Several veterans volunteered to join DVS staff on May 20 to help with polishing several brass plaques located in and around the Bataan Memorial Building in downtown Santa Fe.

The volunteers brought their own cleaning supplies; DVS grilled hot dogs and burgers and provide ice-cold soft drinks for a lunch at the end of the morning polishing.

DVS plans to make this an annual event—saying not only is it a way to help beautify plaques that honor Bataan Peninsula defenders of World War II, it’s also a great way for staff and veterans to meet and socialize.

“It was great to meet and informally talk to veterans in a casual, non-work setting,” said DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana. “We had a lot of fun, and ate way too much burgers, hot dogs, chips, and cookies. But most importantly, we all helped to beautify these plaques that honor the men of the New Mexico National Guard who sacrificed so much to defend the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines at the start of World War II.”

[Here is a link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXdFT2aYAiQ) with a brief look at the history of these Bataan defenders…and the infamous *Bataan Death March.*

(photos of the cleanup/shine-up are below; more will be in the upcoming June edition of *The Guardian—*the monthly DVS newsletter)

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