



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Veterans Services Foundation

November 30, 2018

Via Electronic Mail

TO: The Honorable Carlos Hopkins
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
Commonwealth of Virginia
State Capitol Building
3rd Floor
1000 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Members of the General Assembly
The Capitol

**The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Annual Report
to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the General Assembly.**
§2.2-2715(b) of the Code of Virginia

Executive Summary

On July 1, 2017 the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (the Foundation) was established as an independent body politic and corporate agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia supporting the interests of veterans and their families and contributors through the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the programs and services of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS). The Foundation is governed and administered by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation (the Board), consisting of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Chairman of both the Board of Veterans Services and the Joint Leadership Council, along with eight non-legislative citizens appointed by the Governor; five non-legislative citizens appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and three non-legislative citizens appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219
www.virginiaveteransservicesfoundation.org

The Board may hire an Executive Director of the Foundation, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, to direct the day-to-day operations and activities of the Foundation and carry out the powers and duties conferred upon that position by the trustees.

About the Veterans Services Foundation

The Foundation shall (i) administer the Veterans Services Fund (the Fund), (ii) provide funding for veterans services and programs in the Commonwealth through the Fund, and (iii) accept and raise revenue from all sources, including private source fundraising, to support the Fund.

Through funding allocated by the General Assembly, the Department of Veterans Services provides the Foundation with administrative and staff support and other services.

The Foundation provides supplemental funding for programs selected by DVS when other funding is not available, in accordance with an annual approved budget.

From Our Chairman

As Chairman of the Virginia Services Foundation Board of Trustees, I am pleased to provide an annual report required by §2.2.2715(b) of the *Code of Virginia* regarding the financial support provided by the Foundation to Virginia veterans and their families through the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and the programs and services offered by the Department of Veterans Services.

With the active support of the trustees, the Foundation made a number of accomplishments as work on establishing a new agency continues. The Foundation and DVS also continue to recognize and adapt to the changes that have occurred since the Foundation became a separate state agency.

Fundraising remains the top priority as expenses to support DVS programs increase. The trustees are committed to exploring all funding possibilities to meet the direct needs of Virginia veterans.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) remains the largest program supported by the Foundation which includes the Homeless and Direct Veteran Services programs. VVFS programs support all Virginia veterans; including members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves not in active federal service; and family members and caregivers of those veterans and service members. For FY 2018, VVFS expenses totaled \$349,472, providing 5,193 services to 2,107 veterans and family members.

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The Foundation closed FY 2018 with a total of \$545,202 in donations and expenditures at \$478,323. Donations totaling \$210,497 were received for the VVFS program and \$247,253 were received for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program.

The Foundation was also active in supporting other DVS programs, including over \$56,000 for the Virginia Veteran and Sitter and Barfoot Care Centers, the Veteran Cemeteries in Suffolk, Dublin and Amelia, along with the Women Veterans Summit.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, we have administered the Fund, maintained Fund integrity, ensured accountability transparency, and provided revenue for selected DVS services and programs. We look forward to fulfilling our fiduciary responsibilities to donors by providing support and assistance to Virginia veterans and their families, when other funding sources are not available, in accordance with the VSF annual approved budget.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve our veterans.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Francis A. Finelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "F".

Francis A. Finelli
Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation