

BURLINGTON,
MASSACHUSETTS



YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31

1983

VETERANS' SERVICES

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evenings and weekends by appointment.

Number of veterans in Burlington in 1983: 3036

RECEIPTS 1983

State Reimbursements	\$ 10,900.56
Repaid by clients	4,837.34
	\$ 15,737.90

Total federal awards made by the VA to Burlington residents through this office in 1983: \$118,780.57

This office provides service in a variety of areas, among which are the following:

1. **Veterans Benefits** - Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115 grants eligible Burlington veterans and their dependents food, clothing, shelter and medical care. The costs of these benefits are usually borne equally by the community and the State. In certain instances money is recovered from the veteran if he or she later receives compensation settlements, court judgments or other qualified proceeds. These benefits are intended to be temporary in nature and not a full time support system.

2. **Veterans Administration** - Title 38 directs federal benefits directly to Burlington veterans and their families. These include pensions, disability compensation, education, hospitalization, outpatient care, and domiciliary care. Introduction, exploration, evaluation, assistance and counseling is offered at the local level to facilitate access to these programs.

3. **Deceased Veterans** - Assistance is given to families of deceased veterans in reviewing available benefits, filing for government insurance, obtaining burial allowances and obtaining lots in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

4. **Grave Officer** - Section 9 of Chapter 115 MGL requires flags of the United States to be placed on graves of deceased veterans each Memorial Day. Cooperation in this responsibility has always been afforded by the Town's Cemetery Department. Individual markers and wreaths are purchased for the graves and for the several commemorative monuments.

5. **Allied Veteran Council** - The Veteran's Agent is a member of the Burlington Allied Veterans Council comprised of representatives of the American Legion Post #273, VFW Post #7423m DAV Post #113 and the Marine Corps League. Much effort is put forth to insure proper observances of Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The Christmas Basket program was once again successful in reaching some fifty eight needy households. This year was the first year that this was done under the umbrella organization called Burlington Santa. This program now works hand in hand with the Burlington Covenant for Basic Needs and the Burlington Pantry. This office coordinated a "Happy Holidays to

Servicemen" picture in the Burlington Times Union. The Council also purchased a hospital bed for use by its members and the townspeople at large. In addition, the veterans monument on the Common was completed by having engraved the dates of the Vietnam War. The Council further conducted Poppy Sales through its member organizations. Commander for the past year was Walter Sheehan of the DAV.

6. **Fuel Assistance Program** - Eligible Burlington residents under 60 years of age applied for this State/Federal program through this office. As of January 1, 1984, over 106 families were allocated over \$72,000.00 in fuel assistance for the 1983/84 fuel season.

7. **Veterans Affairs** - numerous consultations with local veterans regarding employment possibilities, rehabilitation through various programs, individual problems, effects a new legislative proposals and updating of existing programs continue to claim a proportionate share of the time spent by the office. This agent has been appointed to the Massachusetts Veterans Agents - Legislative Affairs Committee.

8. **Surplus Foods Program** - This office, with volunteer help, distributed some six tons of surplus dairy products to eligible Burlington residents. Both cheese and butter were received by those who came to Town Hall and further disbursement was made at the elderly housing. The Recreation Department under Jim Marchese, and the School Lunch Department under John Puzine were most cooperative as was the ever helpful Miriam Malkasian of Davida Road and Rosemary Davis of Tower Hill.

9. **Civil Service - Labor Service Director** - The delegation of the State Labor Service to the Town has gone smoothly in the first year. This office now has full responsibility under Civil Service rules and regulations for positions under the Labor Service. Persons wishing to apply for Civil Service positions under the Labor Service may do so by coming to our office and filling out the proper application. A person then receives his/her civil service number and pending requisitions from the various departments for job openings, will be on the eligible list. It is anticipated that following our first State audit, we will be granted responsibility over the Official Service (Fire and Police, etc.) sometime this year. Appointing authorities will continue to exercise their existing function as will the State Division of Personnel and the Civil Service Commission on appeals, tests, and disciplinary hearings.

It is requested that appointments be made if at all possible to allow the most efficient allocation of time and to allow sufficient attention to each veteran or dependent.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald C. MacKenzie
Director