



Department of Veteran Services
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Christopher Demars, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Stacey Geneczko, Deputy Director
Brian Brooks, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
- Gill*
- Greenfield*
- Hawley*
- Heath*
- Leverett*
- Leyden*
- Monroe*
- Montague*
- New Salem*
- Northfield*
- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

Meeting Notice

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District
294 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Thursday April 13, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes for October 2022
3. Old Business
 - Tim Retired
 - PACT ACT Claims Success
 - FY24 Budget Assessments sent to towns of District Updated changes
4. New Business
 - Stacey Geneczko confirmed as new Deputy Director
 - Wendell outreach for eastern part of district
 - Medal of Fidelity. Applications and Ceremonies
 - Set next meeting date / time (Oct/Nov 2023) and location
5. Executive Session, if desired

***Please note that the list of topics in this notice was comprehensive at the time of posting, however the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.**

F Drive: UPPVSD/District Mtg & Notices



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May 12 2021 UPVSD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
- Bernardston*
- Buckland*
- Charlemont*
- Colrain*
- Conway*
- Deerfield*
- Erving*
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- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

- Meeting called to order at 1800 by Chairman Denis Brennan 9 members reported to fill quorum
- Towns Present: Ashfield, Bernardston, Colrain, Conway, Gill, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Northfield, and Shutesbury
- Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves because there were new members present. Joshua Anderson introduced himself as the new Deputy Director.
- Approval of prior meeting Minutes:** (April 2022) motion by Shutesbury, seconded by Bernardston, vote passed unanimously.
- New Business:** Chris Demars is confirmed as new Director
- Chris Demars, and Timothy Niejadlik described VA PACT Act, and MA SPEED Act. Questions were answered about MA SPEED Act by Tim Niejadlik, and Chris Demars and Joshua Anderson discussed new presumptive for Agent Orange claims and to have Vietnam Veterans that were denied for these new presumptive come in to re-file their claim. Denis Brennan explained the Massachusetts National Guard Family Education Program, and how education benefits could be transferred to dependants due to the passing of the MA SPEED Act.
- FY22 Report and calendar year 2022 was reviewed and discussed by Chris Demars
- FY24 Budget presentation/discussion was completed by Chris Demars. Leverett asks for clarification of surplus in the annual budget, and Tim Niejadlik explained why that exists. FY24 budget is approved
- Motion by Colrain to approve new business, Heath seconded, vote passes unanimously
- Old business** Chris Demars presented election of Officers for new term, no changes are made to current officials. Motion to accept by Gill, seconded by Colrain, vote passed unanimously.
- Next meeting date set for Apr 13, 2023 at 6pm UPVSD offices
- Motion to adjourn by Northfield at 1825, seconded by Gill, meeting adjourned

District Assessments FY 24

FY24 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District budget less Greenfield portion (56%)

		Greenfield	District	Total		Retiree Ins.	Total District	Grand Total	District Credit	Final Assessment
		\$161,808.64	\$127,135.36	\$288,944		\$6,748	\$127,135.36	\$133,883.36	\$ 2,932.66	\$130,950.70
	EQV 2022	50%	Population	50%	Total %					
Ashfield	293,407,600	1.8%	1,695	1.8%	3.6%	\$ 259.81	\$ 4,604.65	\$4,864.46	\$ 106.22	\$4,758.25
Bernardston	289,619,100	1.8%	2,102	2.3%	4.0%	\$ 288.49	\$ 5,133.72	\$5,422.21	\$ 118.42	\$5,303.79
Buckland	270,428,900	1.7%	1,816	2.0%	3.6%	\$ 258.42	\$ 4,592.23	\$4,850.64	\$ 105.93	\$4,744.71
Charlemont	155,406,800	0.9%	1,185	1.3%	2.2%	\$ 159.07	\$ 2,833.04	\$2,992.11	\$ 65.35	\$2,926.76
Colrain	203,121,700	1.2%	1,606	1.7%	3.0%	\$ 212.18	\$ 3,781.32	\$3,993.50	\$ 87.22	\$3,906.27
Conway	298,724,500	1.8%	1,761	1.9%	3.7%	\$ 267.15	\$ 4,736.51	\$5,003.67	\$ 109.26	\$4,894.41
Deerfield	869,370,900	5.3%	5,090	5.5%	10.8%	\$ 774.88	\$ 13,736.54	\$14,511.41	\$ 316.86	\$14,194.55
Erving	969,923,800	5.9%	1,665	1.8%	7.7%	\$ 564.68	\$ 9,817.66	\$10,382.34	\$ 226.47	\$10,155.87
Gill	183,855,300	1.1%	1,551	1.7%	2.8%	\$ 199.32	\$ 3,556.21	\$3,755.54	\$ 82.03	\$3,673.50
Hawley	52,571,500	0.3%	353	0.4%	0.7%	\$ 50.23	\$ 892.69	\$942.92	\$ 20.59	\$922.33
Heath	105,196,700	0.6%	723	0.8%	1.4%	\$ 101.76	\$ 1,809.12	\$1,910.88	\$ 41.73	\$1,869.15
Leverett	338,579,700	2.1%	1,865	2.0%	4.1%	\$ 293.02	\$ 5,188.76	\$5,481.77	\$ 119.69	\$5,362.08
Leyden	104,479,300	0.6%	734	0.8%	1.4%	\$ -	\$ 1,818.64	\$1,818.64	\$ 41.95	\$1,776.69
Monroe	31,522,700	0.2%	118	0.1%	0.3%	\$ 23.12	\$ 406.74	\$429.87	\$ 9.38	\$420.48
Montague	1,034,121,100	6.3%	8,580	9.3%	15.6%	\$ 1,110.37	\$ 19,805.09	\$20,915.46	\$ 456.85	\$20,458.61
New Salem	134,880,400	0.8%	983	1.1%	1.9%	\$ 134.66	\$ 2,396.43	\$2,531.09	\$ 55.28	\$2,475.81
Northfield	612,926,000	3.7%	2,866	3.1%	6.8%	\$ 492.33	\$ 8,693.06	\$9,185.39	\$ 200.52	\$8,984.86
Plainfield	120,158,000	0.7%	633	0.7%	1.4%	\$ 52.74	\$ 1,801.82	\$1,854.56	\$ 41.56	\$1,813.00
Rowe	539,813,700	3.3%	424	0.5%	3.8%	\$ -	\$ 4,774.29	\$4,774.29	\$ 110.13	\$4,664.16
Shelburne	315,346,600	1.9%	1,884	2.0%	4.0%	\$ 283.89	\$ 5,034.39	\$5,318.28	\$ 116.13	\$5,202.15
Shutesbury	258,085,500	1.6%	1,717	1.9%	3.4%	\$ 245.42	\$ 4,360.51	\$4,605.93	\$ 100.58	\$4,505.35
Sunderland	458,245,200	2.8%	3,663	4.0%	6.8%	\$ 481.65	\$ 8,585.38	\$9,067.03	\$ 198.04	\$8,868.99
Warwick	91,765,300	0.6%	780	0.8%	1.4%	\$ 99.92	\$ 1,783.02	\$1,882.94	\$ 41.13	\$1,841.82
Wendell	119,774,300	0.7%	924	1.0%	1.7%	\$ 123.40	\$ 2,198.15	\$2,321.55	\$ 50.71	\$2,270.84
Whately	333,516,600	2.0%	1,607	1.7%	3.8%	\$ 271.44	\$ 4,795.40	\$5,066.85	\$ 110.62	\$4,956.23
Totals:	8,184,841,200	50.0%	46,325	50.0%	100.0%	\$ 6,747.96	\$ 127,135.36	\$133,883.32	\$2,932.66	\$130,950.66

Medal of Fidelity Degrees of Kinship

In keeping with military protocol, the Massachusetts Military Division will present one (1) Medal of Fidelity to qualifying families.

The Next of Kin order of precedence for the Medal of Fidelity shall be:

1. Surviving spouse
2. Surviving children by seniority
3. Surviving parent(s)
4. Surviving siblings
5. Surviving nieces or nephews
6. Thereafter surviving kin in accordance with prevailing Massachusetts law.

Where two or more persons apply for the Medal of Fidelity, the medal shall be presented to the person senior in the above Next of Kin order of precedence.

In accordance with military protocol of the Medal of Fidelity is not to be worn but rather displayed in an appropriate manner. The lapel pin is to be worn as a sign of respect to the fallen service member.

The Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity Commission is a public body subject to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. Medal of Fidelity Commission meetings are held three (3) times per year, in February, June and September. Notice of scheduled meetings for the Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity Commission can be found at:

www.massnationalguard.org/announcements.html

How to Apply:

1. Complete part I and II of TAG MA Form 3368. Also enclose all documentation you feel will be helpful in the application process. Documentation should come from federal or state medical or Veterans Department, and state the cause of death, and identify how the cause death was service related.

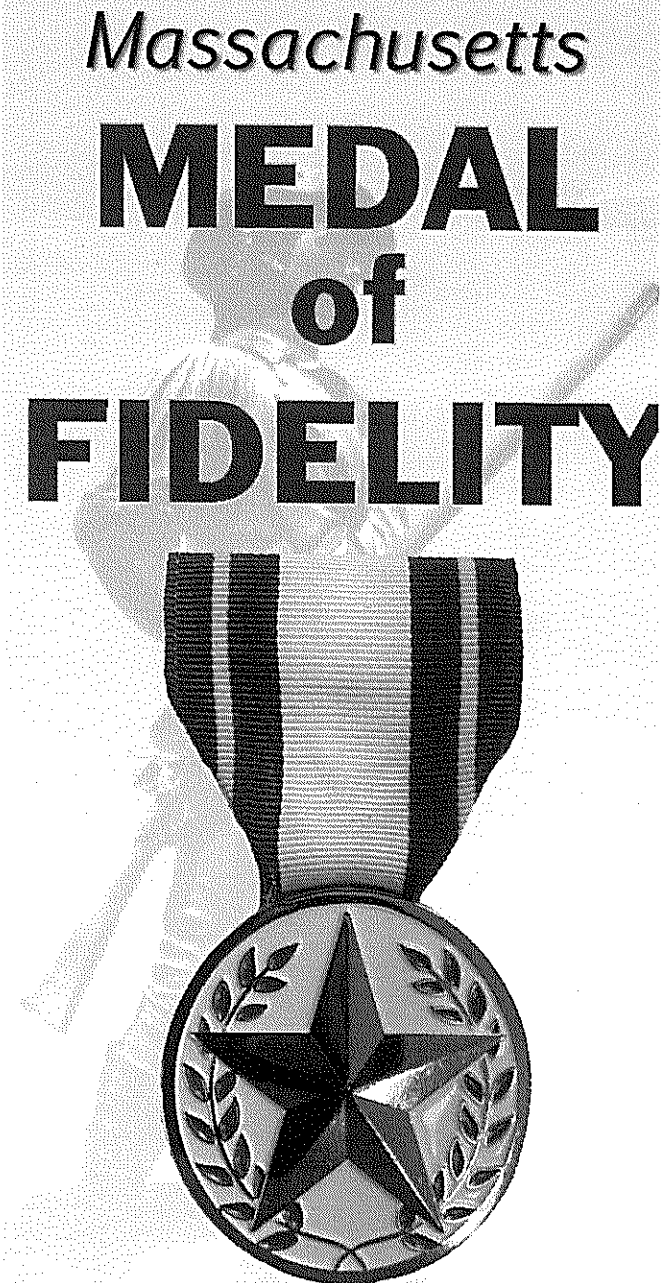
2. Mail to: *JFHQ-MA*
Office of the Adjutant General
Attention: Medal of Fidelity
2 Randolph Road - Bldg. 1505
Hanscom AFB, MA 01731-3001

3. Or Submit via
ng.ma.maarnq.mbx.cmd@army.mil

Surviving family members requesting the Medal of Fidelity must apply for the award through the Office of the Adjutant General, 2 Randolph Road, Hanscom Air Force Base, MA 01731. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Military Records Office, War Records Section in the Office of the Adjutant General is responsible for validating and approving requests.

Following a review, validation, and approval of records, the Next of Kin of service members of the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the United States Merchant Marine Corps found to be qualified are awarded the Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity by the Office of the Adjutant General, Massachusetts National Guard.

Please allow three (3) months for the Medal of Fidelity applications to be processed.



accordance with Massachusetts General Law, chapter 33 as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after 67A the following section:

7B. There shall be a Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity be presented to the Next of Kin of service members veterans from the Commonwealth who died as the result of either: (i) combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder, or other disorder approved by the Adjutant General; (ii) condition resulting from a service-connected traumatic brain injury or (iii) a combat-connected disease, condition or injury related to the exposure to harmful toxins, herbicides, agents or materials, where the exposure occurred while serving in the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve components, or the Massachusetts National Guard. A service member must have entered military service or state active duty from the Commonwealth, have been a resident of the Commonwealth at the time of death, or have been a member of the Massachusetts National Guard at the time of death. To be eligible, a service member or veteran must have served after December 6, 1941. The Adjutant General or designee, and 2 field grade officers of the armed forces of the Commonwealth, detailed by the Commander-in-Chief shall constitute a commission to make recommendations to the Commander-in-Chief for the awarding of the Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity.

Some Examples of Eligibility for the Medal of Fidelity are deaths caused by:

- Agent Orange
- Blue Water Exposure
- Burn Pit Exposure
- Exposure to any Chemical, Biological, Radiological Agent or Pollutant
- Oil Fire Exposure
- 9/11 Ground Zero Recovery
- Radiation Producing Equipment
- Asbestos Exposure
- Combat Related Mental Illness (PTSD)

RECOMMENDATION FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDAL OF FIDELITY			
For the award process see MGL Ch 33, Section 67A. The proponent agency is the Military Division.			
PART I - NEXT OF KIN			
1. Name (Last, First, Middle initial):		2. Relationship to Service Member:	
3. Address (City, State, Zip Code):			4. Contact Phone Numbers: Primary () Alternate ()
PART II - SERVICE MEMBER'S DATA AT TIME OF DEATH			
5. Name (Last, First, Middle Initial):		6. Rank (If known):	7. SSN and/or Service Number (If known):
8. Branch of Service: Army Air Force Coast Guard Navy Marine Corps Merchant Marine Other Space Force		9. Component (If known): Active Reserve National Guard	10. Organization or Unit (If known):
11. Periods of Service (If known): a. From: b. To:		12. War or Conflict (e.g., Vietnam):	13. Date of Death:
14. The Medal of Fidelity is presented at an Official Award Ceremony. Would you like to receive the award at the ceremony? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I can be contacted at the phone number in Block 4. (above) concerning ceremony details. <input type="checkbox"/> No, below is the mailing address the medal set is to be delivered to, if different than Block 3. (above) Address (City, State, Zip Code):			
I am aware that the Massachusetts Medal of Fidelity is awarded to the Next of Kin of service men and women from the Commonwealth who died as the result of service-connected diseases, conditions, or injuries related to exposure to harmful toxins, herbicides, agents and materials or combat related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, active or reserve components, or the Massachusetts National Guard. The information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.			
15. Printed Name (Last, First, MI)		16. Signature	17. Date
PART III - VERIFICATION FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
DD 214	DD Form 1300	Deployment Orders	NGB 22
List other		Remarks	
Name of Verifier <i>(Last name, First name, MI, Rank)</i>		Signature	Date Verified