



2012 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
James C. Bobick, Secretary - Aurora
Dana Niemela - Denver
Jason Crow – Denver
Franklin db Jackson – Denver
Kathleen Dunemn - Littleton

Division of Veterans Affairs

1355 S. Colorado Blvd.
Bldg C, Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80222
Phone: 303-284-6077
FAX: 303-284-3163
William Conroy
Director

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Major General
H. Michael Edwards
The Adjutant General



December 1, 2012

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

Subject: 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Veterans Affairs

Governor Hickenlooper,

I am pleased to provide you the 2012 Report of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA).

The CBVA is comprised of seven members, all honorably discharged veterans of the United States Military. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve a four-year term. Our newest member, Dana L. Niemela, was appointed to the Board in June, 2012. Ms. Niemela is an eight year Navy Veteran and is currently the Coordinator for the City and County of Denver's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. Other members that served during the reporting period are: James Stanko, Chairman; William Robinson, Vice Chairman; James Bobick, Secretary; Jason Crow, Kathleen Dunemn, Dr. Franklin Jackson. Ralph Bozella left the Board in June of 2012 after 12 years of service. Current board officers will serve until June 2013.

The Board met eleven times to address veteran's issues and plan programs. Board By-Laws require at least two Board meetings outside the Denver Metro area, included a June meeting in Steamboat Springs, and an October meeting in Colorado Springs. By-Laws also require one meeting to be held at a State Veterans Nursing Home. The Board's August meeting was held at the Fitzsimons Veterans Nursing Home.

One of the responsibilities of the Board is the yearly process of reviewing and awarding grants from the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) to Colorado Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) to address veteran issues and needs. The VTF funding places immediate funding at the local level to help veterans. Requests for grants have continued to increase. For the 2011-2012 grant period the request for funds was \$1.8 million, much greater than the \$861,789 available (see attached VTF report). One of the goals in the Board's five year Strategic Plan is to find ways to increase funds that would be available for Veteran Trust Fund grants. During the 2012 Legislative session, the Board monitored a bill going through the legislature that would create a "veterans lottery ticket" as a permanent source of funding. However, this effort was defeated.

In its place the 2012 Legislature established a \$1 million Veterans Assistance Grant to be administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, with Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs input. There were over six million dollars in requests of which the new grant could only fund \$980,000.00. Between the two funds nearly eight million dollars were requested and less than 2 million could be funded. The Board in its advisory capacity will continue to urge the Governor and Legislature to increase funding for veteran assistance grants either through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs or the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.

The Board remains concerned about the increased workload within the Division of Veterans Affairs. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan come to a close there will be more pressure to handle and process claims. The key to successfully meeting this challenge is increased training sessions and salaries for County Veteran Service Officers (mandated by statute) and increased staffing at the State Division of Veterans Affairs. The Board appreciates the State's fiscal position, but proper training and certification of those working directly with veterans increases their earning potential, which translates into increased revenue at local and State levels.

The Board remains concerned about the progress of the Colorado Veterans Resource Information Clearing House, which was mandated in statute in 2010. Since then the Board and the Division of Veterans affairs have struggled to implement it without funding. This year through the efforts of Bill Conroy, Director of the State Division of Veterans Affairs, the Clearing House finally came on line with links to organizations to help veterans. Through collaboration with Warrior Gateway, the Clearing House provides information on a national level. To realize its full potential, the Division of Veterans Affairs requires additional financial support for the Clearing House.

During the year, the Board began a working relationship with the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson. Four Board members met with Maj. Gen. Joseph Anderson, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson at Ft. Carson in April. Maj. Gen. Anderson wanted to work with the Board's Education Committee to explore educational opportunities for veterans and gain information to help him with a meeting of various college and university presidents. As a result of this meeting, members of the G-7 Community Outreach have been attending Board meetings. In October the Board met with several members of the Army Community Service Group to discuss issues facing service members in the transition to civilian life. The Board believes that this working relationship will result in many positives regarding veteran issues.

The following provides a summary of the most significant activities completed by the Board for 2012. The necessary attachments are included:

- The Board's Education Committee continued to assist in a State wide effort to help veterans with information and assistance in using their VA educational benefits.
- Continue to monitor and support the Governor's Homelessness Initiative. Board member Jason Crow serves on this State wide effort.
- The Board is cooperating with DRMAC Veterans Transportation Task Force to help facilitate veteran transportation needs.
- Board member Franklin Jackson is attending RTD-Fast Track meetings to keep the Board up on developments concerning a light rail station by the new VA Medical Center on the Fitzsimons site.
- Board Legislative Committee tracked and reported on bills going through the legislature that affected Colorado Veterans.

- Board member Kathleen Dunemmn was part of a group that formed a new veteran organization, The Women Veterans of Colorado.
- Board members attended stand downs in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Denver, Ft. Collins and Longmont. A stand down is where homeless veterans are 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 concerns on issues and events affecting Colorado Veterans and their families. Each member maintains contacts with various state service organizations, the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, other Colorado State Agencies, and a variety of agencies within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Board members have made public appearances at community functions for veterans, including but not limited to Memorial Day, Veterans Day, state conventions for the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Board members also participate in visits to State Veteran Nursing Homes with General Edwards and the Military and Veterans Appreciation Day at the State Capitol.

The Board would like to express its gratitude to Adjutant Major General Mike Edwards, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the State Legislature for its support of veteran's issues throughout the year. We look forward to working with our State Leadership to make 2013 a most successful year for veterans.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Stanko, Chairman
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

2012 Report of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

Strategic Planning

Legislative Issues and Actions

During the 2012 legislative session, the Board did not pursue any legislative initiatives. The Board recommends legislation and issues, but vetting and decisions regarding those initiatives are done by the Department and the Governor's Office.

There were several important initiatives for veterans that came from sources other than the Board which we report here in accordance with our statutory mandate of advising and informing.

SCR 002 was a United Veterans Committee effort supported by grassroots veteran participation that attempted to place a new veterans lottery on the fall ballot. While the measure failed, it drew attention to the many unmet needs of veterans. The awareness of these unmet needs resulted in a one year \$1M grant program to be administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. In addition, the Long Appropriation Bill included \$377K for veterans treatment court services.

HB 1063 provided the cemetery at the Homelake Veterans Nursing Home .5 FTE for its' continued operation and maintenance. It also provided a contribution fund and mandated that DHS operate and maintain the Cemetery. . HB 1059, a measure that allows spouses of military members in licensed professions to work in Colorado for up to one year, was passed. HB 1072, a bill that requires criteria for prior learning, including military experience, to be developed by the Commission on Higher Education passed, as did HB 1350 which provides in-state tuition to dependents of military personnel stationed in Colorado who moved prior to earning their diploma in Colorado,. SB 062, a bill that allows military members stationed overseas on remote assignment to verbally request an absentee ballot also passed.

With many veterans aging, SB 078, which provides protections for at-risk adults, was passed. The measure creates a task force to study how they are treated in an attempt to identify areas to improve and protect them from abuse in future legislation.

Veterans opposed 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. HB 1340 was amended to prevent a reduction in rates from becoming permanent to only a one-year reduction.

HB 1162 and HB 1153 established two new military license plates for Desert Storm/Desert Shield (HB 1162) and for recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross (HB 1153).

State Veterans Nursing Home Commission Report

As the Colorado State Veterans' Nursing Home Commission Chairman, It is a pleasure to report on the work of the Commission and elements of success enjoyed by the Veterans' Nursing Homes. As you may be aware, our Commission has seven members representing a variety of backgrounds and experience relating to nursing, elder care and veterans' needs. We meet quarterly and have a fifth meeting in December to prepare our Annual Report for the Governor,

the Department of Human Services Executive Director and designated General Assembly Committees.

As for our homes, there is much for us to be thankful. This year, Homelake State Veterans Nursing Home became the third of our veteran homes to attain certification in the Eden Alternative Registry. Fitzsimons and Florence have already achieved their certification thus; Colorado now has three of only seven veterans' homes in the Nation to achieve this status. Rifle is working toward recognition as an Eden Alternative Home and should achieve certification in the near future.

We are also pleased to report that during the 2011-2012 state fiscal year, all of the homes made a profit. This means that residents will not be placed in a position to pay more and also that no homes will be obligated to assume the burden of supporting other homes. The documented success in the financial report was brought about careful budgeting and programmed steps taken for cost containment without resident endangerment.

Occupancy is another concern of the Commission. The homes have been above the State average for nursing home census but it seems that the trend is for residents to have shorter stays in nursing homes and living longer in their own homes before having to go to a nursing home. Rifle, in particular, is located in an area not close to even the larger cities on the western slope, making family visits difficult. This home is undergoing a remodeling project to make it more in line with today's requirements but is less attractive during construction. In terms of census, Rifle is our greatest concern. Fitzsimons is doing very well and the census at Homelake and Florence are holding steady. Good news from Homelake is that the recently remodeled domiciliary occupancy is growing. The latest figures show that there are now 37 residents in the units, approximately 75 percent filled.

The Colorado Board of Veterans' Affairs contributed funds for a remodeled bathing and shower area at Florence. This project, now completed, provides greater privacy and a more conducive arrangement for residents. Walsenburg has recently enclosed an underused patio area into an expanded and modernized dining area. This along with significant other improvements have given veteran residents as well as others far better living conditions adding to life enjoyment. Fitzsimons added an outpatient rehabilitation therapy center for veterans, spouses and Gold Star Parents. This program is for individuals living in their own homes that need physical, occupational or speech therapy but do not need 24-hour skilled nursing care.

Collectively, the Colorado State Veterans' Nursing Home Commission in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, Veterans' Nursing Home Division has enjoyed an excellent and productive year and will strive to be as fortunate in 2013.

VSO Training

The annual Colorado Veterans Service Office (CVSO) training was conducted at the Ramada Inn Plaza Hotel in Northglenn, Colorado from May 1st through the 4th, 2012. Sixty-seven CVSOs were trained. Eleven CVSOs were not able to attend the training. The training conference was broken down into two levels of training; a basic curriculum designed to focus on fundamental service officer requirements and an advanced class with the emphasis of fine tuning established skills. Thirty presenters filtered between the two levels of instruction covering twenty three different topic areas. The end goal was to provide each service officer with the most up-to-date information on changes in programs, benefits and legislative actions that may impact current

benefits, thus providing the greatest level of benefits to Colorado veterans. An examination was conducted at the conclusion of the event and no one failed to achieve a passing score. Finally, with the roll out of the new statewide data base, the state was divided into 10 hubs and all the State service officers went out into the field to conduct training on the new statewide database.

Colorado Veterans Monument Trust

C.R.S 24-80-1401 (2) requires that one member of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs be a member of the Preservation Trust Committee for the Colorado Veterans Monument located at Veterans Park located to the west of the Colorado State Capitol. Board member Dr. Franklin db Jackson, Sr. holds that position.

The Preservation Trust Committee made no maintenance improvements this year, but plans to add trash receptacles in the coming year. A War Dead Honor Roll reading for service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan was held on November 10, 2012

Mr. Tim Drago's of the Preservation Trust Committee continues to ensure that the monument and grounds are well maintained, reflecting Colorado's pride in those men and women who have served our great nation and the State of Colorado.

Report on Board Involvement with Homeless Veterans

The CBVA continues to focus on ending chronic veterans homelessness. This year, the CBVA began collaborating with the Governor's statewide homeless initiative to identify homeless veterans and track veterans at the highest risk for chronic homelessness. Board member Jason Crow served as the Co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Committee as well as the CBVA liaison for this effort.

The process of identifying and tracking homeless veterans was part of the statewide Vulnerability Index (VI). The Board has identified a need for additional funding to expedite the VI process to fully document homeless veterans and organize resources to help those most at risk. Through additional VI funding, Colorado could greatly reduce and ultimately end chronic veterans homelessness in the next few years. The Board will continue to work with the Governor's office and the Division of Veterans Affairs to identify additional funding.

Report on Board Involvement with Veterans in Higher Education

Over 24,000 veterans are currently enrolled in programs of higher education across the state of Colorado. An increasing backlog of education of claims has resulted in financial hardship for a student which, in some cases, has even led to homelessness for our student veterans. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, pending claims for education benefits have doubled in the last year and the rate is not expected to decline. In addition to the backlog of claims, student veterans face difficulties transitioning into the classroom. These complex issues, which include access to health care and peer support, can lead to poor graduation rates as well.

The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs facilitated two Veterans in Higher Education Summits in 2012, which brought together students and administrators from institutes of higher learning across the state. These summits have been able to address some of the transition issues that students face and show the need for collaboration amongst student organization and

educational institutions' leadership. The Board will continue to facilitate these conversations in order to share best practices among institutions. This will ensure the needs of student veterans are met, to prevent homelessness, and to increase program completion rates.

In addition, it will be critical for the Board to facilitate the engagement of veteran services organization across the state. These efforts should focus on obtaining key benefits through the VA and providing interim support while students await their education benefits.

Strategic Plan – Veterans Survey Summary

More than 430,000-plus veterans reside in Colorado. A disproportionate number of Colorado's Veterans reside in rural communities with little or no veteran health care facilities. In previous years only about 1.5% of these veterans responded mostly through electronic means with some paper and pencil surveys leaving an information void about the other 98.5%. Other states who conduct similar surveys also experience very low response rates.

For 2011/12 no formal survey was conducted. However, informal discussions with the leadership of the many Colorado Veteran Service Organizations and several of the County Veterans Service Officers reveals that the top concerns of Colorado Veterans are: 1) access to medical treatment (healthcare availability in rural and non-rural areas); 2) financial stability (pensions and homelessness or the threat of homelessness); and 3) access to education, job training, rehabilitation & business opportunities. These concerns have remained the top concerns for several years not only of Colorado Veterans but veterans who live in other states. These top concerns serve to underpin the funding priorities of the Colorado Veterans Trust Fund and the activities and strategic plan of the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs.

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 11-12 for these purposes was \$861,789. Administrative costs were \$32,582(4.1%). . Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Homes expended \$5674 for exercise equipment based on a request submitted by the Director of the State and Veterans Nursing Homes. Of the \$808,280 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$759,414 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$767,841 was disbursed by the fund.

The Board would like to note that the interest received from the Fund principal was depleted because legislation allowed much of the principle to be used 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 \$861,789 was available.

Grants were provided to American Legion Posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts, Disabled American Veterans Chapters, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the National Association for Black Veterans and State Veterans Nursing Homes.. Fifty-eight 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 forty-two percent of the funds that went to 19 rural areas were used primarily for veterans' transportation to VA medical facilities. A total of 10,442 veterans were reported to have been served by these grants. New this year were grant requests for outreach to student veterans through education summits.

Veterans Assistance Grant

The Long Appropriation Bill, HB 12-1335, included \$1M for a one year grant program to be administered by the Division of Veterans Affairs in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The Bill language is as follows:

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Veterans Affairs, Mental Health, Employment, Housing and Other Veterans Services -- It is the intent of the General Assembly that these moneys be granted to non-profit or governmental entities that provide mental health, family counseling, job training, employment, housing, and other services to veterans; and that the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs assist the Division in developing grant-making criteria and selecting grant recipients. Up to two percent of this appropriation may be used for related administrative expenses incurred by the department.

To meet these requirements, the Board appointed the Vice Chairman, who also serves on the Veterans Trust Fund Subcommittee, to represent it in this new grant process. The Board assisted in establishing criteria, establishing application forms, publicizing the grant and making recommendations to the Adjutant General on grant recipients.

The statutory language distinguished this one year grant from the existing Veterans Trust Fund Grant in two important ways: it allowed grants to be given directly to non-profits and government entities (rather than just Veterans Service Organizations) and it established priorities for the veterans' services to be provided.

The Division received 71 requests from non-profits and government agencies totaling \$6.4M. Out of the \$1M available, \$20K was set aside by statute to offset administrative costs, leaving \$980K for the actual grants. Nearly all grant requests approved were for less than the amount requested and \$160K went to Veterans Service Organizations and \$820K went to non-profits and government entities. Since the grant funds were for one year, the Board recommended that no salaries be funded with grant funds. The exception was procurement of professional services such as counselors and psychologists.

The grants were approved by the Adjutant General in August and funds began to be disbursed in September after contracts were approved.

The Board notes that unlike most other grants provided by the general assembly, this one allowed only 2% to the Department for administrative costs rather than the standard 7%. This placed a burden on the Department in trying to find an individual who would act as the one year grant administrator for this small sum. While they were able to hire an experienced administrator, the salary exceeded \$20K and the Department has been forced to ask for a supplemental appropriation to cover personnel costs.



COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

6060 Broadway • Denver, Colorado 80216
Phone (303) 297-1192
wildlife.state.co.us • parks.state.co.us

September 28, 2012

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:

Per your annual request, under State Statute and Wildlife Commission regulation, the Division of Parks and Wildlife offers, the following types of licenses and services to our state's veterans or active military:

C.R.S 33-12-106 – (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.

C.R.S 33-12-106 – (2.3) The commission 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 commission may determine by rule which day veterans are allowed free entrance to state parks and recreation areas.

Commission Regulations – CCR 445 -#700-2(j) Any vehicle occupied by a current, reserve or honorably discharged member of any United States military service, on the State observance of Veteran's Day. At least one form of past or present military identification shall be presented at the Park entrance. Acceptable forms of military identification include:

- DD214;
- Active, retired or veteran military cards;
- The display of military license plates.

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.

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: Robert W. Bray • Chris Castilian • Jeanne Horne

Bill Kane, Vice-Chair • Gaspar Perricone • James Pribyl • John Singletary, Chair

Mark Smith, Secretary • James Vigil • Dean Wingfield • Michelle Zimmerman

Ex Officio Members: Mike King and John Salazar

The current fee for the Columbine annual pass is \$14.00 and also provides entry into any of our 42 State Parks. Again, this pass does not provide for further discounts such as camping or cabin/yurt rentals. Disabled Veteran's 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 64 years of age or older may that are Colorado residents 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 onetime charge).

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 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, pronghorn, or bear application in that year.

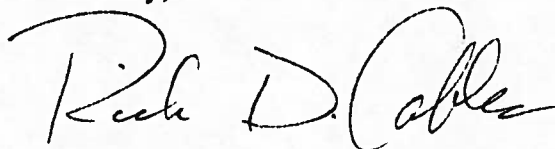
Commission Regulation-#206(B)(4)(h)(1)(ee) In lieu of applying through the regular limited license draw, any active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed at any military facility in Colorado and actively deployed outside the United States, or any active duty member of the United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

As of September 27, 2012 the Division has issued year-to-date 877 free combination small game and fishing licenses to veterans with disabilities; we have processed 3 requests for military leftover license privileges, 8 requests for military applications for preference points and issued 4 Wounded Warrior big game licenses.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick D. Cables". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" being the most prominent.

Rick D. Cables
Director

Cc: Mike King – Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources
Marilyn Gallegos Ramirez – Assistant Director of Support Services, Colorado
Division of Parks and Wildlife
Henrietta Turner – Manager, License Administration, Colorado Division of Parks
and Wildlife
File

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

Barbara J. Brohl
Executive Director

October 25, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Conroy,

Sorry for the delay in responding to your request regarding information for your report to the Governor on the impact and effect that various State Departments have on the welfare of Colorado Veterans. In our Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), we offer 34 Military License Plates to include 10 which the first set is free to qualifying Veterans. The 10 plates are: AF Cross, Disabled Veteran, Disabled Veteran Handicapped, Distinguished Service Cross, Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Pearl Harbor Survivor, POW, Purple Heart, and the Silver Star.

In the near future, we will be offering the following through DMV.

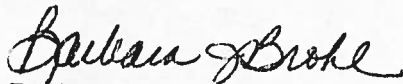
1. The Department is developing a program to allow Veteran's with sufficient military truck driving experience to apply for a Colorado Commercial Driver's License (CDL) without having to complete the CDL skills testing requirements. This program should be in place by early 2013.
2. The Department will be offering Veteran's the option to have a military identifier annotated on their driver's license or identification card. There will be a \$15 fee to have this identifier added to a driver's license or identification card. This program is expected to be available in early 2013.

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 C.R.S. which allows a filing extension for military personnel in a combat zone. This extension, which defers interest and penalties, lasts 180 days after the particular assignment has ended. In addition, C.R.S 39-26-102(2.5) allows a

sales tax exemption for veteran's organizations. This exemption is only granted for a special event, meeting, or other function that is not part of the organizations' regular activities.

We have also attached a letter that was sent to your organization in July, 2012 which addresses these services in more detail. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara J. Brohl".

Barbara J. Brohl

Executive Director



Executive Director
Barbara J. Brohl

MV Director
Mike Dixon

**Titles & Registration
Director**
Maren Rubino

July 1, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Stanko,

Below you will find a list of the services that are 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

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

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)

1375 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80261
www.colorado.gov/revenue

U.S. Air Force 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 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 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 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)

Distinguished Flying Cross Plate (HB12-1153)

On or after January 1, 2013, this plate may be issued to a natural person who has been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross upon presenting a copy of the military order awarding the Distinguished Flying Cross or any other evidence. 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(25)

Disabled Veteran 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 Plate

This plate permits a mobility disabled veteran 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. One set of these plates may be issued per applicant 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 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 Plate

This plate may be issued to 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 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 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 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 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 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 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)

Operation Desert Shield/Storm Plate (HB12-1162)

On or after January 1, 2012, this plate may be issued to a natural person that provides a DD214 form issued by the United States Government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran of the armed services who served between August 2, 1990, and February 28, 1991. The 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(24)

Pearl Harbor Survivor 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 on 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 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 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 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 Plate

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 Plate

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 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 Plate

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

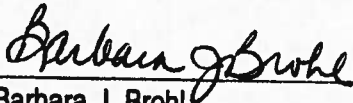
Forty counties allow online renewal of motor vehicle registrations. This will allow service members stationed outside of Colorado to maintain their vehicle registrations. This service may be accessed at <http://www.colorado.gov/revenue/dmv> - Vehicle Registration Renewal.

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, 2012, the Department records indicate that 121,258 vehicles were 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara J. Brohl", is written over a horizontal line.

Barbara J. Brohl
Executive Director



STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor

Department of Local Affairs
Reeves Brown, Executive Director

Division of Property Taxation
JoAnn Groff, Property Tax Administrator

September 17, 2012

James Stanko, Chairman
Colorado Board of Veterans
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1355 South Colorado Blvd., Building C, Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80230

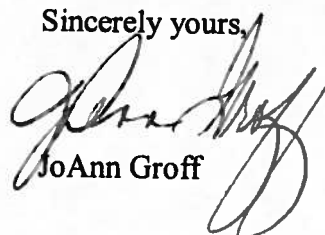
Dear Mr. Stanko:

Per a request from Bill Conroy, Director, I have provided below the number of properties and the exempted taxes for disabled veterans who have received the property tax exemption in 2011. 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 and answers 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 2011 tax year on property taxes paid in 2012, 3,362 properties owned by disabled veterans qualified for the exemption. The actual value of the exempted properties is \$269,347,199.00, and the total exempted property tax amount for these properties is \$1,756,475.28. We have not yet verified the status of the 2012 tax year applicants; those applications will be reviewed in October, and any exempt property tax amount will be calculated after those taxes are due in 2013.

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 25, 2012

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,

The following information reflects the annual accomplishments of the Colorado Department and Labor (CDLE) Veterans Employment and Training Program. Our mission is to provide Veterans and transitioning service members with the resources and services to succeed in the 21st Century workforce by meeting labor-market demands with qualified Veterans.

In the enclosed annual report we have outlined the outreach services we provide to the Veteran population utilizing the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG), Wagner Peyser and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) staff and funding. We continue to align our Veterans Program to reflect the guidelines outlined in the U.S Department of Labor/VETS Veterans Program Letters, particularly VPL 07-10 which clearly refocuses and delineates the duties and responsibilities of the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) and the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist. These 41 individuals are strategically located within county and state Workforce centers that have the highest Veteran population.

Our mission is to provide Veterans and transitioning service members with the resources and services to succeed in the 21st Century workforce by meeting labor-market demands with qualified Veterans. 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. Should you have any questions in regards to this report please feel free to contact Elaine Edon, State Veterans Program Coordinator at (303) 318-8937 or elaine.edon@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

Elise Lowe-Vaughn
Acting Director, Workforce Development Programs

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

**PY 2011 Report on Service to Veterans
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

**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 referrals to skilled trade apprenticeships programs throughout the state. Additionally, our One Stops are tied into 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 PY 2011 chart below, 44,343 Veterans registered with our department for employment assistance. Despite the 9 % decrease in the total number of Veterans who registered in our data system, Connecting Colorado, we noted a significant increase in our Disabled and Special disabled Veteran categories. According to VPL 07-10 these targeted populations of Veterans are to receive top priority when providing services from all Workforce Center US DOL funded staff. These figures clearly demonstrate that we are well within compliance of these guidelines.

Colorado Veteran Demographics

	Total Vets	Male	Female	Campa ign Badge	Disables Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated
PY11	44,343	38,635	5,708	8,002	8,110	4,255	5,794
PY10	49,087	43,181	5,906	8,249	5,017	2,982	4,950

Public Law 107-288 requires our department to provide priority of service to Veterans and eligible spouses in all programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Veteran, for the sole purpose of priority of service, means a person who served at least one active federal duty day, excluding basic and technical training and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. Priority of service simply means eligible veterans and their spouses 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.

Through Connecting Colorado, those who are unemployed, underemployed and/or wanting to change careers are able to post pertinent employment information and learn more about the employment resources that are located within our state and local workforce centers. Also private and public employers located throughout the state are also able to post job openings, learn more about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), Federal bonding, OJT, work experience opportunities and many other employment resources that could prove to be beneficial to their businesses. Most importantly, both job seekers and employers are instantly matched to meet each others employment needs.

Connecting Colorado is programmed to search and match up qualified Veteran job seekers first to posted job openings. Qualified Veterans appear at the top of all referral lists that are electronically generated by the employer. Additionally the employer is given the option to search for qualified Veterans only. As a result of this, our department referred 48%, or 21,329 of our registered Veteran job seekers to a job compared to 37% of our non-Veterans.

In addition to the state and county Employment Specialists who provide outstanding front-line services to all Veterans, our department employed 35 full-time Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and 6 full-time Regional Veteran Employment Representatives (RVER) for PY 2011. They are assigned to Workforce Regions around the state and are funded through a U.S. DOL Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) grant. Our DVOP's provided Intensive Employment Services to Veterans in most need of assistance. The following Veterans received priority in the provision of intensive services: disabled, homeless, those released from incarceration, recently separated, as well as Veterans who had other barriers to employment.

Intensive services are designed to coordinate comprehensive employment plans for veterans to assure access to the necessary training and supportive services. Intensive services provided by DVOP staff allow for Veterans to receive personal and individualized support during program participation and after job placement. Because of this intensive services require more staff time than regular employment services. Listed below is a breakdown by demographic of veterans who received intensive and staff assisted services from a DVOP last year:

	ALL VETERANS	DISABLED	RECENTLY SEPARATED	Homeless	Female Veterans
PY 11	5,143	1,453	760	502	601

Our DVOP's also conduct outreach to local Federal VA Vet centers throughout the state, and have made 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 LVER's primary role is to conduct employer outreach on behalf of Veterans advocating the valuable knowledge, skills and abilities that Veterans bring to the workforce. They do this through job fairs, job search workshops, career events, employer panels and/or personal visits to the businesses themselves. Our LVER's have organized and hosted over 53 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 event in order to quickly fill employer vacancies and provide Veterans Vocational and Career Guidance from private employers. This PY, our LVER's

and DVOP's assisted with two employment expos that involved public, private, non-profit, faith based and community organizations who in a collaborative effort brought a total of 103 employers and over 1500 job seekers together to meet each others employment needs. In all Connecting Colorado received 166,746 job openings posted with our department from 10,555 employers.

Furthermore, we have a LVER assigned to act as our department's REALifelines coordinator. REALifelines is a U.S. DOL sponsored program designed to assist service members who were seriously wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan to 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.

Our department has placed two LVER's at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Correctional and Re-Entry Facilities. They are responsible for conducting outreach and employment transition workshops inside DOC facilities throughout the state for Veterans within 12 months of release.

With today's economical hardships, we continue to face challenges especially with the National Guard and Reserve service members who endure numerous deployments and return unemployed. We have stationed one LVER at the Colorado National Guard and Reserve Headquarters to assist in organizing 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.

We have stationed a DVOP on the Colorado State University campus who works closely with the career counseling center and career advisory team targeting assistance to the Veteran student population, particularly those with a service connected disability rating that are within one year of graduation and ready to enter the workforce.

The Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) Grant entered its last year of discretionary funding for PY 2009-2011. Our department applied for the PY 2012-2014 VWIP grant and was awarded \$1.25 million. We are now able to continue to aggressively work with training programs within all high demand occupational fields and placing Veterans who qualify for such training.

Although the facilitation of the Colorado Transitional Assistance Program (TAP) has been contracted out to a private company our LVER's and DVOPS provide briefings about One Stop services at Shriver, Fort Carson, the Air Force Academy, Peterson and Buckley Air Force base.

Finally, the primary measure of the quality of services provided by CDLE to the 44,343 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 2011 OUTCOMES
EER All Vets	48.41%
ERR All Vets	77.45%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$19,735
EER Disabled Vets	43.15%
ERR Disabled Vets	76.52%
Average Earnings Disabled Vets	\$21,083
DVOP VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
EER Disabled Vets	51.23%
ERR Disabled Vets	76.73%
LVER VETERAN PROGRAM MEASURES	
EER Recently Sep Vets	51.52%
ERR Recently Sep Vets	73.52%
DVOP/LVER Consolidated:	
EER All Vets Weighted	51.00%
ERR All Vets	75.23%
Average Earnings All Vets	\$19,406

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Division of Veterans Affairs

1355 South Colorado Blvd Suite 113.

Denver, CO 80222

(303) 284-6077 ~ (303) 284-3163 (Fax)

Bill Conroy
Director

John Hickenlooper
Governor

Major General
H. Michael Edwards
The Adjutant General



COLORADO DIVISION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

2012 REPORT ON SERVICE TO VETERANS

November 5, 2012

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 submit to you the 2012 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 2012 will assist you in your presentation.

The Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs is made up of a total of 10 full time employees and 4 part time employees; which includes two employees at the Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado.

The Division is tasked under Colorado Revised Statute 28-5-705 to supervise, direct and train all sixty four 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 "Vetraspec," a first in the nation statewide data system paid by the Division 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 the training and direction my staff has provided, we were able to service 13856 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 \$242 million dollars in veteran entitlements into Colorado over the previous year's number. The following information is submitted for your consideration:

COLORADO DIVISION OF VETAN AFFAIRS		
Date: 10/30/12		
	OFFICE ACTIVITIES	
ITEM	2012	2011
New Power of Attorneys	6266	5937
Letters to VA	10393	8512
New Claims	13856	13286
Telephone Calls	17695	22,508
Health Care Enrollment	1053	676
Certified Appeals Sent to BVA	91	127
Referendum E	Running Total 4493	Running Total 3796
Veteran Property Tax Exemption		

INTERMENTS IN VETERAN MEMORIAL CEMETARY OF WESTERN COLORADO	
Date 10/12/12	
Veteran	1,807
Spouse	580
Dependent	4
TOTAL	2391

State dollars that were used last year to assist veterans include the following: First, with "Vetraspec," Colorado veterans are able to get an update of the status of their pending claim at any CVSO office. This program was paid for by the Division using Veteran Trust Fund dollars. Under Colorado Revised Statue 28-5-707, CVSO payments are sent to the individual counties to assist in the operation of those offices. Last year it totaled \$88,800. 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 5 target counties. As an example of this program, El Paso County has generated 2094 additional outreach claims with an annual dollar net increase of \$8,820,648.00 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, \$1.1 billion 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 659 applications have been approved. To date 4493 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 get claims from newly released veterans from Ft. Carson and Buckley Air Base. The follow-up of these claims attempts to provide a seamless passage for our active duty military to receive benefits through the Federal Department of Veteran Affairs. The Division also worked to develop a similar arrangement with local assisted living and nursing homes by doing outreach events to assist in the processing of claims for veterans receiving long term treatment in those facilities.

In closing, we remain a nation engaged in military operations in Afghanistan as well as personnel deployed around the world honoring national commitments. Members of the Uniformed Services include the unprecedented utilization of Colorado Guard and Reserve personnel called up to respond to events outside the state borders and around the world. As the mission 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 fourth year of 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 303-284-6077.

Sincerely,



Bill Conroy, Director

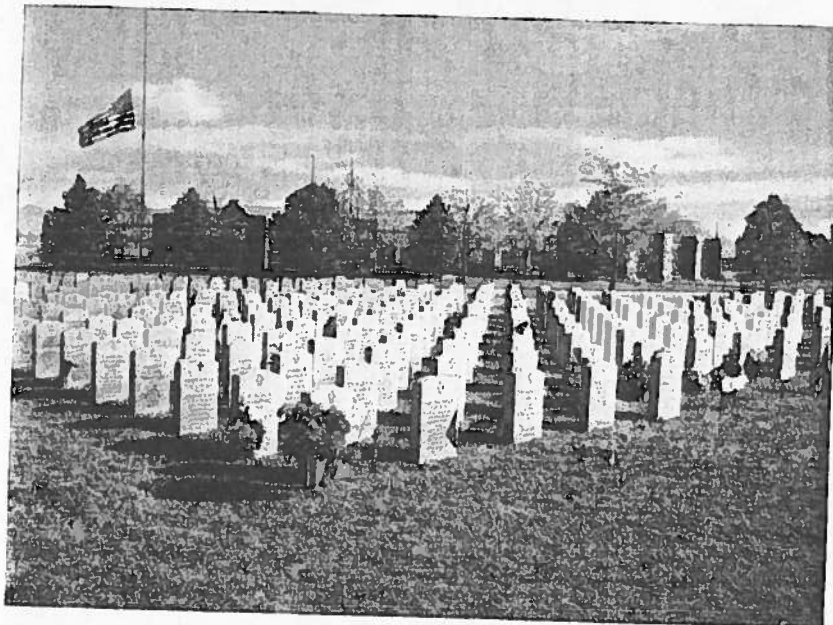
Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs

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, 2011 through October 31, 2012 to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs October 12, 2012



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



**Status Report
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012
to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
October 12, 2012**

Executive Summary

1. Background

This section is unchanged.

2. Physical Layout and Facilities

This section is unchanged.

3. Organization

This section is unchanged.

4. Functions

This section is unchanged.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

Updated to reflect statistical changes and that cemetery staff is, by choice, no longer directly involved in planning and executing the annual All Services Military Ball.

6. Burial Operations

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

Columbarium Space: This section in last year's report has been deleted as it is no longer applicable.

New Columbaria: Updated to reflect usage of Columbarium 6 and to include current photo(s) of Columbaria 6 and 7.

2011 – 2012 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

The following "old" and "new" issues from last year's report were updated to reflect their current status:

Colorado Mesa University (formerly Mesa State College) Development: No new developments.

Water Issues: No new developments.

Cemetery Funding: Funding is stable and sufficient for operation of the cemetery.

Equipment Replacement: New Z-Trak (zero radius) mower procured; new Bobcat ordered.

Future Personnel Needs: Addresses continuing concerns in this area.

Grounds Maintenance & Upkeep

New Columbaria: Provides current status of new columbaria, particularly Columbarium 6, and the need to seek funding for additional columbaria.

Facilities Maintenance & Upkeep

Stonework: Stonework still needs to be re-sealed.

Painting: Ironwork still needs repainting.

Irrigation System

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

Equipment Replacement/Repair

Hustler Mower: Replaced with new, John Deere Z-Trak, however, it continues to be utilized until final failure so as to save wear and tear on the new Z-Trak.

Replacement of Signage: Roadway signage has been re-painted in-house and upright signage has been ordered and is expected to be installed by year-end.

Ash Borer: No problems this past year. We are continuing to monitor the situation.

10. New Issues and Concerns

Monuments and Memorials: Reports placement of Indian Wars veteran's headstone and erection of World War II veterans memorial.

Burial Operations Support System (BOSS): Describes problems with BOSS and attempts at solutions.

VA Audit: Documents triennial VA audit of cemetery.

11. In Closing

Closing remarks.

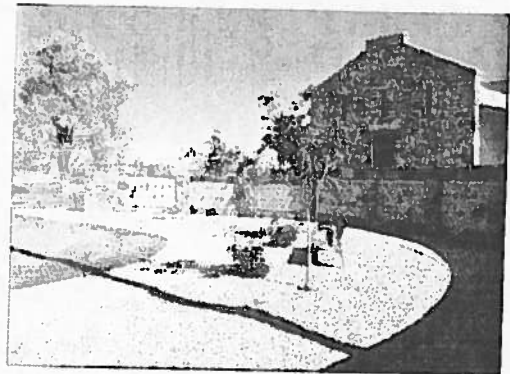
Status Report
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012
to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
October 12, 2012

1. Background

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado was authorized by the Colorado Legislature in 1999 to honor Colorado veterans. A grant to build the cemetery was obtained from the United States Veterans Administration (VA). 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.

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 five columbaria in front of which are benches for visitors' convenience. The two new columbaria are located at the east and west ends of the northernmost windrow that crosses the property. 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.

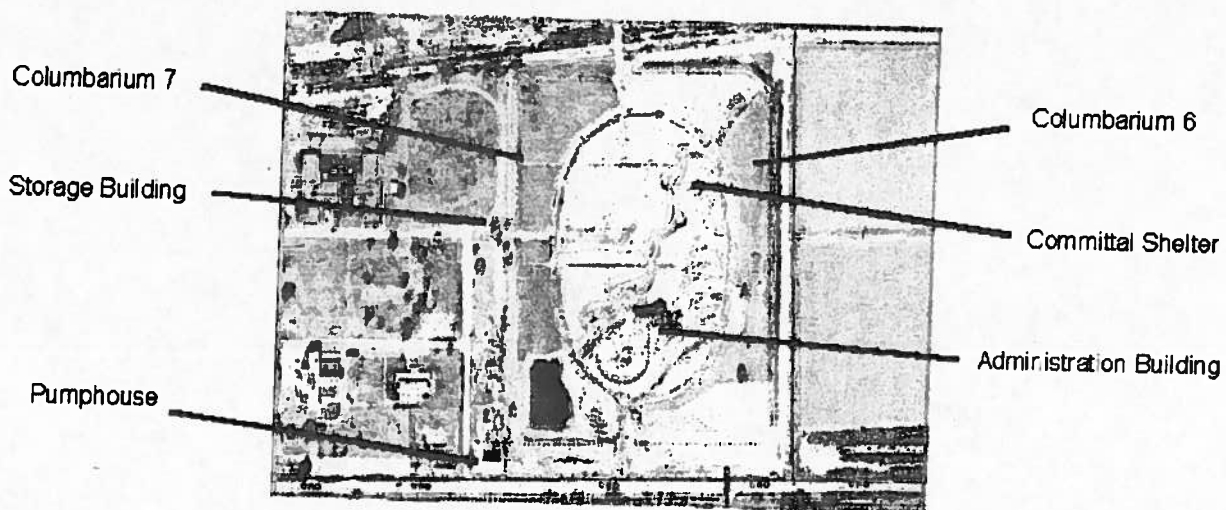


Figure 1

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, copies of 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
Colorado Army National Guard
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

Operational Function

ELEMENTS

Burial Operations, to include:

- Preparing Committal Shelter for services, including: 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

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
Clean and maintain facilities
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 1,600 military funeral honors and numerous flag presentations, parades, school appearances and other ceremonies during the nine 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

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 12, 2012, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado has provided 2,391 interments to 1,807 veterans, 580 spouses and 4 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 12, 2012, i.e., 2,391, 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 Reserved for in Use
Wall Niche	1197	996	201	83.21%	16.79%	8.10	24.82	10/26/2014	3
In-Ground Niche	718	381	337	53.06%	46.94%	3.10	108.80	9/18/2021	1
Single Vault	313	184	129	58.79%	41.21%	1.50	86.23	11/12/2019	3
Double Vault	934	468	466	50.11%	49.89%	3.80	122.47	11/3/2022	
Conventional	511	9	502	1.76%	98.24%	0.07	6,860.67	4/18/2576	0
Memorial Garden Plot	775	90	685	11.61%	88.39%	0.73	936.17	9/3/2089	0
	4,448	2,128	2,320						

Cemetery Opened: 9/5/2002

Figure 2

(Note: 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)

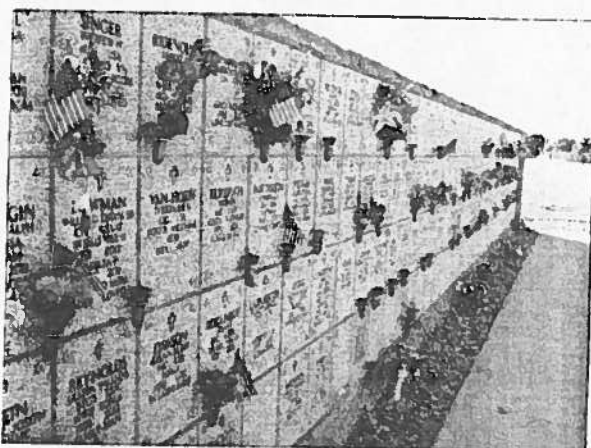
New Columbaria (Figure 3)

As described in last year's report, two new columbaria, 6 and 7, were built and placed into service. Each contains 168 niches, a total of 336. As of October 12, 2012, Columbarium 6 has 29 niches left. It is expected to be full by early February 2013 (at the current rate of usage) at which time we will begin using Columbarium 7.

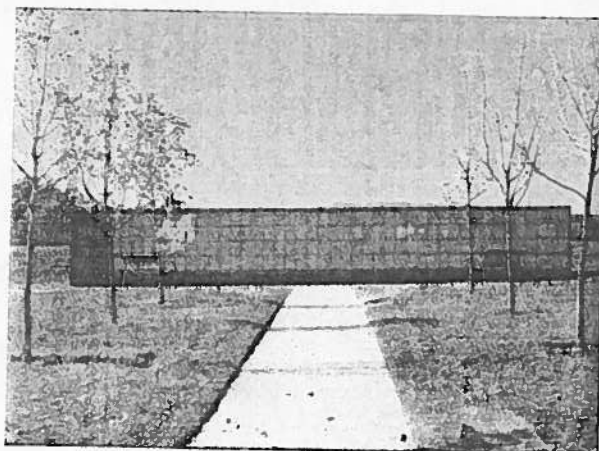
The use of Columbarium 7 will require that we modify our interment procedures somewhat. Because of the relative proximity of the first six columbaria to the Committal Shelter, we have allowed the next-of-kin and/or other family members to walk with the urn, accompanied by a cemetery staff member, to the particular niche for personal placement of the urn.

Columbarium 7 is a much greater distance from the Committal Shelter so allowing family members to place the urn there would take much more time and could represent a hardship for a family member who has difficulty walking.

We will, therefore, pick up the urn at the end of the committal service and transport it by jeep, as we have done with urns scheduled for in-ground niches, to Columbarium 7. If, afterwards, the family wishes to visit the columbarium, they can do so.



Columbarium 6



Columbarium 7

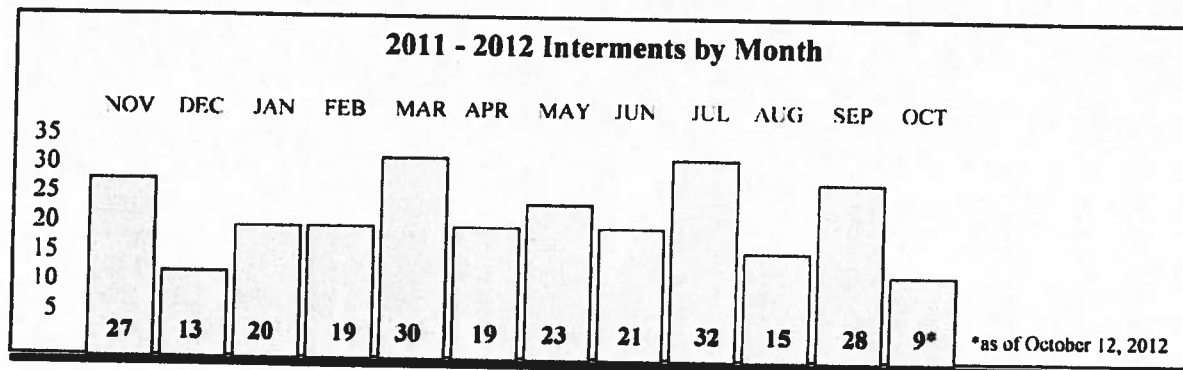
Figure 3

Given the current usage rate, we expect Columbarium 7 to be full by October 2014.

2011 - 2012 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, once again, to be one of the busiest years since the cemetery opened.

Interments by month since November 1, 2011 are shown below.



(Figure 4)

Interments by Year (Figure 5)

The total of 2,361 veterans, spouses and/or dependents interred as of the date of this report are broken down by year below.

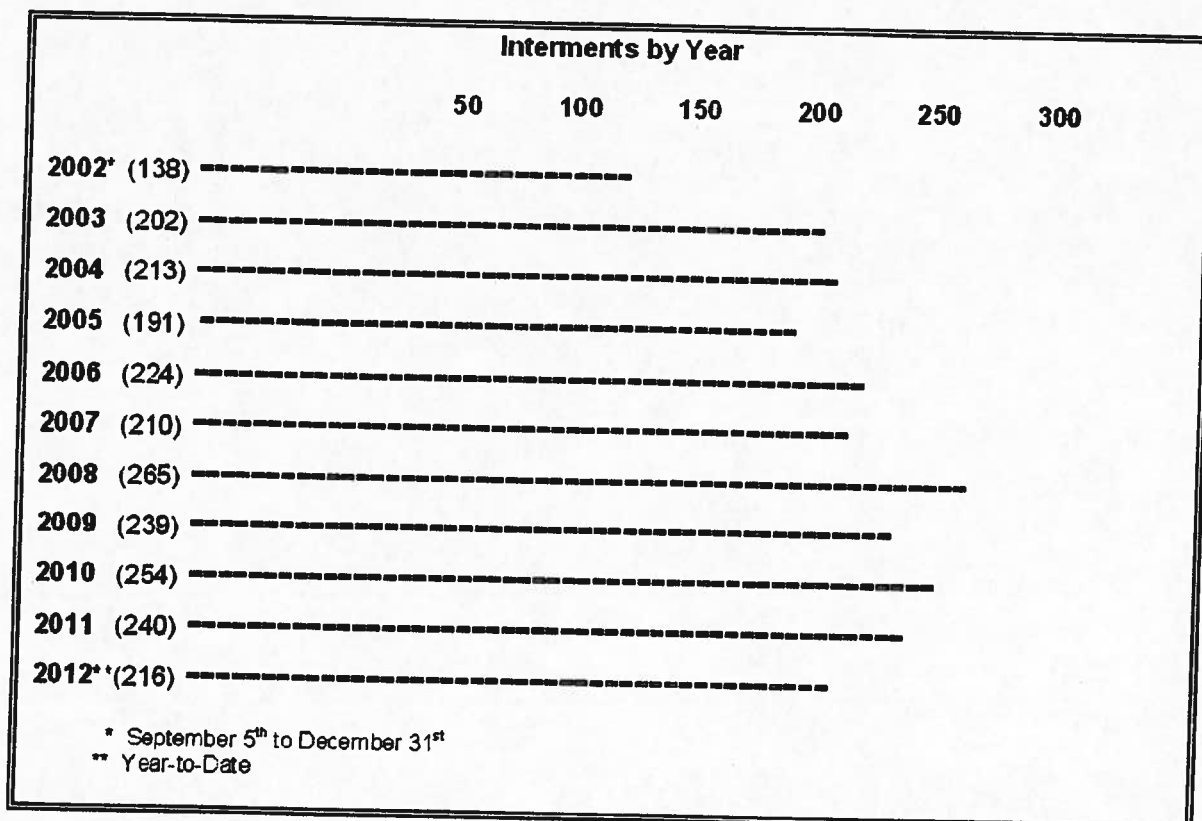


Figure 5

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 36 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 in Figure 6 below.

On the surveys, there is room for any comments a respondent may wish to make. Some of 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 2012

1. "I was very pleased with the beauty of the area where my husband's remains were placed. The new VMC is a wonderful tribute to our war veterans. Ella Ziegs"
2. "My husband would have been so pleased with the military honors. Our thanks to all of you. Family of Glenn Reynolds. May he rest in peace."
3. "The personnel in the administration office are very compassionate and helpful."
4. "Thank you for honoring my father. The service helped me through a very difficult time."
5. "Beautiful! Exactly what he would have wanted! Thanks, Merylyn Simpkins"
6. "Excellent, I was so pleased with everything. Alice M. Smith"

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

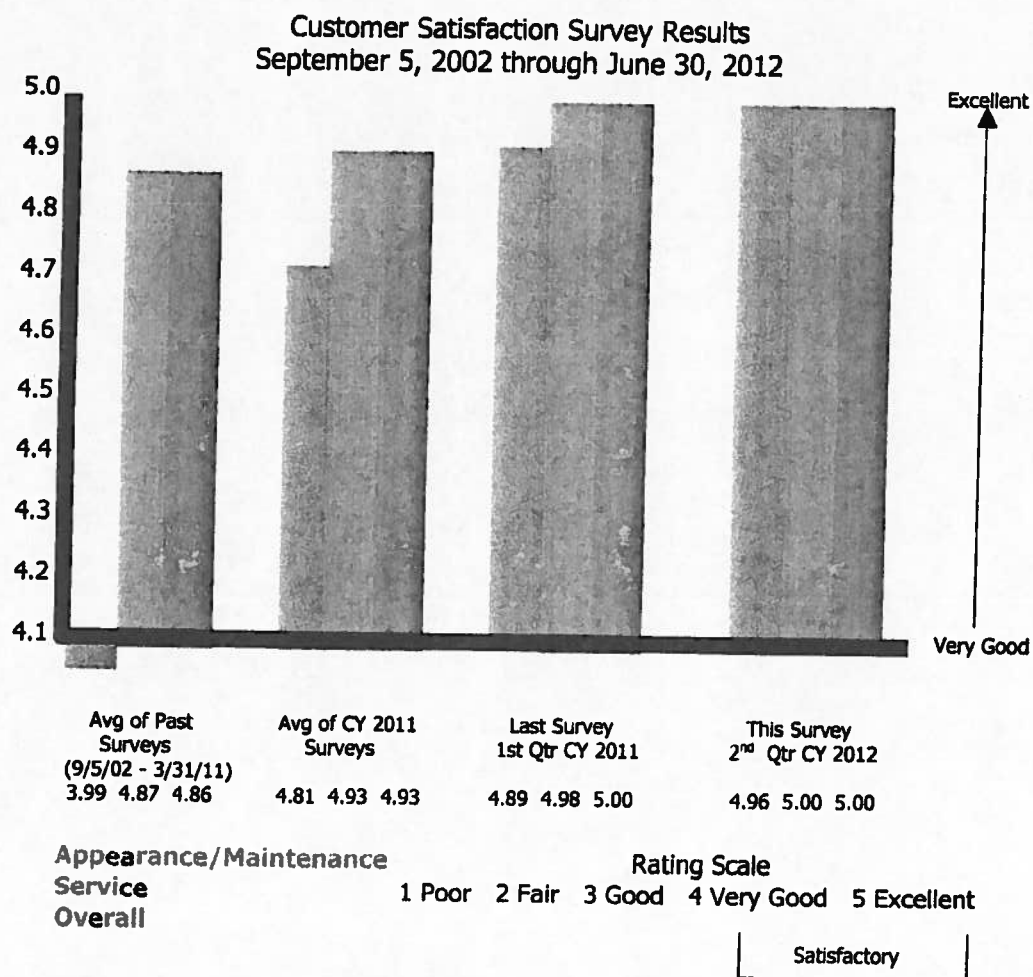


Figure 6

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 determines 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. For those who did not complete early registration, 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.

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, 3,663 veterans have registered. This represents 4,034 likely interments, including these veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents.

9. Issues and Concerns in Last Report

The issues and concerns identified in last year's report, both "old" and "new," included the following:

Colorado Mesa University (formerly Mesa State College) 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

There were no new developments with this issue during the timeframe covered by this report. Buildup of silt and moss (due to the current drought) in the stream corridor remains an issue.

Cemetery Funding

Funding, as of this date, remains stable and sufficient for operation of the cemetery.

Equipment Replacement

We replaced our John Deere Z-Trak (zero-radius) mower with a new unit during this reporting period.

Additionally, our request to replace our Bobcat A300 with an A770, a newer version, was approved and, as of this date, we are waiting for its delivery.

Future Personnel Needs

As was predicted, our requirements for temporary employee hours has increased due to the increasing age of the cemetery, its grounds, facilities and equipment. While the number of temporary employees did not exceed past hiring practice, the number of hours required of them did increase again this year. We anticipate that within the next two years we will require at least one additional temporary employee to help maintain the cemetery during the growing season.

Grounds Maintenance & Upkeep

New Columbaria

Both new columbaria, Nos. 6 and 7, were completed just prior to last year's report. Columbarium 6 was placed into service at the same time. As of this date, occupancy of Columbarium 6 is at 83% capacity. It is anticipated that we will begin using Columbarium 7 sometime in February 2013. If the current usage rate holds steady, we will be out of columbarium space in October 2014.

If we are to continue offering columbarium space beyond October 2014, we need to seek funding for additional columbaria as soon as possible, but not later than December 2013.

Facilities Maintenance & Upkeep

Stonework

We have procured ten gallons of sealer for the stonework. It is our intention to begin sealing the stonework this Fall. We do not yet know how much a gallon will cover but we feel we will have a good start on completely sealing all of our stonework.

Painting

We were unable to repaint the wrought iron since the last report. This was primarily due to a lack of manpower. We will attempt to complete this project in the next year but it will, again, depend on the availability of resources that can be dedicated to it.

Irrigation System

Main Line Breaks

We continued to experience major breaks in the irrigation system main lines this past year. 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 every reason to anticipate further such problems this coming year.

Equipment Replacement/Repair

Hustler Mower

While we did procure a replacement mower for the Hustler, we are continuing to use it, without spending any money on it, so that we can save wear and tear on the new Z-Trak.

Replacement of Signage

During the reporting period, we were able to re-paint traffic control signs on the roadway at minimal cost using in-house resources.

New signage has been ordered and is expected to be delivered and installed prior to the year's end.

Ash Borer

We have not experienced problems with this insect so far. John Ragar, one of our groundspersons, is continuing to monitor the situation and will take whatever action is appropriate if we experience problems.

10. New Issues & Concerns

Monuments and Memorials

The local Sons of Union Veterans chapter asked for and was granted permission to erect a headstone for a veteran of the Blackhawk War, Peter Buck. Mr. Buck's headstone was discovered under a walkway at a Grand Junction residence during the past year. It was placed at this cemetery, in a non-interment area, in honor of his service and that of all Colorado veterans of that era.

A monument honoring World War II veterans was placed at the cemetery by the Western Slope Honor Flight, an organization that provided five free flights to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC to local WW II veterans. This monument was dedicated on September 2, 2012 (*Figure 7*).

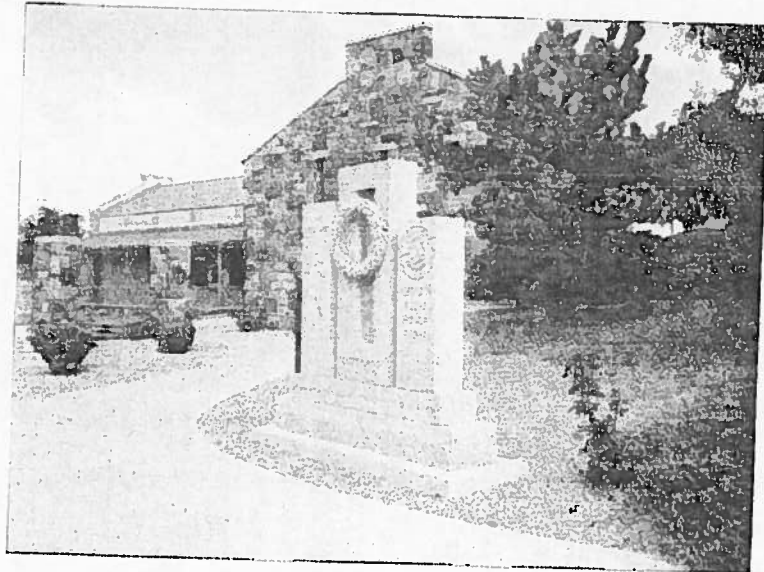


Figure 7

Burial Operations Support System (BOSS)

During the year, the VA changed its procedure for accessing the federal Burial Operations Support System which is used by all national and state veterans cemeteries for interment records-keeping.

As a result, we experienced significant problems trying to utilize BOSS. This was largely due to the VA's premature implementation of the new procedure and complicated by the fact that our computer system is part of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) system. As such, its internal operations, controls and security measures interfered greatly with the new VA protocol.

Numerous attempts to resolve the situation resulted in only a partial and temporary solution. It appears that the best way to address the issue is to have a stand-alone computer dedicated solely to BOSS.

On October 15, 2012, such a computer was delivered and installed by DMVA IT. As of this report, we are still waiting for VA to help us get it up and running.

VA Audit

In September 2012, we were visited by Joseph Turnbach, Director, Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver. His mission was to inspect this cemetery in accordance with the VA's triennial state veterans cemetery audit program. No deficiencies were noted.

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 represent the DMVA's and the Division of Veterans Affairs' concern for and commitment to Colorado's veterans.

The increase in the VA's reimbursement rate seems to have helped considerably and current funding has adequate to maintain operations. It remains, however, an issue that must be closely monitored to ensure that the level of professionalism and service is not diminished.

The issue of additional columbaria must be considered and, if they are, indeed, a viable objective, funding must be procured.

The cemetery and its staff continue to enjoy the highest levels of support from the Division of Veterans Affairs, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs. This support has been a significant contribution to the 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 2012

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
Denver, CO 80222

Subject: Executive Summary to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report on the Colorado Veterans Affairs Trust Fund for FY 11-12.

The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$861,789 at the beginning of FY 11-12. The appropriation for FY12-13 is \$982,957. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$40,589 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$32,582 (4.1%) for administration. Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Homes expended \$5674 for exercise equipment based on a request submitted by the director of the state and veterans nursing homes. Of the \$808,280 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$759,414 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$767,841 was disbursed by the fund.

Grants were provided to American Legion Posts the American Legion Department of Colorado, Disabled American Veterans Chapters, the Regional Office of the Disabled Veterans of America, National Association of Black Veterans, Inc., Vietnam Veterans of America, The Retired Enlisted Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and State Veterans Nursing Homes.

Veterans in the front-range urban corridor, the Grand Junction area and ten (10) 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. The trust fund also provided funds for the purchase of three (3) vehicles 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 10,422 veterans were provided assistance by grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund grants.

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 \$861,789 at the beginning of FY 11-12. The appropriation for FY12-13 is \$982,957. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$40,589 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$32,582(4.1%) for administration. Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Homes expended \$5674 for exercise equipment based on a request submitted by the Director of the State and Veterans Nursing Homes. Of the \$808,280 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$759,414 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$767,841 was disbursed by the fund.

Program Description (with eligible population): The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the overall goal of assisting all veterans in need of assistance residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual preference, marital or religious status. The key goals of the program are to provide sufficient support and funding to meet the needs of veterans in the four areas defined below:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements or needed amenities for existing or future state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans programs operated by nonprofit veterans' organizations that meet criteria adopted by the board and that are selected by the Board as grant recipients.

Non-Profit Criteria:

Nonprofit veterans' organizations: Nonprofit veteran's organizations must be an organization nationally recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as an organization that can provide services to veterans under Title 38, USC.

Program Criteria: The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (BVA) criteria for veterans programs operated by nonprofit veteran's organizations located within the State of Colorado are programs that provide assistance to the needs of veterans for their health and well being. Examples of such programs are operation of homeless shelters, assistance to homeless and incarcerated veterans, homeless veteran's stand-downs, veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics, veteran's employment training programs and job related services.

Eligible Population: Veterans, no income eligibility requirements

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 \$861,789 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.

State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH) –

\$31,480 was provided in a grant to the Florence SVNH for an Enhanced Bathing Program

\$5,674 based on a letter request went to purchase a SCIFIT PRO2 Inclusive Fitness Total Body Exerciser for Fitzsimons SVNH

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations – these organizations were awarded \$802,240 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 \$32,582 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
11-12	10,422

Evaluations: Grantees are evaluated primarily through oversight of their execution of the grant which includes review of quarterly reports and analysis of submitted receipts and/or canceled checks. In addition, on-site visits and/or inspections are used as to further define appropriate expenditure of funds. A final year end report is required from the grantees.

Areas for Development and additional goals: The primary areas for development in futures 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.

In Closing: Over the past ten 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 74,514 Veterans in the State.

Enclosure #1

Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Amount Disbursed	Veterans Served
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Vehicle Purchase & Trans Program	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00	1139
VFW Post 3621, Lamar	Trans Program	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	428
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa Springs	Trans Prog, Vet Assist, & Vehicle	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	485
Am Leg Post 109, Windsor	Standdown & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$29,998.92	119
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	693
VFW Post 9374, Kremmling	Trans Program	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	25
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat Spgs	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	60
NABVETS Chapter 24, Denver	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	116
VFW Post 4663, Clifton	Pets for Vets	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	25
VFW Dept of CO, Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	66
VFW Post 5241, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,998.95	90
VFW Post 8661, Conifer	Trans Program	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	150
DAV Chapter 44, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00	604
Am Leg Post 1992, Aurora	Vet Assistance and Employment	\$16,000.00	\$10,060.79	21
SVNH Florence	Enhanced Bathing Program	\$31,480.00	\$31,480.00	NA
DAV Region, Denver	Homeless Standdown & Vet Assist	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	460
VVA Chap 57, Grand Junction	Stand-down & Vet Assistance	\$12,000.00	\$8,399.53	320
VFW Post 4265, Craig	Vehicle - Trans Prog - Vet Assist	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	292
Am Leg Post 18, Greeley	Veterans Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$8,469.77	20
Am Leg Post 113, Alamosa	Trans Program	\$2,390.00	\$2,379.00	130
Am Leg Post 32, Longmont	Stand-down & Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$10,950.57	53
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	250
NABVETS Chap 34 Colo Spgs	Veterans Assistance	\$4,000.00	\$500.50	81
VFW Post 101, Colorado Springs	Support Homeless Shelter	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	93
Am Leg Post 203, Pueblo	Standdown & Veteran Assistance	\$11,000.00	\$10,955.15	93
Am Leg Post 103, Littleton	Veteran Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$17,974.04	44
Am Leg Post 66, Akron	Transportation Program	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	126
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Standdown Job & Vet Assistance	\$16,000.00	\$12,012.98	135
Am Leg Post 29, Denver	Work Assistance & Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,766.60	200
Am Leg Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance (2 of 2)	\$10,000.00	\$9,992.28	70
VFW Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance (1 of 5)	\$84,000.00	\$83,413.66	987
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Job and Veterans Assistance	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	531
Am Leg Dept of CO, Denver (1of2)	Veteran Assistance & Computer	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	107
VFW Post 5843, Meeker	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	22
VFW Post 2461, Denver	Veterans Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$5,477.00	100
Am Leg Post 111, Louisville	Veterans Helping Veterans Now	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	77
Am Leg Post 25, Florence	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$6,000.00	\$5,978.83	55
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Veterans Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$19,929.11	146
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Job and Veterans Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$18,523.27	189
Am Leg Post 15, Loveland	Veterans Assistance (2 of 2)	\$1,370.00	\$0.00	6
VFW Post 1, Denver	DU Legal Assistance (2of5)	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	1712*
VFW Post 1, Denver	4th Quarter Vet Assist (5of5)	\$5,000.00	\$4,988.00	178
American Legion Post 2, Pueblo	Vehicle, Transportation, Vet Assist	\$29,000.00	\$28,995.99	1486
TREA Chapter 1, Colorado Springs	Standdown & Veterans Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$22,418.85	150
		\$802,240.00	\$759,413.79	10422

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 2012

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
Denver, CO 80222

Subject: Executive Summary to Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report on the Colorado Veterans Affairs Trust Fund for FY 11-12.

The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$861,789 at the beginning of FY 11-12. The appropriation for FY12-13 is \$982,957. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$40,589 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$32,582 (4.1%) for administration. Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Homes expended \$5674 for exercise equipment based on a request submitted by the director of the state and veterans nursing homes. Of the \$808,280 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$759,414 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$767,841 was disbursed by the fund.

Grants were provided to American Legion Posts the American Legion Department of Colorado, Disabled American Veterans Chapters, the Regional Office of the Disabled Veterans of America, National Association of Black Veterans, Inc., Vietnam Veterans of America, The Retired Enlisted Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and State Veterans Nursing Homes.

Veterans in the front-range urban corridor, the Grand Junction area and ten (10) 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. The trust fund also provided funds for the purchase of three (3) vehicles 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 10,422 veterans were provided assistance by grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund grants.

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 \$861,789 at the beginning of FY 11-12. The appropriation for FY12-13 is \$982,957. The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$40,589 (5% of the funds) for administration of the grant; however the actual expenditures were \$32,582(4.1%) for administration. Fitzsimons State Veterans Nursing Homes expended \$5674 for exercise equipment based on a request submitted by the Director of the State and Veterans Nursing Homes. Of the \$808,280 of trust fund monies provided for grants, \$759,414 was expended. By the end of the fiscal year \$767,841 was disbursed by the fund.

Program Description (with eligible population): The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the overall goal of assisting all veterans in need of assistance residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual preference, marital or religious status. The key goals of the program are to provide sufficient support and funding to meet the needs of veterans in the four areas defined below:

- State Veteran's Nursing Homes for capital improvements or needed amenities for existing or future state veterans nursing homes.
- Operation and maintenance of existing or future State Veterans Cemeteries.
- Costs incurred by the Division of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans programs operated by nonprofit veterans' organizations that meet criteria adopted by the board and that are selected by the Board as grant recipients.

Non-Profit Criteria:

Nonprofit veterans' organizations: Nonprofit veteran's organizations must be an organization nationally recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as an organization that can provide services to veterans under Title 38, USC.

Program Criteria: The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (BVA) criteria for veterans programs operated by nonprofit veteran's organizations located within the State of Colorado are programs that provide assistance to the needs of veterans for their health and well being. Examples of such programs are operation of homeless shelters, assistance to homeless and incarcerated veterans, homeless veteran's stand-downs, veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics, veteran's employment training programs and job related services.

Eligible Population: Veterans, no income eligibility requirements

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 \$861,789 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.

State Veterans Nursing Homes (SVNH) –

\$31,480 was provided in a grant to the Florence SVNH for an Enhanced Bathing Program

\$5,674 based on a letter request went to purchase a SCIFIT PRO2 Inclusive Fitness Total Body Exerciser for Fitzsimons SVNH

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations – these organizations were awarded \$802,240 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 \$32,582 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
11-12	10,422

Evaluations: Grantees are evaluated primarily through oversight of their execution of the grant which includes review of quarterly reports and analysis of submitted receipts and/or canceled checks. In addition, on-site visits and/or inspections are used as to further define appropriate expenditure of funds. A final year end report is required from the grantees.

Areas for Development and additional goals: The primary areas for development in futures 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.

In Closing: Over the past ten 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 74,514 Veterans in the State.

Enclosure #1

Organization	Purpose	Grant Amount	Amount Disbursed	Veterans Served
VFW Post 899, Alamosa	Vehicle Purchase & Trans Program	\$44,000.00	\$44,000.00	1139
VFW Post 3621, Lamar	Trans Program	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	428
Am Leg Post 108, Pagosa Springs	Trans Prog, Vet Assist, & Vehicle	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	485
Am Leg Post 109, Windsor	Standdown & Vet Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$29,998.92	119
DAV Chapter 48, Durango	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	693
VFW Post 9374, Kremmling	Trans Program	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	25
Am Leg Post 44, Steamboat Spgs	Trans Program & Vet Assistance	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	60
NABVETS Chapter 24, Denver	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	116
VFW Post 4663, Clifton	Pets for Vets	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	25
VFW Dept of CO, Lakewood	Vet Assistance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	66
VFW Post 5241, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,998.95	90
VFW Post 8661, Conifer	Trans Program	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	150
DAV Chapter 44, Cortez	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00	604
Am Leg Post 1992, Aurora	Vet Assistance and Employment	\$16,000.00	\$10,060.79	21
SVNH Florence	Enhanced Bathing Program	\$31,480.00	\$31,480.00	NA
DAV Region, Denver	Homeless Standdown & Vet Assist	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	460
VVA Chap 57, Grand Junction	Stand-down & Vet Assistance	\$12,000.00	\$8,399.53	320
VFW Post 4265, Craig	Vehicle - Trans Prog - Vet Assist	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	292
Am Leg Post 18, Greeley	Veterans Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$8,469.77	20
Am Leg Post 113, Alamosa	Trans Program	\$2,390.00	\$2,379.00	130
Am Leg Post 32, Longmont	Stand-down & Vet Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$10,950.57	53
Am Leg Post 170, Westcliffe	Trans Prgm & Vet Assistance	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	250
NABVETS Chap 34 Colo Spgs	Veterans Assistance	\$4,000.00	\$500.50	81
VFW Post 101, Colorado Springs	Support Homeless Shelter	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	93
Am Leg Post 203, Pueblo	Standdown & Veteran Assistance	\$11,000.00	\$10,955.15	93
Am Leg Post 103, Littleton	Veteran Assistance	\$18,000.00	\$17,974.04	44
Am Leg Post 66, Akron	Transportation Program	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	126
VFW Post 1247, Grand Junction	Standdown Job & Vet Assistance	\$16,000.00	\$12,012.98	135
Am Leg Post 29, Denver	Work Assistance & Vet Assistance	\$6,000.00	\$5,766.60	200
Am Leg Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance (2 of 2)	\$10,000.00	\$9,992.28	70
VFW Post 1, Denver	Vet Assistance (1 of 5)	\$84,000.00	\$83,413.66	987
VFW Post 41, Loveland	Job and Veterans Assistance	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	531
Am Leg Dept of CO, Denver (1of2)	Veteran Assistance & Computer	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	107
VFW Post 5843, Meeker	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	22
VFW Post 2461, Denver	Veterans Assistance	\$10,000.00	\$5,477.00	100
Am Leg Post 111, Louisville	Veterans Helping Veterans Now	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	77
Am Leg Post 25, Florence	Vet Assist and Trans Program	\$6,000.00	\$5,978.83	55
VFW Post 4171, Golden	Veterans Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$19,929.11	146
Am Leg Post 22, Northglenn	Job and Veterans Assistance	\$20,000.00	\$18,523.27	189
Am Leg Post 15, Loveland	Veterans Assistance (2 of 2)	\$1,370.00	\$0.00	6
VFW Post 1, Denver	DU Legal Assistance (2of5)	\$1,500.00	\$250.00	1712*
VFW Post 1, Denver	4th Quarter Vet Assist (5of5)	\$5,000.00	\$4,988.00	178
American Legion Post 2, Pueblo	Vehicle, Transportation, Vet Assist	\$29,000.00	\$28,995.99	1486
TREA Chapter 1, Colorado Springs	Standdown & Veterans Assistance	\$30,000.00	\$22,418.85	150
		\$802,240.00	\$759,413.79	10422