



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Veterans Services Foundation

November 30, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

TO: The Honorable Kathleen Jabs
Acting 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 of the Code of Virginia

Executive Summary

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (the Foundation) is established as an independent body politic and corporate agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia supporting the interests of veterans and their families and donors 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) who serve as ex officio voting trustees; 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); providing supplemental funding for veterans services and programs in the Commonwealth currently designated by DVS; in accordance with an annual budget submitted by DVS and approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Foundation depends solely on contributions from community and civic organizations, businesses and corporations, grants, and individual donors to support unmet needs of veterans and their families that have been identified by DVS.

General Funds are allocated in the Appropriation Act approved by the General Assembly, for the Foundation to compensate DVS a total of \$160,000 annually for administrative support.

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 supplemental funding the Foundation provided to Virginia veterans through the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs and programs designated by DVS.

The Foundation closed the 2021 fiscal year with \$450,000 in donations and disbursements to DVS programs totaling \$335,000. Due to challenges related to COVID, both receipts and expenditures decreased from previous years. Demand for some DVS programs and services dropped, requiring the need for less supplemental funding from the Foundation. Additionally, like many non-profit organizations, fundraising for the Foundation fell lower than past years.

The Board remains committed to raise revenue from all sources, including private source fundraising, to support the Fund.

A strong collaboration between the Foundation and DVS is essential for the Foundation to be successful. DVS' ability to identify unmet veteran needs allows the Foundation to communicate to donors where funds are most needed and how the assistance is implemented.

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. In FY21, the Foundation provided \$245,000 in supplemental funding to VVFS which resulted in the creation of 2,400 service plans for 1,742 veterans and family members during this fiscal year.

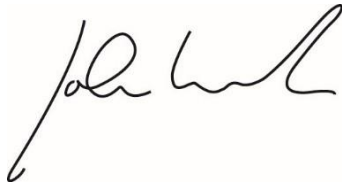
The Foundation was also active in supporting other DVS programs, including the Virginia Veteran Care Center (VVCC); the Sitter and Barfoot Veteran Care Center (SBVCC); and the Veteran Education, Transition and Employment (VETE) program which includes the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program and the Virginia 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 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 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