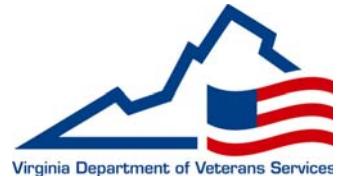


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New representatives join Department of Veterans Services Fairfax office

RICHMOND—Helen Pickard and Martino Seisa have joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) as Veterans Claims Agents in the agency's Fairfax office, effective December 12, 2011. The Fairfax office is located at 11198 Lee Highway, Suite D-4, Fairfax. The phone number is 703-359-1210.

Pickard and Seisa will work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements at the local, state, and federal levels. DVS representatives help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits for conditions resulting from or aggravated by military service, and disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from military service. As an example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Pickard and Seisa can assist veterans exposed to Agent Orange who have developed diabetes with preparing and submitting disability claims.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows' pensions, dependents' education, veteran home loans, and death benefit claims. In short, Picard and Martino serve as advocates for veterans, helping them with their paperwork, tracking claims, and representing veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

Helen Pickard served four years in the U. S. Air Force. She has held positions as police dispatcher, local veterans employment representative, and information and referral specialist in state and local agencies in California and Virginia. Most recently she served as a military and veterans representative II in California. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business economics.

Seisa served in the U. S. Navy from 1981 until 2006. His most recent position was with Hopper Information Services Center where he was employed as a command senior enlisted leader.

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Statewide, DVS operates 22 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members with filing claims for veterans benefits. DVS operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center, a 240-bed long-term care center in Roanoke, and the 160-bed Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond. The agency coordinates the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements. And, DVS operates three veterans cemeteries: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, and the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin.

For more information about DVS, visit <http://www.VirginiaforVeterans.com>.

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