



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services
September 2026

•Website: www.dvs.nm.gov

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Suicide Prevention: A Commitment Beyond September

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to strengthen awareness, encourage connection, and remind Veterans and their families that support is available when they need it. For the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), that commitment extends beyond a single month. We work year-round to help Veterans throughout New Mexico recognize when they or someone they care about may need support and know where to turn.

Military service can shape a person long after they leave the uniform behind. Veterans may experience PTSD, depression, isolation, substance use, difficulty adjusting to civilian life, or other challenges that affect their well-being. Every Veteran's experience is unique, but reaching out early can make a difference.

New Mexico Veterans and their families have access to confidential crisis services, peer support, healthcare assistance, and other resources that can help during a crisis or before one develops.



Support for New Mexico Veterans

The New Mexico 988 Crisis and Access Line (NMCAL) provides free, confidential support 24/7/365. Veterans can call or text 988 and press "1" to connect directly with the Veterans Crisis Line and trained responders who understand military culture, press 2- for Spanish. Learn more at 988nm.org.

Peer-to-Peer Warmline – Trained Peer Support Specialists with military experience provide confidential support and understanding. Call 1-855-466-7100 daily from 3 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

NMDVS remains committed to preventing Veteran suicide through the New Mexico Governor's Challenge, which works to reduce suicide among Veterans, service members, and their families. Through this effort, NMDVS collaborates with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), New Mexico Crisis and Access Line (NMCAL)/988, local nonprofits, clinicians, the New Mexico National Guard, VA representatives, NM Crises Counseling, GD Psych, Paws and Stripes, NWVHC and Synergy, and the New Mexico Department of Health to connect Veterans and their families with support.

The NMDVS Healthcare Coordination Division also assists and advocates for Veterans and their families with healthcare-related needs and helps connect them with available resources and services. To learn more about Healthcare Coordination and available resources, visit dvs.nm.gov/healthcare-coordination/.

If you are a Veteran in crisis or are concerned about a Veteran, call or text 988 and press "1" to connect with the Veterans Crisis Line. Support is available 24/7.

Upcoming NMDVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (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 inquire about VA disability ratings, VA medical or mental health care, retiree pensions, military burials, and other VA benefits.

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

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

Artesia	9/16	United Veterans Hall, 402 W. Hermosa Dr.	9am-4pm
Carlsbad	9/9, 9/23	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	9/15, 9/29, 10/20	AP Seminar, MFRC, 1554 Spear Loop	11am-12pm
Capitan	10/7, 11/4	Capitan Public Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-3pm
Deming	9/23, 10/28, 11/25	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Gallup	9/8, 10/13, 11/10	Vets Helping Vets, 908 E. Buena Vista Ave.	10am-11am
Holloman AFB	9/9, 9/23, 10/7	TAP Seminar, MFRC, W NM Ave., Bldg. 788	8:30am-10am
Raton	9/16, 10/21, 11/18	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	11/4	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	9/9, 10/14, 12/9	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr, 720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	9/8, 10/13, 11/10	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr, 705 N. California	9am-1pm
Tijeras	9/9	Village Council Chambers, 12 Camino Municipal	11am-2pm

The following are weekly outreach visits:

T or C Vet Home	Wednesdays	State Veterans' Home, 922 S. Broadway	9am-3pm
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Veterans and their eligible dependents may contact any of the NMDVS field offices statewide listed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Each office is staffed by nationally accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSO's), who can also offer assistance by phone or email.

If you know of or are hosting a Veteran or community event that would benefit from having NM on site to help answer questions on benefits available please contact NMDVS at DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov or visit our website at <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/>

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services



Mobile Outreach Vehicle Coming to Your Community!

Veterans – Get the Benefits You Earned!



**The NMDVS Mobile Outreach Team will be on-site to help you access both
Federal and State Veterans' benefits.**

What We Provide:

- Assistance with VA and State of New Mexico benefit applications
- Guidance on healthcare, compensation, pension, and education benefits
- Information on State programs and services for veterans and families

What to Bring:

- DD-214 or proof of military service
- Photo ID
- Relevant medical, financial, or service documents to support your application
- VA Letters

Tue, Sept. 1	Isleta Pueblo Governor's Office, Tribal Road 40 B 117 A, Isleta, NM 87022	9am-3pm
Fri, Sept. 4	Zuni Community Center, 37 Harker Circle, Zuni, NM 87327	10am-4pm
Tue, Sept. 8	Santa Clara Pueblo Housing Authority, 201 Road Runner Rd., Española, NM 87532	9am-3:30pm
Thu, Sept. 10	Questa Municipal Office, 2500 Old State Rd. # 3, Questa, NM 87556	10am-3pm
Tue, Sept. 15	New Mexico State Fair, 300 San Pedro Dr., Albuquerque, NM 87108	10am-3pm
Fri, Sept. 18	Pueblo of Laguna Administrative Office, 22 Capital Rd., Laguna, NM 87026	12pm-4pm
Wed, Sept. 23	Logan American Legion Post 77, 101 S. 8th St., Logan, NM 88426	9am-4pm

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

For more information and mobile outreach vehicle schedule updates, contact:

📞 NMDVS Central Office: (866) 433-8387

🌐 <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/>

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

VSO Corner: Aid and Attendance vs. Housebound Benefits

Many Veterans and surviving spouses are surprised to learn that additional monthly compensation may be available when a disability creates significant challenges with daily living. Two commonly misunderstood benefits are Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits.

Aid and Attendance is available to Veterans or surviving spouses who require assistance from another person to perform activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating, medication management, or protecting themselves from hazards in their daily environment. The need for assistance does not necessarily require residence in a nursing home. Many individuals qualify while living independently with family support. Housebound benefits are different. This benefit is generally intended for individuals who are substantially confined to their home because of disability. Veterans receiving compensation may qualify for Special Monthly Compensation at the Housebound rate, while pension recipients may qualify for an increased pension payment.

Because the eligibility criteria differ significantly, many Veterans mistakenly apply for the wrong program. One of our accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSO) can review your medical evidence and help identify the benefit that best matches your circumstances.

To meet with a VSO near you, contact NMDVS to schedule an appointment. Office locations are listed at the end of this newsletter or online at www.dvs.nm.gov/field-services/.

Lifetime Veteran Park Passes and Property Tax Exemptions



Veterans: Apply for your property tax exemption and your New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass through the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) State Benefits Division.

Property Tax Exemptions:

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is \$10,000 and will adjust annually for inflation. Additionally, the Disabled Veteran Exemption allows eligible Veterans or their unmarried surviving spouses to apply for a tax exemption equal to the Veteran's federal disability rating.

Applications must be submitted to NMDVS and filed with your County Assessor.

New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass:

Eligible New Mexico Veterans can apply for a free lifetime pass providing unlimited access to all NM state parks, including day-use and overnight camping. Standard entry and camping fees are waived; however, reservation and special facility fees still apply.

Documents needed to verify eligibility for the benefits

- A copy of DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- Proof of New Mexico residency (driver's license, voter registration, or state tax return)
- VA Award Letter showing percentage of disability (only for tax exemption)
- Marriage certificate and the Veteran's death certificate for surviving spouses (required for the tax exemption).

Applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass and Tax Exemptions are accepted and issued on-site to qualified Veterans. Information and assistance on federal and state benefits, local Veterans' programs, and referral services are available at any of our field office locations, visit <https://www.dvs.nm.gov/>, or call 1-866-433-8387 for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.

Patriot Day 9/11 National Day of Service



September 11, 2026 marks 25 years since the terrorist attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard United Airlines Flight 93. On Patriot Day, New Mexicans will remember those we lost, honor the first responders who rushed to help and recognize the service members and Veterans who answered the nation's call in the years that followed.

Patriot Day calls Americans to remember the courage, sacrifice and unity that followed one of our nation's darkest days. New Mexicans will carry that spirit forward through remembrance and service.

The New Mexico State Fair will mark Patriot Day with its annual ceremony at noon at the corner of Heritage Avenue and Main Street at Expo New Mexico. On Saturday, Sept. 12, volunteers will gather at Santa Fe National Cemetery from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the National Day of Service & Remembrance. Volunteers will clean headstones and beautify the grounds in tribute to military members, Veterans, first responders and their families. Registration is free but required. Register for the Santa Fe National Cemetery National Day of Service [HERE](#).

For many Veterans and military families, 9/11 carries a deep personal meaning. The attacks inspired a generation of Americans to serve and defend our nation.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services joins communities across the state in remembering those we lost, honoring those who served and carrying forward the unity and spirit of service that followed September 11, 2001.

Military & Veterans Day at the New Mexico State Fair 9/15

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG), invites Veterans, active-duty service members, National Guard, and Reserve members to Military & Veterans Day at the New Mexico State Fair on Tuesday, September 15, at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque.



NMDVS will have resource tables and our Mobile Outreach Unit on-site to help Veterans and eligible family members with property tax waivers and exemptions, the New Mexico State Parks Lifetime Veteran Pass, VA benefits and compensation claims, and questions about VA healthcare eligibility and enrollment. Those seeking assistance should bring military service documents, such as a DD-214 or equivalent, proof of New Mexico residency, and applicable VA correspondence. Surviving spouses should also bring marriage and death certificates.

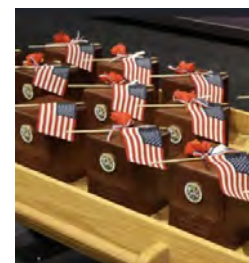
Veterans, active-duty personnel, National Guard, and Reserve members receive free admission with a valid military ID or by wearing their uniform. Accepted identification includes a military retiree card, driver's license with a Veteran designation, VA Veterans Health ID Card, or DD-214. Free admission applies only to Veterans, And service members; regular admission and parking fees apply to family members and guests.

Gates open at 10 a.m. Resource tables and services will be available until 3 p.m. A special ceremony, will begin at 11 a.m. at the Pavilion Stage. The fairgrounds will close at 9 p.m.

Come celebrate New Mexico's military and Veteran community and stop by our Mobile Outreach Unit to learn more about the benefits and services available to you.

Forgotten Heroes 9/17

On Thursday, September 17, 2026, the cremated remains of 50 unclaimed military Veterans will be laid to rest with full military honors during the annual Forgotten Heroes Burial Ceremony. The memorial service begins at 9 a.m. at Legacy Church, 4701 Wyoming Blvd. NE in Albuquerque. Following the service, law enforcement agencies, Veterans service organizations, and the New Mexico American Legion Riders will escort the urns to Santa Fe National Cemetery, 501 N. Guadalupe St. in Santa Fe, for the burial ceremony at 11 a.m.



The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program is a partnership between the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, Bernalillo County, the New Mexico National Guard, Albuquerque Police Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's and Fire Departments, Director's Choice Funeral Home, and Santa Fe National Cemetery. The program ensures that honorably discharged Veterans who pass away without family to claim them receive a proper burial with dignity and respect.

The public is invited to serve as "family" and provide a final salute to these fallen Veterans. The event demonstrates that respect for military service has no expiration date.

POW/MIA DAY 9/18



On Friday, September 18, our state and nation will observe National POW/MIA Recognition Day, honoring American prisoners of war and remembering those who remain missing.

For Veterans, the day carries a deep personal meaning. It honors brothers and sisters in arms who endured captivity and those who never returned home. It also renews a promise that has endured across generations: we will not forget them.

That promise has taken on special meaning in New Mexico this year as two service members, missing for decades, were finally returned home and laid to rest.

U.S. Army Cpl. Richard A. Veal of Albuquerque served with Battery C, 200th Coast Artillery Regiment during World War II. He fought in the defense of the Philippines and later died as a prisoner of war at Cabanatuan POW Camp on Dec. 27, 1942. After more than eight decades, his remains were identified and returned to New Mexico. On April 24, 2026, Cpl. Veal was laid to rest with military honors at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

U.S. Army Sgt. Celestino Chavez, Jr. of Gallup served with Battery D, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division during the Korean War. A Silver Star recipient, Chavez was wounded and died during the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir in November 1950. After more than 75 years, his remains came home. On April 15, 2026, Sgt. Chavez was laid to rest with military honors at the Gallup State Veterans Cemetery.

Their return reminds us why the POW/MIA flag and the words "You Are Not Forgotten" continue to matter. Behind those words are service members still unaccounted for, families waiting for answers and a nation committed to bringing its missing home.

This National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor those who endured captivity, remember those still missing and recognize those who continue the work to bring them home.

For New Mexico, the return of Cpl. Veal and Sgt. Chavez gives that promise special meaning. Decades passed, but they were not forgotten. **They came home.**

79th Birthday of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard

On September 18, New Mexico celebrates the 79th birthday of the United States Air Force and Air National Guard, honoring generations of Airmen who have served our nation and state with courage and dedication.

The Air Force traces its roots to August 1, 1907, when the U.S. Army Signal Corps created the Aeronautical Division to oversee military aviation. The National Security Act of 1947 established the U.S. Air Force as a separate and equal branch of the Armed Forces on September 18, 1947, and created the Air National Guard as its reserve component.

New Mexico shares a proud and lasting connection with the Air Force. Our state is home to three Air Force bases — Kirtland, Cannon, and Holloman — as well as more than 16,000 active-duty and Reserve personnel, 1,000 Air National Guard personnel, and thousands of Air Force Veterans.

The New Mexico Air National Guard also serves communities across our state, protecting lives and property through disaster relief, search and rescue, and emergency operations. Whether responding here at home or supporting national defense missions, New Mexico's Airmen continue a 79-year tradition of service.

As we celebrate this milestone, we honor Airmen, Veterans, their families, and all who support them. Their service, professionalism, and sacrifice strengthen New Mexico and our nation.



Gold Star Families Day 9/27



Observed on the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mothers and Families Day honors the mothers and families of service members who gave their lives in service to our nation. The day offers New Mexicans an opportunity to remember the fallen and recognize the families who carry their legacy forward.

The “Gold Star” tradition dates to World War I, when families displayed service flags in their windows. A blue star represented a loved one serving in the armed forces, while a gold star signified a service member who died in service to the nation. Today, the Gold Star remains a powerful symbol of sacrifice, remembrance, and the enduring strength of military families.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., founded in 1928, continues this tradition by supporting families and preserving the memory of fallen service members. The New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. also honors military service through its Blue Star and Gold Star programs, which recognize Veterans and Gold Star Families and create lasting places of remembrance.

Today, nine Gold Star Families Memorial Markers stand across New Mexico, providing permanent places to honor and remember fallen service members and their families. The two most recent markers were dedicated in Hobbs on April 23, 2026, and at Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery on June 29, 2026.

On Gold Star Mothers and Families Day, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services proudly stands with Gold Star Families and honors the loved ones they lost in service to our country.



Women Veterans Corner

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

Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager

Topic of the Month: Why Recognition Matters

For generations, women have served our nation in uniform, often before they were formally recognized as members of the Armed Forces and, at times, without receiving the same acknowledgment, opportunities, or benefits as their male counterparts. From the Revolutionary War to today’s military, women have answered the call to serve as nurses, pilots, intelligence professionals, mechanics, leaders, combat specialists, and in countless other roles.

That history is one of the reasons Women Veterans Recognition Day, observed June 12, matters. There has been discussion about whether women Veterans need a day of recognition when Veterans Day already honors all who have served. The answer is simple: Women Veterans Recognition Day does not replace Veterans Day; it adds historical context and visibility.

June 12 commemorates the signing of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, legislation that established women as permanent, regular members of the Armed Forces. Before this landmark legislation, women’s military service was often limited by law, circumstance, and gender. The Act represented a significant turning point, acknowledging that women were essential to the nation’s defense and establishing a pathway for women to build military careers.

Recognition is particularly important because being seen as a Veteran has not always been the experience of women who served. Women Veterans have shared experiences of being mistaken for spouses or dependents, being questioned about whether they actually served, or feeling that their military identity was overlooked. The VA has recognized that many women Veterans continue to face challenges in being recognized, respected, and valued as Veterans in civilian life.

A dedicated recognition day provides an opportunity to tell these stories. It gives communities a reason to learn about the women who served before them. It creates opportunities to highlight women Veterans who are still serving their communities as leaders, caregivers, business owners, advocates, mentors, and public servants. Most importantly, it reminds women Veterans that their service is seen, their experiences matter, and they belong within the larger Veteran community.

Recognition is not about creating division. It is about acknowledging history, honoring service, and strengthening connection. Every Veteran deserves to be recognized for their service. Women Veterans deserve that same recognition while also having their unique history and contributions understood and preserved. When we tell the complete story of military service, we create a more accurate history of our nation and inspire future generations to understand that women have always been an important part of America's defense.

As we continue moving forward, let us remember that recognition is more than a title or a date on a calendar. It is an opportunity to say: We see you. We honor you. We value your service. And we will continue telling your story.

If you are a woman Veteran seeking assistance, guidance, or connection to resources, the Women Veterans Program is here to help. To learn more about the services and support available to you visit: dvs.nm.gov

Help Preserve Military Women's History

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) needs your support to honor the enduring contributions of women in uniform by preserving their stories. Our state is home to thousands of incredible servicewomen, and their legacy and service deserve to be remembered.

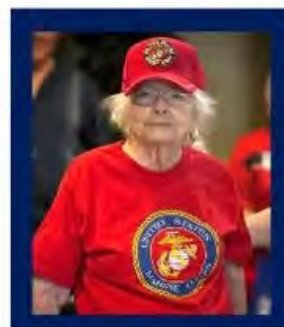
For more than 30 years, the Military Women's Memorial has collected names, photos, service records, and personal experiences of women who answered the call to serve. Today, the stories of service of more than 341,000 women are preserved and shared through the Memorial's National Register. This permanent archive is the only one of its kind, ensuring "HERstory" is recognized as an essential part of America's story. The NMDVS "Strive for 500" Campaign continues to gain momentum as we work toward our goal of registering 500 women Veterans with the Military Women's Memorial. We still need more women Veterans to be counted and recognized for their military service.

Registration is free and easy. If you are a woman who has served, add your story to the Military Women's National Digital Repository. By sharing your experience, you help shine a light on women's service and inspire future generations of New Mexicans. Please register and help us recognize New Mexico's women Veterans.

You don't have to be a Veteran to help preserve this history. Family members and friends can create a Friend account and register a woman who served, whether she is a mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, daughter, friend, or another woman whose service deserves to be remembered. You can add her photograph and share details about her service to help ensure her story has a permanent place in America's history. Whether she served generations ago or is serving today, you can help ensure her story is not lost.

Your service matters. Your story inspires. Your legacy deserves to be remembered.

Visit <https://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory/> to register, create a Friend account, and help preserve the history and legacy of women Veterans.



REGISTER

**YOUR
STORY**



womensmemorial.org

Diana Wong Takes the Mound, Continues a Lifetime of Service

U.S. Air Force Veteran Diana Wong stepped onto the field at Isotopes Park Aug. 7 for a ceremonial first pitch honoring a lifetime of service to her country, community and Veterans.

Wong's Veteran family cheered her on from the stands, including friends and members of the American Legion. Their presence reflected the close bonds she has built through decades of service and involvement in New Mexico's Veteran community.



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) joined the Albuquerque Isotopes to honor Wong before the game. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented her with a challenge coin recognizing her outstanding service to New Mexico and the nation before she threw the first pitch.

Secretary Herrera also presented Wong's friend, Ben Martinez, an Albuquerque U.S. Army Veteran who served during the Vietnam War, with a challenge coin in recognition of his military service.

Wong served in the U.S. Air Force from 1982 to 1990 during the Grenada conflict, Gulf War and Desert Storm era. Her military career included assignments in security police, law enforcement and base personnel. After leaving the Air Force, she made New Mexico her home, where she has lived for 36 years and built an extraordinary record of giving back.

Wong has volunteered more than 5,000 hours serving Veterans, earning recognition as a National VA Hospital Volunteer of the Year. She also founded the Women Veterans Warriors Color Guard and serves as president of Tribute to Women in the Military.

Her commitment reaches communities across New Mexico. Wong belongs to several Veterans service organizations, including the American Legion, V.F.W., D.A.V., and Women Veterans of New Mexico. Through her volunteer work with the color guard, she participates in ceremonial honors at more than 60 events throughout the state each year.



From her years in uniform to decades of volunteer service in New Mexico, Wong has remained committed to serving others. Her first pitch offered a fitting celebration of that service, made even more meaningful by the Veterans and friends who shared the moment.

NMDVS is proud to honor Wong and remains committed to recognizing and honoring all Veterans for their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.

Fall Honor Guard Training Conference and Competition

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) and AARP New Mexico, hosted the 18th Annual Military Honors Fall Training Conference and Competition on Aug. 28 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque.

Honor Guard volunteers from across New Mexico gathered to strengthen the skills required to render military funeral honors with dignity, precision and professionalism. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera opened the event and welcomed the volunteers, recognizing their commitment to providing final honors for New Mexico's Veterans and supporting their families.

The New Mexico Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, led by Sgt. Ivan Cano Rubio with Sgt. Jacob Gonzales, provided instruction throughout the day. Team members, Spc. Jose Torres and Spc. And Gael Uechi Solis, demonstrated proper military funeral techniques and procedures for rendering honors during a funeral service. Secretary Herrera presented Sgt. Rubio with a challenge coin in recognition of his dedication to the training program. This year's conference marked Rubio's final training before his upcoming deployment to Poland. NMNG Chief Warrant Officer 5 Dominic Esparza served as emcee. NMDVS supports more than 30 all-volunteer Honor Guard teams across New Mexico, with 18 teams attending this year's conference and nine participating in the competition.



The day also included special recognition of World War II and Korean War Veteran Burton Platero, who attended the conference on his 102nd birthday. Secretary Herrera recognized Platero during the event, giving those in attendance an opportunity to celebrate his service and milestone birthday.

Following the training, teams put their skills to the test by rendering honors during a mock funeral. A panel of judges evaluated each team on the execution of the flag fold, presentation of the flag and, for larger units, the rifle volley. Marine Corps League Detachment 478, El Perro Diablo of Las Cruces, swept all three team divisions, taking first place in the Small, Medium and Large Divisions. Second place in the Small Division went to American Legion Post 12, while second place in the Medium and Large Divisions went to American Legion Post 13. In the Bugle Competition, first place went to 1st Sgt. Ralph Harris of Buglers Across America, and second place went to Alfred Bourguet of American Legion Post 13.

NMDVS thanks the Honor Guard volunteers, instructors, judges, partners and participants who made this year's conference possible. Their continued dedication helps ensure New Mexico's Veterans receive the military funeral honors they have earned.

Honor Guard teams interested in learning more about joining the NMDVS Honor Guard Program can contact NMDVS at 505-231-8911. For information about New Mexico's State Veterans Cemeteries and memorials, visit www.dvs.nm.gov.



The Fall Honor Guard Training Conference and Competition



Fall Honor Guard Training Conference and Competition



1st Place, Small Division: Marine Corps League Detachment 478, El Perro Diablo, Las Cruces.

From left: Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary; Frank Brennan; Clemente Morales; Richard Turk; David Walker, NMDVS Cemetery and Memorials Bureau Chief.



1st Place, Medium Division: Marine Corps League Detachment 478, El Perro Diablo, Las Cruces.

From left: Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary; Arthur Duarte; Gilbert "Larry" Rodriguez; Frank Brennan; Jeffrey Eakman; Richard Turk; Clemente Morales; David Walker, NMDVS Cemetery and Memorials Bureau Chief.



1st Place, Large Division: Marine Corps League Detachment 478, El Perro Diablo, Las Cruces.

From left: Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary; Bruce Kemper; Arthur Duarte; Gilbert "Larry" Rodriguez; Frank Brennan; Clemente Morales; Richard Turk; Don Marquez; Jeffrey Eakman; David Walker, NMDVS Cemetery and Memorials Bureau Chief.



Top "live" bugler honors went to Ralph Harris of Buglers Across America.



The S.A.V.E. Run Rides for Veteran Suicide Prevention

Veterans, motorcyclists and community partners came together Aug. 29 for the 2026 S.A.V.E. Run, a motorcycle ride through northern New Mexico promoting suicide prevention, connection and remembrance. New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera helped kick off the ride at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, addressing Veterans, riders and supporters before they headed north.

Hosted by the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS), the annual event brings together the VA, NMDVS, the New Mexico American Legion Riders and other Veteran service organizations. The ride is named after VA S.A.V.E., a program that provides practical steps to help a Veteran in crisis. S.A.V.E. focuses on recognizing the Signs of suicide, Asking about suicide, Validating the Veteran's feelings, and Encouraging help and Expediting treatment.



NMDVS Suicide Prevention Coordinator Angelica Lapahie spent the morning connecting with Veterans and sharing information about NMDVS programs and services. Lapahie, a member of the New Mexico Women Veteran Warriors Color Guard, also stepped in when another member was unable to attend and presented the colors at the Albuquerque kickoff.

Secretary Herrera also recognized event organizer Christina Camacho, a Suicide Prevention Social Worker with NMVAHCS, for her work supporting Veterans and advancing suicide prevention. Herrera presented Camacho with an NMDVS Challenge Coin in recognition of her efforts. A special thank you goes to the New Mexico American Legion Riders for their continued support in helping make the S.A.V.E. Run possible.

Riders stopped near Santa Fe, in Española, at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge and in Questa before arriving at the NMDVS-managed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire. There, participants honored World War II Veteran Robert E. Nolen Jr., a Purple Heart recipient who served in Germany with "I" Company, 405th Regiment, 102nd Infantry Division, 9th Army. Nolen entered military service in May 1943 and was discharged in February 1946. He later lived in Taos before making Albuquerque his home for more than 40 years and lived to age 102.

The S.A.V.E. Run reminds Veterans and their communities of the importance of checking in, staying connected and having conversations that can save lives.



Anyone experiencing a mental health, suicide or substance use crisis can call or text 988 to connect with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for free, confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Veterans can call 988 and press 1 to connect specifically with the Veterans Crisis Line. Family members, friends and others concerned about a Veteran can also contact the Veterans Crisis Line for support and guidance.

The 2026 S.A.V.E. Run Ride for Veteran Suicide Prevention



Military Funeral Honors Brig. Gen. Jack Fox at Fort Stanton

A horse-drawn caisson carried the flag-draped urn of retired Brig. Gen. Jack Fox through Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery as family, friends, fellow service members, Veterans and civic leaders gathered to honor a lifetime of service to New Mexico and the nation.



Fox received full military honors during the ceremony, including the sounding of “Taps” and the presentation of the U.S. and New Mexico flags to his wife, Marvine.

Born and raised in Roswell, Fox devoted more than four decades to military, educational and public service. A graduate of New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) and New Mexico State University, he served on active duty, in the Army Reserve and with the New Mexico National Guard. After retiring as a colonel in 1995, he continued to develop young leaders as an educator, Commandant of Cadets at NMMI, and president of St. John’s Military School. New Mexico called Fox back to military service in 2007 as Deputy Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard.



He retired as a brigadier general in 2010. In 2015, the New Mexico Senate unanimously confirmed him as Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (NMDVS).

Maj. Gen. Miguel Aguilar, the Adjutant General of New Mexico, remembered Fox for the leaders he inspired. “Brigadier General Jack Fox believed leadership wasn’t about rank—it was about serving others. He devoted his life to our Soldiers, Airmen, Veterans, and the people of New Mexico, and he expected those around him to do the same,” Aguilar said. “Jack didn’t just build organizations; he built leaders.”

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera reflected on Fox’s lasting influence. “Brigadier General Jack Fox’s commitment, grit, generosity, and relentless drive to uplift others were the hallmarks of his life. He believed in building people up—not just through words, but through unwavering action—leaving a legacy of mentorship, friendship, and selfless service to our state and nation,” said Herrera. “His devotion extended far beyond his uniform; he was a loving husband to his beautiful bride, Marvine, a steadfast father, and a loyal brother, always giving the best of himself to the people he held closest. I, like many senior leaders in our state, was deeply influenced and directly shaped by his leadership and his example of what true selfless service looks like. I am forever grateful for the guidance he offered and will deeply miss my calls to him—conversations filled with wisdom, support, and genuine camaraderie. Jack Fox leaves behind a legacy of service and love that will continue to guide us, inspire us, and remind us of the power of a life lived for others.”



As the final notes of “Taps” carried across Fort Stanton and the honor guard rendered its final salute, New Mexico said farewell to a Soldier, educator, public servant and mentor whose legacy lives on through the Soldiers and Airmen he led, the Veterans he championed and the generations of leaders he inspired.

Military Funeral Honors Brig. Gen. Jack Fox at Fort Stanton



View the military funeral service honoring Brig. Gen. Jack Fox here: <https://youtu.be/vOvHB7tQ298>

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**.

Check the VBOC training calendar for upcoming classes and events: <https://sba-vboc.ecenterdirect.com/>

City	Dates	Location
*Clovis, NM	Sept. 10 Boots to Business Training	Cannon AFB M&FR Center
*Clovis, NM	Nov. 5 Boots to Business Training	Cannon AFB M&FR Center
*Alamogordo, NM	Nov. 12 Boots to Business Training	Holloman AFB M&FR Center

- *Participants will require base access*
- *Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.*



WHY CHOOSE VBOC?

✓ No Cost Business Mentoring ✓ Strengthening Veteran Businesses ✓ Veteran-Focused Expertise ✓ Statewide Support ✓ Military Spouse Assistance

LEARN



Boots to Business Training

- Entrepreneurship Education
- Business Planning Assistance
- Government Contracting Guidance
- Financial Readiness Training
- Military Spouse Pathway to Business Training

GROW



One-on-One Business Counseling

- Access to Capital Resources
- Marketing & Growth Strategies
- Business Expansion Support
- Strategic Planning Assistance

CONNECT



Lender Introductions

- SBA Resource Partners
- Veteran Business Networks
- Procurement Opportunities
- Community Partnerships
- Quarterly Lender Expo

SUCCEED



Veteran-Owned Small Business Certification Guidance

- Federal, State & Local Resource Navigation
- Long-Term Business Advising
- Veteran Surplus Program
- Sustainable Business Growth

Serving Veterans • Transitioning Service Members • National Guard • Reservists • Military Spouses



CANNON AFB BOOTS TO BUSINESS TRAINING

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business ownership.*



September
10-11, 2026



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Casual



**BASE ACCESS
REQUIRED**



RESERVE YOUR SEAT **TODAY** ★

NMDVS Veteran Service Officer & All-Agency Training

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) held its 2026 Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Training August 3–7 in Albuquerque, bringing staff together to strengthen the knowledge and skills they use to serve New Mexico's Veterans and their families.



Throughout the week, NMDVS Veteran Service Officers expanded their knowledge of Veterans' benefits and strengthened their advocacy skills. Sessions covered Veterans disability benefits, recent updates, and advanced strategies for claims and appeals. VSOs from the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pueblo of Tesuque, and Pueblo of Laguna also attended the training. Their participation reinforced NMDVS' collaboration with New Mexico's Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes to help ensure Veterans living on tribal lands have access to benefits, services, and support. The training also gave VSOs an opportunity to discuss challenges and share experiences with colleagues serving communities across New Mexico.

For VSOs, staying current on benefits, claims, and appeals is essential to helping Veterans understand their options and navigate the VA system. The week-long training gave staff time to ask questions, examine complex claims, and explore strategies they can apply in their work. VSOs can bring what they learned back to their offices as they advocate for Veterans and their families throughout the state.

NMDVS held its annual All-Agency Training on August 5, bringing employees from across New Mexico together for professional development and collaboration. Staff stepped away from their daily responsibilities to exchange ideas, learn more about the work of other divisions, and strengthen relationships across the department.

The gathering helped employees better understand how their individual roles connect to the work of other divisions and contribute to NMDVS' broader mission. Strong communication across the department helps NMDVS provide consistent service to Veterans, whether they seek assistance at an NMDVS office, through a VSO, or from another part of the agency.



NMDVS also recognized employees for their years of service to the State of New Mexico and presented annual awards honoring exceptional performance and service. The recognition celebrated employees whose dedication and contributions support the agency's mission and New Mexico's Veterans.



NMDVS Veteran Service Officer & All-Agency Training

Rookie of the Year – Congratulations to Yvonne Chavez, State Benefits Eligibility Interviewer at the NMDVS Albuquerque Pinetree office, for being recognized as the agency’s top-performing first-year employee. This award recognizes her exceptional customer service in assisting Veterans and her strong work ethic. Presented by Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.



The Groot Award – Congratulations to Shannon Quintana, Executive Assistant at the NMDVS Bataan office, for being recognized for her resilience, dedication, and “whatever it takes” attitude. Rooted in the community, she demonstrates a strong commitment to Veterans through her service, support and dedication to New Mexico’s Veteran community. Presented by Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.

The Yoda Award – Awarded to the NMDVS employee known for their expertise and guidance—the person colleagues and Veterans turn to for advice and mentorship. Congratulations to Jenny Isner, Veteran Service Officer II at the NMDVS Farmington office, for generously sharing her knowledge and talents with colleagues, Veterans and their families. Presented by Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.



Employee of the Year: Recognizing exceptional performance, agency-wide contributions and leadership that strengthens the NMDVS mission to serve New Mexico Veterans and their families. Congratulations to Therese Castillo, Senior Social Worker in the Healthcare Coordination Division, for earning this year’s honor. Presented by Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera.

Robin Wilson Honored for Service and Leadership



After more than five years with the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), Field Services Director Robin Wilson retired from employment in August due to her years of military service and other work.

Wilson began her career with NMDVS as the Women Veterans Program Manager, where she advocated for women Veterans across the state and connected them with benefits, services and resources. She later became Director of Field Services, leading the department's field operations and VSOs serving communities throughout New Mexico.

During Wilson's tenure as Director of Field Services, NMDVS launched its first mobile outreach unit, bringing services directly to Veterans in communities across the state. The department also expanded the number of field service offices, giving more Veterans access to in-person assistance closer to home. Wilson also helped create a career path for Veterans Service Officers, providing opportunities for professional growth and advancement within the department.

"It has been the most satisfying job, knowing I was making an impact by ensuring the Veterans of New Mexico knew about and had access to all of their earned benefits," Wilson said.



NMDVS recognized Wilson for her service during a gathering in August. Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented her with a plaque and a New Mexico state flag that had been flown over each of the agency's four state Veterans cemeteries in recognition of her service to New Mexico's Veterans. Benefits Director Edward Mendez, on behalf of Wilson's fellow NMDVS directors, presented her with an award of appreciation recognizing her service as Women Veterans Program Manager, Director of Field Services and her contributions to the department. Wilson's staff also honored her with gifts of appreciation, recognizing her leadership, support and commitment to serving Veterans throughout the state.

Following Wilson's departure, NMDVS promoted Rob Miller to Director of Field Services. Miller previously served as Quality and Training Manager and Central Region II Supervisor.

NMDVS thanks Wilson for her dedicated years of service and for her contributions to New Mexico's Veterans and their families.





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Phillip Hernandez, Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and newly promoted Central Region II VSO Supervisor/Mobile Unit Coordinator, based in the Albuquerque Goodwill office. Phillip is one of those people you can always go to when you need help or have a question. He brings a wealth of knowledge and is always willing to share it, give advice, or help someone work through an issue. What stands out most about Phillip is that he always keeps Veterans first.

NMDVS Division Director of Field Services Rob Miller shared, "Since taking on the Central Region/Mobile Unit role, he has really stepped up and started bringing his own ideas to the table and putting plans in place. I'm looking forward to seeing what he does with the region, and I think he definitely deserves the recognition."

How long have you been with the agency?

I started in December of 2023. I left Social Security after 5 years as a claims specialist processing retirement and disability claims to join NMDVS. I was lucky enough to land here as a VSO helping our Veterans with their compensation and pension claims.

What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

I enjoy helping our Veterans secure the benefits they deserve for their service to our country.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

My connection to the Veteran community starts with my family. I come from a family of Veterans (WWII, Vietnam, Desert Storm, OEF/OIF), and thanks to that, we have many friends who have also served. I enlisted in the Army National Guard in March of 2007 looking to better myself, and that's what I found. Through my service, I learned many things about life, service, respect, teamwork, and leadership. In 2009, I deployed with the 920th Engineer Company out of Roswell to Afghanistan, and then in 2011 again to Kosovo in support of Enduring Freedom. Through that experience, I have built a foundation to help our nation's heroes.

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

These days, when I am not working, I spend time with my son. I enjoy fishing, hunting, fantasy football, and watching the KC Chiefs dominate the Broncos. I enjoy working on my home and occasionally shooting some pool.

Three words to describe you?

Selfless, Honest, Persistent



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

‘Choose VA’ Postcards Are Legitimate VA Mail

VA is currently mailing official “Choose VA” postcards to approximately 3.8 million Veterans who are not enrolled in VA healthcare. The mailings began Aug. 13 and will continue through Sept. 11. If you receive one, don’t throw it away. It is legitimate VA communication with information about healthcare eligibility and enrollment.

How to Apply

- Online: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>
- By phone: 877-222-8387
- In person: Find a VA location at [VA.gov/find-locations](https://www.va.gov/find-locations)



VA previously warned Veterans about fraudulent “Veterans Savings Program” postcards. VA did not send those postcards. Veterans should remain cautious with unexpected communications. VA uses official VA.gov websites and phone numbers that can be verified online. Before scanning a QR code, check that the address points to a VA.gov website. If you suspect fraud or question the legitimacy of a communication, contact VSAFE online at <https://vsafe.gov/> or call 833-38V-SAFE (87233).

The Veterans Crisis Line Is Here Before a Crisis

September is Suicide Prevention Month, but suicide prevention matters every month. Reaching out for help is a smart move, not a last resort. The Veterans Crisis Line is available for whatever you’re facing, not just during life’s darkest moments. Stress from finances, relationships, health concerns, transitioning from military service or post-traumatic stress disorder can build over time. You don’t have to wait until things feel overwhelming to ask for support. The earlier you reach out, the more options you have.

VA also offers resources to help before a difficult moment. The VA Safety Plan app helps Veterans create a personalized plan for managing stress before a crisis develops. Family members and friends can learn how to recognize warning signs and start conversations that may help a Veteran seek support.

When you contact the Veterans Crisis Line, a real person will listen without judgment. The confidential service is available 24/7 and can connect you with local VA support if you choose. You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to use it.

Need support?

- Call 988 and Press 1
- Chat: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>
- Text: 838255

If something is weighing on you, that’s reason enough to reach out. People are ready to listen and help. VA Safety Plan app: mobile.va.gov/app/safety-plan



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

How to Talk With a Veteran in Crisis

If a Veteran you care about is going through a difficult time or having thoughts of suicide, you're probably worried and confused. You want to help but may be scared you could make things worse—the only wrong thing to do is to do nothing. Now is the time to act. You can begin by learning the signs of crisis and how to start a conversation with the Veteran.

REMEMBER: Everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention. Small actions, like starting a conversation, can make a big difference.



Signs of crisis

Every Veteran is different, and many may not show any obvious signs of intent to kill themselves. But some actions and behaviors can be a sign they need help.

Crisis signs

These signs require immediate attention. If a Veteran you know needs medical attention, **call 911** now. For immediate help in dealing with a mental health or suicide crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 then Press 1**.

- Thinking about hurting or killing themselves
- Looking for ways to kill themselves
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

REMEMBER: If you believe a Veteran is at high risk of suicide and has already taken pills or harmed themselves in some way, **call 911**. And keep yourself safe—**never** negotiate with someone who has a firearm. **Get to safety and call 911, noting the Veteran is armed.**

Warning signs

These signs may indicate that a Veteran needs help. Contact the Veterans Crisis Line now—**Dial 988 then Press 1**—if a Veteran you know is exhibiting any of these:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will



How to start the conversation

For a Veteran in crisis—whose emotional struggles and health challenges may lead to thoughts of suicide—conversations and connections can mean the difference between keeping them safe and a tragic outcome.

If you and/or the Veteran are not in immediate danger, start a conversation by asking questions like:

- *"It sounds like you're feeling so incredibly (insert appropriate feeling here—trapped, overwhelmed, betrayed, etc.). Sometimes when people feel this way, they think about suicide. Is this something you're thinking about?"*
- *"When did you first start feeling like killing yourself?"*
- *"Did something happen that made you begin to feel like taking your life?"*

When responding to answers from a Veteran, remember simple, encouraging feedback goes a long way in showing support and encouraging help-seeking:

- *"I'm here for you. How do you hurt and how can I help?"*
- *"Can we talk for a while and see if we can find a way to keep you safe right now?"*
- *"I might not be able to understand exactly what you're going through or how you feel, but I care about you and want to help."*

You don't have to be an expert to talk to a Veteran facing challenges. You just need to show genuine care and concern.



Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Make supportive and encouraging comments, don't ask invasive personal questions.
- Don't inject judgment or emotion in the conversation. Stay calm.
- Listen more than you speak—don't dominate the conversation.
- Remind them you are there for them.
- Let them decide how much to share.
- It's okay to ask directly: "Are you thinking about taking your own life?" If the Veteran answers yes, follow the steps below:
 1. Inform them they can **Dial 988 then Press 1** to reach the Veterans Crisis Line or ask if they'd like to do this with you.
 2. Assess whether the Veteran is in crisis and determine if he or she has already initiated a plan to kill themselves or injured others or has an immediate plan to do so, with access to means.
 3. Try to find out where the Veteran is located and whether anyone else is nearby.
 4. For immediate emergency or medical assistance, **call 911**.

Asking if someone is having thoughts of suicide will not give them the idea or increase their risk. It may seem daunting, but it could save their life. Although many people may not show clear signs of intent to kill themselves, they'll likely answer direct questions about their intentions when asked.

REMEMBER: Even if the Veteran doesn't ask for support, they may need it. Make sure they know the Veterans Crisis Line is available **24/7** to help during a crisis. You can even call together.

Learn more with these resources:

Veterans Crisis Line: A free, anonymous, confidential resource available to Veterans in crisis, as well as their family members and friends. **Dial 988 then Press 1**, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text **838255**.

VA Mental Health: VA's repository of mental health resources, information, and data materials.

Make the Connection: VA's premier mental health literacy and anti-stigma website highlights Veterans' real, inspiring stories of recovery and connects Veterans and their supporters with local resources.


VA

 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 National Cemetery Administration

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Volunteer Opportunity

**Saturday,
Sept 12, 2026**

Santa Fe, NM

**10:00 AM -
1:00 PM**

In Honor of September 11th

National Day of Service & Remembrance

Saturday, September 12, join communities across the country as we honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost on September 11, 2001, and pay tribute to the first responders and service members who answered the call in the days that followed.

In partnership with the National Cemetery Administration, the National Day of Service and Remembrance brings volunteers together at more than 140 participating national, grant-funded, and local cemeteries across the country.

Volunteers will help clean headstones and beautify these sacred grounds in tribute to our military members, veterans, first responders, and their families.

Registration is free, but required.

Presented by:
 **G.E.H.A.** EST 1937



Register Today at
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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



ATTENTION VETERANS

**Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity introduces our
Critical Systems Replacement Program (CSR)**

This is a no cost program for Veterans

Eligible projects:

- **Heating and cooling systems**
 - **Window Replacements**
 - **Roof Replacement**
 - **Bathroom modification**

Low-income Veteran homeowners are encouraged to apply

Must be current on mortgage, homeowner insurance and taxes

For more information contact Toye Adams at (505) 359-2436

**THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM. APPLICANT MUST
COMPLETE APPLICATION AND MEET HUD INCOME GUIDELINES.**

Veteran benefits are not counted as income for eligibility

FREE CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY!				AUGUST 2026			
LOCATIONS	SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
SAN MATEO 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	2	3	4 Money Management® 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Stress Management Workshop® 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	5 Internet Basics 9:30 am-10:45 am Cybersecurity 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	6 Computer Basics 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Typing 101 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	7 App Development® 9:30 am-10:45 am Game Development® 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	8
LOMAS 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE			Resume 101 9:30 am-10:45 am Typing 101 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Google Drive 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Google Docs 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Interview Skills® 9:30 am-10:30 am Time Management 11:00 am - 12:00 pm		
SAN MATEO 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	9	10	11 Microsoft Outlook 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Google Gmail 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	12 Resiliency® 9:30 am-11:00 am Interview Skills® 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	13 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. Job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	14 Excel 100 9:30 am-10:45 am Excel 200 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	15
LOMAS 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE		Intro to Coding® 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Coding Workshop® 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Google Slides 9:30 am-10:30 am Public Speaking Intro 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Excel 100 1:00 pm-2:15 pm Excel 200 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm			
SAN MATEO 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	16	17	18 Communication Skills® 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Public Speaking Intro 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	19 Microsoft Word 9:30 am-10:30 am Microsoft Explorer 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	20 iPhone Basics 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Android Basics 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	21 Excel 300 9:30 am-10:30 am Time Management 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	22
LOMAS 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE		Excel 300 1:00 pm-2:15 pm Excel PivotTables 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Money Management® 9:30 am-10:30 am Thinking Critically® 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Computer Basics 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Google Gmail 9:30 am-10:30 am Cybersecurity 11:00 am - 12:00 pm		
SAN MATEO 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE	23	24	25 Microsoft PowerPoint 12:30 pm-1:30 pm Public Speaking Presentation 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	26	27 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. Job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	28 Resume Workshop 9:30 am-11:30 pm	29
LOMAS 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE		Google Sheets 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Money Management® 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Excel 100 (ONLINE) 9:30 am-10:45 am Computer Basics 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Excel 100 9:30 am-10:45 am Stress Management® 11:00 am - 12:30 pm			
BLUEWATER 270 98TH STR NW				Excel 200 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Communication Skills 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm			
INSTRUCTORS:			MIKAYLA MARTINEZ: 505.314.1875 mimartinez@goodwillnm.org KYLE PAUL: 505.881.6401 X1903 kpaul@goodwillnm.org				



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DigitalSkills

TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use.

COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, Operating System, etc.

INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the Internet, search engines, browsers, online safety & using email.

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

EXCEL 100: Intro to review spreadsheet features & application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.

EXCEL 200: Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.

EXCEL 300: Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds & more.

EXCEL PIVOTTABLES: How to create PivotTable & insert a slicer. Includes intro to VLOOKUP and SUMIF functions.

INTRO TO GOOGLE: Overview of online tools within Google Workspace-collaborate, create, communicate in one place

GOOGLE DRIVE: Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage & file sharing service

GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of web-based word processing. Create and edit docs online.

GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.

GOOGLE SHEETS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based data driven document. Create, edit & share spreadsheets.

GOOGLE GMAIL: Basics of Google email service: Learn to create & send messages, organize & search inbox

ANDROID BASICS: Learn the basics about using your android phone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.

IPHONE BASICS: Learn the basics about using your iPhone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.

LEARN.
GROW.
SUCCEED.
INSPIRE.

YOU DONATE ITEMS TO
GOODWILL



DONATIONS SOLD IN
GOODWILL STORES



REVENUE FUNDS OUR
FREE PROGRAMS &
SERVICES



NEW MEXICANS FIND
JOBS!



LEARN.
GROW.
SUCCEED.
INSPIRE.

DigitalSkills

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

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

MICROSOFT EXPLORER: Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS.

MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar.

INTRO TO CODING@: Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & 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 with interactive learning exercises.

GAME DEVELOPMENT@: Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises.

VIRTUAL OPTION CLASSES:

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

EmploymentSkills

RESUME 101 Learn best practices for resume writing, with hands on creation, proofing and editing support.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS Using time management, words, appearance & body language to make good impression.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS@: Learn practical people skills and communication styles

INTERVIEW SKILLS @: Build interview confidence by learning question strategy, practice mock interviews.

SOFT SKILLS@: Learn the people skills that support success at work and in everyday life

OFFICE HOURS: One on one support from an instructor for anything you need help with on the computer

EmploymentSkills

Career Growth Employment Skills Series:

DISCOVER@: Explore career interests: Identify strengths & skills ...find jobs that match your personal qualities.

APPLY@: Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online and increase your chances of call-backs.

INTERVIEW @: Best practices in interviews, professional communication and the three modes of persuasion.

SUCCEED@: Building relationships, good attitude and the knowledge & behavior skills for success at work.

PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.

PUBLIC SPEAKING PRESENTATION: Plan and deliver a short PowerPoint presentation.

LifeSkills

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

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

TIME MANAGEMENT: Time management strategies to improve work efficiency. Create SMART goals for success.

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

RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@: Discover tools to help you develop a plan to strengthen your resiliency skills

WellnessSkills

STRESS MANAGEMENT @: A detailed look at the cause of stress & some strategies to manage daily stressors.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@: Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress

COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR

8/13/26 & 8/27/26

1-3 pm

Meet company hiring
managers.. job leads!

5000 SAN MATEO

Google Play Store Apple App Store



GOODWILL HAS A FREE APP!

LEARN DIGITAL SKILLS

FIND LOCAL RESOURCES & EVENTS

DOWNLOAD NOW!

GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS!

GoodSkills
Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training



VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER SEEKING 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 UPCOMING RETREAT DATE:

September 13-20, 2026

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



Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

1. Veterans & First Responders 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 participants will receive priority. Participants 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.



— ★ —

SEPT 5TH, LABOR DAY WEEKEND

VETERANS BRICK LAYING CEREMONY

Organizer: David Westphall Veterans Foundation
at Vietnam Veterans Memorial

34 Country Club Rd

Angel Fire, NM

Sept 5th, 2026 • 8:30-3:00

—

Join us in this heartfelt occasion as we lay engraved bricks that will become a permanent part of the memorial's pathways, symbolizing gratitude and remembrance.

www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org



Special thanks to the Run For The Wall organization and its volunteers for their efforts in laying and walking the bricks, and to the National Veterans Wellness & Healing Center, New Mexico National Guard, and New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services staff for helping make this event possible.





AMERICAN LEGION

— ★ POST 118 ★ —

HEALTH DAY

★ HEALTHY VETERANS. STRONGER COMMUNITY. ★

A DAY DEDICATED TO HEALTH, WELLNESS,
AND SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND COMMUNITY!



SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

★ 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM ★



AMERICAN LEGION POST 118

1500 Barbara Loop SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

SEPTEMBER IS
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION**
AWARENESS MONTH

BE THE ONE

TO ASK. TO LISTEN.
TO SUPPORT.

Small actions
can save a life.

★ ★ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! ★ ★

VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME!

 HEALTH SCREENINGS Take charge of your health.	 BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Know your numbers.	 MENTAL HEALTH & VETERAN RESOURCES You are not alone. Help is here.	 HEALTH & WELLNESS INFORMATION Tips, tools, and resources for a healthier you.	 COMMUNITY VENDORS AND SERVICES Connect with local organizations and support services.	 VETERAN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS Resources and assistance for those who served.
--	---	---	--	--	---



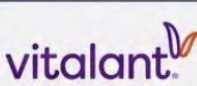
BLOOD DONATION SAVES LIVES!

PLEASE REACH OUT TO JESSIE ARCHULETA
TO GET SIGNED UP FOR BLOOD DONATION.



Blood Donation Saves Lives

★ THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS! ★

 Blood Donation Saves Lives	Bill Harrington Medicare, Medicaid, Made Simple.	 VIRTUAL HOME HEALTH CARE Compassionate Care. Where You Are.	MULTIPLE VA OUTREACH ORGANIZATIONS Providing Resources. Building Connections. Supporting Veterans.
 AMERICAN LEGION VSO Veterans Service Officer Here to Help. Here for You.			



FOR VENDOR OR TO PARTICIPATE
PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

★ JESSIE ARCHULETA ★
or
★ KIM SCHNEPPER ★



TOGETHER, LET'S SUPPORT
THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
OF OUR VETERANS AND COMMUNITY!

NVWHC 2026 5K

 **Sunday
Sept. 6, 2026**

 **8:00 am**

 **Angel Fire
Airport Runway**

**EVERY STEP MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**



RUN OR WALK
All paces welcome!



**TOGETHER WE
RAISE AWARENESS**



**TOGETHER WE
SAVE LIVES**



STRONGER TOGETHER
supporting our veterans, first
responders & community.



Register. Participate. Make an impact.

Proceeds support veteran and first responder wellness
programs and suicide prevention initiatives.

www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org

505-501-8337

Hope is real.

Help is available.

You matter.

We care.



Stefani Lord
House District 22
Representative

EAST MOUNTAINS VETERANS SERVICES FAIR

**Sept. 9 Wednesday
1100 - 1400**

**Village of Tijeras Council Chambers
12 Camino Municipal - Tijeras 87059**

APPLY FOR BENEFITS ON-SITE

- Lifetime Park Pass
- Disability
- Property tax exemptions/waivers
- Hospital
- GI Bill
- Surviving spouse benefits

BRING WITH YOU:

- VA Award Letter
- DD214
- Proof of Residency
- Survivors - copy of marriage & death certificates

**NMVA * NMVDS * NMVIC * Paws & Stripes * NMVCC * On-site
Healthcare, Housing, Mental Health Resources & Education
Service Dog Program, Food Assistance, Business & Entrepreneur
Mentorship & MORE**

Contact : Charlene.Smith@nmlegis.gov
505-946-5622

To request a reasonable ADA accommodation, contact by Sept. 4, 2026



Join us for a honorary hike to strengthen the memory of our heroes who rose up during the September 11th attacks.

Help us carry 25 American Flags
around the Albuquerque Academy loop.



**SATURDAY
SEP 12, 2026**



9:00 AM



**ALBUQUERQUE
ACADEMY LOOP**

**Secure your spot by
filling out the form below.**

<https://forms.gle/kajdCTY8YBJgpv1t9>



Honoring heroes. Strengthening communities.
Empowering Eagles.



HONOR FLIGHT OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO
★ 5TH ANNUAL ★
DENNIS GESHEL
★ MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ★
PLAY FOR A PURPOSE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026
ISLETA EAGLE GOLF COURSE

8:00 AM – Breakfast & Registration

9:00 AM – Shotgun Start

Lunch Immediately Following

★ PLAYER REGISTRATION ★
\$165
PER GOLFER
\$660
PER TEAM OF FOUR

SUPPORT THE MISSION
 Help send New Mexico veterans on no-cost trips to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor.

TOURNAMENT FEATURES
 SCRAMBLE FORMAT
 CONTESTS & PRIZES
 RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS
 BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED

★ REGISTER NOW! ★
SCAN TO REGISTER

OR VISIT:
honorflightnorthernnm.org

QUESTIONS?
 Email: info@hfnnm.org

BELFOR 
 PROPERTY RESTORATION



RIO GRANDE
 - CREDIT UNION -



★ HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS. ONE FLIGHT AT A TIME. ★

Happy 20th Birthday Celebration

Hey Sister!

We are celebrating our Women Veterans of New Mexico's 20th Birthday with a fun lunch-party, and we'd love for you to join us. Come relax, laugh, and, enjoy time with your WVNМ sisters.



Date: Saturday, September 12th



Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM



Location: Mario's Pizza, 2401 San Pedro Dr NE,
Albuquerque, NM



Lunch: On your own



Plus: Fun, sisterhood, and hugs!



RSVP: Please RSVP to our Hostess
Candy Dunlap

email: birdshouse@comcast.net

NLT 10 September 2026

<https://mariospizzaabq.com/menu/marios-pizza-san-pedro>

Check out the delicious food





VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS

ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
8AM SHOTGUN START

SANTA ANA GOLF CLUB

288 PRAIRIE STAR ROAD
 SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NM 87004

TEAM REGISTRATION

\$800
 (\$200 Individual)

FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE

18 HOLES

FOOD PROVIDED

BREAKFAST BURRITOS
 & CATERED LUNCH

REGISTER AT WWW.NMVIC.ORG/GOLF
 SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

POC - JERRY BECKER: jerry.becker@nmvic.us, (505) 991-4708
 BENEFITING THE VETERANS INTEGRATION CENTERS & THE ROTARY DEL NORTE FOUNDATION



NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE ON AGING

REGISTER NOW



The countdown is on! Join us

Two days of learning, connection, and celebration for elders, caregivers, and advocates across New Mexico.



SEPTEMBER 23–24, 2026
Glorieta Conference Center

REGISTER TODAY AT
AGING.NM.GOV/CONFERENCE-ON-AGING/

Free for many program participants. Let's make this the biggest one yet.

4th
annual

Veterans Meditation Retreat

For Veterans, By Veterans

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



WHEN: Sept. 25 - Sept. 28, 2026

WHERE: The Clyde Hotel,
Albuquerque, NM

WHY: Introduce Meditation
techniques, reduce 17-20 current
Veteran suicides per day

94% of participants find the techniques
relevant to their well-being.
100% reported a "very good" experience that
improved their perceived ability to manage
mental challenges.

NO FEE:

Every Veteran Fully Funded!



All accommodations and
transportation to and from the
retreat are paid for by grants,
sponsors, and individual donors.



Veterans, APPLY NOW

Call 505-982-4183

Email info@lifetransition.com

Visit lifetransition.com/vmr/

Or Scan to apply



**Please make a tax-
deductible donation:**

tinyurl.com/VMRPayPal

Life Transition Meditation
Center

501(c)3 ID #20-0193687



**Donate here.
Thank you!**



**“Veterans & Spouses Claims & Benefits Workshop”
- Free of Charge -**

Please join us for the veterans and spouses to help facilitate your future. Service Officers will be on hand to assist you in filing a VA disability claim or a Dependency & Indemnity Compensation claim. Please bring a Valid ID, medical records, a summary statement to support your claim, and military and dependent documents, and any VA Disability Award Letters; and a copy of the veteran’s death certificate for those filing a DIC claim. At this time you can also apply for VA medical benefits.

Several Veteran Resources will be available.

**Thursday, October 1, 2026 – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
St. Genevieve’s Parish Hall – 1025 E. Las Cruces Ave., Las Cruces, NM**

For more information, contact Jerry – (575) 339-3526

If you need a ride, please call (575) 915-4899

**Sponsored by Disabled American Veterans; St. Genevieve’s Catholic Church
and Golden Corral**



ATTENTION - former members of 1-200 ADA, New Mexico Army National Guard "First to Fire"

A reunion of the 1st Battalion 200th Air Defense Artillery (1-200 ADA) NMARNG is planned for the 2nd and 3rd of October 2026. ALL former members of 1-200 ADA are cordially invited and encouraged to attend this momentous event.

This will be an excellent opportunity for everyone to renew friendships, share experiences and reminisce on the trials, tribulations and learning scenarios while serving in this famous organization.

The event will be held at the American Legion Post #28 Hall, 1620 North Montana, Roswell, NM 88201. As the Legion Hall has a full lounge - "P'Nuts Place" (named in honor of SFC Phillip Lopez – a former 1-200 ADA member) no outside alcoholic beverages will be allowed. The festivities will kickoff at 1600 on Friday 2 OCT 26 with registration and socializing. Saturday we will begin at 0800 – 1200 with a continental breakfast, and there will be several activities for the entire family. Saturday evening will begin at 1645 with the opening ceremonies followed by a dinner from 1730 - 1900 and dance from 1930 – 2300. We are currently working to have a block of rooms set aside at a local hotel for our out-of-town members, with more information will follow. There will be several drawings throughout the evening and the opportunity for more socializing, reminiscing and fellowship. Registration fee is \$ 20.00 per person (includes dinner and music) and children under 10 are free.

Please plan on attending!!!

Contact Information

Reunion President Cindy Hazelbaker: 575-308-6434

Jaime Fierro: 575-910-2102

Charles Waltrip: 575-317-4643

Finance Officer Christina: 575-637-0343



★ AMERICAN LEGION ★ POST 118 ★ 2ND ANNUAL ★ CHARITY GOLF — TOURNAMENT —



**TEAM
SIGN UPS
NOW OPEN!**
★

★ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 ★
ARROYO DEL OSO GOLF COURSE



Providing service dogs and training to veterans and first responders living with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, and other service-related challenges.

AND



**AMERICAN
LEGION
POST 118**

Supporting veterans, military families, youth programs, and our community through service, advocacy, and continued commitment.



**CHECK-IN
BEGINS AT
7:00 AM**



**SHOTGUN START /
SCRAMBLE**



**BREAKFAST &
LUNCH INCLUDED
FOR ALL REGISTERED
PLAYERS**



SPECIAL HOLES
TEST YOUR SKILLS
AND WIN PRIZES!



MULLIGANS
EXTRA SHOTS
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE!



RAFFLES
GREAT PRIZES
AVAILABLE FOR
PURCHASE!

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR DESIGNATED CHARITIES.

REGISTER, SPONSOR OR DONATE TODAY!

VISIT THE POST 118 WEBSITE TO:



REGISTER
YOUR TEAM



SIGN UP AS
A SPONSOR



MAKE A
DONATION

*Donations of
Any Amount Are
Appreciated!*

 www.post118riorancho.com/specialevents



Carl Fitzgerald
505-301-1502

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:



Carla Abbate
505-270-8805

★ GREAT GOLF. STRONGER COMMUNITY. CHANGING LIVES. ★
Thank you for supporting our veterans!



SAN JUAN COUNTY STAND DOWN 2026

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 2026 Farmington Stand Down event where you can gain access to a variety of helpful resources...

OCTOBER 9TH 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!



A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT

Albuquerque FISHER HOUSE

7th Anniversary

OPEN HOUSE



KITCHEN



SUITE



LIVING ROOM

CELEBRATION DETAILS

Date: Wednesday October 14, 2026

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Food and beverages will be served

No parking will be available in Fisher House lot
Please park in the North Visitors Lot



Home AWAY FROM *Home*

VA



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

***A "STAND DOWN" IS A COMMUNITY
EVENT WHERE AT-RISK VETERANS
CAN RECEIVE HELP IN A SAFE,
WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.***



ALBUQUERQUE VETERANS STAND DOWN

16 OCT 2026
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

@THE ROCK AT NOONDAY
2400 2 ST NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE, EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT, HEALTHCARE, MEALS,
COUNSELING, HAIR CUTS, HYGIENE ITEMS, AND CLOTHING.**



**JOIN THE VIC
IN SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS**

- ★ Register as a Service Provider
- ★ Corporate Sponsorships Available
- ★ Provide Support Through Donations

INFO@NMVIC.US | WWW.NMVIC.ORG | (505) 296-0800



New Mexico Veterans and Families
Foundation



**LAS CRUCES
VETERANS
HELPING HANDS**
Stand Down

Housing services, haircuts,
Veteran Service Officers,
VA Disability Services, Social
Security assistance, and more
resources available onsite!



VFW POST 10124
709 South Valley Drive, Las Cruces



FRIDAY, 16 OCT 2026
7:30AM - 12 NOON
BREAKFAST STARTS AT 7AM

Van Service to be arranged
For more info, call Len Hampton, 575-405-9001.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

44th Annual Alamo Indian Day Celebration "Honoring our Heroes" October 16 and 17, 2026

Alamo Navajo Reservation NM 29 miles north of Magdalena on Hwy 169

Arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and much more. . .

Friday Oct. 16

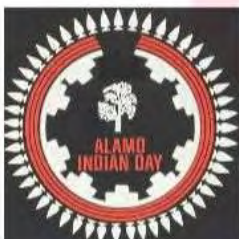
- Song and dance
- 11:00 am Walk and run @ Alamo Wellness Center
- 12:00 noon Elderly Day luncheon @ Walter's park
- 12:00 pm Kids chainsaw contest, contact Neal Apachito via messenger
- 1:00 pm Fitness challenge @ Alamo Wellness Center
- 2:00 pm registration, 3:00 pm Women chainsaw contest and men stock. Contact Lonnie Canadonegro via messenger
- 5:00 pm Kids costume contest
- 6:00 pm 3D archery shoot Northside of Walter's park, contact Rodman Apache via messenger
- 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm Country dance (Apache Spirit) @ Walter's park free event. 9:00 pm Halftime Adult costume contest

Saturday Oct. 17

- Song and dance
- 8:00 am Line up. Roads will be block off at 9:50 am.
- 10:00 am Parade
- 12:00 noon chainsaw contest, 11:30 registration. Contact Embro Apache via messenger
- 12:00 pm Volleyball tournament on the Eastside of Walter's park, contact Daz Chito via messenger
- 12:00 pm MUDD BOGG on the Northside of Walter's park, contact Siv Canadonegro (575)842-8193
- 2:00 pm Morgan Family Dancers
- 3:00 pm Apache Crown Dancers
- 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Gospel Jam @ Walter's park, Contact Clayton Monte. All gospel singers are welcome

**For more information contact
Nigel Secatero (505)220-7296
or Alamo Chapter House
(575)854-2686**

**Alamo Indian Day Committee will not be
responsible for any accidents or any stolen items**



WNMU REMEMBRANCE MARCH "WALK FOR THE HEROES"



Vietnam Veterans Chapter 358
XVII

Where: Fort Bayard New Mexico Bataan Memorial Park 3 mile Honor March around the Fort Bayard Veterans National Cemetery and the Historical Landmark

When: Saturday 17 October 2026

Time: 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM Registration & Information, 10:00 AM start walking

Cost: \$25 Registration fee made payable to Veteran Resource Agency

Registered walkers will receive a T-shirt & Commemorative Coin

Picture of Veteran and headstone- need to be registered.

Deadline to submit picture and headstone 18 Sept 2026

If you have honored a Veteran previously, we will still honor them
but will not provide another plaque, picture on banner or name on t-shirt.

If you would like an extra plaque (cost of \$40) please let us know.

Presentation of plaques for Honored Veterans after walk.

FREE Food and Drinks!!

For more information contact:

Liz Lopez at (575)-574-2964

egarcia3264@gmail.com or

Sylvia Sierra at (575)-538-6871/(575) 654-5413

sylvia.sierra@wnmu.edu





HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM (HVRP)

VETERAN & COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT *and* JOB FAIR



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2026



1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



GOODWILL
OPPORTUNITY CENTER
5000 San Mateo Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



RESOURCES. OPPORTUNITIES. CONNECTIONS.
BUILDING STRONGER FUTURES TOGETHER.



CONNECT
with Veteran
Service
Organizations



EXPLORE
Community
Resources &
Support Services



MEET
Local Employers
Hiring Veterans
Like You



GET HELP
with Resumes,
Applications &
Job Readiness



BUILD
Connections.
Strengthen
Your Future.

RAFFLE FOR PRIZES INCLUDING:



FREE BOWLING
AT SANTA ANA STAR



FREE DAY PASSES TO
STONE AGE CLIMBING GYM



\$50 TOP GOLF
GAME PASSES

and so much more!



HONORING SERVICE.
SUPPORTING SUCCESS.

QUESTIONS?

Contact HVRP Program Manager
Adriana Dodson
505-881-6401 ext 1941
Adodson@goodwillnm.org

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico
Serving Veterans. Strengthening Communities.
goodwillnm.org



! SAVE THE DATE !

End all Suicide Coalition 2026 Veteran Stand Down

**The Rock Christian Fellowship
919 N Riverside Drive, Espanola, NM**

Time: 1000 - 1400

Date: October 24, 2026

**Are you a veteran experiencing homelessness or
housing instability?**

**Join us to connect with free resources and support,
including housing assistance, food, clothing,
healthcare screenings, employment services, VA and
community resources, Social Security benefits,
and much more.**

You served our country. Let our community serve you.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THESE SERVICES OR PROVIDING SERVICES?

CONTACT FOR QUESTION OR INQUIRIES:

valentina.livingston@nnmc.edu

505-747-5499

Come Join the New Mexico Veterans' Art Group a 501c3 nonprofit

At the Pleased to Present Gallery downtown Albuquerque

(510 Central Avenue SW, Albuquerque NM 87102)

Show runs from 4 November through 27 November 2026. Gallery Hours: **Wed-Sun:12-6pm, Fridays: 12-8pm** (Admission is free)



Paintings, Photography, Sculpture, Pottery, Rattles, Jewelry and a Mercado on the 27th of November from Noon to 5:00pm. Something for Everyone and it's tax free!



For more information on New Mexico Veterans Art and upcoming Events visit:

<https://nmveteransart.com/>

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 11, 2026 11AM

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Join the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire as we honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Keynote Speaker:

**Colonel Sara Breckenridge-Sproat, U.S. Army (Retired),
a 30-year Army Nurse Corps veteran and
Vice President of Women Veterans of New Mexico.**

**Musical performance by the award-winning
Cimarron High School Band**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire was the first memorial in the United States dedicated to Vietnam Veterans. It was established by Dr. Victor "Doc" Westphall in honor of his son, David, and all who served.

Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial
34 Country Club Rd.
Angel Fire, NM 87710
575-377-3223





NMDVS Field Offices in New Mexico

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

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

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

575-937-5620

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

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

Phillip Hernandez (Central II Supvr.)

Goodwill Office (Tu. Wed. Fri. only)
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE

(505) 537-9339

phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

La Sondra Menchego

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

(505) 525-3331

lasondra.menchego@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Calvin James

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

(505) 681-0499

calvin.james@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Adam Calderon

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

(505) 274-0393

adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Joann Valdez

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

(505) 584-2153

joann.valdez@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VARO)

Eric Ballheimer

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

(505) 479-0672

eric.ballheimer@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

James Brandon

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

(505) 623-1729

james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

Joel Hebert

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

(505) 470-7503

joel.hebert@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

Jason Liddel

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

(505) 490-7532

Jason.liddell@dvs.nm.gov

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

VSO Staff/Every Tuesday

Belen Business Center
719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE Supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

(continued on next page)

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****Alex Fontaine**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

carl.fontaine@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Vacant**

2120 North Alto St.

(505) 825-9602

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