



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, 2015

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 (MVT) as a new entity in order to seek nonprofit status under IRS code 501c3 as well as established a board of trustees. The Trust applied for 501c3 status in October of 2013 and received the determination letter confirming the 501c3 status on August 15, 2014 (FY15).

With the arrival of the Hogan Administration, Secretary George Owings serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The board is almost fully appointed with the exception of the nominations of a state senator by President Miller and a state delegate by Speaker Busch.

Gross Amount of Gifts and Grants Credited to the Fund

Total gifts, grants, and loan repayments to the MVT **General** account for FY15 was \$15,225.96 made up from citizens, veteran service organizations, local businesses, and community sponsored fundraisers to benefit the trust fund.

Additionally \$16,815.00 was donated to the General account from the Maryland State Lottery. A portion of money raised from slot machines in VSOs (veteran service organization) in Maryland (except the Eastern Shore).

\$2,250.00 was donated to the **Cemeteries** account.

The Costs of Administration of the Fund

For FY15 there were no charges against the fund for costs of administration.

A Detailed Accounting of the Use of the Fund

The Maryland Veterans Trust Application Review Committee approved a total of \$32,730.26 awards from the General Account to assist Maryland veterans and their families, with examples such as

\$5,000.00 was used from the **General Fund** for a veteran in Charles County to purchase a used van. The veteran was living on a fixed income and was the sole provider for an adult, severely disabled, child. The veteran's old car, a pickup truck, had broken down beyond repair and needed a vehicle so that the child could lie on their back for the long drives to weekly appointments at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

\$1,432.00 was used from the **General Fund** to cover the rent of a veteran in Prince George's County who recently lost their job. The veteran lived off savings until it was depleted but was able to find new employment but at a lower salary. The veteran found a more affordable apartment and the trust covered the first month's rent and security deposit.

\$375.00 was used from the **General Fund** to purchase a 6 week after school martial arts program for the autistic son of a veteran in Calvert County. The veteran had recently relocated to Calvert County, escaping an abusive spouse, and was waiting for her start date with a new job with the federal government.

\$559.94 was used from the **General Fund** for car repairs for a veteran in Baltimore County to cover some car repairs. The veteran had recently graduated and needed the car for job interviews.

The balance available as of July 1, 2015 was \$97,019.25 for the General Account, \$7,175.00 for the Cemeteries Account, and \$4,000.00 for the Veteran Memorials Account.