

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

**Michelle Lujan Grisham** *Governor*

**Donnie Quintana** *Cabinet Secretary*

**Southern New Mexico Honor Guards Attend 2023 New Mexico Spring Honor Guard Training Conference in Las Cruces**

**LAS CRUCES—**New Mexico Honor Guards from southern New Mexico attended the 2023 New Mexico Spring Honor Guard Training Conference on April 21 in Las Cruces.

The conference is one of two presented annually in the state by the New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS), the New Mexico National Guard, and AARP-New Mexico as learning and training opportunities for the state’s honor guard-- the all-volunteer units that perform the rifle volley, bugle rendition of *Taps,* and the folding of casket American flag at most funerals of honorably discharged veterans in the state.

Instruction is provided by members of the New Mexico National Guard’s Honor Guard, who then observe and judge the volunteer units as they render honors at mock funerals.

First place in the small unit division (two or three members in a detail) was awarded to The Marine Corps League/El Perro Diablo Detachment 478 Scarlet Team from Las Cruces.

Top honors in the medium-size division (no more than five members) went to American Legion Post 13 from Albuquerque.

First place in the large-size division (six or more members) was awarded to The Marine Corps League/El Perro Diablo Detachment 478 Scarlet Team from Las Cruces.

First place in the “live” bugle competition went to Al Bourget of Albuquerque*.*

DVS videotaped the conference and has produced a video showing highlights of the instruction and performances.

**2nd Honor Guard Conference of 2023 is in August**

The second conference this year is scheduled for August 25 in Albuquerque at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial. For more information, contact Diana Myklebust at diana.myklebust@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 231-8911.

Any service organizations interested in forming an Honor Guard are encouraged to attend to find out more about the DVS honor guard program and register as a state honor guard.

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