

Fast Facts: Veterans

Mission

- ❖ Veterans' Advocacy

Vision

- ❖ To help Florida veterans, their families, and survivors improve their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy, education, and long-term health services.

Demographics/Background	Notes on Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Veterans' Population <p>1,650,876 veterans includes approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1,510,620 males <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 807,853 age 18 to 64 years ▪ 702,767 age 65 years and over ➤ 140,256 females <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 113,167 age 18 to 64 years ▪ 27,089 age 65 years and over ➤ 1,362,635 Caucasians ➤ 149,310 African Americans ➤ 104,024 Hispanics ➤ 9,729 Asian ➤ 7,169 American Indian ➤ 18,009 other minorities ➤ 192,093 Military Retirees and 31,167 survivors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 48,061 U. S. Army ▪ 62,299 U. S. Navy ▪ 8,905 U. S. Marine Corps ▪ 67,959 U. S. Air Force ▪ 4,869 U. S. Coast Guard 	<p>VA.GOV/VET DATA/VETPOP 2007 Office of the Actuary Department of the VA (Estimates as of September, 2010) http://www.va.gov/vetdata/</p> <p>DOD Office of the Actuary Military Retirees Report September 30, 2011</p> <p>Military Survivors September 30, 2011- Note: Definitions of number of survivors includes SSIA and SBP fully offset by DIC http://www.defenselink.mil/actuary</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dollars in Support of Services to Florida Veteran- FY 10 Data 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compensation & Pension Benefits - \$ 3,668,460,000 ➤ Education Benefits - \$ 600,434,000 ➤ Insurance - \$ 140,165,000 	<p>Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) http://www.va.gov/vetdata/ April 11, 2011</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ General operating Expenses - \$ 150,590,000 ➤ Construction - Federal and State - \$ 217,540,000 ➤ Medical - \$ 3,263,721,000 ➤ <u>VA Subtotal</u> \$ 8,041,209,000 ➤ Military Retired Pay (DOD) FY 2011 to (Florida retirees and beneficiaries) \$ 4,604,016,000 <p><u>Total Direct Dollars</u> \$12,645,225,000</p>	<p>DOD Office of the Actuary http://actuary.defense.gov</p>
<p>❖ Florida's Veteran Military Service Periods</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1,229,096 wartime veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 369,223 Gulf War veterans ▪ 453,657 Vietnam era veterans ▪ 169,254 Korean Conflict veterans ▪ 164,375 WWII only veterans ▪ 72,587 other war time capacities ➤ 421,781 peacetime veterans ➤ 222,821 Floridians ever deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom who listed Florida as home. (9.61% of Total Military Currently Deployed OEF/OIF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 196,617 active duty ➤ 26,204 Reserve/National Guard 	<p>2010 Estimates Based on VA.GOV/VET DATA/VETPOP 2007 http://www.va.gov/vetdata/</p> <p>Defense Manpower Data Center, June 30, 2011</p>
<p>❖ Florida's Military Currently Deployed In Iraq/Afghanistan</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 22,918 Active duty personnel claim Florida as home state ➤ 394 Florida National Guard currently deployed ➤ 1,199 Florida Reserve currently deployed 	<p>(Home of Record)</p> <p>Defense Manpower Data Center, June 30, 2011 Contingency Tracking System Deployment File</p>
<p>❖ Florida's Military Casualties In OEF/OIF and New Dawn</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ OEF: 122 deaths (100 hostile) (22 non-hostile) 724 wounded ➤ OIF: 188 deaths (153 hostile) (35 non-hostile) 1,423 wounded ➤ OND 3 deaths (1 hostile) (2 non-hostile) 15 wounded 	<p>DOD- As of December 5, 2011 http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm</p>
<p>❖ Trends and Conditions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Florida has the largest number of World War II veterans in the nation. (164,375) 	<p>Florida Department of Veterans Affairs/USDVA. (Estimates as of September 30, 2010) http://www.va.gov/vetdata/</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Florida has the third largest population of disabled veterans in the country.(249,565) ➤ There are more than 731,621 Florida veterans over age of 65. ➤ 669,205 Florida veterans enrolled in VA health care system. ➤ 40,200 Florida OIF/OEF veterans utilized the VA health care system Florida. 	<p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Veterans Health Administration Veteran Support Service Center-2011 Data</p>
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Veterans' Initiatives and Results	Notes on Data
❖ State Veterans' Benefits and Assistance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Benefits and Assistance Division assisted Florida's veterans in accessing nearly \$368,154,897 in federal veterans' benefits in FY 2010-2011. ➤ Florida provides state funding for 79 Veterans' Claims Examiners (VCEs) and support staff positions. ➤ Field Services personnel provide benefits counseling services to all inpatients and outpatients in USDVA medical facilities serving six hospitals and 25 multi-specialty outpatient clinics, community-based primary care clinics, Vet Centers in Florida, and the six State Veterans' Homes. ➤ Florida extends the educational benefits of the Children of deceased or disabled veterans' program to the spouses of disabled veterans or service members who have been killed or are missing in action. The program provides eligible Floridians with free tuition and payment for registration fees at any institution of higher learning in Florida. \$2,501,906 was provided in FY 10-11. ➤ Florida provides free undergraduate tuition at state colleges and universities to Florida recipients of the Purple Heart (and combat-related decorations ranked superior in precedence to the Purple Heart). ➤ Disabled veteran homeowners age in place by requiring counties to reduce property taxes for disabled veterans, 65 years of age or older, in proportion to the percentage of their service connected disability upon proof that any percentage of their disability was "combat-related." ➤ Free or Reduced admission to Florida State Parks: Active Duty military members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States armed forces receive a 25% discount on annual entrance passes. Honorably discharged veterans who have a service connected disability receive lifetime family annual passes at no charge. Surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the United States armed forces who have fallen in combat shall 	<p>http://floridavets.org/publications/publications.asp (Ed Ortiz)</p> <p>http://www.visn8.med.va.gov (Dave Ramga)</p> <p>https://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/pdf/EOY_Reports/2010-11/CSDDV_2010_2011.pdf (FDOE)</p> <p>http://floridavets.org/benefits/edu.asp</p> <p>http://floridavets.org/benefits/hmsted.asp</p> <p>http://www.floridastateparks.org</p> <p>http://www.floridastateparks.org/thingsstoknow/annualpass.cfm</p>

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<p>receive lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.</p>	
<p>❖ State Veterans’ Homes – All State Veterans’ Homes are named in honor of Medal of Honor recipients.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. State Veterans’ Domiciliary Home</u>, Lake City, Columbia County, 150 beds, opened in 1990. ➤ <u>Emory L. Bennett State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, Daytona Beach, Volusia County, 120 beds, opened in 1993. ➤ <u>Baldomero Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, Land O’ Lakes, Pasco County, 120 beds (60 dementia beds), opened 1999. ➤ <u>Alexander “Sandy” Nininger State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, Pembroke Pines, Broward County, 120 beds (60 dementia beds), opened in 2001. ➤ <u>Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, Springfield, Bay County, 120 beds (60 dementia beds), opened in October 2003. ➤ <u>Douglas Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, Port Charlotte, Charlotte County, 120 beds (60 dementia beds), opened in February 2004. ➤ <u>Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home</u>, St. Augustine, St. Johns County, 120 beds (60 dementia beds), opened in September 2010. <p>Note: The Executive Director, FDVA may waive state residency requirements for a veteran who is otherwise eligible for admission into state veterans’ nursing homes. The waiver is limited to a veteran who is a disaster evacuee of a state that is under a declared state of emergency. An eligible veteran who is a resident of Florida will be given priority.</p>	<p>http://floridavets.org/nursing/nursing.asp</p> <p>FS 296.32(2)(3)</p>
<p>❖ Memorials and Tributes</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Florida provides free license plates for active members of the Florida National Guard and is exempt from all taxes and fees. ➤ “Florida Salutes Veterans”, “U.S. Army”, U.S. Navy”, “U.S. Air Force”, and “U.S. Coast Guard” license plates are available and directly help veterans. The \$15 surcharge goes into a Trust Fund for the veterans' homes in Florida. “U.S. Marine Corps” license plates are also available, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Trust Fund. Anyone can purchase these plates. ➤ Florida’s Korean War Memorial was completed in 2000. ➤ Florida contributed \$248,000 to the National WWII Memorial in Washington, one dollar for each service member who entered the military from Florida during WWII. ➤ Florida’s permanent Medal of Honor Tribute Wall in the State Capitol Building was completed in 2000. 	<p>http://floridavets.org/benefits/benefits.asp</p> <p>Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs FY 2004-05 GAA</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Flying of POW/MIA flag over all 72 rest stops in Florida year-round was enacted in 2001. ➤ A living memorial to Florida’s involvement in World War II was completed in 2006. The monument component is located in front of the Museum of Florida History, and was dedicated on the anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2005. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Education has implemented a World War II curriculum that enables young citizens who have no personal memory of WWII to understand its historical significance. Focus is on 11th grade high school students and incorporates the use of oral histories from WW II veterans. ▪ WWII Heritage Trail Guide, a 40-page, full-color, 8 ½”x11” booklet identifying over 150 sites and individuals throughout the state significant to World War II was completed in 2005. ▪ Rounding out the memorial’s five components is an interactive Web site. The URL is http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/museum/mfh/exhibits/wwii/. 	
<p>❖ National Cemeteries</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Cemetery at Bushnell expansion will support a 10 year projection of burial needs. 2009 interments 6,495. ➤ Barrancas National Cemetery at Pensacola current expansion will support a 10 year projection of burial needs. 2009 interments 1,162. ➤ South Florida National Cemetery has 313 acres in Lake Worth. First burials started April 16, 2007. 2009 interments 1,892. ➤ The Sarasota National Cemetery’s 414 acres on State Road 72 Sarasota had first burials in December 2008. 2009 internments 1,215. ➤ The Jacksonville National Cemetery’s 526 acre site is north of the Jacksonville International Airport on Lannie Road. First burials were in January 2009. 2009 internments 1,025. ➤ Bay Pines National Cemetery located at 10,000 Bay Pines Blvd, St. Petersburg has only 27.3 acres and only availability for cremated remains. 2009 interments 1,251. ➤ Closing on a site for the Central East Florida National Cemetery is scheduled to take place in early 2012. Potential locations for the Tallahassee National Cemetery are being reviewed by the National Cemetery Administration. Anticipated announcement of a site selection sometime during 2012. 	<p style="color: red; font-size: small;">US Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Washington, D.C. http://ww98w.cem.va.gov/</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/ss_florida.pdf</p>

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<p>Federal Funding for Veterans' Services – FY 2012 \$132.2 Billion Total National Budget (Pending)</p>	
<p>The VA 2012 Budget includes resources dedicated to ensuring timely, sufficient and predictable funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For health care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Current Congressional process provides \$52.1 billion in total budgetary resources for the Veterans Health Administration, a \$4 billion increase over last year. •Funding of \$344 million to activate new and enhanced health care facilities. (Bay Pines, FL-Inpatient/Outpatient Improvements \$43,970,000) ➤ Eliminating Veteran Homelessness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Additional funding of \$140 million provided for specific programs to prevent and reduce homelessness ➤ Expanding Access to Benefits and Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Expanded outreach to women Veterans and an increase in funding of 12% for women-specific medical care ➤ Ensuring timely, sufficient and predictable funding for health care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Funding of \$344 million to activate new and enhanced health care facilities. (Bay Pines, FL-Inpatient/Outpatient Improvements \$43,970,000) ➤ Continued development by the National Cemetery Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Planning for the establishment of 5 new national cemeteries ➤ Reducing the Disability Claims Backlog <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Investing \$148 million in the Veterans Benefits Management System, a leading-edge 21st century IT solution to create a paperless claims system in 2012. 	<p>US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>http://www.va.gov/ofcadmin/docs/vaorgbb.pdf</p> <p>http://www4.va.gov/budget/report</p> <p>http://www4.va.gov/budget/products.asp (Fast Facts - VA Budget Highlights)</p>

<p>Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ http://www.floridavets.org Florida Department Of Veterans' Affairs website contains information to assist veterans in obtaining benefits and services as well as important contact information and initiatives in Florida. ❖ http://www.va.gov USDVA web site contains contact information and veterans' initiatives in the United States. ❖ http://www.defenselink.mil The official Web site for the Department of Defense and the starting point for finding U.S. military information online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ http://www.army.mil ➤ http://www.navy.mil ➤ http://www.af.mil 	
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- <http://www.usmc.mil>
- <http://www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm>
- ❖ <http://www.legion.org> *
The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, wartime veteran's organization.
- ❖ <http://www.axpow.org/>
The American Ex-Prisoners-of-War was chartered by Congress in 1982 and is a national organization for American citizens who were captured by the enemy. Membership is open to all former prisoners of war from any theater in any war, all former civilian internees and to the families of such persons.
- ❖ <http://www.amvets.org/>
AMVETS was chartered by Congress in 1944 and provides service and support to America's veterans and their communities.
- ❖ <http://www.bva.org> *
The Blinded Veterans of America was chartered by Congress in 1958 and specifically established to promote the welfare of blinded veterans.
- ❖ <http://www.dav.org>
The Disabled American Veterans was chartered by Congress in 1932 and represents all of America's 2.1 million disabled veterans, their families and survivors.
- ❖ <http://www.fra.org> *
The Fleet Reserve Association was chartered by Congress in 1996 and represents the interest of enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.
- ❖ <http://www.jwv.org> *
The Jewish War Veterans was chartered by Congress in 1984 and consists of citizens of the United States of America, of the Jewish faith, who served in the Wars of the United States of America, in order that they may be of greater service to our country and to one another.
- ❖ <http://www.mcleague.org> *
The Marine Corps League was chartered by Congress in 1937 and is classified as a veterans / military service organization and was formed for the purposes of promoting the interests of the U. S. Marine Corps: to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines, as well as to their widows and orphans; and to preserve the traditions of the U. S. Marine Corps.
- ❖ <http://www.moaa.org/>
The Military Officers Association of America is an independent, nonprofit organization operated exclusively to benefit members of the uniformed services— active duty, former and retired, National Guard and Reserve—and their families and survivors. MOAA is dedicated to preserving their earned entitlements and to maintaining a strong national defense.
- ❖ <http://www.nasdva.com/>
The National Association of State Directors of Veterans' Affairs fosters the effective representation of persons claiming entitlements on account of the honorable military service: provides a medium for the exchange of ideas and information: facilitates reciprocal state services: fosters a better understanding of the veterans' problems at the state and national levels: maintains cross-state interest in all veterans' legislation.
- ❖ <http://www.NASVH.org>
The National Association of State Veterans Homes is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization to promote the common interests of the Homes and elderly, disabled veterans and family members. In 1888 Congress first authorized federal grants-in-aid to the States that maintained homes that provided domicile, shelter and care to homeless, sick and scarred soldiers and sailors.

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- ❖ <http://www.pva.org/>
The Paralyzed Veterans of America was chartered by Congress in 1971 and has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.
- ❖ <http://www.purpleheart.org/>
The Military Order of the Purple Heart was chartered by Congress in 1958 and is the only Congressionally chartered veterans' organization exclusively for combat wounded veterans.
- ❖ <http://www.nacvso.org> *
The National Association of County Veteran Services Officers was recognized officially by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "for the purpose of preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs" in April 1993.
- ❖ <http://www.ncoausa.org> *
The Non-Commissioned Officers Association was chartered by Congress in 1988 and serves all current and former enlisted members and their families of all the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ❖ <http://www.redcross.org/home> *
The American Red Cross was chartered by Congress in 1905. Through the service to veterans program assists veterans with claims and appeals to the USDVA.
- ❖ <http://www.trea.org/> *
The Retired Enlisted Association was chartered by Congress in 1992 to enhance the quality of life for uniformed services enlisted personnel, their families and survivors-including active components and all retirees.
- ❖ <http://www.vfw.org>
The Veterans of Foreign Wars was chartered by Congress in 1936 and has more than 15,750 trained service officers to assist veterans or their dependents in gaining federal or state entitlements.

* Indicates Veterans' Services Organizations for which FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners are accredited representatives.