

# **VSF Quarterly Report**

## **June 16th, 2025**



**VIRGINIA VETERANS  
SERVICES FOUNDATION**

*Virginia is for Every Veteran*

**Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees**  
**Virginia War Memorial**  
**621 S Belvidere St, Richmond, VA 23220**  
**June 16, 2025**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
  - a. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance
  - b. Roll Call of Voting Trustees (Chair)
  - c. Quorum Determination (Chair)
  - d. Introduction of Visitors (ED)
  - e. Approval of Agenda - Board Chair (Vote)
2. Review and Approval of March 13, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - Board Chair (Vote)
3. Reports:
  - a. Secretary's Report: Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
  - b. Department of Veterans Services: Chuck Zingler, Commissioner
  - c. Chairman's Report: Brad Williamson
  - d. Board of Veterans Services: Matt Miller, Chair
  - e. Joint Leadership Council: Bill Aramony, Chair
  - f. Foundation Report: Kayla Arestivo, Executive Director
  - g. Treasurer's Report: Kim Barton
  - h. Finance Committee Report: Mike Coleman
  - i. Development Committee Report: Shannon Spencer-Watson
  - j. Procedures and Policies Committee Report: Heather Hopkins
  - k. Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations: Mike Coleman
4. Unfinished Business:
  - a. N/A
5. New Business:
  - a. Approval of Development Committee Recommendations: Board Chair (Vote)
    - I. Approval of FY26 Fundraising Goals
  - b. Approval of Finance Committee Recommendations: Board Chair (Vote)
    - I. Approval of DVS Budget Proposal (Vote)
  - c. Approval of Procedures and Policies Committee Recommendations, if required: Board Chair (Vote)
    - I. Approval of Policy Updates (Vote)
  - d. Approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025 Financial Report: Board Chair (Vote)
  - e. Approval of Nominating Committee Recommendations (Vote)
  - f. Other New Business: Board Chair, Executive Director, Trustees, Other
    - I. Chair: MOU Update
6. Public Comment (5 minutes)
7. Passing of the gavel: Chair & New Chair

Adjournment (Next Board Meeting: 1000 AM -1200 PM, September 18, 2025, Virginia War Memorial)

**Note: A Box-Lunch will be provided for Trustees and other attendees during the break.**

# DRAFT

**Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees**  
**Virginia War Memorial**  
**621 S Belvidere St**  
**Richmond, VA 23219**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 13, 2025**  
**10:00AM – 12:00PM**

A meeting of the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S Belvidere St, Richmond, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m.

**Trustees Present**

- Brad Williamson (*Veterans Services Foundation Chairman*)
- Allan C. Burke
- Tim Pillion
- Jarris L. Taylor, Jr.
- Craig Colucci (*Virtual*)
- Shannon Spencer-Watson
- James R. Poplar
- Joel Griffin
- Brandy Jones
- Heather Hopkins
- Danny Vargas

**Trustees Absent**

- Mike Coleman
- Marc Anderson
- Omari Faulkner
- Kathleen Murphy

**VSF Advisors Present**

- Craig Crenshaw (*Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs*)
- Chuck Zingler (*Commissioner of Department of Veterans Services*)
- Jordan Stewart (*Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs*)

**VSF Staff Present**

- Kayla Arestivo (*Executive Director*)
- Darius McKenney (*Business Manager*)

**Commonwealth of Virginia Office of the Attorney General**

- Elizabeth Myers (*OAG, Assistant Attorney General – stand-in for Jim Flaherty*)

**Board of Veterans Services Members Present**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organization Members Present**

- Bill Aramony (*Chairman*)

**DVS Representatives Present**

- Kim Barton
- Tammy Davidson
- Monique Brabham

- Tramaine Carroll-Payne
- Brandi Jancaitis
- Guy Dinkins
- Eric Johnson
- Kendra Ellison
- Dara Hector

### **Materials Distributed and Attached**

- VSF Agenda (*Attachment 1*)
- VSF Dec 5, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (*Attachment 2*)
- DVS Commissioner Report (*Attachment 3*)
- VSF Chairman Report (*Attachment 4*)
- Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Report (*Attachment 5*)
- Joint Leadership Council (JLC) Chairman Report (*Attachment 6*)
- VSF Statement of Assets For Month Ended December 31, 2024 (FM06) (*Attachment 7*)
- VSF Finance Committee Report (*Attachment 8*)
- VSF Budget Status as of January 31, 2025 (*Attachment 9*)
- Statement of Assets For Month Ended July 31, 2024 (FM01) (*Attachment 10*)
- VSF Development Committee Report (*Attachment 11*)
- VSF Procedures and Policies Committee Report (*Attachment 12*)
- VSF 2025 Event Calendar (*Attachment 13*)
- Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) Informational Flyer (*Attachment 14*)
- GStek 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Fundraiser Flyer (*Attachment 15*)
- VVN Registration QR Code (*Attachment 16*)
- Code of Virginia - Title 2.2, Chapter 27, Article 6. Veterans Services Foundation (*Attachment 17*)
- VSF Board of Trustees Bylaws (*Attachment 18*)
- Inter-Agency Relations between VSF, DVS, BVS and JLC (*Attachment 19*)
- Inter-Agency Relations between VSF, DVS, BVS and JLC – Appendix A (*Attachment 20*)
- Inter-Agency Relations between VSF, DVS, BVS and JLC – Appendix B (*Attachment 21*)
- VSF Foundation Administration and Operation Policy (*Attachment 22*)
- VSF Association of Funding Professionals (AFP) Code of Ethical Standards (*Attachment 23*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedures (*Attachment 24*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedures – Appendix A (*Attachment 25*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedures – Appendix B (*Attachment 26*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedures – Appendix C (*Attachment 27*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedures – Appendix D (*Attachment 28*)
- VSF Biennial Fiscal Year Schedule (*Attachment 29*)
- VSF Policy for Electronic Meetings (*Attachment 30*)
- VSF/DVS Veterans Service Fund – Planned Giving Policy and Procedure (*Attachment 31*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Fundraising Request Form – Appendix A (*Attachment 32*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Request to Conduct Fundraising Activities – Appendix B (*Attachment 33*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Example of Standard Letter of Agreement (LOA) – Appendix C (*Attachment 34*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Fundraising Activities Conducted by Organizations on Behalf of the Veterans Services Fund – Appendix D (*Attachment 35*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Acceptance of Financial Donations – Appendix E (*Attachment 36*)
- VSF Veterans Service Fund – Financial Donation Receipt – Appendix F (*Attachment 37*)
- VSF Veterans Services – Control of In-Kind Donations Policy and Procedures (*Attachment 38*)
- VSF Acknowledgment of In-Kind Donations Receipt – Appendix A (*Attachment 39*)
- VSF Veterans Services Fund – Management of Policy and Procedures (*Attachment 40*)
- VSF Veterans Services Fund – Management – Appendix A (*Attachment 41*)

- VSF Veterans Services Fund – Management – Appendix B (*Attachment 42*)
- VSF Veterans Services Fund – Allocation and Expenditure Policy and Procedures (*Attachment 43*)
- VSF Donor Bill of Rights – Appendix A (*Attachment 44*)
- VSF Performance Budgeting Appendix B (*Attachment 45*)
- VSF Board of Trustees Roster (*Attachment 46*)

## 1. **Call to Order**

### **a. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

VSF Chair Williamson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01a.m. Chair Williamson led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **b. Roll Call of Trustees and Quorum Determination**

With 10 of 15- trustees present, VSF Chair Williamson advised a quorum was determined.

### **c. Approval of Agenda**

**The meeting agenda was previously sent to the Trustees electronically, and a printed copy was included in the Board Agenda Packets.**

Chair Williamson asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the meeting agenda, to which there were no objections. Trustee Poplar **moved** to approve the meeting agenda and Trustee Pillion **seconded** the motion.

## 2. **Review and Approval of Dec 5th, 2024 VSF Meeting Minutes**

VSF Chair Williamson asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Vargas **moved** the approve the minutes as presented and Trustee Jones **seconded** the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 3. **REPORTS**

### **A. Secretary's Report: Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs**

Secretary Crenshaw expressed gratitude for Chairman Williamson's leadership and the Foundation's ongoing efforts. He noted that the Chairman Williamson and Executive Director Arestivo have kept him informed about the Foundation's initiatives and progress. He commended the Foundation's leadership for its continued momentum and alignment with the Governor's priorities.

As the administration enters its final phase, Secretary Crenshaw emphasized that there will be no slowdown in advancing key initiatives, particularly those impacting the veteran community. He highlighted the Governor's commitment to maintaining a strong pace, citing late Friday meetings as an example of the administration's dedication. He acknowledged the Foundation's contributions in aligning its efforts with state priorities and expressed appreciation for its continued work.

### **B. Department of Veterans Services**

Commissioner Zingler thanked the Foundation for its support and reflected on his recent discussions with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He highlighted the need for additional funding, estimating a \$3 million gap for critical veteran programs.

He emphasized the importance of veteran retention and employment support, including the expansion of the Virginia Veterans Network to increase outreach and suicide prevention efforts. Additional resources are needed to enhance crisis support programs such as homelessness prevention, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and education for incarcerated veterans.

Expanding employment and transition services remains a priority, with a focus on addressing childcare challenges that impact veterans seeking stable employment. Increasing the number of licensed peer counselors is also a key objective to strengthen emotional wellness support.

The discussion also covered efforts to improve the already excellent benefits processing, ensuring veterans receive timely access to the resources they need. Commissioner Zingler stressed the importance of continued investment in Virginia's care centers, cemeteries, and the War Memorial, with further discussions planned to explore funding strategies.

### **C. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Williamson reported that the board currently has 15 of 16 positions filled, with one remaining vacancy pending an appointment from Governor Youngkin. No new trustees joined the board this quarter, and all current trustees have been assigned to committees. Mr. Jarris Taylor, Jr. now leads the Procedures and Policies Committee and has already made significant contributions, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

The Foundation recently received a long-awaited estate donation of \$237,867. These funds are restricted for use at the Albert G. Horton Memorial Cemetery, ensuring its financial stability for the foreseeable future. Plans are underway to schedule a public event to formally acknowledge and receive the donation.

Chairman Williamson expressed appreciation for trustees who have taken the initiative to organize fundraising events. He acknowledged the challenges involved in securing venues, selecting dates, and attracting attendees but emphasized the critical role fundraising plays in supporting the Foundation's mission. Given the commissioner's ongoing needs for additional funding, the board is focused on maximizing fundraising efforts.

The next Virginia Veterans Service board meeting is scheduled for June 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Virginia War Memorial.

### **D. Board of Veterans Services**

DVS Policy Analyst, Dara Hectar delivered the report on behalf of Chairman Carl Bedell. The Board of Veterans Services currently has one vacant seat. They last convened on Friday, December 6, 2024, at the Virginia War Memorial, coinciding with the Commonwealth's Pearl Harbor Ceremony. Board members had the opportunity to attend the ceremony and hear from DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler, who provided briefings on various DVS service lines, including the Veterans Care Centers and the Virginia War Memorial.

Looking ahead, the board's primary focus will be on strengthening its collaboration with DVS. This includes visiting different facilities, engaging with various service lines and leaders, and contributing to the growth of veterans' programs and services throughout the state.

Ms. Hector, on behalf of BVS expressed gratitude to the Foundation for its continued support and looks forward to an ongoing partnership.

### **E. Joint Leadership Council**

Chairman Bill Aramony provided an update on the Joint Leadership Council's activities, including their recent advocacy efforts. The group had initially planned to meet with the state assembly and delegates, but the event was rescheduled. Despite this, advocacy efforts continued, particularly around five key legislative measures, including the Veterans Military Dependency Speech (VEMDEPs) program.

Chairman Aramony noted that these measures are part of the Governor's budget and have been passed through the General Assembly's own chambers. The final review is expected on April 2nd, with most of the proposed measures anticipated to survive the legislative process.

The report, detailing the measures, is included in the meeting package. The next Joint Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for June 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Aramony thanked, the Secretary Crenshaw, Commissioner Zingler, Deputy Secretary Jordan Stewart and Ms. Hector for their continued support in advancing the JLC's work.

### **F. Foundation Report**

Executive Director Kayla Arestivo provided an update on the foundation's activities and progress over the

past quarter. She emphasized that the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation is an independent state agency designed to exclusively support the Department of Veterans Services. Her primary role is to raise funds to support DVS Commissioner Zingler's initiatives, particularly where general funds fall short.

Executive Director Arestivo noted that there have been no new trustee onboardings this quarter, so the trustee roster remains unchanged since December. She also pointed out that in the meeting packets, trustees would find printed copies of important documents such as bylaws, policies, and nearly all relevant foundation materials, including contact information for everyone.

Executive Director Arestivo shared several updates on the foundation's impact. She explained that funding supports various service lines, including behavioral healthcare, medical health, rehabilitative care, and veterans' suicide prevention efforts through the VVFS program. It also funds long-term care in veterans' care centers and services related to the transition from military to civilian life. Additionally, there has been significant support for improving veterans' cemeteries.

She then highlighted a few testimonials to demonstrate how VSF's funding directly supports veterans. One testimonial came from the VVFS team, describing how VSF funds were used to provide neuropsychological exams for veterans who had not been diagnosed with brain injuries, despite exposure to blasts or similar trauma. These evaluations are crucial for establishing treatment plans and supporting VA claims. Another testimonial shared how VSF funds helped a Desert Storm veteran facing severe health challenges and limited income to cover an electric bill and avoid disconnection, ensuring stable housing. A third testimonial came from the VETE laptop initiative, where VSF supported veterans in transition by providing laptops. One veteran expressed how the laptop was instrumental in their journey toward a career in networking engineering.

Executive Director Arestivo also shared a video testimonial from a veteran at the Davis McDaniel Veterans Care Center who praised the new beds funded by VSF. The veteran explained that the new beds were more comfortable and did not sag like the old ones, improving sleep quality and overall well-being.

Moving on, Executive Director Arestivo then gave an update on the foundation's key results for Fiscal Year 2025. As of the report, the foundation has raised \$903,831, which includes a \$288,000 donation of medical vans from the DAV. Regarding Foundation engagement, Arestivo noted that the foundation has exceeded its goal of 20 engagements per quarter. She expressed gratitude for the support from trustees and staff in facilitating these events and raising awareness. For donor growth, the foundation currently has 199 individual donors for FY25, and efforts are underway to expand this base by encouraging smaller, consistent contributions.

Executive Director Arestivo outlined several ongoing strategic initiatives, including continuing to tell the Foundation's story and engaging with corporate sponsors, while also focusing on increasing statewide engagement through networking, hosting events, and collaboration with DVS. She emphasized the need to fill funding gaps based on DVS priorities.

She also mentioned upcoming events where the VSF would have a presence and encouraged trustees to attend and support these events. These gatherings are critical for raising awareness and generating funds for the foundation.

Following her report, Chairman Williamson acknowledged the importance of understanding where funding is coming from and optimizing fundraising efforts. He recognized that larger donations are the Foundation's primary source of support but noted a focus on growing individual donors as well. Executive Director Arestivo responded to a suggestion from VSF Advisor Jack Lanier about engaging the faith community as a potential source of support, which she will explore further with her team.

## **G. Treasurer's Report**

VSF Treasurer, Kim Barton presented the Treasurer's report. As of December 31, 2024, the total income



for the FY 25 2nd Quarter reached \$352,417.53. Total expenditures during the same period amounted to \$648,491.77, resulting in an excess of income over expenditures of (\$296,074.24).

The beginning fund balance was \$2,944,460.68, leading to a total FY2024 2nd Quarter ending fund balance of \$2,648,386.44.

#### **H. VSF Finance Committee Report**

Trustee Craig Colucci gave the VSF Finance Committee report on behalf of Committee Chairman, Mike Coleman, covering several key points and updates regarding the Foundation's financial activities. Mr. Colucci began by acknowledging recent grants received by the Foundation, including a \$100,000 grant from Altria and a \$10,000 grant from Newport News Shipbuilding. He noted that these are positive developments.

As of mid-February, the Finance Committee is recommending the withdrawal of \$57,750 from the FY 25 funds. This includes \$50,750 from Benefits and \$7,000 from the Puller Veterans Care Center. The Finance Committee emphasized that ensuring there are sufficient funds to support programs in FY 2026 should be a top priority.

Mr. Colucci then discussed an upcoming meeting in April, though the exact date has yet to be confirmed, where the Foundation will meet with Commissioner Zingler and DVS directors to discuss FY 25 expenditures and the funding needs for FY 26.

Moving on to the detailed financial documents, Mr. Colucci asked the group to review the first attachment, labeled "Status as of January 31st, 2025." He explained that the green sections of the report represent the unrestricted funds within the budget, which are currently limited but are critical in supporting the Foundation. He walked the board through the document, starting with the first column, which shows the ending balance of \$2.94 million at the end of FY 24. However, he emphasized that only \$810,000 of this total is unrestricted.

The report also compared budgeted amounts, unrestricted funds applied, and expended amounts as of January, with a final column showing the balance. Mr. Colucci noted that reporting expenditures needs improvement to better track spending and adjust as needed. The last two columns presented show restricted and unrestricted donations as of January.

Mr. Colucci then addressed the proposed withdrawal of \$7,000 from the Puller Veterans Care Center, stating that this is a straightforward request since the center has not yet opened. Regarding the \$50,750 allocated for benefits, Mr. Colucci explained that this funding was initially intended for an updated training syllabus incorporating new technologies and customer service. However, no contracts or discussions have taken place with Ms. Davidson regarding this initiative, making it unlikely that the funds will be used before the end of FY 25. Given the limited unrestricted funds, the Finance Committee recommended withdrawing these funds for use in FY 26.

Mr. Colucci concluded by reviewing the final attachment, a chart showing revenue trends from 2018 to present. He highlighted that FY 24 marked a transition to the new executive director, which led to an uptick in revenues, particularly evident in the FY 25 forecast. He also pointed out that the jump from February to March was largely attributed to a \$237,867 contribution for the Albert G. Horton Cemetery. The report also showed that grants and in-kind donations are ahead of schedule, and most donations are over \$10,000, indicating the success of the development strategy led by Chairman Williamson.

Trustee James Polar asked if donations exceeding \$10,000 are typically made through corporate donors, to which Executive Director Arestivo noted that in some cases yes, but the Foundation also receives sizable donations from estates and fundraising events.

Chairman Williamson addressed Commissioner Zingler on his thoughts towards the Foundation



reallocating some FY 25 funds to FY 26. Ms. Davidson intervened and clarified that the money in question was already allocated for a specific purpose and will not be expended before the conclusion of FY 25, to which everyone understood and agreed with.

Secretary Crenshaw raised a question regarding donations, sponsorships, and grants, specifically asking if the Foundation provides a breakdown of how funds are utilized each year. He asked whether the Foundation shows which services and activities the donations are being used for, and how that information is shared with funders.

Chairman Williamson responded, acknowledging that the approach to handling grants and donations depends on the specific requirements of each grantor. He emphasized that the key is telling a compelling story about how the funds align with the grantor's needs. Chairman Williamson pointed out the improvement in the Foundation's ability to communicate this story, particularly under Kayla's leadership. He credited her for gathering more detailed information about how funds are used, which has helped the Foundation make stronger cases for securing additional funding.

Executive Director Arestivo further clarified that the biggest area for improvement when she joined the Foundation was in reporting numbers and metrics. She explained that working closely with the grant writer and the DVS team has helped to collect the necessary statistics to meet the reporting requirements. Arestivo stressed that all funders, especially in the grants sector, require annual reports on how their funds are being used. She also mentioned her direct communication with partners, like CCWA, to improve the collection of metrics, as it can be challenging to track the usage of funds once they are allocated to DVS.

Executive Director Arestivo elaborated that while she secures the funding, it is the responsibility of the DVS teams to ensure the funds are used as intended. She described an ongoing process of communication between herself and the DVS teams to ensure that the money is being spent properly and tracked. She emphasized that part of her role also involves staying in touch with donors, following up on their specific projects, and keeping them updated on how their contributions are being used.

She mentioned her recent conversation with Albert G. Horton about a project related to the cemetery, illustrating how the Foundation works with donors to ensure that their contributions are being used to honor the original families who donated for these projects.

Trustee Danny Vargas inquired about the significance of the Foundation's status as a charitable tax-exempt organization when approaching corporations and foundations for donations. He asked how important this status is to potential donors and where it ranks in terms of priority.

Executive Director Kayla Arestivo explained that the importance of the Foundation's charitable tax-exempt status varies depending on the corporation or foundation. Some corporations are less concerned with the specific tax status as long as they can support veterans and promote their brand. For these organizations, the main priority is visibility and corporate social responsibility.

Arestivo further clarified that the Foundation is a 170(c) organization, rather than a 501(c)3, which some foundations or corporations prefer for tax exemption purposes. She noted that some foundations are flexible and willing to make exceptions for the Foundation's status, even if they typically only fund 501(c)3 organizations. Arestivo shared that she has personally reached out to foundations and explained the Foundation's tax status, successfully convincing some to overlook the difference, emphasizing the Foundation's transparency and rigorous audits.

Chairman Williamson spoke one last time before moving on to the next portion of the meeting. He asked everyone to focus on the four-point column in the sheet, emphasizing the available funds for allocation as they enter discussions with Commissioner Zingler's team. He clarified that the numbers at the top of the sheet are restricted and can only be used for the specific line items listed on the left side, while the number at the bottom represents unrestricted funds, which the Foundation has more flexibility to use.

Chairman Williamson highlighted the importance of unrestricted donations for the Foundation, noting that these funds provide the most flexibility for the organization's needs. He pointed out that while donations like the one for the Albert G. Horton Cemetery are valuable, they remain restricted until they can be specifically allocated. He concluded by encouraging the team to always aim for unrestricted donations when asking for support, as they provide much greater utility for the Foundation's ongoing efforts.

**I. Development Committee Report**

Chairman Williamson submitted the report on behalf of the Development Committee. He explained that the report serves as a restatement of the events that have been planned, with additional details included. The committee's current focus is on organizing and executing these events to generate funds for the Foundation. Additionally, the committee is working on developing a communications plan to effectively promote and support these events.

Chairman Williamson turned it over to the Development Committee Chair, Shannon Spencer-Watson who began by expressing that there is a strong interest in supporting veterans now. She encouraged committee members to take initiative when out in the community, suggesting that if someone is at a car dealership or similar locations, they could approach the business about using their lobby for an event to spread awareness. She emphasized that asking for donations is often successful, and many businesses are willing to contribute if simply asked.

Ms. Spencer-Watson also acknowledged that some may feel uncomfortable with the direct ask, offering her assistance in guiding them through the process. She encouraged everyone to share their ideas, with the goal of putting those ideas into action.

**J. Procedures and Policies Committee Report**

Chair Jarris Taylor, Jr. provided an update on the ongoing work of the Procedures and Policies Committee. He acknowledged Executive Director Arestivo for her efforts in compiling the notes for the committee's review and emphasized that no vote was required at this stage, as the process is still in the early phases. He explained that the focus is on evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of how the executive director and the staff are working, and through the early review, some policies were identified as outdated.

The committee is working to ensure that both internal and joint policies are thoroughly examined. Mr. Taylor mentioned the importance of coordination, particularly highlighting his experience in the Air Force, where policy review was a critical component of his responsibilities. He underscored that the committee's approach is methodical and intended to ensure correctness and sustainability, emphasizing the goal of getting the new board, executive director, and all teams aligned and on the same page.

He noted that the committee is not rushing through the process but instead taking careful steps to develop policies that are practical and long-lasting. He encouraged trustees to submit any input they might have and addressing various findings. Once the committee has made significant progress, they plan to send the policies to counsel for review, ensuring that all recommendations are legally sound and do not interfere with essential deletions.

Mr. Taylor concluded by expressing optimism for the process and the results that will come.

Chairman Williamson addressed Elizabeth Myers, representative from the Office of the Attorney General, emphasizing the goal of avoiding multiple rounds of reviews to finalize the policies. He acknowledged the importance of efficiency in the review process.

He also introduced the topic of the code that establishes the Virginia Veterans Service Foundation. Chairman Williamson expressed that it was important for all involved, especially in the review of

policies, to understand the foundational code under which the foundation operates. This understanding would provide crucial context as they move forward with policy discussions.

Trustee Joel Griffin inquired about the policy packet, specifically the section stating that DVS shall provide public relations, marketing, and fundraising programs, and whether the Foundation would receive marketing funds from DVS or need to fundraise for marketing. He wanted clarification if the Foundation currently has a marketing budget.

Chairman Williamson clarified that an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) exists between DVS and the Foundation, which defines what DVS is responsible for in supporting the Foundation. He further explained that the Foundation receives funding to cover these services, and currently, that amount is \$10,000. Ms. Davidson clarified that the \$10,000 is not for marketing dollars but instead for utilizing DVS's communications and marketing staff. This means that while the Foundation does not receive direct funds to place ads or host events, it shares the cost of DVS's marketing resources.

Commissioner Zingler provided additional context, noting that DVS had withheld money over the past two years to support the launch of the Virginia Veteran Network (VVN), which incurred significant costs. He emphasized that the DVS marketing budget is currently limited, and while there may be potential to revisit funding through a partnership with the Foundation in the future, it would be unrealistic to assume there is a substantial marketing budget available at this time. He suggested that talent and resources could be shared between DVS and the Foundation, but the expectation should be managed accordingly.

Mr. Griffin, who resides in Fredericksburg, raised a concern regarding the high veteran population in Fredericksburg and Stafford and the need for support with smaller-scale projects, such as the construction of ramps for veterans or improving ADA-compliant access to services. He asked if there could be a process created to provide grants for such projects using unrestricted funds. Chairman Williamson responded by emphasizing that the Foundation's purpose is to provide funding to DVS and the programs they operate. He explained that the primary question would be whether DVS already has a program within its structure to support those specific needs, such as the building of ramps. If not, he suggested exploring whether other foundations or organizations might be able to assist with these types of projects. He encouraged the Foundation's team to reach out to other organizations if they encountered a need they were unable to directly support.

Ms. Spencer-Watson addressed the situation by reaffirming the Chairman's final remark. She encouraged the other trustees to reach out to her and with each other to collaborate in ways to help veterans that may be outside of the board's current reach.

Trustee Danny Vargas, as the owner of a marketing company, commented on the challenges of achieving the financial goals for the Foundation, particularly with restricted funds. He highlighted that there needs to be a level of marketing communications activity that goes beyond what the Executive Director, can accomplish alone. Mr. Vargas pointed out that while volunteers and companies donating their time and resources are valuable, there are hard costs involved in advertising, posting, and similar efforts. He stressed the need for a small portion of funds to address these hard costs, alongside the work being done through volunteer efforts.

Chairman Williamson acknowledged the comment and noted that while the Foundation is fortunate to have geographically dispersed trustees, they are also focusing on utilizing this network for events. He highlighted how trustees can support the Foundation by posting on social media platforms like LinkedIn to amplify the Foundation's presence. He reassured Vargas that marketing will be a priority for Executive Director Arestivo, and the trustees will help in spreading awareness through their networks.

Executive Director Arestivo responded by clarifying that support funds can indeed be used for marketing purposes. She mentioned that there is \$21,000 available for marketing, which could be used for marketing internally, and it doesn't have to come solely from state funds. While there is a limit on spending, there

are multiple avenues the Foundation could explore, including reaching out to companies in the marketing industry for discounted or loaner services. She emphasized that, given the Foundation's status as a state agency supporting a large veteran population, there is a strong need for a marketing strategy to distribute information across the Commonwealth.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Approval of Development Committee Recommendations**

No approvals needed at this time.

##### **B. Approval of Finance Committee Recommendations**

Approval of pulling back \$57,750 to FY 26. Trustee Griffin **moved** to approve the motion. Trustee Jones **seconded**.

##### **C. Approval of Procedures and Policies Committee Recommendations**

No approvals needed at this time.

##### **D. Approval of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

Trustee Pillion **moved** to approve the motion. Trustee Jones **seconded** the motion.

##### **E. Other New Business**

###### **Board Chair**

###### **Nominating Committee**

Chairman Williamson introduced the topic of the annual nominating committee. He explained that each year, the committee makes recommendations at the June board meeting for key positions within the Foundation, including the chairman, first vice chair, and second vice chair. Williamson announced that Trustee Mike Coleman will lead the nominating committee but emphasized the need for at least two additional members to join. He called for volunteers from the board to participate in the committee. Trustees Craig Colucci, Tim Pillion and Brandy Jones volunteered.

###### **Administering of funds for FY26**

Chairman Williamson addressed the administration of funds for FY26, stating that the work will continue with Executive Director Arestivo and Commissioner Zingler's team to set up a meeting. All members will be invited to attend the meeting, and from there, the finance committee will make recommendations on how to allocate the funds for the upcoming fiscal year.

Chairman Williamson continued discussing the allocation of funds for FY 26 and the role of the Development Committee. He highlighted the success of last year's goal of raising \$900,000 in total donations, which was exceeded. Moving forward, he requested the trustees to set goals for the Foundation's funding for FY 26, including a specific goal for unrestricted donations. He pointed out that while they had set goals for donations and grants last year, they didn't include an unrestricted donation goal, and he recommended doing so for the upcoming year. Chairman Williamson suggested that the goal should be loftier than the previous year's achievements. The Development Committee would be responsible for validating and refining these goals for the next year.

###### **Code of Virginia Discussion – Title 2.2, Chapter 27, Article 6. Veterans Services Foundation**

Chairman Williamson discussed the code that establishes the Veterans Services Foundation and emphasized its importance. He pointed out that trustees should familiarize themselves with the document, which is only a page and a half long, as it outlines their mission and responsibilities. He mentioned a few key sections:

- The Foundation operates independently and supports DVS through the Secretary of Veterans Defense Affairs.
- Trustees are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate Committee on

Rules, making up a total of 16 trustees. Additionally, three ex-officio voting trustees (the Secretary, the Chairs of JLC and BVS) serve on the board.

- The Foundation administers the funds, and the document clarifies the roles of trustees, including their terms of service. Chairman Williamson tracks these terms carefully to avoid confusion, as there were instances of trustees serving beyond their second term while waiting for replacements.
- Travel claims for trustees were mentioned, and he also highlighted the importance of the MOU with DVS, which outlines the services and funding arrangements for those services.
- Election process for board officers, and trustees are expected to understand and follow it when voting.
- Trustees should be aware of potential conflicts of interest as outlined in the document.

### **Approval of Reallocation of Funds Through the Veterans Care Centers**

Chairman Williamson introduced a request from the Commissioner and his team regarding a funding need at the care centers. He directed everyone to review the financial sheet, specifically the restricted funds allocated to Davis and McDaniel. The request was to allocate \$1 million of those restricted funds for care center operations.

Chairman Williamson clarified that this was an emergent request, and that legal review was required to ensure the funds could be used as requested. The funds were originally donated in 2022, and the legal team would confirm there were no specific earmarks restricting their use. He emphasized that the funds could only be used for this care center regardless of the vote's outcome. If approved, the funds would be allocated, and legal review would follow. Ms. Davidson confirmed that her team had already reviewed the donation terms and found no restrictions beyond the funds being dedicated to Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center.

Chairman Williamson reiterated that legal review was still necessary but that once authorized, the funds would only be used as needed for operations, with any unused portion remaining in the restricted account for future use at the care center.

Mr. Colucci asked if the full \$1 million would be spent by the end of June. Ms. Davidson responded that the board would only be authorizing a request to the Department of Planning and Budget for additional appropriation of the funds. She noted that while some of the funds would likely be used this year, it was uncertain whether the entire amount would be necessary. She emphasized that without board approval, the foundation would be unable to access the funds for this fiscal year.

Mr. Vargas asked for clarification on how the motion should be worded. Williamson confirmed that the approval would be pending legal review and limited to the necessary funds.

Jordan Stewart asked whether the board could vote in April following a budget review with the Commissioner. Chairman Williamson confirmed and motioned for a vote that a final decision on the funds would be made at the April meeting with the Commissioner and his team. Trustee Poplar **moved** the motion. Trustee Griffin **seconded**. There was no further discussion.

### **Executive Director**

#### **Virginia Veterans Network**

Executive Director Arestivo presented the next report on the Virginia Veterans Services Network (VVN). She directed the trustees to a large QR code included in their meeting packets, located near the reviewed statute. She emphasized that VVN has been a key priority for the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) for multiple years and will continue to be moving forward.

Arestivo encouraged all trustees to actively support VVN, not only financially but also by engaging with the platform. She requested that each trustee take three actions:

- Create a profile on the VVN platform.

- Explore the VVN to familiarize themselves with its features.
- Share the platform within their networks, including colleagues and community contacts.

She noted that the QR code and additional information would also be shared via email for those not in attendance. Arestivo reiterated the importance of supporting VVN beyond financial contributions by actively engaging with and promoting the platform.

**5. Public Comment**

VVFS Director Brandi Jancaitis addressed the room, highlighting key mental health, homeless, and community resource services that the foundation helps support. She directed attention to the materials provided at each station, which included a core VVFS description and a flyer on the Kavana Wellness platform.

Ms. Jancaitis explained that the Cabana Wellness platform has been operating as a state-funded pilot program since July, meaning it does not rely on foundation funds. The platform offers confidential and convenient mental health support, including both one-on-one and group sessions.

She emphasized the ease of access, noting that individuals can use the QR code provided or create a personal email to maintain confidentiality. Within seconds, users can access resource articles tailored to their needs and live support.

Jancaitis encouraged attendees to help promote the platform, recognizing the potential benefits for many within their networks. Further information about the Cabana Wellness platform can be found on the DVS website, on the Virginia Veterans and Family Support page.

Chairman Williamson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Poplar **moved** the motion. Trustee Griffin **seconded**.

**6. Adjournment**

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on June 12th, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Virginia War Memorial. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.





# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Veterans Services*

Charles A. Zingler  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

### **Department of Veterans Services Update for Veterans Services Foundation June 16, 2025**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each and every one of you for the invaluable work you do to support our veterans, service members, and their families. Your dedication and commitment make all the difference in their lives, and for that, we are deeply grateful. Today, I'm excited to share with you some of the initiatives the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is working on and the many opportunities to collaborate with all of you moving forward.

On May 26, thousands of our fellow citizens honored and remembered our fallen heroes at the four Memorial Day Ceremonies hosted by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The placing of miniature American flags at every gravesite and an inspirational ceremony took place at each of the DVS veterans cemeteries in Amelia, Dublin, and Suffolk. Over 1,850 persons gathered at the Virginia War Memorial for the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Commonwealth Memorial Day Ceremony and inaugural *Say Their Names Marathon* and thousands more watched the live broadcast of the event. The four student recipients of the 2025 Virginia War Memorial's Marocchi Memorial Scholarships were also announced during the ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Memorial kicked off the inaugural *Say Their Names Marathon*. The names of the nearly 12,000 Virginia men and women killed in combat while serving our country from WWII to present day are permanently engraved on the glass and stone wall of the Shrine of Memory were all read aloud by over 200 volunteers – this took nearly 12 hours to complete.

Since the beginning of the current fiscal year on July 1, 2024, the DVS Benefits team has submitted nearly 18,000 veteran benefits claims, with about 7,000 of those filed in calendar year 2025. The team logged 76,745 veteran discussions through in-person visits, phone calls, and emails. The Benefits team is focused on further refining their training model, developing an internal claims processing system and is evaluating the potential application of artificial intelligence to improve claims processing.

The Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) team hosted an in-person all-staff training meeting in Virginia Beach, providing professional development on internal services, core competencies, and the new client system. The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) team launched a new Notice of



Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that remains open to community grantees through May 31, 2025. During the month of May, SOS grantees from across the country gathered at the Virginia War Memorial for the summer 2025 Suicide Prevention Symposium. There were 85 people in attendance made up of SOS Grantees, Virginia's Governor's Challenge (to prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families – SMVF) Team, state agency staff, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinators (CEPC), and many others. Participants were training on the Veteran Affairs SAVE, Modern Military, Women Veterans and SOS grantees services. The next Suicide Prevention Symposium will be held in September 2025 in Woodbridge, Virginia and will include new grantees.

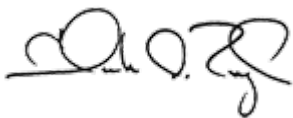
Our Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment (VETE) Services team is working to support the significant growth of The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) during calendar year 2025. So far in calendar year 2025, we've approved 2,339 applications for VMSDEP benefits, more than 10% higher than this period last year.

The Transition and Employment programs have partnered with the Department's Information Technology team and external vendors to complete the first phase of a new client relationship management system. This system will streamline intake and recordkeeping for veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses who seek services and support. VETE proudly hosted the 2025 Virginia Women Veteran Recognition and Pinning Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial, which featured remarks from Governor Youngkin and a keynote address by Dr. Allen at a luncheon following the ceremony.

We are continuing to expand our Virginia Veterans Network (VVN) digital hub that launched on November 11, 2024. The platform currently has 60,544 total users served and 2,904 resource partners. As we continue to grow this platform, we ask for your assistance in identifying additional resource partners to integrate into the VVN. This platform has been a critical tool in reaching more of our veterans. If you haven't done so already, please sign up, and encourage the members of your community to do so as well.

Thank you for your significant service to our Nation and our Commonwealth. You are an impressively talented group of leaders with relevant experience to the challenges we face. I look forward to working with you to serve our service members, veterans, and their families. Your ideas, vision, and efforts are solicited and important to me, our leadership, and those that we aim to serve!

With great respect and my personal appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chuck Zingler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles A. (Chuck) Zingler  
Commissioner



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION JUNE 16, 2025

**Status of the Board:** The Board of Trustees (BoT) remains at 15 of 16 positions filled now with no Trustees awaiting replacement. This continues the largest fill rate for a second consecutive quarter.

**New Trustees:** No new Trustees have joined the Board.

**Committee Assignments:** All Trustees have been assigned to serve on one of the three Committees and Chair's of the Development and Finance Committees are in place.

#### **Recent Events & Fundraising/Donations:**

- VSF achieved both its donation's goal and its Grants/In-Kind revenue numbers for FY25 which were set at \$500K and \$400K respectively (Total Goal was \$900K) exceeding the total goal by more than \$200K. The Development Committee will recommend FY26 goals as part of the June meeting.
- Nomination Committee: The annual meeting of the Nominating Committee was conducted, and we expect to elect a new Chair and First Vice Chair at our June meeting.
- Working with DVS, the VSF Finance Committee has determined the recommended allocation of funds to DVS for FY26. The approval of this allocation will be conducted as part of the June BoT meeting.
- DVS-VSF Memorandum of Understanding: The annual review of the DVS-VSF MOU has been conducted and we are hopeful of signing the FY26 version as part of our June BoT Meeting.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Fundraising Events (More information will be provided when available)
  - Bull Run Harley Davidson Poker Run 7/12
  - VMI MOAA Golf Tournament 7/18
  - Hampton Roads area Fundraising Event - Aug 2025 (Date/Location TBD)
- The next VVSF Board Meeting will be held at 10 AM – 12 PM on September 18 , 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial.

*Brad Williamson*

Brad Williamson  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



101 N. 14TH STREET, 17<sup>TH</sup> FL.  
RICHMOND, VA 23219

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

*Matthew Miller,  
Chairman  
Victor Angry  
David Ashe  
Delegate Jason Ballard  
Carl Bedell  
Joe Campa  
Senator Jennifer  
Carroll Foy  
Scott Davidson  
Senator Tara Durant  
Robert Eisiminger  
Delegate Michael Feggans  
Malcolm Frost  
Delegate Jackie Glass  
Vincent Griffith  
Joyce Henderson  
Kevin Hoffman  
Carlton Kent  
Terence McKnight  
Senator Russet Perry  
Jeri Prophet  
Delegate Joshua Thomas  
Wendall Warner  
Bill Aramony,  
Chair, Joint  
Leadership Council of  
Veterans Service  
Organizations  
Brad Williamson,  
Chair, Veterans  
Services Foundation  
Rick St. John  
Chair, Virginia War  
Memorial  
Foundation  
Charles Zingler,  
Commissioner, Virginia  
Department of  
Veterans Services*

### REPORT TO THE VETERANS SERVICE FOUNDATION June 16, 2025

The Board of Veterans Services met on March 20, April 25, and June 5, 2025.

At the March 20, 2025 meeting, Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Commissioner Chuck Zingler provided an update on DVS programs, services and priorities. Commissioner Zingler welcomed questions from BVS members on the impact of federal changes on veterans and their families. The board paused the meeting to attend the Women Veterans Week Ceremony hosted by DVS. The ceremony honored the important contributions of our women veterans across the Commonwealth.

The April 25, 2025 meeting was held virtually to discuss leadership and board transition. Members had the opportunity to discuss the qualities they were looking for in future BVS leaders and how to ensure the board is doing as much as it can to help DVS.

At the June 5, 2025 meeting, board members had the opportunity to hear from Scott Miller, the Superintendent of the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia. Mr. Miller described the role and day-to-day operations Virginia's three state veterans cemeteries. DVS Deputy Commissioner Combs delivered the DVS report, highlighting the continued growth of the Virginia Veterans Network. He also discussed the DVS Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services' recent symposium that brought together over 80 leaders in Suicide Prevention from across the country.

The BVS welcomed new member, Ms. Jeri Prophet and said farewell to outgoing members Victor Angry and Carl Bedell, whose terms will end June 30, 2025.

Elections were held at the June 5 meeting. I was elected Chair and Scott Davidson reelected Vice Chair. We thanked and recognized outgoing Chair Carl Bedell for his leadership, wisdom, and stellar service to Virginia's veterans and families.

Our focus over the next year will be on more direct engagement with DVS, visits to DVS facilities, engagement with the veterans community, attendance at veterans events, and continued work on helping to shape the delivery of state veterans programs and services.

We would like to thank the VSF for their support of and advocacy for our veterans and families. We look forward to our continued partnership in making Virginia the best place for Veterans.

Our next scheduled meeting is September 11, 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Commonwealth's Patriot Day ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Miller  
Chairman



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14<sup>TH</sup> ST., 17<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
RICHMOND VA 23219

*Air Force Association*  
*Air Force Sergeants Association*  
*American Legion*  
*AMVETS*  
*Association of the United States Army*  
*Disabled American Veterans*  
*Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry*  
*Fleet Reserve Association*  
*Hope for the Warriors*  
*Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America*  
*Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.*  
*Marine Corps League*  
*Military Officers Association of America*  
*Military Order of the Purple Heart*  
*Military Order of the World Wars*  
*Navy Mutual Aid Association*  
*Northern Virginia Veterans Association*  
*Paralyzed Veterans of America*  
*Reserve Organization of America*  
*Student Veterans of America*  
*Veterans of Foreign Wars*  
*Vietnam Veterans of America*  
*Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association*  
*Virginia National Guard Association*  
*Wounded Warrior Project*

## JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT TO THE VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION June 16, 2025

The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) met March 6, 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial. 23 of 25 member veterans service organizations (VSOs) were represented, as well as the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), and the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF).

In an *After Action Review* of JLC 2025 Initiatives, JLC Legislative Officer Glenn Yarborough reported that four out of five the JLC 2025 Initiatives successfully passed the 2025 General Assembly session. The JLC thanks the Veteran Services Foundation and its members for their support of these initiatives, and of veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

The JLC Legislative Committee met on April 23 at the at the Virginia War Memorial to discuss potential legislative initiatives for 2026. Attendees included: eight VSO members of the legislative committee, a Delegate, Deputy Secretary Jordan Stewart (attended virtually), DVS Commissioner Charles Zingler, other DVS officials, and non-committee members representing different veteran service organizations.

More than 20 proposed initiatives and letters from the Chair were discussed. Less than ten were recommended for consideration by the full JLC with the caveat that further work was needed

All initiatives will be considered by the full JLC at its next meeting on June 18, 2025 at the Virginia War Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Aramony  
Chair

Atch: summary of JLC 2025 Initiatives

## Summary of JLC 2025 Initiatives – as of 05.27.2025

Number	Objective	Summary of Actions Taken
2025-01	To identify arrested and incarcerated veterans in Virginia so to better connect them to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA), Virginia Department of Veterans Services, and community employment, education, and other resources to help lower their recidivism rate and connect them with federal and local court and community resources	<a href="#">HB2071</a> (Thomas) passed House and Senate unanimously. Approved by Governor Youngkin – Chapter 235 (Effective 07/01/25)  <a href="#">SB1251</a> (Durant) passed Senate and House unanimously. Approved by Governor Youngkin – Chapter 245 (Effective 07/01/25)
2025-02	Prohibit ‘Claim Shark’ companies from preying on veterans seeking to obtain or modify their VA entitlements	Four bills introduced (two approaches). None passed
2025-03	Transition the Virginia National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) from its current reimbursement model back to an upfront payment model	<a href="#">HB1595</a> (Feggans) passed House and Senate unanimously. Approved by Governor Youngkin – Chapter 474 (Effective 07/01/25)  <a href="#">SB1106</a> (Hashmi) passed Senate and House unanimously. Approved by Governor Youngkin – Chapter 494 (Effective 07/01/25)
2025-04	Secure the necessary funds to expand the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of our veterans and their families	Funding included in the 2025 State Agency Capital Account, <a href="#">Chapter 725, Item C-52.20</a>
2025-05	Establish June 12th as Women Veterans Day in Virginia, recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of women veterans and commemorating the historic signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act	<a href="#">SJ250</a> (Carroll Foy) agreed to by the Senate and the House unanimously
Letter	Virginia War Memorial Carillon project	Funding included in the 2025 State Agency Capital Account, <a href="#">Chapter 725, Item C-52.20</a>



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

June 16, 2025

**STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE:** The Finance Committee members are Mike Coleman – Chair, Tim Pillion, Joel Griffin and Raul “Danny” Vargas.

#### MEETINGS HELD THIS QUARTER:

- The Finance Committee met on April 23, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial when the DVS Commissioner and Division Directors briefed on the progress of their programs for FY 2025 and requested funding for FY 2026. For the second consecutive year DVS requested more than \$2.5 million to support Virginia Veterans. The greatest need is in areas that do not receive dedicated donations. The Foundation must continue to increase the amount donated; however, try to identify ways to encourage giving in areas other than the Care Centers and Cemeteries.
- The Committee met on May 15, 2025, to prepare the FY 2026 Budget for submission to the Board for approval. The Committee recommends a FY 2026 budget of \$915,000. This will require the approval of \$65,000 in additional appropriation from the Secretary of Finance. The budget breakdown is provided in Attachment 1.
- The Finance Committee expressed a concern that DVS had not provided any clear priorities for the submitted budget of \$2.79M.
- Attachment 2 provides the FY 2025 expenditures vs. Budget.
- Attachment 3 is a QUAD Chart illustrating donations over a period of years and by month for the current year. This is used to brief the Governor’s staff on the progress being made by the Foundation. Through April 2025 the Foundation raised \$1.08 million which is 115 percent of the annual goal. This amount raised is the second only to the \$1.9M raised in 2022. However, the 2022 amount included one restricted gift of \$1.4M.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** None

#### CURRENT COMMITTEE FOCUS:

- Track FY 2025 expenditures to ensure funds are being used based on Foundation directions.
- Ensure Department of Planning and Budget authorize additional Appropriation to support the needs expressed by the DVS Directors to support Virginia Veterans.

- Submit request to the Office of Attorney General (OAG) to request moving restricted funds for programs no longer active to unrestricted funds.

**SUPPORT NEEDED:**

- Work with the OAG

**Signed,**

Mike Coleman  
Chair



## Request for 2026 Foundation Support by DVS Program

Program Area	DVS Request	Initiative	Restricted Funds Available	Requested	2026 Allocation based on GA Appropriation	Request Additional Appropriation	Notes
VVFS	\$ 581,400	Direct Services	\$ 10,464	\$ 926,400	\$ 610,500		
	\$ 345,000	Homelessness					
Benefits	\$ -	None	\$ 4,140	\$ -	\$ -		
VETE	\$ 100,000	Upskilling, Credentialing Grants	\$ 105,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 50,000		
	\$ 100,000	MMAC Healthcare Fields					
	\$ 50,000	Hire vets now Events					
	\$ 25,000	V3 Partnerships w/VVMA Executive Forum					
	\$ 150,000	V3 Transition Summits					
	\$ 150,000	Laptop Program					
	\$ 15,000	Military Spouse Employment/Training					
	\$ 10,000	V3 Virtual Hiring Software					
	\$ 150,000	V3 Community Business Entrepreneurship Program					
Commissioner	\$ 365,000	Podcast production, outreach events, campaign development	\$ -	\$ 1,050,000			
	\$ 385,000	Digital advertising, event materials					
	\$ 300,000	VA Veterans Network new content					
Petersburg	\$ -	None	\$ 56,448	\$ -	\$ 56,500		

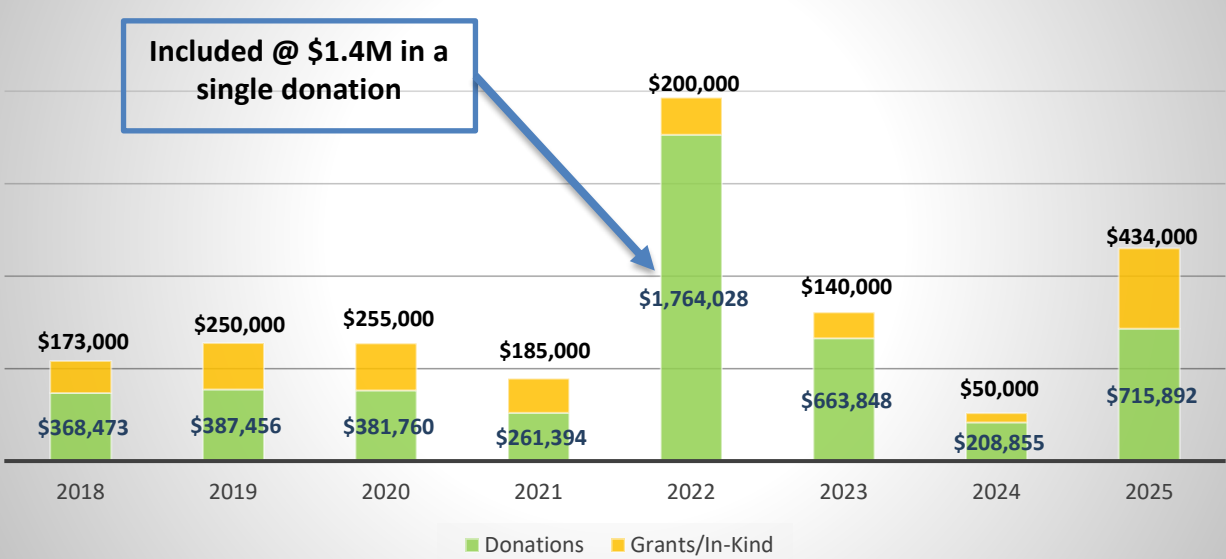
## Request for 2026 Foundation Support by DVS Program

Program Area	DVS Request	Initiative	Restricted Funds Available	Requested	2026 Allocation based on GA Appropriation	Request Additional Appropriation	Notes
Amelia Cemetery	\$ 12,500	Memorial benches	\$ 12,325	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500		
Dublin Cemetery	\$ 12,000	Memorial bench and shrubs	\$ 9,836	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000		
Suffolk Cemetery	\$ 6,000	Benches	\$ 245,497	\$ 27,500	\$ 37,500	\$ 32,000	\$42K must be used for locator machine
	\$ 21,500	Grounds maintenance					
Davis&McDaniel	\$ 21,000	Holiday Spirit	\$ 1,330,721	\$ 64,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 33,000	The \$33K must be used for bed rails
	\$ 33,000	Purchase bed rails					
	\$ 10,000	Resident care					
SBVCC	\$ 20,000	Holiday Spirit/ Art therapy	\$ 10,626	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000		
Jones&Cabacoy	\$ 10,000	Sensory Room	\$ 19,750	\$ 40,000	\$ 15,000		\$10K must be used for Sensory Room. The balance for Resident Care, Nothing authorized for gear
	\$ 10,000	Storage shed					
	\$ 15,000	Gear for new residents					
	\$ 5,000	Resident Care					
Puller	\$ -	None	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -		
Care Centers	\$ -	Can be used by any care center for Operation Holiday Spirit	\$ 7,805	\$ -	\$ -		
VSF		Marketing Plan	\$ 709,165		\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Total	\$ 2,726,400		\$ 2,521,877	\$ 2,902,400	\$ 850,000	\$ 65,000	

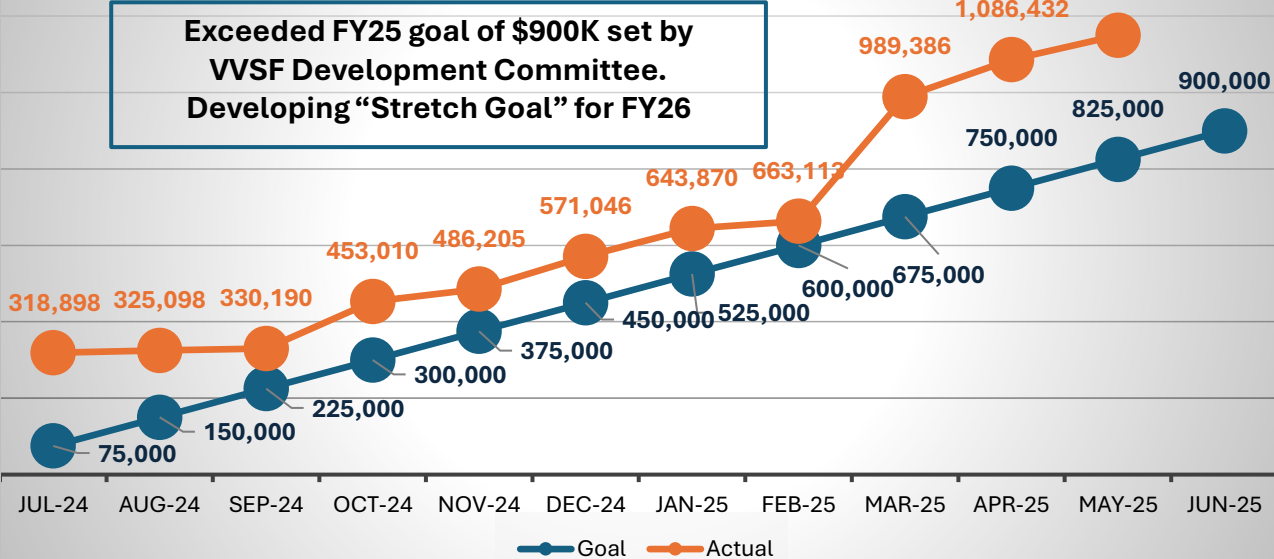
**Veterans Services Foundation**  
**Schedule of Receipts, Expenditures and Budget, by Activity**  
**For the Month Ended April 30, 2025 (FM10)**  
**FY 2025 Year-To-Date**  
**(Unaudited)**

Activity	FY 2025 Budget	Expenditures YTD	FY 2025 Budget Balance YTD
<b>Davis &amp; McDaniel Veterans Care Center:</b>			
Indigent Resident Needs		3,591.87	-
Activities/Carnival Fund			-
Operation Holiday Spirit		17,408.13	-
Other Donations Restricted	684,500.00	642,780.14	20,719.86
<b>Total DMVCC Funds</b>	<b>684,500.00</b>	<b>663,780.14</b>	<b>20,719.86</b>
<b>Sitter &amp; Barfoot VCC:</b>			
Indigent Resident Needs			-
Activities Fund		1,090.00	-
Other Donations Restricted	20,000.00	9,632.79	9,277.21
<b>Total SBVCC Funds</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>10,722.79</b>	<b>9,277.21</b>
<b>Jones &amp; Cabacoy VCC:</b>			
Other Donations Restricted	10,000.00	695.07	9,304.93
<b>Total JCVCC Funds</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>695.07</b>	<b>9,304.93</b>
<b>Puller VCC:</b>			
Other Donations Restricted	-		-
<b>Total PVCC Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cemetery Funds:</b>			
Va Veterans Cemetery--Amelia	-		-
Memorial Cemetery--Suffolk	-		-
SW Va Veterans Cemetery--Dublin	-		-
<b>Total Cemetery Support Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Virginia Veterans' and Family Support:</b>			
Direct Veterans Services		302,525.72	-
Homeless Veterans Fund		164,817.19	-
Operation Family Caregiver Grant			-
Other Donations Restricted	524,250.00		56,907.09
<b>Total VVFS Funds</b>	<b>524,250.00</b>	<b>467,342.91</b>	<b>56,907.09</b>
<b>Benefits Funds:</b>			
	-	-	-
<b>Veteran Education, Transition and Employment:</b>			
V-3 Fund/Women's Summit			-
Altria Grant		94,085.00	-
Newport News Shipbuilding		25,000.00	-
VETE Other Donations Restricted	171,000.00	8,958.26	42,956.74
<b>Total VETE Funds</b>	<b>171,000.00</b>	<b>128,043.26</b>	<b>42,956.74</b>
<b>VSF Support Funds:</b>			
	<b>21,000.00</b>		<b>21,000.00</b>
<b>VSF Unrestricted Revenue:</b>			
Appropriated Funds	-		-
Donor Funds	-		-
Interest			-
<b>Total VSF Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>57,750.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,750.00</b>
<b>Petersburg Initiative:</b>			
Other Donations Restricted	25,000.00		25,000.00
<b>Total Petersburg Funds</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>
<b>Grand Total All 09410 Funds</b>	<b>1,513,500.00</b>	<b>1,270,584.17</b>	<b>242,915.83</b>

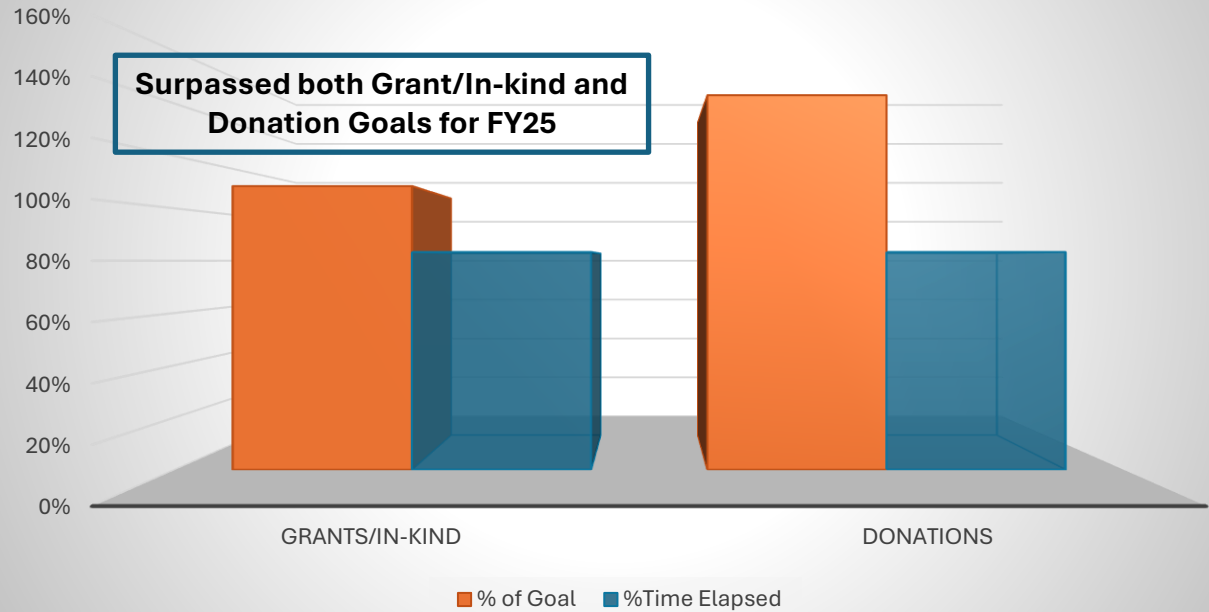
FY 2018-Present VVSF Revenue



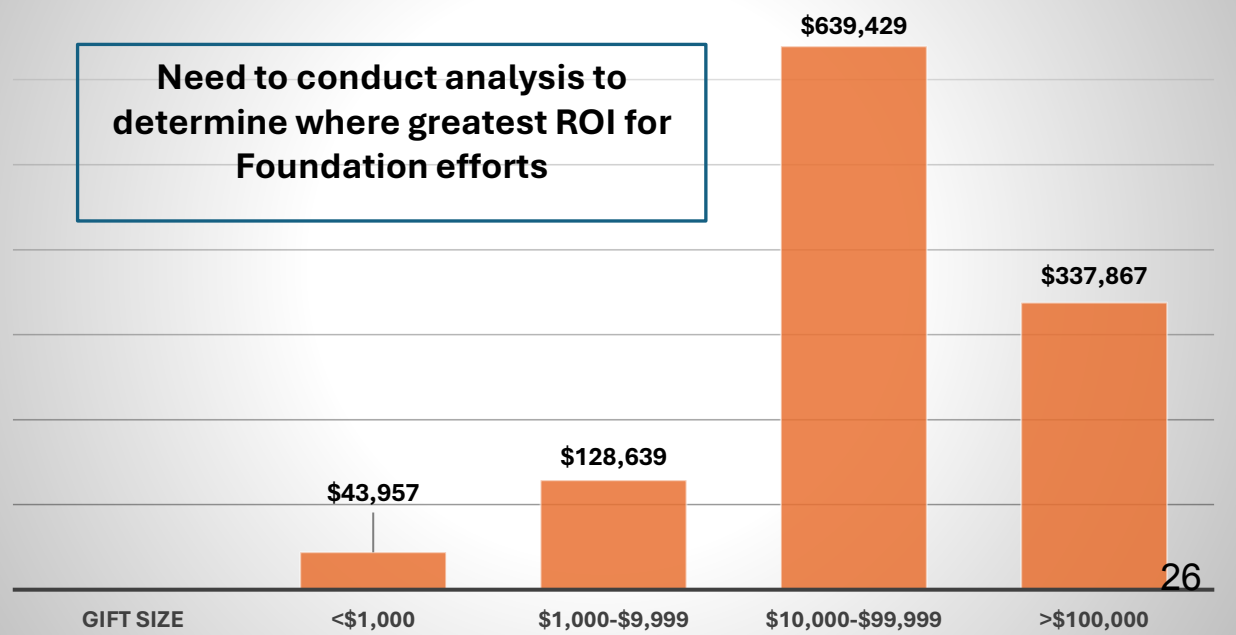
VVSF FY25 Donations by Month



VVSF FY25 Progress vs. Goals by Type



VVSF FY25 Donations by Size





# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION June 16, 2025

**STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE:** All committee chairs and members assigned.

**MEETINGS HELD THIS QUARTER:** Development Committee Meeting – April 18, 2025

**EVENTS CONDUCTED THIS QUARTER:**

Come Together for Our Commonwealth Veterans

*Date:* April 17, 2025 | *Time:* 6:00–8:00 PM | *Location:* Fredericksburg

*Hosted by:* Mr. Joel Griffin

*Funds Raised:* Approximately \$5,000

This event exemplified the power of local engagement and community partnerships, and we are grateful to Mr. Griffin for his leadership.

### PROPOSED FUNDRAISING GOAL – FISCAL YEAR 2026

The Development Committee recommends setting a fundraising goal of \$950,000 for Fiscal Year 2026.

This proposal takes into account the exceptional nature of certain FY25 contributions and aims to establish a sustainable and ambitious growth target. Reaching this goal will require collective effort and shared ownership from the full Board and committee.

### CURRENT COMMITTEE FOCUS

- Strengthening committee engagement to support targeted growth and community outreach.
- Developing a dynamic communications plan leveraging digital platforms and social media to increase visibility, engagement, and real-time collaboration among members and stakeholders.
- Exploring innovative fundraising methods such as virtual events, peer-to-peer campaigns, and strategic partnerships with local businesses and veteran organizations to diversify revenue streams and expand donor networks.

## SUPPORT NEEDED

To achieve the proposed \$950,000 goal and significantly broaden the Foundation's impact, we respectfully request the following from all Trustees and committee members:

- *Proactive Trustee leadership* in planning, hosting, or co-hosting local fundraising and awareness events to bring our mission closer to communities across Virginia.
- *Invitations to community, corporate, and social events* where the Foundation can be showcased and new supporters engaged.
- *Introductions and access to potential donors, sponsors, and partners*, enabling the Development Committee to build meaningful relationships and grow our support network.
- Referrals to aligned community organizations and networks to expand our outreach and deepen local connections.

*Your involvement is critical. Each event hosted, every connection made, and every awareness raised directly supports Virginia's Veterans and their families, helping to provide vital resources and care when they need it most.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

We are planning several regional fundraising events designed to broaden awareness and support for the Foundation across the Commonwealth.

- **Northern Virginia Area Fundraising Event (Shay Spencer-Watson)**  
*Date: September 2025 | Time & Location: TBD*
- **Peninsula Area Fundraising Event**  
*Date: TBD | Time: TBD | Location: James River Country Club*
- **Northern Virginia Area Fundraising Event**  
*Date: TBD | Time & Location: TBD*
- **Hampton Roads Area Fundraising Event**  
*Date: TBD | Time & Location: TBD*

## NEXT MEETING

The next Development Committee meeting will be held virtually on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 11:00 AM.



**Shannon (Shay) Spencer-Watson**  
**Development Committee Chair**



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

### PROCEDURES AND POLICIES COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

JUNE 16, 2025

**STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE:** reviewed policies and procedures to streamline operational efficiency and update requirements.

**MEETINGS HELD THIS QUARTER:** Monday, May 12, 2025. The meeting was convened to review current Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Procedures and Policies to include joint with the Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

At the March 13, 2025, Board of Trustees Meeting, after a back brief and discussion it was recommended not to pursue the Committee's recommendation until the Office of the Attorney General had an opportunity to review the recommendations submitted by the Procedures and Policies Committee.

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the Committee received notification that there was no conflict of interest with the proposal submitted at the March 13, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting.

As a result, the Committee respectfully recommend the following Actions and Approval:

1. Not to move forward on VSF Policy No. 1.
2. Delete VSF Policy Number 4 and VSF-DVS Policy Number 13.
3. Review and Revise the current Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Veterans Services and Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Board of Trustees Memorandum of Understanding to ensure compliance with the two aforementioned Actions 1 & 2.

#### Policies Reviewed:

VSF Policy No. 1, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Inter-Agency Relations between Veterans Services Foundation and the Department of Veterans Services including the Board of Veterans Services and the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service organizations Policy  
Short-Title Inter-Agency Relations

VSF Policy No. 2, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Foundation Administration and Operations Policy

VSF Policy No. 3, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Veterans Services Fund-Planned Giving Policy and Procedures



VSF Policy No. 4, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Policy for the Development and Maintenance of Plans, Procedures, and Policies

VSF Policy No. 5, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Policy for Electronic Meetings

VSF-DVS Joint Policy Number 11, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Services-Fund-Fundraising Policy and Procedures

VSF-DVS Joint Policy Number 12, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Services- Control of In-Kind Donations Policy and Procedures

VSF-DVS Joint Policy Number 13, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Services Fund- management Policy and Procedures

VSF-DVS Joint Policy Number 14, Virginia Veterans Services Foundation  
Virginia Department of Veterans Services  
Veterans Services Fund Allocation and Expenditure Policy and Procedures

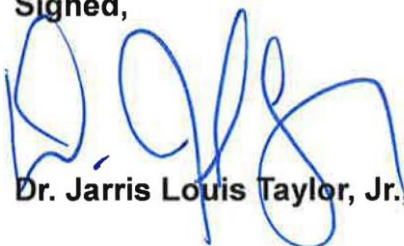
UPCOMING EVENTS: Presentation to the Board of Trustees at the Monday June 16, 2025 meeting seeking adoption and approval of Committee's recommendations.

CURRENT COMMITTEE FOCUS: Committee shall support the board's responsibility for the conduct of business and operational direction, including the planning, of the VSF organization.

Continue to review operational policies and procedures to ensure alignment with DVS and the VSF Executive Director.

SUPPORT NEEDED: Additional Trustees to serve on the Committee.

**Signed,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. J. Taylor, Jr.", is written over the printed name.

**Dr. Jarris Louis Taylor, Jr., Chair**





# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE VIRGINIA VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

June 16, 2025

**STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE:** The Nominating Committee members are Mike Coleman – Chair, Tim Pillion, Heather Hopkins, and Brandy Jones.

#### MEETINGS HELD THIS QUARTER:

1. Nominating Committee met on May 15, 2025, to consider individuals for the elected positions of Chairman, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair. Members Present:
  - a. Mike Coleman, Chair
  - b. Brandy Jones
  - c. Heather Hopkins
  - d. Tim Pillion
  - e. Non-Voting Participants
  - f. Kayla Aristivo, Executive Director, advisor to the Committee
  - g. Darius McKenny, Business Manager
2. Three Board members submitted, in writing, their interest in being considered for Chairman. No Board members expressed interest in the positions of First or Second Vice Chairs. Since the Committee meeting, one member requested to withdraw from consideration due to personal reasons.
3. The Nominating Committee recommends to the Veterans Services Foundation the following for 2025-2026:
  - a. Chair – Joel Griffin
  - b. First Vice-Chair – Ros Poplar
  - c. Second Vice-Chair – Vacant
4. The Nominating Committee recommends that if there are no floor nominations for the Second Vice-Chair, the Board consider the need for that position.

Mike Coleman  
Chair, Nominating Committee