

# SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN SYMPOSIUM 2022



*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 – **Manzano 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**
4. Medicare Eligibility & Solutions: J. Joe Martinez, Agent, Senior Healthcare Resource Center – **Rio Grande 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

