

their lives for us in battle, as well as all Veterans who served to protect our freedom, are not forgotten. See you on Memorial Day!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Lance, Chairman  
Philip Moseley  
George Veracka



## VETERANS SERVICES

### **Director's Report**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, the Citizens, and the Veteran Community of Stow, this report is submitted for the year ending 2012.

### **Veterans Benefits**

Veterans Benefits are governed under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. c. 115) and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 108 (C.M.R. 108). Benefits assist qualified needy veterans and their dependents based on income levels and in accordance with the Budget Standards Chart. The Town of Stow is reimbursed 75% by the State for veterans' assistance payments issued by this office.

The Director of Veterans Services is responsible for determining the eligibility of all cases processed through this office. The Director conducts interviews, establishes approvals, and conducts follow-up on veterans receiving assistance. Field investigations within the local community are also performed by this office to determine the recipient's continued eligibility to receive benefits.

Veterans Services also provides assistance to Stow veterans in filing federal forms for benefits, which include service-connected disability claims, non-service-connected claims, VA health care, requests for medals, requests for service records, bonus applications, burial assistance and other federal benefits such as counseling in vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Additionally, the Director acts under Power of Attorney for veterans researching and processing cases to the Ratings Review Board (Department of Veteran Services), and prepares appeal cases for the Board of Veterans Appeals on the veteran's behalf. The Director also acts as liaison between State and U.S. Representatives on behalf of veterans and their dependents.

**Office**

Starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, this department assisted in approximately 25 Veterans' and family members' requests for Federal, State, and Local Veteran benefits, some of which included Burial assistance, Service-Connected disability, Aid and Attendance, Pension, VA Healthcare, Annuities, and Exemptions in addition to State Chapter 115 assistance, resulting in one new case.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Jacobs, Director