



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Veterans Services Foundation*

November 30, 2020

*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 Virginia 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**

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 (the Board), consisting of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Chairman of both the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and the Joint Leadership Council (JLC), 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. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board to direct the day-to-day operations and activities of the Foundation.

**101 North 14th Street, 17th Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219**

### **About the Veterans Services Foundation**

The Foundation administers the Veterans Services Fund (the Fund), which provides supplemental funding for veterans services and programs in the Commonwealth that are designated by DVS, in accordance with an annual approved budget. The Foundation depends solely on contributions from community and civic organizations, businesses and corporations, grants, and individual donors to support the DVS programs.

Through funding allocated by the General Assembly, the Foundation compensates DVS to provide the Foundation with administrative and staff support and other services.

The Foundation is eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. Donations may be tax exempt under section 170 (c) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 2.2-2719 of the Code of Virginia.

### **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 programs designated by DVS.

The Foundation closed the 2020 fiscal year with over \$637,000 in donations and made disbursements to support DVS programs totaling \$359,169. The Foundation received large donations from Altria, Dominion Energy Charity Classic and Smithfield Foods that greatly helped in reaching the fundraising goal during a very challenging time.

This level of support for DVS programs was lower in fiscal year 2020 than in past years due to the challenges of COVID. Demand for some DVS programs and services dropped, requiring less supplemental funding from VSF. However, it is expected that support for DVS programs will increase throughout FY21.

The Board remains committed to increasing donations to meet the anticipated increased needs for our Virginia veterans during this pandemic. A strong collaboration between the Foundation and DVS will result in identifying and helping additional Veterans and their families, who are in need.

Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) remains the largest DVS program supported by the Foundation. The statewide program offers a wide range of direct services to veterans who are Virginia residents; 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. VVFS also includes the Homeless program which assists in housing placements and

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intervenes in stabilizing existing housing for those in danger of homelessness. The Foundation provided 290,000 to VVFS which resulted in the creation of 2,852 service plans for over 1,883 veterans and family members during this fiscal year.

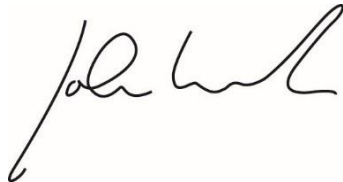
The Foundation was also active in supporting other DVS programs, including over \$33,000 for the Virginia Veteran Care Center and the Sitter and Barfoot Veteran Care Center. The Veteran Education, Transition and Employment (VETE) program also received funding totaling over \$27,000 for its Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, we have administered the Fund, maintained Fund integrity, ensured accountability and transparency, and provided revenue for selected services and programs requested by DVS in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act. (*§ 64.2-1100 et seq.*)

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.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Lesinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

John D. Lesinski  
Chairman  
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation