



# VETERANS AFFAIRS



## Moving Forward Together

Dear Veterans, Families, and Friends,

As we continue to serve our valued Veterans and their families, I am excited to share some important updates and initiatives that underscore our commitment to enhancing the lives of those who have bravely served our nation.

In our ongoing effort to foster community and camaraderie, we are thrilled to introduce **Battle Brew**, a new coffee group for Veterans. This informal gathering will provide a relaxed environment for Veterans to connect, share experiences, and build lasting friendships over a cup of coffee. Join us on Friday, October 4 at 9:00 am at Crouse's Café in Shelocta for our next meeting.

I am excited to announce the launch of our **new Facebook page**, Indiana County Department of Veterans Affairs! This platform will serve as a vital resource for sharing updates, events, and important information tailored to our Veteran community. We encourage you to follow us, engage with our posts, and share your thoughts. Your voice matters!

This November, we are proud to participate in **Operation Green Light for Veterans**, a nationwide initiative to support Veterans and raise awareness of their unique challenges. Indiana County will officially proclaim November as a time to honor and recognize our Veterans. We invite everyone to join us in displaying green lights at home and in businesses as a symbol of our support and solidarity. Beginning October 15th, Veterans who have a DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) on file with the Indiana County Recorder of Deeds can visit the Department of Veterans Affairs and receive a **free green light bulb**. If you do not have a DD-214 on file, you can file your document/s with the Indiana County Recorder of Deeds then bring your receipt to our office to receive your free green light bulb.

Finally, looking ahead, we have several things in the works to include a new comprehensive list of **military discounts** available at businesses throughout Indiana County. This resource will be invaluable for Veterans seeking to take advantage of local offerings. Our team is dedicated to continuous training and collaboration to streamline our services. We believe that by enhancing our outreach and resources, we can better meet the needs of our Veterans and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our Veterans and fostering a strong community spirit in Indiana County. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,

*Jessica*  
Jessica Walker  
Director, Department of Veterans Affairs

### Highlights

Veteran Spotlight

VLP Stand Down

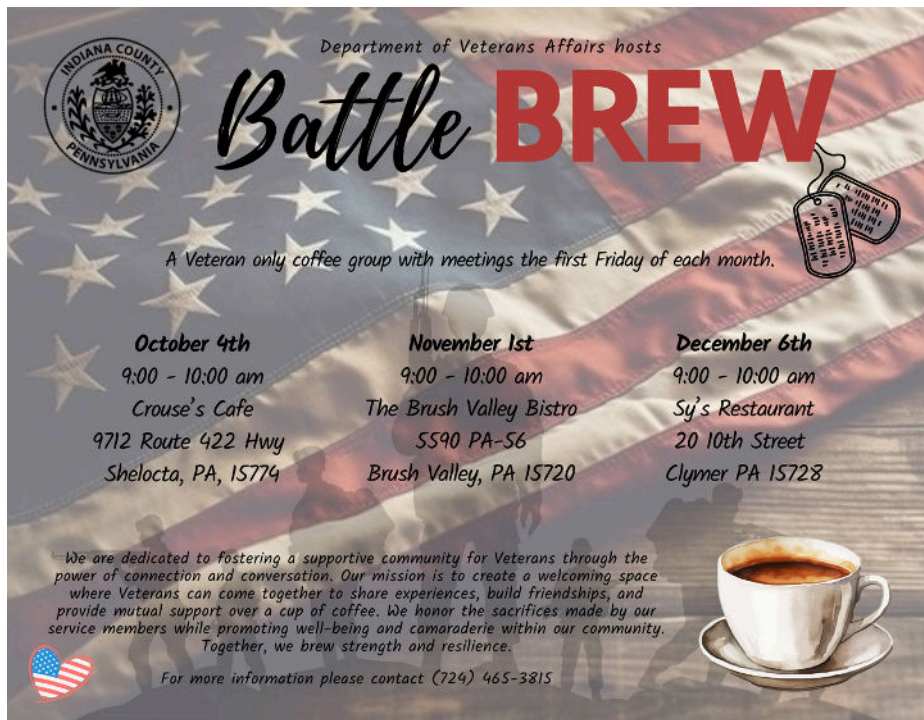
Medical  
Transportation

Caregiver  
Support

VA Home Loans

VALife

Types of Claims



Department of Veterans Affairs hosts

## Battle BREW

A Veteran only coffee group with meetings the first Friday of each month.

<p><b>October 4th</b> 9:00 - 10:00 am Crouse's Cafe 9712 Route 422 Hwy Shelocta, PA, 15774</p>	<p><b>November 1st</b> 9:00 - 10:00 am The Brush Valley Bistro 5590 PA-S6 Brush Valley, PA 15720</p>	<p><b>December 6th</b> 9:00 - 10:00 am Sy's Restaurant 20 10th Street Clymer PA 15728</p>
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We are dedicated to fostering a supportive community for Veterans through the power of connection and conversation. Our mission is to create a welcoming space where Veterans can come together to share experiences, build friendships, and provide mutual support over a cup of coffee. We honor the sacrifices made by our service members while promoting well-being and camaraderie within our community. Together, we brew strength and resilience.

For more information please contact (724) 465-3815

# OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

SHINE A LIGHT  
SHOW SUPPORT  
RAISE AWARENESS  
THANK OUR VETERANS

ENTIRE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

## Veteran Spotlight



This month's Veteran is Sheriff Bob Fyock.

Sheriff Fyock enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969 as a Military Police Officer and attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Sheriff Fyock served in Vietnam and clearly remembers the poor treatment of the military upon their return home from war.

Serving as a Military Police Officer in the Army started his 52 year career in law enforcement. He has held the positions of correctional officer, deputy sheriff, and warden. Sheriff Fyock was elected as Sheriff for Indiana County in 2003 and has been serving our community ever since.

Sheriff Fyock has been married to his wife Barbara for 44 years and has one daughter and two grandchildren.

## VLP VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

# JOHNSTOWN STAND DOWN

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 12**  
9:00AM-1:00PM

Johnstown Veterans Leadership Program  
727 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905

**FREE SERVICES FOR VETERANS:**  
 Clothing - Personal Hygiene/Care Items - General Health Care - Flu Shots  
 Legal Assistance - ID Cards - Vocational Resources - Employment Resources  
 Education Resources - Counseling referrals - Access to Veteran Benefits and Eligibility and more!

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

PLEASE BRING PROOF OF VETERAN STATUS

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

**KIM PORTSER**  
 ☎ 844-VLP-VETS x239  
 ✉ PORTSERK@VLPWPA.ORG




**NEED A RIDE TO A VA APPOINTMENT?**

Did you know that our office operates three vehicles through the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization?

These vans are driven by volunteers who help transport Veterans to and from VA medical appointments at locations like the Indiana VA Clinic, Butler VA Medical Center, and Pittsburgh VA Medical Center.

If you are in need of a ride to a VA medical appointment, please call 724-465-3815 to get on our schedule!

# VA News and Information



VA Butler Healthcare  
325 New Castle Road  
Butler, PA 16001  
878-271-6174

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center  
2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814-943-8164 ext. 4776

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System  
H. John Heinz Campus  
1010 Delafield Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215  
412-822-2364

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our Nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services.

Respite is a period of rest or a break from caregiving. Whether it's for a few hours or a few days, respite can help caregivers take time for themselves. CSP encourages every caregiver to incorporate respite into their lives.

CSP carries out its mission through two programs:

## Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS)

Skills training, mobile support, one-on-one coaching, group support and coaching, self-care, peer support mentoring, telephone support, online programs, and referrals to available VA and community resources.

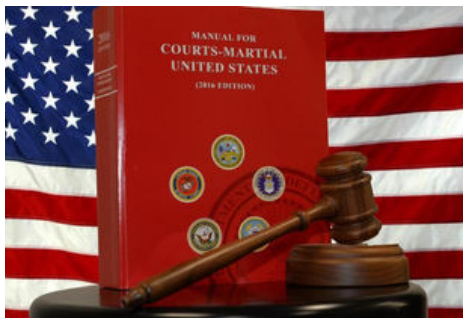
[Click here for the PGCSS Fact Sheet](#)

## Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

Education and training, health insurance (if caregiver is otherwise uninsured), mental health counseling, monthly financial stipend, respite care and other services.

[Click here for the PCAFC Fact Sheet](#)

Every VA medical center has a CSP team that provides valuable information about resources to help caregivers stay informed and supported as they support Veterans.



## Access to Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs proposed establishing a first-of-its-kind grant program aimed at increasing access to VA programs and benefits. The proposed program would fund entities that provide legal support to help Veterans and former service members access VA programs, improve their military discharge status or characterization of service, and seek a review of a military record before a board of correction for military or naval records. The aim of this new program would be to increase access to VA programs and benefits — including compensation and pension, education, health care, loans, national cemetery matters, and VA character of discharge determinations.

[Read More](#)



## VA Home Loans

VA helps Veterans, service members, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners. As part of our mission to serve you, we provide a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help you buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for your own personal occupancy. VA Home Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide you with more favorable terms.

» [LEARN MORE](#)

**No downpayment, low interest rates, limited closing costs, LIFETIME BENEFIT!**




## PA Veterans Homes

If you served our country, love to show your patriotism and need long-term care, then one of Pennsylvania's six Veterans Homes is the ideal place for you and/or your spouse to call home. PA Veterans Homes provide residents with the care and support they need in order to live an active and healthy life with as much independence as possible. They also offer levels of care tailored to the specific health needs of our residents and are supplemented with an array of clinical services that include: medical, clinical and nursing services; drug and nutritional therapy; rehabilitative services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy and recreational therapy; dental services; and social services.

[Read More](#)

# Resources



Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (**VALife**) is a new life insurance program which provides low-cost coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities.

**If you're age 80 or younger**  
 You're eligible for VALife if you have a VA service-connected disability rating—even if your rating is 0%. There's no time limit to apply after getting your disability rating.

**If you're age 81 or older**  
 All of these must be true:

- Before you turned 81 years old, you applied for VA disability compensation for a service-connected disability, and
- After you turned 81, you received a rating for that same disability, and
- You apply for VALife within 2 years of getting notification of your disability rating

[Click here for more info](#)

## BE A BUDDY!




VA has established October 21-25 as VA's National Buddy Check Week, Veteran Buddy Check Week aims to enhance peer-to-peer connections, improve mental health, and increase access to VA and non-VA resources. Veteran family members, caregivers and survivors are also encouraged to participate.

Many of your buddies may be doing well, while others may need some encouragement. Whether it's a call, a text or coffee break, reaching out makes all the difference! Buddy Check is a call to action for all Veterans to reaffirm their bonds and the connections that unite them across the nation.



**Veterans Crisis Line**  
 DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



Maxim provides quality long-term home healthcare to our nation's heroes and their spouses through a wide range of services. The home healthcare services allows Veterans the choice to receive care in the comfort and privacy of their homes as opposed to in a care facility. Their team of highly training clinicians and caregivers use their experience to implement full-spectrum care coordination plans.

Services include: personal care, homemaker services, respite, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, feeding tube care and management, oxygen management, medication management, and more.



**Contact the Pittsburgh Regional Office for more information: (412) 687-2838**




**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

### Types of Disability Claims

**Original claim** - your first claim for disability compensation

**Increased claim** - claim for more compensation for a disability that has already determined to be service connected and that's gotten worse

**New claim** - claim for added benefits or other benefit requests related to an existing service-connected disability

**Secondary service-connected claim** - claim for a new disability that's linked to a service-connected disability you already have

**Supplemental claim** - providing new evidence to support a disability claim that was denied

*Thank you for reading!*

Indiana County Department of Veterans Affairs	(724) 465-3815
<a href="https://www.indianacountypa.gov/departments/veteran-affairs/">https://www.indianacountypa.gov/departments/veteran-affairs/</a>	825 Philadelphia Street Second Floor, Court House Indiana, PA 15701



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