

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
State of Louisiana



JEFF LANDRY  
GOVERNOR

CHARLTON J. MEGINLEY  
SECRETARY

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Matthew Jewell  
President, St. Charles Parish Council  
P.O. Box 302  
Hahnville, LA 70057

Dear President Jewell,

As another fiscal year draws to an end, we are excited to share the results of our efforts to serve the 2,556 veterans and their families living in your community. With your support, our Veterans Assistance Counselors helped to bring in over \$17,515,000 in Compensation and Pension benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to your parish.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in the new fiscal year and have attached the updated Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, for your review and signature. In addition, we have included an explanation of how the contribution amount was determined. Since 2020, we have done all we can to keep the requested payment as low as possible in order to allow your parish to recover from the impacts of the COVID epidemic; however, our operating expenses have grown, and we are no longer able to avoid an increase. Over the last five years, the legislature has granted three much-needed salary increases for our Veterans Assistance Counselors. Additionally, our expenses for supplies, technology services, travel, etc. have gone up each year. In order to continue providing the best service possible to the veterans in your parish, we must ask for a higher contribution amount this year.

Please sign the agreement as soon as you are able and return it to us either by email or mail. We will send an executed original to your office.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached in my office at (225) 219-5008 or by email at [earnest.buckner.jr@la.gov](mailto:earnest.buckner.jr@la.gov).

Once again, LDVA thanks you for your unwavering commitment to Louisiana's veterans, and we look forward to working with you to serve those who have done so much for us.

Sincerely,

Earnest Buckner, Jr.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary/Benefits  
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
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