MDVA PROUDLY SERVED VETERANS IN 2019

The Minnesota State Cemetery in Preston received an Operational Excellence Award from the National Cemetery Administration. This award followed a National Cemetery Compliance Review that resulted in a score of 90 percent, recognizing Preston as one of the finest Veterans Cemeteries in the nation.

A dedication ceremony at MDVA’s newest State Veterans Cemetery near Duluth was held in September. Since opening on Veterans Day 2018, the newest State Veterans Cemetery in Minnesota is partnered with the community ofmodel, in cross-training, to support the Minnesota CORE Program (Counseling and Case Management Outreach, Referral, and Education), a program designed to increase in the amount available annually including an increase in the amount available to veterans.

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The 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, MDVA received bi-partisan support indicates an increase in the amount available annually to support the Minnesota CORE Program (Counseling and Case Management Outreach, Referral, and Education), a program designed to increase in the amount available annually including an increase in the amount available to veterans.

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To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.

SINCE PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPOKE THESE WORDS in 1865 during his second inaugural address, Americans have embraced our duty, honor and privilege to care for Veterans. At the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), these words still ring true as we continue the tradition of caring for Minnesota’s Veterans and their families.

I have had the honor to serve as the Commissioner of MDVA since my appointment in January 2019. Both Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and I am Veterans; I served 30+ years in the U.S. Army and Minnesota National Guard. We are both passionate about serving those who have served and ensuring our Veterans, their families and survivors receive the care and benefits they have earned. I joined MDVA at an exciting time, when the agency is poised to further its work supporting Veterans through proposed expansions in our Minnesota Veterans Homes, and Minnesota State Cemetery locations, and increasing efforts around key Veteran issues like ending homelessness and suicide prevention while demonstrating excellence in operations and service. As I reflect on FY19, I believe MDVA is making great progress in serving Minnesota Veterans. While I am proud of our accomplishments, I am also committed to continuing to improve and expand our services to our state’s heroes.

By reading this Annual Report, I invite you to learn more about MDVA and the important work we do in support of Minnesota Veterans and their families. It is our duty, honor and privilege.
AN ESTIMATED 6% of the state’s population, or more than 29,000 (as of June 30, 2019) of America’s heroes, call Minnesota home. More than half of Minnesota’s Veterans are 65 years of age and older. Minnesota’s female Veterans remain steady, with just a slight rise in numbers. Ranked the 23rd state for total US Veteran population, nearly 46% of Minnesota Veterans live within the seven-county Twin Cities area. St. Louis, Stearns, Olmsted and Wright counties house the next concentration of resident Veterans. Vietnam-era Veterans continue to account for Minnesota’s largest share of wartime Veterans.

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SEVERING MINNESOTA VETERANS, their dependents and survivors by connecting them with the federal and state care and benefits they have earned is the primary mission of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. It is only through an extensive, collaborative partnership that MDVA is able to provide Minnesota Veterans with this outstanding support system to carry out this mission, from health to housing, employment to empathy, funding to friendship, advocacy to advice - MDVA is here to help every Veteran, with every need.

TWO WAYS FOR VETERANS TO ACCESS MDVA PROGRAMS, BENEFITS & SERVICES:

1. Contact your LOCAL CVSO OFFICE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS
2. Contact by PHONE or ONLINE LINKVET 1-888-LINKVET • MINNESOTAVETERAN.ORG

On behalf of every Minnesota Veteran helped this year, MDVA wishes to express appreciation to each of the valued organizations listed here. Thank you for your partnership in 2019. We look forward to our continued work together in 2020!
OUR MISSION at the Programs & Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is to serve Minnesota’s men and women Veterans, from all branches of the armed forces, who have faithfully served our country. At every stage of a Veteran’s life, MDVA’s work is to ensure necessary services are available, and to successfully connect each Veteran to every resource they need.

MDVA offers over 20 Veteran-focused programs, providing more than 70 services. When a Veteran is trying to access benefits or arbitrate a claim, MDVA can help. When physical and mental health difficulties arise, MDVA can help. From a Veteran’s first day back to civilian life, to their end of life, MDVA is here... TOGETHER we will help see them through.

LEARN ALL THE WAYS MDVA CAN HELP...
Immediate answers with one-on-one assistance for all Veteran-related questions and needs is available at LinkVet. Connecting Veterans to an MOVA specialist online, by phone, or via email, seven days a week.

7,734
2019 LinkVet Veterans

2019 MN Core Program

MNO Core is outfitted for Veterans and their families in partnership with

Lutheran Social Service on Minnesota's North Star

Office are available in 17 locations: Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Fairbanks, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, Moorhead, Rochester, Sauk Centre, St. Cloud, St. Paul, Alexandria, Winona, and Willmar.

2019 MDVA Benet Programs

The 2018 Legislative Session was successful in obtaining an additional $201,300 in MN Core funding. These dollars are needed to help fill the funding gap and ensure that all Minnesota Veterans, and their families have access to crucial counseling services.

Tightly pertinent to those MN Core assistance in 2018 were wartime Veterans and their families. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) accounted for 40% of the combat locations for those seeking assistance.

Great program! This helped me transition out of a bad place and see the light at the end of the tunnel. I suggest this to any military personnel I encounter that may need assistance.

Minnesota Veteran Program
2019 NOTED

- Battery powered lawn equipment was tested and implemented at the Little Falls Veterans Cemetery resulting in a reduction in noise and emissions when compared to gasoline-powered equipment.
- Construction and staffing for MDVA’s new Cemetery in Duluth was completed with the first burial on Veterans Day 2018.
- Plans to design and construct MDVA’s fourth State Veterans Cemetery in Faribault County continue to move forward.

### CEMETERIES

**CEMETERY APPEARANCE**

- Administrative Building
- Columbarium
- Indoor Committal Shelter
- Honor Guard Lounge
- Maintenance Building
- Outdoor Assembly Area
- Parking
- Memorial Walkway

**2019 SATISFIED WITH OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

- 98.9%

**2019 EXCELLENT QUALITY OF SERVICE**

- 98.2%

**2019 EXCELLENT CEMETARY APPEARANCE**

- 98.9%

**2019 WOULD RECOMMEND TO OTHERS**

- 98.5%

**2019 SURVEY OF SATISFACTION NATIONAL CEMETARY ADMINISTRATION (NCA)**

- 776
- 540
- 239

**ESTABLISHED ACRES**

- Little Falls: 1994
- Preston: 2015
- Duluth: 2018

**LAID TO REST 2019**

- Little Falls: 533
- Preston: 132
- Duluth: 111

**2019 TOTAL SINCE ESTABLISHED**

- 7,621

**2019 FACILITIES**

- Administrative Building
- Columbarium
- Outdoor Committal Shelter
- Indoor Committal Shelter
- Honor Guard Lounge
- Maintenance Building
- Outdoor Assembly Area
- Parking
- Memorial Walkway

**PRESTON CEMETERY**

- 17% Increase

**30% OF LAID TO REST WERE DEPENDENTS 36% HIGHER THAN FY18**

**STRONG**

**MNs DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**TOTAL BURIALS OVER FY18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Increase %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Falls</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>230%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEMORIAL WALKWAY**

- 6.191

**OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY AREA**

- 540

**HONORED 2019**

- 276

**INCREASE IN COLUMBARIUM OVER 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>145</td>
<td>132</td>
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<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duluth</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INCREASED AMBULATORY TOGETHER**

- 3.9%

**INCREASE 2019**

- 13.9%

**$1.138 BILLION 2019 FEDERAL COMPENSATION MN VETERANS & THEIR SURVIVORS**

**2019 CLAIMS & FIELD OPERATIONS**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

- 52

**FEDERAL CLAIMS**

- 748

**CVSO Claims Program**

- Recognized by BVA Judges for exceptional preparation, performance, and professionalism during FY19 Hearings.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

- Successfully implemented new ABA guidelines within the office and CVSO Community.

**Hearings**

- 3.9% increase in federal claims.

**CVSO**

- Provided support services to Veterans of America including handling calls, walk-ins, and claim submissions.

**TOGETHER**

The MDVA Claims Team serves as a liaison and personal advocate for Veterans and their dependents seeking claim assistance with state and federal benefits. Services are offered at MDVA offices in St. Paul and Fargo, and through MDVA’s Field Operations, a mobile unit that travels throughout Minnesota. Claims programs also advocate for specific Veteran needs that include Women Veterans, Gold Star Families, and the TSVD and CVSO partnership programs.

**2019 CLAIMS**

- 909

- 202

**2019 ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICES</th>
<th>IN THE FIELD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST. PAUL</td>
<td>VADO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDVA</td>
<td>1,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSVD</td>
<td>909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2019 HEARINGS**

- 65.9%

**FEDERAL STATE**

- 748

**SUSPECTED OF AMVETS IN AND OUT OF 2019**

- 39.5%

**BETTER**

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**2019 FEDERAL COMPENSATION MN VETERANS & THEIR SURVIVORS**

- 53,666

**2019 CLAIMS**

- 538

**FEDERAL CLAIMS**

- 748

**CVSO Federal Claims**

- 13.9%

**INCREASE OVER 2018**

- 3.9%

**10.5% INCREASE OVER 2018**

**3.9% INCREASE OVER 2018**

**FEDERAL CLAIMS**

- 748

**CVSO Federal Claims**

- 13.9%

**INCREASE OVER 2018**

- 3.9%

**10.5% INCREASE OVER 2018**

**3.9% INCREASE OVER 2018**

**FEDERAL CLAIMS**

- 748

**CVSO Federal Claims**

- 13.9%

**INCREASE OVER 2018**

- 3.9%
State funds through the VA GI Bill are available for Veterans seeking to earn a certificate, diploma or degree. MN GI Bill Education Funds can be used to reimburse Veterans for qualified admission tests and supplement tuition at approved universities, colleges and career schools.

When I started school in the Practical Nursing program, the on-campus Veteran’s Office pointed me in all the right directions from how to start applying for grants and scholarships to how to navigate the Veterans Assistance Program. (I was) introduced to people who were vital in helping me get my job as an LPN. I spent many hours at the Student Veterans office studying in the computer room. I believe that MDVA’s Student Work Center was my push to success.

Program serves to encourage private businesses and public employers to hire and provide on-the-job training to Veterans by offering hiring opportunities and financial assistance.

When enrolling and accessing state and federal GI Bill® education benefits, Veterans can face barriers. Veterans Application Tracking System (VATS) helps Veterans and other stakeholders to identify and remove barriers such as educational programs, eligibility, benefits, and more. Implemented the Veterans Application Tracking System (VATS).
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MDVA administers grants that offer funds to organizations with programs and products specifically designed to serve Minnesota Veterans and their families.

S O T $569,223 TOTAL FUNDS 2019

When you purchase a Support Our Troops license plate, the money goes to benefit Minnesota Veterans and their families through a variety of programs and services. The dollars raised through the SOT program in 2019 helped fund two MDVA grant programs, the SOT Competitive Awards and the SOT VSO Awards.

COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Granting ranging from $100 to $50,000 is available to Minnesota organizations, with programs designed to support and improve the lives of Veterans and their families. Applications are reviewed twice a year. In 2019, grants were awarded to the following projects:

- **$5,000**
  - Minneapolis Veterans
  - Expanded Native American Veterans
  - Program (Project: "First Step"") designed to interrupt nightmares.

- **$20,000**
  - MRCI Veterans
  - Middle river Veterans
  - Outdoors Program to match 10 children of MN Veterans with a FFL volunteer for "NexGen".

- **$20,000**
  - MINN VETERANS
  - Outreach and local needs designed to serve Minnesota Veterans and their families.

- **$18,000**
  - Eagle Group of Minnesota Veterans
  - Expanded "License to Serve" program to multiple Twin Cities locations.

- **$25,000**
  - DVCU Veterans
  - Mobile Therapeutic program (MWB) designed to interrupt nightmares.

- **$47,558**
  - American Legion
  - Funds used for the "Remember the Fallen" project by memorializing Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness.

- **$45,660**
  - Paralyzed Veterans of America
  - Funds used for fishing experiences.

- **$14,766**
  - American Indian
  - With digital books containing bios.

- **$20,000**
  - Military Order of the Purple Heart
  - Funds used for the "Honor Flight Twin Cities" program.

- **$143,120**
  - American Legion
  - Funds used for the "Guiding Lights" Program.

- **$9,600**
  - Veterans for Housing
  - Funds used for the "Honor Flight" event.

- **$2,243**
  - Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
  - Funds used to end homelessness.

- **$37,256**
  - MACV
  - Funds used for outreach and local needs designed to benefit Veteran needs.

- **$41,210**
  - MN ASSISTANCE
  - Funds used for the "Honor Flight" event.

- **$18,000**
  - American Legion
  - Funds used for the "Honor Flight" event.

- **$140,326**
  - American Legion
  - Funds used for outreach and local needs designed to benefit Veteran needs.

- **$473,095**
  - Veterans Service Organizations
  - Grants ranging from $5,000 to $100,000 are available to Minnesota Veterans Service Organizations.

- **$175,914**
  - SOT Competitive Awards
  - Includes $175,914 Support Our Troops FY19.

- **$50,000**
  - MACV
  - Includes $50,000 MACVSO Grant.

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- **$473,095**
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  - Grants ranging from $5,000 to $100,000 are available to Minnesota Veterans Service Organizations.

- **$10,100**
  - MACV
  - Includes $10,100 MN PAINT.

- **$87,689**
  - MACV
  - Includes $87,689 FY19.

- **$45,795**
  - MACV
  - Includes $45,795 FY19.

- **$50,000**
  - MACV
  - Includes $50,000 MN PARALYZED VETS.

- **$50,000**
  - MACV
  - Includes $50,000 FY19.

- **$143,120**
  - American Legion
  - Funds used for the "Guiding Lights" Program.

- **$1,251,745**
  - MACV
  - Includes $1,251,745 FY19.

- **$175,914**
  - SOT Competitive Awards
  - Includes $175,914 Support Our Troops FY19.

NOTED

- **GRANTS**
  - Grantees are commended.

- **$528,914**
  - MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
  - Includes $528,914 FY19.

- **$25,000**
  - SOT/VSO Awards
  - Veteran Service Organizations.

- **$1,251,745**
  - MACV
  - Includes $1,251,745 FY19.

- **$37,256**
  - MACV
  - Includes $37,256 FY19.

- **$18,000**
  - Eagle Group of Minnesota Veterans
  - Expanded "License to Serve" program.

- **$1,251,745**
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- **$25,000**
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## HealthCare Strong

**Residents in Care**
- Male 96.2%
- Female 3.8%
- Veterans 92.9%
- Veteran Spouse 7.1%

### Veterans Needs
- 24% Alzheimer’s
- 19% Dementia
- 18% Other
- 11% Mental Health
- 6% General Muscular
- 5% Depression
- 5% Diabetes
- 5% Parkinson’s
- 2% Heart Disease
- 2% Sudden Death

### Veteran War
- Vietnam War 38.0%
- Korean War 25.9%
- Peacetime 23.3%
- WWI 11.0%
- WWII 1.8%

### Safety
- **Five Years Ago**, the target safety incident number for the MDVA Veterans Homes was set at 12.32. The actual number of incidents in 2014 came in more than 2 points lower at 10.04. Every year since, this pattern of safety excellence has continued. In 2018, the MDVA targeted rate was set at 9.83 (22% lower than what was anticipated in 2014), and the actual incident number only reached 8.2.

### Sustainabilty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Overall Satisfaction</th>
<th>Safety &amp; Security</th>
<th>Nutrition Care</th>
<th>Overall Activities</th>
<th>Calendar Clutterlessness</th>
<th>Overall Preferences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The goals of MDVA’s sustainability program are to implement practices that respect the environment as we care for the well-being of Residents and employees, not just today but for future generations of MN Veterans.
The DOMICILIARY CARE PROGRAM for Veterans and their families is here when an impairment, or a physical, mental or medical disability makes it difficult to live alone. Located in both Hastings and Minneapolis, domiciliary care provides supervised living in a sober environment, surrounded in a home-like atmosphere.

This MDVA program focuses on medical management, mental health stability and vocational goals—tailored specifically to each Resident’s abilities and needs. At whatever point a Veteran is in their life, MDVA’s domiciliary care offers supportive, independent living in a safe, non-judgmental community, where Residents can achieve their optimal level of independence, suited to their quality of life choices.

2019 STAFF
Dedicated and professional staff assist the Veterans in all areas of care, including medical services, mental and chemical healthcare, social services, dietary, recreational and vocational therapies, and assistance with benefits.

2019 FACILITIES
Committing to providing a full continuum of enriching, high-quality care to Residents, the Hastings Domiciliary Care facility focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The care is only enhanced by the natural beauty of the Home’s surroundings amid a wooded campus with nature trails, a biking path, outdoor pavilion, horse shoe pit, and heated screened porch for year-round use. With 145 domiciliary beds in private and semi-private rooms, the Home provides each Resident their optimum level of independence.

2019 EVENTS
Three additional staff members became CPR instructor certified in 2019.

Staff training for 2019 included informed trauma care, dementia care, mental health, and suicide prevention and awareness.

In addition to MDVA Go Green initiatives, replacing items as Styrofoam cups with green products.

DOMICILIARY CARE HASTINGS & MINNEAPOLIS

I have a support system at the (Hastings) Home, my family, friends, and working helps keep me busy.

DAVID PATTERSON

I’m feeling great!

LARRY RODDY
EXPRESSING HOW HE FEELS
AFTER THE PROGRAM HELPED HIM QUIT SMOKING

MDVA’s Minneapolis Domiciliary Care facility sits along the shore of the Mississippi River near Minnehaha Falls, easy walking distance to the light rail systems, and many city parks and lakes. Located on the Minnesota Veterans Home campus, the facility features a community dining area and outdoor patios. Fifty domiciliary beds in private and semi-private rooms provide Residents with space to maximize self-sufficiency.
I treasure that they genuinely care about him and his care. They also care about us as a family and what we are going through. They are all good.

FAMILY OF RESIDENT

MINNEAPOLIS SKILLED NURSING CARE

2019 CARE

Organized a Resident Dining Committee to meet monthly and provide feedback, make suggestions, and taste new food items and recipes.

2019 STAFF

100 staff members were presented with 1,000 years of service to Veterans.

2019 EVENTS

Grand opening of the locked unit in Building 22 plus the unveiling of a new exterior art enhancement project.

NATION’S FIRST

Grand Opening of the Nation’s First On-Site Dental Clinic

NATIONAL AVERAGE 4.08

5101 MINNEHAHA AVENUE SO.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

877-838-6757

Skilled Nursing Care

33%

CARE

300 BEDS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AN UNMATCHED VIEW

of Lake Superior among Minnesota’s stunning North Shore greenbelt. Residents of the Silver Bay Veterans Home. The inviting northwoods lodge design offers hearty comfort, that include a large game room, Resident work shop, four season porch, and private dining and family areas. Capturing the culture of the community, recreational opportunities include boating, fishing, hunting and gardening. The comprehensive care Silver Bay offers is designed to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of each Resident. Meals are prepared based on food preferences, activities offered to match interests. Special care households focus on memory care, teaching support and engagement techniques to meet their needs.

SILVER BAY SKILLED NURSING CARE

2019 CARE

Implemented a program for patients with Parkinson’s voice rehabilitation treatment.

2019 EVENTS

Continued the Art Program that includes Resident cats and dogs, implemented cultural drum circles for Residents with dementia.

SENSORY

Submerged Bath Program that includes Resident cats and dogs, implemented cultural drum circles for Residents with dementia.

2019 STAFF

Developed and implemented dementia training program for families.

ANNUAL REPORT

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TOGETHER STRONGER

93%

NATIONAL AVERAGE

67%

MINNESOTA SKILLED CARE UNIT

655 MINNESOTA SKILLED CARE UNIT

12 MONTH OCCUPANCY

300 BEDS

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

612-548-5700

1887 SKILLED CARE

97%

SKILLED CARE OCCUPANCY

67%

MINNESOTA SKILLED CARE UNIT

12 MONTH OCCUPANCY

33%

DEMENTIA CARE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
The care is exemplary, and they are so personally interested in the residents and the families.

FAMILY OF RESIDENT

2019 MVH-LUVERNE

SKILLED NURSING CARE

LUVERNE

SKILLED NURSING CARE

FERGUS FALLS

SKILLED NURSING CARE

2019 MVH-LUVERNE

SKILLED NURSING CARE

FERGUS FALLS

SKILLED NURSING CARE
As the decade changes, so do the needs of today’s Veteran. These needs are brought about by a changing military, with new issues that include...

- The global war on terrorism is the first major set of conflicts fought exclusively by an all-volunteer U.S. force. To retain sufficient volunteers, admission protocols changed resulting in an even greater need for education and job training when a Veteran’s service ends.
- Advances in medical care have significantly increased the number of encouraged Veterans compared to overall civilians – from 2 to 1 in 2000 to 15 to 1 in 2019 – resulting in a greater number of Veterans living longer and requiring long-term care.
- New since World War II has U.S. service personnel undergone multiple deployments, resulting in a 30 percent increase in Veteran suffering post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as an increase in Veteran suicides.
- The current wars are the first in which women, who now comprise about 17.5 percent of the total U.S. military force, have been directly exposed to the physical and mental toll of combat, in addition to a number experiencing sexual trauma during their deployments.

These are just some of the changes and challenges ahead for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

MDVA Veterans Services Looking to 2020 & Beyond

- Partnership with the communities of Burnsville, Monticello and Preston. MDVA is working to build three new Veterans Homes. The Minnesota Legislature allocated state funds for all three projects in 2018, and MDVA is awaiting a federal funding decision.
- Updates, repairs, and facility improvements are scheduled for every MDVA Home in 2020. An estimated budget of $10.7 million was requested and is awaiting approval from the legislature.
- MDVA’s Healthcare Recruitment & Retention Work Group is further updating the strategic goals for staffing MDVA Veterans Homes for the next decade.
- Training of Veterans Home staff will continue, expanding in the areas of palliative and hospice care services, dedicated to both Residents and their families.
- Pharmacological care for 2020 will see the continuation of monitoring and updating the Pharmacological Waste Handling Program so that it remains in compliance with changing USPH standards.

Recommendations from the 2019 Safety/Perception Survey will be further implemented to reduce tip, trip and fall-related injuries for both Residents and staff.

MDVA Sustainability Looking to 2020 & Beyond

MDVA will continue working to develop strategies for shifting to a circular economy, characterized by reduced consumption of natural resources, recycling, and promoting local sourcing. Specific Eco-friendly steps scheduled for 2020 include:
- Strive to use 100% E-BS in MDVA vehicles.
- Implement paper recycling for all staff and residents.
- Implement energy-saving equipment, even gas-powered, where possible.
- Expand the use of tablets and mobile imaging services.
- Implement organic waste management programs.
- Replace the fixed with EV/Hybrid vehicles.

MDVA Veterans Homes Looking to 2020 & Beyond

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Below are how, working together, MDVA plans to meet these challenges...
Each event hosted reflects the best of what Minnesota offers—strong partnerships, teamwork, and making us proud. JULY 28 MVH-FERGUS FALLS ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MVH-Fergus Falls held a Fallen Soldier display by the Korean War Memorial, in honor of late Vietnam Veteran Steven Williams.

SEPTEMBER 18 77TH PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY

At Home with Larry Shulito.

SEPTEMBER 27 COMMISSIONER LARRY SHULTITO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Commissioner Larry Shulito’s 79 in 79, 2018.

SEPTEMBER 30 MVH-MINNEAPOLIS 77TH ANNIVERSARY celEBrATION

The Minneapolis Adult Day Center, which has served more than 20,000 individuals since it opened in 1994, held its 77th anniversary celebration.

October 25 MDVA STAFF AWARDED

MDVA unveils the Historic Flags tribute created by school children from around Minnesota.

November 1 Thousand Thanks Veterans Home

The Minneapolis Adult Day Center and the Mayo Clinic on Homelessness.

November 7 Veterans Day Celebration

Washington, D.C., at Memorial Airport. The event was attended by a U.S. Senator, a U.S. Representative, and a Minnesota Governor.

November 21 MVH-HASTINGS ANNUAL MeMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MVH-Hastings held its 77th annual Memorial Day ceremony, with a Fallen Soldier display by the Korean War Memorial.

December 29 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

This year’s report celebrates the achievements of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and its partners in the last year, with a focus on the future.

January 7 New MDVA Commissioner

Governor Walz named Larry Herke to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

February 24 Army-Fan Day

The Minnesota Senate honored the Minnesota Golden Gophers for their national championship in hockey.

March 23 MDVA’s 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The MDVA celebrated its 15th anniversary with a variety of events, including a reception, a concert, and a parade.

April 14 MDVA’s 7TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The MDVA celebrated its seventh anniversary with a variety of events, including a reception, a concert, and a parade.

May 30 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN LITTLE FALLS

A crowd of more than 1,000 people gathered to honor those who served in the military.

June 6 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION IN PELLA

The MDVA partnered with the city of Pella to host a day-long celebration.

July 22 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE MDVA

The MDVA celebrated its 15th anniversary with a variety of events, including a reception, a concert, and a parade.

August 7 Veterans Home Honored Care Week

The MDVA honored care providers at the state veterans’ homes with a week-long celebration.

September 10 MDVA-HASTINGS ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

MVH-Hastings held its annual Veterans Day ceremony, with a Fallen Soldier display by the Korean War Memorial.

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COMMUNICATION STRONG

COMMUNICATION MINNESOTA MILITARY RADIO/HOOG.COM

COMMUNICATION

SYNDICATED RADIO SHOW AND PODCAST SERVES TO PRESERVE

CARONNED OVER 55 RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS, THIS

WATERFALL RENOYAL HOURS .COM HAS BEEN THE FORUM FOR RETELLING THE STORIES

MINNESOTA'S VETERANS.

RADIO (MMR)

HIGHLIGHTS

MEDIA

2019 MDVA LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

2019 LEAGAL SUMMARY

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

PRAISE RADIO RECOGNITION DAY

PRAISE RADIO RECOGNITION DAY Ensures the words “You Are Not Forgotten” will echo the third Friday of September each year will be Minnesota’s recognition of the courage and sacrifices of the state’s POW/MIA and their families.

VETERANS’ HOMES AWARENESS DAY

Across the United States, an estimated 20 veterans die by suicide every day. To increase visibility and focus attention to the crisis, Minnesota will observe Veterans’ Suicide Awareness Day the first Saturday of October each year.

MICHIGAN ALLIES DAY

Hold June 30th each year, this day honors foreign-born individuals who fought alongside the United States armed forces in military conflicts around the world.

JUDICARY BILL

Veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are more likely to sue their partners. The Judiciary and Public Safety Finance bill includes a one-time grant for a domestic abuse prevention program to help current and former service members and their families.

LEGACY BILL

This bill provides funds for: - The Minnesota Military Women’s Hall of Fame - Services for Gold Star Families - Loans for veteran homeowners - Grants for education and employment for veterans.

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2019 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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An emblem of strength, leadership and vision, the eagle depicts the importance of having principles founded in honesty and truth.

It is said, an eagle in flight brings a message of renewed life, reminding all to look ahead, to reach higher, and to believe that the future holds possibilities that you may not yet be able to see.

The message and ideals of the eagle are the very embodiment of the values and the mission of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs... to provide strength, leadership and vision to every Minnesota Veteran in need so they can take flight and successfully soar.
Duluth laid to rest its first Veteran on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2018. It is the third State Veterans Cemetery in Minnesota.