Benefits & Claims

**Disabled American Veterans**

Jerry Hill  
HSC/DSO Director  
Tel: (615) 225-3350  
Fax: (615) 225-3351  
jerry.hill4@va.gov  

Providing services and counseling for veterans, their families and survivors to assist in filing claims for earned benefits.

**Rutherford County Gov’t.**

Dominick Grimaldi  
Veterans Service Officer  
Tel: (615) 849-5711  
Fax: (615) 217-7127  
dgrimaldi@rutherfordcountytn.gov  

The Rutherford County Veterans Service Officer assists veterans, their spouses and survivors in filing claims for benefits earned through service to our nation. Benefits provided to veterans are available from the Federal, State and local governments.

**TN Dept. of Veterans Services**

Ginger Dempsey  
Veteran Benefits Coordinator  
Tel: (615) 225-6930  
Fax: (615) 225-6931  
ginger.dempsey@va.gov  

Helping veterans, dependents and surviving family members with claims assistance, advocacy during the appeals process and will connect customers with resources.

**U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs**

Heidi Rhodes  
Public Contact Team  
615-695-6185  
heidi.rhodes@va.gov  

VA’s Nashville Regional Benefit Office (RO) administers a variety of services, including Compensation, Education, Insurance, Loan Guaranty, Pension, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) for Veterans, Service members, their families and survivors in Tennessee and at the Fort Campbell Military Base in Kentucky.
Their Employment Department offers job placement assistance, computer training, resume development, professional development workshops, interview preparation, and budget counseling. Veterans are interviewed by the Employment staff to assess their individual needs. If a Veteran is able to schedule an interview, employment counselors provide appropriate clothing for the interview from the 12th Avenue Thrift Store (shirts, ties, suit jackets, shoes, etc). The Employment Department can also provide for transportation needs in the form of gas or bus cards once the interview has been verified by the Employment staff.

Once a client secures employment, an employment counselor provides them with items that will contribute to their success at a new place of employment. These items include work boots, tools and equipment, bus passes or gas cards to help with transportation, and any specialized clothing. All items are provided once employment has verified the client’s new employment.

Serves as an outreach to veterans and ensures veterans’ priority of service in referral to jobs and other services. Employment related testing, training information and case management are among the services provided. They offer programs such as skills assessment, resume assistance and coaching on how to conduct a successful interview. Additionally, they work with employers to match their needs with the veterans’ qualifications.
The VSOC program provides a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to each VSOC school. These VRCs are called VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors. A VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator is also provided, and co-located on many campuses, to provide peer-to-peer counseling and referral services.

Providing expanded employment opportunities and a full range of employment services to all homeless, chronically homeless and at-risk Veterans. Collaborates with VA and non-VA partners to identify local gaps in current competitive employment services for homeless Veterans, and welcomes opportunities to engage with community partners and local employers who are also committed to ending and preventing homelessness among Veterans.

Enabling the university’s student-veteran population to have a virtual one-stop-shop to meet a variety of academic-related needs. A place for student-veterans to study, to gather and to get help from fellow veterans, who will serve as peer advisers and sponsors.
Health & Wellness

Centerstone Military Services
Jennifer Carr
Program Director
Tel: 888-497-0379
jennifer.carr@centerstone.org

Providing confidential, no-cost programs and services to warriors and their loved ones facing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other invisible wounds of military service. Through a supportive online community, retreats, eGroups, face-to-face counseling services across the nation provided by our parent company, Centerstone Military Services, and a 24-hour crisis line, they empower service men and women and their loved ones to heal and thrive. They serve everyone whose lives are impacted by military service including Veterans from all Active Duty and Reserve components, regardless of discharge status.

H3O Aquatics
Michael Burrows
Owner/Operator
Tel: (615) 962-9500
Fax: (615) 962-9179
michael@h3oaquatics.com

H3O Aquatics incorporates physical and behavioral health into their program. H3O Aquatics is a recognized VA and Humana Military Healthcare Services/TRICARE provider. Their facility is the most advanced aquatic rehab and therapeutic exercise facility in the country. This allows for a smooth referral, admission, and treatment process. Timely and efficient attention permits the service member to receive specialty care and education. The Veteran’s Aquatic Rehabilitation Fund provides free physical and psychological healthcare to veterans of the United States of America utilizing advanced aquatic therapies. This fund is financed by private and corporate donations and sponsorships.

Project Healing Waters
Jeff Barrett
Coordinator
Tel: (615) 225-6997
jrbarr1@comcast.net

The Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program provides basic fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and rod building classes, along with clinics participants ranging from beginners who have never fished before, to those with prior fly fishing and tying experience who are adapting their skills to their new abilities. All fly fishing and tying equipment is provided to the participants at no cost. Fishing trips, both one day and multi-day, are also provided free of charge to participants. The TN Valley Chapter meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m.
The mission of the program is to provide state-of-the-art, high-quality residential rehabilitation and treatment services for Veterans with mental illness, addiction, homelessness and/or psychosocial deficits. The MH RRTP identifies and addresses goals of rehabilitation, recovery, health maintenance, improved quality of life, and community integration in addition to specific treatment of medical conditions, mental illness, addictive disorders, and homelessness. Entry to the program is only through a medical consult from the veteran’s doctor.

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**Tennessee Fisher House**

Rebecca Wood  
House Manager  
Tel: (615) 225-5758  
rebecca.wood@va.gov  

The Fisher House has 12 bedroom/bath suites, living room, dining room, gourmet kitchen, den and laundry room, offering free lodging in “a home away from home” atmosphere for families of patients receiving medical care at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center.

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**Tennessee Valley Healthcare System**

Mark Rossen  
Patient Advocate  
Tel: (615) 225-2560  
Fax: (615) 225-4901  
mark.rossen@va.gov  

Provides primary care and subspecialty medical, surgical and psychiatric services to veterans. The campus provides long-term rehabilitation and nursing home care, and serves as a VISN 9 resource for the long-term inpatient care of psychiatric patients. The medical center has a well established primary care program and provides subspecialty care in dermatology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, neurology, pulmonology, nephrology, rheumatology, and sleep evaluation.
As part of the Veterans Recovery Center and in association with Middle Tennessee State University Horse Science Program, CERV is certified through Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. They utilize recreational therapy designed to restore, remediate and rehabilitate a veteran’s level of functioning and independence in life activities.

U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs
Scott T. Hardie
Coordinator
601 Glenis Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Tel: (615) 225-7153
Fax: (615) 904-7227
scott.hardie@va.gov

Supports veterans who have mental illnesses such as Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder and PTSD in developing skills, support systems and wellness strategies to help improve their quality of life. Veterans participate in classes aimed at promoting community integration through effective symptom management, communication, and coping, as well as learning about computer and expressive arts skills. Its goal is to help Veterans lead more fulfilling lives and develop their full potential. Entry to the program is only through a mental health consult from the veteran’s doctor.

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255; Press 1
Text to 838255 for Confidential Chat
www.veteranscrisisline.net

The caring responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances. Some of the responders are Veterans themselves and understand what Veterans and their families and friends have been through and the challenges Veterans of all ages and service eras face.
# Housing Assistance

**Centerstone**

Troy Jenkins  
SSVF Coordinator  
Tel: (615) 306-2895  
Fax: (615) 460-4308  
Troy.Jenkins@centerstone.org

Daniel J. Ward  
SSVF Outreach Specialist  
Daniel.Ward@centerstone.org

The SSVF program helps veterans and their families gain access to resources needed for permanent housing. The program is available to low- and very low-income veteran households where the family is at risk for homelessness or is homeless. The program is provided free of charge through a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

**Operation Stand Down Tennessee**

Nicole Bridges  
SSVF Coordinator  
Tel: (615) 593-2849  
Fax: (615) 248-1987  
nicole.bridges@osdtn.org

K.T. Parsons  
SSVF Case Manager  
Tel: (615) 593-2470  
kerry.parsons@osdtn.org

The SSVF Program is designed for honorably discharged veterans, earning less than 50% the area median income and are in danger of losing their housing, or are homeless and want housing. Based on need, SSVF can provide or facilitate financial empowerment training, job readiness training, employment assistance, legal aid, transportation services, as well as assistance with utilities and deposits.

**U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs**

Debbie Mancuyas  
HUD/VASH Case Manager  
Tel: (615) 225-5612  
Fax: (615) 225-4841  
debbie.mancuyas@va.gov

Eligible veterans receive case management services designed to resolve current homelessness and prevent future episodes of homelessness. In addition, veterans receive access to Section 8 housing voucher, which can substantially subsidize housing rental costs.
The RCCBA sponsors a free legal clinic on Thursday nights, starting at 3:30 p.m., at Greenhouse Ministries in Murfreesboro. The clinic allows RCCBA Members to provide pro bono services to the public and gives individuals an opportunity to meet one-on-one with local attorneys and have legal questions answered.

Veterans Treatment Court
Trey King
Director
Tel: (615) 217-7124
Fax: (615) 217-7127
tking@rutherforcountytn.gov

Greg Elmore
Mentor Coordinator
Tel: (615) 713-8474
gregelmore42@gmail.com

The Rutherford County Veterans Treatment Court program is committed to assisting veterans with intervention, treatment and rehabilitation of typically non-violent substance abuse offenses, and/or mental health issues, who desire to change their lives and break the cycle of substance abuse dependency.
Shelters, Supportive Housing & Outreach

A Soldier’s Child Foundation
Daryl Mackin
Executive Director
Tel: (615) 427-2970
daryl@asoldierschild.org

1197 Hazelwood Drive
Smyrna, TN 37167
www.asoldierschild.org

Their mission is to serve the children of fallen active duty military personnel, who have given their lives while defending the United States of America. A Soldier’s Child Foundation’s three points of service are: Birthday celebrations every year, up to the 18th birthday; Mentorship programs, including camping, hunting and fishing for ages 12-16; College scholarships up to $35,000, through The Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation.

Bridge Ministry
Paul Reissner
Bridge Ministry Coordinator
Tel: (615) 692-0159
preissner@bellsouth.net

Saint Rose Catholic Church
1601 N. Tennessee Boulevard
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.saintrose.org/bridge_ministries.php

Tammy Smith
Food Pantry Coordinator
Tel: (615) 692-0159
tinsmiths@comcast.net

Bridge is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to Noon. To provide limited financial assistance and/or referrals to other programs to the surrounding community as funds allow. They also offer food from their food pantry and assist in obtaining shelter and prayers for the homeless.

Doors of Hope
Maridel Williams
Executive Director
Tel: (615) 900-0634
opendoorsofhope@gmail.com

428 E. Bell Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.opendoorsofhope.org

They offer hope and help to ex-offenders willing to embrace positive values and commit to changing their future from the inside out. They teach personal values, responsibility, and practical life skills for life after prison. They mentor their clients and help them navigate the many reentry challenges faced before and after release.
Shelters, Supportive Housing & Outreach (Cont.)

First Things First – Sober Living Homes
John Colvert
Director
Tel: (615) 809-2530
ftfslh@gmail.com

4016 Old Nashville Highway
Murfreesboro, TN 37139
www.firstthingsfirstslh.com

Their mission is to provide a safe, clean & loving environment for men to build a long-term foundation of recovery from alcohol/drug addiction and dual diagnosis. With active participation in a 12-step spiritual program, as well as individual counseling with an approved sponsor, residents are provided the best opportunity for life renewal. Each house is active in the FTF community, supporting each other and working together to achieve their common recovery goals. Their ultimate goal is to equip their residents to give back to their individual communities.

Greenhouse Ministries
Cliff Sharp
Executive Director
Tel: (615) 494-0499
Fax: (615) 494-0065
cliff.sharp@greenhousemin.org

309 S. Spring Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
www.greenhousemin.org

A local non-profit that assists community members in need. They embrace all who come through their doors with open arms and compassion, providing services that not only meet immediate needs, but encourage healthy life changes for long-term success. Some of the services and programs they provide are a food pantry, homeless sack lunches, community closet, peer counseling, adult education classes and tutoring, men’s housing program, job skills training, job and housing referrals, programs for veterans, recycled bicycle program and a thrift store.

The Journey Home
Scott Foster
Director
Tel: (615) 809-2643
sfoster@lovegodservepeople.org

308 W. Castle Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
www.lovegodservepeople.org

A Christian Outreach Center for the homeless and at-risk individuals, and families in Rutherford County. Offering varied life-skill and recovery programs, as well as:
Community Center; Mon.-Fri., 6:00-3:00
Breakfast; Mon.-Fri., 6:00-8:30
Lunch; Mon.-Sat., 11:30-1:00
Supper; Sun. & Mon., 5:30-7:00
Food Boxes; Mon.-Fri., 8:30-10:30 & 1:30-3:00

Laundry Facility; Mon.-Fri., 6:30-Noon
Shower; Mon.-Fri., 6:00-11:30 & 2:30-3:00
Bible Studies; Mon.-Fri., Times Vary
Clothes Closet; Mon.-Fri., 9:00-Noon
Shelters, Supportive Housing & Outreach (Cont.)

Operation Adopt A Hero
Malcolm Stallard 107 W. Lytle Street
Executive Director Murfreesboro, TN 37130
Tel: (615) 398-0224 www.oaahtn.org
Malcolm@oaahtn.org

A community-based organization created to reach out to ALL veterans, active, reserve, and retired alike, and bridge the gap between them and their local community. They promote and host social events, gather and compile links to resources that are already in place to aid veterans and their families to build a life both inside and outside of the military. Their goal is to strengthen the bond between the community and veterans so they feel the same kind of camaraderie they felt while in the service. Coffee with Veterans, every 3rd Thursday, from 7:30-9:00.

Room in the Inn
Georgene Brinkley 640 W. Main Street
Director Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Tel: (615) 896-7016

Homeless shelter capable of holding up to 21 people, depending on the family size. There are six beds for men, six for women and two family rooms, which can hold anywhere from three to six occupants. Meals provided by local church groups.

The Salvation Army Murfreesboro Tennessee Corps
Teresa Olson 1137 W. Main Street
Outreach Coordinator Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Tel: (615) 895-7071 www.salvationarmytennessee.org/murfreesboro
Fax: (615) 890-5922 teresaolson@uss.salvationarmy.org

The Salvation Army operates a year-round back-to-work homeless shelter for single men and families. The shelter can accommodate up to 34 individuals at a time. This includes four private family rooms and 18 dorm style men’s beds. The Life Recovery Program teaches responsibility and gives accountability for sustainability as men and families rebuild their lives to become productive citizens in our community. Food, shelter, hygiene items, linens, a weekly Life Skills Class and other needs are met as each person creates an individualized case plan to achieve their goals and to re-establish themselves. They also operate a family store, and provide church services, bible study and a community care ministry.
Shelters, Supportive Housing & Outreach (Cont.)

Veterans Recovery Center Council
Charlie Trawick
Coordinator
Tel: (615) 225-6329
trawickml@comcast.net

Veterans Recovery Center
260 Glenis Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
www.facebook.com/VRCC2012/

Bill Kampbell
Chaplain
Tel: (615) 809-5140
wrkbill@aol.com

Vets Helping Vets; Coordinating fundraisers that help provide Health Training Tools & supplies to the VRC, as well as holiday meals for veterans in need. They also support the Alvin C. York Volunteer Fund.

Helpful Websites

eBenefits
www.ebenefits.va.gov

This site is the result of a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). They serve Veterans, Service members, Wounded Warriors, their family members, and their authorized caregivers. Users can apply for benefits, file claims for compensation and pension, manage benefits, add/remove dependents, view payment history and more.

My HealtheVet
www.myhealth.va.gov

My HealtheVet is VA’s online personal health record. It was designed for veterans, active duty servicemembers, their dependents and caregivers. My HealtheVet helps users partner with their healthcare team. It provides them opportunities and tools to make informed decisions and manage their healthcare. Users can communicate directly with their healthcare provider via secure massaging, manage appointments, order medication refills and view medical records.
Support Organizations

American Legion
Jim Sandman
Commander
Tel: (615) 975-4792
contact@murfreesborotnlegion.org

The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to their fellow servicemembers and veterans. Post 141 meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans
John Daly
Adjutant
Tel: (615) 890-1624
www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tn/08/default.aspx

They are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. They accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life. Chapter 8 meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Marine Corps League
David J. Gardner, PDC
Commandant
Tel: (615) 889-2834
MCMarine1@comcast.net

The purposes of the organization are: To preserve the traditions and promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps (USMC); To band those who are now serving in the USMC and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy; To fit its members for duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms; To hold sacred the history and memory of the men who have given their lives to the Nation; To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic; To maintain true allegiance to American institutions; To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life; To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and former Marines, as well as to their spouses, orphans and other dependent family members; To perpetuate the history of the USMC, and to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines. Detachment 1158 meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
## Support Organizations (Cont.)

**Military Order of the Purple Heart**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard A. Sherman</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>82 Paradise Street</td>
<td>Manchester, TN 37355</td>
<td>(931) 808-9975</td>
<td><a href="mailto:songbe@aol.com">songbe@aol.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.purpleheart.org">www.purpleheart.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families. Chapter 0613 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

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**Rolling Thunder, Inc.**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jay Barnes</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>10157 Old Nashville Highway</td>
<td>Smyrna, TN 37167</td>
<td>(615) 364-1029</td>
<td><a href="mailto:preztennessee1@live.com">preztennessee1@live.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.rollingthundertn1.com">www.rollingthundertn1.com</a></td>
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</table>

The major function of Rolling Thunder, Inc. is to publicize the POW-MIA issue: To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect the future Veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War-Missing In Action. They are committed to helping American Veterans from all wars. Rolling Thunder, Inc. is a non-profit organization and everyone donates his or her time because they believe in the POW/MIA Issue that they are working on. Chapter 1 meets the last Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

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**U.S. Military Vets Motorcycle Club**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominick Grimaldi</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>10157 Old Nashville Highway</td>
<td>Smyrna, TN 37167</td>
<td>(615) 294-8352</td>
<td><a href="mailto:x@tn7.usmvtn.com">x@tn7.usmvtn.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.tn7.theeaglenation.org">www.tn7.theeaglenation.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The club as a national organization strives to achieve the following: Provide a club for qualified military veterans, which offers brotherhood and an opportunity to establish relationships with other veterans, who have served in defense of the United States of America; Establish and support a strong sense of pride of having served in the active military service of the United States of America; Improve the image of military veterans and bikers to the general public. USMVMC hosts multiple fund-raising events annually to support veterans in their community. Chapter 7 meets the first and third Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m.
Support Organizations (Cont.)

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1089  
Eddie Lynch  
Meeting Location:  
President  
521 Mercury Boulevard  
Tel: (615) 220-1954  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
vvachapter1089@gmail.com  
www.vvachapter1089.org  

The Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans’ organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA’s goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. Chapter 1089 meets the third Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Vietnam Vets/Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club  
F Chapter TN  
Kevin Lewis  
Meeting Location:  
President  
Contact for meeting  
Tel: (714) 251-4794  
Location, date & time  
kalewis00@yahoo.com  
www.vnlvmctn.com  

The VNV/LV MC is an advocacy and activist organization for veterans’ rights and related issues. As activists, they organize awareness events within their community, which help to illuminate the plight of often forgotten veterans. As advocates, they attempt to influence and educate their community, and media, to the unique problems of Vietnam veterans. Contact F Chapter TN for meeting location, date & time.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Post 8422  
Blaine Goins  
10157 Old Nashville Highway  
Post Service Officer  
Smyrna, TN 37167  
Tel: (615) 977-3747  
blainegoins@tds.com  
www.vfw.org  

Their mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and their communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans. They strive to ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. Post 8422 meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.