

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

**Sonya L. Smith** *Cabinet Secretary*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2021 New Mexico Honor Guard Conference**

**Set for August 19 in Albuquerque**

**ALBUQUERQUE--** New Mexico’s Honor Guards are encouraged to attend the 12th Annual Honor Guard Training & Conference on August 19 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, located at 1100 Louisiana Boulevard SE. Registration begins at 7:45am, and the conference begins at 9am.

Honor Guards are all-volunteer units that perform the flag-fold ceremony, 21-Rifle Volley, and a bugle rendition of *Taps* at the funerals of active-duty military personnel or veterans—providing a proper “Final Salute” befitting men and women who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The day-long conference is presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS), the New Mexico National Guard, and AARP New Mexico as a learning and training opportunity for Honor Guards from throughout the state. Last year’s conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals or groups interested in forming an all-volunteer Honor Guard are also encouraged to attend to obtain information and to register with DVS. Instruction and coaching will be provided by U.S. Army Honor Guards.

The highlight of the conference is the two-tiered performance competition between large and small-size Honor Guards. A free catered lunch will also be provided courtesy of AARP-New Mexico. For more information, contact Deanna Anaya at [Deanna.anaya@state.nm.us](mailto:Deanna.anaya@state.nm.us) or (505) 827-6356.

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) provides support and services to New Mexico’s 151,000 veterans and their families. DVS treats every veteran, regardless of their rank achieved during military service, with the respect and gratitude befitting someone who has served our country. We strive every day to live up to our agency’s official motto: *Serving Those Who Served.*

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