



Agency Presentation/Benefits Briefing

American Legion Leadership College June 2026

Post Service Officer Training

Eric Rohleder

Agenda

- Snapshot - Agency Overview
- Veteran Services Program
 - Field Services
 - Mobile Services
 - Veteran Benefits
 - VCAP/QA
 - SAA/Education
- By the numbers (GDX Report)
- Homes (KVH, KSH, NEKS Home)
- Cemeteries
- State Veteran Benefits (Handout)
- Questions



Snapshot - Kansas Office of Veterans Services

➤ 458 interments in '24
➤ 17% Increase over past 4 FYs

➤ In FY24 \$2.37B to Kansas Veterans/Families (up 10% from FY23)
➤ Claims Increased 16% over past FY



- Veterans Services**
- 23 Veteran Service Reps across state (16 Field Offices)
 - 3 Mobile Vehicles
 - Quality Assurance
 - Veterans Claim Assist. Program (VCAP)
 - State Approving Agency (SAA)

Advise & Assist Veterans and their eligible Family Members

Honor our Veterans & their eligible Family Members

- State Veterans Cemeteries**
- Fort Riley/Manhattan
 - Winfield
 - WaKeeney
 - Fort Dodge



Quality/Professional Health Care

Advocate and Integrate

- Central Office**
- Director
 - Deputy/Veteran Service Director
 - Human Resource Director
 - Chief Fiscal Officer
 - Communications Director
 - Information Technology Director
 - Operations Director
 - Procurement Officer

➤ Census up 14%
➤ Staffing/Retention increased 16%

State Veterans Homes

- Kansas Veterans Home (Winfield)
- Kansas Soldiers Home (Fort Dodge)
- *New NE Kansas Veterans Home (Topeka)*



➤ Oversee New NE Kansas Veterans Home, Outreach Events, and Federal and State Partner Engagement

Veteran Services Division

- KOVS Veteran Service Representatives (VSR) located in:
Fort Dodge, Topeka, Winfield, Manhattan, Salina, Emporia, Atchison, Colby, Hays, Hutchinson, Junction City, Lawrence, Wichita, Overland Park, Kansas City, Independence

- Veteran Services Representatives can help file VA claims for:

- Education Benefits,
- Non-Service-Connected Pension Benefits,
- Service-Connected Disability Compensation Benefits,
- Spouse and Dependent Benefits,
- State VA Benefits, and
- VA Health Care Benefits, etc.



- Assist Veterans and Family members to obtain military documents, etc
 - Post Service Officers – reach out to American Legion or KOVS VSRs
- Remote/Virtual Claims Assistance
- Provide Veterans Claim Assistance Program Grants to American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars at Veterans Service Offices at Federal VA Hospitals in Leavenworth, Wichita, Topeka, and Wichita Regional Office



**ALL Services are
FREE**

Mobile Office Division

- Locations
 - Hays Mobile
 - Wichita Mobile
 - Topeka Mobile
- Attends fairs, festivals, parades, sporting events, and more...please contact KOVS to schedule
- Mobile Internet, accessible, climate-controlled offices
- Same functions as a field office
- Call Mark at 785-480-0958 to schedule



Quality Assurance Division

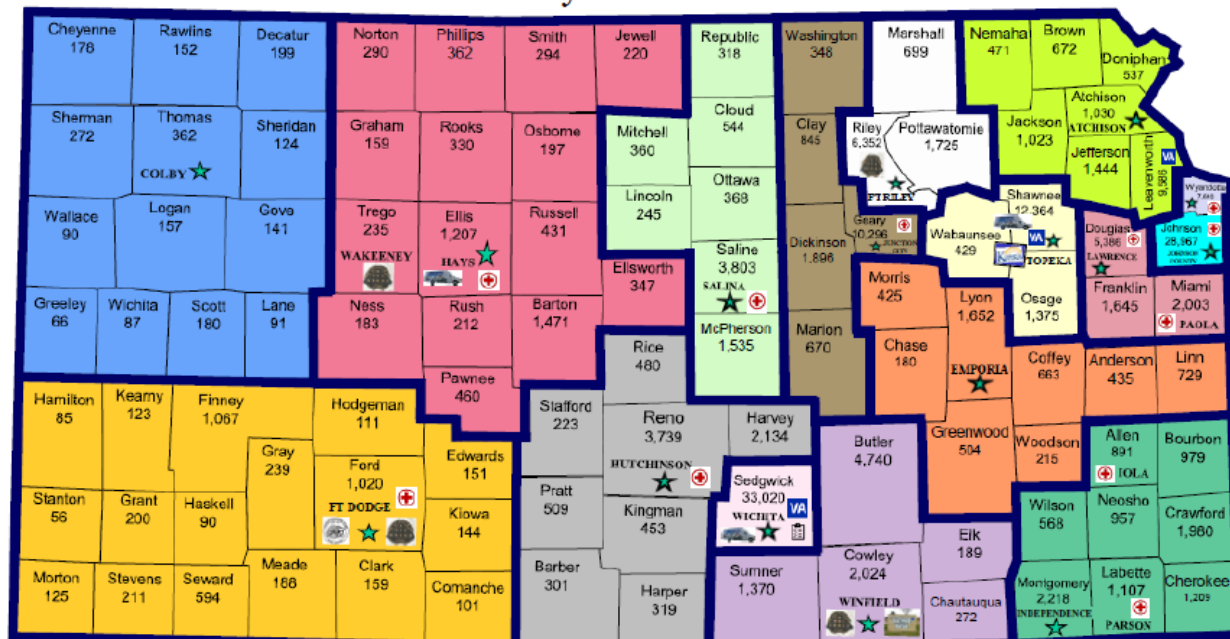
- Located in the Wichita Regional Office
- One Supervisor, two QA specialists, one Admin
- Reviews all claim submissions for correctness, content, and missing information

Areas of Responsibility

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Statistics as of 2023

Kansas Office of Veterans Services Facility Locations



CBOCS
 Kansas
 KOVS Central Office
 KOVS Veterans' Cemeteries
 Kansas Soldiers Home
 Kansas Veterans Home
 Quality Assurance Training Office
 Field Office
 KOVS Mobile Office
 VA
 Dept of Veterans Affairs VAMC/VARD VCAP Partners

What is a State Approving Agency?

- Program Approvals at IHL, NCD, OJT/APP, and Flight Schools
- Manage existing programs
 - Catalogue Reviews
 - Program Changes
- Risk Based Surveys
- Respond to complaints and inquiries
- Active Facilities in Kansas (FY26)- 138



Veteran Education Programs

- Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill®
- Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Chapter 33 – Post 9/11 Gi Bill®
- Chapter 35 – Survivor’s and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program
- Chapter 1606 – Montgomery GI Bill® - Selected Reserve

To qualify an OJT/APP training program must meet the following criteria:

- Veteran/Eligible Dependent must be
 - recently hired (SAA is not a placement agency)
 - full-time paid employee that is not paid on commission
 - supervised at least 50% of the time
- Job training must
 - OJT - require at least six months training to become fully trained
 - Apprenticeship – 2000hrs of training and 144hrs of classroom training (Registered and unregistered)
 - be an entry-level position (management training programs do not qualify)
 - be documented and reported
- Veteran cannot have previous experience in field
 - Training time may be reduced for previous training credit
- Contact SAA

Kansas Veterans Benefits in By the Numbers (GDX):

Total US Department of Veterans Affairs Dollars Spent in Kansas FFY24...

Compensation and Pension = \$1,273,114,000

Health Care = \$1,204,868,000

Education = \$ \$100,087,000

Construction/Operating Expenses/Life Insurance/Other = \$23,628,000

For a grand total of...

\$2,601,697,000

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME



WINFIELD

Superintendent

Andrea Jones

Ext. 56201

andrea.l.jones@ks.gov

Shanell Isom

Clinical Director

Ext. 56250

shanell.isom@ks.gov

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Our Mission

The Kansas Veterans' Home provides best quality healthcare services to Veterans, their eligible dependents and gold star parents while honoring their choices and respecting their rights. A place of respect and honor for our residents.



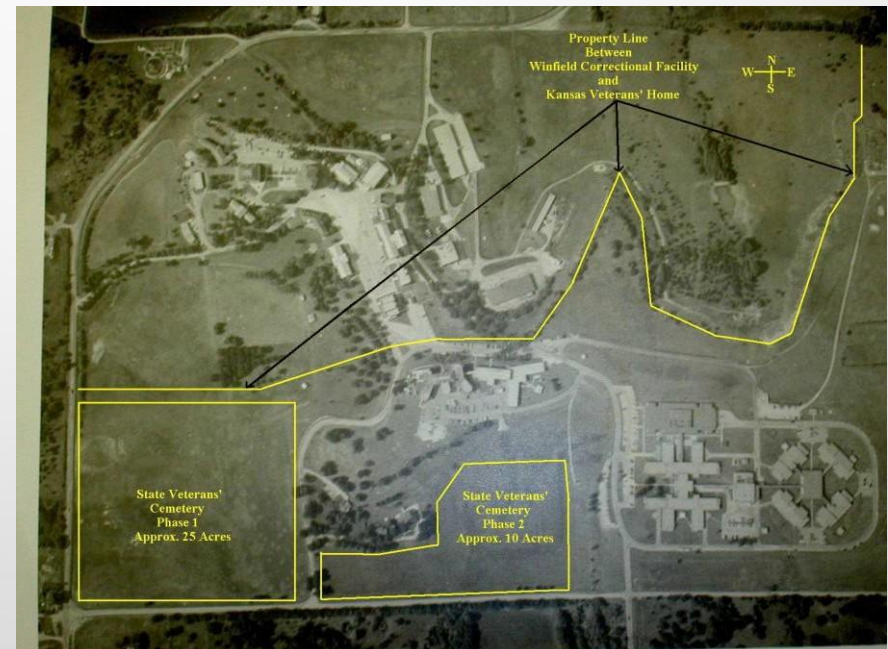
KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

- History
 - ❖ KSA 76-1951 - established the Kansas Veterans' Home
 - ❖ Completely renovated between 1998 - 2000
 - ❖ Kansas Veterans' Home opened in May 2000
 - ❖ New Maintenance Shop in 2021

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Overview of the Facility

- ❖ 148.64 acres
- ❖ Five total buildings
- ❖ 249,287 square feet
- ❖ Three cottages
- ❖ Licensed 145 bed facility
- ❖ 130 Filled FTE



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Timmerman Building



Welcome Center

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Timmerman Building



Activities
Room



Canteen



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Bleckley Hall



Entrance and Garden

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME



Resident Room

Nurses Station



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Bleckley Hall



Residents Common Area

Dining Room



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Donlon Hall



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Donlon Hall



Activity Room

Dining Room



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Eligibility

K.S.A. 76-1954- Persons who served in the active military service of the United States...entitled to veterans administration hospitalization or domiciliary care under title 38, United States code...and who has been discharged or relieved therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable, who may be disabled by disease, wounds, old age or otherwise disabled, and who, by reasons of such disability, is incapacitated from earning a living.

On a space available basis, the KVH may provide care to eligible spouses, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Parents.

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Priority for Admission - KAR 97-1-5a

1. Veterans who have no adequate means of support
2. Eligible dependents who have no adequate means of support
3. Veterans who have a means of support
4. Eligible dependents who have a means of support



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Regulatory

- ❖ Kansas Statutes
- ❖ Kansas Administrative Regulations (KARs)
- ❖ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Regulations
- ❖ State Fire Marshal
- ❖ VA Federal Regulations
- ❖ Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)
- ❖ Additional Regulatory Agencies
 - CDC
 - KDHE
 - Local Health Department
 - Governor's Executive Orders

WHO DO WE SERVE



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Levels of Care

- ❖ Domiciliary – Assisted Living
- ❖ Long-Term Care
- ❖ Special Care for Alzheimer's and Dementia
- ❖ Hospice Services (Outside Provider)
- ❖ Home Health (Outside Provider – Domiciliary Only)



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Services Offered

- ❖ Private and Semi-Private Rooms
- ❖ Nursing
- ❖ Dietary Services
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Activities
- ❖ Restorative Care
- ❖ Physical Therapy
- ❖ Psychological Services
- ❖ Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Laundry
- ❖ Library/Video Room
- ❖ Recreation Center and Fitness Room



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Resident Activities

- ❖ Fishing Trips
- ❖ Going to the Races
- ❖ Baseball Games WSU / Wingnuts
- ❖ College and High School Football Games
- ❖ Movie Night
- ❖ Weekly Bingo
- ❖ Out to Eat
- ❖ Halloween Carnival
- ❖ Christmas Party
- ❖ Easter Egg Hunt
- ❖ Birthday Parties
- ❖ March Madness
- ❖ Air Show
- ❖ Car and Tractor Show
- ❖ Museums
- ❖ Various Entertainers



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Resident Rates

	Assisted Living/Domiciliary Care	Long-Term Care	Special Care Unit
Veterans	\$1,658	\$3,394	\$3,820
Eligible Dependents	\$2,858	\$5,604	\$7,295

The VA pays the full cost of care for veterans in long-term care with a service-connected disability rating of 70% and above or if the disability is related to veterans needing nursing home care.

KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

Admissions Process

- ❖ Pre-admission Packet
- ❖ Business Office Review
- ❖ Nursing Review
- ❖ Admission Team Review
- ❖ Approval / Denial Form
- ❖ Family Notified



KANSAS VETERANS' HOME

What we need:

- ❖ Proof of service/eligibility
- ❖ Application
- ❖ Insurance documents
- ❖ Medical records
- ❖ Financial documents
- ❖ DPOA /POA if applicable
- ❖ CARE Assessment (for LTC)
- ❖ Admission Packet

Kansas Veterans' Home

A Place Where Honor Lives

Dedicated to the Service of Veterans

Admissions Coordinator

Tracy Bruce (620) 221-9479

Ext. 56262

Tracy.bruce@ks.gov

Social Services Supervisor

Sonya Greenstreet (620) 221-9479

Ext. 56375

Sonya.greenstreet@ks.gov



Kansas Soldiers' Home

Fort Dodge Kansas

Our Mission

“To provide quality health care facilities for veterans and their dependents based on the values of choice, respect and self-determination.”



History

Initially Fort Dodge

First garrisoned in April 1865

Decommissioned in 1882

Given to the state of Kansas in 1889

Soldiers' Home established in 1890

First admissions in February that year



Aerial Footage of Ft. Dodge Campus >>

Provided by Ryker Travis, Grandson of Resident

Overview of the Facility

752 Acres

95 total buildings

2 water wells and wastewater treatment

60 Cottages

117 Full time staff

3 Domiciliary buildings

Total Dom Beds- 186

56 bed nursing home

Including 26 bed Alzheimer's and Dementia Unit



Evening Aerial Footage of Ft. Dodge Campus >>

Provided by Ryker Travis, Grandson of Resident

Priority for admission

1. Veterans who have no adequate means of support
2. Eligible dependents who have no adequate means of support
3. Veterans who have a means of support
4. Eligible dependents who have a means of support



Housing Options



Halsey Hall (LTC)



Lincoln Hall (Domiciliary)

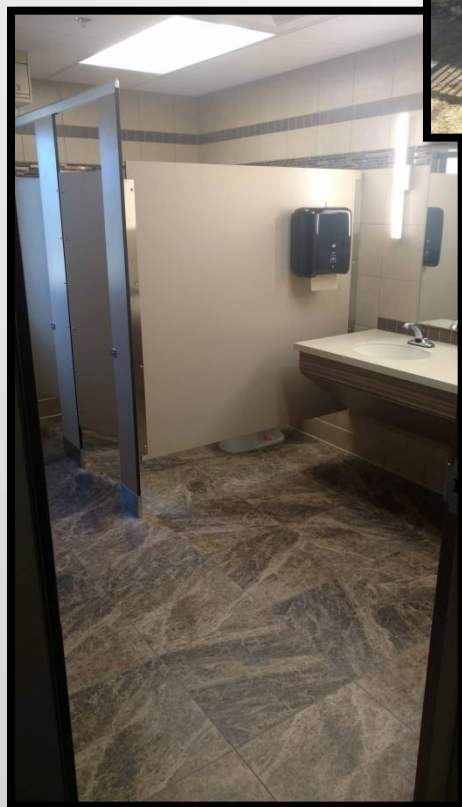


Cottages (Considered Domiciliary)

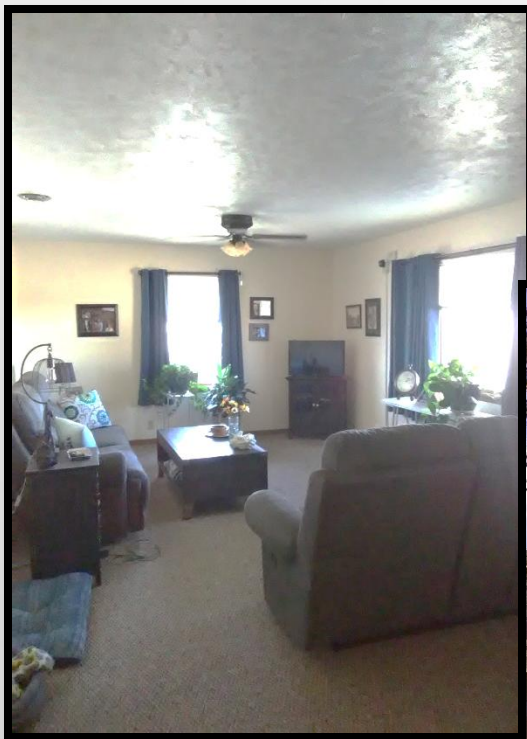
Halsey Hall



Lincoln Hall



Cottages



Rates for Stay

Cottage

Veterans

\$773.71

Eligible Dependents

+ \$386.87*

Domiciliary

Veterans

\$1,225.05

Eligible
Dependents

\$2,249.45

Long Term Care

Veterans

\$2,992.71

Eligible
Dependents

\$5,640.22

***Veterans rated at 70% S/C reside in the Long-Term Care Facility for free regardless of the disability**

***Veterans who need Long Term Care because of a S/C Disability at 10% or higher also reside in the LTC facility for free**

**Eligible Dependent rate only applies if Veteran and Spouse reside in the same household*

Resident Activities

Activities include, but are not limited to:

United Wireless Arena events

Concerts, Arena Football Games, Special Events

“Out to Eat”- Restaurants of the residents choosing

Weekly Socials

Movie Nights

Holiday celebrations

Sporting Events/Parties

Hog roasts/ Hamburger Feeds

Many, many others

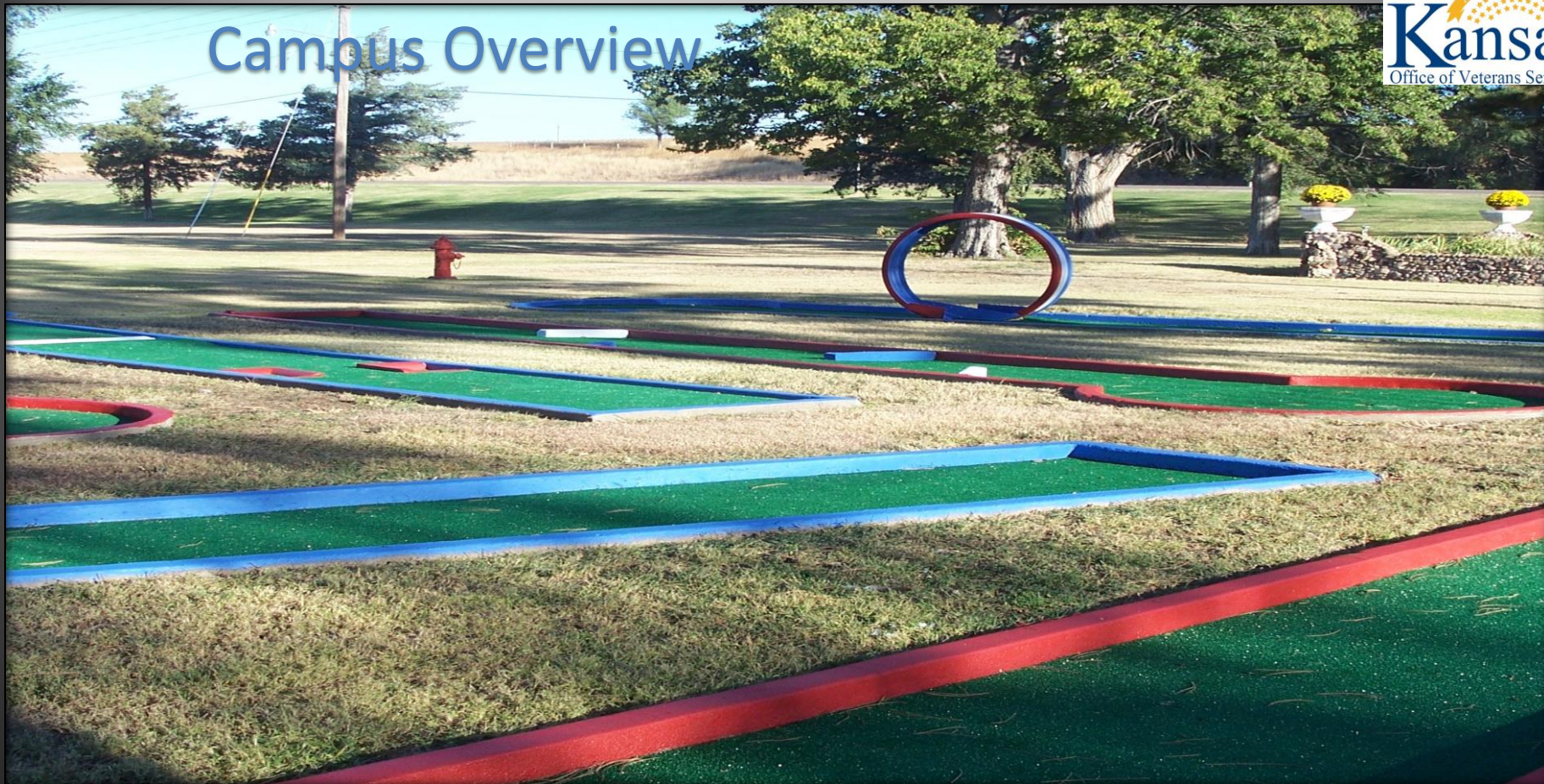




Benefit Ride & Hamburger Feed



Campus Overview



Mini Golf >>>



Theatre >>>
(located between Lincoln & Grant Hall)



“Freedom Pond” >>
Stocked with bass and catfish twice a year



Fitness Center >>

Admissions

What we need:

Proof of service/eligibility

Application

Insurance documents

Medical Records

Financial documents

POA if applicable

CARE Assessment

Admissions

KSH Main Phone– (620) 227–2121

Janet Kado– (620) 682–7560

Janet.kado@ks.gov



NE Kansas Veterans Home



- July '22, KOVS submitted a grant application for the a 72-bed facility located in Topeka, Kansas.
- Estimated project cost is \$49,025,000, with Federal VA providing 65% or \$31,866,250 and Kansas contributing 35%, or \$17,200,000. KOVS has the state's portion of funding.

THE STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY PROGRAM

Heidi Goff, Director



“No one is ever buried alone,
All are buried with honor”

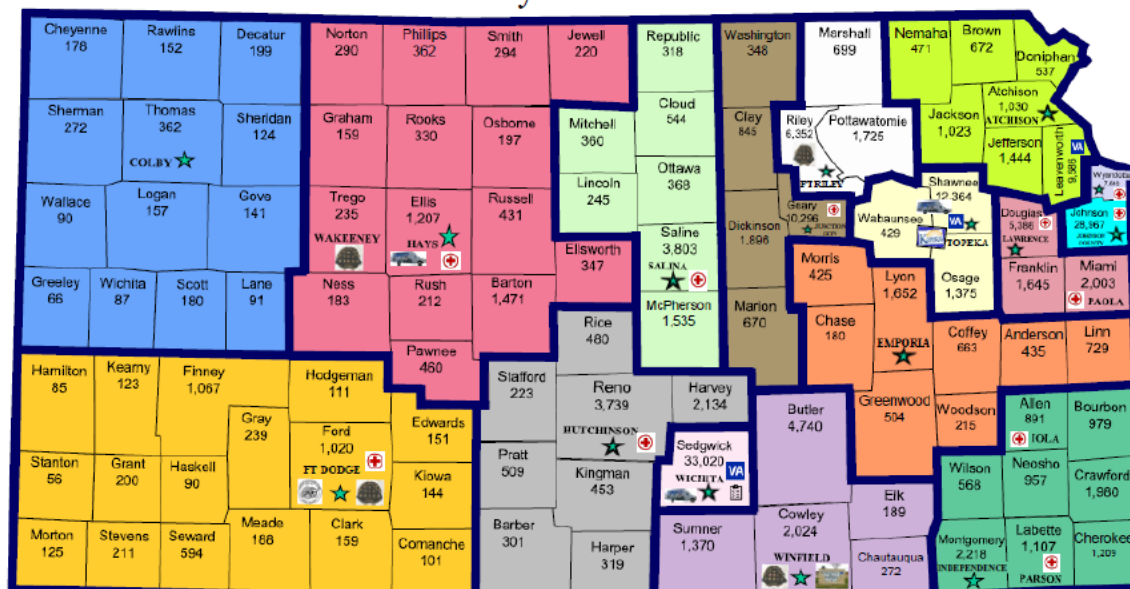
Cemetery Locations

- Fort Dodge, Lori Snyder (620) 682-7564
- Fort Riley, Bryan Nelson (785) 717-3050
- Wakeeney, Charlene Lix (785) 743-5685
- Winfield, Matt Stein (620) 705-6300

KANSAS OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Statistics as of 2023

Kansas Office of Veterans Services Facility Locations



ELIGIBILITY

- Criteria for burial in state veterans' cemeteries are the same as those for burial in national cemeteries.
- Veterans are eligible for interment if they meet the following requirements for military service.
- In most cases, spouse and dependent children of eligible veterans may be interred at a state veteran cemetery.

Eligibility Continued

- An eligible veteran must have been discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and have completed the required period of service.
- Any wartime or peacetime veteran who entered as an enlisted person before September 7, 1980, or as an officer before October 17, 1981.
- A person whose first tour of duty began on or after the previously mentioned dates may be eligible if he or she completed a continuous period of 24 months or the full period for which called to active duty, whichever is shorter.
- Person entitled to retired pay because of 20 years creditable service with the National Guard or Reserves are also eligible for burial.
- Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who died on active duty.

Pre-Certification

- Pre- certification may be done by mail or by visiting one of our state veterans' cemeteries or any state veterans' service office.
- The veteran and spouse will need to fill out a KCVA Form 200 and supply the necessary documentation to verify eligibility.
- While it does not guarantee a gravesite, it can help avoid confusion and possible delays at the time of need.

Documents Required

- Documentation
 - Certified copy of discharge or DD 214
 - Marriage certificate
 - Certified copy of Death certificate
 - Birth certificates or adoption papers for children



Preplan if Possible

- Establishing eligibility for burial in a State Veterans' Cemetery is the responsibility of the veteran, his survivors, or legal representative.
- The cemetery staff will offer assistance, if needed in verifying eligibility at the time of need.
- The verification process may take up to three business days if the family does not have necessary documentation. Sometimes longer if locating documentation is difficult.

Types of Interments



4 types:

- Traditional Casket
- Inground Cremation
- Columbarium Wall
- Scattering Garden



State Veterans Benefits

Hunting and Fishing License

State Park Permits

Operation Recognition

Military Distinctive License Plates

Veteran Designation on Drivers License

Homestead Act Refund

Vietnam Medallion

Education Assistance (Hero Scholarship)

Military Retired Pay is Tax Free

100% S/C Veterans Receive additional personal exemption

Sales tax exemption

Contact Information

Eric Rohleder

Deputy Director

Eric.Rohleder@ks.gov

(785) 338-1632

Questions



For more information visit our website at

www.kovs.ks.gov

Or call us at

785-296-3976

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Follow us on LinkedIn