

VETERANS UPDATE

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PRESIDENT SIGNS MISSION ACT



President Trump signed the VA MISSION Act into law June 6. “They put everything on the line for us. And when they come home, we must do everything that we can possibly do for them,” said

Trump about Veterans.

The legislation aims to streamline community care programs, strengthen health care options for our nation’s Veterans — whether at VA or in the community — and

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 4:30 - 6 p.m., Martha’s Vineyard Veteran Town Hall, American Legion, 47 Martin Road, Tisbury, Mass. Ask questions and get answers about VA health care.

Aug. 8, 5:30 – 7 p.m., VAMC and VBA RO Joint Veteran Town Hall, 5th floor auditorium, main hospital, 830 Chalkstone Ave., Providence. Ask questions and get answers from medical and service center leaders.

focus health care decisions on what is best for the Veteran.

View a summary of the act at https://veterans.house.gov/uploadedfiles/va_mission_act_summary.pdf

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS’ INSURANCE

Did you miss the Veterans’ Group Life Insurance — known as VGLI — application deadline and can’t find coverage from a private insurer due to your health?

Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance — or S-DVI — provides insurance coverage to disabled Veterans who received a new service-connected rating in the last two years. And the health review does NOT consider any service-connected medical conditions!

You may even qualify for a waiver of premiums if you are unable to work.

Learn more or apply for S-DVI at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/s-dvi.asp>, call 800-827-1000, or ask a Veterans Benefits Representative located in room 6 of the Providence VAMC main hospital basement.



HELP STOP SERVICE DOG FRAUD



Service dogs perform important tasks for people with disabilities, such as guiding individuals with impaired vision, pulling a wheelchair or retrieving dropped items. Untrained pets posing as service dogs can behave badly, affecting attitudes toward people who truly need assistance dogs. Please do not bring pets, other animals or non-service dogs into the medical center.

Service dogs are more than a vest purchased for a few dollars online. They require years of expert training to perform specific commands and provide calm, reliable assistance to people with disabilities — including Veterans injured while fighting for our nation.

“When untrained pets posing as service dogs behave badly, it can affect attitudes toward people who truly need assistance dogs,” said Stephanie Proske, patient experience officer of the Providence VA Medical Center. She added that Veterans can help by educating family and friends on this important topic.

The term “service dog” refers to any formally trained dog that performs tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Such tasks may include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing, pulling a wheelchair, opening doors or retrieving dropped items.

Service dogs are allowed

access to VA facilities when accompanying an individual with a disability, but staff members are not allowed to care for, supervise or otherwise assume responsibility for a service animal. Owners must plan ahead, particularly if the care they are receiving would prevent them from caring for the dog.

“Most importantly, please don’t bring pets, emotional support animals, other animals or non-service dogs into the medical center, or other businesses,” Proske said.

Service Dog Etiquette:

- Don’t touch the dog without asking permission first!
- Don’t distract the dog in any way.
- Never feed the dog.
- Speak to the person, not the assistance dog.
- Don’t whistle or make sounds to the dog as this may provide a dangerous distraction.
- Never make assumptions about the individual’s capabilities.
- Don’t be afraid of the dog.



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran’s Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Community Care /
Veteran’s Choice Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3015

Account Balances:
401-457-3344

Providence VBA Regional Office
401-273-7100 ext. 3107

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

Facebook:
[facebook.com/
VAProvidence](https://facebook.com/VAProvidence)

Twitter:
twitter.com/VAProvidence