

VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) continues to support veterans and members of the Virginia National Guard and Reserves not on active duty. The 2008-2009 Progress Report of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program is available*. The Department of Veterans Services (DVS), its statutory partners, and the VWWP team have made great strides in developing a structure to connect veterans and their families to services for **combat stress and traumatic brain injury**. Since July 2008, the VWWP, led by Catherine A. Wilson, CAPT, USN, Ret, has:

- ➤ Established **3 Regional Offices** that cover Northern, Western and Central, and Southern Virginia and funded 5 regional consortia of community mental health, brain injury and rehabilitative services specialists as well as other resources to **connect veterans and families with local services** for assistance
- ➤ Initiated a **statewide needs assessment** to learn about the gaps in services for veterans and their families who struggle with combat stress or traumatic brain injury
- ➤ Established an Executive Strategy Group and an Advisory Committee to **explore partnerships and resources** that can assist Virginia veterans, and
- ➤ Initiated steps to **reach out to veterans and their families** to encourage them to seek help.

MISSION of VWWP:

To establish an integrated, comprehensive and responsible system of services for Veterans, Guardsmen and Reservists with Combat/Operational Stress Conditions or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and their families through a network of public and private partnerships.

**Progress Report is distributed electronically. To obtain a copy, please go to DVS website (Publication, Forms & Reports section), or contact VWWP Executive Assistant at, 804-371-4675 or VWWP.ExecAsst@dvs.virginia.gov*

WEBSITE <http://www.dvs.virginia.gov>
(select from various VWWP subjects in left column).

The 50-page progress report includes examples of **success stories**. One veteran landed in jail as a result of PTSD and substance abuse. The VWWP helped to obtain his disability benefits and find placement in a treatment facility, thereby resulting in his **release from jail to treatment**. The veteran is now employed, actively participating in treatment and working with the court to have charges dropped.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC), which supported the establishment of VWWP and associated fundraising, **encourages 100% chapter participation in the fundraising endeavor**. **Nine Virginia chapters made contributions** during FY08 and FY09 totaling \$9,760. Three Virginia chapters have made contributions in FY10. Chapters receive credit when individual chapter members make contributions, as long as the MOAA chapter is identified. VCOC is looking for support from each of our (now) 18 chapters. Please **help our brethren**.

PURPOSE of VWWP:

Ensure adequate and timely assessment, treatment and support are available to veterans, service members, and affected family members...for stress-related injuries and traumatic brain injuries resulting from service in combat areas.

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SEE PHOTOS

**of Virginia MOAA fund-raising and contributions at
VirginiaMOAA.com**



(in "Virginia Projects" section)
CONTRIBUTION FORM,



info, and links are also on the VCOC website

<http://virginiamoaa.com/virginiaprojects/virginiawoundedwarrior.html>