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# Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Wednesday, October 09, 2013  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
12 HOB

## Action Packet

**Will Weatherford**  
Speaker

**Ronald Renuart**  
Chair

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**  
**Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee**  
**10/9/2013 9:00:00AM**

**Location:** 12 HOB

**Summary:** No Bills Considered

**Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 11:11:14AM**

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**  
**Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee**  
**10/9/2013 9:00:00AM**

**Location:** 12 HOB

**Attendance:**

|                        | <i>Present</i> | <i>Absent</i> | <i>Excused</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Ronald Renuart (Chair) | X              |               |                |
| Michael Bileca         | X              |               |                |
| Douglas Broxson        | X              |               |                |
| Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed  | X              |               |                |
| Shevrin Jones          | X              |               |                |
| Cary Pigman            | X              |               |                |
| Ricardo Rangel         |                |               | X              |
| Holly Raschein         | X              |               |                |
| David Santiago         | X              |               |                |
| Jimmie Smith           | X              |               |                |
| Richard Stark          | X              |               |                |
| Carl Zimmermann        | X              |               |                |
| <b>Totals:</b>         | <b>11</b>      | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>       |

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**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**  
**Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee**  
**10/9/2013 9:00:00AM**

**Location:** 12 HOB

**Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances:**

Agency Update

Prendergast, Mike (Lobbyist) (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Ste 2105B The Capitol 400 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee FL 32309  
Phone: 850-487-1533

DMA Overview

Sutphin Jr., Glenn (Lobbyist) (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
Department of Military Affairs  
PO Box 1008  
St Augustine FL 32085-1008  
Phone: (850)414-9049

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

**COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST, USA, RETIRED  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)**

10/9/2013



# Recent Achievements

- Protection from Funeral Protests
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
- Purple Heart State
- Burials for Indigent Veterans
- Hunting and Fishing License Waivers for Veteran's Outdoor Events
- Healthcare provider license fee waivers
- False Representation as a Veterans Organization



# Return on Investment

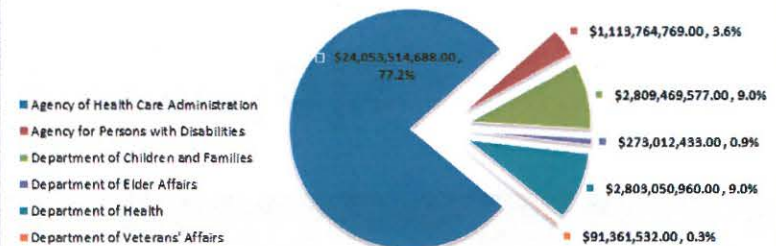
## ➤ ROI for FY 2012-13: \$141:\$1

- VA Benefits: \$356,479,958 (\$234,700,546 by FDVA; \$121,779,412 by County Veteran Service Offices)
- Retroactive Compensation: \$171,354,815
- Debt Waiver: \$462,377, 43 Waivers issued
- Issue Resolution: \$42,075,260

**Total: \$570,372,410**

- ❖ Every federal dollar that **FDVA** B&A staff garners from advocacy on behalf of Florida's veterans is a dollar added to Florida's economy. Every health care or educational dollar provided by the federal VA **potentially** frees a state dollar that can be used to assist other citizens.

Health & Human Services FY 2013-14 Appropriations





# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Funerals & Burials**
  - **HB 15, SB 118**
  - **First degree misdemeanor to knowingly engage in protest activities within 500 feet of property line one hour before and after funeral or burial**
  - **Signed into law by Governor on 4/10/13**
  - **Effective October 1, 2013**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Department of Health Licensure Fee Exemptions for Military Veterans**
  - **HB 115, SB 160**
  - **Department of Health to waive licensing fees associated with obtaining initial license of a profession within DOH jurisdiction within 24 months of honorable discharge**
  - **Certifications in 30 fields & professions affected**
  - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
  - **Effective July 1, 2013**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**
  - **HB 9019, SB 334**
  - **Recognizes March 30 as the official annual state observance of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**
  - **Effective March 30, 2014**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Purple Heart State**
  - **HB 9081, SB 900**
  - **Designates the State of Florida as a Purple Heart State to honor the sacrifices of those in uniform who were killed or wounded by the enemy**
- **Recognizing Vietnam Veterans**
  - **HB 9025**
  - **Honors service and sacrifice of Florida's Vietnam Veterans**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Disposition of Human Remains**
  - **HB 171, SB 370**
  - **Simplifies the process of identifying the remains of indigent veterans**
  - **Facilitates transfer and final interment of unclaimed veterans to a National Cemetery**
  - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
  - **Effective July 1, 2013**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Commercial Fishing Licenses for Veterans**
  - **HB 333, SB 448**
  - **Exempts certain veterans & active duty service members from possessing hunting or fishing licenses for activities that assist with rehabilitation**
  - **Helps veterans become commercial fishermen**
  - **Signed into law by the Governor on 6/14/13.**
  - **Effective July 1, 2013**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Veterans' Organizations**
  - **HB 1077, SB 390**
  - **Forbids an entity from advertising or representing itself as a veterans' organization unless it is an actual veterans' organization as defined in the bill**
  - **Violation of Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act**
  - **Expands prohibitions of non-veterans soliciting funds for veterans**
  - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
  - **Effective July 1, 2013**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **SB 1830 -- The bill broadens the ad valorem tax discount provided to qualified disabled veterans 65 and older to include veterans who were not Florida residents at the time of entering military service. (Amendment 2 on the 2012 ballot) Signed into law 5/30/13.**
- **HB 7143 -- The bill reauthorizes the public records and public meeting exemptions for donors to direct-support organizations for the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Signed into law 5/30/13.**



# Veteran-Related Legislation

Items that did **not** pass during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes**
- **Relating to Veteran Preference in State Purchasing**
- **Relating to Transportation Facility Designations**



# 2013-2014 Budget Items Approved

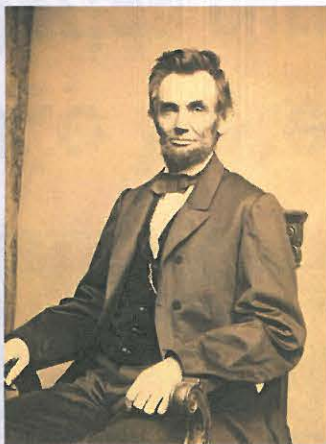
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

- **State Veterans' Homes Program**
  - Florida currently has six state veterans' homes and one veterans' assisted living facility
  - Approval for comprehensive study to assess need for additional veterans' nursing homes
  - Purchase of four new vehicles to transport veterans with disabilities
- **Division of Benefits and Assistance**
  - Approval for 13 additional Veteran Claims Examiners, Supervisors & Support Staff



# A Promise Kept

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



***- President Lincoln from  
Second Inaugural Address***

# Summary

A **veteran** is a person who, at some point in his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their life. We humbly embrace our mission of advocating with purpose and passion for **Florida's veterans** as an expression of our thanks for their selfless service and sacrifice.





# The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

