



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Department for the Aging*

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**February 10, 2009**

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**Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.**

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*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ashlee E. Giles, Pro Bono Coordinator for Project 2025  
Bachelors of Social Work Student Intern,  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**DATE:** February 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day is fast approaching on Thursday April 16, 2009. The Virginia Department for the Aging encourages you to join us in this collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations to communicate and document future healthcare decisions. NHDD is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of advanced care planning.

If you are interested in participating please visit the following website [http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/take\\_action/join\\_us](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/take_action/join_us) to sign up your organization. For suggested community outreach activities and tools, as well as a wealth of resources about advanced directives, visit [http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/takeaction/organize\\_community](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org/takeaction/organize_community).



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**AND:** Nutrition Directors

**FROM:** Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD  
Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Notice to National Aging Network: Recall of Peanut Containing Products

Many of you may be following the peanut product recalls. The following notice was sent from the Administration on Aging and provides additional information and resources.

As you may know, the Peanut Corporation of America is voluntarily recalling all peanuts and peanut products processed in its Blakely, Georgia facility since January 1, 2007. These products have been sold to institutional and industrial users for service in larger institutions or in products that received further processing such as peanut butter crackers or cookies. Peanut butter crackers or cookies are often a part of packages of shelf stable meals that the nutrition program may provide to older adults for emergencies. Older adults may have already received meals with these products or nutrition service providers may have shelf stable meals in inventory with products containing peanut butter. The Administration on Aging encourages the national aging network to be aware of the latest developments in this voluntary recall. Any product found on the recall list should be disposed of in a safe manner. Persons who think they might have become ill from eating peanut butter or peanut containing products should consult their health care providers. Consumers with pets should know that some pet

**SUBJECT: Notice to National Aging Network: Recall of Peanut  
Containing Products**

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foods and pet treats may contain peanut butter and should not be fed to pets or other animals.

Recommendations for consumers, retailers, manufacturers, directors of institutions and food service establishments are found on the Food Drug Administration (FDA) website, <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>. Programs in the aging network may want to search the FDA data base of recalled items: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html#products> . Consumers without internet access can telephone 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for product recall information.



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD  
Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** AOA Call for Reviewers for SMP Projects

Following is an announcement received from the

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING  
Call for Reviewers  
Program: SMP Projects  
February 5, 2009

The SMP projects recruit and train retired volunteers to conduct health care fraud control outreach and education. Projects are located in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the US Virgin Islands. Under this competition AoA plans to fund up twenty eight (28) grants focusing state wide program coverage focusing on vulnerable hard to reach beneficiaries. The anticipated project period is June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2012 with a ceiling of \$180,000 per budget year. The deadline for all applications is March 13, 2009: Applications would send via FEDEX to you March 16-20. Program announcement HHS-2009-AOA-MP-0904 addresses the project objectives and evaluation criteria.

Each reviewer will be assigned to a panel comprised of three (3) reviewers headed by an AoA facilitator. Panels will be assigned between 5-7 applications to evaluate. You will NOT be asked to review any application from the state in which you reside.

Reviewers and facilitators will be required to participate in a one hour training conference call to receive and overview of the toolkit and process.

**COMPENSATION**

**Applications Reviewed:           \$50.00 each**  
**Panel Discussion:               \$150.00 single payment**  
**Training Conference call:       \$50.00**

**IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS REVIEW PLEASE REPLY TO BARBARA LEWIS at [Barbara.lewis@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:Barbara.lewis@aoa.hhs.gov) BY FEBRUARY 17.**  
**ALL NON-FEDERAL REVIEWERS MUST ATTACH YOUR RESUME.**

Reviewers selected will be emailed a copy of the Review toolkit and panel conference call information.

Please begin to familiarize yourself with the program announcement before the training call and let me know if you have any questions. Keep in mind the dates for the panel calls are subject to the availability of all panel members.

Barbara Lewis  
SMP Project Officer  
Administration on Aging  
202 357-3532



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen M. Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Kinship Care

### Children's Health Care

SCHIP has been extended by Congressional vote. SCHIP is the States Child Health Insurance Program designed to cover children without health insurance who do not qualify for Medicaid.

### Resources

**Generations United** [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) is pleased to announce two new resources on the new Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. The resources include ***New Help for Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives***: Questions and Answers About the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and ***Top 10 List for Relative Caregivers to Implement Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008***. The resources were produced in partnership with the **Children's Defense Fund (CDF)** [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org), the **Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)**, and many others.

**The Child Welfare League of America** [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org) has a weekly blog radio with topics pertinent to child welfare which often includes kinship care issues. To listen to **On**

**the Line with CWLA**, go to [www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/CWLA-Radio) . The call-in number is 347/326-9411. For more information on the show, visit [www.cwla.org/newsevents/cwlaradio.htm](http://www.cwla.org/newsevents/cwlaradio.htm) .

**A Kinship Guide to Rescuing Children (ISBN: 978-0-9801352-0-6)**

This publication is a guidebook to help kinship families navigate legal choices, social services, community services, counseling, schools, financial planning, child care and staying organized. It outlines how to start, fund and help a local community kinship resource center.

The guide is available for \$16.95 each at: [www.chicagoroadpublishing.com](http://www.chicagoroadpublishing.com) or from Amazon.com or Abebooks.com.

**Intergenerational Fact Sheet**

Generations United has a new fact sheet describing intergenerational households in the United States. To access this information, visit: <http://www.gu.org/>

**Generations United Awards Program**

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2009 Generations United Awards to be presented at the Awards Banquet during the Generations United 15th International Conference. The Awards Banquet will take place on Thursday, July 30 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Neither nominators nor nominees need to be GU Members in order to be considered for an award. The deadline for Award Nominations is March 31, 2009. For more information or to download the nomination form, please visit <http://www.gu.org/AwardsNominations.asp>.

**Online Course Available – Introduction to Intergenerational Programs**

The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and Generations Together are presenting "Introduction to Intergenerational Programs," the only online course designed to help practitioners develop skills needed for success in the intergenerational field. Students work at their own speed and interact electronically with each other and the faculty through discussion groups and on line assignments. Students receive 30 continuing education units upon course completion. The course schedule is February 22- May 30, 2009. For registration information, contact Darlene Davis at [drn8@pitt.edu](mailto:drn8@pitt.edu) and for course information contact Sally Newman at [newmans@pitt.edu](mailto:newmans@pitt.edu).

**Participate in the *Money Talks! Have You Heard?* Outreach Campaign!**

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Tax Credit Outreach Campaign Kit provides everything you need to help working relative caregivers and other working families get the tax credits they've earned: easy-to-read fact sheets on both credits; a full range of outreach strategy ideas that have been used successfully in local communities; posters, [flyers](#) and envelope stuffers in English and Spanish and much more. (Flyers in 19 additional languages are also available.) To find out more about the EIC and CTC, view the Center's Outreach Kit online: [www.cbpp.org/eic2009](http://www.cbpp.org/eic2009).



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**AND:** Nutrition Directors

**FROM:** Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD  
Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Congregate and Home Delivered Meal Numbers

Following are spreadsheets I develop each year comparing the numbers of NSIP certified meals from year to year and comparing back to 2001 which is the first year for which I had figures. Thank you, Tim Catherman, for adding the charts to make them look more interesting.

I thought you might like to see these numbers and comparisons. In FY 2008 there was a jump in HDM of about 115,000 more meals than in FY 2007. Congregate meals roughly held their own as they have done since 2004.

I would be interested in knowing how your agencies provided these additional home delivered meals for my own knowledge and to see if there are any best practices or ideas to share with other AAAs.

Please feel free to contact me with your comments, ideas, or questions after reviewing the following tables and charts. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in making these numbers possible.

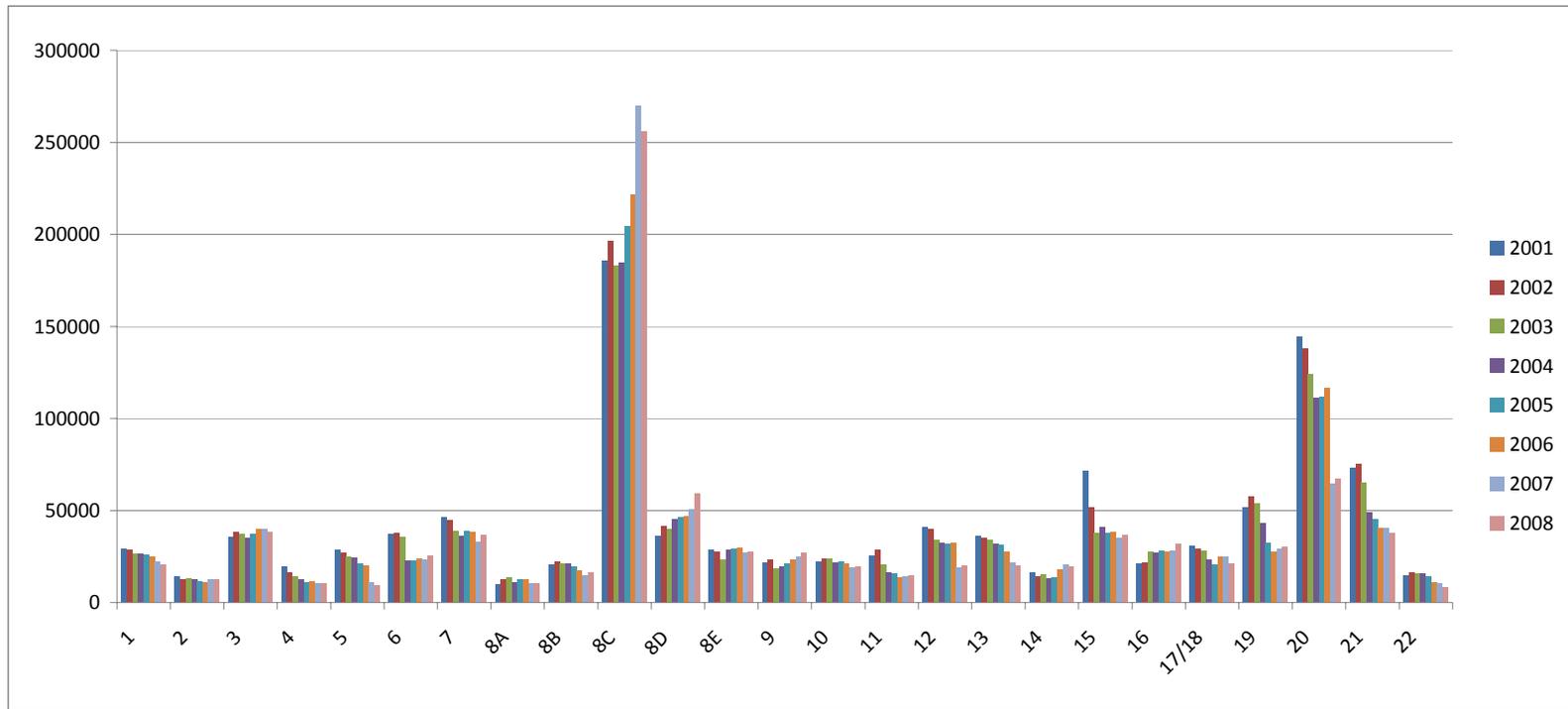
Year End AAA Comparisons  
Congregate Meals  
Change in Numbers

	FY 2001		FY 2002	Diff from		FY 2003	Diff from		FY 2004	Diff from		FY 2005	Diff from
<b>PSA</b>				prev year			prev year			prev year			prev year
1	29,297		28,859	(438)		26,454	(2,405)		26,768	314		25,873	(895)
2	14,051		12,842	(1,209)		13,015	173		12,754	(261)		11,723	(1,031)
3	35,888		38,631	2,743		37,181	(1,450)		35,349	(1,832)		36,992	1,643
4	19,563		16,080	(3,483)		14,484	(1,596)		12,736	(1,748)		10,788	(1,948)
5	28,629		27,167	(1,462)		24,782	(2,385)		24,348	(434)		20,964	(3,384)
6	37,466		37,804	338		35,503	(2,301)		22,826	(12,677)		22,903	77
7	46,492		44,790	(1,702)		38,699	(6,091)		36,149	(2,550)		38,768	2,619
8A	9,946		12,728	2,782		13,608	880		11,071	(2,537)		12,556	1,485
8B	20,474		22,355	1,881		20,843	(1,512)		21,066	223		19,334	(1,732)
8C	185,819		196,557	10,738		183,088	(13,469)		184,877	1,789		204,212	19,335
8D	36,398		41,724	5,326		40,077	(1,647)		45,374	5,297		46,315	941
8E	28,737		27,669	(1,068)		23,248	(4,421)		28,692	5,444		29,156	464
9	21,937		23,419	1,482		18,336	(5,083)		19,668	1,332		20,981	1,313
10	22,339		24,006	1,667		23,872	(134)		21,646	(2,226)		22,254	608
11	25,226		28,855	3,629		20,450	(8,405)		16,067	(4,383)		15,533	(534)
12	41,034		40,164	(870)		34,136	(6,028)		32,274	(1,862)		31,909	(365)
13	35,993		35,045	(948)		34,069	(976)		32,086	(1,983)		31,177	(909)
14	16,169		14,420	(1,749)		15,128	708		13,251	(1,877)		13,863	612
15	71,603		51,998	(19,605)		37,727	(14,271)		41,158	3,431		37,987	(3,171)
16	20,863		21,681	818		27,401	5,720		27,333	(68)		28,252	919
17/18	30,913		29,292	(1,621)		28,202	(1,090)		23,404	(4,798)		20,731	(2,673)
19	51,580		57,645	6,065		53,890	(3,755)		43,058	(10,832)		32,568	(10,490)
20	144,395		137,883	(6,512)		124,089	(13,794)		111,456	(12,633)		111,988	532
21	73,492		75,519	2,027		65,414	(10,105)		49,220	(16,194)		45,347	(3,873)
22	14,511		16,480	1,969		15,594	(886)		15,685	91		14,419	(1,266)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,062,815</b>		<b>1,063,613</b>	798		<b>969,290</b>	<b>(94,323)</b>		<b>908,316</b>	<b>(60,974)</b>		<b>906,593</b>	<b>(1,723)</b>

Year End AAA Comparisons  
Congregate Meals  
Change in Numbers

	FY 2006	Diff from prev year	Diff from FY 2001		FY 2007	Diff from prev year	Diff from FY 2001		FY 2008	Diff from prev year	Diff from FY 2001
<b>PSA</b>											
1	24,789	(1,084)	(4,508)		22,497	(2,292)	(6,800)		20,712	(1,785)	(8,585)
2	10,870	(853)	(3,181)		12,811	1,941	(1,240)		12,542	(269)	(1,509)
3	40025	3,033	4,137		39,834	(191)	3,946		38,380	(1,454)	2,492
4	11,403	615	(8,160)		10,494	(909)	(9,069)		10,719	225	(8,844)
5	19875	(1,089)	(8,754)		10,844	(9,031)	(17,785)		9,579	(1,265)	(19,050)
6	23,844	941	(13,622)		23,457	(387)	(14,009)		25,530	2,073	(11,936)
7	38080	(688)	(8,412)		32,998	(5,082)	(13,494)		36,621	3,623	(9,871)
8A	12,866	310	2,920		10,385	(2,481)	439		10,514	129	568
8B	17535	(1,799)	(2,939)		14,972	(2,563)	(5,502)		16,207	1,235	(4,267)
8C	221,511	17,299	35,692		269,924	48,413	84,105		255,735	(14,189)	69,916
8D	47216	901	10,818		50,446	3,230	14,048		59,082	8,636	22,684
8E	29,715	559	978		27,268	(2,447)	(1,469)		27,375	107	(1,362)
9	23335	2,354	1,398		24,780	1,445	2,843		27,257	2,477	5,320
10	21,147	(1,107)	(1,192)		19,010	(2,137)	(3,329)		19,415	405	(2,924)
11	13713	(1,820)	(11,513)		14,020	307	(11,206)		14,757	737	(10,469)
12	32,343	434	(8,691)		19,078	(13,265)	(21,956)		20,193	1,115	(20,841)
13	27798	(3,379)	(8,195)		21,824	(5,974)	(14,169)		19,923	(1,901)	(16,070)
14	17,895	4,032	1,726		20,401	2,506	4,232		19,703	(698)	3,534
15	38501	514	(33,102)		35,183	(3,318)	(36,420)		36,499	1,316	(35,104)
16	27,549	(703)	6,686		27,975	426	7,112		32,050	4,075	11,187
17/18	24775	4,044	(6,138)		24,928	153	(5,985)		21,034	(3,894)	(9,879)
19	27,568	(5,000)	(24,012)		29,045	1,477	(22,535)		30,242	1,197	(21,338)
20	116471	4,483	(27,924)		64,892	(51,579)	(79,503)		67,096	2,204	(77,299)
21	40,429	(4,918)	(33,063)		40,227	(202)	(33,265)		37,487	(2,740)	(36,005)
22	11050	(3,369)	(3,461)		10,500	(550)	(4,011)		8,414	(2,086)	(6,097)
<b>Total</b>	<b>920,303</b>	13,710	(142,512)		<b>877,793</b>	(42,510)	(185,022)		<b>877,066</b>	(727)	(185,749)

### Congregate Meals Chart



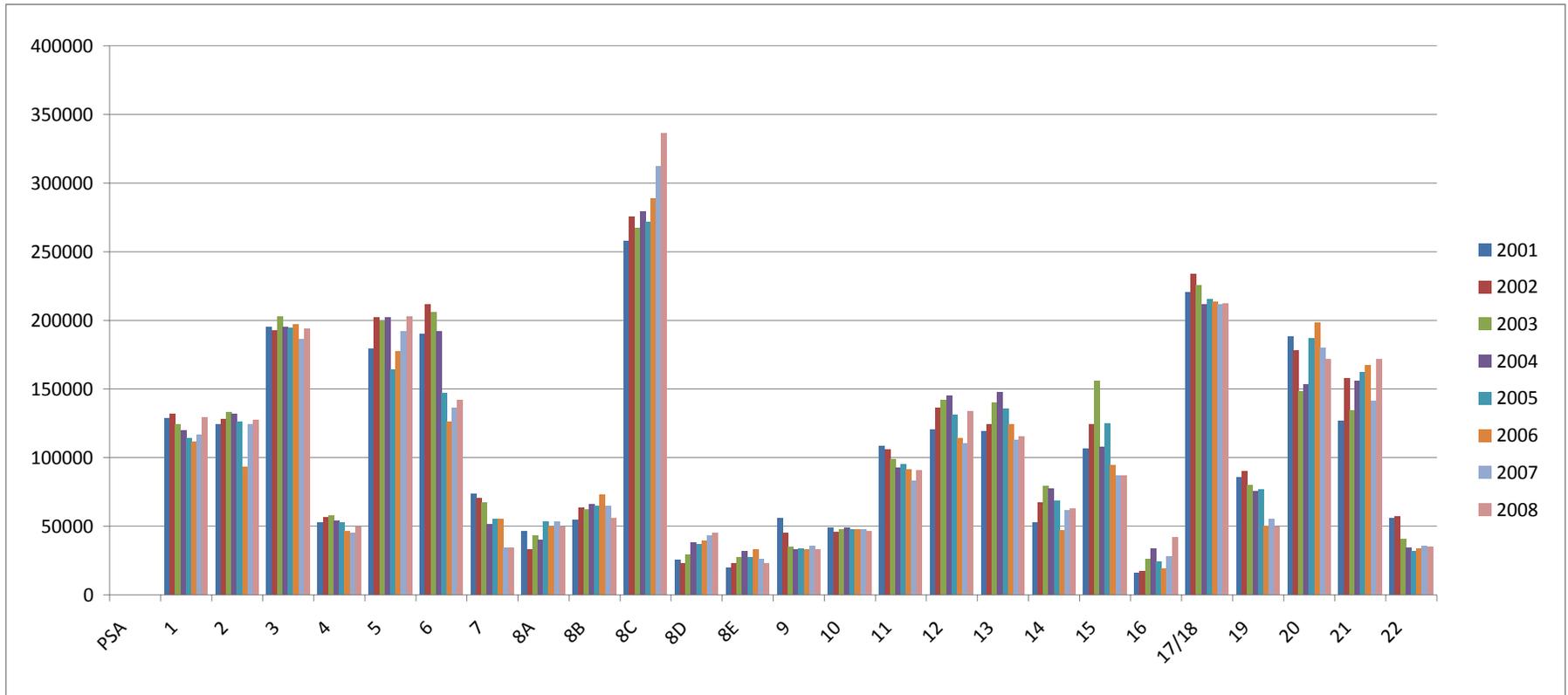
Year End AAA Comparisons  
Home Delivered Meals  
Change in Numbers

	FY 2001		FY 2002	Diff from		FY 2003	Diff from		FY 2004	Diff from		FY 2005	Diff from	
<b>PSA</b>				prev year										
1	128,518		132,153	3,635		124,602	(7,551)		119,686	(4,916)		114,388	(5,298)	
2	124,244		127,948	3,704		133,301	5,353		131,770	(1,531)		126,600	(5,170)	
3	195,515		192,569	(2,946)		202,684	10,115		195,256	(7,428)		194,753	(503)	
4	53,103		56,793	3,690		58,046	1,253		54,372	(3,674)		53,133	(1,239)	
5	179,522		202,272	22,750		199,761	(2,511)		202,584	2,823		164,097	(38,487)	
6	190,023		211,617	21,594		206,235	(5,382)		191,830	(14,405)		147,003	(44,827)	
7	73,532		70,817	(2,715)		67,584	(3,233)		51,795	(15,789)		55,689	3,894	
8A	46,869		32,939	(13,930)		43,285	10,346		39,870	(3,415)		53,722	13,852	
8B	54,472		63,307	8,835		62,371	(936)		66,396	4,025		65,024	(1,372)	
8C	257,609		275,461	17,852		267,351	(8,110)		279,344	11,993		271,508	(7,836)	
8D	25,718		22,838	(2,880)		29,214	6,376		38,217	9,003		36,896	(1,321)	
8E	19,940		22,949	3,009		27,784	4,835		32,300	4,516		27,290	(5,010)	
9	56,336		45,500	(10,836)		34,923	(10,577)		33,396	(1,527)		33,824	428	
10	49,099		45,754	(3,345)		47,712	1,958		49,216	1,504		47,931	(1,285)	
11	108,437		105,943	(2,494)		98,864	(7,079)		92,848	(6,016)		95,338	2,490	
12	120,652		136,458	15,806		142,249	5,791		145,339	3,090		131,318	(14,021)	
13	119,139		124,141	5,002		140,177	16,036		147,631	7,454		135,410	(12,221)	
14	52,670		67,350	14,680		79,240	11,890		77,270	(1,970)		68,820	(8,450)	
15	106,712		124,634	17,922		155,833	31,199		107,833	(48,000)		125,085	17,252	
16	16,310		17,550	1,240		26,094	8,544		33,677	7,583		24,081	(9,596)	
17/18	220,744		233,798	13,054		225,405	(8,393)		211,443	(13,962)		215,475	4,032	
19	86,100		90,315	4,215		79,958	(10,357)		75,897	(4,061)		77,201	1,304	
20	188,434		178,526	(9,908)		148,721	(29,805)		153,731	5,010		187,373	33,642	
21	127,168		157,761	30,593		134,645	(23,116)		155,810	21,165		162,424	6,614	
22	55,845		57,297	1,452		41,208	(16,089)		34,217	(6,991)		32,080	(2,137)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,656,711</b>		<b>2,796,690</b>	139,979		<b>2,777,247</b>	(19,443)		<b>2,721,728</b>	(55,519)		<b>2,646,463</b>	(75,265)	

Year End AAA Comparisons  
Home Delivered Meals  
Change in Numbers

	FY 2006	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2007	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2008	Diff from	Diff from
<b>PSA</b>		prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001
1	111,837	(2,551)	(16,681)		117,007	5,170	(11,511)		129,555	12,548	1,037
2	93,556	(33,044)	(30,688)		124,637	31,081	393		127,347	2,710	3,103
3	196,788	2,035	1,273		186,384	(10,404)	(9,131)		194,168	7,784	(1,347)
4	46,427	(6,706)	(6,676)		45,431	(996)	(7,672)		49,490	4,059	(3,613)
5	177,566	13,469	(1,956)		191,744	14,178	12,222		202,949	11,205	23,427
6	126,300	(20,703)	(63,723)		136,357	10,057	(53,666)		142,427	6,070	(47,596)
7	55,738	49	(17,794)		34,444	(21,294)	(39,088)		34,563	119	(38,969)
8A	49,632	(4,090)	2,763		53,680	4,048	6,811		49,622	(4,058)	2,753
8B	73,280	8,256	18,808		64,560	(8,720)	10,088		55,882	(8,678)	1,410
8C	289,046	17,538	31,437		312,136	23,090	54,527		336,522	24,386	78,913
8D	39,520	2,624	13,802		43,579	4,059	17,861		45,001	1,422	19,283
8E	33,065	5,775	13,125		26,346	(6,719)	6,406		23,112	(3,234)	3,172
9	33,357	(467)	(22,979)		35,590	2,233	(20,746)		33,490	(2,100)	(22,846)
10	47,575	(356)	(1,524)		47,934	359	(1,165)		46,413	(1,521)	(2,686)
11	91,469	(3,869)	(16,968)		83,072	(8,397)	(25,365)		90,440	7,368	(17,997)
12	114,495	(16,823)	(6,157)		110,218	(4,277)	(10,434)		133,683	23,465	13,031
13	124,370	(11,040)	5,231		113,150	(11,220)	(5,989)		115,490	2,340	(3,649)
14	46,970	(21,850)	(5,700)		61,850	14,880	9,180		63,220	1,370	10,550
15	94,616	(30,469)	(12,096)		87,340	(7,276)	(19,372)		87,253	(87)	(19,459)
16	19,207	(4,874)	2,897		28,233	9,026	11,923		42,031	13,798	25,721
17/18	213,551	(1,924)	(7,193)		211,867	(1,684)	(8,877)		212,420	553	(8,324)
19	50,022	(27,179)	(36,078)		55,276	5,254	(30,824)		49,701	(5,575)	(36,399)
20	198,375	11,002	9,941		179,936	(18,439)	(8,498)		171,804	(8,132)	(16,630)
21	167,274	4,850	40,106		141,489	(25,785)	14,321		171,961	30,472	44,793
22	33,890	1,810	(21,955)		36,062	2,172	(19,783)		34,859	(1,203)	(20,986)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,527,926</b>	<b>(118,537)</b>	<b>(128,785)</b>		<b>2,528,322</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>(128,389)</b>		<b>2,643,403</b>	<b>115,081</b>	<b>(13,308)</b>

### Home Delivered Meals Chart



Year End AAA Comparisons  
Congregate Meals  
Percentage Change

PSA	FY 2001	FY 2002	Diff from prev year	FY 2003	Diff from prev year	FY 2004	Diff from prev year	FY 2005	Diff from prev year
1	29,297	28,859	-1%	26,454	-8%	26,768	1%	25,873	-3%
2	14,051	12,842	-9%	13,015	1%	12,754	-2%	11,723	-8%
3	35,888	38,631	8%	37,181	-4%	35,349	-5%	36,992	5%
4	19,563	16,080	-18%	14,484	-10%	12,736	-12%	10,788	-15%
5	28,629	27,167	-5%	24,782	-9%	24,348	-2%	20,964	-14%
6	37,466	37,804	1%	35,503	-6%	22,826	-36%	22,903	0%
7	46,492	44,790	-4%	38,699	-14%	36,149	-7%	38,768	7%
8A	9,946	12,728	28%	13,608	7%	11,071	-19%	12,556	13%
8B	20,474	22,355	9%	20,843	-7%	21,066	1%	19,334	-8%
8C	185,819	196,557	6%	183,088	-7%	184,877	1%	204,212	10%
8D	36,398	41,724	15%	40,077	-4%	45,374	13%	46,315	2%
8E	28,737	27,669	-4%	23,248	-16%	28,692	23%	29,156	2%
9	21,937	23,419	7%	18,336	-22%	19,668	7%	20,981	7%
10	22,339	24,006	7%	23,872	-1%	21,646	-9%	22,254	3%
11	25,226	28,855	14%	20,450	-29%	16,067	-21%	15,533	-3%
12	41,034	40,164	-2%	34,136	-15%	32,274	-5%	31,909	-1%
13	35,993	35,045	-3%	34,069	-3%	32,086	-6%	31,177	-3%
14	16,169	14,420	-11%	15,128	5%	13,251	-12%	13,863	5%
15	71,603	51,998	-27%	37,727	-27%	41,158	9%	37,987	-8%
16	20,863	21,681	4%	27,401	26%	27,333	0%	28,252	3%
17/18	30,913	29,292	-5%	28,202	-4%	23,404	-17%	20,731	-11%
19	51,580	57,645	12%	53,890	-7%	43,058	-20%	32,568	-24%
20	144,395	137,883	-5%	124,089	-10%	111,456	-10%	111,988	0%
21	73,492	75,519	3%	65,414	-13%	49,220	-25%	45,347	-8%
22	14,511	16,480	14%	15,594	-5%	15,685	1%	14,419	-8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,062,815</b>	<b>1,063,613</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>969,290</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>908,316</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>906,593</b>	<b>0%</b>

Year End AAA Comparisons  
Congregate Meals  
Percentage Change

	FY 2006	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2007	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2008	Diff from	Diff from
<b>PSA</b>		prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001
1	24,789	-4%	-15%		22,497	-9%	-23%		20,712	-8%	-29%
2	10,870	-7%	-23%		12,811	18%	-9%		12,542	-2%	-11%
3	40025	8%	12%		39,834	0%	11%		38,380	-4%	7%
4	11,403	6%	-42%		10,494	-8%	-46%		10,719	2%	-45%
5	19875	-5%	-31%		10,844	-45%	-62%		9,579	-12%	-67%
6	23,844	4%	-36%		23,457	-2%	-37%		25,530	9%	-32%
7	38080	-2%	-18%		32,998	-13%	-29%		36,621	11%	-21%
8A	12,866	2%	29%		10,385	-19%	4%		10,514	1%	6%
8B	17535	-9%	-14%		14,972	-15%	-27%		16,207	8%	-21%
8C	221,511	8%	19%		269,924	22%	45%		255,735	-5%	38%
8D	47216	2%	30%		50,446	7%	39%		59,082	17%	62%
8E	29,715	2%	3%		27,268	-8%	-5%		27,375	0%	-5%
9	23335	11%	6%		24,780	6%	13%		27,257	10%	24%
10	21,147	-5%	-5%		19,010	-10%	-15%		19,415	2%	-13%
11	13713	-12%	-46%		14,020	2%	-44%		14,757	5%	-42%
12	32,343	1%	-21%		19,078	-41%	-54%		20,193	6%	-51%
13	27798	-11%	-23%		21,824	-21%	-39%		19,923	-9%	-45%
14	17,895	29%	11%		20,401	14%	26%		19,703	-3%	22%
15	38501	1%	-46%		35,183	-9%	-51%		36,499	4%	-49%
16	27,549	-2%	32%		27,975	2%	34%		32,050	15%	54%
17/18	24775	20%	-20%		24,928	1%	-19%		21,034	-16%	-32%
19	27,568	-15%	-47%		29,045	5%	-44%		30,242	4%	-41%
20	116471	4%	-19%		64,892	-44%	-55%		67,096	3%	-54%
21	40,429	-11%	-45%		40,227	0%	-45%		37,487	-7%	-49%
22	11050	-23%	-24%		10,500	-5%	-28%		8,414	-20%	-42%
Total	<b>920,303</b>	2%	-13%		<b>877,793</b>	-5%	-17%		<b>877,066</b>	0%	-17%

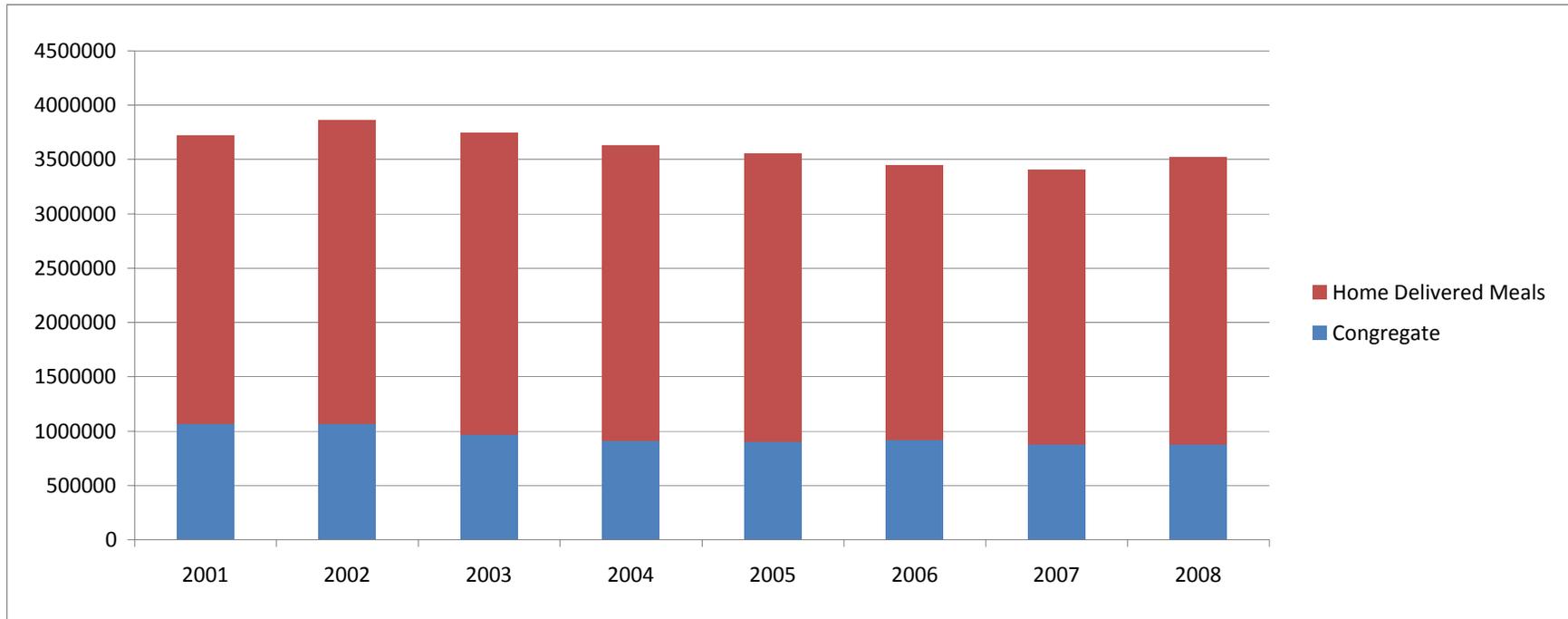
Year End AAA Comparisons  
Home Delivered Meals  
Percentage Change

	FY 2001		FY 2002	Diff from		FY 2003	Diff from		FY 2004	Diff from		FY 2005	Diff from	
<b>PSA</b>				prev year			prev year			prev year			prev year	
1	128,518		132,153	3%		124,602	-6%		119,686	-4%		114,388	-4%	
2	124,244		127,948	3%		133,301	4%		131,770	-1%		126,600	-4%	
3	195,515		192,569	-2%		202,684	5%		195,256	-4%		194,753	0%	
4	53,103		56,793	7%		58,046	2%		54,372	-6%		53,133	-2%	
5	179,522		202,272	13%		199,761	-1%		202,584	1%		164,097	-19%	
6	190,023		211,617	11%		206,235	-3%		191,830	-7%		147,003	-23%	
7	73,532		70,817	-4%		67,584	-5%		51,795	-23%		55,689	8%	
8A	46,869		32,939	-30%		43,285	31%		39,870	-8%		53,722	35%	
8B	54,472		63,307	16%		62,371	-1%		66,396	6%		65,024	-2%	
8C	257,609		275,461	7%		267,351	-3%		279,344	4%		271,508	-3%	
8D	25,718		22,838	-11%		29,214	28%		38,217	31%		36,896	-3%	
8E	19,940		22,949	15%		27,784	21%		32,300	16%		27,290	-16%	
9	56,336		45,500	-19%		34,923	-23%		33,396	-4%		33,824	1%	
10	49,099		45,754	-7%		47,712	4%		49,216	3%		47,931	-3%	
11	108,437		105,943	-2%		98,864	-7%		92,848	-6%		95,338	3%	
12	120,652		136,458	13%		142,249	4%		145,339	2%		131,318	-10%	
13	119,139		124,141	4%		140,177	13%		147,631	5%		135,410	-8%	
14	52,670		67,350	28%		79,240	18%		77,270	-2%		68,820	-11%	
15	106,712		124,634	17%		155,833	25%		107,833	-31%		125,085	16%	
16	16,310		17,550	8%		26,094	49%		33,677	29%		24,081	-28%	
17/18	220,744		233,798	6%		225,405	-4%		211,443	-6%		215,475	2%	
19	86,100		90,315	5%		79,958	-11%		75,897	-5%		77,201	2%	
20	188,434		178,526	-5%		148,721	-17%		153,731	3%		187,373	22%	
21	127,168		157,761	24%		134,645	-15%		155,810	16%		162,424	4%	
22	55,845		57,297	3%		41,208	-28%		34,217	-17%		32,080	-6%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,656,711</b>		<b>2,796,690</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>2,777,247</b>	<b>-1%</b>		<b>2,721,728</b>	<b>-2%</b>		<b>2,646,463</b>	<b>-3%</b>	

Year End AAA Comparisons  
Home Delivered Meals  
Percentage Change

	FY 2006	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2007	Diff from	Diff from		FY 2008	Diff from	Diff from
<b>PSA</b>		prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001			prev year	FY 2001
1	111,837	-2%	-13%		117,007	5%	-9%		129,555	11%	1%
2	93,556	-26%	-25%		124,637	33%	0%		127,347	2%	2%
3	196,788	1%	1%		186,384	-5%	-5%		194,168	4%	-1%
4	46,427	-13%	-13%		45,431	-2%	-14%		49,490	9%	-7%
5	177,566	8%	-1%		191,744	8%	7%		202,949	6%	13%
6	126,300	-14%	-34%		136,357	8%	-28%		142,427	4%	-25%
7	55,738	0%	-24%		34,444	-38%	-53%		34,563	0%	-53%
8A	49,632	-8%	6%		53,680	8%	15%		49,622	-8%	6%
8B	73,280	13%	35%		64,560	-12%	19%		55,882	-13%	3%
8C	289,046	6%	12%		312,136	8%	21%		336,522	8%	31%
8D	39,520	7%	54%		43,579	10%	69%		45,001	3%	75%
8E	33,065	21%	66%		26,346	-20%	32%		23,112	-12%	16%
9	33,357	-1%	-41%		35,590	7%	-37%		33,490	-6%	-41%
10	47,575	-1%	-3%		47,934	1%	-2%		46,413	-3%	-5%
11	91,469	-4%	-16%		83,072	-9%	-23%		90,440	9%	-17%
12	114,495	-13%	-5%		110,218	-4%	-9%		133,683	21%	11%
13	124,370	-8%	4%		113,150	-9%	-5%		115,490	2%	-3%
14	46,970	-32%	-11%		61,850	32%	17%		63,220	2%	20%
15	94,616	-24%	-11%		87,340	-8%	-18%		87,253	0%	-18%
16	19,207	-20%	18%		28,233	47%	73%		42,031	49%	158%
17/18	213,551	-1%	-3%		211,867	-1%	-4%		212,420	0%	-4%
19	50,022	-35%	-42%		55,276	11%	-36%		49,701	-10%	-42%
20	198,375	6%	5%		179,936	-9%	-5%		171,804	-5%	-9%
21	167,274	3%	32%		141,489	-15%	11%		171,961	22%	35%
22	33,890	6%	-39%		36,062	6%	-35%		34,859	-3%	-38%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,527,926</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-5%</b>		<b>2,528,322</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-5%</b>		<b>2,643,403</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>-1%</b>

### Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Summary Chart





*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*  
*Department for the Aging*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors  
Area Agencies on Aging

**FROM:** Ellen M. Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

**DATE:** February 10, 2008

**SUBJECT:** National Family Caregiver Support Program

**Major Caregiver Support Program Launched by the Veterans Health Administration**

The Veterans Administration has launched a caregiver support program that will develop policies and provide support for family members and others caring for veterans. A National Patient Care Services Caregiver Advisory Board provides oversight to the eight caregiver assistance pilot programs administered by VHA. For further information on the support program and the Department of Veterans Affairs, please see the two documents attached to this email: VHA Caregiver Support Program and Facts About the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Respite Program in the Tidewater Area**

Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia has an in-home respite care program designed to provide caregiver relief. This service is available in Newport News and Hampton. The families can receive 32 hrs of respite care per month. Clients are charged on a sliding scale to pay anywhere from \$3.50 - \$7.50 per hour with a minimum of 3 hours of service per day. For more information, contact Debra Cook at: 757-875-0060 or [dcook@cceva.org](mailto:dcook@cceva.org)

## **Commonwealth of Virginia HJ 754**

If approved, HJ 754 would designate the third week in November 2009, and in each succeeding year, as Virginia Caregivers Week in the Commonwealth.

## **Funding - H.R. 519**

On January 14, 2009 H.R. 519 was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. If signed into law, \$250 million in funding would be authorized for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). This would be a significant increase in funding for NFCSP. The bill also requests \$10 million for FY 2010, 2011 and 2012 for the operation of a National Clearing House for Long-Term Care Information.

## Reports and Articles

### **Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College**

The Sloan Center study, entitled "Workplace Flexibility: Findings from Age and Generations Study" (Issue Brief 19), surveyed over 2200 employees of all ages. 90% of the respondents reported that having access to flexible work options contributes to their overall quality of life. 20% of employees reported using paid leave for caregiving or other personal or family responsibilities. For further information, visit:

[http://agingandwork.bc.edu/template\\_index](http://agingandwork.bc.edu/template_index)

### **The Gerontologist**

An article entitled "Familism Beliefs and Psychological Distress Among African American Women Caregivers" in Volume 48, Number 6 of The Gerontologist examines the impact of beliefs about caregiving roles on psychological distress among African-American women caregivers. For further information, visit:

<http://gerontologist.gerontologyjournals.org/contents-by-date.0.shtml>

## Conferences and Trainings

### **2009 National Respite Conference Call for Papers**

The ARCH National Respite Network is calling for papers for the 2009 National Respite Conference to be held September 24-25 in Los Angeles. The deadline for submitting an application is March 26, 2009. The California Respite Association, along with coalition states Arizona, Maryland, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon and Texas, will

host the annual conference. The theme this year is "Route 66, The Respite Highway That's the Best." For more information, visit: [www.archrespite.org/](http://www.archrespite.org/)

## Resources

### **The Home Caregiver Network**

The Home Caregiver Network has instructional videos available via subscription that teach skills and techniques to help caregivers take care of their loved ones. The videos are available 24/7 on the organization's website. For further information, visit: <http://www.homecaregivernetwork.com/>

### **Walgreen's Caregiver Support**

The drugstore chain has initiated a caregiver resource site at: [http://www.walgreens.com/caregiver/caregiver\\_resources.jsp](http://www.walgreens.com/caregiver/caregiver_resources.jsp)

### **Johnson and Johnson Caregiver Initiative**

StrengthforCaring.com will be the cornerstone of the company's new caregiver initiative. The website is designed to provide family caregivers with a broad range of expert content and information, an on-line community, daily inspiration, and much needed support. Other programs will be added to the initiative in the future. For further information, visit <http://www.strengthforcaring.com>.



## VHA Caregiver Support Program: Partnerships with Community Caregiving Coalitions

Heather Mahoney-Gleason, LCSW  
VHA Caregiver Program Manager  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington, DC

Stephanie Ross, LCSW  
Caregiver Program Manager  
VA California Office on Caregiving  
Long Beach, CA



## What is the Department of Veterans Affairs?

- See attached fact sheet
- Additional fact sheets about the Department of Veterans Affairs can be found at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/index.asp>.

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## VHA Caregiver Support Program

- Develops policies and provides support for family members and others providing care to veterans.
- National Patient Care Services Caregiver Advisory Board
- Eight caregiver assistance pilot programs underway.

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## PCS Caregiver Advisory Board

- Provides oversight and maintenance of the eight caregiver assistance pilot programs to assess the feasibility and advisability of various mechanisms to expand and improve caregiver assistance services in VHA in accordance to Public Law.
- Developing a system wide approach to caregiver support in VHA.

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## Caregiver Assistance Pilot Programs

- Eight Caregiver Assistance Pilot Programs
  - Began in 2007
  - Ending September, 2009
  - Approximately \$5 million awarded
  - Piloting programs across all age ranges and varying medical conditions
  - Located in 40 VA medical centers nationwide

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## Social Work Service

- VHA largest employer of social workers with 7,000 master's prepared social workers
- Train 600 graduate social work interns each year
- Key component in the continuum of clinical services provided to veterans in VHA facilities

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## VA Social Worker Role

- Liaison between veterans/families/caregivers and VA medical center.
- Follow patients across episodes of care, assuring continuity
- Provide clinical biopsychosocial assessments, counseling, education and treatment services
- Connect veterans/families/caregivers with VA benefits and community services

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## VA OEF/OIF Care Management Teams

- At each VA Medical Center
  - OEF/OIF Program Manager (Nurse or Social Worker)  
Serves as POC for referrals from MTF; Coordinates clinical care and oversees transition and care for OEF/OIF service members and veterans; assigns clinical case managers (RN, SW) and Transition Patient Advocates (non-clinical).
  - OEF/OIF Case Manager  
Provides case management services to Severely Ill/Injured patients and to those identified in need of case management
  - Transition Patient Advocate (some are shared between VAMCs)  
Serves as an advocate across episodes and sites of care for patients who are severely ill/injured.

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## Additional VA Programs Supporting Caregivers

- Home Based Primary Care
- Medical Foster Home
- Respite
- Community Living Centers
- Adult Day Health Care
- Mental Health – Family Focused
- VA/AoA – Veteran Directed Care

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## Opportunities for Partnerships with Caregiving Coalitions

At the local VA medical center:

- Contact the Social Work Chief/Executive
- Contact OEF/OIF Program Manager

In an effort to discuss ideas and coordinate partnership.

For specific names to contact, call Heather Mahoney-Gleason at 202-461-6072.

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## November - National Family Caregiver Month

- VA medical centers are encouraged to plan activities throughout the month. This may be a good opportunity to partner together for an event. VA medical centers often invites community partners to participate in resource fairs and other activities. If you have never been invited, introduce yourself.
- Invite the VA medical center to participate in your event.

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## My HealtheVet

- New Caregiver Assistance Center Develop in 2008.
  - [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)
  - Click on Icon on the Right – Go to My HealtheVet, Enter Here
  - Research Health
  - Healthy Living Centers
  - Caregiver Assistance

Please send any information you would like us to consider adding to My HealtheVet to [heather.mahoney-gleason@va.gov](mailto:heather.mahoney-gleason@va.gov)

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## The Law

- VA operates under laws passed by Congress. Laws are limiting in the services that can be provided to caregivers.
- Additionally, federal government employees must follow the Hatch Act.

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## California Caregiver Assistance Pilot Program

Department of Veterans Affairs



California Offices on Caregiving

VA Caring for Those Who Care

### MISSION

To improve quality of life for caregivers and the veterans they care for through education, information and access to resources.

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## Caregiver Program Manager VA California Offices on Caregiving

Program Component I

- Serves as a point of contact for caregivers of veterans who are not already in the VA system
- Quarterly Tele-Educational Conference Calls
- Educational partnership for MSW interns with graduate schools of Social Work education
- California Pocket Guide to Community Resources for Caregivers
- Listserv- VA-Caring-for-Caregivers-List

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## Partnership with Family Caregiver Alliance and the California Caregiver Resource Centers

Program Component II

Partnership with the VA CA Offices on Caregiving, Family Caregiver Alliance and the California Caregiver Resource Centers

- Monthly Telephone Support Groups for caregivers of veterans with TBI, PTSD or Dementia
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers- A Free 6 week educational course- taught in small groups in the community

Teaches caregivers:

to use community resources, manage stress, communicate effectively with friends, family and healthcare providers, skills, to understand and cope with difficult emotions and decision making.

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## Powerful Tools for Caregivers



Program Component III

**Legacy Caregiver Services:** developed caregiver training materials to be taught in groups.

**Replication of program has been successful**

- Legacy will provide training for VA staff regarding this model.
- Some VA staff may become master trainers (train the trainer model).

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Program Component IV

### Internet Caregiving Course

- A free, six-week, online workshop for caregivers:  
**BUILDING BETTER CAREGIVERS**
- Clinical trial in collaboration with Dept. of Veterans Affairs, VA Ca Offices on Caregiving, Greater Los Angeles GRECC and Stanford University School of Medicine

**Who may participate?** Adults (18 and over) who are themselves a veteran or provide care to a veteran with TBI, PTSD or Dementia. Must live in California, Southern Nevada or Hawaii. Must have access to the Internet and an email account.

- Trained Peer Moderators - email discussion group, goal setting exercises, stress reduction, health maintenance, dealing with difficult emotions, handling difficult patient behavior, VA and community resources, communicating with healthcare professionals, family, friends and co-workers.
- Educational materials on TBI, PTSD and Dementia will be provided

Currently recruiting participants for enrollment: <http://caregivers.stanford.edu>

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## Conclusion

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# Fact Sheet

January 2009

## **Facts about the Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was established on March 15, 1989, succeeding the Veterans Administration. It is responsible for providing federal benefits to veterans and their families. Headed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, VA is the second-largest of the 15 Cabinet departments and operates nationwide programs for health care, financial assistance and burial benefits.

Of the 23.4 million veterans currently alive, nearly three-quarters served during a war or an official period of conflict. About a quarter of the nation's population is potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans.

The responsibility to care for veterans, spouses, survivors and dependents can last a long time. Two children of Civil War veterans still draw VA benefits. About 184 children and widows of Spanish-American War veterans still receive VA compensation or pensions.

VA's fiscal year 2009 spending is projected to be approximately \$93.4 billion, including \$40 billion for health care, \$46.9 billion for benefits, and \$230 million for the national cemetery system. This is more than a 7 percent increase from the department's \$87.6 billion budget for fiscal year 2009.

### **Compensation and Pension**

Disability compensation is a payment to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. Wartime veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled may be eligible for financial support through VA's pension program.

In fiscal year 2008, VA provided \$38.9 billion in disability compensation, death compensation and pension to 3.7 million people. About 3.2 million veterans received disability compensation or pension from VA. In addition, about 554,700 spouses, children and parents of deceased veterans received VA benefits. Among them are 170,144 survivors of Vietnam-era veterans and 235,000 survivors of World War II veterans.

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### **Education and Training**

Since 1944, when the first GI Bill began, more than 21.8 million veterans, service members and family members have received \$83.6 billion in GI Bill benefits for education and training. The number of GI Bill recipients includes 7.8 million veterans from World War II, 2.4 million from the Korean War and 8.2 million post-Korean and Vietnam-era veterans, plus active duty personnel.

Since the dependents program was enacted in 1956, VA also has assisted in the education of more than 784,000 dependents of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service-connected. Since the Vietnam-era, there have been approximately 2.7 million veterans, service members, reservists and National Guardsmen who have participated in the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). VEAP was established in 1977; the Montgomery GI Bill, in 1985.

In 2008, VA helped pay for the education or training of 336,527 veterans and active-duty personnel, 106,092 reservists and National Guardsmen and 80,079 survivors.

### **Medical Care**

Perhaps the most visible of all VA benefits and services is health care. From 54 hospitals in 1930, VA's health care system now includes 153 medical centers, with at least one in each state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. VA operates more than 1,400 sites of care, including 909 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 135 nursing homes, 47 residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 232 Veterans Centers and 108 comprehensive home-care programs. VA health care facilities provide a broad spectrum of medical, surgical and rehabilitative care.

Almost 5.5 million people received care in VA health care facilities in 2008. By the end of fiscal year 2008, 78 percent of all disabled and low-income veterans had enrolled with VA for health care; 65 percent of them were treated by VA. In 2008, VA inpatient facilities treated 773,600 patients. VA's outpatient clinics registered over 60 million visits.

VA manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in the United States. VA facilities are affiliated with 107 medical schools, 55 dental schools and more than 1,200 other schools across the country. Each year, about 90,000 health professionals are trained in VA medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States had some of their professional education in the VA health care system.

VA's medical system serves as a backup to the Defense Department during national emergencies and as a federal support organization during major disasters.

In 1996, VA put its health care facilities under 21 networks that provide more medical services to more veterans and family members than at any time during VA's long history.

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## **Facts 2008 3/3/3/3**

VA has experienced unprecedented growth in the medical system workload over the past few years. The number of patients treated increased by 29 percent from 4.2 million in 2001 to nearly 5.5 million in 2008.

To receive VA health care benefits most veterans must enroll. The VA health care system had nearly 7.9 million veterans who were enrolled as of October 2008. When they enroll, they are placed in priority groups or categories that help VA manage health care services within budgetary constraints and ensure quality care for those enrolled.

Some veterans are exempted from having to enroll. People who do not have to enroll include veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more, veterans who were discharged from the military within one year but have not yet been rated for a VA disability benefit and veterans seeking care for only a service-connected disability. Veterans with service-connected disabilities receive priority access to care for hospitalization and outpatient care. Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) are eligible to receive enhanced health care benefits for five years following their military separation date.

Since 1979, VA's Readjustment Counseling Service has operated Vet Centers, which provide psychological counseling for war-related trauma, community outreach, case management and referral activities, plus supportive social services to veterans and family members. There are 232 Vet Centers.

Since the first Vet Center opened, more than 2 million veterans have been helped. Every year, the Vet Centers serve more than 130,000 veterans and accommodate more than a million visits by veterans and family members.

Vet Centers are open to any veteran who served in the military in a combat theater during wartime or anywhere during a period of armed hostilities. Vet Centers also provide trauma counseling to veterans who were sexually assaulted or harassed while on active duty, and bereavement counseling to the families of service members who die on active duty.

VA provides health care and benefits to more than 100,000 homeless veterans each year. Though the proportion of veterans among the homeless is declining, VA continues to engage veterans in outreach, medical care, benefits assistance, transitional housing, and case management for veterans in permanent housing. VA has made more than 450 grants for transitional housing, service centers and vans for outreach and transportation to state and local governments, tribal governments, non-profit community and faith-based service providers.

Indispensable to providing America's veterans with quality medical care are nearly 127,000 active volunteers in VA's Voluntary Service who donated more than 11 million hours in 2008 to bring companionship and care to hospitalized veterans. These hours equate to 5,519 full time employee-equivalent (FTEE) positions.

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## **Research**

VA research focuses on areas of concern to veterans. VA research has earned an international reputation for excellence in areas such as aging, chronic disease, prosthetics and mental health. Studies conducted within VA help improve medical care not only for the veterans enrolled in VA's health care system, but for the nation at large. Because seven in 10 VA researchers are also clinicians, VA is uniquely positioned to translate research results into improved patient care. VA scientists and clinicians collaborate across many disciplines, resulting in a synergistic flow of inquiry, discovery and innovation between labs and clinics.

VA investigators played key roles in developing the cardiac pacemaker, the CT scan, radioimmunoassay, and improvements in artificial limbs. The first liver transplant in the world was performed by a VA surgeon-researcher. VA clinical trials established the effectiveness of new treatments for tuberculosis, schizophrenia and high blood pressure. The "Seattle Foot" developed in VA has allowed people with amputations to run and jump. VA contributions to medical knowledge have won VA scientists many awards, including the Nobel Prize and the Lasker Award.

Special VA "centers of excellence" conduct leading-edge research in areas of prime importance to veterans, such as neurotrauma, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, hearing and vision loss, alcoholism, stroke, and health care disparities. Through VA's Cooperative Studies Program, researchers conduct multicenter clinical trials to investigate the best therapy for various diseases affecting large numbers of veterans. Examples of current projects include testing whether intensive control of blood sugar can reduce cardiovascular problems for patients with type 2 diabetes; and comparing deep brain stimulation with other treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Deployment health is a major priority for VA research. In addition to studies focused on recent veterans of operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, research continues on issues of special concern to veterans of earlier conflicts, such as the Gulf War and Vietnam War.

## **Home Loan Assistance**

From 1944, when VA began helping veterans purchase homes under the original GI Bill, through December 2007, more than 18.4 million VA home loan guaranties have been issued, with a total value of \$967 billion. VA ended fiscal year 2008 with almost 2.1 million active home loans, reflecting amortized loans totaling \$220.8 billion.

In fiscal year 2007, VA guaranteed 179,000 loans valued at \$36.1 billion. During fiscal year 2008, VA's programs for specially adapted housing helped 550 disabled veterans with grants totaling more than \$24.6 million.

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### **Insurance**

VA operates one of the largest life insurance programs in the world. VA directly administers six life insurance programs. In addition, VA supervises the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance programs. These programs provide \$1.3 trillion in insurance coverage to 4 million veterans, active-duty members, reservists and Guardsmembers, plus 3.1 million spouses and children.

The Traumatic Injury Protection program under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance provides coverage to active-duty personnel who sustain traumatic brain injuries that result in severe losses. Benefit amounts range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, depending on the loss. This program covers 2.4 million members.

In 2007, the VA life insurance programs returned \$354 million in dividends to 1 million veterans holding some of these VA life insurance policies, and paid an additional \$1.1 billion in death claims.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation**

VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program provides services to enable veterans with service-connected disabilities to achieve optimum independence in daily living, and, to the maximum extent feasible, obtain and maintain employment. During fiscal years 1999 through 2008, 86,983 program participants achieved rehabilitation by obtaining and maintaining suitable employment. Additionally, during that same period, 21,108 participants achieved rehabilitation through maximum independence in daily living.

### **VA's National Cemeteries**

In 1973, the Army transferred 82 national cemeteries to VA, which now manages them through its National Cemetery Administration. Currently, VA maintains 125 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico.

In 2008, VA national cemeteries conducted 103,275 interments. That number is likely to increase as VA opens new national cemeteries near large veteran populations. In 2008, VA provided 360,455 headstones or markers for veterans' graves. Since taking over the veterans cemetery program in 1973, VA has provided more than 10.2 million headstones and markers.

Between 1999 and 2008, VA opened 10 new national cemeteries: Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery near Albany, N.Y.; Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery near Chicago; Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery; Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery near Cleveland; Fort Sill National Cemetery near Oklahoma City; the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies near Pittsburgh; Great Lakes National Cemetery near Detroit; Georgia National Cemetery, north of Atlanta; Sacramento National Cemetery in California; and South Florida National Cemetery in West Palm Beach, Fla.

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## **Facts 2008 6/6/6**

This year, VA plans to open six new national cemeteries near Philadelphia; Jacksonville, Fla.; Sarasota, Fla.; Birmingham, Ala.; Greenville / Columbia, S.C.; and Bakersfield, Calif. By 2009, these six new cemeteries will help VA serve 90 percent of veterans with an open national cemetery or state veterans cemetery within 75 miles of their homes.

VA administers the Presidential Memorial Certificate program, which provides gold embossed certificates signed by the president to commemorate honorably discharged, deceased veterans. They are sent to the veteran's next of kin and loved ones. VA provided 511,353 certificates in 2008.

VA also administers the State Cemetery Grants Program, which encourages development of state veterans cemeteries. VA provides up to 100 percent of the funds to develop, expand or improve veterans cemeteries operated and maintained by the states. More than \$344 million has been awarded for 72 operational veterans cemeteries in 38 states, Saipan and Guam. In 2008, state cemeteries that received VA grants buried nearly 25,000 eligible veterans and family members.

### **VA Employees**

As of September 30, 2008, VA had 278,565 employees on the rolls. Among all departments and agencies of the federal government, only the Department of Defense has a larger work force. Of the total number of VA employees, 247,113 were in the Veterans Health Administration, 16,135 in the Veterans Benefits Administration, 1,549 in the National Cemetery System, 3,412 in the Veterans Canteen Service and 437 in the Revolving Supply Fund. The rest, 9,919 employees, are in various staff and facilities offices.

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## Chronological History of the Department of Veterans Affairs

- 1930....The Veterans Administration created by Executive Order 5398, signed by President Herbert Hoover on July 21. At that time, there were 54 hospitals, 4.7 million living veterans and 31,600 employees.
- 1933...The Board of Veterans Appeals established.
- 1944....On June 22, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944" (Public Law 346, passed unanimously by the 78th Congress), more commonly known as "The GI Bill of Rights," offering home loan and education benefits to veterans.
- 1946....The Department of Medicine & Surgery established, succeeded in 1989 by the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration, renamed the Veterans Health Administration in 1991.
- 1953....The Department of Veterans Benefits established, succeeded in 1989 by the Veterans Benefits Administration.
- 1973....The National Cemetery System – renamed the National Cemetery Administration in 1998 – created when Congress transferred 82 national cemeteries from the Army to VA. The Army kept Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.
- 1988....Legislation to elevate VA to Cabinet status signed by President Reagan.
- 1989....On March 15, VA became the 14th Department in the President's Cabinet.

### Secretaries of Veterans Affairs

James B. Peake	2007 - 2009
R. James Nicholson	2005 – 2007
Anthony J. Principi	2001 – 2005
Togo D. West Jr.	1998 – 2000
Jesse Brown	1993 – 1997
Edward J. Derwinski	1989 – 1992

### Administrators of Veterans Affairs

Edward J. Derwinski	1989
Thomas K. Turnage	1986 – 1989
Harry N. Walters	1982 – 1986
Robert P. Nimmo	1981 – 1982
Max Cleland	1977 – 1981
Richard L. Roudebush	1974 – 1977
Donald E. Johnson	1969 – 1974
William J. Driver	1965 – 1969
John S. Gleason	1961 – 1964
Sumner G. Whittier	1957 – 1961
Harvey V. Higley	1953 – 1957
Carl R. Gray	1948 – 1953
Omar Bradley	1945 – 1948
Frank T. Hines	1930 – 1945