



# The Guardian

*The Newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services*

[www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org)

1-(866) 433-8387 toll-free

October, 2019

## Former U.S. Army Major Named DVS Deputy Secretary



**Bryan Osterhage**  
*DVS Deputy Secretary*

Former U.S. Army Major Bryan Osterhage has been named Deputy Secretary for the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

The native of Belleville, Illinois, earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Truman State University in 2004, and a law degree from the Saint Louis University School of Law. He enlisted in the Army in 2010 as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps before completing his active-duty service earlier this year.

During his military service, Deputy Secretary Osterhage was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Campbell, KY, Fort Knox, KY, and Fort Belvoir, VA. He was deployed to Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Liberia--earning a Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal during his nine-year Army service.

Deputy Secretary Osterhage will be based in the DVS main office in the Bataan Memorial Building in Santa Fe and will report directly to DVS Secretary Judy Griego, where he will assist her with overseeing the agency's divisions and thirteen field offices located throughout the state.

"I am extremely pleased to welcome Bryan to the DVS family," said Secretary Griego. "He comes highly recommended. His excellent track record of advising and assisting senior-level officers will really help DVS as the agency continues to look for ways to improve serving New Mexico's veterans and their families."

Deputy Secretary Osterhage can be contacted at (505) 827-6300 or [bryan.osterhage@state.nm.us](mailto:bryan.osterhage@state.nm.us).

## 22 Unclaimed Deceased Veterans Interred With Military Honors at *Forgotten Heroes Funeral*

The cremated remains of twenty-two deceased veterans were laid to rest at a *Forgotten Heroes Funeral* on September 26 at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

The eighteen men and four women—sixteen from Bernalillo County; two from Otero County—were interred courtesy of the state's *Forgotten Heroes Burial Program* established in 2009 by DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and Bernalillo County to provide a military funeral at the cemetery for any honorably discharged deceased veteran whose body goes unclaimed upon their death. Those in attendance serve as the "family."

The program now includes participation from all 33 counties in the state.



Daniels Family Funeral Services of Albuquerque has also joined the effort—providing the cremation and assisting with the overall coordination of the interment process. Students from Mr. Gino Perez's woodshop classes at Valley High School in Albuquerque designed and built the wooden urns. Members of the Albuquerque police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, New Mexico State Police, the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office, the Santa Fe Police Department, and the American Legion Riders provided an escort for the hearse from the Strong-Thorne Mortuary in Albuquerque to the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

American Legion Riders members loaded the urns at the mortuary, and brought the urns to the funeral service upon the procession's arrival at the cemetery.

Lt. Governor Howie Morales delivered the Eulogy in place of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, who was unable to attend due to a previously-scheduled series of meetings in Washington, D.C.

"Though these fallen veterans died without the presence of actual family, thanks to the Forgotten Heroes Burial Program, all of you here today...are serving as the family of these fallen veterans. So I am comforted in knowing that these fallen veterans are not alone in the end. All of us here today are standing together beside them...so that they are not alone," said the Lt. Governor. "May their souls now finally and forever rest in peace. To the souls of these men and women...and to all veterans... I want to thank you for your service...and God Bless you."

The cremated remains of the following twenty veterans from Bernalillo County were interred with full military honors: John Anderson (USN BTFN), Brenda Bock (USAF A1C), Ronald Copeland (USMC PFC), Lawrence Clyde Curry (USA PFC), Lesley Donovan (USA S4C), Roberta Gordon (USN-unknown rank), Glenn Hamilton (USA-unknown rank), Robert Jeannoutot (USA PFC), Darlene Johnson (USA SPC), Gary Johnson (USA PFC), Jeremy Myron Kuhr (USA PFC), Steven Lopes (USA SGT), John McCann (USA-unknown rank), Bruce McMaster (USMC Cpl), Joann Shockey (USA PFC), Gary Silverblatt (USA PFC), Jack Sparacio (USA-unknown rank), Eugenio Torres (USA-unknown rank), Roy Wagoner (USN PO3), and John Winter (USA PFC).

Laid to rest were two from Otero County: Alfred Russell Miller (USA-unknown rank), and Harold Dean Whitmire (USA SPC).





**(LEFT PHOTO):** *Lt. Governor Howie Morales delivered the Eulogy at the September 26 Forgotten Heroes Funeral at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.*



**(RIGHT PHOTO)** *The Lt. Governor was then presented the American flag used in the ceremony by New Mexico National Guard Deputy Adjutant General Miguel Aguilar—who accepted it “...on behalf of a grateful nation, and the grateful citizens of New Mexico.”*

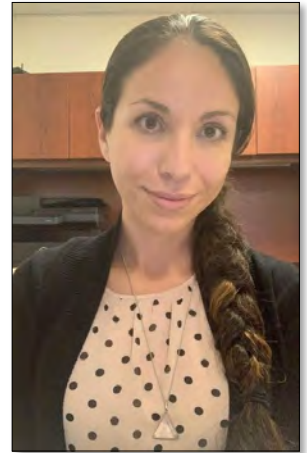


## DVS Fills Las Cruces VSO Vacancy

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has hired Rosa Bycenski as its new Veterans Service Officer in its Las Cruces office.

The native of Mexicali, Mexico served 14-years in the United States Air Force shortly after graduating from high school in Calexico, CA. Her USAF career took her to Offutt AFB in Omaha, NE, Kadena AB in Okinawa, Japan...overseas to Guam and Qatar...and a final transfer to Holloman AFB here in Alamogordo. She primarily worked in Logistics and Aircraft Maintenance in support of RC-135, F-16, and F-15 aircraft. At Holloman AFB, Ms. Bycenski was tasked with establishing a new supply section for a newly-relocated training squadron before ending her military service as a Technical Sergeant.

While at Offutt AFB, Ms. Bycenski earned a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources at Bellevue University in Bellevue, NE. She recently earned an Associate's Degree in Health Information Technology and a Certificate in Insurance Billing & Coding from Dona Ana Community College.



**Rosa Bycenski**  
*DVS Las Cruces  
Veterans Service Officer*

Her hiring fills a critical vacancy at one of the busiest DVS field offices in the state.

"Rosa had a strong history of helping others while serving in the United States Air Force," said DVS Secretary Judy Griego. "This dedication and passion for helping should help her excel in helping veterans in Dona Ana County. We're very excited and fortunate to have her join the DVS family."

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), there are more than 14,200 veterans in Doña Ana County—the second largest veteran-populated county in New Mexico. Ms. Bycenski is fluent in Spanish. Veterans and widows of veterans needing assistance with their federal VA or state veterans benefits can stop by the DVS Las Cruces office at 2024 E. Griggs Avenue. Walk-ins are welcome, but DVS strongly encourages those needing assistance to make an appointment by contacting Rosa at [rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us](mailto:rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us) or (575) 524-6220.

## DVS Resumes Outreach in SW New Mexico

The hiring of DVS VSO Rosa Bycenski has enabled the agency to resume outreach to the following SW New Mexico communities...at the following dates from 9am-3pm. Please contact her to make an appointment.

**Anthony (Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 18)**  
SONIC Drive-In  
110 West Elm St.  
(look for the Mobile VA VetCenter )

**Chaparral (Oct. 30, Nov. 22, Dec. 20)**  
Stires Supermarket  
304 McCombs Rd.  
(look for the Mobile VA VetCenter )

**Deming (Oct. 2, Oct. 31, Nov. 6, Dec. 4)**  
Vet Center/Old VFW Bldg.  
4045 Overhill Dr.

**Santa Clara/Grant County (Oct. 10, Oct. 24,  
Nov. 7, Nov. 20, Dec. 12)**  
11990 US Hwy 180 E.

Please bring your DD-214 to facilitate any benefits filing process that may begin. Ms. Bycenski can help veterans file for lost or missing DD-214's.



# DVS Launches YouTube Video Channel



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has launched a YouTube channel to showcase video accounts of selected DVS-sponsored, partnered, or attended veterans' events.

These events will be videotaped and edited at Ultra-High Definition, or "4K," and can be viewed in 4K on any 4K-compatible television, computer, smartphone or other compatible device. The videos can also be viewed in "regular" 1080p High Definition (HD) and Standard Definition (SD).

The DVS YouTube channel can be found by entering "New Mexico Department of Veterans Services" on the YouTube homepage search bar. A video link is also being developed on the DVS website and Facebook page

The video sources provide another outreach tool for the agency to inform and educate veterans and their families about DVS news and events, said DVS Secretary Judy Griego.

"We live in a 'video' world today, so it is important that DVS be able to utilize video to reach out to veterans," said Secretary Griego. "We are involved in so many events that are not only important, but also very visually appealing--which can be powerfully and beautifully presented on video."

DVS has acquired professional video and supporting audio equipment which will be used to produce these videos by DVS Public Information Officer Ray Seva, who worked for 24-years in local TV news in California (San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco) and in KOB-TV's Santa Fe Bureau prior to coming to the agency.

The first four videos posted on the channel are:



1) The August 19 re-interment of a sailor from the Battleship USS Oklahoma who lost his life in the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack...who was initially buried as an "unknown"...but whose identity was discovered earlier this year.

2) The annual Military Honors Burial Training Conference for Honor Guards--presented on August 23 by DVS by DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and AARP/New Mexico



3) The annual Bricklaying Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire on August 31.

4) The *Forgotten Heroes Funeral* at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on September 26 (see story on page 2)



## DVS Secretary Griego Attends *Blue Mass* in Albuquerque



DVS Secretary Judy Griego (*left photo/at right*) was among the dozens of veterans, active-duty personnel, first responders, and corrections officers attending the 12<sup>th</sup> annual *Blue Mass* on September 24 at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church in Albuquerque.

Archbishop John C. Wester of the Santa Fe Diocese led the annual special Mass which honors and blesses the service and sacrifice by those who serve and protect our community and our nation.

In his Homily, the Archbishop was effusive in his praise and thanks for these servants of the public who he said possess a unique vision.

“I believe they see with the eyes of Faith...with the eyes of self-sacrifice. To them all of life is sacred,” he said. “They do not judge by the basis of color, or race, or a point of view--conservative or liberal--old or young...smart or uneducated. To them, all of life is precious.”

The Archbishop said our military service members and first responders could’ve chosen many paths which opened for them—but chose the path of self-service.

“You walk the talk--and therefore, you deserve our highest and our deepest gratitude,” he said. “We thank you today, and express our thanks by asking God to protect you and to keep you. Yours is not an easy path—but it is one that leads to eternal happiness—and for today, it leads to profound fulfillment.”

“It’s often said that fools rush in where angels fear to tread,” he said. “It may be foolish—but in God’s eyes, and in ours, you are true heroes...and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts...for being so foolish as to save lives, and dedicating yourselves to our well-being. God bless you.”



**LEFT PHOTO:** In a “Blessing of the Animals” prior to the Blue Mass, Archbishop John C. Wester of the Santa Fe Diocese (*far right, with wooden staff on his left shoulder*) blesses two horses ridden by officers of the Albuquerque Police Department



# Registration Now Open for the 2019 Southwest Veterans Business Conference

Registration is now open for the 2019 Southwest Veterans Business Conference in Albuquerque on November 4-5 from 8am-4pm on both days at the Albuquerque Marriott Hotel (2101 Louisiana Blvd. NE).

The free conference is for entrepreneurial-minded military veterans, National Guard/Reserve component members, and transitioning active-duty personnel...and their spouses or a guest. This year's conference is also open to entrepreneurial-minded non-veterans and their spouses/guests. It is presented by the New Mexico Business Outreach Center--the business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services.



A free continental breakfast and on-site hot lunch will be provided for all registered attendees.

This is an excellent opportunity for veterans looking to open their own business or grow/expand an existing operation. Attendees will learn valuable tips from successful fellow veteran business owners and representatives from agencies that specifically help business-minded veterans.

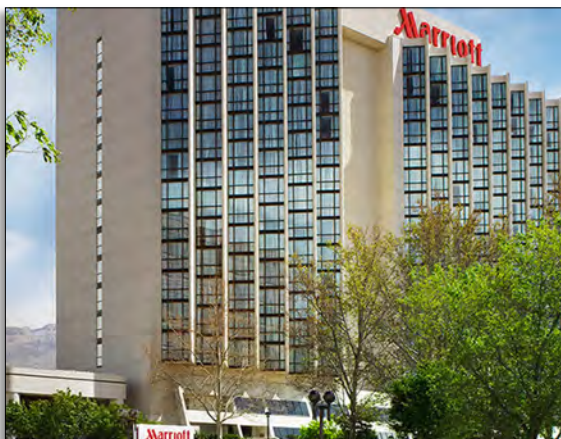
## Day 1 (Nov. 4)

Day one of the conference will focus on key topics all small business owners need to know in order to successfully launch or expand their own small business. Among the scheduled topics to be covered are: Access to startup and expansion capital, doing business in the southwest, business planning and marketing, assistance specifically for veteran-owned businesses, access to business counseling, pursuing state and federal government contracts/business opportunities, franchising, and many more important topics that entrepreneurial-minded veterans need to know about to succeed in their business.

## Day 2 (Nov. 5)

The following day features a *Boots to Business: Reboot* seminar which will focus more on the topics covered on Day One. This seminar will also explore the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and information about an online follow-up course taught by a consortium of professors and skilled business advisors from the SBA Network.

Collaborating with the VBOC to present the conference are the Small Business Administration (SBA) New Mexico Regional Office, SCORE, the Veterans Procurement Assistance Center, and the Small Business Development Center of New Mexico (SBDC).



The Albuquerque Marriott Hotel is offering a special discounted room rate for attendees. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (505) 843-6300.

Though the conference is free, pre-registration is required and can be done online at [www.nmvboc.org](http://www.nmvboc.org). For more information, contact VBOC Director Rich Coffel at (505) 383-2401 or [richardl.coffel@state.nm.us](mailto:richardl.coffel@state.nm.us).

*The Albuquerque Marriott Hotel (2101 Louisiana Blvd.*

# Prestigious Grant Awarded to the Museum of the American Military Family



The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant to the Museum of the American Military Family & Learning Center in Tijeras—allowing the museum to begin long-term preservation projects for its diverse collection of artifacts and documents.

The grant will support the museum's ability to purchase display and storage containers for letters and documents dating back to WWI, and the restoration of an antique tiger skin, which is part of the Dorothy Cox collection of special artifacts.

The all-volunteer-staffed museum is the only museum in the nation dedicated to military family history--honoring the men, women, and

children who serve beside America's service members. As a repository of artifacts, letters, documents and photos, it tells their stories, showing history through a different lens. It has a collection of over 1,600 items, including coins, textiles, patches, paintings, pottery, photographs, letters, documents, and audiovisual materials that tell the history on the home front and abroad of American military families. Most of the artifacts have been donated since the museum's inception in 2011.

"The museum is much more than an array of artifacts, exhibits, and documents. It has also become a research center, a host for college interns, and a multidisciplinary collaborative site," said Museum Director Dr. Circe Olson Woessner. "It's a community hub where veterans and family members can gather and reflect together on their collective identity over a century's span of military deployment."

The collections preservation award is timely as the museum recently survived a minor catastrophe when, due to heavy snow and ice, part of the gallery's ceiling collapsed at the beginning of the year. The artifacts survived damage, but it served as a reminder of the importance of preserving and protecting the inventory of treasured keepsakes.



"It's important that we preserve our collections properly," said Dr. Woessner. "For example, we have a Purple Heart citation and dog tag from a World War I soldier donated by his niece who is now in her 90s. There is no way one can assign a value to this. It has become a charge for us to preserve and keep that soldier's memory alive—as well as every other individual represented in our museum. This award will really help us to maintain these priceless artifacts."

This grant comes on the heels of several recent awards of national scope for the museum--the latest being a sizable arts grant to provide workshops to military families in recovery from addiction, and another to create a ten-minute documentary film, "Love Song for the Dead," which weaves together first-hand stories of wartime family sacrifices in a compelling reflection of such loss. In 2018, the museum received the American Association of State and Local History's Albert B. Cory Prize, and this year, it received an Excellence in Leadership national award.

The museum is located at 546B State Highway 333 (Old 66, right next to Molly's Bar.) It is open 10:30-5:00 Saturday through Wednesday and by appointment. For more information, contact Dr. Woessner at [info@militaryfamilymuseum.org](mailto:info@militaryfamilymuseum.org) or (505) 504-6830.



## DVS to Provide Assistance at ABQ “Stand Down” for Homeless/Near-Homeless Veterans

DVS staff will be providing assistance with VA and state veterans benefits at four “Stand Downs” this fall for homeless and near-homeless military veterans.

Free clothing, backpacks, blankets, meals, health screening, flu shots, and many more services will be available at these Stand Downs—which, depending on the location, are presented by the New Mexico Veterans’ Integration Center (VIC), the New Mexico National Guard, and city & local agencies to help homeless and near-homeless veterans.

<b><u>Farmington</u></b> <b><u>Oct. 11</u></b> (San Juan College)	Health & Human Performance Center <i>More Info: David Drake (505) 566-3970</i>	8am-2:30pm
<b><u>Albuquerque</u></b> <b><u>Oct. 24</u></b> (Downtown)	The Rock at Noonday (2400 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. NW) <i>More Info: Wendy Webber (505) 296-0800</i>	9am-2pm
<b><u>Gallup</u></b> <b><u>Nov. 1</u></b> (Church Rock)	Red Rock Park (5757 Red Rock Park Dr.) <i>More Info: Ben Welch (505) 863-1275</i>	9am-3pm
<b><u>Santa Fe</u></b> <b><u>Nov. 9</u></b> (Rancho Viejo)	Advent Life Church (62 A-Van-Nu-Po Rd.) (for veterans & non-veterans) <i>More Info: Phillip Chavez (505) 595-4839</i>	8am-3pm

### The Stand Down” Concept

These Stand Downs are modeled after the military “Stand Downs” popularized during the Vietnam War to offer battle-weary soldiers a temporary safe haven to rest, receive medical treatment, get a hot meal, and clean up before returning to combat.



*(photos are from previous Albuquerque Stand Downs)*

A Pre-Halloween Event Invitation from the Santa Fe Vet Center...

# Join us at the Santa Fe Vet Center for a safe and fun Trick or Treat event!

Friday October 25th 2019 from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm

Snacks, fun and games, and trick or treating

Come in costume!

(Event is open to veterans and their family members.)



Santa Fe Vet Center

2209 Brothers Rd. Suite 110 Santa Fe, NM 87505

(505) 988-6562



*Saturday, November 9, 2019*

9:00am - 3:00pm

**JUDGING BEGINS @ 11:30AM**

**AWARDS BEGIN @ 2:00PM**

## Trophy & Dash Plaques Awarded

**Vehicle Entry Fee:**

*Pre-Register by Oct 9th \$25 | On Site \$30*

**Event Location:**

**992 S Broadway, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901**

**For event info:**

**Jennie.Bustamante@state.nm.us or Virginia.Shannon@state.nm.us**

**(575) 894-8445**

**(575) 894-4287**

**Or**

## Sam Shannon

**(575) 740-3904**

**Concession  
Stand  
On Site!!**

**SPECTATORS FREE  
ADMISSION !!**

**Swap Meet Area  
Available  
10x10 Space for  
\$25.00**



Paid for in part by Sierra County Lodgers Tax

## VA Improves Information Sharing with Community Care Providers



**VA Secretary  
Robert Wilkie**

*For more news and  
benefits information  
from the VA, visit  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)*

*The VA has a regional  
office in Albuquerque.  
For more Information:  
[www.benefits.va.gov/  
albuquerque](http://www.benefits.va.gov/albuquerque)*

*For information about VA  
health care, visit the  
New Mexico VA  
Health Care System  
website at:  
[www.albuquerque.va.gov](http://www.albuquerque.va.gov)*

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will implement new procedures by January 2020, for sharing medical information for veterans accessing health care in the community.

The department is changing its procedures for electronic health information sharing in accordance with Section 132 of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (MISSION Act).

“The MISSION Act gives veterans greater access to care, whether at VA facilities or in the community,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “We are providing seamless access to care, improving efficiency and helping to ensure veterans get the care they need, where and when they need it.”

The change moves the VA from an ‘opt-in’ to an ‘opt-out’ model of electronic health information sharing. Veterans will no longer be required to provide signed, written authorization for VA to release electronic health information to community providers for the purposes of receiving medical treatment.

The VA shares health information with community providers using a secure and safe electronic system called the Veterans Health Information Exchange.

This electronic exchange of information improves patient safety – particularly during emergency situations – and allows for improved care coordination for veterans receiving care in the community.

Veterans who do not want their health information shared electronically can opt out by submitting VA Form 10-10164 (opt out of sharing <https://www.va.gov/VLER/vler-health-exchange-registration-guide.asp>) to the Release of Information Office at the nearest VA medical center now or at any time going forward. Veterans who previously opted out on VA Form 10-0484 prior to Sept. 30, do not need to submit new forms. However, veterans who restricted what information the VA shared by submitting VA Form 10-0525 (restriction request) [https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form\\_detail.asp?FormNo=0525](https://www.va.gov/vaforms/form_detail.asp?FormNo=0525) will need to opt out entirely by submitting Form 10-10164.

The VA is committed to protecting a veteran’s privacy. Only community health care providers and organizations that have partnership agreements with the VA and are part of VA’s approved, trusted network may receive VA health information.

For information about the VA’s health information exchange, visit [www.va.gov/vler](http://www.va.gov/vler).



## VA Strengthens Caregiver Support Program; Expands Timeline Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced actions to strengthen the Caregiver Support Program and establish a timeline for expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) in accordance with section 161 of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 ([MISSION Act](#)).

Under the MISSION Act, VA will expand the PCAFC to eligible veterans from all eras using a phased approach. Currently, the program is only available to eligible Veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001. Prior to expanding, the VA must upgrade its information technology (IT) system and implement other improvements to strengthen the program.

In December 2018, the VA suspended certain discharges from the program due to ongoing concerns about inconsistent application of eligibility requirements at VA medical centers. Since then, the VA has held listening sessions with caregivers and other stakeholders, developed or amended 14 standard operating procedures to clarify program requirements for VA staff, increased oversight in each veterans Integrated Service Network, provided training and education to staff and caregivers and is boosting operational capacity with the hiring of more than 680 staff. To modernize its caregiver IT system, the VA is adopting a three-phased approach and will deploy a new system based on a commercial off the shelf product called Caregiver Record Management Application (CARMA) beginning in October 2019. The VA will deploy phase two in January 2020 to centralize and automate stipend payment calculations and expects to deploy phase three in the summer of 2020, which will enable caregivers to apply for benefits online. The VA will then perform testing and verify that the system has full functionality before expanding the program as required under the MISSION Act.

The expansion will occur in two phases, beginning in the summer of 2020 or once the Secretary has certified that the new IT system is fully implemented. In the first phase, PCAFC will be expanded to eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The final phase of the expansion will begin two years later. It will expand PCAFC to eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty after May 7, 1975 through September 10, 2001. Additionally, the VA has gathered input and is developing regulatory changes to streamline the program and provide more clarity for veterans and their family caregivers. The VA will publish a proposed rule for public comment prior to issuing final regulations. The VA is also working across the department to ensure caregivers have a positive experience through program improvements and initiatives to include:

- Providing home and community-based care alternatives through the Choose Home Initiative at 21 VA medical centers.
- Establishing the Center for Excellence for Veteran and Caregiver Research named after Senator Elizabeth Dole.
- Expanding telehealth services to enable Veterans and their caregivers to get care in the comfort of their homes.
- Delivering valuable programs for caregivers such as peer support mentoring, a Caregiver Support Line, self-care courses and educational programs to help caregivers succeed.

Caregivers play a critical role in enabling veterans to maintain their highest level of independence and remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. The VA leads the nation in providing unprecedented benefits and services to caregivers. The MISSION Act strengthens the VA's ability to serve as a trusted partner in the care of our nation's most vulnerable veterans.

To learn more about the many support services available for caregivers of veterans, visit [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) or call the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.

# DVS FIELD OFFICES

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services has thirteen field offices 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 (VSO)—who are also veterans themselves.

Below are the thirteen DVS field offices and the contact information for each managing VSO—followed on the next page with locations for outreach visits by each VSO. Walk-ins are welcome, but DVS encourages veterans to make an appointment to avoid long wait-times.

<b>ALAMOGORDO</b> Larry Weatherwax 411 10th Street # 107 (575) 437-4635 <a href="mailto:larry.weatherwax@state.nm.us">larry.weatherwax@state.nm.us</a>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #1</b> Gordon Schei 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE (505) 383-2404 <a href="mailto:gordon.schei@state.nm.us">gordon.schei@state.nm.us</a>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #2</b> Martín Marquez 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE (505) 383-2406 <a href="mailto:martinM.marquez@state.nm.us">martinM.marquez@state.nm.us</a>
<b>ALBUQUERQUE #3</b> George Vargas 500 Gold Ave. SW (505) 383-3986 <a href="mailto:george.vargas@state.nm.us">george.vargas@state.nm.us</a>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #4</b> Jonathan Quintana 500 Gold Ave. SW (505) 346-4810 <a href="mailto:jonathan.quintana@state.nm.us">jonathan.quintana@state.nm.us</a>	<b>CARLSBAD</b> Dagmar Youngberg 101 N. Halagueno (575) 885-4939 <a href="mailto:dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us">dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us</a>
<b>CLOVIS</b> Matthew Barela 904 W. 6th Street (575) 762-6185 <a href="mailto:matthew.barela@state.nm.us">matthew.barela@state.nm.us</a>	<b>FARMINGTON</b> Beverly Charley San Juan College VetCenter Rm.1715B (505) 327-2861 <a href="mailto:beverly.charley@state.nm.us">beverly.charley@state.nm.us</a>	<b>GALLUP</b> Raymie Hurley 908 Buena Vista Ave./Room 1A (505) 863-7457 <a href="mailto:raymie.hurley@state.nm.us">raymie.hurley@state.nm.us</a>
<b>GRANTS</b> <i>Temporarily Vacant Please Contact Gallup Office For Assistance</i>	<b>HOBBS</b> Dalton Boyd 2120 N. Alto Street (575) 397-5290 <a href="mailto:dalton.boyd@state.nm.us">dalton.boyd@state.nm.us</a>	<b>LAS CRUCES #1</b> Rosa Bycenski 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 524-6220 <a href="mailto:rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us">rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us</a>
<b>LAS CRUCES #2</b> <i>Temporarily Vacant. Please call Las Cruces #1 Offices For Assistance</i>	<b>LAS VEGAS #1</b> Karen Abeyta 917 Douglas Avenue (505) 454-0068 <a href="mailto:karen.abeyta@state.nm.us">karen.abeyta@state.nm.us</a>	<b>LAS VEGAS (NM) #2</b> <i>Temporarily Vacant. Please call Las Vegas #1 Offices For Assistance</i>
<b>ROSWELL</b> Danielle Thompson 1600 SE Main St./Suite A (575) 624-6086 <a href="mailto:danielle.thompson@state.nm.us">danielle.thompson@state.nm.us</a>	<b>SANTA FE</b> Jeff George 301 W. DeVargas St/Suite 2A (505) 476-7903 <a href="mailto:jeff.george@state.nm.us">jeff.george@state.nm.us</a>	<b>WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM</b> Tracie Brasier Albuquerque/5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE (505) 383-2431 <a href="mailto:tracie.brasier@state.nm.us">tracie.brasier@state.nm.us</a>
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DVS VSO's also make outreach visits to the following communities on this page. Please call to make an appointment.	<i>*Acoma Pueblo</i>	<i>Angel Fire*</i>
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(Las Vegas Office Outreach) Karen Abeyta (505) 454-0068 <a href="mailto:karen.abeyta@state.nm.us">karen.abeyta@state.nm.us</a>	Please contact DVS toll-free at 1-(866) 433-8387 for assistance.	(Roswell Office Outreach) Danielle Thompson (575) 624-6086 <a href="mailto:danielle.thompson@state.nm.us">danielle.thompson@state.nm.us</a>
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<i>Taos*</i>	<i>Taos*</i>	<i>Truth or Consequences*</i>
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