

county. Title 11 CSR 10-11.210 further defines the powers and duties of the Missouri Emergency Response Commission concerning the imposition of obligations and appropriate penalties for inappropriate actions by certain handlers of hazardous materials. The Missouri Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act formalized county compliance with the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, which sought to improve offsite safety around chemical facilities. Title 11 CSR 10-11.210 designates MERC as the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), which is required by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III. It also creates a supplemental emergency preparedness funding base for chemical emergency preparedness at the county and state levels based upon fees collected from the chemical industry. The fees enable the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) to prepare offsite response plans, acquire response team equipment, develop public “Right-to-Know” education programs, conduct chemical industry awareness and compliance programs, and conduct relevant training, drills and exercises. The requirement applies to owners and operators of manufacturing facilities that have 500 pounds or more of an Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) chemical, 10,000 pounds or more of a hazardous chemical or a quantity necessary referenced by the Threshold Planning Quantity of the chemical through the EPA List of Lists.

MERC Members

Berndt, Chris, Branson;
Brown, Sen. Justin, Jefferson City;
Brinton, William C., St. Joseph;
Cardone, Lisa A., Ava;
Jorgensen, Cory, Department of Health and Human Services, Jefferson City;
Kidd, Rep. Bill, Jefferson City;
Pouche, Rep. Sean, Jefferson City;
Remillard, James, State Emergency Management Agency, Jefferson City;
Schmidt, Aaron, Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City;
Seamands, Patrick A., Ellisville;
Williams, Sen. Brian, Jefferson City;
Vacancy, Department of Economic Development;
Vacancy, Law Enforcement;
Vacancy, General Public.

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PAUL KIRCHHOFF
 Executive Director
 Missouri Veterans Commission

Missouri Veterans Commission

205 Jefferson St., 12th Fl., PO Drawer 147
 Jefferson City 65102-0147
 Telephone: (573) 751-3779 / FAX: (573) 751-6836

The Missouri Veterans Commission is vested with the responsibility of representing all Missouri veterans, ensuring their needs are met and defending the entitlements of those who have served their country with honor and distinction.

This is accomplished through programs and services funded by the state and federal governments as well as private and corporate contributions.

Our Mission

In recognition of the sacrifices made by Veterans in service to our country, the Missouri Veterans Commission will be the first choice in skilled nursing care; enduring choice in securing benefits and proven choice in a dignified resting place.

Our History

The State Federal Soldier's Home was established in 1896 by the Women's Relief Corps Soldiers' Home Association and was deeded to Missouri in 1897. Its original purpose was to provide care to aging Missourians who had fought for the Union in the Civil War. In 1931, the state legislature, at the request of organized Veterans groups, created the Office of State Service Officer to counsel and assist Veterans of World War I and earlier conflicts, for whom numerous benefits were being made available through the newly established Veterans Administration.

In 1974, the Omnibus Reorganization Act combined the State Federal Soldier's Home and Office of State Service Officer programs, effectively renaming the home and establishing the Division of Veterans Affairs within the Department of Social Services. Four years later, in 1978,

the Division of Veterans Affairs, as provided in Chapter 42, RSMo, was then transferred to the Department of Public Safety, Office of the Adjutant General, by a Type I transfer.

Executive order 81-18 (February 1981) passed at the first regular session of the 81st General Assembly and put this law into effect in September 1981.

On Aug. 28, 1989, the Division of Veterans Affairs was replaced by the establishment of the Missouri Veterans Commission as a type III transfer. Chapter 42, RSMo, governs the commission's operation as a state agency, stating the commission shall be composed of nine members. In addition, the chair of the Missouri military preparedness and enhancement commission or the chair's designee shall be an *ex officio* member of the commission.

The commissioners then appoint an executive director, who implements commission policies and is responsible for statewide management of veterans programs. The executive director reports to the commission concerning all aspects of program operations through quarterly commission meetings.

Administrative offices are located in Jefferson City at 205 Jefferson St., 12th floor. Services and benefits provided to Veterans by the Missouri Commission are:

Veterans Services Program

Through the Veterans Service Program, the Missouri Veterans Commission provides counseling and assistance to Veterans in filing claims for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans Service Officers are located throughout the state to make services available to veterans close to their homes.

Information concerning locations and phone numbers of Veterans Service Officers may be found on the commission's website: mvc.dps.mo.gov.

Veterans Service Officers are thoroughly trained and knowledgeable in all areas of Veterans benefits, including compensation, pension, education, burial and widow's benefits. Information and counseling regarding medical eligibility, VA Home Loan guaranty and other benefits, including those offered by the state, may also be obtained from Veterans Service Officers.

Veterans Service Officers are available to give presentations and instruction regarding the benefits for which Veterans are eligible as a result of honorable military service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Veterans Home Program

The Missouri Veterans Commission operates and maintains seven long-term skilled nursing care facilities with a total of 1,238 available beds.

Veterans in need of nursing home care may seek admission to a Missouri Veterans Home by filing an application with the home of their choice. Prospective residents may obtain application forms from any Missouri Veterans Home, from a Missouri Veterans Service Officer or by contacting the Veterans Commission Headquarters at (573) 751-3779. Home admission applications may also be downloaded from the commission's website, mvc.dps.mo.gov.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Applicant must have resided in Missouri for at least 180 days during his/her lifetime;
- Applicant must have been determined to require nursing home care.

Funding/Costs

- Missouri Gaming Commission proceeds according to RSMo sections 42.300 to 313.835;
- Federal funding, through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Per Diem Grant Program;
- Charges to the veterans themselves, based on the individual's ability to pay.

The maximum amount that a Veteran may be charged at the time of printing is \$2,215 per month. Ability to pay is based upon the Veteran's (and his or her spouse's) total income and assets.

Missouri Veterans Homes are inspected at least annually by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the continuance of per diem payments. Policies for health care administration are centrally managed by the Commission's Director of Homes Programs, who routinely reviews management practice and clinical outcomes. Therapeutic modalities of physical, psychosocial and rehabilitative origin are provided in each facility.

Missouri Veterans Homes

St. James

620 N. Jefferson, St. James 65559

Telephone: (573) 265-3271 / FAX: (573) 265-5771
brittany.ritter@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Brittany Ritter, Administrator

St. James is the site of the first state Veterans Home. It was originally opened in 1896 by the Women's Relief Corps Soldiers' Home Association and was deeded to the state of Missouri in 1897. A new, 150-bed facility was dedicated and opened on the original campus in 1996, in conjunction with the 100-year anniversary of the home. St. James is proud of its continuous 100-year tradition of providing care for veterans.

Mt. Vernon

1600 S. Hickory, Mt. Vernon 65712
Telephone: (417) 466-7103 / FAX: (417) 466-4040
april.cutbirth@mvc.dps.mo.gov

April Cutbirth, Administrator

In June 2004, a new, state-of-the-art, 200-bed facility opened on Hickory Street in Mt. Vernon. The Missouri Veterans Home at Mt. Vernon was established April 1, 1983, in a wing of the Missouri Rehabilitation Center. The home is operated by the Missouri Veterans Commission to provide quality rehabilitative nursing care to Missouri's disabled veterans.

Mexico

1 Veterans Dr., Mexico 65265
Telephone: (573) 581-1088 / FAX: (573) 581-5356
aliesha.edwards@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Aliesha Edwards, Administrator

The state's third Veterans Home, the Mexico facility opened in 1985 and serves north central Missouri. The 150-bed home features a large, open atrium containing dining rooms, lounges, a library, recreation and therapy areas, a general store and medical and administrative offices. A walking trail among the trees and flowers on the grounds provides much enjoyment and physical exercise for veterans at the Mexico home.

Cape Girardeau

2400 Veterans Memorial Dr., Cape Girardeau 63701
Telephone: (573) 290-5870 / FAX: (573) 290-5909
mindi.pruitt@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Mindi Pruitt, Administrator

Serving veterans in southeastern Missouri, the 150-bed Veterans Home at Cape Girardeau opened in 1990. It is designed to resemble a small village, with cluster design features consisting of three, 50-bed living units surrounding a central administration building. The home affords residents many amenities, including a lovely chapel adjacent to the lobby, made possible by a fundraising drive led by the American Legion and its auxiliaries.

St. Louis

10600 Lewis and Clark Blvd., St. Louis 63136
Telephone: (314) 340-6389 / FAX: (314) 340-6379
leonard.rhine@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Len Rhine, Administrator

Missouri's fifth Veterans Home, initially established as a 300-bed facility, is located in Bellefontaine Neighbors in St. Louis County. The home opened in November 1993. Renovation construction began in 2019, converting the St. Louis Veterans Home to an 188-bed facility. Rooms will be private for veterans once construction is complete. On the grounds are reminders of the

military service and sacrifice made by veterans, including the display of a U.S. Army M60A3 tank, made possible by the St. Louis Veterans Home Committee (Assistance League).

Cameron

1111 Euclid, Cameron 64429
Telephone: (816) 632-6010 / FAX: (816) 632-1361
david.hibler@mvc.dps.mo.gov

David Hibler, Administrator

This 200-bed facility is the commission's sixth Veterans Home and is located on a 20-acre site donated by the City of Cameron. It was dedicated on Feb. 4, 2000, and admitted the first resident on April 3, 2000.

Warrensburg

1300 Veterans Rd., Warrensburg 64093
Telephone: (660) 543-5064 / FAX: (660) 543-5075
eric.endsley@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Eric Endsley, Administrator

This 200-bed facility was dedicated July 14, 2000, as the Commission's seventh Veterans Home. The first resident was admitted Sept. 26, 2000. The design for the Cameron and Warrensburg facilities is identical. They are divided into five sections: sections A, B and C are each 50-bed, long-term skilled nursing care units; section D is a 50-bed dementia unit that contains its own dining room, activity area and enclosed courtyard; and section E houses the administrative offices and ancillary services such as the recreation area, barbershop and rehabilitation area.

State Veterans Cemetery Program

Signed into law in 1996, this program gives the Missouri Veterans Commission statutory responsibility to establish, operate and maintain cemeteries for Veterans in Missouri.

The vision and goal of the State Veterans Cemetery system is to locate cemeteries strategically throughout the state, making it possible for Veterans and their families to have access within a 75-mile radius of their homes. The mission is to provide interment for Veterans and their eligible dependents in a dignified, efficient and compassionate manner.

State Veterans Cemeteries**Springfield**

5201 S. Southwood Rd., Springfield 65804
Telephone: (417) 823-3944 / FAX: (417) 823-0252
hugh.myers@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Hugh Myers, Director

The cemetery is located on a 60-acre site and can contain approximately 30,000 burial sites.

Groundbreaking occurred July 7, 1998. The cemetery was dedicated Nov. 6, 1999, and the first burial was conducted Jan. 21, 2000.

Higginsville

20109 Bus. Hwy. 13, Higginsville 64037
Telephone: (660) 584-5252 / FAX: (660) 584-9525
carita.trent@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Carita Trent, Director

The cemetery is located on a 54-acre site, and can contain approximately 21,000 burial sites. Groundbreaking occurred June 6, 1998. The cemetery was dedicated Nov. 13, 1999, and the first burial was conducted Jan. 22, 2000.

Bloomfield

17357 Stars and Stripes Way, Bloomfield 63825
Telephone: (573) 568-3871
tammy.smith@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Tammy Smith, Director

The Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Bloomfield was established Oct. 12, 2003. Interments began Sept. 29, 2003. The cemetery is built on 64 acres of land, donated to the state by the people of Stoddard County.

Jacksonville

1479 CR 1675, Jacksonville 65260
Telephone: (660) 295-4237 / FAX: (660) 295-4259
jim.nugent@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Jim Nugent, Director

The Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Jacksonville was established Oct. 25, 2003. It occupies 117 acres of majestic green land and includes a lake. The land for the cemetery was donated by Associated Electric.

Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy. H, Waynesville 65583
Telephone: (573) 774-3496
anastasia.wilson@mvc.dps.mo.gov

Stacy Wilson, Director

The Missouri State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood is the result of a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Veterans Commission. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on Nov. 7, 2008, and the cemetery was formally dedicated on Sept. 13, 2010. The cemetery property was donated by the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, and is situated on 229 beautiful acres. Currently, the cemetery consists of 25 developed acres, with space estimated to last 25 to 30 years.

Eligibility Criteria:

Eligibility criteria for burial in State Veterans Cemeteries is the same as that for burial in national cemeteries, as stated in Missouri statute, signed into law in 1998: “. . .solely for the burial of veterans and eligible dependents as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs. . .” Veterans interested in burial should contact the individual cemetery for a predetermination of eligibility. <https://www.google.com/intl/en/about/products?tab=rh>

Benefits

- Burial space;
- Grave liner;
- Opening and closing of the grave;
- Perpetual care;
- Placement of cremation remains in either columbarium niche or in-ground burial;
- Upright granite headstone.

Veterans Trust Fund

The Veterans Trust Fund was established in 1989. The fund allows individuals and corporations to donate money to expand and improve services to Veterans in Missouri. Appropriations from the fund are being used to improve training of service officers to expand capabilities in meeting the special needs of residents of State Veterans Homes and to promote public awareness of the program, benefits and services available to Missouri's Veterans.

All contributions to the Veterans Trust Fund are tax deductible. Individuals and corporations can donate any amount over two dollars of their tax refund on their Missouri tax return or send their contributions directly to the Commission at any time. Monies from the fund are used to enhance, not replace, existing programs.

Veterans Resource & Outreach Coordinator

The Missouri Veterans Commission Resource & Outreach Coordinator assists Veterans, Service Members and their families with extraordinary needs that are not being met by other agencies or organizations. The Resource & Outreach Coordinator acts as a referral source to local, state and national resources available to address these needs.

Minority Veterans Initiative

The Minority Veterans Initiative was established to encourage minority Veterans and dependents to visit local Veterans service officers to obtain benefits they might be legally entitled to through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The program's goals include:

- Increase benefit awareness among minority veterans;
- Increase benefit awareness among widows and widowers of deceased veterans;
- Increase Missouri Veterans Commission visibility among community agencies;
- Collaborate with other veterans agencies to increase awareness of Veterans programs;
- Co-brand with businesses to promote Veterans benefits awareness.

Women Veterans Initiative

The Missouri Veterans Commission is dedicated to finding all women Veterans, past, present and future. For that reason, the commissioners have appointed a Women Veterans Coordinator, and her mission is to ensure that Missouri women Veterans have equitable access to federal and state Veteran services and to ensure women Veterans are aware of their VA benefits, who to contact and how to apply for these benefits.

The mission of the Women Veterans Initiative is to facilitate proactive leadership and services for women Veterans, their dependents and survivors in Missouri.

Incarcerated Veterans Initiative

In February 2007, the Missouri Veterans Commission and the Department of Corrections signed an agreement to provide direct services to Missouri incarcerated Veterans. The Incarcerated Veterans Initiative works to facilitate the transition of Veteran offenders to productive lives in the community. The program serves Veteran offenders and their families as a principal advocate in ensuring they receive appropriate services and empower the offenders with hope and new direction.

Veterans Commission Members

McClelland, Kelly, chair;
Knopp, Meredith, vice chair;
Alewel, Randy, member;
Basye, Rep. Chuck, member;
Brattin, Sen. Rick, member;
Maples, Steve, member;
Sauls, Rep. Robert, member;
Schupp, Sen. Jill, member;
Smith, Timothy J., member.

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- [facebook.com/MissouriVeteransCommission](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriVeteransCommission)
- twitter.com/MoVetsComm
- [instagram.com/moveteranscommission/](https://www.instagram.com/moveteranscommission/)

Missouri Gaming Commission

3417 Knipp Dr., PO Box 1847, Jefferson City 65102
 Telephone: (573) 526-4080 / FAX: (573) 526-1999
www.mgc.dps.mo.gov

The Missouri Gaming Commission was established in 1993 by the 87th General Assembly as specified by Chapter 313, RSMo. The commission assumed responsibility for regulating riverboat and charitable gaming on July 1, 1994. Regulatory authority over daily fantasy sports contest operators was added in 2016.

The commission is composed of five members, no more than three of whom may be members of the same political party. Commission members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of three years. Pursuant to statute, the overall membership of the commission reflects experience in law enforcement, civil and criminal investigation and financial principles.

The commission's role is to monitor gaming-related activities to ensure criminal elements do not infiltrate licensed gaming operations. In addition, the commission works to protect the public by ensuring games are conducted fairly, according to their rules and with full disclosure.

As a state regulatory agency, the commission and its staff hold themselves to the highest ethical and professional standards and strive to conduct all business in a manner that is in the public interest and maintains the public trust. Pursuant to statute, a strict code of ethics has been adopted prohibiting conflicts of interest and certain ex parte communications.

The key regulatory responsibilities of the commission are:

- to conduct thorough background investigations on all key persons involved in gaming operations, including substantial owners, management personnel, key operational employees and suppliers;
- to thoroughly investigate the finances of applicants and their key persons to determine if they have the financial resources and responsibility to meet their proposed obligations;
- to investigate the background of all occupational licensees, including dealers, slot attendants, food and beverage servers, security and surveillance personnel and all other employees who have access to the gaming area to ensure the personnel operating the casino are of sufficient character to maintain the integrity of Missouri gaming;