

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ray Seva

*DVS Public Information Officer*

ray.seva@state.nm.us

(505) 362-6089

**Military Active-Duty Service Members and Veterans Enjoy a Free Day at the State Fair on September 14--**

***Military & Veterans Appreciation Day at the State Fair***

ALBUQUERQUE—Veterans and active duty service members, many bringing spouses and family members, enjoyed a day at the New Mexico State Fair on September 14—designated as Military & Veterans Appreciation Day at the State Fair.

Veterans and active-duty service members presenting valid ID were admitted free to the fairgrounds on this annual day presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, the New Mexico National Guard, and the New Mexico State Fair, to honor the state’s military men and women.

At a mid-morning ceremony on the fairground’s main stage, DVS Deputy Secretary Bryan Osterhage thanked the state’s military community for their military service for our country.

“As you and your loved ones enjoy the fair today, take a moment to look around...at everyone here---parents, kids, grandparents—enjoying this warm, sunny day,” said Deputy Secretary Osterhage, a former U.S. Army Major and current member of the Army Reserve. “I’d like for you to remember this: This fun day has been made possible by one special group of people--the men and women of our military who have sacrificed to serve and protect us.”

New Mexico Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Ken Nava—the adjutant general of New Mexico—Albuquerque City Council President Cynthia Borrego, and New Mexico VA Health Care System Congressional Liason Joe Baca also honored and thanked current and former service members in separate brief remarks. The ceremony concluded with a poignant reading by members of the New Mexico Gold Star Mothers of the names of the 90 service members who’ve lost their lives while in military service since the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks 20-years ago.

Throughout the day, fairgoers were able visit the more than three dozen military, law enforcement, and veterans/community service agency exhibits and informational tables along the fairground’s Main Street and connecting roadways.

###