



# The Guardian

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

**February 2026**

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

•Facebook: [NMDVSHealthcare2015](https://www.facebook.com/NMDVSHealthcare2015)

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

## Honoring our Veterans and Military

On February 3rd, Veterans, service members, families, and state leaders gathered at the New Mexico State Capitol for Military and Veterans Day at the Legislature, a day dedicated to honoring service and strengthening support for New Mexico's military and Veteran community.

Hosted by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard, the morning began with information tables that connected attendees directly with Veteran service organizations, state benefits information, and programs available to Veterans and their families.

Veterans and family members spoke one-on-one with representatives, asked questions about eligibility, and learned how to access the benefits and services they have earned. The setting encouraged meaningful conversations, resource sharing, and networking among organizations committed to serving the Veteran community.

The ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda centered on this year's theme, Celebrating Our History, Building Our Future, recognizing the generations who have served and the future service members and families who continue that legacy.

Remarks were delivered by Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico; Jamison Herrera, Cabinet Secretary and Brigadier General (Ret.), New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services; Patricia Roybal Caballero, State Representative and Chair of the House Labor, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee; and Robert Johnston, Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Commander of the 27th Special Operations Wing at Cannon Air Force Base.

Speakers highlighted both the progress made and the work still to be done to improve the lives of Veterans and their families living in New Mexico. They also emphasized the importance of military readiness and the vital role New Mexico's military installations continue to play in national defense.

Cabinet Secretary Herrera reflected on the legacy of service in the state, saying, "Our State and Country exist solely because generations of New Mexico's finest chose service, sacrifice, and responsibility to protect our nation's future."

Throughout the morning, the focus remained on outreach, education, and collaboration, reinforcing the shared commitment to ensuring Veterans can access care, benefits, and assistance when they need it most.

Thank you to all who joined us and to those who work every day to support Veterans across New Mexico.



# Remembering the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima



Each February, we remember the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the most significant and costly engagements in United States military history. On Feb. 19, 1945, United States Marines landed on a small volcanic island in the Pacific and began 36 days of relentless combat against deeply fortified Japanese defenses. The battle tested endurance, courage, and resolve, and it became a defining moment for the Marine Corps and for the nation.

More than 70,000 Marines and supporting troops fought on Iwo Jima. Service members from across the United States, including communities throughout New Mexico, answered the call to serve in the Pacific Theater and faced conditions few could ever imagine. Thick black volcanic sand slowed every step. Enemy fire came from hidden bunkers and underground positions. Progress measured in yards came at a tremendous human cost.

Among those who served was Navajo Code Talker Thomas H. Begay. As a Marine on Iwo Jima, he transmitted secure coded messages that proved critical to mission success under intense combat conditions. Today, at 101 years old and as one of only two surviving Navajo Code Talkers, Mr. Begay remains a living connection to this historic battle and highlights the vital role Navajo Code Talkers played in securing victory in the Pacific.

On Feb. 23, 1945, Marines raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi. The photograph of that moment became one of the most recognized images in American history and came to represent the determination and sacrifice of all who fought on the island.

The battle claimed nearly 7,000 American lives and left more than 19,000 wounded, making it one of the bloodiest engagements in Marine Corps history. The victory helped move the United States closer to ending the war in the Pacific and securing freedom for future generations.

As we mark this anniversary, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima and recognizes all Veterans whose service contributed to this extraordinary chapter in our history. Their experiences remind us that the price of liberty often falls on those far from home and that their sacrifice continues to inspire generations.

# 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 ask information 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. 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	2/18, 3/18, 4/15	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	2/11, 2/25, 3/11	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	2/24	TAP Seminar, MFRC, 1554 Spear Loop	11am-12pm
Capitan	4/1, 6/3, 10/7	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	2/11, 3/11	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	2/25, 3/25	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Mora	3/4	Mora VFW, 2825 Hwy 518	9am-4pm
Raton	2/18, 3/18	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	3/4, 5/6, 9/2	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	2/11, 3/11	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	3/10, 4/14	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm

## The following are weekly outreach visits:

Santa Fe	Mondays	Santa Fe Vet Center, 6535 Airport Road	9am-4pm
Santa Fe	Fridays	Santa Fe Vet Center, 6535 Airport Road	9am-2pm
T or C Vet. Home	Wednesdays	State Veterans' Home/992 S. Broadway	9am-4pm

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

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

## 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

Date	Location	Time
Feb. 12	Stagecoach Café, 3370 Bond St., Ramah, NM 87321	9am-3pm
Feb. 17	Campos Senior Center, 550 River Rd., Santa Rosa, NM 88435	10:30am-3:30pm
Feb. 18	Fort Sumner Senior Center, 510 Main St., Fort Sumner, NM 88119	11am-3pm
Feb. 20	Vaughn Senior Center, 134 E 7th St., Vaughn, NM 88353	10am-3pm
March 3	Raton Senior Center, 444 S 1st St., Raton, NM 87740	12pm-5pm
March 4	Union County Clerk's Office, 200 Court St., Clayton, NM 88415	9am-2pm
March 6	Pecos Senior Center, 5 Camino Medico, Pecos, NM 87552	9:30am-3pm

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

For more information, contact:



NMDVS Central Office: (866) 433-8387



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

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



**Calling All Veterans and Family Members!**  
**Local Community Veterans Call Meeting**  
**February 25th**  
**Carlsbad New Mexico**  
**6pm-7:30pm**  
**American Legion Post 7**  
**2311 Legion Street Carlsbad, NM 88220**

Join the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services  
for our Local Community Veterans Call Meeting for  
Updates on the Carlsbad Veterans Cemetery.

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NMDVS benefits personnel will assist eligible Veterans and unmarried widows/widowers applying for property tax waivers, exemptions, and lifetime park passes. Certified Veteran Service Officers will be on-site to assist with VA benefits claims, healthcare eligibility, disability compensation, and other state benefits.

**Documents needed to verify eligibility:**

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

**Claim the benefits you have earned and join us for this free event.**

**To find an office near you, call NMDVS at 1-866-433-8387**

# Property Tax Exemptions and Lifetime Veteran Park Passes

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) State Benefits Division is accepting applications for the Veterans property tax exemptions and the NM State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass.

## 1. Property Tax Exemptions:

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is now \$10,000 and will adjust annually for inflation in 2026. 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.**



## 2. New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass:

Eligible New Mexico Veterans can apply for a free lifetime pass providing unlimited access to all 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)
- Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death certificates (only for tax exemption)

NMDVS schedules Veteran property tax exemption events that are held throughout the state to explain changes and issue certificates. Applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass will also be 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 [nmdvs.org](http://nmdvs.org) for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.

## American Legion Mid Winter Conference

On January 31st, Jamison Herrera, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), spoke at the American Legion Department of New Mexico Annual Mid-Winter Conference at the Crowne Plaza Albuquerque.

The event served as an important gathering for state officers, members, and departments to provide reports, conduct business meetings, and discuss future initiatives.

Secretary Herrera shared updates on NMDVS programs and services and discussed current developments impacting Veterans and their families across New Mexico.

NMDVS joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Integration Center, and other partner organizations to provide important information and resources to American Legion members, Veterans, and attendees.



NMDVS appreciates the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and continue strengthening support for New Mexico's Veteran community.



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES



# **GUADALUPE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT**

## **DAVID FLORES VETERANS CENTER**

720 Lake Drive Santa Rosa, NM 88435

**Monday February 16th 2026 | 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM**



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

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

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

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

**Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return**



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES



## **HARDING COUNTY ASSESSOR'S VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT**

### **HARDING COUNTY COMMUNITY BUILDING**

557 Wagon Mound HWY Roy, NM 87743

**Tuesday March 3rd 2026 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**



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

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

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

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

**Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return**



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

## UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT

### UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

200 Court St. Clayton, NM 88415

**Wednesday March 4th 2026 | 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM**



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

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

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

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

**Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return**

# WWII Veteran Ellis Fish Celebrates 100th Birthday



On Saturday, January 10, 2026, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) was honored to recognize World War II Veteran, Ellis Fish, during a special celebration of his 100th birthday at Community of Grace Church in Albuquerque. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, presented Mr. Fish with a commemorative plaque recognizing a century defined by service and commitment to others.

Mr. Fish answered the call to serve in 1943, enlisting in the United States Army Air Force during one of the most critical moments in world history. He served with the 4th Army Air Force's 364th Bomber Group, training as a radio operator and gunner aboard a B-24 bomber, completing his service in 1946.

After the war, Mr. Fish made Albuquerque his home, where his service to others continued in new and meaningful ways. Alongside his wife Clara, his partner for nearly sixty years, he built a family and a life rooted in dedication and community. That legacy of service extended to the next generation, including his son, Ellis Jr., who served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Midway during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Fish built a successful career in the auto parts industry, operating Albuquerque Auto Supply. After retiring, he continues to give back to his community, volunteering weekly at the Albuquerque Veterans Hospital. For more than six decades, he has remained connected to others as a dedicated ham radio operator, reflecting a lifelong commitment to service and connection.

Secretary Herrera said, "Mr. Fish is a part of the Greatest Generation of WWII that pushed through so much, going through the great depression and then into war; he is an example of our Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country and continue to build a legacy of service."

Secretary Herrera also presented challenge coins to Community of Grace Church Pastor, Richard Encinias, a Vietnam Veteran, who organized the tribute, and Mr. Fish's daughter-in-law, Ruth Fish.

Surrounded by family, friends, and fellow Veterans, the celebration honored not only Mr. Fish's military service but also the lasting legacy he continues to build through family and community involvement. NMDVS is proud to honor Ellis Fish, a member whose life of service inspires gratitude and respect.



# Ribbon Cutting Launches Mobile Outreach Vehicle

On January 30th at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) launched its new Mobile Outreach Vehicle during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Veterans, community leaders, and partners from across the state.

Robin Wilson, Field Services Director, cut the ribbon along with Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, and the Mobile Outreach Vehicle team.

"This vehicle represents more than access to benefits. It represents connection, outreach, and our commitment to meet Veterans and their families where they live, especially in rural and underserved communities across New Mexico," said Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.

Staffed by accredited Veteran Service Officers, the fully self-sufficient unit will travel statewide providing claims assistance, benefits counseling, outreach, and education for both federal and state Veterans benefits.

For a schedule of Mobile Outreach Vehicle community stops and to subscribe to the NMDVS newsletter, visit: <https://www.nmdvs.org/news-and-events/>



## Mobile Outreach Vehicle Brings Services to Jemez Pueblo



The first visit of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) new Mobile Outreach Vehicle brought services directly to Veterans at Jemez Pueblo following the ribbon cutting ceremony in Albuquerque on January 30th.

Jemez Pueblo's 1st Lt. Governor, Matthew Gachupin, 2nd Lt. Governor, Thurman Loretto, and War Chief SSG (Ret.) OIF, Jose Toledo, along with Veterans and community members, welcomed the NMDVS leadership and team.

Following a blessing from Jemez leaders and a message from Governor John Galvan, the Mobile Outreach team, staffed by accredited Veteran Service Officers, began providing on-site federal claims assistance and state benefits.

Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, presented challenge coins to Veterans and community leaders in recognition of their service. NMDVS Tribal Liaison, Beverly Charley, shared appreciation gifts and the Jemez Community Library hosted refreshments.

The fully self-sufficient unit will bring benefits and services closer to Veterans and their families. Equipped to operate independently in rural and underserved areas, the Mobile Outreach Vehicle allows NMDVS staff to meet Veterans where they are, strengthening connections and expanding access across New Mexico.



# American Indian Day at the Roundhouse

On Friday, February 6th, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) joined the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, tribal leadership, state leaders, and community members at American Indian Day in the Rotunda of the New Mexico State Capitol.

NMDVS Tribal Liaison, Beverely Charley, and Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Angelica Lapahie, provided program information and connected with Native American Veterans and families about the benefits and services available to them. Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, met with tribal leaders and attendees throughout the Rotunda.

American Indian Day honored the history, culture, and contributions of Native communities across New Mexico. NMDVS was proud to stand alongside partners in recognizing the strong tradition of military service among Tribal Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, ensuring that Native Veterans can access the benefits they have earned.



## Carlsbad Cemetery Update



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Cemetery Grant Program (VCGP) has extended a grant opportunity to the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) for the proposed New Mexico State Veterans Cemetery in Carlsbad.

Based on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Veterans Cemetery Grants Program Priority List and the VA FY 2026 budget request, the project is currently planned for up to \$8 million in potential federal funding, pending final design and application requirements.

This is not yet a grant award. NMDVS, in coordination with the New Mexico General Services Department and architectural and engineering partners, must meet all federal requirements before grant funding can be approved.

As this effort moves forward, NMDVS will work closely with the City of Carlsbad, as well as state and federal partners. Thank you to Mayor Richard Lopez and Mayor Pro Tem JJ Chavez for meeting with Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera and NMDVS leadership to discuss this opportunity.

If all milestones are met by Sept. 30, 2026, the VA will formalize the grant award through a Memorandum of Agreement, marking an important step toward expanding burial access for Veterans and their families in southeastern New Mexico.



## Women Veterans Corner

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

Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager

#### **Did you know:**

In honor of Black History Month, did you know that... Across all branches, Cathay Williams is recognized as the first African American woman to enlist and serve in the U.S. military. In 1866, she disguised herself as a man and enlisted in the U.S. Army under the name William Cathay. She served for nearly two years as a member of the 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment, which later became part of the famous Buffalo Soldiers.

#### **Topic of the Month:**

##### **Sisterhood in Service: Community & Connection:**

February reminds us that love extends beyond romance; it includes friendship, appreciation, and the strong bonds formed through shared service. Sisterhood in Service celebrates the connections women Veterans build with one another through mentorship, local events, and opportunities to serve alongside fellow Veterans. These relationships provide understanding, encouragement, and a sense of belonging that can be especially meaningful after military service.

By getting involved—whether through mentoring, attending women Veteran gatherings, or volunteering in your community—you help strengthen a supportive network rooted in shared experience and mutual respect. Together, women Veterans continue to uplift one another, honoring the power of connection and the lasting sisterhood created through service.

**“If you don’t see a clear path for what you want, sometimes you have to make it yourself.” — Ruby Bridges.**

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services Women Veterans Program (WVP)** upholds the state’s commitment to dignity, respect, and excellence in service for all Veterans and their families. WVP serves as the first point of contact for women Veterans seeking assistance or guidance in overcoming barriers faced during and after military service. Through partnerships with federal, state, and community organizations, the program provides comprehensive advocacy, outreach, and individualized support to address the unique needs of women who have served our state and nation. WVP connects women Veterans to federal and state benefits, healthcare, mentorship, education, and employment resources, while fostering peer-support networks that empower and uplift. Whether transitioning to civilian life or seeking continued support, the Women Veterans Program is dedicated to serving those who have served.

If you are a woman Veteran seeking assistance, guidance, or connection to resources, the Women Veterans Program is here to help. Reach out today to learn more about the services and support available to you at [nmdvs.org](http://nmdvs.org)



New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

# WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

## Meet & Greet Gallup, NM

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Location: Veterans Helping Veterans  
908 E. Buena Vista Ave. Gallup, NM 87301

### JOIN US

Join us for an informal networking event with the Women Veterans Program Manager and fellow veterans to foster collaboration and engagement.

Guests will receive a brief program overview, followed by an opportunity for open discussion and questions.

Your feedback and perspectives are invaluable in guiding future initiatives and advancing our mission to serve the Women Veterans population in New Mexico.



HOSTED BY: WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM MANAGER

**Amberly Viner**



U.S. Air Force OIF & OEF Veteran

For more information or assistance, contact the Woman Veterans Program Manager at 505-372-9106 or [Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov). NMDVS programs and services can also be found at [nmdvs.org](http://nmdvs.org)



## Preserving Women Veterans and Service Members Stories



**MILITARY  
WOMEN'S  
MEMORIAL**  
*Honoring her service*

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services needs your support in honoring the lasting contribution of women in uniform by preserving their stories. Our state is home to thousands of incredible servicewomen, and their legacies 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.

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.

Without **HER**story our  
nation's history is incomplete

The Military Women's Memorial is the only historical repository documenting all military women's service, we educate and inspire through innovative and interactive exhibitions, our world-class collections, and engaging programs and events for all generations. We honor the commitment, contributions and experiences of every woman who serves in, or with, the Armed Forces.

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

Take your rightful place in history.  
Scan the QR Code with your  
cell phone to  
**Register HERstory**



REGISTER  
**HER  
STORY**  
*today!*



Join the thousands  
of women who  
have registered  
their **HERstory**  
with the Military  
Women's Memorial



# Understanding VA Disability Math

Many Veterans are surprised when they receive multiple VA disability ratings and discover that the percentages do not add up the way regular math would suggest. A common example is a Veteran who is rated 30% for one condition and 20% for another, but whose combined rating is not 50%. This confusion comes from the way the Department of Veterans Affairs calculates disability ratings, a system often referred to as “VA math.” While it may seem complicated at first, the logic behind it is consistent and easier to understand when explained in plain terms.

The most important thing to know is that the VA does not simply add disability percentages together. Instead, the VA looks at how much overall ability a Veteran has remaining after each service-connected condition is applied. Every Veteran is considered 100% healthy at the starting point. Each disability rating then reduces that total, one step at a time. In simple terms, the VA is not adding disabilities together; it is subtracting ability.

When the VA combines ratings, it applies disabilities from the highest percentage to the lowest. Each new condition is calculated based on what remains, not the original 100%. This method reflects how multiple conditions affect a Veteran as a whole, rather than treating each condition as if it exists independently. Because no one can be more than 100% disabled, each additional condition impacts a smaller portion of the Veteran’s remaining ability. Veterans do not need to calculate this themselves, as the VA applies the formula automatically.

After all disabilities are combined, the VA rounds the final number to the nearest 10%. For example, a combined value of 44% is rounded down to 40%, while 45% is rounded up to 50%. This rounding rule is also why the jump from 90% to 100% can be particularly difficult, often requiring significant additional disability to cross that threshold.

Understanding VA math helps explain why combined ratings can feel lower than expected, even when multiple serious conditions are involved. While the system works differently from everyday math, it is consistent and predictable once the basic concept is understood. Veterans who have questions about how their rating was calculated, or who believe something may have been overlooked, are encouraged to speak with a Veteran Service Officer, who can review the decision and help ensure the claim accurately reflects the full impact of the Veteran’s service-connected conditions.

Whether you are filing your first claim, appealing a denial, or seeking survivor assistance, our Veteran Service Officers are here to advocate for you. Visit [nmdvs.org](http://nmdvs.org) or call 1-866-433-8387 to find your nearest Veterans Service Officer.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services is honored to serve those who have served our nation, ensuring every Veteran receives the benefits, dignity, and care they deserve.

## VA Math Example (Quick Reference)

**Disability Ratings:** 30% and 20%

**Step 1:** Start at 100%

**Step 2:** Apply 30% disability → 70% ability remains

**Step 3:** Take 20% of the remaining 70% → 14%

**Step 4:** Combine:  $30\% + 14\% = 44\%$

**Step 5:** Round to nearest 10% → **40% final rating**

✓ This is why  $30\% + 20\% \neq 50\%$  under VA rules



## 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**.

City	Dates	Location
*Alamogordo, NM	February 19 & 20	Holloman Air Force Base
*Albuquerque, NM	February 26th & 27th	Kirtland Air Force Base
*Clovis, NM	March 5th & 6th	Cannon Air Force Base

\* Participants will require base access

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

# We Would Love to Help Promote Your Business!

Register your veteran-owned business with VBOC today!

*Scan the QR code to fill out the form.*



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS



# State Approving Agency

## Duties and Responsibilities

In New Mexico, the State Approving Agency (SAA), a bureau of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure GI Bill® beneficiaries have access to high-quality education and training programs by approving and overseeing programs and verifying compliance with required standards.

Most education and training programs in New Mexico must have SAA approval before Veterans and other eligible persons may receive GI Bill benefits for those programs, except for programs at federal agencies, which fall under VA's jurisdiction.

Ensuring Quality Programs for Veterans, the SAA oversees the approval of education and training programs where Veterans and other eligible persons can use their GI Bill benefits. Working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the SAA:

- Reviews and approves eligible programs
- Ensures ongoing compliance with federal standards
- Provides outreach and technical assistance
- Helps protect Veterans from fraud, waste, and abuse

This work ensures that GI Bill beneficiaries in New Mexico have access to high-quality, trustworthy programs across the state.

*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about the education benefits offered by VA is available on their website: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.*

## Where Benefits Can Be Used

The SAA approves programs at:

- Colleges, universities, and high schools
- Technical and vocational schools (including flight training)
- Agencies and businesses that sponsor Formal Apprenticeship and on-the-job training
- Hospitals and licensing/certification exam providers

If a program is not approved, GI Bill benefits cannot be used, so Veterans are encouraged to verify approval status before enrolling.

## Locating an Approved Educational Institution or Training Establishment

Go to VA's GI Bill Comparison Tool to search for approved institutions and training establishments with approved programs at: <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>. If there have any questions regarding GI Bill benefits, please contact VA's Education Call Center at (888) 442-4551 or <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/ask-va/introduction>

## Educational Institution or Training Establishment with Questions on Approval

For program approval information or criteria questions, educational institutions, employers offering training, or Veterans may contact: **Katherine "Kathy" Snyder**, Director, NMDVS SAA, at: [katherine.snyder@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:katherine.snyder@dvs.nm.gov) or [SAA.Approvals@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:SAA.Approvals@dvs.nm.gov) or (505) 280-1047. Visit: <https://www.nmdvs.org/veterans-education/>

Note: If seeking approval of a program at a **federal** agency, contact VA at [Federal.Approvals@va.gov](mailto:Federal.Approvals@va.gov) or (202) 632-8701



## Department of Veterans' Services

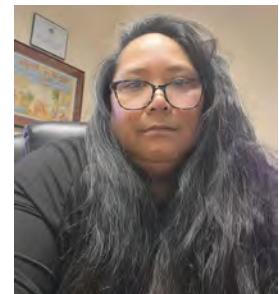
# Employee Spotlight

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes April Ball, Veteran Service Officer at the NMDVS Grants office. April exemplifies dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to New Mexico's Veterans. Her claims work is consistently exceptional, reflecting both her deep knowledge and her genuine care for the Veterans she serves.

Robin Wilson, NMDVS Director of Field Services, shared, "April's fortitude is especially evident in her ability to overcome a serious car accident and return to work with determination and purpose. Despite personal challenges, she remained focused on what matters most, continuing to advocate for Veterans and ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned. She is also a tremendous team player, providing daily support to her colleagues and demonstrating remarkable flexibility by meeting Veterans where they are, whether in Grants, Rio Rancho, or Albuquerque. She goes above and beyond to remove barriers to access and ensure Veterans feel supported and heard. April Ball is truly an asset to the agency, and we are grateful for her dedication, professionalism, and heart for service."

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

I have been a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for almost 4 years. Prior to joining NMDVS, I retired from the Navy after over 22 years, helping Sailors with their careers and administrative work. After that, I delivered nuclear medicine to patients across Virginia for 5 years.



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

I enjoy serving as a VSO because it allows me to help Veterans access the benefits and services they have earned.



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

My connection to the Veteran community began as a Yeoman, where I helped Sailors with career and personal administrative matters, and continues today in my role as a Veterans Service Officer. As a Veteran myself, I remain committed to advocating for and supporting those who served.

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

My biggest pastime and relaxation is to cook; if there is a recipe or a country that catches my interest, I go for it, and then I become creative. It helps me to relax and soothes my soul. Prior to moving to New Mexico, I lived in Virginia. I have a love for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and karate, and my parents, siblings, and I love Star Wars. I happened to find an accredited martial arts program called "Saberation," which combined traditional martial arts training with choreographed lightsaber techniques inspired by Star Wars.

### Three words to describe you?

Caring, passionate, and determined

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





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

## Heart Awareness Month: Prevention and Research

February is American Heart Month, a reminder that heart disease remains the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. The good news is that most heart disease and stroke cases are preventable with healthy habits, early detection, and proper medical care. VA encourages Veterans to take simple steps to protect their cardiovascular health while also highlighting how research is improving prevention and treatment for the future.



### Know the risk factors and take action

Preventing heart disease starts with understanding and managing risk factors in partnership with your health care provider.

- Schedule regular checkups to monitor blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar.
- Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats while limiting salt, sugar, and saturated fats. Losing even 5 to 10 pounds can improve heart health.
- Stay active. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate activity most days. Programs like MOVE! can help build confidence in making healthy lifestyle changes.
- Quit tobacco. VA offers support to help Veterans stop smoking and using smokeless tobacco.
- Manage stress through relaxation, hobbies, and mindfulness practices.
- Take medications as prescribed and talk with your provider if side effects occur.

Heart disease and stroke are also significant concerns for women, causing one in three deaths each year. Knowing personal health numbers and addressing risk factors early can make a lifesaving difference.

### Research improving heart care for Veterans

Through the Million Veteran Program (MVP), researchers are using health and genetic information from more than one million Veterans to better understand cardiovascular disease.

A new 2025 study using MVP data identified a gene variant linked to dilated cardiomyopathy, a heart muscle disease that is twice as common in black individuals as in white individuals. This discovery, based on genetic information from more than 95,000 participants of African ancestry, may lead to improved screening for those at higher risk. MVP researchers have also developed a more accurate genetic risk score for coronary artery disease that works across people of African, European, Hispanic, and South Asian ancestry, improving prevention strategies for diverse populations. MVP research has also highlighted small nutrition habits that support heart health.

### Act today for a healthier tomorrow

Up to 80 percent of heart disease and stroke cases are preventable. Talk with your provider, learn your numbers, and make small changes that protect your heart. Veterans can also consider joining MVP to support research shaping the future of heart care here: <https://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa/>

VA

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

## Scam Information

Veterans,

Some VA facilities have received several calls from Veterans stating that they had received texts from VA asking them to "update their information." The text included a link that redirected the recipient to a very legitimate looking website where the unsuspecting could enter sensitive personal information for the "update."

***This is a scam!***

**VA does send text messages** to Veterans to offer updates on benefits, resources, and reminders for appointments. Veterans should be very cautious if they receive communications that ask for personal information or those that demand immediate payment.

If you receive a suspicious text message (or email) please report it to VHA at (866) 842-4357. Scams related to VA benefits (VBA) should be reported to (833) 388-7233, and Non VA scams should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382-4357, or by contacting the FTC online at <http://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>

These are all 24/7 contact resources.

Veterans please block, delete, and report. **And most importantly, do not click that link!**



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 your 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**

<b>DigitalSkills</b>			<b>DigitalSkills</b>		
<b>TYPING 101:</b> Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use. <b>ANDROID BASICS:</b> Learn the basics about using your android phone. The home screen, settings, apps etc. <b>IPHONE BASICS:</b> Learn the basics about using your iPhone. The home screen, settings, apps etc. <b>DISCOVERING DATA:</b> Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.	<b>GOOGLE DRIVE:</b> Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage & file sharing service. <b>GOOGLE DOCS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online <b>GOOGLE SLIDES:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows. <b>GOOGLE SHEETS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based data driven document. Create, edit & share spreadsheets. <b>GOOGLE AI PROMPTING ESSENTIALS:</b> Learn to prompt effectively giving clear & specific instructions to generative AI. Save time & unlock more of AI's benefits for work/home	<b>MICROSOFT WORD:</b> Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout! <b>MICROSOFT EXPLORER:</b> Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS. <b>EXCEL 100:</b> Intro to review spreadsheet features & 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 & more.			

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

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2  Money Management@ 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google AI Prompting Essentials 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	3  <b>LEARN.</b>	4  Microsoft Explorer 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Microsoft Word 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	5  <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	6  Android Basics 9:00 am - 10:00 am iPhone Basics 10:30 am - 11:30 am	7
8	9  Google Drive 9:00 am - 10:15 am Google Docs 10:30 am - 11:30 am	10  <b>GROW.</b>	11  Google Slides 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google Sheets 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	12  ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	13  Google AI Prompting Essentials 9:00 am - 10:30 am Typing 101 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	14
15	16  Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 10:30 am - 11:45 am	17  <b>SUCCEED.</b>	18  Google AI Prompting Essentials 9:00 am - 10:30 am Discovering Data 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	19  <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	20  Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Career Compass W Your New Job@ 10:30 am - 11:45 am	21
22	23  Excel 100 9:00 am - 10:15 am Excel 200 10:30 am - 11:45 am	24  <b>INSPIRE.</b>	25  Excel 300 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm	26  ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	27	28

**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

# SAN MATEO

SAN MATEO OPPORTUNITY CENTER 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ABQ, NM 87109

<b>EmploymentSkills</b>	<b>DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS</b>	<b>LifeSkills</b>
<b>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</b> <b>N/CAREER EXPLORATION@</b> Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT. <b>E/RESUME &amp; APPLYING@</b> Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online. <b>S/INTERVIEW &amp; SOFT SKILLS@</b> Best practices in interviewing & professional communication. <b>W/YOUR NEW JOB@</b> Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.	<a href="#">Google Play Store</a> <a href="#">Apple App Store</a>  	<b>MONEY MANAGEMENT@</b> Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses & credit <b>GOOGLE AI ESSENTIALS:</b> Ask about our FREE self-paced online course offered via Coursera ... or for more info go to <a href="http://goodwillnm.org/ai-essentials-course">goodwillnm.org/ai-essentials-course</a> and apply now. <b>GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE</b> on 2/12/26 & 2/26/26 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Diverse employment opportunities. Speak with hiring managers and get valuable job leads. Dress for success & bring copies of your resume!!

AND CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL FREE CLASSES AVAILABLE AT OUR LOMAS LOCATION ON THE BACK...

<b>DigitalSkills</b>	<b>DigitalSkills</b>
<p><b>COMPUTER BASICS:</b> Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p><b>INTERNET BASICS:</b> Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, &amp; online safety.</p> <p><b>TYPING 101:</b> Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does &amp; basic mouse use.</p> <p><b>CYBERSECURITY:</b> Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams &amp; protect your digital assets.</p>	<p><b>GOOGLE DRIVE:</b> Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage &amp; file sharing service.</p> <p><b>GOOGLE DOCS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit &amp; collaborate on docs online</p> <p><b>GOOGLE AI PROMPTING ESSENTIALS:</b> Learn to prompt effectively giving clear &amp; specific instructions to generative AI. Save time &amp; unlock more of AI's benefits for work/home</p> <p><b>ANDROID BASICS:</b> Learn the basics about using your android phone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p> <p><b>IPHONE BASICS:</b> Learn the basics about using your iPhone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p>

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[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...

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2  Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Computer Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	3  Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	4  Excel 100 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Microsoft Explorer 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm	5  <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	6  YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	7  
8	9  Career Compass S: Interview/SoftSkills@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Thinking Critically@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	10  Career Compass W: Your New Job@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	11  Excel 200 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Google AI Prompting Essentials 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	12  ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	13  DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	14  
15	16  Cybersecurity 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Resiliency@ 2:30 pm- 4:00 pm	17  Public Speaking Intro 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Resiliency Workshop@ 2:30 pm- 4:00 pm	18  Excel 300 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Typing 101 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	19  <b>LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.</b>	20  REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	21  
22	23  Google Drive 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google Docs 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm	24  Excel 100 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google AI Prompting Essentials 2:30 pm- 4:00 pm	25  Android Basics 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm iPhone Basics 2:30 pm- 3:45 pm	26  ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	27  NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	28

**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

<b>EmploymentSkills</b>	<b>LifeSkills</b>
<p><b>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</b></p> <p><b>N/CAREER EXPLORATION@</b>Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT.</p> <p><b>E/RESUME &amp; APPLYING @</b>Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online.</p> <p><b>S/INTERVIEW &amp; SOFT SKILLS@</b> Best practices in interviewing &amp; professional communication.</p> <p><b>W/YOUR NEW JOB@</b> Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge &amp; behavior skills at work.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO:</b> Know, manage &amp; influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.</p>	<p><b>DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS</b></p> <p>Google Play Store    Apple App Store</p>  

AND CHECK OUT ADDITIONAL FREE CLASSES AVAILABLE AT OUR SAN MATEO LOCATION ON THE BACK...

# Above and Beyond the Landscape: The Military Artwork of Lt. Col. Wilson Hurley

Opening Friday, February 13, at the New Mexico Military Museum in Santa Fe

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Hurley flew as a pilot in World War II and later with the 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron, New Mexico Air National Guard. Recalled

to active duty in 1968, he flew Forward Air Controller missions in Vietnam and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. After his military service, Hurley devoted himself to painting full-time.

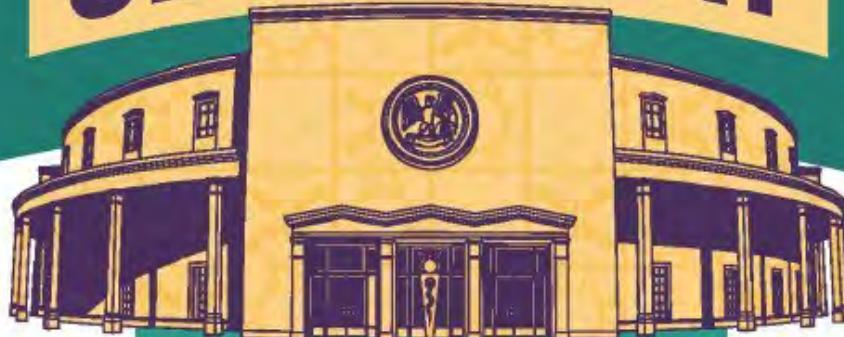
His sweeping Western landscapes, informed by his aviation experience and deep knowledge of terrain and light, earned national recognition, including the Prix de West Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and election as a Fellow of the American Society of Aviation Artists.

The New Mexico Military Museum is located in the historic Old Santa Fe Armory at 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Information at: <https://www.newmexicomilitarymuseum.com/>



# SENIOR DAY

NEW  
DATE



FEBRUARY 13, 2026

## Join us at the Roundhouse

Join us on February 13<sup>th</sup> for Senior Day at the Legislature where you can participate in our free resource fair, learn more about New Mexico Aging Services' initiatives, budget requests, and advocate for funding that makes positive impacts in the lives of New Mexicans every day.



**RSVP TO ATTEND SENIOR DAY:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeniorDayFeb132026](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeniorDayFeb132026)

### EVENT DETAILS

- 8:30 AM Check-In and Light Refreshments
- 8:30 AM Resource Fair
- 9:00 AM Legislative Tours Around the Roundhouse
- 11:00 AM Speakers
- 12:00 PM Closing

Complimentary T-shirt sponsored by LANL Foundation and tote bag sponsored by AARP New Mexico for the first 300 attendees. Breakfast burritos sponsored by Non Metro New Mexico Area Agency on Aging.

Join a Legislative Tour and connect with your legislator.



FOR GROUP REGISTRATION OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.AGING.NM.GOV/SENIORDAY](http://WWW.AGING.NM.GOV/SENIORDAY)



# Attention Women Veterans

*Join the*  
**Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**  
**Women's Veteran's Program** in our online focus group.

## TOPIC/DESCRIPTION:

### Informing the Future:

Veteran Insights on Ideal Women's Health Clinic  
 Models

**DATE: March 12, 2026**

**TIME: 1400 -1445**

### Or Dial in by phone

[+1 872-701-0185,,370454117#](tel:+18727010185)

United States, Chicago

[Find a local number](#)

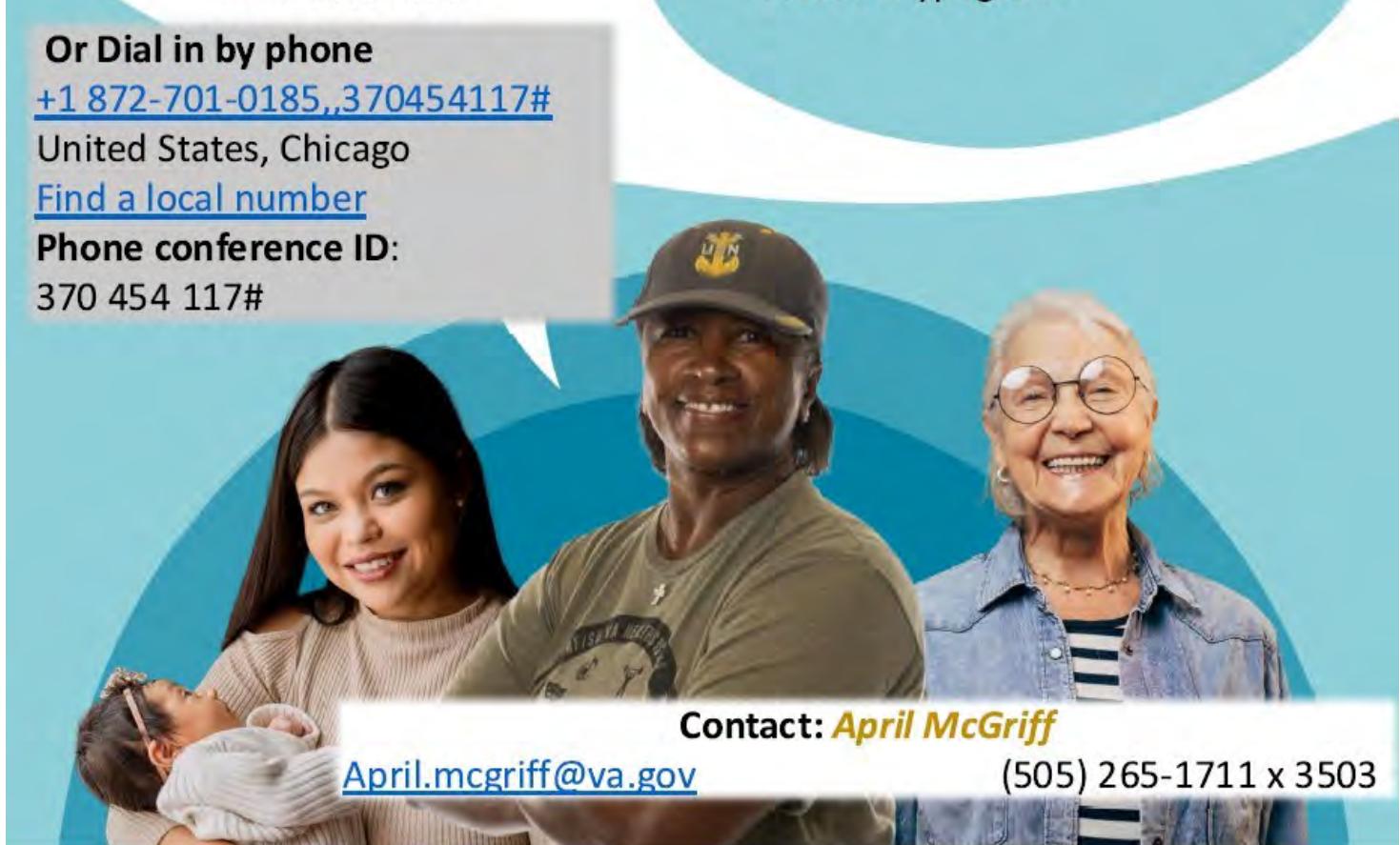
**Phone conference ID:**

370 454 117#

[On 03/12/2026 Click HERE to join meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 215 937 901 195 63

Passcode: yp3gc2TG



**Contact: April McGriff**

[April.mcgriff@va.gov](mailto:April.mcgriff@va.gov)

(505) 265-1711 x 3503

Your experiences matter. If you would like to participate in this one or future groups, please contact the person above.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**HORSES FOR HEROES -NEW MEXICO, INC.**  
**COWBOY UP! & WISDOM WAY FOR WARRIOR**  
**WWW.HORSESFORHEROES.ORG**

As part of our 2026 Resilient Warrior Program we invite Veterans, Active duty Military, National Guard and Reserve to a *free* one-day workshop:

**“Creating the Cartoon”**  
with former US Marine **Ricardo Cate**.

Since 2006 Ricardo Cate has been drawing the daily cartoon *Without Reservations* for the Santa Fe New Mexican and his wry and often poignant humor resonates especially well with New Mexico veterans.

A father of three, Ricardo lives on the Santo Domingo Pueblo and follows the ways of his Kewa Pueblo heritage to inform his creativity...and fuel his amazing funny bone.

**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2026

**Time:** 0900 sharp! -1600  
(drawing supplies and  
lunch will be provided)

**Where:** Crossed Arrows Ranch  
3774 NM-14  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

**How to participate:**  
If interested, send an email to us at:  
[info@horsesforheroes.org](mailto:info@horsesforheroes.org)

Please provide your name, phone number and attach a copy of your DD 214 or a copy of your NM Drivers License with **VETERAN** certification on it. *Space is limited.*





# AN EVENING OF JAZZ

Supporting the Veteran's Meditation Retreat

Featuring *John Trentacosta*



## Your \$150 Donation Includes

- ♪ Live Jazz Concert
- ♪ 1 Cocktail Ticket
- ♪ Hors D'Oeuvres
- ♪ Silent Auction
- ♪ Valet Parking

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026**

5:30PM - 8:30PM

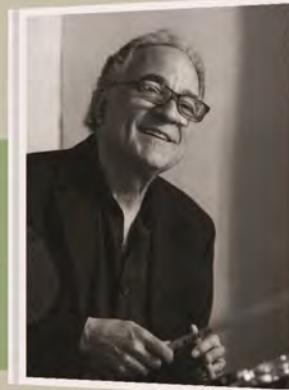
THE CLYDE HOTEL

330 Tijeras Ave NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

**RSVP Here**



John Trentacosta is a New York-born jazz drummer and bandleader whose work has shaped the Southwest jazz scene for decades. A longtime KSFR host, his performances blend mastery, warmth, and swing.



## Gold Package

**\$1200**

*Sponsor a Veteran*

Supports one veteran's full retreat experience, including instruction, lodging, and meals.

501(c)(3) nonprofit | Donations may be tax deductible



(505) 982-4183



info@lifetransition.com



lifetransition.com

# SAVE THE DATE

## 11TH ANNUAL HEROES HIRING HEROES EMPLOYMENT EVENT

**WEDNESDAY**

**29**  
APR

**10 - 2**  
AM PM

**American Legion Post 13  
1201 Legion Rd NE  
Albuquerque NM 87102**

**EVERYONE WELCOME!  
OPEN TO VETERANS  
AND NON-VETERANS**

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**America's Job Center**  
NEW MEXICO

 **workforce  
connection**  
of central new mexico

  
Follow us @NMWorkforce

Questions? Call us at  
**505-843-1900**

Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico is a proud partner of the American Job Center Network. This project/publication is supported through the U.S. Department of Labor as part of a grant award financed from state, local, federal and/or non-federal government sources. For full funding disclosure information, please type the following URL in your browser or click on the link: [www.wccnm.org/funding](http://www.wccnm.org/funding).

**Equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aids & services available upon request. Our website: [www.wccnm.org](http://www.wccnm.org)**

# Day-Long Veterans Meditation Retreat

## For Veterans, By Veterans



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

### Register Now

Space is limited:  
contact us through  
this registration form.



[Scan to register](#)

### Free of Charge

All expenses sponsored by the  
McCune Foundation and Life  
Transition Meditation Center



\$50 refundable  
registration donation  
through PayPal or mailed  
check (info in registration)

PayPal

**WHEN:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

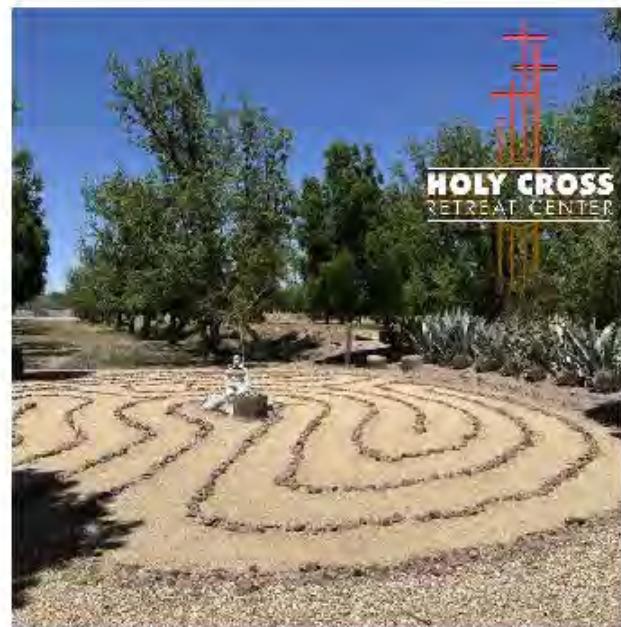
**WHERE:** Holy Cross Retreat  
Center, 600 Holy Cross Rd.,  
Mesilla Park, NM 88047

9:00 am – 4:00 pm, noon lunch

**WHY:** Introduce Meditation  
techniques, improve Veterans'  
mental health



A yoga session during a previous retreat.





**Come join us  
to learn if  
virtual reality  
vision  
therapy can  
help enhance  
visual  
performance.**



**SCAN ME**



**NJIT**  
New Jersey Institute  
of Technology

VA study # H-1883  
(V1) 12/5/2025

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
New Mexico VA Health Care System

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IRAPID STUDY**

## **More about this study:**

This study will test a portable virtual reality system with integrated eye tracking called Virtual Eye Rotation Vision Exercises (VERVE). The system will deliver vergence vision therapy in a fun, engaging manner.

## **Who may be eligible to participate?**

- All Veterans
- Ages 18 – 40
- Individuals with or without Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Individuals with vision symptoms – blurred vision, double vision, trouble reading

## **What can I expect?**

- Weekly study visits
- Vision Exam by Neuro-optometrist
- Compensation provided for time and effort
- Participation may last 2 – 4 months

## **Contact us:**

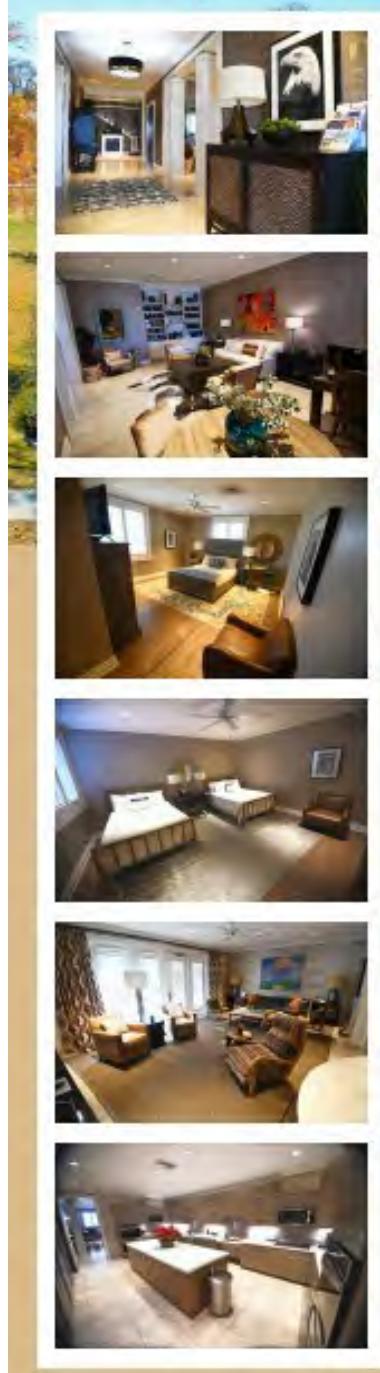
(505) 265-1711 ext. 4116

[VHAIRAPIDstudy@va.gov](mailto:VHAIRAPIDstudy@va.gov)



# ALBUQUERQUE FISHER HOUSE





 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



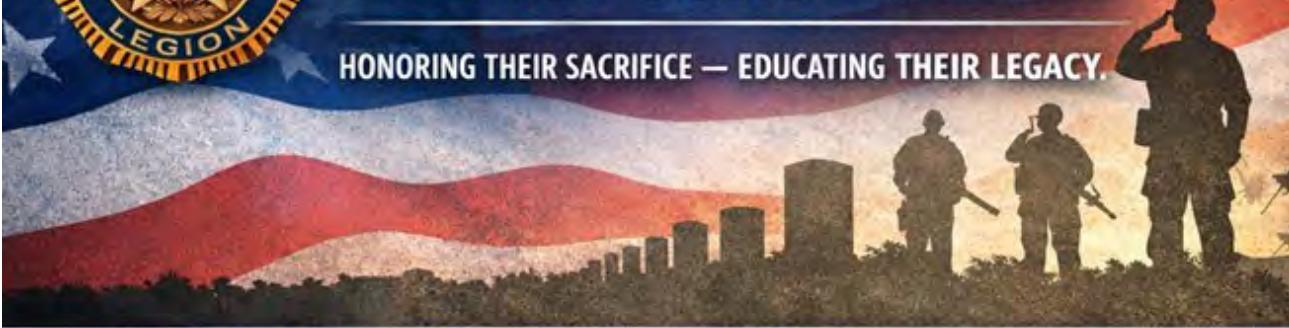
Raymond G. Murphy/NMVAHCS  
 Albuquerque Fisher House  
 1501 San Pedro Dr. SE, Building 85  
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108  
 (505) 265-1711 Ext. 3180 - ABQFisherHouse@va.gov

*because* A Family's Love  
is Good Medicine

 ★ THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

# LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

HONORING THEIR SACRIFICE — EDUCATING THEIR LEGACY.



HELPING THE CHILDREN OF POST-9/11 FALLEN & DISABLED VETERANS.



★ WHO CAN APPLY? ★

- Children of post-9/11 fallen or 50%+ disabled veterans.

★ SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ★

- Up to **\$20,000** per year for children of the fallen.
- Up to **\$5,000** per year for children of disabled veterans.

★ COVERING COSTS ★

- Tuition • Fees • Room & Board
- Books & More

★ APPLY NOW! ★ ★

- Applications open **January 1**
- Deadline: **March 25, 2026**

LEARN MORE & APPLY: [www.legion.org/legacyscholarship](http://www.legion.org/legacyscholarship)

SECURING THEIR FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION



## 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

**Adam Calderon**  
Good Will Office  
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE  
(505) 274-0393  
[adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Mike Nelson**  
Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd Floor  
(505) 525-3331  
[mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**John Membrila (VSO I)**  
Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd Floor  
(505) 584-2153  
[john.membrila@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:john.membrila@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**Jason Liddel**  
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)

### Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

**Alex Fontaine**  
Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd Floor  
(505) 470-7503  
[carl.fontaine@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:carl.fontaine@dvs.nm.gov)

### Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

**Rob Miller (Central/Mobile Supervisor)**  
Belen Business Center  
719 South Main St.  
(505) 537-9339  
[rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (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)

### 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)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Jenny Iser**  
1800 East 30th St.  
(505) 327-2861  
[jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov)

### Gallup/Northwest NM

**John Livingston (NW Supervisor)**  
908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A  
(505) 389-8731  
[john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov)

(continued on next page)

**Grants/Northwest NM****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

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

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 361-5298

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

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

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D/Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

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

1600 SE Main Street/Suite A

(575) 988-5900

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

1600 SE Main Street/Suite A

(575) 416-2284

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

Bataan Memorial Bldg.

407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Room 134

(505) 218-3125

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

Western New Mexico University

1000 West College Ave.

Juan Chacon Bldg./Room 138A

(575) 313-5627

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

Health and Human Services Bldg.

145 Roy Rd.

(505)-709-5263

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

922 South Broadway St.

Truth or Consequences, NM

**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

[beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov)*NMDVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach assistance for Native Americans. veterans***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.*