

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DVS, Doña Ana County Assessor’s Office to Hold**

**Veterans Property Tax Waiver “Service Day”**

**Wednesday, April 20 (9am-4pm)**

Doña Ana County Assessor’s Office

Las Cruces/845 N. Motel Blvd.

**LAS CRUCES--**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the Doña Ana County Assessor’s Office will hold a veterans property tax exemption and waiver “service day” in Las Cruces on April 20 from 9am-4pm at the Doña Ana County assessor’s office, located at 845 N. Motel Blvd.

Veterans and unmarried widows of veterans can stop by to file for the veterans property tax exemption, which is a $4,000 reduction off the taxable value of a veteran’s primary residence.

Veterans rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as 100% service-connected, permanent-and-total disabled can file to waive the entire property tax bill.

Unmarried widows of veterans can also file for the exemption or waiver.

**Proof of veteran status and New Mexico residency required**

Veterans and surviving spouses of veterans must bring a copy of one of the following forms to show veteran status:

* DD-214
* National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) form 56-16
* Public Health Service (PHS) for 1867

If filing for a disabled veteran tax waiver, you must bring:

* the VA award letter declaring 100% permanent and total service-connected disability

For proof of New Mexico residency, please bring one of the following:

* Current NM driver’s license
* Voter registration card
* Latest NM income tax return

Once DVS verifies veteran status and New Mexico residency, county assessor staff will issue the exemption or waiver on the spot to veterans living in Doña Ana County—eliminating the extra step by veterans or unmarried widows of veterans of bringing or mailing the DVS-issued verification certificate to the county assessor’s office.

Veterans or unmarried widows of veterans from other counties will be issued a certificate from DVS that must be brought or mailed to their county assessor’s office to complete the process.

Veterans or unmarried widows of veterans unable to stop by this service day can visit any DVS office during the year to file for the exemption or waiver. Upon verification of veteran status and New Mexico residency, DVS will issue the certificate--which must be brought by the veteran or unmarried widow to the assessor’s office to complete the process.

Filing can also be done entirely by email or mail. Upon receiving the proof of veteran status and state residency documents, DVS will mail back these documents and the certificate needed by the assessor’s office within 5-10 business days.

For more information about Veterans Property Tax Waiver Service Day, or how to apply any time of the year, contact DVS State Benefits Division Bureau Chief Jeff George at (505) 699-4087 or jeff.george@state.nm.us.

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