



# The Guardian

*The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans' Services*  
**August 2025**

•Website: [www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org)

•Facebook: [NMDVSHHealthcare2015](https://www.facebook.com/NMDVSHHealthcare2015)

•Instagram: [newmexicoveterans](https://www.instagram.com/newmexicoveterans)

## Last Known New Mexico Battan Survivor Passes

New Mexico mourns the loss of a true American hero. Valdemar DeHerrera, the last known New Mexican survivor connected to the Bataan campaign in World War II, passed away on July 15th, 2025, at the age of 105. His life, defined by extraordinary resilience, sacrifice, and humility, leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations.

Born on October 8, 1919, in Costilla, New Mexico, Valdemar was raised in a large ranching family that instilled in him a strong work ethic and deep faith, which he credited with giving him the strength to survive the brutalities of war.

He was just 17 when the U.S. Army drafted him in the spring of 1941 and was assigned to Battery A, 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, one of New Mexico's most storied units. By December 1941, he had been transferred to Battery A, 515th Coast Artillery Regiment. After the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1942, Valdemar was among those who resisted surrender, evading capture and making his way with a small group of fellow soldiers to Corregidor. Eventually, without food, weapons, or the means to fight back, they were captured.

Though not a participant in the infamous Bataan Death March, Valdemar endured other grueling forced marches, imprisonment, starvation, and abuse. On multiple occasions, he narrowly escaped death, instances he described as divine interventions. From a Japanese guard sparing his life, to a fellow American soldier helping him survive during a death march, and a Japanese officer choosing mercy over execution, Valdemar believed guardian angels watched over him throughout his captivity.

He was imprisoned at a textile factory in Manchuria until his liberation in 1945. At the time of his release, he weighed just 80 pounds. Returning to New Mexico, he rebuilt his life working for the State Highway Department before entering the mining industry. In 1949, he married Consuelo de Vargas of Taos and spent nearly seven decades together before her passing in 2019. Together, they raised eight children and were later blessed with fourteen grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. His legacy of service lives on through three of his children who are Veterans, and one grandchild currently serving in the U.S. Navy.

Until his passing, Valdemar lived with his family near Taos; his story was one of endurance, humility, and strength. He rarely spoke of his suffering, instead choosing to focus on the blessings of life, his family, his community, and his country. Valdemar DeHerrera was laid to rest with full military honors at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on July 28th.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services extends its deepest condolences to the DeHerrera family. As we say farewell to the last of our Bataan-era heroes, we honor Valdemar's life and service to our state and country, which will never be forgotten.





**New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services**  
**Field Office Closures**  
**August 11 – August 15, 2025**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services will **close** all 16 field offices during the week of **August 11–15, 2025** for Veteran Service Officer training.

**State Benefits Services Available:**

Monday, 8/11, Tuesday, 8/12, Thursday, 8/14, and Friday 8/15 at the following locations:

- Albuquerque Office: 4801 Indian School Rd. NE
- Albuquerque VA Regional Office: 500 Gold Ave. SW
- Santa Fe Office: Bataan Memorial Building: 407 Galisteo St.

**Please Note:**

All NMDVS offices will be **CLOSED Wednesday, August 13, 2025** for a department-wide training day.

All offices will re-open and resume regular business hours on Monday, August 18, 2025.

We appreciate your patience as we work to improve services for New Mexico's veterans through ongoing staff development and training.

For immediate assistance, please call 1-866-433-8387 or visit our website at [NMDVS.org](https://www.nmdvs.org) for information on benefits and services.



# Property Tax Exemption & NM Lifetime Veteran Park Pass Events

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is still accepting applications from Veterans for the new property tax exemptions signed into law on March 20, 2025. The standard Veteran property tax exemption is now \$10,000 and will be applied to the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse's notice of value. In 2026 and subsequent tax years, the amount shall be adjusted for inflation.

For the tax year 2026, the Disabled Veterans Exemption allows for the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse to apply for an adjusted exemption in an amount equal to the percentage of the Veteran's disability as determined by federal law. Veterans who choose to add the new Disabled Veteran tax exemption must submit an application to NMDVS and file it with their County Assessor.

NMDVS has scheduled Veteran property tax exemption events throughout the state to explain the changes. NMDVS staff will be ready to assist eligible Veterans and unmarried widows/widowers applying for property tax waivers, exemptions, and the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veteran Pass and assist with VA benefits claims and help with questions regarding VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment, disability compensation, and state benefits assistance.

Reserve	8/26	Catron County	12 Ella Street, Reserve, NM 87830	9am-1pm
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## Documents needed to verify eligibility:

- A copy of DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- VA Award Letter showing percentage of disability
- NM Driver's License, ID, Voter registration card, or most recent NM Personal Income Tax Return
- Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death certificates

**If you have questions on the new Veteran's property tax law, please call NMDVS at 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400. Visit [nmdvs.org](https://nmdvs.org) for a property tax exemption form and get your certificate now.**

Our VSOs also help connect veterans to vital community resources, such as, transitional housing and medical and behavioral health care. Information and assistance on federal and state benefits, local Veterans' programs and referral services are available at any of our field office locations.

The NMDVS Healthcare Division works with mental health providers throughout the state to help veterans in crisis. If you need help, call or text 988 and press 1 for the Veterans crisis line. For more information on programs, resources, and services provided by NMDVS and our partners, please call 1-866-433-8387 or visit [nmdvs.org](https://nmdvs.org).



# **CATRON COUNTY ASSESSORS VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT**

## **CATRON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER**

12 Ella Street, Reserve, NM 87830

**Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 9:00 AM — 1:00 PM**



**NM Dept of Veterans' Services & Catron County Assessor's** office representatives will be on site to assist eligible veterans and unmarried widows applying for:

- \* *\$10,000 Standard Veterans Property Tax Exemption.*
- \* *Percentage Based Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption.*
- \* *Disabled Veterans Permanent & Total property Tax Waiver.*

### **The following documents will be required to verify Property Tax certificate eligibility:**

1. A copy of your DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA form 56-16, or PHS form 1867
  - \* DD214 must be full form, unredacted and include character of service
  - \* Visit [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) to request discharge paperwork if needed.
2. If applicable, VA Federal Award letter verifying service-connected disability rating
  - \* If you do not have a copy of your current VA Award letter, a free copy can be obtained by establishing an account at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or by calling 1-800-827-1000.
3. Proof of New Mexico Residency – Includes one of the following documents:  
**Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return**

## Upcoming DVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits

NMDVS is scheduled to make the following outreach visits at the locations listed below.

Veterans and/or their eligible dependents are encouraged to stop by to file for or ask information about—VA disability ratings, VA medical or mental health care, retiree pensions, military burials, and many other VA benefits.

Staff can also help with applying for state Veterans' benefits such as discounted fishing and hunting licenses, Veterans' license plates, property tax exemptions, state park passes, and many more state Veterans' benefits.

Please bring a copy of your DD 214, NA 13038, NOAA 56-16, PHS 1867, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, which are necessary for filing all Veterans' benefits claims. VA award letter showing percentage of disability, NM Driver's License, ID, voter Registration card, and Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death certificates if applicable. NMDVS can help Veterans file for lost or misplaced DD 214s.

Artesia	8/26, 9/23, 10/21	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	8/19, 9/2, 9/16	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	8/19, 10/21	Military & Family Readiness Center	2:30pm-5:30pm
Capitan	10/1, 12/3	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	8/13, 9/10	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	8/27, 9/24	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-3pm
Española	9/3, 10/1, 11/5	Workforce Connection Ctr. 56 Co Rd. 126B	10am-2pm
Eunice	8/14, 10/16, 12/11	Eunice Library, 1003 Avenue N	9am-11:30am
Holloman AFB	8/11, 8/18, 9/8	Military Family Readiness Center	8am-10am
Jal	8/14, 10/16, 12/11	Woolworth Library, 100 E Utah Ave	1pm-3:30pm
Lovington	8/21, 10/23, 12/18	Lovington Library, 115 Main St.	9am-11:30am
Ruidoso	9/10, 11/5	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Socorro/Belen	8/12, 9/9, 10/14	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Tatum	8/21, 10/23, 12/18	Tatum Library, 323 E Broadway St.	

### The following are weekly outreach visits:

Santa Fe	Mondays	Santa Fe Vet Center/2209 Brothers Rd.	9am-4pm
Santa Fe	Fridays	Santa Fe Vet Center/2209 Brothers Rd.	9am-2pm
T or C Vet. Home	Wednesdays	State Veterans' Home/992 S. Broadway	9am-4pm

Veterans and their eligible dependents can always contact any of the NMDVS field offices statewide listed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Each office is staffed by nationally certified Veterans Service Officers (VSO), who can also offer assistance by phone or email.

**If you know of or are hosting a veterans' or community event that would benefit from having a Veterans' Service Officer on site to help answer questions on benefits available please contact DVS Field Services Director Robin Wilson at [Robin.Wilson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Robin.Wilson@dvs.nm.gov)**

# Military & Veterans Day at the NM State Fair, September 9th



Military & Veterans Day at the New Mexico State Fair, September 9, 2025  
The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) and the New Mexico State Fair, invites all Veterans, active-duty military, National Guard, and Reserve members to the 2025 Military and Veterans Day at the State Fair on Tuesday, September 9th, in Albuquerque.

This annual event honors the men and women who have served our country, offering a day of appreciation, entertainment, and community engagement. In addition to the fair's attractions, Veteran and military service organizations, as well as the VA, will provide valuable resources and information.

NMDVS will have its new Mobile Unit on site to assist Veterans and eligible unmarried widows or widowers with a wide range of services. Our staff can assist with applying for property tax waivers and exemptions, obtaining the New Mexico State Parks Lifetime Veteran Pass, filing VA benefits, compensation claims, and answering questions about VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment.

Documents needed to verify eligibility:

- A copy of DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- VA Award Letter showing percentage of disability and any other VA correspondence related to claiming benefits
- NM Driver's License, ID, voter registration card, or the most recent NM Personal Income Tax Return
- Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death certificates

Veterans, active-duty personnel, National Guard, and Reserve members receive free admission with a valid military ID or by wearing their uniform. Accepted IDs include military retiree card, veterans-designation driver's license, VA Veterans Health ID Card, or a DD-214. Free admission applies only to the service members; family members and guests must pay the regular admission fee, and parking fees still apply.

This year's guest speaker, Veteran Walter Wood (Ret.), U.S. Army, is a native of Springer, New Mexico, where he was born into a proud family of ranchers with a strong tradition of military service. Several members of Walt's family served in the Armed Forces, instilling in him a deep sense of duty and patriotism from a young age. That legacy guided his path from the quiet plains of northeastern New Mexico to a distinguished military career, ultimately placing him at the Pentagon, where he witnessed one of the most tragic days in American history.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Walt was scheduled to attend a meeting in the "E Ring," the outermost section of the Pentagon. Arriving early, he stopped by the office to check in. As fate would have it, the meeting was unexpectedly rescheduled. Moments later, as Walt walked down the hallway, the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the exact office he had just left. The impact killed all 64 people aboard the plane and 125 in the Pentagon.

By sheer chance and timing, Walt survived; a moment that would forever shape his life. Today, he continues to serve at the Pentagon, embodying resilience, dedication, and the enduring spirit of our nation. We are honored to welcome Walter Wood as this year's speaker, a true testament to courage, survival, and the unwavering commitment of those who serve.

Gates open at 10:00 a.m., with displays and information tables available until 3:00 p.m. A special ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. under the Pavilion Stage in the food court. The fairgrounds will close at 9:00 p.m. Join us for this special day to honor and celebrate New Mexico's military and veteran community.

## Small Business Administration District Director Visits NMDVS



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) was proud to welcome U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) District Director Angela Burton and Josh Baca from the New Mexico SBA District Office to the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for a special site visit.

It was an honor to highlight the work we're doing to empower veteran and military-connected entrepreneurs (NMDVS). Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, VBOC Director Johnny Martinez, and VBOC Advisor/Project Coordinator Christina Stover thanked Director Burton for SBA's continued support. We're excited to strengthen this collaboration as we move forward with bold goals and a renewed vision.

VBOC offers a comprehensive range of services, including business planning, market analysis, access to capital, government contracting guidance, and other essential resources necessary for successfully launching and growing a business. The VBOC is located at the NMDVS Albuquerque office, 4801 Indian School Road NE, Building 2. Walk-in business counseling is welcome; however, scheduling an appointment is strongly encouraged to ensure personalized service and availability.

Visit <https://nmvboc.org/> for more resources and information on programs offered by VBOC.

## Veteran Service Officers Attend NACVSO Conference

The Field Services Division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) attended the 2025 National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) Annual Training Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Our participation ensured that our Veteran Service Officer (VSO) team earned critical Continuing Education Units (CEUs) necessary for maintaining VA Accreditation, while also deepening our understanding of best practices in VA claims and appeals processes. The training sessions, which ranged from advanced claims development to updates on federal policy, were both relevant and practical.



New Mexico was publicly recognized for its leadership in two key areas: its commitment to training and certifying Tribal Veteran Service Officers, and the launch of the state's first-ever VSO Mobile Unit, which will expand access to benefits assistance in rural and tribal communities.

Beyond the classroom sessions, our NMDVS VSO team engaged with counterparts from across the country to share and develop solutions that improve services to Veterans. We worked closely with other state teams on initiatives such as the Forgotten Heroes Program and Women Veterans' outreach, both of which aim to address long-overlooked populations within the Veteran community. Our staff also participated in workgroups focused on streamlining VSO processes and improving coordination with the VA. We're proud to have represented New Mexico and bring home new ideas and proven solutions that will help us serve you better. The NACVSO Conference was a powerful reminder that when we work together, all Veterans benefit.

## Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

New Mexico's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) continues its mission of advocating for active-duty military members, Veterans, and their families. The committee, a bipartisan group of legislators from both the House and Senate, serves as a key platform for Veteran and military-related legislative work. Led by Senator Harold Pope (Chair) and Representative Debra Sariñana (Vice Chair), both Veterans themselves, the MVAC ensures military voices are heard at the state level. Each year, the committee travels the state to meet directly with military leaders, Veteran organizations, and community members.



On Tuesday, July 15, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera gave an update to the committee. Topics included the ongoing outreach to communities throughout the state, updating Veterans on the changes to the Veteran Property Tax Exemptions that became law in 2025, and the disabled Veterans adjustment that takes effect in 2026. Details on a feasibility study that is underway for a future Veteran Resource Center were also discussed. The proposed center would be strategically located in Albuquerque near the VA hospital to serve as a one-stop shop for Veterans and family members to receive services without having to visit multiple locations. The ongoing campaign to promote the Highly Rural Transportation Program, which has provided over 1200 rides for Veterans to eligible VA doctor appointments this year, was also covered.

Secretary Herrera fielded questions about the new NMDVS mobile unit that will begin to serve rural areas of the state that do not have field offices near them, providing access to Veteran Service Officers (VSO) and State Benefits on site. NMDVS updated the committee on the number of VSOs now standing at 31, and that NMDVS was fully staffed to deliver services as effectively as possible, but the need is still growing. Updates were also given on the Women Veterans, Tribal Liaison, and the Forgotten Heroes program, providing a military funeral for eligible Veterans whose remains are unclaimed.

The next MVAC committee meeting is scheduled for August 13th in Las Cruces, NM. For more information, agendas, virtual attendance options, and meeting location updates, please visit the legislature website [here](#).

## Forgotten Heroes Burial Ceremony 2025

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, the cremated remains of 38 unclaimed military Veterans will be laid to rest with full military honors during the annual Forgotten Heroes Burial Ceremony.

The memorial service will begin at 9 a.m. at Legacy Church, located at 4701 Wyoming Blvd NE, Albuquerque. Following the ceremony, the urns will be escorted by law enforcement, service agencies, and the New Mexico American Legion Riders. The ceremony concludes at 11 a.m. at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, 501 North Guadalupe Street.



The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program is a partnership between the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, Bernalillo County, the New Mexico National Guard, Albuquerque Police Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, Director's Choice Funeral Home, and Santa Fe National Cemetery. The program ensures that honorably discharged veterans who pass away without family or friends to claim them receive a proper burial with the dignity and respect they deserve.

The public is invited to attend and serve as "family" to provide a final salute for these fallen Veterans who have served our country. This event demonstrates that respect for military service has no expiration date.



**NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES**

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
MILITARY HONORS FALL TRAINING  
CONFERENCE & COMPETITION**



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2025**

Team Registration 8am-9am / Conference begins @ 9am

**NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL  
1100 LOUISIANA BLVD SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM**



**HOSTED BY:**



**AARP<sup>®</sup>**



## NMDVS New Mobile Outreach Unit

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is in final preparation for deployment of its new Mobile Outreach Unit. Staffed by trained Veteran Service Officers, James Brandon and David Swisher, the mobile unit will help Veterans initiate and file VA compensation and disability claims, apply for healthcare and education benefits, and access state benefits programs from the convenience of their local community.

The Mobile Outreach Unit is equipped with its own power and communications systems and will travel across New Mexico, making regular visits to underserved areas, including tribal lands. No appointments will be necessary, allowing Veterans and families to walk in and receive one-on-one assistance on-site.



The initiative reflects NMDVS and the State of New Mexico's commitment to ensuring that all Veterans, regardless of where they live, have equal access to the benefits they have earned through their service. A schedule of mobile unit service locations will be posted on NMDVS social media and websites.

Don't wait to access the benefits and services you have earned serving your state and country. Contact one of our field offices at [NMDVS.org](https://www.nmdvs.org) or call 1-866-433-8387.

## Veterans Memorial Walkway Brick Installation

Join the David Westphall Veterans Foundation on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am -3:00 pm for the annual Angel Fire Memorial Brick Installation hosted by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS). This solemn yet healing event, has become a cornerstone of tribute at the memorial. The bricks are more than just engraved stone; some mark those who lost their lives in combat. Others honor those who came home, lived full lives, and passed on. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera will be in attendance to honor the Veterans being remembered. The installation event includes a brief ceremony and the reading of names of the new bricks to be installed by family members, volunteers, and Run for the Wall riders.



The Walkway reached its limit of 500 bricks for this year, and orders are now being accepted for the 2026 Brick Installation, scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 2026. You can order your brick through the David Westphall Foundation website [here](#), visit the gift shop at the Memorial, or call 575-377-6900.

NMDVS manages the Memorial, working with the David Westphall Foundation. The Memorial also features a museum, library, visitor center, and displays that offer a glimpse into the daily lives of those involved in our military history. The Memorial is also home to a half-scale replica of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, which bears the names of over 58,318 fallen service members, including 400 New Mexicans. The Memorial overlooks the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, which opened in July 2020. The Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located at 34 Country Club Rd. Angel Fire, NM 87710. For more information, visit the NMDVS website [here](#) and the David Westphall Veterans Foundation [here](#).



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# **AUG. 30 LABOR DAY WEEKEND VETERANS BRICK LAYING CEREMONY**

Organizer: David Westphall Veterans Foundation  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
34 Country Club Rd  
Angel Fire, NM  
Aug 30, 2025 • 8:30-3:00

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Join us in this heartfelt occasion as we lay engraved bricks that will become a permanent part of the memorial's pathways, symbolizing gratitude and remembrance.

[www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org)



# New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veteran Pass

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is accepting applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veteran Pass, which provides free, unlimited access to all state parks. This benefit includes both day-use and overnight camping, allowing eligible Veterans to enjoy the beauty of New Mexico's outdoors year-round without paying standard entry or campsite fees. It does not include reservation processing charges, group shelters, special event sites, or cabin rentals.

The pass is part of a collaborative effort between the NMDVS and the State Parks Division, under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD).

To qualify, applicants must be New Mexico residents and have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including National Guard and Reserve components, with a discharge other than dishonorable. The pass also extends eligibility to Veterans who served in the U.S. Public Health Service or NOAA Corps under qualifying conditions.



Veterans interested in applying must submit the required documentation and application to NMDVS to obtain the pass.

## Required Documentation to apply for the pass:

1. A completed application form; AND
2. A copy of DD 214 (Report of Separation) for military veterans; NOAA Form 56-16 for Commissioned Officers discharged from NOAA; and PHS Form 1867 for Uniformed Officers discharged from PHS, or equivalent Department of Defense document (NOTE: any Department of Defense Document, submitted in lieu of a DD 214, which does not verify dates and character of service will not be accepted); AND
3. Proof of New Mexico residency
  - Copy of Current New Mexico Driver's License/ NM State-issued picture ID.
  - Copy of Current NM Voter's Registration
  - Latest copy of a New Mexico State Income Tax Return

## Important Notice: Delays in Veteran Lifetime Park Pass Processing

**We're currently experiencing an overwhelming number of requests for the new Veteran Lifetime Park Pass. As a result, processing times may be longer than usual. Our team is working diligently to ensure every submission is handled as quickly and accurately as possible.**

**Thank you for your patients – and for your service.**

You can download an application from the NMDVS website [here](#).

Applications can be forwarded to NMDVS via email at [Vet.Benefits@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Vet.Benefits@dvs.nm.gov). Upon approval, Veterans will receive a vehicle hang-tag pass, which must be displayed while using the parks. The park pass is non-transferable.

For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) on rules and how to obtain and use the pass, click on this [link](#). Visit the NMDVS website at <https://www.nmdvs.org/> for the links and more information.

## Navajo Code Talkers Day August 14th

New Mexico joins the nation in honoring the Navajo Code Talkers, Native American Marines whose unbreakable code, based on the Navajo language, helped secure victory in the Pacific during World War II. Their bravery and ingenuity saved countless lives, and their legacy remains one of the most powerful chapters in American military history. For New Mexicans, the observance is especially meaningful, as many of these heroic men came from the northwestern New Mexico area of the Navajo Nation.

In 1942, the U.S. Marine Corps turned to the Navajo language as the foundation for a new, secure communications code. Twenty-nine Navajo men were recruited to develop and implement this code in the field. They served in some of the most dangerous battles of the war, including Iwo Jima, Saipan, and Okinawa. The code was never broken, and its success played an important role in America's efforts in the Pacific theater.

The contributions of the Navajo Code Talkers remained classified for decades. It wasn't until 1982 that President Ronald Reagan designated August 14 as National Navajo Code Talkers Day. Nearly 20 years later, in 2001, the original 29 Code Talkers received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress.

Today, only two of these original heroes are known to be alive: Thomas Begay and Peter MacDonald. Both men still share their experiences and advocate for the recognition of all Native American Veterans, ensuring that the memory of the Code Talkers endures for future generations.

The Code Talkers used their language to protect our freedom. Their legacy is not just one of military success but of resilience, cultural pride, and patriotism. Let us honor them, remember them, and ensure their story is never forgotten.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) encourages all New Mexicans to reflect on the contributions of the Navajo Code Talkers and to recognize the service of Native American Veterans who have defended our nation with honor and distinction.

NMDVS is committed to supporting the state's Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes by addressing the unique challenges faced by Native American Veterans. Through strong partnerships, NMDVS works to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met. NMDVS builds lasting connections with each Pueblo, Nation, and Tribe to improve access to services and solve shared challenges within Native communities.

Our Tribal Liaison Program plays a key role in this effort. Serving as the main point of contact for Native American veteran concerns, the Tribal Liaison ensures consistent communication and collaboration across all Tribal communities in New Mexico.

Contact Beverly Charley, NMDVS Tribal Liaison at: [Vetdvs.tribaliaison@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Vetdvs.tribaliaison@dvs.nm.gov)



Photo: Thomas Begay



Photo: Peter MacDonald



# Veterans Family Visits to the Santa Fe National Cemetery

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) was proud to once again assist Veterans and family members who ride the Rail Runner to visit loved ones laid to rest at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. NMDVS leaders were on hand to welcome passengers and help them honor the memory and service of their fallen heroes.

This special program, coordinated by the Rio Metro Regional Transit District in partnership with Albuquerque Senior Affairs and local agencies, provides free Rail Runner transportation to Santa Fe, along with a shuttle service to the cemetery. It is designed especially for seniors and family members who may otherwise find it difficult to make the trip.

First launched in 2023, the program was developed by Rio Metro Marketing Specialist Marie Morra, who collaborated with Santa Fe and Albuquerque senior programs and the Santa Fe National Cemetery. The service is offered three times each year and continues to grow in community impact and participation.

NMDVS remains committed to supporting programs like this that honor the legacy of New Mexico's Veterans and ensure their families have access to moments of remembrance they deserve.



Photos (left to right): Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary, with Marie Morra, Rio Metro Regional Transit District; (Left middle): David Walker, Bureau Chief of Cemeteries/Monuments, with Ralph Harris, U.S. Army (Ret.), Director of the Dukes of Albuquerque Legion Band, and Marie Morra; (Right middle): Jamison Herrera presents Veteran Michael McGinnis with an NMDVS service coin; (Right): Eric James, NMDVS Deputy Secretary, welcomes Veterans and family members to the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

## Commemorating a Navy Veteran's Service in Silver City

While visiting Reserve, New Mexico, David Walker—the Cemetery Memorial Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS)—met a group of veterans at a local shooting range. During their conversation, Mr. Walker introduced himself and described his role within the NMDVS. The veterans shared a concern: Earl Pitt, a Navy Veteran and fellow community member laid to rest in Silver City in 2015, did not have a military headstone, despite his distinguished service during World War II and the Korean War, including surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor. They expressed their wish for Mr. Pitt to receive a proper memorial befitting his service.

The veterans suggested Mr. Walker reach out to Billy McCarty, owner of the local hardware store, who could provide the necessary details. Mr. Walker successfully contacted Mr. McCarty, who furnished the documentation required to confirm Mr. Pitt's service.

With this information, Mr. Walker coordinated with officials in Silver City to identify Mr. Pitt's grave at Memory Lane Cemetery. He enlisted the help of Angel Fire cemetery supervisor Randall Myklebust and Gallup cemetery supervisor Gilbert Lopez to arrange for an upright headstone for Shipfitter First Class (SF1) Earl Pitt. The memorial was shipped to Mr. McCarty's store, where Mr. Walker reviewed it for accuracy before bringing it to the cemetery.

On June 19, 2025, Mr. Walker personally delivered the headstone to Memory Lane Cemetery. There, he was joined by Silver City worker Ramon Madrid, who assisted in locating the gravesite and took up a shovel to help with the installation.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services extends heartfelt thanks to the Veterans of Reserve, Billy McCarty, Randall Myklebust, Gilbert Lopez, Ramon Madrid, and the town of Silver City for coming together to honor the memory of SF1 Earl Wenston Pitt—veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and survivor of Pearl Harbor.

The NMDVS Cemetery and Memorials Program, part of the State Benefits Division, oversees New Mexico's state Veterans cemeteries and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Angel Fire. NMDVS currently manages three state Veterans cemeteries (Gallup, Fort Stanton, and Angel Fire), with a fourth planned for Carlsbad. These state-operated cemeteries are strategically placed to serve veterans in regions distant from the Santa Fe National Cemetery in the north and the Fort Bayard National Cemetery in the southwest.

For information about interment at a state Veterans cemetery or memorialization of Veterans missing in action, please contact the designated cemetery directly here. For all other inquiries, reach out to NMDVS at 1-866-433-8387.



Photo: (left to right) David Walker NMDVS Cemetery Memorial Bureau Chief with Mr. Ramon Madrid

# The 80th Anniversary of V-J Day: Honoring The End of WWII

Aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay, representatives of the Empire of Japan signed the formal documents of surrender, marking the official end of World War II. This historic day, known as V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day), marked the conclusion of the deadliest conflict in history.

General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, led the event, with representatives from Allied nations in attendance to witness this powerful moment in history.



For the 16 million American servicemembers who fought across Europe, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the home front, V-J Day was not just a military victory; it symbolized the years of sacrifice, endurance, and commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Among those who served were thousands of New Mexicans, many of whom had already endured hardship in battles across the Pacific, including the infamous Bataan Death March. New Mexico's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery units were among the first to engage in the Pacific War after the attack on Pearl Harbor. These brave soldiers fought in the defense of the Philippines, and many became prisoners of war, forced to march over 60 brutal miles under horrific conditions.

V-J Day was a moment of celebration across the United States. From Times Square in New York to the small communities of the Southwest, Japan's surrender sparked celebrations, tears, and remembrance of those who did not return. It was a time when strangers hugged in the streets, church bells rang, and families gathered around radios to hear the words they had long prayed for: peace.

In New Mexico, V-J Day held special significance. Many families had loved ones serving far from home, and the end of the war brought relief as well as a time for reflection. Communities gathered in local town squares, churches, and Veterans' halls to honor those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. For New Mexican Veterans, including survivors of Bataan and other grueling campaigns, the day marked not just victory but also survival, relief, and hope.

As we remember V-J Day, it is an opportunity to reflect on the courage and resilience of those who fought in uniform and those who supported the war effort at home. Let us honor all Veterans, especially those of World War II, by preserving their legacy and sharing their stories with new generations.

The peace they secured is a gift we must never take for granted. As we remember September 2, 1945, let us express our gratitude to those who fought and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.



# Veteran Entrepreneur Launches New Event Center

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) proudly supports Air Force Veteran and entrepreneur Siloise Binikiseh in the launch of her new venture, La Grande Maison Lumière Event Center.

After serving six years as a U.S. Air Force officer, Siloise combined her passion for helping others with her military background in planning and development to open the event center. Siloise describes the new event center's mission as "bringing people together to celebrate and create unforgettable memories."

Siloise's journey into entrepreneurship began in 2023 after she attended the Boots to Business workshop at Holloman Air Force Base, hosted by the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC). The experience played a key role in helping her transition from military service to becoming a full-time business owner.

On August 1, 2025, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera and VBOC Director Johnny Martinez joined Siloise for the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new location on Albuquerque's Westside.



Whether you're a veteran starting a new business or growing an existing one, consider attending a future Boots to Business workshop—it could be the first step toward your next milestone.

## Your First Step Toward Entrepreneurship



Offered through the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), Boots to Business is a free, two-day foundational entrepreneurship course designed for transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

Participants will gain essential knowledge on the core principles of business ownership, including how to evaluate the feasibility of a business idea and how to develop a strategic business plan—an indispensable tool for any new or expanding venture. The curriculum also covers key topics such as securing start-up or growth capital, accessing technical assistance, and exploring federal contracting opportunities.

Join us for one of our dynamic, full-day sessions, typically held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that on-base access is required for classes held at military installations.

Whether you're just beginning your entrepreneurial journey or looking to expand your business, we're here to help guide your next steps. For more information about the Boots to Business program or to register, please contact VBOC Advisor **Christina Stover** at [christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov) or call **(505) 469-8501**.

City	Dates	Location
*Alamogordo, NM	August 7 & 8	Holloman Air-Force Base
Albuquerque, NM	August 11 & 12	Kirtland Air-Force Base
Grants, NM	August 28 & 29	NMSU-Grants

*\* Participants will require base access*

*Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.*



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is proud to recognize and introduce the newest members of the NMDVS Field Services Division: David Swisher and James Brandon, our Mobile Unit Veteran Service Officer (VSO) team. "Both proud Veterans themselves, David and James, bring a deep understanding of military culture and a strong commitment to serving their fellow Veterans. From navigating complex VA claims to explaining state benefits, they are ready to deliver knowledgeable support directly to rural and tribal communities." - Robin Wilson, NMDVS Field Services Director.

The Mobile Unit is equipped with Starlink internet and designed for full connectivity, which will allow David and James to reach Veterans who may not otherwise have access to a field office or online resources. "We're honored to take this mission on the road," says James. "It's about meeting Veterans where they are." David adds, "New Mexico is our home. We're excited to get out there, hear your stories, and help however we can."



## David Swisher, VSOII, Mobile Veteran Service Officer

### What brought you to NMDVS?

I wanted to help our Veteran community and share the knowledge I had attained by filing my own claims over the years.

### How long have you been with the agency?

I have been with NMDVS since February 2025. I previously worked at Comcast, where I was for over 21 years.

### What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

I enjoy meeting Veterans from different eras and hearing their stories.

### What is your connection to the Veteran community?

I am a Marine Corps Veteran myself. I also have 2 sons that are currently serving, one in the Marine Corps and one in the Navy, and a daughter-in-law in the Air Force.

### Please tell us a little about yourself, your hobbies, and what you enjoy doing in your free time.

I am a proud father of 5 sons and grandfather to 2. I have been married to the love of my life for 26 years. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and cooking/smoking food for them. I also enjoy camping and overlanding in my Jeep.



Photos: (top) David Swisher and James Brandon with the new NMDVS Mobile Unit, (middle) David out enjoying New Mexico's outdoor space, (bottom) Inside one of the two work stations inside the mobile unit.





## **James Brandon, VS011, Mobile Veteran Service Officer**

### **What brought you to NMDVS?**

I was looking for something different, something where I could help people and feel I was making a difference.

### **How long have you been with the agency?**

I have been with NMDVS since April 2025. Before that, I worked for Bernalillo County for the last 13 years.

### **What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?**

Helping Veterans, the VA claim process is complicated and confusing; most Veterans do not understand what is needed for a successful claim. It is personally rewarding to sit down with a vet and help them through the process and submit a good claim for them.

### **What is your connection to the Veteran community?**

I am a New Mexico Army National Guard Vet 2006-2012. I was assigned to the 126th MP CO and deployed to Iraq from 2009 to 2010, where I conducted convoy security with the 1115th CSC.

### **Please tell us a little about yourself, your hobbies, and what you enjoy doing in your free time.**

My beautiful wife Jessica and I have 2 kids, Aryal and James Jr. I enjoy hunting, Fishing, Camping, spending time with my family, and working in our backyard with our plants.

Photos: (top) James Brandon and David Swisher with the new NMDVS Mobile Unit, (middle) James and his wife Jessica, (bottom) Inside one of the two work stations inside the mobile unit.



NMDVS is hiring! View new job postings on the State of New Mexico careers page [here](#).





ARROWHEAD CENTER®



## The NMSU Arrowhead Center is conducting a survey to explore the creation of a centralized **Veterans Resource Center**

The Veterans Resource Center would be a one-stop hub where veterans and their families could access services, support, and community resources all in one place.

Click on the survey link or scan the QR code below.

<https://forms.gle/JAW21cxVuf31sUZRA>



The purpose of this survey is to gather input from veterans in New Mexico to understand the most critical services veterans need and how to improve access to services. This survey should take about 5 to 7 minutes to complete, and **all answers will remain confidential**.

The survey is collected and administered by Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University. Survey collection ends 8/15/2025.

**Your feedback is essential.**



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

## VA Transition to ID.me Continues

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is enhancing digital security to protect your personal information better. As part of this effort, the VA is transitioning to ID.me as one of the primary secure sign-in options for accessing VA.gov and other online VA services.

### Why the Change?

Cybersecurity threats continue to evolve, and safeguarding your sensitive data is a top priority. ID.me provides a more secure and user-friendly way to verify your identity when logging into VA websites. This move helps ensure that only you can access your VA benefits, medical records, and personal data.

### What is ID.me?

ID.me is a trusted technology provider that enables secure, multifactor identity verification. The IRS, Social Security Administration, and other government agencies are already using it. The platform allows veterans to verify their identity online, eliminating the need to visit an office in person.

### How to Get Started with ID.me:

If you haven't already created an ID.me account, follow these steps:

- Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)
- Click Sign In and select ID.me
- Create an account and follow the prompts to verify your identity using a government-issued ID and a selfie (a smartphone or webcam is needed)
- Once verified, you can securely access all your VA online services

The VA strongly encourages transitioning to ID.me to take full advantage of the latest security features. The deadline to switch from DS Logon to Login.gov or ID.me is September 30, 2025.

### Need Help?

The VA has support resources to walk you through the process. Visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/verifying-your-identity-on-vagov/> or contact the VA's MyVA411 helpline at 800-698-2411 (available 24/7). You can also contact the Office of Connected Care at the New Mexico VA by calling Marie C. Avila at 505-265-1711, extension 7655.

### Your Data, Your Security, Your Control

This change reflects the VA's ongoing commitment to keeping veterans' information safe and secure. By setting up your ID.me account today, you're taking control of your digital safety while ensuring continued access to the benefits you've earned.



# How to Set Up and Protect Your ID.me Account

A SIMPLE, SECURE METHOD TO LOG IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT



## What You'll Need:



Mobile Phone  
with Camera



Email Address



Photo ID (Driver's License,  
Passport, Passport Card,  
or State ID)



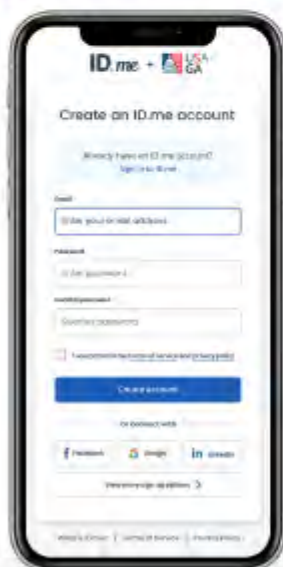
Social Security  
Number



Laptop or  
Computer (optional)

## HOW IT WORKS

### 1 Sign Up



Create your account or, if you already have an ID.me account, simply sign in.

### 2 Confirm Email



Check your Inbox for an email from ID.me and confirm your email address.

### 3 Secure Account



Protect your account. You can receive a passcode via text message or phone call, or choose one of the other listed methods.

## How to Verify Your Identity with ID.me

COMPLETE THIS PROCESS ONCE TO ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT PLUS OTHER ID.ME PARTNERS

### 4 Choose How to Verify



Choose a document type to submit: driver's license, state ID, passport, or passport card.

### 5 Submit Photos of ID



Take photos of your government ID or choose to upload existing photos.

### 6 Take a Video Selfie



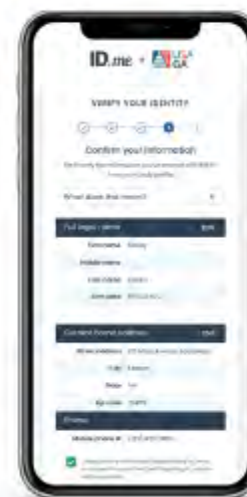
Take a video selfie so ID.me can verify that you're you! Simply watch the colors on your phone screen until the selfie is complete.

### 7 Enter SSN



Enter your social security number. (Why does ID.me ask for my SSN?)

### 8 Confirm Information



Make sure that all your information is accurate and complete.

### 9 Authorize ID.me



Choose "Allow and continue" to authorize ID.me to share your verified identity with the agency so you can access your account.

✓ Success! You're ready to log in.

### GET STUCK ALONG THE WAY?

At ID.me we have a No Identity Left Behind mission. If you get stuck along the way, we are here to help. Connect with an ID.me team member via video call and we will verify your identity in moments. Or, visit [help.id.me](https://help.id.me) and ask our virtual assistant or submit an inquiry.

[www.id.me](https://www.id.me)

Copyright © 2020 ID.me, Inc.

Follow these steps to create your ID.me account. With an identity-verified ID.me account, you can manage your VA health care and benefits online through VA websites and apps—including VA.gov and the VA: Health and Benefits mobile app. Create an ID.me account for VA For more information contact the Office of Connected Care at the New Mexico VA call Marie C. Avila at 505-265-1711 x7655.

# Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

## Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans.



### Veteran Eligibility Requirements:

**A Veteran or Service member may be eligible for a Family Caregiver if all of the following requirements are met:**

- 1** The individual is either:
  - A Veteran; or
  - A member of the Armed Forces undergoing a medical discharge from the Armed Forces.
- 2** The individual has a serious injury (including serious illness) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.
  - For purposes of PCAFC, serious injury means any service-connected disability that: (1) Is rated at 70 percent or more by VA; or (2) Is combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, and a combined rating of 70 percent or more is assigned by VA.
- 3** The individual is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on any one of the following:
  - An inability to perform an activity of daily living;
  - A need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
  - A need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.
- 4** It is in the best interest of the individual to participate in the program.
- 5** Personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver will not be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through another individual or entity.
- 6** The individual receives care at home or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.
- 7** The individual receives ongoing care from a Primary Care Team or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.



To apply online, visit  
<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



# ANGEL FIRE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Discover a Place of Honor and Healing

Nestled in the serene Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands as a powerful tribute to courage, sacrifice, and remembrance.

Whether you're a veteran, a family member, a history enthusiast, or a traveler seeking a moment of reflection, this sacred site offers a space for healing, learning, and remembrance. Explore the Peace and Brotherhood Chapel, view historical exhibits, the half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall, and walk the peaceful grounds that honor the lives of those who served.



The half-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall

## An Experience of Honor, Healing, and History

This striking granite tribute spans 250 feet in length and is etched with the names of more than 58,000 American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. Whether you're a veteran, a family member, or someone seeking to understand the cost of freedom, this wall invites reflection, remembrance, and unity.

The Memorial is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services in collaboration with the David Westphal Veterans Foundation. It continues to serve as a place of reflection, education, and community.

**Open daily, admission is free and open to all.**

Located off US Hwy 64 at 34  
Country Club Rd. Angel Fire, NM



For details, directions and more, visit  
[www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org) or [www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org)

# Veterans' Community Bulletin Board

The following pages feature events and informational flyers provided to the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) 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 NMDVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

NMDVS invites government agencies and non-profit service organizations to send flyers for publication in *The Guardian* announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. NMDVS 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.
- NMDVS 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 do not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, NMDVS expressly denies liability for any 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.
- NMVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.

Please send you submissions to [DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov)



# Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training



TO REGISTER FOR CLASS: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to  
[www.goodwillnm.org/events...](http://www.goodwillnm.org/events...) OR CALL 505.314.1875...OR EMAIL  
[minimathne@goodwillnm.org](mailto:minimathne@goodwillnm.org) FOR ASSISTANCE.



## AUGUST 2025

FREE CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY !

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NOW OFFERING CLASSES YOU CAN ATTEND ONLINE- SEE CLASSES LISTED IN RED COLOR FONT</b>						
3 classes held at 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	4 <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	5 <b>CAREER COMPASS NORTH: Explore A Career</b>	6 <b>CAREER COMPASS EAST: Resume &amp; Applying</b>	7 <b>CAREER COMPASS SOUTH: Interviewing</b>	8 <b>CAREER COMPASS WEST: Your New Job</b>	9 <b>YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL</b>
10 classes held at 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE	11 Typing 101 9:30 am - 10:45 am Google Docs 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	12 Internet Basics 9:30 am - 10:30 am Excel-Basics 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	13 Resiliency 9:30 am - 11:00 am Thinking Critically 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	14 <b>COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm</b> Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	15 Public Speaking Intro 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Cybersecurity 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	16 <b>DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES</b>
17 classes held at 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	18 Microsoft Word 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Microsoft PowerPoint 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	19 Microsoft: Explorer 9:00 am - 10:00 am Public Speaking Intro 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	20 Cybersecurity 9:00 am - 10:00 am Excel-Basics 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	21 <b>Stress Management Workshop</b> 9:00 am - 10:30 am Discovering Data 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	22 <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	23 <b>REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS &amp; SERVICES</b>
24 classes held at 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE	25 Intro to Coding 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Coding Workshop 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	26 Game Development 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm App Development 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm	27 Resiliency Workshop 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Microsoft Outlook 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	28 <b>COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm</b> Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	29 Computer Basics 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Money Management 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	30 <b>NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS!</b>
31						

### Lifeskills/WellnessSkills

**STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Detailed look at causes of stress & strategies to overcome.

**RESILIENCY:** In-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life.

**STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP:** Discover meditative/other practice to relieve stress

**RESILIENCY WORKSHOP:** Discover tools to develop plan to strengthen resiliency skills

**MONEY MANAGEMENT:** Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses & credit

**THINKING CRITICALLY:** Become better thinkers. Build analytical skills. learn to determine the validity of information.

### EmploymentSkills

**N/EXPLORE A CAREER:** Explore career interests, identify existing skills & analyze for potential jobs

**R/RESUME & APPLYING:** Create/improve resume and learn how to apply for jobs online better.

**S/INTERVIEWING:** Best practices in interviewing & professional communication for success.

**W/OUR NEW JOB:** Building relationships, good attitude & behavior skills to grow in your new position.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO:** Build communication skills. Know, manage & influence your audience. Learn the basics, followed by a practice session

### DigitalSkills

**COMPUTER BASICS:** Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software etc

**INTERNET BASICS:** Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers & online safety.

**TYPING 101:** Learn where to place fingers on keyboard, what the keys do & basic mouse usage

**EXCEL- BASICS:** Intro to spreadsheet features: sort, format, filter & formulas to get you started.

**MICROSOFT WORD:** Format, save, spellcheck documents, insert images/shapes. Design layout.

**MICROSOFT POWERPOINT:** Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations.

**MICROSOFT EXPLORER:** How to download, save, organize & find files: Navigating Windows OS.

**MICROSOFT OUTLOOK:** Navigating the interface, composing/sorting email & calendar usage.

**GOOGLE DOCS:** Learn basics of web-based word processor. Create, edit docs online.

**CYBERSECURITY:** Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing & protect your digital assets.

**INTRO TO CODING:** Programming overview of JavaScript, Python and web development.

**CODING WORKSHOP:** Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python

**APP DEVELOPMENT:** Intro to app coding, a look at iOS & Android, interactive learning exercises.

**GAME DEVELOPMENT:** Intro to creating video games and using game engines.

**DISCOVERING DATA:** Learn ways to collect and interpret data to guide decision making.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Meet with instructor for extra support, questions or skills practice time

**VIRTUAL OPTION CLASSES---** You can now choose to attend some of our classes online from home...or come and attend in-person. See the classes listed in this font color.



## NEW MEXICO ARTS & THE MILITARY **2026 MINI GRANTS** Call For Proposals



New Mexico Arts, the state's arts agency, announces the 2026 Arts & The Military Mini Grants program. This \$2,500 funding opportunity assists art organizations and veteran/service member-focused organizations to create or expand arts programming for military connected participants via a streamlined granting process.

Find the 2026 Arts & the Military Application and Guidelines at <https://nmarts.org/all-programs/arts-the-military/>

For more information, contact Arts & The Military Program Coordinator, Kevin Lenkner, 505-412-5791 or email [kevin.lenkner@dca.nm.gov](mailto:kevin.lenkner@dca.nm.gov).



# ALBUQUERQUE FISHER HOUSE



VA



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



## IS YOUR FAMILY MEMBER ELIGIBLE? ASK YOUR VA CARE TEAM

A "home away from home" allowing families and loved ones to be close during an inpatient stay and to focus on what's important--the healing process.

A member of the inpatient Veterans Care Team must enter the request for bedside support of a veterans, a family member cannot call directly **FISHER HOUSE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (50 FAMILIA)**

- 50 miles/from ABQ Fisher House
- Family member/caregiver of an inpatient Veteran at the VA
- Actively engaged in the inpatient's treatment plan
- Medically stable and capable of self-care (Guest must be)
- Independent and able to live in a shared space setting
- Living in stable, permanent housing (not homeless)
- Is free from communicable illness (flu, chicken pox, measles, C-Diff, COVID, etc.)
- Agrees to the Fisher House Guest Agreement and Rules



Raymond G. Murphy/NMVAHCS  
Albuquerque Fisher House  
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE, Building 85  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108  
(505) 265-1711 Ext. 3180 - [ABQFisherHouse@va.gov](mailto:ABQFisherHouse@va.gov)

*because* A Family's Love  
is Good Medicine

Thank You For Your Service

# Veterans & Active Duty Military Ride Free

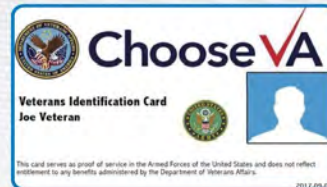
## 7 DAYS A WEEK\*



**Just Show your ID and Ride for Free**



VA medical card **VHIC**



Veteran's ID **VIC card**



Valid driver's license with  
**Veteran's Designation**



Department of Defense  
**Retired or Dependant**



Department of Defense  
**Active Duty**

*\* Buses Operate Monday - Friday Only*



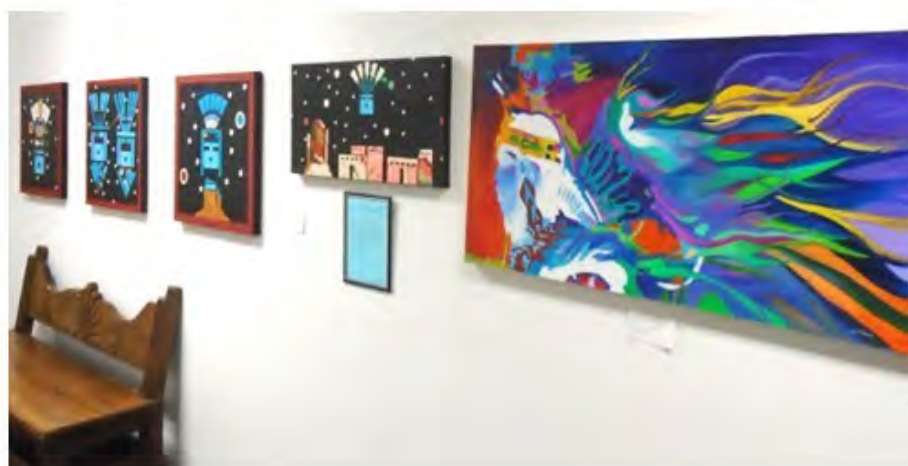
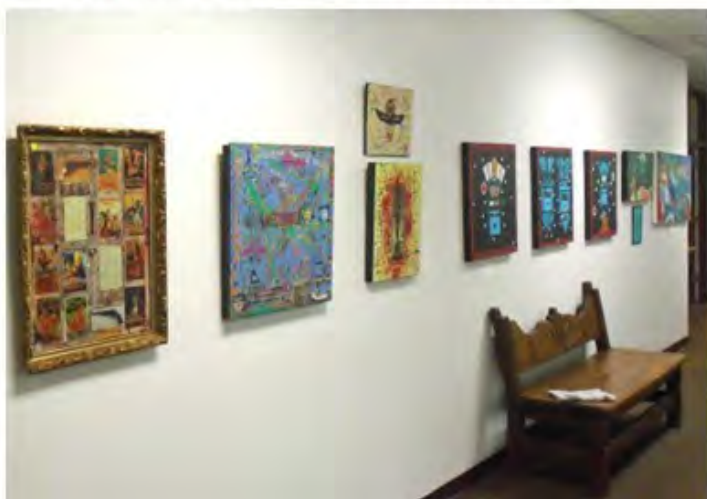
## Santa Fe Veteran Art

### Honoring Service Through Art

### Santa Fe City Hall

Hosted by Mayor Weber, initially established by Ken Dettelbach of R&R For Vets Inc., planned, coordinated, and now managed by Gary Donato, a Navy veteran, the rotating exhibit showcases various art forms from Santa Fe Veteran artists. The present display of pieces by Woodward "Woody" Schisler, Paul Pittman, and Herb Lotz reveals an amazing range of art. The exhibit is at Santa Fe City Hall, outside the Mayor's office.

**Santa Fe City Hall** \*  
 200 Lincoln Ave, Santa Fe, NM 87501



# EQUINE & PISCATORIAL THERAPY

by Healing America's  
Heroes



**\$0**

for Veterans or  
First Responders  
to attend



Healing America's Heroes is a  
nonprofit organization dedicated to  
helping veterans and first  
responders heal from  
PTSD, MST, and TBI  
through recreational therapy

**575-244-3751**

[HealingAmericasHeroes.Org](http://HealingAmericasHeroes.Org)

**BOOK NOW**

# NAVAJO CODE

Gourd Dance | Code Talker Recognition | Stand Down | Flyover

# TALKERS DAY

Fairgrounds in Window Rock, Arizona

## AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

Navajo-Hopi Honor Riders | Route Chichiltah to Fair Grounds

Connecting Homeless & At-Risk Veterans and their Families with Essential Community Services

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| ▪ Navajo Housing Authority                        | ▪ Rocky Mountain Veterans Advocacy         | ▪ Carry Me - Productions                                  |
| ▪ Veteran Outreach                                | ▪ Veterans Advocacy Law Clinic             | ▪ Brain Injury Alliance AZ                                |
| ▪ Prescott VA Health                              | ▪ NM Recruiters                            | ▪ Televeda  |
| ▪ Admissions Coordinator                          | ▪ NN Heritage/ Historic Preservation Dept. | ▪ Behavioral Health Connections                           |
| ▪ AZ Veteran home                                 | ▪ Wounded Warrior Project                  | ▪ Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor Program |
| ▪ Veterans Transportation Services                | ▪ AZ Dept of Economics Security            | ▪ Hope and Healing Addiction Treatment Centers            |
| ▪ Native American Fatherhood Families Association | ▪ Northern AZ Veterans Stand Down          |   |
| ▪ NM Veteran Upward Bound                         | ▪ AZ Dept of Veteran Services              |   |
|   | ▪ Navajo Nation Veteran Administration     |   |

*Extended Sponsors:*

*Tohatchi Chapter*

*Mariano Lake Chapter*

*Mexican Springs Chapter*

*Jeddito Chapter Veteran Org*



NAVAJO DIVISION FOR



CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



Navajo  
Times  
DINE B NAALTSOOS



Extended Information contact the Navajo Nation Veteran Administration

928.871.7307 | [nnvafordt@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:nnvafordt@navajo-nsn.gov)

Not Responsible for any theft, injuries or accidents





**LC 18**  
In Service of the  
8 Northern Pueblos



*We are the Dream Catchers*



**Local Collaborative 18**



## **Tending Veterans & Families**

**SATURDAY, AUG 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**8:00am–7:30pm**

**Northern New Mexico College Events Center  
921 North Paseo de Oñate  
Española NM 87532**

**Breakfast–Lunch–Dinner  
Behavioral Health Workshops  
NM Department of Veterans Services  
Honorings  
Ear Seed Acupressure  
*Limpías*  
Traditional Native Dancing**

***LC18 is a volunteer committee of providers and agencies funded by the  
New Mexico Health Care Authority  
to support behavioral health services and education***

**Questions? Call Dr. Ana X Gutierrez Sisneros at 505–690–0213**



# PISTONS FOR PATRIOTS

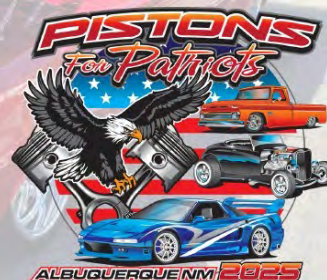
## PISTONS FOR PATRIOTS

VETERAN BENEFIT CAR SHOW

**AUGUST 23-24**  
Expo New Mexico

20 YEARS  
SDV  
CONSTRUCTION

PAWS  
AND STRIPES  
HEALING WOUNDS. SHAPING LEGENDS.



**REGISTRATION & TICKETS  
NOW AVAILABLE**

[www.pistonsforpatriots.com](http://www.pistonsforpatriots.com)

SCAN ME



LIVE DJ  
ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR  
VENDOR FAIR  
FOOD TRUCKS  
BEER GARDEN & MORE

Event brought to you by SDV Construction.  
All proceeds from the event will be donated to Paws and Stripes.



TEXAS  
METAL



FEATURING CELEBRITY  
GUEST, **BILL CARLTON**  
FROM **TEXAS METAL**,  
AND CONCERT BY  
**NOSOTROS**

Visit the event site here: <https://www.pistonsforpatriots.com>



# 2025 FUN RUN/WALK

In honor of Veterans Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Month

call or text

**988**

anyone.  
any struggle.  
anytime.

Registration: \$35 per person  
Kids 12 and under: FREE



**IN PERSON**  
**AUGUST 31, 2025**  
**ANGEL FIRE AIRPORT**  
**RUNWAY**  
**OR**  
**VIRTUALLY DURING THE**  
**MONTH OF SEPTEMBER!**

## August 29-31 Events Calendar:

**8.29.25:** 5-7PM Cool Summer Nights Concert

**8.30.25:** 8:30AM-3PM Annual Brick laying Ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial

11AM Veteran Family BBQ Luncheon NVWHC Office near Memorial- suggested donation, \$10 per plate

5-8PM Military Family Weekend Concert

**8.31.25:** 8AM NVWHC 5K at the Angel Fire Airport

2:30-4PM Military Family Weekend Concert

[www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org](http://www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org)

**505.501.8337**

**Contact us to become a sponsor!**

**Register Here:**



## ARE YOU A VETERAN IN SEARCH OF GUIDANCE?

Enjoy a complimentary week filled with mindful education, body rejuvenation, and uplifting camaraderie alongside fellow veterans and their partners in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico. Discover valuable therapeutic and holistic tools while embracing Post Traumatic Growth.

# NATIONAL VETERANS WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER 2025 RETREAT SCHEDULE

**September 7-14**

**October 19-26**

Retreats offer complimentary lodging, meals, and a variety of activities such as massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding, and much more!

Please note that travel expenses are not included.

**505-501-8337**

[retreats@vethealingcenter.org](mailto:retreats@vethealingcenter.org)

### Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

1. Veterans diagnosed with PTS
2. A support partner must accompany you
3. Participants must have been free from drug or alcohol abuse for at least 12 months

Note: New Mexico veterans will receive priority. Veterans from other states will be accepted as funding permits.

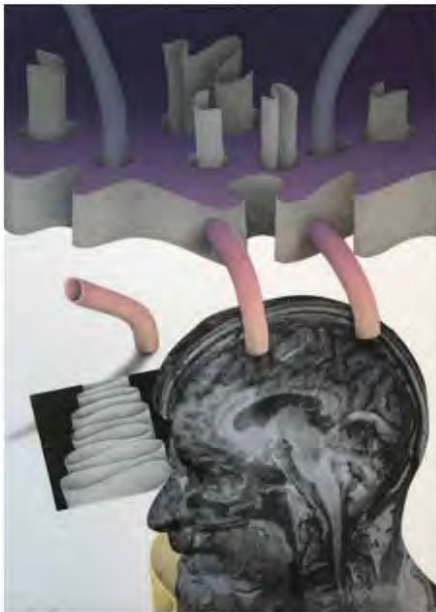
**Apply Today!**



**Donate Today!**



NVWHC is a non-profit serving veterans and their families since 2009.



## Finding Parkinson's

Finding Parkinson's affirms that creating art in any form along with vigorous movement slows the progression of Parkinson's disease.

Image: C. David Thomas  
*Landscape for Tomorrow* - Lithograph with Digital Print,  
 1978 & 2021, 20 x 14

Artist C. David Thomas, a Boston-based retired university art professor and founder of the Indochina Arts Project, explores the neurology of PD by superimposing facial images over his MRI brain scans and his lithograph prints. Mr. Thomas, a Vietnam veteran, was exposed to Agent Orange and diagnosed with PD in 2015. These works reveal his ongoing battle with PD and its impact on his life and work.

### Finding Parkinson's - An exhibition of works by artist, C. David Thomas

September 5 - September 14

Opening - Friday, September 5, 2025, 5:30 pm - 7 pm

New Mexico Museum of Art- Voldem Contemporary

404 Montezuma Ave, Santa Fe

Hours: Saturday through Thursday 10 am - 5 pm Friday 10 am - 7pm

Admission: NM residents with ID - \$7, free every Friday 5:00 - 7:00pm

NM residents 60+ -free on Wednesdays w/ID Free to all Sunday September 7

### Panel Discussions

"Neuroscience, Art and Parkinson's" - Dr. David Rose, Dan Monroe, C. David Thomas

Saturday September 6, 3 pm to 4 pm

New Mexico School of the Arts - 500 Montezuma Ave, Santa Fe

"Art and Movement" - Adrienne Shurbet, owner of Punching Out Parkinson's representative from Movement 36 and the arts community in Santa Fe (music, art)

Saturday September 13, 3 pm to 4 pm

New Mexico School of the Arts - 500 Montezuma Ave, Santa Fe

For More Information Contact: Dee Ann McIntyre - [devidee99@gmail.com](mailto:devidee99@gmail.com)

VA



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



BE the ONE, New Mexico

# S.A.V.E. RUN



## BIKE RIDE

Northern New Mexico



Please join us as we ride from NMVAHCS to Angel Fire Veterans Memorial. There will be several stops a long the way that will outline how you can help SAVE a Veteran's life.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025**



For more information about this annual events,  
please contact [Christina.Camacho@va.gov](mailto:Christina.Camacho@va.gov)

# Don't Miss Out!

*Admission is free to all events*

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## Recovery Art Show

**Friday – Sept. 5, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. | El Chante Art Studio**

*Join us for the opening night! Enjoy a night of entertainment and fun while viewing art pieces created by people in recovery. Light refreshments will also be available.*

***The Art Show lasts all month long!***

## Recovery Celebration

**Friday – Sept. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Civic Plaza**

*Join us in person for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Albuquerque Celebrates Recovery Main Event! There will be 50+ tables at the event, including treatment organizations around Albuquerque, as well as live music and entertainment. We will also announce this year's Adán Carriaga Leader in Recovery Award!*

## Recovery Powwow

**Friday – Sept. 12, 2 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Civic Plaza**

*A beautiful and unforgettable event filled with drumming, dancing, and fun. Multiple tribes throughout New Mexico are represented. Vendors will also be available.*



For more details, visit [ABQRecovery.org](http://ABQRecovery.org).  
Contact us at [ABQCelebratesRecovery@gmail.com](mailto:ABQCelebratesRecovery@gmail.com).

***In Remembrance of Adán Carriaga***

# Gold Star Mothers/Families

## NM American Gold Star Mothers – sponsor

Our mission – Serve Veterans, Military and Gold Star Community

Sep 13,'25 ★ 11am-1pm ★ NM Vet Park

Please RSVP by September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

[DepartmentofNM@americangoldstarmothers.org](mailto:DepartmentofNM@americangoldstarmothers.org)

Questions call: 505-980-8787

Share our heroes. Share their stories. Say their name. Picnic - food & drinks provided.

New Mexico Veteran Memorial Park  
1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

*\*In the back picnic area\**

# ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM NEW MEXICO

PRESENTS

## THE DISABLED VETERANS' WATERSPORTS CAMP



**UTE LAKE**  
**SEPTEMBER 19 - 21 2025**

**Come and join us for fun and sun on the Lake! Watersports include:**

**Sailing, Kayaking, Fishing, and Stand-up Paddleboarding**

**Where:** Ute Lake State Park

**Location:** Logan NM

**When:** September 19-21, 2025

**Cost (for camping and meals):**

- Free to / Veteran Athletes
- \$150 / Non Veteran Athletes
- \$50 / Family Member or Caretaker

**NEW: September 19th (Saturday ONLY)**

- Free to / Veteran Athletes
- \$75 / Non Veteran Athletes
- \$25 / Family Member and/or Caretaker

**If you have any questions please email:**

**info@aspm.org or call Binh Wakeford at (505) 570-5710 ext 1**



**More Details at: [adaptivesportsprogram.org](http://adaptivesportsprogram.org)**



## 4th Annual Dennis Geshel Memorial Golf Tournament

### Benefiting Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico

Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico is a non-profit organization created to honor New Mexico's veterans for all their sacrifices. Funds raised from the golf tournament help take our he-roes on a FREE 3-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Current priority is given to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans along with Veterans from other conflicts who may be terminally ill.



Breakfast and registration at 8AM. Lunch will be served directly following the tournament. Collared shirts are required.

**Isleta Eagle Golf Course**  
**4001 New Mexico 47**  
**Friday, September 12, 2025**  
**Morning Shotgun—9AM**



For more information visit: <https://www.honorflightnorthernnm.org>



NEW MEXICO

# CONFERENCE ON AGING

ENGAGE AS YOU AGE

.....

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2025

GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**AGINGINNM.ORG**

31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL

THE ROTARY DEL NORTE FOUNDATION

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

BENEFITING VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 AT 8 AM**

**SANTA ANA  
GOLF CLUB**

288 PRAIRIE STAR ROAD  
SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NM 87004

**TEAM  
REGISTRATION**

**\$700**

**FOUR PERSON  
SCRAMBLE**

**18 HOLES**

**FOOD  
PROVIDED**

BREAKFAST BURRITOS  
& CATERED LUNCH

REGISTER AT [WWW.NMVIC.ORG](http://WWW.NMVIC.ORG)

**HOLE SPONSORS AND HELPERS NEEDED**

POC - JERRY BECKER EMAIL: [jerry.becker@nmvic.us](mailto:jerry.becker@nmvic.us)

BENEFITING THE VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS & THE ROTARY DEL NORTE FOUNDATION



# V-FAST 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GOLF TOURNAMENT

**October 4, 2025**

## 4 Man Scramble

Proceeds Support Las Cruces  
Helping Hands Stand Down

## Red Hawk Golf Club

7502 Red Hawk Golf Rd.  
Las Cruces, NM 88012

**Price:** \$175 Individual

\$600 Grunt Squad

## Times

11:30 - Registration

1:00 - Shotgun start



Tournament



Dinner



Fun & Prizes!

Join us for a day on the greens to support veterans. Enjoy a great round of golf, good food and camaraderie!

Secure your spot today and help make a difference!

Scan to



Play

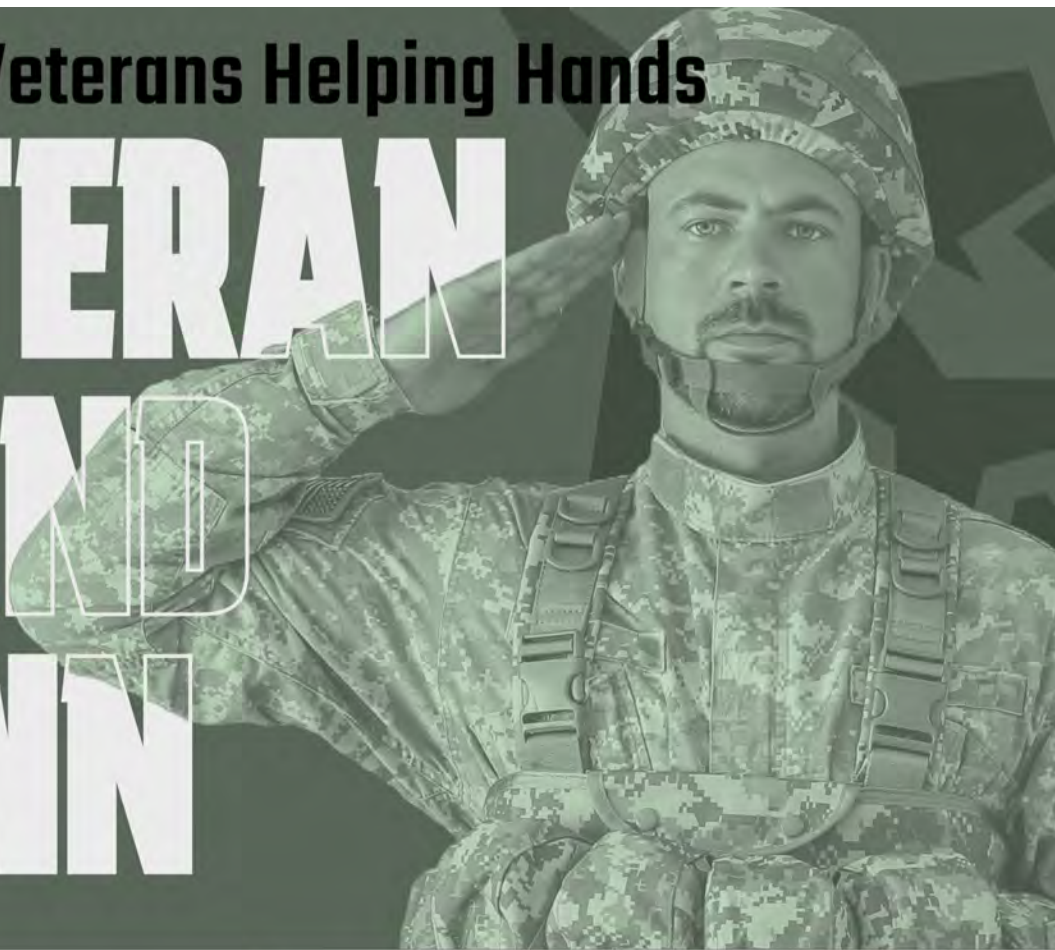
For more information contact

Felipe Rodriquez | Phone: 575-640-4751

Email: vfastgolf@gmail.com

## Las Cruces Veterans Helping Hands

# VETERAN STAND DOWN



### DATE & TIME:

**October 24, 2025**

**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Breakfast starts at 7:30 am

### LOCATION:

**VFW Post 10124**

**709 South Valley Dr.**

**Las Cruces, NM**

**575-526-5761**



CITY OF LAS CRUCES



### JOIN US:

Organized by the VFW New Mexico Foundation, the Las Cruces Vet Center partners in the "Las Cruces Veterans Helping Hands Stand Down" for homeless and Veterans in need.

### SPECIAL INVITATION:

This event offers food, housing, haircuts, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as employment and substance abuse treatment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LEN HAMPTON (575)405-9001  
TO SCHEDULE VAN SERVICE, CALL (575)915-4899**



## NMDVS Field Offices in New Mexico

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

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: VSOs can also provide help by phone or email for any veteran or eligible dependent anywhere in New Mexico.**

### Alamogordo/Southeast NM

**David Henley**

411 10th Street #107

(575) 437-4635

[david.henley@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:david.henley@dvs.nm.gov)

### Alamogordo/Southeast NM

**Matthew Quinn**

411 10th Street #107

(575) 546-8367

[matthew.quinn@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:matthew.quinn@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**May Chavez** (ABQ Metro Supervisor)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 527-2302

[helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (Bernalillo/Moriarty)

**Kelly Messer**

Good Will Office  
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE

(505) 274-0393

[kelly.messer@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:kelly.messer@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Mike Nelson**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 525-3331

[mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**John Membrila**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 584-2153

[John.membrila@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:John.membrila@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**James Brandon**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 470-7503

[james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**David Swisher**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 525-3331

[david.swisher@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:david.swisher@dvs.nm.gov)

### Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

**Rob Miller** (Central/Mobile Supervisor)

Belen Business Center  
719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

[rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (VARO)

**Corey Riedel**

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.  
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor

(505) 479-0672

[corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

**Joseph Lovato**

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Ctr.  
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE

(505) 623-1729

[joseph.lovato@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:joseph.lovato@dvs.nm.gov)

(no appointment needed)

### Carlsbad

**See Outreach Schedule for Dates**

VFW Post 8703  
1916 San Jose Blvd.

(575) 241-0714, (575) 416-2284

[fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov)

[Danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov)

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Matt Barela** (SE Supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

[matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov)

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Ben Padilla**

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

[ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Ambrose Oliver**

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 916-4835

[ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov)

(continued on next page)

**Farmington/Northwest NM****Jenny Iser**

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 327-2861

[jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov)**Gallup/Northwest NM****John Livingston** (NW Supervisor)

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A

(505) 389-8731

[john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov)**Grants/Northwest NM****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

[april.ball@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:april.ball@dvs.nm.gov)**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Freddy Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

[fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (SW Supervisor)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

[miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 361-5298

[vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

[Clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow** (NE Supervisor)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

[arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Tracy Knox**

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

[tracy.knox@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:tracy.knox@dvs.nm.gov)**Rio Rancho/Northeast NM****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D/room 2041

(505) 221-7190

[dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov)**Roswell/Southeast NM****Ben Mendoza**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A

(575) 988-5900

[benjamin.mendoza@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:benjamin.mendoza@dvs.nm.gov)**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A

(575) 416-2284

[danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov)**Santa Fe/Northeast NM****Phillip Hernandez**

Bataan Memorial Bldg.

407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Rm 134

(505) 218-3125

[phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov)**Silver City/Southwest NM****Clarissa Sierra**

Western New Mexico University

1000 West College Ave.

Juan Chacon Bldg./Rm. 138A

(575) 313-5627

[clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov)**Taos/Northeast NM****Leticia "Lety" Cano**

Health and Human Services Bldg.

145 Roy Rd.

(505)-709-5263

[leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov)**State Veterans Home/T or C NM****VSO Staff/Every Thursday**

922 South Broadway St.

Truth or Consequences, NM

**Woman Veterans Program****Amberly Viner** (Program Manager)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

[Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov)**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

[beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov)

*NMDVS women veterans program is committed to making sure women veterans have equitable access to programs and services and claims-filing for women.*

*NMDVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach assistance for Native Americans.*