

Veterans Deserve Cottage Housing: Stability, Dignity, and Homes That Fit Real Needs

The Issue: Some opponents claim that cottage homes are “not appropriate” for veterans or that veterans do not need modest housing options like cottage style neighborhoods. These claims ignore both the real housing needs of veterans in Sussex County and the proven success of cottage communities for veterans across the United States.

The Fact: Cottage homes are an established, healthy housing option for many veterans, and exist in dozens of American towns. They are permanent, stick-built, code-compliant houses that offer stability, privacy, and community within walkable neighborhoods. Georgetown can provide that through a responsible zoning ordinance.

Why Cottage Housing Meets Many Veterans’ Real Needs

Veterans in Georgetown and across Sussex County face housing pressures that often go unspoken:

- Many vets live on fixed incomes, disability benefits, or modest wages
- Apartments in Sussex marketed as “affordable” routinely exceed \$2,000 a month
- Many veterans live alone and prefer modest homes that are easier to manage and maintain.
- Single veterans or those with disabilities often cannot maintain large, high-cost homes
- Long commutes to health care, church, and grocery stores reduce independence and stability

Cottage homes answer these needs by offering:

- Modest, low-maintenance homes with full kitchens, bathrooms, comfy living, and good HVAC
- Permanent foundations, durable construction, quality fittings
- Quiet settings that support veterans living with PTSD, TBI, chronic pain, and sensory impacts
- Walkable access to services and community support

Cottages are not temporary shelters. They are real, dignified houses for people who served their country to call home.

Why Civic and Community Leaders Support It

Veteran cottage developments appear across the United States and share consistent features:

- Stick-built houses that look and feel like traditional small homes

- Attractive porches, sidewalks, trees, and common green space
- Predictable design and upkeep through strong local zoning
- Peaceful environments suited to individual veterans and small households

Examples include veteran-focused cottage villages in Texas, Washington, South Carolina, Indiana, and Georgia. These communities demonstrate stable residency, strong neighbor relationships, and healthy long-term outcomes.

Nothing about this model is experimental. It is proven, normal, and widely respected in towns large and small.

Why Good Veterans Housing Strengthens Georgetown

Veterans are already a visible part of Georgetown's churches, civic life, and volunteer organizations. Veterans who can afford to stay rooted in Georgetown contribute to:

- Civic groups and volunteer service
- Faith communities and social support networks
- Local workforce stability
- Neighborhood watchfulness and goodwill
- A sense of continuity and respect for those who served

Cottage zoning creates opportunities for modest homes that support these civic benefits without altering Georgetown's character or aesthetics.

The Bottom Line

Modest cottage homes are not a downgrade. For many veterans, they are the ideal way to live securely and with dignity.

Veterans deserve stable, attainable, well-designed homes in the town they served, protected, and strengthened. Cottage Housing Developments offer that opportunity with permanent construction, modest scale, strong design standards, and predictable neighborhood quality.

Georgetown can honor its veterans with a responsible zoning ordinance that gives veterans a fair chance to remain part of the community they helped build.

There are more than 35 comparable cottage housing developments across the United States. The oldest opened in 2003. Cottage housing is normal, safe, and mature.

