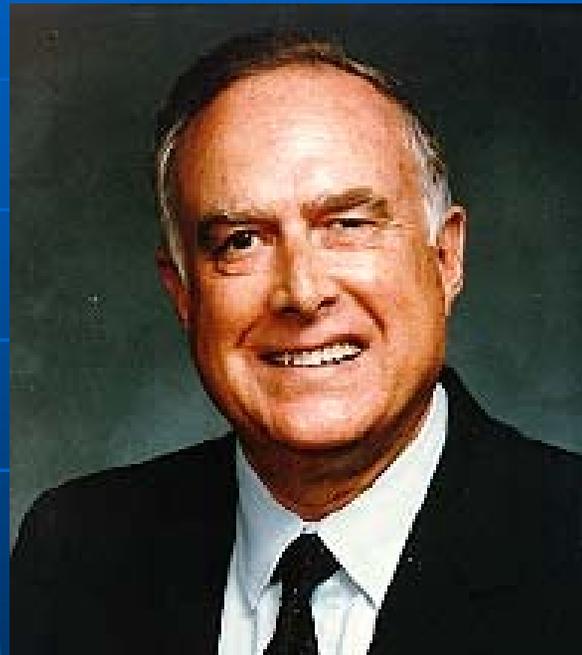


Georgia Department of Veterans Service





Commissioner Pete Wheeler



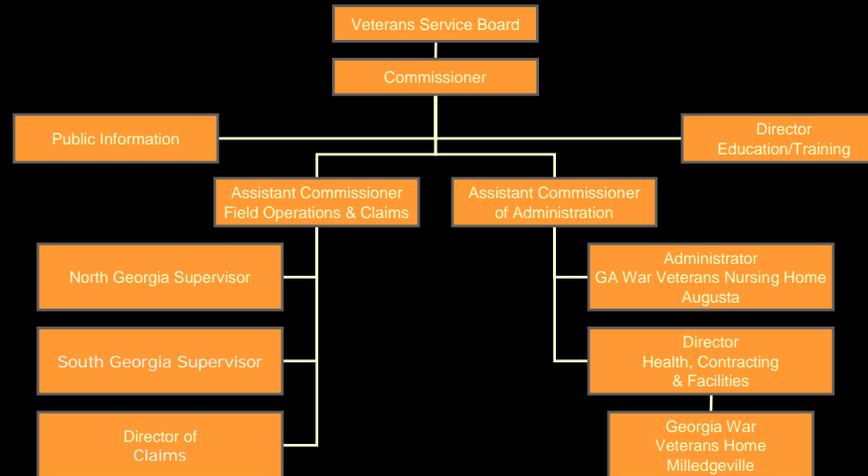


Veterans Service Board

The constitution of the state of Georgia specifies that the State Board of Veterans Service be composed of **seven members**. Each member must be a veteran of the armed forces of the United States and must have served honorably during wartime. The Governor nominates members who are subject to approval of the State Senate. Board member terms are staggered and are for **seven years**. From its membership, the Board elects a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. **Every four years the Board elects a Commissioner**, through whom the Board controls the overall policy of the Department of Veterans Service.



Georgia Department of Veterans Service





VA Mission

“.....To care for him who shall have borne the battle and his widow and his orphans.....”

Abraham Lincoln
March 4, 1865

Second Inaugural Address



Georgia Department of Veterans Service Mission

**To serve those who have
served!!!**

Serve the more than 765,000 (FY 07) veterans residing in Georgia, their dependents and survivors in all matters pertaining to veterans affairs.



VA Monetary Expenditures FY 07 - In \$000s

Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Total Expenditure
\$1,227,580	\$6,460	\$173,885	\$73,342	\$43,089	\$838,649	\$2,363,005



VA Monetary Expenditures FY 07 - In \$000s

State	Veteran Population	Compensation & Pension	Total Expenditure
Georgia	765,289	\$1,227,580	\$2,363,005
Illinois	841,679	\$ 739,159	\$2,218,852
Michigan	761,308	\$ 797,862	\$1,686,856
Virginia	807,326	\$1,167,854	\$2,132,746



SDVS Priorities for FY 09

- Commissary at Dobbins ARB
Following BRAC Closure of Fort Gillem Commissary in 2011
- Hospital/Clinic at Fort McPherson
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Statesboro, GA
- Bridge Between Atlanta VAMC and Atlanta VA Regional Office
- Renovations at Atlanta VAMC



SDVS Annual Events

- Service Officers' School
- Governor's Veterans Day Proclamation Signing Ceremony
- Supermarket of Veterans Benefits



Annual SDVS Service Officers' School



- Tuesday, October 7th - Friday, October 10th
- Sea Palms Hotel, St. Simons Island, GA
- Registration: Tuesday, October 7th
- The Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs



Governor's Annual Veterans Day Proclamation Signing Ceremony

- Wednesday, October 22, 2008
- 1:30 p.m.
- Rotunda, 2nd Floor
- Georgia State Capitol
- Atlanta, Georgia



SDVS Supermarket History

- "We Were Soldiers" – 1st Cav Div
- Columbus, GA – November 1965
- Casualties – Chaos – Pain - Need
- Commissioner Wheeler's Idea
- 1st Supermarket – January 1966
- 20 State & Federal Agencies
- 5,000 Veterans & Family
- Teen-Age Widows
- Elderly Veterans



SDVS Supermarket –2008

- 43rd Supermarket
- Thursday, December 4, 2008
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Columbus Civic Center
- 400 Fourth Street
- Columbus, Georgia



SDVS Supermarket –2008

- One Stop Shopping
- 45 State and Federal Agencies
- 80 Different Tables and Booths
- 4,600 Veterans & Family Members



Accomplish Mission

- Field Operations & Claims
- Administrative Division
- Education & Training Division



Field Operations & Claims – Mission Motto

“To provide courteous and professional service to veterans in a courteous and supportive work environment.”



Field Operations & Claims – Representation/Advocacy

- Provide FREE Representation to Veterans and Claimants Regarding VA and State Veterans Benefits
- No Benefit Is Automatic – All Must Be Applied For
- Court Analogy

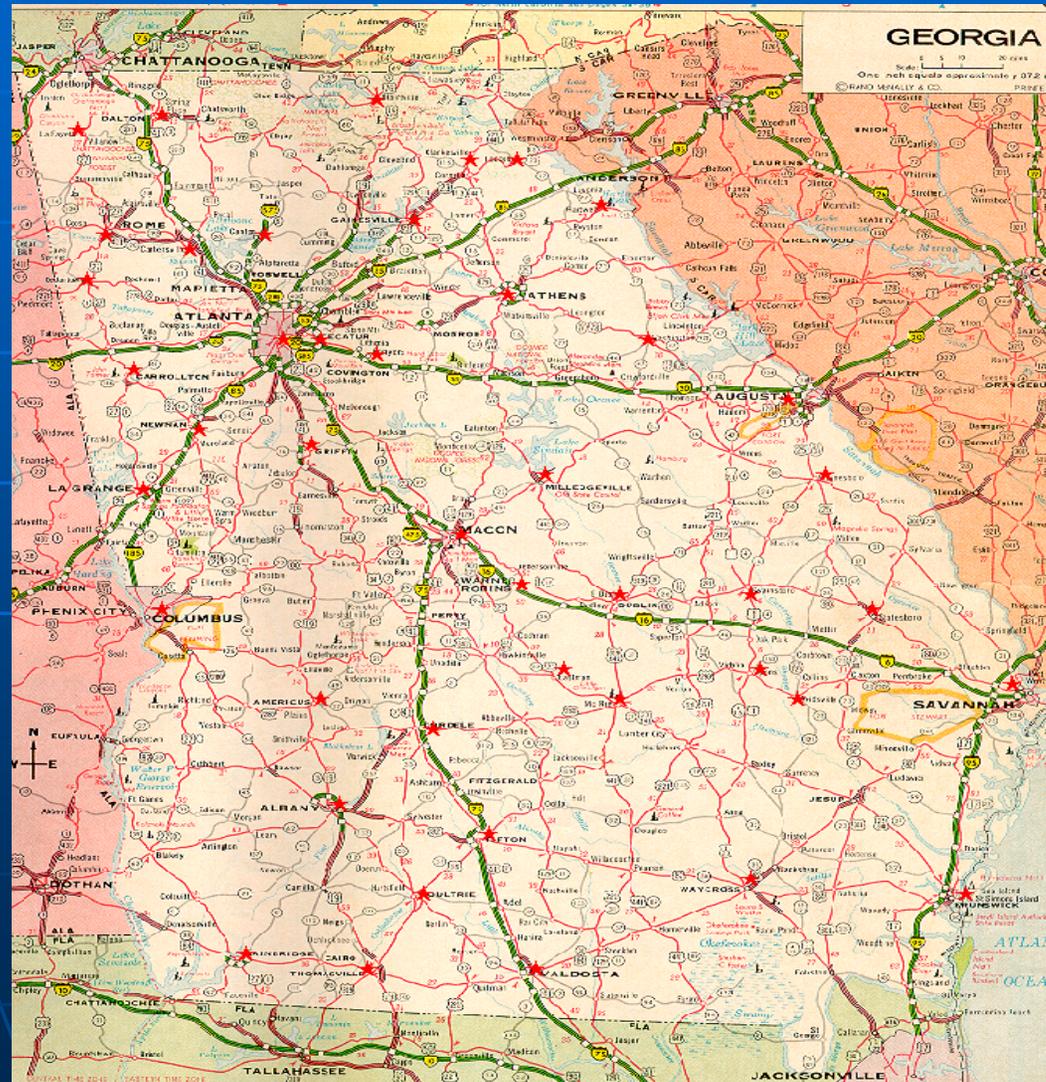


Veterans Service Organizations Represented by SDVS

- American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- America EX-POWS
- Fleet Reserve Association
- Department of Veterans Service
- Retired Enlisted Assoc
- American Red Cross
- NCO Assoc of USA
- Veterans of WW I
- Jewish War Veterans



Field Operations & Claims - 47 SDVS Field Offices





Field Offices





Field Offices





VA Medical Centers – SDVS Field Offices





Atlanta VA Medical Center Decatur, GA – SDVS Field Office





Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center Augusta, GA – SDVS Field Office





Carl Vinson VA Medical Center Dublin, GA – SDVS Field Office





Atlanta VA Regional Office – SDVS Claims Division

Co-located With Atlanta VA Regional Office, 1700 Clairmont Rd, Decatur





Atlanta VA Regional Office – SDVS Claims Division

Co-located With Atlanta VA Regional Office, 1700 Clairmont Rd, Decatur





Field Operations & Claims - Claims Division

- 9 Claims Counselors
- 4 Secretaries
- Assist Claimants & Field Offices with Claims and Appeals
- Represent Claimants in local Decision Review Officer (DRO) Hearings and Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) Travel Board Hearings



Field Operations & Claims – Additional Requirements

- Pre and Post Deployment Briefings
- Transition Assistance (TAP) Briefings
- Pre-Retirement Briefings
- Veterans' Benefits Briefings at Local Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Churches, Civic Organizations , and VSO's



Field Operations & Claims – Additional Requirements

Approved Positions – Unfunded FY 09

- 6 Veterans Benefits Counselors – Field Offices
- 2 Claims Counselors – Claims Division



Georgia State Veterans Benefits Examples

- Driver's License
- Specialized License Tags
- Business License Tax Exemptions



Georgia State Veterans Benefits Examples

- Exemption From Taxation
- 25% Park Fee Reduction
- Hunting & Fishing License



SDVS Administrative Division State Benefits

Nursing Home Care

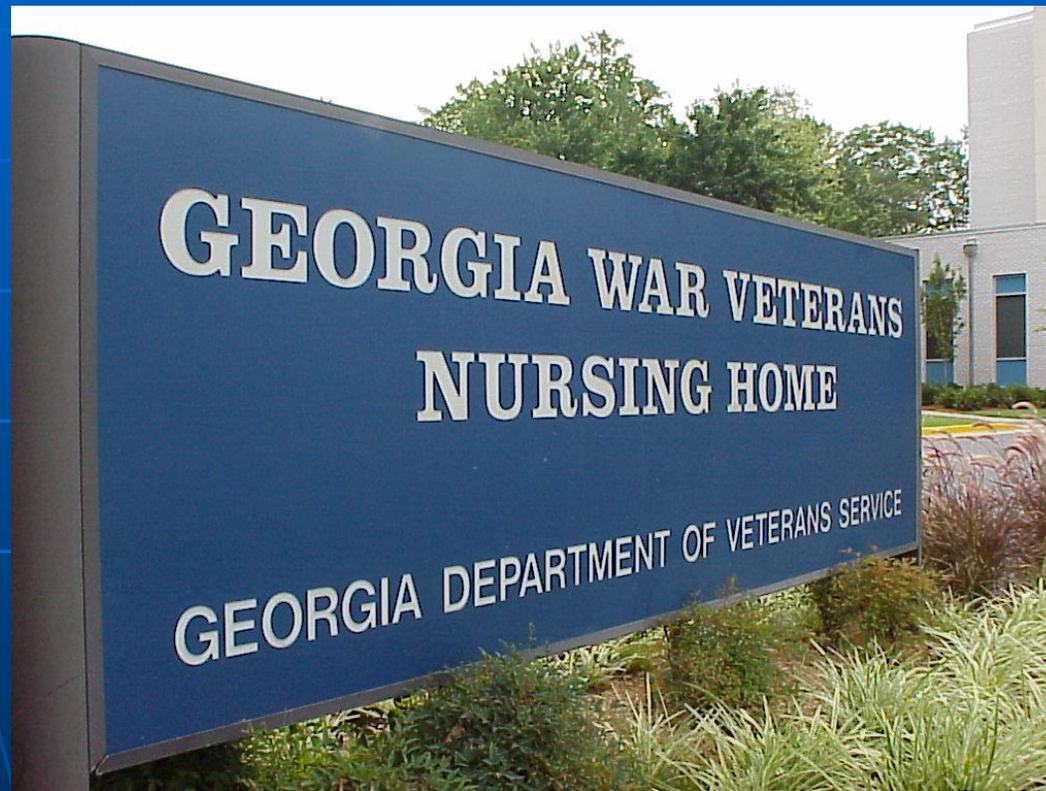
- **Augusta**
- **Milledgeville**

Veterans Cemeteries

- **Glennville**
- **Milledgeville**



Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home Augusta





Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home Augusta





Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta: As Of 12/08

			Waiting List
Category I	Total Intensive Care	22	1
Category II	Considerable Direct Care	75	7
Category III	Moderate Care	52	15
Category IV	Minimal Care	14	2
	Total	163	25
	(Alzheimer's Patients)	(42)	



Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home Augusta – As Of 12/08

Budgeted Personnel Positions	191
Filled Positions	173



Georgia War Veterans Home Milledgeville





Georgia War Veterans Home Milledgeville – As Of 12/08

			Waiting List
Category I	Total Intensive Care	121	2
Category II	Considerable Direct Care	73	4
Category III	Moderate Care	135	11
	Total	329	17
	(Alzheimer's Patients)	(20)	



Georgia War Veterans Home Milledgeville – As Of 12/08

Budgeted Personnel Positions	460
Filled Positions	449



Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Milledgeville, GA





Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Milledgeville, Georgia

- Dedicated December 11, 2001
- Established on 142 acres received from the Georgia Forestry Commission
- Cemetery Grounds include an administration/visitor center, committal chapel, a carillon, and columbarium shelters for ashes
- A three-acre, multi-tiered ceremonial area is available for use by veteran organizations on remembrance days such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.



Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Milledgeville, Georgia

- Currently over 1100 veterans, spouses, and dependents are interred in the cemetery.
- The cemetery has an estimated capacity of over 50,000 burials when fully developed.



Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Milledgeville, GA - Interments As Of 12/08

- Casketed Burials – 777
- Columbarium Inurnments – 189
- In-ground Inurnments – 136
- Memorial Markers for Scattered Ashes- 15
- Total Veterans, Spouses and Family Members in the Cemetery – 1,117



WILBERT J
MILES
PFC
US ARMY
JUL 31 1939
SEP 30 2009
REST IN PEACE

JACKSON
MACK
ODGES
US ARMY
JUN 16 1939
SEP 9 2005

HENRICO T
PERSON
PVT
NAVY
GULF
1981
MAY 5 2005
JR. ANGEL
ONE HOME

JOSEPH P
VINCENT

ALDEAN
ANTON Sr
PVT
US ARMY
KOREA
JAN 30 1934
SEP 30 2005
BLESSED FATHER

HARRY M
CONNELL
PVT
ARMY
25 1942
10 2005



Ceremonial Area





Ceremonial Area





Administrative Building





Committal Chapel











Committal Chapel





Carillon





Columbarium





Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville, GA





Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville, GA

- 42.6 Acres Just North of Glennville
- Tattnell County Along U.S. Highway 301
- About 25 Miles West of Fort Stewart
- Dedicated November 28, 2007



Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville, GA - Interments As Of 12/08

- Casketed Burials – 62
- Columbarium Inurnments – 8
- In-ground Inurnments – 16
- Memorial Markers for Scattered Ashes- 1
- Total Veterans, Spouses and Family Members in the Cemetery - 87



Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville, GA - Chapel During Dedication





Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery Glennville, GA – Committal Chapel





SDVS Education & Training Division - State Approving Agency

By law, Georgia Department of Veterans Service is designated as the State Approving Agency, responsible for approving and supervising all institutions and establishments in Georgia, which offer education and training under the provisions of the Veterans Educational Assistance Program.

The State Approving Agency has the function of ensuring the institutions and establishments meet and maintain acceptable standards so that eligible persons who attend may receive educational assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs.



SDVS Education & Training Division - State Approving Agency

- Georgia is #1 in the USA
- 313 Approved Education Institutions
- 951 Approved Training Establishments
- Total of 1,264 Institutions & Establishments
Where Veterans Can Use GI Bill To Attend
School or for On-The-Job Training or
Apprenticeship Training Programs



SDVS Education & Training Division - State Approving Agency

- Veterans Receiving GI Bill Educational Benefits – 9,611
- Veteran Trainees Enrolled in Training Establishments – 491
- Total Number of Georgia Veterans Enrolled in Programs – 10,102



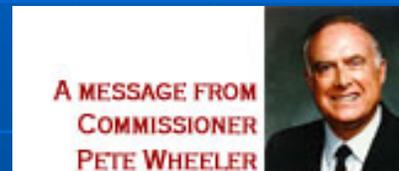
State Benefits

Georgia Military Scholarship

Georgia Hero Scholarship



Department's WEB Address



<http://sdvs.georgia.gov>



Veterans Resource



www.vetsresource.com



Questions ???



Just as I came looking for you, now you can contact me.
Georgia veterans may be entitled to benefits they are not
aware of.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE

404-656-2305