



# 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

January, 2020

## Eighteen Korean War Veteran Residents of the State Veterans Home Receive Special Medals



Eighteen veterans of the Korean War now living at the New Mexico State Veterans Home in Truth or Consequences were presented with an *Ambassador of Peace Medal* on December 13.

DVS Secretary Judy Griego joined Republic of Korea (South Korea) Consul General/Los Angeles Consulate Kim Wan-Joong (*bottom photos*) to present the medal on behalf of his government as an expression of appreciation to American service men and women who served in the war against North Korea from June, 1951-July 1953...or in the ensuing UN peacekeeping mission through 1955.

The Medal was initially presented by the South Korean government as a memento to American service members who served in the combat zone and who later returned to visit as part of a special "revisit program." But it has since been expanded to include any Korean War combat-zone veteran who cannot make the journey.

"The South Korean government would like to express its sincere appreciation for your service in this war which helped keep our people free from Communism," said Mr. Kim in his remarks shortly before the presentation of the medals. "South Korea will always be grateful to your service and sacrifice for us."



Presented with medals were veterans' home residents Efido Arguello, Edward Bashista, Robert Blair, Leonard Bullington, Jerry Jim Calkins, Joseph Eiken, Enrique Garcia, Elmer Hans, Garland Hawkins, Lloyd Henson, Tommie Higgins, Herbert Holm, Wilfred Holzer, Richard Hughes, Samuel Lazard, Joseph Moulder, Floyd Poland, and Henry Tyler.

For eligibility requirements and information about how to receive this award:

[https://kwva.us/?page=info\\_peace\\_medal](https://kwva.us/?page=info_peace_medal)





## Christmas Wreaths Placed on Selected Gravesites for Annual Wreaths Across America Event



DVS Secretary Judy Griego (*left photo*) was among the guest speakers at the 2019 Wreaths Across America Christmas tribute at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on December 14.

The 10 a.m. ceremony coincided with noon (EDT) ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.—along with ceremonies at all 147 national cemeteries, hundreds private and public cemeteries, and at national cemeteries in 24 other countries.

“Today is a day to remember that the military service of our service members who are no longer with us is not forgotten this Christmas season,” said Secretary Griego. “Today is a day to remember that Americans are able to freely celebrate the Christmas season because of the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.”



Secretary Griego (*right photo*) then joined the crowd to place more than 2,500 special Christmas Wreaths at 'selected gravesites. The wreaths were pre-purchased by anyone wishing to honor the service of deceased 'veterans during the Christmas holiday season. Wreaths were also laid at the DVS Ft. Stanton (*bottom photo*) and Gallup State Veterans Cemeteries (*lower-left photo*).



# DVS, Bernalillo County Launch State Property Tax Exemption Workshop Series



DVS and the Bernalillo County Assessor's Office kicked off the third annual Veterans State Property Tax Exemption Outreach drive on December 19.

DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans Service Officer Gordon Schei (*left photo, in light-colored shirt*) and DVS Event Coordinator Joseph Dorn joined Bernalillo County Assessor Tanya Giddings at the county assessor's office in downtown Albuquerque to assist veterans with filing for the Veterans State Property Tax Exemption—a \$4,000 reduction in the taxable value of a veteran's primary residence. This benefit is also available to un-remarried surviving spouses of veterans who would have otherwise qualified for this benefit.

A new feature for this joint collaboration was the ability for veterans to receive their Property Tax Exemption Certificate from Mr. Schei on the spot—allowing them to forego having to return to DVS to pick up the completed certificate, or wait for it to be mailed to them in 2-4 weeks.

Veterans rated at 100% service-connected disabled can file to have their total property tax liability waived. Mr. Schei also assisted with filing for or updating VA or state veterans' benefits claims. This joint effort between DVS and the County Assessor's Office continues through next year, with outreach stops at the office on January 16, February 20, March 19, April 16, and concluding on April 23.

No appointment is necessary. Veterans must bring a copy of their DD-214 separation papers or any documents from the VA as proof of veteran status in order to receive the veterans' property tax exemption certificate, or to help expedite any on-site filing veterans' benefits processes. Mr. Schei can also assist with filing for lost DD-214's.

## DVS Outreach Schedule for SW New Mexico

DVS Las Cruces-based Veterans Service Officers George Vargas and Rosa Bycenski will be making the following outreach visits in southern/southwest New Mexico from January through April:

**Anthony** (SONIC Drive-In/110 W. Elm)(9:30am-3pm)  
January 31, February 21, March 20, April 3)

**Chaparral** (Stires Supermarket/304 McCombs Rd.)(9:30am-3pm)  
January 17, February 14, March 6, April 3)

**Deming** (Food Bank/Old VFW Bldg/4045 Overhill Drive)  
February 5 (9:30am-2pm);  
March 4 (9:30am-2pm); April 1 (9:30am-2pm)

**Santa Clara** (Old Armory Building/11990 US Hwy 180 East) (9:30am-3pm)  
January 9, 23; February 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9, 23)

**T or C** (NM State Veterans Home/992 South Broadway)(9:30am-3pm)  
January 20, February 18, March 16, April 20





# **NM Department of Veterans' Services**

# **VETERANS CLAIMS CLINIC**

**For Veterans, Service Members & Dependents**

**FRIDAY**  
**January 31, 2020**  
**9:00AM – 4:00PM**

**NM Dept. Workforce Solutions**  
**301 W. De Vargas St.**  
**Santa Fe, NM**

**What to Bring (if available):**

- DD214
- VA decision ratings
- Medical evidence
- Dependent Info

**What to Expect:**

- Information about VA Benefits
- File veterans disability claims
- File for various federal/state benefits
- Status of pending claims and appeals
- Certificates of tax waiver\exemption printed on-site (will require proof of residency)

**For more information please contact:**

**Karen Abeyta**  
505-346-3926

[karen.abeyta@state.nm.us](mailto:karen.abeyta@state.nm.us)

**Joseph Dorn**  
505-383-2414

[josephm.dorn@state.nm.us](mailto:josephm.dorn@state.nm.us)

## DVS Interviews Dozens of Job Applicants at a State Rapid Hire Event in Albuquerque



DVS was among other state agencies and commissions taking part in a "rapid hire" event presented by the state of New Mexico from December 11-14 at Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque.

The event was designed to facilitate the "fast-track" hiring of qualified applicants for hundreds of state government job vacancies across the state.

Applicants were interviewed both in person and remotely via video conference at Workforce Connection offices statewide. Day one saw 1,315 applicants; Day two: 1,100 applicants; Day three: 743 applicants; and the final day: 527 applicants.

DVS Secretary Judy Griego (*right photo/at right*) was joined by DVS Legal Counsel Gabrielle Sanchez-Sandoval (*right photo/at next to Secretary Griego*), Deputy Secretary Bryan Osterhage, DVS division directors, and DVS Administrative Services staff to conduct more than three dozen interviews for agency vacancies.

The governor was thrilled with the turnout of 3,685 applicants over the four-day event.

"I am absolutely thrilled and incredibly encouraged by the amazing turnout at our rapid hire event," she said. "It's clear from the incredible response that people are excited about joining state government. Fostering a positive workplace culture and continuing to build a state government that thrives in its service to the people of New Mexico is of top importance to me, and I'm so glad that so many New Mexicans want to join us in our work."



DVS Deputy Secretary Bryan Osterhage (**center/seated at left**) and DVS Accounts Payable Supervisor Diana Padilla (**at right**) conduct an interview with a job applicant on December 12 during the four-day Rapid Hire Event in Albuquerque.

Those who weren't able to participate in the rapid hire event and are still interested in a career with New Mexico state government can find more information on the State Personnel Office website. [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us).





# Military & Veterans Day at the State Legislature Set for January 25



Military & Veterans Day at the 2020 Legislature has been designated as Saturday, January 25 at the State Capitol in downtown Santa Fe.

This is the annual day during the legislative session presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the New Mexico National Guard to honor active-duty service members and veterans. There will be a noon ceremony to highlight the event.

Every year at this ceremony, a segment of the military is also featured. This year, the spotlight will be on former Prisoners of War (POW's) and those still listed as Missing in Action (MIA).

The public is invited to join in this annual celebration of New Mexico's service members and veterans—and to honor our former POW's and current MIA's. There will be informational tables from 8am-1pm in the east and west wings of the Rotunda staffed by the NM National Guard, DVS, veterans service organizations, and community service organizations.



Veterans and active-service personnel are also encouraged to meet their local legislators to discuss military and veterans' issues--and watch the legislative process in action in the state Senate or House of Representatives chambers.

## The 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2020 Legislative Session)



The Second Session of the 54th New Mexico Legislature, or the 2020 Legislative Session, convenes at noon on Tuesday, January 21. This year's session is a 30-day session which adjourns on Thursday, February 20, at noon.

By state statute, the State Legislature meets every year starting on the third Tuesday in January for 30-days in "even-numbered" years, and 60-days in "odd-numbered" years. Sixty-day sessions consider all legislative matters, while thirty-day sessions are limited to budgetary matters and items placed on the governor's agenda—or what is referred to as the "Governor's call."

Pre-filing of legislation began on December 16 and ends on January 17. The deadline for legislation introduced during the session is February 5. A bill that passes in both chambers (the Senate and House of Representatives) is sent to the governor's desk for signature into state law. The governor can sign it, veto/reject it, or take no action. If a bill is not acted upon by 20-days after it reaches her desk, it is automatically "killed" by what is called Pocket Veto.

## Veterans & Community Service Organizations— Upcoming Events

As a public service to New Mexico's veteran community, DVS/*The Guardian* will gladly publish flyers providing advance notice of an event hosted by a non-profit veteran or community service organization.

Events must be veteran-related or beneficial to veterans and their dependents.

Submitted information must be in the form of a flyer—no news releases or email "text" copy. Flyers must show either a website...or a point-of-contact and his/her phone number or email address. DVS will not be responsible for disseminating details about these non-DVS events.

In including an event in *The Guardian*, DVS will not be responsible for the accuracy or content of information contained on the provided flyers. The veracity of information in submitted flyers is the responsibility of the non-profit agency or organization sending the flyer. Furthermore, inclusion in *The Guardian* will not serve as an endorsement by DVS of the parties or their products and services.

DVS reserves the right to decline any submitted flyers. Furthermore, as a state agency, DVS cannot accept event flyers promoting activities presented or hosted by "for-profit" entities.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, DVS expressly denies liability for injuries or losses suffered by any person or organization--either directly or indirectly-- relating to events, services, or information listed on flyers submitted to DVS.

Please submit your flyers (in jpeg or pdf form) to DVS Public Information Officer/*The Guardian* Editor Ray Seva at [ray.seva@state.nm.us](mailto:ray.seva@state.nm.us).

Please submit these flyers well in advance of an event's date. (*The Guardian* is typically e-mailed statewide the first week of each month)

# Save The Date!

NMWIF is Sponsoring a FREE Film Event!

## Highlighting Female Veterans

January 11, 2020

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Guild Cinema

### Featuring

"Mentor Them/Hire Them"

a PSA directed by Geri Lynn Matthews

&

"Soldiers Period"

a short directed by

Patricia Lee Stotter & Marcia Rock

Join us to hear the voices of our women veterans!  
There will be a Panel/Q&A following the screening.

[nmwif.com](http://nmwif.com)



UnAvoidable  
Productions LLC

505-270-1575





**SALUTE  
TO  
SERVICE**

***LOBO BASKETBALL***  
**vs. AIR FORCE**

**SATURDAY**  
**JAN. 11 AT 4 PM**

**DISCOUNTED ADMISSION TO ALL  
VETERAN OR ACTIVE MILITARY  
& FIRST RESPONDERS  
ADMISSION WITH ID**

**GOLOBOS.COM/TICKETS #PROTECTTHEPIT 505.925.LOBO**



# HEALING THE HEART CENTER



## WHEN

**Jan. 18th**  
**8:30 – 4:30 PM**

## WHERE

**Saint Tim's Community Room**  
**211 Jefferson Street Northeast**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87108**

To learn more: [amber@ecentral.com](mailto:amber@ecentral.com)

**FREE SEMINAR FOR VETERANS**

**LIMITED SEATING!**

**TICKETS AT:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/69907155183>

## SPONSORS



WAR SURVIVORS INSTITUTE



War Survivors Institute

5150 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, 2nd Floor, PMB#733 | Long Beach, CA 90804

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

### LEARN ABOUT:

- Effects of war on your heart health
- Heart healthy Eating
- Healing and connection
- Mind-Body Techniques

Light movement and stretching | Lunch and drinks provided | Workbook and Resources!

Instructors include:  
Trauma Experts Dr. Gray, and Dr. Hollifield





## Fundraiser for "Heroes Walk Among Us" (HWAU)

### Heroes Fight Night

#### When

Saturday, January  
18, 2020 at 6:00  
PM MST

-to-

Sunday, January  
19, 2020 at 12:00  
AM MST

[Add to Calendar](#)

#### Where

**HWAU Office**  
6601 4th Street  
Nw, Suite G  
Albuquerque, NM  
87107

Dear HWAU Supporter,

You are invited to the **HEROES FIGHT NIGHT!!** We will be having a watch party for the MMA fight between

**Conor McGregor vs  
Cowboy Cerrone**

All we ask is for a donation at the door. We will also have snacks and drinks available for a donation.

This event is to raise funds to support our Veteran projects in 2020!

Please come support Heroes Walk Among Us...and enjoy a good fight night!

**To RSVP or for more information: (505) 401-9879**

# Suicide Awareness & Prevention Informational Program for the Community

January 25 1:00-3:00 Los Vencinos Community Center  
( 478 1/2 Old Hwy. 66, Tijeras, NM 87059)

**There will be a panel discussion with Q&A so you'll:**

- ✓ Know the signs
- ✓ Learn what to do
- ✓ Use local resources
- ✓ Be ready to support



*Working together, we can all help prevent suicide*



The Village of Tijeras ★ East Mountain Veteran/Family Collaborative ★ Goodwill Industries ★ Agora Crises Center  
Museum of the American Military Family & Learning Center ★ New Mexico Healthcare System ★ New Mexico National Guard  
★ Bernalillo County Emergency Responders ★ Military One Source ★ Vet Center

For program info (505) 504-6830



## Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act Claims Now Being Processed



**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) has started processing claims for the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/299/text>)

The Act extends the presumption of herbicide exposure, which include toxins such as Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Signed into law last Jun. 25, the law specifically affects Blue Water Navy (BWN) veterans who served no more than 12 nautical miles offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 6, 1962 and May 7, 1975, as well as veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between Jan. 1, 1967 and Aug. 31, 1971.

These Veterans can now apply for disability compensation and other benefits if they have since developed one of 14 conditions (<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/related-diseases/>) that are presumed to be related to exposure to herbicides. Veterans do not need to prove that they were exposed to herbicides. The specific conditions can be found by searching the term "Agent Orange" on [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

"For six months, the VA worked diligently to gather and digitize records from the National Archives and Records Administration to support faster claims decisions," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "These efforts will positively impact the claims process for Veterans filing for these benefits."

To be eligible, a veteran must have served in the identified locations during the specified time period and currently have a condition(s) associated with herbicide exposures (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/38/3.309>), such as Agent Orange. Blue Water Navy claims are being processed under current prioritization criteria; however, special priority is being given to veterans who are over the age of 85 or have a terminal condition. Qualifying recipients include affected veterans who are still living and certain survivors of deceased BWN and Korean DMZ veterans.

Survivors can file claims for benefits based on the veteran's service if the veteran died from at least one of the 14 presumptive conditions associated with herbicides such as Agent Orange. The law also provides benefits for children born with Spina Bifida (<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/birth-defects/index.asp>) if their parent is or was a veteran with certain verified service in Thailand during a specific period.

The Act includes provisions impacting the VA Home Loan Program. Veterans have more access to obtain no-down payment home loans, regardless of loan amount, and the home loan funding fee is reduced for eligible Reservists and National Guard borrowers who use their home loan benefits for the first time.

*(continued)*



The VA's website describes the eligibility of certain Purple Heart recipients who do not have to pay a funding fee as well as other benefits ([https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)).

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for an herbicide-related disability can use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits (<https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>) or work with a VA-recognized Veterans Service Organization to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their state Veterans Affairs Office. (*Veterans in New Mexico*

*can contact any of the 13 DVS field offices or outreach locations found on the last two pages of this newsletter)*

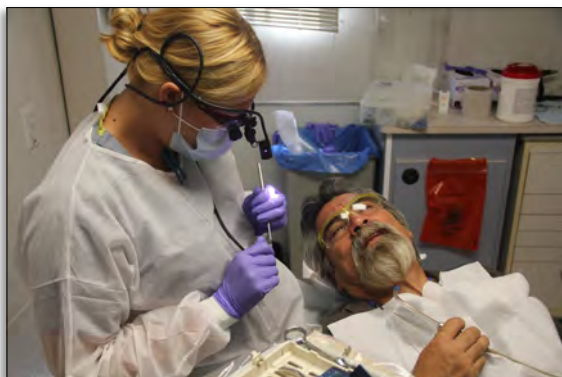
BWN Veterans who previously filed a claim seeking service connection for one of the 14 presumptive conditions that was denied by VA may provide or identify any new and relevant information regarding their claim when reapplying. To re-apply, veterans may use VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim.

As a result of the new law, the VA will automatically review claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal. Visit Blue Water Navy Veterans Benefits (<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>) for more information or call 1-800-749-8387 for special issues.





## VA Announces Proposal to Increase Access to Dental Care



Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has submitted to Congress a waiver request and pilot program under Section 152 of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (the MISSION Act) to improve access to dental care for veterans.

The MISSION Act authorizes the VA to submit statutory waivers to Congress for the purpose of testing innovative service delivery models to improve the quality of care for America's veterans. Under existing statute, the VA has limited authority to provide dental services for veterans. With this waiver request, the VA is

submitting a proposal to increase access to dental services for enrolled veterans ineligible for dental services through the VA by connecting them with community-based, pro bono or discounted dental service providers.

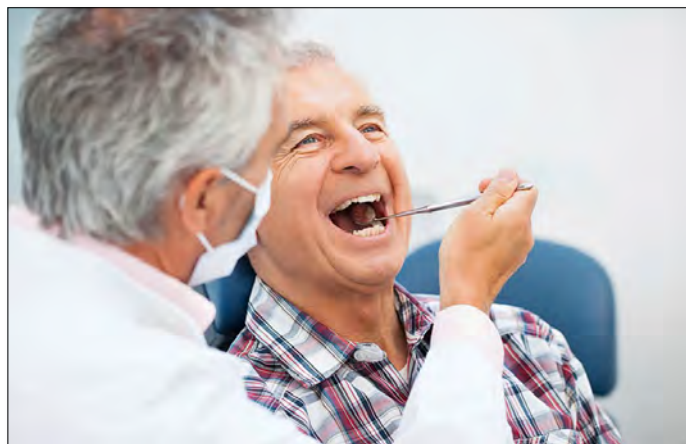
"The MISSION Act gives veterans real choice over their healthcare decisions," said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie. "Through this pilot proposal, we want to ensure veterans have access to quality dental care through a network of providers who are proud to serve America's heroes."

Poor oral health can have a significant negative effect on overall health. Clinical research has found possible connections between gum problems and heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, and stroke. Upon approval of this pilot, the VA will work with groups such as the American Dental Association and federally-qualified health centers across the country to offer pro bono and discounted dental services to veterans.

"This waiver submission opens the door to years of groundbreaking innovation under the MISSION Act to improve care for our veterans, who are top of mind for the President," said White House Domestic Policy Council Director Joe Grogan.

Section 152 of the MISSION Act led the VA to establish a Center for Care and Payment Innovation to test payment and service delivery models, with the goal of reducing expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care for veterans.

In implementing this section, the VA Secretary was granted authority to waive statutory requirements that may impede innovative approaches upon notification of and approval from Congress. The dental care proposal, titled *the Care Coordination for Dental Benefits Demonstration Project* under the Community Provider Collaborations for Veterans Pilot Program, is the first waiver request and pilot program submitted to Congress under this authority.



"This pilot program enables us to explore leading practices across the U.S. health care system to meet Veterans needs today and into the future," said Dr. Melissa S. Glynn, Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration.

The VA will publish details of the Community Provider Collaborations for Veterans pilot program for public comment in a special Federal Register link:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/13/2019-26901/pilot-program-for-dental-health-care-access>

# VA Introduces New Direct Deposit Options for Veterans & Their Beneficiaries

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in partnership with the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA), has launched the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) <https://veteransbenefitsbanking.org/>.

The program will provide veterans and their beneficiaries the chance to safely, reliably, and inexpensively receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through financial services at participating banks.

"VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs."

VA's collaboration with AMBA will leverage its consortium of military-friendly financial institutions that cater to service members. AMBA is the only trade association representing banking institutions specializing in providing services for military personnel, veterans, and their families around the world. VBBP leverages participating AMBA institutions and banks operating within the gates of installations of all branches of service and National Guard and Reserve components.

"AMBA and its member banks welcome the opportunity to provide our nation's veterans additional financial services options to help them achieve greater financial independence, resiliency, and literacy," said AMBA president and Air Force Veteran Steve Lepper. "We hope that as veterans recognize the benefits of working with the banks to achieve financial stability, more Veterans, banks and credit unions will join this effort."

The current available banking options include direct deposit into an existing bank account, electronic funds transfer into a Direct Express pre-paid debit card and mailing of a paper check for pre-approved beneficiaries. VBBP introduces new financial resources to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

The program is an effort to address the problems some veterans experience using these payment methods. VBBP offers these VA beneficiaries – including many who have been unable to open bank accounts in the past – the opportunity to deposit their benefit funds directly into existing or new bank accounts offered by participating AMBA member banks.

Neither the VA nor AMBA is endorsing any particular bank or requiring veterans and other beneficiaries to use them. It does not require veterans who are satisfied with their current financial situation to change how they receive their VA monetary benefits. All veterans and other beneficiaries – who currently receive more than \$118 billion in financial benefits through VA – are eligible to access this program. There are approximately 250,000 veterans and beneficiaries who receive their VA benefits through a pre-paid debit card or paper check who may not have a bank account.

VA's Veterans Banking Benefits (<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/banking>) and AMBA's Veterans Benefits Banking Program (<https://veteransbenefitsbanking.org/>) websites have details for identifying participating banks.

To have your federal benefits electronically transferred to a veteran's designated financial institution (e.g. bank), VA beneficiaries interested in changing direct deposit options (<https://www.va.gov/change-direct-deposit/>) can also call 1-800-827-1000 with their relevant banking information.

VA financial literacy information (<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/financial-literacy.asp>) is an additional resource available to veterans and VA beneficiaries.



# VeteransCount!



## Stand Up! Be counted for the 2020 U.S. Census!

### Census data is confidential

- Your personal information is protected by law, and is never released to any other local, state, or federal agency (Title 13 of the U.S. Code). Your individual census responses will not affect your tax status or insurance premiums.
- The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank account number, or money of any kind.

### Census data affects your community.

- Census data determines federal funding to Medicare, Medicaid, and many other federally-funded programs which greatly assist families.
- The data collected by the U.S. Census will determine your political representation for the next 10-years...at the local, state, and federal levels.
- *VA expenditures and other federally-funded veterans programs are directly affected by the military veteran population of a state.*

### Responding to the Census is easy.

- You can respond to the U.S. Census online, over the phone, or wait for the paperwork to be mailed to you.

For more information: [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov)

*in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services*

United States<sup>®</sup>  
**Census**  
**2020**

# 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 unnecessary wait-times.

<b>ALAMOGORDO</b>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #1</b>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #2</b>
<b>Larry Weatherwax</b> 411 10th Street # 107 (575) 437-4635 <a href="mailto:larry.weatherwax@state.nm.us">larry.weatherwax@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Karen Abeyta</b> 500 Gold Ave. SW (505) 346-3986 <a href="mailto:karen.abeyta@state.nm.us">karen.abeyta@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Gordon Schei</b> 500 Gold Ave. SW (505) 346-4810 <a href="mailto:gordon.schei@state.nm.us">gordon.schei@state.nm.us</a>
<b>ALBUQUERQUE #3</b>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #4</b>	<b>CARLSBAD</b>
<b>Martín Marquez</b> 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE (505) 383-2406 <a href="mailto:martinM.marquez@state.nm.us">martinM.marquez@state.nm.us</a>	5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE <i>Temporarily vacant.</i> <i>Please contact Albuquerque #3 for assistance.</i>	<b>Dagmar Youngberg</b> 101 N. Halagueno (575) 885-4939 <a href="mailto:dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us">dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us</a>
<b>CLOVIS</b>	<b>FARMINGTON</b>	<b>GALLUP</b>
<b>Matthew Barela</b> 904 W. 6th Street (575) 762-6185 <a href="mailto:matthew.barela@state.nm.us">matthew.barela@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Beverly Charley</b> San Juan College VetCenter Rm.1715B (505) 327-2861 <a href="mailto:beverly.charley@state.nm.us">beverly.charley@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Raymie Hurley</b> 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>	<b>HOBBS</b>	<b>LAS CRUCES #1</b>
<b>Patrick Aragon</b> 515 West High St./Suite C (505) 287-8387 <a href="mailto:patrick.aragon@state.nm.us">patrick.aragon@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Dalton Boyd</b> 2120 N. Alto Street (575) 397-5290 <a href="mailto:dalton.boyd@state.nm.us">dalton.boyd@state.nm.us</a>	<b>George Vargas</b> 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 524-6124 <a href="mailto:george.vargas@state.nm.us">george.vargas@state.nm.us</a>
<b>LAS CRUCES #2</b>	<b>LAS CRUCES #3</b>	<b>LAS VEGAS #1</b>
<b>Rosa Bycenski</b> 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 524-6220 <a href="mailto:rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us">rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us</a>	2024 E. Griggs Ave. <i>Please contact Las Cruces offices 1 &amp; 2 for assistance</i>	917 Douglas Ave. <i>Please call toll-free 1-(866) 433-8387 for assistance</i>
<b>LAS VEGAS (NM) #2</b>	<b>ROSWELL</b>	<b>SANTA FE</b>
917 Douglas Ave. <i>Please call toll-free 1-(866) 433-8387 for assistance</i>	<b>Danielle Thompson</b> 1600 SE Main St./Suite A (575) 624-6086 <a href="mailto:danielle.thompson@state.nm.us">danielle.thompson@state.nm.us</a>	<b>Jeff George</b> 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>	<i>Navajo Nation*</i>	<i>Pueblos Tribal Liaison*</i>
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<b>DVS VSO's also make outreach visits to the following communities* on this page. Please contact them to make an appointment.</b>	*Acoma Pueblo	Angel Fire*
	<b>Raymie Hurley &amp; Patrick Aragon</b> (505) 863-7457; (505) 287-8387 <a href="mailto:raymie.hurley@state.nm.us">raymie.hurley@state.nm.us</a> <a href="mailto:patrick.aragon@state.nm.us">patrick.aragon@state.nm.us</a>	(Las Vegas Office Outreach) Please call toll free 1-(866) 433-8387 for assistance
<i>Anthony*</i>	<i>Artesia*</i>	<i>Capitan*</i>
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<i>Chaparral*</i>	<i>Crownpoint*</i>	<i>Deming*</i>
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