

Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Virginia Military Spouse Liaison

Aug/Sept 2023

Welcome to Virginia

Settle in and build community!



For families who have recently moved to the Commonwealth on orders or transitioning families who made the decision to make this great state your permanent home, the Virginia Military Spouse Liaison team welcomes you.

A sense of belonging is important for everyone, but it's especially crucial for military and Veteran-connected families who often face the uncertainty of moving and relocating to a new place.

As military spouses, we know firsthand the extraordinary grit and resilience required for military families to manage either the PCS process or transitioning out of the service. It takes great courage and strength to

integrate into a new community. From house hunting to finding schools, and hunting for a military spouse-friendly job, there's a *lot* to take in!

Do not hesitate to contact us at milspouse@dvs.virginia.gov. **We are here to support you.**

Make sure to scroll to our newsletter's *Upcoming Events* section to find employment and community belonging focused events!

August is Hidden Heroes Month



Hidden Heroes are often unseen members of our community - family, friends, neighbors, co-workers - who accomplish extraordinary tasks with little to no public commendation.

Every August, we celebrate and recognize the military caregiver Hidden Heroes in our community.

There are over 5.5 million caregivers in the United States. The exact number is unknown because many do not identify as caregivers. They see the services they provide to their veteran as an act of love or extension of their veteran's service.

Every caregiver's situation is unique, but it's a challenging role. The Virginia Military Spouse Liaison Team thanks our caregivers and pledges to continue to advocate and stand with our Virginia Hidden Heroes.

Governor Youngkin has signed a proclamation for Hidden Heroes Month to honor all Hidden Heroes in Virginia. Click the buttons below

to read the full Proclamation and caregiver resources offered by Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes.

[Read the Proclamation](#)

[Virginia Veteran and Family Support Website](#)

[Hidden Heroes Website](#)

Mark Your Calendar!



In recognition of August being *Hidden Heroes Month*, **Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS)** will host a resource table in the Veranda area of the Churchland Branch Library to provide information on programs and services as it relates to veteran and/or caregiving needs.

August 9, 2023

10 am to 4 pm

Churchland Branch Library

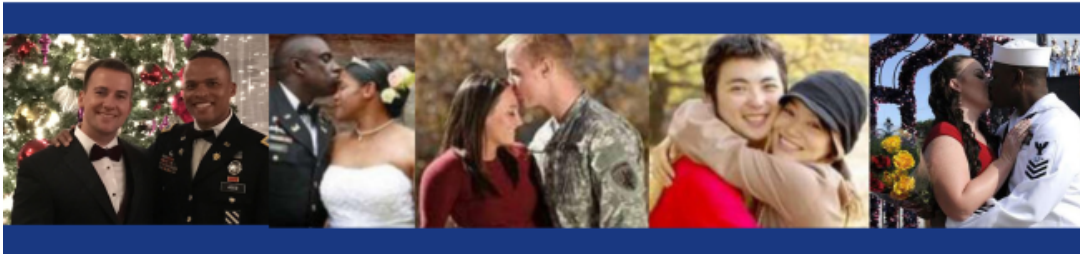
4934 High St.

Portsmouth, VA



MISSION:

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



A relationship enrichment workshop for committed couples who may be experiencing relational stressors to include Military Operational Stress perhaps from deployments, the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

*(There is no cost to participate in this workshop
Hotel Room and Meals are provided.)*

Presented by Virginia Veteran and Family Support
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

DATE: September 8-10, 2023
Starts Friday at 6:30 pm
Ends Sunday by 12:00 pm
Check in is Friday 4:00 - 6:00 pm

LOCATION:
The Virginia Crossings Hotel
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy
Glen Allen, VA 23059

REGISTRATION: To register, email Erika Lawhorn at erika.lawhorn@dvs.virginia.gov or call (804)389-3623.

NOTE: The workshop will have space available for 15 couples.

Upcoming Events

EMPLOYMENT



Hire Vets / Milspouses Now Networking Events

August 17 - Naval Station Norfolk
September 14 - Ft. Gregg-Adams
September 19 - Ft. Belvoir
September 21 - Ft. Eustis
September 28 - Naval Air Station Oceana



[HVN Registration](#)



Hiring Our Heroes - Amplify Hampton Roads

Register today to attend a free two-day career event for military spouses taking place in Virginia Beach on September 20-21 at The HIVE. Attendees will receive career preparation, professional development and networking opportunities.

[Amplify Registration](#)

COMMUNITY BELONGING



Blue Star Families Welcome Week is coming up!

Check back with this [link](#) in September to find events happening near you as events are currently being finalized!



Have your heard of Twelve Million Plus?

Twelve Million Plus is the first and only verified community, exclusively for military spouses. Spouses are verified through ID.me, so if you're also a veteran, you will need to make a separate military spouse account.

All demographics of military, veteran, and surviving spouses are welcome to participate.

[Click here to visit the site](#) and make sure to join the Virginia group to see events and resources!



Calling all Virginia Veteran Spouses! The Virginia Veteran & Family Support Program offers a Veteran Spousal Support Group. Led by Veteran family members, the group offers support, motivate, and self-advocate for one another and share post-military and transition experiences among all Veteran spouses including Reserve and National Guard spouses.

The Group meets virtually the third Thursday of each month from 6-7:30pm.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Priscilla Clark at Priscilla.Clark@dvs.virginia.gov or Jennifer Sztalkoper at Jennifer.Sztalkoper@dvs.virginia.gov.



SCAN ME

CONTACT VDVS!

Have questions for VDVS? Scan the QR Code or click the button below to be sent to our Service Request and we will reach out!

[Visit the VDVS Website](#)

Contact the Military Spouse Liaison

[Send us an Email](#)

[Visit our Milspouse Website](#)

