



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Veterans Services Foundation

November 30, 2023

Via Electronic Mail

TO: The Honorable Craig Crenshaw
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

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). For Fiscal Year 2023 the Foundation raised more than \$803,000 to support Virginia's veterans. This is short of the \$1.6 million annual requirement identified by the Department of Veterans Services. To address this shortfall the Foundation hired an outside consultant to recommend changes necessary to improve efficiency and ability to respond to changing veterans needs. Additionally, the Foundation is developing a strategic plan to implement many of the recommendation coming from the assessment. For the Board to be most effective it is critical that all Board positions are filled. During most of 2023 the Board functioned with five (5) vacant positions which has limited the impact the Board had on fundraising activities.

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

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About the Veterans Services Foundation

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 Foundation administers the Veterans Services Fund (the Fund); providing supplemental funding for veteran's services and programs in the Commonwealth currently designated by DVS; in accordance with an annual budget submitted and approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Foundation depends on contributions from community and civic organizations, businesses and corporations, grants, and individual donors to support unmet needs of veterans and their families.

General Funds are allocated in the Appropriation Act approved by the General Assembly, for staff salaries and 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 programs designated by DVS.

The Foundation closed Fiscal Year 2023 with \$3,400,794 in assets which are held by the State Treasurer. Throughout Fiscal Year 2023 the Foundations received \$803,423 in donations and grants. Below is a breakdown illustrating the different categories of how these funds were received.

FY 2023 Donations by Category	
Trusts	\$374,161
Charitable Organizations	\$124,844
Business	\$112,114
Individuals	\$95,982
Grants	\$55,000
Veterans Services Organizations	<u>\$41,323</u>
Total	\$803,423

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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. A new initiative for 2023 was the Partnership for Petersburg creation of a Virginia Community Resource Center. This Center was established to support the outreach and services to assist Petersburg's veteran community with issues such as benefits, health and welfare, homelessness, and education and training for employment.

During FY 2023 the Foundation provided \$677,623 to DVS in support of Virginia veterans. The distribution of those funds is shown below:

Virginia Veteran and Family Support	\$480,387
Veteran Education, Transition and Employment	\$151,869
Veteran Care Centers	\$ 42,100
Other DVS Programs	\$ 3,267

Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) is the largest DVS directorate supported by the Foundation. The statewide program offers a wide range of direct services to Virginia veterans; 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 programs include direct linkage to medical and behavioral health, peer support, family programs to include couple retreats, and assistance to homeless and incarcerated veterans. In Fiscal Year 2023, VVFS helped 237 veterans address homelessness or housing issues, 160 veterans with emergency financial assistance, and 131 with behavioral issues. VVFS partners with many other organizations to ensure veterans get all the support required.

The Veteran Education, Transition and Employment (VETE) program which includes the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program and the Virginia Women Veterans Summit, provided employment support and credentials to 173 veterans, and 209 laptops to support veterans or their families. Most of their funding is obtained through grants to support credentialing and laptops for veterans in need. Fiscal Year 2023 Grant funding was provided by Altria and Newport News Shipyard.

The Foundation was also active in supporting Virginia's Veterans Care Centers. Currently, there are three (3) centers operating – Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke; Sitter-Barfoot Care Center, Richmond; Jones-Cabacoy Care Center, Virginia Beach which had its grand opening on Veterans Day 2023. The Puller Veterans Care Center, Fauquier County is scheduled to open soon. The Foundation funds provided to the Care Center support programs and needs for veterans at the centers. One special program, "OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT," which was started at the Virginia Veterans Care Center several years ago provides gifts to each resident during the Holiday Season. Similar programs are being planned for the other center in the future.

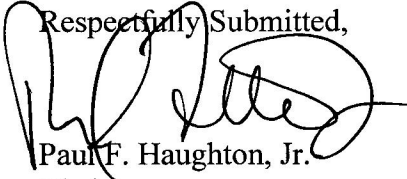
The Board is committed to raise revenue additional revenue from all sources, including grants and private donations from individuals, businesses, and other organizations. During the budget development process DVS identified a \$1.6 million annual requirement to support Virginia Veterans and their families. To support this requirement, this past year the Foundation hired a

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consultant to assess the organization and is currently undergoing the development of a Strategic Plan. With these initiatives, and having all 18 Board positions filled, the Foundation should be able to meet the funding needs to support Virginia's veterans.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, I can report 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 responsibility to 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,

Paul F. Haughton, Jr.
Chairman
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation