

# Department Update Veterans Day Acknowledgements

Lt Col Derrick Britton (Ret.), Director





## GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN • 2025

# THANK YOU VETERANS



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ● 11TH NOVEMBER ● VETERANS DAY





## **Veteran Service Officers (VSOs)**

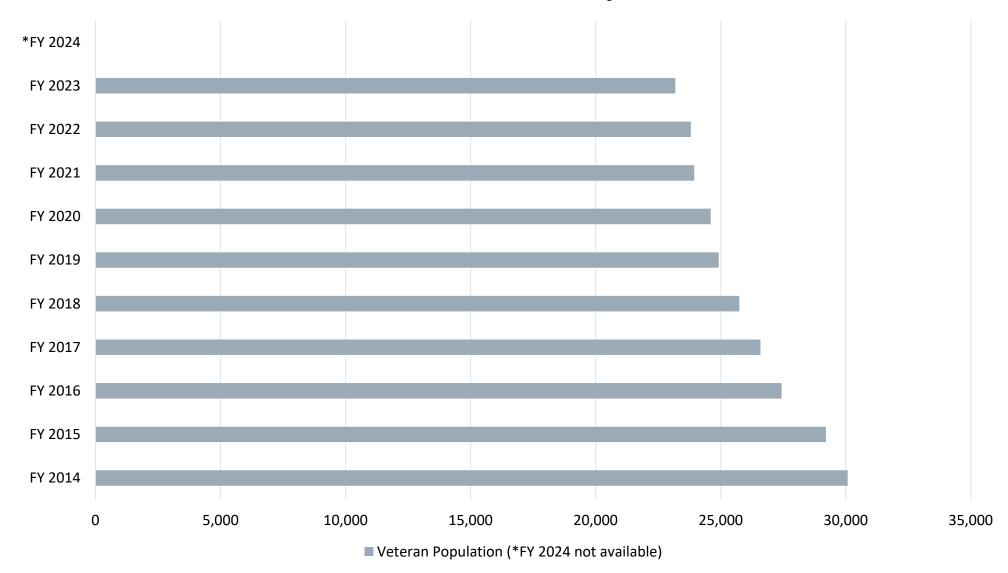
- VSOs VA accredited professionals who help veterans and their families access and apply for military and VA benefits
  - Carrie Wagner, Beth Smith, David Downer, Tristan Shaw, Rhonda Sparling





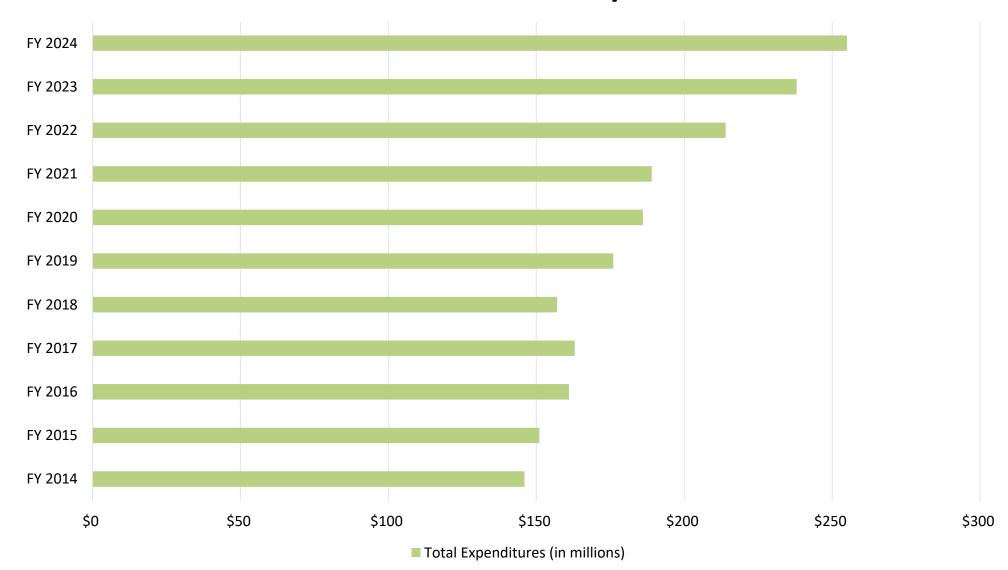


## **Geographic Summary of VA Expenditures (GDX) Genesee County**





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## **Emergent Need Funding for Veterans**

#### **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund**

Provides emergency grants to Michigan veterans and dependent family members to help them weather short-term financial crisis.

#### **Committee Members**

Ted Henry Richard Monroe Fredrick Caruso

#### **Soldiers Relief Fund**

County level emergency assistance for veterans and dependent family members.

#### **Commission Members**

Fredrick Caruso Raymond Jefferson Sherwood Pea Jr.

**FY25:** Over *\$85,000* in approved assistance for veterans in need.

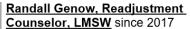




### **Mental Health Services**

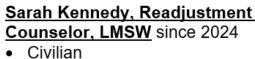
#### **Great Lakes Bay Vet Center**

Community-based VA counseling center that provides a wide range of social/psychological services to Veterans.



- · Army Veteran from 1999 to 2007
- · Deployments to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- · Masters of Social Work Degree
- · Certified Advanced Alcohol Drug Counselor
- · Graduate of VA's Virtual Aspiring Supervisor Program (2025)





- Liscensed Master Social Worker
- 15+ years in Human Services
- 10+ years experience as a therapist with an agency contracting with Saginaw County Community Mental Health





#### James Beall, Readjustment Counselor, LMHC since 2021

- · Served in United States Navy During Vietnam Era, (1972-1978)
- Nuclear Reactor Operator Abroad and Attack Submarine.
- Associates Degree in Humanities
- Bachelors Degree in Business Management
- Masters Degree in Counseling
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Nationally Certified Counselor (NBCC)
- 31 Years Working For General Motors Engineering at the Milford Proving Grounds





## **Transportation Services**

- MTA Partnership
- **FY25** Over **5,000** rides totaling over **\$105,000.00**









## **Genesee County Veteran Organization Relief Program**

- > Veteran Serving Organizations receiving \$10,000 for programming, infrastructure, etc.
  - Gordon Bennett VFW Post 1452, Clio
  - Charles Skellenger American Legion Post 267, Davison
  - Strength in Numbers, Davison
  - Boat4Vets Lake Fenton Chapter
  - Curtis Wolverton VFW Post 3243, Fenton
  - George Washington Carver/Leo Crow VFW Post 8236, Flint
  - Friends of McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park, Flint
  - Veterans of Now, Flint
  - American Legion Post 413 Grand Blanc
  - Hammerberg Memorial VFW Post 3720 Post and Auxiliary, Swartz Creek
  - American Legion Auxiliary Post 294, Swartz Creek

## **Funding for Veteran Serving Organizations**





## **Funding for Unhoused Veterans**

- > Two organizations received\$75,000 for operations:
  - Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties
    - Sacred Heart Veteran Village (Tiny Homes)
  - My Brother's Keeper
    - > Rolling Hills Veterans Facility





### **Veteran Services Staff**

- > Secretaries
  - Wendy Blackmer, Meranda Garza, Marneka Reed
- > Partnerships and Communications Specialist
  - Lauren Thompson







## **Notable Events/Opportunities**

- -Senior Center Health Fairs
- -Commissioners Community Connections
- -Michigan Military and Veterans Gala
- -Veterans Benefits Radio Show
- -Mid Michigan Veterans Coalition Meetings
- -Elder Abuse Alliance
- -EDGE Conference
- -Operation Green Light
- -Firebirds Veterans Appreciation Night
- -Catholic Charities Veterans Appreciation
- -Various Veterans Services Presentations
- -Commission on Aging Resource Fair
- -Cumulus Media Health and Wellness Fair
- -Good Morning Mid Michigan
- -Back to the Bricks

- -Veterans Treatment Court
- -Armed Forces Resource Rally
- -Genesee County Day at Crossroads Village
- -Armed Forces Day at Genesee County Fair
- -Various Chamber Meetings
- -Wreaths Across America
- -Veterans and First Responders Fair
- -Pre Veterans Day Motorcade
- -McFarlan Park Veterans Appreciation
- -UM-Flint Veterans Appreciation
- -Clio Freedom 4 Vets Breakfast
- -Haircuts with Veterans, Davison
- -Pizza with a Vet
- -B95, Z92.7, CK105.5 Radio Advertising
- -CRIM Fitness Partnership



## Challenges

- > County Veteran Service Fund Grant State of Michigan
  - Reduction in grant funding for FY25
  - Originally approved \$275,460; but was recalculated to \$124,427
  - Reduction of \$151,033
  - Maximum we were allowed to apply for in FY26: \$96,720
  - Used for transportation, advertising/marketing

- > Service Organization Veteran Service Officer
  - VFW, American Legion



## **Department Coin**





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