



The Guardian

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

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

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

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

General Election Property Tax Constitutional Amendments Passed By Voters

INCREASED
PROPERTY
TAX RELIEF
FOR
NEW MEXICO
VETERANS



Great news for veterans and their families for 2025!

Both proposed Veterans' Property Tax Exemption Amendments 1 and 2 were voted on and passed during the November 2024 General Election.

Amendment 1 changes to the New Mexico Constitution to extend the existing property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans and their widows and widowers. This extension now includes veterans with less than 100% disability and their widows or widowers. The amount of exemption is based on a veteran's federal service-connected disability rating, as determined by federal law.

Amendment 2 changes the New Mexico Constitution to increase the Veterans property tax exemption for honorably discharged members of the armed forces and their widows or widowers from **\$4,000 to \$10,000**. The amount after 2025, will then be adjusted for inflation.

The amendments will be introduced for legislative approval in the upcoming 2025 Legislative session for enactment. NMDVS and the TAX REV department will collaborate closely with the County Assessor's offices to develop and implement rules for the upcoming changes.

A revised NMDVS DVS-1 application will be introduced with a new disabled percentage rating certificate for implementation. Information on when to apply for the new certificate will be announced as soon as the rules process is approved to be implemented. We know this is of great importance to our veteran community and are excited to roll the details out to you as they are ready.

DVS is holding veteran property tax exemption events throughout the state in March. Exact locations and times will be listed on our Facebook, Instagram and in our February newsletter.

| | | | |
|------------|------|---|----------|
| Los Alamos | 3/8 | 1793 Deacon St. Los Alamos, NM 87544 | 11am-2pm |
| Raton | 3/10 | Office of Colfax County Assessor, 230 N St. Raton, NM 87740 | 9am-2pm |
| Los Lunas | 3/18 | TBD | Time TBD |
| Santa Rosa | 3/27 | 720 Lake Dr. Santa Rosa, NM 88435 | 9am-2pm |
| Clovis | 3/28 | American Legion Dean Lucas Post 25, 2400 W. 7th St. Clovis, NM 8810 | 9am-2pm |
| Roswell | 3/29 | TBD | Time TBD |

If you have any further questions on the new veterans' property tax amendments, please call our offices at: 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400 or you can visit nmdvs.org

Holiday Meal Kits for New Mexico Veterans and Seniors

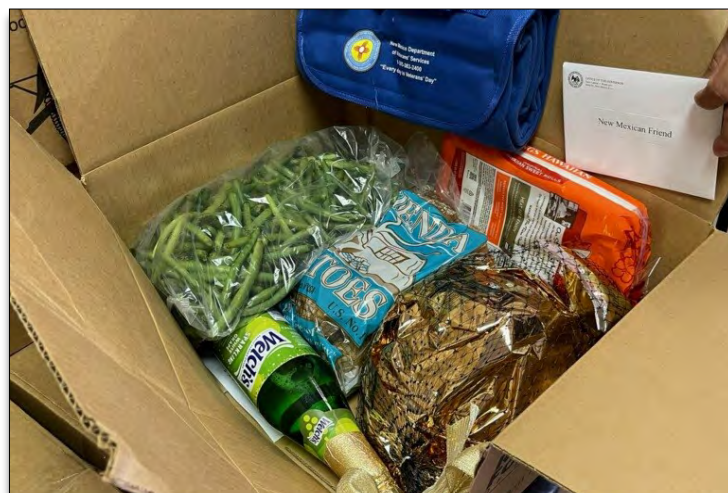
Staff and volunteers from the New Mexico Departments of Veterans' Services (DVS), Aging and Long-Term Services, Health Care Authority, Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs, and others joined forces December 19th at the Health Care Authority's warehouse to assemble meal kits. Each kit included a whole ham, fresh green beans, potatoes, butter, rolls, sparkling cider, pie, and a blanket provided by DVS.

The kits were distributed to veterans and seniors in Roswell through American Legion Post 28. Ruidoso welcomed veterans and seniors to the Village of Ruidoso Community Center. Holiday meal kits were also distributed to Santa Clara Pueblo and the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

"We are committed to supporting our veterans and seniors, especially during challenging times, by bringing a little warmth and care to their holiday season," said Cabinet Secretary of DVS Jamison Herrera. Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff that donated time and effort to make the event happen.



DVS and Ageing and Long-Term Services staff and volunteers



ABOVE PHOTOS: (upper left) Santa Clara Pueblo Volunteers. (lower left) DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, New Mexico Aging Service Cabinet Secretary Designate Emily Kaltenbach and staff. (upper right) Completed meal kit. (lower right) Veterans 'of American Legion Post 28 in Roswell and Santa Claus, aka Felix Sosa.

A New Face for 2025 in the Veteran's Business Outreach Center

Our new Business Advisor/ Project Coordinator is Christina Stover. Christina brings over 23 years of professional experience in the insurance and residential mortgage industries to the VBOC program. For the past 13 years, she has excelled in the insurance sector, coaching and mentoring agents to navigate their paths to becoming successful business owners. Her expertise in business coaching has been instrumental in guiding new owners as they embark on their entrepreneurial journeys. Before her tenure in insurance, Christina received her MBA from Stetson University in Florida. She has spent a decade in the residential mortgage industry, helping clients achieve their dream of homeownership. As a successful business owner herself, she understands the dedication and resources required for sustainable success. Christina's desire to help veterans comes from her Navy Veteran father. Outside of her professional endeavors, Christina is devoted to her church and family, with a husband and a son, who has already begun his entrepreneurial journey at a young age. Her passion for business and commitment to helping others thrive is evident in every aspect of her work. We are proud to have her on the DVS team.



Register your veteran-owned
business with VBOC today!

Scan the code below to fill out the form.



The New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

The VBOC is funded by a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) grant managed by DVS to help veterans, transitioning active service members, National Guard & Reserve members, and their spouses who are interested in starting or growing a small business. It can help with everything from business planning, start-up and expansion funding, marketing, landing federal contracts, and anything else a small business needs to launch and grow. DVS was the first state agency in the nation funded by the SBA to offer this "one-stop-shop" when the SBA launched this grant program in 2010.

The VBOC is located in the DVS Albuquerque office at 4801 Indian School Road NE/Building 2. Drop-in visits for business counseling are welcome—but scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended.

New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center "Boots to Business" Classes For This Winter

The New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC) is the veteran's business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services. "Boots to Business" is a great introduction to entrepreneurship classes for veterans going into business.



The classes are for transitioning active-duty service members, veterans/National Guard/Reserve members, and spouses who are interested in starting their own business or growing an existing operation. Reboot classes are from 8:30am- 4:30pm. You must have on-base privileges to attend classes marked with an asterisk (*). On base classes are from 8:00am-4:30pm.

| City | Dates | Venue/Address |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| *Holloman AFB | Jan. 16-17 | HAFB Airman & Family Readiness Center |
| *Cannon AFB | Jan. 23-24 | CAFB Airman & Family & Readiness Center |
| *Kirtland AFB | Feb. 18-19 | https://sba.my.site.com/s/b2b-course-information |
| Albuquerque Reboot | Jan. 9-10 | DVS Office, 4801 Indian School Road, NE Bldg. 2 |
| Albuquerque Reboot | Jan. 27-28 | DVS Office, 4801 Indian School Road, NE Bldg. 2 |
| Albuquerque Reboot | Jan. 30-31 | DVS Office, 4801 Indian School Road, NE Bldg. 2 |
| Las Cruces Reboot | Feb. 4-5 | DACC East Mesa Campus, 2800 Sonoma Ranch Blvd. rm 232 |

The Boots to Business Program

These free two-day introduction to entrepreneurship courses will present information about the key elements of small business ownership and expansion, techniques for evaluating the feasibility of business concepts, and the steps needed to develop an all-important business plan—a “must” for anyone looking to start or expand a business.

The classes will also introduce 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.



To register for these classes, please go to the blue registration links found below each listing.

For additional information about the Boots to Business program, or the New Mexico VBOC, contact VBOC Director johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov

Upcoming DVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits in Jan. & Feb.

DVS is scheduled to make the following January and February outreach visits at the locations listed below. Veterans and/or their eligible dependents are encouraged to stop by to file for--or ask information about--VA disability ratings, VA medical or mental health care, retiree pensions, military burials, and many other VA benefits.

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

Please bring a copy of your DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, which are necessary for filing all veterans' benefits claims. DVS can help assist veterans file for lost or misplaced DD 214s.

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| Cannon AFB | 1/28, 2/4, 2/25 3/11 | Military & Family Readiness Center | 2:30-5:30pm |
| Mora | 2/5 | VFW Post 1131/ 2825 NM Hwy 518 (mile marker 28.5) | 1-5pm |
| Capitan | 2/5, 4/2, 6/4, 8/6, 10/1 | Capitan Library/101 E 2nd St. | 10am-2pm |
| Socorro/Belen | Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday | Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California | 9am-3pm |
| Holloman AFB | 1/22, 2/5, 2/19 | Military Family Readiness Center | 8am-10am |
| Raton | 1/15, 2/19 | Raton CBOC/1493 Whittier St. | 10am-2pm |
| Ruidoso | 3/12, 5/7, 7/9 | Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr. | 10am-3pm |
| Santa Rosa | 1/12 | Guadalupe County Veterans' Ctr/720 Lake Dr. | 10am-2pm |
| Deming | 2/12 | Old VFW Bldg. 4045 Overhill Dr. NW | 10am-1pm |
| Deming | 1/22, 2/26 | Luna County Senior Center/800 S Granite St. | 10am-12:30pm |
| *Deming | 1/16, 1/20 | Deming Border Patrol Station/3300 J St. SE | 10am-3pm |
| | | *Available to veterans employed at Border Patrol | 10am-12:30 |
| *Santa Clara | 1/15, 2/19 | Ft. Bayard Medical Ctr. 41 Ft. Bayard Rd. | 10:30am-12pm |
| | | *Available to residents at the FBMC Vet Unit | |
| *Lordsburg | 1/31 | Border Patrol Station/26 Pipeline Rd. | 10am-4pm |
| | | *Available to veterans employed at Border Patrol | |

The following are weekly outreach visits:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 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 |

As a reminder, veterans and their eligible dependents can always contact any of the 17 DVS field offices statewide listed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Each office is staffed by nationally certified veterans' service officers (VSO), who can also offer assistance by phone or email. **If you know of or are hosting a veterans' or community event that would benefit from having a Veterans' Service Officer on site to help answer questions on benefits available please contact DVS Field Services Director Robin Wilson at Robin.Wilson@dvs.nm.gov**

DVS Welcomes New Women Veterans' Program Manager

Amberly Viner joined DVS in October of 2024 as our Women Veterans' Program Manager for the State of New Mexico. An Air Force Veteran who has learned from her own challenges and is dedicated to assisting other women veterans with dignity and respect earned by all veterans. Our Women Veterans' Program is a crucial part of the collaboration of the Healthcare Division and Field Services Division, ensuring that women veterans across the state have equitable access to federal and state veteran benefits. As the Women Veterans' Program Manager, Amberly serves as the primary point of contact for all women veteran issues. The Women Veterans' Program also provides connection to programs and resources specific to women veterans. These resources include mentorships, support groups for the veteran, family members, childcare, and access to more in-depth services for trauma and/or Military Sexual Trauma. "I will advocate for changes needed to recognize the unique challenges women veterans face," said Viner. DVS is committed to providing the highest quality service and advocacy for women veterans and their families. Contact our Women's Veteran Program staff via the Department of Veterans' Services website at <https://www.nmdvs.org/womens-veteran-program/> or call 1-866-433-8387



Military and Veterans' Day at The Legislature

Join us for the annual day to honor veterans and active-duty service members at the State Capitol February 19th. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services and the New Mexico National Guard will honor New Mexico's veterans and members of the military community for their service and sacrifice for our country. This will be a great opportunity for veterans, active service members, family, and the public to meet legislators to discuss veteran and military issues. The rotunda will have information tables staffed by DVS, NM National Guard, service organizations, and community partners. Wrapping up the day will be a noon ceremony in the rotunda. More information on the ceremony, speakers, and event are forthcoming in our February newsletter and on our DVS social media streams. We look forward to seeing you so save the date!





Senior Day at the Legislature January 27th at the New Mexico State Capitol

This event is a gathering of vibrant adults, caregivers, and advocates for aging services. It's a celebration of resilience, and a commitment to positive change for everyone aging in New Mexico - and that's all of us. The first 700 attendees to check in will receive a complimentary scarf as a symbol of collaboration to grow and improve aging services across New Mexico. New Mexico Aging Services will have policy guide handbooks, filled with the tools to actively contribute to the betterment of New Mexico's aging population. Connect with your elected officials, share your insights, and advocate for policies that enhance the

lives of older people in our state. Meet like-minded individuals and resource providers who share your passion for improving New Mexico for aging adults. Make connections, exchange ideas, and be part of a supportive community dedicated to positive change. Join us for an exciting day of advocacy, empowerment, and connection. Let's come together to celebrate Senior Day in New Mexico and make a meaningful impact for aging adults. Your voice matters, and your presence can make a difference. Please RSVP at <https://www.aginginnm.org/>

Warren Upton, The oldest living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Passes at 105

On December 7, 2024, we recognized the 83rd Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. December 27th we lost the last survivor of the attack. Warren was aboard the battleship Utah which was moored at the harbor that day. Upton told The Associated Press in 2020 that he had been getting ready to shave when he felt the first torpedo hit the Utah. He recalled that no one on board knew what made the ship shake. Then, the second torpedo hit and the ship began to list and capsize.

The then-22-year-old swam ashore to Ford Island, where he jumped in a trench to avoid Japanese planes strafing the area. He stayed for about 30 minutes until a truck came and took him to safety.

Upton said he didn't mind talking about what happened during the attack. Instead, what upset him was that he kept losing shipmates over the years. By 2020, there were only three crew members of the Utah still alive, including himself.



Warren Upton sits for a portrait with his daughter Barbara Upton at his home in San Jose, Calif., on Friday, Nov. 26, 2021. (Shae Hammond/Bay Area News Group via AP)



Save the Date

— | 2025 | —

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Honoring Tribal Self-Determination

American Indian Day at The Legislature

Please mark your calendars for American Indian Day at the Legislature on Friday, February 7, 2025, from 9:00AM- 11:00AM at the State Capitol. Speakers include Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, IAD Secretary Josett D. Monette, and various Tribal Leaders from the 23 pueblos, nations and tribes in New Mexico. American Indian Day at the Capitol is an annual event that allows the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) to acknowledge and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Native American people, highlighting their significant role in American and New Mexican society and raising awareness about their diverse tribes and traditions. This year they are celebrating "Tribal Self-Determination". This means that Native American tribes have the right to make their own decisions about how to govern themselves, manage their lands, and preserve their culture, giving them control over their own affairs instead of relying solely on the federal government to do so for them. Tribal veterans are invited to visit with DVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley at this year's event.

Suicide Prevention Day at the Legislature

Plan to join advocates, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the New Mexico Health Care Authority, New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition, New Mexico Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the New Mexico 988 Crisis and Access Line, the Department of Veterans' Services, and mental health and suicide prevention organizations for an opportunity to meet with legislators during the 2025 session. Show your support for suicide prevention, raise awareness about the need for increased mental wellness initiatives and join us at the Roundhouse on February 14th.

Connecting to a crisis center can be a crucial step in getting the help and support you need in times of distress.

HELP IS THREE NUMBERS AWAY

CALL 9-8-8

988: THE 24/7 LIFELINE FOR EMOTIONAL, MENTAL OR SUBSTANCE MISUSE SUPPORT

Help & Hope in New Mexico

988

1 **PRESS 1**
FOR VETERANS
CRISIS LINE

2 **PRESS 2**
FOR SPANISH
CRISIS LINE

REMAIN ON THE LINE
TO BE CONNECTED
WITH YOUR LOCAL
CRISIS CENTER

DVS Staff visits the New Mexico State Veterans' Home in Truth or Consequences

Friday December 20th The New Mexico State Veterans' Home in Truth or Consequences, welcomed staff from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS), to spread some holiday cheer. Lap blankets were given to residents at the facility as a small token of appreciation for their service to our country. DVS staff were taken for a tour of the facility which is part of the Department of Health, Facilities Division.



In the photo above, DVS Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, presents a blanket to several of the over 130 residents at the veterans' home. Discussing the distribution below (from left to right) Eva Pena of Workers Comp. Asst. Administrator NMSVH Otes Farr-Galloway, and other staff.





Resident USN Veteran David McLaren (left photo) asked to have his blanket put around him immediately and shared his beautiful room with a view with DVS staff. The NMSVH care professionals and staff were outstanding, and the facility is beautiful.



Thanks to an initiative secured by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. Forty million in legislative funding and twenty million in bond funds built the new facilities which opened in 2024. The new buildings featuring private suites with private bedrooms, and accessible bathrooms. The New Mexico State Veterans' Home is a skilled nursing facility licensed by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The home, with 131 licensed beds, serves honorably discharged veterans and spouses, parents of children killed in military service. DVS Deputy Secretary Eric James (right photo) presents a blanket in the beautifully



A Message from the new DVS Public Relations Program Coordinator

I have been in your ear for decades, on the radio under many aliases but with the Department of Veterans' Services just call me Sam. Filling the shoes of longtime DVS PIO Ray Seva, who retired in August of 2024 is a daunting task.

I will do my best to learn what is important to you, our veterans and your family members.

I grew up in Rio Rancho New Mexico, the son of a WWII Navy Veteran. My father served for a short time on the USS Texas (BB-35) and did a long stint on the USS IZARD (DD-589). I can remember well being hauled to the local VFW in Ohio as a small child, and my father swapping stories with fellow sailors. I would be given pretzel sticks, pizza, and soda to make sure I stayed quiet, but I picked up on some of the creative storytelling.

My family moved to Rio Rancho in the seventies, and I went to Cibola High School with four years of broadcasting in a unique class at its time called "Radio and TV".

I joined the U.S. Navy reserve after high school but was unable to complete my

training in Great Lakes Michigan due to a medical issue. I have worked broadcast media for decades primarily in radio on many different formats and stations. I have had the pleasure of creating messaging and branding for thousands of businesses statewide over the years. Somewhere you have heard my voice whether on radio, television, or if you listen to Barney the purple dinosaur telling bedtime stories.

Fifteen years ago, I started helping local nonprofit organizations use mass media to get their messages out through my own speaking and consulting business. Mama jokingly said I had a "face for radio", but I started a journey to step out from behind the microphone by joining Toastmasters International, and I became a Distinguished Toastmaster in 2019. I have coached entrepreneurs, authors, and leaders, helping them improve their ability to share stories and content through professional public speaking. When not working I enjoy relaxing with family, watching documentaries, and science fiction. I am honored to be a part of DVS and look forward to serving and honoring our veterans' community.



Sam Newton

*DVS Public Relations
Program Coordinator*



**DVS offices will be closed Monday January 20th
Offices will resume service Tuesday, January 21st**



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



Prepare for VA's Secure Sign-In Changes in 2025

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that you'll have 2 secure sign-in account options (Login.gov and ID.me) for all VA websites and apps. They will remove the My HealtheVet option after January 31, 2025, and the DS Logon option after September 30, 2025. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with a Login.gov or ID.me account. The VA encourages you to create a Login.gov or ID.me account now. If you already have one of these accounts but haven't yet used it, start now so you have time to get used to it before the change.

With Login.gov or ID.me, you'll have access to all the same information and services you use today. Be prepared and visit the VA website here: <https://www.va.gov/initiatives/prepare-for-vas-secure-sign-in-changes/>

Military retirees and disabled veterans will receive a 2.5% increase to their monthly paychecks for 2025

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that for 2025, retired military members will receive a \$25 increase for each \$1,000 of military retirement pension they receive each month. Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, and opted for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan) will have any COLA increases reduced by a percentage point, so they will receive a smaller increase of \$15 per \$1,000 in 2025. Survivors receiving Survivor Benefit Plan payments will receive increases to their payments by the same amount as retirees. Disabled veterans will also receive increases to their benefit payments in the upcoming year. VA disability checks will go up about \$4.28 per month for those with a 10% rating and \$93.45 for those rated at 100% who don't have dependents. Here is a link to the VA compensation rates <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>



Here is a link to the VA compensation rates <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

Next Generation Uniformed Services ID Card

Veterans' dependents, and family members, please take the opportunity this new year to replace your Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card. Beginning in 2026, the legacy card will no longer be accepted for access to benefits, privileges, or DoD bases. The new card will replace the paper ones to help against counterfeiting and fraud in response to the implementation of the Real ID Act. What will you need to bring for a new card? A pre-arrival checklist and enrollment forms are available for download at <https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card/Getting-Your-ID-Card/> To find a RAPIDS ID Card office near you and book an appointment visit this website <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> or call 1-800-538-9522 for help using the scheduler.



Veterans May Be Eligible For One More Year Of Benefits

Are you a Veteran who served at least two periods of service? In other words, **did you re-enlist**? If so, there's a chance that you're eligible for additional G.I. Bill® benefits.

January 3rd the VA announced that it has updated its process for awarding G.I. Bill benefits. This means that many Veterans who served multiple periods of military service may be eligible for additional benefits for themselves or their beneficiaries.

Specifically, under the previous policy, eligible Veterans who served at least two periods of service were forced to choose between the **Montgomery GI Bill** and the **Post-9/11 GI Bill** for a maximum of 36 months of G.I. Bill benefits. Under the updated policy, Veterans will no longer have to make that choice when they apply for benefits, meaning that they can qualify for up to 48 months of G.I. Bill benefits.

Many Veterans are also now eligible for additional, retroactive benefits. Specifically, Veterans who served at least two periods of service—one that qualified them for the Montgomery G.I. Bill and a second that qualified them for the **Post-9/11 G.I. Bill**—may be eligible to receive up to 12 months of additional G.I. Bill benefits (bringing them to a total of 48 months). These Veterans may be eligible to receive 12 months of additional, retroactive G.I. Bill benefits (bringing them to a total of 48 months).

Of the 1.04 million Veterans who may potentially be eligible for additional benefits, VA will be able to automatically adjudicate the claims for approximately 660,000 without any further action required on their part. For all remaining Veterans, VA will be reaching out to them directly to encourage them to file a claim.

Prepare for VA's sign-in changes

We're moving to a more modern online sign-in experience — to simplify your options and continue to protect your identity and benefits.



Here's what's changing for VA websites and mobile apps:

- After January 31, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a My HealtheVet user ID and password.
- After September 30, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.
- You'll then have two sign-in account options: **Login.gov** or **ID.me**.

Note: Your health portal isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in.

Create your account now

Learn why we're making these changes — and how to create your Login.gov or ID.me account.



www.va.gov/sign-in-changes

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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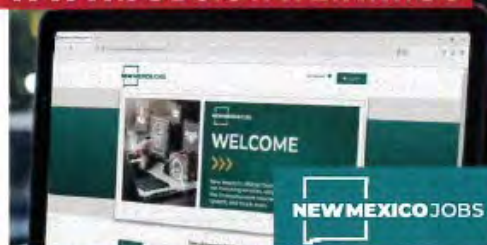


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For program funding visit <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/funding>

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. Send submissions to DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov



THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

HONORING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED MOST



The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized.

WHO

Children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Children of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

WHAT

Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000 in aid for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times.

WHEN

The application deadline is April 9. Scholarship awards must be used within one year.

www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy



THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

HONORING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED MOST

HOW TO APPLY

New and returning applicants must complete an online application and submit to The American Legion National Headquarters.

www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

TO DONATE TO THE LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Visit www.legion.org/donate, or send to American Legion Charities, Attn: Legacy Scholarship Donation, P.O. Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46236

EIN: 42-1553035

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 630-1212

scholarships@legion.org

Follow The American Legion:

www.legion.org/facebook

twitter.com/AmericanLegion



SCAN ME

Stock # 23-001 American Legion

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

On Behalf of
The American Legion
Department of
New Mexico

We are encouraging and inviting those young adults who are eligible for this scholarship to apply. This is what the American Legion is all about, Supporting Our Veteran's and Their Families. Those loved ones who have made the ultimate sacrifice or have been injured for their service have earned this opportunity for their children.

Additional Scholarship opportunities are available for children of all ages and backgrounds, please contact the following with any questions.

The American Legion
Department of
New Mexico
1215 Mountain RD NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505)247-0400

Legacy Scholarship Link

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships/the-american-legion-legacy-scholarship>



DAV Department of NM

2025 Winter Homeless Veteran Stand Down

Date: January 17, 2024
Time: 8:30am– 1:30pm

The Rock at Noon Day
Albuquerque, 2400 2nd St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, USA

About the event

The Disabled American Veterans of New Mexico (DAV) invites you to support the 2025 Homeless Veteran Stand Down, a one-day event dedicated to providing vital services and ongoing support to our veterans experiencing homelessness. This initiative brings together local businesses, non-profits, volunteers, and community members in a collaborative effort to create a welcoming and supportive environment for veterans in need. Whether it's access to food, clothing, medical care, or housing assistance, our goal is to offer immediate help while connecting individuals with long-term resources provided by our community partners across Albuquerque.

This event is more than just a service, it's a beacon of hope, providing a path forward for veterans in Albuquerque and surrounding areas. Breakfast and lunch provided.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services' will be on-site to connect veterans to community resources, local programs, state benefits, transitional housing and medical and behavioral health care.

For more information on how to get involved or donate, contact DAV Department of New Mexico at (505) 294-6193 or davnewmexico@gmail.com.

NEW MEXICO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Pueblo of Isleta Veteran Outreach Event



VETERANS BENEFITS FAIR

Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center

4001 NM-314, Los Lunas NM 87031

Friday, January 24th, 2025

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sign up for VA Healthcare, Veterans Benefits, and other VA Resources.

Learn about the Pact Act, Compact Act and Strong Act.

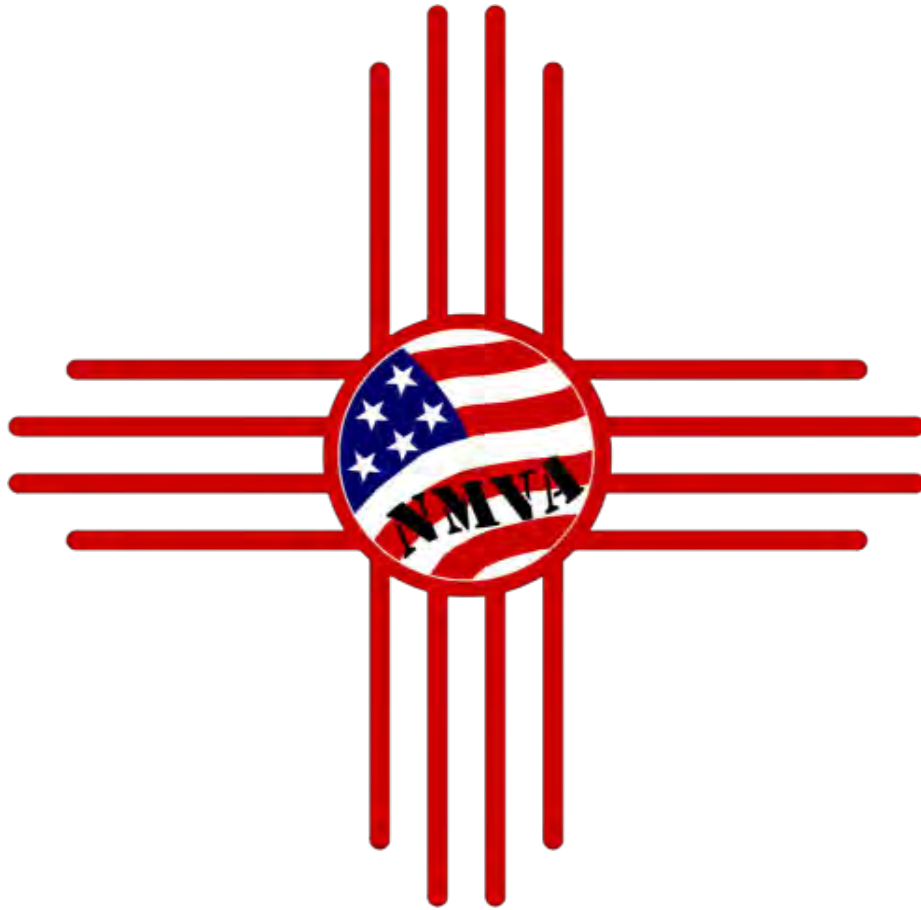
Check the status of a submitted VA Benefits claim.

VA staff will be available to assist Veterans to update your sign-in credentials for the new MyHealtheVet login requirements.

If you would like to sign up for VA Healthcare or benefits, bring a Copy #4 of your DD-214 Discharge document, Medicare or other health insurance cards, and a copy of last year's income taxes.

This is a public event and all Veterans; their families and caretakers are Cordially Invited!

POC: Mr. Terry L. Obago, Program Manager, Southwest Regional Tribal Veterans Program, New Mexico VA Healthcare System, Email: terry.obago@va.gov



New Mexico Veterans Art Veterans Honoring Veterans

Are you a veteran who makes art?

Are you looking for new venues in which to exhibit and sell your art? New Mexico Veterans Art (NMVA) is a 26 year-old, statewide nonprofit whose mission is to promote and exhibit the work of veterans who are artists. NMVA has several exhibitions scheduled for 2025, beginning with a January 25 - March 8, 2025 show at Albuquerque's Open Space Visitors Center for veterans who are photographers. Later in the year, 20 veteran artists can exhibit work at the NM Cancer Center. From October 30 - December 1, 2025 all NMVA members and their spouses/partners can exhibit work at the Step Up Gallery in Los Alamos.

For more information about the photography exhibition, contact Gordon Vanus at grvphoto26@icloud.com To join NMVA contact Patty Gallegos at pcgallegos29@gmail.com (NMVA's \$30 membership fee has been waived until September 30, 2025 thanks to grants received from the State of New Mexico, the National Endowment for the Arts, and ExxonMobil Corporation). Join now! For more information: <https://nmveteransart.com>

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 for any veteran or eligible dependent calling or emailing from anywhere**



Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

DVS staff (9am-4pm)

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

(no appointment needed)

(505) 383-2400

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE region supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@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

Las Cruces/Southwest NM

Miguel Martinez (supervisor)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

miguel.martinez@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

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller (Albuquerque Supervisor)

Belen Business Center

719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Grants/Northwest NM

April Ball

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov

Las Cruces/Southwest NM

Vincent Tellez

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 361-5298

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov

(continued on next page)

Albuquerque (Downtown)

Corey Reidel (starting in February)

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.

500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor

(505) 479-0672

corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Ambrose Oliver

San Juan College Vet Center 4601

College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(505) 916-4835

ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov

Hobbs/Southeast NM

Fred Solis-Littlejohn

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov

Las Cruces/Southwest NM

Clint Anderson

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov

Las Vegas, NM/Northeast NM**Arturo Marlow** (*supervisor*)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Tracy Knox**

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 520-5079

tracy.knox@dvs.nm.gov**Rio Rancho/Northeast NM****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D/room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A

(575) 416-2284

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov**Santa Fe/Northeast NM****Phillip Hernandez**

Bataan Memorial Bldg.

407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Rm 134

(505) 218-3125

phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov**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**Taos/Northeast NM****Leticia “Lety” Cano**

Health and Human Service Bldg.

145 Roy Rd.

(505)-709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov**Woman Veterans Program****Amberly Viner**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov**NM Veterans Business
Outreach Center (ABQ)****Johnny Martinez** (*Director*)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov

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

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