



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

---

*Honoring those who served U.S.*

# Communications & Outreach Update

**Steve Murray**

***CVSOA / FDVA Fall 2018 Conference, Safety Harbor***

# The Sunshine State



*Did you know?*

*Florida veterans bring in more than **\$18.4 Billion** in Federal Dollars to Florida's economy.*

- Nation's 3rd largest veteran population
  - 1,525,400 total veterans
  - 1,172,800 wartime veterans
  - 144,200 women veterans
  - 203,000 retirees
  - 789,700 veterans over 65
  - 331,000 service-connected disabled veterans
  - 725,800 enrolled in VA Health Care in Florida
  - 51,100 enrolled in GI Bill

# The Sunshine State



*Did you know?*

*More than 400,000 Florida veterans have the **Veteran** designation on their driver license or state ID Card.*

- Nation's 3rd largest veteran population
  - 61,600 World War II veterans
  - 139,100 Korean War veterans
  - 519,800 Vietnam veterans
  - 188,000 Gulf War veterans
  - 177,000 Post-9/11 veterans
  - 352,600 peacetime veterans

# Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide



- 120,000 copies courtesy of the *Florida Veterans Foundation*
- Single copies available through e-mail request on FDVA website
- We bulk ship from publisher's warehouse at no charge
- Interactive versions available online at [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)
- **New!** Available at Tax Collector's Offices & Driver License Offices

*2019 edition coming soon!*





# Future of Benefits Guide



- Printed Version?
  - *\$20,000 annually including postage*
- Online-only Version?
- Both Printed & Online Version?
  - *Printed quantities?*

*2020 edition and beyond...*



# Governor's Veterans Service Award



- **15,075 medals presented by Gov. Rick Scott to honorably discharged veterans and Florida National Guard members since August 2013**

# Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home



- **120-bed Skilled Nursing Facility in Port St. Lucie**
- **Groundbreaking on March 20, 2018**
- **20-24 month construction period underway**
- **Expect vertical construction to commence Fall 2018**



# Lake Baldwin (Orlando)

## State Veterans' Nursing Home



- **114-bed former VA Community Living Center on VA Campus at Lake Baldwin (Orange County)**
- **Facility transferred to FDVA in August 2018; 9-month refurbishment to follow**
- **Will rename facility for Florida Medal of Honor recipient**



# 2018 Hurricane Season

June 1 – November 30



## Veterans' Liaison to State Emergency Operations Center

- Power Restoration Efforts
  - State Veterans' Homes
  - VA Medical Centers & Clinics
- Establishments of Disaster Recovery Centers
  - FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners
  - County Veteran Service Officers



# Gold Star Families



- Florida honors its Gold Star Families
- Opening Ceremony - Remember Our Fallen Tribute Wall, Crystal River, Oct. 26
- Contact FDVA Communications with updates in your community

**Struggling to Adjust?  
Call and Connect!**

**Florida Veterans Support Line**  
Call 1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838) or 2-1-1

For VA funded services and other community based programs

# Suicide Prevention



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

*FLORIDA VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK*

WHEREAS, suicide is a public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is key to preventing further loss of life, and therefore, federal and state governments, community organizations and faith-based organizations are coming together to make great strides in veteran suicide prevention, especially in crisis intervention; and

WHEREAS, following a successful pilot program, Florida is embarking on a new multi-year partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and Crisis Center of Tampa Bay to connect veterans who are experiencing an emotional or mental health crisis with lifesaving support; and

WHEREAS, Veteran Affairs Medical Centers across Florida are taking the lead in hosting information fairs and other events in September to bring awareness to their local communities on how we all have a role to play in veteran suicide prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend gratitude to all observing September 9-15, 2018, as *Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Week*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 7th day of September, in the year two thousand eighteen.



Governor



THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249

@FLGovScott [www.FLGov.com](http://www.FLGov.com)

- Launched first-ever Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 16-22, 2018
- Partnered with VISN 8 and Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
- *Crisis Center of Tampa Bay* part of statewide program of 2-1-1 providers dedicated to helping Florida veterans
- By calling 2-1-1 or the *Florida Veterans Support Line* at 1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838), veterans are able to talk with fellow veteran who understands difficulties of transitioning back to civilian life



# 2020 U.S. Census

- There are *no* questions determining veteran status as part of the 2020 Census.
- The following veteran-related questions are included in the 2020 American Community Survey:
  - Have you ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard?
  - When did you serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?
  - Do you have a VA service-connected disability rating?
  - If yes, what is the percentage?



# Constitution Revision Commission

Nov. 6



- Commission every 20 years has authority to put amendments on November ballot -- 60% of voters to pass
- **Amendment 10** if approved by voters makes the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs a constitutionally *required* office reporting to the Governor and Cabinet
  - It also would require charter-county governments to have elected constitutional officers, including sheriffs.
  - It would lead to the Legislature beginning its annual session in January in even-numbered years.
  - It would create an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism in the Department of Law Enforcement.

# 2019 Florida Legislative Session



- Inauguration of new Florida Governor is Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019
- Legislative Session begins March 5, 2019 and ends May 3, 2019
- Only requirement: Balanced Budget for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
- Historically, only about 10% of bills make it to Governor's desk for signature
- In 2018, Florida's Legislature only passed 196 bills; fewest number in more than two decades, according to state records

# Connecting with FDVA



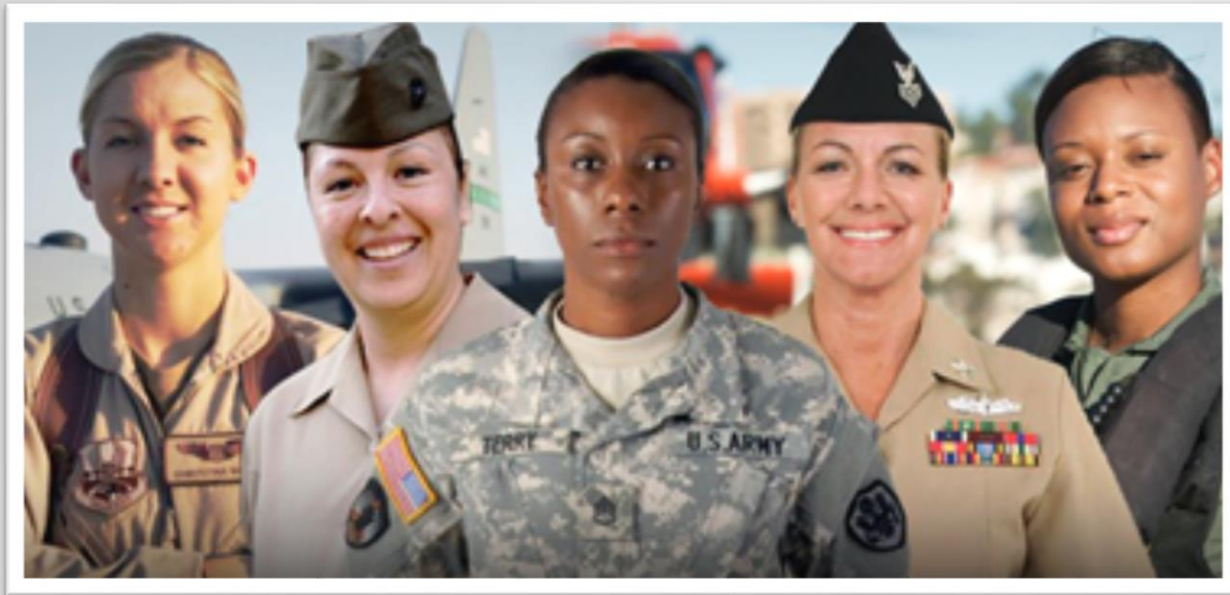
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)



**FDVA**



# Women Veterans' Outreach



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





# Anniversary

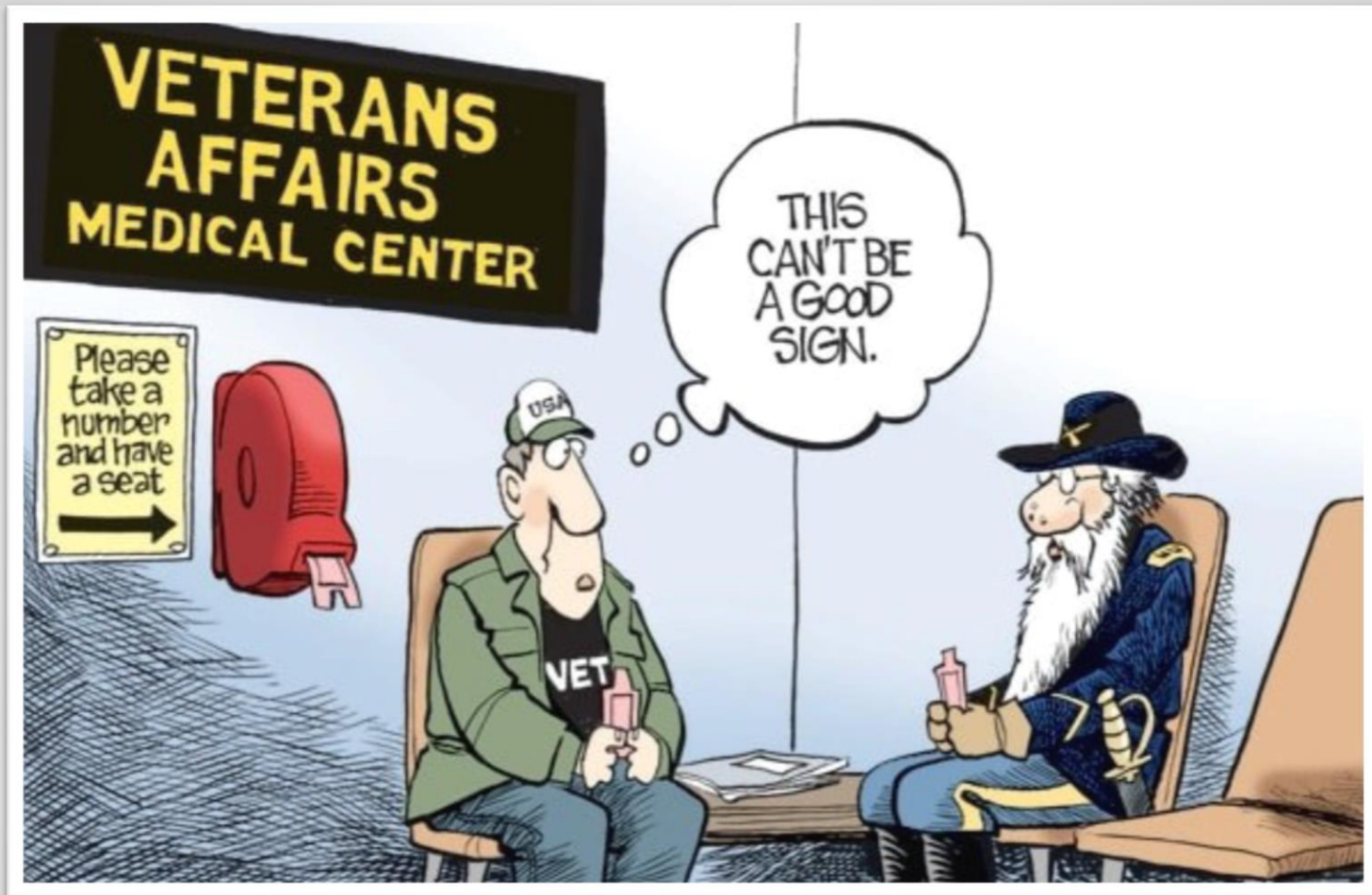
PROUDLY SERVING FOR 30 YEARS

**FDVA**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

# Humor





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

---

*Honoring those who served U.S.*

# Questions

**Thank you for your service!**

***CVSOA / FDVA Fall 2018 Conference, Safety Harbor***