



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans Services

January, 2023

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• Facebook: NMDVSHHealthcare2015 • Twitter: @NMDVS • Instagram: newmexicoveterans

Military & Veterans Day at the 2023 Legislature is Set for February 20 at the State Capitol



(file photo of a previous Military & Veterans Day at the Legislature)

Military Veterans, National Guard/Reserve, and active service members will be honored at the State Capitol in Santa Fe on February 20 on *Military and Veterans Day at the 2023 Legislature*.

This annual day during the legislative session is presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the New Mexico National Guard to New Mexico's military community for their sacrifice and service for our country.

The day will feature informational tables staffed by DVS, NMNG, the New Mexico VA Health Care System, VA's Veterans Benefits Administration/Albuquerque office, veterans groups, and

community service organizations in the east and west wings of the Rotunda. Wrapping up the day will be a noon ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda honoring our current and former service members.

Veterans, active service members, their families, and the public are invited to stop by the Capitol to learn more about New Mexico's military community. Military & Veterans Day at the 2023 Legislature is also a great opportunity for veterans and service members to meet with your local legislators and their staff to talk about any legislative matters of importance.

Very Limited Space Available for Informational Tables

Due to new regulations, there is an extremely limited number of informational table space available this year for interested veterans service agencies or community service organizations.

DVS is asking interested organizations to email a table request to DVS Event Coordinator Joseph Dorn at joseph.dorn@dvs.nm.gov by January 31. DVS will conduct a random drawing on February 1 to fill the remaining table spaces. Successfully drawn organizations will be notified by email. No phone reservations will be accepted.

DVS Holds First *Local Community Veterans Call Meeting* of 2023

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) presented the first Local Community Veterans Call meeting of 2023 on January 4 at the Taos County Commissioners Chamber.

DVS Acting Secretary Donnie Quintana (*right photo*), DVS State Benefits Division Director Ed Mendez, and DVS NW Region Field Supervisor Arturo Marlow presented information about the agency's mission and goals for 2023 and beyond.



They were joined by members of the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) and the Albuquerque VA Regional Office (VARO), who talked about the new PACT Act law that enables veterans to finally get VA treatment for presumptive health problems tied to exposures to certain toxics while serving in the middle east, certain African countries, and even in southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Acting Secretary Quintana and Director Mendez highlighted the Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program and how it offers free round-trip rides for veterans in fifteen select counties to and from their home and medical appointments at VA or pre-approved VA facilities.

In the 60-day 2023 Legislature which convenes January 17, Acting Secretary Quintana said DVS will be asking for funding to help the agency expand the program—and is asking for help from veterans from throughout the state.

“We have requested an additional \$750,000 of state funds to ensure that we can cover the entire state,” he said. “If you have the opportunity to go to the legislature and talk with your representatives from your communities, tell them ‘I support you providing that funding’ because we need that service for our veterans.”

NMVAHCS Congressional Liaison Larry Campos, NMVAHCS Executive Assistant Joe Baca, and VARO Public Affairs Officer Mike Nelson provided the latest data on the number of PACT Act claims already filed by New Mexico veterans—worth \$1.3 million.

And Taos County Veterans Cemetery Project Manager Richard Sanchez gave a presentation about the progress of a veterans cemetery being built and to be managed by the county—and is not a part of the DVS state veterans cemetery or VA's national cemetery programs.

DVS videotaped the briefing and will post an edited video on its website DVS website...under the “News and Events” tab.



Local Transportation Agencies Gather for DVS-Hosted 2022 State of Rural Veterans Transportation Conference

DVS presented the 2022 State of Rural Veterans Transportation Conference on December 9 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque.

Representatives from transportation agencies, veterans service organizations, and community service groups were invited to discuss the lack of

transportation options for many rural-area veterans. Veterans cite this as a big reason why many of them neglect their health care needs.

In his welcome remarks, DVS Secretary-Designate Donnie Quintana said that everyone in attendance needs to collectively continue working together to develop a network or system to provide transportation for veterans statewide.

“The state of New Mexico can’t do it alone. Our VA partners can’t do it alone. Our non-profit agencies can’t do it alone,” said Secretary-Designate Quintana. “But collectively, we have a great opportunity to work and leverage not only organizations, but individual strengths on how we accomplish that.”

DVS Health Care Coordination Division Director Diane Mourning Brown then gave a presentation on the DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program, which provides free round-trip rides to VA medical appointments for veterans in the following fifteen counties designated by VA as “highly rural” (less than seven veterans per square mile): Colfax, Union, Mora, Harding, San Miguel, Quay, Guadalupe, De Baca, Lincoln, Torrance, Socorro, Cibola, Catron, Sierra, and Hidalgo. She also talked about DVS developing a plan to expand its transportation service to the remaining 18 counties in the state.

Other transportation option presentations were given by New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) Director Robert McKenrick, NMVAHCS Veterans Transportation Service Mobility Manager Hugo Rodriguez, New Mexico Rail Runner Marketing Director Marie Mora, New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers General Services Director Tracy Kincaid, Shuttle Ruidoso President David Cason, and Disabled American Veterans/New Mexico Adjutant David Alderete.

After the presentations, there was a breakout session focusing on producing a needs assessment for providing rides efficiently for the medical needs of veterans. DVS videotaped and has [produced an edited version of the conference](#) showing each presentation, along with the results of the breakout session.

DVS Takes Part in Dec. 9 PACT Act Townhall Meeting in Las Vegas, NM

(Left photo, L to R) New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) Director Robert McKenrick, DVS Interim Secretary Donnie Quintana, and Albuquerque VA Regional Office (VARO) Director Cesar Romero gave presentations and answered questions at an NMVAHCS-sponsored Pact Act town hall meeting on December 14 in Las Vegas (NM) at New Mexico Highlands University.



The meeting provided information about the comprehensive new law passed this summer that finally opens up VA health care for OEF/OIF veterans exposed to “burn pits,” Vietnam War Veterans exposed to the “Agent Orange” herbicide used as a jungle defoliant throughout Southeast Asia, and other veterans exposed to any toxic substances while in service.

DVS, NMVAHCS and the VARO will continue to collaborate on meetings and events throughout the state in 2023 to educate as many veterans and their families about this landmark new law. DVS will send news releases, emails, and run stories in *The Guardian* with the latest information about these events.

Next PACT Act Town Hall Meeting:

January 18, 2023 in Silver City

Western New Mexico University/

Besse-Forward Global Resource Center Auditorium

1000 W. College Avenue

(1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

More PACT Act town hall meetings will be scheduled throughout New Mexico in 2023. Details will be revealed as soon as dates are set and locations are identified.

More information can also be found about the PACT Act on the VA website:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

PACT ACT Town Hall Meeting

Presented by:

N.M. VA Health Care System
Albuquerque Regional VA Benefits Office
New Mexico Dept. of Veteran Service

Sponsored by:

Western N.M. University – Veterans Affairs Office

A presentation about the new PACT Act law that expands VA health care to Vietnam, Gulf, and Iraq/Afghanistan War veterans suffering from exposure to "Agent Orange," burn pits, and other toxic substances while in service.

20 new "presumptive" conditions have now been added to VA's treatment eligibility list.

When: Jan. 18, 2023

Time: 1pm - 2:30pm

**Where: Besse-Forward Global Resource Center (auditorium)
Silver City, NM 88061**

Guest speakers will be:

Director Robert McKenrick, NMVAHCS and

Director Cesar Romero, VBA

Donnie Quintana, Interim Cabinet Secretary

To livestream the town hall meeting:

Access.live/2022PACTActTownHall; or call

(855) 531-1092





DVS Looking to Hire VSO For New Belen/Valencia County Field Office

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is looking to hire a veterans service officer for its new Belen/Valencia County field office at 718 South Main Street.

The main responsibility of this VSO is to assist veterans or their eligible dependents with filing VA claims, filing for state veterans benefits, and with anything else a veteran or their eligible dependents needs help.

In addition, the Belen/Valencia County VSO will coordinate with the DVS central region VSO supervisor and public information officer to develop and plan marketing strategies, along with coordinating community veterans outreach and town hall meetings. The VSO will also keep current on all federal and state veteran's benefits, and will coordinate with the supervisor to maintain all mandatory training and accreditation set forth by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

This is a full-time, classified state government position. *Preference will be given to veterans.*

To apply for this position and for more information, go to the following New Mexico State Personnel Office website: <https://www.spo.state.nm.us/work-for-new-mexico/>

- Underneath the black banner at the top of the page, scroll over the “Job Opportunities” tab, then click on the “Job Opportunities” link.
- In the “Search Jobs” space at the top of the new page, type in the job number: **130196**,
- then click on the right-pointing arrow
- Click on the “Eligibility Interviewer/Veteran Service Officer” link
- After reading the job description, you can then apply by clicking the blue “Apply For Job” button in the upper-right part of the page.

NOTE: This job vacancy application window closes at 5pm on January 25.

Please do not contact DVS to apply for this position. Applicants for any state agency classified positions must apply through the online state government job hiring process mentioned above. Shortly after the application window closes, top candidates will be contacted by DVS to arrange an interview.

VA to Host Virtual Rural Veterans Outreach Symposium

VA's Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development (OTED) will host a Virtual Rural Veterans Outreach Symposium on Thursday, January 19.

This symposium will feature representatives from VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the Vet Center.



The primary focus of this collaborative effort is on outreach and initiatives impacting our nation's rural veteran community and will inform veterans, service members, family members, caregivers, and surviving family members of deceased veterans about valuable VA resources.

The symposium will also provide information on current and future VA benefits, including filing a VA disability claim online, fraud prevention and awareness, and the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

Outreach Symposium Details

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

(New Mexico/Mountain Standard Time)

Location: WebEx Virtual Platform

Quick Link: [Click Here to Join the Symposium](https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?m66013203fe7201aa20aa390035ec4822)

Link to Join:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?m66013203fe7201aa20aa390035ec4822>

Phone: (404) 397-1596, Access Code: 2762 721 4248

Audience: Veterans nationwide in rural/remote areas, active service members, family members, caregivers, survivors of deceased veterans, VA staff and outreach coordinators, veteran advocates, and veterans service organizations.

New Mexico's State Approving Agency Receives Highest Rating in Annual VA Review



Kathy Snyder
SAA Director

The New Mexico State Approving Agency (SAA), which is managed by DVS, received the highest rating possible of “satisfactory” by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) joint peer review group (JPRG) for fiscal year 2021 (Oct. 1, 2021–Sept. 30, 2022).

The JPRG annually performs assessments and evaluations of all SAAs throughout the nation—agencies that ensure the quality and integrity of postsecondary education, licensure and vocational training programs for use by a veteran’s GI Bill® education benefit. VA then issues one of three ratings: satisfactory, minimally satisfactory, and unsatisfactory.

New Mexico’s SAA is managed by Director Kathy Snyder, and recently became a team of two with the

addition of Program Specialist Ian Scott. Under contract (cooperative agreement) with VA, the duo works to perform all duties necessary for the assessment, inspection, approval, and supervision of programs offered by qualified educational institutions, and training establishments, as well as tests for licensing and certification in accordance with the standards and provisions of title 38, U.S. Code.



Ian Scott
SAA Program Specialist

The SAA also travels the state conducting onsite in-depth technical assistance and outreach liaison, as well as administrative inspections and risk-based surveys at universities, colleges, technical/vocational schools (to include flight schools), and on-the-job training (OJT) and apprenticeship facilities to ensure that strict VA standards are met regarding the respective education and training programs. The team enjoys providing assistance to educational institutions and training establishments in New Mexico.

The SAA is responsible for: 1) promoting and safeguarding quality education and training programs for veterans and other eligible persons; 2) helping provide greater education and training opportunities for GI Bill beneficiaries; 3) protecting the integrity of the GI Bill; and 4) assisting VA in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of the GI Bill.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the U.S. government website www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.



Medal of Honor Recipient Hiroshi Miyamura Laid to Rest in Gallup

Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi Miyamura was laid to rest with military honors on December 10 at Sunset Memorial Park in his hometown of Gallup (*left photo*).

The World War II and Korean War former Army sergeant had passed away November 29 in Phoenix, AZ, where he had been living with his daughter's family for the past few years. He was 97 years old.

DVS Acting Secretary Donnie Quintana presented a New Mexico state flag to family members (*right photo*). It was flown earlier in the week on the grounds of the state Capitol by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in his honor.

The son of Japanese immigrants who settled in Gallup, Mr. Miyamura was awarded the Medal of Honor—our nation's highest combat award—for his actions during the Korean War, on April 24-25, 1951, near Taejon-ni.



Then-Army Corporal Miyamura fought off a large Chinese force that had attacked and killed or injured most of his fellow squad members. He was credited with eliminating more than 50 enemy soldiers—allowing his squad to safely retreat and take cover— before he himself was wounded, captured, and held prisoner for 28-months.



After the war, the now-Sergeant Miyamura was presented the medal by President Dwight Eisenhower. Mr. Miyamura returned to Gallup, where he was reunited with his wife Terry and worked most of his post-service life as an auto mechanic. The couple went on to raise two sons and a daughter.

Terry Miyamura passed away in 2014 and was buried at Sunset Memorial Park. Mr. Miyamura was laid to rest next to her. In addition to their three children, the

Miyamuras are survived by four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery (photo courtesy of Randy Myklebust/Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery Supervisor)

Christmas Holiday Wreaths Laid at Cemeteries Across New Mexico

DVS cemetery staff placed wreaths at the Angel Fire, Fort Stanton, and Gallup State Veterans cemeteries on National Wreaths Across America Day last December 17.

The three DVS-managed state veterans cemeteries were among the more than 3,500 cemeteries nationwide that were beneficiaries wreaths donated for this day by *Wreaths Across America*.

This year, the non-profit organization provided more than 2.7 million wreaths for placement on the gravesites of veterans across the country.

The wreaths were bought by anyone wishing to honor deceased veterans during the Christmas holiday season. Cemetery staff or any members of the public can come to participating cemeteries on National Wreaths Across America Day to lay the wreaths on the gravesites.

The annual event next year is set for December 16. More information can be found at <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/>.



Volunteers laying wreaths at the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery (photo courtesy of Chuck Hasford)



Wreaths placed on the Columbarium Wall at the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery (photo courtesy of Chuck Hasford)



At the DVS-managed Gallup State Veterans Cemetery, volunteers placed wreaths at the headstones and at the Columbarium Wall. (Photos courtesy of Gilbert Lopez/Gallup State Veterans Cemetery Supervisor; and Rocky Thompson/Gallup State Veterans Cemetery Interment Specialist)



At Santa Fe National Cemetery, the Civil Air Patrol Santa Fe Squadron (*middle-left photo*) and members of the Omega Alpha Zeta Graduate Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta volunteered to help place wreaths at selected sites. (*Middle-left photo courtesy of the CAP Santa Fe Squadron*)

(*middle-right and lower-left photos courtesy of the Omega Alpha Zeta Graduate Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta*)

New Mexicans Respond to Operation Holiday Cheer's Call for Christmas Holiday Season Cards

The state veterans homes in Truth or Consequences and Fort Bayard are thanking New Mexicans for their enthusiastic response to Operation Holiday Cheer 2022.

Thousands of cards were sent as a result of the annual drive launched by DVS and the New Mexico Department of Health asking New Mexicans to send Christmas Holiday Season cards to residents and staff at both facilities.



“Residents were so happy and thankful—there were tons of smiles,” said Tanya Lawrence, the therapeutic recreation director at the Ft. Bayard State Veterans Home, where 26 of the facility’s 104 residents are veterans. *(LEFT PHOTO: Some of the many cards at the Fort Bayard Hospital/Veterans Home)* “Some veterans were able to read on their own. Others were read to. Some of the more frequent responses were ‘these are pretty cards’, ‘Who are these from?’ ‘They know me? That was nice of them!’ ‘Wow—that’s a lot of cards!’”

“We sure did get a lot of cards!” echoed an appreciative Alvena Dawson, the activity director at the State Veterans Home in Truth or Consequences. “We had to stop counting when we reached 2,500, it was so much! But we’re very happy and would like to thank New Mexicans for thinking of us.”

(TOP RIGHT PHOTO: A pile of cards at the State Veterans Home in TorC).
(RIGHT PHOTO: Jim Neilson, resident council president at the State Veterans Home in TorC, with another handful of Christmas Season cards)

The card-giving spirit was also evident in the DVS Cemeteries and Monuments department. State Cemeteries Program Bureau Chief David Walker, his wife Peggy, their daughter Joni Reyes, and her daughter Diamond sent a little over 100 cards to veterans and staff at both homes. Business Operations Specialist Diana Myklebust and her husband Randy, who is the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery supervisor, sent 60 cards to veterans and staff.



Quilts of Valor Presented to Eight Veterans at a January 8 Ceremony in Albuquerque

DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana attended a special ceremony hosted by the New Mexico Happy Scrappers, the Albuquerque chapter for the Quilts of Valor Foundation, on January 8, at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque.

The chapter presented a Quilt of Valor to eight deserving veterans representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marine Corps. All eight were deployed to wars and conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” The quilts are all hand-made and are awarded by chapters across the country to service members or veterans deemed worthy by the chapters. For more information about the Quilts of Valor, go to <https://www.qovf.org/> For more information about the Albuquerque QoV chapter, contact Patricia Forshaw at plfnm@aol.com.



Members of the Quilts of Valor sewing group (*back row*) pose for a picture with (*middle row, L to R*) Larry McDougald/USAF MAJ-retired, Donald Pacheco/USN, John Dixon/USN...and (*front row, L to R*) William Martin/USN Cdr-retired, Maurice Gomez/NMANG 1st retired, Richard Kozlowski/NMANG MSG-retired, Damian Ramirez/NMANG SSG-retired, and Matthew Ibbotson/USN.

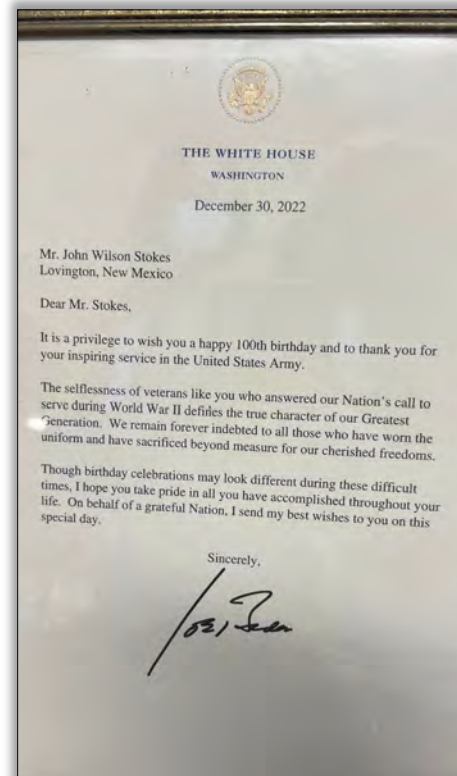


Hobbs WWII Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday

DVS Hobbs Veterans Service Officer Fred Solis-Littlejohn attended the 100th birthday celebration of World War II Army veteran John Stokes on December 30 at the Lovington Healthcare Skilled Nursing Facility where he lives (*left photo, in wheelchair*).

Also attending the Roaring-20's-themed bash was Stokes' wife of 60-years, Jeneva, (*lower left photo*) their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, family friends, and facility. The native of Mississippi served in the Pacific theater of World War II.

His family said all he wanted for his birthday were simple birthday cards. A TV station picked up on this request and did a story. As a result Stokes received more than 100 cards, and hundreds more messages—including one from President Joe Biden (*lower right photo*). The message read in part, “The selflessness of veterans like you who answered our nation’s call to serve during World War II defines the true character of our Greatest Generation. We remain forever indebted to all those who have worn the uniform and have sacrificed beyond measure for our cherished freedoms. On behalf of a grateful nation, I send you my best wishes to you on this special day.”



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023



2023



WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

"STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

RSVP early and reserve your seat today!

Space is limited

Email: theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov

Veterans Community Bulletin Board

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 government agencies and non-profit service organizations to send flyers for publication in *The Guardian* announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. DVS will run these flyers as a public service courtesy to the veteran community.

Please note:

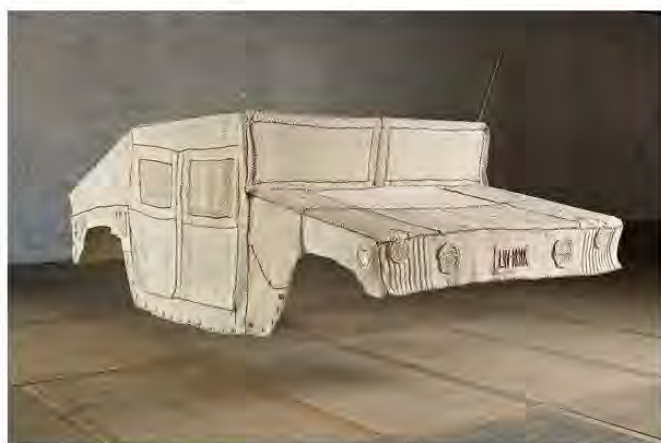
- Flyers must have the name of a point-of-contact from the organization...along with the contact's phone number or email address. Flyers without this information will not be published.
- DVS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content, products, or services in these flyers.
- Views expressed in 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 to publish any flyer.

New Funding Opportunity!



ARTS & THE MILITARY MINI GRANTS FOR ARTS ENGAGEMENT

New Mexico Arts, the state's arts agency, announces a funding opportunity for arts organizations and veteran-focused organizations to create or expand opportunities for veterans and active-duty service members to engage with the arts.



New Mexico Arts is offering \$2,000 mini grants with a short application process that does not require matching funding in this first-year pilot program.

Proposed projects should serve military and veteran audiences – including active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans, their families and caregivers, and others.

Projects could fall into three categories;

Learning-Based Arts Projects that include classes, workshops held both in-person and online.



Lady on Motorcycle
oil on canvas
40" x 30"
Don Johnson
US Navy, 20 years

From our veterans to our front line
workers and their families:

**Thank you for your sustaining
sacrifice and compassion.**



Audience-Based Arts Projects including performances, exhibitions, and festivals, held in-person or online.

Capacity Building Projects including professional development opportunities, consultant services, program research, development, and evaluation expenses.

Eligible applicants should be Federal 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations, units of government, schools, colleges, universities, and Indian tribal government entities.

Organizations receiving New Mexico Arts funding in other grant programs can also apply for this Arts and the Military Grant opportunity. Deadline to apply: 5pm January 13, 2023.

Find the Arts & the Military Application and Guidelines at www.nmarts.org/nma-military/

For more information, contact Arts & The Military Program Coordinator Kevin Lenkner, 505-412-5791 or email kevin.lenkner@dca.nm.gov.



9th Annual
Not Forgotten Outreach Appreciation Week
JAN. 17-22, 2023 | TAOS SKI VALLEY

Join us for a winter getaway in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains, home of Taos Ski Valley. In its 9th year, Not Forgotten Outreach has partnered with Taos for a week-long ski & snowboard adventure for Military families and individuals.

For More Details, please call 866.921.0364

Lift Tickets: \$50 with \$3 per ticket benefiting Not Forgotten Outreach

Lessons: with \$2 per lesson benefiting NFO

Children Lessons* (ages 6 to 13) from \$65 to \$90 per day

Adult Lessons (ages 14+) from \$75 to \$105 per day

Rental Gear:

50% off rentals and demo equipment at Taos Sports.

30% off Lodging at The Blake*

30% off Best Unrestricted Rate. May not be combined with any other offers. Offers subject to limited availability per day.

Savings available for active duty military, veterans, immediate family & Gold Star Families with appropriate ID.

* Advanced reservations required. All prices are subject to tax.



SKITAOS.COM | NOTFORGOTTENOUTREACH.ORG



Event Page:



Book Lodging:



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More!



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RESERVISTS, NATIONAL GUARD, IMMEDIATE
FAMILY & GOLD-STAR FAMILIES**

Funded in part by the Village of Angel Fire Lodger's Tax



Bataan Memorial Death March Returns for 2023—Registration Now Open

The 34th annual Bataan Memorial Death March is back for 2023, and registration is now open for the in-person event, which takes place at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico on March 19, 2023.

This is the first live event in three years. The event was held virtually for the past three years due to

COVID-19.

The Bataan Memorial Death March honors a special group of World War II heroes who were responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor, and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines during WWII.

Registration prices increase from Jan. 1 – Feb. 12 and another increase with late registration Feb. 13 – March 6. A virtual edition is also available March 19-26. Registration for the virtual edition is Oct. 1-March 26.

Sign up at www.bataanmarch.com and there is no cap on the number of participants this year.

Brittany M. Mbuyamba, Marketing and Special Events Manager with WSMR Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation said the record number of registrants was 10,201 in 2020.

“We are aiming to surpass that,” she said.

FMWR is also looking for volunteers to help before and during the event.

“Volunteers are extremely valuable and are an important part of the events success,” Mbuyamba said.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available, and volunteers can also register at www.bataanmarch.com.

Packet pickup for event participants will be at the Las Cruces Convention Center from 2 to 6 p.m. March 16, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 17 and 18. All current COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Spectators will be allowed to come on post to root for their marchers. For more information contact the Bataan Memorial Death March Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bataanmemorialdeathmarch.



aarp.org/veterans #aarpsalutesvets

News from AARP New Mexico

Christmas Past—Troops Who Spent the Holiday at War: Help us remember and salute those in uniform protecting us as we celebrate the holidays! (*Posting 12/22/2022- Use #AARPsalutesVets on social!*) <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2022/christmas-at-war.html>

Save the Dates: AARP's Vets and Military Calendar 2023: Here's how to honor our bravest during the forthcoming year (*Posting 12/22/2022- Use #AARPsalutesVets on social!*) <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2022/military-veteran-calendar.html>

MY HERO: How My Father Helped Spoil Hitler's Last Christmas – A veteran from South Carolina writes about his father taking part in the 1944 bombing raid that halted Hitler's Ardennes offensive and paved the way for Allied victory in the Battle of the Bulge. <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2022/germany-world-war-ii-bombing.html>

Communities Lay Holiday Wreaths on Veterans' Graves: Wreaths Across America honors, remembers and teaches during annual event (*Posted 12/20/2022- Use #AARPsalutesVets on social!*) <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2019/wreaths-across-america.html?intcmp=AE-HF-VC-VET-BB>

NEW: AARP's 2022 Veterans in America Infographics are live at [AARP.org/veterans2022](https://www.aarp.org/veterans2022) and on our [InfoNet page](#). The infographics contain demographic data, and data on veteran's health and well-being, including use of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for healthcare services.

JANUARY – First AARP Work & Jobs Theme Month of 2023!

Jan. 16: 32nd Anniversary of the Start of the Gulf War

For all updated AARP resources & products, including VMF Health Navigator, visit VMF InfoNet: <https://aarpsharex.sharepoint.com/sites/infonet/CSN/OCE/Toolkits/Pages/Veterans.aspx>



New Mexico Veterans Upward Bound

U.S. Department of Education TRIO program to serve those who served.

We provide eligible prior military service members with:

- Dedicated team of fellow veteran advisors (we've been there...done that)
- Online tools, tutoring and workshops to improve academic skills
- Individualized Progress Plan/goal setting
- Aid in applying to college/university/vocational/technical school
- Providing services to locate and apply for educational funding
- Workshops to prepare for college transition from military
- Basic computer skills workshops
- Math bootcamps with licensed math instructor
- Financial planning and FAFSA workshops
- Career exploration
- Academic, moral and emotional support

All NMVUB resources and services are 100% free of charge to the veteran!



For more information:

Toll Free: 1-855-357-3725

Email: unmVUB@unm.edu

Website: www.NMVetUB.com

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/unm.vub/>



VETERAN DIRECTED CARE (VDC)



What is Veteran Directed Care (VDC)?

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) program that gives Veterans choice and control over their long-term services and supports.

VDC MAY BE THE RIGHT PROGRAM FOR YOU IF...

You are a Veteran of any age.

You are enrolled in VA health care.

You want to live in your own home.

You meet the clinical need for VDC.

You are interested in directing your own services.

Directing your services includes using a budget to hire workers and customize your care.

VDC GIVES YOU **CHOICE** AND **CONTROL**



Choose the services and supports you use.



Hire your own workers, including family and friends.



Live in your own home and community.



Achieve goals meaningful to you.

YOUR VAMC AND
VDC PROVIDER
SUPPORT YOU TO
REACH YOUR GOALS

YOUR VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC)...

Determines if you are eligible for VDC.

Assigns a monthly budget based on the Veteran's needs and functional limitations.

Refers you to a VDC provider.

Approves your plan for spending your budget.

YOUR VDC PROVIDER...

Listens to your goals and needs.

Helps you plan for your services.

Connects you to community resources.

Is a visible and trusted organization in your community.

TO SEE IF VDC IS OFFERED IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL VAMC OR VISIT [FIND VDC](#).

WHAT VETERANS ENROLLED IN VDC ARE SAYING*...

*Quotes from Routledge, Journal of Gerontological Social Work. 2019, Vol. 62, No. 2, 129-148.

"If it wasn't for this program, I would be in an assisted living situation, no doubt about it. You know, with all the disabilities I have, and this is a home saver for me."

"I think it's helped a lot with (my wife) too, because it's taken a lot of stress off of (her). You know, it just makes me not have to worry."

"It eliminates (worries like) are they going to show up? Who's going to show up? Are they going to know what to do when they get here?"

"I can't think of anything more helpful than what's helped me here, because it helped me be a person."



Housing Outreach Mentorship Encouragement (H.O.M.E.)



The H.O.M.E. Program provides transitional housing, on-site case management, food, clothing, transportation, child care subsidy/assistance, employment support, and other essential support services to homeless women Veterans and their children.

The H.O.M.E. Program focuses on integrating women Veterans into their local communities and choosing safe and suitable residential areas.

Our H.O.M.E. Program collaborates with our resource partners that include targeted supportive services to help women Veterans reach their goals.

Although based in the D.C. Metro Area, our programs have assisted women Veterans and children in over 32 States and Territories.

We also assist with permanent placement once Veterans are ready to transition from our residential facilities.

H.O.M.E Eligibility

1. Must have an "honorable or under honorable conditions" discharge; verified by DD-214.
(*Requires completion of initial service obligation (ISO), unless medically discharged)

2. Must be willing to adhere to terms of the Resident Agreement and 2-Year Plan for Independence.

Note 1: Final Salute, Inc. will review discharges beyond honorable conditions on a case-by-case basis.

Note 2: Financial education classes are mandatory as part of the H.O.M.E. Program.

To apply for H.O.M.E (housing assistance) please [click here](#)



For women Vets. By women Vets.

MISSION

Final Salute Inc. (FSI) 's mission is to provide homeless women Veterans and their children with safe and suitable housing.

The federal government estimates there are currently 55,000 homeless women Veterans in the United States on any given day. For the sacrifices they and their families made, this is an unacceptable state. Final Salute Inc. believes in paying women Veterans with the proper respect due to them for the service they have provided to our country. Final Salute also works with the Veteran in establishing her plan towards independence. [Veteran Homelessness White Paper V2.pdf](#)

FSI was established to identify and meet the unique needs of homeless women Veterans and their children.

Next Uniform

The Next Uniform provides support for women Veterans and military women in transition. As a woman Veteran in transition, you need more than a resume to ensure a successful transition into the civilian workforce.

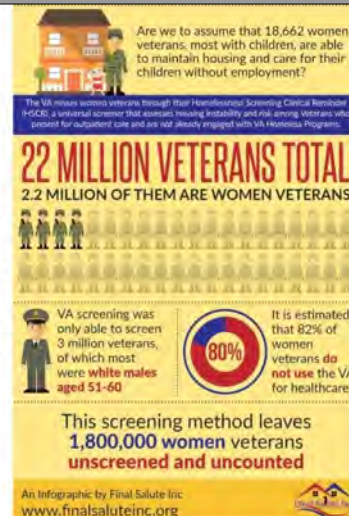
We provide (free of charge):

- Professional Business Attire
- Dress Shoes
- Accessories
- Make-Overs
- Image Consulting
- Professional Head-Shots (Linked-In Profiles)



The purpose of this event is to honor the service and sacrifice you have made to this great nation and support our Sisters-in-Arms who are in transition or have transitioned and may need an image boost.

We realize that some women Veterans, especially single mothers, may find the cost of securing an up-to-date professional wardrobe unattainable.



Savings Assessment and Financial Education (S.A.F.E.)



The purpose of S.A.F.E. is to prevent homelessness by easing financial hardships.

Our S.A.F.E. program also provides valuable financial education resources on saving, budgeting, and living on a fixed income.

S.A.F.E. provides emergency financial support by assisting with past due rent, security deposits, and utility assistance.

Residents of our H.O.M.E. program must participate in the financial education component of our S.A.F.E. program.

The S.A.F.E. program is open to women Veterans and members of the U.S. Military Reserve and Guard component forces, regardless of their location. Our programs have assisted women Veterans and children in over 30 States and Territories.

S.A.F.E ELIGIBILITY

1. Proof of Veteran* status or current U.S. Military Reserve/Guard component service.
(*Requires completion of initial service obligation (ISO), unless medically discharged)
2. Copies of the bills that you are having difficulty paying (must be past due).
3. Military I.D. (if Reserve or Guard)
4. Final Salute, Inc. may also request additional documents such as an Employment Letter.

To apply for S.A.F.E (financial assistance) please [click here](#)
Please be advised, assistance is dependent upon funding currently available.

<https://www.finalsaluteinc.org/AssistanceRequest.html>

DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

DVS has 16 field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally-certified veterans service officers. These VSOs are military veterans themselves who are dedicated to helping their fellow veterans with filing VA claims, filing for state veterans benefits, or helping with anything else a veteran or their family needs.

Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, (excluding holidays). Though this service is free, appointments are required and can be made by contacting the offices below. **Please note that in addition to in-office assistance, veterans from anywhere in the state can contact *any* DVS VSO for phone or email assistance.**

Also listed below and on the following page is the contact information for the DVS women veterans program for women veterans who prefer assistance by a woman VSO, and the DVS Tribal/Pueblo Liaison for Native American veterans preferring assistance from a Native American VSO. Contact information is also listed for the Angel Fire, Fort Stanton, and Gallup State Veterans Cemeteries, and the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for veterans who want to open, expand, or purchase a business—or bid on state or federal government contracts.

Alamogordo/Southern NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Dayle Bad Warrior

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 383-2400

dayle.badwarrior@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Temporarily vacant. Please

contact the other Albuquerque

VSO for in-office assistance, or any DVS VSO for phone/email help.

Albuquerque Metro Area

Temporarily vacant. Please

contact the other Albuquerque

VSO for in-office assistance...or

any VSO for phone/email help.

Belen/Central NM

(opening soon)

718 South Main St/Space A, Unit 8

(TBD)

[TBD](#)

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Eastern NM

Matt Barela

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Four Corners Area

Robert Guinn

San Juan College Vet Center/

Room 1715-B

(505) 327-2861

robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov

Gallup/Western NM

John Livingston

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A

(505) 389-8731

john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov

(more offices are on the next page)

Grants/Western NM**April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southern NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow**

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Santa Fe/Northern NM****Nick McKenzie**

Bataan Memorial Bldg/1st floor

407 Galisteo St./Room 134

(505) 218-3125

nicholas.mckenzie@dvs.nm.gov**Women Veterans Program****Theresa Figueroa**

DVS Albuquerque Office

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 916-7449

theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Fred Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southern NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov**Rio Rancho/Central NM****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D, Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov**Silver City/Southwest NM**

Temporarily vacant. Please contact the DVS Las Cruces VSOs for in-office help, or any VSO for e-mail or phone help.

Las Cruces/Southern NM**Miguel Martinez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas, NM/Northeast NM****Martín Márquez**

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

martin.marquez@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main St./Suite A

(575) 416-2282

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov**Taos/Northern NM****Leticia “Lety” Cano**

Health & Human Services Bldg/

145 Roy Rd (575) 709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov**Pueblos/Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov**Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)****Rich Coffel (Director)**

DVS Albuquerque Office

5201 Eagle Rock Blvd. NE/Suite 2

(505) 220-9932

richard.coffel@dvs.nm.gov
**Angel Fire
State Veterans Cemetery**
**Ft. Stanton
State Veterans Cemetery**
**Gallup
State Veterans Cemetery**
Randy Myklebust (Supervisor)

34 Country Club Rd.

(505) 225-4341

randal.myklebust@dvs.nm.gov**Stephen McConnell (Supervisor)**

1398 State Highway 220

(505) 383-4381

stephen.mcconnell@dvs.nm.gov**Gilbert Lopez (Supervisor)**

333 National Cemetery Dr.

(505) 905-9771

gilbert.lopez@dvs.nm.gov