

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA)

Update – Rec 09.06.2011

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September 11 Remembrance

Governor Bobby Jindal issued an Executive Order calling for the flags at all state buildings to be flown at half-staff from September 5, 2011, until sunset September 11, 2011 in an expression of respect for Louisiana's fallen civilian and service members who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and the days since to defend the United States of America. This Executive Order can be found on LDVA's website at www.vetaffairs.la.gov/news/85

LDVA recently released its slideshow of Louisiana's Fallen Heroes in the Global War On Terror. This slideshow can be viewed on our Youtube page at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya1dOYmz5il> . If you would like the full version with music included, please email veteran@la.gov

National Entrepreneurship Boot Camp for Veterans with Disabilities is Coming to LSU

The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV) offers cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who were disabled as a result of their service supporting operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The intent of the EBV is to open the door to entrepreneurial opportunity and small business ownership to these individuals by developing their competencies in the many steps and activities associated with creating and sustaining an entrepreneurial venture and also by helping them coordinate their efforts with programs and services for veterans and others with disabilities.

EBV applications will be accepted from veterans with a service-connected disability, as designated by the Veterans Administration, who served on active duty after September 2001. Applications for the 2012 programs are now being accepted on a rolling admissions basis. For more information or to apply online, please visit www.ebv.lsu.edu.

Statement From VA Regarding the Houston National Cemetery and VA's Policy on Invoking Christian References at VA Cemeteries

LDVA has received a number of inquiries on this matter. Please review this and please feel free to share this information.

STATEMENT FROM VA PRESS SECRETARY JOSH TAYLOR - “Invoking the name of God or Jesus is not only allowed, it is common at VA National Cemeteries across the country. However, VA’s policy is that VA-sponsored honor guards should not make recitations at committal services unless requested to do so by the deceased’s survivor(s).”

Background: The official policy of the National Cemetery Administration is that the “NCA will allow the reading of recitations at the committal services, but will do so only if such recitations are requested by the deceased’s survivors.” The Houston policy also says, “Religious Services: On occasion, a family may request that a member of the Clergy provide a brief religious service. This may include a reading from scriptures or a brief prayer. If the family provides their own clergy, the honor team will not provide this service.” It also says, and most importantly, that “NCA employees, including VA sponsored Volunteer Honor Guards, will not be selective in determining which recitations will be read. The deceased’s survivor(s), and only they, will identify the text to be read. The NCA will accept for reading at its committal services any such texts including those which reflect any, all or no religious traditions on an equal basis.”

For more information on this, please visit <http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/news/83>

LDVA Announces Resources, Opportunities for Louisiana Veterans-Owned Small Businesses Through LAVETBIZ Veterans Initiative

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) today announced that new resources and business opportunities for Louisiana Veterans are available through the LAVETBIZ Veterans Initiative. First created in 2009, LAVETBIZ is a business initiative which provides opportunities for Louisiana-based Veteran and service-connected disabled Veteran-owned small businesses when they seek work with the State of Louisiana. LAVETBIZ is supported by compliance mandates which are enforced through the Louisiana Division of Administration.

“LAVETBIZ was established specifically to help Louisiana Veteran small business owners by connecting them to work opportunities with the Louisiana state agencies,” says Lane Carson, Secretary of Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. “New resources such as the LAVETBIZ Roadmap to Success provide these Veteran business owners with a step-by-step guide to unlimited business opportunities.” For more information, please visit <http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/news/84>

Support Our Veterans License Plate

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) announced today that the “Support Our Veterans” Louisiana License Plate is available for purchase through the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. Created with the passage of House Bill 1204 in the 2010 LA Legislative Session, the plate was designed to patriotically honor the men and women who have served our country through their military service.

Now available for purchase at all Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicle locations, online at www.expresslane.org , or by calling (225) 925-6146, costs for the plates include a one-time \$25 fee in addition to regular license plate fees. Proceeds from the sale of these plates will be dedicated to the Military Family Assistance (MFA) fund for various Veterans programs. MFA is managed by LDVA and provides assistance to members of Louisiana National Guard or Louisiana Reservists who experience financial hardships as a result of being placed on active-duty status.

For more information, please visit <http://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/news/64>

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs

P.O. Box 94095

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

1-877-GEAUXVA

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