



OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: VETERAN SERVICES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Goal Statement

To assist veterans and their dependents in securing all entitled benefits earned through honorable military service, and to advocate for veterans' interests in the community.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy

- Helped veterans and their dependents with processing benefit claims and obtaining other benefits entitled to them through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies.
- Continued to fund and administer Leon County's Active Duty Grant Program, to help offset financial obligations for active duty service members and their families.
- Continued to fund Leon County's Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides veterans in need with emergency financial support for expenses such as rent, utilities, temporary shelter and transportation for medical treatment.
- Continued to support the annual Operation Thank You event by hosting fourth annual Operation Thank You on Armed Forces Day to honor and recognize the service of Korean War veterans.
- Continued to partner with Career Source Capital Region by referring Veterans who require assistance with obtaining employment job search skills.

Contact Us

(850) 606-1940
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Vets

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

- Leon County understands that behind every veteran's benefits claim is a veteran in need. In FY15, the Leon County Veteran Services Division:
 - » Assisted more than 4,500 veterans and dependents in person.
 - » Facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than \$8.8 million in new awards.
 - » Managed the Veterans Resource Center, where veterans will have access to resources to assist them with employment needs.
 - » Sent "welcome" letters to all separating veterans who designated Tallahassee as their home of record or as the place they will be relocating to after separation. These letters provide a wealth of information regarding services provided by Leon County's Veteran Services and other community resources dedicated for veterans.
 - » Provided veteran benefits presentations for "Senior Days" at all senior center events throughout Leon County.
 - » Maintained strong relationships with community partners by attending United Vets monthly coordinating meetings.
- To honor and recognize the service of Korean War veterans, Leon County hosted the 2015 Operation Thank You event. The event included the presentation of colors, performance of the National Anthem, remarks from Korean War veterans and formal recognition of the Korean War veterans. Over 300 citizens attended the event.
- Leon County developed and approved funding for the Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides emergency financial assistance to help qualifying veterans meet critical, basic needs such as, rent, mortgage, and utilities.
- Leon County was a partner of Honor Flight Tallahassee, which transported 78 World War II veterans and support personnel to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service

and sacrifice. An Honor Flight trip is provided at no cost to veterans, and is entirely funded by local fundraisers and community support. Leon County contributed staff support and \$15,000 to help offset the costs of this event.

- Leon County continues to support the North Florida Veteran Stand Down. Leon County contributed staff and \$10,000. Leon County Veteran Services processed claims and provided benefits classes to Homeless Veterans during the three-day event.



Operation Thank You

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service

Leon County received the **National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award** in the category of Employment and Training for County Residents for Leon County Veterans Resource Center.





Veterans Day Parade

Leon County Government is dedicated to serving veterans. In 2015, Leon County served more than 4,500 veterans and dependents with face-to-face consultations. For his or her service, a veteran has earned many benefits. But sometimes, the application process can be complicated. Leon County staff works to help veterans and their spouses process medical claims, retirement benefits, and even to receive assistance for certain approved emergency needs like heating and cooling.

But being a one-stop shop for local veterans is not the whole story of what Leon County does. In 2015, Leon County engaged the community on veteran events such as Honor Flight, Operation Thank You, and the Veterans Day Parade. Leon County supported Honor Flight Tallahassee, a program that flies World War II veterans – at no cost – to Washington D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to their service. Leon County Emergency Medical Services staff and others served as chaperones on the day-long trip. For some of the attendees, that day was their first chance to see the memorials honoring their service. Leon County also honored veterans at home. With the 2015 Operation Thank You event, Leon County recognized the service of Korean War veterans. Over 300 veterans, family members and guests participated in the celebration, including more than 150 Korean War veterans who stood at attention as they were presented with a Korean War Commemorative Challenge Coin and a replica of the Leon County Proclamation.



Honor Flight Tallahassee

Korean War vets recognized on Armed Forces Day

Karl Esters
Reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat

In the shadow of the Korean War Memorial at Cascades Park, hundreds of veterans and their families gathered for a ceremony on Saturday to honor the service of the U.S.'s "Forgotten War."

For the fourth year, Leon County and the Tallahassee Democrat are sponsoring a parade on Saturday to honor the service of the U.S.'s "Forgotten War."

The parade will feature a float with a replica of the Leon County Proclamation, a Korean War Commemorative Challenge Coin, and a Korean War Memorial. The parade will also feature a float with a replica of the Leon County Proclamation, a Korean War Commemorative Challenge Coin, and a Korean War Memorial.

Each year, Leon County sponsors a parade on Saturday to honor the service of the U.S.'s "Forgotten War."

More than 1,700 Korean War veterans live in Leon County.

The war got again an "official" status in the American public, which was the long-overlooked.

See VETERANS - 7A

Tallahassee Democrat



Operation Thank You



Operation Thank You



Did You Know

Leon County Veteran Services is able to provide assistance to eligible dependents long after a veteran passes away.