



VETERANS AFFAIRS



PTSD Awareness

Dear Veterans, Families, and Members of Our Community,

June is PTSD Awareness Month—a vital time to recognize the challenges many Veterans face and to raise awareness about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) remains deeply committed to supporting Veterans living with PTSD and ensuring they receive the care, understanding, and respect they deserve.

PTSD is a mental health condition that can develop after experiencing or witnessing traumatic events, such as combat, military sexual trauma, or life-threatening situations. These invisible wounds often linger long after service, affecting daily life, relationships, and overall well-being. Common symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety, depression, and difficulty trusting others. PTSD affects Veterans across all branches, eras, and backgrounds—often impacting not only the individual but also their families, friends, and neighbors.

One of the biggest obstacles Veterans face is stigma—both internal and societal. Many fear being perceived as weak or worry about consequences for seeking help. This June, the VA urges everyone to challenge these misconceptions. PTSD is a treatable condition, and by fostering empathy and understanding, we can help create a community where Veterans feel safe and supported. Whether you're a healthcare provider, family member, or community leader, your voice and actions matter.

The VA offers a wide range of resources for Veterans with PTSD, including counseling, support groups, medication, and evidence-based therapies such as Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure Therapy. These services are available at VA medical centers and through community care options.

To promote education and engagement, the VA has released its [June 2025 PTSD Awareness Calendar](#)—a free resource featuring daily tips, Veteran stories, virtual events, and mental health webinars. Topics include managing stress, suicide prevention, and building resilience.

You can make a difference this month by sharing the calendar, learning more about PTSD, and encouraging the Veterans in your life to seek support. Every conversation helps break down stigma and opens the door to healing.

Together, we can build a community where every Veteran feels understood, supported, and empowered to live a healthy, fulfilling life.

Wish you a happy and safe June!

Jessica
Jessica Walker
Director

Highlights

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Veteran Spotlight

Joseph D. Wiley was drafted into the U.S. Army in March 1965, alongside two of his brothers. He completed his training at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he specialized in radio repair and maintenance. Following training, Joe was deployed to Pleiku, Vietnam, where he served throughout 1966. After returning home, he was honorably discharged and began working at Clearpath Architect, where a job had been waiting for him. In 1975, Joe and his family relocated to Pennsylvania to further his career. Over the years, he has retired from several professions—including computer programming, work as an optician, and driving a school bus. These days, you can often find Joe mowing his lawn, enjoying outdoor concerts, or cheering on his grandchildren at sporting events. Joe and his wife Donna have built a beautiful family together, including six children—David, Stephen, Ann, Samuel, Graham, and Jennifer—and 17 beloved grandchildren.



AGING SERVICES, INC. IS HOSTING THE
3RD ANNUAL
BRAIN HEALTH FAIR
AT THE



Thursday, June 5, 2025
10:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M.

- FIRST DAY to receive 2025 Senior Farmers Market Vouchers
- FREE Memory Screenings provided by Dementia Friendly Pennsylvania
- FREE Blood Pressure Screenings provided by Anew Home Health Agency



Follow us on Facebook @Aging Services, Inc.

Union Presbyterian Church **3RD Annual Card Cruise**

Saturday, June 7th
1:00 - 5:00 PM

656 State Route 380
Murrysville, PA 15668

All proceeds to be donated to the
Veterans Homeless Parsonage
in Indiana, PA

Food, Music, Baskets, 50/50

FREE FAMILY EVENT **Family Nature Palooza**

10 am to 3 pm
Saturday, June 7
@ Blue Spruce Park

Nature booths,
community tables
and activities,
Live Entertainment
and more!

Event Sponsored by:



Aetna Better Health' Kids
A CHIP Health Plan



Keep posted at our website: ChildrensAdvisoryCommission.org

adagio
health

VETERAN VOUCHERS

Have you or anyone in
your household served in
the Military?

You can receive up to \$20 in Veteran Vouchers to purchase locally-sourced produce. These vouchers can ONLY be used at the Indiana County Farmers' Market for fresh fruits and vegetables on certain days until allocated funds are depleted.



Community Health Days

9:00 AM-12:00PM - S. 8th & Church St. Indiana, PA 15701

June 21st July 26th
August 16th

VA News and Information



Reduction in VA Claim Backlog

The VA recently announced the disability benefits claims backlog has fallen below 200,000 for the first time since March 2023. A claim is considered “backlogged” when it remains unresolved for more than 125 days.

The current backlog stands at 198,378—down 25% from 264,717 in January 2025. This reduction was achieved through record-setting processing efforts, including:

- Over 1 million disability claims processed faster than ever in a single fiscal year
- A record-setting 256,178 claims processed in April
- More than 15,000 claims processed in a single day on May 20

VA Secretary Doug Collins credited the Trump Administration’s focus on productivity, stating VA remains committed to delivering timely and accurate decisions for Veterans. [Read More](#)

Mission-Driven Innovation

Innovation is transforming health care at VA, combining advanced technology and creative thinking to improve the lives of Veterans nationwide. Through the Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning, VA is implementing tools like telehealth, remote monitoring, mobile apps, and virtual reality to make care more personalized, efficient, and accessible—especially for Veterans in rural communities. VA fosters a culture of collaboration through initiatives like the VA Innovation Ecosystem and the Diffusion of Excellence Shark Tank, where frontline staff present groundbreaking solutions. From reducing opioid use after surgery to screening tools for suicide prevention, and from 3D-printed prosthetics to AI diagnostics, these innovations are revolutionizing care. VA’s commitment ensures high-quality, forward-thinking health services while offering meaningful, mission-driven careers to those who want to serve those who served. [Read More](#)



Health Records

The VA awarded the third option period of its contract with Oracle Health to support Federal Electronic Health Record (EHR) modernization. This builds on earlier improvements in performance and accountability. The move aligns with the Trump administration’s vision for innovation and efficiency and supports Secretary Collins’ efforts to accelerate EHR deployments. In 2023, the contract was restructured into five 1-year terms, allowing annual reviews and renegotiations. This boosts accountability in outages, clinician support, and interoperability. The latest negotiations focus on cost efficiencies while ensuring Oracle Health delivers essential technical and implementation support for improved Veteran care. [Read More](#)

Protect Your PII

Spring cleaning offers Veterans and beneficiaries a perfect opportunity to protect their personally identifiable information (PII) and reduce identity theft risks. Along with decluttering paper and disposing of outdated electronics, it’s crucial to review who has access to your VA records and practice strong online safety habits.

Keep your technology updated with the latest software and security patches, use antivirus software, and enable Multi-Factor Authentication for added security. Protect devices with strong passwords and adjust social media privacy settings.

Avoid sharing sensitive information on unsecured websites, and report any suspicious activity at <https://vsafe.gov> or by calling 833-38V-SAFE to maintain a safer online environment. [Read More](#)

Community Care







The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has eliminated the requirement for a second VA doctor’s approval for Veterans seeking non-VA care under the MISSION Act. Since 2019, Veterans could access community care if deemed in their best medical interest, but these decisions needed secondary review. Now, under the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, this extra step is removed, allowing faster access to care.

Eligible Veterans can use non-VA providers when VA facilities cannot meet care, wait time, distance, or quality standards, improving convenience and customer service. [Read More](#)

Resources

Your Guide to Financial Wellness

The National Veterans Financial Resource Center (FINVET) is a comprehensive, one-stop website created to make it easier for Veterans to access essential financial resources. Its mission is to improve financial literacy and empower Veterans to take control of their financial futures. As part of the VA's Suicide Prevention Strategy, FINVET underscores the vital link between financial stability and mental well-being. By bringing together a wide range of tools and services, FINVET helps Veterans meet basic needs like housing and food security, manage money through effective budgeting and saving, boost income through employment opportunities and VA benefits, reduce debt, strengthen credit, and safeguard against scams and financial emergencies. The platform also reinforces the important role financial health plays in overall wellness. Through its Pillars of Financial Well-Being—outlined below—Veterans can access videos, services, worksheets, and other practical resources designed to foster financial security and support lasting, positive change.

					
Meet Your Basic Needs	Manage Your Money	Increase Your Income	Manage Your Debt	Protect Your Money	Money & Health
Find ways to achieve housing stability, food security, or find clothing or auto assistance.	Learn how to create a budget, save money, and lower impulse buying.	Get details on employment, investing, and VA benefits and compensation.	Determine how to manage debt, improve credit, and lower bills.	Learn how to avoid scams, use secure banking, and prepare for financial emergencies.	Learn how healthy habits can improve your finances and how financial well-being can improve your health.



Pre-Need Burial Benefit

Veterans and their families are encouraged to apply in advance for pre-need burial eligibility in a VA national cemetery to ease future stress and ensure plans are in place.

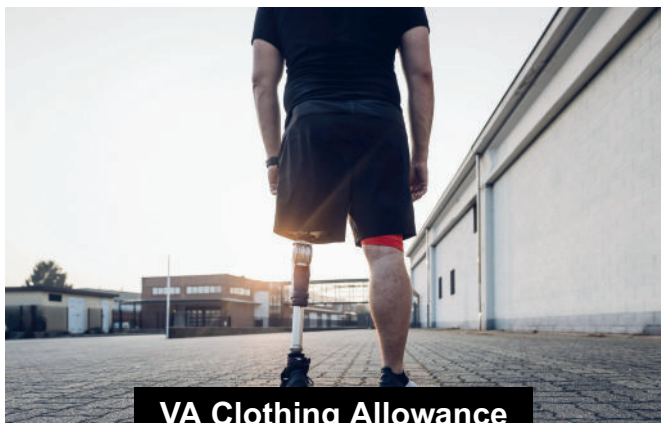
Key Points:

- Confirms burial eligibility before the time of need.
- Applies to VA national cemeteries only (not Arlington or state/tribal cemeteries).
- Application requires personal info, military service details, preferred cemetery, and ideally a DD214.

How to Apply:

- Online at [VA.gov](#)
- Mail or Fax: Submit [VA Form 40-10007](#) to NCA Evidence Intake Center, PO Box 5237, Janesville, WI 53547
- Fax: 855-840-8299
- Bring to our office for us to submit on your behalf

For help, call 800-535-1117 (option 4)



VA Clothing Allowance

Veterans may qualify for an annual clothing allowance if their service-connected prosthetic, orthopedic device, or skin medication causes irreparable damage to outer clothing.

Key Points:

- Apply by August 1 to receive payment between September 1 and October 31.
- If you received payment in 2022 or 2023, no need to reapply annually.
- You must have a service-connected disability

How to Apply:

- First-time applicants or to request an additional allowance must submit [VA Form 10-8678](#).
- Submit to your VA medical center
- VA Claims Intake Center
PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444
- Fax: 844-531-7818
- Bring to our office for us to submit on your behalf

For help, call 800-827-1000

Indiana County Department of Veterans Affairs	<div> <div> <i>Thank you for reading!</i> </div> <div> (724) 465-3815 </div> </div>
https://www.indianacountypa.gov/departments/veteran-affairs/	825 Philadelphia Street Second Floor, Court House Indiana, PA 15701



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