Hawaii Veteran Association Locations
Berylin Lau & Elora Tonaki

Introduction:

Despite a significant veteran population in Hawaii, many who have served our country are often overlooked and underserved, facing a multitude of difficulties. Some of the challenges they face is due to the wide range of of veterans, many of whom are older, struggle to adapt to the rapidly evolving real and digital world. Key issues impacting their well-being include geographical barriers, limited access to crucial healthcare, and mental health concerns. To address these critical needs, our goal is to establish a clear, user-friendly, and centralized web-based resource hub specifically for veterans in Hawaii.

Our goal is to create a web-based resource hub specifically designed for veterans in Hawaii. This platform will be clear, user-friendly, and centralized, aiming to be a primary point of access for essential information on VA services, benefits, and community programs. By providing a single, easily navigable online location, veterans will be empowered to find VA healthcare facilities within Hawaii, gain a better understanding of the benefits they have earned, and directly access job and housing resources. Ultimately, this initiative seeks to simplify the often-complex process of connecting veterans with the critical support they need and deserve, thereby addressing the current situation where many are overlooked and underserved
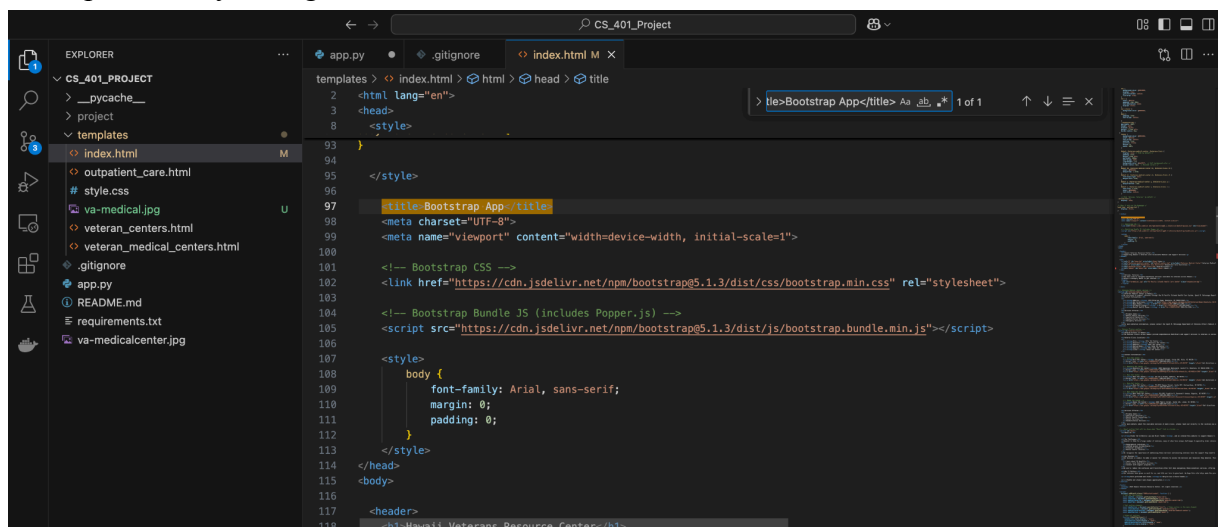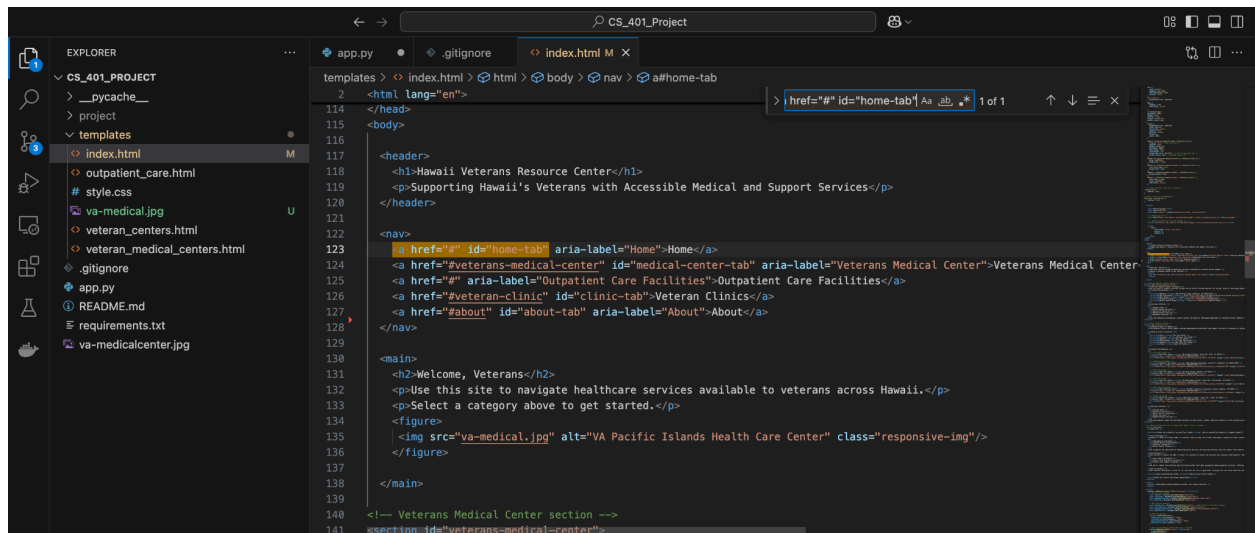
API:
Front-End:
Database:
Challenges:

The biggest challenge that we faced was keeping everything organized. We decided to work from the frontend to the backend. Though there were some advantages for it, there were downsides as well. The structure of our frameworks are overwhelming, since it was our first time coding a website was messy. We were focusing on trying to make it "look right", but it was hard to keep track of where everything is after a while. Keeping track of the factors like the nav bar, main sector, footer on where they are supposed to be but at the same time, little things slipped like repeated <style> tags and extra <title>s.
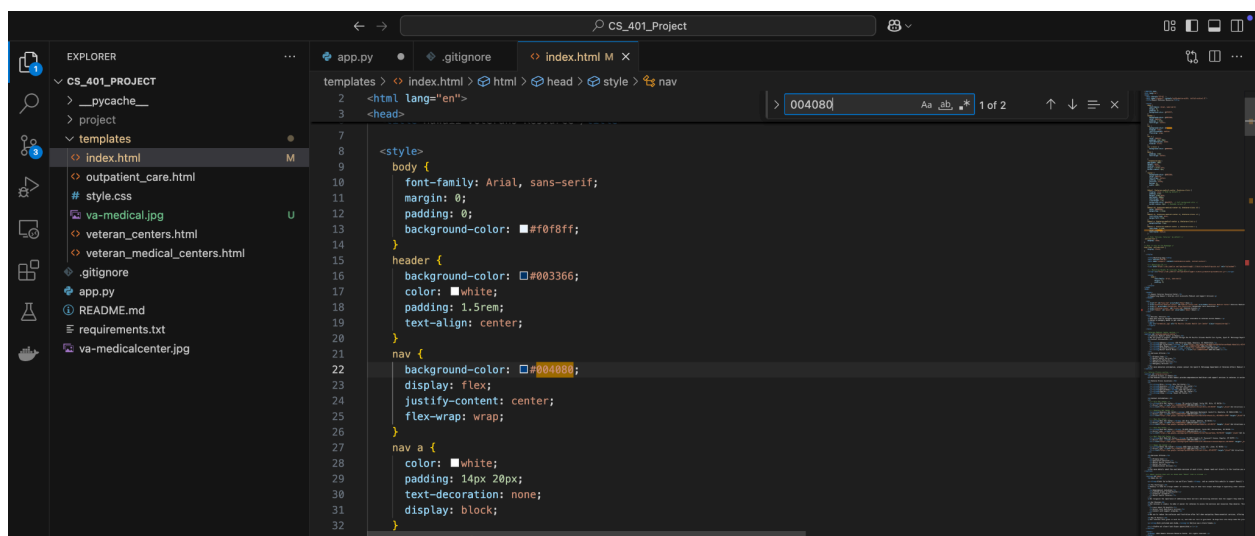
Example: Second <title>Bootstrap App</title> way down inside the body — which we lost track of what parts should stay in the <head> vs. <body>.

Another issue we encountered was just getting with the coding in general. Knowing and researching what would be best fit to our websites was a challenge in itself. An example of that was using both CSS and Bootstrap. We were trying to style things ourselves, but also loaded bootstrap which already has its own styles. Understanding and balancing between those two was challenging.

Example: We wrote custom CSS for the navbar and also used Bootstrap's .navbar, .navbar-expand-lg, etc., but didn't use Bootstrap's automatic classes like .container to wrap sections.

Though it might not have been the prettiest or the most effectint, it still works. The challenged we had could've been avoidable with better understanding of the frameworks,

knowing what to do first and last. We struggled the most with organizing the page properly and figuring out how much Bootstrap vs custom CSS we should use, which hopefully we will improve next if we were to further this project. What is also important to note is that, we not only struggle to code but in a way code together. When it came to pushing and pulling our codes, one side worked while the other didn't. Someone had a merge conflict error the other one didn't. Lot's of the pushing and pull aspect, which is also safe to assume, some of our errors in code was because of the VS code/Github collaboration parts.

Improvements:

As for improvements or future goals, we would like to expand on this with more categories, like housin and income, and eventually other topics. But those would be our next steps. Still maintaining our goal of simple, efficient and easy for all ranges of ages to utalize. However, before that we would first clean up our code to find the balance of what we were challenged with and hopefully avoid those.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, from this project, it was quite a rollarcoster of everything. From the beginning, middle and ending stages, there has been many challenges we faced. Learning about coding, framework and how things should be is much different that doing it in reality. Things somewhat sound simple until it isn't. With unforeseen problems, or problems we knew that might come about. However, as it was said before, it works. With a little bit more improvements, hopefully we can do the Hawaii Veterans justice and the help the more than deserve.