

News Release

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Lynchburg veterans services office relocates

LYNCHBURG—The veterans services office operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has relocated to 3704 Old Forest Road in Lynchburg, effective April 1, 2010.

“Our new location is in the Reddy Real Estate Building and also convenient to the Lynchburg Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 1600 Lakeside Drive,” said Felicia Linthicum, Veterans Services Representative for the Lynchburg office. “However, our new space is more handicap accessible.”

DVS representatives like Linthicum work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state, and federal level. They help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury incurred during or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from a service connection. “For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes,” explained Linthicum.

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, DVS veterans service representatives are advocates for veterans and their family members. They help veterans with their paperwork, track the claim with the VA, and represent veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

In addition to assisting veterans at the new location, Linthicum will be available to help veterans at the Municipal Building in Altavista on the third Thursday of every month; the

Welcome Center in Bedford on the fourth Tuesday of every month; and the Virginia Employment Commission in Farmville on the first Friday of each month. A complete schedule of locations, dates and times is available at www.VirginiaforVeterans.com. Click the Locate Your Benefits Office button on the right side of the screen.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 20 veterans services offices where veterans can work with DVS representatives. 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 operates two long-term care facilities, the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke and the Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center adjacent to the McGuire Veterans Medical Center in Richmond. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is under construction. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, also part of the agency, coordinates support services for veterans with stress-related and traumatic brain injuries resulting from service in a combat area. The program ensures that these veterans and their families receive timely assessment, treatment, and support.

For more information about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, visit www.VirginiaforVeterans.com. To reach the Lynchburg office, call (434) 385-0815.

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