

**Alachua County
Veterans Services Advisory Board
Annual Report
2011-2012**



**Prepared by
Don Sherry, Chair
Ed Van Buren, Co-Chair
October 2012**

October 1, 2012

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Attention: Paula M. DeLaney, Chair
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Madam Chair:

On behalf of the Alachua County Veterans Services Advisory Board (VAB) I am pleased to submit the enclosed 2011-2012 report and supporting documentation. The VAB continues to serve our veteran community by providing leadership, guidance, and information to enhance the lives of our Veterans, their families, and our community as a whole.

The members of the VAB, selected by the BoCC, have once again joined together to achieve another successful year and look forward to the same in the forth coming year.

Should you or any member of the BoCC have a question or require additional information, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Don Sherry
Chair, VAB
(352) 375-8355

Ed Van Buren
Co-Chair, VAB
(352) 562-9961

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**Veterans Services Advisory Board
Annual Work Plan/Accomplishments Report
FY 2011-2012**

Board/Committee Name: Veterans Services Advisory Board

Chairman: Don Sherry (352) 375-8355

Vice Chairman: Ed Van Buren (352) 562-9961

Staff Support: Major Stroupe, Director, Alachua County Office of Veterans Services

Board Liaison: Mary Lowry, Alachua County Advisory Board Program Coordinator

Mission Statement: The Veterans Service Advisory Board (VAB) advises the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and makes recommendations on matters affecting our area veterans, their families, survivors, and all patriotic events in our community. The VAB is charged to review and approve the policies and standards for operations of the County Veterans Services Office.

History of Board: The Veterans Services Advisory Board is a long standing board that has advised the BoCC for many years. It is a forum for local veterans' organizations to discuss and resolve veterans related matters, provide information on events and activities, and coordinate programs and patriotic projects working together for improved results. It has become a conduit for the flow of information, planning and synergy within our veterans' organizations and community.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2011/2012

September – December 2011

1. Freedom Community Center – Worked with the BoCC to plan the new community center building at Kanapaha Park to meet the needs of the Southwest area and the veterans, keeping the structure in harmony with our Memorial, "The Walk in Time." We advised the BoCC to cut back on the cost of the building, saving the taxpayers' money while erecting a quality facility.
2. Veterans Transitional Housing Project – We voted to support the Alachua County Housing Authority with another attempt to get a 1.9 million VA Grant for area homeless veterans. A new construction grant was approved this time for the project located at The Villas at 39th 39 NW 39th. Avenue in Gainesville, FL.
3. Formed a subcommittee to work with the ACHA to help complete this project in a period of one year. With the VA approval and the full support of the veteran's community we hope construction will begin this fall. When completed the project

will have 40 three bedroom townhouses to house 112-120 veterans in transition VA managed care program.

4. The Allied Veterans Gaming House – This is the organization that runs internet gaming all over the state and claims to be affiliated with veterans. Sheriff Darnell recommended the BoCC turn down their request to open the first gaming house in the county in the old Grillmasters/Pizza Vito's restaurant on Newberry Road near K Mart. They have 9 locations running in the City. We partnered with the Sheriff and recommended BoCC disapproval of the Allied application. You agreed and turned them down.
5. Color Guards – For the first time, we prepared a list of area veterans and military Color Guards for patriotic events, flagpole and building dedications, funerals, etc. A copy is in this binder.
6. The VA Gainesville Medical Center opened their new Bed Tower with 226 private rooms and several expanded and new clinics, Ophthalmology, Urology, Ear, Nose and Throat, new expanded Laboratory, and 10 more beds for the Emergency room. Retiring Director, Tom Cappello reported the North Florida/South Georgia VA system cares for 130,000 veterans. They treat 5000+ patients a week in the Gainesville Medical Center and another 15,000 in the Clinics. They are the largest VA system in the country. They will get some relief when the new hospital in Orlando opens.

January - March 2012

1. Worked with the Veterans Memorial Committee on the new Memorial in Archer, next to the new Community Center. It is a Memorial, a 32 foot Flagpole, with landscaping. The Veterans Memorial Committee donated \$2000 to help fund this project.
2. We held the 1st annual Hotrodding for Heroes (HRH) Car Tour and Show at Haile Plantation and Golf & Country Club on February 11th 2012. The event was a big success with 10,000 showing up to see the cars. HRH board of Directors presented a check for \$24,000 to the Gainesville Fisher Foundation. VAB board members Terry Martin-Back, Jim Lynch, and Ed Van Buren were part of the planning team.
3. Supported the Regional Transportation System application for a Dept. of Transportation Grant to purchase field equipment, & kiosks and, improve transportation services for veterans. The Grant was disapproved but they will try again next year.

April – August 2012

1. In June, The American Legion hosted the first Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Recognition Night for local personnel. Awards were presented to our outstanding personnel at the American Legion Post 16. Sheriff Darnell and Fire Chief Northcutt attended along with over 50 members of the Officer's families and friends. VAB Member Jim Lynch emceed the event.
2. Reorganized our sub- committee for oversight of the county Veterans Services Office with Colonel James Gleason, US Army Retired, as the Chairman. We are working with Major Stroupe on a better report for productivity and activity performance for the department. He has started a new volunteer program which we fully support and a number of our members are volunteering to help with the workload in the office.
3. New Freedom Community Center – The VAB and the Veterans Memorial Committee are working with Parks Superintendent Rob Avery to help make the building a commercial success. We are meeting with Alison Law and her Visioning Committee to help them promote the facility. We have sent a letter to all county veterans' organizations urging them to rent the facility and hold monthly meetings there. We are also working with Rob to on security problems with the building such as the outside restrooms being open all evening and need for more security for special holidays such as Halloween and 4th of July.
4. Veterans Monument in Kanapaha Park. The Veterans Memorial Committee has come up with a very good idea to solve the problem of how to expand the walk in time, considering we have been at war for over 20 years now. We are working with them to replace the 12 inch tiles on the monument with smaller ones, 8 or 6 inch, and reduce the size of the war monuments on top with granite and bricks. We estimate that we will pick up 80 to 100 years of space at the end of the walk at the US Flag. This should save over \$100,000 by avoiding having to extend the monument and run it around the right side, back up towards the road. We are going to fix it right where it is, rather than expand it.
5. The Military Support Groups reports they have sent 1077 packages to our troops this year. They have sent 9975 since they started this program.
6. The Tax Collectors Office, under the direction of Mr. Von Fraser has collected over 12,000 used cell phones and subsequently purchased over 1400 prepaid phone cards for our troops and the VA Hospital patients to use to call home. They have been doing this for over 5 years.

7. Finally, we would like to recognize one of the veteran's organizations this year, for their outstanding contributions to area and statewide veterans, The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Gator Chapter 90. They are the only local organization with their State Headquarters in Gainesville (on Tower Road) It is a beautiful facility, with 65 Chapters reporting from around the State of Florida. Here are some of their statistics: Total Volunteers Hours for 12 months are 2,116,026. Dollar equivalent of volunteers hours saved is \$45,198,315. Since 1987 they have obtained 2469 new vans, amounting to \$53,680,312, to transport veterans to VA medical facilities for treatment. In 2011, they transported 636,116 veterans, amounting to 1,391,931 hours and 22,476,477 miles driven by DAV volunteer drivers. All these are National figures and we are attaching a copy of their report. We salute our friends at the DAV for all they do!

ONGOING TRAINING: See separate report in this folder

VETERANS COMMUNITY ACTIONS:

Again this year, we planned, organized, coordinated, and promoted many patriotic events throughout the year. We have tried to list the major events but may have missed some. Please check the Addendum attached for more information on these functions.

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD TRAINING – FY 2011/2012

August 2011 – Mary Fullerton, LCSW, VA Caregivers Support Program Coordinator, presented the Caregivers Program for veterans suffering from PTSD and TVI disorders, and how their family members can train to become “Caregivers at Home” for their veterans.

September 2011 – Carolyn Hanson, PHD, OTR, Research Operational Therapist at the VA trained us on the work of the VA’s RR and D, Brain Rehabilitation Research Center, coordinating with Shands Hospital in working with our wounded warriors returning with serious combat head wounds. She also briefed us on some of the state of the art, new programs being developed to help our veterans with head wounds.

September 2011 – Gail Monaghan, Director of the Alachua County Housing Authority, briefed us on the status of the Veterans Transitional Housing Project and their 4 year effort to obtain the 1.9 million grant and to find a location acceptable to the community. She briefed us on the VA Grant process and then Vianne Marchese of the VA homeless group briefed us on the VA managed care program set up to control these types of programs. She explained how the per diem works to insure compliance with VA rules for homeless veterans in these programs such as VetSpace and Volunteers of America. Based on their presentations, the VAB voted to support this project and form a subcommittee under VAB member Frank Murphy to help the ACHA work toward completion and to help find a suitable location for a construction type project with free standing housing, rather than an occupancy type as before. The project will house around 112 residents when completed. The ACHA is reapplying to the VA again, with a deadline of February 2, 2012.

November 2011 – Julie Baker, VA Chief of Volunteer Service at the hospital, briefed the board on the layout and design of the new bed tower addition. It will have 285 private, modern rooms for patients, many new and expanded clinics, a new laboratory for testing patients, and an expansion of the present emergency room. She thanked the board for all our support of this new addition.

November 2011 – Charlotte Matthews, LCSW, Veterans Justice Program Coordinator at the VA briefed the board on the new Veterans Justice Outreach to prevent incarceration of veterans and reduce recidivism in prisons for our troubled veterans. She reviewed the three focus areas of the new outreach program:

1. Courts and Attorneys
2. Law enforcement
3. Jails and prisons

December 2011 – Betty Baker, D.J. Ferguson and Kim Baldry of the Alachua County Human Resources Department briefed the board on the current hiring policies for veterans, equal opportunity, affirmative action, etc, in all county departments.

February 2012 – Jamie Stolarz, MS, RD, LDN, new VA Program Coordinator for the Honor Center’s new “Vet to Vet Meals at home delivery” Program, located at SE 3rd. Avenue, briefed the Board on this new effort to deliver hot meals to veterans homes each day. She asked all VAB members to go back to their organizations and solicit volunteers to deliver meals at lunchtime and to perform a “wellness check” on the veteran and the home, while they are visiting veteran’s homes. Their initial goal is to deliver 50 meals a day with 5 volunteers delivering 10 meals each, then to grow the program with the demand.

April 2012 – Mr. Kurt Morauer of the Florida Weatherization Training Center in Gainesville, briefed the Board on how they provide technical training for veterans in the construction business, winterization of buildings, green buildings, revitalization of neighborhoods, and direction for veterans wanting to start their own construction business.

June 2012 – Cheryl Tillman, RN, BSN, MHR, Women Veterans Program Manager at the VA, briefed the Board on the Women’s Health Care Services offering physicals, chronic care, contraceptive care, and maternity care. They also offer Gynecology, Obstetrical, and Infertility care. Further, they offer Mental Health and Psychiatric services tailored to women. In addition they have a Primary Care Clinic, a separate Maternity Care Clinic, and a new Military Sexual Trauma Counseling Clinic for women.

July 2012 – Catherine Stewart, RN, MBA, the VA, “My Healthy Vet” Coordinator, briefed the board on the VA online Personal Health Record System, www.myhealth.va.gov, with access to healthcare information, resources and tools to help veterans 24/7. Some of its many features are that veterans can now schedule, change, or cancel, their appointments, refill prescriptions online, view their personal medical records, speak to their primary care physicians and nurses, and many other streamlined features.

July 2012 – Kathy Yacovelli introduced Mr. Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE, the new Director of the North Florida/South Georgia VA Medical System, including the Malcolm Randall Hospital in Gainesville. Mr. Wisnieski told us about his long and successful career with the VA spanning over 30 years, and covered his plans to continue the outstanding service that has been offered at our hospital, for many years now. He thanked us for our support for the VA and offered his cooperation, and looked forward to working with us in the future.

August 2012 – Angeline Jacobs of the Alachua County Housing Authority, briefed the board on the HUD VASH Program, Permanent independent housing for veterans, VA cased managed, to keep the veteran stable and housed. She asked for contributions to pay the upfront money for rental and utility deposits and background checks required to get in some homes. They estimate each veteran needs approximately \$600 to \$800 to meet these initial costs. The VAB members will return to their organizations to seek donations for this effort.

**Veterans Services Advisory Board
Goals & Objectives for FY2012-13**

- ✓ Monitor Alachua County Veterans Service Office to promote and enhance services provided to area Veterans
- ✓ Ensure VAB provides timely, accurate, and useful input and information on all veteran-related issues to the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
- ✓ Support the refurbishment/redesign of the Veterans Memorial at Kanapaha Park
- ✓ Support Alachua County Department of Parks efforts to effectively, efficiently, and safely use the Freedom Community Center at Kanapaha Park
- ✓ Encourage member-veteran units to conduct local activities that will improve the quality of life for all Alachua County citizens
- ✓ Support and maintain Veteran and patriotic memorials in our community
- ✓ Support the development and operation of the Gainesville Fisher House
- ✓ Support our returning Veterans and encourage them to become active in our Veteran organizations and community
- ✓ Host annual Veterans recognition award banquet and program

Area Color Guards

★ **Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 267**

Provides Color Guard; present or post the Colors; perform funeral service with rifle squad salute and play taps. They do not fold the Colors but will present folded flag to family member(s).

Contact Sergeant at Arms Terry Fitzpatrick at (352)495-2672 or email at archerfitz@yahoo.com

★ **The American Legion, Post 16**

Offers 3 Color Guards available: American Legion Color Guard, all female Veterans Color Guard (requires a little notice) and the American Legion Riders Color Guard. Provides Color Guard; present or post the Colors; perform funeral service and play taps. They do not fold the Colors but will present folded flag to family member(s).

Call Ed Van Buren at (352) 562-9961 or email eddieptcruiser@yahoo.com

★ **Marine Corp League Gator Detachment 990**

Provides Color Guard; present or post the Colors; perform funeral service with rifle squad salute; play taps; fold the Colors; and present flag to family member(s).

Call Commandant Dick Lester at (386) 462-1192 or email at richardlester@windstream.net

★ **Young Marines, Milton S. Lewis**

They have an excellent Color Guard but I assume it is available only evenings and Holidays and weekends. Contact person is Cary Hill, USMC, at home (352)495-2710 or cell at (352)514-3915.

★ **University of Florida ROTC**

Provides Color Guard; present or post the Colors; perform funeral service with rifle squad salute; play taps; fold the Colors; and present flag to family member(s). Navy & Air Force performs Ceremonial Close Order Drill.

★ **UF Navy/ Marines Color Guard.** Contact Colleen P. Yarbrough, Admin. Asst. Naval ROTC Dept. at I (352) 392-0973 Ext. 224 or Fax (352)392-3069 or email at yarbroc@ufl.edu

★ **UF Army Color Guard.** Contact Julia James, Office Asst, Army ROTC Military Services Dept. at (352)392-1395 or Fax (352) 392-0079 or at jjames@ufl.edu

★ **UF Air Force Color Guard & Billy Mitchell Ceremonial Drill Team.** Contact Major Christopher Braginton at (352)392-1355 Ext. 5, or Fax at (352) 392-4798 or at afrotc150@ufl.edu

Federally Chartered Veterans Service Organizations

AMVETS

www.amvets.org

African American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Association

www.aaptsdassn.org

Air Force Sergeants Association

www.hqafsa.org

American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor

www.west-point.org

American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization (AXPOW)

www.axpow.org

American GI Forum of the United States

www.agifusa.org

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

www.goldstarmoms.com

American Legion

www.legion.org

American Red Cross - Services for Military Members & Families

www.redcross.org

American War Mothers

www.americanwarmothers.net

Armed Forces Services Corporation (AFSC)

www.afsc-usa.com

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

www.bva.org

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

www.bluestarmothers.org

Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America

cwv.org

Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States

www.cmohs.org

Congressionally-Chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

veterans.house.gov

Directory of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
www1.va.gov

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
www.dav.org

Fleet Reserve Association
www.fra.org

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
www.goldstarwives.org

Italian American War Veterans of the USA
www.itamvets.org

Jewish War Veterans Association (JWV)
www.jwv.org

Korean War Veterans Association
www.kwva.org

Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc.
www.legionofvalor.com

Marine Corps League
www.mcleague.com

Military Chaplains Association of the USA
www.mca-usa.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA
www.purpleheart.org

Military Order of the World Wars
www.militaryorder.net

National Amputation Foundation
www.nationalamputation.org

National Association for Black Veterans
www.nabvets.com

National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO)
www.nacvso.org
www.nasdva.net

National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSPP)
www.nvlsp.org

Navy Club of the United States of America (NCUSA)
www.navyclubusa.org
Navy Mutual Aid Association
www.navy mutual.org

Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
www.ncoausa.org

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
www.pva.org

Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.
www.pearlharborsurvivor.net

Polish Legion of American Veterans
www.plav.org

Swords to Plowshares
www.swords-to-plowshares.org

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
www.trea.org

United Service Organization (USO) - Guam
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organization (USO) - Japan
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organization (USO) - Naples & Rome
www.uso.it

United Service Organizations (USO) - Europe
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organizations (USO) - Korea
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organizations (USO) - Rhein Main Area
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organizations (USO) - Stuttgart
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organizations (USO) Kaiserslautern
affiliates.uso.org

United Service Organizations (USO) Okinawa
www.usookinawa.org

United Service Organizations (USO) Pacific Region
affiliates.uso.org

United Spinal Association
www.unitedspinal.org

VA Form 21-22
www.vba.va.gov

Veterans Assistance Foundation (VAF)
vafvets.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW)
www.vfw.org

Veterans of World War I of the USA, Inc.
www.orderfirstworldwar.com

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. (VVnW)/Veterans Coalition
www.theveteranscoalition.org

Vets4Vets
www.vets4vets.us

Vietnam Veterans of America
www.vva.org

Women's Army Corps (WAC) Veterans Association
www.armywomen.org

Veteran & Law Enforcement Charities Ratings

The brave response by police and firefighters to the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 reminded Americans of the invaluable service these courageous men and women provide to our communities. Similarly, the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have brought renewed attention to the heroic sacrifices made by the men and women serving in the armed forces and by the families who support them. Americans have many different ways of expressing their gratitude for the service provided by police, firefighters, and men and women in the military. This gratitude is evident in the multitude of American flags, yellow ribbons, and shield decals you see every day on cars, trees, and front doors.

Many Americans wish to show their support for those risking their lives to keep us safe by donating to charities that promise to provide assistance to police, firefighters, military veterans, and their families. Unfortunately, not all of these charities are spending your money well. In fact, many of the veterans, police, and firefighters charities evaluated by Charity Navigator rank among the least efficient charities that we rate. A recent investigation conducted by Matthew Kauffman of the *Hartford Courant* found that "veterans' groups are more than twice as likely as other charities to use professional solicitors, which typically keep 70 to 90 cents of every dollar they raise. As a result, veterans' charities overall spend a vastly greater percentage of their budgets on fundraising, leaving less money available to help ex-GIs struggling with health care, housing or financial problems."

Of the 22 veterans charities evaluated by Charity Navigator more than 1/3 have fundraising expenses over 20%, with 3 charities spending more than 50% on fundraising and 2 charities spending more than 95% of your donations on fundraising!

Of the 18 police and firefighter charities evaluated by Charity Navigator 12 attribute more than 20% of their expenses to fundraising costs. Of these, 7 are spending more than 75% on fundraising, with one police charity spending more than 90% on fundraising!

Any charity that spends money inefficiently is doing a disservice to both its donors and its intended beneficiaries, but the fact that these charities are using the good name of America's heroes to raise donations and then end up spending most of these donations on fundraising or administration is especially sad. Donors become victims when their donations are not used to benefit their local police, firefighters or service men and women as they had thought. Police, firefighters, and veterans are doubly hurt both because they don't receive the assistance they need, and because people who give to a poorly-run, inefficient charity once, may be hesitant to donate to a well-run police, firefighters, or veterans charity in the future.

In order to stop the inefficient, poorly-run police, firefighters, and veterans charities from absorbing donations that would otherwise go to more efficient charities donors need to make sure they know how a charity spends its money before they donate. More importantly, police, firefighters, and veterans must speak out against those raising funds in their name and then

spending these funds inefficiently. The good guys need speak up and let donors know that these groups do not represent them.

If donors and well-run charities unite, hopefully someday there will be no donations left for unscrupulous, poorly-run, inefficient charities using the good name of America's finest and bravest. Until then, donors can use some of the tips below to help them find a police, firefighters, or veteran's charity that will make sure that their donation reaches these brave men and women.

- ✓ **Give locally.** Don't trust a charity based in another state that promises that it will give money to police, firefighters or veterans in your state. If you want to support your local or state police, fire station, or military unit contact them directly and find out where they prefer to have donations given.
- ✓ **Never give over the phone.** Of the charities with high fundraising expenses, much of their money is spent on for-profit telemarketing companies. These companies often charge the charity 20 to 90 cents of each dollar raised. That's more of your money not going to those protecting you.
- ✓ **Look at the charity's finances for yourself.** Ask to see a copy of the charity's annual report or a brochure describing its mission, accomplishments and a current financial statement. You can also request a copy of the organization's IRS form 990. Federal law requires nonprofit organizations to provide their last 3 IRS form 990s (tax returns) within 30 days of your request. Charity Navigator has detailed analysis of the financial records of many police, firefighters, and veterans groups on our site. The lists below show some of the best and worst police and firefighters, and veterans' charities that we currently evaluate.

Best

Veterans	Rating
Fisher House Foundation	★★★★
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society	★★★★
Special Operations Warrior Foundation	★★★★
National Military Family Association	★★★★
Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust	★★★★
Police/Firefighters	Rating
New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation	★★★★
Correctional Peace Officers Foundation	★★★★
Los Angeles Police Foundation	★★★★

Worst

Veterans	Rating
Shiloh International Ministries	0 Stars
Former Military POW Foundation	0 Stars
United Spinal Association	0 Stars
National Veterans Services Fund, Inc.	0 Stars
Disabled Veterans Associations	0 Stars
Police/Firefighters	Rating
Firefighters Charitable Foundation	0 Stars
American Deputy Sheriffs' Association	0 Stars
Deputy Sheriffs' Fraternal Organization	0 Stars
Junior Police Academy	0 Stars
Disabled Police Officers Counseling Center	0 Stars

Veterans Charities Ratings

The American Institute of Philanthropy recently released a report rating various veterans' charities on how well they support the causes they were created to support.

We were surprised at some of the ratings in this report; not at others. Before you donate your hard-earned dollars to any charitable organization, check it out to see how much of its revenues actually go to support its charitable purpose, and how much goes to administrative expenses, salaries, and fundraising. You may be surprised!

Letter grades were based largely on the charities' fundraising costs and the percentage of money raised that was spent on its charitable activities.

The charities that received *failing grades are in italicized type*.

The charities that received a grade of **A or better are in bold type**.

Here are the December 2007 veterans' charities ratings, by the AIP:

Veterans Charities Ratings

Air Force Aid Society (A+)

American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation (F)

American Veterans Coalition (F)

American Veterans Relief Foundation (F)

AMVETS National Service Foundation (F)

Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A-)

Army Emergency Relief (A+)

Blinded Veterans Association (D)

Coalition to Support America's Heroes (F)

Disabled American Veterans (D)

Disabled Veterans Association (F)

Notice the similarity of the name to Disabled American Veterans

Fisher House Foundation (A+)

Freedom Alliance (F)

Help Hospitalized Veterans/Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (F)

Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A+)

Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (F)

National Military Family Association (A)

National Veterans Services Fund (F)

National Vietnam Veterans Committee (D)

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (A+)

NCOA National Defense Foundation (F)

Paralyzed Veterans of America (F)

Soldiers' Angels (D)

United Spinal Association's Wounded Warrior Project (D) *

* See update on [Wounded Warrior Project](#)

USO (United Service Organization) (C+)

Veterans of Foreign Wars and Foundation (C-)

Veterans of the Vietnam War & the Veterans Coalition (D)

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (D)

VietNow National Headquarters (F)

World War II Veterans Committee (D)



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 Veterans Health Administration
 Washington, DC 20420

June 14, 2012

In Reply Refer To: VA National GPD Program Office
 10770 N. 46th St. Suite C-200
 Tampa, FL 33617

Ms. Gail Monahan, Executive Director
 Alachua County Housing Authority
 703 NE 1st Street
 Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Ms. Monahan:

This letter is in regard to the site, scope, and funding mix changes for project number 08-806-FL. Thank you for providing the match documentation and appraisal for the new proposed activities of the grant. The documentation is sufficient and therefore your agency's requested changes are approved as follows:

Activities: Acquisition and New Construction: Sites to be acquired: 41 lots located at the Villas at 39th Residential Subdivision, 39 Northwest 39th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609. New construction of 38 manufactured homes with 3 bedrooms each; totaling 114 transitional housing beds for homeless Veterans.

Funding Mix:

Acquisition: Total Cost:	\$615,000.00	Request to VA:	\$285,000.00
New Const: Total Cost:	\$2,455,000.00	Request to VA:	\$1,595,750.00
<u>Totals: Project. Cost:</u>	<u>\$3,070,000.00</u>	<u>Request to VA:</u>	<u>\$1,880,750.00</u>

Documented Match:

Acquisition:	\$330,000.00
New Const:	\$744,500.00
<u>Applicant Cash:</u>	<u>\$114,750.00</u>
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$1,189,250.00</u>

If you have not already done so, please forward drawings of the new site and construction along with Historical, Environmental, Fire/Safety, and Accessibility documents to Mr. Dennis Hancher, as outlined in your "Grant Recipient Handbook". Any questions regarding this correspondence should be directed to the VA National Grant and Per Diem Program Office at 1-877-332-0334.

Sincerely,

Jeffery L. Quarles, MRC, LICDC
 Director, Grant/Per Diem Program



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

August 2, 2012

Ms. Gail Monahan
Executive Director
Alachua County Housing Authority
703 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

SUBJ: Alachua County Housing Authority, Project No. 08-806-FL, requests funds from the VA for the acquisition and new construction on 41 lots located at the Villas at 39th Residential Subdivision, 39 Northwest 39th Ave, Gainesville Florida. New construction of 38 manufactured homes with 3 bedrooms each; totaling 113 transitional housing beds for homeless veterans.

1. Your agency's submittal has been reviewed addressing the Accessibility, Environmental, Fire/Safety, and Historic Preservation aspects of your project and is recommended for approval.
2. This recommendation for approval is to begin the initiation of funding disbursements through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD). Please contact the GPD Program office at (Toll Free 1-877-332-0334) to ensure your agency has met all additional conditions required for funds disbursement.
3. It should be noted that all projects must comply with VA, state, and local requirements/inspections. It is your responsibility to ensure that a pre-disbursement review is conducted with the local VA medical center.
4. The Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) wishes you the best with your project and applauds your efforts in helping our Nation's homeless veterans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Hancher", is positioned above the printed name.

Dennis Hancher
Architect

Cc: BJones@VetAmericaEnterprises.com

The Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower Dedication Ceremony



The first floor houses specialty clinics including ophthalmology, urology, and the ear/nose/throat clinic. The new laboratory area is also housed on the first floor and provides a large waiting room and additional blood and specimen draw areas.



Congressman Cliff Stearns, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Director Thomas A. Cappello, University of Florida Dean of the College of Medicine Dr. Michael Good, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System staff, and Congressional Staff cut the ribbon on the new Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower.



The 245,000-square-foot, five-story Bed Tower provides 226 private rooms and space for Veterans and their family members.



American Legion Post 16 Female Veteran Color Guard parades the colors.



Congressman Cliff Stearns provides the keynote address at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower Dedication.



The Young Marines pose for a photo before the dedication ceremony.



Over 300 people attended the dedication ceremony for the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower Dedication on Saturday September 24.



University of Florida Dean of the College of Medicine Michael Good, M.D. speaks on the important partnership between the VA and the University of Florida at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Dedication.



Veterans stand up to be recognized during the ceremony for the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Bed Tower Dedication.



The University of Florida Billy Mitchell Drill Team performs during the dedication ceremony.



American Legion Post 16 Female Veteran Color Guard presents the colors.



VISN 8 Network Director Nevin Weaver provides remarks at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Dedication.

End Report