

**HOSPICE-VETERAN PARTNERSHIP**  
of Indiana





# Hospice Veteran Partnership of Indiana

Quarter 1 Partnership Meeting

March 4, 2026

10:00 am to 11:30 am EST

9:00 am to 10:30 am CST





# Agenda

**10:00 – 10:05 am Welcome / Introductions**

Melissa Marquardt, LSW / HVPI President

Jan Smith / Flanner Buchanan

**10:05 – 11:00 VA & Community Resources for Veterans & Families  
at End-of-Life**

Liz Davis, LCSW / HVPI Vice President

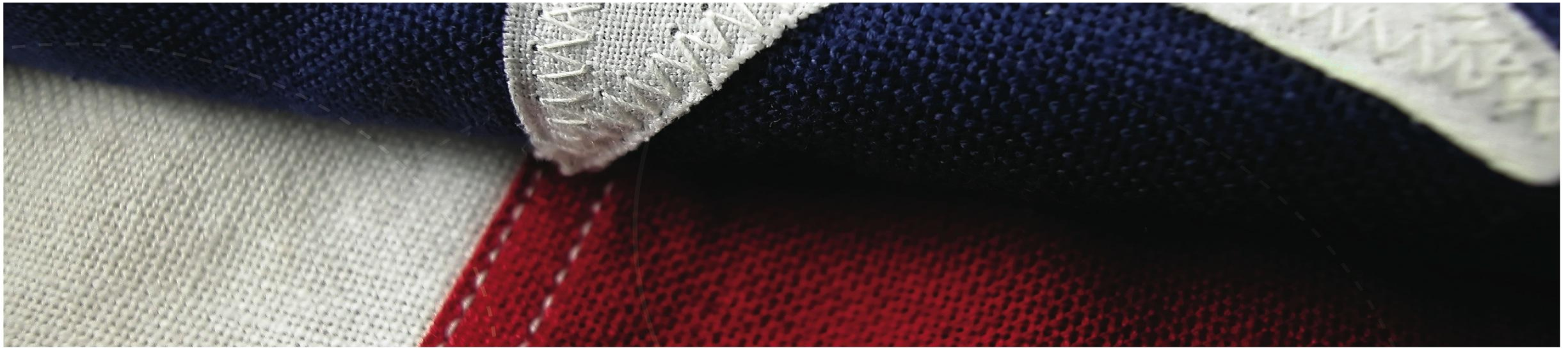
**11:00-11:05 Partner Spotlight – Cornerstone S Indianapolis**

Hannah Stuck / Operating Director

**11:05-11:30 – HVPI/WHV Updates & Closing Remarks**

Melissa Marquardt, LSW / HVPI President

Marty Kieninger, RN / HVPI Vice President



# VA & Community Resources for Veterans & Families at End-of-Life

Liz Davis, LCSW Palliative Care Coordinator

Elizabeth.Davis7@va.gov

#317-988-3665

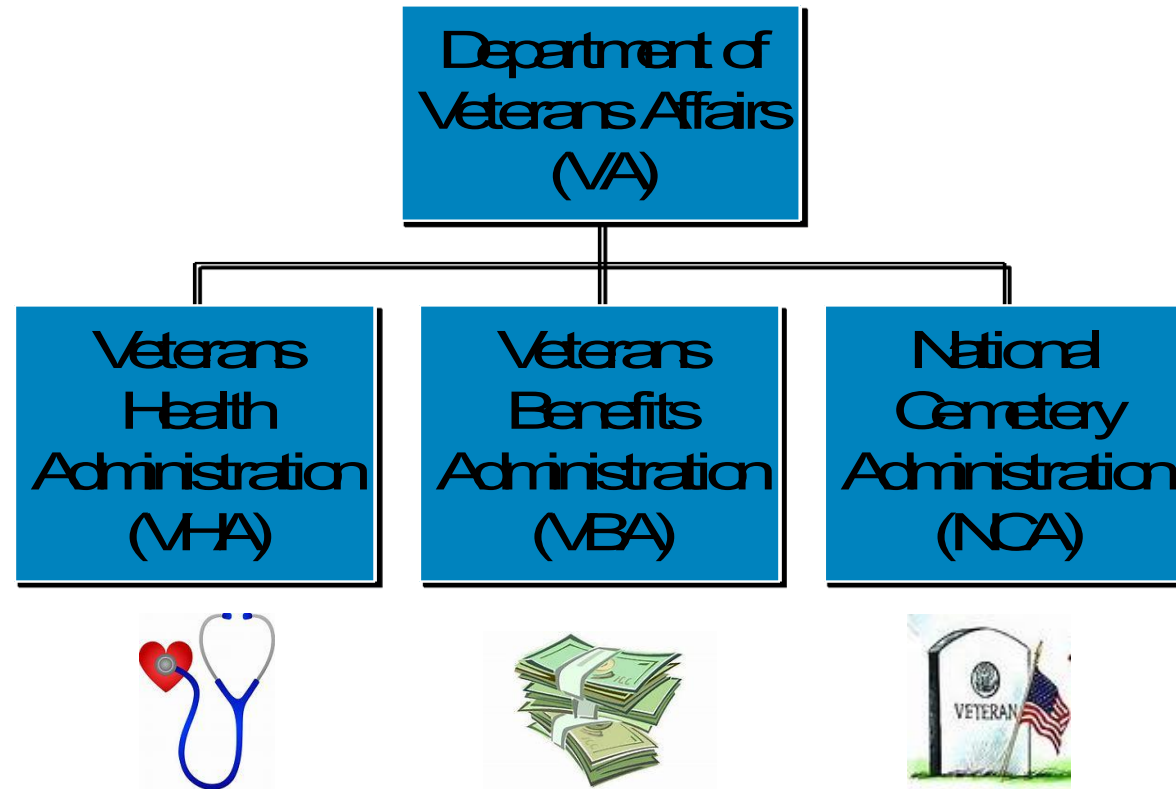


**VA**  
HEALTH  
CARE | Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

# Objectives

- Be able to identify 3 branches of VA and connect Veterans/families to End-of-Life resources/benefits.
- Know where to find education and resources related to suicide prevention amongst Veterans and request free gun locks for Veterans.
- Identify emergency housing resources for Veterans.

# Department of Veteran Affairs



# VA Indiana HealthCare Locations

## Roudebush VA Medical Center /Indy

- Roudebush
  - ED, acute, primary care, all specialty services
  - No Community Living Centers (no hospice unit)
  - Community Based Outpatient Clinics
  - Bloomington
  - Brownsburg
  - Lafayette
  - Shelbyville
  - Terre Haute
  - Wakeman (Edinburg)
  - Ortho Indy YMCA (rehab only)
- Indy VA Clinic (aka Vet Center 777 North Meridian St, Inpdls)
  - Homeless Team resources
  - Homeless Team primary care
- VA Domiciliary @ Fort Benjamin Harrison

## Northern Indiana HealthCare System (NIHCS)

- Fort Wayne
  - Acute Care, ED, primary care, specialty care
- Marion
  - Community Living Centers (hospice, rehab, Geri psych, urgent care (Mon-Fri 7-7), primary care)
- Community Based Outpatient Clinics:
  - Defiance, OH
  - Jackie Walorski (Mishawaka)
  - Hoosier (Peru)
  - Huntington
  - Muncie

# Veteran's Health Administration: Eligibility

- Served in active-duty military AND discharged under anything other than “dishonorable” conditions
  - If Enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981 you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty
- Reservist/National Guard member called to active duty 2 years
- Veterans may be subject to income thresholds based on appropriated funding decisions.
- Expanded eligibility: POWs, combat Vets, medically discharged, low income



# VHA Enrollment

## Documents required to enroll:

### 1) **Military Discharge paperwork (DD214):**

[www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)

### 2) **Enrollment form [VA Form 10-10EZ](#)**

- If not service connected, MUST include income information or will be rejected
- [Hardship Application](#)

## Send these 2 documents to your local Palliative Care team:

### **Indianapolis VA Palliative Care Office**

**RN Navigator:** Champagne Killinger, RN

Phone #317-988-9424 fax #317-988-5648

Champagne.Killinger@va.gov

**Program Coordinator:** Liz Davis, LCSW

#317-988-3665

Elizabeth.Davis7@va.gov

### **NIHCS VA Palliative Care Office**

**RN Coordinator:** Marty Kieninger, RN

Phone #765-674-3321 ext. 73805

Fax#765-677-6198

Marty.Kieninger@va.gov

# Veterans Health Administration Funded Services

- Concurrent Care
  - Veterans can continue therapies that their VA MD deems helpful without jeopardizing their hospice eligibility (ex: palliative chemo)
  - No duplication of services with hospice
  - VA does not pay for GIP in the community
  - Veterans DO need to revoke hospice if hospitalized at a VA Medical Center

# Veterans Health Administration Funded Services

- VA paid Hospice care
- Home Health Aid or In-home respite
  - Can be in the home at same time as hospice staff
- Inpt Respite
  - At VA Contracted Nursing Home
  - 30 days a year
  - Do not impact hospice MCR respite
- End of Life VA Pay Contracted Nursing Home (CNH)
  - **\*Updated List\***
  - Can no longer refer if Veteran is already in an ECF on ANY payer source other than the VA!!!!!!!!!!!!
  - For Veterans with no other payer source.
- Indefinite Nursing home placement at CNH if 70% Service Connected or above
- Adult day care
- **Mental Health Support** (in person or virtual)
- Caregiver Support Program
  - Stipends for 70% SC Veterans + education
- DME not covered by hospice:
  - Stair lifts, ramps, door alarms, emergency call buttons

# VBA: Financial Benefits for Veterans and Families

- Service-Connected Disability
  - Presumptive conditions
- Veteran's (Non-Service-Connected) Pension
  - Income based + additional criteria
- Survivor Pension / DIC benefits
- Aid and Attendance or Housebound Special Monthly Compensation
- Burial Allowance

**Always encourage families to meet with a VBA representative to confirm what they are entitled to receive!**

# Veteran's Benefit's Administration

- **Encourage all Veterans/families to meet with a benefit's representative!**
- Clearly label application "Expedite for hospice/terminal illness"
- Encourage Veterans to apply for VHA and VBA benefits, even if they were previously denied!

\*Handouts for Indy and NIHCS on website

## Resources for Assistance with VA Benefits Applications

*Any of the below organizations/locations can help Veterans, current Service Members and Families apply for VA Disability Compensation, VA Pension, Aid and Attendance, End of life/burial/Survivor Benefits and all other VBA applications.*

### Veterans Benefits Administration

Indianapolis VA Regional Office  
575 N Pennsylvania Street,  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Walk-Ins and Scheduled Appointments  
National Call Center: 1-800-827-1000  
Indianapolis Public Contact: 317-916-3736  
Request virtual or in-person appt: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>

### County Veteran Service Officers

ind your local CVSO at: <https://www.in.gov/dva/locate-your-cvso/>

### Veterans Service Organizations

- Veterans of Foreign Wars, 317-916-3629 (walk-ins welcome) **\*great reviews\***
- American Legion, 317-916-3605 (walk-ins welcome) **\*great reviews\***
- AMVETS, 317-916-3612
- Disabled American Veterans, 317-916-3615 (Need appt)
- Paralyzed Veterans, 317-916-3626

\*These 5 organizations are also located in the 575 N Pennsylvania St. Indianapolis federal building.

### Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Service Center

777 N Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Walk-Ins and Schedule Appointments  
#317-232-3910

# VA Service-Connected Disabilities & Death Certificates

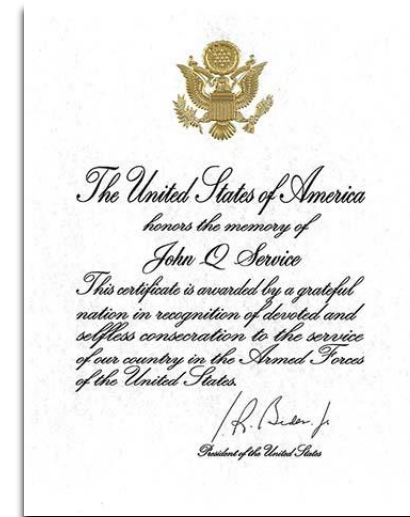
- If a Veteran's Service-Connected condition is appropriate to list on their death certificate, it can have immense benefits to their families:
  - Burial allotment benefits
  - Survivor benefits
  - Validation
- How do I know a Veteran's Service Connected Disabilities?
  1. Screen for Veteran status upon hospice admission ([Military History Checklist](#))
  2. You can also find the Service-Connected Disabilities at the very bottom of VA "face sheet"
  3. Call VA Palliative Care and ask!

## Service Connection/Rated Disabilities:

```
SC Percent: 70%
Rated Disabilities: DIABETES MELLITUS (20%-SC)
                   NEOPLASM, MALIGNANT, GENITOURINARY (40%-SC)
                   TINNITUS (10%-SC)
                   IMPAIRED HEARING (40%-SC)
                   DEFORMITY OF THE PENIS (0%-SC)
                   MALARIA (0%-SC)
```

# VBA: Other End of Life Benefits

- All other death benefits: military funeral honors, flags, urns, headstones, markers, medallions, and Presidential Memorial Certificates



# Government Furnished Commemorative Plaque or Urn

- Can be chosen in lieu of burial in a national cemetery or a government furnished headstone.



[Commemorative Urn and Plaque - National Cemetery Administration \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/va30/commemorative-urns-and-plaques)

[Veterans Headstones, Markers, Medallions, Plaques, And Urns | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/va30/veterans-headstones-markers-medallions-plaques-and-urns)

# National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

- “Burial in a VA national cemetery or state Veterans cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces and Veterans who have a minimum active-duty service requirement, as applicable by law and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable”.
- Veteran’s surviving spouse and dependents are eligible.
- 155 National Cemeteries:
- What it includes:
  - Gravesite and liner, Opening/Closing, Perpetual Care, Headstone/marker/flag
- Closest National Cemeteries:
  - Marion, IN
  - New Albany, IN (cremation only)
  - Danville, IL
  - Crown Hill (cremation only)



[National Cemetery Administration \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/nca/)



# Planning Your Legacy & Bereavement Support Toolkits

**Planning Your Legacy**  
VA Survivors and Burial Benefits




*Our Mission: To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.*

**VA** |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

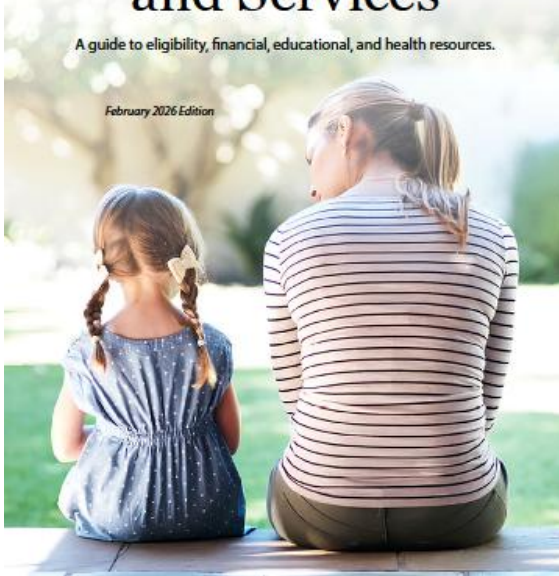
**Bereavement Support**



**VA** |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



**Survivor Benefits and Services**  
A guide to eligibility, financial, educational, and health resources.  
February 2026 Edition



# VA Homeless Resources

- Community Resources:
  - Shelters
  - Gennesaret
  - Abby Hunt Bryce
  - Homeless Initiative Program (HIP)
  - Horizon House
- VA Resources:
  - Transitional/Grant Per Diem Housing
  - HUDVASH (Section 8 for Veterans)
- Indy VA Domiciliary (@ Fort Ben)
  - Homeless + SUD and/or MH tx
- Access Points/Keys to Housing Resource Guides
  - HVAF/InteCare/Volunteers of America

- Homeless Team Contacts:
  - Marion VA: Latisha Banks #260-246-3978
  - Indy VAMC: Kendol Enzinger #317-672-5560



National Call Center  
for Homeless Veterans

**877-424-3838**

[va.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless)

# Transportation Eligibility

## **Must meet one of the following criteria:**

- **30% SC or higher**
- **Travel related to specific Service Connection rating**
- **Veteran receives the following benefits:**
  - Aid and Attendance
  - VA income based Pension
  - Catastrophically Disabled
- **VA to VA transfer for higher level of care**
- **Community Care (VA paying for care at non VA facility)**
- **When VA is the payor source for discharge or admit location (i.e. admitting to CNH under VA pay)**
- **Income Eligible (\$1,740 or below/month)**

## **Travel Office Contact info:**

- Indianapolis VAMC
  - 317-988-3846
- Northern IN VAMC
  - Jeramy Fendel #765-603-9460 x73016

# Free Veteran Legal Clinic

- Hosted by Indiana Legal Services
  - <https://www.indianalegalservices.org/>
  - ILS Phone Intake 1-844-243-8570
  - By appt or walk in
  - Income based eligibility
- Roudebush VAMC
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month
  - Quarterly Free Will clinic at monthly legal clini
- Fort Wayne VA Medical Center
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month



## VETERAN LEGAL CLINIC



**LOCATION:**  
Fort Wayne VA Medical Center  
Auditorium  
2121 Lake Avenue  
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46805

**WHEN:**  
4th Tuesday of each month in 2025 (except Dec.)  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(must sign-in by 3:00 p.m.)

**2026 CLINIC DATES:**

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| FEB. 24 | JUL. 28 |
| MAR. 24 | AUG. 25 |
| APR. 28 | SEP. 22 |
| MAY 26  | OCT. 27 |
| JUN. 23 | NOV. 24 |

**NO COST, NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**  
Legal Clinic offered in partnership with Indiana Legal Services/ Military Assistance Project (MAP) to eligible low income Hoosier Veterans, service members, and their families in non-criminal cases.

Walk-in to address your **civil** legal matter such as:

- ★ Driver's License Restoration
- ★ Veteran Eviction Avoidance
- ★ Criminal Record Expungement
- ★ Military Discharge Upgrades
- ★ Child support and family law
- ★ VA overpayments

**Unable to attend the Legal Clinic in person?**

- ★ ILS phone intake: 1-844-243-8570
- ★ Mon-Thurs, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- ★ Identify yourself as a Veteran
- ★ ILS online intake: [www.indianalegalservices.org](https://www.indianalegalservices.org)

Click on "apply for help"

VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.




**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Northern Indiana Health Care System

## VETERAN LEGAL CLINIC

### WHEN

SECOND Tuesday of each month  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
(Must sign-in by 3 p.m.)

\* Low asset *Indy Bar Wills Clinic* on dates labeled with asterisk, must pre-register

### WHERE

VETERAN HEALTH INDIANA  
Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center  
1481 W. 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
(Room C-1202, First Floor C-Wing)  
Highlighted Dates: Indiana Veterans Center - 777 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis IN 46204 (4<sup>th</sup> floor Auditorium)

### NO COST, NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Legal Clinic offered in partnership with Indiana Legal Services/Military Assistance Project (MAP) to eligible low-income Hoosier Veterans, service members, and their families in non-criminal cases.

Walk-in to address your **civil** legal matter such as:

- Driver's License Restoration
- Veteran Eviction Avoidance
- Criminal Record Expungement
- Military Discharge Upgrades
- Child support and family law
- VA overpayments

VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.

### 2026 dates:

- Jan 13
- Feb 10
- Mar 10\*
- April 14
- May 12
- June 09\*
- July 14
- Aug 11
- Sept 8\*
- Oct 13
- Nov 10
- Dec 8\*



Unable to attend the Legal Clinic in person?

- ILS phone intake: Ph# 1-844-243-8570  
-Mon-Fri between 10am-2pm  
-Identify yourself as a Veteran
- ILS online intake: [www.indianalegalservices.org](https://www.indianalegalservices.org)  
and click on "apply for help"



Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)  
Central Line  
317-988-3856

Call to connect to VJO Social Workers who assist Veterans access civil legal resources and VA care.

# Pest Control Resources

- Marion County Dept of Health Bed Bug line #317-221-7454
  - Good at helping find resources
- Medicaid Waiver
  - AAA Exterminating (Noblesville) accepts MCD Waiver
- Military Family Relief Fund
- Indiana Legal Services
  - May be able to help negotiate with landlord on \$
- [Pest Free Homes Indiana](#)
  - Marion County only
  - Help when home care can't go in because infestation
  - Income criteria / provide free but ask for whatever client can provide / donation based
- [Supportive Services for Veterans and Families](#)
  - Could possibly help if Veteran is facing eviction because of pest issues
  - Must meet homeless criteria

# Military Family Relief Fund

- Designed to assist Veterans and dependents experiencing financial hardship
  - Only Veterans, spouses, and dependents can apply for assistance.
- Funded by sale of military license plates and donations; no tax \$ funding.
- MFRF Code states:
  - “The lifetime maximum amount an applicant may receive from the fund is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), unless a higher amount is approved by the Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission.”
  - Approved only for “**essential** family or critical household needs”
- Can be used for funeral expenses / always pay funeral homes directly
  - Cannot be used for anything outside of IN and cannot pay for transport of remains/body across state lines
- Surviving spouses can apply for general need not related to Veteran’ s burial.
- Start application immediately upon Veteran passing / gather documents ahead of time
  - Avg. 7-10 business days to process if application is complete and only \$2500 requested
  - Avg 3 weeks if higher amount is requested and approved by board
- Contact:
  - Lynn Dickey, Director ([Ldickey@dva.IN.gov](mailto:Ldickey@dva.IN.gov) / #317-232-3914)

# VA Gun Locks / Suicide Prevention

- Crisis Line 988, press 1 for Veteran
- If you have a Veteran in need/agreeable to receiving free cable gun locks, send an email to: [INDpsychSPTeam@va.gov](mailto:INDpsychSPTeam@va.gov) with the Veteran's name, address and how many they need and the gun locks will be shipped directly to the Veteran
  - <https://www.va.gov/reach/lethal-means/>
- NIHCS VA Suicide Prevention Program Manager:
  - Les Lebrun #260-402-7452
- Indy VA Suicide Prevention Program Manager:
  - Ashley Maynard #317-224-7344
- [VA S.A.V.E Training](#) 9/10/25 Recording on HVPI website



## Does a cable gun lock work on my firearm?



# Continuing Ed Opportunities



[We Honor Veterans](#)



[Psych Armor](#)



[VHA-Train](#)

Example: Acceptance & Commitment Therapy for Moral Injury

# Q & A



# VA Reminders & Palliative Care Contact information

- **Call us if a Veteran needs:**

- VA Pay for Hospice
- Evaluation for End-of-Life VA pay contract nursing home placement
- Additional home care (HHA or respite)
- Assistance enrolling in VHA
- Mental health support
- End of life burial benefits

- **Please notify us when:**

- A Veteran enrolls in hospice
- A Veteran on hospice passes away while on your service

## **Indianapolis VA Palliative Care Office**

**RN Navigator:** Champagne Killinger, RN  
Phone #317-988-9424 fax #317-988-5648

Champagne.Killinger@va.gov

**Program Coordinator:** Liz Davis, LCSW  
#317-988-3665

Elizabeth.Davis7@va.gov

## **NIHCS VA Palliative Care Office**

**RN Coordinator:** Marty Kieninger, RN  
Phone #765-674-3321 ext. 73805

Fax#765-677-6198

Marty.Kieninger@va.gov

# Partner Spotlight



**Cornerstone**  
CAREGIVING

Hannah Stuck

Operating Director

Cornerstone, S Indianapolis

[hstuck@cornerstonecaregiving.com](mailto:hstuck@cornerstonecaregiving.com)



# Cornerstone

CAREGIVING

**Hannah Stuck**

*Director of Operations*

**463-230-7966**

[hstuck@cornerstonecaregiving.com](mailto:hstuck@cornerstonecaregiving.com)



## What we do:

- Showers and Bed Baths
- Transfers
- Toileting Assistance
- Depends Changes
- Dressing and Changing
- Meal Preparation
- Standby Assistance
- Exercise Assistance
- Companionship
- Memory Care
- Light Housekeeping

## Care Management:

- Assistance Completing VA Health Benefits Applications
- Assistance Connecting with VA Palliative Care Team
- Individualized Care Plans
- American Flag Blankets

## What Makes Us Unique:

- Short Shifts
- No Weekly Care Minimums
- On-Site Caregiver Training



# Why Join Hospice Veteran Partnership of Indiana? (HVPI)

- Quarterly Meetings provide:
  - Educational opportunities
  - VA Updates
  - Community Resources
  - Best Practices
  - Networking
- Visit our website to find:
  - Updated VA Palliative Care fact sheets/cheat sheets
  - Resources shared at today and past meeting!
- How to Join HVPI:
  - <https://www.hvpi.us/> → “Join HVPI”

# We Honor Veterans Program Updates

- Alliance members only program
- Change to 3-star program
- Apply for 2026 levels between August and October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Portal being updated
- Will be providing:
  - Monthly office hours
  - Mentorship Opportunities
- Upcoming meetings:
  - Webinar 1: [Issues Affecting Veterans and Their Families](#) *Date/Time:* Thursday, March 10, 2026 | 3-4 p.m. ET
  - Webinar 2: [We Honor Veterans Program Overview](#) *Date/Time:* Thursday, March 25, 2026 | 3-4 p.m. ET
- WHV Coordinators watch emails closely for updates
- If you have additional questions or need support, please contact the WHV team at [veterans@allianceforcareathome.org](mailto:veterans@allianceforcareathome.org)

Attention We Honor Veterans Coordinators



## Mission Planning Session

WE HONOR VETERANS 2026  
READINESS HUDDLE

To ensure a successful mission, please come prepared with questions and ideas regarding updates to the WHV Program

**Date: April 1, 2026**

**Time: 10:00-11:00 AM**



Scan QR Code to join Teams Meeting



# HVPI 2026 Calendar

## **Q2 HVPI Partnership Meeting:**

Wednesday, 6/3/26 10:00am– 11:30 a.m. EST

Psychologist Dr. Jeff Lightfoot / Moral Injury & Legacy/story telling

## **Q3 HVPI Partnership Meeting:**

Wednesday, 9/9/26 10:00am– 11:30 a.m.

Suicide Prevention for Veterans at end-of-life.

## **Q4 HVPI Partnership Meeting:**

Wednesday, 12/9/26 10:00am– 11:30a.m. EST

Dr. Lyle Fettig / VA Concurrent Care.

## **Additional Opportunities:**

### **WHV Readiness Huddle:**

Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00-11:00 a.m.

### **HVPI Volunteer Opportunity:**

Wednesday June 24th 5:00-6:30 pm

HVPI partners come together to serve dinner to Veterans at Indianapolis VA Otis Bowen Veteran's House

Melissa Marquardt, MSW, LSW, BC  
HVPI President

Bereavement Coordinator / Social Worker  
Heart to Heart Hospice  
Office: 317-718-7422  
[hvpisecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hvpisecretary@gmail.com)  
[hvpindiana@gmail.com](mailto:hvpindiana@gmail.com)

Marty Kieninger, RN, BSN  
HVPI Vice President

Palliative Care Coordinator  
Northern Indiana Health Care System  
(NIHCS)  
Office: 765-674-3321 ext. 73805  
[Marty.Kieninger@va.gov](mailto:Marty.Kieninger@va.gov)

## Leadership Team

Angie Bray

HVPI Partner Engagement Coordinator  
Veteran Advocate  
765-623-4386

Liz Davis, LCSW

HVPI Vice President  
Palliative Care Coordinator  
Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center  
Office: 317-988-3665  
[Elizabeth.Davis7@va.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Davis7@va.gov)

Lexi Harris

HVPI Partner Engagement Coordinator  
Director of Operations  
United Way - Kokomo

