



The Guardian

The Newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

October, 2016

State Moves One Step Closer to Begin Construction on Gallup State Veterans' Cemetery



From L to R: VA Cemetery Grants Program Director George Eisenbach, Jr., Medal of Honor Recipient and longtime Gallup resident Hiroshi Miyamura, VA Cemetery Project Manager Thomas Paquelet, NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox, and Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney visit the site of the Gallup State Veterans Cemetery—which is located along County Road 43 in the Hester Valley.

Governor Susana Martinez announced that the state has been notified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that it has received priority ranking for funding in Fiscal Year 2017 for construction of the proposed state veterans cemetery in Gallup.

This location will be accessible to more than 25,000 veterans and eligible family members in Northwestern New Mexico—accommodating the needs of both tribal and non-tribal veterans.

There are three VA national cemeteries serving the state's 170,000 veterans and their families: Fort Bayard, Santa Fe—and for veterans in the southern part of the state, the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, Texas. More than half live in rural areas far from these sites. Gallup was one of four locations proposed by the Governor when she established the State Cemetery Initiative in 2013 to **build state veterans' cemeteries for our state's rural** veterans and families.

“This announcement gets us one step closer to establishing local veterans cemeteries throughout New Mexico so that those who’ve answered the call to serve our state and nation in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families won’t have to drive hours upon hours to lay their loved ones to rest or visit final resting places,” Governor Martinez said. “In a state as large and rural as New Mexico, our veterans and their families deserve a final resting place that is closer to home.”

The priority ranking from the VA's National Cemetery Administration is the result of the \$600,000 in required “seed funding” that the Governor secured in the 2014 Capital Outlay Bill to plan, design, and build local veterans cemeteries throughout the state. The Albuquerque division of the design firm Huitt-Zollars, Inc., has been hired to oversee the project.

In addition to Gallup, the State Cemetery Initiative calls for cemeteries to be built in Fort Stanton, Angel Fire, and Carlsbad, with the potential for more in future phases. Last fall, Governor Martinez announced nearly \$6 million dollars in funding to establish the Fort Stanton cemetery, which is scheduled to be finished next spring.



Vietnam War-Era Veterans Honored at Special Ceremony in Las Vegas, NM



Vietnam War-era veterans were honored on September 30 at Veterans Park in Las Vegas, N.M., at the second of a planned series of statewide 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremonies.

Dozens of Vietnam War-era veterans were joined by family, friends, and veterans of other war eras for the special ceremony, which was presented as part of a nationwide initiative issued by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in 2008 asking states to **honor America's Vietnam War veterans, and to commemorate the pending 50th anniversary of our country's involvement in the war.** Though our country's

involvement began in an advisory capacity in the late-**1950's**, **full involvement in the war began in 1965** when the first influx of American ground troops was deployed. A 2012 Presidential Proclamation extended the commemoration through Veterans Day, 2025.

The ceremony was hosted through a joint effort by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, the City of Las Vegas, N.M., American Legion Riders Chapter 26, the Santa Fe National Cemetery, the Santa Fe Vet Center, the New Mexico State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and Vietnam Veterans of America Northern New Mexico Chapter 1056.

"I want to thank you, our Vietnam War-era veterans, for your service and sacrifice during what was at that time a very unpopular war for many Americans here at home," said New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Deputy Secretary Alan Martinez in his Welcome Address ([right photo/on the right, at podium](#)) on behalf of Secretary Jack Fox, who was attending another previously-scheduled event. **"But history now shows us that you served with honor, courage, and dignity...and that like previous generations of veterans, you have provided the foundation on which today's and future generations of servicemen and women stand."**



The commemoration ceremonies make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War era. All answered the call of duty. More than nine million Americans served during the Vietnam War era—including more than three million who served in the southeast Asia region. 58,000 Americans were killed in action—including 398 from New Mexico.

After the ceremony, Vietnam War-era veterans in attendance were presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services with a certificate of appreciation for their service during the war—and also with a special 50th Anniversary commemorative pin. Similar commemoration ceremonies will be presented throughout the state in the coming years in an effort to reach out to as many Vietnam War-era veterans as possible.





TOP LEFT: NMDVS Las Vegas-based Veterans Service Officer Karen Abeyta served as the Master of Ceremonies for the 50th Anniversary commemoration ceremony. Afterwards, certificates of appreciation and a Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Pin were presented to Vietnam War-era veterans.

TOP RIGHT: NMDVS Events Coordinator Josetta Rodriguez helped direct veterans to fellow staffers for the presentation of the certificates and pins.

MIDDLE LEFT: NMDVS State Benefits Director Dale Movius.

MIDDLE RIGHT: NM Business Outreach Center Veterans Business Advisor Rich Coffel (extending hand) and NMDVS Cemetery Program Director/50th Anniversary Commemoration State Coordinator Tom Wagner.

BOTTOM LEFT: NMDVS Rural Veterans Coordination Program/NE Region Coordinator Sarah Cantu.

BOTTOM RIGHT: NMDVS Raton-based Veterans Service Officer Gary Fresquez.

The Moving Wall to Make Four-Day Stop in NM



The public is invited to visit *The Moving Wall* as it makes a four-day stop in Moriarty from October 20-24 at Civic Park in Moriarty, located just south of the city's municipal offices at 202 Broadway.

There will be a special Welcome Ceremony on October 21 at 10 a.m.

The Moving Wall is a traveling half-sized replica of the **National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall** in Washington, D.C. which honors the service of Americans in the Vietnam War. As with the National Wall, the highlight of the Moving Wall is the listing of

the names of 58,200 Americans killed in combat or are still listed as Missing in Action—including 398 New Mexicans who lost their lives, and 12 who are officially missing.

The Moving Wall, which arrives a day earlier, will be on public display 24-hours a day until 3 p.m. on October 24. There is no admission charge to view the display. But there are restrictions and guidelines in place for those wishing to visit this special monument: **All mobile devices must be set to "silent," no pets, no smoking, no music, and no unattended children are allowed on the premises of The Wall display.**

The idea of a traveling wall was created by Vietnam War veterans John Devitt and Gerry Haver after they **attended the 1982 dedication of the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.** The two vowed to come up with a way to somehow share the powerfully moving experience they felt in the presence of The Wall with those who do not have the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital.



They enlisted the help of three artists--who were also Vietnam War veterans--to build a half-size replica of The Wall. The first model was finished in October of 1984. A second replica was built shortly after. The two traveling monuments now tour the country every year from April to October. The Wall making the stop in Moriarty will be arriving from Santa Barbara, CA., and will head to Chinle, AZ, after its New Mexico visit. As of the beginning of this year, The Moving Wall has been hosted by 1,362 communities.

Event organizers are looking for various supplies and monetary donations to help facilitate the visit--and for volunteers to help with set up/take down of The Wall or to help escort visitors needing on-site assistance. For more information, contact Pastor Bob Ludwig of Sunset Ministries at (505) 803-9657.

Cremated Remains of Unclaimed Veterans to be Interred at *Forgotten Heroes* Funeral

The unclaimed cremated remains of thirty military veterans--whose bodies upon their deaths were unclaimed by family members--will be laid to rest at a 2:15 p.m. *Forgotten Heroes Funeral* on November 10 at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

The cremains will be interred with full military honors in accordance with the state's *Forgotten Heroes Burial Program*, established by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) and Bernalillo County to provide a military funeral—with an Honor Guard, Flag Fold ceremony, 21-Rifle Volley and a bugle rendition of *Taps*--for any honorably discharged veteran who upon death goes unclaimed by family members or friends. The program ensures that “no veteran will be alone at the end.”

The cremains are of veterans from several counties in New Mexico. The public is invited to attend and help provide this Final Salute for these veterans who have honorably served our country.



(photos from 2015 Forgotten Heroes Funeral)



NMDVS, NMDWS Present *Hire Veterans Summit* to Educate Employers on the Benefits of Hiring Veterans



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) partnered with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) to host a Hire Veterans Summit on September 29 at the Santa Fe Convention Center. NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox and NMDWS Secretary Celina Bussey (*left photo/at podium*) were among the dignitaries and presenters who led panel discussions and breakout sessions which provided an opportunity for small and large businesses, government agencies, and contractors to learn about the best practices for hiring and retaining veterans, transitioning service members, and their families.

“Through their military service, veterans have the discipline, enthusiasm, and training which translate well to the civilian workforce,” said NMDVS Secretary Fox during his welcome remarks. “I hope you all realize this. Veterans come from a highly technical, real-world atmosphere. They can really help your agency or company—no matter what it is you do.”

Among the key points developed at the summit were the need for employers to know where and how to find employable veterans such as the database of job-seeking veterans kept by the New Mexico Workforce Connection—a division of the NMDWS which helps people find jobs. Taking part in the many veteran-oriented job fairs around the state was another important source for finding employable veterans.



NMDVS Women Veterans Program Coordinator Melanie Suazo (far right) took part in a panel discussing her transition from military life to civilian life. Ms. Suazo recently retired as a Sergeant Major from the New Mexico National Guard. After a 26-year career.

“The Los Alamos National Lab knows the value of hiring veterans. That’s why we actively seek out opportunities which put us in touch with veterans looking for a job,” said Los Alamos National Lab Diversity Officer C.J. Bacino, a panelist in a *How to Find and Recruit Veterans & Transitioning Military Personnel* panel moderated by NMDVS Secretary Fox (*middle photo*). “You have to really want to hire veterans...really commit yourself to it. The payoff, as Secretary Fox pointed out, is well worth the effort.”

Also partnering to present the summit were the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the New Mexico National Guard, Lockheed-Martin, Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation, SHRM New Mexico, the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and the City of Santa Fe. The summit is the first of a two-part effort by the NMDVS and NMDWS to help veterans find jobs. A November job fair is scheduled in Albuquerque. More information will be provided by the as soon as plans are finalized.

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions is the state agency which provides assistance for job-seeking New Mexicans.



The agency has a division specifically dedicated to helping veterans seeking employment. For more information, go to www.dws.state.nm.us. In the top portion of the agency's home page is a *veterans* heading...which opens up to valuable information, contacts, and links to help job-seeking veterans.

NM Veterans Business Outreach Center to Present Business Development Workshop in Las Cruces



Military veterans and National Guard/Reserve/transitioning active-duty service members interested in starting or growing their own small business are invited to a free business development lunch workshop on November 9 from 11:30am-1pm in Las Cruces at the Marriott SpringHill Suites Hotel, located at 1611 Hickory Loop. Spouses are also invited, and a free hot lunch will be provided for all.

Among the topics to be covered are: The basics of a business start-up, available financial assistance for veterans, how to create a business plan, legal issues you need to be aware of, contracting opportunities specifically for veteran-owned businesses, veteran-friendly franchise opportunities, and other ways the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) and the presenting partner agencies can help entrepreneurial-minded veterans and spouses. As an added bonus, there will be private "walk-in" business counseling sessions available for more personal assistance.

This is the seventh workshop of the year presented by the New Mexico VBOC—the business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services—as part of its ongoing *On the Road* series of business development workshops for veterans. Partner agencies include the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Small Business Development Center of New Mexico (SBDC), the SBDC Procurement Technical Assistance Program of New Mexico, and Wells Fargo Bank. The Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce is also helping to present the November 9 workshop. To pre-register or more information, contact the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce at (575) 524-1968 or bmisquez@lascruces.org.

The New Mexico Veterans' Business Outreach Center

The New Mexico Veterans' Business Outreach Center (VBOC) was created by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services to help veterans in the southwest with all aspects of operating a small business. Located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the center was the first state-funded center in the nation created specifically to help veterans with their small business needs. It provides assistance through one-on-one appointments at the center, and through frequent outreach workshops and conferences throughout the southwest region. These services are always free for entrepreneurial-minded veterans, retirees, and Guard/Reserve/transitioning active-duty personnel.

The VBOC is administered through a grant awarded by the U.S. Small Business. For more information about the VBOC, contact VBOC Veterans Business Advisor Rich Coffel at (505) 383-2402 or richardl.coffel@state.nm.us.

NMVBOC to Host “VBOC on the Rez” Business Development Workshop in Zuni Pueblo

The New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services—will present a unique *VBOC on the Rez* workshop in Zuni Pueblo on November 9 from 9:30am-2pm at the Zuni Pueblo Tribal Headquarters.

This free event is similar to the VBOC’s On the Road business development workshops (see previous page), but will also have information about assistance available for Native American veterans. It is being presented along with the Zuni Veterans Association, Zuni Pueblo Main Street, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of New Mexico, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico, and the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. For more information, call (505) 383-2401.

NMDVS Takes Part in Southwest Native American Veterans Association Conference

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services was honored to be a part of the *2016 Veterans Rising for Healing* Conference presented by the Southwest Native American Veterans Association, Inc., on September 22-23 at the Albuquerque National Guard Armory. The goal of the conference—and of the SWNAVA itself—was to increase and enhance awareness and access to VA benefits and services for that include quality health care, housing, employment and education for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans.

NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox was one of the guest speakers at the opening ceremony—welcoming those in attendance, and pledging the state’s full support to help attendees with all of their veterans’ benefits needs. Several NMDVS staff also attended the conference in supporting roles, including: **BELOW LEFT PHOTO:** Rural Veterans Coordination Program/Central Region Coordinator John Griego (*seated, far left*), Health Program Coordination Director Mitchell Lawrence (*foreground/seated*), and State Veterans Benefits Director Dale Movius (*center/ in gray suit*). **BELOW RIGHT PHOTO:** Veterans Business Advisor Rich Coffel (*far left/seated*), Rural Veterans Coordination Program Director Ed Mendez (*center, gray suit*), and once again, Rural Veterans Coordination Program/Central Region Coordinator John Griego (*seated, at right*).



NMDVS Makes Veterans Benefits Outreach Stop at Lincoln County Food Bank



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) has been busy this year presenting or taking part in outreach visits throughout the state.

RIGHT PHOTO: Roswell-based Veterans Service Officer Richard Moncrief (*at right, behind laptop*) and NMDVS Rural Veterans Coordination Program/Southeast Region Coordinator Jim Cassidy (*maroon shirt*) assisted veterans **with their VA or state veterans' benefits needs at an outreach** in Carrizozo on September 27 the Assembly of God Church Food Bank.

Upcoming Veterans Benefits Outreach Events

(DVS staff on site to offer benefits assistance)

Jemez Pueblo	<u>Walatowa Veterans Benefits Fair</u> Youth Center/145 Bear Head Canyon (Oct. 21)(10am-2pm) <i>More info: (575) 834-0122</i>
Rio Communities (Valencia County)	<u>Rio Communities Wellness Fair</u> 360 Rio Communities Blvd. (Oct. 21)(10am-2pm) <i>More Info: (505) 864-6908</i>
Silver City	<u>Operation We Care for Veterans</u> WNMU Student Memorial Bldg./1000 College Ave. (Nov. 4)(9am-noon) <i>More Info: (505) 469-3330</i>
Bernalillo	<u>Sandoval County Veterans Outreach & Business Counseling</u> Sandoval County Administration Bldg. 1500 Idalia Rd. (Nov. 4)(1pm-4pm) <i>More Info: (505) 823-2414</i>
Capitan	<u>Lincoln County Benefits & Resources Outreach</u> Capitan Senior Center/115 Tiger Drive (Nov. 8)(9:30am-3pm) <i>More Info: (505) 228-3024</i>
Sunland Park	<u>Eighth Annual Veterans Information Fair</u> Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino/1200 Futurity Drive (Nov. 10)(9am-1pm) <i>More Info: (575) 541-1305</i>
Albuquerque	<u>Westside Veterans Resource Day</u> Paradise Hills Community Center/5901 Paradise Hills Blvd. NW (Nov. 17)(10am-2pm) <i>More Info: (505) 383-2414</i>
Hobbs	<u>Veterans' Benefits Informational Presentation</u> Desert Gardens Nursing Home/200 South Linam St. (Nov. 17)(9am-11am) <i>More Info: (575) 393-2828</i>

NMDVS Among Partner Agencies Presenting 2nd Annual Gallup Veterans Summit



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) was honored to help present the *Second Annual Veterans Summit/Welcome Home* on October 12 & 13 in Gallup.

The free summit focused on panels, workshops, presentations and displays highlighting the many services and benefits available for veterans in Gallup and surrounding communities. Along with the NMDVS, the summit was also presented by the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health Services, Diné Hoghaan Bii Development, Inc., United Healthcare, Special Care at Home, Inc., and the city of Gallup.

“We want to make sure that veterans in Gallup and the Navajo Nation are aware of their VA and state veterans benefits—and about programs which can help them and their families should they need it,” said NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox, who was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony. **“There is a lot available—but veterans need to apply for them—or stop by one of the partner agencies. Remember—these are benefits which have been *earned* through military service.”**

Among the topics and discussions covered at the Summit were: Suicide prevention training, family roles & support services, how to deal with survivor’s guilt, PTSD & TBI resources, healthy coping skills, the G.I. benefits bill/transferability to dependents, VA compensation and pensions, and many more VA, state, and local resources available for veterans and families in the Gallup area.

Among the special guests attending the summit were representatives from the United States Army Women's Museum in Fort Lee, VA. In addition to **participating in a panel discussion on women veterans’ issues, they also sought stories and photos of women veterans from New Mexico and the greater Gallup area for inclusion in the museum—which it says is the world’s only museum dedicated to military women.**



From L to R: New Mexico Army National Guard CSM Liz Bryant, New Mexico Army National Guard SGT Yolanda Duran, and NMDVS Women Veterans Program Coordinator Melanie Suazo were among the attendees at the Second Annual Gallup Veterans’ Summit on October 12-13.



The representatives also honored the Native American community and the State of New Mexico by formally inducting to women —*Mexicana Chiquito* and *Muchacha*—for their work as Indian Scouts for the U.S. Army in the late-1880’s. **A certificate was presented by the museum staff to organizers of the summit.** (photo at left)

NMDVS to Take Part in Annual Albuquerque “Stand Down” for Homeless/Near-Homeless Veterans



(photos are from past Stand Downs in Albuquerque)

Homeless and near-homeless veterans can receive free clothing, food and services at the 2016 Project Stand Down & Hands Up—the annual “stand down” for homeless and near-homeless veterans on Thursday, October 27 and continuing Friday October 28 in downtown Albuquerque.

This year’s stand down will once again be held at The Rock at Noon Day, located at 2400 2nd Street NE. October 27 is set aside for veterans only from 9am-3pm; October 28 is open to veterans and non-veterans from 9am-2pm.

Project Stand Down & Hands Up is presented through a collaborated effort by the New Mexico Veterans’

Integration Center (NMVIC), the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS), the Albuquerque VA Regional Office, the New Mexico VA Health Care System, the New Mexico National Guard, the New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (NMDVS) and other federal, state, and local agencies.

In addition to food, veterans can obtain free clothing, backpacks, bedding, food, hot meals, hygiene kits, flu shots, basic medical screening, legal consultation, and many other goods and services.

NMDVS Veterans’ Service Officers and other staff will be on hand to assist veterans with filing for their VA and state veterans’ benefits. Representatives from the NMWS will offer employment assistance. Representatives from the NMVIC and other agencies will assist with helping find shelter and providing information on other services available to assist the homeless. For more information, contact the NMVIC Outreach Coordinator Wendy Webber at (505) 296-0800, or visit the NMVIC website at www.nmvic.org.



Veterans Day is Just Around the Corner

The New Mexico Department of Veterans is in the process of compiling its annual Veterans Day Activities List. Please e-mail **information about Veterans' Day ceremonies and activities in your area** to NMDVS Public Information Officer Ray Seva. This information will be forwarded to the statewide media for inclusion in their Veterans Day calendar of events.

Ray's e-mail address is ray.seva@state.nm.us

Please include the following in your response:

- City
- Venue
- time of event
- address of venue-nature of event (i.e. parade/ceremony/concert/BBQ, etc.)
- sponsor of event (i.e. VFW/American Legion Chapter, city of, Elks Lodge, etc.)
- point of contact (POC)
- POC's phone number and Email**

Thank you very much for your assistance.



Veterans Day Discounts Available Nationwide



To honor and thank the men and women who have served our country as members of the United States Armed Forces, many business across the country will be offering special Veterans Day deals and discounts.

These can be found by going to the link below:

<http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

Proof of veteran status will be required by most merchants, so please be sure to bring a copy of your DD-214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), VA Health Identification Card (VHIC), Uniformed Services ID Card, or your valid veteran-designation New Mexico **driver's license. In some cases, merchants are also extending the discounts to active-duty personnel.** Please call the business ahead of time if you have any questions.

KNME/PBS-TV to Showcase Veterans/Military Programming Next Month

Next month, New Mexico's PBS TV station, KNME-TV (Ch. 5.1/Ch. 9.1), will feature a dynamic line-up of new and encore programs in honor of Veterans Day—and the men and women who have served our country in the United States Armed Forces. These presentations are listed below, in chronological order.

NAZI MEGA WEAPONS “Atlantic Wall” #101

Ch. 5.1 - Sun. 11/6 at 11:00 pm

To protect occupied Europe from an Allied invasion, Adolf Hitler demanded the construction of a defensive wall stretching thousands of kilometers from France in the south to Norway in the north. This is the story of how this vast engineering project sucked in huge quantities of raw materials and men from all over the Third Reich ... and faced its ultimate test on D-Day.

“U-Boat Base” #102

Ch. 5.1 - Sun. 11/13 at 11:00 pm

To create a haven in port for their lethal U-boat submarines, Germany built massive, impenetrable concrete submarine pens. Structures too immense to be hidden, they were constructed to withstand direct hits from even the biggest Allied bombs. Such was their size and strength that these pens survive today, a testament to their engineering.

“V2 Rocket” #103

Ch. 5.1 - Sun. 11/20 at 11:00 pm

The first ever long range rockets were designed and built by Germany in a network of top-secret research labs, underground silos and hi-tech launch pads. This is the story of how scientist Werner von Braun heralded the birth of ballistic missiles and laid the technological foundations for the space race.

USO - FOR THE TROOPS (75th Anniversary Year)

Ch. 5.1 - Mon. 11/7 at 8:00 pm

Ch. 9.1 - Mon. 11/14 at 7:00 am and again at 1:00 pm

This show examines how the USO has lifted the spirits of American service personnel for more than 75 years. See how the organization keeps military men and women connected to country, home, family and hope—abroad and on the home front.

MILITARY MEDICINE: BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

Ch. 5.1 – Wed. 11/9 at 9:00 pm and 11/13 at 11:00 am

Ch. 9.1 – Fri. 11/11 at 7:00 am and again at 1:00 pm; Sat. 11/12 at 9:00 pm

Award-winning TV news reporter Bob Woodruff shows us military medical advances and technology—from the battlefield to the return home. Hear the personal stories of physicians, scientists, active duty military personnel, wounded warriors and their families.

WOMEN SERVING IN WAR

Ch. 9.1 – Thurs. 11/10 at 10:30 pm; Sun. 11/13 at 8:30 am -- From the war zone to life back home:

Three generations of Minnesota's military women share their stories of service from World War II to Vietnam to Afghanistan. Produced with Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

(continued)

COLORES! -- Produced by New Mexico PBS/KNME-TV

Ch. 5.1 – Sat. 11/12 at 4:00 pm

A special ¡*COLORES!* program honoring Veterans Day, with the entire show devoted to veterans featuring the following three segments:

- Vietnam War veterans Roy Breckinridge and Jim Rogers share how art and the New Mexico Veterans Art Association has made a tremendous difference in their post war lives.
- Iraq veteran Kenny Bass shares insights into the traumatic issues veterans face returning home from combat. And, Director Eric Christensen discusses making his film *SEARCHING FOR HOME: COMING BACK FROM WAR* (see the next listing below).
- Vietnam War veteran Herb Lotz captured a loss of innocence in his photographs. His photos provide insight into daily life of soldiers in a war zone.

SEARCHING FOR HOME: COMING BACK FROM WAR

Ch. 5.1 – Sat. 11/12 at 10:00 pm

Ch. 9.1 – Mon. 11/7 at 9:00 pm; Sat. 11/12 at 6:00 am and again at 12:00 pm

This program explores, in their own words, the Truth, the Healing and the Hope of veterans from all generations returning home from war, and their search for the "home" they left behind-physically, mentally and spiritually. From World War II, Korea and Vietnam to modern-day conflicts, *Searching for Home* is a multi-generational documentary which chronicles the journey from battlefield to home front, and the search for healing...and eventually, hope.

THE TEST

Ch. 9.1 - Sun. 11/13 at 8:00 pm

This program examines the history of atomic testing in Nevada, atomic tourism, and the consequences of being in Nevada's "atomic backyard." Following World War II, as the United States plunged into the Cold War, scientists raced to keep the nation secure in the nuclear age. They lacked a full understanding of atomic weaponry's destructive scope and knew the bomb had to be tested further. Ultimately, atomic testing sites, including one in Nevada, were established.

This one-hour documentary delves into the testing in Nevada and the rise of "atomic culture." Highlights include the elaborately constructed "doom towns," "atomic tourism," which describes how nuclear testing became a main event in Las Vegas as residents and visitors alike lined up to watch "the show," as well as a detailing of the history leading up to the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, still in effect today. Additionally, *The Test* examines the role that the former test site serves today in preparing first responders for the fight against terrorism and other dangers.

PEARL HARBOR – USS OKLAHOMA - THE FINAL STORY

Ch. 5.1 - Wed. 11/23 at 7:00 pm

Explore what happened to the *USS Oklahoma*, the only battleship to capsize during the Pearl Harbor attack. Examine new details about what may have caused the ship to overturn and hear stories from Oklahoma survivors and families of those lost.

PEARL HARBOR - INTO THE ARIZONA (75th Anniversary)

Ch. 5.1 - Wed. 11/23 at 8:00 pm

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack, join the first expedition to explore inside the *USS Arizona* since the date that will live in infamy, as state-of-the-art imaging technology reveals the aftermath and incredible story of the Pearl Harbor attack.

VA, Stanford University Announce Agreement to Develop First-of-Its-Kind Cancer Treatment Center



VA Secretary
Robert A. McDonald

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Stanford University School of Medicine have announced a joint agreement to establish the **nation's first Hadron Center in Palo Alto, CA, for the benefit of veteran and non-veteran cancer patients** who could benefit from Hadron therapy.

The VA maintains a strong academic and research affiliation with the **Stanford University School of Medicine, recognized as one of the world's** leading medical research facilities.

"We are excited to further expand our current partnership with Stanford Medicine, and explore ways to continue leading veterans' health care into the 21st century," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "The state-of-the-art Hadron Center will not only improve the lives of those affected by cancer, but further demonstrate the VA's ability to partner toward pioneering innovation and exceptional health care,"

The Hadron Center is anticipated to be a clinical facility, designed to deliver particle radiation beam therapy for the treatment of cancer patients. Currently, the most common radiation beams used for cancer treatment are photons and electrons, which are easy to target to a tumor, but can result in damage to normal tissue.

Particle beam radiotherapy, on the other hand, uses beams of charged particles such as proton, helium, carbon or other ions to allow more precise **targeting anywhere inside the patient's body, resulting in less damage to** normal tissue. VA and Stanford University researchers believe particle beam therapy can be more effective at killing radiation-resistant tumors that are difficult to treat using conventional radiation therapy. Judicious and innovative application of particle therapy can result in improved cure rates for cancer.

This project is the first of its kind in the nation and serves as an excellent example of public-private collaboration to further research and clinical care, using cutting-edge cancer therapy.

In addition to the Hadron Center, the VA is also involved in other efforts to support cancer research. The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) recently made a \$50 million contribution to the VA for precision oncology research over the next 5 years. Also, the IBM Watson Million Veteran Initiative will provide 10,000 diagnostic and cancer treatment analyses for veterans over the next two years, and the VA will co-host a national oncology summit, *Launch Pad: Pathways to InnoVation*, on November 29.

For more news from the VA and for benefits information, visit
www.va.gov

The VA has a regional office in Albuquerque. For more Information:
www.benefits.va.gov/albuquerque

For information about VA health care, visit the website of the New Mexico VA Health Care System at:
www.albuquerque.va.gov

NMDVS Health/Safety Tip: Health Experts Recommend Flu Shots This Year



The flu-vaccination rate sagged in the United States last season, causing concern among public health officials that more Americans might wave off a flu shot this year.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza vaccination coverage declined 1.5 percent across the entire U.S. population last year, with only 46% of Americans receiving the annual vaccine.

"Flu is serious. Flu is unpredictable. Flu often gets not enough respect," warns CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. "If we could increase vaccination coverage in this country by just 5 percent, that would prevent about 800,000 illnesses and nearly 10,000 hospitalizations."

This season's flu shot has been updated to protect against the three or four influenza viruses that research suggests will be most common during the 2016-2017 season, according to the CDC—which recommends that everyone aged 6 months or older receive an annual flu shot.

"We also say get it by the end of October, and don't delay," Frieden added. "A vaccination deferred is often a vaccination forgotten. And we want to ensure as many people as possible get the flu vaccine."



Adults 50 and older experienced the greatest decreases in vaccination coverage last flu season, the CDC numbers revealed. There was a 3.4 percentage point decrease in flu vaccinations among people 50 to 64 years old, with less than 44% getting a flu shot. A similar decrease of 3.3 percentage points occurred among people 65 and older, with 63% receiving the protection.



The decline in influenza vaccine coverage for older adults is troubling because seniors are disproportionately affected by the flu, said Dr. William Schaffner, professor of Preventive Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville.

"Vaccination not only reduces the chance that older adults will get the flu, it can help keep them out of the hospital by reducing the severity of the infection and related complications if they do get the flu," Schaffner noted.

No "Nasal Spray" Flu Shots Available This Year

Toddlers were the best-protected age group during the last flu season, the CDC reported. Flu vaccine coverage for children 6 months to 23 months was 75%. This is also the only group that exceeded national public health goals of 70 percent vaccination coverage. However, there is some concern that parents might not get their children vaccinated this season because only injectable flu vaccine is available. Nasal spray flu vaccine has been pulled off the U.S. market because it has proven ineffective.

"The nasal spray is no longer recommended," Frieden said. "We don't know why, but the vaccine efficacy data from the past couple of years suggests it was not protective."

MYTHS & FACTS ABOUT INFLUENZA



We all are “faces” of influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with the support of leading health experts, recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older be immunized this and every year.¹ Many misconceptions about the influenza virus and influenza vaccine persist, despite the widespread impact of the disease and the benefits of the vaccine.

MYTH: Influenza is no more than a nuisance, much like the common cold, that cannot be prevented.

FACT: Influenza, commonly referred to as the “flu,” is a severe respiratory illness that is easily spread and can lead to severe complications, even death.^{1,2} Each year in the US, on average, influenza and its related complications result in approximately 226,000 hospitalizations.³ Depending on virus severity during the influenza season, deaths can range from 3000 to a high of about 49,000 people.³ Combined with pneumonia, influenza is the nation’s eighth leading cause of death.⁴ You can help avoid getting influenza by getting vaccinated each year.¹

MYTH: You can get influenza from a flu shot.

FACT: The flu shot does not contain the live virus so it is impossible to get influenza from the vaccine. Side effects may occur in some people, such as mild soreness, redness, or swelling at the injection site, headache, or a low-grade fever. Vaccination is safe and effective, and the best way to help prevent influenza and its complications.¹

MYTH: Only the elderly are at risk for developing serious complications from the influenza virus.

FACT: Influenza impacts people of all ages. However, a significant number of people in the US are at higher risk for getting sick or developing serious complications from influenza.^{1,5} Children typically experience the highest rates of influenza infection each year, and they were hit particularly hard by the H1N1 influenza virus. From April 2009 through mid April 2010, the CDC reported 334 pediatric deaths from influenza.⁶ However, typically, the elderly are hardest hit by seasonal influenza. About 90% of deaths caused by influenza and its complications occur among people 65 years of age and older.⁷

MYTH: I missed the chance to get an influenza vaccination in the fall, so now I have to wait until next year.

FACT: You and your loved ones can get vaccinated at any point during the influenza season. You should be immunized as soon as vaccine is available in the late summer or early fall. If you didn’t have a chance to obtain influenza vaccine early in the influenza season, immunization into the spring or as long as the influenza virus is in circulation is beneficial. This is because in most seasons, influenza activity doesn’t peak until winter or early spring. In fact, as long as influenza viruses are in circulation, it’s a good idea to get vaccinated. It only takes about 2 weeks for the vaccine to protect against the virus.¹ Talk to your health-care provider for more information about the importance of influenza vaccination.

MYTH: It is not necessary to get immunized against influenza every year because protection lasts from previous vaccinations.

FACT: The types of influenza viruses circulating in the community change from year to year. Because of this, a new vaccine is made each year to help protect against the current strains. Also, immunity to influenza viruses may wane after a year, so it is important to get vaccinated against influenza every year.¹

MYTH: People shouldn’t be immunized against influenza if they are sick.

FACT: Minor illnesses with or without fever should not prevent vaccination, especially in children with mild upper respiratory infections (colds) or upper respiratory allergies. In addition, vaccination is critically important for people with chronic illnesses, such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease who have a higher risk for developing influenza-related complications. These individuals should be immunized each year. Individuals with severe allergies to eggs or those who have had a previous vaccine-associated allergic reaction should avoid immunization. Talk to your health-care provider for more information.¹

MYTH: I seem to get the stomach flu each year. My friend told me the influenza vaccine might prevent the stomach flu next year.

FACT: Many common respiratory and stomach infections are often mistakenly referred to as “the flu.” However, influenza is a severe respiratory illness that is easily spread and can lead to severe complications, even death, for you or someone with whom you come into contact. Common symptoms of influenza infection include a high fever (101°F–102°F, or higher) that begins suddenly, sore throat, chills, cough, headache, and muscle aches. Influenza vaccine helps protect against influenza virus but not against viral gastroenteritis, often called the “stomach flu.”¹

MYTH: The flu changes every year, so getting a flu shot will not protect me from getting sick.

FACT: Influenza is unpredictable and viruses change throughout the year. That is why the composition of the influenza vaccine changes each year as well. Getting vaccinated annually is the best way to help protect against influenza. Even if the vaccine is not a perfect match, it will often offer some protection against a different, but related, strain that may begin to circulate in the community. This could mean milder illness or prevention of complications.² Visit the CDC Web site to learn more: www.cdc.gov/flu.

The CDC, with the support of leading health experts, recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older be immunized. However, influenza immunization rates in the highest-risk groups fall far short of public health goals every year. Groups at higher risk of developing influenza-related complications include:¹

- People 50 years of age and older
- Children 6 months–18 years of age
- Pregnant women
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, diabetes, and others
- Residents of long-term care facilities and nursing homes

Additionally, those who come into close contact with high-risk groups should get vaccinated, not only to help protect themselves against influenza, but also to help avoid spreading the virus to more vulnerable populations. They include:¹

- Household contacts and caregivers of anyone in a high-risk group, including parents, siblings, grandparents, babysitters, and child care providers
- Health-care personnel

To ensure families everywhere understand the risks of influenza, the American Lung Association has launched a national public educational initiative called *Faces of Influenza*. We all are “faces” of influenza—people 6 months of age and older who should be immunized against influenza this and every year. To learn more about the program, influenza, and vaccination, visit www.facesofinfluenza.org.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevention and control of influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010. *MMWR*. 2010;59(RR-8):1-62. 2. CDC. Prevention and control of influenza: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008. *MMWR*. 2008;57(RR-7):1-64. 3. CDC. Estimates of deaths associated with seasonal influenza – United States, 1976-2007. *MMWR*. 2010;59(33):1057-1062. 4. CDC. Deaths: Final data for 2006. National vital statistic reports. 2009. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr57/nvsr57_14.pdf. Accessed March 30, 2010. 5. U.S. Census Bureau. U.S. POPClock projection. 2008. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/popclockus.html>. Accessed March 30, 2010. 6. CDC. 2009-2010 Influenza season week 13 ending April 3, 2010. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>. Accessed April 13, 2010. 7. CDC. What you should know and do this flu season if you are 65 years and older. <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/65andolder.htm>. Accessed March 30, 2010.

NMDVS FIELD OFFICES

There New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services field offices throughout the state to assist veterans and their eligible dependents with filing for VA and state veterans' benefits. Each office is managed by a nationally-certified Veterans' Service Officer who is committed to helping fellow veterans with filing for their VA and state veterans' benefits.

Below are the NMDVS field offices (LISTED IN ALL CAPITAL LETTER HEADINGS) and outreach locations (shown in lower-case italicized headings with an asterisk*). Please contact your nearest office to set up an appointment. For additional information, you can also contact NMDVS Field Services Director Ken Adair at (505) 383-2415 or kenneth.adair@state.nm.us.

ALAMOGORDO	ALBUQUERQUE #1	ALBUQUERQUE #2
Tony Woodards 411 10th Street # 107 (575) 437-4635 anthony.woodards@state.nm.us	Theresa Zuni 500 Gold Ave. SW (505) 346-4810 theresa.zuni@state.nm.us	Gordon Schei 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE (505) 383-2404 gordon.schei@state.nm.us
<i>Anthony*</i> (Las Cruces Office Outreach)	<i>Artesia*</i> (Carlsbad Office Outreach)	<i>Aztec*</i> (Farmington Office Outreach)
George Vargas (575) 524-6124 george.vargas@state.nm.us	Dagmar Youngberg (575) 885-4939 dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us	Beverly Charley (505) 327-2861 beverly.charley@state.nm.us
CARLSBAD	<i>Clayton*</i>	CLOVIS
Dagmar Youngberg 101 N. Halagueno (575) 885-4939 dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us	(Raton Office Outreach) Gary Fresquez (575) 445-8282 gary.fresquez@state.nm.us	Matthew Barela 904 W. 6th Street (575) 762-6185 matthew.barela@state.nm.us
<i>Cuba*</i> (Albuquerque Office Outreach)	<i>Deming*</i> (Silver City Office Outreach)	<i>Española*</i> (Taos Office Outreach)
Gordon Schei (505) 383-2409 gordon.schei@state.nm.us	Bradley Brock (575) 538-2377 bradleya.brock@state.nm.us	Michael Pacheco (575) 758-9624 michael.pacheco1@state.nm.us
FARMINGTON	GALLUP	GRANTS
Beverly Charley 101 West Animas/Room 104 (505) 327-2861 beverly.charley@state.nm.us	Tyrra Saavedra 908 E. Buena Vista Ave. (505) 863-7457 tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us	Tyrra Saavedra 515 East High St.. (505) 287-8387 tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us
HOBBS	<i>Holloman AFB*</i>	LAS CRUCES #1
Dalton Boyd 2120 N. Alto Street (575) 397-5290 dalton.boyd@state.nm.us	(Alamogordo Office Outreach) Tony Woodards (575) 437-4635 anthony.woodards@state.nm.us	J.R. Turner 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 524-6220 jr.turner@state.nm.us

LAS CRUCES #2	LAS VEGAS	Lordsburg*
George Vargas 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 524-6124 george.vargas@state.nm.us	Karen Abeyta 917 Douglas Avenue (505) 454-0068 karen.abeyta@state.nm.us	(Silver City Office Outreach) Bradley Brock (575) 538-2377 bradleya.brock@state.nm.us
Los Lunas*	Mora*	Quemado*
(Albuquerque #1 Office Outreach) Theresa Zuni (505) 346-4810 theresa.zuni@state.nm.us	(Las Vegas, NM Office Outreach) Karen Abeyta (505) 454-0068 karen.abeyta@state.nm.us	(Silver City Office Outreach) Bradley Brock (575) 538-2377 bradleya.brock@state.nm.us
RATON	Reserve*	ROSWELL
Gary Fresquez 200 N. 3rd St. (575) 445-8282 gary.fresquez@state.nm.us	(Silver City Office Outreach) Bradley Brock (575) 538-2377 bradleya.brock@state.nm.us	Richard Moncrief 1600 SE Main St. (575) 624-6086 richard.moncrief@state.nm.us
Ruidoso*	SANTA FE	Santa Rosa*
(Alamogordo Office Outreach) Tony Woodards (575) 437-4635 anthony.woodards@state.nm.us	Jeff George 406 Don Gaspar Ave. (505) 827-6343 jeff.george@state.nm.us	(Las Vegas, NM Office Outreach) Karen Abeyta (505) 454-0068 karen.abeyta@state.nm.us
SILVER CITY	Socorro*	Sunland Park*
Bradley Brock 1211 North Hudson St. (575) 538-2377 bradleya.brock@state.nm.us	(ABQ #1 Office Outreach) Theresa Zuni (505) 841-5346 theresa.zuni@state.nm.us	(Las Cruces Office Outreach) George Vargas (575) 524-6124 george.vargas@state.nm.us
TAOS	Truth or Consequences*	Tucumcari*
Michael Pacheco 120 Civic Plaza (575) 758-9624 michael.pacheco1@state.nm.us	(Las Cruces Office Outreach) JR Turner (575) 524-6220 jr.turner@state.nm.us	(Las Vegas, NM Office Outreach) Karen Abeyta (505) 454-0068 karen.abeyta@state.nm.us