



*"We are dealing with veterans, not procedures; with their problems, not ours."*

General of the Army Omar Bradley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs 1945-1948

We are available to provide services and assistance to those distinguished men and women who have honorably served and protected our country.

Whether you served your country during war or peacetime, your sacrifice and commitment are appreciated. Therefore, it is our privilege to ensure that you receive and are informed of all benefits to which you and your dependents are entitled.

***Think Globally***

***Act Locally***

# BAY COUNTY

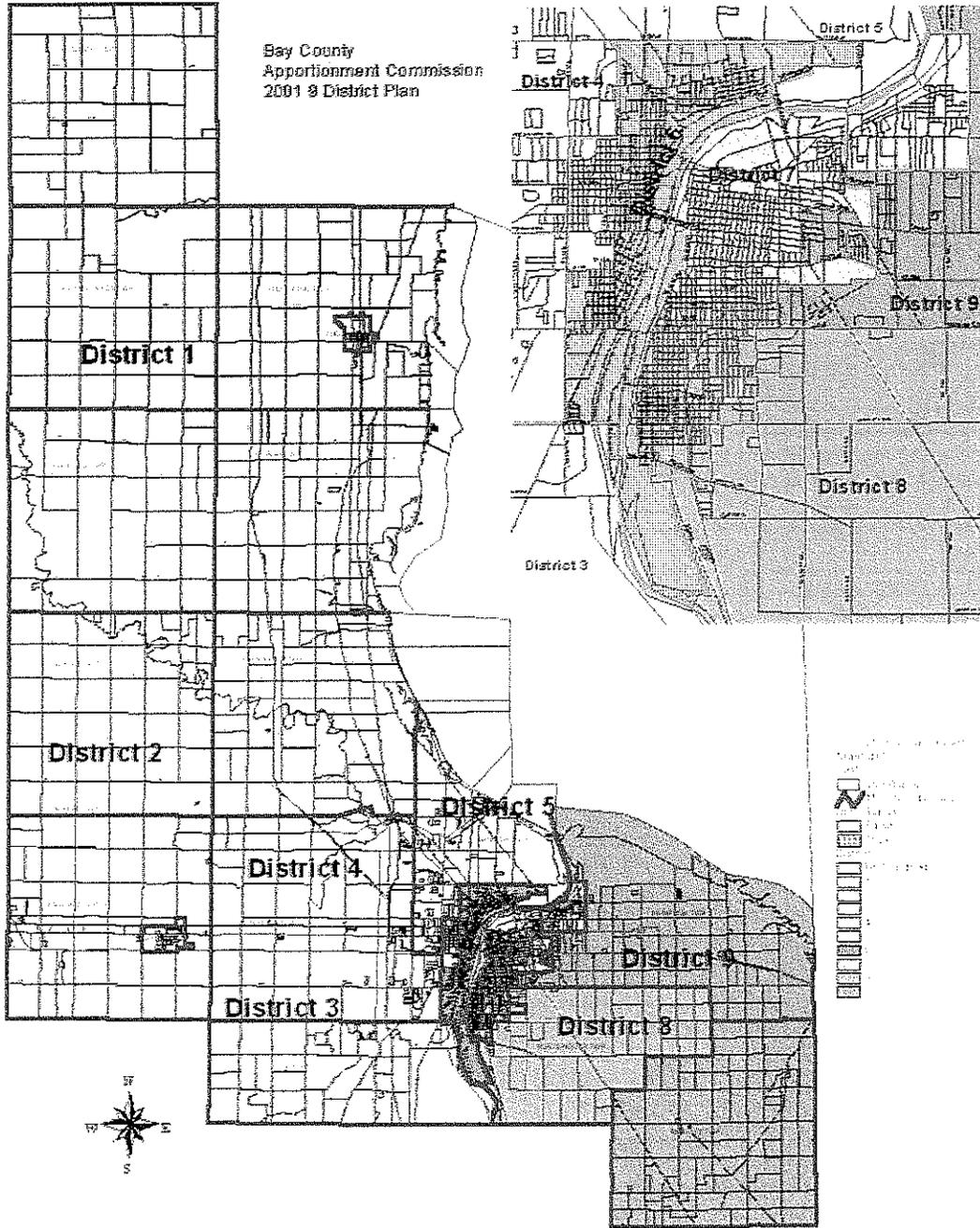
## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, 2007

Richard L. Byrne (D)  
Patrick H. Beson (D)  
Vaughn J. Begick (R)  
Dawn A. Klida (D)  
Ernie Krygier (R)

1<sup>st</sup> District  
2<sup>nd</sup> District  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
4<sup>th</sup> District  
5<sup>th</sup> District

Kim Coonan (D)  
Brian K. Elder (D)  
Eugene F. Gwizdala (D)  
Donald J. Tilley (D)

6<sup>th</sup> District  
7<sup>th</sup> District  
8<sup>th</sup> District  
9<sup>th</sup> District



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, 2007**

**John DeJohn, Chairperson, Vietnam**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 494

**Michael Burke, Vietnam**

American Legion Post 18

**John Bacon, WWII**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6950

**Vacant**

**Vacant**

**BAY COUNTY MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND COMMITTEE, 2007**

**George Anthony, Chairperson, WWII**

Disabled American Veterans Chapter #9

**John Bacon, WWII**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6950

**Michael Burke, Vietnam**

American Legion Post 18

**Bruce Douglas, Vietnam**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 494

**, Korea**

AMVETS Post 22

**BAY COUNTY**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STAFF, 2007**

**Deloris Gonyna**

Michigan Veterans Clerk/Trust Fund Agent

**Karen Miller**

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Assistant Agent

515 Center Avenue

2nd Floor – Room 212

Bay City, MI 48708-5994

(989) 895-4189

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

9:00 am – Noon

...

**Arthur Schupback**

Veterans Benefits Coordinator

**VETERANS TRANSPORTATION**

**Gary Miller**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10917

**Bruce Douglas**

American Legion Post 18

**David E. Glaza**

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 514

**BAY COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL ELECTED OFFICERS  
2007-08**

**Raymond J. Essenmacher**  
**Council Commander**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 494

**Arthur Schupback**  
**Council Senior Vice-Commander**

Disable American Veterans Chapter #9

**Vaughn Begick**  
**Council Junior Vice-Commander**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 494

**David E. Glaza**  
**Council Treasurer**

Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 514

**Jamie Davis**  
**Council Adjutant**

Disable American Veterans Chapter #9

**Robert Good**  
**Immediate Past Council Commander**

American Legion Post 18

**SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BAY COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Bay County Department of Veterans Affairs provides the county veteran population and their dependents with professional services for all veterans' benefits. The county veteran population consists of 16,857 veterans from all periods of service. A breakdown by City and Township follows:

Governmental Unit	Veterans	Disabled Veterans
City of Auburn	302	43
City of Bay City	5,458	774
City of Essexville	495	70
City of Pinconning	181	25
City of Midland	42	5
Bangor Twp.	2,523	358
Beaver Twp.	406	57
Frankenlust Twp.	440	63
Fraser Twp.	518	73
Garfield Twp.	230	33
Gibson Twp.	136	20
Hampton Twp.	1,636	233
Kawkawlin Twp.	777	110
Merrit Twp.	166	23
Monitor Twp.	1,638	233
Mt. Forest Twp.	231	33
Pinconning Twp.	438	63
Portsmouth Twp.	659	93
Williams Twp.	581	82
	16,857	2,391

*These numbers are based on the 2006 census data and are approximated.*

Services available include but are not limited to the following:

**Federal**

- Disability Compensation
- Non-Service Connected Pension
- Survivors Benefits
- Home Loan Guaranty
- Education
- Veterans Group Life Insurance
- Health Benefits & Services
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Burial and Memorial Services
- Appeals
- Retired Military
- Vet Center

**State**

- Veterans Trust Fund
- Dependent Education Assistance
- Michigan Veterans Facilities

**County Benefits**

- County Burial Allowance
- Veterans Relief Fund
- Transportation Services

## **Disability Compensation and Pension**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers two major disability benefit programs for veterans: service-connected disability compensation and non-service-connected disability pension.

In general, veterans are entitled to disability compensation if:

- \* They were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable;
- \* Their disease or injury was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and;
- \* The disability is not a result of their own willful misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs.

Veterans in receipt of disability compensation are paid monetary benefits ranging from \$108 to \$2,299 monthly. Additional monetary awards may be paid based on dependency and those who are severely disabled and in need of regular aid and attendance or daily healthcare services.

In general, veterans are entitled to disability pension if they were:

- \* Discharge or released under conditions other than dishonorable;
- \* They had active service that includes a total of ninety days during which one or more was during a period of war;
- \* They have limited income and net worth;
- \* They are permanently and totally disabled at the time of application, and;
- \* The permanent and total disability must not be due to willful misconduct of the veteran.

This Department is instrumental in obtaining these benefits for the local veteran community. Our accredited benefit counselors assist the veteran/dependent in obtaining the necessary supporting documentation that is required for each claim. Supporting documentation includes but is not limited to civilian medical records, military medical records, military personnel records, dependency documents, medical opinions, unit historical records, lay statements, and other evidence that will assist in a favorable decision being rendered on behalf of our clients.

**DISABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

1,298 Claim in Bay County.

**DISABILITY PENSION CLAIMS**

Unknown at this time.

**IMPROVED DISABILITY PENSION RATE TABLE**

Veteran Alone & With Dependents

**Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category Amount**

Compensation Rate Table

Basic Rates - 10%-100% Combined Degree Only

Effective 12/1/06

Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category	Amount
If you are a veteran...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Without Spouse or Child	\$10,929
To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or, \$546	
With One Dependent	\$14,313
To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or, \$715	
Housebound Without Dependents	\$13,356
Housebound With One Dependent	\$16,740
A&A Without Dependents	\$18,234
A&A With One Dependent	\$21,615
Two Vets Married to Each Other	\$14,313
Add for Early War Veteran to any category above	\$2,480
Add for Each Additional Child to any category above	\$1,866

Rates (No Dependents): 10% - 20%

Without Children

With Children

30% - 60%

30% - 60%

70% - 100%

70% - 100%

10% - 20% (No Dependents)

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$115
20%	\$225

30% - 60% Without Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$348	\$501	\$712	\$901
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$389	\$556	\$781	\$984
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$422	\$600	\$837	\$1051
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$455	\$644	\$893	\$1118
Veteran with One Parent	\$381	\$545	\$768	\$968
Veteran with Two Parents	\$414	\$589	\$824	\$1035
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$38	\$51	\$63	\$76

70% - 100% Without Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,135	\$1,319	\$1,483	\$2,471
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$1,232	\$1,430	\$1,608	\$2,610
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$1,310	\$1,519	\$1,708	\$2,722
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$1,388	\$1,608	\$1,808	\$2,834
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,213	\$1,408	\$1,583	\$2,583
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,291	\$1,497	\$1,683	\$2,695
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$88	\$101	\$113	\$126

30% - 60% With Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with Spouse & Child	\$420	\$597	\$832	\$1045
Veteran with Child Only	\$376	\$538	\$759	\$957
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$453	\$641	\$888	\$1112
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$486	\$685	\$944	\$1,179
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$409	\$582	\$815	\$1024
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$442	\$626	\$871	\$1091
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$21	\$28	\$35	\$42
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$66	\$88	\$111	\$133
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$38	\$51	\$63	\$76

70% - 100% With Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with Spouse & Child	\$1,303	\$1,511	\$1,699	\$2,711
Veteran with Child Only	\$1,200	\$1,394	\$1,567	\$2,565
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$1,381	\$1,600	\$1,799	\$2,823
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$1,459	\$1,689	\$1,899	\$2,935
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,278	\$1,483	\$1,667	\$2,677
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$1,356	\$1,572	\$1,767	\$2,789
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$49	\$56	\$63	\$70
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$155	\$177	\$199	\$222
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$88	\$101	\$113	\$126

**FOOTNOTES:**

1. Rates for each school child are shown separately. They are not included with any other compensation rates. All other entries on this chart reflecting a rate for children show the rate payable for children under 18 or helpless. To find the amount payable to a 70% disabled veteran with a spouse and four children, one of whom is over 18 and attending school, take the 70% rate for a veteran with a spouse and 3 children, \$ 1,401, and add the rate for one school child, \$155. The total amount payable is \$1,556.

2. Where the veteran has a spouse who is determined to require A/A, add the figure shown as "additional for A/A spouse" to the amount shown for the proper dependency code. For example, veteran has A/A spouse and 2 minor children and is 70% disabled. Add \$88, additional for A/A spouse, to the rate for a 70% veteran with dependency code 12, \$1,352. The total amount payable is \$ 1,440.

**US Department of Veterans Affairs  
Disability Compensation/Pension Expenditures  
2007**

\$9,398,818.00

**Survivor's Benefits**

There are two monthly monetary benefits available for eligible widow(ers). These two benefits are Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Death Pension.

Generally, DIC is a monthly benefit payable to a surviving spouse if the veteran dies from a service connected disability, or the veteran had a service connected disability that was totally disabling for the last ten years of the veterans life.

An eligible surviving spouse with no dependents receives a basic monthly rate of \$967 per month.

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Claims**

**2007**

Death Pension is a needs based program payable to a surviving spouse of a veteran if:

1. The veteran served at least ninety days active duty, at least one day of which was during a period of war, and,
2. The veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and,
3. The surviving spouse's income/net worth meets the eligibility criteria.

**Death Pension Claims**

**2007**

Basic Monthly Rate = \$1067 (38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1))

**Additional Allowances:**

- a. Add \$228 if at the time of the veteran's death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death AND the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years. (38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(2))
- b. Add the following allowance for each dependent child under age 18: \*

*\* Effective 12/1/06 \$265 per child (38 U.S.C. 1311(b))*

- c. If the surviving spouse is entitled to A&A, add \$265. (38 U.S.C. 1311(c))
- d. If the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound, add \$126 (38 U.S.C. 1311(d))

*\*DIC apportionment rates approved by the Under Secretary for Benefits under 38 CFR 3.461(b) will be the additional allowance received for each child.*

### **Home Loan Guaranty**

One of the most utilized VA benefit programs is the Home Loan Guaranty program. This program is designed to help a veteran purchase his or her home on terms more favorable than those of conventional mortgage loans by providing a VA guarantee for the lender against the veteran's default.

This office assists veterans with the procurement of a Certificate of Eligibility which is forwarded to the veteran from the VA office in Winston- Salem, NC. For those veterans who currently have a VA home loan guarantee, but may be having trouble with mortgage payments, this office coordinates the veteran with the appropriate counselor at the VA office in Cleveland, OH which oversees the VA loan guarantee program for the State of Michigan. In these cases, if the veteran is employed, it is possible for the VA to purchase the mortgage from the finance company, re-write the loan and save the veteran from losing his/her home.

### **Certificates of Eligibility**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

### **Education Benefits**

VA education programs provide veterans, reservists, and certain veteran dependents with educational resources to supplement opportunities missed because of military service. Currently there are four active education programs available. The monthly monetary benefit payable for full time schooling ranges from \$288 for eligible reservists, \$803 for eligible dependents to \$1,004 for eligible veterans. This office ensures that all eligible veterans and dependents are aware of their educational entitlement; all required forms are completed, supporting documentation procured, and forwarded to St. Louis, MO for processing.

### **Education Claims**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

### **VA Education Payments**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

### **Life Insurance**

Currently, the VA has two open insurance programs for veterans – Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (SDVI). VGLI rates are quite expensive and would be best suited for an individual that cannot, by means of a non-service connected physical/mental disability, get insurance from a civilian insurance company. SDVI is a program that was developed for service disabled veterans. Veterans that are totally disabled due to military service will have premiums waived on a \$10,000 life insurance policy and can also, at their expense, apply for supplemental coverage. Our benefit counselors scrutinize each rating decision that we receive to ensure that the veteran is aware of any ancillary benefit that they may be entitled.

**Life Insurance Claims**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

**VA Life Insurance Payments**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

**Health Benefits & Services** This Department assists local veterans through the application process. Included in this process are verifying the previous years income and current assets. Generally, area veterans access VA healthcare services at three locations: VA Medical Center in Saginaw, MI; VA Medical Center in Detroit, MI ;VA Medical Center in Battle Creek, MI and VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, MI. Veterans that are eligible for VA healthcare receive, for the most part, a full complement of healthcare services.

**Application for Medical Treatment**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

**VA Medical Expenditures**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

**VA Medical Care Unique Patients**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

**Transportation Program**

This Department has a 10 passenger, wheelchair accessible van that transports disabled veterans from the greater Bay County area to the VA hospital in Battle Creek, Ann Arbor and Detroit. This service is available Monday – Friday. Our most severely disabled veterans who are incapable of driving or, accessing CATA transportation are picked up at their home. In 2007, our Transportation Officer made home pickups.

## Veterans Transported to Medical Appointments

2007

(as of 7/29/07)

A total of 225 veterans were transported traveling 8,912 miles driven in 170 days hours totaled 593.

### Transportation Program

#### 2007 Clinic Appointments

Anti-Coag	38	General Med	481	Orthopedics	24
Arthritis	5	Geriatrics	7	Pain Clinic	24
Audiology	21	GI	3	Physical Therapy	44
Cardiology	12	Hematology	14	Prosthetics	10
Colonoscopy	5	IVP	1	PV Clinic	9
Comp & Pens	19	Lab	57	Radiology	10
CT Scan	14	MRI	12	Rehab Med	2
E&M	8	Neuro Surg	7	SCI	3
Echo Card	8	Neurology	21	Stress Test	3
EMG	3	Nuclear Med	5	Surgery	22
Endoscopy	3	Occ Therapy	6	Ultra Sound	3
ENT	16	Ononocology	2	Urology	32
				Work Therapy	5

### Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program

This program's primary function is to help veterans who have service connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living.

Three employees of the US Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation Division work out of this office. The Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides five service delivery options to eligible veterans.

- 1) Reemployment
- 2) Rapid Access to Employment
- 3) Self-Employment
- 4) Employment Through Long Term Services
- 5) Independent Living Services

After an entitlement decision is made, the veteran and the counselor will work together to develop a rehabilitation plan. After a plan is developed, the counselor will assist the veteran to implement the plan to achieve gainful suitable employment or independent living. The counselor or case manager may provide medical and dental referrals, authorization of training allowance, tutorial assistance, adjustment counseling, or other services necessary to achieve rehabilitation.

### Vocational Rehabilitation Caseload

2007

Unknown at this time.

## **Burial & Memorial Services**

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided.

### **Presidential Memorial Certificates**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

### **Applications for Federal Burial Benefits**

**2007**

*Federal burial benefits for eligible survivors range from \$600 to \$2,000.*

Unknown at this time.

Surviving family members can apply for a veteran's markers on behalf of an eligible veteran. Markers are available in flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble.

### **Applications for Government Markers**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

### **County Burial Allowance**

Michigan PA 235 of 1911 is "an act to provide for the payment and reimbursement by counties, in certain cases upon application therefore, of expenses incurred in the burial of the bodies of honorably discharged members of the armed forces of the United States, or their spouse, and to repeal certain act of parts of acts". General eligibility extends to honorably discharged veterans who served not less than 90 days active service during a period of time in which the United States was at war or the wife/widow(er) or eligible veteran. Estate limitations set by this statute is \$40,000 if married at the time of death, or if not, the estate is compared to the funeral bill. An Attorney General's opinion has determined that the homestead is not included in determining the size of the estate. Furthermore, encumbrances are deducted from the size of the estate. A benefit of \$300 is payable to the claimant, that is the individual who paid the funeral bill, or if unpaid, the funeral home on behalf of the veteran. 2007, this Department took ? applications for county burial benefits. Of those, ? applications were approved for a total expenditure of \$93,075.

### **Vet Center Services**

The Vet Center program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and are under the direction of the Veterans Health Administration.

Services available through this program include a general mental and psychological assessment, psychological counseling, psychotherapy, substance abuse counseling, employment counseling, and education counseling. A veteran can receive individual, group and family counseling. Eligibility for these services is limited to war veterans and to those who have experienced sexual trauma.

The following counselors are available in our office to provide individual, group or family counseling at no cost to the veteran: NONE at this time.

One Vets Center is set to open in Saginaw, MI, in the Spring of 2008

Their efforts have led to significant increases in the quality of life for the veterans they serve. When appropriate, these counselors work hand in hand with our benefits counselors on claims for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and sexual trauma claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **Vet Center Appointments 2007**

Unknown at this time.

#### **Emergency Financial Assistance Veteran's Relief Fund**

Michigan PA 214 of 1899 is "an act to provide relief outside of the soldier's home for honorably discharged indigent soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and members of women's auxiliaries and the indigent wives, widows and minor children of such indigent or deceased soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and members of women's auxiliaries, and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts". General eligibility for this program is an honorable discharge and one day wartime service. This program is similar to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund in that it is an emergency grant program. The intent of this program is to assist eligible veterans who are experiencing a temporary short term hardship by providing financial relief for basic daily necessities (food, housing, utilities). The Bay County Veterans

Committee is the approving authority for requests for assistance. The Director of this Department has been given authority to make decisions on request up to \$500. In 2007, this office took ? applications for emergency assistance. Of those ? were approved for a total expenditure of \$32,660.

### Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Generally, this program is available to war era veterans who have served 180 days and received an honorable discharge. All veterans who are requesting emergency assistance must be able to document their veteran status and their emergent need. Our counselors assist in the completion of a three page application and request supporting documentation. Once an application is completed it is forwarded to the local committee for review.

The Bay County Trust Fund Committee convenes bi-monthly to review applications. The Clinton County Trust Fund Committee convenes as necessary. If an applicant disagrees with the local committee's decision, they may appeal this decision within ten days to the MVTF State Office. All appeals are review by the Board of Trustees and a final decision will be rendered. The Board of Trustees is comprised of war time veterans from the various service organizations across the State of Michigan.

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees has defined an emergent need as an emergency in the life of an honorably discharged veteran/and or their legal dependents, who meet the prescribed eligibility requirements, which necessitates immediate temporary assistance for food, clothing, shelter, and other unforeseen emergencies. The MVTF is not designed to take the place of existing programs. It is designed to supplement these programs on a temporary basis.

#### 2006 - 2007 Bay County Trust Fund Statistics

Year Applications Approved Denied Grant Amounts is Unknown at this time.

Year	2005	2006	2007
Amount Expended	\$30,000	\$33,996	\$40,000
Increase from previous year by %		12%	15%

The Boards of Trustees for the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund implemented a temporary policy change that will impact County veterans. These changes are:

- 1) Limiting local approval of utility bills to no more than \$400.00. Anything over \$400.00 can be recommended for approval and forwarded to the State Office for final disposition.
- 2) Limiting assistance for food to \$75.00 for a single veteran and \$125.00 for applicants with any number of veterans.
- 3) Limiting assistance for medical bills incurred to \$200.00.
- 4) Limiting assistance for assistive devices (eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures etc.) to \$500.00.
- 5) Limiting the local committee ability to assist an applicant who has made an application within the past fiscal year. Currently if an applicant has received assistance from the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund in FY 2003 or FY2004 the local committee must deny any request for assistance. The veteran then can appeal this decision to the State Office.

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund was established in 1946. Since its inception, over three million dollars in emergency grants have been provided to county area veterans.

Each county in Michigan has a local Trust Fund Committee which is comprised of up to four members who represent local veteran posts such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Amvets and others.

**Military Records Requests**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

The above information includes request for military discharges, military personnel records, military medals and unit histories. These requests are forward to county clerk's offices, National Personnel Records Center, Unit Archives, State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Offices, and others. These records are used to support claims for all veteran related benefits, upgrading military discharges, correcting military records, applying for social security benefits, membership in organizations, and requests by family members for genealogy purposes.

**Miscellaneous Forms Completed**

**2007**

Unknown at this time.

Data included in this category include forms and cover letters not identified elsewhere in this report.

**Appointment of VSO as Claimant's Representative**

**2007**

None

Every compensation and pension claim that is completed at this office includes an appointment of a Veterans Service Organization (VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans etc.) to assist the veteran/dependent at the Regional Office (Detroit). This allows our office to closely monitor the status of the veteran's claim and gives the veteran personal representation in the regional office of jurisdiction.

Temporary assistance granted by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) for emergencies or hardships is available to eligible wartime veterans, and their families, residing in the state. Under the authority of Public Act 9 of 1946 (as amended), the MVTF cannot provide assistance for long-term problems or chronic financial difficulties. Those eligible for the MVTF temporary grant program must apply through the MVTF county committee serving their county of residence. All applications are investigated, deliberated, and decided in confidence. Any applicant may request a personal hearing before the county committee at the meeting when his/her application is considered. If the county committee denies an application every applicant has

the right to appeal that decision to the MVTF Board of Trustees (with the opportunity to appear before the board to present information and answer questions.) The MVTF does not provide loans under the temporary assistance program.

### **General Definition of Need**

When an eligible applicant is unable to temporarily provide the basic necessities of life in our society without causing a hardship, a situation for a possible MVTF grant exists. The assistance must be essential and not for the relief of an inconvenience, or the purchase of a want/desire. The key factor in determining whether or not a grant is justified is the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation for which aid is requested after a grant is made. If there is no reasonable expectation that the MVTF grant would enable the applicant to resume his/her responsibility, then aid is not appropriate or wise. Since the MVTF only has the yearly earnings of the trust to provide grants and administer its operations, care must be taken to insure that the resources are expended wisely and where they will help the most. If, by experience with the MVTF or through other means, an applicant's financial situation creates repetitive "emergencies" or appears chronic in nature, the county committee and/or the board must refer that person to other resources designed to address those lingering needs. In addition, the applicant should have attempted to resolve the emergency or hardship through every reasonable means available prior to asking the MVTF for assistance. (Often the willingness to take responsibility for one's difficulties is demonstrated by the ability to pay a portion of the debt). In other words, the applicant should have tried to resolve the problem, but is apparently unable to do so without MVTF aid.

### **Basic Eligibility**

To be eligible for a grant from the MVTF, a veteran or dependent must be a legal resident of the State of Michigan at the time of the application. The veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions, with at least 180 days of active wartime service (90 days for WWI veteran), or have been separated as the result of a physical or mental disability incurred in the line of duty (or aggravated by active duty). Service during the following periods (or an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, plus 180 days of honorable active duty, for service between periods in places such as Grenada, Lebanon, Berlin, Persian Gulf, Mayaguez Operation, or Desert Storm) is required:

- WW I - April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 (If service in Russia, then to April 1, 1920)
- WW II - December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946
- Korea - June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955
- Vietnam - February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975
- Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990, to present

If a veteran has less than 180 days of active duty during these eras, duty in more than one period may be combined. Evidence of separation or discharge with less than 180 days of wartime service due to a physical or mental disability is required to determine eligibility.

**Documentation**

The following items are required when filing an application for trust fund assistance:

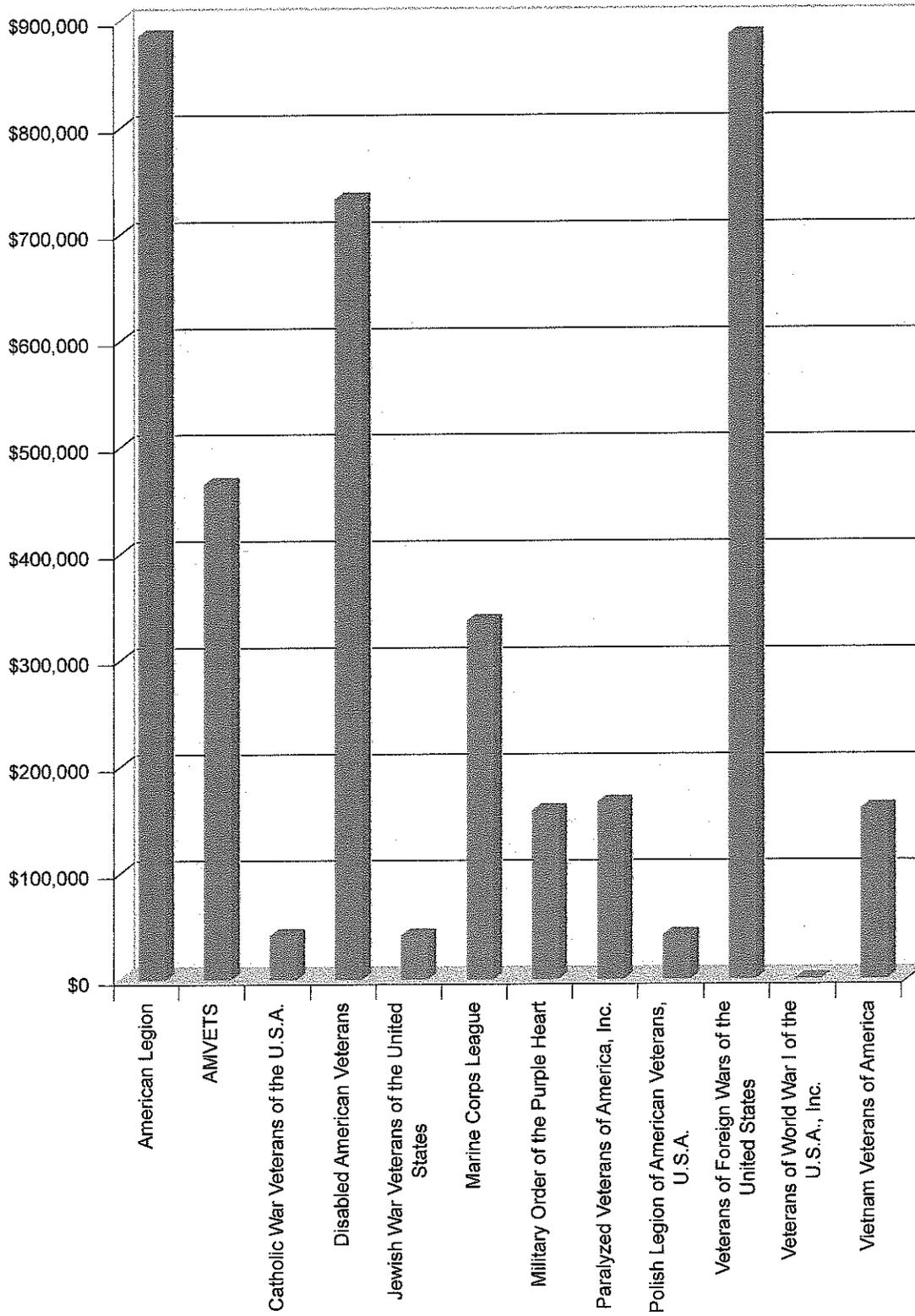
- Discharge papers, separation report, or DD-214 (showing the dates of active duty and the character of the release)
- Proof of residence (driver's license, voter registration, state I. D.)
- Bills or account statements regarding the items for which you are seeking a MVTF grant

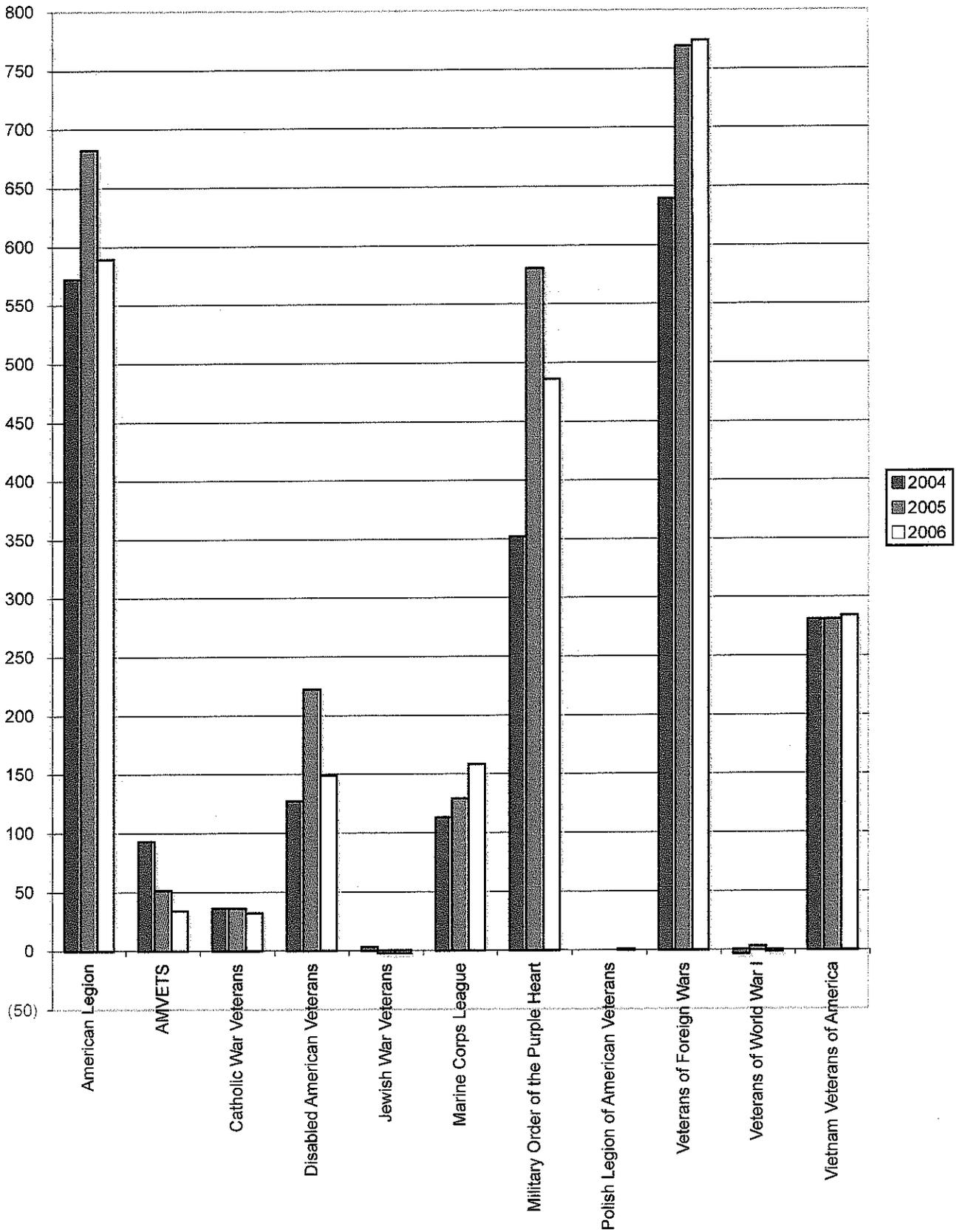
One or more of the following items may be required when filing an application for trust fund assistance:

- Marriage certificate, birth certificates for minor children
- Death certificate of a deceased spouse or parent
- Documentation of any disability rating
- Proof of employment or other income
- Evidence of efforts at other appropriate agencies

Applications for assistance are submitted in the veteran's county of residence.

GRANT





<b>Services Provided to Veterans (CURRENTLY)</b>	<b>U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>State of Michigan</b>	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's)</b>
<b>Assistance in filing Claims</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>County Service Officers</b>				
<b>Dental Treatment <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Eye Care &amp; Eye Glasses <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Group Therapy for Veterans</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Group Therapy for Veterans Families <sup>2</sup></b>				
<b>Group Therapy for Veterans Spouses <sup>2</sup></b>				
<b>In Home Nursing Assistant</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Medical Services &amp; Treatment</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mental Health Counseling <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Mental Health Services <sup>3</sup></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>National Service Officers <sup>4</sup> (NSO)</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>Nursing Homes</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Pensions</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Prescription Drugs <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Service Connected Disability Compensation</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Short Term Financial Assistance in Paying Bills</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Transportation to &amp; from VAMC facilities</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Vets Centers</b>	<b>X</b>			

<sup>1</sup> For certain Service Connection or 100% rating.

<sup>2</sup> The VA does not provide assistance except to Veterans.

<sup>3</sup> Mental Health issues MUST be referred to the Veterans Administration.

<sup>4</sup>NSO's in Michigan, due to their Federal Charters, receive \$ grants from the State of Michigan each year on a quarterly basis.