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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Lawton Veterans Home Achieves Highest Census Since 2020, Advancing Access to Long-Term Care for Oklahoma Veterans

STATEWIDE – STATEWIDE – The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) announced that the Lawton Veterans Home has reached its highest resident census since 2020. Filling long-term care beds is a direct measure of meeting veteran needs and reflects ODVA’s mission to improve outcomes for Oklahoma veterans and support their families.

Executive Director James Bynum emphasized that the milestone reflects the work of ODVA employees across the state. “Reaching this level of occupancy shows that we are meeting demand for long-term care while strengthening the system that supports our veterans,” Bynum said. “This achievement belongs to the entire ODVA team. Their commitment, professionalism, and belief in our mission made this possible.”

Lawton is one of ODVA’s flagship veteran homes and plays a central role in serving one of Oklahoma’s largest veteran populations. Oklahoma is home to **more than 275,000 veterans** and their families, and ODVA employs nearly 1,900 staff statewide—including approximately 250 dedicated team members at the Lawton Veterans Home. The facility, authorized in 1997 and completed in 2003, now operates at 91.5% capacity with 183 residents.

Higher occupancy supports resident quality of life.

When veteran homes operate with strong census numbers, they can maintain stable staffing, sustain programming, and reinvest in services that directly benefit residents. ODVA credits the collective work of its teams—clinical staff, support personnel, administrators, and partners—for creating the conditions that improve outcomes for veterans statewide.

ODVA continues to strengthen access to long-term care by improving outreach and making it easier for veterans and families to connect with the services they need. Efforts include expanded communication tools, updated digital resources, and a single statewide phone number for veteran support.

Oklahoma’s veteran homes offer skilled nursing care, therapy services, recreational programs, transportation for medical appointments, and specialized memory care. Eligibility is determined by federal regulations and VA disability ratings, and the homes are structured to meet a broad range of long-term care needs.

“ODVA remains focused on supporting veterans and their families,” Bynum said. “We encourage anyone with long-term care needs or questions to reach out so we can assist.”

Lawton Veterans Home: The Lawton Veterans Home is a notable 200-bed long-term care facility that offers skilled nursing, intermediate care, and specialized services for Alzheimer’s and dementia patients. As one of Oklahoma’s premier veteran’s facilities, it features recreational amenities such as a fishing pond with an accessible dock, a walking track, and accessible transportation for group outings, along with a chapel and an auditorium for community engagement. The home is federally approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and licensed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, demonstrating its dedication to high standards of care.

Application of for Veteran Admission: <https://oklahoma.gov/vete.../veterans-homes/eligibility.html>

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The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) is dedicated to ensuring that all Oklahoma veterans and their families receive the benefits they deserve. The ODVA provides quality health services and long-term skilled care for qualified veterans in residential settings, regardless of their ability to pay. Legislative actions have created a payment system that allows honorably discharged veterans to access care through ODVA Centers. With support from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA), veterans receive pensions and compensation that help cover their care costs without jeopardizing their spouses' financial well-being.

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