



2022 Annual Report
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Members

Pat Hammon, Chair
Sheila Scanlon, Vice Chair
Lacey Golonka, Secretary
Longinos Gonzalez
Sean Maday
Jasmine Motupalli
Raymond Taylor

Division of Veterans Affairs

155 Van Gordon St., Ste 201
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
Phone: 303-914-5832
Fax: 303-914-5414
David Callahan, Director

Jared Polis
Governor

Brigadier General
Laura L. Clellan
The Adjutant General



The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor, State of Colorado
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Senator Julie Gonzales
Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
Colorado Senate
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Representative Chris Kennedy
Veterans Military Affairs Committee
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs endeavors to connect locally with veterans throughout Colorado and to learn about their issues and concerns. To that end, our scheduled monthly meetings are typically held in different locations across the state. COVID restrictions prevented the Board from meeting in person this year until May 2022. Since that time, meetings have been held in Glendale, Durango, Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction, Colorado Springs, and Aurora. Prior to May, meetings were held virtually. We anticipate the opportunity to continue to meet in person in 2023 and plan to partner with local veterans service organizations and with grantees to encourage veteran attendance and participation.

In the preparation of this report, the Board contacted state agencies that serve Colorado veterans for reports on such service and veteran issues that arise. Limited responses were received, with those collected being from the Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of Local Affairs. The major issues brought up in these reports are discussed below.

Access to health care is a major issue of concern, specifically transportation to medical appointments and the accessibility of mental health services. Particular needs associated with mental health are substance abuse treatment and suicide prevention. In regard to access to care, it is important to note that many Colorado veterans are enrolled in the VA health care systems, which have hospitals and clinics both within and without the boundaries of Colorado. Due to geographic limitations, the controlling facility may be hundreds of miles from veteran's home of record, which can be very impactful under adverse driving conditions. Sustainable housing and affordable utilities are other significant difficulties. Colorado's Office of Economic Stability reports that more than 400 veterans who applied for LEAP benefits this past year has application denied, indicating a gap between the need experienced by our veteran population and the services available.

A continuing issue of note has been the need for a state women's veterans service officer and program. The Board has partnered with the Division of Veterans Affairs in this regard and is pleased to state that the hiring process is underway and is expected to be complete in January 2023. This position will focus on the needs of women veterans as well as other underserved veteran populations.

The Honor Guard Stipend Program program is much appreciated by our local veteran organizations and veterans who perform funeral honors for fellow veterans throughout the year. Initial funds were depleted by November. The Board is acting with the Division to pursue additional funding for the remainder of this year and to provide for a stable annual amount to cover the program in the future.

The Board is in ongoing discussions with the Division regarding the need for additional state positions to advance uniform and efficient service delivery to veterans. One need is for a training specialist to oversee and execute training and continuing education for veterans service officers, currently in the planning phase. An extensive VSO training plan has been completed. The key position of VSO Supervisor has been vacant since August of this year and the Board supports the efforts of the Division to expedite this hiring process.

The Board has advised and assisted the Division in pursuit of financial support for the currently unfunded requirement for a veterans information network. Fulfillment may require legislative assistance or statutory change.

The Board's membership has not changed in 2022. The membership is composed of four women veterans and three male veterans. Members live in Aurora, Colorado Springs, Denver, Eagle, Pagosa Springs, and Superior. Board members serve their communities in various capacities including as veterans service officers, as a county commissioner, as a state employee, and as veteran advocates with their employers. Annual training for the Board was held virtually in February 2022.

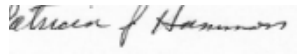
The Veterans Trust Fund Grant continues to be highly utilized throughout the state to assist veterans in need, particularly in rural Colorado. The most common uses of the funds are for transportation, food, housing, and fuel. This year the Veterans Trust Fund Grant awarded \$804,902.03 to 23 grantees, including various veterans service organizations, the Western Region One Source, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and four state Veterans Community Living Centers.

Financial reimbursement from the state in support of county veterans service programs continues to be an important and necessary provision for veterans service officers and the veterans they serve. However, additional financial support from the state is needed in to help provide prompt and consistent service to veterans throughout the state. Due to concentrated efforts by the Division, more Colorado county veterans service officers are VA accredited than ever before. Additional resources provided to those office will assist them in continuing to expand their array of available services.

The Board had the opportunity to participate in a routine performance audit of veterans services conducted by the Office of the State Auditor. The final report was filed with the General Assembly in September 2022. The Board is consulting with and advising the Division in regard to the recommendations and findings, and welcomes the opportunity to provide ideas and input to improve the quality of veterans services presented in Colorado.

The Board extends its thanks to the Governor and to the Assembly for the opportunity to continue to make Colorado a welcome home for our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia J. Hammon", is displayed on a light-colored rectangular background.

Patricia J. Hammon

Chairman, Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Members

Pat Hammon, Chair
Sheila Scanlon, Vice Chair
Lacey Golonka, Secretary
Longinos Gonzalez
Sean Maday
Jasmine Motupalli
Raymond Taylor

Training of Veterans Service Officers CBVA Report 2022

The Board has had the pleasure this year of advising and assisting the Division of Veterans Affairs in the development of a standardized training curriculum for new veterans service officers, as well as standard procedures for continuing education of state and county service officers throughout Colorado. Per its statutory charge, the Board approved the training curriculum for new service officers at its November 2022 meeting.

The new curriculum will provide consistent training for veterans service officers wherever they work in the state, enabling Colorado's veterans service network to provide uniform and quality service in all 64 counties. It is designed to be delivered by state veterans service officers, who are located regionally in Burlington, Denver, Durango, Grand Junction, and Pueblo.

The Division continues to provide continuing education through semiannual training conferences. Sixteen hours of continuing education are provided at a fall training event, held this year in September in Colorado Springs with a virtual option. Eight hours of continuing education are provided at a spring training event, held this year in March in Grand Junction with a virtual option. Additional training opportunities are provided in weekly virtual meetings throughout the year. Training is delivered by veterans service officers and various community partners, including the federal VA, veteran-oriented nonprofit organizations, and the state Veterans Community Living Centers.

The Board welcomes this opportunity to continue to partner with the Division in ensuring that quality training is provided to veterans service officers statewide.

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Division of Veterans Affairs

155 Van Gordon Street Suite 201
Lakewood, CO 80112
(303)914-5832



David Callahan
Director

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

Executive Summary

The division experienced an increase in new powers of attorney, claims, decision reviews, Board of Veterans Affairs hearings, property tax exemption applications and VA health care enrollment across the state. In federal Fiscal Year 2021-2022, Colorado veterans continued to make a positive impact on local economies with more than \$4 billion total expenditures distributed within the State. The Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs assisted with facilitation of direct payments to veterans in the form of compensation and pension benefits exceeding \$2 billion. In other benefits, nearly \$400 million went to education and employment readiness and more than \$1.4 billion was expended on medical care.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reported the Colorado veteran population at 387,618, which is a decrease from last year by 4,498. This decrease reflects the loss of aging veterans, many from World War II and Korea; however, we are projecting a 39% increase in Post 9-11 veterans' claims because of the recently passed PACT Act, which will assist our Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans.

We are thankful for the diligent and thorough efforts of the Office of the State Auditor in assessing and identifying areas in which we can improve our services. We are working closely with the governor's office to address the gaps in service identified during the audit and develop solutions that will enhance our services and assistance going forward.

Significant Activities and Accomplishments

Veterans' voices were heard in FY22 as evidenced by the passing of the PACT Act. This is the most significant expansion of Veteran benefits and care in more than three decades, empowering VA to help millions of toxin exposed Veterans and their survivors. Extending property tax exemption to surviving spouses of military service members who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related injury or disease was overwhelmingly supported by nearly 88 percent of those who voted. The voice of the Veteran and Veteran Service Organizations across the state also made a difference

in addressing concerns with VA’s market assessment that proposed a number of rural area VA health care clinics closures across Colorado.

Training, certification, and accreditation of our Veterans Service Officers is foundational in ensuring we are providing uniformed services across the state to those we assist in filing claims for federal and state benefits. The recently CBVA-approved VSO training curriculum will assist in certifying newly appointed CVSOs in a prompt, efficient and uniform manner, while also meeting VA training requirements for those CVSOs eligible for VA accreditation. This is a team effort between the counties, the state and federal VA agencies. Counties select and hire Veterans Service Officers, the state certifies, and the VA Office of General Council accredits.

The division is pleased to report a statewide VSO accreditation of over 90% of those VSOs eligible for accreditation. The administrative offices and Regional VSOs will continue to assist eligible CVSOs in becoming accredited in 2023. Accreditation enables VSOs to assist Veterans in the preparation and submission of their claims and is a prerequisite for access to the VA’s Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), which serves as an electronic database comprised of veterans’ electronic claims files.

The General Assembly appropriated \$1.3 million for support payments to counties in FY22-23. These payments assist counties in providing Veteran Services at the county level. The division will be working closely with the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs to evaluate how it distributes state payments to counties to determine if there are other options that would better promote uniformity of services statewide.

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery continues to provide a dignified final resting place for our Veterans and their eligible dependents, with 5,705 internments since opening on September 5, 2002. The Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform recently completed Sunset Review of the Western Region One Source (WROS) operations recommended a seven-year continuance of WROS operations. The WROS has also achieved full occupancy since first opening their doors in May of 2019.

COLORADO DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS		
Summary of Program Assessment		
ITEM	2021	2022
New Powers of Attorney	6,501	7,735
New Claims	9,632	10,086
Health Care Enrollment (statewide)	111,764	114,878
Decision Reviews	2,394	2,694
Appealed to BVA	192	164
BVA Hearings	284	413
Veteran Property Tax Exemption Applications	13,472	16,066

Short and Long Term Goals

Short-term goals:

- Staff personnel vacancies by March 31, 2023
- Establish DVA customer service experience baseline by January 31, 2023
- Improve DVA customer service experience 3% by June 30, 2023
- Improve accreditation of eligible VSOs from 91 to 95 percent by June 30, 2023.
- Increase VBMS access for eligible VSOs from 44 to 50 percent by June 30, 2023
- Conduct 20 community outreach events by June 30, 2023
- Improve overall grant execution rate 5% by June 30, 2023
- Identify and resolve five gaps in Veterans services by June 30, 2023
- Obtain/sustain 100 percent occupancy of WROS leased office space by June 30, 2023
- Upgrade Administrative II authorization to a Program Assistant I by June 30, 2023
- Increase VMC staff by two FTE to support administrative and grounds operations by August 1, 2023

Long-term goals:

- Improve DVA customer service experience 5% by June 30, 2024
- Achieve a 98 percent accreditation of eligible VSOs by June 30, 2024
- Achieve a 75 percent VBMS access rate of eligible VSOs by June 30, 2024
- Conduct 40 community outreach events by June 30, 2024
- Improve overall grant execution rate by 10% by June 30, 2024
- Identify and resolve 10 gaps in Veterans services by June 30, 2024
- Obtain funding for eight additional FTE in support of Veterans services by June 30, 2024
- Provide 100 percent of following WROS services: Housing, Employment, Training, Education, Counseling, Life Skills, Wellness, DEERS, Transition, and VSO services by June 30, 2024
- Increase VMC administrative office space by 1,000 square feet by June 30, 2024
- Upgrade VMC administrative staff authorizations from Administrator IV and Program Assistant I to Program Management I and Program Assistant II by June 30, 2024

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the gallant and endless efforts of so many, much work remains to ensure our Veterans are receiving the services and assistance they have fought so hard for.

Current resources are inadequate in meeting the claims and benefits assistance of approximately 388,000 Colorado Veterans, which have brought in nearly \$2.3 billion in compensation and pension assistance and \$1.4 billion in medical care, with a total VA expenditure for all programs exceeding \$4.2 billion. The division is advocating for additional full-time employees to address the division's statutory directive of furthering prompt and efficient services to all Veterans across Colorado on a uniform basis, while also addressing an anticipated 39% increase in new claims and benefits assistance associated with the recent passing of the PACT Act.

Additional resources will assist in the prompt and efficient training of newly appointed CVSOs, conduction of Fall and Spring training conferences, and annual recertification of all VSOs. They will

also help to reduce a three-year backlog in having Veterans' VA Board of Appeals cases adjudicated and support the prompt delivery and execution of grant awards in compliance with state fiscal rules. Additional means will further enable the division to deliver the quality of assistance and service all our Veterans deserve.

The military funeral honors stipend has been well received by participating veteran service organizations across Colorado; however, current program funding is not sufficient to meet the demand. The division plans to pursue additional funding for supporting the military funeral honors stipend program on an ongoing basis.

Administrative Condition

The division will continue to pursue an increase in spending authority from the Veterans Trust Fund that will assist in addressing more requests for assistance across the state. Restoration of the \$4 million swept from the division's Veteran Trust Fund and Veterans Assistance Grant programs in 2020 will also remain a priority of the division until restored. These funds are essential in addressing an unfulfilled 2009 statutory directive to create a clearinghouse of veteran service information, fulfilling resource needs for veteran community living centers, state veterans cemeteries, and veterans programs operated by nonprofit veteran organizations and governmental agencies that provide services to ensure the health and well-being of our Colorado Veterans.

I was grateful to meet so many organizations and individuals committed to delivering the highest levels of service and assistance to our Veterans and their families during my travels across the state in 2022. I would like to personally thank each organization and individual who has made a difference in the life of a Veteran in 2022.

The division welcomes and remains open to explore public-private partnerships that will enhance the quality of life our Veterans and their families. Please feel free to reach out to our administrative offices located in Lakewood and Grand Junction or a Regional VSO located in Aurora, Pueblo, Durango, Grand Junction, or Burlington for assistance. Our Veterans Memorial Cemetery and Western Region One Source in Grand Junction also stand ready to serve and assist.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Colorado Veterans and remain committed, along with the assistance of our local, county, state and federal partners to delivering the highest levels of service and assistance to our Veterans and their families.

"One Team, One Fight!"

David Callahan

David Callahan

Director

Division of Veterans Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS REPORT ON THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS AFFAIRS TRUST FUND FOR FY 21-22

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 20-21 covering the period from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

Funds Received: The Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) received a Long Bill appropriation of \$974,041 for FY 21-22. This does not include \$119,615 of additional spending authority of the Tobacco Master Settlement funds authorized for the Western Region One Source (WROS). The Division of Veterans Affairs was authorized to expend \$42,500 for administration of the grant; the actual expenditures were \$34,482 for administration. Of the total non-administrative appropriation, \$15,000 was allocated for Board travel, and \$32,212 allocated to the State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Junction. A total of \$634,606.03 was awarded in grants to nonprofit organizations and Veterans Community Living Centers throughout the State. Of those grant funds awarded, \$555,829.51 was expended, resulting in an 87% execution rate, which is 12% higher than last fiscal year.

Program Description (with eligible population): The Colorado State Veterans Trust Fund is designed with the overall goal of assisting all veterans in need residing in the State of Colorado regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, 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 Community Living Centers 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 veterans' organizations must be nationally recognized by the United States Congress as an organization that can provide services to veterans under Title 38, USC. This includes organizations designated by the IRS as a 501(c)19 or 501(c)23 organization as well as some 501(c)4 entities.

Program Criteria: The Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA) established criteria for veteran programs operated by nonprofit veteran's organizations located within the State of Colorado to provide assistance for veterans in need. Examples of such programs are veteran's transportation programs to medical centers and/or clinics, homelessness prevention and intervention emergency needs, medical/mental health services not provided and/or covered through the VA, and other needed services such as food and gas or other assistance.

Eligible Population: Veterans within the state of Colorado with an other than dishonorable discharge. There are no income eligibility requirements, although demonstrated need for assistance is required.

Services Provided: 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.

Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations and State Veterans Community Living Centers – these organizations expended \$555,829.51 in grant funds to support veterans and their needs.

- Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center in Florence was awarded \$23,102.40 and expended the full amount for name plates, showcases, and scandent fees; Fitzsimmons Community Living Center in Aurora was awarded \$40,818.70 and expended the full amount for adjustable height tables, and the Veterans Community Living Center at Homelake, in Monte Vista was awarded \$31,734.69 and expended the full amount for a spa tub, warming cabinet and thermal blankets. The Veterans Community Living Center at Rifle was awarded \$24,800.00 for their phase 3 outdoor patio and gazebo. Due to COVID-19, they were not able to start this project and returned the funds.
- Non-Profit Veterans Service Organizations expended the remaining amount of grant funds. The services provided were located throughout the state, with the majority of programs in rural areas. As previously noted, services include transportation to medical appointments, emergency assistance, housing support, medical/mental health assistance not provided by the VA, and other services to meet the needs of veterans. The majority of funding (50%) went towards emergency financial assistance. Emergency financial assistance consists of food and gas expenses, car repair, utilities, propane, firewood, and other essential items. Other funding went towards transportation (20%), other (16%), housing (13%), and mental health (1%).
- Grantees spent a higher percentage of grant funds on emergency financial assistance and transportation costs which are becoming the common needs addressed through the grant, due to rising utility costs and inflation.
- During FY 2021-2022, the (duplicated) number of veterans served by grantees was 1071 with 700 unique individuals (unduplicated) receiving services and support. The total number of service contacts totaled 1238. The duplicated number of veterans served is higher than last year. However, grantees still felt the impacts of COVID-19 as will be further detailed below.

Program Effectiveness: A service recipient survey is utilized to measure the effectiveness of the services provided by the grantees and to measure the outcomes or impact of the services. The survey utilizes a standard Likert scale to rate the grantee program effectiveness and changes in well-being. Overall, the majority of the veterans rated the services favorably (strongly agree and agree) with the majority indicating a decrease in urgent needs. The majority of veterans stated that the services received made a difference in their overall well-being and that they would recommend the organization to other veterans as well. Many veterans write personal notes of appreciation on the surveys as well.

Evaluation of the Operation of the Program: As with last year, the most significant impact on the grant program continued to be COVID. Yearlong influences on expenditures were both needs created by COVID and other needs unpredictably met by COVID relief funding, making this another unique grant year. The grant programs continued to address housing stability needs for veterans not eligible for relief fund assistance, while referring those eligible for assistance to DOH relief funds. Homeless veterans normally served through temporary motel stays until gaining entry into a housing program were better served by other organizations that were able to provide long-term hotel stays.

Many of the individuals that operate the grant program are high risk individuals and continued not to be able to address veteran needs with several individuals personally impacted by COVID. Due to death and illness, we had

many VTF programs that encountered a change in leadership mid-year. Some programs saw multiple changes in leadership over the course of the grant year, thus resulting in returned funds.

Process improvements is a primary focus in terms of the grant program operations. Minor changes in processes led to more efficiency and effectiveness in programming. The increase in the number of grantee trainings via webinars and one-on-one sessions continued throughout the year. The Grant Administrator provided 1:1 technical assistance to numerous grantees over the fiscal year. An updated and improved Grantee Handbook was provided to all grantees with specific details on VTF policies, procedures and processes. We continue to seek input from grantees for further program enhancements.

The process of grant modifications in which funds from underspending grantees were released to grantees who had spent their funds continued to prove successful. However, illness and COVID still made it hard for some grantees to spend their grant funds in their entirety.

The training of Board members to determine an organization’s capacity and to make funding decisions accordingly is ongoing. The Board received application and ongoing grant training. As always, we continue to expand outreach to eligible entities to increase the saturation throughout the state. Outreach has been focused on the eastern part of the state which represents the biggest gaps in VTF funding.

Grantees: Please see the attached list for all grantees awarded Veterans Trust Fund monies.

In Closing: Over the past eighteen 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 emergency assistance, housing assistance, work clothes, rent assistance, utility assistance and transportation to Veterans Affairs medical facilities to tens of thousands of veterans throughout the State. We respectfully request the full amount of funding of 1% of the total Tobacco Master Settlement for FY2023-2024.

FY2021-2022 Veterans Trust Fund Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
American Legion Post 88, Hot Sulphur Springs	Hot Sulphur Springs	Veteran Assistance	\$35,000.00
American Legion Post 44	Steamboat Springs	Transportation, Veteran Assistance	Original -\$5700.00 Decrease-\$1,750.00 Final Amount-\$3,950.00
VFW Post 5812	Pueblo West	Veteran Assistance	\$6,000.00
American Legion Post 62	Craig	Transportation, Veteran Assistance	\$8,977.73
VFW Post 5231	Cortez	Veteran Assistance	\$60,000.00
DAV Chapter 44	Cortez	Veteran Assistance	\$50,000.00
American Legion Post 75	Cortez	Veteran Assistance	\$40,000.00
VFW Post 12063	Westcliffe	Veteran Assistance	\$70,000.00

VFW Post 5843	Meeker	Transportation, Veteran Assistance	\$5,000.00
Department of Colorado, VFW	Lakewood	Veteran Assistance	\$50,000.00
American Legion Post 09	La Junta	Transportation, Veteran Assistance	\$20,000.00
American Legion Post 103	Littleton	Veteran Assistance	\$25,000.00
American Legion Post 11	Trinidad	Veteran Assistance	\$17,000.00
American Legion Post 22	Northglenn	Veteran Assistance	\$40,000.00
VFW Post 3641	Pueblo	Veteran Assistance	\$40,400.00
American Legion Post 9-11	Pueblo	Veteran Assistance	\$3,000.00 Returned- \$3,000.00 Total- \$0.00
Veterans Community Living Center Spanish Peaks	Walsenburg	Dining Tables	\$39,822.51
Veterans Community Living Center McCandless	Florence	Name plates, Showcases, Scandent Fees	\$23,102.40
Veterans Community Living Center Rifle	Rifle	Phase 3 Outdoor Patio and Gazebo	\$24,800.00 Returned- \$24,800.00
Veterans Community Living Center Homelake	Monte Vista	Spa Tub, Warming Cabinet, Thermal Blankets	\$31,734.69
Veterans Community Living Center Fitzsimons	Aurora	Adjustable Height Tables	\$40,818.70
TOTAL AWARDED <i>(This amount does not include returned funds, only awarded)</i>			\$634,606.03

Veterans Assistance Grant 2021-2022 Final Report

Pursuant to C.R.S. 28-5-712, Legislative appropriations authorized the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) Veterans Assistance Grant to receive \$850,000 from the general fund for FY 2021-2022. Of these funds, a total of \$800,000 was designated to be granted to non-profit or governmental agencies to provide assistance to veterans in the State. Additionally, a total of \$157,886 from the VAG Cash Fund was allocated, all of which was designated for grant funding. This resulted in a total of \$957,886 of funds available to be awarded to organizations throughout the state serving veterans. The following is a final report of the administration of those monies.

A total of 26 non-profit organizations and governmental entities throughout the state were awarded grants totaling \$869,905.00. The direct services provided through the grants include the provision of mental health services (50%), emergency financial services (12%), transportation (9%), housing (8%), and other services (21%). VAG grantees served a total of 1,389 unduplicated veterans and 2,373 duplicated veterans were served. In total, 6,557 service contacts were made to veterans through this funding. The allocation to administer the grant program was \$50,000, of which \$38,127 was spent. Continuing COVID-19 restrictions and vacancy savings resulted in a lower amount of administrative funds utilized.

A total of \$766,113.43 was expended by the grantees, resulting in an 88% execution rate, which is higher than last fiscal year. Like last year, the execution rate was impacted by a number of significant factors. Yearlong influences on expenditures were both needs created by COVID and other needs unpredictably met by COVID relief funding, making this another unique grant year. The grant programs continued to address housing stability needs for veterans not eligible for relief fund assistance, while referring those eligible for assistance to DOH relief funds. Homeless veterans normally served through temporary motel stays until gaining entry into a housing program were better served by other organizations that were able to provide long-term hotel stays. As with last fiscal year, the grant period was impacted by COVID, otherwise, there is confidence that the execution rate would have been in the high 90% range. Many of the grantees continued to demonstrate creativity and resiliency in adapting and finding ways of serving veterans during the ongoing pandemic. The majority of grantees continue to be located in the urban areas of the state, while the minority are located in rural settings. Grant staff are working to conduct outreach to the eastern part of the state in order to distribute VAG funds to more rural areas.

The majority of grantees reported that COVID remained the biggest challenge for FY 2021-2022. Due to COVID, many grantees had difficulties reaching new veterans through outreach efforts. The ongoing pandemic effected bed space, intake, and outreach for our VAG funded residential programming. However, VAG grantees continued to serve Colorado's veterans even during the ongoing pandemic. One grantee was able to assist 44 veteran households for the grant year, including keeping 28 vulnerable veterans housed. Many other grantees were able to provide housing stabilization to many veterans during the ongoing pandemic.

Program evaluation measures include a service recipient survey to measure the effectiveness of the services provided by the grantees and to measure the outcomes or impact of the services. The survey utilizes a standard Likert scale to rate the grantee program as well as changes in the overall health and well-being of veterans served. Overall, the majority of veterans rated the services received as favorably, with the majority indicating an overall well-being for themselves and an increase in wellbeing for their families. These indicators demonstrate that the services provided meet the statutory intent of improving veterans overall health and wellbeing and an increase in mental health support.

Given the increasing interest in the Veterans Assistance Grant program as indicated by the number of applicants and amounts requested, we respectfully request the full amount of grant funds be allocated as noted in statute.

A full list of grant recipients, location and funding amount is attached.

FY2021-2022 Veterans Assistance Grantees

Grantee	Location	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Grand County VSO	Grand County	Veteran Assistance Mental Health	\$26,500.00
BPO Elks Lodge 1319	Lamar	Transportation	\$16,830.00
Vets for Vets of Archuleta County	Archuleta County	Veteran Assistance Mental Health	\$75,000.00
El Paso County Homeless Vet Coalition	El Paso County	Homeless Transition Veteran Assistance	\$75,000.00
Women Marines Association	Aurora	Veteran Assistance	Original Award \$4,000.00 Increase \$6,000.00 Total \$10,000.00
Douglas County VSO	Douglas County	Veteran Assistance Mental Health	Original Award - \$10,000.00 Decrease- \$3,000.00 Total \$7,000.00
Pikes Peak Workforce Center	Colorado Springs	Veteran Assistance Employment Assistance	Original Award- \$20,000.00 Decrease \$5,000.00 Total \$15,000.00
Park County DHS VSO	Park County	Veteran Assistance Employment Assistance	\$10,000.00
Costilla County	Costilla County	Veteran Assistance Mental Health	Original Award Amount \$12,500.00

			Increase \$6,000.00 Total \$18,500.00
Colorado Coalition for Homeless	Denver	Homeless Employment Assistance Transportation	\$4,000.00
Pueblo Veteran Ritual Team	Pueblo	Transportation	Returned Grant
Home Front Military Network	Colorado Springs	Veteran Assistance	\$75,000.00
Colorado Veterans Health & Wellness	Colorado Springs	Mental Health	Returned Grant
City and County of Broomfield	Broomfield	Veteran Assistance	Original Award \$5,000.00 Decrease \$4,000.00 Total \$1,000.00
Warrior Wellness Foundation	Colorado Springs	Equine Assisted Therapy	\$48,000.00
Healing Warriors Program	Fort Collins	Mental Health	\$50,000.00
University of Colorado Anschutz	Aurora	Medical Services	\$55,000.00
La Puente Home, Inc.	Alamosa	Veteran Assistance	\$20,000.00
Sobriety House	Denver	Residential Treatment	\$90,000.00
Mt. Carmel Veteran Service Center	Colorado springs	Veteran Assistance	\$50,000.00
City and County of Denver	Denver	Veteran Assistance	\$37,500.00
Conejos County VSO	Conejos County	Veteran Assistance	\$10,000.00
Operation Revamp	Grand Junction	Veteran Assistance	\$45,575.00

Veterans Puppy for Life	Denver	Veteran Assistance Support Animals	\$40,000.00
Alamosa County	Alamosa County	Transportation Veteran Assistance	\$55,000.00
Posada Pueblo	Pueblo	Transportation Veteran Assistance	\$35,000.00
Total (after modifications)			\$869,905.00

Status Report
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022
to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
October 18, 2022

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, 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; 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 scattered, not recovered, buried at sea or were donated to science. In 2011, two new columbaria were added to the cemetery, providing an additional 336 niches. In 2015, a substantial expansion project added another 1,979 gravesites, including four new columbaria providing an additional 672 niches, and improved infrastructure at the cemetery. In 2020 a Capital Construction project added eight new columbaria holding an additional 1,344 niches. Improvements to the irrigation and retention ponds also took place. Two of these newest columbaria were designed to be double sided, to reduce footprint and allow for future land space needs. The cemetery's capacity can be expanded, as necessary, to meet future needs.

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 other fourteen columbaria are surround the cemetery against the bordering exterior berms. There are landscaped areas for in-ground interments, which are enhanced 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 15 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 Maintenance/Storage Building, (known as the West Shop). There is an attached garage/light maintenance area at the Administration Building.

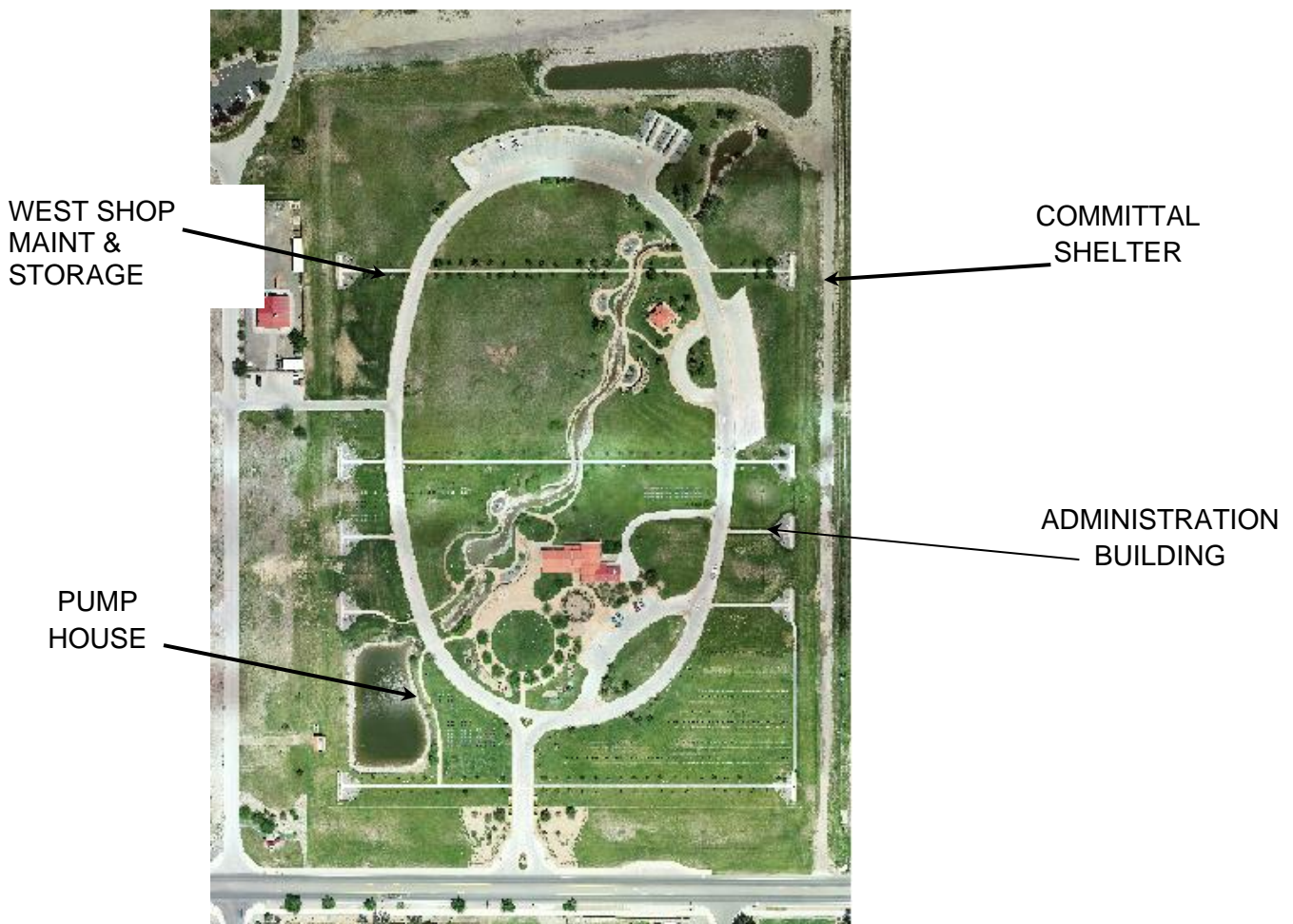


Figure 1

3. Organization

The organizational structure of the cemetery includes an Administrator, a Cemetery Support Assistant, a part-time, temporary Admin II, three full-time grounds persons and one lead grounds person. The cemetery has been approved again as a VA Work Study site, and there is currently a US Navy veteran from Colorado Mesa University filling the position. This veteran student contributes 20 hours a week in the administration office. In addition, the cemetery was approved as a VA CWT program

participant. Currently the Western Colorado VA Healthcare System does not have funding to staff this program, and the cemetery is without an applicant. All employees report to the cemetery administrator with oversight by the Cemetery Support Assistant.

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

- Making records requests through the National Eligibility office on behalf of veterans and family members

Interaction with veterans, spouses, dependents, to include:

- 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 documentation, 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 and map locations
- Preparing, filing and distributing burial permits 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 and inventories
 - 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 to include:

- Responding to in-person, telephonic, email and written inquiries
- Generating routine correspondence and reports
- Ordering supplies and equipment
- Filing
- Tracking non-exempt time records
- Initiating and working with division accounting office to provide accuracy with necessary processes
- Coordinating volunteer efforts
- Assigning tasks, monitoring, generating and approval of VA Time records
- Assigning tasks, monitoring and maintaining appropriate records of Criminal Justice Community Service clients and Mesa County work crews

Awareness and marketing efforts to include:

- Developing, preparing, and distributing presentations, pamphlets, booklets, posters, etc.
- Making presentations to Veterans Service Organizations and other groups
- Attendance of Community Outreach events and Scheduled VA Town Hall

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

Training and instruction to include:

Attendance at appropriate seminars and training sessions
Training of new hires and support personnel
Research and registration for position appropriate training
Weekly safety training with staff

Headstones, niche covers, monuments and memorial plaques to include:

Providing guidance for ordering headstones and niche covers along with those wishing to erect monuments, purchase memorial pillar, niche vases, rose 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 to include:

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

Operational Function

ELEMENTS

Burial Operations, to include:

Preparing Committal Shelter for services, including: setting up microphone, podium, flags, chairs and 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 placement of temporary

markers

Transporting caskets/urns and flowers to gravesites

Placing caskets and urns in gravesites
Opening and Closing of gravesites and placing flowers
Setting and removing headstones, niche covers and vases

Planning, preparation and hosting veterans' events, to include:

Memorial Day Ceremony
Veterans Day Ceremony
Veterans Day Parade
Wreaths Across America Ceremony
Quarterly Military Honors for Unaccompanied Veterans
National Vietnam War Veterans Day
Saluting Branches Day
Missing in America Project

Safety and security to include:

Operating fire and security alarm system
Monitoring building security cameras
Monthly inspect of on-site and equipment fire extinguishers and scheduling of yearly servicing
Monthly inspection of on-site AED units, and scheduling of yearly manufacturer inspection and service

Maintenance Function

ELEMENTS

Installing monuments, memorial plaques and vases

Custodial maintenance (i.e., janitorial services) to include:

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

Vehicle and equipment maintenance to include:

Change oil	Replace filters
Lubricate as needed	Sharpen/balance blades
Clean equipment	
Effect minor repairs	
Schedule more extensive repairs and servicing	

Facilities repair and upkeep to include:

- Monthly facility inspections
- Replace light bulbs
- Replace filters
- Clean and maintain facilities
- Effect minor repairs
- Schedule more extensive repairs and servicing

Snow removal to include:

- 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 to include:

- 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 the system at end of season

Landscape maintenance, to include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Installing/replacing sod | Aerating | Mowing |
| Seeding | Fertilizing | |
| Weeding | Pruning | |
| Pest control | Trimming | |
| Irrigating | Planting | |

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

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

Management/Administrative staff is responsible for organizing the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard and the cemetery director is a permanent member of its Board of Directors. As such, she 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 3,500 Military Funeral Honors and numerous flag presentations, parades, school appearances and other ceremonies during its sixteen year existence.

The Honor Guard's popularity has increased to the point where it is in constant demand. Again this year, the Honor Guard, which consists of approximately 27 active members, has had to decline numerous invitations because of a lack of resources, and the recent passing of 2 active guard members.

Since implementation in October of 2016, The Quarterly Military Honors Service continues every quarter. During this service, the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard performs military honors as a tribute and final salute in memory of all veterans who had no military honors, or were unaccompanied during their committal for the preceding three months. The Commander reads a list of the veterans' name, Branch of Service, and War Period served. Along with the GVCHG, the ceremony includes the Patriot Guard Riders, COARNG Team III, the Rocky Mountain Scots (bagpipers), the Veterans Memorial Bell, a dove release and a cannon shot. We have provided Military Honors Quarterly for sixty-four veterans during this reporting period.

The cemetery's management/administrative staff have been, and continue 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
- Veterans Day Parade supporting the Grand Valley Combined Honor Guard

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

- Fourth of July Parades and Ceremonies
- Veterans Caregiver Summit
- Fall Festival Parade
- Veterans Community Resource events
- Wreaths Across America Program
- Local School Presentations
- Veterans Stand-downs
- Town Hall meetings

6. Burial Operations

Gravesite Utilization (Figure 2).

Based on the total interments as of October 13, 2021, the average interment rate is 1.6/day, or 7/week, since the opening of the cemetery in 2002.

Currently, cremation is the preferred disposition, making up 71% of all interments. 68% of those opting for cremation choose a columbarium niche over an in-ground niche.

INTERMENT LOCATIONS		Total Available	In Use	Remainder Available	Percent In Use	Percent Available	Average Monthly Use	Months Remaining to Zero	Approx. Date of Zero
Wall Niche		3213	1931	1282	60.10%	39.90%	8.30	154.42	6/19/2034
In-Ground Niche		1730	902	828	52.14%	47.86%	3.88	213.52	4/27/2039
Single Vault		733	284	449	38.74%	61.26%	1.22	367.74	12/27/2051
Double Vault		1748	818	930	46.80%	53.20%	3.52	264.45	7/3/2043
Conventional		576	25	551	4.34%	95.66%	0.11	5,126.50	11/10/2442
Memorial Garden Plot		775	217	558	28.00%	72.00%	0.93	598.11	11/28/2070
		8,775	4,177	4,598					
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)

2020 - 2021 Interments by Month (Figure 3)

CY 2020 had 332 interments, down from 339 in CY 2019. Interments for CY2021 are running at a pace that, if it keeps up, will total ~ 401.

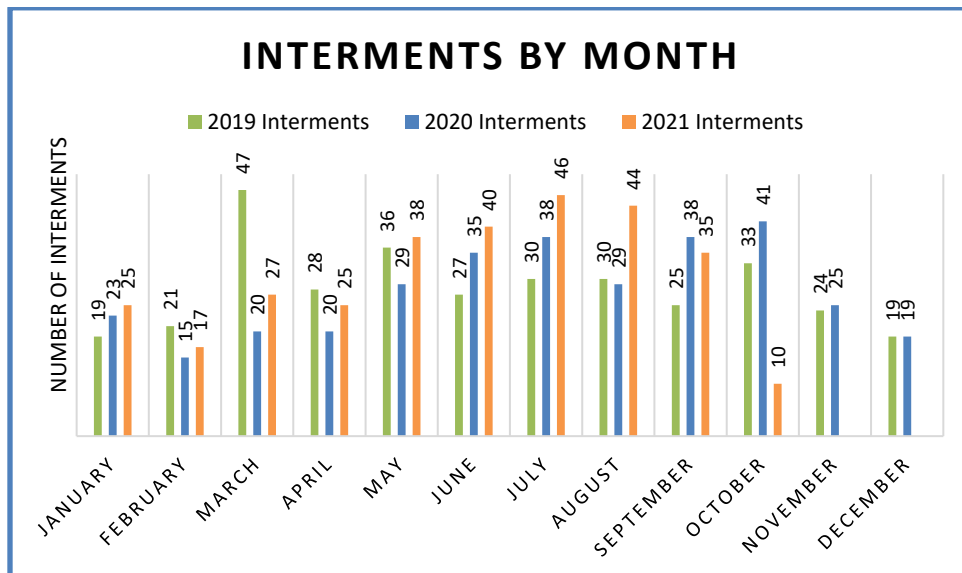


Figure 3

Interments by Year (Figure 4)

The interments of 5,219 veterans, spouses and/or dependents are broken down by year below

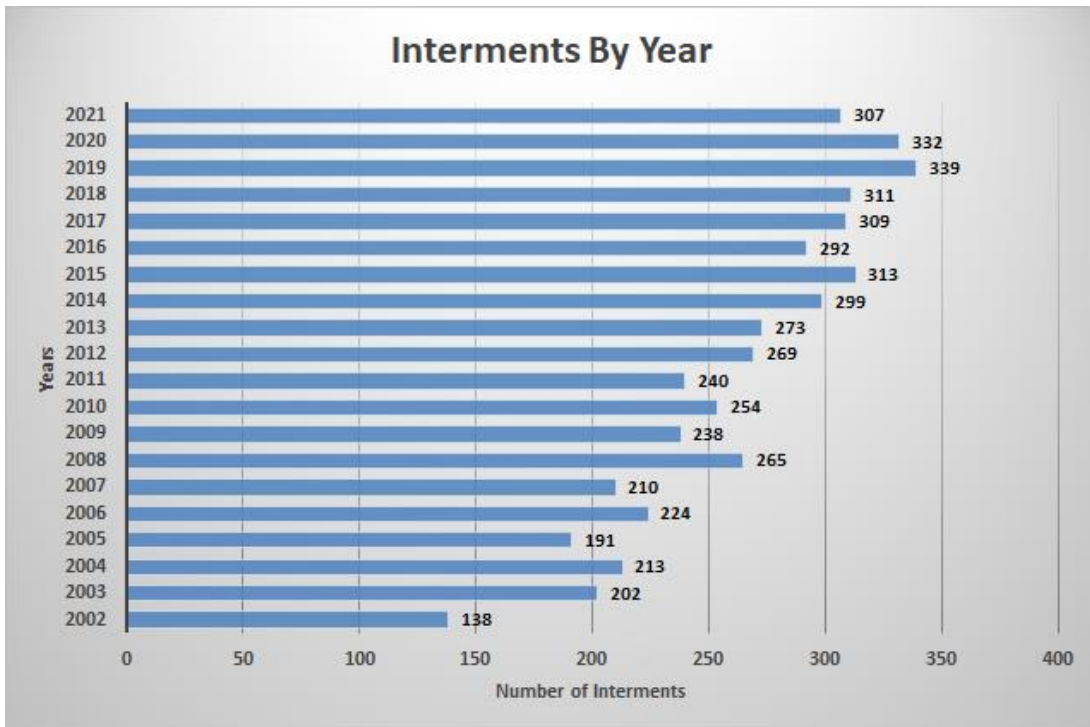


Figure 4

7. Customer Satisfaction

For 2020 / 2021 The Division transitioned to online surveys utilizing Qualtrics. All surveys are anonymous; however, many respondents sign their names. On the surveys, there is room for any comments a respondent may wish to make. The responses the cemetery has received from the most recent survey are shown below (these are typical of the majority of responses):

Comments from Customer Satisfaction Survey

1. “Angela was exceptional in her knowledge and her commitment to serving others especially in time of need. Because this particular facility is so busy there appears to me that more staff members are needed to providing quality and timely service to veterans and their families. Thank you, Carlos Jimenez”
2. “The Honor Guard service was very respectful. The cemetery staff were very helpful. My dad's service in the Navy was from 1948-1972. My father would have been very proud of the service, headstone that he shares with my mother, and the plaque and tree dedicated to them. When people thanked him for his service he always said, "I would do it again", he loved his country. Thank you for the way you honored him!”
3. “Steve provides valuable information in a clear, professional manner.”

4. “Angela was an amazing helpful contact for our father’s service and arranging a tree plaque for our parents. She was the absolute best. Thank you so much!”
5. “The help we have received while planning for my Dad's interment has been fabulous. Angela is very knowledgeable and made navigating the last few steps very easy and stress free. Thank-you!”
6. “Angela and her staff are highly dedicated to maintain the cemetery as hallowed grounds. We all truly appreciate all they do on a daily basis.”

All responses are kept on file at the cemetery and are available to anyone wishing to review them. The cemetery has historically maintained a log at the front desk where visitors were invited to share their opinions. Due to COVID disinfecting procedure, this log, (along with other materials), have been removed from the front desk to ease the cleaning in the office. The transition to Qualtrics has resulted in a substantial reduction of submitted surveys.

In addition to the State Qualtrics survey, the NCA produced its yearly Cemetery Satisfaction Survey report for the Colorado State Veterans Cemetery. This report was compiled by surveying all families and funeral directors of Colorado State Cemetery interments. The report compares the Colorado cemetery results to those of all state cemeteries throughout the nation. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery ranked at, or above, the national average in providing superior service to our veterans. This report was previously forwarded to CBVA upon its receipt in November 2020, but is available by contacting the cemetery office.

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 Early Registration, a service not usually provided at most veterans cemeteries. Four years ago, the National Cemetery Administration started a similar program to pre-determine eligibility in a National Cemetery. The NCA’s turn-around time is approximately twelve months from the date of mailing to receipt of acknowledgement.

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

The cemetery determines the veteran’s eligibility for interment and keeps 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 have not completed early registration, instances where eligibility for interment could not be immediately determined, (e.g., the family could not find the discharge paper). Although the cemetery has the ability to expedite the receipt of documentation, a delay of interment still exists 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. Being able to

anticipate the future needs of our veteran community and their families, allows us to serve them better in the future.

As of October 14, 2021, 2,187 veterans have completed the early registration. This represents 5,094 likely interments, including these veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents.

9. Issues and Concerns

Water Issues

(Silt Buildup) Lower pond/Upper Pond/Stream Bed

The new Silt trap was completed in Phase II of the Capital Construction project. The size and location of the silt trap has been redesigned to aid in effective use and cleaning. The needed equipment to allow cemetery staff to treat and clean the trap and stream area, was also acquired with the project. The previous silt trap was decommissioned. Please see Capital Construction notes in section 12.

Flooding of Administration Building Crawl Space

There were no new developments with this issue during the timeframe covered by this report.

Cemetery Funding

In March of 2021, The Department of Veteran Affairs changed the submittal process for reimbursement applications. The required forms are uploaded online through Direct Upload directly to Pensions and Claims. This provides an additional layer of security, as well as immediate access to all documents by the claims processors. This has made the submittal process slightly more time consuming.

Burial reimbursements from the VA were increased to \$807.00 per veteran in October, 2020. This is up from \$796.00 as previously reported. This amount represents 80% of the actual cost to inter an individual veteran. Spouses or other eligible dependents are not reimbursed. Federal reimbursements only account for about half of the cemetery's budget.

Currently, the accrued balance of outstanding reimbursements is at \$16,947.00 for this reporting period.

In September 2021, we discovered that a previously instated restriction on reimbursements requests had been lifted, and the cemetery will be allowed to seek reimbursement for previously non-reimbursable interments. At this time, the amount of eligible revenue is undetermined. Due to lack of administrative staffing, this project is on hold.

Equipment Replacement/Repair

Through the Capital Construction project, the cemetery was able to purchase a silt vacuum, one commercial mower, one UTV, a John Deer Tractor, a front wheel dumper, two large shipping containers that were modified for equipment storage, and a compact utility loader. Much of this equipment was purchased with additional implements, allowing the equipment to serve many functions. Of these items, the UTV remains on order due supply issues.

At this time, we foresee future needs to include; additional commercial mowers, and a UTV.

Personnel Issues and Needs

The cemetery staff currently consists of five FTE's, two in the office, one lead grounds crew member and two (2) level 1 ground crew members. There is a current vacancy for one, level 1 grounds. Cemetery administrator is awaiting Human Resources to send qualifying applicants to interview.

A part-time, temporary Administrative Assistant II position has been approved for 9 months. This position will be assisting in the development and implementation the Honor Guard Stipend that was approved through Bill 21-015. This bill requires the department pay a stipend to local veteran's service organizations for providing an honor guard detail at the funeral of an honorably discharged veteran. A candidate for this position has been selected, and is awaiting background clearance.

With the additional responsibilities of Bill 21-015, the cemeteries growth in yearly interment numbers, additional families to serve, the increased interest in early registration, along with the extensive reimbursement research (as mentioned in 'Cemetery Funding'), and the NCA compliance activities, an additional permanent FTE in the office is required. A permanent position would assure that the additional programs, research and documentation will be done thoroughly and accurately, not to mention, continue the superior customer service that our families are accustomed to. This position would lead to more in-person communication with families, a more timely response to inquiries and development of updated record keeping and data storage. As interments consistently increase yearly, so does the number of columbaria niches and headstones to maintain. There will be future need to increase the grounds crew by an additional FTE to continue to maintain the cemetery.

Roadway and Sidewalks

Concrete maintenance is a continued need at the cemetery. A donation was made to the cemetery in August 2020 in the amount of \$25,000 which was used to mitigate tripping hazards and repair a sinking pillar in the cemetery's assembly area. Even with this repair, there are additional hazards throughout the cemetery. These hazards are currently being mitigated with temporary repairs. As the cemetery ages, yearly expenses will increase for the care and maintenance of the roadways, and concrete pathways. An estimated \$25,000/year could be easily spent on repairs and maintenance.

In-Ground Gravesites

We did not experience any issues with in-ground gravesites due to heavy snow and freezing during the 2020 - 2021 winter season. Our winter was mild and remained easy to excavate with the mini-excavator or by hand digging graves.

The shallow vaults previously installed in section 2D as part of the 2015 capital construction project, were corrected in 2021 by the contractors who did the initial installation. To correct this issue, the sod was removed, and additional 12"-18" of topsoil was added, and new sod was placed. This was done at no cost to the cemetery. We appreciate the continued positive partnership with our contractors.

Stonework

A combination of water and weather conditions continue to create damage to those older Columbarium with stone veneer. Repairs on Columbarium 9 were completed October 11th of this year, at the cost of \$1,125.00. This mirrors the expense to damages previously reported to Columbarium 8, which took place in October 2020 costing \$1,700.00.

It has been determined that the sloped precast tops that were added as a design change to the newest columbarium, would benefit these older units, and impede future damages. In February 2021, these additions were priced out at \$25,000 for the four older columbaria. The possible coverage of this expense by the Capital Construction project remains contingent on remaining funds.

Please see Capital Construction notes in section 12

Painting

An Eagle Scout Project of painting the front fence remains unfinished. The cemetery has been utilizing public service through the Mesa County Community Corrections, to assist with the completion.

Main Line Irrigation System Breaks

We continued to experience major breaks in the irrigation system water lines this past year. This is due to the age of the system, its heavy usage and, in some cases, faulty installations. It continues to be a fairly costly spring ritual.

Burial Operations Support System (BOSS)

BOSS is up and running with times of limited access. This can create delays in timely marker ordering. See NCA Audit below.

The new Dyna Touch Kiosk Operating System was purchased, installed and fully operational by March of 2021. This was paid for by Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA) approved funds. This much needed addition is fully functional and is automatically updated daily with cemetery interment information. The new software also provides the benefit of visitors being able to fully access the NCA website for information and research. We appreciate the continued support of CBVA.

NCA Audit

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA), triennial compliance audit that was previously scheduled for September 2020, took place at the cemetery on August 10th and 11th of 2021. The auditors reviewed; all operating procedures, gravesite layout plans, register of burial sections, complain/compliment logs, accident/injury logs, maintenance and landscaping management plans, headstone & niche cover ordering, setting, and destroying. The collection of information took place through documentation review, observation and interview.

In the exit meeting with the lead auditor, comments were made that this Colorado cemetery “excels in providing exceptional service to its Veterans” and “if only all State Cemeteries were this nice”. The cemetery rated well with the new NCA scoring measures, rating 100% for medium priority level compliance, 94% in the high priority compliance, but fell short at 67% in the critical level compliance. These deficiencies were expected by staff, and reported below with explanation and corrective action:

- 1) *Measure 1.2a: “The percent of headstones and/or markers that are at the proper height, alignment and plumb.”*

Due to the vaults in section 2D being placed too shallow, and corrective measures not being made in a sufficient amount of time, the biggest deficiency found, was headstone alignment. The cemetery was aware of the needed corrective measures, but unable to address the timely process due to insufficient grounds staffing. Corrective action to include partnering with Ft. Logan National Cemetery for grounds staff training.

- 2) *Measure 1.1: “The percent of marker, headstone and niche cover requests that are inscription approved and entered into BOSS within 10 calendar days of interment.”*

Due to lack of staffing, and increased interments/customer service needs, limited time for BOSS training, and intermittent BOSS access, office staff have been unable to tend to BOSS entries in a timelier manner. Corrective action to include daily scheduled time for BOSS entry and training with the addition of the PT Admin 2 position.

- 3) *Measure 2.1b: “The percent of headstones, markers and niche covers received damaged, incorrectly inscribed, or of poor quality that are reported and recorded in BOSS within four calendar days of delivery.”*

Due to lack of staffing, and increased interments/customer service needs, limited time for BOSS training, and intermittent BOSS access, office staff have been unable to tend to BOSS entries in a timelier manner. Corrective action to include daily scheduled time for BOSS entry and training with the addition of the PT Admin 2 position.

- 4) *Measure 1.1a: “Gravesite locations match current layout plan and registry.”*

The existing record keeping process that has been historically utilized, allowed for human error in recording second interments. The process of transitioning these records to computer maps began in March of 2020, but due to lack of office staffing, it was not completed in time for the audit. This transition process allowed for discovery and correction of previous errors, however those sections that had yet to be reviewed and recorded digitally, were found to have inaccuracies. Corrective action to include the continuation of computer mapping through file review with the addition of the PT Admin 2 position.

A reported correct action plan must be submitted for the above deficiencies to the NCA no later than November 22nd 2021.

Rainbird Irrigation System

The Rainbird Irrigation computer and updated software was purchased in May of 2021 with the assistance of CBVA approved funding. With the inclusion of technical assistance, the system was easily installed and altered to include the new irrigation added during the capital construction project. Additional training on the new software with grounds and office staff will take place this winter.

GJ Regional Center

The Regional Center is still operational at this time. The status of the facility once it is vacated is of concern. As of this date and time, there has been no formal announcement as to who our new neighbors might be. Our intent is to advocate for the cemetery to remain hallowed grounds as a final resting place for our veterans and their dependents. We have expressed interest in a two acre strip of land adjacent to the cemetery, at no cost to us. This zero dollar exchange has not been approved as of this date and time.

10. Monuments and Memorial Benches

There are no additional monuments or benches added for this reporting period. A bronze appreciation plaque was hung in the assembly area for a family's donation of \$25,000. This substantial donation was utilized for repair to tripping hazards, and the sinking pillar in the cemetery's assembly area.

11. COVID Operations Update

At this time the cemetery is fully operational, with posted recommendations of mask usage by visitors and family members.

Military honors and committal services are being held for 250 or fewer attendees without restriction.

Employees are wearing masks inside of state facilities.

A formal Memorial Day celebration for 2021 was canceled due to an uptick in COVID cases in Mesa County. At the time, gathering restrictions would not allow for the historical attendance numbers. A small numbers of cemetery staff, honor guard members, musicians, and community partners gathered for an informal ceremony to carry out the customary traditions of honoring veterans on this day.

12. Saluting Branches

After the cancellation of Saluting Branches in 2020, the cemetery was once again, allowed to participate in this beneficial program this past summer. The event was held on September 22nd, and resulted in the removal of 23 trees, stump grinding, tree pruning, placement of tree stakes, fertilizers, deer guards, watering receptacles and the planting of 50 new trees throughout the cemetery. Participants for this day

included 31 volunteers and 7 employees/interns. There was a raffle of donated items where Vermeer's contribution of a pruning saw and climbing rope were given away. Donations for breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and ice cream were generously provided by Jimmy Johns, Meadow Gold Dairy and Chick-Fil-A. Only three trees were donated by a local nursery, and the remaining trees were purchased through the landscape budget in the capital construction project. The previously established partnerships with Colorado State University, local tree care companies, city arborists and US Bank made the event a successful one that will continue to benefit the cemetery for years to come.

13. Capital Construction

In September, 2018, the cemetery received \$2.5M in state funding to increase the columbaria interment capacity, add corresponding infrastructure, regrade and replace liners in the irrigation retention ponds and stream, and to build a new silt mitigation system. The project also included funding for new and replacement equipment, including the needed silt vacuum extractor and a front dump hopper with attachments. In addition, 1% of the supply cost of the project was allocated to Art in Public Places, intended to bring additional art into the cemetery.

The work was broken into two substantial phases consisting of the addition of eight Columbaria with landscape, necessary irrigation, sidewalks and benches as Phase I. During Phase I, a portion of the landscape budget was retained as to assure adequate funding for Phase II. In October, damages discovered to an existing columbaria, brought awareness to design improvements that could mitigate future repair expenses. These changes were made and these new units were placed with a cast cap.

This phase was completed in April 2021, with the first interment taking place in the new columbarium that same month.

Work on Phase II of this project began at the end of October, 2020. In order to minimize time without irrigation this phase was scheduled for a period that irrigation is unavailable, (October 2020 - March 2021). This phase includes draining, regrading, relining and landscaping of the retention ponds and stream, along with the relocating and building of a more useful and easier to care for silt trap. The phase completed in time for the spring irrigation start-up. Leaks, over-flowing of the liner and bubbles under the liner were immediately discovered by cemetery staff. It was decided that mitigation of these issues, would take place in the fall of 2021, once irrigation was shut down again. At this time, the intended corrective actions are being presented. Scheduling of work and additional expense to the project is unknown.

If contingency funds remain after the stream corridor corrective actions have taken place, the cemetery is requesting consideration for:

- 1) Placement of the pre-cast columbarium caps, (as mentioned above), to be added to the existing older columbaria. This will deter future damages to these older units that are now failing due to water and weather conditions.
- 2) A three-rail metal fencing to limit access to the upper pond.

Equipment acquisition still has one UTV on order with an unknown delivery date. The delay of its receipt is due to supply issues with Kubota.

For Art in Public Places, a local bronze artist by the name of Scott Shaffer was chosen to produce a life size replica of a bald eagle that will be placed in December 2021. Scott has previously created two bronze sculptures that are placed here at the cemetery. His works include the 'Saluting Soldier' at the gates of the cemetery and the "Battlefield Cross" that stands just inside the entry to the cemetery.

A board determined that the funds from Art in Public Places be spent on a carillon bell system and requisition of an art piece to be added to the waterfall/committal area. A donation was made to the cemetery to enhance the budget for the carillon system, therefore allowing more funds to be spent on the art piece. At this time, the board is awaiting presentations by select artists. This is scheduled for October 21st.

The equipment acquisition associated with this project has allowed for a cab to be added to one of the grounds maintenance vehicles making it useful in all weather conditions. A front load tractor will be purchased to aid in burial operations, which will also reduce equipment movement and travel in burial areas. The silt vacuum for maintenance to all associated irrigation areas is the most crucial of these acquisitions. This piece of equipment will allow for the cemetery staff to properly care for the new improvements made in Phase II.

13. In Closing

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado continues to be revered in not only the local community, but within the entire State of Colorado. You cannot enter the cemetery without admiring the beauty of the meticulously cared for grounds. Families gather here, not only to grieve, but to celebrate lives, remember friends, and reflect. This location serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made and the commitments promised. It is a history lesson to children and a civics lesson to all. The State, its residents, the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs are dedicated to veterans, and this cemetery reflects how grateful we are for the service that was selflessly given to our nation.

In addition to the rewarding purpose of the cemetery, we strive to be a contributing presence in the veteran community. With event participation, building of partnerships, outreach and involvement, our purpose spreads wider than our 22 acres.

As this cemetery ages, additional funding to maintain this monument will be needed. At 19 years since inspection, we have grown at an unexpected pace, and we continue to see that this pace is not slowing. Looking forward to future demand, aging facilities, budget constraints and minimal increase in federal funding, there is concern. Exploration of additional funding continues, with the intention to maintain the high levels service, owed to those who have served, and the families who sacrificed.

Status Report, Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado, November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2021, to the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, October 18, 2021

As the new Cemetery Administrator, I am proud, and thankful, to be a part of such a rewarding purpose. It is my intention to see that our objectives remain clear and focused on the development, care, efficient operation, and management of this facility. All of this, without compromising the quality of service to our community.

The cemetery and its staff continue to express gratitude for the support from the veterans' community. Because of our benefactors, we are allowed to focus on, and effectively serve, the needs of families who have faithfully and honorably served this country,

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ingalls
Administrator
Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado
Grand Junction, Colorado



November 4, 2022

David Callahan
Director, Division of Veterans Affairs
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
1333 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113
Denver, CO 80222

Dear Mr. Callahan:

The attached report reflects the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Workforce Development Program's (WDP) accomplishments for Program Year 2021 (PY 2021). WDP is dedicated to providing Colorado's veterans with outstanding employment and training services and to provide Colorado businesses with qualified veteran job seekers.

The report outlines the outreach services provided to veterans through the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) and state and county operated American Job Center/Workforce Center staff. The JVSG program staff partner with the local workforce areas in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor/VETS Veterans Program Letters (VPL), specifically [VPL 03-14](#) (CO PGL VET-2020-01), which outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) and the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist. These 26 individuals are strategically located within county and state operated workforce centers serving the highest veteran populations.

The mission of the JVSG program is to provide eligible transitioning service members, veterans, eligible spouses, and wounded warrior caregivers with the employment and training services needed to succeed in today's workforce. As always, CDLE looks forward to the continued partnership with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Office to meet the employment needs of Colorado veterans and their families. If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact Colin Schneider, State Veterans Program Coordinator at (303) 547-8347 or colin.schneider@state.co.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Folks'.

Kelly Folks
Director, Employment & Training Division





Program Year 2021 Report on Service to Veterans July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Annual Report to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

Program Year (PY) 2021 Report on Service to Veterans

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) provides a wide array of labor and employment services to Colorado veterans throughout the state in county-run workforce centers and satellite offices. CDLE effectively uses the Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) and the State Workforce System to promote the hiring and retention of eligible veterans, spouses, and caregivers of wounded warriors. State and county Labor and Employment Specialists provide employment services that include, but are not limited to:

- Resume and cover letter writing
- Interview tips and techniques
- Translating military experience to civilian knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Navigating online job boards and career fair resources
- Targeted job searches by industry
- Providing labor market information and wage data
- Identifying community-based education and training opportunities
- Providing services remotely due to COVID-19

Workforce centers also refer eligible veterans to appropriate Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) career services, training programs, and work-based learning to include apprenticeship programs throughout the state. Colorado workforce centers make referrals to various federal, state, local agencies, and to non-profit partners in the community that provide supportive services to those in need.

As can be seen in the following chart, 12,003 veterans registered for employment assistance during PY 2021 through CDLE's statewide database, Connecting Colorado. Connecting Colorado provides a web-based platform to help match qualified job seekers with employers in need of skilled workers. Employers can post job openings, view resumes, search for qualified candidates, and learn about the hiring incentives offered by the state. Veterans can post resumes, conduct job searches, access employment resources using self-directed virtual employment tools, or receive in-person or virtual staff assisted services through their local workforce center. Of note:

- Even though the number of veteran registrants decreased, all categories receiving staff assisted services increased, with the exception of the "Recently Separated" which only decreased by 1% (PY21 52%, PY20 53%). This increase could be associated with the expanded availability of in-person and virtual services, giving customers greater flexibility to receive services.

- There was a slight increase in the percentage of veterans seeking staff assisted employment services despite the decline in the number of registrants, likely due in part to the impact of COVID-19.
- Veterans who receive staff assisted services are more likely to have higher rates of entered employment, employment retention, and average wages. For this reason, CDLE strongly encourages veterans to visit their local workforce center to receive one-on-one staff assisted services.

The table below provides a demographic breakout of all veterans registered in the system and those who received staff assisted services.

Colorado Veteran Demographics of Veterans Served by Workforce Center staff								
	Total Vets	Ages 18-44	Ages 45-54	Ages 55+	Post 9/11	Disabled Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated
PY 2021	12,003	5,707	2,416	3,816	3,566	4,232	3,420	1,885
Received Staff Assisted Service	7,408	3,083	1,595	2,706	2,399	2,623	2,105	975
Percent	62%	54%	66%	71%	67%	62%	62%	52%
PY 2020	23,561	10,529	4,921	8,070	6,806	6,763	5,241	2,822
Received Staff Assisted Service	12,892	5,248	2,825	4,809	4,048	4,012	3,124	1,485
Percent	55%	50%	57%	60%	59%	59%	60%	53%
<p><i>Source: CC 9002, PY 2021 (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021, report run 10/17/2022)</i> <i>Note: Veterans may be counted in more than one category with the exception of age categories.</i></p>								

U.S. Code Title 38, Veterans' Benefits, requires CDLE to provide priority of service to veterans for all Employment and Training programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). A "veteran" is defined as a person who served in active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. "Priority of

service” means that the veteran or eligible person either receives access to employment, training, and placement services provided by a local Workforce Center or through a job training program such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), ahead of, or, earlier in time than non-veterans, notwithstanding any other legal provisions. CDLE has issued statewide guidance on this requirement and is in full compliance with the federal mandate.

Colorado takes priority of service even further. The names of qualified veterans appear at the top of all employer-generated electronic applicant referral lists. Connecting Colorado places new job postings on a hold for up to 24 hours, which gives a veteran job seeker an opportunity to view new job openings before they are visible to non-veterans. As a result, in PY 2021 the workforce centers referred 39% of registered veteran job seekers to job openings compared to 31% of non-veterans.

During PY 2021, Connecting Colorado posted 881,607 job openings from 10,773 employers. Most of these job openings were a result of CDLE’s active participation with Job Central, a public service employment website owned and managed by leading U.S. employers through their membership in the Direct Employers Association. It enables employers to outreach through a network of 50 state sites and over 6,200 cities and communities nationwide.

In addition to the state and county Labor and Employment Specialists who provide front-line services to all veterans, CDLE employs 17 full-time Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists, 6 full-time Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER), and 2 full-time Consolidated Veteran Employment Specialists (CVSR’s are half time DVOPs, and half time LVERs) staff who are assigned to workforce areas around the state. The primary role of DVOPs is to provide intensive services to “eligible veterans and eligible persons.” In order to effectively serve eligible veterans and spouses and efficiently target their services, the DVOP specialists utilize a case management approach. Under federal law, services are limited to eligible veterans and eligible persons who meet the definition of an individual with a Significant Barrier to Employment (SBE).

DVOPs provided staff services to 734 registered veterans, 728 (99.2%) of whom received intensive employment services to help them obtain suitable employment. Veterans in need of intensive services fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Disabled Veterans
- Wounded Warriors
- Homeless
- Formerly Incarcerated
- Vietnam Era
- Recently Separated
- Low Income
- Lacking a High School Diploma
- Between Ages 18-24
- Receiving Public Assistance
- An Eligible Spouse or caregiver

Intensive services require more staff time than regular employment services and are coordinated with comprehensive employment plans to ensure access to the necessary training and supportive services. Intensive services provide support both during program participation and after job placement. The following table provides a breakout by the types of barriers for the veterans who received staff assisted services from a DVOP during PY 2021.

Colorado Veteran Demographics of Veterans Serviced by DVOP Specialists PY2021						
Total Vets	Post 9/11	Disabled Vets <30%	Special Disabled >30%	Recently Separated	Homeless	Female
734	317	410	346	129	56	104
<i>Source: CC Vets 200, PY 2021 (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021, report run 10/18/2022)</i> <i>*Participants can be counted in multiple categories</i>						

DVOPs conduct outreach to identify eligible SBE veterans and other eligible persons who, without the receipt of intensive services, would be unable to obtain employment on their own. DVOPs expand the scope of their outreach and its effectiveness by working in partnership with a wide range of public and private agencies and organizations. This includes involvement in the “Homeless Veteran Stand Downs” that take place in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Denver, and Fort Collins where homeless veterans can receive winter clothing, personal hygiene products, haircuts, hot meals, flu shots, dental exams, and mental health resources, as well as employment services.

The LVER’s primary role is to conduct employer relations and advocate on behalf of veterans regarding the valuable knowledge, skills, and abilities they bring to the workforce. LVERs accomplish this through virtual and in-person customized hiring events, networking events, job fairs, job search workshops, employer panels, and personal visits to local businesses. These events are designed to bring groups of veterans and employers together to fill employer vacancies while providing veterans with vocational and career guidance as well as information for on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and work experience opportunities offered by private employers.

JVSG performance measures can change and are effective October 1 of each year with the start of the new Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). Here are the performance measures that started October of 2021.

Performance Measures

Performance Measures U.S. DOL VETS

Negotiated Performance Indicators	Negotiated Goal	Actual Outcome	Goal Met Y/N
Jobs For Veterans State Grant Funded Services <i>(Table Source: ETA-9173 for JVSG)</i>			
Employment Rate - 2nd Quarter After Exit <i>(Source: Item D.1, Total Current Period column)</i>	50.6%	55.4%	Yes
Employment Rate - 4th Quarter After Exit <i>(Source: Item D.2, Total Current Period column)</i>	49.7%	52.7%	Yes
Median Earnings - 2nd Quarter After Exit <i>(Source: Item D.3, Total Current Period column)</i>	\$5,625	\$8,092	Yes
<i>Data Source: WIOA Quarterly Performance Report, rolling 4 Quarters (7-1-21 to 6-30-22, run 10-19-2022)</i>			

Overall during the 2021 Program Year the State has provided a number of services to Veterans through the Jobs for Veterans State Grant, our partners, their local training programs, and job referrals through Connecting Colorado. Even though the number of veterans accessing these services has decreased, the number of services to each individual has increased. This increase is likely associated with the expanded availability of in-person and virtual services, and seamless program integration giving customers more options and greater flexibility to receive the services they are looking for. With the increased number of services to Veterans, the State also continues to exceed all three of our performance measures, which are employment after exit (Q2 and Q4) and median earnings. These outcomes are the result of the great partnerships between the State and our local Workforce Center Partners.



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources
Executive Director's Office

December 6, 2022

Colorado Board of Veterans
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Patricia Hammon, Chair
1355 South Colorado Blvd. Building C, Suite 113
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Ms. Hammon:

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 states' veterans or active military:

C.R.S 33-12-106 - (1) (a) Any resident who displays on the resident's vehicle a Colorado disabled veteran's license plate pursuant to section 42-3-304 (3)(a) or a purple heart special license plate pursuant to section 42-3-213 (2) must 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 entitles the disabled veteran and passengers in such veteran's vehicle to enter such park or recreation area free of charge. (b) Any resident who presents the documents necessary to satisfy the requirements of section 42-3-304 (3)(a) at a regional office or the central office of the division, or at such other locations as may be determined by the division, may obtain a transferable annual parks pass free of charge from the division.

Commission Regulation - P-7 #701.4 A disabled resident may obtain an Independence annual parks pass pursuant to 33-12-106 (1) (b), C.R.S. An Independence annual parks pass shall be issued following the Division's receipt of a completed application from a qualified resident of the state. The pass will only remain valid as long as the individual maintains their Colorado residency as defined in 33-10-102 (21), C.R.S. a. In order to qualify for an Independence annual parks pass, a resident must provide the following written proof to the Division: (1) DD 214 Form or other documentation indicating the veteran received an Honorable Discharge from a branch of the Armed Services of the United States, AND (2) A qualification letter, on official stationary/letterhead, from the Veteran's Administration, Department of Veteran's Affairs, or the branch of service from which the veteran is receiving compensation that states one of the following: a. 50% or greater, service-connected permanent disability; b. Loss of use of one or both feet; c. Loss of use of one or both hands; or a d. Loss of vision in both eyes

For pass holders who are 65 years of age or older, the pass provides a \$3.00 discount on camping, except on weekends and holidays. The applicant must be a Colorado resident and submit an application to our Denver office. 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.



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.

C.R.S. 33-12-106 (2.4) (a) The commission shall promulgate a rule to allow veterans, including active duty personnel, free entrance to any state park or recreation area, not to include campgrounds, yurts, or other amenities and services, for the month of August each year. The commission may promulgate a rule setting evidence standards to show a person is a veteran and issue a sticker or other device that identifies a person as a veteran for future entrance. The commission may also charge a fee for issuing the sticker or other device that identifies a person as a veteran, but the fee must be based on the direct and indirect cost of issuing the sticker or other device.

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

Veterans 64 years of age or older who are Colorado residents may also qualify for the Aspen Leaf (Senior Citizen) Annual Pass at a cost of \$70 per year.

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)(g) 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.

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)(i)(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.

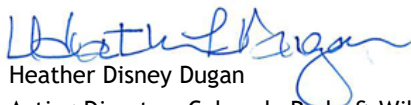
To date in 2022, the Division issued 4183 free Independence Parks Passes, 1145 free lifetime fishing licenses, and 1505 free combination small game and fishing lifetime licenses to veterans with disabilities; we have received 2 requests for military leftover license privileges and 4 requests for military applications for preference points.

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,



Dan Gibbs, Executive Director



Heather Disney Dugan
Acting Director, Colorado Parks & Wildlife



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Property Taxation

December 12, 2022

Pat Hammon, Chairperson
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Colorado Board of Veterans
1355 South Colorado Blvd., Building C, Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80230

Dear Ms. Hammon:

Per your request, I have provided below the number of properties, actual value, and the exempted taxes for disabled veterans who received the Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption in 2021, payable in 2022. My office administers the program to determine if a veteran has applied on more than one property in the state or illegally claimed an exemption. Additionally, my office provides information and support for county offices and taxpayers regarding the program. At this time, we do not provide any other direct services to veterans in Colorado.

For the 2021 tax year, property taxes paid in 2022;

The total number of disabled veteran exemptions granted is; **9,016**

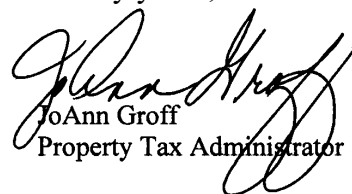
The actual value of the exempted properties is; **\$875,739,039.00**

The total exempted property taxes for qualified disabled veterans is; **\$5,559,552.87**

We have not yet verified the status of the 2022 tax year applicants; those applications are currently under review. Exempt property tax amounts will be calculated after those taxes are due in January 2023.

Should you have questions regarding the program or any other activities of the Division of Property Taxation please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



JoAnn Groff
Property Tax Administrator

JAG:mes





COLORADO
Department of Revenue
Executive Director's Office

Physical Address:
1375 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 17087
Denver, CO 80217-0087

July 1, 2022

Ms. Pat Hammon, Chairman
Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1355 S. Colorado Blvd., Building C, Suite 113
Denver, CO 80230

Dear Chairman Hammon,

Pursuant to C.R.S. 28-5-703 below, you will find a list of veteran services that are provided by the State of Colorado, Department of Revenue.

Service Members Civil Relief Act and the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act

The department continues to ensure that service members and their qualifying spouses under the protection of the Service Members Civil Relief Act and the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act continue to receive the services, protections and tax exemptions afforded to them by these acts.

Deployed Military Motor Vehicle Taxes and Fees

A member of the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for the exemption of registration fees and pays a \$1.00 specific ownership tax for their vehicles registered in Colorado while the service member is deployed outside the U.S. The service member must (1) show that he/she is serving outside the U.S.; AND (2) files a signed affidavit that the motor vehicle will not be operated on a highway while they are serving outside the U.S. If the service member has credit remaining on his/her motor vehicle at the time they are serving outside the U.S., the department shall place that amount of credit into a "holding" account for the service member to apply to the payment of specific ownership tax and registration fees on any vehicle owned by the service member upon the return to the U.S. per C.R.S. 42-3-107(10)(b) and 42-3-314.

Colorado VETS-2-TRUCKS Program

This program is designed for individuals who are currently serving, are close to military discharge, or were discharged within the last 90 days. They must have experience driving heavy military trucks with a safe driving record for at least the last two years. These veterans may qualify for a Colorado Commercial Driver License (CDL) without having to take the commercial driver skills test.

e-Services

With the implementation of the Colorado Driver License, Record, Identification, and Vehicle Enterprise Solution (DRIVES) on August 6, 2018 the Department has implemented enhanced e-Services that offer first time registrations, registration renewals, license plate replacements, and persons with disability military license plates to be performed online across all 64 counties. This also allows service members stationed outside of Colorado to maintain their vehicle registrations. E-Services can be accessed at mydmv.colorado.gov.

The Department is actively working with our vendor and the County Clerk and Recorders to expand e-Services both for vehicle transactions as well and driver license and identification cards. As these services are deployed mydmv.colorado.gov will be updated.

Military Identifier on Identification Documents

This program allows eligible applicants to have a military identifier added to their regular or commercial driver license or identification card for no additional fee. The applicant may choose between Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard or Navy. The eligible applicant must present either his/her valid military identification card or a DD214 per C.R.S. 42-2-114(10) and 42-2-303(5).

Deployed Military License Extensions

Per C.R.S. 42-2-118(2), every license which is, at the time of its expiration, held by a member of the armed forces of the United States, then serving on active duty outside of Colorado, does not expire, but is extended for 3 years or until 9- days after the licensee returns to Colorado. No action is required for the extension, but eligible service members can update their account and receive an extension sticker if they submit an extension request by mail or online.

Veteran Designation on Identification Documents

This program allows eligible applicants to have a veteran identifier added to their regular or commercial driver license or identification card for no additional fee. The eligible applicant must present either his/her valid military identification card or a DD214 per C.R.S. 42-2-114(11) and 42-2-303 (4).

Expedited Driver License Services

Expedited service in state driver license offices is offered to active military members in uniform. A sign in each office states the following:

We Support Our Military

Members of the Armed Forces in uniform will be provided expedited service.

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-112(3)(b).

County Issuance of Qualified Exempt Military License Plates

To improve service to veterans who qualify to receive a qualified exempt military license plate (Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Disabled Veteran, Former Prisoner of War, Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Purple Heart, World War II Veteran or Silver Star) the department has worked with county clerk and recorders to have these plates issued from county motor vehicle offices. This service is now offered by 50 county motor vehicle offices and continues to be offered at the state office in Lakewood. Prior to this service being offered by the counties, veterans and service members who qualified to receive these license plates were required to have the issuance of these plates be completed at the Division of Motor Vehicles office in Lakewood. Eligible veterans and service members are encouraged to contact their county motor vehicle office to see if their county participates in this program.

The Division of Motor Vehicles has special accommodations for veterans registering vehicles in Colorado and obtaining vehicle license plates as follows:

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(1)(g).

Person with Disability Military License Plates

On August 5, 2015, the department began issuing person with disability military license plates for any military license plate and increased the number of persons with disabilities license plates that an individual can be issued from one to two. To receive a person with disability military license plate, the qualifying applicant must demonstrate that they meet the requirements for the military license

plate and also meet the person with disability requirements under C.R.S. 42-3-204, C.R.S. 42-3-213(1)(h) and C.R.S. 42-3-218(2)(b).

U.S. Air Force License Plate

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(17).

U.S. Army License Plate

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(12).

U.S. Army Fourth Infantry Division License Plate

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(20).

U.S. Army Special Forces License Plate

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 of “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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(18).

House Bill 17-1149 effective August 9, 2017 removed the suffix “S” from the applicant’s orders or DD214 form as proof that the applicant qualifies to be issued the U.S. Army Special Forces license plate.

Bronze Star Medal License Plate

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(14)(a).

Bronze Star with the “V” Medal License Plate

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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(14)(b).

Civil Air Patrol License Plate

This plate may be issued to any person that supports the Civil Air Patrol. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(27).

U.S. Coast Guard License Plate

This plate may be issued to retired, honorably discharged, active, auxiliary, or reserve members 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(16).

Distinguished Flying Cross License Plate

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. The first set of plates per applicant is exempt the one-time fee normally associated with specialty license plates and payment of the required taxes and fees is required. 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(25).

Disabled Veteran License Plate

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

Fallen Service Member License Plate

This plate is issued to 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. 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 is exempt the one-time fee normally associated with specialty license plates and payment of the required taxes and fees is required. 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(15).

Former Prisoner of War License 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 registration 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-104 and 42-3-213(3).

Honorably Discharged Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to any person who has received an honorable discharge from any branch of the U.S. Armed Services or who is retired from a branch of the Armed Services. The applicant must present the form DD214 or their honorable discharge documents to obtain this plate. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-231(4).

Korean War Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to any natural person upon providing proof 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(9).

Medal of Honor License Plate

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 registration fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(7).

Medal of Valor License Plates

These plates may be issued to a natural person who has been awarded a military award for valor. When applying for this plate, the applicant must present a copy of the military order awarding the military award for valor, which includes the following awards:

Navy Cross	Air Force Cross
Distinguished Service Cross	Silver Star

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

National Guard License Plate

This plate may be issued to an individual that provides proof that he/she is an active or retired member of the Colorado National Guard. An applicant shall submit a proof of eligibility form prepared by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs verifying active or retired status. If the owner of a vehicle registered with a National Guard license plate 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 plates shall submit a verification or retired status that is issued by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish eligibility for retention of the plate. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-218.

Navy Seal License Plate

This plate may be issued to a natural person who has received an honorable discharge, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the United States Navy Seals. To qualify for the plate, an applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States Government and a certification from the UDT/SEAL Association, Inc., the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the UDT/SEAL Association, Inc., or a successor organization. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(26).

North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command Commemorative License Plate

This plate may be issued to any person who desires to commemorate the North American Aerospace Defense Command's 50th anniversary. This plate was a limited issue commemorative plate that was only issued from July 1, 2008 through January 1, 2010. Plates issued within this period may continue to be used 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(19).

Operation Desert Shield/Storm License Plate

This plate may be issued to a natural person who 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 per C.R.S. 42-3-213(24).

Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plate

This plate may be issued to qualified applicants who were members of the U.S. Armed Services on December 7, 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 registration fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon paying a one-time fee of \$50.00 and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-104 and 42-3-213(6).

Purple Heart License Plate

This plate may be issued to qualified applicants who have been awarded a Purple Heart medal for wounds received in combat at the hands of an enemy of the United States. An applicant must present a copy of the military order awarding the Purple Heart medal or other sufficient evidence that indicates that the applicant received the Purple Heart medal. These individuals may obtain one set of plates without paying specific ownership tax and registration fees. These applicants are granted

free entry into Colorado State parks. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-104 and 42-3-213(2).

Submarine Service License Plate

Implemented with House Bill 18-1244 effective January 1, 2019, this plate may be issued to qualified applicants who provides proof that he/she has received an honorable discharge, is retired, or is an active or reserve member of the Submarine Service of the United States Navy. An applicant must present a form DD 214 issued by the United States Government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate the applicant is a veteran, active or reserve member of the Submarine Service of the United States Navy. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(30).

U.S. Marine Corps License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who 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 \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(8).

U.S. Navy License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who 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 \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(13).

Veteran of Afghanistan War License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who 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 \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(21).

Veteran of Iraq War License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who 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 \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(22).

Vietnam Veterans License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who provides proof of service in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam engagement, specifically, August 7, 1964 to May 7, 1975. Proof of service includes the DD214 or other evidence to demonstrate this requirement. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(11). House Bill 18-1361 changed the eligibility end date from January 27, 1973 to May 7, 1975 effective August 8, 2018.

World War II Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who 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. These individuals may obtain one set of plates without paying specific ownership tax and registration fees. Additional plates may be obtained upon payment of a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-104 and 42-3-213(23).

U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division License Plate

This plate may be issued to an applicant who provides proof that he/she was honorably discharged, retired, reserve, or active member of the 10th Mountain Division of the United States Army. The applicant must submit a DD214 form issued by the United States Government or other evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the applicant is a veteran, a reserve member, or an active member of the 10th Mountain Division of the United States Army. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time \$50.00 fee and the required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(29).

USS Colorado Submarine License Plate

This plate may be issued to any person who supports the USS Colorado Submarine (SSN-788). This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time \$50.00 fee and required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(28).

U.S. Woman Veteran License Plate

This plate may be issued to a woman who has received an honorable discharge form, or is retired from, the United States Armed Forces. This plate may be obtained upon paying a one-time \$50.00 fee and required taxes and fees per C.R.S. 42-3-213(31).

Woman Veteran with Disabilities License Plate

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

As of January 1, 2022, the Department records indicate that 180,798 vehicles were registered in the State of Colorado with one of the military plates listed above.

During calendar year 2021, the Department hired 42 veterans. 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,

Mark Ferrandino
Executive Director