expiration of the registration. Upon retiring from the Colorado National Guard, a person wishing to retain such special license plate shall submit a verification of retired status that is issued by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish eligibility for retention of the plates. C.R.S. 42-3-218

North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command Commemorative License Plate

On or after July 1, 2008, this plate may be issued to any person that desires to commemorate the North American Aerospace Defense Command's 50th anniversary. This plate is a limited issue commemorative plate that will only be issued from July 1, 2008 through January 1, 2010, or when available inventory is depleted, whichever is later. Plates issued within this period may continue to use those plates after January 1, 2010 until they become damaged, destroyed, lost, stolen or unreadable. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(19)

Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate

This plate may be issued to qualified applicants who were members of the U.S. Armed Services on December 7th, 1941 and were stationed and present at Pearl Harbor located on the island of Oahu, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Hawaii Time) or offshore at a distance not to exceed three miles from the island. Additionally this individual must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Services and hold a current membership in a national organization of survivors on the attack of Pearl Harbor. Applicants may obtain one set without paying the specific ownership tax and license fee. Additional plates may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104 & 42-3-213(6)

Purple Heart License Plate

This plate may be issued to qualified applicants who have been awarded a Purple Heart medal for wounds received in combat at the hands of an enemy of the United States. An applicant must present a copy of the military order, awarding the Purple Heart medal or other sufficient evidence that indicates that the applicant received the Purple Heart medal. These individuals may obtain one set of plates without paying specific ownership tax and license fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-104 & 42-3-213(2)

U.S. Marine Corps License Plate

On or after August 1, 2001, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof that he/she has received an honorable discharge, is retired or is an active or reserve member of the U.S. Marine Corps. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(8)

U.S. Navy License Plate

On or after July 1, 2006, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof that he/she has been honorably discharged, is retired or is an active or reserve member of the U.S. Navy. The applicant must submit the DD214 or other evidence to demonstrate that they are a qualified applicant. The plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and all required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(13)

Veteran of Afghanistan War License Plate (HB10-1139)

On or after January 1, 2011, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof that he/she was a member of the U.S. Armed Services between October 7, 2001 and the end of the Afghanistan conflict. The applicant must submit the DD214 or other evidence to demonstrate that they are a qualified applicant. The plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and all requires taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(21)

Veteran of Iraq War License Plate (HB10-1139)

On or after January 1, 2011, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof that he/she was a member of the U.S. Armed Services between March 20, 2003 and the end of the Iraq conflict. The applicant must submit the DD214 or other evidence to demonstrate that they are a qualified applicant. The plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and all requires taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(22)

Vietnam Veterans License Plate

On or after August 1, 2004, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof of service in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam engagement, specifically, August 7, 1964 to January 27, 1973. Proof of service includes the DD214 or other evidence to demonstrate this requirement. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required fees and taxes. C.R.S. 42-3-213(11)

World War II License Plate (SB11-037)

On or after January 1, 2012, this plate may be issued to an applicant that provides proof that he/she was a veteran of the U.S. Armed Services between September 16, 1940, and July 25, 1947. The applicant must submit the DD214 or other documents to demonstrate that they are a qualified applicant. The first issued plate per applicant may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$25.00 and all required taxes and fees. Additional plates per applicant may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and all required taxes and fees. C.R.S. 42-3-213(23)

On-Line Vehicle Registration

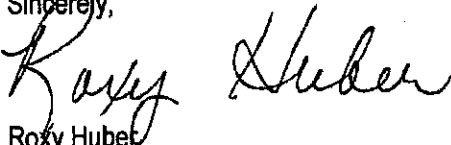
Some counties allow online renewal of motor vehicle registrations. This will allow service members stationed outside of Colorado to maintain their vehicle registrations. This service may be accessed at <http://www.colorado.gov/revenue/dmv> - Vehicle Registration Renewal.

Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA)

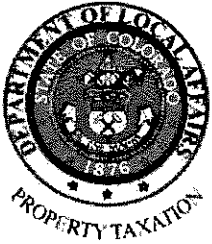
Upon notice that the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) was enacted by the 111th Congress the Department and its authorized agents implemented changes in forms and processes to ensure compliance with the MSRRA for spouses residing in Colorado who are living here with their servicemember spouse that is stationed in Colorado under official orders. The MSRRA affords the same protections and tax exemptions to the military spouse that is given to the servicemember under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

As of January 1, 2011, the State Registration records indicate that 118,568 vehicles registered in the State of Colorado with one of the veteran plates listed above. We continue to be grateful for the services provided by our veterans and we as individuals are mindful of their contributions to our country and ourselves when we render them service.

Sincerely,



Roxie Huber
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Revenue



STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor

Department of Local Affairs
Reeves Brown, Executive Director

Division of Property Taxation
JoAnn Groff, Property Tax Administrator

October 12, 2011

Bill Conroy
Director
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,
Division of Veterans Affairs
1355 South Colorado Blvd., Building C, Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80230

Dear Mr. Conroy;

Per your request I have provided below the number of properties and the exempted taxes for disabled veterans who have received the property tax exemption in 2010. This data is provided by the Colorado State Treasurer's office. My office administers the program to determine if a veteran or a senior has applied on more than one property in the state, who applied for the exemption and answer questions of county offices and taxpayers regarding the program. At this time we do not provide any other direct services to veterans in Colorado beyond the administration of the property tax exemption program.

For the 2010 tax year on property taxes paid in 2011; 3012 properties owned by disabled veterans qualified for the exemption. The value of the exempted properties is \$249,884,832.00, and the exempted property tax amount for these Colorado disabled veterans is \$1,548,458.68. We have not yet verified the status of the 2011 tax year applicants, those applications will be reviewed at the end of this month, and any exempt property tax amount will be calculated after those taxes are due in 2012.

Should you have additional questions regarding the property tax exemption for disabled veterans, or any other activities of the Division of Property Taxation please contact me.

Sincerely yours,


JoAnn Groff

JAG:rmb



JOHN HICKENLOOPER
Governor

ELLEN GOLOMBEK
Executive Director

ELISE LOWE-VAUGHN
Acting Director



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

633 17th Street, 7th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80202-3627

October 05, 2011

Mr. William "Bill" Conroy
Director of Colorado Veterans Affairs
Division of Veterans Affairs Office
1333 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113
Denver, CO 80222

Dear Mr. Conroy:

We are pleased to present the annual accomplishments of the CO Veterans Employment and Training Program. We continue to dedicate ourselves to providing Colorado's Veterans with outstanding employment and training services with the goal of providing Colorado Businesses with qualified and viable Veteran job seekers.

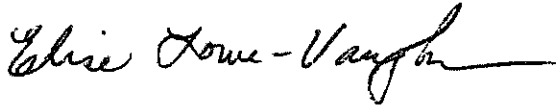
The Veterans staff has worked hard this year in the strategic realignment of our Veterans Program to reflect the guidelines outlined within USDOL Veterans Program Letter (VPL) 70-10. This VPL clearly refocuses the duties and responsibilities of the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) and the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist. We now have in place 4 Regional LVER's who have responsibility for more than one workforce region's veterans activities, which has greatly assisted in this realignment process.

We also continued to see growth in our Real Lifelines, Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program and the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment grants, all programs that help to identify and serve Veterans who have easily identifiable barriers to employment. The Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) Grant is now entering its last year of discretionary funding and will continue its aggressive plan to train Veterans within the Green Energy fields and place them in jobs in this high-growth industry.

With today's economic hardships, we continue to face many challenges, particularly with the National Guard and Reserve service members who endure numerous deployments and return unemployed. Despite these challenges, we have also experienced many successes as reflected in this annual report. Should you have any questions is regard to this report, please feel free to contact Elaine Edon, State Veterans Program Coordinator at (303) 318-8937 or elaine.edon@state.co.us.

As always, we look forward to our continued partnership with the Division of Veterans Affairs Office as we work towards meeting the employment needs of Colorado's Veterans and their families.

Sincerely,



Elise Vaughn-Lowe
Acting Director, Workforce Development Programs

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

PY 2010 - 2011 Report on Service to Veterans
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

For the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
Annual Report to the Governor

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) deliver the entire array of labor and employment services to Colorado veterans at all 59 of its State and County-run One Stop Workforce Centers and satellite offices around the state. All CDLE and County Labor and Employment Specialists provide veterans with employment services such as Job Matching and Referral to posted job openings, Vocational and Career Guidance, Labor Market Information, Workshops on Resume Preparation and conducting effective Job Searches. One Stop Workforce Centers also refer eligible and qualified veterans to appropriate Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training programs, as well as make referrals to skilled trade apprenticeships programs throughout the state. Additionally, our One Stops partner with and make appropriate referrals to multiple Federal, State, and local agencies in the community that provide supportive services to people in need.

As illustrated in the chart below, 49,087 veterans registered for employment assistance with our department last Program Year. Although there is a decrease in the number of registrants, there is a steady increase in our priority targeted categories, Special Disabled and Recently Separated Veterans.

Colorado Veterans enjoyed over a \$1.60 an hour higher average wage at placement than non-veterans. Veteran registrations by demographics, compared to the previous year, are listed below.

Colorado Veteran Demographics

	Total Vets	Age Demographics								
		18-44	45-54	55+	Male	Female	Campaign Badge	Disabled Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated
PY10	51,956	23,063	14,124	14,754	45,997	5,959	8,584	6,126	2,110	4,570
PY11	49,087	21,575	13,169	14,327	43,181	5,906	8,249	5,017	2,982	4,950

(Source: ES 9002)

Public Law 107-288 requires our department to provide priority of service to veterans in all programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). This simply means eligible veterans must be enrolled into programs or provided services ahead of non-veterans notwithstanding any other provision in law. Our department has issued state-wide guidance on this requirement and as a result, our department is in compliance with this federal mandate.

Our registered job seeker and job opening database (Connecting Colorado) is programmed to first search for qualified veterans when trying to match qualified job seekers to posted job openings. Additionally, when employers conduct applicant searches through our Connecting Colorado

Website, any electronic applicant list generated always places qualified veterans at the top. As a consequence, our department referred nearly 46%, or 22,637 of our registered veteran job seekers to a job compared to 35% of our non-veterans.

During this same period, our department enrolled 2,088 veterans into USDOL funded WIA training programs. This number represents nearly a 92% enrollment rate for veterans, compared to a non-veteran enrollment rate of 89%.

In addition to our experienced and capable State and County Labor and Employment Specialists, who provide outstanding front-line services to all veterans, our department employs 24 full-time Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 17 full-time and 8 half-time Local Veteran Employment Specialists (LVER) assigned to Workforce Regions around the state. These positions are funded through a USDOL Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) grant.

Our DVOPs provide Intensive Employment Services to veterans in most need of assistance. The following veterans receive priority in the provision of Intensive Services: disabled, homeless, recently separated, those released from incarceration, as well as those who have other barriers to employment. Intensive Service requires much more staff time than regular employment services are designed to coordinate comprehensive employment plans for veterans to assure access to necessary training and supportive services. Intensive Services, provided by DVOP staff, provide support during program participation and after job placement. Listed below is a breakdown by demographics of veterans who received Services from a DVOP last year:

	ALL VETERANS	DISABLED	RECENTLY SEPARATED	Homeless	Female Veterans
FY10	4,523	1,370	514	489	423

(Source: Vets 200)

Our DVOPs also conduct outreach to local Federal VA Vet centers throughout the state, and have established important linkages and partnerships with other service providers such as the Denver Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) office and local military installations, as well as a host of non-profits and other service providers.

Our LVERs' primary role is to conduct employer relations on behalf of veterans. LVERs also have the responsibility to conduct Job Search Workshops. Last Fiscal Year, our LVERs made approximately 1,280 employer contacts, accounting for nearly 20% of the entire employer outreach activity conducted by the entire workforce system. This employer outreach significantly contributed to the 93,309 job openings posted with our department from over 6,940 employers.

Also during this year, our LVERs conducted 71 three-day Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes at the Fort Carson Army Post and Schriever and Buckley Air Force bases for approximately 3,900 service members transitioning into the civilian workforce. Additionally, our LVERs provided briefings about One Stop services at the Air Force Academy and Peterson Air Force base.

Furthermore, we have a LVER assigned to act as our department's REALifelines Coordinator. REALifelines is a USDOL sponsored program designed to assist service members who were seriously wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan make the transition from military to the civilian workforce. Participants receive intensive one-on-one assessment and employment-related assistance to ensure a seamless transition of services. The REALifelines coordinator tracks the progress of each participant to ensure no service members falls through the cracks.

Additionally our LVERs have organized and hosted over 50 job fairs or employer-specific hiring events at their local workforce centers. These events are designed to bring groups of veterans and employers together at a single location in order to quickly fill employer vacancies and provide veterans Vocational and Career Guidance from private employers. This program year our LVERs and DVOPs also assisted with an employment expo that involved public, private, non-profit, faith based and community organizations who, in a collaborative effort, brought 81 employers and over 700 job seekers together to meet each other's employment needs.

Our department has placed two LVERs at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Canon City Correctional Facility who are responsible for conducting outreach and employment transition workshops inside DOC facilities throughout the state for veterans within 12 months of release.

We also have one LVER placed at the Colorado National Guard and Reserve Headquarters who conducts mini Transition Assistance Program classes and Federal Job Search Workshops. This LVER also briefs returning Colorado Guard and Reserve members on employment services available at their local One Stops. This LVER has outreached to over 1,000 National Guard and Reserve members, has held 4 job fairs exclusively for units returning from deployment and has given 43 presentations on the employment resources located with the One Stop Workforce Centers.

Finally, the primary measure of the quality of services provided by CDLE to the 49,087 veterans registered with our department is the 13 Federal Veteran Entered Employment and Retention Program Standards in the chart below.

State Veteran Performance Outcomes

Wagner Peyser One Stop Veteran Program Measures	PY 2010 OUTCOMES
EER All Vets	49.47%
ERR All Vets	78.49%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$18,590
EER Disabled Vets	43.24%
ERR Disabled Vets	76.20%
Average Earnings Disabled Vets	\$19,009
DVOP VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
EER Disabled Vets	54.52%
ERR Disabled Vets	78.83%
LVER VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
EER Recently Sep Vets	60.00%
ERR Recently Sep Vets	78.27%
DVOP/LVER Consolidated:	
EER All Vets Weighted	54.20%
ERR All Vets	77.84%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$17,908

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Division of Veterans Affairs

1355 South Colorado Blvd Suite 113.

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 343-1268 - (303) 343-7238(Fax)

Bill Conroy
Director

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Major General
H. Micheal Edwards
The Adjutant General



COLORADO DIVISION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

2011 REPORT ON SERVICE TO VETERANS

November 15, 2011

For the Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
Annual Report to the Governor

Chairman James Stanko
Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs

Re: State Board of Veteran Affairs Annual Report to the Governor

Dear Mr. Stanko:

It is with great pleasure that I transmit to you the 2011 Report on Service to Veterans. It has been both a rewarding and a challenging experience for all of us at the Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs to grapple with the needs and issues that our state's veterans and family members have presented to us. We hope that you will find that the final report for 2011 will assist you in your presentation.

The Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs is made up of a total of 11 full time employees; which includes three employees at the Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Division is tasked by Colorado Revised Statue to supervise, direct and train all sixty five county veteran service officers (CVSO's). The majority of our veteran population utilizes the CVSO's as they seek assistance with their claims for benefits with the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs. Utilizing a first in the nation statewide data system paid by the state for each county, Colorado veterans are able to have their claim information accessible no matter which county they choose to contact. I am certain you will be pleased to hear that through that training and direction my staff has provided, we were able to service 13286 number of entitlement claims over the last year. Once completed, all applications for benefits are then processed through the State Division of Veteran Affairs office before being sent to the Federal VA for Adjudication. This effort brought an increase of nearly an addition \$100 million dollars in veteran entitlements into Colorado over the previous year's number.

The follow information is submitted for your consideration:

COLORADO DIVISION OF VETTRAN AFFAIRS		
Date: 10/30/11		
	OFFICE ACTIVITIES	
ITEM	2011	2010
New Power of Attorneys	5937	5354
Letters to VA	8519	10,966
New Claims	13286	10,681
Telephone Calls	22,508	18,726
Health Care Enrollment	676	633
Certified Appeals Sent to BVA	127	161
Referendum E Veteran Property Tax Exemption	3796	Running Total 3213

INTERMENTS IN VETERAN MEMORIAL CEMETARY OF WESTERN COLORADO	
Date 10/21/11	
Veteran	1631
Spouse	498
Dependent	2
TOTAL	2031

State dollars that were used last year to assist veterans include the following. First, with the statewide data system, Colorado veterans are able to get an update of the status of their pending claim at any CVSO office. This was paid for by the Division using Veteran Trust Fund dollars. Under the Colorado Revised Statutes, CVSO payments are sent to the individual counties to assist in the operation of those offices. Last year it totaled \$94,000. The General Assembly recommended during the 2008 legislative session to earmark monies for a pilot program to increase outreach in a select number of counties. This program examines the impact of a more aggressive campaign to target "hard to reach" pockets of our undeserved state veteran population. Last year \$101,000 was allocated for this endeavor to 4 target counties. As an example of this program, El Paso County has generated 1361 additional outreach claims with an annual dollar net increase of \$2,448,504.00 directly attributed to this program. The Division hopes you will agree with us that this was a small price to pay to begin to resolve this thorny issue. Counting all compensation and pension entitlements, \$905 million dollars were paid out to Colorado veterans last year.

The Division is also reporting the results of the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption (REF E). Over the course of the last year, an additional 583 applications have been approved. To date 3796 homeowners have been recognized for this benefit. The Division believes that there is not enough data yet with this provision on which to base recommendations for change. At the same time, the Division believes the requirement of this reform is an important component and should not be allowed to expire.

The Division continues to be actively involved in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) based out of Ft Carson and Buckley Air Base. This program provides a seamless passage for our active duty military to file for benefits through the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs within 120 days of discharge. This program has resulted in many referrals to our office. The Division has developed a similar arraignment with the Denver VA Hospital to process claims for veterans receiving long term treatment in that facility.

In closing, we remain a nation engaged in military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and personnel are deployed around the world honoring national commitments. Members of the Uniformed Services include the unprecedented utilization of Colorado Guard and Reserve personnel. As the missions draws down, those members return back to their families and communities in Colorado. Concurrently, we are a nation faced with new economic constraints and an economy that went to the brink of a recession and now entering a third year continues in a slow recovery. We recognize the complexity of attempting to legislate programs or entitlement enhancements in a time of dwindling fiscal resources. However the benefits to the State of Colorado far outweigh the cost.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the Division's recommendations and its annual report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Ben Mestas, my Deputy Director at 303-343-1268.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Conroy", written in dark ink.

Bill Conroy, Director

Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado

Status Report Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011 to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs October 21, 2011



VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF WESTERN COLORADO
2830 Riverside Parkway
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

**Status Report
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011
to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
October 21, 2011**

Executive Summary

1. Background

This section is unchanged except for being updated to reflect two, new columbaria being added to the cemetery.

2. Physical Layout and Facilities

Except for showing locations of new columbaria, this section is unchanged from last year's report.

3. Organization

Minor administrative change to show upgrade of Administrative Assistant to Program Assistant.

4. Functions

Unchanged from last year's report except to list major veterans events planned and prepared for by cemetery staff.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

Updated to reflect statistical changes.

6. Burial Operations

Gravesite Utilization: Updated to reflect numbers, statistics, projections, etc. since last year's report.

Columbarium Space: Updated to reflect the period between reaching full capacity with the five original columbaria and construction of both new columbaria.

New Columbaria (formerly Funding for New Columbaria): Updated to describe the funding source(s) and in-kind donations received for building two, new columbaria and their being placed into service during this reporting period.

Photos of the new columbaria have been included in this section.

2010 – 2011 Interments by Month (formerly 2010 Interments by Month): Updated to reflect numbers, statistics, projections etc., since last year's report.

Interments by Year: Updated to reflect numbers, statistics, projections etc., since last year's report.

7. Customer Satisfaction

Updated to reflect comments, numbers, statistics, etc., since last year's report.

8. Early Registrations

Updated to reflect numbers, statistics, projections etc., since last year's report.

9. Issues and Concerns

Updated to reflect the status of issues and concerns that were raised in last year's report, including:

Mesa State Development: Nothing new to report.

Water Issues: Accumulation of silt is still a problem although it has been alleviated by the silt trap.

Cemetery Funding: Increase in burial reimbursement rate became effective October 1, 2011.

Equipment Replacement: New computer for office acquired; acquisition process underway for new zero-radius mower.

Replacement for Rhy: Reflects the hiring of Joanne Black as a replacement for Rhy Paris.

Future Personnel Needs: Addresses continuing concerns in this area.

10. New Issues and Concerns

Administrative Assistant. This section eliminated (see above).

Future Personnel Needs: This section eliminated (see above).

Grounds Maintenance & Upkeep

New Columbaria: Landscaping at new columbaria continuing.

Facilities Maintenance & Upkeep

Stonework: Stonework needs to be re-sealed.

Painting: Ironwork needs repainting.

Irrigation System

Main Line Breaks: Several major breaks experienced during reporting period.

Equipment Replacement/Repair

Hustler Mower: Continues to be a problem.

Replacement of Signage: Most signage needs to be replaced.

Ash Borer: On alert for infestation of destructive insect.

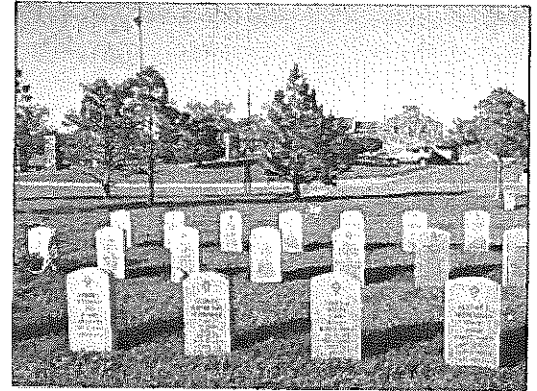
Status Report, Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011, to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, October 21, 2011

1. Background

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado was authorized by the Colorado Legislature in 1999 to honor Colorado veterans. Construction began in June 2001 and was completed in September 2002. The cemetery is located on 22.5 acres at 2830 Riverside Parkway (formerly D Road), Grand Junction, Colorado, just east of the Grand Junction Regional Center and south of the Grand Junction Readiness Center currently under construction.

The cemetery opened on September 5, 2002 with a capacity of 3,337 units, including 1,758 units for casketed remains and 1,579 units for cremated remains (of which 861 were columbarium [wall] niches). Additionally, there were 775 memorial garden plots available for veterans whose remains were not recovered or were donated to science. The cemetery's capacity can be expanded, as necessary, in the future. In 2011, two new columbaria, providing an additional 168 niches each, were added to the cemetery.

The cemetery is intended to be a dignified final resting place for Colorado's veterans of the armed services, their spouses and eligible dependents. It has been designed to provide a place of meditation and quiet contemplation for veterans, their families and friends. There are memorial walks on either side of the creek running northeast to southwest through the cemetery. These walks pass by each of the five columbaria in front of which are benches for visitors' convenience. There are landscaped areas for in-ground interments, which are characterized by thoughtful placement of trees, shrubs, and other plantings. These areas provide additional places for individual reflection.



The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado conveys the appreciation of the people of Colorado to its veterans and their families for answering the call to duty and faithfully and honorably serving the United States of America and the State of Colorado.

2. Physical Layout and Facilities *(Figure 1)*

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado occupies 22.5 acres of land owned by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Approximately six acres of this land is developed and in use.

There are four facilities onsite: an Administration Building; a Committal Shelter; a Pump House; and, a Storage Building. There is an attached garage/work area at the Administration Building.

3. Organization

The organizational structure of the cemetery includes a Director, Program Assistant (formerly the position was classified as Administrative Assistant), and two full-time grounds persons. During the

growing season, two temporary grounds persons are normally added to supplement the full time crew. All employees report to the Director.

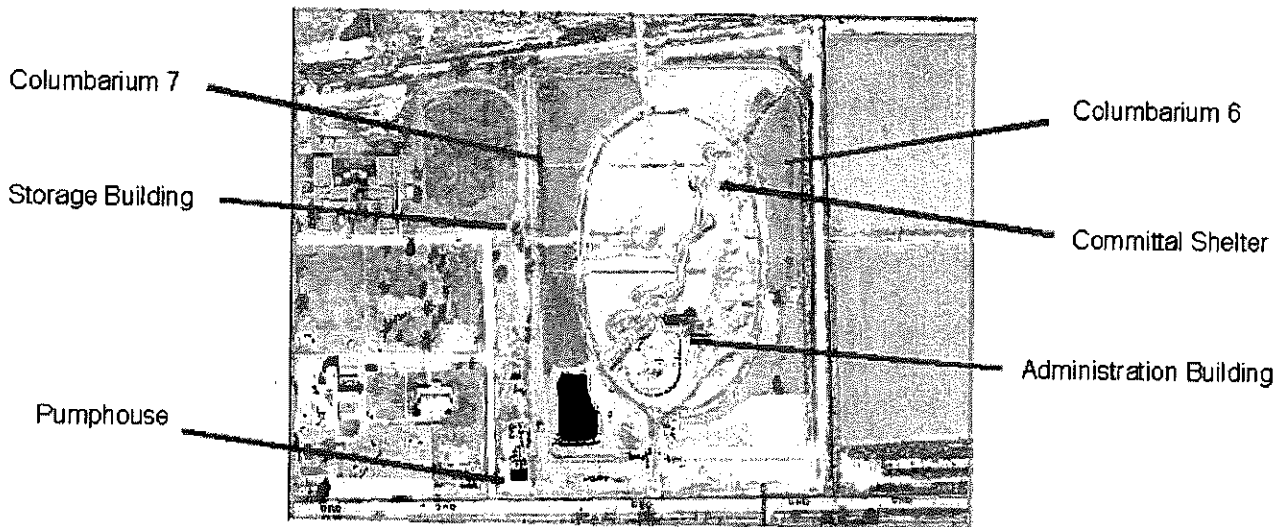


Figure 1

4. Functions

There are essentially four functions at the cemetery: management/administrative; operational; maintenance; and, landscaping. They involve various and diverse duties and responsibilities as listed below.

Management/Administrative Function

ELEMENTS

Interaction/coordination/scheduling (with funeral service providers and/or next-of-kin), to include:

- Confirming eligibility of veterans, spouses, dependents for interment
- Scheduling interments
- Scheduling Committal Shelter
- Assigning gravesites, plots, niches
- Scheduling use of Visitors Room
- Making preparations for interment, to include: assisting families, as needed, with military funeral honors, burial flags, Presidential Memorial Certificates

Interaction with veterans, spouses, dependents

- Responding to inquiries

- Distributing forms
- Completing early registrations, i.e., early determinations of eligibility
- Conducting tours
- Assisting with records requests

Records and documentation, to include:

- Preparing interment record packages (VMC Forms 01 and 02, discharge paperwork, residency paperwork, and interment worksheet)
- Preparing Interment Remembrances
- Preparing interment tags and temporary markers
- Preparing and distributing daily interment schedule & attachments with detailed interment instructions
- Preparing and distributing burial certificates to appropriate boards of health
- Preparing and maintaining manuals
- Developing, maintaining and updating procedures
- Generating and maintaining records, to include:
 - Records of interment (using USVA Burial Operations Support System [BOSS])
 - Interment logs and registers
 - Early registration logs
 - Property lists
 - PM schedules
 - Non-exempt time records
 - Demographic and statistical records
- Maintaining and updating grave locator system
- Preparing work schedules for operations personnel
- Preparing and distributing reimbursement requests for US Department of Veterans Affairs

Monitoring and, when necessary, taking action with regard to systems and equipment warranties and guarantees

Performance of routine office tasks

- Responding to in-person, telephonic, and written inquiries
- Generating routine correspondence and reports
- Ordering supplies and equipment
- Filing
- Tracking non-exempt time records
- Initiating accounting processes
- Coordinating volunteer efforts
- Assigning tasks, monitoring and maintaining appropriate records of Criminal Justice Community Service clients and Mesa County work crews

Awareness and marketing efforts

Developing, preparing, and distributing presentations, pamphlets, booklets, posters, etc.

Making presentations to Veterans Service Organizations and other groups

Establishing and maintaining liaisons with appropriate agencies and organizations, to include:

National Cemetery Administration and other USVA agencies

Veterans Service Organizations

Veterans Service Officers

USVA Medical Center – Grand Junction

Grand Junction Regional Center

CDHS Division of Facilities Management

Community Service Groups

Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Others

Training and instruction

Attendance at appropriate seminars and training sessions

Training subordinates and support personnel

Headstones, niche covers, monuments and memorial plaques

Providing guidance for those ordering headstones and niche covers and those wishing to erect monuments or purchase memorial pillar and/or tree plaques

Ordering headstones and niche covers

Inspecting headstones and niche covers upon receipt for accuracy of inscription and compliance with standards

Processing associated paperwork and making required entries into BOSS

Selecting appropriate locations for monuments

Assigning memorial plaques

Generating and maintaining associated records and correspondence

Advising families when headstones, niche covers, and/or memorial plaques have been set

Gifts and donations

Processing financial gifts and donations for memorial plaques and niche vases and distributing associated funds

Operational Function

ELEMENTS

Burial Operations, to include:

- Preparing Committal Shelter for services, to include: setting up microphone, podium, flags, chairs, urn table
- Preparing and transporting casket carriage to Committal Shelter
- Setting up and preparing interment locations, to include: identifying, marking, opening graves/niches, placing drapes and temporary markers
- Transporting caskets/urns and flowers to gravesites
- Placing caskets and urns in gravesites
- Closing gravesites and placing flowers
- Setting and removing headstones and niche covers

Planning and preparations for and hosting veterans events, to include:

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Veterans Day Ceremony
- All Services Military Ball

Safety and security

- Operating fire and security alarm system

Installing monuments and memorial plaques

Maintenance Function

ELEMENTS

Custodial maintenance (i.e., janitorial services)

- Maintain restrooms
- Sweep, mop and vacuum floors
- Empty trash and transport to dumpster
- Wash windows
- Replace consumables

Vehicle and equipment maintenance

- Change oil
- Replace filters
- Lubricate as needed
- Sharpen blades
- Clean equipment
- Effect minor repairs
- Schedule more extensive repairs

Facilities repair and upkeep

- Replace light bulbs
- Wash down buildings
- Effect minor repairs
- Schedule more extensive repairs

Snow removal

- Remove snow from walkways and roadways using plow and/or sweeper
- Remove snow from Committal Shelter using handheld tools

De-icing

- De-ice walkways, Committal Shelter and roadways using commercial product and/or handheld tools

Landscaping Function

ELEMENTS

Developing landscaping schedule of services

- Based on varied and diverse input, develop schedule(s) for different landscaping tasks

Irrigation system management and operation

- Install, repair, replace sprinkler heads and/or other components
- Monitor and adjust watering times in zones
- Monitor, operate and maintain irrigation system computer
- Service and lubricate pumps
- Monitor system to ensure proper operation
- Maintain ponds, stream corridor and water features
- Implement contingency measures in event of system failure
- Test system at beginning of season and ready for operation
- Shut down and winterize system at end of season

Landscape maintenance, to include:

- Installing/replacing sod
- Seeding
- Weeding
- Pest control
- Irrigating
- Mowing
- Trimming
- Planting

Pruning
Aerating
Fertilizing

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

In addition to their normal functions, staff at the cemetery is heavily involved in other veterans-related tasks and activities on the Western Slope.

Management/Administrative staff was responsible for organizing the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard and the cemetery director is a permanent member of its Board of Directors. As such, he is tasked with the responsibility of helping to oversee the Honor Guard and ensuring its efficient and effective deployment. The Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard has performed over 1,450 military funeral honors and numerous flag presentations, parades, school appearances and other ceremonies during the eight years of its existence.

The Honor Guard's popularity has increased to the point where it is constantly in demand. Again this year, the Honor Guard, which consists of approximately 40 active members, has had to decline numerous invitations because of a lack of resources.

The cemetery's management/administrative staff has been and continues to be responsible for many other events, including:

Memorial Day Activities – Annually in May

Ensuring proper decoration of Cemetery and placement of individual flags on gravesites
Retreat Ceremony the night before Memorial Day
Flag Retirement and Burning Ceremony the night before Memorial Day
Memorial Day Program and Ceremony at Cemetery

Veterans Day Activities – Annually in November

Ensuring proper decoration of Cemetery
Veterans Day Program and Ceremony at Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park
All Services Military Ball

Other Veterans-Related Activities (in Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade)

Fourth of July Parades and Ceremonies
Fall Festival Parades
Wreaths Across America Program
Local School Presentations

6. Burial Operations

Gravesite Utilization (Figure 2)

As of October 21, 2010, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado has provided 2,131 interments to 1,631 veterans, 498 spouses and 2 dependents. Distribution of these interments by gravesite type is shown below. This does not include the remains of a Civil War-era veteran who was discovered in Lake County, Colorado three years ago and interred in this cemetery in January 2008

Based on the total interments as of October 21, 2011, i.e., 2,131, the average interment rate is one a day, 4.7 a week since the cemetery opened.

INTERMENT LOCATIONS

	Total Available	Reserved In Use	Remainder Available	Percent In Use	Percent Available	Average Monthly Use	Months Remaining to Zero	Approx. Date to Zero	Reserved Locations Counted As In Use
Wall Niche	1197	892	305	74.52%	25.48%	8.03	37.99	12/3/2014	4
In-Ground Niche	718	336	382	46.80%	53.20%	3.02	126.31	3/6/2022	1
Single Vault	313	174	139	55.59%	44.41%	1.57	88.75	2/3/2019	3
Double Vault	934	436	498	46.68%	53.32%	3.92	126.90	3/23/2022	0
Conventional	511	8	503	1.57%	98.43%	0.07	6,985.41	7/25/2585	0
Memorial Garden Plot	775	81	694	10.45%	89.55%	0.73	951.89	12/26/2089	0
	4,448	1,927	2,521						

Cemetery Opened : 9/5/2002

Figure 2

(Notes: There are no reserved spaces except when both a husband and wife are veterans and choose to exercise their right to an individual gravesite. In those cases, a space is reserved for the survivor next to the decedent; totals do not reflect double occupancies)

Columbarium Space

On August 27, 2010, we assigned the last columbarium niche, C5-D-42, for the inurnment of a Navy veteran. As of that date, the only subsequent columbarium inurnments in *those* columbaria were second interments of a veteran or spouse. All new interments of cremains after August 27, 2011 were in Section 8, the in-ground niche area.

The lack of columbarium space resulted in a substantial increase in the use of in-ground niches. This, in turn, increased the burden on burial operations in that in-ground inurnments were more labor-intensive - these niches had to be bored into the ground using heavy equipment; were more time-consuming - 30 minutes versus 5 minutes; and, post-inurnment processes included setting headstones rather than screwing on niche covers (with subsequent mowing and trimming operations around the headstones).

New Columbaria (Figure 3)

Funding for a new columbarium was initially approved by the Board of Veterans Affairs during the year in the form of a \$45,000 grant to the cemetery during late winter. An engineering firm was selected and was working on design drawings when, in June 2010, funding was withdrawn. At that time, considerable progress on design drawings had been made.

In November 2010, cemetery management made another request to the Board of Veterans Affairs for a grant to complete the project. This request was approved and a grant of \$55,000.00 was awarded.

Cemetery management solicited support from the community to supplement the grant and to expand the project to two, new columbaria. This was made possible by a less complicated design. The community responded in a timely and significant manner. Donations of materials, labor and/or supplies were received from:

947th Engineer Company, COARNG
FCI Constructors, Inc.
Mays Concrete
Whitewater Building Material Corp.
Grand Junction Pipe & Supply
Sunstate Rental Equipment
General Shale & Brick
Moore Masonry
Koppenberg Enterprises, Inc.
Orchard Mesa Clovers 4H Club
Mike Blackburn, Callahan Edfast Mortuary

Justin Skoglund, Civil Engineer, DMVA, was the project manager and did an outstanding job in bringing the project to fruition. Coupled with the efforts of FCI Constructors management personnel, Marc Litzen and Jason Parsons, the overall contribution, their overall contribution was most significant.

As a result of the overwhelming support, *two* columbaria, numbers six and seven, were able to be constructed, rather than one (and at a correspondingly less cost)..

Both columbaria were placed into service and provided an additional 336 niches (168 each). As of this date, 32 niches in Columbarium 6 have already been utilized.

It is estimated that both new columbaria will provide space for cremains for another three years, i.e., until approximately the summer of 2014.

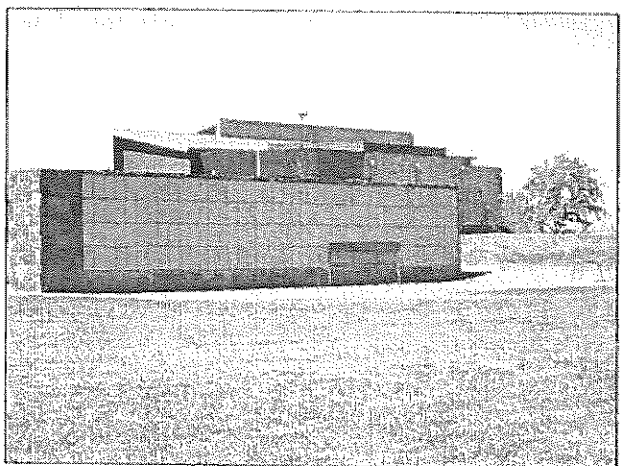
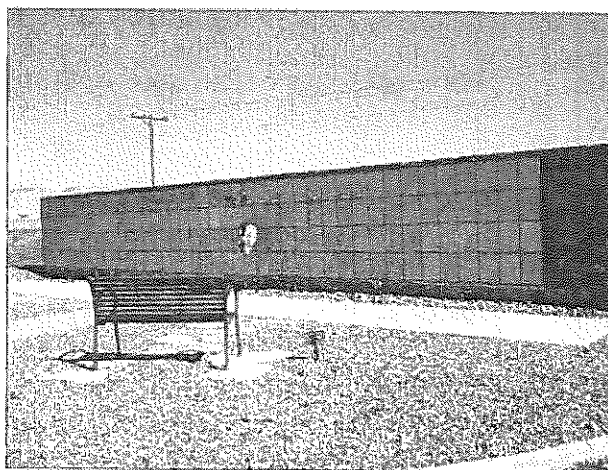
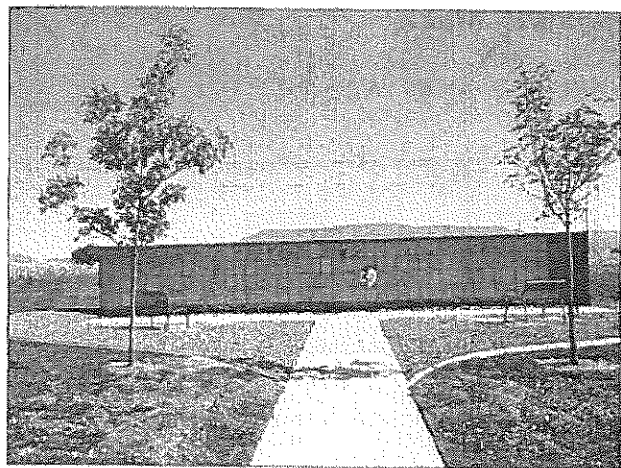


Figure 3

Top left: Columbarium 6 looking east.

Top right: Columbarium 6 looking northeast.

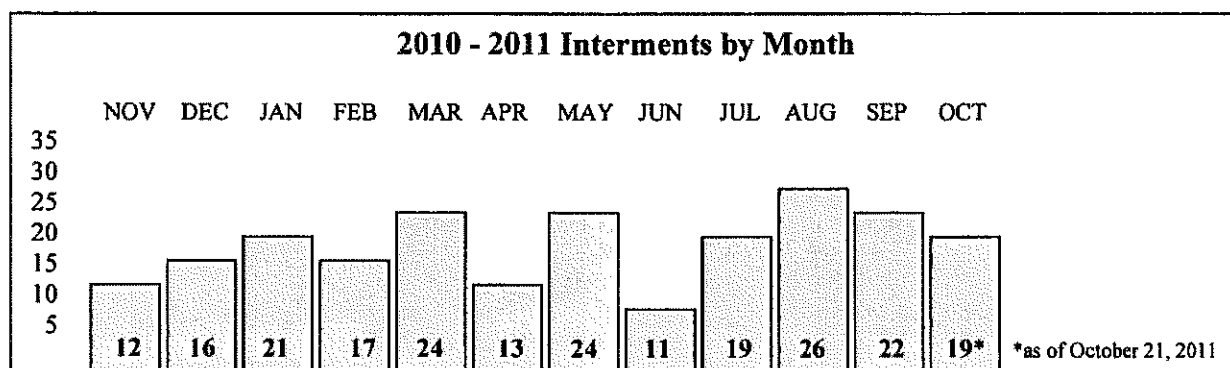
Upper left: Columbarium 7 looking northwest.

Upper right: Columbarium 7 looking west.

2010 - 2011 Interments by Month (Figure 4)

Interments hit the highest rate to date at 265 in 2008 but were followed by a decline to 239 in 2009. However, this year is on track to be one of the more busy years since the cemetery opened.

Interments by month since November 1, 2010 are shown below.



(Figure 4)

Interments by Year (Figure 5)

The total of 2,131 veterans, spouses and/or dependents interred as of the date of this report are broken down by year below.

7. Customer Satisfaction (Figure 6)

The cemetery sends out Customer Satisfaction Surveys every three months to gauge the level of customer satisfaction for the previous quarter. Thus far, there have been 32 such surveys and the results have been most encouraging. Survey forms, along with stamped, self-addressed envelopes are sent to ~ 25% of the next-of-kin of those who were interred during the previous quarter. All surveys are anonymous, however, many respondents sign their names.

A scale of 1 to 5 is used with 4 - 5 considered a satisfactory rating. The average of these ratings is shown below in Figure 6 below.

On the surveys, there is room for any comments a respondent may wish to make. The responses the cemetery has received from the most recent survey are shown below (these are typical of the majority of responses):

Comments from Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2nd Quarter 2011

1. "Thank you and God Bless"
2. "Thank you all for honoring all veterans"
3. "Wow! I was so impressed! Thanks for the most wonderful funeral. I am so grateful."
4. "We were extremely pleased with the services. The respect, honor and love shown for my brother and our family were beyond our greatest expectations."
5. "Everything was beyond our expectations. Thank you."
6. "The experience could not have been more appropriate or memorable. Thank you so very much for the dignified way which my father's service was handled."
7. "I can't say enough . . I am deeply grateful and honored by the service and everyone at Veteran's Memorial."

Status Report, Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011, to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, October 21, 2011, page 12

8. "My experience is one I will talk about forever. You made the whole experience something easy."

All responses are kept on file at the Cemetery and are available to anyone wishing to review them.

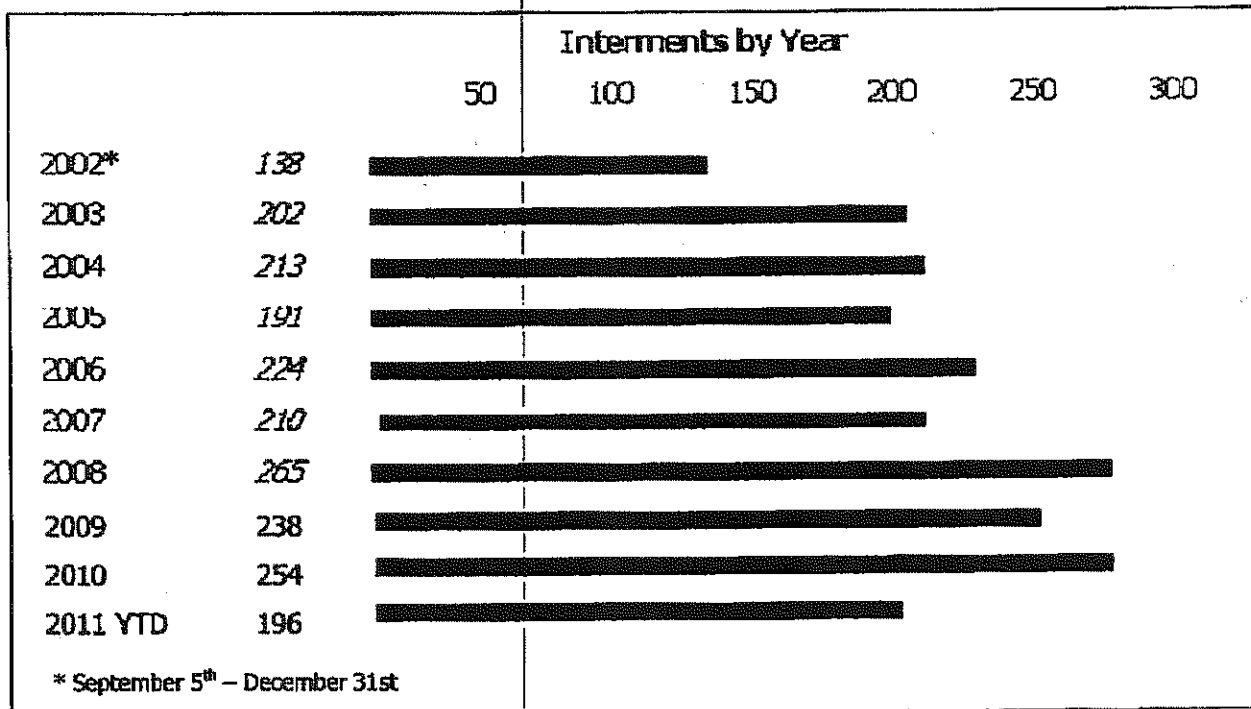


Figure 5

8. Early Registrations

In an attempt to better serve the local veterans community and at the same time attempt to predict future needs, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado offers a service not usually provided at most veterans cemeteries, i.e., Early Registration.

Early Registration allows a veteran to receive an early determination of eligibility for interment at the cemetery. A veteran will complete a cemetery form (VMC Form 1) and submit it with a copy of his or her discharge (e.g., DD214) and proof of residency (if the veteran's home of record was not in Colorado).

The cemetery will determine the veteran's eligibility for interment and keep copies of the paperwork on file so that, when the time comes, it will be one less thing for the family to worry about. There have been several instances where eligibility for interment could not be immediately determined, e.g., the family could not find the discharge. This delayed the interment until eligibility could be determined.

Status Report, Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011, to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, October 21, 2011, page 13

The ancillary benefit to the cemetery of such a program is that it allows cemetery staff to estimate future interments and incorporate the information into short and long range planning.

As of the date of this report, 3,413 veterans have registered. This represents 3,856 likely interments, including these veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents.

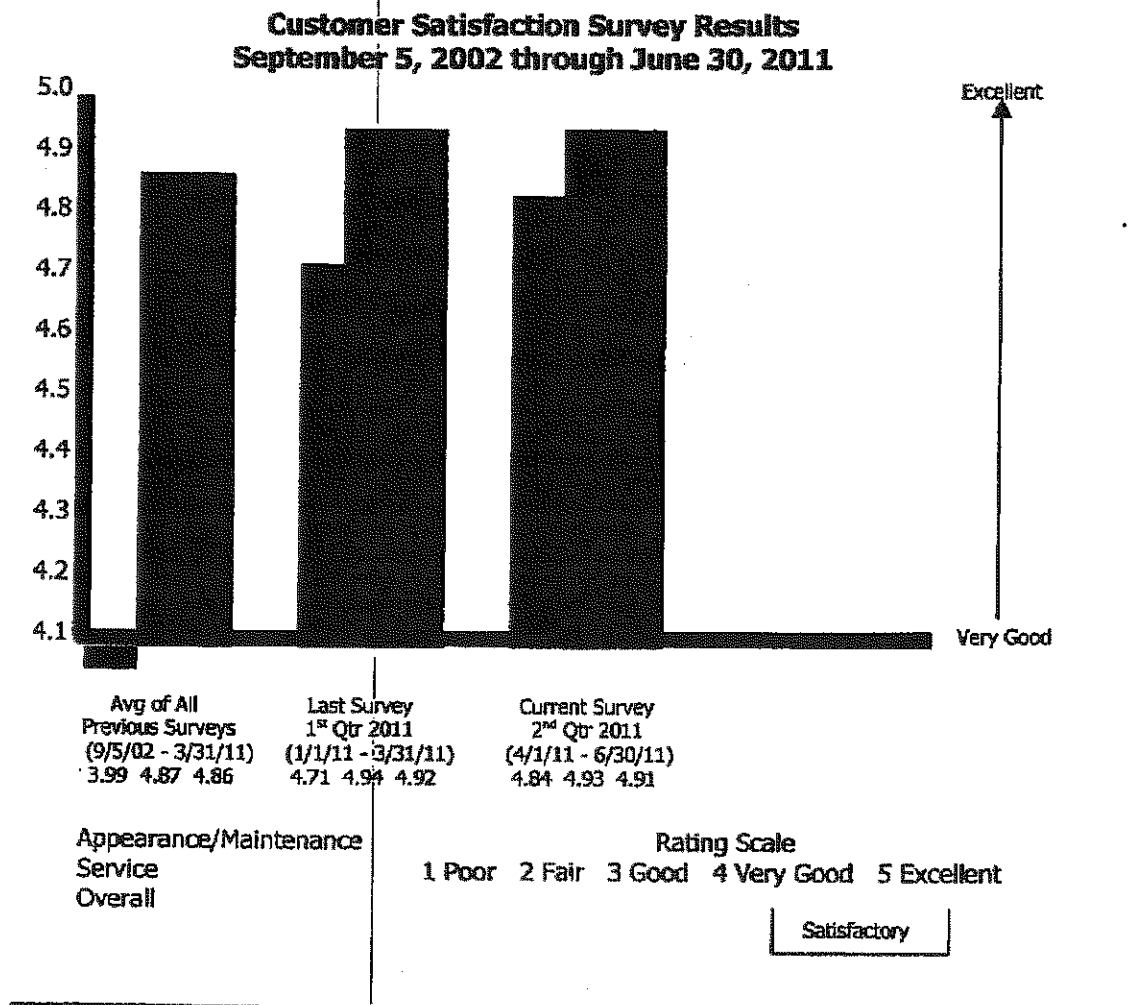


Figure 6

9. Issues and Concerns in Last Report

The issues and concerns identified in last year's report included the following:

Mesa State Development

There were no new developments with this issue during the timeframe covered by this report. We are continuing to monitor the situation.

Water Issues

The silt trap, installed last year, seems to be alleviating the problem with silt in the streambed. It has not, however, eliminated it. We are seeing a substantial buildup of silt in the ponds and streambed that will have to be addressed at some point in the future. The problem with removing the silt is compounded by the fact that the ponds and streambed are lined. Removal of the silt, therefore, would have to be performed very delicately so as not to tear the liner.

Cemetery Funding

Our concerns about long-term funding of the cemetery, especially in view of the continuing economic situation have not changed. However, the reimbursement rate increase from \$300 to \$700 for veterans' interments, effective October 1, 2011, is a positive development and will definitely address the long-term funding issue providing all other funding sources remain stable. Funding for replacement equipment remains a bit of a concern (see below).

Equipment Replacement

During the reporting period, we procured some training in the operation of the irrigation system for cemetery staff from the system's vendor, Grand Junction Pipe and Supply. During that training, it was discovered that the system's computer was no longer capable of operating it to present standards and, further, was incapable of being upgraded. We were advised that a new computer would be necessary to operate the irrigation system with all of its current software upgrades and updates.

An evaluation of the computer being used by the program assistant (formerly the administrative assistant) was capable of operating the irrigation system. Accordingly, the decision was made to procure a new computer for the program assistant and utilize the "old" computer for the irrigation system.

The new computer was received and placed into service in September 2011.

We expressed our concern in the last report about on of the Gators (utility trucks) and the John Deere 1435 mower, both have continued to provide good service. We did, however, experience the complete engine failure of our Z-Trak (zero-radius) riding mower, which is used in close quarters, e.g., around headstones and in confined areas. The Z-Trak was an original piece of equipment that was acquired almost ten years ago.

The cost to repair the Z-Trak was considered high enough to consider replacing it with a new unit. Funding was obtained to do so and efforts are currently underway to purchase a new zero-radius mower. Our biggest concern in this procurement is that the State requires that units manufactured by Ariens be purchased. We submitted a request for a waiver of this requirement

so that we can buy a John Deere rather than an Ariens. The primary reason being that the Ariens has only a 90-day warranty while the John Deere has a two-year warranty.

We have just learned that our waiver request was approved. The procurement process is now underway.

As stated in last year's report, the issue of equipment failure is becoming more relevant as time progresses. Except for the few items replaced over the last nine or ten years, most of our equipment is experiencing age-related issues. The Bobcat has provided continued good service but the costs to maintain it are increasing in price and frequency.

Replacement for Rhy

Rhy Paris, Administrative Assistant, left his employment with the cemetery on a medical retirement in June 2010. He was temporarily replaced by Joanne Black who subsequently was hired as his permanent replacement after the position had been reclassified to Program Assistant. She has proven to be a most valuable asset to the cemetery and to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Future Personnel Needs

Last year, we predicted that our normal requirements for temporary employees would increase due to the increasing age of the cemetery, its grounds, facilities and equipment. This has proven to be the case. While the number of temporary employees did not exceed the normal, i.e., two or three during the course of the growing season (March through October), the number of hours required of them did increase.

10. New Issues & Concerns

Grounds Maintenance & Upkeep

New Columbaria

Maintenance and upkeep of the grounds are fast becoming major issues due to their increasing age and maturity and the addition of the new columbaria.

We will need to finish landscaping at the new columbaria. Our plans call for placement of architectural boulders in front of and to either side of each columbarium. We will plant several bushes, including veteran's honor roses, there as well. While we *did* plant new trees on either end of each columbarium, we may decide to plant several more closer to the structures.

Any new plantings will require irrigation, which we provided for during construction of the units. This will, of course, place an additional demand on our human and materiel resources.

It must also be remembered that the new columbaria constructed this year will last only for the next three years or so. If we are to keep up with demand, we need to be thinking about two more columbaria being added sometime during those next three years.

Facilities Maintenance & Upkeep

Stonework

Virtually all of the stonework, on buildings, columbaria, walkways and other structures, needs to be sealed after ten years. Once again, we will start this process as soon as possible depending on our resources. It will be quite expensive as one gallon of sealer, at a cost of \$75.00 per gallon, covers 75 square feet. We have several hundred square feet to treat.

Painting

All of the wrought iron work, including that along the front of the cemetery, on Riverside Parkway, and structures, has faded to the point where the primer is starting to show through in certain sections.

We will attempt to repaint as much of it as we can during the upcoming year. It is our hope to use persons who are working off their hours of community service.

Irrigation System

Main Line Breaks

We did experience several major breaks in the irrigation system main lines this past year. We feel this was due to the age of the system, its heavy usage and, in some cases, faulty installations on the part of the original subcontractor. We have no reason to not anticipate further such problems this coming year.

Equipment Replacement/Repair

Hustler Mower

In addition to the issues/concerns addressed in Section 9 above, the problems with the Hustler riding mower, our biggest piece of mowing equipment, continued during the past year. It seems that there is one failure after another with this piece of equipment. Unfortunately, the unit is long since out of warranty and any repairs are our responsibility. For most of the minor issues, Gary Vigil, one of our groundspersons and

an excellent mechanic, has been able address and correct them. For major problems, beyond the scope of Gary's abilities, we have had to send the Hustler out for repair.

If there is any funding in next year's budget to replace this unit, we would like to do so.

Replacement of Signage

We need to replace most of the signage at the cemetery. It is fading and is fast becoming illegible. We hope to do it this next year.

Ash Borer

We have been advised that there could be potential problems with our ash trees, of which we have many, due to an insect, the Ash Borer, that is making its way across the country.

John Ragar, our other groundsperson, is monitoring and will continue to monitor the situation and take whatever action is appropriate if we experience problems.

11. In Closing

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado is considered by the veterans community, particularly on the Western Slope, to be one of the "crown jewels" of the State Veterans Affairs program. It continues to be symbolic of the DMVA's and the Division of Veterans Affairs' concern for and commitment to Colorado's veterans. It would be a great shame to lose this status because of a lack of funding for a \$280,000 per year facility. The increase in the reimbursement rate will help considerably, provided, it and the cemetery's other funding sources are left intact.

We would be remiss if we failed to mention that the levels of support received from the Division of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs have been most welcome and appreciated over the years. They have significantly contributed to whatever successes the cemetery has enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

S/

Richard J. Gigliotti
Director
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
Grand Junction, Colorado

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

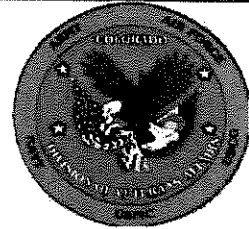
1355 South Colorado Blvd

Bldg. C, Suite 113

Phone 303-343-1268

FAX 303-343-7238

William H. Conroy
Director



31 October 2011

To: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Attn: State Board of Health
4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South
Denver, CO 80246-1530

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Major General
H. Michael Edwards
The Adjutant General

From: William H. Conroy
Director, Division of Military Affairs
1355 South Colorado Blvd
Bldg. C, Suite 113

Subject: Executive Summary to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report on the Colorado Veterans Affairs Trust Fund for FY 10-11.

The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$1,082,784 at the beginning of FY 10-11. The appropriation for FY11-12 is \$865,298. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$54,139 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$26,616 (2.5%) for administration. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado expended \$62,222 for construction of much needed columbariums. Of the \$954,771 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$887,851 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$976,689 was disbursed by the fund.

Grants were provided to American Legion Posts and American Legion State Headquarters, Disabled American Veterans Chapters and the Regional Office of the Disabled Veterans of America, National Association of Black Veterans, Inc., Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and State Veterans Nursing Homes.

Veterans in the front-range urban corridor, the Grand Junction area and fourteen (14) communities outside of these metropolitan areas were assisted via transportation, employment assistance and homeless programs that provided a means for veterans and dependents to meet medical appointments, find jobs and other needed services. In addition the VTF assisted in the construction of transitional female housing in the Denver area. The trust fund also provided funds for the purchase of one (1) vehicle to accommodate transportation programs and nursing home residents. Grants for vehicles provide for the continuance of programs with ongoing service to the veteran community for many years to come.

A total of 9,776 veterans were reported to have received either a direct or indirect service, through grantees, from the Veterans Trust Fund.

The attached report breaks down the numerous services provided by the grants. If there are any questions concerning this report, please contact my office.


William H. Conroy
Director

Encl: Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) Report

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 10-11

Subject: Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund

Requirement: Pursuant to §25-1-108.5 (2), C.R.S. as amended, the following report is provided for State Fiscal Year 10-11 covering the period from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

Statutory Issues Affecting the Future of the Veterans Trust Fund:

There were no Special Bills passed that affected our program's MSA funds.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$1,082,784 at the beginning of FY 10-11. The appropriation for FY11-12 is \$865,298. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$54,139 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditure were \$26,616 (2.5%) for administration. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado expended \$62,222 for construction of much needed columbariums. Of the \$954,771 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$887,851 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$976,689 was disbursed by the fund.

Program Description (with eligible population): The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the primary goal of assisting all eligible veterans residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion and sexual preference, marital or religious status by providing funds for the following purposes:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements and needed amenities.
- Costs incurred by the legislative oversight committee and veterans nursing home commission to evaluate quality of care provided at certain state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs.
- Non-profit Veterans Service Organizations to assist homeless veterans and their families, providing veteran transportation to and from Veteran Medical Centers and Doctor's appointments; stand-downs; veterans forums, and programs to assist the veteran in employment or job related services.

Population Served: The actual number of veterans in the State of Colorado is unknown since all veterans are not registered with the Veterans Administration, however the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics demographic analysis of the veteran population for the State of Colorado estimates that as of 30 September 2010 there were approximately 421,300 veterans living in the State of Colorado. Obviously, not all of them require assistance. Those that do require assistance include nursing home residents, homeless, indigent veterans, combat disabled veterans, invalids, under-employed and the unemployed. A breakdown of the actual number served through the grant process is provided in subsequent paragraphs and the enclosure to this report.

Services Provided: Of the \$1,082,784 available the following represents a breakdown by category of agencies that received funding, grants or awards during the reporting period, to include the type of service and/or assistance provided.

Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado - \$62,222 of the funds were expended by the cemetery for construction of columbariums.

State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH) –

Aurora (Fitzsimons) - \$8,603.93 Phones, Flat Panel LCD TVs

Homelake - \$6,856.00 Raised planter garden for disabled veterans

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations – these organizations were awarded \$593,725 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs. A breakout by organization with the purpose and amounts provided to and expended by each grantee with number of veterans served is provided as enclosure #1 to this report.

Administration - Administrative costs of \$26,616 include grant management, some Board of Veterans Affairs travel and travel for grantee site visits/inspections.

Program Effectiveness: This was the ninth year that the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs administered the Colorado State Veteran's Trust Fund. The trust fund is operating effectively. It is achieving its designed purpose. On-site visits continue to be conducted by the grant administrator, members of the board and staff members. Success is evidenced by a strong marketing program and by the number of veterans directly served. Shown here by Fiscal Year and Number of Veterans Served:

Fiscal Year Veterans Served

02-03	1,514
03-04	2,704
04-05	3,517
05-06	7,045
06-07	11,058
07-08	7,717
08-09	10,116
09-10	10,645
10-11	9,776

Evaluations: Grantees are evaluated by on-site visits and/or inspections, quarterly reports and the submission of receipts and/or canceled checks submitted by the grantees. A final year end report is also required from the grantees.

Closing: Over the past nine years the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, through the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund, have provided direct benefits ranging from bus passes, food cards, work clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and transportation to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to 64,092 Veterans in the State.

Areas for Development and additional goals: The primary areas for development in future years consist of four primary areas:

- Outreach to all Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) in the state especially in rural areas to provide the broadest network of VSOs for disbursement of funds throughout the state.
- Work with VSOs to develop a self sustaining program at the roots level.
- Work at the state and national level through Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide additional funding to support the Colorado state Veterans Trust Fund.
- Emphasize support of female veterans' issues to help rectify the imbalance in services provided to the male and female veterans' populations.

Enclosure #1

Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Grant Disbursed	Veterans Served
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Trans Program	\$27,222.00	\$27,078.00	1304
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa Springs	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	110
VFW Post 3621, Lamar	Veh Purchase & Trans Program	\$30,700.00	\$30,700.00	534
Am Leg Post 66, Akron	Trans Prgm	\$7,000.00	\$4,884.65	104
Am Leg Post 109, Windsor	Standdown & Vet Assistance	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	210
PVA Mt. States Chapter, Aurora	WheelChair Games CO Conv Ctr	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	600
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$29,920.35	217
Am Leg Post 103, Littleton	Vet & Job Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$14,821.69	27
VFW Post 4051, Colorado Springs	Support Homeless Shelter	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	105
Am Leg Post 1992, Aurora	Vet Assistance and Employment	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	53
Am Leg Post 113, Alamosa	Trans Program	\$2,390.00	\$2,390.00	100
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	186
DAV Chapter 44, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$36,500.00	\$35,979.40	493
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$4,600.00	\$3,269.93	44
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Vet Assistance and Employment	\$24,800.00	\$11,140.79	380
NABVETS Chapter 24, Denver	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	163
VFW Dept of CO, Lakewood	Vet Services	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	71
Am Leg Post 203, Pueblo	Standdown & Vet Assistance	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	58
VFW Post 4265, Craig	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	147
Am Leg Post 1, Denver	Job & Vet Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$12,394.36	80
VFW Post 9374, Kremmling	Trans Program	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	13
VFW Post 1247, Grnd Junction	Standdown Job & Vet Assistance	\$18,650.00	\$17,360.71	205
VFW Post 5241, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,985.09	74
VFW Post 4663, Clifton	Pets for Vets	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	20
NABVETS Chap 34 Colo Spgs	Trans & Vet Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$4,250.00	381
Am Leg Post 29, Denver	Work Assist Trans to Jobs	\$8,000.00	\$2,852.75	74
DAV Region, Denver	Homeless Standdown & Vet Assist	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	491
VFW Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance	\$115,640.00	\$115,640.00	590
Am Leg Post 2, Pueblo	Trans Program & Vet Assist	\$14,000.00	\$13,083.19	1218
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Job & Vet Assistance	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	220
SVNH, Aurora (Fitz)	Phones, Flat Panel LCD TVs	\$9,555.00	\$8,603.93	150
SVNH, Homelake	Raised Planter Garden	\$6,856.00	\$6,856.00	76
VVA Chap 57, Grand Junction	Stand-down & Vet Assistance	\$13,150.00	\$10,993.91	391
VFW Post 5843, Meeker	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$3,208.00	\$3,208.00	9
Am Leg Post 1, Denver	Colorado Am Leg Adventures	\$10,000.00	\$4,964.48	93
Am Leg Dept of Colorado	Computer Mnt and Vet Assist	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	242
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Homeless & Incarcerated Prgm	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	264
Am Leg Dept of Colorado	Female Transitional Housing	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	6
Am Leg Post 209, Colo Spgs	Vet Assistance and Standdown	\$40,000.00	\$23,722.85	273
		\$954,771.00	\$886,600.08	9776