



900 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Air Force Association
American Ex-Prisoners
of War
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fleet Reserve
Association
Korean War Veterans
Association
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Officers
Association of America
Military Order of the
World Wars
National Association for
Uniformed Services
Navy Seabee Veterans of
America
Non-Commissioned
Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Officers
Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans
Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of
America
Virginia National Guard
Association
Women Marines
Association*

Adopted
July 13, 2011

Amended
December 20, 2011

2012 POSITION PAPER Reducing Veterans Homelessness in Virginia

1. **OBJECTIVE:** Reduce and prevent veterans homelessness in Virginia by implementing as many strategies identified in the 2010 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study as state fiscal resources allow.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - Homelessness has been a long-term issue and now is a growing problem within the population of veterans in the Commonwealth.
 - A 2010 “Point in Time” survey of homeless veterans put the number of homeless veterans in Virginia at 995. Two and a half to three times as many veterans are expected to be homeless at some point in the year.
 - Trends reported by the USDVA, veterans advocacy groups, and social services agencies show that there has been a significant increase in the number of women veterans among the homeless.
 - Trends reported by the USDVA, veterans advocacy groups, and social services agencies show that veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are becoming homeless at a faster rate than did veterans of previous conflicts.
 - Governor McDonnell’s Executive Order Number 29 seeks to address veterans homelessness in conjunction with Executive Order Number 10.
 - In 2010, JLARC documented the estimated size and nature of the problem and provided eighteen potential strategies to reduce and prevent veterans homelessness.
 - Governor McDonnell’s introduced budget includes \$197,018 (GF) and two Homeless Veterans Coordinator positions.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - The goal of reducing homelessness among Virginia’s veterans may be a long term program.
 - Action must be taken to start the process of reducing homelessness and the veterans homeless population provides a strong starting point because of the discipline they share, because they are readily identifiable, and because of the benefits they may incur by participating;
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the General Assembly support the Governor’s budget recommendations of \$197,018 (GF) and two Homeless Veterans Coordinator positions.