Cabinet Meeting Materials

September 24, 2013
August 22, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Scott
    Honorable Pam Bondi
    Honorable Jeff Atwater
    Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs
      Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda – Cabinet Meeting of September 24th, 2013

The next public meeting of the Governor and Cabinet to transact the business of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs will be at 9:00 a.m. (EST), September 24th, 2013 in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Agenda and all required back-up materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please call my Cabinet Affairs Officer, Bobby Carbonell, at (850) 487-1533 x7705.

cc: Jerry McDaniel, Director
    Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget

    Michael Sevi, Director of Cabinet Affairs
    Executive Office of the Governor

Attachments
AGENDA  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS  
Meeting materials for the following items are available on the web at:  

MEMBERS  
Governor Rick Scott  
Attorney General Pam Bondi  
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater  
Commissioner Adam Putnam  

September 24th, 2012  
9:00 A.M. (EST)  
LL-03, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida  

Contact:  Bobby Carbonell, Director, Legislative & Cabinet Affairs  
(850) 487-1533 x7705  

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<td>Respectfully request approval of the minutes of the May 8th, 2013 meeting.</td>
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<td>Recognition of FDVA Employee of the Year: Mike Howard, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Veterans’ Claims.</td>
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<td>Respectfully request approval of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Finalists.</td>
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Representing:

HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The above agencies came to be heard before THE FLORIDA CABINET, the Honorable Governor Scott presiding, at Nemours Children's Hospital, in the Auditorium, Orlando, Florida, on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, commencing at approximately 9:14 a.m.

Reported by:

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Florida Professional Reporter
Notary Public

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APPEARANCES:

Representing the Florida Cabinet:

RICK SCOTT
Governor

PAM BONDI
Attorney General

JEFF ATWATER
Chief Financial Officer

ADAM PUTNAM
Commissioner of Agriculture

* * *

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(Presented by JULIE JONES)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
(Presented by MIKE PRENDERGAST)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 45
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Now I'd like to recognize Executive Director Julie Jones with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to present their agenda. Good morning.

MS. JONES: Thank you, Governor and Cabinet members. The Department of Highway Safety serves more than 50 million drivers and processes more than 18 million vehicle registrations. We patrol 30 million miles per year with the Highway Patrol. Just for our visitors, the Florida Department of Highway Safety, this is your Florida Highway Patrol. We have a motor services unit and then we have an I.T. section that's integral in how we do our business.

Governor, I have two agenda items for your consideration and approval today. Item Number 1, I respectfully request approval of the minutes from the February 7th Cabinet meeting.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?
ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?
CFO ATWATER: Second.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Moved and seconded. Any objections or comments? Hearing none, the motion carries.

MS. JONES: Item Number 2 is the Department's Performance Report for the third quarter of this fiscal year. In our highlight section of the quarterly
performance you'll note that we did a number of public outreach projects; the Move Over law, hit and run crashes which I'm going to bring Major Cindy Williams up to talk about just briefly.

Spring Break Enforcement. We were very successful in this initiative this year especially in the Panama City Beach area.

Bike Week. We do motorcycle safety education leading up to Bike Week and then participate in a lot of events in order to keep the fatality rates down associated with this event. And I'm proud to say that crashes and fatalities were both down this year.

This quarter we also worked to educate the public about fake websites. We've had a proliferation of fake public safety websites that when you click on it it appears to be a governmental entity, but it's actually downloading malware and it's also charging extra costs claiming to be a public site when indeed you can get that service for free.

So we're working closely with the public and our law enforcement partners to take these sites down as a public service initiative.

We also continue to try to put as many troopers on the road as we can. This quarter we graduated another class of 52 and I'm proud to say that the last three basic
recruit classes we have 30 veterans that we recruited and got through the academy.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Congratulations.

MS. JONES: Revenue Information. We had a solid third quarter. We collected and distributed $658 million. This is a $59 million increase in revenue from the prior quarter.

The last topic is our Performance Dashboard. As you know, we have 37 performance standards that we rate ourselves on. Thirty-three were in the green meet standards category. I'd like to talk about the four measures that were not.

Measure number 2 is the number of reported highway crashes. Last Fall I came to you and said that this might be an issue and this issue has slipped into yellow from green. It's a nationwide trend. It's not just in Florida.

While no specific issue has been identified, we believe that the turn in the economy -- the economy is becoming a little more positive, more cars on the road, more miles driven. And in the Fall we'll have more data available to --

GOVERNOR SCOTT: More construction too.

MS. JONES: Pardon me?

GOVERNOR SCOTT: There's way more construction going
on right now.

MS. JONES: That's correct, sir. Again, it's all associated with the turn in the economy.

One of the contributing factors though is the increased number of hit and run crashes and I'm going to bring Cindy Williams up here. She's the troop commander, the major here locally.

Orlando is one of the top three counties for hit and run in the state and we've had some specific initiatives on this. Hit and run crashes are up 10 percent and the tragedy here is three out of five fatalities statewide associated with pedestrian fatalities is due to hit and run.

So this is not only our educational campaign this quarter, but also our enforcement initiatives across the state. So Cindy is going to spend just two minutes on this.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. In FHP Troop D we cover Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard County. We responded just in Orange County to over 4,883 hit and run crashes in 2012. Of the hit and run crashes 17 percent or 816 resulted in injury with the majority of them being unsolved. Seventeen of the 21 crashes involved fatalities that remain unsolved.
In response to the increased number of hit and run crashes in Troop D, in January we implemented a new approach to solving these cases and dedicated a trooper to these operations.

This initiative was utilized through taking data through our cost report system and looking for hit and run tags and strength searches to look for what we could find with cases that were unsolved.

Of these we found 53 cases that involved injuries. We were able to assign a trooper to these to go down and look for leads. Forty-two of these actually were within Orange County. Of the data that we analyzed we utilized the Bureau of Intelligence Investigations and our partner with the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

Within a few months with this new information 10 cases were reopened with further leads. One of these already resulted in an arrest. Two of these resulted in location of the vehicle and insurance information being provided.

We've also had numerous letters that we've written to our person that has been doing these thanking them. Even in cases when we didn't find anybody we found further leads and people felt that we were taking that extra step.

In February we initiated press conferences that were held around the state kicking off the hit and run
awareness campaign. We also in Troop D had a press
cconference and had the victims of hit and runs come and
talk to us, one of which was Jamie McWilliams who was
instrumental in getting the law changed for many of the
hit and run crimes; mostly serious bodily injury and
death, from a third-degree felony to a first degree
felony. If you've ever dealt with Ms. McWilliams, she is
passionate and she was willing to do whatever to get this
taken on.

The Florida Highway Patrol is using social media and
posting these things on Facebook and our website. We're
hitting the younger crowd and the people that are on the
website and that's really making a big impact.

And in closing, this operation will enhance patrols
in an active role in the state for hit and run crashes to
try to reduce them and to apprehend the violators.

On a side note, I really like the dog so I'm talking
to my family. I gotta talk to the family because we
already have one.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: It's over once you start talking
about it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you. He's so sweet.
Thank you.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: It's over.

MS. JONES: Yeah, it is.
ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: 10 and 0, people.

MS. JONES: She met the dog before you brought the dog up and said okay, I gotta call home. So we're going to continue to do outreach in education and it's training, not only the driver trying to train people to stop and not be afraid of the law enforcement consequences, but also training the hit and run victim to know what to look for and how to report back to the patrol to help with these issues.

Performance measure number 20 is our customer service wait times. And these continue to get better and we're up to 87.5 percent of our customers wait less than 30 minutes now in a driver license office.

The last measure I'd like to discuss is our average wait times in our customer service centers. These were up 27 percent from the last quarter. Two things happened to affect this measure. A new I.T. system was installed and it took a lot of training and we took people off the line to get the training done, but we've also had a higher number of non-citizens calling.

Up until this quarter if you were a non-citizen asking for a driver's license or an I.D., we processed you in the office and then we told you to wait and we verified your legal status in the state through the Federal Government through the main office in Tallahassee.
We've now this quarter centralized that to reduce those numbers of calls and I'm hoping that will continue to bring this measure into compliance.

We focus on technology, but these are complicated questions that take a person to actually talk to. So we're going to work through that.

With that, that concludes our quarterly report and I would ask that you respectfully -- I respectfully request you approve the report as it stands.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much, Julie. So is there a motion to approve the report?

CFO ATWATER: So moved.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Second it.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Any comments or objections? Hearing none, the motion carries. Thanks.

MS. JONES: Thank you, Governor.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Now I'd like to recognize Executive Director Mike Prendergast with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Good morning.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Good morning, Governor Scott, General Bondi, CFO Atwater and Commissioner Putnam. It's great to be here today as your confirmed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.

Before I go into my formal remarks, I wanted to make a special announcement to all of you that I briefed your staff on last week. Today will be Jim Brodie's last official Cabinet meeting as our Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs.

After a distinguished career in State Government and in the private sector, Jim has succumbed to the desires of his lovely bride, DeDe, and Jim is retiring from Florida State Government on June 20th, but he's going to stay a fixture in the Tallahassee community. And we'll see if we can get Jim by before he packs up his tent and rolls out the gate for the last time to say goodbye to each and every one of you.

Jim's service started out in the United States Navy and then he worked at the University of Miami.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Were you in the Navy?

MR. PRENDERGAST: No, I was in the senior service,
Governor, the United States Army. My dad was in the Navy in the Second World War, so we do have that bond at least.

Jim has been with us in the Department of Veterans Affairs since December of 2004. So he's culminating at about eight and a half years with the Department and more than 14 years in Florida State Government.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Too young to retire.

MR. PRENDERGAST: I'm also very proud to report to all of you again today that once again our State Veterans Nursing Home program has filled all 720 beds in our skilled nursing facilities for a 100 percent occupancy rate.

In addition to that, CFO Atwater, thank you for recognizing our nurses. We have 671 nurses, registered nurses, LPNs and certified nursing assistants in the Department of Veterans Affairs and we have sent out an announcement thanking them for their service as well. So thank you for recognizing them today.

We do have four agenda items for you today. Item 1 consists of the minutes from the March 19th Cabinet meeting and we respectfully request approval.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections? Hearing none, the motion carries.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

Item 2 is an after-action report about the Homeless Veterans Stand Down held in Tallahassee at the North Florida Fairgrounds on April 5th through the 7th.

This event was coordinated by the Florida Veterans Foundation. As you know, the Florida Veterans Foundation is our direct support organization of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

John Haynes is our present Chairman of the Florida Veterans Foundation and John is a retired Marine having served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. John joined the Corp at the age of 15 and served on active duty for 30 years. John was awarded the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry in combat and also the Purple Heart for wounds received in action against an armed enemy.

It’s a distinct honor for me to introduce Major Haynes to talk briefly about the Stand Down and the great achievements that we achieved at our first ever Stand Down for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Great tie.

MR. HAYNES: Thank you, sir. Good morning, Governor and members of the Cabinet, my fellow Americans, lovers of freedom all. I'm deeply honored to be here this morning
to discuss with you the Stand Down that we recently
conducted in Tallahassee.

As a result of the study made it was determined that
in Leon County alone, which is where our State Capitol is, we have 187 homeless veterans. Within the State of Florida we have 5,300 homeless veterans that is recorded and I can promise you, and I think correctly, that there's many more than that.

One of the important things that I think we should remember about a homeless veteran is who are they and why are they homeless. First of all, they're veterans just like I and many of you, regular Americans. For one reason or another they were called to active duty. They went to war, they served their country and while serving their country often in times of great danger, they suffered after effects such as post-traumatic stress syndrome or traumatic brain injuries.

These veterans come home, most are out of the service and come back out into the population. Due to the post-traumatic stress or that traumatic brain injury they have great difficulties. Often times they find difficulty obtaining employment and they also have problems conducting themselves like a great citizen or a good citizen would. They run afoul of the law.

Many of the homeless veterans that we worked with at
our three-day Stand Down are veterans that have active warrants out for their arrest and many of these have to do with child support issues.

During the three-day Stand Down that we had, we brought these veterans in. They arrived on a Friday morning at 6:00 a.m. It was very, very cold that day and rainy. We first introduced them to a hot shower, a hot meal and then we issued each and every one a minimum of three issues of clothing.

Now I would like to tell you some statistics. Statistics involve numbers and I hope that I don't bore you with this. During the three days we accommodated 282 veterans; 256 males and 26 females. And, by the way, some homeless veterans do really have families. They had 21 children and they also had 15 dogs. Many homeless veterans have dogs that live with them in the woods.

We attempted to reintroduce these veterans to a better way of life. We wanted to do away with those outstanding warrants. So as a result, we had a legal team there. We had a judge. We had 16 attorneys. We had 20 law students from Florida State University. During that period of time many of the outstanding warrants were settled. We don't know the exact savings of money to Leon County and the other counties in Florida, but I can tell you that there was indeed a significant saving of money
during that three-day period and we really thank our legal
system; our judges and lawyers for the hard work that they
did. They truly had an interest and they are still
continuing until this day to work with these veterans.

We had 25 of these homeless veterans that were
presented with their birth certificates that day as a
result of the legal system being on site. We know that in
this day and age you've got to have a birth certificate or
you can't get a job, probably can't even get into a
hospital.

We had 22 that received health care and physical
examinations. We had nine that were tested for HIV. One
veteran was admitted to a local hospital as a result of
very, very serious medical condition that he had. Nine
veterans were tested for tuberculosis. We had 60 veterans
that received dental care. An additional 100 veterans
received emergency prescriptions.

All in all we had 90 cases that were seen by our
legal system. We had 32 veterans that actually went
before the judge and, as I mentioned earlier, a lot of
those were involving children and lack of support.

Many of those veterans are now free. They can go out
now and seek a job because they don't have a warrant
hanging over their head. This is very, very important to
these veterans.
It's our great desire within the State of Florida and I know that the Governor and Colonel Prendergast and everyone concerned, it's their deep desire to bring these veterans back into the community.

Where there's retribution to be paid, they can do that. We're not asking that everything just be waived and disregarded. Many of those veterans that went before the judge that day, they're doing time out working for the community, working those fines off.

So it wasn't just a handshake and a wave and you're now free. They're facing up, but the main thing is they now have a different outlook on life. Many of these veterans feel that they have been abandoned from society.

Our purpose was to change that concept and we feel that next year when we do our Stand Down that many more veterans will come out of the woods and come back to us. After all, the President of the United States has stated that by the year 2015 we want to do away with the word homelessness among veterans and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has stated the same thing.

My boss, Colonel Prendergast, has stated that he wants it to end today. Thank you very kindly.

MR. PRENDERGAST: I'd be remiss if I didn't introduce Colonel Retired Washington Sanchez, Former Departmental Commander of the Military awarded the Purple Heart and our
key leader for pulling off this year's Stand Down for our homeless veterans in the Northern Florida Panhandle area. Thank you for your leadership, Washington.

Thank you, John and Washington, for your leadership. Unless there are any questions, this concludes our report on Item 2 and we respectfully request approval of the Stand Down Report.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept the report?

CFO ATWATER: So moved.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections? Hearing none, the report is accepted.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you, Governor.

Item 3 is a brief status report by Mr. Tim Lizzurte, the medical director of the Orlando V.A. Medical Center which is also under construction right here on this same campus as the Nemours Hospital. Tim.

MR. LIZZURTE: Thank you, Director. Good morning, Governor. Good morning, Cabinet. It's my honor to provide an update on this and I think it's fitting that you honored teachers. I had one teacher who said in giving a brief, keep it brief, and I aim to do that today.

I'm joined in the audience today by Tom Lesniewski
(ph.) who is the acting network director for the Sunshine Network. He oversees the seven facilities in the Great State of Florida and I'm privileged to be briefing you on the next one.

So the portfolio of the project here in Orlando will be the eighth V.A. Medical Center in the State of Florida. It's targeted to be budgeted at about $616 million, located on 65 acres. It will build out to 1.2 million square feet, involve 134 in-patient beds, 3,100 parking spots and employ 2,100 staff and serve 113,000 first year of operation veterans in East Central Florida.

The way this is contracted out is actually several different contracts. All have been completed with the exception of the last one which is the fitting out of the main medical complex and it is currently on target to be completed contractually by August, but really we're expecting it to be completed by April of 2014. It's currently about 75 percent complete.

Not listed here is a fifth phase of the project, the Simulation Center. Orlando was fortunate enough to be designated a national center for simulation for the entire V.A. national healthcare system. That will be 53,000 square feet of simulation space here across the complex.

We are asked often when the construction is complete when do you expect to see the first patient. When I get
the keys to the building, I expect to see our first
patient within 90 days for the clinical inventory that we
presently have at our Lake Baldwin. The plan today is to
move Lake Baldwin services down here to Lake Nona and
we'll expect to do that within 90 days.

And then expanding current clinical inventory, adding
capacity, audiology booths, clinic appointments, et
cetera; we expect to be doing that over a 120-day period.
And then new clinical inventory, things that we don't have
in our hospital today, things like in-patient beds, we
expect to be opening that up 180 days from the day that we
receive the keys to the building.

This is a projected economic impact. In addition to
the recurring annual budget that we get from the Federal
Government, we'll be targeting about $400 to $500 million
a year in recurring funding.

The rollout and activation is that we will be adding
roughly 1,400 jobs between now and the final activation of
the medical center in 2015. And that is my update and
brief.

I just would like to make the final point that this
is more than bricks and mortar. We are fundamentally
changing the way that we deliver healthcare. It's nice
talking about the bricks and mortar, but the programming
going into the medical center is really the exciting part.
There will be lots of new technology and innovation that will be implemented as part of our activation and build out. Finally, collaborating with great partners that you've heard about already today and Director Prendergast at the State level has been phenomenal in our work in completing this project. Thank you.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you, Tim. Unless there are any questions from the Governor and Cabinet, this concludes our report on Item Number 3. We respectfully request approval.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept the report?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections? Hearing none, the motion carries.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

Item 4 is a presentation about Paychecks for Patriots. Executive Director Jesse Panuccio briefly touched upon this subject whenever he was doing his presentation a few minutes ago.

Speaking of paychecks, 736 veterans joined the Florida workforce last week and since the first of the
year more than 10,100 veterans have joined the Florida workforce. That's a real testament to those that have been working hard.

The Paychecks for Patriots event is a 10-city job fair for veterans. It's coordinated between the Department of Economic Opportunity, the 24 Regional Workforce Boards, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the National Guard, the Department of Veterans Affairs and, of course, our corporate partners at Dollar General.

We are also grateful to the Governor for his strong letters of support to this initiative and we look forward to the results that this initiative will produce for our veterans out in the workforce community.

Our first presenter today is Judge Greg Holder of the 13th Judicial Circuit in Hillsborough County. Judge Holder is also the key leader for Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve in the State of Florida. Judge Holder.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: I would be remiss if I didn't say we're so pleased to have you here today, Your Honor. When I was a prosecutor I appeared in front of him many times and he's one of the best judges I know and a dear friend. So thank you for being here, Judge Holder.

JUDGE HOLDER: It's a pleasure to salute you.
ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: That's frightening, but thank you.

JUDGE HOLDER: Governor, CFO, Commissioner and Attorney General. I'm proud to say I'm from the Department of Defense and we are here to help you. I think Dr. German said it best when she used the phrase collaborative innovation. I will borrow that phrase, Doctor, because indeed this is a public and private partnership by and between the Federal Government and our State Government.

We are extremely pleased and proud to partner with our good friends, the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, the great Dollar General Corporation, our National Guard, Workforce Florida and, of course, REEO. Sir, we look forward to bringing jobs to Florida and jobs to our veterans and their family members. Thank you.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Next up will be the Adjutant General of the Great State of Florida, Major General Emmett Titshaw.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning.

MR. TITSHAW: Governor Scott, Attorney General Bondi, CFO Atwater and Commissioner Putnum, thank you for this opportunity to make brief remarks today.

Our Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen accept
many risks and hardships as they serve our communities, our state and our nation. One of those hardships should not be unemployment. We greatly appreciate those employers who are willing to hire our service members and our veterans and we applaud the efforts of everyone who has helped make these Paychecks for Patriots events possible this month.

The month of May has been designated as Military Appreciation Month and as the citizens of this state express their appreciation to all of our service members, we would like to express our appreciation back to the State of Florida, the Legislature, this Cabinet, Governor Scott, the Department of Military Affairs, DEO, ESGR and Dollar General for putting on this event. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Most importantly and finally I'd like to introduce Mr. Bob Ravener. I pulled out his card because it's a little bit different from what I had in my notes. It says Bob Ravener, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer. Ladies and gentlemen, Bob Ravener from Dollar General.

MR. RAVENER: Thank you, Mike. Good morning, Governor and Cabinet members. I'm pleased to be here this morning representing the more than 100 employers that are
participating in this event on Friday.

I would tell you that I have a special place in my heart for the State of Florida as no less than six members of my family who have served in the military have lived at one point in time, including me, in the State of Florida.

Across the state so far we have over 115 Florida employers who are participating in our first Paychecks for Patriots veterans hiring event in ten locations across Florida on this Friday, May 10th. All of the corporate partners have been working with the military community to provide job opportunities.

This program is proof positive that the public and private sectors cannot only effectively partner to help our veterans successfully transition to civilian life, but this initiative is the best example I've ever seen in my more than 25 years in corporate America of the public and private sectors working effectively together to make a difference.

We are proud to be part of this unique groundbreaking partnership that's been supported by the Florida State Government and the Florida military community.

This program is not a one size fits all. Paychecks for Patriots has been structured to meet the unique needs of our Florida veterans and the Florida employers. This has been truly a team effort.
On behalf of the private sector I'd like to thank General Emmett Titshaw and the Florida National Guard, Colonel Mike Prendergast and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, Judge Greg Holder and the Florida ESGR, Executive Director Jesse Panuccio and his team at the Department of Economic Opportunity and Regional Workforce Boards for working so hard to make this a success and to the over 100 employers that are going to be representing their companies this Friday.

I'd also like to thank the team that's with me here today who has really donned the bulk of the effort for Dollar General. So my thanks to Steve Brophy, Kathy Reardon, Charlotte Hutchins and Dan McDonald.

As a Navy veteran myself like you, Governor, I have an understanding of the needs of our military community and the difficulty of making the transition from the public to the private sector. There's just no clear road. Having navigated that road myself more than 25 years ago, I certainly believe that Paychecks for Patriots can make that journey easier for our military families and in so doing it will benefit our veterans, our employers and the economy. This is clearly a win-win.

Veterans need career opportunities and growing businesses like Dollar General need great people who have the attitude, aptitude and aspiration to grow with us and
build a meaningful career. For me it's not about where you start, it's about where you finish.

At Dollar General alone we've hired over 7,000 veterans in the last two years and they're making tremendous contributions to our company. In Florida Dollar General has more than 600 stores and we'll open another 35 this year. We have more than 4,300 Florida citizens working in our stores and we're going to hire roughly 600 more Floridians at Dollar General in the month of May.

At Dollar General across the country we expect to open our eleven thousandth store this year. In fact, we've opened 2,500 stores and added more than 30,000 new jobs in the last five years alone and we need great people including the veteran community to grow with us.

As a former submarine officer and the chief people officer at Dollar General I know the tremendous skill set that our military service members and their spouses offer to the private sector as potential employees.

And let me just name a few. They are excellent leaders and outstanding followers. They belong to a community where loyalty, dedication and motivation are highly valued. They exemplify professionalism. They carry themselves with a high degree of integrity, an air of self-respect and sense of duty and honor. They are
responsible.

They know how to make decisions and they take responsibility in meeting those deadlines and difficulties they face. They embrace diversity. The U.S. Military is a meritocracy to its core measured by one's performance and service to others. They understand that nothing is impossible with enough effort and teamwork. Their mission-oriented mindset is invaluable in the workplace and contagious among their colleagues.

This is our first Paychecks for Patriots effort in Florida, but I'm hopeful it will be the first of many. I believe that working together we're starting something great here in the state that can match our veterans and the career opportunities with employers looking for great people for many years to come.

Let me conclude by saying thank you, Governor Scott, and your leadership team. We appreciate your support of the Paychecks for Patriots effort and your dedication to the military. And I also want to thank each member of the Cabinet for your support. This will be a great service to our veteran community and it's been a pleasure to work with your state and local officials and the passion that they represent. Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you. Good job.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Ladies and gentlemen, subject to
your questions, this concludes our agenda Item Number 4. We respectfully request approval.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the report?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections? Hearing none, it passes. Thank you very much.

MR. PRENDERGAST: Bob, thank you again for coming and thank you for your leadership in hiring our veterans.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you. Thanks, everybody, for doing this. It makes a big difference for families. So thanks a lot. Great job, Mike.
GOVERNOR SCOTT: Now I'd like to recognize Teacher of the Year for Orange County, Dorina Sackman with Westridge Middle School. If you'll stand so we can recognize you. Thank you very much and thanks for all you do for these kids. You change people's lives and you inspire them. So thank you for what you're doing.

Now I'd like to recognize Executive Director Ash Williams with the State Board of Administration. Good morning, Ash. The portfolio is up.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, it is up and we can just open with that since you've got it. I think it's a segway. As of the close on the 6th we are up 15.6 percent year-to-day. That's 63 basis points ahead of target and leaves a balance of $136.2 billion.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: That's great.

MR. WILLIAMS: All right.

Item 1 I would like to request approval of the appointment of Mary Ellen Elia to the Investment Advisory Council. She was nominated by Attorney General Bondi.

MS. BONDI: And if I could say a few words, Governor. As we all know, teachers comprise such a huge portion of our Pension Fund and Mary Ellen Elia, if approved by the Governor and Cabinet, will be the first superintendent on the Investment Advisory Council.
Under her leadership Hillsborough Schools have invested over half a billion in the Florida PRIME Fund, which is our local government fund, and Mary Ellen Elia previously was Chair of the Participant Local Government Advisory Council.

I know her personally. I know her work ethic and I'm just so proud that she's willing to take this on. And I think it would be incredible to have a superintendent of the schools on our Investment Advisory Council.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion? Are you making a motion?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved that we appoint Mary Ellen Elia.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections? Showing none, approved unanimously. She'll be very good. She's very good. You did a great job.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. And I would say too, as one of the founding members of the Participant Local Government Advisory Council, in her chairmanship of that group, she did a terrific job.

And if one looks back to the most recent sales of securities we've done on the Pool B, which is a securities
that became liquid back in 2007, we are now in a position
to distribute or have already distributed a little over 92
percent of the original value of those securities.

I'd like to move forward with a little update on the
Florida Growth Fund as it relates to the State Board of
Administration. For those of you who are in the local
area and don't know who the State Board is, we're
especially the State's investment organization. We
service folks as fiduciaries providing investment services
to over 30 different entities as directed by Florida
Statute.

The aggregate clients we manage are north of $167
billion. We operate in an extraordinarily transparent
environment obviously with the leadership of our trustees,
but also with very intensive oversight and reporting both
internally and externally.

We just discussed two of our advisory bodies, the
Participant Local Government Advisory Council and our
Investment Advisory Council. We also have an Independent
Audit Committee and use a number of independent
consultants who serve as fiduciaries to us to help us make
good investment decisions.

This just gives you a sense of how our investment
duties break down across the Pension Plan which is the
defined benefit part of our pension system, the Investment
Plan which is defined contribution, the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Florida PRIME which is a local government investment pool that Ms. Elia has been very involved with in recent years.

We also have a very interesting entity called the Florida Growth Fund. The legislature in 2008 passed the Florida Technology and Growth Act which allowed investment of up to one and a half percent of the pension's assets in entities with significant ties to Florida that relate to technology, engineering, aviation, computer tech, renewable energy, medical and life sciences.

When looking at the business model of how to undertake an investment program of that sort, we looked all over the country and concluded that the best model was to hire a third-party entity with investment expertise who would have discretion in selecting investments and would serve as a fiduciary to us.

To fill that role we selected a firm called Hamilton Lane. They're one of the world's leading private equity investment advisory firms and are based in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. We have a long and deep relationship with them and other private equity investing and we have been fortunate to have Mr. Greg Baty come to Florida full-time and open an office for Hamilton Lane in Florida because we knew the Governor wanted to otherwise, so we did.
We have invested two successive tranches of $250 million each in this program. The Legislative Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability did a review of the program recently and published findings showing that through June 30 of 2012 the internal rate of return on this set of investments is north of 21 percent. It further had an ancillary benefit of creating close to 4,200 jobs in Florida with an average income of approximately $58,000.

I'm going to turn this over to Greg Baty, but by way of background I want to share with you that in addition to working with Hamilton Lane, Greg has previously worked in the private equity and venture capital area with Sandhill Capital and Garage.com in both areas where he's created portfolio opportunities.

He has owned and operated a retail franchise and has had operational roles in tech startups. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Stanford and has a very distinct Florida connection in his past.

Before he got a really difficult job as a professional investor he played professional football in the NFL and the last team he played with was the Miami Dolphins. So with that, Greg.

MR. BATY: Thank you, Ash, and thank you, Governor Scott and Cabinet. I appreciate the opportunity to be
here. Thank you Nemours Hospital as well. This whole Medical City is just an amazing tribute to what's going on here in Florida.

I can tell you now it's a lot easier waking up on Mondays doing my job now than it was for nine years playing football. I felt like I had a car accident every Sunday afternoon for about nine years.

I'm the last speaker between you and lunch so I know I need to be brief and I will be. No offense to anybody in the room, but I think I have the best job in the entire state.

I get to invest in the best and the brightest of what Florida has to offer. In case anybody doesn't know what private equity is, and that's what we do, essentially we invest into private companies. So we buy a piece of a private company or we buy a majority of a private company. We then help that company grow and we hope to sell that company for more than we brought it for. It's pretty simple, but that's what private equity does.

And, you know, I'm sorry to see that a lot of the teachers are probably back in their schools teaching, which is what they, I guess, should be doing, but I want you to know -- I see one teacher there and other civil servants that are here that we are investing on behalf of that every time we make an investment we're looking at it
through your eyes.

So, you know, that's the prism we put on things. When we make an investment we say would a teacher, would a retired teacher, would a civil servant be proud of the investment that we're making. We're not always going to be right, but we look at it through that prism. So I want you to know that.

If we could go to the first slide here. I just wanted to point out one thing, Governor. I don't know if you noticed, but Fast Company Magazine which studies and goes over technology and that's all they're about, they just ranked Florida as the number one state in the country for innovation. It's the first time that's happened.

So I'm going to explain a little bit about venture capital too. Venture capital is a subset of private equity. Same thing, investing in private companies, but venture capital is primarily technology and primarily earlier-stage businesses.

Since we're here in Orlando I just want to point out a few things that are happening here in Orlando. A couple of companies, Koni and Pentaho, have attracted a lot of venture capital from top-tier venture capital firms. That's one of the things that we're trying to do with the Florida Growth Fund is have top-tier, nationally-known and internationally-known venture capital firms come and
invest in Florida companies.

There are two examples right here in Orlando where significant venture capitals come in from really good groups; Insight Venture Partners and Benchmark are probably one of the top five venture firms in the world.

There are other firms here, PlanSource, Row Sham Bow, Engineering Support Personnel, Treehouse; these are all companies that have raised money in the last year or year and a half in Orlando.

The Florida Growth Fund, we've been very active in this market. We've made investments in Lanzar which is a medical device company here. They've raised over $31 million. Part of that is our investment.

And a company Voxeo that I'd like -- it was our first investment that we made and I'd like to talk about it a little bit. Voxeo was founded here in Orlando, but the founder couldn't raise capital here. This was back in the late '90s. So he moved to Silicon Valley because he couldn't find capital here.

He raised $30 million in venture capital, built his company and the dot com crash. His venture capital firm, the one that invested the majority of the money, he wasn't one of their bright, shining students so he was allowed to buy back his company from the venture capital firm.

He moved back here to Orlando where he wanted to be.
He's built this great company north of $50 million in revenue creating lots of jobs here in Florida. We were the first outside private equity firm to invest in the company after he bought it back.

What's really good here, I've heard a constant theme that's this kind of trickle down or the payback. And so what's happened with Voxeo is he's already spun off another company that is now growing here outside of Voxeo, which we own part of as well, which is kind of nice, but he's also stepped into a chairman role. He's now founded another company.

Row Sham Bow here, which is a company that raised $3 million this past year, Row Sham Bow is co-located in his office. He's the chairman of their Board.

So that's kind of the grand circle, kind of like what happens when you're teaching a student and then she goes on to win a service award. I mean that's what this is in the technology thing. I want to acknowledge that that's just an amazing -- I don't know if it's coincidence, but it was a really neat story.

So we've also invested in a municipal services company here in the Orlando region and we've also invested in a fund that is a venture capital fund that's located here in Winter Park.

I'll try to speed things up because I know we're in a
hurry. So I also wanted to talk just a little bit about, since we're at Lake Nona and Medical City, about the life sciences activity here in the state.

One of the interesting trends is that life sciences investing in the entire nation has gone down significantly over the past couple of years. Florida, thank goodness, is bucking that trend and we're actually up in venture capital investing. So that's a very good sign for our economy here.

We've had a number of successful life sciences exits that have happened here in Florida and that's what it's about. It's about investing, but also being able to exit because that's where you make the return for teachers and other people that need to have their pension secured.

Envoy. I mentioned Takeda earlier. Takeda bought this company, Envoy, for $140 million. Pastoria, Sid Martin, Biotechnology, Spin-Out and they were acquired for $113 million.

That's what it's all about. It's about building companies that are going to stay here in Florida that are going to have successful exits. You can see on the charts that the investing in life sciences is continuing to trend upwards which is a good sign.

Real quickly. Here is the Florida Eco System. It doesn't just take a venture capital firm. It takes lots
of different entities coming together and working together
to -- there's a life cycle of a company and there has to
be capital at the early stage. There has to be people
helping those companies get from an idea to a product.

This is what the venture capital or the Florida
Venture Eco System looked like and I'm being kind because
I think in universities -- this is four years ago before
the Florida Growth Fund was around. Some of these
universities I don't think were really focused and this is
only a subset of universities. I apologize. I could only
fit so much.

They weren't really focused on entrepreneurial
studies. And the shift that I've seen to this slide is
dramatic over the last four years where all the
universities are now really focused on entrepreneurial
studies, on combining technology and people that are
interested in running companies and the shift is just very
dramatic.

Also, at the top of this, the accelerators and
incubators. There's just a number, and I couldn't fit
them all on this page, that are required to get companies
from an idea standpoint to a product being able to sell.

Conferences. The number of conferences people here,
it's just a huge gain in the last four years. Okay. I'm
going to go quickly.
Florida Growth Fund. This is just -- it's all about the outreach. What we've done with the Florida Growth Fund is just tried to get out there in the community so that every university knows about us, all the entrepreneurs know about us and we are successful in that endeavor.

The pipeline. The pipeline is huge. We see over 200 deals a year. We hope to see every deal that is significant that happens in Florida and we'd like to try to be a part of it. If we can't invest in it because of risk return profile, we still try to be helpful.

That's the number one -- we help more early-stage venture type companies that might be too risky for us to invest in, but we make introductions. We introduce them to accelerators; we introduce them to early-stage angels; whatever we can do to help those companies so they're around three years from now for us to invest in.

We also make investments in funds and so we invest directly into companies, but we also invest into private equity -- other private equity funds that are investing here successfully in Florida.

One of the ones I'd like to highlight is MPM's Sunstate Fund. They're an internationally-known life sciences investor. They came to us. We worked with them. The University of Florida worked with them, David Day, and
we attracted them here by showing them the number of
opportunities that exist here in Florida.

So not only did they open an office here, they opened
a separate fund focused on Florida which is really
dramatic to have that kind of venture capital aimed at
life sciences here resident in the State of Florida. And
we continue to try to do those types of things.

On the direct investments we've made 20 direct
investments. We had our first major liquidity event in
December of last year. We invested in a company that was
a Tampa company, a venture capital company, and it turned
out to be a good one for us. It was a 5X return. So we
made 5X our money in two years, which is nice. If we
could do that repetitively we'd be very -- everybody would
be very happy.

And we continue to look at life sciences companies.
I had a lot more to say, but I wanted to be brief. So
thank you for having me and thank you for the support.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much. And is that
all for you, Ash?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much. And I want to
thank Nemours and everybody who put this together. I want
to thank CFO Atwater for organizing this and getting us
here. And this concludes our Cabinet meeting. Our next
meeting will be Tuesday, June 4, at 9:00 a.m. in Tallahassee. We are adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 11:53 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA       ]
COUNTY OF SEMINOLE      ]

I, Karen S. Rhine, FPR, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report stenographically and electronically the foregoing proceedings at the time and place therein designated and that the foregoing pages transcribed by me constitute a true and correct transcription of the aforesaid proceedings.

DATED THIS 18th day of May, 2013.

______________________________
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Oviedo, Florida 32766
Telephone: 407.718.8600
2013 Florida Veteran’s Hall of Fame Finalists:

Major General John R. D. Cleland, USA (Retired)
Honorable Sam M. Gibbons, USA (Retired)
Major John Leroy Haynes, USMC (Retired)
Captain Jeanne Grushinski Rubin, USN (Retired)
Captain Robert J. Silah, USN (Retired)
TO: The Honorable Rick Scott  
The Honorable Pam Bondi  
The Honorable Jeff Atwater  
The Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Mike Prendergast  
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report – 4th Quarter 2012-2013

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs submits this Quarterly Report for the Fourth Quarter of the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, covering the period April 1 – June 30, 2013.

This Quarterly Report is submitted pursuant to the procedures authorized by Rules 55-1.003 and 55-2.010, Florida Administrative Code. The report will be placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Governor and Cabinet.

If you have any questions regarding any matter covered by this report, you or your staff may reach me or my Deputy Executive Director, Al Carter, at (727) 518-3202, or our department Legislative Affairs Director Bobby Carbonell, at (850) 487-1533.

cc: Senator Denise Grimsley, Chairman, Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee  
Senator Thad Altman, Chairman, Senate Military Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee  
Representative John Wood, Chairman, Health Innovation Sub-Committee  
Representative Matt Hudson, Chairman, Health Care Appropriations Sub-Committee  
Representative Ronald Renuart, Chairman, Veterans and Military Affairs Sub-Committee  
Jerry McDaniel, Director, Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget

Attachment 1: FDVA Quarterly Report

“Honoring Those Who Served U.S.”
ATTACHMENT 1

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
FOURTH QUARTER REPORT
April 1 – June 30, 2013

This report covers the activities of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) for the Fourth Quarter of the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year.

1. Administrative Highlights:

a. Current Issues/Concerns

- **Executive Direction:** This quarter, Executive Director Mike Prendergast continued his campaign of advocating with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and linking them to superior services, benefits, and support. During this quarter, the Florida Senate unanimously confirmed Colonel Prendergast as the Executive Director. He joined Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Viva Florida 500 partners (including Visit Florida, the Florida League Lottery, and the Florida League of Cities) to announce the celebration of Viva Florida 500 Week. ED Prendergast attended and provided comments at legislative committee meetings. He attended and provided an update on veteran bills favorably considered by the legislature at the Florida Veterans Council Meeting at the American Legion Headquarters. Colonel Prendergast attended ceremonies and dedications within the state and served as the Memorial Day guest speaker at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. His Memorial Day remarks focused on how we can give to our veterans, past and present. He also attended and provided remarks at the Florida Association of Counties Annual Convention and Exhibition.

- **Division of Benefits and Assistance:**

  - **VA Regional Office Updates:** The VA Regional Office has completed 97% of claims greater than two years old. 75% of the claims greater than one year old will be completed by September 2013, while Fully Developed Claims are worked in about 61 days. There are currently 23,000 claims greater than one year old. The rating accuracy rate has climbed to 92%.

  - **Bureau of Veterans’ Claims:** During this fourth quarter the Claims Bureau has attended VA training and implemented the VA’s claims management system known as Veterans’ Benefits Management System (VBMS). This new system provides easier access to veterans’ information and the ability to review documents electronically. All Claims personnel have been trained in the use of VBMS and the VA Regional Office is slowly implementing VBMS for VSOs. Additionally, the Bureau requested computer keyboard card readers so that they can assist veterans with filing electronic claims, requests for representation and other functions. Eventually, utilizing a new procedure now known as Digits-to-Digits, VSOs hope to be able to utilize a new proprietary database to submit electronic claims.

  - **Bureau of Field Services:** Field Services attended 169 outreach events providing benefit information to 14,437 veterans and their families. Three congressional events were supported in June alone. Cynthia Brown, VCE from Pensacola, represented FDVA
at the National Association of Women Veterans Coordinators’ 14th annual training conference in Columbus, Ohio. The Bureaus of Field Services and Veterans’ Claims worked together to provide American Legion Post Service Officer Training in Orlando, for 113 attendees. The course serves as a basic course in veterans’ benefits, how the VA is structured, and instruction on benefits and services available, including service connection, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, pension, health care, home loan guarantee, burial, waivers, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation, and more.

- **The Bureau of State Approving for Veterans’ Education and Training (or State Approving Agency/SAA):** SAA found avenues to increase its effectiveness and presence this quarter. Delivering presentations at four large conferences forged personal relationships with more than 600 College Registrars, Financial Aid Administrators, and VA School Certifying Officials. Program Specialist Katherine Snyder was requested to assist in updating the Veterans Benefits Administration’s M22-4 Manual, in the areas of Flight and On-the-Job Training. These edits are to be included when VA re-publishes this national manual. In efforts to realign services, the VA announced in May that Florida and South Carolina education processing would transition from the Atlanta Regional Office to the Muskogee, Oklahoma office. Seamless to the beneficiary, the speed of the Muskogee Education Claims Examiners has enabled faster submission of compliance survey reports for closure.

b. **Audits**

- The FDVA Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued the Resident Trust Fund audit report for the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Port Charlotte. The objectives of the audit were to determine if the Resident Trust Fund is being operated in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and current FDVA policies and procedures; and verify that the internal controls over the Resident Trust Fund were adequate.
- The OIG assisted the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Port Charlotte with an annual physical inventory of supplies.
- The OIG prepared the annual Enterprise Risk Assessment report and completed the Audit Plan for FY 2013-2014. The report and plan are pending approval from senior management.
- The office also supported the Auditor General’s staff in conducting an Operational Audit of FDVA.

c. **Consultants**

- Sachs Media Group media services contract renewal was signed this quarter, to become effective July 1.

d. **Contracts**

- Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home (SVNH) interior repainting contract to be completed in July. Secured second contract price reduction of $2,400 for unrequired services.
- Health Information Technology System ITN formal negotiations pending vendor’s response to FDVA legal clarifications.
- Bennett SVNH fire alarm system upgrades single/sole source order fully executed in May. Project cost of $59,213, $20,877 under budget authority.
• Sachs Media Group media services contract amendment providing for 3 portable display units fully executed in April.
• Sachs Media Group media services contract renewal fully executed 6/24/13 (effective July).
• Moore Stephens Lovelace contract amendment addressing admissions process fully executed 5/8/13.
• Therapy Services ITN responses opening performed 6/25/13. Vendor proposals under review. Next public meeting, for scoring and short list selection, scheduled for 7/8/13.
• FDVA letters of intent to renew VA Pharmacy VISN-8 and VISN-16 contracts issued 6/5/13.

e. **Leases**

• There were no changes to any FDVA leases this quarter.

f. **Lawsuits/Claims in Litigation or Settled**

• Administrative Proceedings: 2
• State Court Proceedings: 3
• Federal Court Proceedings: 0
• Settlements: 1

g. **Donations**

**Cash Donations by State Veterans’ Home**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2012-2013</th>
<th>First Quarter</th>
<th>Second Quarter</th>
<th>Third Quarter</th>
<th>Fourth Quarter</th>
<th>Total, Year to Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins SVDH, Lake City</td>
<td>$665</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$2,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bennett SVNH, Daytona Beach</td>
<td>$2,243.75</td>
<td>$680.90</td>
<td>$894</td>
<td>$7,636</td>
<td>$11,454.65</td>
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<td>Lopez SVNH, Land O’ Lakes</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$304.50</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$429.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nininger SVNH, Pembroke Pines</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$475</td>
<td>$590.01</td>
<td>$575</td>
<td>$1,890.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sims SVNH, Springfield</td>
<td>$575</td>
<td>$1,020</td>
<td>$989.72</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$2,884.72</td>
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<td>Jacobson SVNH, Port Charlotte</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$523</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$973</td>
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<td>Lassen SVNH, St. Augustine</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$900</td>
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**Non Cash Donations**

• Sims State Veterans’ Nursing Home: a motorized wheelchair.
• Jacobson State Veterans’ Nursing Home: a HydroStacker system and a video camera.
• Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home: a digital Yamaha clavinova.
• Lopez State Veterans’ Nursing Home: a gazebo and a barbecue grill.
h. **Memberships in Professional Organizations Paid this Quarter**

- Membership in Florida Bar, $265.
- National Association of State Directors of Veterans’ Affairs, $800.

2. **Division of Benefits and Assistance: Statistics**

- Summary of veterans’ benefits derived vs. cost of the benefits staff: $111:1 (ROI).

a. **Bureau of Claims**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EVENT 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
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<td>Retroactive compensation</td>
<td>$46,800,632</td>
<td>$37,679,025</td>
<td>$43,029,028</td>
<td>$43,846,130</td>
<td>$171,354,815</td>
<td>$216,741,916</td>
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<td>Largest single retro. benefit</td>
<td>$652,924</td>
<td>$669,784</td>
<td>$669,784</td>
<td>$297,337</td>
<td>$669,784</td>
<td>$736,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt relief</td>
<td>$208,245</td>
<td>$104,166</td>
<td>$114,608</td>
<td>$35,358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notices of Disagreement</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>1,365</td>
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<td>Statements of Argument in Appeals Cases*</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1,362</td>
<td>874</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act as Representative at Hearings*</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>Veterans’ Appeals Hearings*</td>
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<td>Ratings Reviewed</td>
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<td>7,734</td>
<td>8,043</td>
<td>33,376</td>
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</table>

*The appeals representation process includes formal filing of the appeal application, and paralegal representation with the veteran at the Regional Office and in teleconferences with the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA).*

b. **Bureau of State Approving**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAA Programs Approved</td>
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<td>1,242</td>
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<td>926</td>
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<td>305</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>874</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaison Activities**</td>
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<td>840</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance***</td>
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<td>1,242</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>1,329</td>
<td>3,796</td>
<td>1,709</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Outreach Activities are any activity designed to inform or encourage those with entitlement to use it.
Liaison activities are those that foster education about the SAA with other education and training professionals, which promote and encourage the exchange of information and support to raise awareness of the professional nature of the SAA approval function.

Technical assistance is any interaction designed to assist an individual or a facility with any aspect of the approval function.

c. Bureau of Field Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</th>
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<tr>
<td>Issue Resolution</td>
<td>3243</td>
<td>2,956</td>
<td>3,867</td>
<td>3,855</td>
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<td>$8,785,917</td>
<td>$12,130,364</td>
<td>$12,024,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach Visits</td>
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<td>169</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>573</td>
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<td>Veterans Served at Outreach</td>
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<td>Walk-ins/ Counseling</td>
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<td>30,088</td>
<td>31,911</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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d. Outreach*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EVENT 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reintegration and Pre-Deployment Events for Guard and Reserve units</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>Homeless Veteran Stand Down Events</td>
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<td>Medical Center Welcome Home events</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Congressional Open House events</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>National Conferences</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>New Patient Orientation</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>57</td>
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<td>144</td>
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<td>Transition Assistance Briefings</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Supervisors and VCEs throughout the Division of Benefits and Assistance provide presentation, orientations, and briefings on state, federal, and local veterans’ laws and benefits.
3. State Veterans’ Homes Program

State Veterans’ Homes Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>PREVIOUS FY, same 1/4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins SVDH, Lake City</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett SVNH, Daytona Beach</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopez SVNH, Land O’ Lakes</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nininger SVNH, Pembroke Pines</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sims SVNH, Panama City</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobson SVNH, Port Charlotte</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lassen SVNH, St. Augustine</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
<td>99.1%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ St. Augustine Home not held to 90% occupancy standard until open for two years—the second quarter of 2012/13.

a. **Quality of Care:** FDVA provides the highest standard of care and services while managing the cost of its programs and being efficient stewards of resources entrusted to us by the people of Florida. Improving the quality of care provided at State Veterans’ Homes is our top priority. FDVA is constantly striving for highest quality and continuous improvement to better serve veteran residents in the best way possible that promotes their health and well-being. Our goal is to provide the best health care with an enjoyable, pleasant environment, to provide a safe, warm, comforting, and secure place while being treated with the dignity and respect residents deserve.

b. **Occupancy Trends:** There are 680 skilled nursing homes in Florida. They contain over 80,000 beds, at roughly 85% occupancy. FDVA’s State Veterans’ Nursing Homes are maintaining an occupancy rate over 99%. According to the Florida Health Care Association, the population of Americans over 65 will double to 71.5 million by 2026.

c. **State Veterans’ Homes Program Renovations:**

**Daytona HVAC Renovation #12-018:** Total Grant: $2,000,000 -- Federal Funding (65%): $1,300,000 - State O/M Trust Fund Match (35%): $700,000.

Revised Substantial Completion date now set for 9/25/13. Change order #2 being processed to include the glycol system piping replacement, Alternate # 3 Zone Temperature Coils and Alternate # 4 Replacement of 8 Exhaust Fans. Total for Change Order #2 is $341,806.00 and has necessitated Amendment 3 to the DMS agreement.

- Air Handler Units 1- 5 is on schedule.
- New chiller cooling tower and pump are all running without problems.
- New water pumps are installed
- Revised contract total – $1,888,302. Completed to date - $1,119,065.
Land O’ Lakes Renovation #12-016: Total Grant: $2,830,000 – Federal Funding (65%): $1,839,500 - State O/M Trust Fund Match (35%): $990,500. No change in revised substantial completion date of July 30, 2013. Current progress includes:

- Continue soffit framing to include reframing of all perimeter and lower soffits.
- Window replacement continues on Units A, C and D.
- Roofing project continues with delays due to weather, hand and crash rail replacement.
- Fire alarm system nearing completion, approved by AHCA survey on 7/2/13.
- Change Order #3 being processed for soffit reframing and a new super gutter.
- Original contract sum – $1,604,873.00 Completed to date - $487,348.

Volunteer Hours: There are a number of registered volunteers in the State Veterans’ Homes that provide invaluable services for our veteran residents. The multitude of hours that are contributed add to the quality of life for the residents as well as allow the skilled employees to attend to more complicated, professional level tasks associated with resident care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013</th>
<th>FIRST QUARTER</th>
<th>SECOND QUARTER</th>
<th>THIRD QUARTER</th>
<th>FOURTH QUARTER</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jenkins SVDH, Lake City, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>288.75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>367.75</td>
<td>367.5</td>
<td>1,174</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett SVNH, Daytona Beach, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>1,038</td>
<td>1,107</td>
<td>1,004.5</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>3,999.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>115</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lopez SVNH, Land O’ Lakes, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>357.75</td>
<td>477.75</td>
<td>1,309.5</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nininger SVNH, Pembroke Pines, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>1,014.5</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>197.25</td>
<td>2,103.75</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sims SVNH, Springfield, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>180.5</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>258.5</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>889</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacobson SVNH, Port Charlotte, Hours Contributed</td>
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<td>344.5</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>1,705.5</td>
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<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lassen SVNH, St. Augustine, Hours Contributed</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>270.75</td>
<td>135.75</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Volunteers</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2014 Legislative Proposals

1. In-State Tuition for Veterans using the GI Bill

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is one of the most significant pieces of veteran’s legislation to come out of Washington in the last few decades. Millions of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have and will use this benefit to get an education that will allow them to successfully transition to civilian occupations. But the GI Bill that passed in 2008 had some limitations that are now becoming more evident as an increasing number of servicemen and women make the transition from soldier to student.

Military life requires one to move from base to base every 2 to 3 years, which means that when they separate from the service they usually have to pick a new home state. College is next step for the majority of the young veterans and they are savvy shoppers when it comes to finding the right school and the right place to start their post-military lives and careers.

Florida is a compelling choice for a number of reasons: beaches, weather, low taxes, low cost of living, and great schools and universities. The only thing holding back potential future residents is the State’s high out-of-state tuition cost.

Current Situation:

Florida’s average in-state tuition for undergraduate students was $6,069 in 2012-13.

Florida’s average in-state tuition for graduate students was $10,118 in 2012-13.

Florida’s average out-of-state tuition was $20,590 for undergrads and $24,910 for graduate students.

Last school year, there were 2,166 non-resident veteran students in the state universities and state colleges.

Non-resident veteran students are left with a $14,000+ bill for tuition above their GI Bill coverage.

Federal Legislation to force the state to give veterans in-state tuition has strong bi-partisan support and could pass this year, leaving Florida without $782,267,000 worth of Federal funds.
Solution:

FDVA should run a resident for tuition purposes bill as an Agency priority with the full support of the Governor and the Cabinet.

HB 7501 passed the house almost unanimously last session and contained language giving all veterans in-state tuition.

Impact: Sustained revenue to Florida’s education system in the manner of VA tuition coverage. Improved business and employment outlook.

Estimates from last year’s bill analysis from HB 7105 showed an approximate $21.0 Million impact to the State College System and Florida University System for FY12-13.

2. Modernize the Veteran’s Preference for State Employment

Current Situation:

The State of Florida currently gives veteran’s preference to the following individuals:

- Veteran’s with a service connected disability
- Veteran’s receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits or pension from DoD or USDVA
- Spouses of total and permanently disable veterans, spouses of and POW/MIA persons
- Wartime Veterans as defined in F.S. 1.01(14)
- Un-remarried widows and widowers of veterans who died of a service connected disability
- All the above categories of personnel must be Florida Residents to claim veteran’s preference.

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs is responsible for investigating complaints from veterans who believe their right to preference has been violated by the State. Currently, the only enforcement method is to bring cases before the Public Employees Relations Commission which is timely, expensive and ineffective.

Solution:

FDVA should run legislation to correct gaps in the Veteran’s Preference for State Employment, making the State of Florida the most veteran friendly employer in the State.
• All veteran’s should receive preference, not just disabled or wartime veterans
• Veteran’s preference should be applied to non-Florida residents who wish to move to Florida and work for the State or any of its political subdivisions.
• Gold Star Mothers should receive preference for State employment, mirroring Federal Law.
• Florida National Guard members should receive preference for State employment. These members often do not qualify as veterans by current law.
• Veteran’s preference process should be more detailed to give Agencies more clarity in applying preference equally across all agencies.
• Enforcement should include a simpler method of adjudication and/or include penalties
• Points values will be modified to:
  o 15 Points for Disabled Veterans
  o 10 Points for Spouses of Disabled Veterans, Gold Star Spouses/Mothers/Fathers, Wartime veterans
  o 5 Points for Non-Wartime veterans and current Florida National Guard/Reserve members

**Impact:** There is no fiscal impact to the State from this proposal. The State of Florida has the opportunity to greatly reduce veteran’s unemployment and simultaneously hire highly trained military veterans.

3. **State Veteran’s Nursing Home (SVNH) Residency Requirement**

**Current Situation:**

• Currently F.S. 296.06(2)(b) and 296.36(1)(b) establish a 1 year state residency requirement prior to admission to the State Veteran’s Domiciliary Home and State Veteran’s Nursing Homes, respectfully.
• There have been situations where Veterans have met all the other requirements for admission, beds have been available, and the veteran has to wait for several months until their residency year is fulfilled.

**Solution:**

• FDVA should run a technical correction bill to remove the 1-year statutory residence requirement making admission available to them based on FDVA approved priority.
**Impact:** There is no cost to the State of Florida caused by this bill; but this allows the State of Florida to maximize its assets while lowering the cost of SVNH to resident. This proposal would improve our ability to run SVNH in a revenue neutral capacity.

### 4. Veteran’s Walk of Honor and Memorial Garden

Established by the Florida Legislature, the Florida Veterans Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Direct Support Organization of the FDVA. Tax deductible contributions help to fulfill our mission to provide assistance to Florida’s veterans and their families.

The Florida Veterans Foundation helps hundreds of veterans and their families each year and currently relies on donations from the community to fund their efforts. The Foundation would like to have a recurring funding stream that would allow them to serve more veterans each year. To meet that goal the Foundation has proposed the creation of the Veteran’s Walk of Honor and Memorial Gardens.

The Veteran’s Walk of Honor is a proposed effort by the Foundation to sell memorial bricks to be laid in the Capitol Courtyard. The Foundation will take orders from the public for bricks inscribed with loved ones name, rank, military service, awards, etc. The bricks will then replace current bricks in the courtyard. The Florida Veterans Foundation will be responsible for the cost, construction, coordination and maintenance of the Veteran’s Walk of Honor. Proceeds from the sale of memorial bricks will go to the Florida Veterans Foundation.

The Veteran’s Memorial Garden is a proposed monument to Florida’s men and women that have served in our nation’s military services. The project would authorize the construction of 6 cenotaphs, approximately four feet wide by nine feet tall, each containing a bronze service seal and tablet describing the service. Behind each cenotaph would be a flag pole containing the appropriate military service flag. The preferred location of the Veteran’s Memorial Garden is the courtyard immediately in front of the House Office Building facing North Monroe Street. Construction would begin on the Memorial Garden after the second year of brick sales is approved by the legislature.

**Impact:** There is no cost to the State of Florida for either of these projects. The construction of the Veteran’s Memorial Garden will be funded by the sale of the memorial bricks in the Veteran’s Walk of Honor. This proposal would create heightened awareness of Florida’s military, their sacrifices and contributions.
1. **Issue – Additional Equipment for Homes (2402000)**

   **Budget Entity:** State Veterans’ Homes Program  
   **Funding Source:** Operations & Maintenance Trust Fund ($481,875) and Grants & Donations Trust Fund ($219,013)  
   **Request:** Increase in budget authority in the amount of $700,888 – Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   - Replacement of furniture and equipment that have reached or exceeded useful life.  
     - Old medical and non-medical equipment necessary for daily operation.  
   - Purchase of recreational equipment and furnishings that improve the quality of life for veteran residents.

2. **Issue – Capital Improvement Plan (990M000)**

   **Budget Entity:** State Veterans’ Homes Program  
   **Funding Source:** State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund  
   **Request:** Increase in budget authority in the amount of $1,635,000 – Non-Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   This issue requests funds for maintenance, repair, and replacement of fixed capital assets at each State Veterans’ Home operated by the department. Examples of Capital Improvement Projects are:  
   - Repair/replace rain gutters  
   - Replace chillers, water heaters, and boiler pumps  
   - Repave driveways and parking areas

3. **Issue—Federal and Matching Funds for Three Construction/Renovation Grants (990M000)**

   **Budget Entity:** State Veterans’ Homes Program  
   **Funding Source:** Operations & Maintenance Trust Fund, Fund 2516, ($6,005,361) and Federal Funds to be administered in the Federal Grants Trust Fund, Fund 2261, ($11,152,813)  
   **Request:** Increase in budget authority in the amount of $17,158,174 – Non-Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   This issue requests budget authority to match federal funds from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund (2516) in the total amount of $6,005,361 (35%) and for the use of federal funds in the Federal Grants Trust Fund (2261) in the total amount of $11,152,813 (65%) for construction/renovations of the State Veterans’ Homes operated by the department. The scope of these grants is safety and security issues. The three grants are:  
   - Install a new lift and transfer system in each of the six (6) skilled nursing facility.  
     - State Marching Amount - $2,155,361 (35%)  
     - Federal Funds (VA) - $4,002,813 (65%)  
     - Total Amount of Project - $6,158,174  
   - Replacement of fire alarm system, replacement/upgrades to the nurse call system and elopement system, and replacement of the emergency generator and fuel storage tank at Douglas Jacobson (Port Charlotte).
4. **Issue – Operational Cost of Health Information Technology System used to Administer State Veterans’ Homes (36010C0)**  
   **Budget Entity:** Executive Direction and Support Services  
   **Funding Source:** Operations & Maintenance Trust Fund  
   **Request:** Increase in budget authority in the amount of **$323,000** – Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   - Funds are needed to support annual user access costs of the new Health Information Technology System used to manage the clinical and financial aspects of the long term care services provided to our veteran residents.  
   - Completes the re-appropriation approved for FY 2013-14 for the replacement of UltraCare for Windows system.  
     - New application will provide integrated processing and reporting of both clinical and financial information.

5. **Issue – Replacement of V-BOLTS (36360C0)**  
   **Budget Entity:** Executive Direction and Support Services  
   **Funding Source:** General Revenue  
   **Request:** Increase in budget in the amount of **$40,000** – $35,000 Recurring, $5,000 Non-Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   - V-BOLTS has reached the end of its life cycle; current system not able to make the change to electronic claims submission.  
   - New system will be web-based, to allow for access at any location.

6. **Issue – AHCA Quality Assessment - Increase to Expense Category (1600010)**  
   **Budget Entity:** Homes Program  
   **Funding Source:** Operations & Maintenance Trust Fund  
   **Request:** Increase in expense budget authority in the amount of **$204,000** – Recurring  
   **Summary:**  
   - Funds are needed to meet the stringent requirements of section 409.9082, Florida Statutes, for the Quality Assessment (QA) fee for the six (6) State Veterans’ Nursing Homes.  
   - Fiscal Year 2014-15 QA rate is projected to increase from $23.78 to $25.22 per patient day, representing an increase in total QA of $204,000.  
   - The amount requested and received last year covers previous increases, not the projected one.  
   - If the department is unable to meet this financial obligation, the Agency for Healthcare Administration may impose any or all of the following remedies:  
     - Withholding medical assistance reimbursement payments  
     - Suspension or revocation of the facility’s operating license
7. **Issue – Minimally Mission Essential Key Staffing Increases (2 new positions) (3000800)**

**Budget Entity** – Executive Direction and Support Services  
**Funding Source** – General Revenue  
**Request** – Increase in funds in the amount of **$192,218** – Recurring $182,174; Non-recurring $10,044

**Summary:**
- Two (2) additional mission essential Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in the Department’s Executive Direction and Support Services (EDSS) as follows:
  - one (1) Legislative Specialist  
  - one (1) Senior Management Analyst II.
- Request furthers the Governor’s initiative of “Economic Development and Job Creation” by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department’s operations.
- Unfavorable consideration for the funding of this additional mission critical position would significantly degrade the Department’s ability to comply with statutory requirements.
- Daily, this agency risks falling short of adequately serving the veterans in Florida, deferring/setting aside these initiatives for a later date as we scramble to fulfill current functions with extremely limited staff.
- Currently Department administrative staffing manning is at 2.3% of its total agency employee structure; a figure that is woefully insufficient to conduct operations.

8. **Issue – Funding of the Bureau of Information & Research (5 new positions) (3000810)**

**Budget Entity** – Executive Direction & Support Services  
**Funding Source** – General Revenue  
**Request** – Increase in funds in the amount of **$442,230** – Recurring $417,891; Non-recurring $24,339

**Summary:**
- Five (5) Full Time Equivalent (FTE) mission essential positions:
  - one (1) Bureau Chief  
  - one (1) Research Associate  
  - two (2) Senior Management Analyst II  
  - one (1) Administrative Assistant
- To fulfill statutory requirements pursuant to section 20.37(2) (a) (1), Florida Statutes.
- Request furthers the Governor’s initiative of “Economic Development and Job Creation” by strengthening the Department’s leadership in expanding and emerging talent and innovation clusters and helping transition established clusters to serve a higher number of Florida Veterans and to increase the number of benefits received by them and their families.
- $15,000 are requested to support travel expenses associated with the outreach
- Responsible for strategic planning, research, project management, compilation and analysis of a wide array of data related to Florida veterans to produce and disseminate useful information for agency staff, the governor’s office, legislature, other state agencies, the media and the public.
  - Conducting trend analyses and surveys to better understand veterans’ needs and ultimately improve the services provided to those who served our nation.
  - Review issues impacting veterans’ population and will develop statistical publications and surveys to target solutions impacting veterans, their families and communities.
- Ongoing research and surveys will be performed as well as periodic specific studies of current issues.

9-10. **Issue – Technical Correction to FSI Distribution (160S020 and 160S010)**
Budget Entity – State Veterans’ Homes Program
Funding Source – Operations & Maintenance Trust Fund
Request – Increase/decrease FSI-3 and decrease/increase FSI-1
Summary:

- Reflects revenues split between state and federal funding source.
- Two-part issue, one to add, one to deduct; zero dollar impact.

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Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Summary of FY 2014-15 Draft Issues by Budget Entity
(In Millions)

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Notes:
(1) Includes preliminary amounts for some issues - Amounts will be updated at a later date.
(2) IT issues are allocated under IT, EDSS.