



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2009

VA Dedicates New Veterans Benefits Office in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today formally dedicated its new 65,000-square-foot office for assisting Louisiana Veterans with VA financial benefits. The new office uses refurbished space in downtown New Orleans.

“We’re proud to be part of the New Orleans community, and this new office will support Veterans throughout the state, ensuring they receive the benefits they earned from military service,” VA’s Under Secretary for Benefits Patrick W. Dunne said at today’s dedication ceremony.

The New Orleans Regional Office, now at 1250 Poydras Street, serves as the major processing center for the non-medical benefits of the area's Veterans, delivering services to more than 300,000 Veterans and their families. Two hundred VA employees now occupy space on five floors of the federal building.

The preparation of the space for VA was a \$3.5 million investment. Since the flooding of its prior space, regional office employees had worked in two buildings in Gretna, La.

The regional office staff processes Veterans applications for disability compensation and pension, survivors’ benefits, vocational rehabilitation and certain burial benefits.

Veterans and their families may apply for benefits by mail or online. They are also welcome to meet with the staff in person for assistance at the new location. Public reception is on the second floor, weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#