DUKES COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES

Director of Veterans Services:	Randy Dull	vetsagent@dukescounty.org
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Website:	www.dukescounty.org	

Hours of Operation:

Monday	8:30AM-2:30PM
Tuesday	8:30AM-2:30PM
Wednesday	8:30AM-2:30PM
Thursday	8:30AM-2:30PM
Friday	8:30AM-2:30PM

In FY22, The Dukes County Veterans Services Department handled **180 cases**, including financial and medical assistance. The total amount expended on veteran's assistance was \$111,314.19. We expect 75% of this money to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This year \$74,209.46 was reimbursed for last year's services to veterans and their dependents under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115, as amended. The amount received from Federal VA expenditures through permions and compensations was \$1,470,205.56. We have helped 12 new Veterans receive and start compensation and Pension claims.

We lost 8 veterans this past fiscal year. All were buried with Military Honors and with a representative from the Veterans Services Office and the Veterans of Martha's Vineyard present. All veteran's graves were decorated with flags per MGL 108 CMR 13:03. Thank you to all town Veterans Graves Officers for their assistance.

Veterans participated in three parades this past fiscal year: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day Our guest speaker for Memorial Day was Mr. Randy Dull who Served in the military for 15 years. The Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services along with the Governor's Office sent out a Proclamation to be read on Memorial Day. All towns on the Island received a Proclamation. This is the 8th year that we have been recognized by the Veterans Administration as a National Site for Veterans Day.

On the Friday before Memorial Day island veterans met at the Oak Bluffs School for their community meeting honoring veterans. Island veterans also participated in the Tisbury School march to sea.

Veterans participated in the Wreaths Across America Program sponsored by Worcester Wreath Company, which has been decorating wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery for 25 years. Seven ceremonial wreaths were placed to remember those who served, honor their sacrifices, and teach our younger generations about the high price of our freedoms. Specially made wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POW/MIA were placed on memorials during a unique ceremony.

Dr. Monte VanBeber from the VA Clinic in Hyannis is still coming to the island to see veterans Twice a month. The last figures were that we had 235 veterans registered for VA Health Care.

> Dukes County FY2018 Annual Report Veterans Services



Jo Ann Murphy is the SHINE Counselor, which stands for "Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone". I feel that this has been a help to her clients and the community.

I also work with M.V. Community Services Veterans Program. This past year we held a Barbecue to honor and thank Island Veterans for their service. Certificates were given out to veterans and their spouses. This was possible by American Legion Post 257 and M.V. Community Services. We have been working to start the process to build a Veterans Housing community here on island.

I would like to thank the membership of the American Legion Post 257 in Tisbury for the use of their space of their hall for veteran's activities and temporary office for Dr. VanBeber.

I continue to write every month on veterans benefits for the 55 Plus Times, go to veterans organizational meetings, attend training with the Department of Veterans Services. As of this date we don't have any island soldiers serving in Afghanistan but have numerous others serving in the U.S. and around the world. If you know of someone serving please call my office with the address.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Dull Director of Veterans Service



