



Report to the General Assembly MSAR #9631

From: Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Status of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (HB 1561)

August 31, 2013

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF), 2009 Legislative Session Chapter 742, HB 1561, Act took effect on October 1, 2009 as State Government Article, §§ 9-912 and 9-913. The MVTF is a special, nonlapsing fund to provide grants and loans to veterans and their families as well as to public and private programs that support veterans and their families.

New legislation was passed during the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 1390, Chapter 681, which establishes the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund as a new entity in order to seek nonprofit status under IRS code 501c3.

Becoming a nonprofit organization is a crucial step in the development and growth of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund. It will open up new opportunities in our search for funding which includes, but is not limited to: submitting grant applications to grant makers and foundations that support veterans and partnering with organizations that support the mission of the Trust Fund.

### **Gross Amount of Gifts and Grants Credited to the Fund**

Total gifts, grants, and loan repayments to the MVTF **General** account for FY13 was \$35,866.75 made up from citizens, veteran service organizations, local businesses, and fundraisers to benefit the trust fund (including Buffalo Wild Wings). Additionally a small church in Maryland sponsored a small bake sale with all proceeds being benefited to the Trust Fund.

\$4,315.00 was donated to the **Cemeteries** account and \$4,000 to the **Veteran Memorials** Account.

### **The Costs of Administration of the Fund**

For FY13 there were no charges against the fund for costs of administration.

### **A Detailed Accounting of the Use of the Fund**

The Maryland Trust Fund Review Committee met on ten occasions to review applications for grants/loans. A total of \$35,856.56 was awarded from the General Account to assist Maryland veterans and their families, with examples such as:

\$1,160.00 was used from the **General Fund** for a former homeless veteran in Baltimore City stay, for three months, in a sobriety program that provided job training. The veteran has since found employment and lives on his own. Quote:

“The extra three months you were able to grant me allowed me to prepare to get back into the workforce and live a healthy lifestyle. You changed my life for the better and I am eternally grateful.”

\$2,043.48 was used from the **General Fund** for the widow of a veteran in Baltimore County to help cover past utility bill. The widow was on oxygen and was a recent victim of theft which prevented her from getting caught up on her bill.

\$1,469.25 was used from the **General Fund** to prevent a veteran in Calvert County from having their power shut off. The veteran was raising a grandchild, and had recently lost their job.

\$2,070.50 was used from the **General Fund** to prevent a veteran and their family in Prince George’s County from being evicted from their apartment. The veteran has since returned to work.

\$1,404.76 was used from the **General Fund** to prevent a veteran and their family in Washington County from being evicted from their home.

\$1,000.00 was used from the **General Trust** to assist a veteran in Baltimore City in paying the security deposit for a new apartment. This veteran had been chronically unemployed for a few years and was told by the Trust Fund to contact the Maryland Workforce Exchange. Through the Workforce Exchange the veterans was able to find employment and is doing well. Quote:

“Thank you to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund for helping me in my time of need. You really came through for me and you run a great program.”

The balance available as of July 1, 2013 was \$11,783.62 for the General Account, \$5,000.00 for the Cemeteries Account, and \$4,000.00 for the Veteran Memorials Account.