



The Guardian

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

JUNE 2025

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

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

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

New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veteran Pass



Starting July 1, 2025, New Mexico resident Veterans, as defined by House Bill 161, will be eligible for a lifetime pass good for free unlimited day-use and camping access to all New Mexico State Parks. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) and the New Mexico State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) are developing this new benefit implementation. We are also working with the administrative rule changes and will provide information to the public through news releases, social media, and our website as soon as it is available.

House Bill 161 created a new Veteran benefit that provides all New Mexico resident Veterans free access to state parks, including free unlimited day-use and camping access at all locations operated by the State Parks Division of EMNRD. The NM State Parks Lifetime Veteran Pass will cover the pass holder's regular day-use fee, camping fee, and utility fees, excluding reservation fees. The bill was introduced in the 2025 legislative session and signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Members of the community are invited to a [public hearing](#) to discuss proposed rulemaking for the Veteran Park Pass Program. The meeting will provide information, gather public input, and address any concerns.

Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Wendell Chino Building, Pecos Hall (First Floor)

1220 South Saint Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Those wishing to comment on the proposed rule amendment may make oral comments, submit information at the hearing, or submit written comments by June 10, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. via mail or e-mail.

Please mail written comments to:

Jared Langenegger

EMNRD, State Parks Division

1220 South Saint Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Or submit comments by e-mail to: emnrd-parkscomments@emnrd.nm.gov

NMDVS will issue these passes starting July 1st. Veterans interested in taking advantage of this benefit should contact our benefits department for an application by calling **1-866-433-8387** or emailing vet.benefits@dvs.nm.gov.

Property Tax Exemption Events

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is still accepting applications from Veterans for the new property tax exemptions signed into law on March 20, 2025.

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is now \$10,000 and will be applied to the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse's 2025 notice of value. In 2026 and subsequent tax years, the amount shall be adjusted for inflation.

For the tax year 2026, the Disabled Veterans Exemption allows for the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse to apply for an adjusted exemption in an amount equal to the percentage of the Veteran's disability as determined by federal law. Veterans who choose to add the new Disabled Veteran tax exemption must submit an application to NMDVS and file it with their County Assessor. These exemptions are designed to provide financial relief to all Veterans for their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.

NMDVS has scheduled Veteran property tax exemption events throughout the state to explain the changes. NMDVS will also have Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) on-site to assist Veterans and their eligible dependents with filing VA claims and obtaining federal and state benefits.

Taos	6/20	Taos County Assessors Office, 105 Albright St. Taos, NM 87571	9am-3pm
Carlsbad	7/1	San Jose Senior Center, 2814 San Jose Blvd., Carlsbad, NM 88220	9am-3pm
Gallup	7/18	Gallup Sports Complex, 925 Park Ave., Gallup, NM 87301	9am-3pm

Documents needed to verify eligibility:

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

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

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

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



TAOS COUNTY ASSESSORS VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT

TAOS COUNTY ASSESSORS OFFICE

105 Albright Street, Taos, NM 87571—In the Commission Chambers.

Friday June 20, 2025 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM



NM Dept of Veterans' Services & Taos 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 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 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

EDDY COUNTY ASSESSORS **VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT**

SAN JOSE SENIOR CENTER

2814 San Jose Blvd, Carlsbad, NM 88220

Tuesday July 1, 2025

9:00 AM — 3:00 PM



NM Dept of Veterans' Services & Eddy 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 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 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

Honoring Women Veterans Day June 12th, 2025



June 12, 2025, marks Women Veterans Day, a day to commemorate their courage and sacrifice and amplify their stories and ensure their legacy is recognized. Women Veterans Day was established to acknowledge the 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which granted women the right to serve as permanent military members.

From nurses and medics on the battlefield to pilots, intelligence analysts, and commanders, women have played an instrumental part in shaping military operations across decades. Their sacrifices often come with unique challenges, including overcoming bias, breaking barriers, and advocating for equal recognition of their service.

Many face distinct issues after their service, such as accessing healthcare that addresses gender-specific concerns, coping with the psychological impact of combat, and navigating transition programs that don't always account for their unique experiences.

As June 12, 2025 approaches, let us all take a moment to reflect on the courage, resilience, and contributions of women Veterans, not only a day of remembrance but a celebration of progress and a commitment to building a future where every woman's service is recognized, valued, and celebrated.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is dedicated to treating women Veterans with the dignity and respect earned by all Veterans. The Women Veterans Program provides the highest quality service and advocacy for women Veterans and their families. For information on the program, contact Women Veteran Program Manager Amberly Viner directly at (505) 372-9106. Email: Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov

NMDVS Women Veterans Conference June 14th

In-person attendance registration for the conference is now CLOSED.

We have reached capacity and are working on a virtual option and will release details on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) pages and on our website at www.nmdvs.org

This year's conference theme, "Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future," will bring together community leaders and advocates as we celebrate women Veterans' contributions and achievements and their ongoing resilience.



8:00am - 4:00pm at the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors Event Center (GAAR), 1635 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

Attendees: State Benefits personnel will be at the conference to assist eligible Veterans and unmarried widows/widowers applying for property tax waivers, exemptions, and park passes. Our Certified Veterans Service Officers will assist with VA benefits claims and help with questions regarding VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment, disability compensation, and 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 and any other VA correspondence to claim benefits
- NM DL, ID, voter registration card, or most recent NM State Personal Income Tax Return

Claim the benefits you have earned! Call NMDVS at 1-866-433-8387, or visit www.nmdvs.org/

The D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families



With the support of the New Mexico State Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is working with the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) in a multi-phase project to design a coordinated care system for New Mexican service members, Veterans, and their families. In the project's first phase, the IVMF conducted an assessment to understand the needs of the military-connected community and examined the viability of a coordinated care system for the state.

IVMF found that participating Veteran-serving organizations that felt that a coordinated care network would be of value to New Mexico Veterans, but questions remained on how best to implement such a network. In the project's current phase, the IVMF is working closely with NMDVS and other affected state agencies to engage with Veteran-serving organizations across the state to collect their thoughts and feedback on the design of a care network. With this information, the IVMF will create a roadmap that outlines the steps necessary to implement a coordinated care network in New Mexico.

NMDVS is working with IVMF to inform Veteran organizations about an opportunity to participate in a virtual focus group this month. The focus groups aim to gather the community's input on developing the statewide coordinated care network to connect Veterans and their families to health and human services in their home communities. Insight gathered at these sessions will influence the design of the network's sustainability, leadership, and regional collaborative approaches.

Upcoming Virtual Focus Groups:

Date	Time (MDT)	Registration Link
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Thursday, June 12,	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Register Here
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Wednesday, June 18,	10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Register Here
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Those who work with the New Mexico Veteran population understand their needs best. A wide range of voices must be included to ensure the network's design is as effective as possible to best serve New Mexico Veterans, service members, and their families.

We encourage you to attend a session. If you cannot participate, you can still make a difference by sharing this opportunity with others within your organization or your network, who may have valuable insights to contribute. For more information on the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, visit the IVMF's project [website here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the project director, Vincent DelSignore, at vrdelsig@sy.edu.



Upcoming DVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits

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

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

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

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

Albuquerque	6/20	NATI Conference 11000 Broadway Blvd. NE	8am-5pm
Artesia	6/17	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	6/10, 6/24	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	6/24	Military & Family Readiness Center	2:30pm-5:30pm
Capitan	8/6, 10/1, 11/5	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	6/11, 7/9, 8/13	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	6/25, 7/23, 8/27	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-3pm
Española	7/2, 8/6, 9/3	Workforce Connection Ctr. 56 Co Rd. 126B	10am-2pm
Holloman AFB	6/9, 6/23, 7/14	Military Family Readiness Center	8am-10am
Ruidoso	7/9, 9/10, 11/5	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Socorro/Belen	1st & 3rd Tue.	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm

The following are weekly outreach visits:

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

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

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

Memorial Day 2025



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) participated in many Memorial Day events throughout the state. In Guadalupe County, Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera spoke Saturday, May 24th, at the annual Memorial Day Parade and Luncheon in Santa Rosa, NM, held at the David J. Flores Veterans Center.

Secretary Herrera shared a message about the true meaning of Memorial Day and reflected on honoring the brave men and women who sacrificed for our freedom. Veterans, family, and community members filled the Center for a day of remembrance and connection.

Photo: (left to right) Guadalupe County Veterans Andrew Sanchez and Willie Griego, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera

Hundreds gathered at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque on Memorial Day to honor our fallen heroes. Lt. Governor Howie Morales addressed the crowd of Veterans and their families.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera met with Veterans during the event and presented 100-year-old WWII Army Veteran Pfc. William Budagher with a challenge coin. The heartfelt ceremony included a missing man fly-over, wreath laying, musical performances, and playing of "Taps."



Memorial Day began at the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial with the Annual Flag March to the memorial honoring the brave men and women who gave everything in service to our country. Following the march, NMDVS Deputy Secretary Eric James addressed attendees, reflecting on the sacrifices made by so many service members.

From the quiet reflection of the half-scale wall to the echo of "Taps" across the valley, every moment was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made for our freedom. Every Memorial Day, flags are also placed on each grave at the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, just below the memorial. NMDVS, in collaboration with the Westphal Foundation, wants to thank everyone who joined us in honoring our heroes.

The Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Memorial Wall are at 34 Country Club Rd. Angel Fire, NM 87710. For more information, visit the NMDVS website at <https://www.nmdvs.org/nm-memorials/> and the David Westphal Veterans Foundation at <https://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org/>

(more event photos on next page)

NMDVS Memorial Day Events



WWII Veteran Sylvestre Sisneros Celebrates 100th on Memorial Day



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) was honored to be a part of the celebration of World War II Navy Veteran Sylvestre Sisneros' 100th birthday. Born in Abo Viejo, New Mexico on May 26th, 1925, following his time in the Civilian Conservation Corps, Sisneros joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18, and served as a navigator on the escort aircraft carrier USS Salamaua during the Pacific campaign. His service was marked by resilience, as he navigated through a monstrous typhoon in the South Pacific with winds reaching up to 80 miles an hour. Nearing the end of the war and during the liberation of the Philippines, he and his crew dodged Kamikaze attacks by the Japanese.

"We were bombed," Sisneros explained. "Suicide planes. They put two bombs in our ship, and a lot of people got killed."

The flight deck of the aircraft carrier was on fire, along with the hangar below, which carried their torpedoes and bombs. Specialists removed the fuses, then a group of soldiers, including Sisneros, tossed them in the sea so they wouldn't explode on board.

Around 100 people were badly injured, and fifteen were killed, including two men Sisneros knew from home. Long after returning to New Mexico from the war, Sisneros made it his mission to locate the families of the two sailors, Feliciano Montano and David Pohl.

"He came back and actually recognized two New Mexicans who didn't come home, and he made sure that they were honored sixty years later for their families to understand what happened to them," said NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera who presented a plaque to Sisneros commemorating all of his hard work to make sure his fellow sailors killed in the line of duty were not forgotten.



After returning home, he married and raised four daughters, establishing successful utilities, agriculture, and real estate ventures. Beyond his military service, Sisneros led a life characterized by entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to family. As he reached this remarkable milestone, Sisneros remains optimistic about the future. He was determined to continue celebrating birthdays and remarked, "I'll see 101. I'll see 102. I think I will."

The centennial celebration was a tribute to Sisneros' life and legacy. Family, friends, and community members honored a man whose life exemplifies courage and service. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera called him "a distinguished Son of New Mexico and a true American Hero," praising his enduring humility and bravery, qualities that continue to inspire generations.

Hero Finally Comes Home After 80 Years

After eight decades, a New Mexico hometown hero finally returns home. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Pvt. Ben F. Leslie, of Capitan, who was killed during World War II, has been officially accounted for. Pvt. Leslie served with honor in Battery H, 200th Coast Artillery Regiment — a unit that became legendary for its bravery during the early days of the war in the Pacific. Deployed to the Philippines in 1941, Leslie was among the thousands of American and Filipino troops captured by Imperial Japanese forces following the fall of Bataan in April 1942.

He was taken as a prisoner of war and endured unimaginable hardship in captivity. Tragically, at the age of 31, Pvt. Leslie died on January 9, 1945, when the Enoura Maru, a Japanese transport ship carrying American POWs, was bombed in Takao Harbor (now Kaohsiung, Taiwan). His remains, long unidentified, were buried as "Unknown" in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.



Thanks to advances in forensic technology and years of tireless work by the DPAA, Pvt. Leslie's remains were identified through a combination of dental, anthropological, and DNA analysis, including mitochondrial DNA provided by family members. He was officially declared accounted for earlier this year, bringing long-awaited closure to his loved ones and his community. Pvt. Leslie will be laid to rest with full military honors in July, 2025 in White Oaks, New Mexico, not far from the quiet mountain town of Capitan, where he was born and raised. Like many from the "Greatest Generation," his sacrifice reminds us of the price paid for freedom.

THREE MORE LISTED AS PRISONERS OF JAPANESE

Two men from Capitan and one from Lemitar have been announced as prisoners of the Japanese in the Philippines.

They are: Pfc. Ben F. Leslie, son of Mrs. Eva Leslie, and Pvt. Mike S. Peralta, brother of Mrs. Margarito S. Chavez, both of Capitan, and Pvt. Lorenzo Lopez, son of Mr. and Mrs. Juan M. Lopez, Lemitar.

The U.S. Army's 250th Birthday

June 14, 2025, marks a historic milestone as the U.S. Army celebrates its 250th birthday. Established in 1775, the Continental Army, led by General George Washington, answered the colonies' urgent need for a disciplined and unified force to confront British rule. This year's birthday theme, "This we'll defend," was first used as a battle cry by the Continental Army. The U.S. Army has evolved into one of the most formidable military institutions in the world. This occasion commemorates the Army's founding and honors the enduring legacy of service, sacrifice, and commitment to the nation's principles.



The U.S. Army's history is rich with remarkable achievements and pivotal moments. From securing American independence during the Revolutionary War, to playing a critical role in preserving the Union during the Civil War, the Army has been a cornerstone of the nation's defense. In recent decades, the U.S. Army, at the forefront of global conflicts such as World Wars I and II, has been instrumental in addressing modern challenges, including counterterrorism operations and humanitarian missions worldwide.

The 250th birthday allows us to reflect on these accomplishments and the courage and sacrifice of those who have served. However, this is more than just a celebration of its past. We express deep gratitude for the service of past and present Soldiers and reaffirm our collective commitment to supporting the men and women who have worn or currently wear the uniform of the United States Army. Their courage inspires future generations and the spirit of liberty they defend will endure forever.

"This we'll defend!"

NMDVS Veterans Conference 2025

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) hosted its first All Veterans Conference on May 3rd. This event brought together Veterans, advocates, service providers, and community leaders from across the state for a day of empowerment, education, and connection.

Held at the Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino, the conference featured presentations from each department of NMDVS. It addressed New Mexico Veterans' needs and concerns, focusing on building stronger bonds and collaborating with Tribal Veterans and Veteran community organizations. Keynote speakers included Dr. Breton Weintraub, Executive Director of the New Mexico VA Healthcare System, and Susan Jurica, Associate Director for Patient Care Services of the New Mexico VA, who shared updates on the VA Healthcare system and facilities in New Mexico.

Gary Williams, AARP Associate State Director for Community Outreach, presented an in-depth look at legacy planning for Veterans and seniors, providing information for caregivers and how to avoid becoming victims of identity theft and fraud.

Attendees participated in an interactive Eagle and Groundhog Energy Exercise workshop with Adelbert Quiver and enjoyed dance performances from Lightning Boy Foundation, which is based in the Tewa Pueblos of Northern New Mexico.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera conveyed the connection of the conference's impact: "This event is about more than just information—it's about building relationships, friendships, and a more connected Veteran community. I am humbled to be the Cabinet Secretary of NMDVS to ensure that we bring everyone the benefits you have earned and that you and your families are entitled to."

The conference also featured networking with representatives from local Veteran-related nonprofits, an on-site resource fair, assistance with VA and state benefits claims, healthcare programs, and more. The women Veteran breakout session covered the issues and concerns that uniquely affect women Veterans in our state. New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Cabinet Secretary Josett D. Monette spoke at the tribal breakout to address the needs of our tribal Veteran population.

Our annual conference showcased NMDVS's commitment to ensuring every Veteran in New Mexico receives the recognition, support, and services they have earned. We extend our deep appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions of our Veteran community.

For more information on future events or to connect with NMDVS services and claim the benefits you deserve, call our offices at 1-866-433-8387 or visit

<https://www.nmdvs.org>



Photo: Lightning Boy Foundation member performs hoop dance globe formation.

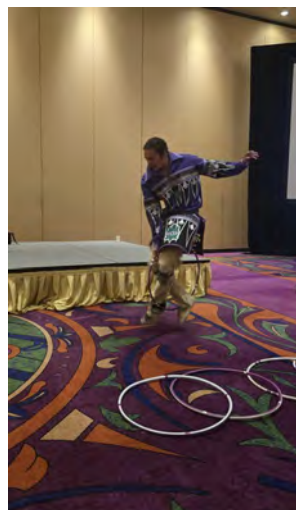


Photo: (left) Eric James, Deputy Cabinet Secretary NMDVS (right) Al Nokusille-Cata delivers invocation in Tewa and English.

NMDVS Veterans Conference 2025



Photos: (left) Robin Wilson, Field Services Director, NMDVS explains the role of Veteran Service Officers (right) Jamison Herrera, Cabinet Secretary, NMDVS welcomes Veterans to the conference



Photos: (left) Josett D. Monette Cabinet Secretary, Indian Affairs Department, Beverly Charley, Tribal Liaison, NMDVS, Jamison Herrera, Cabinet Secretary, NMDVS (left center) Dr. Breton Weintraub, Executive Director, NM VA Healthcare System (right center) Lightning Boy Foundation hoop dancer (right) Jenelle Roybal, Governor, Pueblo of Pojoaque is presented with a challenge coin from Jamison Herrera, Cabinet Secretary, NMDVS



Photo: (left) Susan Jurica, ADPCS/Nurse Executive, VA New Mexico presents VA Women's Clinic information in Women Veteran Breakout session (right) Adelbert Quiver, conducts Eagle and Groundhog Energy Exercise with conference attendees

The 81st Anniversary of D-Day

Every year on June 6th, the world pauses to remember the anniversary of D-Day, one of the most pivotal moments in modern history. On this day in 1944, Allied forces launched Operation Overlord, a massive invasion of Nazi-occupied France during World War II.

Over 156,000 troops from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and other Allied nations stormed the beaches of Normandy in what became the largest amphibious military assault in history. It was a turning point in the war, marking the beginning of the end for Germany's regime in Europe.

The operation was carefully planned and shrouded in secrecy. Thousands of ships and aircraft supported the landings, and paratroopers had already dropped behind enemy lines hours before the beach assaults began. The beaches, code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword, were heavily fortified by German defenses.

The fighting was brutal, especially at Omaha Beach, where American forces faced fierce resistance. Yet, despite the overwhelming odds, the courage and determination of the Allied troops secured a vital foothold in France.



Dozens of ships line the coast off Omaha Beach in Normandy during the D-Day landings.



On the anniversary, the beaches and cemeteries in Normandy become places of reverence and remembrance, reminding us of the extraordinary bravery shown that day.

As the number of living D-Day veterans dwindles with each passing year, the importance of preserving their legacy grows stronger. The anniversary is not just a moment to look back, but also a call to educate future generations about the values of courage, unity, and sacrifice. D-Day stands as a testament to what can be achieved when nations come together to fight tyranny and defend liberty.

While it's impossible to know the exact number of New Mexicans who participated in D-Day, it's estimated to be around 49,500. Our state had the highest rate of service among all 48 states at the time, meaning a significant portion of these New Mexicans were likely involved in various aspects of the war effort, including D-Day.

E Company, 16th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, participating in the first wave of assaults during D-Day in Normandy,



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes David Henley, Veteran Service Officer II in the Alamogordo office of the Field Services Division. David has been with NMDVS for three and a half years after transferring from NM Workforce Solutions.

David's supervisor, Robin Wilson, Field Services Director, describes him as "Dedicated and compassionate in his role as a Veteran Service Officer, consistently going above and beyond to ensure every veteran he serves receives the care and benefits they've earned. His thoughtful, well-researched casework reflects both his deep understanding of VA regulations and his commitment to advocacy. A trusted presence in Alamogordo, David is often the first call Veterans make when they need support, guidance, or simply someone who understands."

What brought you to NMDVS?

To assist Veterans in a greater capacity.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

Alamogordo, NM, is my hometown, and Holloman AFB. I'm a USAF Veteran.

Could you tell us a little about your hobbies and what you enjoy in your free time?

I spend time fixing up my old truck and driving it, four-wheeling my jeep, RV Camping, boating at the lake, and working and fixing up my property with my wife, Karen.

What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

Working with Veterans and the Veteran community, awesome NMDVS staff, seeing positive results from the assistance provided, and always learning new data.

One example of David's commitment to Veterans occurred when a community member called the Alamogordo office wanting to donate a mobility scooter to a needy Veteran. David met with the person to inspect the scooter and saw its potential. After charging the battery and cleaning it well, the scooter sat in storage for a couple of months before David received an email from the stepson of Mr. Henry Cooper, a Veteran, looking for help with a mobility scooter. David coordinated a pick-up for Mr. Cooper to come in, and after he sat down and turned the key, Mr. Cooper was out of the building and into the sunset.



Photos: (top) David Henley at work in Alamogordo, (middle) donated scooter, (bottom) Henry Cooper picking up his mobility scooter

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



New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center

"Boots to Business" Classes

Join us at the New Mexico Veterans' Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for our dynamic "Boots to Business" classes! We're passionately committed to empowering Veterans, transitioning service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses ready to launch or expand their businesses.



Experience these engaging, full-day sessions held from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. On-base privileges are required for the sessions listed below. We can't wait to support you on your entrepreneurial journey!

City	Dates	Location
Clovis, NM	July 17 & 18	Cannon Air-Force Base
Alamogordo, NM	August 7 & 8	Holloman Air-Force Base
Albuquerque, NM	August 11 & 12	Kirtland Air-Force Base

The Boots to Business Program

These free, two-day introductory entrepreneurship courses are designed to equip you with the essential knowledge and tools to confidently launch or grow your business. You'll dive into the core elements of small business ownership, learn how to evaluate the feasibility of your business idea, and discover how to craft a winning business plan—an essential roadmap for any aspiring or current entrepreneur.

Participants will also gain insight into a wide range of key business concepts, including how to access capital for start-up or expansion, tap into valuable technical assistance, and explore federal contracting opportunities.

For additional information about the Boots to Business program or the New Mexico VBOC, contact the VBOC advisor Christina Stover by email at christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov or call (505) 469-8501.

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

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

The VBOC is funded by a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) grant managed by NMDVS 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.

NMDVS 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 NMDVS 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.

We Would Love To Help You Promote Your Business!

Register your veteran-owned
business with VBOC today!

Scan the code below to fill out the form.



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS





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

The Importance of Life Insurance for Veterans

For the men and women who have served in the military, transitioning to civilian life often comes with a unique set of challenges, financial planning being one of the most critical. Among the many considerations Veterans must make, life insurance stands out as a vital tool for long-term financial security and peace of mind.

Veterans, like all individuals, have families who depend on them. Life insurance ensures that in the event of the veteran's passing, their loved ones are financially supported. This is particularly important for those with young children, spouses, or aging parents who may rely on their income or assistance.



While active-duty service members are typically covered under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), this coverage ends shortly after leaving the military. Veterans can convert their SGLI term life insurance coverage after separation from service to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), which offers term life coverage equal to the amount held under SGLI. Veterans must apply for VGLI within one year and 120 days from their date of separation. If they apply within 240 days following separation, they do not have to answer any health questions.

Veterans may also choose whole life insurance coverage through VA's newest life insurance program—Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)—which offers guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance to Veterans age 80 and under with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%) and no time limit to apply. VALife offers up to \$40,000 in coverage, has no health questions for enrollment, is fully automated online with instant decisions, has competitive premiums that will never increase for the life of the policy, and offers cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.

Some Veterans with service-connected disabilities may also qualify for up to \$200,000 in coverage through Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI). VMLI offers mortgage protection insurance for those who received a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant to adapt a home to fit their unique service-connected disability needs.

Life insurance isn't just a policy—it's a promise. For veterans, it's a way to honor their continued responsibility to protect and provide for their families. With the right life insurance in place, veterans can gain peace of mind knowing that even after their service ends, their legacy of care and commitment continues.

You can learn more about these programs by visiting VA's life insurance webpage at va.gov/life-insurance.

BE VIGILANT OF SCAMS



benefits and services, when accessing them, or authorizing others to do so.

The Federal Trade Commission estimated that in **2022 alone**, Veterans reported **\$292M losses to fraud**, this number only represents the fraud that has been detected. **Romance & similar Internet schemes** are up **71% from 2017**. Keeping yourself safe from scams is critical when applying for



Companies who advertise VA benefits can only be obtained with their help. These companies may not be recognized by VA and may be attempting to charge illegal fees.



Validate: If you are interested in working with a Veteran Service Organization (VSO), agent, or attorney, use the Office of General Counsel Accreditation tool to confirm and validate their credentials. www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp is an official source to use to verify.



Do not sign forms that are to provide "behind-the-scenes" claims assistance

TIPS TO AVOID VETERAN TARGETED SCAMS

Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There's been an increase in phishing (Email), vishing (phone), and social media scams targeting Veterans, their family members, caregivers, and survivors to access their finances and benefits, or to submit claims on their behalf.

Beware of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service.



DO'S

- **Submit applications securely** online on va.gov or other federal websites or in-person through Federal agencies offering a service. Those agencies will assist in gathering evidence necessary to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply.
- **Be cautious of:**
 - **Aggressive companies** who may try to pressure you to sign their contract through frequent communications or by insisting "you must act now or lose your chance for benefits."
 - **Companies who claim to be contacting you on behalf of VA or to have a special relationship with VA.** Contact VA at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of any message received.
- **Use two-factor identification, like login.gov, when available.**

DON'TS

- **Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay** an unauthorized company a percentage of your benefit payment in exchange for their assistance with your VA claim. If you need help filing a claim, there are representatives of VSOs, agents, and attorneys who have been accredited by VA to assist you.
- **Do not sign a blank form** for someone else to complete later. Always review the completed form before signing and keep a copy for yourself.
- **Do not be fooled by companies who advertise they have special relationships** with medical professionals and can guarantee your benefits award. If they are defrauding the Federal government, you could be held responsible for paying those benefits back.
- **Do not provide identifying information** like your social security number, medical records, or other personally identifiable information to anyone offering claims assistance before confirming their credentials using the Office of General Counsel Accreditation tool.

REPORTING

For healthcare-related fraud, please contact VA Healthcare Fraud, VHA Office of Integrity and Compliance Helpline 1-866-842-4357 (VHA-HELP) or VA Benefits Fraud 1-800-827-1000.

For all non-VA fraud report to Federal Trade Commission.
<http://reportfraud.ftc.gov>



The benefits you've earned are within reach, and a Certified Veteran Service Officer is ready to help you claim them at no charge. Don't let the complexity of the process stand in your way- reach out today and take the first step toward the support and compensation you deserve. Avoid scams, contact your local NMDVS VSO, and get started on securing the benefits you've earned through your service! Call 866-433-8387 or visit one of our field offices throughout the state. Visit <https://www.nmdvs.org/> for more information.

Veterans' Community Bulletin Board

The following pages feature events and informational flyers provided to the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) by Veterans and community service agencies. These flyers are published for the convenience of New Mexico's Veteran community. Inclusion in *The Guardian* does not constitute an endorsement by NMDVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

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

Please note:

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

Please send you submissions to DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov





ANGEL FIRE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Discover a Place of Honor and Healing

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

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



The half-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall

An Experience of Honor, Healing, and History

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

The Memorial is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services in collaboration with the David Westphal Veterans Foundation.

It continues to serve as a place of reflection, education, and community.

Open daily, admission is free and open to all.

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



For details, directions and more, visit
www.nmdvs.org or www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org

GoodSkills

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training



TO REGISTER FOR CLASS: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to
www.goodwillnm.org/events... OR CALL 505.314.1875...OR EMAIL
mimartinez@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE.



JUNE 2025

FREE CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY !

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

DigitalSkills

COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software etc
INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers & online safety.

EXCEL- BEGINNERS: Intro to spreadsheet features: sort, format, filter & basic formulas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LifeSkills/WellnessSkills

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

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

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

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

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

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

EmploymentSkills

Career Compass Employment Skills Series (NESW):

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

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

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

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

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

WOMEN VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, June 12TH
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Location:
New Mexico Veterans Memorial
1100 Louisiana Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Duke city band plays after
movie, Light refreshments, door
prizes, brief suicide prevention
training, proclamation reading



For more information about this event,
please Christina.Camacho@va.gov

Join us for a Veterans Town Hall

Discussion on:

Veteran-related issues such as access to affordable housing, transportation, job opportunities, VA healthcare funding, local VA services, and mental health resources. This town hall offers a vital opportunity for veterans, their families, and community members to voice their concerns, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue with local leaders.



**Congresswoman
Melanie Stansbury**



**Representative
Debbie Sariñana
USAF Veteran**



**Senator
Harold Pope
USAF Veteran**



**Frank Smith
USMC Veteran**



Tuesday, June 17th



5:00 PM - 6:00 PM



**Manzano High School cafeteria
12200 Lomas Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87112**

**RSVP using the QR code or
link below**



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1y4TdJ2u1A>



Saluting Trust Newsletter

According to the 2022 BBB Scam Tracker™ Risk Report, **military consumers reported higher losses than non-military consumers.** To increase awareness, BBB® produces Saluting Trust, **a monthly e-newsletter that provides timely consumer education resources** from BBB and our trusted partners serving the military and veteran community.



**Military
Personnel**



**Military
Veterans**



**Military
Families**

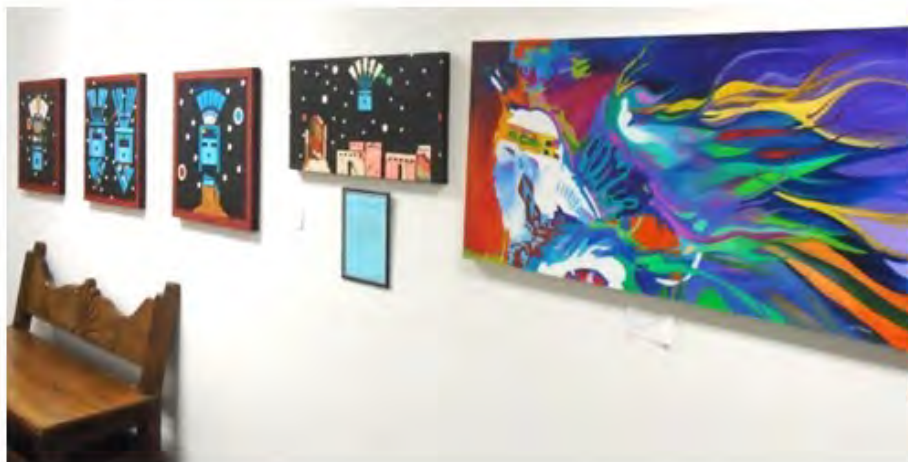
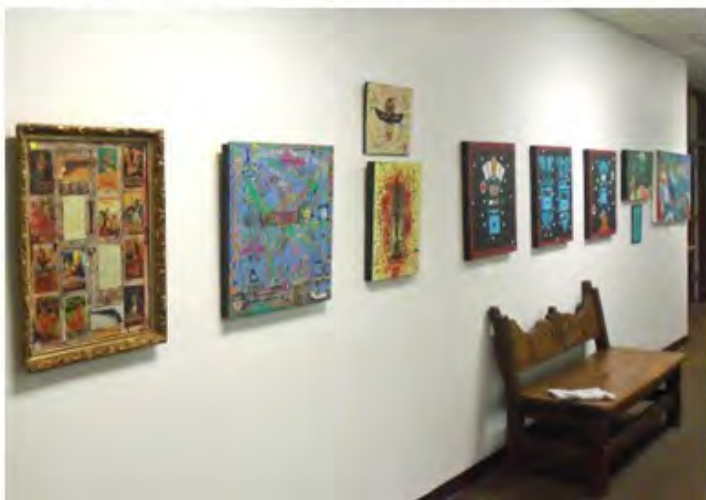


Stay informed! Subscribe to the BBB Saluting Trust newsletter. **[BBB.org/salutingtrust](https://www.bbb.org/salutingtrust)**

Santa Fe Veteran Art Honoring Service Through Art Santa Fe City Hall

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

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





ALBUQUERQUE FISHER HOUSE



VA



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



IS YOUR FAMILY MEMBER ELIGIBLE? ASK YOUR VA CARE TEAM

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

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

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



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

because A Family's Love
is Good Medicine

3RD ANNUAL *Patriot Palooza*

Join us in celebrating and
supporting our Veterans!



Route 66 car show

COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

EMPLOYERS

NETWORKING
OPPORTUNITIES

ENTERTAINMENT



Saturday, June 14, 2025
10AM-1PM

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO RSVP OR
REQUEST A TABLE!



5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108



Hosted by Goodwill Industries
of NM's Veterans Services Team



Questions? Call us:
505.881.6401 x1941

Goodwill
Industries of New Mexico 



New Mexico Aging Services is thrilled to invite New Mexico artists to submit their work for the 47th Annual Conference on Aging that is taking place in September 2025!

We are seeking a New Mexico-based artist to design original artwork inspired by this year's theme: **EngAGE as you Age**

EngAGE as you Age celebrates aging as an **active, empowered, and meaningful journey**. It encourages older adults to remain involved - physically, socially, intellectually, and civically. The theme highlights **joy, vitality, and connection** through lifelong learning, community participation, and the value of intergenerational relationships. We invite artwork that captures this spirit of **engagement, growth, and purpose throughout life**.

The selected piece will be featured on the official 2025 Commemorative Conference Poster, the conference program, and across New Mexico Aging services' social media platforms.

Submission Details:

- Deadline: June 15, 2025, by 11:59 PM MDT
- Artist Honorarium: \$1,500 (flat rate)
- Note: A licensing agreement will be required upon selection

If you or someone you know creates art that reflects the beauty of aging and community in New Mexico, we encourage you to apply!

Please contact altsd.coa@altsd.nm.gov with any questions.

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK



Rio Grande Valley
Blue Star Mothers



OPERATION PATRIOTIC PRIDE

The Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers invites the community to join us in packing and shipping 425 care packages to our service members.

June 21, 2025

9 AM-11 AM

Troop Support Center

2919 2nd St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Please check out our website:

<https://www.rgvnbsm.org/> and our

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rgvbsm>.

Thank you for helping us show appreciation and gratitude to those serving overseas.

To donate items for these care packages, please scan the QR code below.





**The New Mexico VA in Partnership
with RoadRunner Food Bank and
ONE ALBUQUERQUE**

Hosts:

Monthly Food Distribution

Every 4 th Thursday of the Month

Thursday, June 26, 2025

9 a.m.- 11 a.m. or until all food supply is passed out.

Located:

Veteran's Memorial Park

1100 Louisiana Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

Veterans, Active Duty, and Families

Do You Want to Learn the Basics of Fly Fishing?

The Bosque Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Fly & Vets

Invite you to

Fly Fishing 101—A Fly Fishing Clinic for Beginners



THIS FREE, ONE-DAY CLINIC MEETS FROM

8:30-4:00 ON JUNE 28 AT THE

GOODWILL BUILDING

5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ALBUQUERQUE

THIS CLINIC IS BYOL (BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH)

AND DOES NOT REQUIRE A TROUT UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND

For Information or to Register,

Contact

Jeff Harrell

flynangler@gmail.com or 505-699-1577



The poster features a light blue background with a large American flag at the bottom. At the top left, an eagle is in flight. At the top right, a soldier in silhouette stands with a rifle, holding a large American flag. Three red stars are positioned above the main title. The title '5th ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a dark blue and red banner reads 'VETERAN LUNCHEON', flanked by two red starburst shapes containing the word 'FREE'. The location and date are listed in red text, followed by a list of activities in white text with blue outlines, all set against the American flag background.

**5th ANNUAL
4TH OF JULY**

FREE VETERAN LUNCHEON FREE

**LEGACY CHURCH EAST CAMPUS
4701 WYOMING BLVD
ALBUQUERQUE, NM, 87109**

**FRIDAY, JULY 4TH, 2025
11 AM - 2 PM**

**RESOURCE TABLES
DOOR PRIZES
50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS
GOOD FOOD
GUEST SPEAKERS
GOOD COMPANY**



Friday, July 18, 2025
9am - 4pm
Gallup Sports Complex
925 Park Ave
Gallup, NM 87301

**FREE
Event**



**CITY OF
GALLUP**



9:00am Posting of Colors

9:15am Welcome Address

9:30am - Presentations & Activities

12:00pm-4:00pm Gourd Dance
(Please bring your own chairs)

MC: Michael Salabiye, DBMHS

Arena Director: Harrison Brown

Head Gourd Dancer: Sam Gibson, Black Creek Society

Head Singer: Adrian Yazzie

9:00am - 4:00pm Resource Fair
(Non-Profit Organizations only)

Remember
Everyone
Deployed

FOOD VENDOR
ON SITE

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

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

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

**** NO SOLICITING ****

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

ARE YOU A VETERAN IN SEARCH OF GUIDANCE?

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

NATIONAL VETERANS WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER 2025 RETREAT SCHEDULE

NEW DATE ADDED!!

April 6-13

April 27- May 4

June 1-8

September 7-14

October 19-26

Retreats offer complimentary lodging, meals, and a variety of activities such as massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding, and much more! Please note that travel expenses are not included.

Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

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

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

505-501-8337

retreats@vethealingcenter.org

Apply Today!



Donate Today!



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

AUG 2 2025 **Veterans - Disabled Veterans - Active Duty**
Fly Fishing 101 Class - It's Free!
Eagle Nest Lake State Park



Fly Fishing 101 Beginners Class
For Disabled Veterans - Veterans - Active Duty
Aug. 2, 2025 - Eagle Nest Lake State Park - It's free!

- Learn how to fly fish
- Bring a military buddy
- Lunch provided! - Door prizes!

Space is limited - Sign-up with the link below
Or scan QR code

tu.myeventscenter.com/event/101august2-105510



POC: Doc Thompson - Trout Warriors Volunteer - Email: doct@flyfishnewmexico.com



4th Annual Dennis Geshel Memorial Golf Tournament

Benefiting Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico

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



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

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



For registration and more information, please contact
 Mark Reynolds at 505.321.2968 or Adeline Herrera at 505.250.6662

<https://www.honorflightnorthernnm.org/golf-tournament.html>

31st ANNUAL

THE ROTARY DEL NORTE FOUNDATION

GOLF TOURNAMENT

BENEFITING VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 AT 8 AM

**SANTA ANA
GOLF CLUB**

288 PRAIRIE STAR ROAD
SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NM 87004

**TEAM
REGISTRATION**

\$700

**FOUR PERSON
SCRAMBLE**

18 HOLES

**FOOD
PROVIDED**

BREAKFAST BURRITOS
& CATERED LUNCH

REGISTER AT WWW.NMVIC.ORG

HOLE SPONSORS AND HELPERS NEEDED

POC - JERRY BECKER EMAIL: jerry.becker@nmvic.us

BENEFITING THE VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS & THE ROTARY DEL NORTE FOUNDATION



NMDVS Field Offices in New Mexico

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

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

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 437-4635

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

May Chavez (*ABQ metro supervisor*)

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

(505) 527-2302

helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (Bernalillo/Moriarty)

David Swisher

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

(505) 525-3331

david.swisher@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (Bernalillo/Moriarty) Albuquerque Metro Area

Melissa Sena

Good Will Office
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE

(505) 274-0393

melissa.sena@dvs.nm.gov

James Brandon

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

(505) 470-7503

james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VARO)

Corey Riedel

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

(505) 479-0672

corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

Joseph Lovato

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

(505) 623-1729

joseph.lovato@dvs.nm.gov

(no appointment needed)

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller (*Albuquerque Supervisor*)

Belen Business Center
719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Carlsbad

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday

VFW Post 8703
1916 San Jose Blvd.

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

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov

Danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (*SE region supervisor*)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Ambrose Oliver

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 916-4835

ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Jenny Iser

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 327-2861

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

Grants/Northwest NM

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

Tribal Liaison**Beverly Charley**

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

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