

*MAY 22, 2019*

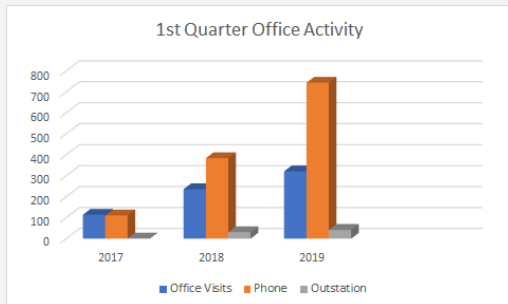
# MONTHLY REPORT



*PREPARED BY*  
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Superintendent

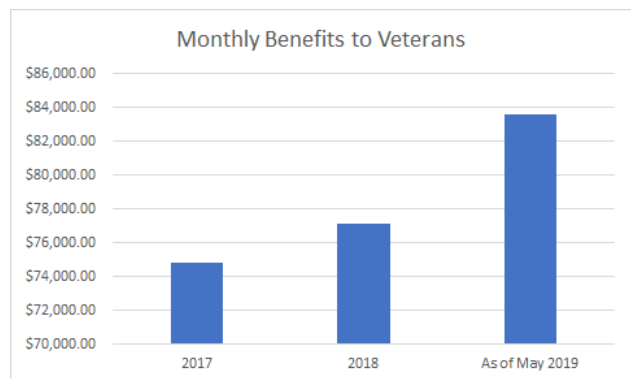
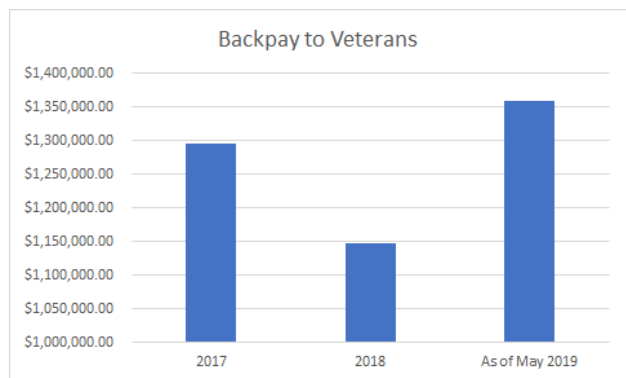


# THE NUMBERS



## CURRENT STANDING

This year we are continuing to strive to serve more veterans in meaningful and impactful ways. Compared to last year our interactions with veterans in the community continue to increase. This is much to that the support from the community and our veterans service organizations in helping us get the word out about the services we can provide.



As the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to process the claims faster the backpay to our veterans may be smaller, but if you look at the monthly benefits they keep going up year after year.



# MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



We were recently at the TBM Reunion at the Illinois Valley Regional Airport in Peru, IL and had a great time despite the rain late Saturday afternoon. There were hundreds of veterans with their families in attendance and we had the opportunity to talk with many of them.

April Claims Summary					
Total Percentage	Month Submitted	Through	2019 Amount	Monthly amount	Location
70%	3/13/2019	12/2019	\$ 8,422.26	\$ 1,403.71	NE
		Totals:	\$ 8,422.26	\$ 1,403.71	
		Year to Date Total	\$ 1,474,373.80	\$ 91,817.78	
Office Activity April					
Office Visits	82		VA Compensation	32	
Phone	115		VA Healthcare	10	
Outstation	13		VA Pension	5	
LaSalle	7		Other	163	
Streator	3		Property Taxes	6	
Sandwich	3				



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## Federal

The Supreme Court on January 29th, 2019 ruled that "VA officials for years has used faulty reasoning to deny disability benefits to veterans who served in ships off the waters of Vietnam. This Procopio v. Wilkie decision is the first time the Blue water Navy veterans seem to be getting a break in the possible granting of presumptive Agent Orange Exposure. There have been many studies that have proven the flight patterns of airplanes likely directly sprayed the ships in harbors. The filters on ships also likely didn't filter out the Agent Orange chemicals from the water the service members drank and washed their food with.

**HR Bill 299 has passed the House of Representatives unanimously on 5/14/2019 and is at the Senate for approval.**

## State

**HB 0034 - To add Surviving Spouses to the property tax claims if the veteran didn't file before they passes. Currently in Rules Committee**

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section concerning the homestead exemption for veterans with disabilities, provides that: (1) for taxable years prior to 2015, "surviving spouse" means the surviving spouse of a veteran who obtained the exemption prior to his or her death; (2) for taxable years 2015 through 2018, "surviving spouse" means (A) the surviving spouse of a veteran who obtained the exemption prior to his or her death and (B) the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year; and (3) for taxable year 2019 and thereafter, "surviving spouse" means (A) the surviving spouse of a veteran who qualified for the exemption prior to his or her death, (B) the surviving spouse of a veteran who was killed in the line of duty in the current taxable year or any preceding taxable year, (C) the surviving spouse of a veteran who did not obtain the exemption before death, but who would have qualified for the exemption if he or she had survived, and (D) the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was determined to be service-connected who is a current recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Effective immediately.