Commissioner
Pete Wheeler
The constitution of the state of Georgia specifies that the State Board of Veterans Service be composed of **seven members**. Each member must be a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and must have served honorably during wartime. The Governor nominates members who are subject to approval of the State Senate. Board member terms are staggered and are for **seven years**. From its membership, the Board elects a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. **Every four years the Board elects a Commissioner**, through whom the Board controls the overall policy of the Department of Veterans Service.
VA Mission

“…..To care for him who shall have borne the battle and his widow and his orphans….. “

Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1865       Second Inaugural Address
Georgia Department of Veterans Service Mission

To serve those who have served!!!

Serve the more than 765,000 (FY 07) veterans residing in Georgia, their dependents and survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans affairs.
### VA Monetary Expenditures

**FY 07 - In $000s**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compensation &amp; Pension</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Education &amp; Vocational Rehabilitation</th>
<th>General Operating Expenses</th>
<th>Insurance &amp; Indemnities</th>
<th>Medical Care</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,227,580</td>
<td>$6,460</td>
<td>$173,885</td>
<td>$73,342</td>
<td>$43,089</td>
<td>$838,649</td>
<td>$2,363,005</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### VA Monetary Expenditures
#### FY 07 - In $000s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Veteran Population</th>
<th>Compensation &amp; Pension</th>
<th>Total Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>765,289</td>
<td>$1,227,580</td>
<td>$2,363,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>841,679</td>
<td>$739,159</td>
<td>$2,218,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>761,308</td>
<td>$797,862</td>
<td>$1,686,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>807,326</td>
<td>$1,167,854</td>
<td>$2,132,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SDVS Priorities for FY 09

- Commissary at Dobbins ARB Following BRAC Closure of Fort Gillem Commissary in 2011
- Hospital/Clinic at Fort McPherson
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Statesboro, GA
- Bridge Between Atlanta VAMC and Atlanta VA Regional Office
- Renovations at Atlanta VAMC
SDVS Annual Events

- Service Officers’ School
- Governor’s Veterans Day
  Proclamation Signing Ceremony
- Supermarket of Veterans Benefits
Annual SDVS
Service Officers’ School

- Tuesday, October 7th - Friday, October 10th
- Sea Palms Hotel, St. Simons Island, GA
- Registration: Tuesday, October 7th
- The Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Governor’s Annual Veterans Day Proclamation Signing Ceremony

- Wednesday, October 22, 2008
- 1:30 p.m.
- Rotunda, 2nd Floor
- Georgia State Capitol
- Atlanta, Georgia
SDVS Supermarket History

- “We Were Soldiers” – 1st Cav Div
- Columbus, GA – November 1965
- Casualties – Chaos – Pain - Need
- Commissioner Wheeler’s Idea
- 1st Supermarket – January 1966
- 20 State & Federal Agencies
- 5,000 Veterans & Family
- Teen-Age Widows
- Elderly Veterans
SDVS Supermarket – 2008

- 43rd Supermarket
- Thursday, December 4, 2008
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Columbus Civic Center
- 400 Fourth Street
- Columbus, Georgia
SDVS Supermarket –2008

- One Stop Shopping
- 45 State and Federal Agencies
- 80 Different Tables and Booths
- 4,600 Veterans & Family Members
Accomplish Mission

- Field Operations & Claims
- Administrative Division
- Education & Training Division
“To provide courteous and professional service to veterans in a courteous and supportive work environment.”
Field Operations & Claims – Representation/Advocacy

- Provide FREE Representation to Veterans and Claimants Regarding VA and State Veterans Benefits

- No Benefit Is Automatic – All Must Be Applied For

- Court Analogy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterans Service Organizations Represented by SDVS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• American Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Veterans of Foreign Wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• America EX-POWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fleet Reserve Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Department of Veterans Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Retired Enlisted Assoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• American Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NCO Assoc of USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Veterans of WW I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Jewish War Veterans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field Operations & Claims - 47 SDVS Field Offices
Field Offices
VA Medical Centers – SDVS Field Offices
Carl Vinson VA Medical Center
Dublin, GA – SDVS Field Office
Atlanta VA Regional Office – SDVS Claims Division

Co-located With Atlanta VA Regional Office, 1700 Clairmont Rd, Decatur
Atlanta VA Regional Office – SDVS Claims Division

Co-located With Atlanta VA Regional Office, 1700 Clairmont Rd, Decatur
Field Operations & Claims - Claims Division

- 9 Claims Counselors
- 4 Secretaries
- Assist Claimants & Field Offices with Claims and Appeals
- Represent Claimants in local Decision Review Officer (DRO) Hearings and Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) Travel Board Hearings
Field Operations & Claims – Additional Requirements

- Pre and Post Deployment Briefings
- Transition Assistance (TAP) Briefings
- Pre-Retirement Briefings
- Veterans’ Benefits Briefings at Local Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Churches, Civic Organizations, and VSO’s
Field Operations & Claims – Additional Requirements

Approved Positions – Unfunded FY 09

- 6 Veterans Benefits Counselors – Field Offices
- 2 Claims Counselors – Claims Division
Georgia State Veterans Benefits Examples

- Driver’s License
- Specialized License Tags
- Business License Tax Exemptions
Georgia State Veterans Benefits
Examples

- Exemption From Taxation
- 25% Park Fee Reduction
- Hunting & Fishing License
SDVS Administrative Division
State Benefits

Nursing Home Care

• Augusta
• Milledgeville

Veterans Cemeteries

• Glennville
• Milledgeville
Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home
Augusta
Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home Augusta
Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta: As Of 12/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Care Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Waiting List</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category I</td>
<td>Total Intensive Care</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category II</td>
<td>Considerable Direct Care</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category III</td>
<td>Moderate Care</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category IV</td>
<td>Minimal Care</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>163</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Alzheimer’s Patients)</td>
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<td>(42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Personnel Positions</td>
<td>191</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filled Positions</td>
<td>173</td>
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</table>
Georgia War Veterans Home
Milledgeville
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Waiting List</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category I</td>
<td>Total Intensive Care</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category II</td>
<td>Considerable Direct Care</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category III</td>
<td>Moderate Care</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Alzheimer’s Patients)</td>
<td>(20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Personnel Positions</td>
<td>460</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filled Positions</td>
<td>449</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Milledgeville, GA
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Milledgeville, Georgia

- Dedicated December 11, 2001
- Established on 142 acres received from the Georgia Forestry Commission
- Cemetery Grounds include an administration/visitor center, committal chapel, a carillon, and columbarium shelters for ashes
- A three-acre, multi-tiered ceremonial area is available for use by veteran organizations on remembrance days such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Milledgeville, Georgia

- Currently over 1100 veterans, spouses, and dependents are interred in the cemetery.

- The cemetery has an estimated capacity of over 50,000 burials when fully developed.
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Milledgeville, GA - Interments
As Of 12/08

- Casketed Burials – 777
- Columbarium Inurnments – 189
- In-ground Inurnments – 136
- Memorial Markers for Scattered Ashes - 15
- Total Veterans, Spouses and Family Members in the Cemetery – 1,117
Ceremonial Area
Administrative Building
Committal Chapel
Columbarium
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Glennville, GA

- 42.6 Acres Just North of Glennville
- Tattnall County Along U.S. Highway 301
- About 25 Miles West of Fort Stewart
- Dedicated November 28, 2007
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Glennville, GA - Interments
As Of 12/08

- Casketed Burials – 62
- Columbarium Inurnments – 8
- In-ground Inurnments – 16
- Memorial Markers for Scattered Ashes- 1
- Total Veterans, Spouses and Family Members in the Cemetery - 87
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Glennville, GA - Chapel During Dedication
Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery
Glennville, GA – Committal Chapel
By law, Georgia Department of Veterans Service is designated as the State Approving Agency, responsible for approving and supervising all institutions and establishments in Georgia, which offer education and training under the provisions of the Veterans Educational Assistance Program.

The State Approving Agency has the function of ensuring the institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so that eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Georgia is #1 in the USA

313 Approved Education Institutions

951 Approved Training Establishments

Total of 1,264 Institutions & Establishments Where Veterans Can Use GI Bill To Attend School or for On-The-Job Training or Apprenticeship Training Programs
• Veterans Receiving GI Bill Educational Benefits – 9,611

• Veteran Trainees Enrolled in Training Establishments – 491

• Total Number of Georgia Veterans Enrolled in Programs – 10,102
State Benefits

Georgia Military Scholarship

Georgia Hero Scholarship
Department’s WEB Address

http://sdvs.georgia.gov
Veterans Resource

www.vetsresource.com
Questions

Just as I came looking for you, now you can contact me. Georgia veterans may be entitled to benefits they are not aware of.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

404-656-2305