

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM



Woman Veteran of the Month!

As the DVS wraps up a productive 2018, I am starting to prepare for the goals for 2019. Amongst those is finding ways to recognize individual women veterans across New Mexico. I would like to start highlighting a Woman Veteran of the Month on the Women Veterans portion of the DVS website. This will include women from all eras of service, all branches, all regions of the state, and Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserves. Know a woman veteran in New Mexico you think deserves recognition? Send me a short paragraph about their service and a high resolution picture (ideally in uniform!), and I will start getting those on the website. Send submissions to: AmandaL.somerville@state.nm.us

Upcoming Outreach Events

Alamogordo Veterans Committee

5 December, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1301 N. White Sands Blvd,
Alamogordo

Community Veterans Court Resource Day

13 December, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

401 Lomas NW, Albuquerque

Not Forgotten Military Appreciation Ski Week Outreach

25 January

Taos Ski Valley

Website updates

Throughout the fall I have been working on updating the Women Veterans portion of the DVS website. Though more improvements are on the horizon, check out what our IT team has done so far:

Pamphlets: We will be making our pamphlets available through the website, for you to print and share in your community. Look for pamphlets targeting mentorship programs and homelessness resources, coming soon!

Newsletters: All the past newsletters will be available on the website. Please share these widely!

Links: General resources for women veterans as well as specific resources. Notice something missing? Let me know and I will add it!

Woman Veteran of the Month: I am looking forward to highlighting a woman veteran every month, so start those submissions now!



New Mexico Military Museum

The New Mexico Military Museum in Santa Fe is looking for help as they grow and expand! They are seeking volunteer docents, greeters, librarians, and administrative support. In particular, they would like to get women veterans on their board. This is a great opportunity to ensure that women's military experiences are accurately represented.

Contact Ralph Nava at (505) 982-9634 to get involved!

Environmental Technician Job Training

Santa Fe Community College offers free five-week Environmental Technician Job Training Classes. You will leave the program with industry certifications and job placement assistance. This program is open to veterans.

For more details, visit <https://www.sfcc.edu/programs/enviro/mental-job-training/>

Free Civil Legal Aid

The Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of New Mexico offers free civil legal advice at a quarterly clinic in Albuquerque. They can offer advice on a variety of topics, such as family law, landlord-tenant issues, consumer rights, bankruptcy, and foreclosures. Other service providers will also be available to assist.

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

8 January, 12 March,

11 June, 10 September

at the

New Mexico Veterans Memorial

1100 Louisiana Blvd SE,
Albuquerque

Assistance is given on a walk-in basis to the first 25 attendees. Call the Veterans Justice Outreach Program at (505) 265-1711 x3434 with questions.

Adaptive Sports New Mexico

The 2019 Ski & Snowboard registration is now open! Veterans may sign up for any program, but they have a veteran-targeted program at Santa Fe, February 8th, February 22nd, and March 1st. They are equipped to work with a variety of mental and physical disabilities.

To register, visit

<https://adaptivesportsprogram.z2sys.com/np/clients/adaptivesportsprogram/eventRegistration.jsp?event=271&>

New Mexico Veterans Business Advocates

The NMVBA is trying to connect with all veteran owned businesses in New Mexico. They meet every 3rd Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at the NM Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque.

For more information on this organization, please go to <https://nmvba.org/> or contact Mike Schramski at 888-821-6947.



Goodwill Programs

Goodwill of New Mexico provides numerous supportive services for at-risk veterans around the state. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program focuses on long-term employment for homeless veterans. Learn more at <http://www.goodwillnm.org/homelessveteransreintegrationprogram.html>

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families focuses on housing stabilization for homeless veterans or those at the risk of homelessness. More information can be found at <http://www.goodwillnm.org/supportive-services-for-veteran-families.html>.

Though not specifically targeted at veterans, Goodwill also has a case management program for those who have suffered a TBI. For more information, visit <http://www.goodwillnm.org/brain-injury-case-management.html>.

PTSD Brain Bank

The VA's National Center for PTSD is partnering with the nonprofit organization PINK Concussions to actively recruit women veterans to enroll to donate their brains for the purpose of research on the impacts of TBI and PTSD on the female brain. Current research is primarily based on male brains, and there is almost no women's postmortem brain tissue available. Though actual donation may be decades away, early enrollment allows researchers to gather data over the intervening years.

Learn more at <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/44641/> and <http://www.pinkconcussions.com/>

Special VA Benefits

Though most veterans are familiar with VA benefits such as disability compensation, the VA provides a variety of lesser-known benefits.

These benefits each have their own requirements, generally based on a service-connected disability.

These include the following:

Clothing Allowances, Automobile Allowance, Adapted Housing Grants, Claims for Spina Bifida for Children of Vietnam Veterans, Blind Veteran Services, Combat Veteran Eligibility for Temporary VA Healthcare, Vocational Rehabilitation, Free MST Counseling (regardless of a compensation claim)

For more information, please contact your local Veteran Service Officer: <http://www.nmdvs.org/field-offices/>