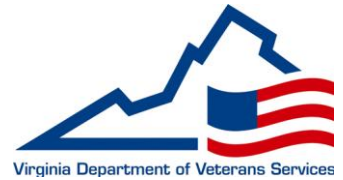


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



900 East Main Street • Richmond, VA 23219 • [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 9, 2014**

**Contact: Tina Parlett-Calhoun**  
**804-371-0441**

## **John L. Newby, II assumes leadership of Virginia Department of Veterans Services**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is pleased to announce that Commissioner John L. Newby II has assumed leadership of DVS succeeding Paul E. Galanti, who retired after serving more than four years of service as Commissioner.

Commissioner Newby is the son of a retired Army Sergeant Major from Isle of Wight County and a proud veteran. He served in Iraq as an aviator aboard the Boeing B-1B Lancer strategic bomber and commanded an Air Force special operations forward air control unit supporting the U.S. Army's 3rd and 7th Special Forces Groups (Airborne). Following his military service, Commissioner Newby served as an attorney at private sector law firms and an international defense contractor. He also served as a member of former Senator Jim Webb's Service Academy Selection Board.

Commissioner Newby received his commission and Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy, and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. He, his wife Reba and daughter Jillian reside in Richmond, Virginia.

Commissioner Newby previously served as Virginia's Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. In this role, he assisted Secretary John C. Harvey, Jr. with oversight of all veteran-related issues in Virginia, and supported Governor Terry McAuliffe's initiatives focused on relationship building with our nation's military services and our active duty military communities. Governor McAuliffe appointed him Commissioner of Veterans Services on September 26, 2014.

"John Newby is immensely qualified and has proven himself to be an exceptional leader. His efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families in the Commonwealth will be of great value to our state and will ensure Virginia steadfastly holds its position as the most Veteran Friendly State in the Nation" noted John C. Harvey, Jr., Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

I am honored to continue my service to the Commonwealth by leading the Department, said Commissioner Newby. "DVS will remain laser-focused on the delivery of best-in-the-nation services and programs that improve the lives of the Commonwealth's veterans and their families."

### ***About Virginia's Department of Veterans Services (DVS):***

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 23 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for federal veterans benefits. The agency operates three cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Albert G. Horton,

*Serving those who served.*

Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. DVS operates two long-term care facilities offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans; the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) a facility which houses 240 beds in Roanoke and the 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond.

The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities. DVS also launched the [Virginia Values Veterans \(V3\) Program](#) in 2012. This program's mission is to educate and train employers throughout the Commonwealth on the Value of Virginia's Veterans, and to help employers connect with these personnel assets to maximize the productivity of their workforce.

In addition, DVS also operates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP). The VWWP provides: comprehensive assessment of individual and family needs; direct linkages to needed services including behavioral healthcare, veteran's benefits, housing, employment and other public and private assistance programs. Direct support is provided by veteran peer specialists, resource specialists, family support specialists and clinicians. VWWP also provides peer and family support groups; resilience-focused training and events for veteran couples and families; and specialized outreach and assistance to particularly vulnerable veterans including homeless (or at risk) and incarcerated veterans preparing for reentry from local jails and state prisons.

DVS also administers the [Virginia War Memorial](#). The Memorial honors our fallen heroes by passing their extraordinary stories of sacrifice forward to future generations through many outreach and on-site educational programs.

For additional information visit [www.dvs.virginia.gov](http://www.dvs.virginia.gov).

####