

THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY INC.



REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

As the philanthropic arm of the church, community outreach continues to be a major component of the Philoptochos mission. In our quest to demonstrate our appreciation to the men and women serving our country, Philoptochos adopted a new and on-going project in support of our veterans via partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA). The project is called “**Veterans Assistance**” and involves a broad range of initiatives described below.

As an expression of our gratitude toward our men and women in uniform, every Metropolis is requested to adopt one or more initiative(s) from those listed below and engage their respective chapters to participate. By taking on one or more of these initiatives, it is also an opportunity to partner with our parish community as well as the youth.

Our brave service men and women have made great sacrifices to serve our country and to protect all of us. It is important to show them that we appreciate their sacrifice, that we care and are eager to assist them as they return to civilian life and a new chapter in their lives.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity

To facilitate the process see the last page of the document which contains VA website/contact information.

INITIATIVES

- 1. Adopt a VA Medical Center and/or Outpatient Clinic**
- 2. Contact the local Veterans Benefits Office(s) regarding Veterans needs**
- 3. Fisher House Foundation (www.fisherhouse.org)** – Fisher House Foundation is best known for its network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA Medical Centers, which enable family members to be close to their loved ones during hospitalization for combat injury, illness or disease. *Philoptochos volunteers can prepare meals, provide snacks, donate house cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, and gift cards. Chapters can also host a party for these families during the holiday season.*
- 4. Provide funeral support for homeless veterans**
- 5. Prepare Housewarming Baskets for homeless veterans** (*a Metropolis of Boston on-going initiative. Boston can assist any Metropolis/Chapter that wishes to adopt this program*)
- 6. Develop a system/process to identify veterans within a respective parish and designate a date to honor them i.e. Veterans Day; Independence Day; etc.**
- 7. Wreaths Across America: (www.wreathsacrossamerica.org)** is a national network of volunteers that provides memorial wreaths during the christmas season to over 1400 cemeteries across the country. A wreath-laying ceremony is held annually on the third Saturday in December. This program remembers our fallen US Veterans, honors those who serve and teaches our children the value of freedom.
- 8. Develop a visitation program to sponsor a social hour for veterans living in a VA Nursing Home** (*typically located withing a VA Medical Center*). **To include the Spinal Cord Injury population.**
- 9. Host Homeless Veterans housed at a VA facility to a parish food festival.** (*These veterans are brought by the VA and are supervised by the VA during their visit.*)
- 10. USO Service Organization (USO) (www.uso.org)** – The USO mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation-type services to uniformed military personnel. Thousands of USO volunteers do everything possible to provide a home away from home for our troops and to keep them connected to their families. *One way chapters can do so is through the USO Operation Phone Home prepaid phone cards. To help this worthy program, donations can be made through their website.*

VA CONTACT INFORMATION

VA's mission is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

VA Network: <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=1&isFlash=0>

VA Volunteer Info: <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/>

Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN):

VISN 1: VA New England Healthcare System

VISN 2: New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network

VISN 4: VA Healthcare - VISN 4

VISN 5: VA Capitol Health Care Network

VISN 6: VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network

VISN 7: VA Southeast Network

VISN 8: VA Sunshine Healthcare Network

VISN 9: VA MidSouth Healthcare Network

VISN 10: VA Healthcare System

VISN 12: VA Great Lakes Health Care System

VISN 15: VA Heartland Network

VISN 16: South Central VA Health Care Network

VISN 17: VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network

VISN 19: Rocky Mountain Network

VISN 20: Northwest Network

VISN 21: Sierra Pacific Network

VISN 22: Desert Pacific Healthcare Network

VISN 23: VA Midwest Health Care Network