

About FDVA

Watching over and advocating for Florida's more than 1.5 million veterans are the men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The cabinet agency is responsible for assisting, without charge, Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy and education.

FDVA's two primary program areas include Benefits and Assistance with staff conducting outreach throughout the state to help veterans connect with their earned benefits and services. Its second primary program is operating the Homes Program running six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility.

Our Current Locations



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six award winning veterans' nursing homes in Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Panama City, Port Charlotte and St. Augustine and one veterans' assisted living facility in Lake City.



"Florida has earned a reputation for being the most veteran friendly state in the nation. This new state veterans' nursing home will help our state continue to serve Florida's more than 1.5 million veterans who have bravely defended our country."

Mike Prendergast

Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Executive Director,
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs



Ardie R. Copas
State Veterans' Nursing Home
Port St. Lucie, FL

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Honoring those who served U.S.

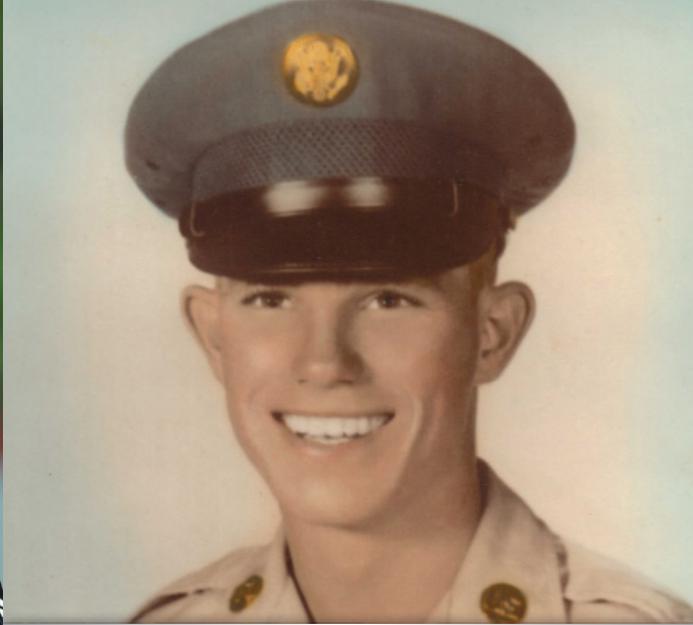


Who We Are

With an expected groundbreaking date set for early 2016, the Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home, located in Port St. Lucie, will be the seventh and newest state veterans' nursing home in Florida.

Designed as a community living center, this state-of-the-art nursing home will consist of four neighborhoods. Each of the neighborhoods will include a common community core where residents can socialize with guests, other residents and staff. The common community cores will also feature barber and beauty shops, recreation areas, a chapel, clinic, pharmacy, supply, administration and public lobby.

Trained staff will provide residents with a welcoming and comfortable environment while taking care of such services as medication administration, meal preparation and housekeeping. The new nursing home is expected to be completed approximately two years after groundbreaking.



Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient

Ardie R. Copas

Florida's newest state veterans' nursing home is named in honor of a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War -- Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County native Sergeant Ardie R. Copas. Then Specialist Ardie R. Copas distinguished himself on May 12, 1970, while serving as a machine-gunner in Cambodia. When his convoy was ambushed, the 19-year-old Specialist repelled the enemy under heavy fire, holding his post while his wounded comrades were evacuated. He was killed in action and received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

Admission

Potential residents will not be solicited until the veterans' home is a couple of months from opening. Basic admission requirements include an honorable discharge from the U.S Armed Forces, Florida residency at time of application, and certification of need of skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.

What We Offer

- Private rooms with bath
- Alzheimer's/dementia neighborhood
- Daily meal preparation tailored to individual dietary needs
- On-site beauty shop, chapel, pharmacy, barber and recreation center
- Variety of social and recreation activities
- Transportation services to appointments, shopping, etc.
- 24-hour access to quality medical care
- Housekeeping and laundry services provided
- Public lobby for guests
- On-site administration office to assist residents in processing application and appeals for financial benefits



Supporting the Home

Your purchase of the Florida Salutes Veterans or one of the approved Army, Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard license plates helps people who need it most, when they need it most. The \$15 surcharge is placed into a trust fund for the operation and maintenance of State Veterans' Homes in Florida. A portion of the Marine Corps and Support Our Troops license plates also support the State Veterans' Homes program.



Job Vacancy Announcements

Health care and administrative staff hiring will not take place until the final year of construction. Position vacancies will be posted on People First (peoplefirst.myflorida.com), the State of Florida's secure web-based Human Resource Information System.