

Annual Report of the Veterans Services

July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and the Citizens of Wareham

The following report is of the activities of the Department of Veterans' Services for the Town of Wareham for the period July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

The Department of Veterans Services has continued to experience growth in volume due to returning Iraq/Afghanistan veterans, the difficult economic climate, Covid and the aging of our WWII, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf War veterans. Our duties are categorized in two basic areas: State/Town Benefits and Federal Benefits.

Chapter 115: This program is authorized under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115 for veterans who are honorably discharged, who establish need and worthiness and are residents of the Town of Wareham. During the year, the Town of Wareham, through our office, provided local aid to qualified veterans totaling \$355,429.47 for housing, food, heat, medical and other related costs. The amount expended is reimbursed to the Town by the Commonwealth at a rate of 75% of total expenditures.

Federal Benefits: Our office assists veterans in obtaining Federal benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. These services include payments for service-connected disabilities, pensions, education benefits, medical benefits, burial benefits and assistance with medals and military records. During the year this office assisted veterans and their dependents in obtaining \$14,191,972.60 in tax free cash payments for compensation and VA pensions, which is a substantial increase over past years. This tax-free income greatly reduces the need for Chapter 115 benefits.

We extend our thanks to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, Town Accountant, town veterans' organizations and the many town employees for their outstanding support throughout the year. We are especially grateful for the work of the town personnel who ensured our Chapter 115 payments to Wareham Veterans and dependents most in need continued efficiently throughout COVID.

Contact Information: We are happy to report we have a new web site where veterans and dependents can start claims, use the Chapter 115 calculator, and complete an intake sheet for our services at www.capevets.org.

We encourage all veterans and their dependents to utilize our services. Our office hours in the Wareham Town Hall (Multi-Service Building) are Tuesdays from 8:30- 4:00 PM and any other day of the week by appointment in any of our offices. Our phone number is 508-778-8740.

In Service to Veterans,
Greg Quilty,
Director/Veterans' Agent
Town of Wareham

Guy Gottschalk
Veterans Agent
Town of Wareham