Empowering Native American Veterans to Speak with One Voice to Shape Policy
SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN SYMPOSIUM 2022 PROGRAM

VETERANS DAY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022
ISLETA RESORT & CASINO, 11000 BROADWAY BLVD. SE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110

7:15 - 8:15 am  Registration (Elaine, Claudia, Arianna, Ophelia, Janice)

7:30 am  Silent Auction bidding begins

8:15 – 9:00 am  Opening Session – Ballrooms A and B; Exhibits – Ballroom C
Welcome and Purpose – Moderator, Sonja Brown, Associate Director new Mexico VA Healthcare System
Presentation and Posting of Colors:  Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Honor Guard
  • Veteran Son, Flag Song, Post Colors, Memorial Song: Delvin Grant, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, US Army & Patsy Grant, Navajo Blessing / Welcome, Governor, Pueblos of Isleta, Governor Vernon B. Abeita

9:00 – 10:00 am
Opening Remarks:
  • Robert (Mac) McKenrick, Executive Director, new Mexico VA Healthcare System
  • Joseph Sanchez, State Director, AARP New Mexico
  • Colonel Jason F. Vattioni, USAF, 377th Air Base Wing and Commander
Introduction of Guests:  Robert (Mac) McKenrick, Executive Director, New Mexico VA Healthcare System, Joseph Sanchez, AARP NM State Director and Fred Lujan, Commander Isleta Veterans Association
  • Sonya Smith, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Veteran Services
  • Cesar Romero, Director, Veterans Administration Regional Office
  • Victor Vasquez, Director National Cemetery Administration, Santa Fe
  • Brock Wolff, CEO, Veterans Integration Center
  • Veterans Integration Service Network (VISN) 22 Leadership
  • Tribal Leadership
Order of Events / Exhibits:  Moderator, Sonja Brown, Associate Director New Mexico VA Healthcare System

10 – 11:20 am
Presentation of POW / Missing Man table (2 tables): Edward Mendez, Division Director State Benefits, Cemeteries and Memorial Programs, New Mexico Department of Veterans Services
Women Veterans Recognition:
  • Women Veterans Recognition:  All Women Veterans Rise
  • Presentation of Women Veterans Memorial, MSgt, Judy Quintana, US Air Force
11:30 – 12:15 pm Breakout Rooms – Morning Breakout Sessions:
1. Access to VA Health Care: Michael Bouska, HAS Supervisor, New Mexico Healthcare Systems – Rio Grande Room
2. Families Dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Dr. Brenda Mayne, Clinical Psychologist, New Mexico Dept. of VA Healthcare – Bosque Room
3. Veterans Integration Center (VIC): Brock Wolff, CEO – Manzono Room
4. Health Services for Women Veterans: Chelsea Casey, Women's Veterans Program Manager, New Mexico VA Healthcare System - Sunrise Room

12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch Ballrooms A and B
   PACT Act Overview / Veteran Benefits Administration: Cesar Romero, Director, New Mexico VA Healthcare System
   Raffle #1 will be held at 1:30pm (Must be present to Win)

1:45 – 2:30 pm Breakout Rooms – Afternoon Breakout Sessions:
1. Steps to Take When a Veteran Passes Away: Cesar Romero, VBA, Victor Vasquez, NCA, Tim J. Avila, Enrollment / Decedent Affairs. NMVAHCS – Sunrise Room
2. VA Home Loan Program / Native American Direct Loan: James Lewis, NADL Coordinator, Phoenix Regional Office – Manzano Room
3. Transportation: Diane Mourning Brown, Healthcare Direct, New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services – Bosque Room

2:30 – 3:30 pm Ballrooms A and B
   • Recognize Tribal Veteran Service Officers: Sonya Smith, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Services
   • VA Outreach and Service Staff: Robert (Mac) McKenrick, Executive Director, New Mexico VA Healthcare System. Cesar Romero, Director, Veterans Administration Regional Office
   • National Cemetery Administration: Victor Vasquez, Director, National Cemetery Administration, Santa Fe
   Recognition of Military Services March – All Branches
   TAPS – Marcus Lujan, Isleta Pueblo Veterans Association
   Raffle #2 will be held at 3:30pm (Must be present to Win)

3:30 – 4 pm Closing Ceremony Ballrooms A and B
Closing Remarks: Moderator, Sonja Brown, Associate Director New Mexico VA Healthcare System

Retire the Colors: Isleta Veterans Honor Guard
Closing Blessing: Tribal Leader
Silent Auction Winners Announced

A Special “Thank You” to these Symposium Financial Sponsors:
New Mexico VA Healthcare System
AARP, New Mexico
Pueblo of Isleta
Thank you to Our Hosts: Isleta Pueblo Veterans Association, Isleta Resort & Casino, Isleta Pueblo