

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG)
Military Veterans Emphasis Program (MVEP)
ADOPT-A-VA PROGRAM INITIATIVE

On April 17, 2017, Dr. Candace SP Williams, Chair, MVEP, coordinated with Mr. Joseph Palmer, Executive Director, Military Outreach USA, in order to establish the “Adopt-A-VA Program Initiative.” This initiative serves as collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and BIG by supporting various efforts to end veterans’ homelessness!

The Regional Council Presidents (RCPs) identified BIG members to serve as liaisons to coordinate with representatives from the VA Voluntary Service Offices (VSOs) in order to provide support for VA facilities across the United States. Each regional liaison is required to identify at least one VA facility in his/her region to provide support.

In October 2017, RCP liaisons’ commenced to provide support to various VA’s by donating items and offering services as such:

- Serving meals to homeless veterans during Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day;
- Participating in Affinity Group Programs, i.e., Women Veterans Interactive, Vietnam Veterans Programs, etc.;
- Attending Veterans Stand Downs and donating toiletries items;
- Volunteering and collecting comfort items for transitional home residents;
- Collecting cards for events such as the National Salute to Veterans Day;
- Volunteering to assist the VA Hospitals’ coffee programs;
- Providing transportation for veterans; and,
- Donating male and female toiletries items to the New Jersey/New York area VAs’ during BIG’s 2016/2017 NTI.

If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact Dr. Williams at (703) 499-3674 and/or via email: Candacespjohnson@yahoo.com; and/or, Ms. Sheila Stevens, Chair, Adopt-A-VA Program initiative, at (757) 472-3834 and/or via email: sheilastevens2005@yahoo.com.

Submitted by:
Dr. Candace SP Williams, Chair MVEP
April 4, 2018