



# The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans' Services  
April, 2023

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## Donnie Quintana Unanimously Confirmed as DVS Cabinet Secretary



**Donnie Quintana**  
DVS Cabinet Secretary

Retired New Mexico Army National Guard Colonel Donnie J. Quintana was unanimously confirmed by the New Mexico Senate on March 23 during the 2023 New Mexico Legislature as the new cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services.

He had been serving on an interim basis since Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham named him to fill the vacant DVS cabinet secretary position last November.

Secretary Quintana has already served more than 20 years in state government. Most recently, he was a local government division director at the New Mexico Department of Finance, where he oversaw coordination of state, federal, and local programs helping with the development and growth of communities throughout the state.

The Pecos native previously served 35-years in several executive leadership positions with the National Guard, including as a brigade commander, and the adjutant general's chief of staff. He was also activated and deployed for a year to Afghanistan, where he served as executive officer and corps commander/senior mentor to the Afghan National Army as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At this morning's senate confirmation hearing, several Democrat and Republican senators spoke highly of Secretary Quintana—many of whom have worked with him during his state government service.

*(story continued on next page)*



Retired New Mexico Army National Guard Colonel Donnie Quintana (*above photo/ waving at far left*) acknowledges the applause at the end of his New Mexico Senate confirmation on March 15.

“You want to talk about a true, honest person. his heart is in the right place,” said Sen. George Muñoz (D-Cibola, McKinley, & San Juan Counties) “Always hard working, always polite, always good to be around—he’s known as someone you can count on—and that’s a good thing for New Mexico’s veterans and their families.”

“I think what Colonel Quintana brings to this position is an extensive background—he’s worked in state government, and in the National Guard,” said Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino (D-Bernalillo). “He’s worked in the local government division, where he was described by that secretary—his former boss at the Department of Finance--as the person she always turned to if something had to get done fast, and get it done right.”

State Senator Pat Woods (R-Curry, Quay, & Union) said he was impressed with how quickly Secretary Quintana stepped in at the last minute to help with the funeral of the senator’s father.

“I just want to brag for this gentleman, Colonel Quintana. He just recently helped me get an Honor Guard for my dad. I was very much appreciative of that,” said Senator Woods. “When I was in the House, Rep. Bob Wooley was my office mate. We just talked this morning, and he wanted me to stand strongly in support and vote ‘yes’ on Colonel Quintana.”

After the confirmation, Secretary Quintana reflected on the hearing, saying he was truly humbled by the process, which included similar strong words of support in earlier confirmation committee hearings.

“I was overwhelmed hearing the kind words from the legislators—from both sides of the aisle,” said Secretary Quintana. “I want to thank them for their support—it means so much to me. I look forward to forging new working relationships with others. I’ll need their support to help me and the rest of DVS fulfill our mission of providing the best service to New Mexico’s veterans and their

## **DVS Cabinet Secretary Quintana Addresses DWS Veterans Conference**

DVS Secretary Donnie Quintana was a guest speaker at the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) annual Veterans Conference in Albuquerque (*right photo/standing in upper left*)



Speaking to the group of Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists, Secretary Quintana thanked them for the work they do helping unemployed and underemployed veterans find jobs. He assured them that New Mexico’s veterans really appreciate this service, and that he looks forward to strengthening the working relationship between the two agencies “to provide the best service and opportunities possible for our veterans and their families.”



## DVS Albuquerque Office Moves to New Location

DVS has moved its Albuquerque satellite office to a new location: the Pinetree Corporate Center, located at 4801 Indian School Rd NE, on the second floor. The building is about a quarter mile west of San Mateo Blvd NE, and next to the HB & Lucille Horn Family YMCA Center. The move was made, according to DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana, to provide easier access to a more central location for veterans and their families from the

Albuquerque metro area. The new location, he said, also

provides more room for DVS field services division, the four DVS Albuquerque-based veterans service officers, (VSOs), the DVS Women Veterans Program, the DVS Health Care Coordination Division, the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), and the New Mexico State Approving Agency (SAA).

“We are excited to be in this more spacious location,” said Secretary Quintana. “It’s a fantastic space...right off of Interstate 40...and gives us the room we need to not only serve our veterans, but to also grow as their needs grow.”

### All phone numbers are unchanged

- Field Services/veterans service officers (505) 383-2400  
(or see the back pages of this newsletter for contact information for the Albuquerque VSOs, or any VSO in the state)
- Women Veterans Program (505) 916-7449
- Health Care Coordination Division (505) 318-6273
- Veterans Business Outreach Center (505) 220-9932 or 469-8501
- State Approving Agency (505) 280-1047

## Computer Station Now Available For Use by Catron County Veterans to Make DVS Appointments

Veterans or eligible family members in Catron County who are unable to visit the DVS Silver City office, or don’t have computers or a reliable internet connection to file VA claims, can stop by the Catron County Wellness Center in the town of Reserve.

The center, located at 698 State Highway 12, has set aside computers for veterans to make appointments with DVS veterans service officers (VSO) to work on VA claims or applying for state veterans benefits. For more information, contact Tito at (505) 388-8045. This is the first such “community clink” set up by DVS. More are scheduled other rural communities.



## DVS Opens Field Office in Valencia County

After years of planning, DVS has finally opened a field office in Valencia County.

The new office—the agency’s 16th field office in New Mexico—is in the city of Belen, in the Belen Business Center, located at 719 South Main Street. DVS has hired Rob Miller as the veterans service officer to provide in-office assistance with filing VA claims, applying for state veterans benefits, or to help with anything else veterans need help with.

Rob comes to the agency from the Second Judicial District, where as a pre-trial service officer he assisted those not yet convicted of crimes to monitor their freedom and ensure that they were abiding by the court’s conditions of release.



**Rob Miller**  
DVS Belen Veterans  
Service Officer (VSO)

Prior to this, the Des Moines, IA native served 27-years in law enforcement, including eight years as a U.S. Army Military Police sergeant. After completing his service, he served as a patrol officer in the Socorro Police Department, as a special agent with the State Forestry Law Enforcement Division, and from 2004-2018 as the Belen Police Department’s deputy police chief.

Veterans can contact Rob to set up an in-office appointment, or for phone or email assistance, by calling him at (505) 537-9339 or emailing him at [rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov).



## 2023 State Legislature Ends; Seven Veteran-Related Pieces of Legislation Passed

The 2023 New Mexico Legislature concluded its 60-day session on March 18 with the passage of seven veteran-related pieces of legislation.

### Four Veteran/National Guard-related bills

The following four bills were passed in the House and Senate and were sent to the governor’s office for signature and enactment as a new state law.

#### **HB 116 Active-Duty National Guard as State Employees**

*Sponsors: Rep. Debra Sariñana (D-Bernalillo County), Rep. Eliseo Alcon (D-Cibola & McKinley), Rep. Alan Martinez (R-Sandoval)*

Authorizes the New Mexico adjutant general to employ members of the New Mexico National Guard as state employees related to preparation, mitigation, or response to “any type of disaster.” Allows their employment on a part- or full-time basis, as needed, and does not redefine “disaster.”

*(continued on next page)*

## **HB 186 Disabled Veteran Property Tax Proof**

*Rep. Alan Martinez (R-Sandoval)*

Provides flexibility for the requirement of proof of eligibility for a disabled veteran's property tax exemption. Exemptions claimed and allowed in a tax year need not be claimed for subsequent tax years if there is no change in eligibility for the exemption, nor if there is no change in ownership of the property against which the exemption was claimed. Head-of-family, veteran and veterans' organization exemptions allowable under this subsection shall be applied automatically by county assessors in the subsequent tax years.



## **HB 366 Additional Disabled Veteran License Plates**

*Rep. Joanne Ferrary (D-Doña Ana), Rep. Debra Sariñana (D-Bernalillo), Rep. Harry Garcia (D-Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, & Valencia), Rep. Eliseo Alcon (D-Cibola & McKinley)*

Allows for the issuance of special plates--in addition to the two existing disabled veteran plates--for veterans VA-rated at 50% service-connected-disabled or higher. The additional plate can be any combination of the veteran's choice, free of charge, Veterans will only be charged regular plate and registration fees for the additional special plates.

## **SB 210 National Guard Death Benefit Act**

*Sen. Michael Padilla (D-Bernalillo), Sen. Harold Pope (D-Bernalillo)*

Creates the National Guard Death Benefit Fund to pay a \$500,000 death benefit for a member of the National Guard or the State Defense Force Division killed while on state active duty. The law appropriates \$2 million (non-reverting) to the state's general fund for use in FYs 2024 and beyond for this death benefit.



## **Two House Joint Resolutions**

The two house joint resolutions below were unanimously passed in the House of Representatives and Senate. The two pieces of legislation, however, involve changes to the state Constitution—and therefore, instead of signature by the governor, the joint resolutions must instead go before the voters this November.

*(continued on next page)*

### **HJR 5 Extend The Veteran Property Tax Exemption**

*Rep. Eliseo Alcon (D-Cibola & McKinley), Harry Garcia (D-Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, & Valencia), Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero (D-Bernalillo), Rep. John Block (R-Otero), Rep. Alan Martinez (R-Sandoval)*



Proposes an amendment to Article 8 of the Constitution to extend a property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans or unmarried widows of veterans with less than a 100%. The proposed exemption would be based the amount of the exemption on the veteran's federal disability rating (i.e. 30% disabled rating = 30% exemption; 40% disabled rating = 40% exemption, etc.)

### **HJR 6 Increase the Veteran Property Tax Exemption**

*Rep. Eliseo Alcon (D-Cibola & McKinley), Harry Garcia (D-Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, & Valencia), Rep. Cynthia Borrego (D-Bernalillo), Rep. John Block (R-Otero), Rep. Alan Martinez (R-Sandoval)*

Proposes to amend Art. 8, Sec. 5 of the New Mexico Constitution to increase the property tax exemption for honorably discharged military veterans and unmarried widows of veterans from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for tax year 2024, and \$10,000 adjusted for inflation beginning annually in 2025.

### **Senate Joint Memorial**

There was one veteran-related joint memorial introduced during the legislature—in the Senate. A joint memorial is a message or petition by legislators addressed to the president of the United States and/or Congress, or the head of any other federal or state agency, asking for consideration of a matter of concern to the state or region.



### **SJM 11 Veterans Affairs Disability Rating System**

*Sen. Craig Brandt (R-Sandoval)*

Urges Congress to investigate the United States Department of Veterans Affairs delays in its *Schedule For Rating Disabilities System's* failure to make rating determinations in a timely manner.

New Mexico's legislators are also asking Congress to require that VA determine disability ratings within ninety days of any filing, and that determinations be expedited within thirty days for claims based on terminal illness, and for veterans who have been placed in hospice care.





*DVS State Benefits Bureau Chief Jeff George provided assistance at the March 22 Veterans Property Tax Waiver & Exemption Clinic in Clovis.*

## DVS Busy With Veterans Property Tax Exemption/Waiver Clinics

DVS presented veterans property tax exemption & waiver clinics last month in Los Lunas (Mar. 10), Clovis (Mar. 22), and Roswell (Mar. 30). Veterans and unmarried widows of veterans were able to file for the Veterans' Property Tax Exemption, which is a \$4,000 reduction off the taxable value of a veteran's primary residence....or the Veterans' Property Tax Waiver, which eliminates the property tax for a veteran rated by VA as 100% service-connected, permanent-and-total disabled.

Waiver or exemption certificates were issued on the spot—which the recipient then must take to their county assessor's office to complete the process of

receiving the discounts. The March 10 clinic in Los Lunas was at the county assessor's office—allowing the process to be completed right there. DVS is scheduled to present clinics in April & May in the following communities:

**\*Edgewood Senior Center/114 Quail Trail**

(Apr. 10) 11am-1pm

**\*Las Cruces/Doña Ana County Assessor's Office**

845 North Motel Blvd. (Apr. 20) 10am-2pm

**\*Farmington/San Juan County Assessor's Office**

100 South Oliver Dr. #440 (Apr. 18) 10am-7pm

**\*Albuquerque South Valley Senior Center**

2008 Larrazolo Road SW (May 8) 10am-2pm

**\*Tijeras Senior Center/10 Tijeras Ave.** (May 15) 9am-1pm

*(part of the Tijeras Senior Health Fair)*

To expedite the filing process, 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 Form 56-16
- \* Public Health Service (PHS) for 1867

If filing for a disabled veteran tax waiver:

- \* 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
- \* or your latest NM income tax return.

For more information, please contact Joseph Dorn at [joseph.dorn@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:joseph.dorn@dvs.nm.gov) or (505) 861-9117.

## March Was a Busy Month for PACT Act Town Hall Meetings

DVS was also busy on the road last month attending PACT Act town hall meetings organized by the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) and the Albuquerque VA Benefits Regional Office.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana joined NMVAHCS Director Robert McKenrick and VAB Regional Office Director Cesar Romero at meetings in Mescalero (Mar. 9—photo above), Santa Fe Community College (Mar. 13), Zuni Pueblo (Mar. 23), Crownpoint (Mar. 24), and Roswell (Mar. 30).



These meetings were the latest in an ongoing joint effort by the three agencies to present information and answer questions about the PACT Act, formally known as the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*.

Congress passed this landmark law creating a presumption of service-connected illness for service members exposed to burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan, those who served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, veterans of the Gulf War and Southwest Asia, and even Vietnam War-era veterans exposed to the “Agent Orange” jungle defoliant. The law was named after Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. Heath Robinson, who died in 2020 from lung cancer he had claimed was caused by exposure to burn pits during his two deployments to Iraq. He was denied VA treatment because of a lack of proof that his cancer was due to burn pit exposure.



*DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana thanks DVS Roswell-based Veterans Service Officer Danielle Thompson for helping to organize the March 30 Chaves County Veterans Symposium, which hosted the PACT Act town hall meeting at the Roswell National Guard Armory.*

With the passage of the PACT Act, VA now presumes a veteran’s service may be the cause of a medical condition, and will provide a screening. Veterans only need to prove they did serve in these regions and during these war eras.

At the town hall meetings, DVS Secretary Quintana strongly urged veterans to contact DVS or the other two VA agencies if they think they might benefit from the new law.

“If you’re suffering from a medical condition and you *think* it’s caused by your service, give us a call. We’ll help you file a claim,” he said during the March 30 Roswell meeting. Don’t hesitate. It’s not too late if you’re a Vietnam Veteran. Give us a call, and we’ll help you.”

Veterans can contact any DVS veterans service officer listed on the back two pages of this newsletter. More information about the PACT Act can also be found at

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



## DVS Provides Outreach at U.S. Rep. Stansbury's Veterans Fair

Former DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans Service Officer Jesus Palomino set up a veterans benefits outreach table at veterans resources fair hosted by U.S. Representative Melanie Stansbury (D-NM 1) at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque on March 18. Palomino has since been promoted to business operations specialist/executive administrative assistant for the DVS field operations division. DVS expects to fill his vacated VSO position in the next couple of weeks.



## Ground Broken For New Veterans Integration Centers Campus

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana took part in a groundbreaking ceremony kicking off construction of the new Veterans Integration Centers (VIC) campus on March 29 in Albuquerque.

The 20,000 square foot multi-unit campus will be on Mulberry Street in southeast Albuquerque—right off the Interstate 25 & Gibson Boulevard entrance/exit.



**ABOVE PHOTO:** Turning ceremonial shovels of dirt at the March 29 groundbreaking of the new Veterans Integration Centers were: (From L to R) Field Representative for U.S. Sen. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) Carmela Quintana, VIC CEO Brock Wolff, NMVA Health Care System Asst. Chief, Social Work Services Jill Turner, VIC Board Chairman Jerry Becker, State Sen. Michael Padilla (D-Albuquerque), State Rep. Harry Garcia (D-Grants), DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana, SBA/New Mexico District Director John M. Garcia, State Sen. Harold Pope (D-Albuquerque), and VIC Chief Operating Officer Fermin Ortega.

The city of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and VA have combined to pledge \$8million to cover the purchase of the land, design, and construction of the campus.

As with the existing facility, the new “gated” VIC will provide temporary housing for 42 homeless veterans and 24 family members. More than just a homeless shelter, central to the VIC is a program enabling residents to undergo any counseling, treatment, job training, or other steps necessary to reintegrate into society. The new facility is scheduled to be finished by next spring.



## SAA Director Represents New Mexico at Executive Meeting in Washington

New Mexico State Approving Agency (SAA) Director Kathy Snyder attended an executive meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 21 featuring representatives from the National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA), VA Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Service, and the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA).

The leaders met to discuss efforts to improve the delivery of high-quality veterans' education benefits in an efficient and effective manner.

**Kathy Snyder**

*New Mexico SAA Director*

New Mexico's SAA is managed by DVS. Each state has an SAA to provide approval, oversight, training, outreach, and liaison activities to ensure the quality and integrity of education and training programs for use by veterans using their GI Bill® education benefit. The SAA also provides oversight of programs such as on-the job training, apprenticeships, vocational flight, licensure & certification, and correspondence for individuals using their GI Bill benefits.



Snyder serves on the NASAA Executive Board as the west region vice president. She is also a member of the NASAA Flight Training Committee, the Apprenticeship and on-the-job-training (OJT) committee, and other VA special workgroups. *(Kathy is in the front row, sixth from the left)*

Kathy enjoys providing assistance to the NSAA. She is also proud to work with school certifying officials at educational institutions and training establishments here in New Mexico.

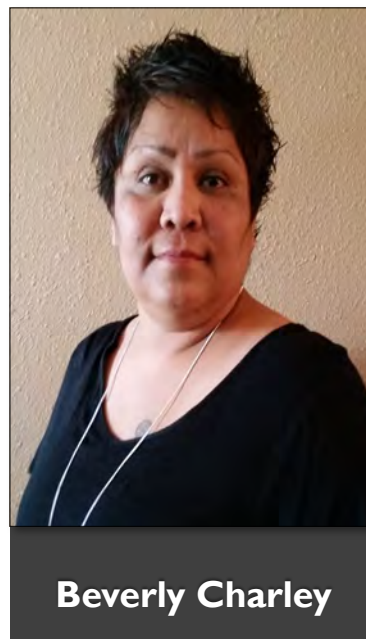
"It is such a pleasure to work with such dedicated educational and training professionals," she said. "I'm really grateful for their continued efforts to strive to improve serving veterans, service members, and eligible family members wishing to use their G.I. Bill benefit to pursue their post-military service education goals."



## DVA Pueblo & Tribal Liaison Invited by VA Secretary McDonough to Attend Special Ceremony

DVS Pueblo & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley was invited by VA Secretary Denis McDonough to attend VA's *Mission to Serve All Who Served* ceremony on March 16.

Charley was among a few dozen invited dignitaries from across the nation to attend the ceremony at the Military Women's Memorial at the Arlington National Cemetery celebrating the diversity of veterans that VA serves. *(below photo/far left, in red; VA Secretary McDonough is standing in lower right corner/3rd from right)*



**Beverly Charley**

At the ceremony, Secretary McDonough also unveiled VA's new mission

statement: *To fulfill President*

*Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.*



"President Lincoln demanded, just as President Biden expects, that we serve *all* veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or creed," said Secretary McDonough at the ceremony. "This is VA's promise every day. Thank you all for joining VA in this noble mission, and for your part in caring and advocating for all of our veterans—each and every one—and their families, caregivers, and

survivors."

Charley had been recently recognized by VA as one of two dozen "Women Trailblazers" from across the nation for their dedication during and after their military service.

The 14-year Army veteran was honored by VA for being the driving force behind the launching of the annual San Juan County Homeless Veterans Stand Down, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year providing free food, clothing, health screening, and many other benefits and services for homeless and at-risk veterans.

"This was a trip of a lifetime," said an ecstatic Charley, who said the ceremony attendees were the first people to be informed of VA's new mission statement. "I met so many women veteran movers-and-shakers, and made new friends. Plus, being able to hear from the VA secretary in person, at the memorial honoring women veterans, is something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

*(more photos on next page)*





LEFT PHOTO: DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley and VA Secretary Denis McDonough.

RIGHT PHOTO: Ms. Charley with VA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs Zaneta Adams (*to her right*), and New York Department of Veterans Services Director Viviana DeCohen (*at left*)







## Native American Training Institute Veterans Symposium

Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2023  
Isleta Resort & Casino Conference Center

Veterans, Service Members and Dependents are invited and encouraged to attend this two-day symposium to ensure veterans have access to the many benefits, entitlements and services provided by NM Department of Veterans Services, Veterans Administration and Indian Health Services. Veterans will have the opportunity to voice their issues, concerns and needs directly to government officials, agencies and service providers to make certain their questions are adequately addressed, including:

1. Medical and Healthcare Services: PACT ACT, PTSD, Suicide, Opioid Overdose
2. On-site assistance in filing for VA and State benefits;
3. Entrepreneurship: Business start ups, government contracting, etc.;
4. Vocational training, on-the-job training and other higher education opportunities;
5. Employment services and initiative;
6. Training and certification information for Veteran Service Officers;
7. Program and service opportunities exclusive to Women Veterans;
8. Promote and provide adequate healthcare needs and transportation services in rural communities.

Registration is required so that we have an accurate head count for the luncheon.

### Honoring Our Brave Warriors

*To A Journey for a Healthy and Quality Life*

#### Registration

**FREE** registration for Veterans, their spouses, and service providers. Complimentary information tables are available for veteran related services. Registration includes morning coffee and one lunch.

Register or reserve your information table by scanning the QR code on the right with your smart phone's camera to open the registration site or visit our website at: [www.nati-nm.org/veterans-1](http://www.nati-nm.org/veterans-1)



#### Lodging & Venue

Isleta Resort & Casino  
11000 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87005

**Rate:** \$111 plus tax

**Code:** NAT0423

**Phone:** (877) 747-5382

**Deadline:** April 1, 2023

#### Information

Ramus Suina  
(505) 920-5047

Larry Archuleta  
(505) 907-8699

*Native American Training Institute  
invites all Gourd Dancers to the*

## Veterans Symposium Gourd Dance

Saturday, April 22, 2023 • 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Isleta Resort & Casino Conference Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Head Singer **IRVIN TSO** Navajo  
Tees Nos Pos, AZ

Head Gourd Dancer **EUGENE TAYLOR** Choctaw  
Kirtland, NM

Master of Ceremony **EARL NECONIE** Kiowa  
Albuquerque, NM

Arena Director **CODY TOLEDO** Navajo  
Hogback, NM

*NATI kindly request participants adhere to the dance origin protocols.  
There will be no vending opportunities at this event.*



Gourd Dance Information:

**Glenda Toledo**

[admin@nati-nm.org](mailto:admin@nati-nm.org) 505.205.3401





## National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemorated in New Mexico

National Vietnam War Veterans Day was commemorated in several New Mexico communities last month.

The day, set aside by Congress every year on March 29, honors all men and women who served in the United States

Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. The date marks the day 50 years ago—March 29, 1973—when the last American military service member was pulled out of South Vietnam, and the last American prisoners-of-war were released.

58,220 American service members were killed in action—including 397 from New Mexico. More than 300,000 American service members were injured. Of our six million American Vietnam War-era veterans still alive today--about 600,000 served in southeast Asia. Here in New Mexico, there are 51,370 Vietnam veterans. There are 1,500 Americans are still listed as missing in action—including 12 from New Mexico.

The following photos are from some of these ceremonies.

### *Las Cruces*

In Las Cruces, VFW Post 10124 and Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 431 teamed up to present the 11th Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony on March 25 at the city's Veterans Memorial Park.





## Shiprock



In Shiprock, the Northern Agency Veterans Organization presented a “Silent Warriors of Vietnam” ceremony on March 29. An Honor Guard from the Upper Fruitland Veterans Organization (*left photo*) was one of several units that marched in a parade from the Shiprock Chapter House to the fairgrounds for the ceremony.

RIGHT PHOTO; DVS Veterans Service Officer Candice Pioche-Zunie (*at left*), DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley (*center*) and New Mexico VA Health Care System Michelle Lenz were among representatives from several agencies that also provided benefits outreach at the event.

## Albuquerque

On March 29 in Albuquerque, the New Mexico Veterans Memorial hosted a ceremony, during which a new plaque was unveiled at the United State Marine Corps section. The plaque honors Marines who served in the Combined Action Program, a USMC counterinsurgency initiative developed during the Vietnam War. 465 Marines from the program were killed in action, and another 51 were lost to non-hostile deaths.



## Paraje/Laguna Pueblo



In Paraje/Laguna Pueblo, the ROMEO group consisting of Vietnam veterans from west-central New Mexico met for their annual March 29 lunch at the Dancing Eagle Casino Restaurant.

*(from L to R: Chris Riley/USMC veteran (Laguna Pueblo), Alvin Miles/Army (Salt River/Maricopa Pima in Arizona), Timothy J. Chavez/Army (Acoma Pueblo), Leo Weeker/Army (Laguna Pueblo), Geri Pruitt/USMC (Laguna Pueblo), and Gilbert Johnson/Army (Laguna Pueblo)).*

\*\*\*Editor's note: DVS asked if the "ROMEO" designation refers to a former military squadron, operation, or group from the war. According to member Tim Chavez, it stands for "Real Old Men Eating Out." The group meets regularly for lunch and dinner simply to enjoy each other's company.

## Five-Year Anniversary of Las Cruces Women Veterans Memorial Commemorated

The United Military Women of the SouthWest (UMWSW) hosted a ceremony on March 18 at Veterans Memorial Park in Las Cruces to mark the fifth anniversary of the unveiling of the park's Women Veterans Monument.

UMWSW was instrumental in working with the city to donate the land, and securing \$450,000 from the state legislature for the project. The monument features six life-size bronze sculptures of women in uniforms of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Army National Guard. Women are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. military and veteran population. There are a little more than two million women veterans in the country, including 16,800 in New Mexico—11% of the state's veteran population of 144,130 veterans.







(last year's Bataan Remembrance Day Ceremony)

## Bataan Remembrance Day to be Commemorated in Santa Fe

The New Mexico National Guard has scheduled its annual Bataan Remembrance Day Ceremony in Santa Fe for April 8 this year.

This year's ceremony begins at 11 a.m. at the Eternal Flame Monument in front of the Bataan Memorial Building, located at 407 Galisteo Street. It normally takes place on April 9—the date of the fall of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines during World War II. But Easter falls on this date this year.

The ceremony commemorates the date 81-years ago—April 9, 1942—when 75,000 American and Filipino service members were ordered to surrender by their commanding general, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Edward P. King. Japanese forces invaded the Philippines four months earlier, and had trapped the Allied force on the Bataan Peninsula.



1,800 members of the New Mexico National Guard were among those who surrendered. The Americans and Filipinos were taken prisoner and forced to march more than 60 grueling miles to brutal prison camps in what came to be known as the *Bataan Death March*. Less than half of the 1,800 New Mexicans were alive by the time Japan surrendered to end World War II on August 2, 1945. For more information about the April 9 ceremony, please contact Iain Jaramillo at the New Mexico National Guard Public Affairs Office: [iain.a.jaramillo.civ@mail.mil](mailto:iain.a.jaramillo.civ@mail.mil) or (505) 503-9766 or .

## Memorial Day is May 29

DVS will be putting out information about statewide Memorial Day ceremonies or events. If you are part of or know of a Memorial Day event, please send the following information:

- City
- nature of event (parade/ceremony/concert, BBQ, etc.)
- venue and venue address
- time of event
- point of contact (POC)
- POC's phone number and Email

Please send this information to DVS Public Information Officer Ray Seva at [ray.seva@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ray.seva@dvs.nm.gov)





# The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services 2023 Military Honors Spring Training Conference & Competition



Friday, April 28, 2023

0800-1600

**Las Cruces**

Sonoma Ranch Golf Course

1274 Golf Club Rd.

**POC:** Diana Myklebust, DVS (505) 231-8911

*Assisting DVS with the conference are also:*



# 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

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-women-veterans-conference-tickets-482719024597>

Email: [theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov)





**#SWVetsBizConf**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 19 & 20, 2023**

**SOUTHWEST VETERANS BUSINESS CONFERENCE**

**LAS CRUCES**

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



"Funded in part by a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration"

For more information, contact DVS/New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center  
Business Counselor Johnny Martinez  
at [johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov) or (505) 469-8501



## 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.



# APRIL 2023 HIRING EVENTS!



- ✓ **04/06 – CONSTRUCTION CAREER EXPO Jobs & Apprenticeships @Sandia Resort & Casino. Visit the WIOA Table! 11 AM to 3 PM**
- ✓ **04/12 – MONTHLY HIRING EVENT 40+ Employers hiring now @501 Mountain Rd. NE, ABQ 9 AM - 12 PM**
- ✓ **04/17 & 4/25 – TSA HIRING EVENT. *Work* at the ABQ Sunport. \$1,000 Sign-on Bonus! @ Workforce Connection in Rio Rancho on 4/17 and at 501 Mountain Rd. NE ABQ on 4/25. 10 AM-2 PM**
- ✓ **04/18 – 14th ANNUAL B2B EXPO @Isleta Resort & Casino. Visit our booth at the EXPO, learn about career programs, business incentives, apprenticeships and more. 1 PM - 8 PM**
- ✓ **04/20 – RIO RANCHO HIRING EVENT @Loma Colorado Public Library, 755 Loma Colorado Blvd. NE. Meet with Sandoval County Employers - 10 AM - 1 PM**
- ✓ **04/26 – OPERATION HIRING HEROES 8th ANNUAL VETERANS Career Fair @American Legion Post 13 1201 Legion Rd NE ABQ Non-Veterans welcome! 10 AM to 2 PM**

**FOLLOW US**

New Mexico  
**Workforce Connection**

*A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network*

**@NMWORKFORCE**  
**www.wccnm.org**





# 2023 NEW MEXICO STEM CAREER FAIR

REGISTRATION  
[WWW.STEMBOOMERANG.ORG](http://WWW.STEMBOOMERANG.ORG)



**12 APRIL, 2023**

**2-6 PM**

**Q Station  
(Nob Hill in ABQ)**

[info@stemboomerang.org](mailto:info@stemboomerang.org)



**TRICORE**  
REFERENCE LABORATORIES



**IDEAS**  
Engineering & Technology



**SPONSORED BY:**



**ENCANTADO**  
FOUNDATION

Come meet with hiring managers at New Mexico's top STEM employers and network with your peers!



**3rd annual**  
**VFW New Mexico Foundation**  
**Virtual 5k Run/Ruck/Walk**  
**4/14/2023 - 4/17/2023**

**Sign up now!**

Presented by the VFW New Mexico Foundation

To sign up:

<https://runsignup.com/.../VFWDepartmentFoundation5kRunRuc...>

For more information, contact Len Hampton at:

[Vfwnm12@gmail.com](mailto:Vfwnm12@gmail.com)





## U.S. Rep. Leger Fernández Announces the 2023 Congressional Art Competition Themed “New Mexico Resiliency”

*(from the office of U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández)(D-NM)*

Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández (NM-03) is seeking local submissions for the annual Congressional Art Competition. Each year the competition provides members of the U.S. House of Representatives an opportunity to showcase the artistic talent of high school students within their districts.

High school students across the 3rd District of New Mexico can submit one piece of original artwork for the opportunity to have their work displayed as part of an exhibit in the United States Capitol Building. The Congressional Art Competition page will also feature the winners' artwork.

The theme for this year's competition will be “New Mexico Resiliency,” to commemorate and celebrate the resiliency of Nuevo Mexicanos in the face of any challenge - fires, floods, COVID-19, and more. **The office will accept submissions until Friday, April 21, 2023**, and participants must submit their applications to <mailto:artcompnm03@mail.house.gov>.

"New Mexico is home to many young talented creative artists that make our communities vibrant and remind us of how rewarding it is to cultivate art in our students," said Congresswoman Leger Fernández.

"Last year was immensely challenging for our state, but us Nuevo Mexicanos persevered, came together, and protected our neighbors, communities, and lands. Our people's spirit, resiliency, and strength remind us that challenges can become opportunities when we come together."

For more information and guidelines about the competition:  
<mailto:https://fernandez.house.gov/services/art-competition>

# FREE Post-Traumatic Stress Retreats for Veterans & Partners



Veterans & their  
partners will  
experience 7.5  
days of relief &  
healing from  
PTS in Red River,  
New Mexico



April 23-30, 2023  
May 14-21, 2023  
August 6-13, 2023  
October 15-22, 2023

**Offering education, counseling, massage, acupuncture, reiki, yoga, art therapy,  
nutrition, chiropractic care, horseback riding and more!**

[VeteransWellnessAndHealing.org](http://VeteransWellnessAndHealing.org)

575-377-5236

[Info@veteranswellnessandhealing.org](mailto:Info@veteranswellnessandhealing.org)

**Contact us for an application TODAY!**





A Veteran-focused event  
OPEN TO ALL JOB SEEKERS!

# 8TH ANNUAL! OPERATION HIRING HEROES EMPLOYMENT EVENT

**Date:** WED. 04/26/2023 10AM to 2PM

**Location:** American Legion Post 13  
1201 Legion Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102



## Employers Attending:

*Special thanks to Veteran Affairs UNM,  
& City of Albuquerque for donations! For program funding details in  
compliance with the Stevens Amendment please request this by email  
with contact information below.*



- ABQ FD
- AirForce Nuclear Weapons CTR.
- Albuquerque Chamber
- AutoZone
- Avalon
- Bernco Sheriff
- Blakes Lota Burger
- City of Albuquerque
- Clay Custom Homes
- Core Civic
- Cumulus Radio
- Decision Point
- Department of Health
- EdgeWater Federal Solutions
- Rio Rancho Event Center
- FBI
- First Command
- Goodwill Industries of New Mexico

- KRQE News 13
- Los Alamos Labs
- MDC
- Metro Security
- N3B
- National Roofing
- NM Conservation
- Rio Metro
- Rodgers P&H
- Sandia Labs
- Sandoval County
- Sandoval County DC
- Santa Ana Casino

- Sandia Casino
- SSA
- State Environment
- T-Mobile
- TSA
- U.S. Marshall's
- UNM Health
- Village of Los Lunas
- Walgreens
- Wal-Mart DC
- West Wind
- WestSide Glass
- HoneyWell
- Kelly Services



**MANY EMPLOYERS ARE  
OFFERING GENEROUS  
SIGN-ON BONUSES!!**

## Learn about these valuable Veteran Resources:

- DVS
- Vet Center
- VA
- Forward Flag
- New Mexico DAV
- StoreHouse West
- Women Veterans of New Mexico
- CNM

## New Mexico Workforce Connection

*A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network*

Call for more info: 505-588-3006

Joseph.Luebbers@dws.nm.gov

Visit [www.wccnm.org/veterans](http://www.wccnm.org/veterans)

Follow us, Like & Share to get the word out!

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [y](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) @NMWORKFORCE

Equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aids & services available upon request.



[www.wccnm.org/veterans](http://www.wccnm.org/veterans)





# RESILIENCY WORKSHOP SERIES

Offered FREE to all active duty, veterans, military family members

## Workshop: Psychological First Aid COPING WITH CHANGE

- Learn a set of basic actions
- Provide immediate support
- Learn & provide coping skills
- Using this tool in times of stress can help foster increased resiliency



### RESERVE ONLINE

<https://NMRedCross.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 26**  
**6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.**

Call: 505-262-6162 to RESERVE YOUR TICKET.



**LOCATION: SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER**  
Room LL302, located near the base of the  
campus center stairwell.





Connection.  
Camaraderie.  
Community.



**Thursday 04/27/2023**  
**10AM - 2PM. Stop by or**  
**call (928) 632-6502.**

VETERANS/FAMILIES/STAKEHOLDERS, the Vet Center/Readjustment Counseling Services staff will be at the Nova III Behavioral Health Services and Hozho Center at the Howard Johnson's Chaco Convention Center, 2915 W Historic Hwy 66, Gallup NM, for service and questions.

#### **Vet Center-Veteran Outreach Program Specialist**

PO Box 2369  
Window Rock AZ 86515  
Mobile: (928) 632-6502

Our services are also offered through Mobile Vet Centers, in other community locations, and through virtual appointments.

[vetcenter.va.gov](http://vetcenter.va.gov)



#### **Counseling**

Vet Centers offer individual, group, couples, and family counseling for you to talk through both combat experiences and everyday stressors in a confidential environment.



#### **Referrals**

We help you navigate through time-consuming tasks and receive referrals for medical, benefit, employment, and other VA and community-based resources near you.



#### **Community Engagement**

Vet Centers create opportunities for you to bond with others who share similar experiences and work alongside community partners to advocate for your needs.



## United Military Women of the SouthWest

(501.c.3)

### Annual

### Spaghetti Dinner (Meat or Meatless sauce)



Date: April 29, 2023  
Time: 3pm - 6pm  
Place: El Caldito Soup Kitchen  
999 W. Amador Las Cruces, NM  
Cost: \$5.00 per plate  
Dine in or Take out  
For more info: [1wnvet@gmail.com](mailto:1wnvet@gmail.com)





7TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW

SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
10AM - 2PM

NEW MEXICO VETERANS MEMORIAL  
1100 LOUISIANA BLVD SE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

*Help us send our Veterans to Washington D.C.*



REGISTRATION:

\$25 PER CAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL GREY

505-385-5979

INTERESTED IN A VENDOR BOOTH  
[INFO@HFNNM.ORG](mailto:INFO@HFNNM.ORG)

SPECTATORS ARE FREE!





☆ **WOMEN'S VETERANS** ☆

# **SHOW & SHINE CAR SHOW**

**SATURDAY**

**May 6**

**8am – 1pm**



**ENTRY FEE**

**\$25**

**ORGAN MTN. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT**

5700 Mesa Grande Drive • Las Cruces, NM

Proceeds benefit United Military Women of the Southwest (501.C.3)

**DOOR  
PRIZES &  
AWARDS!**

**OPEN TO ALL MAKES  
AND MODELS!**

**AUTOMOTIVE swap  
meet**

**\$20 to SELL  
SPACE LIMITED**

First come, first served

For information, contact Karen Woods @ 575-639-1265





Join us for

*Older Americans Month*



# Senior Health & Information Fair

Village of Tijeras Senior Center

10 Tijeras Ave., Tijeras, NM

**Monday, May 15 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

60+ Lunch 11:30am- 1pm - **Reserve your lunch** before 12 noon,

Friday, 5/12/23 at (505) 930-2658.

Entertainment by *Jazz Roots Duet* 12:00-1:00pm

*Agencies attending:*

- Wellcare
- BeeHive Homes of Edgewood
- Hamilton Relay
- Presbyterian
- Alzheimer Association NM Chapter
- Department of Senior Affairs Info & Assistance
- Americorp Volunteer programs
- Senior Legal Services
- Humana
- ACHR Senior Peer Case Management
- East Mountain Historical Society
- BlueCross BlueShield Care Van
- NM Veteran Services Department; VA Hospital
- Bernalillo County Assessor; County Commissioner
- Lions Club Diabetes Awareness
- TOPS (Taking Pounds Off Sensibly) weight loss program



*Blood Pressure checks, Nutrition Program,  
Exercise Demonstrations, Refreshments & Giveaways*

For more information call the Village of Tijeras Senior Center at (505) 286-4220



# VETERANS BUILD

**MAY 27, 2023**

**8:30 AM - 3:30PM**

**PLAZA BONITA SUBDIVISION**

## SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

SCAN WITH PHONE:



**DIR. VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

**PASCUAL HERNANDEZ**

**(505) 986 - 5880 EXT.102**

**PASCUAL@SANTAFEHABITAT.ORG**

**SANTAFEHABITAT.ORG/VOLUNTEER**



# STOREHOUSE WEST

*Serving the Community of Sandoval County since 1992*

To alleviate poverty in Albuquerque's West Mesa and rural areas of Sandoval County.



The food pantry serves qualifying veterans and family residents of Sandoval County meeting federal guidelines for low-moderate income households as defined by The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). We supply registered households with a food package once a month. In addition to our food pantry, Storehouse West has a **Kids Clothing Closet** that serves children from newborn to 18 years of age.



#### Hours of Operation

**Monday 9:00am - 1:30 pm** (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 12:30)

**Wednesday 12:00pm - 4:30 pm**

**Friday 9:00am - 1:30 pm** (Closed for lunch 12:00 - 12:30)

#### Contact Us

1030-F Veranda Dr. SE

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

505-892-2077

Email: [storehousewest@storehousewest.org](mailto:storehousewest@storehousewest.org); Web: <https://www.storehousewest.org/>



## News from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



### President Biden Unveils VA FY24 Budget

President Joe Biden has released his budget request for fiscal year 2024. It proposes critical resources to help VA serve all veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors as well as they have served their country.

This is the largest budget proposal in U.S. history for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. The total FY 2024 request for VA is \$325.1 billion, a \$16.6 billion (+5.4%) increase

above the FY 2023 budget enacted level. This includes a discretionary budget request of \$142.8 billion, a \$3.0 billion (+2.1%) increase over FY 2023. The 2024 mandatory funding request is \$182.3 billion, an increase of \$13.6 billion (+8.1%) above 2023.

“As President Biden often says, our nation has a sacred obligation to support veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors — and this proposed budget will help us do exactly that,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “With these historic investments, we at VA can continue to deliver more care and more benefits to more veterans than ever before in our nation’s history.”

Some of the key highlights regarding VA funding in the president’s budget are:

#### Expanding health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans

The [PACT Act](#), landmark legislation which President Biden signed into law last year, expands VA health care and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxins. The budget requests \$20.3 billion in 2024 for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund—\$15.3 billion above 2023—for health care, research and benefits delivery associated with exposure to environmental hazards for veterans and their survivors.

**Invest in preventing Veteran suicide:** Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris administration. This budget provides \$16.6 billion in 2024 for mental health efforts, including suicide prevention — up from \$15.0 billion in 2023. As a part of that, the budget includes \$559 million for veteran suicide prevention outreach programs and an estimated \$2.5 billion in suicide-specific medical treatment. Among other efforts, these funds will support VA’s initiatives [to provide free emergency health care to Veterans in suicidal crisis at VA or non-VA facilities](#) and [help fund local organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and other eligible individuals and their families](#).

*(continued on next page)*



### **Bolster efforts to end veteran homelessness**

Veteran homelessness has [decreased by 11% since 2020](#) and [VA permanently housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans in 2022](#). The budget invests \$3.1 billion in providing homeless veterans, along with veterans at risk of becoming homeless, with permanent housing, access to health care and other supportive services.

### **Support women veterans' health care**

More women veterans are choosing VA health care than ever before, with the number of women veterans using VA services tripling over the last 20 years— growing from 160,000 in 2002 to more than 627,000 today.

The proposed VA budget would invest \$257 million for women's health and childcare programs to increase access to infertility counseling and assisted reproductive technology, eliminate copayments for contraceptive coverage, and support full-time women veteran program managers at all 172 VA medical centers. These investments support provide comprehensive specialty medical and surgical services for women veterans, including \$1.0 billion for women's gender specific care.

### **Invest in veteran medical facilities**

Veterans deserve world-class health care facilities, but the many VA hospitals were built nearly 60 years ago--compared to just 13-years in the private sector. The budget proposal makes an historic investment of \$4.1 billion (discretionary and mandatory) for construction to begin restoring VA's aging infrastructure and providing veterans with state-of-the-art health care facilities, as well as a \$5 billion investment in medical care funding (discretionary) for non-recurring maintenance to improve medical facility infrastructure.

Learn more about [President Biden's Fiscal Year 2024 budget](#) and information on the [VA budget](#).



# AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

## Copayment Exemption

You may be eligible for copayment exemption and reimbursement of copays for health care and all urgent care visits.

Learn about eligibility  
and how to submit official  
Tribal documentation:



### Visit

[www.va.gov/health-care/  
copay-rates](http://www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates)



### Call

1-800-MyVA411  
(1-800-698-2411)



### Scan

With your  
smartphone







## DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

DVS has field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally accredited veterans service officers who are dedicated to helping veterans with filing VA claims, applying for state veterans benefits, or with helping with anything else a veteran or their family needs with.

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 VSOs below. **Please note: in addition to in-office assistance, veterans from anywhere in the state can also contact any DVS VSO for assistance by phone or email.**

### Alamogordo/Southeast NM

**David Henley**

411 10th Street #107

(575) 937-5620

[david.henley@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:david.henley@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Austin Walker**

Pinetree Business Park

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 274-0393

[austin.walker@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:austin.walker@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Hope Fryer**

Pinetree Business Park

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 383-2400

[hope.najera@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:hope.najera@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

*Temporarily vacant.*

*Contact the other Albuquerque VSOs for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email help*

### Albuquerque Metro Area

*Temporarily vacant.*

*Contact the other Albuquerque VSOs for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email help*

### Belen/Albuquerque Metro Area

**Rob Miller**

Belen Business Center

719 South Main. St.

(505) 537-9339

[rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov)

### Carlsbad/Southeast NM

**Dagmar Youngberg**

101 N. Halagueno

(575) 988-5900

[dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:dagmar.youngberg@dvs.nm.gov)

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Matt Barela (region supervisor)**

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

[matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov)

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Ben Padilla**

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

[ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Robert Guinn (region supervisor)**

San Juan College Vet Center/  
Room 1715-B

(505) 327-2861

[robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Candice Pioche-Zunie**

San Juan College Vet Center  
Room 1715-B

(505) 916-4835

[candice.pioche@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:candice.pioche@dvs.nm.gov)

### Gallup/Northwest NM

**John Livingston**

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A  
(505) 389-8731

[john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov)

*(more offices are on the next page)*

**Grants/Northwest NM****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

[april.ball@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:april.ball@dvs.nm.gov)**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Fred Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

[fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (*supervisor*)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

[miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

[vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

[clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas, NM/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow** (*supervisor*)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

[arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov)**Las Vegas/Northeast NM**

*Temporarily vacant. Please contact the Las Vegas VSO supervisor for in-person help; or any DVS VSO for phone/email assistance.*

**Rio Rancho/Albuquerque Metro****Dustin Newsom**

Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.

1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D, Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

[dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov)**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite 2A

(575) 416-2284

[danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov)**Santa Fe/Northwest NM****Nick McKenzie**Bataan Memorial Bldg. 1st Floor/  
Room 134/407 Galisteo St

(505) 218-3125

[nicholas.mckenzie@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:nicholas.mckenzie@dvs.nm.gov)**Silver City/Southwest NM****Clarissa Sierra**Western New Mexico University  
Juan Chacon Bldg./Rm. 138A

1000 West College Ave.

(575) 313-5627

[clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov)**Taos/Northwest NM****Leticia “Lety” Cano**Health & Human Service Bldg.  
145 Roy Rd.

(575) 709-5263

[leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov)**Women Veterans Program****Theresa Figueroa**

Pinetree Business Park

4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 916-7449

[theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:theresa.figueroa@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](mailto:beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov)