

VETERANS

CONNECTIONS

News from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ★ Volume 2, Issue 5 ★ July 2022



★ Message from IDVA Director Terry Prince

Welcome to the July edition of *Veterans Connections*. I am pleased to report to you the ongoing efforts of the IDVA team. We are beginning our new fiscal year with ambitious

plans for elevating the services we provide veterans across the state. As you will see, we have filled another critical role on our roster with an Infection Preventionist to coordinate infection control across our five homes. We also expect to add additional Veteran Service Officers in key parts of the state to be where you are. IDVA is front-and-center on the Governor's Challenge to reduce suicide as we have hired two new people to help us in our charge to end veteran suicide including a national expert and author of two bestselling books on the subject. Our women veteran's program is growing exponentially, and we are preparing for our Gold Star family and general programming at the upcoming state fairs in Springfield and Du Quoin. Lastly, we are using all means necessary to better communicate with the veterans' community through this newsletter, printed materials, social media, and events. Everyone at IDVA is playing their part in achieving our mission:

The mission of IDVA is to ensure Illinois' veterans and their families thrive, by connecting them to their earned benefits—delivered by a professional team of caring partners who have dedicated themselves to ensuring a positive and measurable impact on those we are privileged to serve.

As always, we are eager for your feedback, ideas, and concerns. One of the best ways to continually improve is through your feedback. Let us know what we're doing right—along with areas we can improve. As a veteran, I can assure you, nothing is more important than ensuring my fellow veterans and their families receive incredible service, centered on you! Please reach out to us at IDVA.MEDIA@illinois.gov or 217-782-6641.

Thank you for your service to our nation and for staying connected to IDVA.

Sincerely,
Terry Prince, IDVA Director

Our mission at the IDVA is very simple. To serve those who have served. In doing so, we serve not only the men and women who have worn the uniform, but also their families. It is our privilege to be able to help our veterans receive the benefits they have earned through service to our nation. Our goal is to empower our veterans and their families to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

We know there are many veterans within our great state who do not require any assistance – but we still want to encourage you to “Stand Up and Be Counted!” by registering with your local VSO. In doing so, you're helping IDVA to do a better job of planning for services, seeking federal funding and understanding the needs of our veteran communities statewide. [Click here to register.](#)

We Thank you for your service and for your sacrifice and we at the IDVA look forward to offering our services to You.



ILLINOIS STUDENT VETERAN LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Carly May Fournier, United States Navy Veteran and recent graduate of Loyola University of Chicago's School of Environmental Science and Sustainability, is the recipient of the Illinois Student Veteran Leader of the Year Award. As the Military and Veteran Student Services Student Coordinator for programming and initiatives for the University, she has dedicated herself to building a strong and supported student veteran community. When she came to Loyola, she recognized great opportunity for growth in programs and support for student veterans. She jumped in with both feet where she has contributed to building a strong foundation for a program that can serve student veterans for years to come. She is also Vice President of the Student Veteran Association.

The purpose of the Illinois Student Veteran Leader of the Year Award is to recognize student veterans for the quality of their engagement with their college/university and/or the wider community. This individual portrays both strong leadership characteristics and academics. They serve as a role model for the student veteran body by volunteering, participating in events, excelling in school, reaching out to fellow student veterans, and portraying an overall positive attitude. Nominees are reviewed by a committee, which is selected by the Administrator of the State Approving Agency, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dan Wellman, IDVA's Veterans Education and Training Services (VETS) Administrator, presented the award at a reception and luncheon at the Loyola University's Lake Shore campus. He cited a nomination letter from Alex Pirila, the Associate Director of the Office of Military and Veteran Student Services at Loyola University, "Carly's tenacity and determination for improving the veteran experience not just at Loyola but all higher education is a model for all to learn from. To the core, Carly believes better days for student veterans is on the horizon and she won't stop until we get there."

Alex complimented Carly's strategic planning, project management, and leadership skills which has been vital for SVA chapter development and student veteran engagement. "With her leadership over the past year, veteran engagement and SVA active membership has increased 50% and 25% respectively."



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Keith Champagne- Vice President of Student Development – Loyola University Chicago (LUC), Alex Pirila- Associate Director of Military Veteran Student Services – LUC, Dan Wellman, Veterans Education and Training Services (VETS) Administrator – IDVA, Carly May Fournier- Recipient of the Student Veteran Leader of the Year Award, Stephen Mitten, S.J.- Advance Lecturer, School of Environmental Sustainability – LUC, Dr. William Rodriguez- Dean of Students

"Student veterans are a unique group of students," said Carly. "I wanted to create a place where they could feel safe and part of a community."

Carly served four years active duty on the USS James E. Williams in the Engineering Department as a Damage Controlman. She served at Great Lakes Naval Station in the Reserves as a Hull Technician. In 2020, she was reactivated and was deployed to Joint-Base Pearl Harbor in support of COVID-19 relief efforts.

Her honors include the two-time recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Silver Good Conduct Award. As a Loyola Student, she earned the Community Engagement Award for Innovation in Sustainability from Students of SOAR and was twice nominated as the Loyola University Chicago Undergraduate Women's Leadership Award.

Carly earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies and is working toward her M.S. in Environmental Science and Sustainability. The Loyola campus is home to many bird colonies. Carly was instrumental in establishing a safe habitat for the birds to thrive on campus. Following completion of her Master's, she plans on attending the Inca Terra Research Center in Peru to continue her training as a bird scientist.

Field Services

IDVA University Training has started for three of our new Veterans Service Officers (VSOs). June 22nd started the next cycle of our 12-module initial training program. Module 1 is the Introduction to the State and Federal Department of Veterans Affairs. This is the foundation that Field Services' mission is built upon. The training outlines the history and organization of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA), the origin of Veteran Service Organizations, the duties and responsibilities of Veteran Service Officers, and the

requirements for protecting veterans' personal information. Good luck Mark, Charles and Doug.

The April to June Veteran Service Officer of the Quarter were also presented. That honor, also on June 22nd, was presented to Dax Griffith, Marion office, Southern Region. Congratulations again Dax and we appreciate all you do for your veterans. Dax joins Kimberly Fuiten, Debbie Fuehrer and Cynthia McKee as the Fiscal Year 2022 VSOs of the Quarter. First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 just started. Good Luck!



Health and Wellness

Interagency Homelessness Task Force

In FY22, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs joined an Interagency Task Force with the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to develop a plan to prevent and end homelessness in Illinois. The key purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate strategy, effort, and impact in programs for those experiencing homelessness and housing instabilities.

On June 30, 2022, IDVA Director Terry Prince attended the Interagency Task Force Meeting on Homelessness at the Matthew House in South Chicago. The Matthew House is a drop-in center for people experiencing homelessness and provides a variety of services to

the community. Here, the Interagency Task Force had the opportunity to hear impactful stories and how the Matthew House has helped them in their time of need. IDVA also heard directly from community members and service providers who are all on the same mission to end homelessness in Illinois. To learn more about the Matthew House please visit [Matthew House Chicago \(mhchicago.org\)](https://mhchicago.org).

If you are a veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness or a family member, friend or supporter, you can call or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a



National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans

877-424-3838

va.gov/homeless



I was a stranger and you took me in..
MATTHEW 25:40



Cindy Reynolds: Infection Preventionist



Cindy Reynolds joins IDVA in its new role of Infection Preventionist assigned to work directly with the Illinois Veterans' homes in managing infection. She is planning, developing, and directing the Department's infectious disease control and prevention. Cindy brings with her over 40 years in

nursing. For four years as the Director of Nursing at Alton Mental Health Center, she managed its infection control. She worked with the Infection Control nurse during the entire course of the COVID-19 pandemic and was instrumental in the safety of 100 patients and 250 staff. She educated her staff and patients about this new pandemic, including information on the virus, prevention interventions, and vaccine administration.

Cindy's 15-year career in long term care began as a floor nurse on a Skilled Medicare Unit where she advanced to serve as the Director of Nursing. Additionally, she was the Regional Director of Clinical Operations for 12 Skilled Nursing facilities where infection control, well before COVID-19, had always been a priority for the safety and well-being of its residents and staff.

Cindy began her health care career as a CNA and earned her RN degree from Missouri Baptist School of Nursing.

In sharing why she chose IDVA, Cindy said: "I chose to work in IDVA because I truly respect our veterans and want to help them as much as I possibly can. Both my father and my uncle were veterans and served on the front line in the Korean war. My uncle gave his life doing so."

Tammy Showers: Human Resources Manager



Tammy Showers, the new IDVA Human Resources Manager, brings over 15 years in Human Resource experience in higher education where she worked with large, diverse communities of staff and students representing a wide

range of backgrounds. Her experience translates well to IDVA whose employees are spread across the state from rural to urban areas. Before joining IDVA, she was the Assistant HR Director of Student Life and Student Health at the University of Iowa after serving nine years as the Assistant Director of Human Resources at Augustana College. Tammy offers a strong principled philosophy around her Human Resources objectives,

"In my experience, striving to create an environment that is inclusive, engaging, and brimming with opportunity, directly leads to high morale, creativity and productive staff."

"As an element of my work in Human Resources, I strive to make a difference in the day to day lives of our staff and the individuals that we serve. After meeting the IDVA leadership team, making the decision to come to IDVA was easy. Without a doubt, my role in Human Resources is a golden opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families." Tammy recently moved to Springfield from the Quad-Cities. She has four grown children and four grandchildren. She enjoys swimming, biking, and canaries.

Michael Gallego: Summer Intern



Michael Gallego is a Curry Intern working at the IDVA office in Chicago this summer. The Michael Curry Summer Internship Program offers college upperclassmen and graduate students the opportunity to work full-time at state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Governor. Michael is entering his senior year at Vanderbilt University, where he is majoring in political science. After graduation, he hopes to attend law school and pursue a career in government.



Tom Miller: Suicide Prevention Program Manager



Bernard "Tom" Miller recently joined team IDVA to serve as a Suicide Prevention Program Manager to help establish the first ever IDVA Suicide Prevention Program. Tom is a United States Navy veteran who served thirty years in the U.S Navy Medical Department

and U.S. Marine Corps. Of his many assignments, Tom deployed to the Republic of South Vietnam as a Naval Advisor and Independent Duty Hospital Corpsman serving with the Vietnamese Navy and Marine Corps. He served imbedded in counterinsurgency reconnaissance and small unit combat counter guerrilla operations against hostile forces. Tom's last combat tour was as the Hospital Patient Administrative Officer aboard the United States Naval Ship Comfort (USNS T-AH 20), a 1000 bed Hospital Ship during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Additional assignments included deployments aboard amphibious warships as

a Company Corpsman with U. S. Marine Corps Units including Artillery, Infantry, and Reconnaissance Battalions.

Maintaining a broad foundation of clinical services experience and tactical combat trauma care, he advanced in rank to Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman. Subsequently, through a highly competitive selection, Tom was commissioned as an Ensign, Medical Service Corps, U.S. Navy. As a Healthcare Administration Officer his assignments included Hospital Operational Management, Medical Department Officer Recruitment, Clinical Quality Management and Medical Review experience. Upon his retirement from the U.S. Navy, Tom worked for the Illinois Division of Mental Health first as a Fiscal Officer and subsequently as the Veteran Services liaison with the Federal and State Departments of Veteran Affairs. While retired, he continues his lifelong passion for suicide prevention as a member of the Illinois Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Servicemembers, Veterans, and their Families.

Vyta Copeland: Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna's New Social Service Planner



The Illinois Veteran's Home at Anna has a new Social Service Planner, Vyta Copeland. Vyta brings ten years of behavioral health experience to Anna combined with a passion for serving veterans. Prior to joining Anna, she worked in several staff and leadership behavioral health roles with FCC Behavioral health,

Delta Center, Inc., and New Hope Family Services. She received her bachelor's and master's degree from her Alma Mater, Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, OH. What drew Vyta to work for the Veterans' Home in Anna

is her love of people. Many of the veterans at Anna already know her singing, working word finder puzzles, participating in BINGO and simply being a social butterfly in the halls. Vyta stated the most rewarding part of her job is giving back to veterans in simple ways including getting a nice warm blanket, listening to their stories, or simply holding a hand. Vyta is originally from Mound City, IL. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, singing in her two bands (Aimer La Vie and The J Sound), being active in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., traveling in her van, teaching and event planning.



Monthly Highlights

Purple Heart Day



On Sunday, August 7th, Purple Heart recipients from across the state will gather for the annual National Purple Heart Day sponsored by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The program will take place at the Chatham VFW Post 4763 at 1:00 p.m. Medal of Honor recipient Hal Fritz, and Lance Zedric, Desert Storm veteran, historian, and author will both speak at the ceremony. The ceremony is open to the public with other activities also planned.

IDVA Director Terry Prince will provide a history of the Purple Heart at the ceremony. IDVA's Kimberly Fuiten, Central IL Division Field Supervisor and Chatham VFW commander will welcome all guests to the Chatham VFW. Dan Wellman, Purple Heart recipient, IDVA's Administrator of Veterans' Education and Training, and the Commander of the Hayes-Krell Memorial Chapter 159 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter Commander, will serve as emcee for the event.

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or an act of terrorism, or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. The Purple Heart is frequently described as the military's oldest medal and has had several evolutions over the years. Created by General George Washington in 1782 to recognize bravery in combat, the honor is now awarded to military service members for wounds suffered in combat or by an act of international terrorism.

Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair

Summer is here, and it is time for Veterans Day and Gold Star Families Day at the State Fair in Springfield where we will celebrate and remember our heroes from all branches and all eras. On Sunday, August 14th we will gather at the Lincoln Stage on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. with the Gold Star Memorial Program, where we will remember the fallen heroes of Illinois. Families in attendance will receive a yellow rose to lay in honor of their loved one. At 12:00 p.m., the main program will take



place on the Lincoln stage with guest speakers and music. Veterans and their families are invited to The Veteran Benefit Expo in the Shed from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Several schools will be participating in the spirited U.S. Army JROTC drill competition and results will be announced in the afternoon. The Annual Veterans Day Parade will kick off at 4:00 p.m. led by Governor JB Pritzker, IDVA Director Terry Prince and team, and several veteran service organizations. Fairgoers will receive a hand-held flag to show support and honor our veterans.

Please join us for a special day to be spent with those that have fought for our freedom and given their all.

National Hire a Veteran Day



National Hire a Veteran Day, July 25th, was established in 2017 by Dan Caporal, Marine Corps Veteran and founder of Hire Our Heroes, a national non-profit organization. This special day emphasizes the leadership, work-ethic, and tenacity that transitioning service members and Veterans bring to civilian jobs and encourages employers to consider employing a Veteran. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans can bring the following strengths to the workplace:

- Working well in a team.
- Having a sense of duty.
- Experiencing self-confidence.
- Being organized and disciplined.
- Possessing a strong work ethic.
- Having the ability to follow through on assignments, even under difficult or stressful circumstances.
- Possessing a variety of cross-functional skills.
- Being able to problem solve quickly and creatively.
- Being able to adapt to changing situations.
- Being able to follow rules and schedules.

https://www.va.gov/vetsinworkplace/docs/em_goodemployees.asp

If you are an Illinois employer seeking to employ a veteran, please reach out to DES.MyVetRep@illinois.gov



Women Veterans

Happy Birthday Women's Army Corps (WAC), Nurse Cadet Corps and Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)!

This month we celebrate the 79th Anniversary of the establishment of the WAC and the creation of the Nurse Cadet Corps, as well as the 80th Anniversary of the WAVES!

July 1, 1943: WAC

The Women's Army Corp (WAC) was established on July 1, 1943, replacing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp, allowing American women to fully enlist and become commissioned in the Army alongside their male counterparts. During World War II, WAC members were assigned to the Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, and the Army Services Forces. Initially, job opportunities were limited, but WAC members served in a variety of roles to include electrical specialists, sheet metal works, airplane mechanics, radio mechanics and operators, cryptographers, among many others. These brave women were the first women other than nurses to serve within the ranks of the United States Army. To learn more about WAC please visit <https://history.army.mil/brochures/wac/wac.htm>.

July 1, 1943: Nurse Cadet Corps

On July 1, 1943, the Bolton Act was signed into law, creating the Cadet Nurse Corp, which helped to train nearly 125,000 nurses during World War II. The Cadet Nurses Corp greatly expanded the supply of nurses to care for Americans at home and on the war front, improved post-World War II nursing education, and contributed to the integration of minorities in the nursing field. To learn more, please visit <https://www.womenshistory.org/articles/making-difference-us-cadet-nurse-corps>.

July 30, 1942: WAVES

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Navy Women's Reserve Act into law, creating what was commonly known as the WAVES -- Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service. WAVES became a division of the U.S. Navy created during World War II to free up male personnel for sea duty for the duration of World War II. On the first anniversary of the establishment of WAVES, President Roosevelt stated, "In their first year, the WAVES have proved that they are capable of accepting the highest responsibility in the service of their country." We are proud of the courageous women who volunteered and paved the way for the future generations of women. We are even more proud that one of these amazing women, Loretta Zvibas, is a resident of the Manteno Veterans' Home! We thank Loretta, and her fellow WAVES, for their selfless service!



Loretta Zvibas
USN-Seaman WWI
6.29.44-3.5.46
Manteno Resident



Partner Highlight

Illinois Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and their Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners assist veterans to obtain family sustaining and meaningful employment. At American Job Centers across the state, a wide range of employment and training services are available to assist veterans entering the workforce. Of IDES' many resources and services, there are over 15 Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) who provide specialized Individualized Career Services that may include Case Management to eligible veterans with Significant Barriers to Employment (SBE) which includes ages (18-24 years old), VA Service Connected Disability Rating,

Homelessness, Recent Military Discharge combined with at least 27 weeks of unemployment, formerly incarcerated, lack of GED or High School Diploma, and living at or below the poverty level to assist them in mitigating SBEs and achieving their employment goal.

Veterans wanting employment assistance can send an email to: DES.MyVetRep@illinois.gov.

You can learn more about IDES' Veteran Services by visiting <https://ides.illinois.gov/jobs-workforce/veterans.html>



News from the Capitol

This is an exciting time of year as many bills that were signed into law are being implemented, bringing new initiatives and improved programs for veterans.

Illinois Medal of Honor Highway: SJR 28, sponsored by Representative Moeller and President Harmon and adopted by both Houses, designates the entire portion of U.S. Highway 20 in Illinois, beginning at the Illinois/Iowa border and ending at the Illinois/Indiana border, as the "Illinois Medal of Honor Highway." Soon after session adjourned, IDVA and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) partnered to develop signage for installation at the two borders set for late July accompanied by events and fanfare to celebrate the Illinois Medal of Honor Highway.

Veterans Education and Training: The passage of SB3762, an IDVA initiative from IDVA's Veteran Education and Training Section aligns eligibility for the Educational Opportunity Grant and the MIA-POW Scholarship, and renames the programs as the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans' Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant, and the Deceased, Disabled, and MIA/POW Veterans Dependent Scholarship, respectively. The legislative initiative also expands eligibility to minor children who were under a

court-ordered guardianship with an eligible veteran for at least two continuous years prior to application.

Veterans' Cash Grant: IDVA's legislative liaison will be working with Connie Watson, IDVA's Grants Manager, to implement HB 4682 which amends the Illinois Lottery Law Act, to make positive changes for our Veterans' Cash Grant program. As this is not effective until 1/1/23, bill implementation will not take place until later this year.

the IDVA legislative liaison, Sara Augustinas, is working with various departments to identify legislative initiatives for next year. The fall veto session is scheduled for 11/15-11/17 and 11/29-12/1.





Veterans' Homes

Administrator Highlight: Troy Culbertson, Veterans' Home at Quincy



Troy Culbertson has served over 450 veteran residents on Quincy's beautiful 210-acre campus for over five years. The Veterans' Home at Quincy employs approximately 500 staff with representation from ten different unions. During his tenure, the Quincy Home has seen some great accomplishments

including the ongoing \$230 million campus-wide construction project that will include the construction of a 210-bed skilled nursing unit and an 80-bed independent living center. In 2018, Troy also coordinated the opening of a free standing, 77-bed facility serving veterans off site. Troy also oversees current enhancements through federal funding to the home's historical veteran cemetery.

For over 30 years, Troy has held leadership roles in the long-term care industry. In the private sector, as Regional Director, he supported dozens of homes in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Tennessee with fiscal and operational oversight. He was actively involved in the health care associations in three states, including 18 years on the board of directors for the Missouri Healthcare Association serving on its legislative committee. He also served on the Post-acute Advisory Board for the Studer Group and is a member of the Illinois Nursing Home Administrator Association, and the Illinois Pioneer Coalition. Troy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. He has three married children and one grandchild, and is a weekend warrior on farming and food plotting for wildlife.

Veterans' Home at Quincy Receives Nearly \$200 Million Federal Grant

Illinois received a final grant of \$194,762,750 from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for enhancements to the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy. The allocation will be used for campus reconstruction and replacement of the current veterans' home with a 210-bed skilled care facility. Additionally, 80 independent living domiciliary rooms will be created. This upgrade will modernize the campus and provide a cost effective, state-of-the-art facility with single occupancy rooms and a more intimate setting for Illinois' veterans needing skilled nursing care.

"Paired with our state Rebuild Illinois capital program, this federal funding will make our state-of-the-art renovation at Illinois' oldest veteran home possible, with the modernized Quincy facility on track for completion in 2024," said Governor JB Pritzker. "This funding comes as we open the brand-new veterans' home in Chicago, another critical investment in the infrastructure that supports our national heroes. I want to applaud Senators Duckworth and Durbin for helping to secure these funds and offer my gratitude to our federal partners for this next step in Quincy's construction."

"This grant allows Illinois to continue leading the nation in caring for its veterans," said IDVA Director Terry Prince. "Our veterans' homes offer high-quality care delivered by skilled and compassionate medical professionals and staff. Enhancing our campuses and infrastructure allow us to continue providing the nursing care our veterans deserve for this generation and generations to come."

This grant represents a federal-state partnership between the federal VA, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Capital Development Board,





Veterans' Homes

who will oversee building construction. The federal VA covers 65% of the total cost of the \$299,635,000 project while the state of Illinois is responsible for the 35% balance. The federal funds require up-front state expenditures, which are then reimbursed. State funding for this project is made possible by Rebuild Illinois, Governor Pritzker's historic bipartisan capital plan.

The project is currently 22% complete. The Domiciliary (independent living) is scheduled for completion in June 2023 and the Long-Term Care Building (LTC) will be ready to accept residents by March 2024. The completion of the project, including the Nielson renovation, site work, and final punch list items is targeted for the end of 2024.

Built in 1886, Quincy is the oldest Illinois veterans' home and sits on 210 acres along the Mississippi River. Its 37 buildings were built between 1886 and 2002, and many are now in need of major repair and upgrades. The Quincy construction project considered the long-term vision of the Veterans' Home's core purpose and functions, while preserving and improving the overall character of the campus environment.

The Quincy construction project represents the Pritzker Administration's continued investment in Illinois' veterans, including the recent opening of the \$121 million veterans' home in Chicago with the capacity to care for up to 200 veterans.

Veterans' Homes at Anna and LaSalle - Administrator Opportunities

The Veterans' Home at Anna is seeking an Administrator to lead a team of medical professionals and staff to deliver compassionate and patient-centered care to Illinois' heroes. Located in the Anna-Jonesboro community in Union County, it offers space for 50 resident veterans in skilled nursing and 12 residents in six adjoining apartment domiciliary units. The home is situated on 16 scenic acres and as the smallest Illinois veterans' home it has built a tight-knit community with a focus on family, centered around the veteran. If you are interested in serving our veterans as they have served this nation, this is the perfect job for you.



The Veterans' Home at LaSalle is seeking an Administrator to lead a team of medical professionals and staff to deliver compassionate and patient-centered care to Illinois' heroes. Located on the northwest side of LaSalle in LaSalle County, it offers space for 190 resident veterans including rooms for those requiring memory care. 200 dedicated health care professionals, many who have served at the home for 10 to 20 years, deliver high-level, compassionate care to its veterans. If you are interested in serving our veterans as they have served this nation, this is the perfect job for you.



For more information on these positions

Please contact Alicia Utterback, Alicia.utterback@illinois.gov

Complete job descriptions can be found on the IDVA website: [IDVA Jobs - IDVA Jobs \(illinois.gov\)](#).

Tour the Illinois War Memorials

World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial

Located in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial commemorates the lives of the 987,000 Illinoisans who served in World War II and the 22,000 Illinois citizens who gave their lives to defend our liberties.

The 22-ton white globe stands as the focal point of the memorial and symbolizes the truly global nature of the war. Stainless steel buttons dotting the globe mark the sites of major battles from the Pacific Ocean to the beaches of Normandy. The globe is surrounded on two sides by black granite walls on which the names and dates of notable battles are inscribed along with quotes from American military leaders and presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. The plaza leading up to the globe is lined with commemorative bricks, many of which were dedicated by veterans of the war.

This memorial was officially dedicated on December 4, 2004. Tribute observances still gather representatives from the diminishing headcount of survivors of the war. The executive board of the memorial also organizes the archival of oral histories of war experiences from veterans. The memorial is open daily and free to visit from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

Today, less than 5,000 World War II veterans from Illinois remain with us. The World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial stands as a proud and permanent reminder of the courageous service and sacrifice of the men and women of Illinois in the fight against fascism. The monument honors the valor of the Greatest Generation and reminds younger generations of Illinoisans of the pricelessness of their sacrifice.





Hire a Veteran

A I W E W D P C | T I Y H I R L
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A G N I K R O W D R A H D D G
P I L K T L I R I Y D M K R E
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teamwork

loyal
adaptability

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Illinois Department of
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