



# The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

July 2026

•Website: [www.dvs.nm.gov](http://www.dvs.nm.gov)

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

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## NMDVS Connects with New Mexico Veteran Organizations

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) strengthened its partnerships with New Mexico's Veterans Service Organizations by participating in the annual state conferences of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and The American Legion.

Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera met with Veterans and organizational leaders from across the state to share updates on NMDVS programs and services, state Veterans benefits, and legislative priorities affecting New Mexico Veterans. The conferences also gave NMDVS staff opportunities to answer questions, connect with Veterans, and share information about the departments programs and services.



At the New Mexico VFW's Annual Conference, held June 11 - 14 at Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, Secretary Herrera highlighted recent NMDVS initiatives, including the opening of the Taos State Veterans Cemetery, discussed the importance of legacy planning, and recognized Women Veterans Day during the June 12 general session by reading Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's proclamation honoring New Mexico's women Veterans. He also presented NMDVS challenge coins to the oldest and youngest women Veterans in attendance, while NMDVS State Benefits staff helped eligible Veterans obtain property tax exemption certificates and New Mexico State Parks Lifetime Veteran Passes.

During the Disabled American Veterans of New Mexico Convention, held June 25 - 27, Secretary Herrera met with DAV National Commander Coleman Nee. Commander Nee welcomed the organization's newly installed officers and recognized DAV Auxiliary members for their continued support of Veterans and their families. Secretary Herrera also discussed state Veterans benefits, NMDVS initiatives, and legislative priorities with DAV leadership. NMDVS staff met individually with Veterans to answer questions, explain state benefits, and help connect them with programs and services available through the department.



NMDVS also participated in the American Legion of New Mexico State Conference, held June 26 - 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque. Secretary Herrera met with Legion leaders to discuss issues affecting Veterans, legislative priorities, and opportunities to strengthen services for Veterans and their families.

NMDVS values its longstanding partnerships with New Mexico's Veterans Service Organizations. These annual conferences provide important opportunities to hear directly from Veterans, strengthen relationships with organization leaders, and synchronize our efforts to ensure Veterans across New Mexico remain informed about the benefits, resources, and services they have earned through their military service.



## **New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Field Office Closures August 3 - 7, 2026**

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services  
Will Close all 16 field offices during the week of  
August 3 - 7, 2026 for Veteran Service Officer training.**

### **Limited Services Available**

- Albuquerque Office: 4801 Indian School Rd. NE
- Santa Fe Office: Bataan Memorial Building, 407 Galisteo St.

### **Please Note:**

**Both Albuquerque and Santa Fe offices will also be **closed** on  
Wednesday, August 5 for a department-wide training day.**

**All offices will reopen and resume regular business  
hours on Monday, August 10.**

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  
[DVS.NM.GOV](http://DVS.NM.GOV) for information on benefits and services

## Upcoming NMDVS 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 inquire about VA disability ratings, VA medical or mental health care, retiree pensions, military burials, and 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. In addition, your 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	7/15, 8/19, 9/16	United Veterans Hall, 402 W. Hermosa Dr.	9am-4pm
Carlsbad	7/8, 7/22, 8/12	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	7/14, 7/28, 8/11	AP Seminar, MFRC, 1554 Spear Loop	11am-12pm
Capitan	7/29, 10/7, 11/4	Capitan Public Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-3pm
Deming	7/8, 8/12, 9/9	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	7/22, 8/26, 9/23	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Gallup	7/14, 8/11, 9/8	Vets Helping Vets, 908 E. Buena Vista Ave.	10am-11am
Holloman AFB	7/8, 7/22, 8/17	TAP Seminar, MFRC , W NM Ave., Bldg. 788	8:30am-10am
Mora	7/25	Mora Rodeo Grounds, 224 NM-434	9am-3pm
Raton	7/15, 8/19, 9/16	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	9/2, 11/4	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	7/8, 8/12, 9/9	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	7/8, 8/11, 9/8	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-1pm

### The following are weekly outreach visits:

T or C Vet Home	Wednesdays	State Veterans' Home, 922 S. Broadway	9am-3pm
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Veterans and their eligible dependents may contact any of the NMDVS field offices statewide listed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Each office is staffed by nationally accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSO's), 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 Veteran 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)**

## New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services



# Mobile Outreach Vehicle Coming to Your Community!

**Veterans – Get the Benefits You Earned!**



The NMDVS Mobile Outreach Team will be on-site to help you access both  
Federal and State Veterans' benefits.

### What We Provide:

- Assistance with VA and State of New Mexico benefit applications
- Guidance on healthcare, compensation, pension, and education benefits
- Information on State programs and services for veterans and families


### What to Bring:

- DD-214 or proof of military service
- Photo ID
- Relevant medical, financial, or service documents to support your application
- VA Letters

Wed, July 15	Thoreau Chapter House, 1 Mile Marker NM-371, Thoreau, NM 87323	9am-2pm
Fri, July 17	Operation Veteran Wellness Event, 925 Park Ave., Gallup, NM 87301	9am-4pm
Wed, July 22	Aztec, Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco St., Aztec, NM 87410	12pm-4pm
Thu, July 23	Northern Navajo Veterans Agency, 5080 Tachiinii Blvd., Shiprock, NM 87420	8am-4pm
Mon, July 27	Crownpoint Chapter House, Chapter House Dr., Crownpoint, NM 87313	10am-2pm
Wed, July 29	Coyote Canyon Chapter House, 9 mi East, Hwy 491, Brimhall Nizhoni, NM 87310	10am-4pm
Thu, July 30	Baca/Prewitt Chapter House, Prewitt, NM 87405	9am-3pm

**Don't miss this opportunity to meet with a Veteran Service Officer in person and get help with your benefits.**

For more information and mobile outreach vehicle schedule updates, contact:

 NMDVS Central Office: (866) 433-8387

 <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/>

*The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is here to help Veterans and their families obtain state and federal benefits.*

## Show Your Service With a New Mexico Veteran License Plate

New Mexico Veterans can proudly display their military service with specialty license plates available through the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division.

Any honorably discharged Veteran is eligible to apply with proof of military service and eligibility. For a one-time \$17 fee (plus any applicable annual registration fees), Veterans may choose:

- Armed Forces Plate
- Woman Veteran Plate

The following plates are available free of charge for eligible Veterans:

- Disabled Veteran (with 50% or more disability rating)
- Purple Heart
- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- Former Prisoner of War (Ex-POW)
- Medal of Honor



Example of Army license plate

Applications and eligibility requirements are available on the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services website at <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/benefits/#military-license-plate>.

## Lifetime Veteran Park Passes and Property Tax Exemptions

Veterans: Apply for your property tax exemption and your New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass through the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) State Benefits Division.

### Property Tax Exemptions:

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is \$10,000 and will adjust annually for inflation. Additionally, the Disabled Veteran Exemption allows eligible Veterans or their unmarried surviving spouses to apply for a tax exemption equal to the Veteran's federal disability rating.

**Applications must be submitted to NMDVS and filed with your County Assessor.**

### New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass:

Eligible New Mexico Veterans can apply for a free lifetime pass providing unlimited access to all NM state parks, including day-use and overnight camping. Standard entry and camping fees are waived; however, reservation and special facility fees still apply.

### Documents needed to verify eligibility for the benefits

- A copy of DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- Proof of New Mexico residency (driver's license, voter registration, or state tax return)
- VA Award Letter showing percentage of disability (only for tax exemption)
- Marriage certificate and the Veteran's death certificate for surviving spouses (required for the tax exemption).

NMDVS schedules Veteran property tax exemption events throughout the state and issues certificates on site with proper documentation. Applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass are also accepted and issued on-site to qualified Veterans. Information and assistance on federal and state benefits, local Veterans' programs, and referral services are available at any of our field office locations.

If you have questions, please call NMDVS at 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400. Visit any of our field offices or visit <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/> for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.

# RECA Reauthorized: Information for Veterans and Families

Some New Mexico Veterans, their surviving family members, and others who lived or worked in areas affected by the nation's nuclear weapons program may now be eligible to apply for compensation under the reauthorized Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), through December 31, 2027. The program provides one-time compensation to certain people who developed qualifying illnesses after exposure related to the U.S. nuclear weapons program. Eligibility has also been expanded in some cases, making it worthwhile for individuals who may not have qualified previously to review the updated requirements.

Because every person's circumstances are different, applicants who currently receive federal or state benefits should consult the appropriate agency such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and/or the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), with any questions about how RECA compensation may relate to their individual benefits or programs. If you think you or your family may qualify, take time now to review the information and determine whether submitting an application is right for you.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is sharing this information to ensure Veterans and their families are aware of the program and the application deadline. If you believe you or a family member may be eligible, the New Mexico Department of Health offers detailed information, eligibility guidance, answers to frequently asked questions. For application resources click here: <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/phd/phdo/reca/>

**NMHealth** **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)**

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) is a federal law that provides partial restitution to individuals who can show evidence they developed certain serious illnesses following exposure to radiation from the U.S. nuclear weapons program or their survivors. RECA was reauthorized on July 4, 2025.

**Impacted individuals may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$100,000**

**A Qualifying Diagnosis may include:**  
Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma, Lymphomas

**Cancers may include:**  
Thyroid, Breast, Esophagus, Stomach, Pharynx, Small Intestine, Pancreas, Bile Ducts, Gall Bladder, Salivary Gland, Urinary Bladder, Brain, Colon, Ovary, Liver, or Lung

**Downwinders:** you may get compensation if you lived in an affected area between September 24, 1944, and November 6, 1962, and later developed one of the covered diseases or cancers.

**Onsite Participants:** may be eligible for compensations if they were present at a government installation during a test of a nuclear device and contracted a compensable disease before January 1, 1963

**Uranium Workers** may qualify if they were employed for at least one year at certain locations as a uranium miner, miller, core driller, transporter, or were involved in remediation efforts and were diagnosed with a specified compensable disease.

**Manhattan Project Waste Contamination:** Individuals may qualify if they developed a covered illness after being physically present for at least two years after January 1, 1949, in Missouri, Tennessee, Alaska, or Kentucky.

**Deadline to apply: December 31, 2027**

# Take 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**.

VBOC training calendar for upcoming classes and events: <https://sba-vboc.ecenterdirect.com/events?>

City	Dates	Location
*Clovis, NM	July 9 Boots to Business	Cannon AFB M&FR Center
*Alamogordo, NM	August 6 & 7 Boots to Business	Holloman AFB M&FR Center
*Albuquerque, NM	August 13 & 14	Kirtland AFB Consolidated Support Building

\* Participants will require base access

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



## WHY CHOOSE VBOC?

✓ No Cost Business Mentoring ✓ Strengthening Veteran Businesses ✓ Veteran-Focused Expertise ✓ Statewide Support ✓ Military Spouse Assistance

### LEARN



#### Boots to Business Training

- Entrepreneurship Education
- Business Planning Assistance
- Government Contracting Guidance
- Financial Readiness Training
- Military Spouse Pathway to Business Training

### GROW



#### One-on-One Business Counseling

- Access to Capital Resources
- Marketing & Growth Strategies
- Business Expansion Support
- Strategic Planning Assistance

### CONNECT



#### Lender Introductions

- SBA Resource Partners
- Veteran Business Networks
- Procurement Opportunities
- Community Partnerships
- Quarterly Lender Expo

### SUCCEED



#### Veteran-Owned Small Business Certification Guidance

- Federal, State & Local Resource Navigation
- Long-Term Business Advising
- Veteran Surplus Program
- Sustainable Business Growth

Serving Veterans • Transitioning Service Members • National Guard • Reservists • Military Spouses

## Remembering Korean War Veterans on Armistice Day

July 27, 2026 marks National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, a time to honor the courage, sacrifice, and service of the men and women who answered the call during one of America's most challenging conflicts. This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the armistice agreement that ended active combat operations on the Korean Peninsula in 1953.

The conflict began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. In response, the United States joined a United Nations-led coalition to defend South Korea and preserve its independence. Over the next three years, American service members endured fierce combat, rugged terrain, and harsh weather while carrying out their mission.

On July 27, 1953, representatives of the United Nations Command, North Korea, and China signed an armistice agreement that brought an end to active fighting. While the agreement stopped the combat, it did not officially end the war. More than seven decades later, no peace treaty has been signed, and the Korean Peninsula remains divided by the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).



The human cost of the war was immense. More than 6 million Americans served during the Korean War era, including approximately 1.8 million who served in the Korean theater. More than 36,500 U.S. service members lost their lives during the conflict, including approximately 200 New Mexicans. More than 103,000 Americans were wounded, and more than 7,400 remain unaccounted for, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Among them are more than 40 New Mexico service members who are still missing, a reminder that the war's impact continues to be felt by families across our state.

New Mexico witnessed the importance of that mission when U.S. Army Sgt. Celestino Chavez Jr. of Gallup was finally brought home after nearly 75 years. Wounded during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in 1950, Chavez was listed as missing in action for decades before his remains were identified by the DPAA following the repatriation of his remains from North Korea. He was laid to rest with full military honors on April 15th of this year at the New Mexico State Veterans Cemetery in Gallup, surrounded by family, military leaders, and state officials. Once among the missing, Sgt. Chavez now rests at home in New Mexico—a powerful reminder that the nation's commitment to account for those who never returned does not end with time.



For many Veterans, the effects of war endured long after they returned home. They carried lasting physical injuries, emotional scars, and memories of a conflict that came to be known as the "Forgotten War." Yet there is nothing forgotten about their courage, sacrifice, or commitment to defending freedom.

As we observe National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors Korean War Veterans, remembers those who never returned, and reaffirms our commitment to ensuring their legacy lives on. Their service helped shape history, and their sacrifices continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

## Army Chaplain Corps Celebrates 251 Years of Faithful Service

On July 29, 2026, the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps celebrates its 251st birthday, marking more than two and a half centuries of dedicated service to soldiers, their families, and the nation. Since the Continental Congress established the Corps on July 29, 1775, Army Chaplains have strengthened America's military by providing spiritual guidance, moral leadership, and compassionate care through every major conflict in our nation's history.



Army Chaplains have served alongside America's military since the nation's founding. From Revolutionary War encampments to modern-day battlefields, they have provided guidance, comfort, and hope to soldiers and their families, reminding them they never face hardship alone.

As the Army continues to evolve, the Chaplain Corps remains committed to meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of a diverse force by supporting personnel of all faiths and also those with no religious affiliation. That mission continues in the New Mexico Army National Guard, where Chaplains provide counseling, spiritual care, and guidance during training, deployments, emergency response missions, and personal challenges. Through their leadership and compassion, they build resilience, foster unity, and strengthen the well-being of soldiers and their families.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services proudly recognizes Army Chaplains, past and present, for their steadfast service to soldiers, Veterans, and their families.

## Honoring Coast Guard Veterans on the Service's 236th Birthday



On August 4, 2026 the United States Coast Guard will celebrate its 236th birthday, honoring more than two centuries of service, courage and unwavering commitment to protecting our nation. Established in 1790 as the Revenue Marine, later known as the Revenue Cutter Service, it expanded its responsibilities and merged with the United States Life-Saving Service in 1915 to form the modern United States Coast Guard. Today, the Coast Guard remains one of America's oldest military services, carrying out missions that range from search and rescue and maritime law enforcement to homeland security and environmental protection.

The Coast Guard's legacy extends well beyond America's coastlines and into communities across New Mexico. Many Coast Guard Veterans have chosen to call the Land of Enchantment home, where they continue serving their communities through leadership, volunteerism, and public service. Their dedication reflects the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus*—"Always Ready"—and demonstrates that service to our nation does not end when the uniform comes off.

As the United States Coast Guard celebrates its 236th birthday, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services proudly honors Coast Guard Veterans and their families across the state. We recognize your service, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to protecting America's ports, waterways, maritime borders, and the lives of those at sea. Thank you for standing the watch, answering the call, and continuing to serve our communities. Happy Birthday to the United States Coast Guard!



## Women Veterans Corner

**“Connecting Women Veterans — One Story at a Time.”**

**Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager**

### Did you know:

Women have served in every major U.S. conflict—from the American Revolution to today's all-volunteer force. Today, women serve in every military occupational specialty and continue to be one of the fastest-growing populations within the Veteran community. Their leadership and service have strengthened our Armed Forces and continue to make a lasting impact across New Mexico and the nation.

**Topic of the Month:** Freedom to Thrive: Celebrating Independence Through Service and Strength.

July is a time to reflect on our nation's independence and the freedoms secured through the sacrifices of those who have served. For women Veterans, that reflection holds special meaning. Each generation of women who answered the call to serve has helped preserve the freedoms we cherish while breaking barriers and paving the way for those who follow.

Military service often instills a lifelong commitment to leadership, resilience, and service to others. Although the uniform may eventually come off, the values learned through military service continue to guide women Veterans as they build careers, raise families, mentor future generations, and strengthen communities throughout New Mexico.

July also recognizes National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, reminding us that every Veteran's journey is unique. Women Veterans come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and each deserves access to quality healthcare, supportive resources, and a community that understands the challenges that can accompany military service. Seeking support is a sign of strength, and connecting with fellow Veterans can make a meaningful difference in overall health and well-being.

This month, take time to celebrate your accomplishments, reconnect with fellow women Veterans, and continue building the community that supports one another long after military service has ended. Your service helped protect our nation's freedom, and your continued leadership helps ensure our communities remain strong for generations to come.

### Stay Connected This Summer!

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Women Veterans Program encourages women Veterans across the state to stay connected by attending local events, participating in outreach activities, and sharing information about available benefits and resources. Together, we can continue building a strong network that empowers and supports every woman who has served.

**“Freedom is never given; it is won.”** — A. Philip Randolph

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Women Veterans Program (WVP)** is dedicated to serving women Veterans and their families with dignity, respect, and excellence. As a primary point of contact, WVP provides advocacy and individualized support to help women Veterans navigate challenges faced during and after military service. Women Veterans seeking assistance or connection to resources are encouraged to visit [dvs.nm.gov](https://dvs.nm.gov) to learn more.

# Help Preserve Military Women’s History



The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services needs your support in honoring the lasting contributions of women in uniform by preserving their stories. Our state is home to thousands of incredible servicewomen, and their legacy and service deserve to be remembered.

For more than 30 years, the Military Women’s Memorial has collected names, photos, service records, and personal experiences of women who answered the call to serve. This permanent archive is the only one of its kind, ensuring “HERstory” is recognized as an essential part of America’s story.

The NMDVS "Strive for 500" Campaign continues to gain momentum as we work toward our goal of registering 500 women Veterans with the Military Women's Memorial. We still need more women Veterans to be counted and recognized for their military service.

Registration is free and easy. If you are a woman who has served, add your story to the Military Women’s National Digital Repository. By sharing your experience, you help shine a light on women’s service and inspire future generations of New Mexicans.

Your service matters. Your story inspires. Your legacy deserves to be remembered. Visit [womensmemorial.org](http://womensmemorial.org) to share your story and help preserve the history of women Veterans.

**WOMEN VETERANS**  
*She Served.  
She Deserves.*

**VA OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
**CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS**  
**WOMEN VETERANS ENROLLMENT SUMMIT**

**Boots on the Ground  
for Boots on the Ground**

**SERVED  
STRENGTHENED  
EMPOWERED  
UNSTOPPABLE**

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**  
**JULY 24-25, 2026**  
HENRY B. GONZÁLEZ  
CONVENTION CENTER

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

**HONORING OUR SERVICE** | **CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY** | **EMPOWERING OUR FUTURES** | **BUILDING OUR LEGACY**

*Built through service. United through sisterhood.*

Freedom 250

## Women Veterans Day Celebrations

Women Veterans were recognized and celebrated during several events marking Women Veterans Day, which commemorates the June 12, 1948, signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which granted women the right to serve as permanent members of the U.S. military.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) opened Women Veterans Day celebrations on Friday, June 12, at Sky Room Campus Park in Rio Rancho, bringing together Women Veterans, their families, and community supporters to celebrate the service and legacy of women who have served in the U.S. military.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of the colors by the Women Veteran Warriors Color Guard. NMDVS Field Services Director Robin Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance and salute to the New Mexico flag, followed by a Land Acknowledgment from NMDVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley. Reverend Karen Street of American Legion Post 95 delivered the invocation and benediction.

Following remarks from NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Women Veterans Program Manager Amberly Viner read Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's Women Veterans Day proclamation and reflected on the significance of the day.

"Every woman Veteran has a unique story, but we are united by a shared commitment to service and a willingness to put something greater than ourselves first," said Viner. "Today, we celebrate the courage, sacrifice, and contributions of Women Veterans across New Mexico and our nation."

A ceremonial cake-cutting featured Army Veterans Mary Bell, the oldest Woman Veteran in attendance, and Lasondra Menchengo, the youngest. Secretary Herrera presented both Veterans with NMDVS challenge coins in recognition of their service, symbolizing the generations of women who have answered the nation's call.

The celebration continued Friday evening at American Legion Post 99, where Women Veterans of New Mexico hosted a recognition dinner honoring Women Veterans from across the state. The event featured an opening ceremony, dinner, cake, and fellowship, bringing together Women Veterans and supporters for an evening of appreciation and camaraderie.

Saturday June 13, 2026, the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque hosted a Women Veterans Celebration, bringing together Veterans, families, and community members to honor the service and sacrifice of Women Veterans. The Albuquerque Concert Band opened the morning with patriotic music before attendees gathered for a ceremony celebrating the lasting contributions of Women Veterans throughout New Mexico's history.

These events reflect a growing statewide commitment to recognizing the vital role Women Veterans have played in defending the nation and ensuring their stories, service, and sacrifices continue to be honored.

NMDVS extends its appreciation to the City of Rio Rancho, Women Veterans of New Mexico, the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center, Rio Rancho Senior Affairs, American Legion Post 99, the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, and all community partners who helped make this year's Women Veterans Day celebrations a success.

If you are a woman Veteran seeking assistance, guidance, or connection to benefits and resources, the NMDVS Women Veterans Program is here to help. Reach out to learn more about the services and support available to you at our website: <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/womens-veteran-program/>

# Women Veterans Day Celebrations



# Field Services Director Earns NACVSO President's Award



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) congratulates Robin Wilson, NMDVS Field Services Director, on receiving the 2026 National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) President's Award for her outstanding leadership and dedication to serving Veterans and their families. Wilson accepted the award during the organization's annual conference on June 4 in Reno, Nevada.

The NACVSO President's Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership and an unwavering commitment to serving Veterans and their families. NACVSO advocates for America's Veterans and works to ensure they receive the benefits they earned through military service.

Wilson was recognized for her leadership in expanding training opportunities for Tribal Veteran Service Officers. Working in collaboration with NMDVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley and staff from across other departments, she helped bring NACVSO's Basic Benefits Accreditation Training to Albuquerque, providing Tribal Veteran Service Officers with professional education and accreditation to strengthen advocacy and improve access to earned Veterans benefits within Tribal communities.

Her efforts strengthened partnerships between NACVSO and Tribal communities while creating long-term pathways for accredited representation and culturally responsive Veteran services throughout New Mexico. Wilson's commitment to Veteran advocacy, outreach and benefits assistance continues to make a difference for Veterans and their families throughout the state.



This national recognition reflects not only her leadership, but also the hard work and dedication of the NMDVS Field Services team, whose daily efforts help Veterans access the benefits, services and support they have earned.

"Robin led the charge in building meaningful partnerships between NACVSO and Tribal communities while creating long-term pathways for accredited representation and culturally responsive Veteran services throughout New Mexico," said NACVSO President Andrew Tangen. "Her work reflects the very spirit of the President's Award through leadership, professionalism, service above self, and a willingness to go above and beyond for Veterans."

NMDVS Women Veteran Program Manager Amberly Viner joined women Veteran coordinators Joella Perry of Wayne County, Iowa, Amy Demenge of Colorado, Starlyn Lara of Nevada and Caroline Fermin of South Carolina to share best practices and strengthen partnerships supporting women Veterans.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services congratulates Robin Wilson and the NMDVS Field Services team on this well-deserved national recognition. Wilson's leadership and the team's dedication help ensure New Mexico Veterans and their families receive the benefits and services they have earned. NMDVS thanks them for their continued commitment to serving the state's Veteran community.

## Former POW Honored on Father's Day Isotopes Game

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) joined the Albuquerque Isotopes for a Father's Day first pitch honoring Vietnam War Veteran and former prisoner of war Staff Sergeant Juan L. Jacquez.

Jacquez, a native of Gallina, New Mexico, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. He served in South Vietnam with the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. On May 11, 1969, during intense fighting near the Cambodian border, he was reported Missing in Action. Officials later confirmed that enemy forces had captured him.

For 1,416 days, Jacquez endured captivity as a prisoner of war. He returned home in 1973 after nearly four years as a POW. Through that long ordeal, he held fast to his courage, resilience, and faith.

Jacquez's service and sacrifice earned him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for Valor and four Oak Leaf Clusters, as well as the Purple Heart. After his release, he continued serving in the Army until 1978.

Following his military career, Jacquez returned home, earned a degree in Mechanical Drafting Engineering, and built a successful civilian career. He and his wife, Sylvia, raised two children and built a family legacy that now includes six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

NMDVS was proud to recognize Mr. Jacquez at Isotopes Park alongside his daughter, Danelle Lucero, and extended family. His story reflects the strength, perseverance, and dedication of New Mexico's Veterans.



## Cemetery Visitation Program Concludes Season



New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James welcomed Veterans and family members participating in the final Santa Fe National Cemetery Visitation Program of the season on June 10th. The program provides seniors with transportation to the Santa Fe National Cemetery three times each spring, giving them the opportunity to honor those laid to rest there.

Participants received free Rail Runner transportation to Santa Fe, lunch, and shuttle service to the cemetery, removing barriers for Veterans, seniors, and family members with limited transportation options to pay their respects.

Coordinated by the Rio Metro Regional Transit District in partnership with Albuquerque Senior Affairs, Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe Senior Services, Bernalillo County, and other community partners, the program has helped hundreds of New Mexicans visit the cemetery since its launch in 2023.

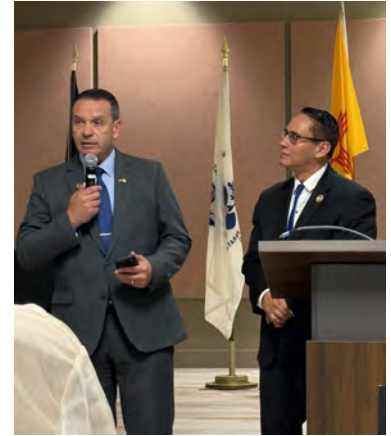
Each year, NMDVS supports the visitation program by providing transportation for seniors from Albuquerque senior centers, helping ensure they can take part in this meaningful opportunity to honor family members, friends, and fellow Veterans buried at Santa Fe National Cemetery.



## LULAC Reception Honors Silver City Bataan Hero

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) joined Veterans, community leaders, and family members in Silver City on June 28 to honor the life and sacrifice of Pvt. Jose G. Jaurequi, a Silver City hero who gave his life as a prisoner of war during World War II.

Hosted by League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 8003 and the Jaurequi family, the memorial reception commemorated the 84th anniversary of Jaurequi's death. The event also honored the Soldiers of the New Mexico National Guard's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments, whose courageous defense of Bataan and Corregidor remains one of the most significant chapters in New Mexico's military history.



NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera joined Lt. Gov. Howie Morales, state Sen. Gabriel Ramos, former state Rep. Rudy Martinez, military leaders, elected officials, and LULAC National President Roman Palomares in paying tribute to Jaurequi and the hundreds of New Mexico Guardsmen who answered the call to serve in the Philippines. During his remarks, Secretary Herrera recounted the story behind Frank Hewlett's wartime poem, "The Battling Bastards of Bataan," explaining how its message came to symbolize the courage, hardship, and determination of the American defenders who fought for months despite overwhelming odds and dwindling supplies.

Pvt. Jaurequi served with the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, one of two New Mexico National Guard units deployed to the Philippines in 1941. After months of fierce fighting on the Bataan Peninsula, he survived the surrender and imprisonment that followed. While held at the Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp, Jaurequi joined 11 fellow prisoners in an escape attempt. Japanese forces captured the group and executed them on June 28, 1942.

New Mexico National Guard Brig. General Pia G. Romero presented a folded American flag to Charles Jaurequi, the oldest of Jose Jaurequi's nieces and nephews, in recognition of his uncle's service and sacrifice.

The reception also spotlighted a growing national effort to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. The proposed legislation would collectively recognize the Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, nurses and civilians who fought in the defense of the Philippines and endured captivity as prisoners of war during World War II. For New Mexico, the legislation would provide long-overdue national recognition for the men of the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments.

More than eight decades after Pvt. Jose G. Jaurequi's death, the Silver City reception honored one Soldier's sacrifice while recognizing all who defended Bataan and Corregidor. As stories like Jaurequi's are shared, NMDVS remains committed to honoring the service and sacrifice of New Mexico's Veterans.



# Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedicated at Fort Stanton

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) joined the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Lincoln County Garden Club, Gold Star Families, local officials, Veterans, and community members on June 29 to dedicate New Mexico's eighth Gold Star Families Memorial Marker at Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery.

NMDVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James and Division Director of Benefits, Cemeteries and Memorial Programs Edward Mendez unveiled the memorial marker before James delivered the formal dedication, honoring Gold Star Families and the service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.



Lincoln County Commission Chairman Mark Fisher accepted the memorial marker on behalf of the community, and Gold Star Mothers Shirley Tetrault and Becky Christmas concluded the ceremony by laying flowers at the marker in remembrance of New Mexico's fallen heroes.

The Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Program, established by the National Garden Clubs, honors the families of fallen service members while educating future generations about their sacrifice. The program traces its roots to World War I, when families displayed Blue Star Service Banners to signify a loved one serving in the Armed Forces. If that service member died in military service, the blue star was replaced with a gold star, creating the enduring symbol of sacrifice recognized today.

Today, New Mexico is home to 25 Blue Star Memorial Markers, which pay tribute to all past, present, and future members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and eight Gold Star Families Memorial Markers, which specifically honor the families of those who gave their lives while serving the nation.

The Fort Stanton memorial joins seven other Gold Star Families Memorial Markers across New Mexico:

- New Mexico Veterans Memorial (Albuquerque)
- Albuquerque Garden Center
- Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Clovis
- Artesia
- Roswell
- Hobbs

The newest memorial provides a permanent place for families, Veterans, and visitors to reflect on the sacrifices of Gold Star Families and to remember the service members who gave their lives in defense of the United States.



Through partnerships with organizations like the New Mexico Garden Clubs and local communities, NMDVS continues its commitment to preserving places of remembrance that honor the service, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of America's military families.



## WWII Veteran Cleo Powell Honored

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) honored World War II Veteran Cleo Powell during a special recognition ceremony July 2 at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, recognizing his extraordinary military service, contributions to New Mexico and enduring legacy. Powell celebrated his 102nd birthday in December.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented Powell with a commemorative plaque recognizing his service to New Mexico and the nation and presented challenge coins to Powell, his son Denny Powell, a New Mexico Air National Guard Veteran, Air Force Veteran Tony Zastrow, and Navy Veteran Jesse Bearden in recognition of their military service.



During World War II, Powell served in the U.S. Army as a commander in the 727th Amphibian Tractor Battalion in the Philippines during a critical period of the Pacific campaign. He served on the Luzon Islands, where he participated in numerous campaigns as part of the Army's 6th Division. Conditions were harsh, and daily life was marked by constant danger. His leadership, dedication to his fellow Soldiers and commitment to duty helped secure Allied victory. One of the defining moments of his military service came when he returned home on Dec. 12, 1945, his birthday, after serving his country during one of history's most significant conflicts.

Following the war, Powell helped shape the future of New Mexico as one of the first developers in Rio Rancho. Together with his wife, Patricia, he built a family that now includes nine children, 22 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 20 great-great-grandchildren. His legacy reflects a lifetime of faith, hard work, dedication to family, and service to others.

Michael Welsh, interim director of the New Mexico VA Health Care System, welcomed NMDVS representatives and the Powell family to the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center and supported the family's efforts to honor Powell's remarkable life of service. NMDVS also extends its sincere appreciation to the dedicated New Mexico VA Health Care System team whose compassionate care for Veterans like Mr. Powell and unwavering support of his family helped make the recognition ceremony especially meaningful.



NMDVS also extends its sincere appreciation to Patricia Powell, daughter Frieda Bearden, granddaughter Beverly Bearden, and the entire Powell family for organizing the ceremony and helping make this special tribute possible. The department also thanks Therese Castillo, NMDVS Social Worker and Healthcare Coordinator, for her dedication and hard work in bringing the ceremony together.

NMDVS' s Centenarian Veteran Recognition Program honors New Mexico Veterans who have reached 100 years of age or older, celebrating their remarkable lives of service, and recognizing the sacrifices they made on behalf of our state and nation.



# VETERANS TALKING TO VETERANS®

# YOUR NEXT MISSION

## BECOME A VTTV COACH



Help New Mexico Veterans and spouses find **connection, purpose, and hope.**



### HELP FELLOW VETERANS

Give back by facilitating life-changing VTTV groups.  
Your story. Your strength. Their hope.



### BUILD PURPOSE & CONNECTION

Strengthen your own well-being while helping others.  
You'll never stand alone—and neither will the Veterans you coach.



### ONLINE & FLEXIBLE

All training is online via ZOOM  
2-hour class sessions  
Learn from the comfort of your home and on your schedule.



### PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

75 hours of online training via ZOOM  
Earn your NBC-HWC Credential (National Board for Health & Wellness Coaching)  
Tuition paid by New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services  
Reciprocal meetings qty 50  
**Next training starts Sept 15**

### WHAT IS VTTV?

Veterans Talking To Veterans (VTTV) is a Veteran-led, trauma-informed coaching program that brings Veterans and spouses together in small groups to share, support, and grow—through structured storytelling and professional coaching.



### WHY BECOME A VTTV COACH?

- ★ **Change Lives:** Help fellow Veterans and spouses find hope, strength, and connection.
- ★ **Use Your Experience:** Your journey has value—your story can help others heal.
- ★ **Build Community:** Become part of a supportive network of coaches across New Mexico.
- ★ **Make an Impact in New Mexico:** Help strengthen the well-being of Veterans and their families in your community.



### APPLY TODAY!

We are looking for compassionate, committed Veterans and spouses who are ready to lead, listen, and make a difference.



Eligible candidates shall be veterans or a spouse of a veteran.



REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL CONNECTIONS.

## REAL IMPACT.

### READY TO STEP UP?

For more information or apply for the free training visit:  
[www.VeteransTalkingToVeterans.com](http://www.VeteransTalkingToVeterans.com)

Application QR Link



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS. TOGETHER, WE'RE STRONGER.





## News from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

### Partial Claim Program to Help Veterans Avoid Foreclosure

The Department of Veterans Affairs has officially launched the VA Partial Claim Program, a new initiative designed to help Veterans experiencing financial hardship avoid foreclosure and remain in their homes.

The program was authorized by the VA Home Loan Reform Act, signed into law on July 30, 2025. It provides an additional option for eligible Veterans who have fallen behind on their mortgage payments.

Under the program, mortgage servicers will identify eligible Veterans who are in default and place them on a three-month trial payment plan to determine their ability to resume regular mortgage payments. Veterans who successfully complete the trial period will have their past-due mortgage balance brought current. VA will reimburse the mortgage servicer for the overdue amount, and the servicer will repay VA when the loan is paid off, refinanced, or the home is sold.

The Partial Claim Program is one of several home retention options available through VA. During fiscal year 2025, VA worked with mortgage servicers to help 173,000 Veterans avoid foreclosure. Other available assistance includes repayment plans, traditional VA loan modifications, 30-year and 40-year loan modifications, VA disaster modifications, and disaster extension modifications.

Veterans having trouble resolving mortgage issues with their loan servicer can contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 6, for assistance. Additional information about the VA Partial Claim Program can be found on the official VA website here: <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/trouble-making-payments/>

### VA Warns Veterans About New Benefits Scam

The Department of Veterans Affairs is warning Veterans about a new scam using fraudulent postcards that falsely claim recipients qualify for "extra VA benefits," including CHAMPVA, TRICARE and dental coverage, regardless of their disability rating. The postcards often appear to be from VA and create a false sense of urgency, urging Veterans to call immediately. Once on the phone, scammers build trust by praising military service before attempting to steal sensitive information, including Social Security numbers, bank account details and other personal information.



VA urges Veterans to never share personal or financial information with unverified contacts. Common scam tactics include unsolicited postcards, emails, text messages and social media messages, fake VA representatives, phishing links, and requests for payment through gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.

If you receive a suspicious communication, do not call the number provided or click on any links. Instead, verify the information by calling VA directly at 1-800-827-1000. Suspected fraud can also be reported at [VSAFE.gov](https://vsafe.gov) or by calling 1-833-38V-SAFE. <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/fraud-prevention.asp>



## Fraud Alert for Veterans

**⚠ DO NOT PAY FOR VA OR  
COMMUNITY CARE APPOINTMENTS UP FRONT**

**Protect yourself from a recent scam targeting Veterans.**

A Veteran recently received a fake letter claiming he had a VA appointment and was asked to pay for the visit.

- VA later confirmed he was not enrolled in VA health care, and no appointment had been scheduled.
- The letter and payment request were fraudulent.

### Remember:

- Veterans should never pay for any VA or Community Care appointment before or at the time of the appointment.
- VA does not charge upfront fees for appointments.
- VA does not send payment requests by email, text message, or phone.
- Community Care appointments are authorized by VA and are free to Veterans except standard VA co-pays when applicable.

### If you receive a suspicious letter, call, or message:

- Do not send money or share personal or financial information.
- Contact your local VA medical center directly to verify any appointment.
- Report suspicious activity to your facility's Integrity and Compliance Officer, Integrity and Compliance Helpline at (866) 842-4357 or [VHAOICHelpline@va.gov](mailto:VHAOICHelpline@va.gov), VSAFE at 1-833-388-7233 or the [VA OIG](https://va.oig.gov) Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.

Your VA team is here to ensure your care is safe and legitimate.

### SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

General instances of non-compliance, including potential fraud, waste and abuse:

Office of Integrity and Compliance Helpline

[VHAOICHelpline@va.gov](mailto:VHAOICHelpline@va.gov) or [866-842-4357](tel:866-842-4357) (VHA-HELP)

Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud:

VSAFE Fraud Hotline

<https://vsafe.gov/> or 833-38V-SAFE

Reports made to VA OIC or VSAFE may be referred to the independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) for investigation into fraud or other wrongdoing or for its oversight of VA programs and operations



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# The Spirit of Service: Honoring Raymond G. Murphy



On a freezing night in February 1953, a 23-year-old Marine Second Lieutenant named Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy faced a choice on the battlefields of the Korean War. His evacuation platoon was tasked with supporting an assault unit under devastating enemy fire. When he arrived on the scene, he found a chaotic battlefield: the assault platoon commander was wounded, key leaders were gone, and casualties littered the hillside.

Instead of remaining safely in the rear, Murphy took command. Though wounded himself by mortar fragments, he refused medical treatment. He launched a counter-assault, personally killed two enemy soldiers to protect his men, and systematically carried wounded Marines down the mountain. When the final retreat was ordered, Murphy stayed on the exposed hillside alone with a carbine to cover his moving troops. Only when he was absolutely certain that every single man—living and wounded—had made it to the safety of the main lines did he finally allow his own wounds to be treated.

For his extraordinary heroism, President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented Murphy with the Congressional Medal of Honor on October 27, 1953.

## A Lifetime Beyond the Battlefield

While many stories of military valor end on the battlefield, Jerry Murphy's true legacy lay in what he did after the war. He didn't seek out Hollywood movie deals or high-profile book contracts. Instead, he chose a quiet, dedicated life of continued service in New Mexico.

Starting in 1974, Murphy worked for the Veterans Benefits Administration in Albuquerque, eventually retiring in 2005 as the Chief of Veterans Services. Even after retirement, he couldn't walk away from his fellow Veterans. He spent an additional eight years volunteering at the local VA hospital, unassumingly pulling medical records, visiting patients, and offering a comforting word to those who had sacrificed so much. He never boasted about his status as one of the country's most decorated heroes; he simply saw himself as a Veteran taking care of Veterans.

## Living the Legacy Today

When Murphy passed away in 2007, his name was permanently etched into the landscape of the Southwest. In 2008, the facility he loved so dearly was officially rededicated as the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center.

Today, the spirit of Jerry Murphy lives on through the hospital's dedicated medical staff, counselors, and volunteers. This sprawling, historic facility serves thousands of Veterans across New Mexico, Southern Colorado, and West Texas. From top-tier cardiac care to robust mental health and caregiver support, the medical center acts as a direct extension of Murphy's lifelong promise: Never leave a comrade behind.





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is proud to shine this month's spotlight on Healthcare Coordination Division Director, Devona Hollingsworth, whose integrity, steadiness, and dedication have become foundational to the Division. Known for her honesty, reliability, and exceptional work ethic, she has earned the trust of colleagues across the agency by consistently honoring her commitments and guiding her team with clarity and purpose.

NMDVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James praised her impact, noting, "Devona has been essential to the organization of the Healthcare Coordination Division vendor and contract management. She has organized a multi-talented team and has set a clear path for robust Veteran support."

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

I started in March. Prior to working here, I was a contractor at the Air Force Research Lab, Satellite and Space Vehicles Division. I am also a Certified and Licensed Athletic Trainer and have worked with various sports, from Pee Wee League to pro sports—no matter the field or the court, I always have the best seats in the house!

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

I have enjoyed the outreaches and engagements. It is one thing to oversee the Suicide Prevention, Homelessness, Behavioral/Health, and Transportation programs, but it is so rewarding to see, meet, and hear from the Veterans my staff and our programs have helped, and even more humbling when Veterans seek our services.

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

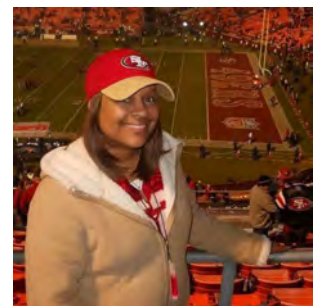
My grandfather was an Army Combat Medic in the Korean War, his father was in the Navy during WWII, and my dad was Army Infantry (82nd Airborne) during Vietnam. I am a Combat Veteran who started in the Army Reserve (Combat Life Saver/Food Inspector) and retired out of the Air Force Reserve (Health Services Specialist). I'm a 4th generation combat Veteran--first female in my family.

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

I love to travel--I set a goal to have a stamp on every page of my passport before it expires. I am from San Francisco—49ers, Golden State Warriors, SF Giants are not options, they are a way of life in my family. My teen and early adult life were spent in New Orleans—I can turn the accent on and off. But more than anything, I love spending time with my family and my 2 kittos (cats), Kion (Lion King) and Rajah (Aladdin).....oh, yes, I'm a Disney Kid.

### **Three words to describe you?**

Persistent, Adventurous, Elusive



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





**NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES**

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



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**8AM – 4PM**

**NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL**

**1100 LOUISIANA BLVD. SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108**

**HOSTED BY:**





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 NMDVS.
- 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.
- NMDVS 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)



# ATTENTION VETERANS

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity introduces our  
Critical Systems Replacement Program (CSR)

This is a no cost program for Veterans

Eligible projects:

- Heating and cooling systems
  - Window Replacements
  - Roof Replacement
  - Bathroom modification

Low-income Veteran homeowners are encouraged to apply

Must be current on mortgage, homeowner insurance and taxes

For more information contact **Toye Adams** at **(505) 359-2436**

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM. APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE APPLICATION AND MEET HUD INCOME GUIDELINES.**

**Veteran benefits are not counted as income for eligibility**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>TYPING 101:</b> Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does &amp; basic mouse use.  <b>COMPUTER BASICS:</b> Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, Operating System, etc.  <b>INTERNET BASICS:</b> Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, online safety &amp; using email.  <b>CYBERSECURITY:</b> Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams &amp; protect your digital assets.</p>	<p><b>DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS</b></p> <p>Google Play Store    Apple App Store</p>  	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>EXCEL 100:</b> Intro to review spreadsheet features &amp; application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.  <b>EXCEL 200:</b> Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.  <b>EXCEL 300:</b> Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds &amp; more.  <b>EXCEL PIVOTTABLES:</b> How to create PivotTable &amp; insert a slicer. Includes intro to VLOOKUP and SUMIF functions.</p>
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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5	6 <b>YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL</b> 	7 <b>LEARN.</b>	8 <b>GROW.</b>	9 <b>ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm</b> Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	10 <b>SUCCEED.</b>	11
12	13 <b>DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES</b> 	14 <b>Money Management@</b> 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm <b>Excel 100</b> 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	15 <b>Excel 200 (VIRTUAL)@</b> 9:30 am - 10:45 am <b>Computer Basics</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	16 <b>Excel 300</b> 9:30 am - 10:45 am <b>Typing 101</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	17 <b>Internet Basics</b> 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm <b>Excel PivotTables</b> 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	18
19	20 <b>REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS &amp; SERVICES</b> 	21 <b>Intro to Google</b> 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm <b>Google Drive</b> 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	22 <b>Google Docs</b> 9:30 am - 10:30 am <b>Google Slides</b> 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	23 <b>ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm</b> Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	24 <b>Google Sheets</b> 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm <b>Google Gmail</b> 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	25
26	27 <b>NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS!</b> 	28 <b>Soft Skills@</b> 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm <b>Resume 101</b> 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	29 <b>Bluewater Location:</b> Classes held at 270 98th St. NW	30 <b>Cybersecurity</b> 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm <b>Office Hours</b> 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	31 <b>Resiliency @</b> 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm <b>Interview Skills @</b> 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	1




Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training

<p><b>VIRTUAL OPTION CLASSES:</b> You can choose to attend some of our <b>FREE</b> classes online from home (look for the @ after the class name)...or come and attend in-person</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">SAN MATEO</h1> <p>SAN MATEO OPPORTUNITY CENTER 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ABQ, NM 87109</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>INTRO TO GOOGLE:</b> Overview of online tools within Google Workspace-collaborate,create, communicate in one place  <b>GOOGLE DRIVE:</b> Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage &amp;file sharing service  <b>GOOGLE DOCS:</b> Learn the basics of web-based word processing. Create and edit docs online.  <b>GOOGLE SLIDES:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create &amp; share slideshows.  <b>GOOGLE SHEETS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based data driven document. Create, edit &amp; share spreadsheets.  <b>GOOGLE GMAIL:</b> Basics of Google email service: Learn to create &amp; send messages,organize &amp; search the inbox</p>	<p><b>Bluewater Location Classes on 6/29:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Time Management 9:30 am - 10:30 am</li> <li>*Resume 101 11:00 am - 12:30 pm</li> <li>*Computer Basics 1:00 pm - 2:00pm</li> <li>*Google Gmail 2:30pm - 3:30pm</li> </ul> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EmploymentSkills</b></p> <p><b>RESUME 101</b> Learn best practices for resume writing, with hands on creation, proofing and editing support .  <b>SOFT SKILLS@</b> Learn about attitude, self-motivation, how to collaborate &amp; leadership skills for life &amp; work success  <b>INTERVIEW SKILLS@</b> Build interview confidence by learning question strategies, practice mock interviews  <b>TIME MANAGEMENT</b> Time management strategies to improve work efficiency. Create SMART goals for success.  <span style="color: green; font-weight: bold;">LifeSkills</span>  <b>MONEY MANAGEMENT@</b> Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses &amp; credit.  <b>RESILIENCY@</b> An in-depth look at how to withstand &amp; recover from the difficulties of life.</p>
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<p align="center"><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>COMPUTER BASICS:</b> Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, Operating System, etc.  <b>TYPING 101:</b> Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does &amp; basic mouse use.  <b>INTERNET BASICS:</b> Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, online safety &amp; using email.  <b>CYBERSECURITY:</b> Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams &amp; protect your digital assets.  <b>INTRO TO CODING@:</b> Programming overview of JavaScript, Python &amp; web/app/game development.  <b>CODING WORKSHOP@:</b> Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript &amp; Python.</p>	<p align="center"><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>MICROSOFT WORD:</b> Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design a layout.  <b>EXCEL 100:</b> Intro to review spreadsheet features &amp; application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.  <b>EXCEL 200:</b> Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.  <b>EXCEL 300:</b> Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds &amp; more.  <b>EXCEL PIVOTTABLES:</b> How to create PivotTable &amp; insert a slicer. Includes intro to VLOOKUP and SUMIF functions.</p>	<p align="center"><b>LifeSkills</b></p> <p><b>MONEY MANAGEMENT@:</b> Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses &amp; credit  <b>THINKING CRITICALLY@:</b> Become better thinkers. Build analytical skills, learn to determine the validity of info.  <b>TIME MANAGEMENT:</b> Time management strategies to improve work efficiency. Create SMART goals for success.</p> <p align="center"><b>Wellness Skills</b></p> <p><b>STRESS MANAGEMENT @:</b> A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to manage daily stressors.</p>
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**TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to**  
[www.goodwillnm.org/events...](http://www.goodwillnm.org/events...)**OR CALL 505.881.6401 x1903...**  
**OR EMAIL [kpaul@goodwillnm.org](mailto:kpaul@goodwillnm.org) FOR ASSISTANCE...**

# JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5	6 Career: Discover@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Computer Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	7 Career: Apply@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	8 Excel 100 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Excel 200 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	9 Excel 300 9:30 am - 10:45 am Stress Management@ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	10 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	11
12	13 Career: Interview@ 9:30 am - 10:45 am Thinking Critically@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	14 Career: Succeed@ 9:30 am - 10:45 am Money Management@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	15 Intro to Coding@ 9:30 am - 10:30 am Coding Workshop@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	16 Excel PivotTables 9:30 am - 10:45 am Computer Basics 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	17 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	18
19	20 Resume 101 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Interview Skills @ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	21 Excel PivotTables 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Cybersecurity 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	22 Typing 101 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Microsoft Word 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	23 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	24 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	25
26	27 Soft Skills @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am Communication Skills@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	28 Excel 100 9:30 am - 10:45 am Excel 200 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	29 Bluewater Location: Classes held at 270 98th St. NW	30 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	31 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	1




**Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training**

**VIRTUAL OPTION CLASSES:** You can choose to attend some of our FREE classes online from home (look for the @ after the class name)...or come and attend in-person

# LOMAS

LOMAS SERVICE CENTER 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE ABQ, NM 87110

<p align="center"><b>EmploymentSkills</b></p> <p><b>Career Growth Employment Skills Series:</b>  <b>DISCOVER@:</b> Explore career interests: identify strengths &amp; skills ...find jobs that match your personal qualities.  <b>APPLY@:</b> Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online and increase your chances of call-backs.  <b>INTERVIEW @:</b> Best practices in interviews, professional communication and the three modes of persuasion.  <b>SUCCEED@:</b> Building relationships, good attitude and the knowledge &amp; behavior skills for success at work.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Bluewater Location Classes on 6/29:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Time Management 9:30 am - 10:30 am</li> <li>*Resume 101 11:00 am - 12:15 pm</li> <li>*Computer Basics 1:00 pm - 2:00pm</li> <li>*Google Gmail 2:30pm - 3:30pm</li> </ul> 	<p align="center"><b>EmploymentSkills</b></p> <p><b>RESUME 101</b> Learn best practices for resume writing, with hands on creation, proofing and editing support  <b>INTERVIEW SKILLS@:</b> Build interview confidence by learning question strategies, practice mock interviews  <b>SOFT SKILLS@:</b> Learn about attitude, self-motivation, how to collaborate &amp; leadership skills for life &amp; work success  <b>COMMUNICATION SKILLS@:</b> Build essential communication skills for success in life or work: discover your style.</p> <p><b>DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP TODAY!</b>  <b>GO TO <a href="http://WWW.GOODWILLNM.ORG/MOBILE-APP">WWW.GOODWILLNM.ORG/MOBILE-APP</a></b></p>
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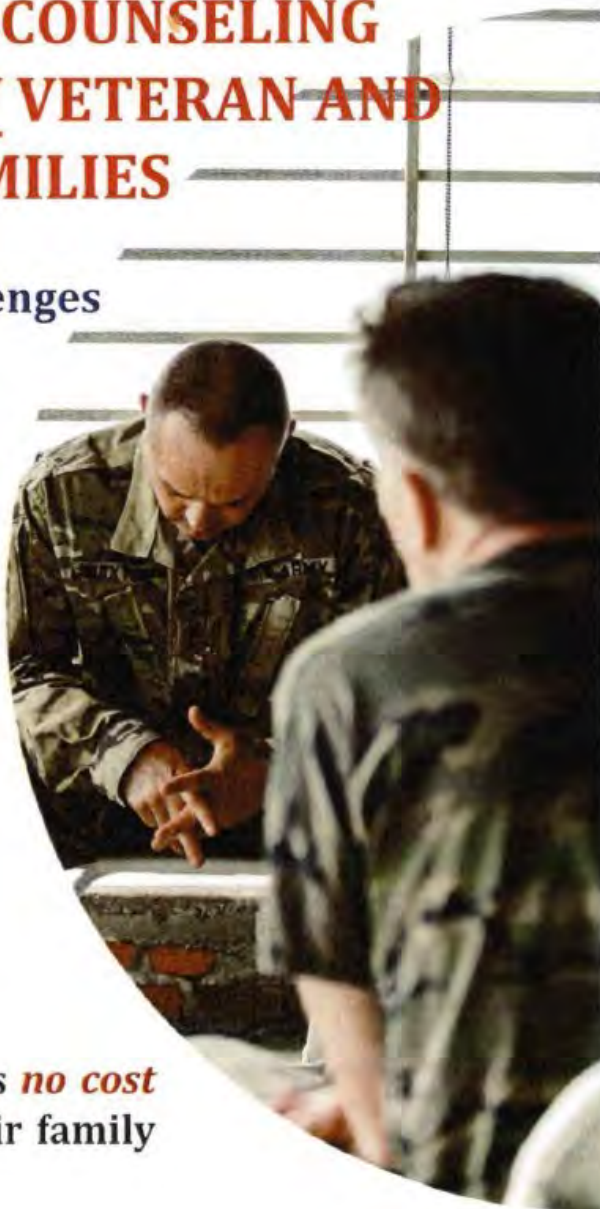
# OPERATION WARRIOR RECOVERY

## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

### PROGRAM FOR ANY VETERAN AND THEIR FAMILIES

#### Designed to Overcome Life's Challenges

- Individual, group, and family member counseling
- Individual Counseling to address conflict and communication problems
- Peer Support services to assist when challenging times are present
- Apply Trauma Informed Care to All Our Programs



Counseling Program is *free*; there is *no cost* for services to any Veteran and their family within the Bernalillo county.



Sponsored By:

ALBUQUERQUE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
trust • equity • integrity • accountability



For more information email: [info@nmvic.org](mailto:info@nmvic.org) or call: 505-265-0512 ext 203

# Navajo Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services



## Operation Veterans Wellness

Friday, July 17, 2026

Gallup Sports Complex

925 Park Ave

Gallup, NM 87301

### Run/Walk

On-site Registration: 6am

Start Time: 6:30am

Online registration  
scan below



OR Click Here!

### Gourd Dance

12pm-4pm



Head Singer

Kelly Grant (Army)



Head Gourd Dancer

Tyson King (Marine)



Arena Director

Travis King (Army)



Co-MCs

Shawn Goodluck (Navy)

Mike Salabiye

### Wellness Presentation

9am-12pm



### Resource Booths

9am-4pm



### Youth Activities

10am - 2pm

Games - Education



For more information regarding Gourd Dance call TJ Anderson @ (928) 551-1053

For other information call Cheryl Toledo @ (505) 722-9470

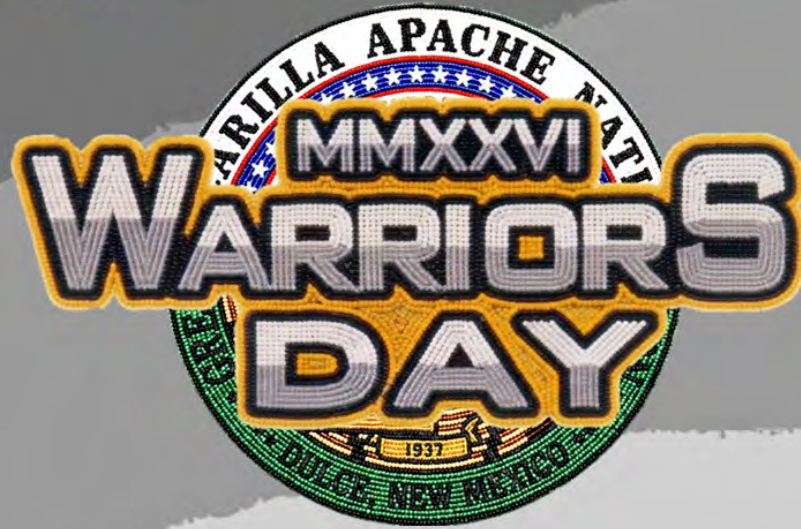
**\*\* THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT \*\***

**\*\* NO SOLICITING \*\***

**\*\* Sponsors not responsible for theft, accidents, injuries, etc \*\***

Dulce Community Center  
July 17, 2026

Dulce N.M.  
1 p.m.



[JICARILLAVETERANS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JICARILLAVETERANS@GMAIL.COM)

The Jicarilla Apache Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation Veterans Group and D.C.C. will not be held responsible for any injuries, accidents, loss or theft that may occur on the entire D.C.C. property.



# VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR

Learn about Veteran services, benefits, and programs from experts from the Las Cruces Vet Center, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and New Mexico Department of Veterans Services in part with DACC Nursing.

**JULY 21 | 9 AM-1 PM**

Doña Ana Community College  
East Mesa Campus - Student Resources Building  
2800 N. Sonoma Ranch Blvd  
Las Cruces, NM

**FHP**  
Future Health Professionals  
FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE

Las Cruces  
**VET**★**CENTER** EST. 1979



Call the Las Cruces Vet Center for more info: 575-674-2603

GIRLS IN THE GAME



SAT AUG 1<sup>ST</sup>



***NEW MEXICO UNITED IS  
FUNDRAISING FOR THE WOMEN  
VETERANS OF NEW MEXICO.***

***EVERY TICKET SOLD THROUGH THIS  
LINK \$5 WILL BE DONATED BACK TO  
THE WOMEN VETERANS OF NEW  
MEXICO.***



**2026  
SEASON**



**NAVAJO NATION CODE TALKER DAY**

# **STAND DOWN**

**FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2026**



**LOCATION: WINDOW ROCK FAIRGROUNDS  
ADDRESS: AZ-264, WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515**

**9AM-12PM STAND DOWN | 1PM-3PM GOURD DANCE**

**\* LUNCH INCLUDED \***



## **ALL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES INVITED**

- VETERAN AFFAIRS HEALTH
  - VETERAN AFFAIRS BENEFITS
  - EMPLOYMENT
  - EDUCATION
- 
- NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENTS
  - RECRUITING STATIONS (BRANCHES)
- 
- FREE HAIRCUTS
  - LOCAL VENDORS (JEWELRY, DRINKS, FOOD)



**MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

**NNVA NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST OR THEFT**

**EMAIL: FALLYN.BEGAY@NAVAJO-NSN.GOV PHONE: (928) 871-7307**

## VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER SEEKING 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 UPCOMING RETREAT DATE:

**August 23-30, 2026**



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



### Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

1. Veterans & First Responders 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 participants will receive priority. Participants from other states will be accepted as funding permits.

**505-501-8337**

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

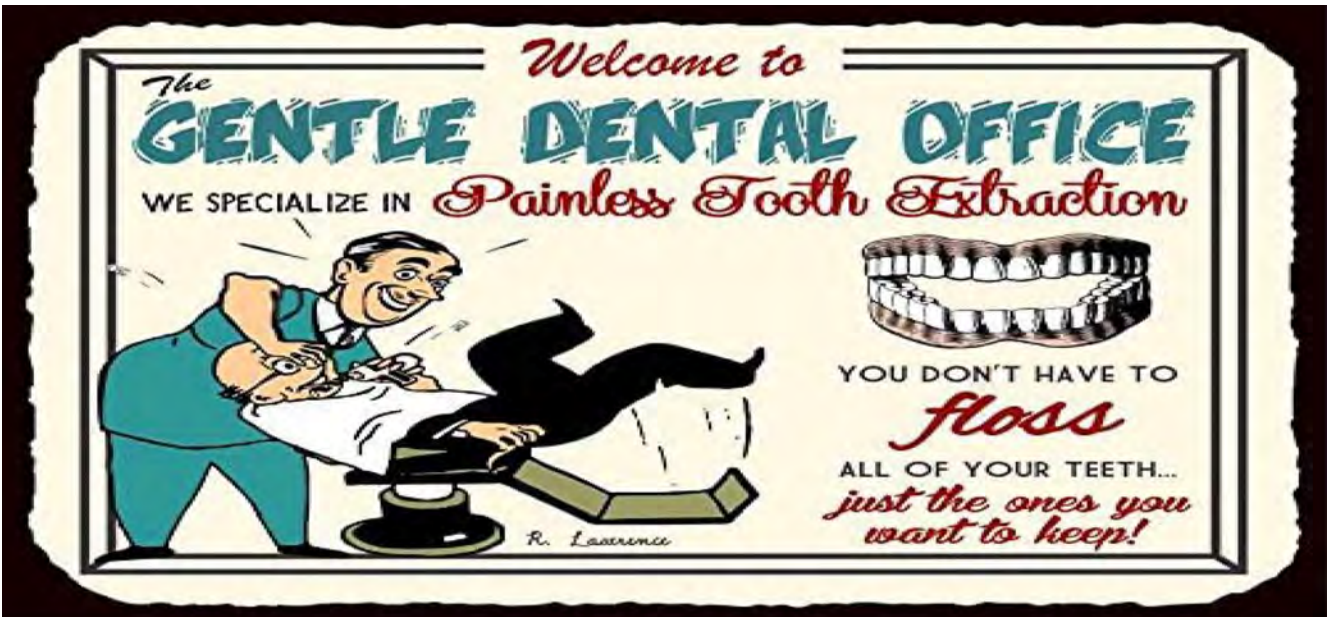
**Apply Today!**



**Donate Today!**



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



## Veterans and Law Enforcement Free Dental Stand Down

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Space is Limited

Santa Fe Vet Center 6535 Airport Road Santa Fe NM 87507

POC Phillip Chavez 505 988 6562



**SAVE THE DATE**



NEW MEXICO

# CONFERENCE ON AGING

**SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2026**

Glorieta Conference Center

**AGING.NM.GOV**

*Registration Opening Summer 2026*

# 4th annual Veterans Meditation Retreat

## For Veterans, By Veterans

Every Veteran welcome, regardless of discharge status, gender, race, LGBTQI+ and/or Two-Spirited identity



**WHEN:** Sept. 25 - Sept. 28, 2026

**WHERE:** The Clyde Hotel,  
Albuquerque, NM

**WHY:** Introduce Meditation techniques, reduce 17-20 current Veteran suicides per day

**94% of participants find the techniques relevant to their well-being.**  
**100% reported a "very good" experience that improved their perceived ability to manage mental challenges.**

**NO FEE:**

**Every Veteran Fully Funded!**



All accommodations and transportation to and from the retreat are paid for by grants, sponsors, and individual donors.



**Veterans, APPLY NOW**

**Call** 505-982-4183

**Email** [info@lifetransition.com](mailto:info@lifetransition.com)

**Visit** [lifetransition.com/vmr/](http://lifetransition.com/vmr/)

Or **Scan to apply**



**Please make a tax-deductible donation:**

[tinyurl.com/VMRPayPal](http://tinyurl.com/VMRPayPal)  
Life Transition Meditation Center

501(c)3 ID #20-0193687



**Donate here. Thank you!**





# GLOBAL CAMPUS



Military and Veterans

## YOUR MISSION. YOUR LOCATION. YOUR DEGREE.

Are you looking to be promoted in the military? Leaving the service and ready to begin a new career? Are you a military spouse or dependent? Find your place at NMSU Global Campus.

As the #1 ranked national university in New Mexico, we bring more than 130 years of excellence in higher education directly to you — no matter where you are serving or where you live.

### NMSU Global Campus offers:

90+ fully accredited online degree programs and certificates including IT, business, engineering and education.

Need skills now, but no time for a degree? Our self-paced microlearning courses help you quickly build practical skills in project management, healthcare, workforce-ready trades, and more.

Transferable military credits that count toward degrees.

Discounted tuition for active-duty service members — just \$250 per credit hour.

## FREE

### Career Transition Support

Take the next step from military service to civilian career success with a complimentary self-paced microlearning course from NMSU Global Campus.

- Course: From Mission to Career: Transitioning from Military to Civilian Life
- Learn how to translate military experience into civilian career opportunities
- Build confidence in job searching, networking, and professional communication
- Includes a FREE 1-hour personalized career coaching session to discuss your own transition and map out a career strategy.

Explore the course:  
<https://bit.ly/43ng3hk>



Learn more at  
<https://global.nmsu.edu/military-veterans/>  
or scan the QR Code to get started today!



# 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



## 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

575-937-5620

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

### Alamogordo/Southeast NM

**Matthew Quinn (VSO I)**

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 Metro Area

**Vacant**

Good Will Office

5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**La Sondra Menchego**

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

(505) 525-3331

[lasondra.menchego@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:lasondra.menchego@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Calvin James**

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

(505) 681-0499

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

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Adam Calderon (VSO II)**

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

(505) 274-0393

[adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (VARO)

**Eric Ballheimer**

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

(505) 479-0672

[eric.ballheimer@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:eric.ballheimer@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

**James Brandon**

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

(505) 623-1729

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

*(no appointment needed)*

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**Joel Hebert**

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

(505) 470-7503

[joel.hebert@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:joel.hebert@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**Jason Liddell**

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

(505) 490-7532

[jason.liddell@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jason.liddell@dvs.nm.gov)

### Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

**Rob Miller (Mon. & Thur. only)**

Belen Business Center  
719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

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

1125 N. Solano Drive, Suite 1125

(505) 216-8782

[clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Wayne Minkler**

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 781-0614

[wayne.minkler@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:wayne.minkler@dvs.nm.gov)**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Andrade**

1600 SE Main Street/Suite A

(575) 416-2284

[danielle.andrade@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:danielle.andrade@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)**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)**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)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (SW Supervisor)

1125 N. Solano Drive, Suite 1125

(575) 644-6869

[miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:miguel.martinez@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)**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)**Santa Fe/Northeast NM****Phillip Hernandez**Bataan Memorial Bldg.  
407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Room 134

(505) 218-3125

[phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov)**State Veterans Home/T or C NM****VSO Staff/Every Wednesday**922 South Broadway St.  
Truth or Consequences, NM**Grants/Northwest NM****Alex Fontaine**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

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

1125 N. Solano Drive, Suite 1125

(505) 361-5298

[vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Melissa Herrera** (VSO II)

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

[melissa.herrera@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:melissa.herrera@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)**Silver City/Southwest NM****Clarissa Sierra**Western New Mexico University  
1000 West College Ave.  
Juan Chacon Bldg./Room 138A

(575) 313-5627

[clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov)**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)

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