



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans' Services
 May 2024

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

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DVS to Commemorate Memorial Day With a Ceremony at the New Mexico Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) will commemorate Memorial Day with a ceremony at the New Mexico Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire on Monday, May 27, at 11 a.m.

DVS Cabinet Secretary will be one of the speakers at the ceremony in the Memorial's amphitheater which honors the "ultimate sacrifice" paid by our nation's service members who lost their lives while in service to our country. Also scheduled to speak is Denham Clements, a renowned photorealism artist and a former U.S. Marine Vietnam War combat veteran whose war experience has greatly influenced a major part of his unique paintings.



The ceremony will feature a rifle volley rendered by the Tsidi To'ii Veterans Organization, and a rendition of *Taps* by a bugler from the U.S. Army 44th band, which will also provide a ceremony-concluding March of the Armed Forces Musical Presentation.

Prior to the ceremony, members of veterans and community service organizations and the public will meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. Highway 64 & State Highway 434 for the *Flag March* of various flags from that intersection to the Memorial's amphitheater. The march will conclude with a pre-ceremony concert by the 44th Army band. For those who can't attend the Angel Fire ceremony, DVS encourages everyone to attend a Memorial Day/Memorial Day weekend ceremony at any of the communities listed below.

Pre-Memorial Day Ceremonies

| City | Event | Venue | Time | Point of Contact | Phone # |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| Thursday (May 23) | | | | | |
| Farmington | ceremony | Three Rivers Estates Senior Home | 1pm | Mark Decker | (505) 947-5179 |
| Saturday (May 25) | | | | | |
| Roswell | flag placements | Memory Lawn Cemetery | 930am | Don Weld | (575) 495-3325 |
| Santa Fe Window | flag placements | Santa Fe National Cemetery | 8am | Sergio Briones | (505) 988-6400 |
| Rock (AZ) Window | wreath-laying | Navajo Veterans Memorial Park | 730am | Olin Kieyoomia | (928) 810-9156 |
| Rock (AZ) | ceremony | Navajo Veterans Memorial Park | 730am | Olin Kieyoomia | (928) 810-9156 |

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| City | Venue | Time | Point of Contact | Phone # |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Sunday (May 26) | | | | |
| Corrales | San Ysidro Cemetery | 9am | Terry Brown | (505) 350-1641 |
| Corrales | San Ysidro Cemetery | 930am | Terry Brown | (505) 350-1641 |
| Questa | Questa Healing Field/Hwy 522 | 1pm | Village of Questa | (575) 586-0694 |

MEMORIAL DAY (May 27)

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Albuquerque | parade | USS Bullhead Memorial | 8am | Tom Tozier | (505) 768-4495 |
| Albuquerque | pre-ceremony concert | New Mexico Veterans Memorial | 9am | Tom Tozier | (505) 768-4495 |
| Albuquerque | ceremony | New Mexico Veterans Memorial | 10am | Tom Tozier | (505) 768-4495 |
| Cloudcroft | ceremony | Zenith Park/Blue Star Memorial | 9am | Paul Benshoof | (702) 701-1691 |
| Cloudcroft | ceremony | James Canyon Cemetery | 1030am | Paul Benshoof | (702) 701-1691 |
| Estancia | ceremony | Estancia Cemetery | 10am | Amer. Legion Post 22 | (910) 988-5098 |
| Fort Bayard | ceremony | Fort Bayard National Cemetery | 10am | Phil Torres | (575) 537-3982 |
| Ignacio (CO) | ceremony | Southern Ute Veterans Park | 10am | Southern Ute Vets Assoc. | (970) 563-0100 |
| Los Alamos | ceremony & luncheon | Guaje Pines Cemetery | 11am | Ken Nadeau | (505) 695-0528 |
| Melrose | ceremony | Baxter Memorial Park | 1pm | Mark Latham | (575) 309-4496 |
| Mayhill | ceremony | Mayhill Cemetery | 11am | Paul Benshoof | (702) 701-1691 |
| Newcomb | ceremony | Newcomb Chapterhouse | 4pm | Mark Decker | (505) 947-5179 |
| Roswell | ceremony | McBride Veterans Cemetery | 10am | Jeremy Hurley | (575) 626-5888 |
| Sacramento | ceremony | Weed Cemetery | noon | Paul Benshoof | (702) 701-1691 |
| Santa Fe | ceremony | Santa Fe National Cemetery | 10am | Sergio Briones | (505) 988-6400 |
| Shiprock | flag placements | Shiprock Cemetery | 6am | Mark Decker | (505) 947-5179 |
| Shiprock | ceremony | Shiprock Cemetery | 11am | Mark Decker | (505) 947-5179 |
| Shiprock | retiring of flags | Shiprock Cemetery | 1pm | Mark Decker | (505) 947-5179 |
| Window Rock | ceremony | Navajo Veterans Memorial Park (AZ) | 730am | Bobbie Ann Baldwin | (928) 871-7307 |
| Zuni Pueblo | ceremony | Veterans Memorial Park | 10am | Angela Waseta-Rivera | (505) 728-1275 |

A Brief History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, is the United States holiday (last Monday in May) honoring those who have died in the nation's wars.

Decoration Day originated following the American Civil War, which ended on April 9, 1865. A month later, citizens in several communities in the north and south began placing newly-blooming flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. Three years later, John A. Logan, the commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic—which was an organization of Union veterans--promoted a national holiday on May 30 “for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.” Communities throughout the country began unofficially observing this as a day to decorate gravesites of Civil War veterans who died in battle.

By the time World War I ended in 1918, Americans had been honoring this war's combat casualties—and the national day of observance had become known as Memorial Day. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed a law which officially designated the last Monday of May as Memorial Day. In 1971 the day became a national holiday.



New Mexico PBS / KNME -- Ch. 5.1, Ch.5.3 & Ch. 5.4

With Programs Available For Free Streaming Following The Broadcast -- On The PBS App.

Veterans - Related & Memorial Weekend programs May 14 – June 18, 2024

For Those Who Serve/Served, and Their Families, Friends & Communities

For more details, please visit www.nmpbs.org



AFTER ACTION – Season 2

For God and Country -- Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, May 14, 10:30 pm

Invisible Veterans -- Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, May 21, 10:00 pm

Gold Star Service -- Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, May 28, 10:30 pm

Serving with Pride -- Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, June 11, 10:00 pm

Toxic Exposure -- Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, June 18, 10:30 pm

This new acclaimed PBS series that offers a powerful, inside look at what life is like before, during and after action, returns for a second season with seven new episodes hosted by Stacy Pearsall, a retired Air Force Staff Sergeant and former aerial combat photojournalist who earned the Bronze Star Medal and Air Force Commendation with Valor for combat actions in Iraq. Explore the experiences of diverse veterans from across the country through candid and often emotional conversations. AFTER ACTION seeks to demystify the military experience, provide a platform for dialogue among family members and preserve military stories, many of which have been left untold.

THE GHOST ARMY: WAR, DECEPTION AND ART

Ch. 5.4 - Saturday, May 25, 3:00 pm; Tuesday, May 28, 10 p.m.

Ch. 5.1 - Sunday, May 26, 10:00 pm

This program tells the true story of American G.I.s -- many of whom would go on to have illustrious careers in art, design and fashion -- who tricked the enemy with rubber tanks, sound effects and visual illusions during the World War II. The 23rd Headquarters Special Troops staged a traveling road show of deception designed to con the Germans right on the front lines. Every move they made was top secret and their story was hushed up for decades.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT 2024

Ch. 5.1 - Sunday, May 26, 7 p.m. & again 8:30 p.m.

Ch. 5.4 - Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m. & again 8:30 p.m.

The 35th annual broadcast of this special concert event, returns live from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Co-hosted by acclaimed actors Joe Mantegna and Gary Sinise, and an all-star lineup with the National Symphony Orchestra.

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Veterans - Related & Memorial Weekend programs *(continued)*

HOMECOMING SONG

FNX 5.3 - Sunday, May 26, 11:35 pm

A poetic Alaskan / First Nations documentary that tells the parallel stories of two men - one who disappeared and returned, the other who fought in WW2, and the ancient song that connects them.

GOING TO WAR

Ch. 5.1 - Monday, May 27, 9:00 pm

Ch. 5.4 - Wednesday, May 29, 9:00 pm

What is it really like to go to war? For millennia, only warriors could really answer that question. This documentary takes us inside the experience of battle and reveals the soldier's experiences as never before. The film illuminates the experiences of training, battle, and coming home for soldiers across conflicts, revealing the universals of the warrior's journey.

FINAL LANDING ON IWO JIMA

Ch. 5.1 - Monday, May 27, 10:00 pm

Ch. 5.4 - Wednesday, May 29, 10:00 pm

A "then and now" look at the Japanese island at the heart of a brutal World War II battle, this film follows two men as they visit the historic war site. One is a 100-year-old veteran of the 4th Marine Division, the other is the son of a marine who has spent decades searching for details of his father's time on the island.

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION

FNX Ch. 5.3 - Monday, May 27, 10:30 p.m.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial, located on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian, stands as a tribute to all American Indian, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian veterans. It was designed by Harvey Pratt, a Vietnam veteran himself. Pratt, a Cheyenne Peace Chief and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal citizen, submitted his design along with over five hundred other artists in 2017. The planned dedication took place in Nov. 2022.

CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

FNX 5.3 - Monday, May 27, 11 p.m.

This film is the empowering chronicle of Choctaw Soldiers as the original Code Talkers during World War I, a story that has been buried in history for nearly a hundred years. With testimonies from family members and Choctaw tribal leaders, the program brings a unique perspective to these forgotten heroes and their wartime contributions.

Bataan Survivor's Remains Returned to New Mexico

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera attended a special funeral on April 26 at the Fort Bayard National Cemetery for World War II U.S. Army Priv. 1st Class Richard G. Pitsor.

Priv. Pitsor, who grew up in Bayard, was among the 1,800 New Mexico National Guard members who were a part of the 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers who surrendered to Japanese forces on April 9, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. The prisoners were then forced to make the infamous Bataan Death March to their imprisonment. Pitsor

died just a few months later--on August 28--while imprisoned at the Cabanatuan Japanese prison camp. He was just 18 years old.

He was buried in a common grave at the prison camp. In 1947 his remains along with those of two other soldiers were disinterred and re-buried as unknown soldiers at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

In 2019, the remains were disinterred and sent to the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency laboratory in Hawaii for analysis. Scientists used dental and anthropological analysis and mitochondrial DNA to identify Pitsor's remains, and on March 20, 2023, he was officially accounted for.

At the Fort Bayard funeral, Secretary Herrera—who is currently a brigadier general in the New Mexico Army National Guard--joined New Mexico Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Miguel Aguilar, other members of the New Mexico National Guard, and Grant County residents to finally welcome home Private Pitsor to his final resting place in his hometown





Run For the Wall to Roll Through New Mexico May 15-17

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera is schedule to greet riders on the Midway Route of the annual *Run For The Wall* cross-country motorcycle ride as riders enter the state May 15.

Secretary Herrera will greet the riders when they make their last stop of the day at the Thunderbird Harley Davidson shop in Albuquerque, at 5000 Alameda Blvd. NE. After spending the night in Albuquerque, the riders depart the next day on the way to ending their trip on Memorial Day Weekend at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Two other RFTW routes will also enter New Mexico. On May 16 riders on the Southern Route will have dinner at the Elks Lodge #119 in Las Cruces. The next day they will have breakfast at American Legion Post 10 before hitting the road on a southern route to our nation's capital.

And riders on the RFTW Central Route will also enter the state on May 16 around 3:30pm. They will be treated to a welcome ceremony at Red Rock park and spend the night in the area. The next day the riders will head to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, where they will be greeted by staff and take self-tours of the monument grounds. They will spend the night in Eagle Nest, and then depart the next morning to continue on to Washington, D.C.

More information about the Run For The Wall cross-country ride...and the scheduled stops by riders in New Mexico... can be found on the [RFTW website](#).



(all photos are from previous year's Run For The Wall trips through New Mexico)





New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

WOMEN VETERANS' CONFERENCE 2024

"Women of Today, Service Members of Yesterday"

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH 2024

8:30AM - 3:30PM - MEALS INCLUDED

@THE SHERATON ALBUQUERQUE UPTOWN

2600 LOUISIANA BLVD NE, ALBUQUERQUE NM, 87110

Register online at

<https://2024womenveteransconference.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Contact (505) 548-0585



Register now!

Mandatory VSO Training to Affect Some DVS Field Offices The Week of Mar 13-17

DVS veterans' service officers (VSOs), per agency policy, are required to enroll in periodic VA-approved VSO accreditation training conferences to maintain their rating as VA-accredited VSOs. This is what sets DVS VSOs apart from many other service agency VSOs: DVS VSOs are VA-accredited to help veterans and their families file VA claims.

For the week of May 13-17, the following DVS field offices will be closed while the VSOs in these offices attend a certification training conference: downtown Albuquerque (Dennis Chaves Federal Bldg.), Belen, Carlsbad, Clovis, Gallup, Grants, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, Roswell, Silver City, and Taos.

Veterans in these areas who need immediate assistance can call DVS at (505) 383-2400 to receive a call-back from VSOs at other DVS field offices who are not at this certification training conference.

The VSOs at this certification training are scheduled to be back in their offices on Monday, May 20. As a reminder, throughout the year any veteran in New Mexico—regardless of where they live—can call any DVS VSO for help with filing VA claims. These offices are listed on the last two pages of this newsletter.

DVS Benefits Outreach Visits in May & June

DVS is still scheduled to make the following May and June outreach visits at the locations listed below. Veterans and/or their eligible dependents are encouraged to visit the locations listed below for information regarding the filing VA claims for VA medical care, mental health counseling, disability benefits and payments, retiree pensions, burials, and many other VA benefits.

| City/Town | Date | Venue/Address | Hours |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Deming | (May 22) | Deming Senior Center/800 South Granite | 10am-1230pm |
| Truth or Consequences | (May 9) | State Veterans Home/992 S. Broadway | 9am-4pm |
| Albuquerque | Jun. 17 | North Valley Senior Center/3825 4th St. NW | 9am-1pm |
| Capitan | Jun. 6 | Capitan Public Library/101 East 2nd St. | 10am-2pm |
| Cimarron | Jun. 14 | Cimarron Village Hall/356 9th St "B" | 9am-1pm |
| Deming | Jun. 6 | Veterans Food Bank/4045 Overhill Dr. NW | 10am-2pm |
| Deming | Jun. 26 | Deming Senior Center/800 South Granite | 10am-12:30pm |
| Raton | Jun. 12 | Raton CBOC/1493 Whittier St. | 9am-3pm |

The following are weekly outreach stops:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Albuquerque | M & W | VA Regional Office/500 Gold Ave SW | 9am-4pm |
| Santa Fe | T & Th | Santa Fe Vet Center/2209 Brothers Rd. | 8am-2pm |
| Truth or Consequences | Wed. | State Veterans Home/992 S. Broadway | 9am-4pm |

DVS Veterans' Service Officer Spotlight

This month's DVS VSO Spotlight is on Carlsbad-based Veterans' Service Officer Dagmar Youngberg.



Dagmar Youngberg
DVS Carlsbad VSO

Dagmar recently helped a widow of a U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran re-file a VA claim that resulted in the widow getting a check for nearly \$60,000—more than a year after her husband passed away from complications related to type-2 diabetes.

The veteran passed away in early 2023, twelve years after he had been diagnosed with diabetes and given a 20% disability rating tied to the condition by VA. Soon after this diagnosis, the couple had adopted their daughter's twin grandkids after it was determined the daughter could no longer care for the toddlers. Money was tight for the family, but they were determined to raise the kids.

After the veteran's death, the widow, who is now in her mid-70s, contacted Dagmar to see about any survivor's benefits she might be entitled to—saying she and her now-preteen daughters were facing a potential financial crisis now that her husband/their father was no longer alive.

The widow brought the death certificate and other necessary paperwork to Dagmar, who recommended they file a Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claim. A DIC claim is a tax-free monetary benefit paid by VA to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty—or whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

Prior to his death, the veteran had filed another claim with VA—hoping to get a higher disability rating. After his passing the “substitution of claimant” form was submitted to protect the ongoing claim for the widow. Upon beginning to file the DIC claim it was realized that the veteran's death certificate did not list diabetes as a contributing cause of death—something the widow did not initially “catch.” Dagmar explained that the widow needed to contact the hospital and to ask that presiding doctor amend the death certificate to state diabetes as a contributing factor to the death. He quickly did, and the widow returned to Dagmar with the corrected certificate. The two then quickly filed the DIC claim.

Several months went by, with widow growing increasingly doubtful about the claim—and more worried about mounting financial pressures ahead. She even called VA in Washington and was told that since her husband's rating was so low, she most likely would not get anything. The widow grew even more distressed about whether she would be able to provide for her daughters in the immediate future.

Meanwhile, Dagmar had been frequently talking to the widow. When the widow told Dagmar about her VA phone call, Dagmar told her that the information was inaccurate. She explained that, contrary to that phone call, a lot has changed in the way VA treats veterans' health care claims—thanks to the PACT Act. Dagmar told the widow to remain calm...that “this is a process”...and not to give up hope, and to trust her because “we did everything right. We got this.”

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The waiting paid off. The widow contacted Dagmar and excitedly told her that VA issued a DIC payment....and also a full year's worth of "back pay" for what her husband should have been receiving over the past year if not for the initial inaccurate death certificate!

"I cannot tell you how happy I am for her and her two daughters," said Youngberg. "This really made my day...and is another validation of how we can help veterans and their families! But most importantly, this will really make a difference for them, and greatly improves the quality of life for these three! I am so happy for them!"



VBOC to Present Boots to Business Classes at Kirtland and Cannon AFBs

The New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the veterans business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services—will present two-days "Boots to Business" training classes May 13-14 at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, and July 18-19 at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis.

The classes at both locations are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each base's Airman & Family Readiness Center.

These free two-day introduction to entrepreneurship courses are for transitioning active-duty service members, veterans with on-base privileges, and spouses who are interested in starting or growing their own business. Attendees will learn key elements of small business ownership, techniques for evaluating the feasibility of business concepts, and the steps needed to develop an all-important business plan—all keys to successfully starting and running any business. There will also be an introduction to a broad spectrum of entrepreneurial business concepts, how to access resources available for obtaining start-up or expansion capital, technical assistance, and how to pursue federal contracting opportunities.

Pre-registration is required and can be done online by going to the national Boots to Business website's calendar at <https://sba.my.site.com/s/reboot-course-information>. Click on the May 13-14 class in Albuquerque, or the July 18-19 class in Clovis to complete enrollment.

For more information, contact VBOC Business Advisor Austin Walker at a.walker@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 469-8501.

The New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center

Does the idea of running your own business appeal to you? Do you dream of being your own boss? Then contact the New Mexico Veteran Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the business development division of DVS.

The VBOC can help entrepreneurial-minded veterans, transitioning active-duty service members, and their spouses with everything needed to start or grow your own small business. Everything taught in a Boots to Business class...is also available to you free of charge, in a private one-on-one counseling setting. So make plans to stop by—no business idea is too small to discuss!

The VBOC is located in the DVS Albuquerque office at 4801 Indian School Road NE. For more information, contact VBOC Director Johnny Martinez at johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 220-9932.



SBA District Six Public Information Officer Abigail Gonzalez presents the SBA's 2024 New Mexico Small Business Person of the Year award to Triskelion Group Co-Founder/CEO Chris Sweetin.

VBOC Client Honored by SBA as New Mexico Person of the Year

DVS staff attended the 2024 Small Business Administration (SBA)/New Mexico District's Small Business Awards Breakfast on May 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque.

We proudly watched as Chis Sweetin, a 20-year U.S. Air Force veteran and the co-founder/CEO of Triskelion Group of New Mexico, Inc., was honored by the SBA as New Mexico's Small Business Person of the Year.

Triskelion provides comprehensive security, investigative services, and security training solutions for businesses. Ten years Chris came to the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the small business development division of DVS—for help with launching the company as the result of his idea to start a security consulting business.

Through the years he has turned to the VBOC for help with growing his company, which now employs 71 people—most of whom are fellow veterans—and provides security solutions for 35 businesses.

“The VBOC team would like to congratulate Chris for this well-deserved honor,” said VBOC Director Johnny Martinez. “Chris was passionate about his idea for his company, and put in a lot of hard work to make it happen. He employs a lot of veterans, and provides a valuable service for the community. We couldn't be more proud of him.”



DVS Deputy Secretary Eric James, DVS Chief Financial Officer Danelle Lucero, DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, Katelyn Sweetin (Chris' daughter), Chris Sweetin, Connor Sweetin (Chris' son/holding the plaque), Triskelion Director Brian Finucan, Triskelion Director of Guards Chris Byers, VBOC Director Johnny Martinez, VBOC Business Advisor Austin Walker, Triskelion Chief Security Officer James Hults, and VBOC Business Operations Specialist Hope Najera.



Also honored at the breakfast as the SBA's veteran-owned small business of the year was William “Paul” Farless, the president & CEO of SDV Construction, Inc. (in the middle, holding the award plaque and a DVS coin presented by DVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera). To the left of Mr. Farless is DVS Deputy Secretary James, DVS CFO Lucero, and DVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera. To the right of Mr. Farless is VBOC Director Martinez, VBOC Business Advisor Walker, VBOC Business Operations Specialist Najera, and DVS State Benefits Director Edward Mendez.



Former DAR Member Featured in Womens' Exhibit in the Bataan Memorial Bldg.

DVS Deputy Secretary Eric James took part in a ceremony on May 8 honoring a former member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)/Santa Fe Steven Watts Kearney Chapter featured in an art exhibit in the halls of the Bataan Memorial Building in Santa Fe.

The ceremony was presented by the DAR chapter to honor former member Ramona Baca Latimer. The exhibit honors six unique women who are buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. Five of the women are veterans. Latimer was the wife of former

WWI and WWII U.S. Army Captain Charles W. Latimer. She had a long history of helping veterans and the Santa Fe community as a whole.

“Each of these women embodies the spirit of patriotism, service, and dedication to upholding the values that our nation was founded upon,” said Deputy Secretary James (*right photo/center-top, at podium*). “As we gather here, let us celebrate the significant accomplishments of these remarkable women, and rededicate ourselves to the noble cause of honoring our past while shaping a brighter future for generations to come.”

Ramona Baca Latimer passed away in 1991 and is buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery beside her husband, who was laid to rest after passing away in 1949.



LEFT PHOTO: DVS Deputy Secretary James, Mike Latimer's wife Nancy, Mike Latimer, and DAR/Stephen Watts Kearney Chapter Regent Carol Murski. The Latimers flew in from their Florida home for the event.



Honor Guard Teams Gather for the 2024 Spring Honor Guard Conference

New Mexico Honor Guard teams attended the 2023 New Mexico Spring Honor Guard Training Conference on April 21 in Las Cruces at the Sonoma Ranch Golf Course.

The conference is one of two presented annually in the state as a learning and training opportunity for the state's Honor Guard teams-- the all-volunteer units that render military honors at many funerals of honorably discharged veterans in the state.

DVS manages the state's 26 volunteer units that have registered with the agency. At the conference, instruction was provided by New Mexico National Guard Honor Guard members.

“From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you all for what you do for our fallen veterans,” said DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera during his address to the attendees. “I have seen what you do at the many funerals of veterans I’ve attended. What you do really matters for them and their families. You provide the veteran with that last full measure, that last salute, that they deserve.”

After demonstrations and ensuing question-and-answer session, many of the honor guard teams then rendered honors at a mock funeral—their performances judged by a panel of judges grading how the teams performed the flag fold, presentation of the folded flag to a volunteer sitting in as a family member—and in the cases of larger units, providing a rifle volley. The judges awarded first place in the following four categories:

Small unit division (two or three-member detail): Marine Corps League/Detachment 478 from Las Cruces.

Medium-size division (no more than six members): American Legion Post 13 (Albuquerque)

Large-size division (more than members): American Legion Post 13 (Albuquerque)

“Live” bugle competition: Armando Avillar/Organ Mountain Veterans Coffee Club.

DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and AARP New Mexico created the *Military Honors Burial Program* to provide Honor Guards to comply with a federal law allowing a military funeral for anyone with a discharge other than dishonorable. Due to our state's large size, these all-volunteer honor guards are called upon to render honors at most veterans' funerals throughout New Mexico. Neither DVS nor the NMG is involved with the scheduling of an Honor Guard. Families must work with funeral homes to arrange for a military funeral. For more information about all-volunteer Honor Guards, contact Diana Myklebust at diana.myklebust@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 231-8911.





First place finishers in the Small Honor Guard competition: **Marine Corps League/Detachment 478 (Las Cruces)** (From L to R): DVS Cemetery Program Manager David Walker, members Gilbert Tarin, Jeffery Eakman, and Neri Fietze; retired New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Willy Griego (who served as the event's master of ceremonies), and DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.



First place finishers, Medium Honor Guard competition: **American Legion Post 13/Albuquerque.** (From L to R): DVS Cemetery Program David Walker, Jacob Rothstein, Frank Sandoval, Darlene Herrera, Antonio Villareal, Damian Ramirez, DVS Cabinet Jamison Herrera, Lydia Zazueta, Diana Wong, DVS Cemetery Program Business Operations Specialist Diana Myklebust, and retired New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Willy Griego.



First place finishers, Large Honor Guard division: **American Legion Post 13/Albuquerque.** (From L to R): DVS Cemetery Program David Walker, retired New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Willy Griego, Jan Jourdain, Sean Kassebaum, Ramona Dongog, Lydia Zazueta Chris Sedillo, Antonio Villareal, Damien Ramirez, Peter Cortes, Diana Wong, Stephanie Martinez, Al Bourguet, DVS Cemetery Program Business Operations Specialist Diana Myklebust, and DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.



Top "live" bugler honors went to Armando Avillar, from the Organ Mountain Veterans Coffee Club (2nd from left, with trophy). To his left is DVS Cemetery Program Manager David Walker; to the right of Mr. Avillar are DVS Cemetery Program Business Operations Specialist Diana Myklebust, retired New Mexico Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Willy Griego, and DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.

DVS VSO Helps Attendees of Unique Southeast NM Veterans Retreat

DVS Hobbs-based Veterans' Service Officer Freddy Solis-Littlejohn was on hand to provide information about VA and state veterans' benefits for veterans enrolled in a unique *Healing America's Heroes* (HAH) equine retreat in Lea County the week of April 10-16.

The non-profit HAH organization presented the retreat free of charge for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The focus was on using horseback therapy activities to provide a peaceful, calm setting for the veterans as a supplement or alternative to traditional medicine-based treatments. Lodging was provided by a local hotel in Hobbs, and meals were provided by Hobbs-area restaurants.

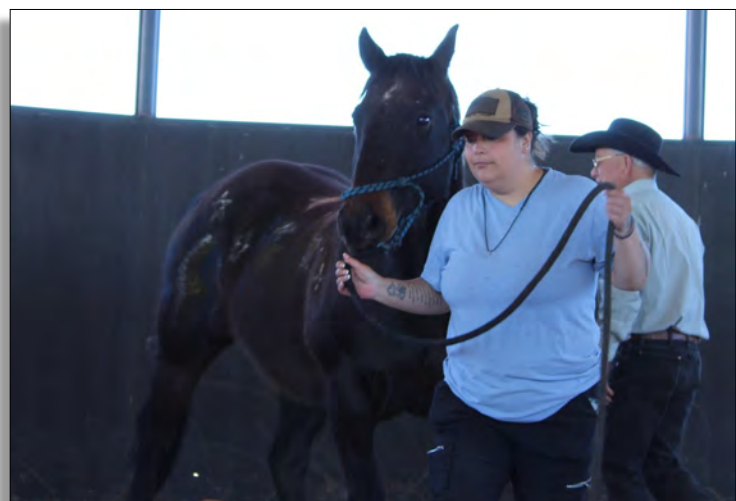
More information about the Healing American's Heroes program can be found [on the HAH website](#).



DVS Hobbs-based VSO Freddy Solis-Littlejohn (*holding the horse's reins*) and Healing America's Heroes Founder/Vietnam War Army Combat Veteran Eddie Crain.



(photos of veterans working with horses during the week-long *Healing America's Heroes* retreat)



DVS Gives Presentations at the 2024 NATI Veterans Symposium

DVS provided staff to address attendees of the Native American Training Institute's 2024 Veterans' Symposium on April 19-20 at the Isleta Resort & Casino.

DVS staff was joined by representatives from the New Mexico VA Health Care System and the Indian Health Service to present information and answer questions about VA and state veterans' benefits—with an emphasis on benefits and programs available for Native American veterans. Several "breakout sessions" were hosted by DVS staff which concentrated on specific subjects such as how and where to file VA and state benefits claims, help for women veterans, help for veteran-owned small businesses, transportation for veterans, and outreach to Native American pueblos and tribal nations.



DVS Health Care Coordination Division Director Diane Mourning Brown answer a question in a breakout session from Vietnam War Army Veteran Gilbert Peña.

In his welcoming address, DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera thanked the veterans and spouses for attending and taking the time to learn about the important benefits available for them. Referring to a current American Legion slogan, he urged audience members to take the information learned in the conference back with them to their communities.

"Be the one. Today and tomorrow, you're going to get a lot of valuable information. Be the one to call and check up on your veteran friends and make sure they're doing OK," said Secretary Herrera. "Be the one to ensure that whatever information that you gather today, that you go back and share it with your friends, your communities, your tribes, your chapter houses...your pueblos, or your native nations. We have to understand that we sometimes have to carry the water for our friends...and bring it to them...rather than bring them to the water."



LEFT PHOTO: During free periods, DVS staff was buys answering questions from veterans who stopped by the DVS tables outside the conference room. In this photo, from L to R in the black shirts: Veterans Business Outreach Center Director Johnny Martinez (in front of wall, with neck brace), Veterans' Service Officer Diana Powers, Veterans' Service Officer Ronn Saavedra, and Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson. **RIGHT PHOTO:** DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera chatting with Vietnam War Army Veteran Avelino Calabaza, who is from Kewa Pueblo.



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

VA Expands Benefits Access to Some Who Did Not Receive An Honorable or General Discharge

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has [posted a final rule](#) amending its regulations regarding [character of discharge determinations](#), expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial.



When former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) apply for VA benefits and services, VA carefully review their records to determine if can provide them the requested care and benefits. This process helps ensure that VA can provide services to deserving former service members – including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military.

VA's new regulation will expand access to care and benefits for certain former service members by:

- Eliminating the regulatory bar for “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty” as a bar to benefits. While VA had already [taken steps to ensure full and fair access to benefits for former service members discharged based on homosexual conduct, gender identity, or HIV status](#), this move further solidifies VA's commitment to reducing disparity for these groups in the adjudication process.
- Creating a “compelling circumstances exception” for certain former service members: For certain former service members discharged for “willful and persistent misconduct” or an “offense involving moral turpitude,” VA will now consider and determine if a compelling circumstances exception will permit VA to nonetheless provide care and services.

Under this exception, VA will consider the former service member's length and character of service, mental and cognitive impairment, physical health, combat-related hardship, whether the person was the survivor of sexual abuse/assault or discrimination, and more. This new exception creates a new path for VA to provide benefits and services to deserving former service members.

- Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply: Because of these changes, former service members previously found ineligible for VA services may now be eligible for benefits and are encouraged to re-apply.

VA encourages former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) to apply for VA care and benefits today. Over the past 10 years, VA's eligibility determination rate for these former service members has been 75% – meaning that VA provided care or benefits to 75% of them (57,000+ former service members). *(continued on next page)*

“We encourage former service members with other than honorable discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Although VA cannot change your discharge status, we want to provide you with any health care or benefits we can – and we will work with you every step of the way to do exactly that.”

“Too often, former service members believe that they cannot come to VA due to their discharge status – but the truth is that many former service members who were not discharged honorably can get health care or benefits from VA,” said Under Secretary for Benefits, Josh Jacobs. “When you apply – as with all VA benefits – we will do everything in our power to get to yes.”

VA has conducted extensive outreach to service members with other than honorable and bad conduct discharges adjudged at special court-martial in recent years, increasing the number who applied for VA care or benefits from approximately 1,700 in 2012 to more than 10,000 in 2023.

The VA character of discharge determination does not change the Armed Forces’ characterization of service and has no effect on the former Service member’s military discharge status. VA’s determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility purposes only.

Any discharge characterized as “honorable” or “general – under honorable conditions” satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility for most VA benefits. Former service members who did not receive those discharges are not automatically disqualified from receiving VA care or benefits.

However, barring a ruling of insanity, VA does not provide benefits to service members who are discharged with a “dishonorable discharge;” service members who were discharged for desertion, mutiny, going AWOL for 180 continuous days, or espionage; or service members discharged by sentence of a general court martial, discharged in lieu of trial, discharged as a “resignation by an officer for the good of the service,” or discharged as a conscientious objector. VA does apply a compelling circumstances exception for AWOL when appropriate.

Veterans Community Bulletin Board

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

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

Please note:

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



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG**

**2024
PROGRAM & EVENT
INFORMATION SHEET**



DAV FELLOWSHIP DINNER

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 5-7PM
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
PLEASE RSVP AT:
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG
(505) 294-6193



CROCHET & TEA

TUESDAYS, 1:30-3:00PM
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
PLEASE RSVP AT:
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG
(505) 294-6193



SUPPORT GROUP & SOCIAL HOUR

MONDAYS, 2-3PM
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
PLEASE RSVP AT:
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG
(505) 294-6193



CLOTHING CLOSET

FREE CLOTHING FOR VETERANS

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG
(505) 294-6193



FOOD PANTRY

FREE FOOD FOR VETERANS

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO
2511 UTAH STREET NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG
(505) 294-6193

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OUR ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN, ALLISON VAZQUEZ @ ALLISONNMDAV@GMAIL.COM

In the spring and summer, the blood supply/inventory in New Mexico and in states throughout the country typically decreases.

Vitalant, one of our nation’s largest nonprofit blood and biotherapies healthcare organizations, has created a *Battle of the Military Branches Blood Drive* to increase New Mexico’s blood bank inventory.

Veterans in the communities listed below can do their part by stopping by the locations to donate blood-and ensure that our hospitals have the supply they need to provide critical care for patients in need. For more information, contact Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 , or go to the Vitalant website.



Battle of the Military Branches Blood Drives

**FREE
BATTLE
T-SHIRT!**

ALBUQUERQUE

- 5/11 - SAN VICTORIO STAKE CENTER
- 5/14 - CALIBERS CUTLER
- 5/18 - ARNETT LOCAL PHARMACY
VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
- 5/20 - ALBERTSONS ON VENTURA

RIO RANCHO

- 5/10 - THE HUB @ ENCHANTED HILLS
- 5/18 - ESTHER BONE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BERNALILLO

- 5/19 - OUR LADY OF SORROWS

SANTA FE

- 5/17 - AMERICAN LEGION POST 17

CLOVIS

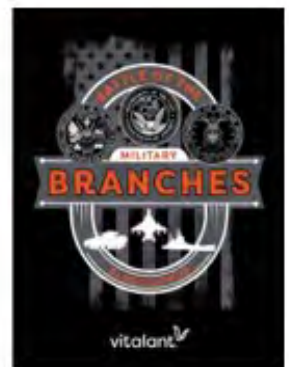
- 5/17 - CALIBERS

CARLSBAD

- 5/14 - TOP NOCK ARCHERY

HOBBS

- 5/21 - VFW #3274



For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:





Kirtland Air Force Base

New Mexico

377 ABW

Retiree Activities Program



2024

Military Retiree Appreciation Week

May 13 - 17, 2024

Contact Retiree Activities Office
at (505) 846-1536 for more information.



VETERAN

**Pact Act/Compact Act
Resource Fair**

May 16, 2024

10AM to 3PM

Expanded VA Care & Benefits

Crownpoint Chapter House

Building 25001

East Crownpoint Drive

Crownpoint, NM 87313

**MAY
18th
2024**



**ATTENTION VETERANS, ACTIVE
MILITARY, AND FAMILIES**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN THE BASICS OF FLY
FISHING?**

**THE BOSQUE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
INVITES YOU TO**

A FLY FISHING CLINIC FOR BEGINNERS

**THIS FREE ONE-DAY CLINIC MEETS FROM
8:30-4:00 AT THE**

NORTHWEST AREA GAME AND FISH OFFICE

7816 ALAMO ROAD NW, ALBUQUERQUE

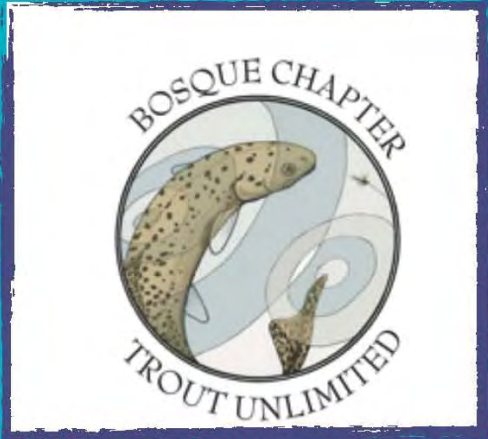
**THIS CLINIC IS BYOL (BRING YOUR OWN
LUNCH) AND DOES NOT REQUIRE A TROUT
UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND**

LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER,
CONTACT**

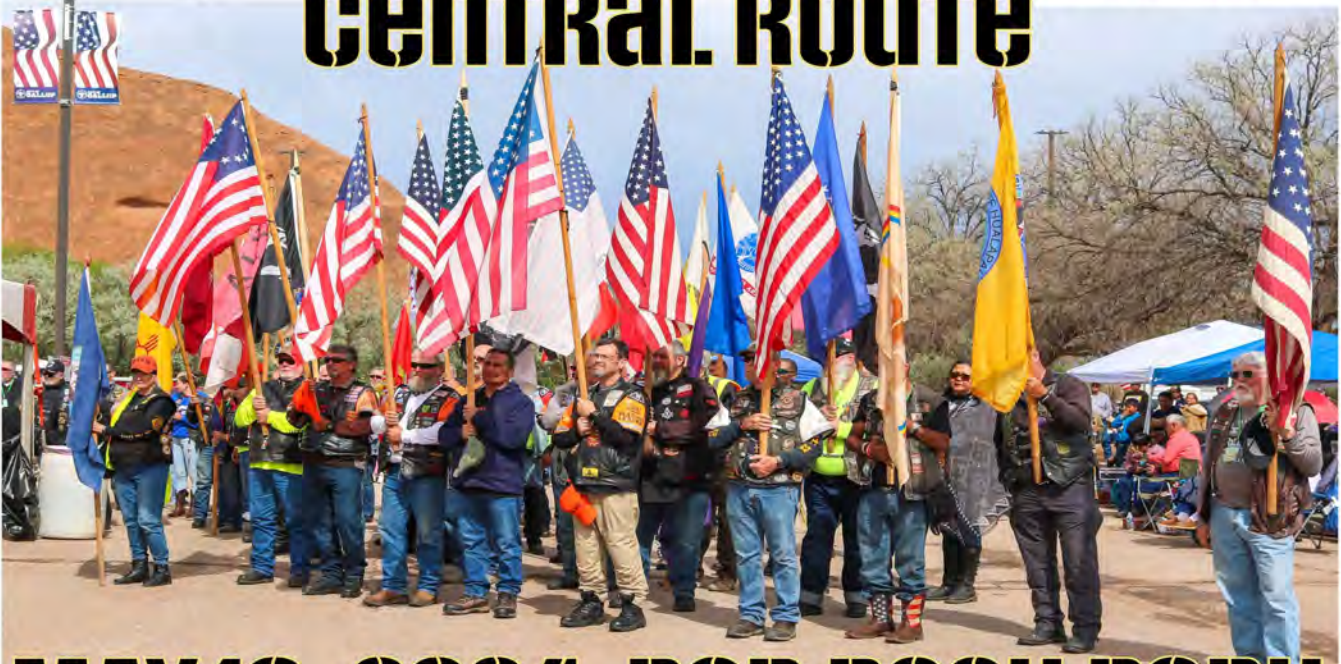
JEFF HARRELL

flynangler@gmail.com





34TH ANNUAL RUN FOR THE WALL CENTRAL ROUTE



MAY 16, 2024 RED ROCK PARK

Run For the Wall is an organized cross-country Motorcycle Ride to Honor all our Veterans, their Families, & Friends and to raise awareness of those still missing, Prisoner of War {POW} and Missing in Action {MIA}. The Run starts in Ontario, CA and ten {10} days later ends at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, in our nations capital Washington, DC. We Ride for Those Who Can't.

1 Mission, 4 Routes

The Veterans ETA is at 3:30 pm Thursday, May 16th, the Veterans will take Exit 16 off of I-40 and on to Historic Route 66 and ride through Gallup to Red Rock Park. Please come out and stand on Route 66 to show your patriotism. On the following Friday morning, May 17th, at 6 am, the Veterans will stage at the Red Rock 10 Allen Theaters' parking lot and are to scheduled departure at 8 am.



**CITY OF
GALLUP**

BLACK CREEK GOURD SOCIETY HONOR GOURD DANCE

Noon to 6PM

Master of Ceremonies:

Mr. Leonard Anthony, Shiprock, NM

Head Gourd Dancer:

Mr. Tyson King, TseYaa'niiChii, NM

Head Singer:

Mr. Paul Bemore, Broken Arrow, OK

Arena Director:

Mr. Earl Sherman, Twin Lakes, NM

Spiritual Advisor:

Mr. Andrew Woody, Lakeside, AZ

For more Information: Ben Welch (505) 863-1275
Please bring your own Canopies and Chairs



JOIN US VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Connecting you with what you need.

Offered Bi- Weekly
11:00am-1:00pm
Education Annex
Building 39

Friday, May 3rd
Friday, May 17th
Friday, May 31st
Friday, June 14th
Friday, June 28th
Friday, July 12th
Friday, July 26th

Join for bi-weekly group with attendance from various community partners geared at providing support, resources and direct assistance.

Providing Assistance with:

Food Resources

SNAP
WIC
FOOD PANTRIES

Community Services

HOUSING RESOURCES
MEDICAID
HEALTH & WELLNESS
CELL PHONES/TABLETS

Income & Employment Support

ONE-ON-ONE GUIDANCE
JOB SEARCH & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
UTILITY RESOURCES

Partners:



Are you a Veteran ready to begin living your best life?

Experience a complimentary week full of mindful education, body rejuvenation and uplifting comradery with fellow veterans and their partners in the mountains of New Mexico. Learn valuable therapeutic and holistic tools while leaning in to Post Traumatic Growth.

APPLY TODAY!
Download an application on our website.



Serving veterans and their families since 2009.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

2024 RETREAT SCHEDULE

April 28- May 5

June 2-9

August 18-25

October 20-27

Retreats include **FREE** lodging, meals, and activities like massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding and more!
*Travel is participants responsibility.

Eligibility for attendance:

- 1) Veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress
 - 2) Must bring a support partner
 - 3) Must be free from drug/alcohol abuse for at least 12 months
- *Note: New Mexico veterans have first priority. Veterans from other states will be accepted as funds allow.

OUR CONTACT



505-501-8337



retreats@vethealingcenter.org



www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org



P.O. Box 805, Angel Fire, NM 87710





U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Bringing VA Benefits Home

Inn of the Mountain Gods Conference Center
287 Carrizo Canyon Road; Mescalero, NM 88340

June 4, 2024 (Tuesday)

9 am to 4 pm (MDT)



DURING THE EVENT - YOU CAN

- Speak with VA representatives
- File your claim
- Get answers to VA claim and benefits questions
- Learn about VA programs and services
- Enroll in VA health care
- Apply for Tribal Veteran Copayment Exemption
- Access VA Native American Direct Loan at 2.5%

CONTACT

- **KELTON STARR 575-464-4500** or **SAMIRA AHADY 505-346-4817** or **LORAE HO'MANA PAWIKI 928-308-3615**





VETERAN

**Pact Act/Compact Act
Resource Fair**

June 06, 2024

10AM to 3PM

Expanded VA

Care & Benefits

Alamo Chapter House

#10 Alamo, NM 87825

**ADULT ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH 2024
OPEN HOUSE AND RESOURCE FAIR**

**Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Adult Protective Services
600 West Arrington Street
Farmington, NM 87401**



**Wednesday June 12th, 2024
10:00 am to 2:00 pm**





DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

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

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, (excluding holidays). Though this service is free, appointments are required and can be made by contacting the VSOs below. **Please note: VSOs can also provide help by phone or email to any veteran or eligible dependent calling or emailing from anywhere in New Mexico.**

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107
(575) 937-5620

david.henley@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

Albuquerque Metro Area

Diana Powers

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr
(505) 274-0393

diana.powers@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Mathew Zamora

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr
(505) 525-3331

mathew.zamora@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (Downtown)

Ronn Saavedra

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor
(505) 525-3331

ronald.saavedra@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

DVS staff Mon-Fri. (9am-4pm)

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Ctr.
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE
(no appointment needed)
(505) 383-2400

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller

Belen Business Center
719 South Main St.
(505) 537-9339

rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno
(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE region supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.
(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.
(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Robert Guinn (NW region supervisor)

San Juan College Vet Center
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B
(505) 327-2861

robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Leo Esquibel

San Juan College Vet Center 4601 Col-
lege Blvd./Room 1715-B
(505) 916-4835

leo.esquibel@dvs.nm.gov

Gallup/Northwest NM

John Livingston

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

john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov

Grants/Northwest NM

April Ball

551 Washington Ave.
(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov

Hobbs/Southeast NM

Fred Solis-Littlejohn

2120 North Alto St.

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov

Las Cruces/Southwest NM**Miguel Martinez** (*supervisor*)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A

(575) 416-2284

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov**Taos/Northeast NM****Leticia “Lety” Cano**

Health & Human Service Bldg.

145 Roy Rd.

(505) 709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 361-5298

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 520-5079

jimmy.saiz@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**DVS Tribal Liaison** (*Farmington*)**Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov

**the DVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach and claims-filing assistance for Native American veterans*

Las Cruces/Southwest NM**Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

505) 216-8782

clint.anderson@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**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**VBOC** (*Albuquerque*)**Johnny Martinez** (*Director*)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov

**the VBOC provides assistance for veterans and spouses who are looking to open a small business, expanding an existing operation, or securing federal contracts*