



The Guardian

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

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

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

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

Honoring our Forgotten Heroes

The unclaimed cremated remains of 36 Veterans were laid to rest with full military honors on Thursday, September 18th, during the 2025 Forgotten Heroes Funeral Honors Ceremony.

The morning began in Albuquerque at Legacy Church, where the Women Veteran Warriors Color Guard posted the Colors and Sgt. Rebecca Delgado of the New Mexico Army National Guard performed the National Anthem. The memorial service was led by Robert C. Noblin Jr. of Director's Choice Mortuary Services and New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera reading the Final Roll Call of the names of the Veterans. Pastor Jason Lucero of Legacy Church closed the service with prayer before the urns were escorted by law enforcement and the American Legion Riders motorcade to the Santa Fe National Cemetery (SFNC) for a memorial ceremony and interment.

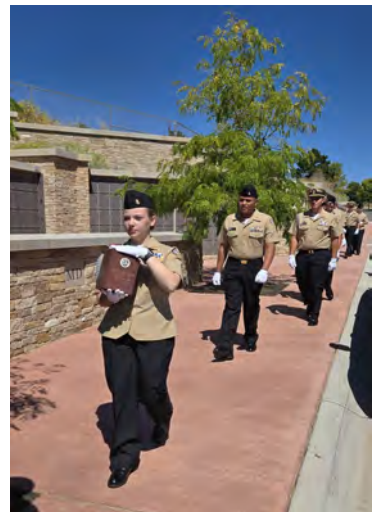
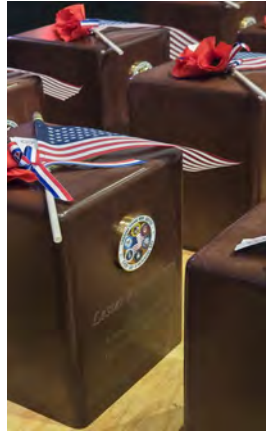
Upon arrival at the cemetery, the New Mexico National Guard Funeral Honor Guard and the American Legion served as pallbearers. Attendees were welcomed by the Acting Director of SFNC, Denise Baker, before the ceremony was turned over to the master of ceremonies, Sergio Briones of SFNC. The Adjutant General of the NMNG, Major General Miguel Aguilar, delivered the eulogy, followed by Cabinet Secretary Herrera reading the Final Roll Call of names for each Veteran as Becky Christmas and Karen Alexander of Gold Star Mothers rang the Honor Bell after each name.

The Kirtland Air Force Base Honor Guard team provided a rifle volley before Chuck Atwood of Bugles Across America played taps. The ceremony concluded with a prayer by American Legion Post 95 Chaplain, Reverend Karen Street, before the interment at SFNC, assisted by the Santa Fe High School Navy JROTC cadets.

The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program is a collaboration between NMDVS, Bernalillo County, NMNG, and the American Legion Riders, ensuring that Veterans who pass away without family or friends to claim them are buried with the dignity and respect they have earned. NMDVS would also like to thank the U.S. Marine Corps League, LCpl. Christopher Adlesperger Detachment 1316; the Women Marines Association-NMI Sandia Chapter; APD; Santa Fe PD; Bernalillo County Sheriff and Fire Department; Director's Choice Funeral Home; Gold Star Mothers; SF NJROTC; SFNC; and Legacy Church for their contributions in making the 2025 Forgotten Heroes Program a success.



Forgotten Heroes Honored with Ceremony and Military Burial



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to recognize the importance of early detection and prevention while also honoring the strength and resilience of women Veterans.

Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. Women Veterans may face unique health risks due to their service, making regular screenings even more essential. Early detection through mammograms and preventive care can save lives. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2024 also designated male breast cancer as a service-connected illness under the PACT Act.



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) encourages all Veterans to schedule a mammogram, talk with your health care provider about preventive screenings, and connect with your local VA Women Veterans Program Manager to learn more about the benefits and services available to you.

The VA provides a wide range of health care services specifically tailored to meet the needs of women who have served. These include comprehensive primary care, specialty services, maternity care coordination, and mental health support. For breast health, VA offers mammograms, genetic counseling, and follow-up care to ensure early detection and timely treatment.

Available Resources for Women Veterans

Mammograms and Screenings: Eligible women Veterans can schedule routine mammograms and breast health services through their VA provider.

Specialized Women's Health Providers: Many VA facilities have designated Women's Health Primary Care Providers trained in gender-specific care.

Whole Health Approach: VA offers wellness programs, mental health care, and peer support groups designed to support overall well-being.

Find out more about the New Mexico VA Women Veteran resources here: <https://www.va.gov/new-mexico-health-care/health-services/women-veteran-care/>



Women Veterans Program

NMDVS is dedicated to treating women Veterans with the dignity and respect earned by all Veterans. The Women Veterans Program Manager serves as the primary point of contact for all women Veteran-related matters across New Mexico. The program's mission is to deliver high-quality service and advocacy for women Veterans and their families, ensuring they are well-informed about available federal and state Veteran benefits.

To learn more, please contact Amberly Viner, NMDVS Women Veteran Program Manager, at 505-372-9106 or via email at Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov, and visit our website at nmdvs.org. Your service matters, and so does your health.

Preserving “HERstory” Living Legend Stella Lavadie



On September 17th, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Women Veteran Program Manager, Amberly Viner, presented World War II Veteran Corporal Stella A. Lavadie with a plaque honoring her service to New Mexico and our nation.

The ceremony took place at Stella's home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Military Women's Memorial also recognized Corporal Lavadie as a Living Legend, the only national honor of its kind dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of women's military service.

At 104 years old, Corporal Lavadie's service with the Women's Army Corps from 1944–1946 as a supply specialist with the 379th U.S. Army Air Force Base Unit stands as a powerful testament to resilience, sacrifice, and patriotism. She not only answered the call of duty during World War II but also paved the way for generations of women in uniform.



Her life and legacy continue to inspire, reminding us of the extraordinary contributions of women Veterans across history.

NMDVS proudly supports the Military Women's Memorial Strive For 500 Campaign, a nationwide effort honoring women who have served our country by sharing their stories and experiences.

If you are a woman and have served in our military, or know one, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the free registration with the Military Women's Memorial. It's a simple process that will permanently etch your legacy into our nation's history.

Visit womensmemorial.org/make-herstory to share your story and be part of this important effort.



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

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

www.womensmemorial.org

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

Register **HER**story



REGISTER
HER
STORY
today!



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





New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

Notice of Walk-In Service Days

October 2025

Due to the growing demand for benefits and services, NMDVS has updated its walk-in service schedule for October.

For October, NMDVS Field Offices will continue to designate specific walk-in days for veterans seeking assistance with VA claims and State Benefits.

On these designated days, veterans can be seen without an appointment for full services.

Services remain available every weekday; however, veterans visiting field offices on non-designated walk-in days without scheduled appointments may experience limited services or long wait times but can opt to drop off applications for benefits.

NMDVS State Benefits Offices will continue to offer full service to daily walk-ins, with no change in availability.**

Veterans seeking state-specific benefits may visit these offices at any time during regular business hours.

**** denotes office is both Field and State Benefit Office**

Office Location	Walk-in Service Day 8:15 AM-4:30 PM	Phone
Alamogordo	Wednesdays	(575) 437-4635
Albuquerque Pinetree Center **	Thursdays	(505) 383-2400
Albuquerque Goodwill	Mondays -Tuesdays - Wednesdays	(505) 274-0393
Albuquerque VA Hospital	Wednesdays	(505) 623-1729
Albuquerque VARO **	Thursdays	(505) 479-0672
Belen	Thursdays	(505) 537-9339
Clovis	Wednesdays	(575) 825-9602
Farmington	Wednesdays	(505) 916-4835
Gallup	Wednesdays	(505) 389-8731
Grants	Tuesdays	(505) 521-8132
Hobbs	Wednesdays	(575) 241-0714
Las Cruces	Wednesdays	(505) 644-6869
Las Vegas	Tuesdays	(505) 331-8838
Rio Rancho	Wednesdays	(505) 221-7190
Roswell	Mondays	(575) 988-5900
Santa Fe **	Wednesdays	(505) 827-6300
Silver City	Mondays	(575) 313-5627
Taos	Wednesdays	(505) 709-5263

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.

Artesia	10/15, 11/19, 12/17	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	10/8, 10/22, 11/12	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	10/21, 11/4, 11/18	Military & Family Readiness Center	2:30pm-5:00pm
Capitan	12/3	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	10/8, 11/12	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	10/22, 11/26	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-3pm
Española	11/5	Workforce Connection Ctr. 56 Co Rd. 126B	10am-2pm
Eunice	10/16, 12/11	Eunice Library, 1003 Avenue N	9am-11:30am
Holloman AFB	10/20	Military Family Readiness Center	8am-10am
Jal	10/16, 12/11	Woolworth Library, 100 E Utah Ave	1pm-3:30pm
Lovington	10/23, 12/18	Lovington Library, 115 Main St.	9am-11:30am
Ruidoso	11/5	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Socorro/Belen	10/14, 11/11	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Tatum	10/23, 12/18	Tatum Library, 323 E Broadway St.	

The following are weekly outreach visits:

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

Veterans and their eligible dependents may 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



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT

OF VETERANS' SERVICES

THE TAOS STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY **IS HIRING**

TAOS CEMETERY SUPERVISOR

Location: Taos, NM
Position No: 10118253
Recruitment No: 157619

TAOS CEMETERY SENIOR INTERMENT SPECIALIST

Location: Taos, NM
Position No: 10118254
Recruitment No: 157620

TAOS CEMETERY INTERMENT SPECIALIST

Location: Taos, NM
Position No: 10118255
Recruitment No: 157622

The Taos State Veterans' Cemetery is the final resting place for US Veterans and their spouses. The listed positions assist families and Funeral homes with planning and internments. The listed positions are responsible for maintaining cemetery grounds and performing cemetery administrative duties. For full job descriptions please visit the New Mexico State personnel website www.spo.state.nm.us



ALL POSITIONS OFFER

Competitive pay Paid holidays Paid sick days
Excellent health care benefits
Enrollment in the New Mexico state employee pension program

VETERANS ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!

For additional information or to apply:

- * Visit the New Mexico State Personnel Office website @ www.spo.state.nm.us
- * Choose "job opportunities"
- * In the "Search Jobs" box at the top of the page, type in the desired position number and hit enter
 - "Taos Cemetery Supervisor" Position No: 10118253
 - "Taos Senior Internment Specialist" Position No: 10118254
 - "Taos Internment Specialist" Position No: 10118255
- * Click on the link for additional information and full job description
- * Choose "[Apply for Job](#)"

Property Tax Exemptions

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is accepting applications for the Veterans property tax exemptions signed into law on March 20, 2025. The standard Veteran property tax exemption increased to \$10,000 and will be applied to the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse's notice of value. In 2026 and subsequent tax years, the amount shall be adjusted for inflation.

For 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.

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, please call NMDVS at 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400. Visit any of our field offices or visit nmdvs.org for a property tax exemption form and get your certificate now.

New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is accepting applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass. This pass gives eligible Veterans free, unlimited access to all New Mexico state parks, including day-use and overnight camping. Standard entry and campsite fees are waived, but reservation processing charges, group shelters, special event sites, and cabin rentals are not included.

The program is a partnership between NMDVS and the State Parks Division under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). To qualify, applicants must be New Mexico residents with honorable or general (under honorable conditions) service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard, Reserves, U.S. Public Health Service, or NOAA Corps.



Applicants must submit:

- A completed application form
- Proof of service DD-214, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- Proof of New Mexico residency (driver's license, voter registration, or state tax return)

For an application, frequently asked questions, and more information, visit the NMDVS website [here](https://nmdvs.org).

Approved Veterans will receive a non-transferable vehicle hang-tag pass that must be displayed in the park.

Please note: Due to high demand, processing times may be longer than usual. Our team is working diligently to ensure every submission is handled as quickly and accurately as possible.

Thank you for your patience and for your service.

United States Navy Celebrates 250 Years

On October 13th, 1775, the Continental Congress established the United States Navy, launching a legacy of service, sacrifice, and defense that has spanned 250 years. From a small fleet of converted merchant ships during the Revolutionary War to today's highly advanced global naval force, the Navy has continually safeguarded the freedom and security of the United States.



New Mexico shares a deep and proud connection to this history.

The state is honored to have had a World War II battleship (BB-40) and a modern nuclear fast-attack submarine both bearing the name USS New Mexico, representing the state and its people on missions worldwide. Today, the USS New Mexico (SSN-779), a Virginia-class submarine commissioned in 2010, continues this tradition, operating at the forefront of undersea defense.

New Mexico's connection to the Navy extends even further. More than 95 U.S. Navy ships have been named in honor of the people, places, and history of our great state, underscoring New Mexico's enduring presence in the nation's naval heritage.

As the United States Navy celebrates its 250th birthday, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors the generations of Sailors who have served with courage, dedication, and pride. Their service reminds us that, whether on the battlefield, beneath the waves, or on the high seas, the Navy's mission and values continue to protect the freedoms we hold dear.





NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CEREMONY

NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2025

12 PM-1 PM



The United States Marine Corps was established 250 years ago on November 10th, 1775. Join us as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. We will participate in the nationwide "50 State Cake-Cutting" initiative, coordinated by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, to honor Marine Corps traditions and legacy. The ceremony will honor our serving Marines and our beloved Marine Corps veterans with the presentation of colors, the reading of the state proclamation, the Commandant's official birthday message, guest speakers, and a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the Marine Corps Tradition.



AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ELIMINATING PAPER CHECKS

What does this mean for you?

- **Do you receive monthly checks from Social Security? Do you receive your yearly Tax Refund by check? Do you receive Veterans Benefits by check?**

You will need a bank account for direct deposit or apply for an exception (very limited) with the U.S. Treasury as soon as possible.

- **Do you make payments to the IRS or federal government by check?**

You will now need to make those payments electronically.

BANK ON NEW MEXICO CAN HELP YOU ACCESS A SAFE AND AFFORDABLE BANK ACCOUNT.

Bank On New Mexico, powered by Prosperity Works, partners with financial institutions and community organizations to help you access a bank account, even if you have been turned away in the past.

Bank On certified accounts are provided by trusted banks and credit unions.

These accounts offer:

- No overdraft fees
- Low or no monthly fees
- Direct deposit to get your refund faster
- Easy ways to sign up from home, virtually, or over the phone
- Free, user-friendly tools, including debit card, bill pay, withdrawals, low-balance alerts, smartphone apps, and more.
- Ongoing support for your financial journey

Get started today!

Setting up a bank account will ensure you receive your social security payment, tax refund, or veteran benefits quickly, safely and without predatory fees.

For more information and to see a map with participating Bank and Credit Union branch locations:

- Scan the QR code
- Visit bankonnewmexico.org/accounts
- Learn more about Bank On New Mexico and Bank On accounts at prosperityworks.net/bank-on-new-mexico



CHOOSE DIRECT DEPOSIT

Direct deposit is the best choice for managing your benefits payments.
Let's get the facts straight!

MYTH

Switching to direct deposit is hard.

You won't know when your money is available with direct deposit.

Checks are safer than direct deposit.

Direct deposit is affected by bad weather, natural disasters, and other unforeseen challenges.

Direct deposit costs extra money.

Direct deposit is for those who already have a bank account.

Benefits payments are garnished differently.

You need high-speed internet access and an expensive computer to bank online.

FACT

Switching to direct deposit is fast and easy!

Visit <https://veteransbenefitsbanking.org/> to select an FDIC-insured bank or NCUA-insured credit union.

You'll know exactly when your money is available with direct deposit because payments go directly to your account on scheduled pay dates.

Getting checks leaves you at risk of theft, forgery, and identity fraud.

Weather events can affect the mail, and check-cashing sites may be closed. Direct deposit ensures you get your money on time, every time!

Direct deposit is free.

VBBP makes it easy for you to open free or very low-cost checking accounts. Plus, you can access other benefits, like online bill pay and low- to no-cost loans.

Direct deposit and check payments are garnished the same, which is before distribution. Most benefits payments are not garnished.

You can bank online with your smartphone, tablet, or other device!

Direct deposit is faster, safer, and easier than getting your payments by check or debit card. Switch today!



Military and Veterans Day at the New Mexico State Fair

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG), hosted Military & Veterans Day at the State Fair September 9th in Albuquerque. The event brought together Veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard, and Reserve members to connect with resources and celebrate their service.

NMDVS also debuted its new Mobile Unit. Veteran Service Officers and State Benefits staff were on hand to assist with VA benefits claims, property tax waivers, NM State Park Lifetime Veteran Passes, and other services. Tribal and Healthcare Coordination staff were also available to share information and resources with Veterans and their families.

NMDVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices of Veterans and their families. He also took a moment to honor the service of 95-year-old Korean War Veteran, Jake Griego, who gave a moving performance of The Star Spangled Banner, along with military service songs on harmonica.

This year's keynote speaker was U.S. Army Veteran Walter Wood (Ret.), a native of Springer, New Mexico. He shared stories of his family's tradition of military service and his own journey from the quiet plains of northeastern New Mexico to a distinguished career that led him to the Pentagon, where he witnessed one of the most tragic days in American history.

NMDVS thanks all who joined in honoring and celebrating New Mexico's military and Veteran community.



Ribbon Cutting Celebrates New Vet Center in Santa Fe

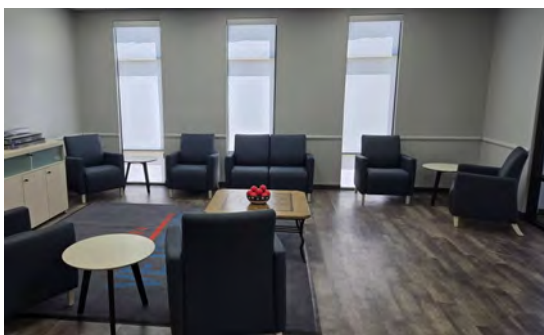
The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new Santa Fe Vet Center, marking a significant step forward in serving the needs of New Mexico's Veteran and military community.

The new center is nearly twice the size of its previous home on Brothers Road. The center offers individual and group counseling, family counseling, and referrals to VA mental health care and other benefits, all without requiring enrollment in the VA healthcare system.

During the ceremony, NMDVS leadership, local officials, and community partners joined Veterans and their families to celebrate the opening of the facility. The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by Santa Fe High School Navy Junior ROTC cadets, followed by a moving performance of the national anthem by retired New Mexico Army National Guard member Yolanda Cardenas. Retired Judge Advocate Damian Horne delivered the keynote address, attributing the help of the Vet Center in saving his life after returning home from deployment in Afghanistan. Michael Fisher, VA Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, offered remarks as the special guest. Navy Veteran Gary Donato of American Legion Post 12 shared closing reflections, while VA Chaplain Brian Earl provided the invocation and benediction.

NMDVS conducts outreach visits every Monday and Friday at the center as part of the mission to expand outreach and ensure Veterans across the state have access to state benefits and assistance with VA claims. The new Vet Center is located at 6535 Airport Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Veterans are encouraged to stop by, learn more about the available programs, and connect with staff who are ready to assist them.

For more information about the services offered at the Santa Fe Vet Center, visit <https://www.va.gov/santa-fe-vet-center/> or call 505-988-6562.



47th Annual New Mexico Conference on Aging

The 47th annual New Mexico Conference on Aging was held September 23rd–25th at the Glorieta Adventure Camps, with this year's theme, "EngAGE as You Age."

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Division Directors hosted a breakout session titled "Supporting Veterans and Spouses." The session provided information on state Veteran benefits, guidance on navigating VA claims, healthcare coordination, and details about women's and tribal programs offered by the agency. Veteran Service Officers and state benefits staff were also on site to assist Veterans and their families with tax exemptions, Veteran park passes, VA claims, and other inquiries.

The conference emphasized healthy aging and vibrant living; and featured educational sessions, recreational activities, and opportunities to connect with local community resources. One of the featured events was a panel discussion on staying engaged throughout life, with New Mexicans from different age groups sharing their perspectives. Among the panelists was Veteran Robert Rodriguez, Commander of American Legion Post 72, who shared his opinions and experiences representing the 60's age group. The panel's eldest participant, World War II and Korean War Veteran Raymond Bonda, who recently turned 101, shared his insights from a remarkable life journey.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented Mr. Rodriguez with a challenge coin in recognition of his years of service to Veterans in New Mexico and to our nation. Mr. Bonda was honored with a special award celebrating his 101st birthday and his dedicated military service.

NMDVS extends its gratitude to New Mexico Aging Services for the opportunity to connect with older adults and Veterans across our state. We look forward to next year's conference.



Take Your First Step Toward Entrepreneurship



Offered through the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), Boots to Business is a free, two-day foundational entrepreneurship course designed for transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

Participants will gain essential knowledge on the core principles of business ownership, including how to evaluate the feasibility of a business idea and how to develop a strategic business plan—an indispensable tool for any new or expanding venture. The curriculum also covers key topics such as securing start-up or growth capital, accessing technical assistance, and exploring federal contracting opportunities.

Join us for one of our dynamic, full-day sessions, typically held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that on-base access is required for classes held at military installations.

Whether you're just beginning your entrepreneurial journey or looking to expand your business, we're here to help guide your next steps. For more information about the Boots to Business program or to register, please contact VBOC Advisor **Christina Stover** at christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov or call **(505) 469-8501**.

City	Dates	Location
Virtual B2B Reboot	October 24 (8am-4:30pm)	Click here to register
Clovis, NM	November 13 & 14	Cannon Air-Force Base
Albuquerque, NM	November 17 & 18	Kirtland Air Force Base
Alamogordo, NM	December 18 & 19	Holloman Air-Force Base

** Participants will require base access*

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

We Would Love to Help Promote Your Business!

Register your veteran-owned business with VBOC today!

Scan the QR code to fill out the form.



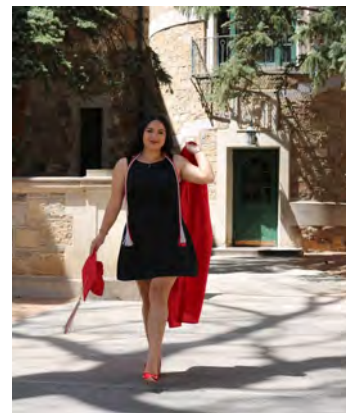
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Danna Mayer, Account Auditor with the Administrative Services Division. Danna will celebrate one year with the agency on October 12th. Although new to working in state government, Danna has quickly adapted to the demands of her role and has demonstrated exceptional progress in a relatively short period of time. Danna approaches her work with a strong sense of purpose and integrity, always ensuring that tasks are completed thoroughly and on time.

Danelle Lucero, CFO, Acting ASD Director, stated, "She consistently upholds high standards, communicates effectively, and maintains a calm, solutions-oriented approach, even when faced with challenges. Danna has become an integral part of our team."



What brought you to NMDVS?

I was seeking greater fulfillment in my day-to-day work and wanted to feel that what I do makes a meaningful impact. When the opportunity with NMDVS came along, I was drawn to the mission of serving those who have served. It felt like the right place to contribute my skills while also being part of something bigger than myself.



What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

Without a doubt, the people I get to work with every day. There's a real sense of teamwork here, and I appreciate knowing that even the small details of my daily work contribute to a much larger mission of supporting and caring for those who have sacrificed so much for us. That perspective keeps me motivated and grounded.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

While I am not a Veteran myself, my family has ties to military service through my grandfather. It's meaningful to now be a part of an agency that honors and supports those who have served.



Tell us a little about yourself, hobbies, and what you enjoy doing in your free time.

Outside of work, I'm a pilot in training, which has pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone and given me a whole new perspective on learning. I enjoy staying active and spending as much time as possible outdoors. In the summer, you'll find me paddleboarding, and in the winter, I trade the water for the slopes with my snowboard.

Three words to describe you?

Adventurous, dedicated, driven

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





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

VA Warns Veterans: Protect Yourself from Scams

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to protecting Veterans and their families from fraud. Scammers continue to invent new ways to steal personal information, benefits, and money. The VA is actively monitoring fraud trends and is sharing the following information to help you stay safe.



Overpayment Scam

One of the most common schemes involves callers pretending to be from the VA, claiming you owe a large debt due to 'overpayment'. Scammers use high-pressure tactics and demand immediate repayment through wire transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrency. The VA will never demand instant repayment or ask for non-traditional payment methods.

- Official VA debt notices come only from the **VA Debt Management Center (DMC)**.

Secure payment options are available at www.pay.va.gov.

If you have doubts, call **1-800-827-1000** or the **DMC at 1-800-827-0648** to verify.

New Scam Tactics

Fraud schemes are constantly changing. Recently, the VA has seen increases in:

- **Bereavement scams** – targeting grieving families with fake debts, inflated funeral expenses, or bogus insurance premiums
- **Mail and delivery scams** – texts or emails claiming to be from shipping companies or the U.S. Postal Service demanding delivery fees

Natural Disaster Fraud

In the aftermath of floods, fires, or other natural disasters, scammers prey on families already under stress. They may pose as contractors, insurance representatives, or fake charities. The VA recommends enrolling in **direct deposit** to ensure timely receipt of benefits and reduce financial vulnerability. Scammers also exploit generosity with fake charity appeals meant to divert donations away from real relief organizations. If you need resources or want to report disaster-related fraud, call **833-38V-SAFE**.

Protecting Your G.I. Bill Benefits

Some non-accredited schools and programs use misleading advertising and exaggerated promises about the value of their degrees. Veterans and their families should only use G.I. Bill benefits at VA-approved institutions. Be cautious of:

- Unrealistic job placement or salary guarantees
- Pressure to enroll quickly without full details and hidden costs or vague accreditation claims

Stay Vigilant

Scammers succeed when they create urgency and pressure. Protect yourself by never sharing Social Security numbers, bank accounts, or credit card details with unsolicited callers.

Your benefits are hard-earned—don't let scammers take them away. For more visit the VA [here](#).

BE VIGILANT OF SCAMS



The Federal Trade Commission estimated that in 2023 alone, Veterans, Service Members, and their families reported **\$477M in losses to fraud, as per March 31, 2024 data.** This number only represents the fraud that has been detected and has **increased from \$413M in 2022.** This is just what has

been reported. Keeping yourself safe from scams is critical when applying for benefits and services, when accessing them, or authorizing others to do so.



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. <https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/> is an official source to use to verify.



Be aware of medical professionals who charge a fee or guarantee a specific benefits-related outcome. If an exam is warranted, VA will order one for you at no cost to you.

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 1-833-38V-SAFE 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 you a specific claim outcome. 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 suspected fraud or scams:

- Call the VSAFE Fraud Hotline: 1-833-38V-SAFE
- Visit VSAFE online: www.VSAFE.gov

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



IN-PERSON VETERAN
DISCUSSION

New Mexico VA Health Care System

TOWN HALL

Tuesday, October 14

5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Information fair

Tuesday, October 14

4 p.m.-5 p.m.

1501 San Pedro Drive SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
Auditorium Building #39



Attention Women Veterans

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

TOPIC/DESCRIPTION:

Women's Mental Health

DATE: October 29th, 2025

TIME: 1400 -1445

[On 10/29/2025 click here to Join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 252 128 127 973 2

Passcode: wL6PJ7UE

Or Dial in by phone

[+1 872-701-](#)

[0185,,590885749#](#)

United States, Chicago

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID:

590 885 749#

Contact: **April McGriff**

April.mcgriff@va.gov

(505) 265-1711 x 3503

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

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



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

Request for Veterans Day Ceremony/Event Information

Do you know of a Veterans Day ceremony or event taking place in your community? The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is compiling its annual list of Veterans Day Ceremonies and Events, and we'd like to include yours.

When submitting your event, please include:

- City
- Venue and full address (with zip code)
- Type of event (parade, ceremony, concert, etc.)
- Public contact information (name, phone number, and email)



Send your information to the NMDVS Public Affairs Coordinator at DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov for consideration. Thank you for helping us honor and recognize Veterans across New Mexico this Veterans Day.





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

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



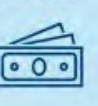

Please note:

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

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



<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Skills</p> <p>COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p>INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety.</p> <p>TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use.</p> <p>EXCEL BASICS: Intro to spreadsheet features: how to sort & filter and formulas to get you started.</p> <p>CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.</p>	<p>MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout'</p> <p>MICROSOFT POWERPOINT: Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations..</p> <p>MICROSOFT EXPLORER: Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS.</p> <p>MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar.</p> <p>GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online.</p> <p>GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Skills</p> <p>INTRO TO CODING@ Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & Web development.</p> <p>CODING WORKSHOP@ Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python.</p> <p>APP DEVELOPMENT @ Intro to app coding, a look at iOS & Android with interactive learning exercises.</p> <p>GAME DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises.</p> <p>DISCOVERING DATA: Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.</p>
<p>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...</p>		<p style="font-size: 2em; color: green; font-weight: bold;">OCTOBER 2025</p>

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5	6 Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Computer Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	7 Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	8 Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Office Hours 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	9 Stress Management@ 9:00 am - 10:30 am Office Hours 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	10 Career Compass W Your New Job@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	11
12	13	14 Public Speaking Intro 9:00 am - 10:30 am Cybersecurity 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	15 Microsoft Word 9:00 am - 10:15 am Microsoft PowerPoint 10:30 am - 11:45 am	16 Stress Management Workshop@ 9:00 am - 10:30 am Typing 101 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	17 Excel Basics 9:00 am - 10:15 am Discovering Data 10:30 am - 11:45 am	18
19	20 Intro to Coding@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Coding Workshop@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	21 Microsoft Explorer 9:00 am - 10:15 am Microsoft Outlook 10:30 am - 11:30 am	22 Resiliency@ 9:00 am - 10:30 am Excel Basics 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	23 Google Docs 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google Slides 10:30 am - 11:30 am	24	25
26	27 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	28 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	29 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	30 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	31 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	1



Goodwill Skills

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training





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

SAN MATEO

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

<p style="text-align: center;">Employment Skills</p> <p>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</p> <p>N/CAREER EXPLORATION@ Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT.</p> <p>E/RESUME & APPLYING@ Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online.</p> <p>S/INTERVIEW & SOFT SKILLS@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication.</p> <p>W/YOUR NEW JOB@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.</p> <p>PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wellness Skills</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT@ A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to overcome it.</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@ Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR on 10/09/25 & 10/23/25 at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE 1 pm-3 pm Meet hiring managers ...get valuable job leads!</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Life Skills</p> <p>RESILIENCY@ An in-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life.</p> <p>RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@ Discover tools to help you develop a plan to strengthen your resiliency skills.</p> <p>MONEY MANAGEMENT@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication.</p> <p>THINKING CRITICALLY@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS: Meet with instructor for extra help. Get questions answered or use for skills practice.</p>
---	---	--

<p style="text-align: center; color: green;">DigitalSkills</p> <p>COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p>INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the Internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety.</p> <p>TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use.</p> <p>EXCEL BASICS: Intro to spreadsheet features; how to sort & filter and formulas to get you started.</p> <p>CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.</p>	<p>MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout</p> <p>MICROSOFT POWERPOINT: Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations..</p> <p>MICROSOFT EXPLORER: Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS.</p> <p>MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar.</p> <p>GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online.</p> <p>GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green;">DigitalSkills</p> <p>INTRO TO CODING@ Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & web development.</p> <p>CODING WORKSHOP@ Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python.</p> <p>APP DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to app coding, a look at iOS & Android with interactive learning exercises.</p> <p>GAME DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises.</p> <p>DISCOVERING DATA: Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.</p>
<p>TO REGISTER FOR CLASS: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to www.goodwillnm.org/events...OR CALL 505.881.6401 x1903... OR EMAIL kpaul@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE...</p>		<h1 style="color: blue; margin: 0;">OCTOBER 2025</h1>

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
5	6 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	7 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	8 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	9 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	10 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	11
12	13	14 Intro to Coding @ 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Coding Workshop@ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	15 Resiliency@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Excel Basics 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	16 Resiliency Workshop@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Internet Basics 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	17 Game Development@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm App Development@ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	18
19	20 Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Computer Basics 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	21 Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Internet Basics 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	22 Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Thinking Critically@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	23 Stress Management@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Microsoft Explorer 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	24 Career Compass W Your New Job@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	25
26	27 Typing 101 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Google Docs 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	28 Excel Basics 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Cybersecurity 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm	29 Microsoft Word 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Microsoft PowerPoint 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	30 Stress Management Workshop@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Microsoft Outlook 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	31 Public Speaking Intro 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Discovering Data 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm	1



Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training

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

LOMAS

LOMAS SERVICE CENTER 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE ABQ, NM 87110

<p style="text-align: center; color: green;">EmploymentSkills</p> <p>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</p> <p>N/CAREER EXPLORATION@ Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT.</p> <p>E/RESUME & APPLYING @ Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online.</p> <p>S/INTERVIEW & SOFT SKILLS@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication.</p> <p>W/YOUR NEW JOB@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.</p> <p>PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice session.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: orange;">WellnessSkills</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT@ A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to overcome it.</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@ Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR on 10/09/25 & 10/23/25 at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE 1 pm-3 pm Meet hiring managers ...get valuable job leads!</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: orange;">LifeSkills</p> <p>RESILIENCY@ An in-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life.</p> <p>RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@ Discover tools to help develop a plan to strengthen your resiliency skills.</p> <p>MONEY MANAGEMENT@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication.</p> <p>THINKING CRITICALLY@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS: Meet with instructor for extra help. Get questions answered or use for skills practice.</p>
---	--	--



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



Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) has launched the American Service Fellowship: a new initiative that will provide full scholarships for at least 50 public servants—including Veterans and active-duty service members—from across the United States to enroll next fall for a one-year, fully funded master’s degree.

The fellowship is open to public servants in the United States:

- U.S. military veterans and active-duty military
- Federal, state, tribal, and local public employees—including public school teachers, fire fighters, and police officers
- Alumni of national service programs such as Peace Corps and AmeriCorps

This new fellowship honors your service and helps you take the next step in your public leadership journey. You will learn from world-class Harvard Kennedy School faculty members, get the best public policy education in the world, and join a powerful network of change makers from across the country—each bringing a unique story, perspective, and commitment to impact. Most of all, you’ll learn how to tackle our biggest challenges and lead our country into the future.

Participating students will get a world-class public policy education at no cost, as well as an opportunity to work with and learn from other great public servants from across the nation. Most of all, we’ll give them the tools they need to further their careers and tackle the biggest challenges we face.

Please visit the American Service Fellowship website for more information here:

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/american-service-fellowship>



MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR[®]



**Help us find
Operation
Homefront's next
award recipients!**



For more information,
scan the QR code or visit
operationhomefront.org/mcoy

WHAT

Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

WHO

Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

WHEN

The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2026 during the Month of the Military Child.

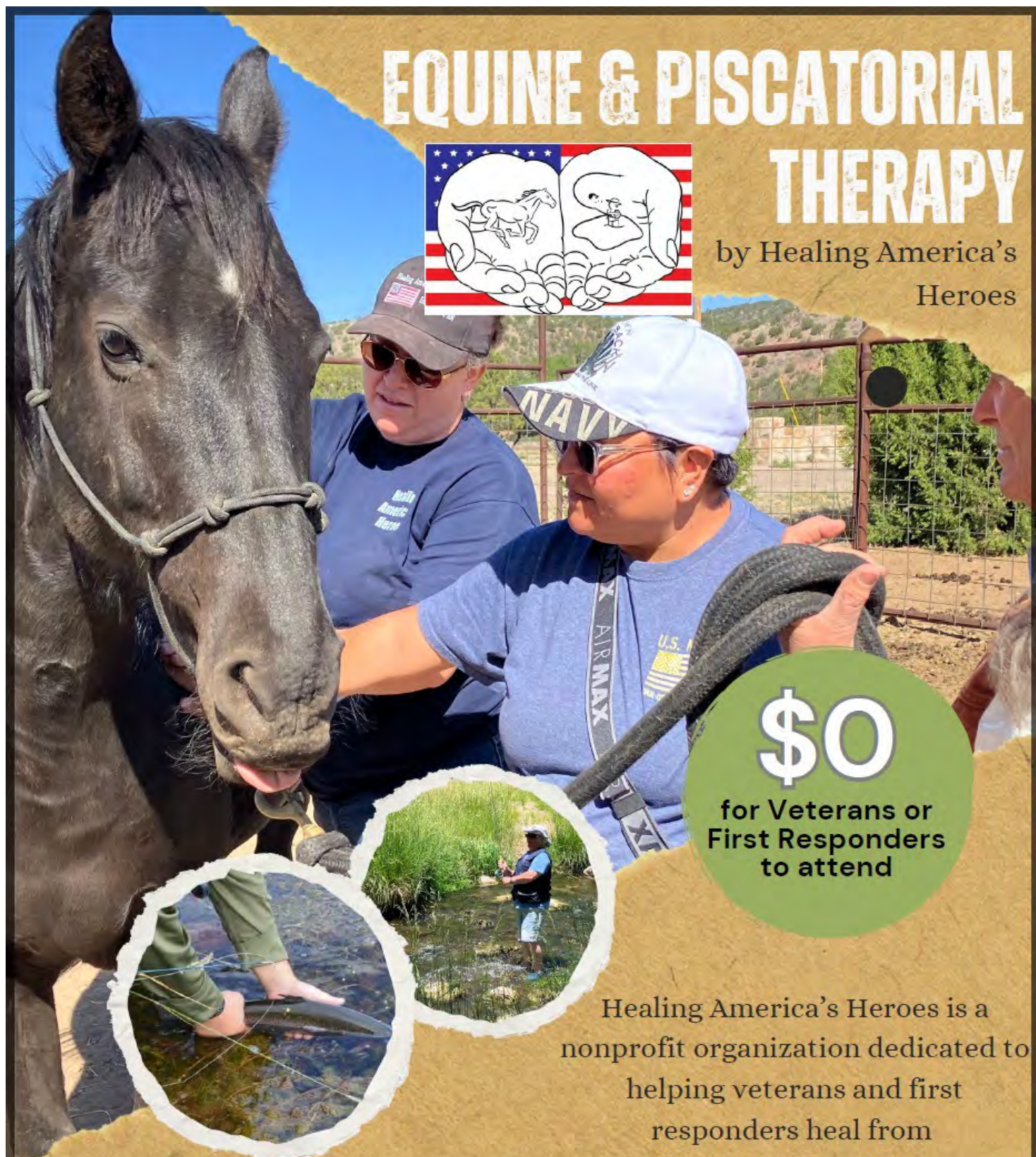
RECIPIENTS

Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a \$10,000 cash award, a laptop computer, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

**Nominations accepted
September 3 to
December 2, 2025**

EQUINE & PISCATORIAL THERAPY

by Healing America's
Heroes



\$0

for Veterans or
First Responders
to attend



Healing America's Heroes is a
nonprofit organization dedicated to
helping veterans and first
responders heal from
PTSD, MST, and TBI
through recreational therapy

575-244-3751

HealingAmericasHeroes.Org

BOOK NOW



RED RIBBON

Family Day

ENGAGE WITH THE NEW MEXICO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AS WE COMMENCE RED RIBBON MONTH. THIS INITIATIVE WILL ASSIST WITH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION WITHIN YOUR HOME.

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION EDUCATION | FOOD | INTERACTIVE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES



ASAP
ARMY SUBSTANCE
ABUSE PROGRAM



10 OCTOBER 2025
FROM 1100 TO 1500

600 WYOMING BLVD NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM, 87123



2025 ABQ STAND DOWN

FOR HOMELESS VETERANS



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025
8AM- 1PM AT THE ROCK AT NOON DAY
2400 2nd St NW, ABQ, NM 87102

On Friday, October 17, 2025, the Veterans Integration Centers (VIC) will host our annual Stand Down event—a day dedicated to honoring and supporting Veterans in need. Rooted in a military tradition of providing rest and recovery to weary troops, today's Stand Down offers essential services to homeless and low-income Veterans.

Join us in making a difference. For more information, visit nmvic.org



AVAILABLE SERVICES

VA BENEFITS: COUNSELING;
LEGAL SUPPORT: REFERRALS;
HOUSING ASSISTANCE: FOOD &
DRINKS; EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT;
COMMUNITY RESOURCES: HAIRCUTS

www.nmvic.org | (505) 296-0800

FARMINGTON STAND DOWN 2025

Serving homeless Veterans & their families

This annual event brings together a network of compassionate professionals and volunteers, all committed to honoring the sacrifices made by those who served our country. Please join us for the 2024 Farmington Stand down event where you can gain access to a variety of helpful resources...

OCTOBER 10TH 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**AT THE SAN JUAN COLLEGE HEALTH
HUMAN PERFORMANCE CENTER,
4601 COLLEGE BLVD, FARMINGTON NM**

- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- VETERAN'S BENEFITS
- JOB ASSISTANCE
- DENTAL SERVICES
- BASIC MEDICAL ATTENTION
- TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE
- ACCESS TO JOB TRAINING AND EDUCATION
- CLOTHING
- PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- WARM MEALS, AND MORE!



SAN JUAN COLLEGE
VETERANS CENTER



A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT

Job Fair

AmericasJobCenter
LAS CRUCES

Celebrating **VALUE & TALENT**

*In honor of National Disability
Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).*

**Join us in supporting individuals with various abilities.
This event is open to everyone.**



Las Cruces Convention Center

680 E. University Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88001

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For event information and the
employer registration link,
CLICK or SCAN the QR code, or visit

www.EmployNM.com/post/jobfair-101525



In partnership with



**CITY OF
LAS CRUCES**



WIOA Title I-financially assisted programs and activities are an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay New Mexico: 711 (Voice) or 1-800-659-8331 (TTY). For program funding, visit <https://www.employnm.com/funding>



BEE AMAZING & JOIN US!



San Juan County Health & Wellness Expo
Thursday, October 23, 2025
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
McGee Park Convention Center
Farmington, NM

RSVP TODAY!

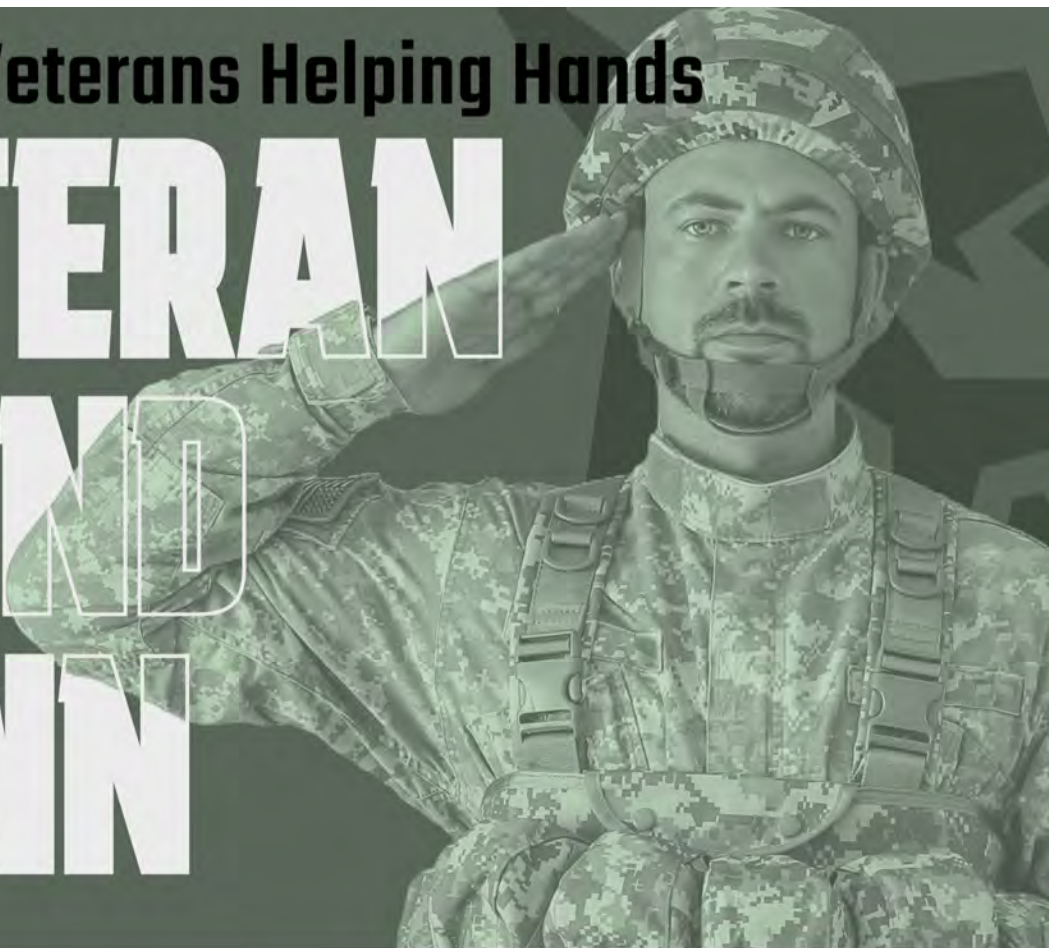
For more information, please contact:

Pam Arthur, Benefits Specialist
(505) 334-4515
pamille.arthur@sjcounty.net



Las Cruces Veterans Helping Hands

VETERAN STAND DOWN



DATE & TIME:

October 24, 2025

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Breakfast starts at 7:30 am

LOCATION:

VFW Post 10124

709 South Valley Dr.

Las Cruces, NM

575-526-5761



CITY OF LAS CRUCES



JOIN US:

Organized by the VFW New Mexico Foundation, the Las Cruces Vet Center partners in the "Las Cruces Veterans Helping Hands Stand Down" for homeless and Veterans in need.

SPECIAL INVITATION:

This event offers food, housing, haircuts, clothing, health screenings, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as employment and substance abuse treatment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL LEN HAMPTON (575)405-9001
TO SCHEDULE VAN SERVICE, CALL (575)915-4899**



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL HALL OF HONOR

November 8th , 2025

Door Open at 5:30 pm

Social Hour from 5:30–7:00 pm

Ceremony 7:00–8:00 pm



MG Coryton
McDowell Woodbury



Lt Col Wilson Hurley



CPT John S Wilson



CPL Tony Reyna



**EVENT
TICKETS**

**New Mexico Military Museum
1050 Old Pecos Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87505**



**HOTEL
RESERVATION**

Attire: Cocktail, Class A (AGSU/ASU with tie), or Dress Blues.

Reserve your seat today at nmnghoh.org

New Mexico 2025 LGBTQ+ Health Summit

Understanding & Responding to
Current Changes in Policy and Funding

How are new federal policies affecting Medical and Behavioral
Health Care, Research, and Public Health?

|

How is New Mexico State Government Responding to Current
Events and Protecting Safety and Quality of Care for All?

How are Funders Responding to Current Events to Increase
Equity?

What Can Our Community Do to Ensure Our Health & Wellbeing?

The Summit is free, but
registration is required.

Free parking will be
available.

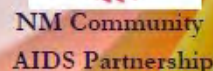
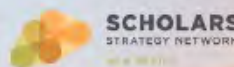
Saturday, 11/8/2025

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

UNM Domenici Center
and Online

For more information write to: NMCAP@yahoo.com

To register: <https://bit.ly/46rOqXa>





HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

**Ceremony @
10:30 AM**

**NOV. 11,
2025**

VETERANS

DAY

Please join us in honoring our Veterans!

Music provided by Dukes of Albuquerque Concert Band,
Flyover courtesy of the New Mexico Chili Flight,
Create Letters for Veterans in the visitor center!



**NM Veterans Memorial Park
1100 Louisiana Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108**



**For more information:
(505) 768-4495**



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

STARTS
AT 9AM

NOV. 11
2025

VETERANS

DAY

Parade



City of Gallup Veterans Day Parade

"Honoring 80th Anniversary of World War II"

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Parade Lineup - 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Gurley Collision Center, 901 West Aztec Avenue

Parade Start time - 11:00 a.m.

**8th Street and West Aztec Avenue to
Gallup Downtown Courthouse Square,**

215 West Aztec Avenue

Scan Code for Online Parade Entry Form:

<https://www.visitgallup.com/gallup-veterans-day-parade/>

Veteran Organizations

Marching Bands

Musical Bands

Schools/ Youth Groups

Military/ ROTC Groups

Non-profit Organizations

Royalty

Government/ Political

Private Entities/ Businesses



**CITY OF
GALLUP**

Registration Opens: September 3, 2025

Registration Closes: November 3, 2025

Contact:

Delene Santillanes, Marketing & Projects Coordinator

Email: dsantillanes@gallupnm.gov

Ben Welch, Community Services Coordinator

Email: bwelch@gallupnm.gov

EMPOWER TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY



SEA CADETS

Official Youth Program of the
U.S. Navy & Coast Guard



Volunteer with Sea Cadets & Change Lives

300+ Units nationwide, over 8000 youth served annually. Inspire, teach and lead the future of America as a mentor & role model.



Seamanship – Aviation – Undersea – Welding –
Leadership Medical – Law Enforcement – STEM –
Fitness – Culinary Photojournalism – SCUBA

seacadets.org



VOLUNTEERING WITH SEA CADETS

Empowering Confident Leaders

Sea Cadets is an exciting, hands-on leadership program for youth ages 10–18, offering challenging adventures that build teamwork, confidence, and character—all in a structured and supportive environment.

Cadets meet at least 12 hours each month, typically on weekends and our volunteers train, motivate and supervise.



Why Volunteer With Us?

Our volunteers personally help young people define and prepare for their futures, one cadet at a time. Whether you're from a military background or not, our program is effective because volunteers are eager to share their skills for the benefit of our cadets.

Flexible Ways to Serve: From weekend leadership to behind-the-scenes support, there's a volunteer role for every commitment level—plus training and support to help you thrive.

- **Non-Auxiliary Volunteers:** participate in at least 75% of a unit's drills and typically hold key roles such as: commanding officer, executive officer, administrative officer, or operations officer.
- **Auxiliary Volunteers:** volunteers unable to commit to monthly meetings but provide additional support such as: social media management, community outreach, fundraising management, uniform tailoring and administrative assistance.

Volunteers must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, free of felony convictions, and undergo a background investigation. All volunteers must take onboarding courses, including youth protection training and an Introduction to Sea Cadets course. We provide extra in-person and online training tailored to the volunteer's role in the Sea Cadets.

Albuquerque, NM
Thurraya Kent

tkent@seacadets.org

"Seeing my cadets achieve their goals and when they stand up and say thank you, that's my best pay."

Luis Ventura Peralta, Puerto Rico

"There is nothing more rewarding than watching a Sea Cadet learn and grow and become confident in what they are doing."

Rob Baughman, Washington



SEA CADETS

seacadets.org

BUILD SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. BUILD COMMUNITY.

Find your community and build something new.

At **End of Tour Recovery Workshop**, we're a veteran- and first responder-focused nonprofit in Clovis, NM offering FREE woodworking classes every Saturday in downtown.

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE:

- ✓ BUILD CONFIDENCE
- ✓ LEARN HANDS-ON SKILLS
- ✓ HEAL THROUGH CREATIVITY
- ✓ FIND SUPPORT & COMMUNITY

You don't need experience—just show up ready to learn and connect. Whether you've served, supported, or simply want to be part of something meaningful, there's a spot for you here.

DATE & TIME:

EVERY SATURDAY!

9 AM - 1 PM



RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING AT



<https://www.endoftourrecovery.org/register-for-a-class>



Matt 25 Hope Center
1200 N Thornton St
Clovis, NM

...OR JUST SHOW UP!





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

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

Matthew Quinn

411 10th Street #107

(575) 546-8367

matthew.quinn@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

May Chavez (ABQ Metro Supervisor)

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

(505) 527-2302

helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

NMDVS Staff

Good Will Office
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE
(505) 274-0393
Office open Mon.-Tues.-Wed.

Albuquerque Metro Area

Mike Nelson

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

mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

John Membrila

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor
(505) 584-2153

John.membrila@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

James Brandon

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor
(505) 470-7503
james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

David Swisher

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor
(505) 525-3331
david.swisher@dvs.nm.gov

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller (Central/Mobile Supervisor)

Belen Business Center
719 South Main St.
(505) 537-9339
rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VARO) *CLOSED*

Corey Riedel

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor
(505) 479-0672
corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

**Temporally closed due to federal shutdown*

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)

Carlsbad

See Outreach Schedule for Dates

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 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

(continued on next page)

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****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Freddy Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 361-5298

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

Clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow** (NE Supervisor)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Melissa Herrera**

917 Douglas Ave.

Melissa # 575-781-0614

(575) 520-5079

melissa.herrera@dvs.nm.gov**Rio Rancho/Northeast NM****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D/room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Ben Mendoza**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A

(575) 988-5900

benjamin.mendoza@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 Services Bldg.

145 Roy Rd.

(505)-709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov**State Veterans Home/T or C NM****VSO Staff/Every Wednesday**

922 South Broadway St.

Truth or Consequences, NM

Woman Veterans Program**Amberly Viner** (Program Manager)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov

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

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