



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans Services
January, 2022

Operation Holiday Cheer Results in an Outpouring of Holiday Cards to the State Veterans Home



TOP & BOTTOM PHOTOS: Members of the Santa Fe County 4-H Club sent holiday cards with handwritten greetings as part of the *Operation Holiday Cheer* drive to send cards to residents and staff of the state veterans home.

The final count is in—and it is *staggering*.

More than 7,000 cards were estimated to have been sent to residents and staff of the New Mexico State Veterans Home in Truth or Consequences last month, courtesy of *Operation Holiday Cheer*—the drive organized by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) asking the public to send holiday season cards to residents and staff of the home.

The idea was to send some holiday cheer to the residents—many of whom have limited contact with family, no remaining family left, or haven't had any visitors for several years. The effort also asked for cards to be sent to staff, who dedicate themselves to providing round-the-clock care for the residents—and worked through the holidays.

Though *Operation Holiday Cheer* was launched in New Mexico, cards were sent from Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, California, Wisconsin—and likely other states as well.

“We tried keeping up with the count...and the different places...but it was difficult to keep up with,” said a thrilled Angela York, the state veterans home Administrator. “The residents were amazed over how much we kept receiving each day. It was unbelievable. One resident who assisted us could not get over the number of boxes and boxes we were receiving every day. I was crying--but they were happy tears.”

Whether the cards were from people, organizations, businesses, or schools (“The handwritten messages... and coloring—they all got a kick out of that”), York said the residents and staff clearly got the message that they were not forgotten over the holiday season.

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Several local veterans service organizations also spearheaded card and gift drives as part of the operation—and delivered the goods to the home. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 40 from Truth or Consequences helped decorate the home, and also helped staff organize the home’s annual Christmas party.

When Operation Holiday Cheer kicked off on December 1, the goal, said DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya L. Smith, was to top last year’s initial launch of the operation that netted more than 2,000 cards.

“This is phenomenal!” said Secretary Smith. “We wanted to double the number the cards sent last year, and clearly this has been done! I’m glad the veterans and staff know how much they are valued and appreciated. It was a pleasure for DVS to facilitate this project--and we hope to continue it in the future.”



COVID-19

EVENT POSTPONED

DVS Postpones All In-Person Agency Events & Outreach Visits

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has postponed all scheduled January and February in-person agency events and outreach visits due to the continuing high rates of New Mexicans testing positive for COVID-19.

Barring additional COVID-19 developments, DVS hopes to reschedule the postponed events beginning in March and will send notifications about re-scheduled dates.

“The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services hopes everyone understands why we are pausing our events,” said DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya L. Smith. “We are fully committed to serving our veterans and their families during this ongoing COVID pandemic. But it is still with us, so these postponements are being made with the safety of the public and our staff in mind.

In-office visits to all DVS field offices will continue on an appointment-only basis. Appointments can be made by referring to the DVS veterans service officer (VSO) contact information on the back two pages of this newsletter.

All DVS VSOs are also continuing to offer remote benefits assistance by phone or email. Any veteran from anywhere in New Mexico can contact any VSO for assistance.

You can also contact DVS at (505) 383-2400 or nmdvs.info.state.nm.us

Special Accommodations Burials at National & State Veterans Cemeteries

DVS, in collaboration with the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, has compiled this information sheet regarding special accommodation burials for religious reasons at national cemeteries.



National Cemetery Scheduling Office Special (NCSO) Accommodations Procedures

Funeral homes or family members can call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117 to request a special accommodation for burial due to religious reasons. This request will alert the NCSO to expedite the burial process. The requestor should provide as much information as possible about the deceased veteran. A copy of the veteran's DD214 should be part of the information provided. If a copy of the DD214 is not available, please contact the National Personnel Records Center at the U.S. National Archives & Records Office (see instructions below). If you need assistance, please contact National Scheduling Office Supervisor Eldredge Harmon at (314) 416-6778.

U.S. National Archives & Records Office—for records requests

To request a veteran's service records (i.e., DD214), contact the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). An electronic request can be made at any time for a veteran's services records by visiting the National Archives website: [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)

NOTE: Please do not submit requests to both the NCSO and NPRC. This will slow down the request process.

Emergency Requests & Deadlines

If your request is urgent and facing a deadline, please provide this information in the "purpose" section of the Standard Form 180 and fax it to the Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764.

Military Funeral Honors

All honorably discharged retirees are entitled to military funeral honors. Information on how to obtain military funeral honors and related information can be found at the following links:

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/military-funeral-honors> (for family members)

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/leaders-service-providers/casualty-assistance/funeral-directory-and-planner-resources> (for funeral home directors)

For more information, please contact DVS Cemetery and Memorials Bureau Chief David Walker at (505) 670-5824 or david.walker@state.nm.us; or DVS Business Operations Specialist Diana Myklebust at (505) 231-9811 or diana.myklebust@state.nm.us



NMVBOC Looking to Fill *Training & Development Specialist* Vacancy

The New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the business development division of DVS—is looking to fill its veterans’ business advisor/training & development specialist vacancy.

This position works under the supervision of VBOC Director Rich Coffel in the DVS Albuquerque Northeast Heights office.... performing the duties listed below.

This is a full-time “classified” state position—offering excellent health insurance benefits and a state employee pension available for all state employees. Applicants must apply through the New Mexico State Personnel Office online portal at <https://www.spo.state.nm.us/>. Once on the website:

- On the far right, go to “View Job Opportunities & Apply”
- Click on “New Employee Job Opportunities
- In the “Search Jobs” window at the top, type 121264...and hit enter
- Click on the “Training and Development Specialist” job posting

Top candidates will be contacted by DVS for interviews.

Why does the job exist?

This position exists to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling, and resource partner referrals to veterans and their eligible spouses, transitioning service members, National Guard and Reserve members interested in starting or growing a small business.

This position will create course curriculum for business development and will create specialized courses and/or course material as needed based on the demand for specific training. This position will assist the VBOC director with teaching courses and will be part of the Boots to Business workshops.

The training & development specialist also ensures that agency policies and procedures are followed, develop and monitor performance standards, create and implement outreach activities, collaborate with resource partners and stakeholders, and develop long and short-term programmatic goals.

How does it get done?

This position will conduct workshops either independently or as part of the VBOC team to assist veterans with business creation and development; create curriculum for business courses, create course material and create presentations for workshops/courses at various military installations and as part of the Veterans Business Outreach Center's services.

The training & development specialist also does continuous outreach services throughout the state, and serves as a resource representative to provide third party referrals to outside agencies such as the Small Business Administration, Resource Partners, USDA, and others.

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Additionally, the training & development specialist assists with the grant administration to meet the funding obligation from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He or she will also create and prepare reports for the VBOC director, DVS division directors, and granting agencies, document outcomes and expectations, maintain records of activities, and quantify deliverables/outcomes. Hiring is also contingent upon passing a background check by the Small Business Administration.

Who are the customers?

The customers for this position are New Mexico's veteran population, transitioning service members, National Guard and Reserve personnel, eligible spouses, and additional territories and personnel as assigned to the grant by the Small Business Administration.

Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate is someone with excellent customer service, can multitask, is willing to travel extensively, and is well-organized. The ideal candidate is also someone with business development knowledge, able to read financial statements, able to do financial forecasting, assist with business plans, and has experience in public speaking and giving presentations. Previous business ownership is preferred. Veterans preference provided.

Note: Please do not send resumes to the VBOC or DVS. This is a classified state position—and as such, all candidates must go through the state hiring process.

VBOC & San Juan College to Host Virtual “Boots to Business: Reboot” Seminar

The VBOC and San Juan College are hosting a two-day online *Boots to Business: Reboot* seminar February 1 & 2 for anyone interested in starting or growing a small business.



Though typically for veterans and transitioning active-duty personnel, the VBOC and San Juan College are extending an invitation to any entrepreneurial-minded person for this two-day seminar—which will run four hours each day, from 8am-noon.

This two-day course provides an overview of business fundamentals. It introduces techniques for evaluating the feasibility of business concepts, and goes over the steps needed to develop an all-important business plan—a “must” for anyone looking to start or expand a business. Participants will also be introduced to a broad spectrum of entrepreneurial business concepts, the many resources available to access start-up capital and technical assistance, contracting opportunities, and more.

There is no charge, but pre-registration is required and can be done online at <https://sbavets.force.com/s/class/a00t000000S4IDRAA3/new-mexico-district-officeonline20220201reboot>. You will be asked to log in or create a log in at the top of the page.

For more information, contact VBOC Director Rich Coffel at richardL.coffel@state.nm.us or (505) 220-9932

NEW MEXICO STATE GOVERNMENT RAPID HIRE EVENT

IT POSITIONS

COVID SAFE PRACTICES: WE ARE TAKING THE
UTMOST CAUTION TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY
FROM COVID-19 AND ABIDING BY ALL LOCAL, STATE
AND FEDERAL LAWS.



JANUARY
14, 2022
2-7 PM



WILLIE ORTIZ BUILDING
2600 CERRILLOS
SANTA FE, NM 87505

VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
NEW MEXICO WORKFORCE CONNECTION OFFICE IN
ALBUQUERQUE LOCATED AT 501 MOUNTAIN RD.

ABOUT THE RAPID HIRE EVENT

The State of New Mexico is looking to quickly hire for entry level to upper management **IT positions**! A Rapid Hire event is scheduled for January 14th in Santa Fe! During the Rapid Hire event, qualified applicants will be interviewed by the hiring state agency on-site and find out about a job offer **same day or shortly after**.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



WHAT TO BRING

- Multiple copies of your updated resume
- Three professional references
- Proof of right to work in the U.S.
- Dress for success
- *Suggested - Copy of unofficial transcripts for highest level of education achieved

For more information and/or to request accommodations, contact the New Mexico Workforce Connection, Santa Fe office at

505-355-1758

PLUS MORE!

Community Career Fair

Sponsored by Goodwill Industries of NM

Need a Job?

Dress for success and bring resumes!

WHERE: Roswell Public Library
301 N Pennsylvania Ave
Roswell, NM 88201

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 20th, 2022
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Questions? Please Call!
JoAnn (575) 622-6135



Featured Employers Include:

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico
New Mexico Workforce Connection
Federal Law Enforcement Training
Centers
Wilbanks Trucking Services LLC
Bernalillo County Detention Center
WESST Roswell Women's Business
Center

Encompass Home Health Care
Adelante
Target
Golden Corral
All American Cleaners
La Quinta Inn
Ambercare
Reading Plumbing & Heating





Lovelace Health System



Albuquerque VETCENTER



UNM



ALL JOB SEEKERS

WELCOME!!!



JOB FAIR

MEDICAL, SUPPORT OCCUPATIONS
VETERAN RESOURCES

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26TH

10:00AM - 2:00PM

New Mexico Workforce Connection Center

501 Mountain Rd. NE, ABQ 87102

Mask required COVID-19 health & safety protocols will be observed.

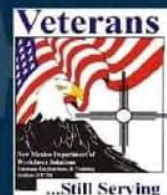
Career Opportunities:

Nurse, Advisor/Coach, Counselor, Lab Technician,
Customer Service, Caregiver,
Driver, Pharmacist... and many more!

For questions or additional information,
call: 505-843-1900
Email: NMWorkforceConnection@wccnm.org
Follow us @nmworkforce



Equal opportunity program in which
auxiliary aids & services are available upon
request to individuals with disabilities.



DVS VSOs Share Success Stories Involving Service/Support Dogs

DVS Carlsbad-based Veterans Service Officer Dagmar Youngberg recently received two pieces of good news regarding service dogs for veterans.

A veteran whom she referred to a service dog trainer hoping to find a match with a service dog has just been paired with “Moocher.” Both are now undergoing special training to help the veteran adjust to his service dog.

That veteran, Charlie Daniell, and Moocher *(both in photo at right)* will now spend the next 12-18 months together completing the training with the trainer.



As for Ms. Youngberg, she recently completed *her* lengthy nine-month training with “Red”—a Miniature Pinscher/Beagle mix who was just registered with the U.S. Support Animal Registry as Ms. Youngberg’s certified emotional support dog. *(both in bottom left photo)*

She credits Red with greatly helping manage her service-connected Post Traumatic Stress Disorder diagnosis.

“I cannot say enough about Red—she has really made a huge positive impact on my life,” said Ms. Youngberg, who is an Army veteran. “She is so sweet and caring. Red helps keep my anxiety levels at a very manageable level—allowing me to be less dependent on medications, and really helping my overall health.”



Ms. Youngberg said Red has travelled extensively with her as part of the training—on trips to Texas and Oklahoma—and even to her Carlsbad office.

“I’d like to thank the city of Carlsbad for being supportive and allowing Red to accompany me to the office,” she said. “She just quietly stays in her spot under my desk--for four or more hours at a time, never focusing on anything else but being there to support me.”

DVS Roswell-based VSO Danielle Thompson has a similar success story with an emotional service dog—that she too has taken ownership for herself. She has now completed four months of live-in training with “Maddox.”

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Last summer Mrs. Thompson, who is a Navy veteran, started a search for a match with a service dog to see if one could help her manage her service-connected anxiety.

(both in right photo)

She eventually reached out to Jimmy Preston of JPaw, LLC, a local service animal trainer...letting him know what she was looking for in a service dog: One that is about a year old...is confident, calm, with a solid handler focus, and is highly trainable. And, if possible, she's like a German Shepherd.

After several attempts checking on possible, and for various reasons, unsuccessful matches, Preston finally found Maddox, an 11-month-old Belgian Malinois—a breed very similar to a German Shepherd.



“It was love at first sight,” said Mrs. Thompson. “Right then and there, Maddox and I immediately hit it off.”

Four months later, everything is going well. Both have completed Obedience Class 1 and are ready to start Obedience Class 2. Maddox will then undergo public access training and must pass public access and canine good citizen tests. Upon passing these tests, Mrs. Thompson can register Maddox as her very own certified service dog.

“Maddox does really well when he’s ‘on duty’ wearing his ‘service dog in training’ vest,” she said. “But when he’s ‘off duty,’ he’s just a regular family puppy who loves to play with our young son and newborn daughter. I couldn’t have asked for a better dog!”

If you have questions about the process of getting a support dog—or know a veteran who would benefit from one--the two VSOs are happy provide more information.

Dagmar Youngberg (Carlsbad VSO): dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us

Danielle Thompson (Roswell VSO): danielle.thompson@state.nm.us



Lt. Cmdr. Priscilla
"Rae" Mares (USN-Ret.)

Founding Member of Woman Veterans Group Passes Away

One of the original members of the women veterans service organization *Women Veterans of New Mexico*, Priscilla Maes, has passed away at the age of 81.

"Rae," as she was known to everyone, was one of the charter members of the group when it formed in 2007 to not only help women veterans here in New Mexico, but also provide a place for them to make friends, socialize, and help all veterans in the state.

Rae enlisted in the Navy in 1959 a year after graduating from high school in Santa Fe. After completing boot camp in Bainbridge, MD, she served three years performing administrative duties at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi. After her discharge in 1962, she returned home to Santa Fe and went to nursing school, then began working at Saint Vincent Hospital—but found that she missed the Navy.

So in 1967 she re-enlisted—but this time as an officer and a nurse aboard the hospital ship *USNS Mercy* during the Vietnam War, receiving an honorable discharge in 1977 as a Lt. Commander. She eventually moved back to New Mexico, where she worked as a counselor for homeless veterans—even becoming an ordained minister and then a pastor focusing on the homeless, imprisoned, and veterans suffering from PTSD, until the COVID-19 pandemic halted her work.

And she was instrumental in helping form Women Veterans in New Mexico—wanting to lend her experiences...hoping it would help other women veterans. She urges all women veterans to join a women veterans group.

"I think I went 46 years without knowing I was a vet until I joined the group," she said in that interview for the profile piece. "You find out what you're qualified for... what you're entitled to, and all that. I learned all of that stuff there."

Rae Mares did not have any known family members—listing *Women Veterans of New Mexico* as her next-of-kin. The group is providing for a cremation and is planning a memorial service and interment.

"Rae Mares was a true female trail blazer in her military and civilian life," said Women Veterans of New Mexico President Pat Gaston. "Joining the military when very few women did...serving two tours in Vietnam...putting herself through college and becoming an officer...and traveling to over 200 countries doing missionary work. What a woman, and example of an awesome human being! We are really going to miss her!"

For more information about Women Veterans of New Mexico:

<https://womenveteransofnewmexico.org/>



Veterans Community Bulletin Board

NOTICE: The following page(s) feature event and informational flyers provided to DVS by veterans and community service agencies. These flyers are published for the convenience of New Mexico's veteran community. Inclusion in The Guardian does not constitute an endorsement by DVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

DVS invites service agencies and non-profit service organizations to send flyers or news releases announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. DVS will post these flyers as a public service courtesy to the veteran community. However:

- Flyers must have the name of a point-of-contact from the organization...along with the contact's phone number or email address. Flyers without this information will not be published.
- DVS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content, products, or services in these flyers.
- Views expressed in these flyers are the independent views of the authors/owners of the third-party entity that created the flyer—and does not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, DVS expressly denies liability for any and all losses suffered by any persons or organizations who, in their independent discretion and reliance, either directly or indirectly rely on content, products, services or information offered by these independent third-party organizations.
- DVS reserves the right to edit or decline publishing of any flyer.

— THE MLK 2022 —

DREAM WEEKEND

Theme: **The Beloved
Community**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14TH

6:00 PM

“The American Promise” Film

AAPAC (*African American Performing Arts*)
310 San Pedro Dr. NE, ABQ, NM 87108
This is a Free Event • Dinner will be served

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15TH

10:00 AM

The MLK Commemorative March

(*Corner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave.
and University Blvd. NE on the UNM Campus*)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16TH

**CHECK LOCAL CHURCH
SERVICE TIMES**

MLK Sunday Services • (Statewide)

MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH

8:00 AM

MLK Breakfast

The Marriott Pyramid Hotel
5151 San Francisco Rd. NE 87109
Tickets \$35.00 contact Galvin Graham (505) 293-1300
(Vaccinated and Masked Event)



**ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE** equity & inclusion



newmexico  PBS

www.nmmlksc.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT MLK (505) 222-6465 OR
Email: Leonard.waites@state.nm.us or
Beverly.jordan@state.nm.us



News From the VA



VA Suspends All In-Person Central Office Board & Travel Board Appeals Hearings

Due to an ongoing surge in COVID-19 variant cases across the country, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is suspending all central office and travel board “in-person” hearings until the end of this month.

VA, however, is not suspending virtual or tele-hearings.

Central office hearing coordinators will attempt to contact all scheduled veterans and encourage conversion to a virtual tele-hearing. Those who wish to remain in the central office hearing queue will have their hearings rescheduled as quickly as possible.

Travel board hearing coordinators will also attempt to contact all scheduled veterans and encourage conversion to a virtual tele-hearing. Those who wish to remain in the travel board hearing queue will have their hearings rescheduled in due course.

Travel board and central office hearings for January 31, 2022, and beyond remain as scheduled. We are monitoring the public health situation and will publish any additional changes as appropriate.

If you are currently scheduled for board hearings this month and beyond and would like to opt into a virtual tele-hearing, you or your representative can contact VA’s Albuquerque hearing coordinator, Carmen Owens Avent, at carmen.owensavent@va.gov or 1-(800) 827-1000.





VA Seeks Feedback to Guide New Copayment Waiver Program for Veterans At-Risk for Suicide

To encourage outpatient mental health care and reduce any potential barriers associated with seeking it, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to eliminate copayment requirements for outpatient mental health visits and reduce the copayments for medications dispensed

to Veterans who are identified as high risk for suicide by a VA clinician.

VA published a notice in the Federal Register Jan. 5, to solicit public feedback to guide implementation of the new VA program modifying copayments for Veterans at risk of suicide.

“Research shows increased frequency of outpatient mental health encounters for high-risk Veterans reduces their risk of suicide,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Through these efforts, VA will continue to address this national public health crisis by further eliminating financial burdens on Veterans which may negatively influence their engagement in mental health treatment and their critical medication availability.”

Currently, there is no exemption from outpatient care copayments for Veterans who are at risk for suicide, and such Veterans must pay a \$15 or \$50 copayment for each outpatient visit, depending on whether the visit qualifies as primary care or specialty care.

In addition, to decrease the risk of overdose on prescribed medications, prescription-based lethal means safety programs often focus on limiting the supply of medications that may, intentionally or unintentionally, contribute to an overdose. An example of this would be to prescribe a seven-day supply of medication with four refills rather than a prescribing one 30-day supply of the medication.

This proposed rule would reduce the financial burden of multiple co-payments associated with both increased outpatient visits as well as more frequent, but limited supply of prescribed medications.

The public comment period ends March 7. Veterans can register a comment by going to the following Federal Register site: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/VA-2022-VHA-0003-0001> Near the upper left corner of the page, click on the blue box with the word “Comment.”

Gulf War Registry & Burn Pit Registry Reminder

VA's Gulf War Registry Health Exam alerts veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to environmental exposures during their military service. The registry data helps VA understand and respond to these health problems more effectively.



Here in New Mexico, veterans can contact the New Mexico VA Health Care System to schedule a Gulf War Registry health exam. The person to contact at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center is Environmental Health Coordinator Vincent D'Arco: (505) 265-1711 ext. 5822 or vincent.darco@va.gov

About the Gulf War Registry Health Exam

This comprehensive health exam includes an exposure and medical history, laboratory tests, and a physical exam. A VA health professional will discuss the results face-to-face with the veteran and in a follow-up letter.

Important points about registry health exams

- **Free** to eligible Veterans and **no co-payment**
- **Not a disability compensation exam** or required for other VA benefits
- Enrollment in VA's health care system **not necessary**
- Based on **Veterans' recollection** of service, not on their military records
- Veterans can receive **additional registry exams** if new problems develop
- Veterans' family members are **not eligible** for registry exams

Eligibility for Gulf War Registry health exam

Veterans who served in the Gulf during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or Operation New Dawn are eligible for the Gulf War Registry exam. You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to take part.

Burn Pit Registry

Veterans who are eligible for the Gulf War Registry may also join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, which includes additional data related to airborne hazards.

Check your eligibility and sign up through the following online questionnaire:

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

Interested in disability compensation?

The registry evaluation is separate from VA's disability compensation process.

Veterans who want to be considered for disability compensation for health problems related to Gulf War service must file a claim for disability compensation.



DVS Offices Are Open for In-Person Assistance—By Appointment Only

DVS offices are open for in-person visits for veterans or their eligible dependents to get assistance with filing VA claims, filing for state veterans benefits, or for anything that a veteran or his/her family may need help.

DVS has formed partnerships with federal, state, local, and private agencies and organizations all dedicated to helping veterans and their families.

All DVS office visits are on an appointment-only basis.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday. Veterans or their eligible dependents ***must*** make an appointment with a DVS veterans service officer (VSO) listed below.

DVS VSOs are also continuing to offer the same assistance by email or phone. Veterans from anywhere in the state can contact any DVS VSO for assistance.

With the COVID-19 virus and new variants still posing a health threat, DVS is requiring all unvaccinated veterans or their eligible dependents who visit DVS offices to wear a protective facemask. DVS staff will observe COVID-19 six-foot social distancing and will clean & disinfect the office in-between customer visits.

The following pages have the locations and contact information for the fourteen DVS offices and 19 veterans service officers in New Mexico. Also on the list is the contact information for:

- the DVS women veterans program dedicated to helping women veterans
- the DVS state cemetery division (for the Angel Fire, Ft. Stanton, and Gallup State Veterans Cemeteries)
- the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for free expert business counseling for veterans who want to open, expand, or purchase a small business

Alamogordo

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

david.henley1@state.nm.us

Albuquerque (Downtown VSO 1)

George Vargas

500 Gold Ave. SW

(575) 520-2634

george.vargas@state.nm.us

Albuquerque (Downtown VSO 2)

Temporarily vacant. Please contact Albuquerque VSO 1 George Vargas for assistance.

Albuquerque (NE Heights 1)

Johnny Martinez

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE

(505) 274-3609

johnV.martinez2@state.nm.us

Albuquerque (NE Heights 2)

Jesus Palomino

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE

(505) 681-6998

jesus.palomino1@state.nm.us

Carlsbad

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us

(continued on next page)

Clovis**Matt Barela**

904 W. Sixth St.
(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@state.nm.us

Gallup**Benjamin Stewart**

908 E. Buena Vista Ave./Room 1A
(575) 386-7911

benjamin.stewart@state.nm.us

Las Cruces**Rosa Bycenski**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.
(505) 216-8782

rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us

Las Vegas, NM**Martín Márquez**

917 Douglas Ave.
(575) 520-5079

martinM.marquez@state.nm.us

Roswell**Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main St./Suite "A"
(575) 416-2284

danielle.thompson@state.nm.us

**Women Veterans
Program/VSO****Robin Wilson (Program Mgr.)**

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE
(Albuquerque)
(505) 372-9106

robin.wilson@state.nm.us

Ft. Stanton**State Veterans Cemetery****Stephen McConnell (Supervisor)**

1398 State Highway 220
(505) 383-4381

stephen.mcconnell@state.nm.us

Farmington**Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veteran Center
(505) 327-2861

beverly.charley@state.nm.us

Grants

*Temporarily vacant. For assistance,
contact the DVS Gallup office,
or call (505) 383-2400*

Las Cruces**Miguel Martinez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.
(575) 644-6869

miguel.martinez1@state.nm.us

Las Vegas, NM**Arturo Marlow**

917 Douglas Ave.
(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@state.nm.us

Santa Fe**Nick McKenzie**

Bataan Memorial Bldg/1st floor
407 Galisteo St./Room 134
(505) 218-3125

nicholas.mckenzie1@state.nm.us

**Veterans Business
Outreach Center (VBOC)****Rich Coffel (Director)**

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE
(Albuquerque)
(505) 220-9932

richardL.coffel@state.nm.us

Gallup**State Veterans Cemetery****Gilbert Lopez (Supervisor)**

333 National Cemetery Dr.
(505) 905-9771

gilbert.lopez@state.nm.us

Gallup**Durrell Tsosie**

908 E. Buena Vista Ave./Room 1A
(505) 218-0348

durrell.tsosie@state.nm.us

Hobbs

*Temporarily vacant. For assistance,
contact the DVS Carlsbad or Roswell
or call (505) 383-2400*

Las Cruces**Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.
(505) 571-7575

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Rio Rancho**Dustin Newsom**

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D, Room 2041
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Silver City**Chris Teran**

Western NM University
Juan Chacon Bldg./Room 138-A
1000 West College Ave.
(575) 313-5627

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Angel Fire**State Veterans Cemetery****Randy Myklebust (Supervisor)**

34 Country Club Rd.
(505) 225-4341

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**Vietnam Veterans Memorial
at Angel Fire****DB Herbst (Site Manager)**

34 Country Club Rd.
(575) 377-2293

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