



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

## Department Update

***Major General James S. "Hammer" Hartsell***  
***U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)***

# Our Mission & Vision

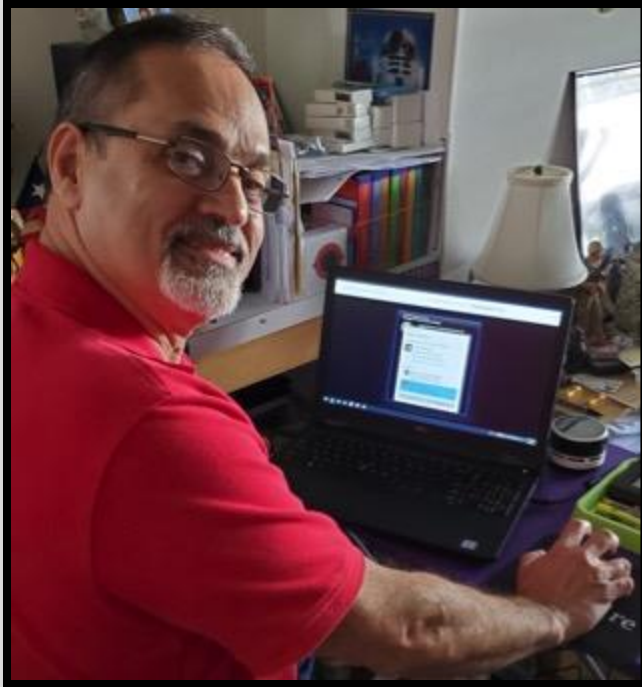
***Mission:*** To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida Veterans and link them to superior services, benefits & support.

***Vision:*** FDVA is premier point of entry for Florida Veterans to access earned services, benefits & support.

***Did you know?*** Sunshine State projected to have 2nd highest Veteran population in a few years.



# Veterans' Claims Examiners



**(727) 319-7440**

**New! - [VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV](mailto:VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV)**



# PACT Act



## The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
  - » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

**EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS**

Learn more at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



# Focus: Women Veterans

***Demographics:*** Sunshine State has 2nd largest population of Women Veterans - more than 164,000.

***Challenge:*** Many Women Veterans don't know they're eligible for earned benefits & services.

***Outreach:*** May 2022 report establishes statewide Women Veterans' Council; produces Public Service Announcement geared toward Women Veterans



# Focus: Vietnam Veterans

**Demographics:** About 1 of 3 Veterans in Florida is a Vietnam-era Veteran - more than 484,000; projected tops in nation in 2025.

**Challenge:** Reluctant to seek help. PACT Act recognizes service may have exposed Veterans to Agent Orange & other herbicides.

**Town Hall Meetings:** Underway with five statewide locations remaining.



# State Veterans' Homes



# Veteran Suicide Prevention



## **FLORIDA** Governor's Challenge

Preventing Suicide Among Service  
Members, Veterans & Their Families

*[www.SaveFLVets.org](http://www.SaveFLVets.org)*



# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

## March 7 – May 5, 2023

### Veterans' Services and Recognition

#### HB 485

- Creates Division of Long-Term Care
- Revises Qualifications of County & City Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs)
- Creates “Veterans’ Adult Day Health Care of Florida Act”

# 2023 Florida Legislative Session

## Veteran-Related Legislation

- **HB 5101 – Heroes in the Classroom Sign-on Bonus**
  - Provides sign-on bonus to honorably discharged or retired military Veterans who commit to joining the teaching profession as a full-time classroom teacher. Additional bonus for high-demand areas.
  - *Awaiting action by Governor's Office*
- **SB 274 - Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act**
  - Act gives military combat veterans postsecondary course credit for their military combat medic training to be used toward a nursing education program. Eligible Veterans earn nursing education degree more quickly and at lower cost.
- **HB 339 - Education of Dependents and Spouses of deceased or 100% Disabled Servicemembers**
  - Revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by State to spouse or dependent child of deceased or disabled servicemember
  - *Awaiting transmittal to Governor's Office*