



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **Franklin County Veterans Affairs & Vet Center Partnership**

The Franklin County Commissioners are proud to announce their partnership between their Veterans Affairs office and the Vet Center in Martinsburg West Virginia. This partnership provides Veterans with local access to Vet Center services without the challenge of traveling great distances or completing additional paperwork. Franklin County is providing space for the service at the Franklin County Office of Veterans Affairs located at 425 Franklin Farm Lane Chambersburg, PA 17202.

The Vet Center staff strives to provide the best possible counseling services to Veteran and Service member clients. "It is an honor and privilege to be able to do this for the veteran community in Franklin County," said Commissioner and Board Chairman Dave Keller. "With the US Department of Veterans Affairs reporting that 22 veterans each day commit suicide, services like those provided by the Vet Center are critical," added Keller.

The Vet Center offers certified counselors that help veterans and their families/significant others with any and all mental health needs. This includes PTSD, marriage / family counseling, Military Sexual Trauma, Substance Abuse, Anxiety and Depression. In addition, these counselors are skilled in assisting with a multitude of areas to include navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The vision of the Vet Center is "to be accessible on the community level and provide quality readjustment counseling services to the veteran community." The Vet Center is a Federal Government program connected to the Department of Veterans Affairs; however, it is its own entity and does not report to VA Medical Centers. Due

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For additional information on Franklin County visit [www.franklincountypa.gov](http://www.franklincountypa.gov)

to its intentional separation, the Vet Center is located within the communities away from VA Medical Centers, and focuses on being integrated with the community and veterans issues.

If a situation arises that requires immediate assistance, you can contact the Vet Center Combat Crisis Call Center at 877- WAR-VETS.

If you would like further information please contact Heather West, PhD- Vet Center Director at (304) 263-6776 or visit the Vet Center National website at <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>.

To request the Vet Center to be present at a Veterans centric event, please call Greg Edens - Veterans Outreach Program Specialist at 304-263-6776.

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