Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Puller Veterans Care Center

and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Steven Combs
Deputy Commissioner
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

May 24, 2017

DVS Organization

DVS CORE SERVICE AREAS

DVS Locations

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Benefits Services Offices

1. Abingdon
2. Accomac
3. Big Stone Gap
4. Charlottesville
5. Chesapeake
6. Danville
7. Fairfax
8. Fredericksburg
9. Hampton
10. Hampton VA Medical Center
11. Henrico
12. Loudoun (Coming in 2017)
13. Lynchburg
14. Manassas
15. McGuire VA Medical Center (Richmond)
16. Norfolk
17. Pentagon (Coming in 2017)
18. Petersburg
19. Portsmouth
20. Quantico
21. Roanoke
22. Salem VA Medical Center
23. South Hill
24. Springfield
25. Staunton
26. Strasburg
27. Tazewell
28. Virginia Beach
29. Williamsburg (Coming in 2017)
30. Wytheville

Virginia Veteran and Family Support, Regional Offices

1. Region I - Fredricksburg
2. Region II - Leesburg
3. Region III - Blacksburg
4. Region IV - Richmond
5. Region V - Hampton

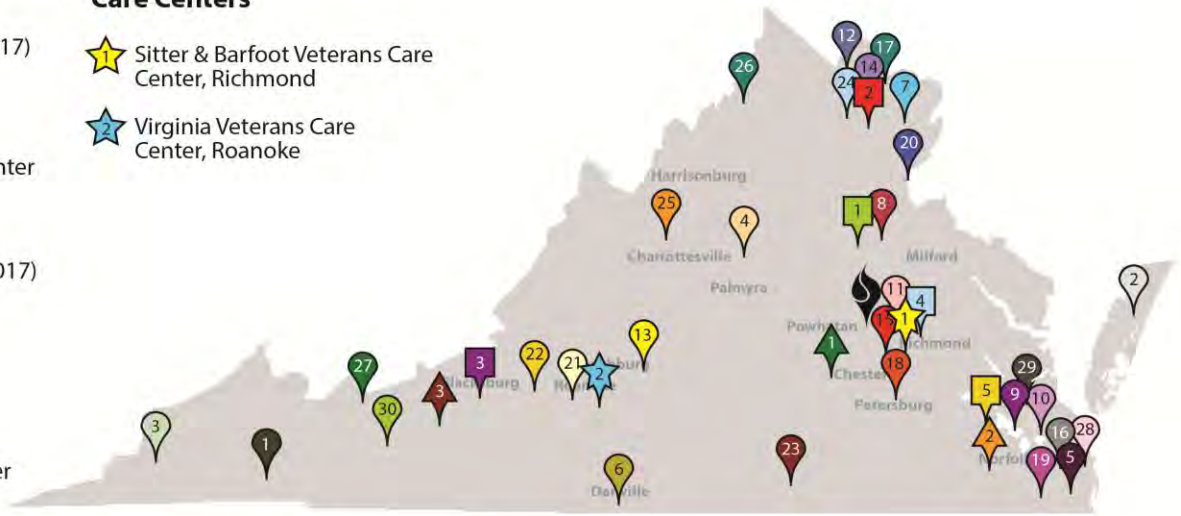
Cemeteries

1. Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia
2. Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Suffolk
3. Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Dublin

Virginia War Memorial, Richmond

Care Centers

1. Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, Richmond
2. Virginia Veterans Care Center, Roanoke



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Benefits Services

Mission: provide Virginia's veterans and their family members with accurate, timely and ethical education and assistance in obtaining the federal and state benefits they have earned through service and sacrifice to our Commonwealth and Nation

- Since 1942
- 27 Offices (plus 3 in 2017)
  - 70 Veterans Service Representatives
  - Outreach Coordinators
  - VA Accredited Claims Agents
- Center of Excellence – Roanoke
  - Quality Assurance
  - Appeals

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Benefits Services: what we do for our Veterans

- Veteran Compensation Claims
  - Initial, Re-Opened, Notice of Disagreement, Appeals, Dependency
- VA Health Care Eligibility
- Veteran Pension Claims (need-based; $13K max)
- Aid and Attendance Claims (need-based; $22K-25K max
- Survivor Benefit Claims (non-need-based DIC)
- Survivor Pension Claims (need-based; $8K)
- Claim for Burial Benefits/Flags/Markers
- Certificate of Eligibility for VA Home Loan Guarantees
- VGLI Applications
- Application for Education Benefits
- Outreach into Local Communities – Itinerary Visits
- Referral to Local, State, and Federal Social Services
- Assistance to Veterans Service Organizations

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Virginia Veteran and Family Support

Mission: provide peer and family support and care coordination services to Virginia veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves, and their families, with a special emphasis on those affected by stress related conditions or traumatic brain injuries resulting from military service

- Connects veterans and families to behavioral, rehabilitative, and supportive services offered by federal, state, local, and private service providers
- Fills critical gap in care coordination
- Criminal Justice Services – partnerships with courts and law enforcement agencies. Crisis intervention training
- Virginia first state in the nation to functionally end veteran homelessness – does not mean that there will never be a homeless veteran, but systems and capacity in place to ensure that for homelessness among veterans is rare, brief, and non re-occurring
- 24/7 hotline for veteran services: partnership with 2-1-1 Virginia

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Transition, Employment, Education, and Training

Mission: augment the new Virginia economy with mission-ready, relevantly-skilled veterans by creating seamless transitions for veterans with high-quality education and workforce services that accelerate career opportunities

- **Transition Assistance**: Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) assists veterans entering Virginia economy and schools
- **Meet employer demand**: Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program helps employers recruit, hire, and retain skilled veteran employees. 21,500+ hires to date
- **Bridge to Healthcare Careers**: Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program
- **G.I. Bill Program Certification**: 1,000 education and training programs approved for G.I. Bill use in Virginia

Veterans Cemeteries

Mission: provide final resting places for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines – places of honor, dignity, respect, and remembrance.

- Three state veterans cemeteries: Suffolk, Amelia, and Dublin
- Over 1,700 interments last year

- $2M phase expansion underway in Suffolk
- DVS will apply for $10M federal grant for next phase of expansion at Suffolk
- Phase expansion at Amelia will be needed in 3-4 years

Virginia War Memorial

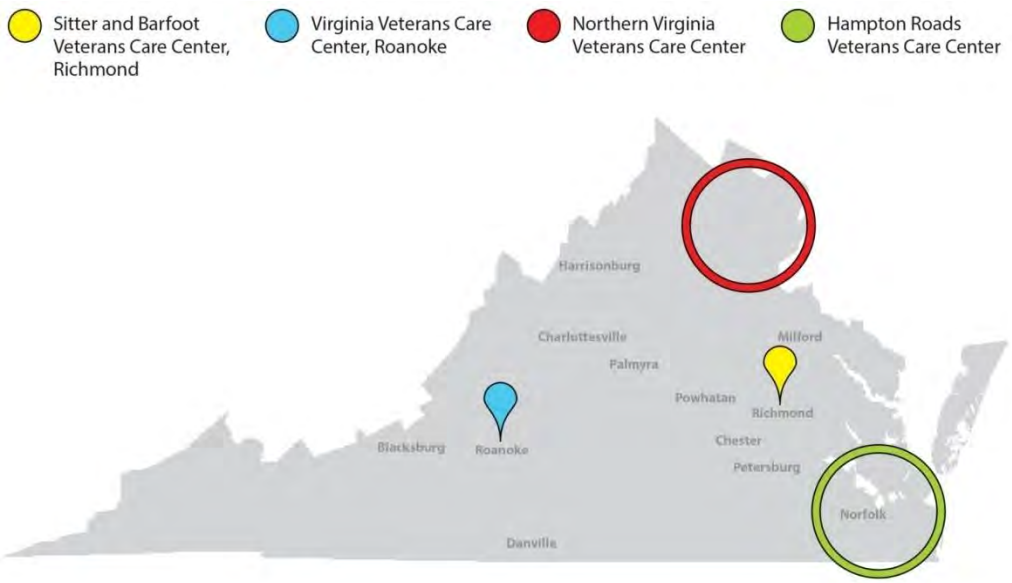
Mission: honor our veterans by preserving our history, educating our youth, and inspiring patriotism in all. The Virginia War Memorial is the Commonwealth of Virginia's monument to honor the memory of men and women from Virginia who demonstrated a willingness to serve and fight to defend our way of life from World War II to the present.

- 20,000 square feet
- Honors Virginians killed in action from World War II to the present
- Honors all veterans
- Shrine of Memory
- Almost 70,000 visitors annually
- New 27,000 square foot addition planned – will break ground this year
- Commonwealth's Memorial Day Ceremony

Veterans Care Centers

Mission: provide long-term care, Alzheimer's/memory care, and short-term rehabilitation to Virginia's veterans

- **Existing:** Richmond (200 beds) and Roanoke (240 beds)
- **Planned**: new veterans care centers (128-beds each) in Vint Hill and Virginia Beach
- **Target**: break ground late 2017, open late 2019



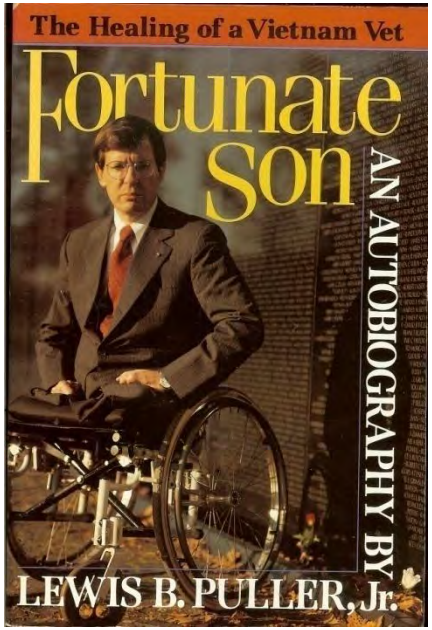
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Pullers: a legacy of service to the Nation and the Commonwealth

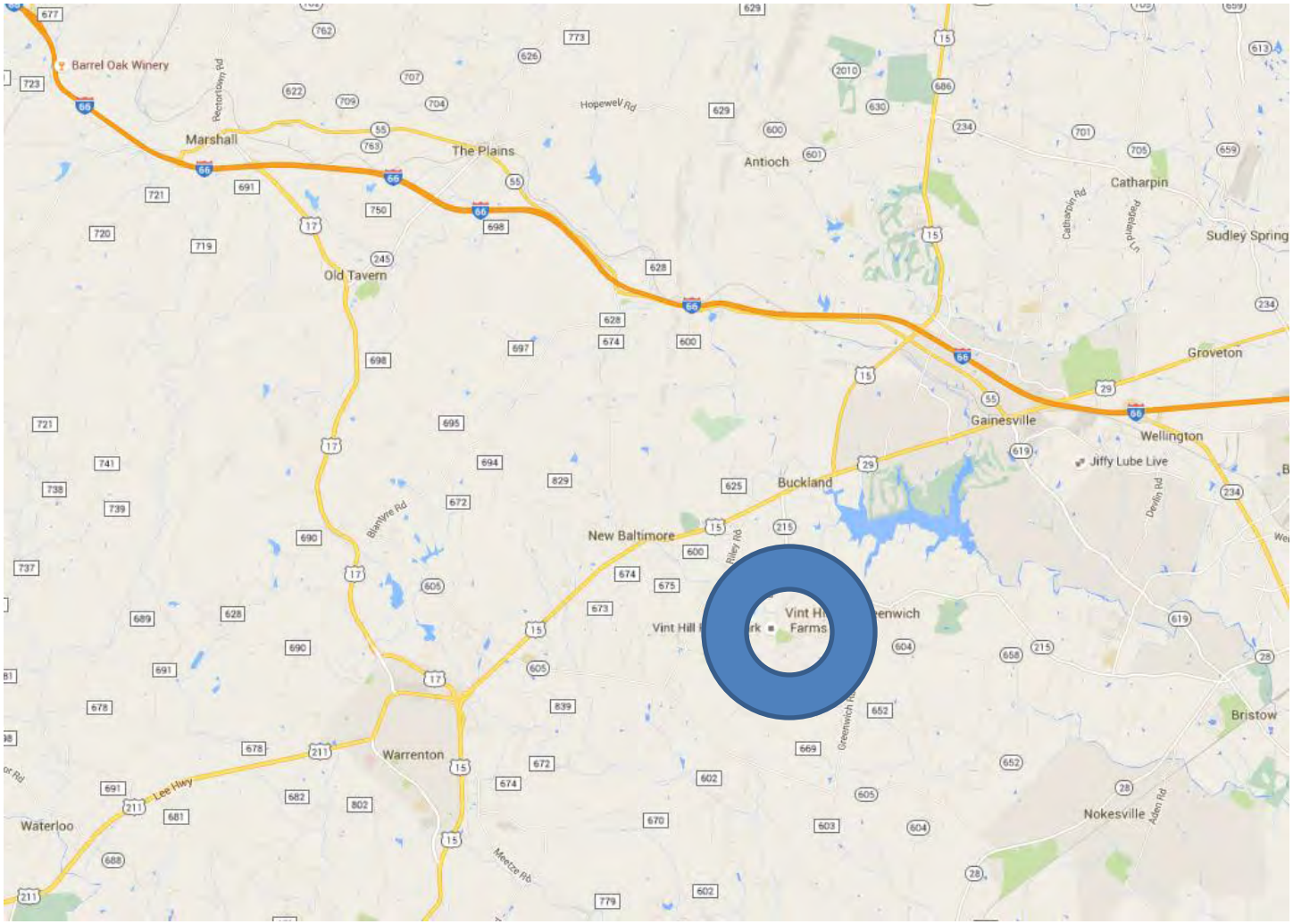
Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller

Lewis B. Puller, Jr.

Linda T. “Toddy” Puller



Puller Veterans Care Center



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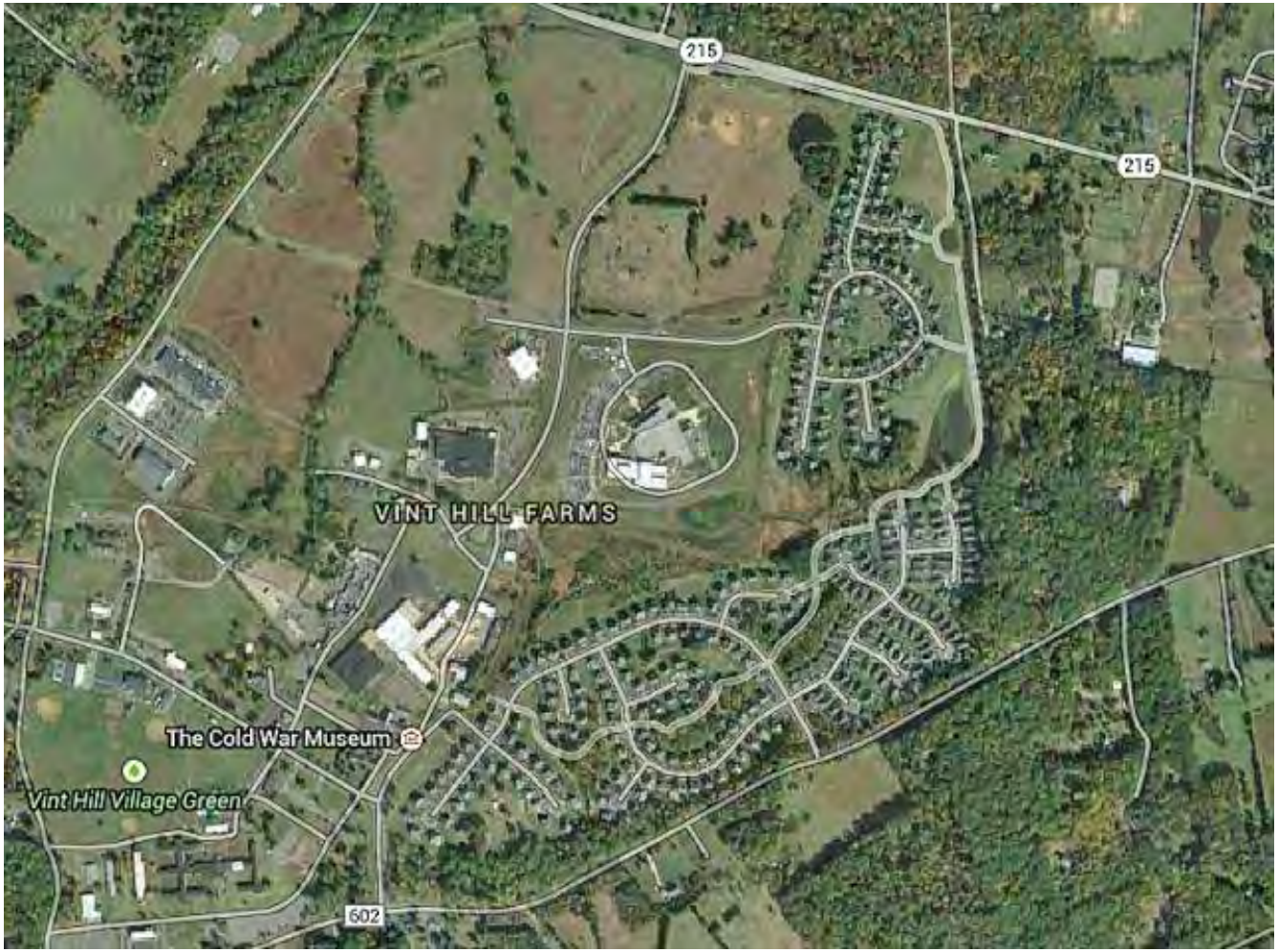
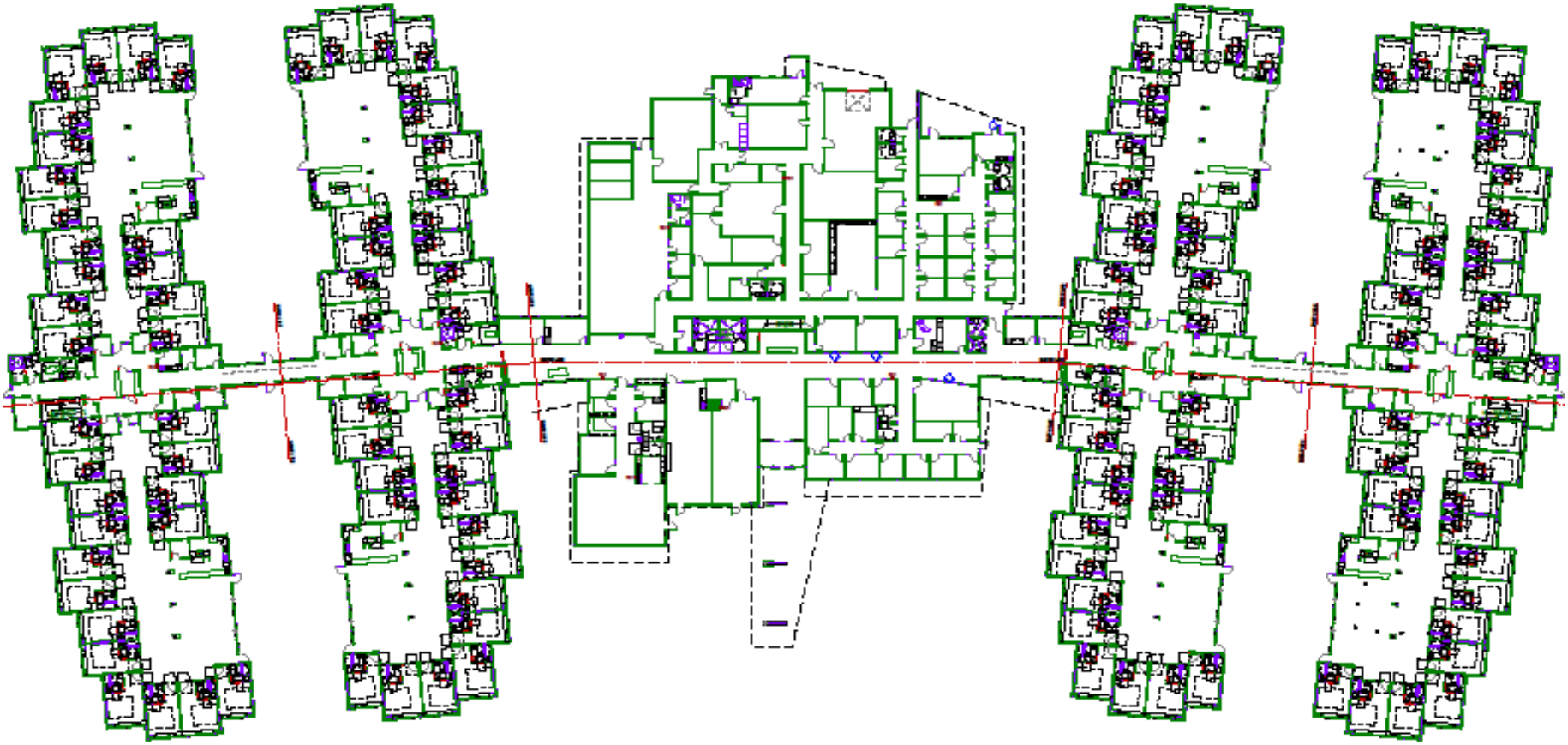


Puller VCC – Layout



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Puller VCC – Birdseye View

Puller VCC – Main Entrance

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Puller VCC – Household Interior (1)

Puller VCC – Household Interior (2)

Puller VCC – Household Interior (3)

Puller VCC – Resident Courtyard (1)

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Puller VCC – Resident Courtyard (2)

Environmental Assessment and Public Comment

- An Environmental Assessment has been prepared
- Community review and comment is important
- https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/veterans-care-centers/puller-veterans-care-center/

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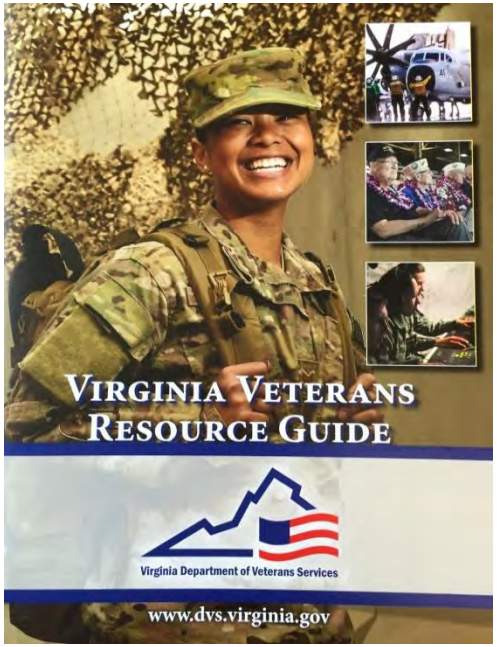
Questions?



Stay in touch with DVS!

http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/

Go online to subscribe to DVS eNews! You will receive email announcements about services, events, benefits, and other opportunities of interest to the veterans' community.

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