

4th Quarter 2025

**Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Georgia Military Affairs Committee**



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.  
State of Georgia Veterans Affairs Committee 1st Quarter Newsletter

Brothers of Sigma,  
Greetings in the Spirit of Sigma,

As we commence the First Quarter of the year, we do so with a renewed focus on strategic engagement, disciplined service, and the continued advancement of Phi Beta Sigma's Military Affairs mission across the State of Georgia.

The beginning of a new year presents an important opportunity to establish direction, set measurable goals, and reinforce the standards of excellence expected of Sigma men entrusted with service to our veterans, service members, and military families. Our work within Military Affairs is not only an extension of our Fraternity's mission, but a visible demonstration of our commitment to leadership, accountability, and community impact.

During this quarter, our emphasis will be on strengthening coordination among chapters, enhancing visibility of Military Affairs initiatives statewide, and ensuring that our service efforts align with both the needs of the veteran community and the strategic priorities of the State Organization. Intentional planning, consistent communication, and shared responsibility will be essential as we move forward.

Our continued engagement with veteran support programs, transition assistance initiatives, community partnerships, and advocacy efforts will remain central to our work. These efforts not only provide meaningful support to those who have served our nation, but also reinforce Phi Beta Sigma's reputation as an organization committed to purposeful, results-driven service.

Brothers, the responsibility before us is both significant and honorable. Our work reflects the Fraternity's founding principles and demonstrates, in tangible ways, our dedication to Sigma's motto, Culture for Service, Service for Humanity.

I encourage each chapter and brother engaged in Military Affairs to approach this quarter with professionalism, intentionality, and a shared commitment to excellence. Together, we will continue to strengthen our impact, expand our reach, and ensure that the State of Georgia remains a leader in Military Affairs service throughout the Fraternity.

Thank you for your continued leadership, dedication, and service.

With Brotherhood and Service,  
Brother James E. Ervin  
Director, Georgia Military Affairs Committee  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Congratulations to the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, INC, State of Georgia Chapter of the Quarter, Kappa Zeta Sigma, Warner Robbins Georgia.



Congratulations to the Phi Beta Sigma, INC., State of Georgia, Military Affairs Committee, Veteran of the Quarter  
Command Sergeant Major Norwood L. Patterson III



Command Sergeant Major Norwood L. Patterson III was born in Lenoir, North Carolina. CSM Patterson joined the United States Army on 27 September 1983 and graduated Basic and Individual Training at Fort McClellan Alabama as a Military Policeman (31B).

CSM Patterson served in various leadership positions from Team Leader to BDE CSM and also performed duties as; Instructor, Protective Service Agent, Drill Sergeant for CMF (31B), Operations Sergeant, and BN Operations Sergeant Major.

CSM Patterson's assignments include 571st MP Co, Fort Ord CA; HHD 32D AADCOM, Darmstadt FRG; Co A 701st MP BN and Co C 795th MP BN, Fort McClellan AL; 472 MP Co, Fort Wainwright AK; 188th MP Co and 728th MP BN, Camp Walker Korea (three assignments); Fort Gordon MP Co, Fort Gordon GA, USASMA Fort Bliss TX; CSM for the 94th Military Police Battalion, Korea; Bagdad Iraq; and the 8th Military Police Brigade CSM, Schofield Barracks HI.

His military and civilian education includes PLDC through USASMC, numerous Military Police courses, Drill Sergeant Course, EOL Course, Battle Staff, and the First Sergeant Course. He has also received an Associates Degree from Central Texas College, Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Park University and a Master of Education in organizational Leadership from Northcentral University.

CSM Patterson's highest awards and decorations include Legion of Merit, BSM, six MSMs, three ARCOMs, six AAMs, Fort McClellan Drill Sergeant of the Year and the Alabama Governor's Award along with others.

CSM Patterson is currently married to SGM Aurora G. Patterson.

## Veterans News Corner

Veterans Corner – Georgia News You Can Use, for Phi Beta Sigma Veterans Across the State  
**Statewide Veteran Advocacy Event – “Hats on the Hill 2026”**

Georgia veterans and service organizations are preparing for Hats on the Hill 2026, a major advocacy day at the State Capitol where veterans gather to push lawmakers on priorities affecting the veteran community.

Key issues being highlighted include:

Increasing funding for the Georgia Department of Veterans Service

Expanding access to accredited claims assistance

Strengthening protections against predatory claims agents

Expanding long-term care options through additional state veterans homes

This event underscores the importance of unified veteran voices influencing policy across Georgia.

### **Major Federal Investment to Combat Veteran Homelessness**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently awarded more than \$32 million in grants to Georgia organizations working to support veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

These funds are intended to expand housing services, transitional programs, and support networks to help veterans regain stability and independence.

### **Georgia Expanding Mental Health and Wellness Resources**

Georgia has launched several initiatives aimed at improving veteran wellness, including mental health grant programs and new support services coordinated through the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

These programs aim to increase access to counseling, family support services, and community-based care for veterans across the state.

### **Important Awareness Issue – Protecting Veterans from Exploitation**

Authorities have warned of ongoing issues involving fraudulent organizations targeting veterans' education benefits and finances.

Recent investigations highlight how some groups exploit veterans' trust to access federal benefits unlawfully, underscoring the importance of working only with accredited veteran service officers

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.  
State of Georgia Military Affairs Committee

Brothers,

Georgia veterans remain a powerful force, not only in service to our nation, but in advocacy, leadership, and community impact. Phi Beta Sigma stands ready to support every brother who has worn the uniform, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that no Sigma veteran stands alone.

Military service instills discipline, sacrifice, and commitment to something greater than oneself. Those same values are reflected in our Fraternity's motto: Culture for Service and Service for Humanity. As Sigma men, we must continue to create pathways for engagement, support, and recognition for the brothers who have answered the nation's call.

Veteran engagement within our chapters is not optional, it is essential. Our veteran brothers bring leadership experience, organizational strength, and a lifetime of service that can help shape the direction of our chapters and our communities. Whether mentoring youth, supporting civic initiatives, assisting fellow veterans with resources, or strengthening partnerships with community organizations, Sigma veterans remain vital to our mission.

I encourage every chapter across the State of Georgia to remain intentional about identifying, supporting, and uplifting our veteran brothers. Ensure they are visible. Ensure they are heard. Ensure they are engaged. Recognize their service not only on holidays or commemorative dates, but throughout the year. Invite them to lead. Invite them to mentor. Invite them to continue serving through Sigma.

The Military Affairs Committee stands committed to strengthening our network of support, expanding recognition programs, and creating opportunities for brothers to stay connected, informed, and empowered. But this work is not done by a committee alone, it is accomplished through the unity and participation of the brotherhood.

Let us continue to stand together, brothers in service, brothers in purpose, and brothers in commitment to humanity.

Fraternally,  
Brother Ames E. Ervin  
Georgia State Military Affairs Committee  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

## **VA needs more oversight of health care options to prevent waste: Study**

Veterans Affairs leaders are working with Medicare officials to cut down on duplicative billing for veterans medical services, but outside experts say fully fixing the problem will require better record-keeping and patient monitoring by both agencies.

Last month, VA administrators launched a partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to recover improper payments to medical providers who billed both agencies for patient services. An initial review found roughly \$106 million in duplicate billings over a six-year period.

But that may be just the start. About 5.9 million veterans are dually enrolled in VA health care and Medicare, creating confusion in some instances regarding which government agency is responsible for covering the costs of appointments and medical procedures. A new health care analysis released by the RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute on Tuesday found that nearly 84% of the 8.2 million veterans enrolled in the VA health care system have some form of secondary medical coverage, including Medicare, private insurance or Tricare services.

“Enrollment in multiple forms of health care coverage indicates potential inefficiencies and raises questions about whether different programs are making duplicative payments for the same care.

## **How to Tailor Your VA Job Search on USAJOBS: Search Smarter, Not Harder**

It's easy to get overwhelmed when you search for jobs on USAJOBS. For starters, even searching for open positions at just the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) returns thousands of results. Luckily, USAJOBS has several very effective filtering options that can help you narrow down your options. Here are six tips to tailor your VA job search and get the best results for your needs.

- Start with the VA Careers search function. By using the built-in search on the homepage, you'll automatically filter your search to only include VA jobs.
- Search by location. If relocating isn't an option for you, adjust your filters to only include results where you could feasibly accept a job. Within your USAJOBS search, you can even search by multiple locations at once or by the distance from a specific location.
- Tailor to hiring paths. In addition to filtering out job postings that you may not be eligible for, tailoring your search to specific hiring paths can also highlight positions where you may have an edge over other candidates. For instance, if you're eligible for Veterans' Preference, make sure you select the hiring path specific to Veterans.
- Tailor by job series. To find results that fit your unique skillset, consider narrowing your search by job series. This will show groups of similar occupations, categorized by Professional Occupations or Trade, Crafts and Labor occupations. Within the two larger groups, there are smaller "series" or families of similar occupations.
- Sort your results. Job search results in USAJOBS automatically display by relevance to your filters and keywords. However, you can also filter by other categories, like high to low salary, closing date or distance from your location. This way you can find the postings that fit your most important metrics without having to scroll through pages of results.
- Experiment with keywords. Beyond the filters you can set, you can also choose to filter jobs by specific keywords. When you type in a keyword, you'll receive all the results that include that keyword. If you include more than one keyword, you'll get results that include both keywords. Experiment with different keyword combinations of skills and job titles to vary the results you receive.
- As a final tip, don't forget to save your most effective and tailored searches. You can even automate your searches and receive updates when new jobs are posted that meet your criteria.