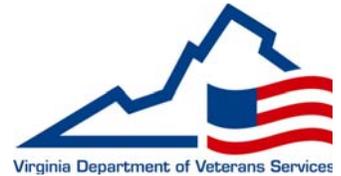


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



900 East Main Street • Richmond, VA 23219 • www.virginiaforveterans.com

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New representative joins Department of Veterans Services Staunton office

RICHMOND—Sharon Hammonds joined the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) as a Veterans Claims Agent in the agency's Staunton office, effective November 10, 2011. The office is located in the Greenbrier Office Complex, Building 1, Suite 17B, 1600 North Coalter Street, Staunton. The phone number is 540-332-7840.

Hammonds 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 Martino 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 will serve as advocates for veterans, helping them with their paperwork, tracking claims, and representing veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

Hammond served in the U.S. Air Force for five years. Most recently she worked as a records manager at Christopher Newport University. She holds an associates degree in personnel administration.

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

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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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