



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

# **Emergency Management, Communications & Legislative Update**

***Lt. Col. Steve Murray, U.S. Air Force (Ret)***  
***Communications & External Affairs Director***

# Emergency Management



- **Veteran Liaison**
- **Utility Restoration Efforts**
  - State Veterans' Homes
  - VA Medical Centers & Clinics
- **Disaster Recovery Centers**
  - FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners
  - **County Veteran Service Officers**



# Why We Serve



***More than 1.45 Million  
Veterans, including  
165,000 Women Veterans!***

- **Nation's 3rd largest Veteran population**
  - **728,000 Veterans over 65 years of age**
  - **401,000 service-connected disabled Veterans**
  - **15,000 World War II**
  - **87,000 Korean War**
  - **476,000 Vietnam War**
  - **582,000 Gulf War Era to include Post-9/11**

# PACT Act



## The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
  - » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

**EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS**

Learn more at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Focus: Vietnam Veterans



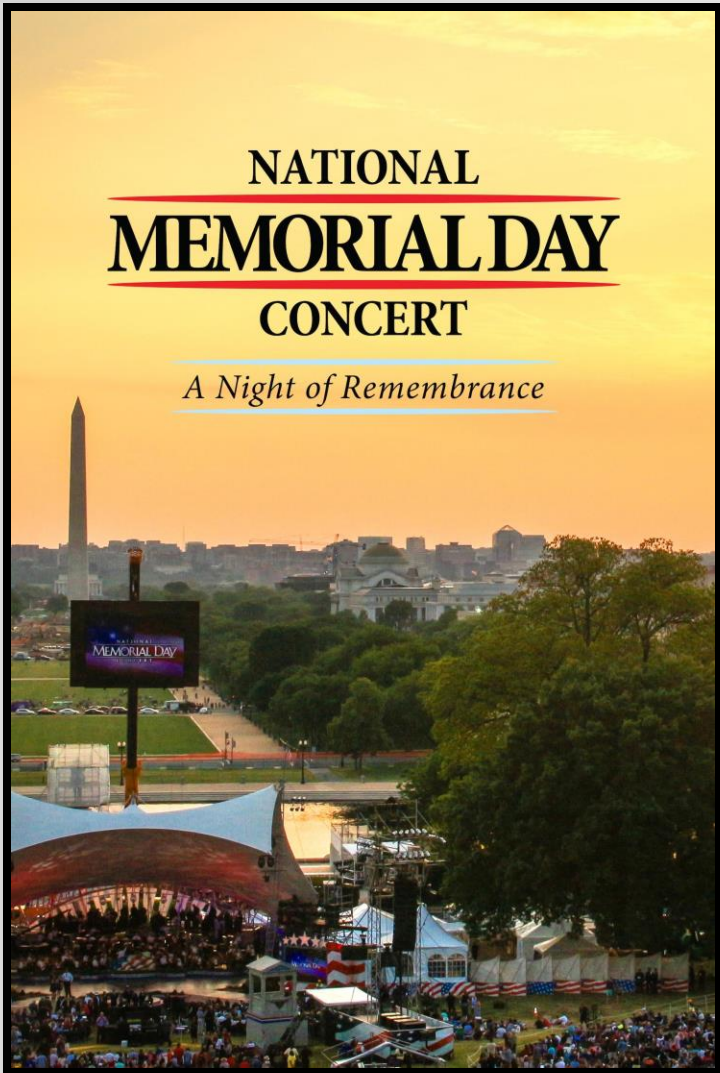
***Demographics:*** About 1 of 3 Veterans in Florida is a Vietnam-era Veteran - more than 476,000; projected tops in nation in 2025.

***Challenge:*** Reluctant to seek help. PACT Act recognizes service may have exposed Veterans to Agent Orange & other herbicides.

***Town Hall Meetings:*** Underway with at least three statewide locations remaining.



# Focus: Women Veterans



## Debut of Florida Women Veterans' Public Service Announcement:

- *National Memorial Day Concert on PBS*
- *Sunday, May 28 at 8 p.m. Eastern / 7 p.m. Central*
- *Airing before opening titles on all nine Florida PBS Stations*

# Veteran Suicide Prevention



## **FLORIDA** Governor's Challenge

Preventing Suicide Among Service  
Members, Veterans & Their Families

*[www.SaveFLVets.org](http://www.SaveFLVets.org)*

# SB 1712 - Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program





# Patriot Navigators



Spearheaded by First Lady Casey DeSantis and implemented by the Florida Department of Children and Families, *Hope Florida* utilizes 'Hope Navigators' to guide Floridians on an individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency and hope by focusing on community collaboration between the private sector, faith-based community, nonprofits and government entities.

# State Veterans' Homes



# State Veterans' Homes

**NOW HIRING**

**FDVA**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)

**HEALTH CARE &  
DIETARY STAFF**

Apply Online or Call  
[jobs.myflorida.com](http://jobs.myflorida.com)  
**813-558-5000**

**BALDOMERO LOPEZ VETERANS' HOME**

# Veterans' Outreach



**NEW Email**

**FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**  
**727-319-7440**

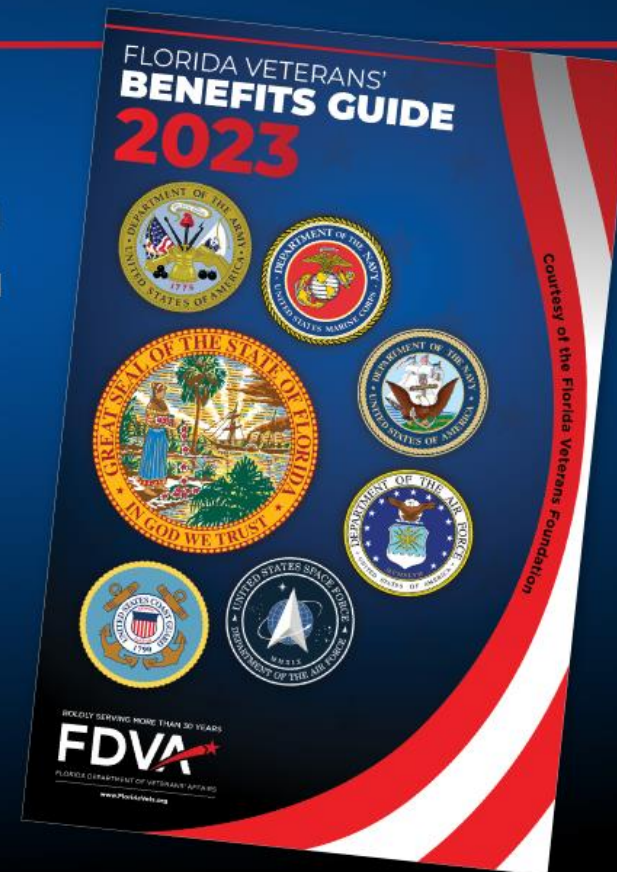


# Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide

## FLORIDA VETERANS' **BENEFITS GUIDE** **2023**

**NOW AVAILABLE!**

FDVA is proud to announce  
the updated 2023 version of the  
Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide.



# Forward March Veterans' Newsletter

**FORWARD**  
MARCH

50,000+ Subscribers

**FDVA** 

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)

# New Mobile App!



Recognizing Excellence  
in Government Communications

**GET OUR FREE  
UPGRADED  
APP.**

It won't take  
up space on  
your phone.



# Class of 2023 Nominations Due



[www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org](http://www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org)





# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

## March 7 – May 5, 2023



[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)



# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

## March 7 – May 5, 2023

### Veterans' Services and Recognition

#### HB 485 (Rep. Salzman) & SB 824 (Sen. Collins)

- Creates FDVA Division of Long-Term Care
- Revises Qualifications of County & City Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs)
- Creates “Veterans’ Adult Day Health Care of Florida Act”

*Awaiting Signature of Governor DeSantis*

# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

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**COMBAT  
MEDICS**

**FDVA**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)

**PATHWAY** FOR MILITARY COMBAT MEDICS ACT

# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

## March 7 – May 5, 2023

**For information on Veteran-related legislation, please contact:**

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