



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans Services

March, 2023

• www.nmdvs.org • phone: (505) 383-2400 • nmdvs.info@dvs.nm.gov (email)

• Facebook: NMDVSHHealthcare2015 • Twitter: @NMDVS • Instagram: newmexicoveterans

New Mexico's Military Community Honored on Military & Veterans Day at the 2023 Legislature



New Mexico's veteran community was honored at the state Capitol on February 20 on Military & Veterans Day at the 2023 New Mexico Legislature.

This annual day during the legislative session is presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the New Mexico National Guard to highlight the service and sacrifice of the men and women of New Mexico who have served or are currently serving in the United States military.

The theme of this year's traditional noon ceremony in the rotunda was "Yesterday...Today...and Tomorrow"—honoring the past, present, and future generations of military service members. Guest speakers included a Vietnam War veteran, a current Kirtland Air Force Base service member, and a young woman from the Kirtland Central High School JROTC Program—which also presented and retired The Colors for the ceremony.

The keynote speaker was New Mexico Army National Guard Brig. General Jamison Herrera.

"Although the past can be indicative of what we are going to face in the future, we will never forget the sacrifices that you have made, and that you will continue to make if called upon," he said to the packed Rotunda audience full of veterans and active service members--including several dozen members of the New Mexico National Guard's Youth Challenge Corps of cadets.

"Your present—your National Guard and your military members of today—hold that same narrative. We will not quit. We will continue to fight for what's right—even though it's not popular at times, we will continue to do what's right."

DVS Secretary-Designate and Master of Ceremonies Donnie Quintana echoed the sentiment. He also concluded the ceremony with a message to New Mexicans.

(continued on next page)

“I challenge you all to take a moment and speak to a veteran. Take a moment, and have a cup of coffee with them...and listen to them,” said Secretary-Designate Quintana. (right photo/center, behind podium) “Listen to their stories. Let them share with you their experiences, their growth in life, their wisdom. These are our national treasures. We cannot lose their stories and experiences that they have to share with us.”



DVS videotaped and put together an edited video of the ceremony—including the full remarks by Secretary Quintana, Brig. Gen. Herrera and the three guest speakers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAkh7oaY-tw>



Veterans Business Outreach Center Director Rich Coffel (left photo/seated at right) and Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa (right photo/in grey suit at right) were among several DVS staff who provided outreach at tables in the west wing of the Rotunda. Other veterans and community service agencies also had outreach tables (below & next-page photos) —as did the New Mexico National Guard and other support agencies in the east wing.





DVS Health Care Coordination Division Director Speaks at African American Day at the 2023 Legislature

DVS Health Care Coordination Division Director Diane Mourning Brown was a guest speaker at a ceremony on February 10 commemorating African American Day at the Legislature. *(left photo)*

Noting that February is National Black History Month, Director Mourning Brown talked about the achievements and contributions of Black Americans in helping shape the history of our country through their military service.

“Military service by Black Americans dates back to the Revolutionary War, when current and freed slaves helped the colonists defeat the British and gain independence from British rule,” she said. “Military service remains strong today. Nearly 17-percent of today’s military is Black—though we make up only 12-percent of our country’s total population.”

According to the latest VA veteran population projections, here in New Mexico there are nearly 7,400 Black veterans—making up about 5% of the state’s total of 148,300 veterans.

Director Brown also urged veterans in attendance to make sure they have filed claims for VA and state veterans benefits, reminding them that these have been earned through their military service—which can also benefit their families as well.

DVS Fills Veterans Service Officer Vacancies

Meet the newest DVS veterans service officers (VSOs)—and two field service division staff who’ve moved to new positions within the division. Office locations, phone numbers, and email addresses for these and all other DVS VSOs can be found on the last two pages of this newsletter.



Clint Anderson
Las Cruces VSO

Clint Anderson is a new VSO in the DVS Las Cruces office, located at 2024 East Griggs Ave.

The Las Cruces native comes to the agency from Pima County (Tucson, AZ) Superior Court, where he was an I-T security analyst who also worked with the court’s helpdesk support team.

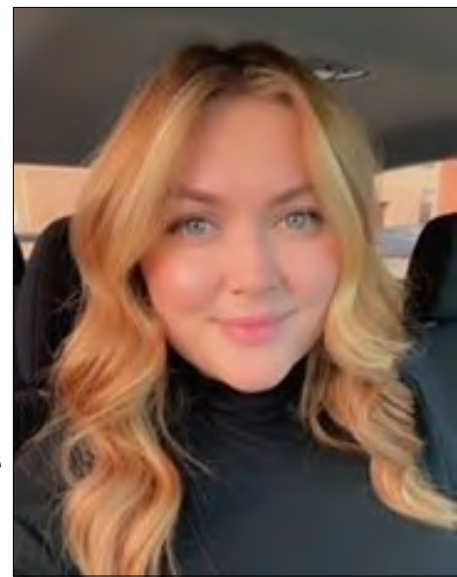
Clint is a Navy veteran who served as a seaman/duty driver aboard the aircraft carriers USS Midway and USS Independence—deploying to Yokosuka, Japan. Clint earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in I-T Systems Security from the University of Phoenix.

Hope Fryer is a new VSO in the DVS Albuquerque office at 5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE.

The Albuquerque native comes to the agency from the Albuquerque Christian Children’s home, where she was the administrative coordinator at the non-profit facility that provides long-term care for children who are homeless/indigent, or from incarcerated parental or parental substance-abusing households. She helped maintain the children’s files, receive donations, and coordinating events that would help bring more donors to the organization.

Hope is also a Navy veteran who served as a machinist mate from 2016-2021. From her homeport of Norfolk, VA, she was deployed twice aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan to the Middle East. Between deployments, she also went to Aqaba, Jordan; Palma De Mallorca and Valencia, Spain; Dubai, Bahrain, and Djibouti.

Her primary responsibilities were working with to maintain their chemical balance in the boiler, overseeing refueling at sea, and monitoring the drinking water on ships while at sea.



Hope Fryer
Albuquerque VSO



Austin Walker
Albuquerque VSO

Austin Walker is another new VSO in the DVS Albuquerque office

The Albuquerque native comes to the agency from the New Mexico Department of Transportation, where he was most recently the office manager for Crew 43-17/Hilltop in Albuquerque.

Austin pulled a military service “trifecta”: serving in the U.S. Army’s 25th Infantry Division, and then the New Mexico Army National Guard, as a 13B artillery cannoneer. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a radioman/telecom specialist/operations specialist.

During his 23-years of service, Clint was stationed in Seattle, several locations in the San Francisco Bay Area, Philadelphia, Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho. His military service even took him to the North Pole (twice!), and Antarctica. Along the way, Austin earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in New Media/Digital Audiences from Southern New Hampshire University.

Ben Padilla is a new VSO in the DVS Clovis office, where he will work with Clovis VSO/Eastern Region Supervisor Matt Barela to help veterans and families in eastern New Mexico.

The Sutter, CA, native comes to the agency from working as the manager of the Clovis Movie Theater. He served eight years in the U.S. Air Force as a vehicle operations/ground transportation specialist while stationed in Okinawa, Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, and Cannon AFB in Clovis.

As a proud veteran, he has always wanted to help his fellow veterans, and is excited to embark on this new career path.



Ben Padilla
Clovis VSO



Clarissa Sierra
Silver City VSO

Clarissa Sierra is the new VSO in the DVS Silver City office, where she will help DVS VSO Southwestern Region VSO Supervisor Miguel Martinez assist veterans and their families in the region.

The Silver City native comes to the agency from El Refugio, Inc. in her hometown. As a victim advocate for the non-profit agency, she helped victims of domestic violence, sexual assaults, and stalking/other harassment with obtaining protection orders through district court in Grant, Hidalgo, and Catron counties.

Clarissa served with the New Mexico Army National Guard from 2012-2018 as a military police officer with the 126th MP Unit based in Las Cruces. She plans on resuming her studies at Western New Mexico University with the goal of one day going to law school and becoming a lawyer.

Candice Pioche-Zunie is a new VSO in the DVS Farmington office, where she will help DVS VSO Northwest Region VSO Supervisor Robert Guinn to help veterans and their families in the region.

The Farmington native comes to the agency from the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration—where as a VSO she was already assisting Navajo Nation veterans and their families with filing VA claims.

Candice served four years with the U.S. Air Force as a security force member. She was stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, AZ...from where she was deployed to Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.



Candice Pioche-Zunie
Farmington VSO



Arturo Marlow has been named the DVS VSO Northwest Region Supervisor, filling a vacancy created by the recent retirement of Martín Márquez.

Since coming to DVS in August of 2020, Arturo was the region's VSO. The native of Rocky Ford, CO, came to DVS from Mora Valley Community Health Services, Inc., in Mora County, where he served as that agency's compliance officer.

Arturo retired as a master sergeant after serving 22-years in the U.S. Air Force. During his time as a command and control specialist, he held various technical and leadership positions with a background in nuclear and conventional unit-level command post operations, fixed airlift command and control operations, and air and space operations.

His assignments included bases in Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado—as well as overseas assignments in the Philippines, Greece, Italy, Germany, and British Indian Ocean Territory (Diego Garcia). He also deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom and to Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina in Support of Operations Allied Force and Noble Anvil.

After his Air Force service, Arturo worked in various private sector positions utilizing his expertise in training, safety, and emergency management, and professional development. He is also a current member of the Mora County Volunteer Fire Department. During last year's Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon wildfire, he would go into the fire zones after leaving his DVS office at the end of the day to bring bottled water and snacks to fire crews.

Jesus Palomino is the new business operations specialist/executive administrative assistant for the DVS field operations division. He will work directly under Division Director Robin Wilson to provide administrative support—focusing on managing the division's budget, procurements, invoicing/accounts payable duties, and other operational side duties in support of the agency's 16 field offices and 24 veterans service officers.

The Mesa, AZ, is a former Albuquerque-based VSO who came to the agency in October of 2021 from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety's Concealed Carry Unit.

Jesus served 14-years with the United States Marine Corps as a personnel chief/human resource specialist and first-line manager. He was stationed in Missouri, California, and North Carolina before being deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Kuwait. His service culminated with a transfer to the Marine Recon Unit based at Kirtland AFB.



Jesus Palomino
*Field Services Division
Business Operations
Specialist*



CHAVES COUNTY VETERANS SYMPOSIUM

cordially invites you to attend an event

When: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8am to 5pm

Location: National Guard Armory 1 W Earl Cummings Loop Roswell, NM

Schedule of Events

- 9:00am Presentation of Colors
Youth Challenge Academy
- 10:00am to 12:00pm PACT Act Town Hall
VA Health Care, VA Regional Office, & NMDVS
- 12:00pm Performance
NMMI Goss Rifle Team
- 1:00pm Survivors Benefit Presentation
VA Regional Office

Services Available All Day

- ◇ Veterans Property Tax Exemption/Waiver Clinic
- ◇ Claims Clinic Hosted by DAV, VA Regional Office, and NMDVS
- ◇ Goodwill Industries SSVF, HVRP, CSEP
- ◇ Local Chaves County Veteran Organizations
- ◇ Veterans Health Care Services and Vet Center
- ◇ Women Veterans Programs
- ◇ VA Home Loan
- ◇ Senior Services and More



For Questions please contact Danielle Thompson, Veteran Service Officer at

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov

575-416-2284

PACT Act Town Hall Meetings in March

Mar. 23	Zuni Pueblo	1pm-3pm	Pueblo of Zuni Wellness Center 31 Pincion St. <i>Live Facebook broadcast:</i> https://www.facebook.com/VANewMexico
Mar. 24	Crownpoint	9:15-10:15am	Navajo Technical University Wellness Center Lower Point Rd & State Highway 371 <i>Live Facebook broadcast:</i> https://www.facebook.com/VANewMexico
Mar. 30	Roswell	10am-noon	National Guard Armory 1 West Earl Cummings Loop <i>virtual participation available:</i> Access.Live/2022PACTActTownHall or (855) 531-1092

DVS VSOs Provide Outreach at Dept. of Game & Fish Open Houses

DVS veterans service officers were invited by the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish to set up outreach tables in late January and last month at the following open houses at DGF regional offices: Las Cruces, (Jan. 23), Raton (Feb. 9), Santa Fe (Feb. 9), Roswell (Feb. 22), and Albuquerque (Mar. 1).

Veterans were able to get answers and pick up information about VA and state veterans benefits. The open houses, meanwhile, provided veterans with information about and help with filing for unique hunting and fishing licenses and other opportunities available for veterans...and help with applying for special draw hunts and purchases.



DVS Roswell-based Veterans Service Officer Danielle Thompson staffed an outreach table at a February 22 open house at the NM Dept. of Game and Fish SE Area office.

More information about these special draws and upcoming deadlines for licenses are in the next two pages following this story.



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Apply now for the Big Game Draw

<https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/>

Deadlines are approaching fast:

- **March 15 at 5:00 p.m.** - Deadline to qualify for early application incentives.

<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/applications-and-draw-information/>

- **March 22 at 5:00 p.m.** - Deadline to apply for draw licenses for Barbary sheep, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, ibex, javelina, pronghorn and oryx. Deadline to submit late 2022–23 harvest reports for deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey; an \$8 late fee will apply. **Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.**

- April 7 - Deadline to submit 2022–23 harvest reports for Barbary sheep, ibex, javelina, oryx and trapper license holders to be eligible for big-game licenses. Failure to report for these species by this date will result in rejection of all draw applications.

Hunters, even if you are not ready to apply, make sure that you can log into your account. Hold times are already extended and are expected to get longer. Log into your account here:

<https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/login>

Disabled and Military - Submit Paperwork ASAP

Mobility Impaired (MI): MI certification by the Department is required prior to submitting an application for MI-only pronghorn, oryx, elk or deer hunts. To qualify for MI certification, an individual must have a permanent impairment that:



- 1) limits his/her mobility to a walker, wheelchair or crutches;
- 2) or one or more permanent disabilities or conditions which substantially limit the individual's ability to walk.

The MI certification form is available online. This form must be signed by the applicant's physician and attest that one or more of the above mobility-impaired conditions apply.

The MI card holder must purchase and possess a habitat stamp and habitat management and access validation if applicable. All other laws and rules must be followed.

Military only or resident veteran: Proof of service/eligibility must now be provided to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish **prior** to applying for any military-only hunts, Fort Bliss or resident veteran hunts. You will not be able to apply for these hunts until you have provided documentation of service to the Department, your documents have been verified **and** entered into the system. For more information:

<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/licenses-and-permits/exceptions-license-information/>

DGF strongly recommends that you **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to provide your documents. Due to the influx of draw applications at the end of the application period, the Department cannot guarantee that your documents will be entered into the system if they are submitted after **March 17, 2023**. Please email questions, completed mobility impaired certification form or military documentation to specialhunts@dgf.nm.gov.

DVS to Host Veterans Property Tax Waiver/Exemption Clinics

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will hold veterans property tax waiver and exemption clinics in the following communities:

Clovis - Mar. 22 (9am-3pm)

American Legion Post 25

2400 West 7th. St.

Farmington - Apr. 18 (10am-2pm)

San Juan County Assessor’s Office

100 South Oliver Dr. #400

Roswell - Mar. 30 (8am-5pm)

National Guard Armory

1 West Earl Cummings Loop

**part of Chaves County Veterans Symposium*

Las Cruces - Apr. 20 (10am-2pm)

Doña Ana County Assessor’s Office

845 North Motel Blvd.

Edgewood - Apr. 10 (10am-2pm)

Edgewood Senior Center

114 Quail Trail

****Los Lunas - May 5** (10am-2pm)

Daniel Fernandez Recreation Center

1103 NM Hwy 314

***part of the Valencia County Senior Expo & Health Fair*

Santa Fe - Apr. 13 (10am-2pm)

Santa Fe County Fairgrounds

3229 Rodeo Rd.

Gallup - May 12 (10am-2pm)

McKinley County Assessor’s Office

207 West Hill Ave.

Pojoaque - Apr. 17 (10am-2pm)

Pojoaque Satellite Office

17839 U.S. Hwy 84/285

Albuquerque - May 8 (10am-2pm)

South Valley Senior Center

2008 Laarazolo Road SW

Tijeras - May 15 (9am-1pm)

Tijeras Senior Center

10 Tijeras Ave.

Veterans and unmarried widows of veterans can file for the veterans property tax exemption, which is a \$4,000 reduction off the taxable value of a veteran’s primary residence. Veterans rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 100% permanent service-connected-disabled can file to waive the property tax on their primary residence. Unmarried widows of veterans can also file for the exemption or waiver.

Proof of veteran status and New Mexico residency required

To expedite the filing process, veterans and surviving spouses of veterans must bring a copy of one of the following forms to show veteran status: ● DD-214 ● National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) form 56-16 ● Public Health Service (PHS) for 1867. If filing for a disabled veteran tax waiver: ● VA award letter declaring 100% permanent and total service-connected disability. For proof of New Mexico residency, please bring one of the following: ● Current NM driver’s license ● Voter registration card, or ● Latest NM income tax return. For more information, please contact Joseph Dorn at joseph.Dorn@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 861-9117.

DVS Briefs Native American Veterans & Community Leaders

DVS Secretary-Designate Donnie Quintana (*left photo/standing at left*) introduced himself at a February 24 briefing of Native American veterans and community leaders on February 24 in Albuquerque.



The meeting was the latest in a scheduled yearlong series of monthly in-person and virtual briefings presented by DVS to carry out Secretary Quintana's pledge this year to expand the agency's outreach to Native American communities. According to the latest VA population projections, there are 9,700 Native American veterans in New Mexico—with many living in rural pueblos and on tribal land.

“DVS will do a better job reaching out to you, and all Native American veterans,” he said. “Your veterans need to know about these benefits that are available for them.”



Native American Training Institute VETERANS CONFERENCE & EXPO

Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 2023
Isleta Resort & Casino Conference Center

Veterans are encouraged to attend this two-day conference to learn more about benefits, entitlements and services available, including

1. Medical and Healthcare Services: PACT ACT, PTSD, Suicide, Opioid Overdose
2. On-site assistance in filing for VA and State benefits;
3. Entrepreneurship: Business start ups, Government Contracting, etc.;
4. Vocational training, on-the-job training and other higher education opportunities;
5. Employment services and initiative;
6. Training and certification information for Veteran Service Officers;
7. Program and service opportunities exclusive to Women Veterans;
8. and many more.

Registration is required so that we have an accurate head count for the luncheon.

HONORING OUR BRAVE WARRIORS
To A Journey for a Healthy and Quality Life

REGISTRATION

FREE registration for Veterans, their spouses, and service providers. Complimentary information tables are available for veteran related services. Registration includes lunch on Saturday.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to register.



LODGING & VENUE

Isleta Resort & Casino
11000 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87005
Rate: \$111 plus tax
Code: NAT0423
Phone: (877) 747-5382
Deadline: April 1, 2023

INFORMATION

Ramus Suina
(505) 920-5047

www.nati-nm.org/veterans-1

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH March 2023



March is National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month, set aside by Congress 36-years ago to encourage the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

Women today are an important component of our nation's military. According to the latest U.S. Department of Defense data, women make up 17% of our nation's active-duty force, totaling 231,741

members.

From their inauspicious beginnings of merely performing mobile first aid and housekeeping chores for the Continental Army and various militias during our nation's Revolutionary War, women in today's military now perform the same duties alongside men on the ground in combat zones, in the skies overhead, and on the waters offshore of combat zones.

"Women serving in our military have come a long way from just simply tending to the needs of men," said New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Secretary-Designate and retired New Mexico Army National Guard Colonel Donnie Quintana, a former brigade commander who was deployed to Afghanistan. "We now have women generals, admirals, fighter pilots, and special operations team members. Anywhere a man is sent, a woman can now also be expected to go."



The growing number of women service members is also reflected in our nation's women veteran population. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are two million women veterans—11% of our nation's 18.5 million veteran population. Here in New Mexico, nearly 12% (16,800) of our state's 144,134 veterans are women.

"As our nation observes the contributions of women in our country, I want to thank those who have sacrificed to serve in our military," said Secretary Quintana. "I was proud to lead and serve alongside women, and am now proud to help women veterans file for their earned post-service veterans benefits."

Women veterans are encouraged to contact DVS to file VA claims or apply for state veterans benefits by calling (505) 827-6300 or by email at nmdvs.info@dvs.nm.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023



2023



WOMEN VETERANS

CONFERENCE

"STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

RSVP early and reserve your seat today!

Space is limited

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-women-veterans-conference-tickets-482719024597>

Email: theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov

The conference will be in Albuquerque/site TBD. To register (same link as on flyer):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-women-veterans-conference-tickets-482719024597>

Reminder this Income Tax Filing Season:

Tax Exemption for Military Retirement & Social Security

"For years, New Mexico was one of just a few states that still taxed Social Security benefits. New Mexico seniors deserve to hold onto their hard-earned benefits - and now, they will."
— Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham



Social Security

Starting with the 2022 tax year - the return you will file next Spring - most Social Security benefits are exempt from New Mexico personal income tax.

That means you'll be able to exclude that income when you file your taxes.

The exemption is available to married couples with less than \$150,000 in adjusted gross income and to single filers with less than \$100,000 in adjusted gross income.

Details on how to claim the exemption will be available in the instructions for the 2022 New Mexico Personal Income Tax return.



Military Retirement

Up to \$10,000 in military retirement benefits will be exempt from New Mexico Income Tax for the 2022 tax year. There is no income test to be eligible for the exemption.

The exemption rises to \$20,000 in military retirement benefits in tax year 2023 and up to \$30,000 in tax years 2024-2026.

Details on how to claim the exemption will be available in the instructions for the 2022 New Mexico Personal Income Tax return.

Other tax credits & rebates

New Mexico veterans and seniors may be eligible for other tax exemptions, credits and rebates



REFUNDABLE MEDICAL CARE CREDIT

New Mexicans 65 and older with unreimbursed and uncompensated medical care expenses over \$28,000 may be eligible to claim an exemption of \$3,000 and a tax credit of \$2,800.

More information: New Mexico Personal Income Tax (PIT) instructions



PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR LOW-INCOME SENIORS

Value: \$250

Eligibility: Must be 65 or older with up to \$16,000 in modified gross income.

More information: NM PIT instructions



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Veterans or unmarried widows of veterans may be eligible for a \$4,000 reduction in the taxable value of a primary residence.

More information: Local county assessor or Department of Veterans Services, 505-827-6300.



VETERANS PROPERTY TAX WAIVER

Veterans rated by the VA as 100% permanent-and-total, service-connected disabled and unmarried widows of those veterans can file for the veterans' property tax waiver, which eliminates the entire property tax bill.

More information: Local county assessor or Department of Veterans Services, 505-827-6300



TAX HELP

Tax Help New Mexico tel. 505-224-5997

AARP- New Mexico <http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide>

Veterans Community Bulletin Board

The following page(s) feature event and informational flyers provided to DVS by veterans and community service agencies. These flyers are published for the convenience of New Mexico's veteran community. Inclusion in *The Guardian* does not constitute an endorsement by DVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

DVS invites government agencies and non-profit service organizations to send flyers for publication in *The Guardian* announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. DVS will run these flyers as a public service courtesy to the veteran community.

Please note:

- Flyers must have the name of a point-of-contact from the organization...along with the contact's phone number or email address. Flyers without this information will not be published.
- DVS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content, products, or services in these flyers.
- Views expressed in these flyers are the independent views of the authors/owners of the third-party entity that created the flyer—and does not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, DVS expressly denies liability for any and all losses suffered by any persons or organizations who, in their independent discretion and reliance, either directly or indirectly rely on content, products, services or information offered by these independent third-party organizations.
- DVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.



JOIN US FOR OUR

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 AT 12:00 PM MT

**SMITH BRASHER HALL, CENTRAL NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE, 717 UNIVERSITY BLVD SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87106**



CONGRESSWOMAN

**MELANIE
STANSBURY**

1st Congressional District



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
New Mexico VA Health Care System

MAR 18TH | 8AM - 3PM

Hiring Fair



ADV MEDICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT



FOOD SERVICE WORKER



HOUSEKEEPING AID



LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE



MEDICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT



NURSING ASSISTANT



PHARMACY TECHNICIAN



POLICE OFFICER



PSYCHOLOGIST



REGISTERED NURSE



SOCIAL WORKER

SCAN ME



TO ATTEND THE HIRING FAIR FOLLOW THESE 4 STEPS

1. APPLY TO AT LEAST ONE OF THE JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS ON USA JOBS. (SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW THE POSITION NAME)
2. APPLICANTS MEETING MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO COMPLETE THE HIRING FAIR RSVP FORM. (YOU MUST COMPLETE THE RSVP FORM TO ATTEND.)
3. ATTEND THE HIRING FAIR ON MARCH 18TH AT 8AM WITH YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORDS AND TWO FORMS OF ID.
4. MAKE SURE YOU CHECK THE EMAIL ASSIGNED TO YOUR USA JOBS ACCOUNT.



1501 SAN PEDRO DRIVE SOUTHEAST
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108-5153

TYPE [HTTP://BIT.LY/3K7CKDJ](http://bit.ly/3k7ckdj)
IN YOUR WEB BROWSER
TO VIEW OPENINGS!



UNITED MILITARY WOMEN
OF THE SOUTHWEST PRESENT



5TH

Anniversary

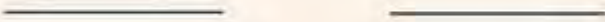
Women
Veteran's
Monument



Veteran's Park



SATURDAY
18 MARCH 23
10AM-2PM



UMWSW PRESIDENT KAREN
WOODS 575.639.1265
UMWSW VICE PRESIDENT PAMELA
CISNEROS UMWSWPC@GMAIL.COM



VETERANS PARK 2651 N ROADRUNNER

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day...



**VFW-10124 AND THE
VVA-CHAPTER 431
Las Cruces, New Mexico**



11TH ANNUAL WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

THERE WILL BE A WELCOME HOME DAY FOR ALL VIETNAM VETERANS ON 25 March 2023, AT VETERANS PARK IN LAS CRUCES, NM. ALL VIETNAM VETERANS AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS ARE ASKED TO COME AND JOIN US IN WELCOMING EACH OTHER HOME. ALL OF LAS CRUCES AND SURROUNDING AREA ARE INVITED TO COME AND WELCOME HOME OUR VIETNAM VETERANS.

THE TIME WILL BE FROM 8 AM TO 1 PM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

BRUCE (THE FLAG GUY) FONNEST 575-649-1145

E-MAIL: bfonnest@gmail.com



Save the Date!



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS RECOGNITION/ PARADE EVENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

@ ZUNI VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

STARTING @ 10:00AM



EVENTS:

- 10:00am - Recognition of Zuni Vietnam War Veterans**
- 11:15am - Car Parade Line Up**
- 11:30am - Start of Car Parade around the community**
- 12:15pm - Refreshments @ Memorial Park (after parade)**

To recognize and honor our Vietnam War Veterans for their service to their Country and the sacrifices they made for our Freedom.

Decorate your vehicles!!



Zuni Veterans Program: For More Information, Call: (505) 782-7280/7281/7124

FOR SAFETY REASONS: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT



NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY



NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL

1100 Louisiana Blvd SE

MARCH 29, 2023

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Dedication and Unveiling

COMBINED ACTION PROGRAM MEMORIAL MONUMENT

This monument is dedicated to all CAP Members and FMP Corpsmen attached to CAP units during the Vietnam War

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

Conference Room

Hosted by NM Veterans Memorial Foundation



1100 Louisiana Blvd SE • Albuquerque, NM 87108-5009

Phone: (505) 768-4495 • NMVetsMemorial.org

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. • 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



“Silent Warriors of Vietnam” Shiprock Agency, NM

Parade:

Line up 0800 hours
Shiprock Chapter Parking Lot to
Fair grounds Indian Market

General Session:

1000 hours– 1200 hours
MC: Vern R. Lee

Posting of Colors:

- Upper Fruitland Color Guards
- National Anthem: Sarah Nolan
Kirtland High School
- Keynote Speaker and
Guest Speakers:

Other Events:

Booths
PACT Act/Toxic Screening
VA Claims
Trail Horse Riders: Elousie Brown
Vietnam Honor Walk: Calvin Charlie
Gourd Dance: Davis Filfred
Motorcycle MCRide
Lunch





2023 NEW MEXICO STEM CAREER FAIR

REGISTRATION
WWW.STEMBOOMERANG.ORG



12 APRIL, 2023

2-6 PM

Q Station
(Nob Hill in ABQ)

info@stemboomerang.org



TRICORE
REFERENCE LABORATORIES



IDEAS
Engineering & Technology



SPONSORED BY:



Come meet with hiring managers at New Mexico's top STEM employers and network with your peers!

FREE Post-Traumatic Stress Retreats for Veterans & Partners



Veterans & their partners will experience 7.5 days of relief & healing from PTS in Red River, New Mexico



April 23-30, 2023
May 14-21, 2023
August 6-13, 2023
October 15-22, 2023

Offering education, counseling, massage, acupuncture, reiki, yoga, art therapy, nutrition, chiropractic care, horseback riding and more!

VeteransWellnessAndHealing.org 575-377-5236 Info@veteranswellnessandhealing.org
Contact us for an application TODAY!

7TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
10AM - 2PM

NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL
1100 LOUISIANA BLVD SE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Help us send our Veterans to Washington D.C.



REGISTRATION:

\$25 PER CAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL GREY

505-385-5979

INTERESTED IN A VENDOR BOOTH
INFO@HFNNM.ORG

SPECTATORS ARE FREE!



CALLING ALL CAREGIVERS AND CARE PARTNERS:

Participate in a Research Study

Are you a Caregiver of a Service Member or Veteran?

Share your caregiver story with a health care provider in a research study being conducted by The University of New Mexico.

Knowledge gained from your caregiver experiences is invaluable to improving patient health and outcomes in education of health care providers, and to inform health care policy. If you or someone you know assists or provides care to someone who has sustained an injury or is ill, we would very much like to hear from you. This will be a one-time commitment of no more than 60 minutes scheduled at your convenience.

For more information or to participate in this virtual research study, please contact:

Study Coordinator

Rachel Taylor

RacTaylor@salud.unm.edu

Clinical and Translational Science Center

UNM Health Science Center

505-272-8893

Principal Investigator

Patricia Watts-Kelley, PhD, RN, CAPT(ret)

pwattskelley@salud.unm.edu



HSC IRB #:22-263

NM
COLLEGE
OF NURSING



APPLY TODAY!
QUESTIONS, CALL 505.662.8301
FOR FD INFO: www.losalamosfd.org

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT NOW HIRING!



FIRST YEAR STARTING SALARY WITHOUT OVERTIME

\$61,500 + \$7,500 Hiring Bonus
Firefighter

\$66,960 + \$15,000 Hiring Bonus
Firefighter/Paramedic

*Average overtime during Academy ~\$15,000

BONUS BREAKDOWN

Firefighter new hires will receive a total of \$7,500 over the first year:

- + \$2,500 after 30 days completed in the Academy
- + \$2,500 upon Academy graduation
- + \$2,500 just prior to the end of the first year
- + FREE DORM HOUSING PROVIDED FOR ACADEMY RECRUITS

Firefighter new hires that are Nationally Registered Paramedics & licensed to provide care in New Mexico UPON HIRE will receive a total of \$15,000 over the first year:

- + \$2,500 after 30 days completed in the Academy
- + \$2,500 upon Academy graduation
- + \$10,000 just prior to the end of the first year

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ACADEMY

- Must be 18 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Valid driver's license
- US citizen
- EMT license not required to apply
- No experience necessary

FIRE SCHEDULE AFTER ACADEMY

- 48-hour shift then four days off
- 144-240 hours vacation accrual annually
- 12 shift trades per year

BENEFITS OF CAREER AT LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

- 25 year PERA retirement
- Medical, Vision, Dental, Life
- Tuition assistance available after one year
- Additional Los Alamos County (LAC) pension—seven year vested time—like 401k
LAC pays 9% and employee pays 1%
- PERA Contributions—LAC pays 65%, employee pays 35%
- GI Bill benefit eligible

BENEFITS OF LOS ALAMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Five new stations in five years, one under construction now
- Three new engines and two ladders ordered
- Annual firefighter physicals
- Paid training & incentive opportunities
- Advancement opportunities
- Protecting the Los Alamos National Lab
- Low call volume—2,771 calls in 2022
- Healthiest County award by US News
- Population 19,400

LONGEVITY PAY AFTER 2 YEARS (2912 hrs.)

YEARS OF SERVICE	EXTRA PAY PER HOUR/YEAR
2-4	\$.52/\$1,514
5-7	\$.86/\$2,504
8-11	\$1.20/\$3,494
12-14	\$1.72/\$5,009
15-17	\$2.40/\$6,989
18-21	\$4.12/\$11,997
22 +	\$6.18/\$17,996



News from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



Veterans Can Now Access Disability Benefit Claims Decisions Online

Veterans can now access their disability benefit claim decision notice letters electronically on [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)—empowering veterans to quickly and easily see their disability decisions.

Before this option was available, veterans had to wait for a paper copy of their decision notice to be mailed to them. While previous iterations of VA.gov allowed veterans to access benefits summary letters, they could not access the full copy of these decision notification letters from their electronic claims folders.

Since the launch of this service in January, nearly 280,000 decision notice letters have been downloaded.

“Veterans now have access to their benefits decisions anytime, anyplace – right at their fingertips,” said U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough. “VA disability benefits can also open the door to other federal and state benefits, so quick and easy access to a decision means quicker access to the additional benefits veterans deserve.”

The new electronic option is also expected to reduce calls to the National Call Centers, freeing up call center respondents to answer other questions and requests from veterans and their families.

To access their decision letters, veterans can log in to VA.gov and [check the status of their claim](#). For more details, visit [VA News](#).

VA Increases Maximum Life Insurance Coverage for Veterans and Service Members

VA has increased the maximum amount of life insurance coverage available to veterans and service members from \$400,000 to \$500,000 for [Veterans' Group Life Insurance \(VGLI\)](#) and [Servicemembers Group Life Insurance \(SGLI\)](#).



This increase in coverage reflects the current cost of living and helps ensure that the families of veterans and service members will have the financial support they deserve after their loved ones pass away.

Veterans who are under the age of 60 and are currently enrolled in VGLI will be able to purchase additional coverage in \$25,000 increments up to \$500,000. All active duty, guard, and reserve service members eligible for SGLI will automatically receive the increased coverage on March 1.

“All Veterans and service members deserve to know that when they pass away, their families will be taken care of,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This increase in coverage will help our country keep that promise, ensuring that the families of these heroes will get the financial support they need.”

VA currently serves nearly 6 million veterans, service members, and their families with more than \$1.2 trillion of insurance. Life insurance options include [SGLI](#), which eligible service members are automatically signed up for while serving; [VGLI](#), which veterans can transition to from SGLI or apply for within 1 year and 120 days of leaving the service; [VA Life](#), a new option that provides up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%; and [more](#).

Under this increase, the SGLI premium rate will remain the same, meaning that service members will receive maximum coverage for \$30 per month, plus \$1 for Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) coverage. Service members who separate from service with SGLI coverage at the new higher amount can convert their coverage to VGLI. Service members who do not wish to keep the increased SGLI coverage amount can elect a reduced coverage amount or decline coverage online through the SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) on [milConnect](#). If coverage is reduced or declined by March 31, service members will not be charged for the increased coverage amount.

This increase in life insurance is a part of the [Supporting Families of the Fallen Act](#). For more information about life insurance options, veterans and servicemembers can visit [VA's life insurance portal](#).



DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

DVS has field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally accredited veterans service officers who are dedicated to helping veterans with filing VA claims, applying for state veterans benefits, or with helping with anything else a veteran or their family needs with.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, (excluding holidays).

Though this service is free, appointments are required and can be

made by contacting the VSOs below. **Please note: in addition to in-office assistance, veterans from anywhere in the state can also contact any DVS VSO for assistance by phone or email.**

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Austin Walker

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 274-0393

austin.walker@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Hope Fryer

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 383-2400

hope.najera@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Temporarily vacant. Please contact the other Albuquerque VSOs for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email help

Albuquerque Metro Area

Temporarily vacant. Please contact the other Albuquerque VSOs for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email help

Belen/Albuquerque Metro Area

(opening soon)

718 South Main St/Space A, Unit 8
(TBD)

[TBD](#)

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (region supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Robert Guinn (region supervisor)

San Juan College Vet Center/
Room 1715-B

(505) 327-2861

robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Candice Pioche-Zunie

San Juan College Vet Center
Room 1715-B

(505) 916-4835

candice.pioche@dvs.nm.gov

Gallup/Northwest NM

John Livingston

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A
(505) 389-8731

john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov

(more offices are on the next page)

Grants/Northwest NM**April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM**

Temporarily vacant. Please contact the Las Vegas VSO supervisor for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email Assistance.

Santa Fe/Northwest NM**Nick McKenzie**

Bataan Memorial Bldg. 1st Floor/
Room 134/407 Galisteo St

(505) 218-3125

nicholas.mckenzie@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Fred Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov**Rio Rancho/Albuquerque Metro****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.
1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D, Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov**Silver City/Southwest NM****Clarissa Sierra**

Western New Mexico University
Juan Chacon Bldg./Rm. 138A

1000 West College Ave.

(505) 313-5627

clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (*supervisor*)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas, NM/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow** (*supervisor*)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

Martin.marquez@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite 2A
(575) 416-2284

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov**Taos/Northwest NM****Leticia "Lety" Cano**

Health & Human Service Bldg.
145 Roy Rd.

(575) 709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov**Women Veterans Program****Pueblos/Tribal Liaison****Theresa Figueroa**

DVS Albuquerque Office

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 916-7449

theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov**Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov