



Colonel Robert C. King (Ret)
Executive Director



Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs



**“To care for him who shall have borne
the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”**

– Abraham Lincoln

“Our mission is to serve veterans and families. We are dedicated to ensuring Iowa veterans and their dependents receive the full measure of county, state, and federal benefits to which they are rightfully entitled. We are committed to helping our newest veterans with successful reintegration into civilian life.”



Goals and Priorities

- Provide leadership
- Educate our veteran and public about benefits
- Strengthen partnerships
- Effectively manage budget and resources
- Improve the quality of county commission, county veterans service officer, and department staff training
- Improve communications with veterans' community partners
- Honor and support our veterans and their families at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery



Executive Director's Challenges:

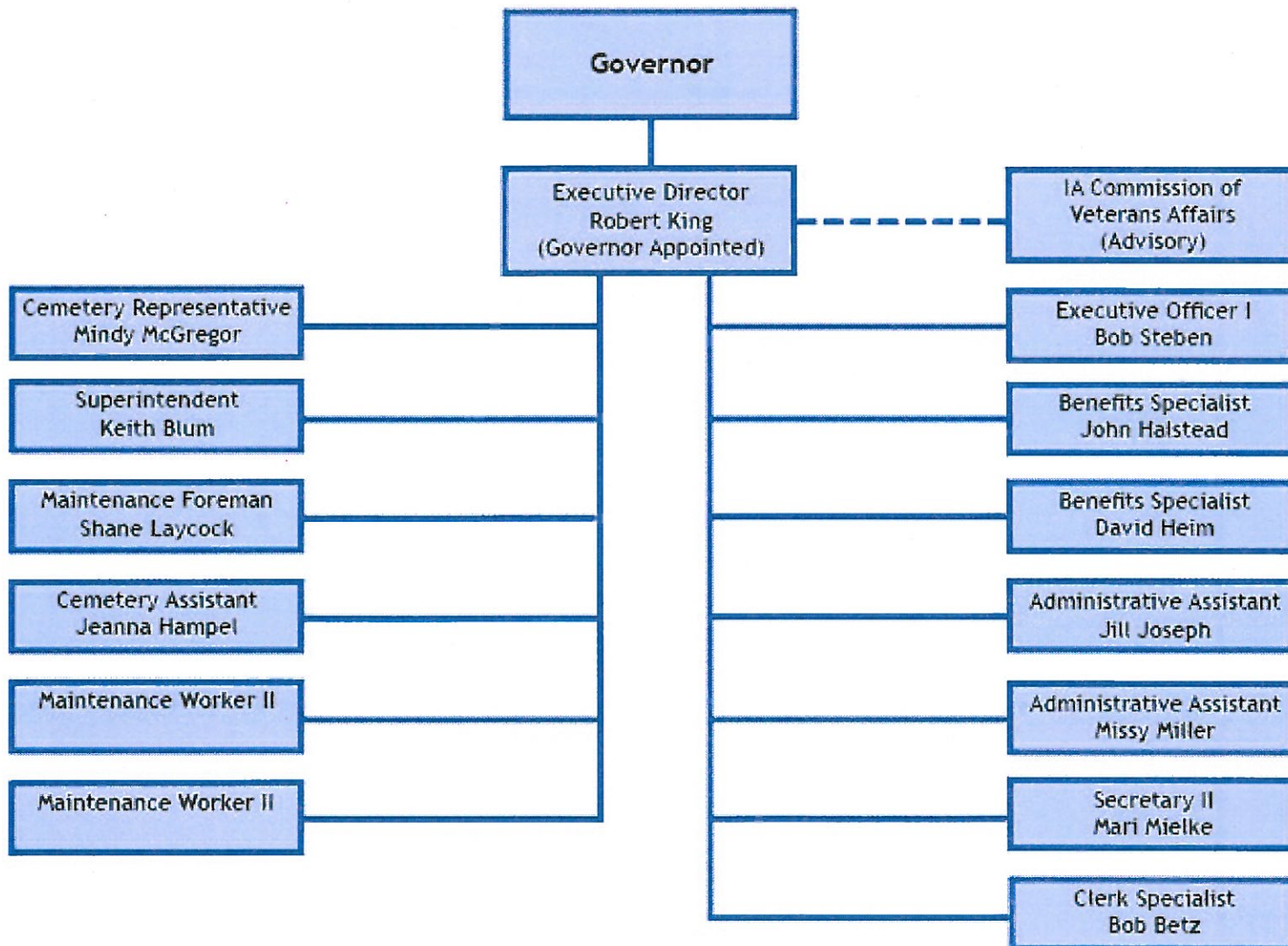
Lots to learn!

Personnel staff issues

"Be all you can be!"

Improve, improve, improve!

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Organizational Chart





How We Accomplish our Mission

- Disseminate information to veterans regarding benefits and services available to them
- Promote community awareness of our veterans' service
- Provide direct care and assistance to veterans –
 - Iowa Trust Fund
 - Injured Veterans Grant Program
 - County Allocation Program
 - Military Home Ownership Program with Iowa Finance Authority
- Partner with the federal Veterans Administration and county veterans service offices
- Maintain Iowa veterans' military service records and graves registration
- Assist veterans with applications for benefits
- Assist new veterans with reintegration into civilian life
- Assist local programs to add value to Iowa's communities
- Operate and maintain the Iowa Veterans Cemetery



IDVA Benefit Specialists

IDVA benefits specialists are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and specialize in federal VA benefits and state benefits

- **Benefit Specialists advise veterans and family members of federal VA benefits they may be entitled to receive, including:**
 - pension
 - disability compensation
 - other ancillary benefits
- **They also represent claimants with federal claims and review all correspondence pursuant to those claims to determine if an award action or denial was correct**
- **Each of Iowa's 99 counties has a Commissioner of Veterans Affairs and a County Director. *We urge veterans to visit their county office as their first point of contact.***





Benefit Specialists' Assistance to our Veterans

- Iowa has over 238,236 veterans – FY12
- Total Iowa veteran expenditure – \$944,001,000
- Total compensation and pension – \$425,818,000
- Total medical care – \$471,990,000

- Total federal monthly benefits – FY13 - \$2,167,171
- Total monthly revenue – \$130,030 (6%)
- Total federal annual benefits – \$26,006,052
- Total annual revenue – \$1,560,363
(Received through assistance from IDVA benefit specialists)

- Total Iowa veterans benefits recipients – 2,428
- Total powers of attorney on file with IDVA – 4,494



2013 State Direct Assistance Programs

- Iowa Veterans Trust Fund – 113 applications approved - \$203,633.81
- Iowa Injured Veterans Grants – 13 requests approved - \$87,500.00
- Honor Guard Reimbursements – 135 requests approved - \$170,095.00
- VETERANS driver's license/non-operator identification – considerable interest!
- Military Home Ownership Grant Program (great interest and utilization)
 - Fiscal year 2014 - \$1.6M
 - Fiscal year 2015 - \$2.5M



Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Appropriation Funding

Fiscal Year 2013	\$1,025,819
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(\$137,940 – remodeling new Camp Dodge facility;
\$600,000 – grant to Van Meter American Legion Post 403 for veterans’ reception
center;
\$250,000 – expansion of Iowa Veterans Cemetery motor vehicle storage building
expansion)

Fiscal Year 2014	\$1,095,951
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Fiscal Year 2015	\$1,095,951
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Iowa Department of Public Defense Support

- Accounting, payroll, purchasing
- Information technology services
- Human Resources
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Building maintenance



Home Base Iowa Act

To make Iowa the leader in respect and support for veterans, the Home Base Iowa Act contains the following provisions:

Military Pension Income Tax Exemption. The Home Base Iowa Act would fully exempt military pensions from state income tax, putting Iowa on more equal footing with states such as Florida and Texas, and our Midwestern neighbors such as Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. It is projected this provision will have a fiscal impact of approximately \$10 million per year.

Military Homeownership Assistance Program. This Iowa Finance Authority program provides \$5,000 of down payment or closing cost assistance to eligible veterans. Since January 2009, the program has leveraged over \$178 million of home purchases through FY13. General Fund support of the program is increased by \$900,000 to a total of \$2.5 million.

Permissive Veterans Preference. Under current law, the State of Iowa and its subdivisions provide veterans preferential treatment in hiring decisions. The Home Base Iowa Act will clarify that it is legal for private businesses to do the same.

Occupational Licensure. Veterans are some of the most highly-trained and highly-skilled individuals in the world. Our occupational licensure laws should recognize this fact. The Home Base Iowa Act will direct each of Iowa's occupational licensing boards to adopt rules allowing credit for military training and experience in the licensing process. Further, each board must adopt rules easing licensure restrictions on spouses of military veterans. These recommendations are consistent with the policies encouraged by the White House's Joining Forces initiative.

License Plates. The Home Base Iowa Act would allow eligible applicants to be issued veterans-related license plates (such as Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Gold Star) for free. Veterans will continue to pay applicable vehicle registration fees.

Education. Governor Branstad is calling on the State Board of Education to create a uniform policy granting automatic in-state tuition to veterans, their spouses, and their dependents at Iowa's community colleges. The Regents universities already have such a policy in place. The Governor will also convene stakeholders from the community colleges, Regents universities, private colleges and universities, and the veterans community to develop consistent policies for awarding academic credit for military training and experience.



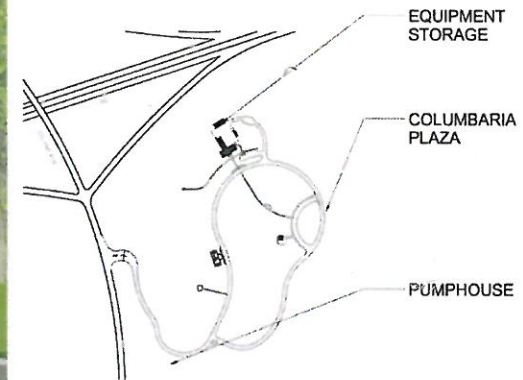


Iowa Veterans Cemetery





IMPROVEMENTS TO THE IOWA VETERANS CEMETERY



EQUIPMENT STORAGE

- 900 SF ADDITION
- SUPPLY LOFT

COLUMBARIA PLAZA

- NEW ACCESSIBLE PLAZA
- 3 WALLS
- 960 NICHES
- 6 BENCHES
- FLOWER VASE RECEPTACLE
- WATERING STATION

IMPROVED IRRIGATION

- NEW PUMPHOUSE
- IMPROVED WATER QUALITY

- Federal/state construction program
 - \$919,612 United States Veterans Administration Cemetery Grant
 - \$250,000 FY-13 Iowa State Legislature appropriation



IDVA's New Camp Dodge Home



IDVA recently moved from its home of over 40 years to a new Camp Dodge location just 2 blocks from the old building. The building and office space were completely upgraded and refurbished. IDVA's new office sits on the corner of 5th Street & Main; our address remains the same but the building number has changed to: #3465.



Successes and Accomplishments

- Relocation to new facilities that provides a better work environment for employees and is more accessible to our veteran clients.
- The Iowa Veterans Cemetery is honoring our veterans and is a point of pride for our state.
- Near completion of Iowa Veteran Cemetery expansion program
- Our events are well attended – Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Wreaths across America
- Partnerships and communications are improving
- County training program quality is increasing
- Department employee personal training and cross-training


<https://va.iowa.gov>

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

iowa.gov Agencies Online Services Search All of iowa.gov

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

- Home
- Welcome Home
- Key Resources
- Deployment Assistance
- Benefits
- Services
- County Veterans Offices
- Transitional Help
- Women Veterans
- Iowa Heroes
- Veterans Cemetery
- Iowa Veterans Home
- Commission
- Forms/Applications
- Resident Eligibility
- Links
- What's New
- Contact Us



Benefits	Services
State Veterans Benefits IDVA Benefit Specialists Iowa Injured Veteran Grant Homeownership Assistance Property Tax Exemption Veterans Designation on Iowa Drivers Licenses and IDs Lifetime Hunting and Fishing War Orphan Education Act License Plates Iowa Veterans Trust Fund Education Iowa Guard Tuition Benefits Operation Recognition High School Iowa Veterans Cemetery	VA Medical Centers Central Iowa Iowa City Community Based VA Clinics Bettendorf Cedar Rapids Decorah Dubuque Fort Dodge Knoxville Marshalltown Mason City Ottumwa Shenandoah Sioux City Spirit Lake Waterloo Outpatient Clinics Carroll Coralville Vet Centers Cedar Rapids Des Moines Omaha Quad Cities Sioux City Veterans Employment Services Employment Partnerships of the AF ESGR Guard & Reserves Support Federal Civil Service Employment Federal Employment Services Legal Employment Rights State Employment Veterans Services

Transitional Help	Key Resources
Homelessness Military Health Military OneSource National Resource Directory OEF/OIF Returning Service Members PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder) Suicide Prevention & Awareness Substance Abuse TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) Veterans Justice Outreach Yellow Ribbon Program	24-Hour Emergency Hotline 1-800-273-8255 National Caregivers Support Line 1-855-260-3274 Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs 1-800-838-4692 Federal VA Regional Office (IA) 1-800-827-1000 VA Health Care Eligibility 1-877-222-8387 Federal VA Benefits eBenefits Federal Benefits Handbook

24-Hour Emergency Hotline
1-800-273-8255

Connect with Iowa VA

What's New

Summer 2013 Newsletter
"Veteran" Designation on Driver's License or Non-operators ID
Hire Our Heroes
Online DD-214's
Iowa Lottery Games
Medallion Headstone Benefit
Commission Meeting Minutes
Legislative Updates 2013
Statistics Sources
What's New Archive

Upcoming Events

IDVA is Moving - New Contact Info Events List

Other Links

National Resource Directory

Policies | State of Iowa | Adobe PDF Reader

IDVA Contact Information

IDVA Personnel

Address:

7105 NW 70th Avenue
Camp Dodge – Building 3465
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824

Telephone:

515-252-4698
800-838-4692

Fax:

515-727-3713

Email:

Idva.info@iowa.gov



IDVA Administrative Staff:

Robert King

Executive Director
515-727-3444

Robert.king@iowa.gov

Bob Steben

Veterans Benefit Specialist
515-727-3438

Bob.steben@iowa.gov

John Halstead

Veterans Benefits Specialist
515-727-3439

John.Halstead@iowa.gov

David Heim

Veterans Benefits Specialist
515-362-7350

David.heim@va.gov

Jill Joseph

Outreach Coordinator
515-727-3442

Jill.joseph@iowa.gov

Missy Miller

Trust Fund Administrator
515-727-3443

Missy.miller@iowa.gov

Mari Mielke

Administrative Assistant
515-727-3440

Mari.mielke@iowa.gov

Bob Betz

Clerk Specialist
515-727-3441

Bob.betz@iowa.gov



Colonel Robert C. King (Ret)
Executive Director