



# The Guardian

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

June, 2023

• [www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org) • phone: (505) 383-2400 • [nmdvs.info@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:nmdvs.info@dvs.nm.gov) (email)

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

## Memorial Day Commemorated in Ceremonies Throughout New Mexico



Memorial Day was commemorated in ceremonies throughout New Mexico on Monday, May 29, and the preceding Saturday and Sunday.

The day was designated a national holiday in 1971 by Congress as the last Monday in May to honor U.S. service members killed while in service to our country—though it has somehow evolved into a day that many honor all deceased veterans.

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)

staff were busy attending many of these ceremonies—including DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana, who attended the agency's annual Memorial Day ceremony at its Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

Secretary Quintana made sure to keep the focus on our fallen service members in his remarks as one of the ceremony's guest speakers.

"Today our flag flies not because the wind moves it. It flies by the last breath of each of our military service members who died by protecting it," he said (*right photo*). "President Harry Truman once said, 'Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America should never forget their sacrifices.'"



Secretary Quintana data from VA and the U.S. Department of Defense show that 3,635 New Mexicans have lost their lives while serving our country since statehood in 1912—including 90 from our latest wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (*continued on next page*)

State Auditor Joe Maestas (*right photo*) was also a guest speaker at the ceremony. He said although he did not serve in the military, he has always, and will always have, the utmost respect for the men and women who do serve. Especially, he said, those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

“Many have given their lives to protect us here at home,” he said. “My family and I will always be grateful for this.”



The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. James Willbanks, (*left photo*) a Professor Emeritus of Military History at the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College and a former Army Lt. Colonel who saw combat action in the Vietnam War.

“As we prepare to leave this hallowed place, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals for which our fallen heroes fought,” he said. “Let us work together to create a more peaceful and just world. As we rededicate ourselves, let us

do

everything in our power to make sure that our future generations understand and honor those sacrifices—that they realize the cost of freedom, and appreciate the gift they have been given.”



The Vietnam Veterans of America/Northern New Mexico Chapter 996 Color Guard presented the Colors to open the ceremony.



The rifle squad from the Tsidi To'ii Veterans Organization performed a three-shot rifle volley near the end of the ceremony.



## Other ceremonies attended by DVS Staff: *Albuquerque-New Mexico Veterans Memorial*



*Photo courtesy: Robin Wilson*

DVS Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson (*left photo, at left*) greeted Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham at the city of Albuquerque's annual Memorial Day ceremony at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial.

The governor was the featured speaker at the ceremony in the memorial's amphitheater. She paid respects to the 3,635 New Mexicans who perished during their service for our country, praising their "...making the ultimate sacrifice for defending our country and fighting for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans." She also praised the service of all who have served or are currently serving—calling our state "the most patriotic state in the nation. We have one of the highest percentages of veterans per capita in the nation."



**Right photo:** Members of the Albuquerque Fire Department displayed a giant American flag suspended by two ladder trucks.

*Photo courtesy: Rick Pineda*



**Left photo:** Members of the American Legion Post 13 Honor Guard rifle team provided a three-shot rifle volley at the ceremony. *Photo courtesy: Robin Wilson*



## Other ceremonies attended by DVS Staff: Gallup State Veterans Cemetery



At the DVS-managed Gallup State Veterans Cemetery, staff placed American flag along the main entry into the facility. Smaller flags were placed at each of the cemetery's 210 in-ground gravesites, and along the columbarium wall. *Photos courtesy of Gilbert Lopez/Gallup State Veterans Cemetery supervisor*

## Southern Ute Tribal Nation (Ignacio, CO)



**Left photo:** DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley, a U.S. Army veteran, was one of the speakers at the annual Day of Remembrance program was hosted by the Southern Ute Veterans Association at Southern Ute Veterans Memorial Park. To her left is U.S. Marine Corps veteran Gordon Hammond of the Southern Ute nation; to her right is U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran Rod Grove of the Southern Ute nation.

**Right photo:** Southwest Veterans Association Commander Avelino Calabaza (*at left*) shakes the hand of fellow U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran Tim Watts of the Southern Ute tribe. The two gentlemen served in the same unit in the war. *(photos courtesy of Avelino Calabaza)*



## Other Memorial Day Ceremonies in New Mexico: Albuquerque/San Jose de Armijo Cemetery



**Left photo:** Members of VFW Post 6216 performing a Memorial Day Service at the San Jose de Armijo Cemetery.



**Right photo:** Members of VFW Post 6216 and Auxiliary members pose for a picture prior to placing flags on the gravesites at the cemetery. (photos courtesy: Matt Goff)

## Albuquerque/The Rock at Noonday



At Albuquerque's *The Rock at Noonday* homeless shelter on the outskirts of downtown, homeless and near-homeless individuals were treated to a hot meal (*left photo*), hair cuts (*right photo*) free clothing, and assistance from various agencies. (photos courtesy: Joseph Luebbers/ NM Dept. of Workforce Solutions)

## Anthony/Doña Ana County



Members of VFW Post 4384 out of Anthony, NM, were busy at ceremonies in Anthony, Berino, La Mesa, and San Miguel. *(photos courtesy of Mike Cano/Commander, VFW Post 4384)*

## Belen (Eagle Park)



At Eagle Park in Belen, members of the Gold Star Families living in Valencia County laid a Memorial Day wreath and red roses to honor veterans no longer with us today. *(photo courtesy of the Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County.)*





VFW Post 11999 participated in three Memorial Day ceremonies in Lincoln County at the James Canyon, Mayhill, and Weed cemeteries.

**Left Photo:** Members of Post 11999 and Boy scouts of American Troop 958 posted the Colors at all three ceremonies.

**Right photo:** Boy Scout Troop 958 Member Yael Ruiz, VFW Post 11999 Service Officer Rich Stengel, Post 11999 Chaplain Tarry Morrow, and Post 11999 Commander Paul Benshoof at the Weed Cemetery Memorial Day ceremony. *(Photo courtesy: VFW Post 11999 Commander Paul Benshoof)*

## Clovis



U.S. Army Veteran Ben Salazar, the field representative for U.S. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez (CD-3), delivers remarks on her behalf at the Clovis Joint Veterans Council Memorial Day ceremony at Lawn Haven Memorial Gardens. *(photo courtesy: Ben Salazar)*



Members of the Civil Air Patrol Unit SWR-060 from Clovis placed American flags on gravesites of veterans at Mission Garden Cemetery. *(Photo courtesy: Angelito Cooper/Mission Information Manager, Cannon AFB)*



## Farmington



**Left photo:** In Farmington, DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley was a guest speaker at the annual “Flags of Remembrance healing Fields” Memorial Day ceremony. Dozens of 3’ x 5’ American flags are displayed on eight-foot poles on Memorial Day weekend on the Farmington Boys & Girls Club football field. *(Photo courtesy: Beverly Charley)*



**Right photo:** American Legion Post 93 had its annual Memorial Day weekend fundraising Poppy Drive at various locations in town. Pictured here is Post 93 Adjutant Lee Ann Lord staffing a table at the annual Riverfest weekend festival. *(Photo courtesy: Ralph Gregg, Sr./VFW Post 93 Commander)*

## Fort Bayard National Cemetery



**Left photo:** A Color Guard featuring members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 1328, American Legion Post 18, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 358 presented and then retired the Colors at the cemetery's annual Memorial Day ceremony. *(Photo courtesy: Al Gamboa/Marine Corps League Det. 1328)*



**Right photo:** Miniature American flags were placed by cemetery staff on the cemetery's gravesites. *(Photo courtesy: Phillip Torres/Fort Bayard National Cemetery Manager)*



## Grants (Grants Cemetery)



**Left photo:** The VFW Post 3221 Honor Guard provided a rifle volley and bugle rendition of *Taps* at the Grants Cemetery.



**Right photo:** Tim Chavez at the gravesite of his grandfather, U.S. Army Priv. 1st Class San Juan Chavez, who was killed in action while parachuting into Normandy on D-Day (June 6, 1944). Pfc Chaves was 24 years old. *(Photos courtesy: Tim Chavez)*

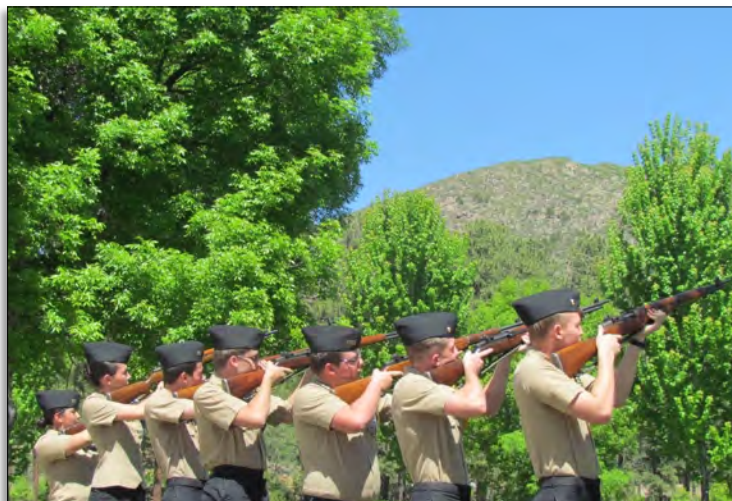
## Grants (Vietnam Veterans Memorial)



A small ceremony was held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the city of grants. A wreath was placed to honor the five service members of Cibola County who lost their lives during the Vietnam War: USMC Lance Cpl. Pat Salazar, Army Sgt. Jose Montoya, Army Spec. 4 Gerald Chino, Army Spec. 4 David Crawford, and USMC Priv. 1st Class Albert Curley. *(Photos courtesy: April Ball)*



## Los Alamos



Members of the Los Alamos High School JROTC Program presented & retired the Colors....and performed a rifle volley at the annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at the town's Guaje Pines Cemetery. *(Photos courtesy: Jim Mariner/American Legion Past National Historian)*

## Portales



At the Portales Cemetery, the annual Memorial Day ceremony this year focused on 20 members of the New Mexico National Guard from Roosevelt County who perished during the infamous Bataan Death March of World War II, or while in captivity after the march. The remains of one of the men, Priv. 1st Class Thomas Long, were just recently identified and were re-buried ten days after this ceremony *(more on this story on page 14)* *(Photos courtesy: Randy Dunson/American Legion Post 31 Commander)*.



# Santa Fe National Cemetery



New Mexico Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Miguel Aguilar, the adjutant general of New Mexico (*left photo*), and Albuquerque VA Regional Office Director Cesar Romero (*right photo*) spoke at the annual Memorial Day Cemetery at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. (*Photo credits: Left photo/New Mexico National Guard; right photo/Albuquerque VA Regional Office*)



**Left photo:** Members of American Legion Post 12 and the New Mexico National Guard presented the Colors at the ceremony (*photo credit: NM National Guard*)

American flags adorned the gravesites and columbarium walls throughout the cemetery. (*Lower left photo credit: Monica Martinez*)

(*Lower right photo credit: Col. Emily Perry/ U.S. Army-retired*)





## Socorro



At Isidro Baca Memorial Park in Socorro, New Mexico Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Jamison Herrera was the featured speaker at a ceremony at the park's Vietnam Veteran Memorial. The park is named after the Socorro native who, at 19 years old, was killed when his unit was ambushed on August 21, 1967. He had only arrived in Vietnam just six months earlier. *(Photo credit: The New Mexico National Guard)*

## Upper Fruitland (San Juan County)



Upper Fruitland Honor Guard members Risky Willie, David Newman, and Alvis Kee performed a flag-fold ceremony at the Kirtland-Fruitland Cemetery. It was the first Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery. The unit presented flags to several families of deceased veterans as a token of honor and respect from the Honor Guard. *(Photos courtesy: Alvis Kee/Upper Fruitland Honor Guard Coordinator)*



## Zuni Pueblo

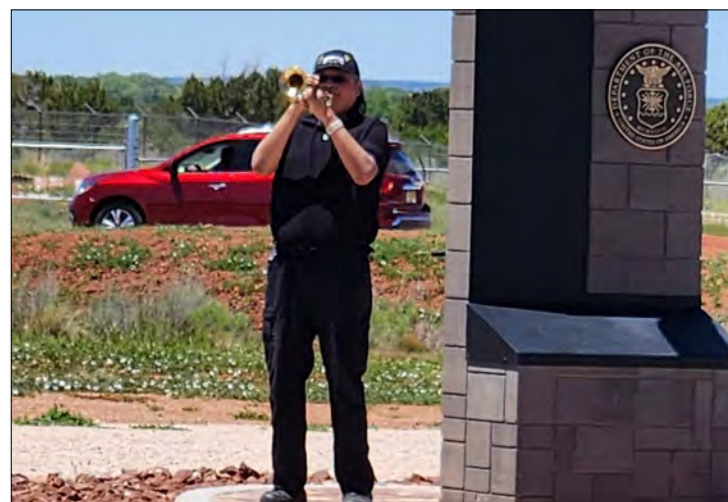


The Pueblo of Zuni hosted its annual Memorial Day ceremony for the first time at the Zuni Veterans Memorial Park—which opened and was dedicated last summer.

**Upper right photo:** Zuni Pueblo Governor Arden Kucate (*far right, in black coat*) and the rest of the crowd stood at attention for the opening of the ceremony. (*two upper photos courtesy of Angela Waseta-Rivera/Zuni Pueblo veterans' service officer*)

**Lower left photo:** Governor Kucate thanked fallen service members for the ultimate sacrifice made on behalf of our country, and thanks all who are no longer with us. Standing next to the governor is Program Director Tyler Lastiyano.

**Lower right photo:** Tribal member Todd Westika performed a bugle rendition of *Taps* towards the end of the ceremony. (*two lower photos courtesy of Carl Quam/Zuni Pueblo*)







## Remains of Bataan Death March Survivor Re-buried in Portales

The remains of World War II Bataan Death March survivor Thomas Vernon Long were laid to rest at the Portales Cemetery on June 8.

U.S. Army Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Long survived the infamous Bataan Death March that began on April 9, 1942—the date he and 1,800 fellow New Mexico National Guardsmen were among 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers forced by their Japanese captors to march 60

torturous miles to prison camps. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, Long died just four months into his imprisonment. He was 27 years old.

Remains believed to be those of Long were returned to the family back in Portales and interred in 1949. But ongoing excavations, and research by the Department of POW/MIA Accounting Agency in the Philippines, aided by DNA technology not available at the time, identified recently disclosed new remains as those of Long.

Attending the funeral was 96-year old Billie Jean Sawyer, Long's youngest sister. DVS State Benefits Division Director Ed Mendez attended the funeral and presented her with a state flag flown on the grounds of the state Capitol in Santa Fe in honor of her brother. Mendez also presented her with a condolence letter on behalf of DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana, who regrettably was unable to attend.



**PFC Thomas V. Long**  
Jan. 21, 2015– Aug. 28, 1942



The letter expressed the sincere condolences to the family on behalf of a grateful state and nation. It closed with “I hope that you can finally find closure and peace of mind now that Thomas is now back home, where he can finally rest in eternal peace.”

“ Freedom here in America does not come free. It has been protected by brave Americans like Army Private 1st Class Thomas Long, who sacrificed to serve and fight for it. On behalf of a grateful country, and the grateful citizens of New Mexico, I can assure this service and sacrifice by Thomas for our nation will never be forgotten.



## Highlights of the 2023 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference



DVS presented the 2023 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference in Albuquerque on June 10 at the Central New Mexico (CNM) Workforce Training Center. The conference was presented two days before National Women Veterans Day—June 12.

Breakfast and lunch were provided, featuring New Mexican fare catered by the venerable restaurant Garcia's Kitchen.

DVS was joined by representatives from the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) and the

Albuquerque VA Regional Office in presenting information about VA and state veterans benefits available not only to women veterans, but benefits and programs specifically for women veterans.

Women make up the fastest-growing segment of our nation's veteran population—accounting for about 11% (2,045,000) of our 18.5 million veterans. Here in New Mexico, 16,800 of our state's 144,100 veterans are women—a little over 11% of the veteran population.

“These numbers are projected to continue to rise every year,” said DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana during his welcome remarks (above photo). “It’s our job at DVS to be ready to serve these women...to be ready to help them as veterans—as women veterans.”

Keynote speaker United States Marine Corps Major Mariela Peña (*right photo*) urged women veterans not only file for these benefits they’ve earned, but to also believe themselves as women—as women veterans, specifically, and to help out other women.

“I want you to challenge the next crop of women currently serving,” said the native of Nicaragua whose family fled to the United States during the Sandinista-Contra wars. “Reach out to them. Help them if they need help. Inspire them to continue. This is the best way to ensure women continue to succeed not only in the military...but in life afterwards.”



Attendees were also able to obtain information about other services and programs from exhibit tables staffed by several veterans and community service organizations .

*(more photos on next page)*



The Colors were presented by the Women Veterans Warriors Color Guard



After the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, a version of our national anthem in Navajo was sung by Eriannah Holiday (2nd from left, in colorful skirt) from Ganado, AZ. The 10-year old is the reigning Miss Ganado Princess for the Ganado Unified School District. She represents the district and her Navajo heritage at many events in Arizona and New Mexico.

During lunch, a free-wheeling discussion about their experiences as women officers featured (from left to right) New Mexico Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Michelle La Montagne, retired Army Maj. Gen. Dee Ann McWilliams, and retired New Mexico Army National Guard Brig. Gen (and former DVS cabinet secretary) Judy Griego.







## Man on *Wounded Warriors Benefit* Cross-Country Motorcycle Ride Stops in New Mexico

A Dallas-area man on a cross-country motorcycle ride to raise awareness and money for the Wounded Warrior Project made a couple of stops in New Mexico on May 13.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana was on hand when Adam Sandoval stopped by Wicked West Harley

Davidson in Santa Fe (*above photo*). Secretary Quintana welcomed him to New Mexico and presented him with a New Mexico “challenge coin.”

Secretary Quintana and other DVS staff then greeted Sandoval later that morning at Thunderbird Harley Davidson in Albuquerque.

At both locations, Sandoval met with veterans, residents, and Harley-Davidson aficionados—posing for pictures, and encouraging [them to log on to his website](#) to follow his journey, and make donations to the Wounded Warrior Project (*right photo at Thunderbird Harley-Davidson/Sandoval is in the center*).



The trip is fueled by Sandoval’s regret of never having enlisted for military service—and to give back to those who did. He will stop at 120 Harley-Davidson dealerships on his trip—to coincide with this year being the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the iconic motorcycle company. Riders have joined him for segments of the journey.



Sandoval is also encouraging those in attendance at the locations to register to win the 2023 Anniversary Edition *Road Glide Special* he's riding on his journey, which will be raffled off when the trip—which began on April 22 in Arkansas—concludes on July 14 at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee, WI.





**Top left & right photos:** Adam Sandoval poses for pictures and chats with Harley Davidson aficionados at Wicked West Harley Davidson in Santa Fe.



**Left photo:** More Harley fans were at Thunderbird Harley Davidson for Sandoval's mid-morning appearance.

**Bottom right photo:** DVS State Benefits Division Director Ed Mendez was among a group of DVS staff at Thunderbird for any veterans in attendance that had questions about VA and state veterans' benefits.





## DVS Holds Local Veterans Community Briefing in Raton

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) hosted its latest Local Veterans Community Briefing on May 17 at the Colfax County Administration Building in Raton.

DVS division directors presented information about the agency's latest news—including updates on its Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program, and the half-scale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at its Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

Representatives from the New Mexico VA Medical System and the Albuquerque VA Regional Office talked about the PACT Act—the new law that expands VA health care to veterans who were previously denied coverage for health issues possibly linked to exposures to toxics during their military service. Vietnam War veterans can also now apply for possible Agent Orange-related health issues. There was also a presentation about VA home loans, and the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions office in Raton that helps employment-seeking residents in the region. [Click here](#) for a video of the presentation.



DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa talks about her program at the May 17 veterans' briefing in Raton.

## VBOC Outreach at the Santa Fe County Career/Resource Fair



New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Interim Director Johnny Martinez made an outreach stop at the Santa Fe county Career & Resource Fair on May 26 at the county fairgrounds. The VBOC is the business development division of DVS—providing free help for veterans, transitioning active-duty service members, and their spouses who are looking to start their own business or expand an existing operation. Appointments can be made by contacting Johnny at (505) 469-8501 or by email at [johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov).





## DVS Takes Part in Laguna Pueblo, Crownpoint PACT Act Town Halls

DVS staff have been busy this year meeting with veterans while attending PACT Act informational town hall meetings around the state.

On June 9, DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana and New Mexico VA Health Care System Director Robert McKenrick (*left photo*) spoke hosted by Laguna Pueblo at the Dancing Eagle Casino. The meetings present information to veterans about the PACT Act

signed into law last summer. It now opens up VA health care for veterans from as far back as the Vietnam War who suspect they're now suffering from health issues linked to exposure to toxic situations and materials. Click [here](#) for more information about the PACT Act.

State Benefits Division Director Edward Mendez and DVS Veterans' Service Officer/Northwest Region Supervisor Bobby Guinn were formally thanked by two veterans for stepping in to help at a PACT Act presentation on March 24 in Crownpoint.

Army veterans Tommy Yazzie and Bill K. Johnson were part of a four-person Color Guard tasked with posting the Colors for the opening of the Navajo Technical University Veterans' Resource Fair. But the unit was missing two people.

Mendez, a Navy veteran; and Guinn, an Army veteran, immediately offered to fill-in...and performed flawlessly. Their effort was noted in a letter sent by Yazzie and Johnson to the Navajo Nation president's office, the leadership at the VA Eastern Navajo Agency, the commander of the Crownpoint Veterans Organization, and DVS.

"Those two gentlemen, without asking, assisted us in presenting the colors," wrote Johnson in reference to DVS Director Mendez and Supervisor Guinn. "I personally want to thank these gentlemen. We will continue to recruit more personnel and instruct them on how to present The Colors."

"It was an honor for Bobby and me to assist with posting the Colors," said Mendez. "It just made the event all that much more special for us. We were glad we could help."



DVS NW Region VSO Supervisor Bobby Guinn (*far left*) and DVS State Veterans Benefits Director Ed Mendez (*second from left*) posting the Colors at the March 24 PACT Act Town Hall/Navajo Technical University Veterans Resource Fair.



## DVS Hosts Latest Native American Veterans Collaboration Briefing

DVS hosted its spring Native American veterans quarterly briefing on May 25 in Mescalero at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. The theme and focus of these briefings is *Building Relationships Between DVS and New Mexico's Pueblos, Nations, & Tribes*.

Representatives from pueblos and tribal nations were briefed by DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley about agency news, plans for the upcoming year—and most importantly, to emphasize DVS' commitment to working with Native American leadership, veterans' service organizations, and community service agencies to help the state's 7,700 Native American veterans. Most live in the 19 federally recognized pueblos in New Mexico, and four tribal nations: Mescalero Apache, Fort Sill Apache, Jicarilla Apache, and Navajo.

A key point stressed by Charley was a commitment by DVS to help train and certify representatives as veterans' service officers in Native American communities to help veterans in their areas. A lot of veterans living in pueblos and tribal nations live in rural areas and have difficulty getting to a DVS office. Spotty Internet and mobile phone coverage also makes it difficult for these veterans to access DVS help via computer or phone. And many have indicated a preference for working with someone from their own community who may be more familiar with pueblo or tribal customs and issues affecting their community.



Lunch was provided, and the briefing concluded with a trip to the nearby DVS-managed Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery, where 236 veterans are now interred since its opening in 2017. The group also visited the adjacent historical Fort Stanton Merchant Marine and Veterans Cemetery, where 1,500 merchant marines, Fort Stanton hospital employees, and tuberculosis patients are buried.





## Volunteers Join DVS Staff at “Bataan Building Shine-Up”

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 many 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.”

Geri Yahnozha’s father Homer was one of the 1,800 members the New Mexico National Guard’s 200<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment who found themselves thrust into the war when Japan attacked the Philippines on December 8, 1942. He survived the infamous Death March and 4-1/2 years of imprisonment before he and other prisoners of war were freed when Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945.

She felt compelled to help with the cleanup effort, she said, because the plaques and the building itself are powerful reminders of her dad—and she wants to help preserve them.

“He never talked about his experience for a long time after he came back,” she said. “But in his last few years alive, he opened up a little—saying I don’t know how I did it, but I’m glad I made it back home to New Mexico.”



Geri Yahnozha (at left) and DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans’ Service Officer May Chavez polishing a commemorative plaque at the southside entrance to the Bataan Memorial Building in downtown Santa Fe.





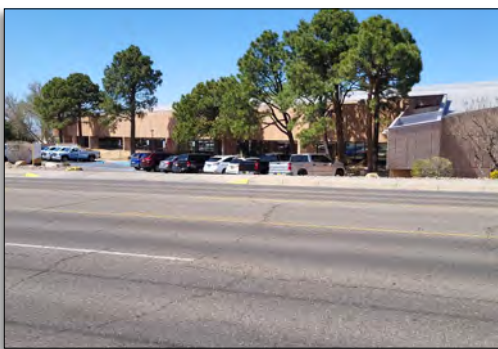


## Women Veterans of NM Help “Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful”



The Women Veterans of New Mexico came out on Saturday, May 13, to participate in the "Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful" event as part of the national "Great American Cleanup Day." The crew focused on the areas around State Route 528 and High Resort Boulevard SE.

*(photo courtesy: Pat Gaston/President, Women Veterans of New Mexico)*



## REMINDER: DVS Albuquerque Office Has a New Location

DVS has moved its Albuquerque satellite office to a new location: the Pinetree Corporate Center/Building 2, at 4801 Indian School Rd N.E. The office is about a quarter mile south of the Interstate 40/ San Mateo Blvd. exit and is next to the HB & Lucille Horn Family YMCA Center.

The spacious facility offers veterans and their eligible dependents a more central location for the DVS Albuquerque-based field services division, the four DVS Albuquerque-based veterans service officers, 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). The new DVS Albuquerque office is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Veterans are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment by calling the following divisions below:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • Field Services/veterans service officers | (505) 383-2400 |
| • Women Veterans Program                   | (505) 372-9106 |
| • Health Care Coordination Division        | (505) 318-6273 |
| • Veterans Business Outreach Center        | (505) 469-8501 |
| • State Approving Agency                   | (505) 280-1047 |





## Two Veterans Celebrate 100th Birthdays

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana helped celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of World War II Veteran Edward Duran on May 13.

More than 50 family members and friends attended a birthday lunch at Mr. Duran's home in Cuyamungue, about 15-minutes north of Santa Fe.

Secretary Quintana presented Mr. Duran, who was an Army sniper who saw action in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, with a New Mexico flag, a DVS Veteran's commemorative coin, and a birthday letter from him—which the secretary read aloud.

"I would like to extend my sincerest birthday wishes to you as you gather with loved ones to celebrate your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It takes an incredible amount of strength of body, mind, and spirit to reach the century mark. I have a tremendous amount of admiration for you for achieving this incredible milestone in life.

Five days later, Secretary Quintana wished a happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday to World War II & Korean War era veteran Robert Nolen on May 18. Secretary Quintana stopped by Mr. Nolen's Albuquerque home to present a New Mexico flag, a DVS Veteran's commemorative coin, and a birthday letter from him.



Mr. Nolen was infantryman in the Army's 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division who saw extensive combat action in Belgium. He dropped out of Texas A&M University in 1942 to immediately enlist, saying he felt compelled to serve and defend our country. Less than a decade later, Nolen re-enlisted and served during the Korean War as trainer/instructor of recruits here at home.

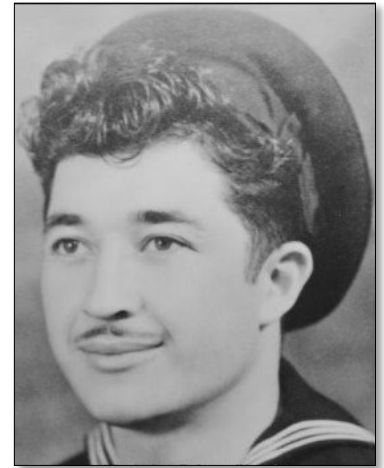
"I also have a tremendous amount of admiration and gratitude for your service for our country not once...but twice!", said Secretary Quintana as he read aloud his birthday letter to Nolen. "First, as a boots-on-the-ground U.S. Army forward scout and sniper in the Battle of the Bulge—moving ahead of the main force to scout the enemy up ahead; and then using your expertise from the great war to serve as a combat trainer during the Korean War. The lessons you learned in World War II no doubt helped our next generation of soldiers fighting against Communist forces on the Korean peninsula."



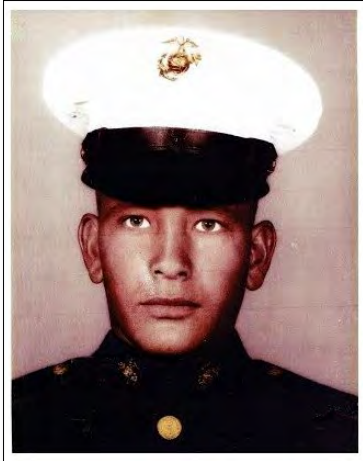
## Sandoval County Historical Society Honors Two “Hometown Heroes”

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana was invited to speak at a ceremony on May 26 honoring the two “hometown heroes”: one from World War II; the other from the Vietnam War.

The ceremony honored WWII U.S. Navy seaman 3<sup>rd</sup> class Arthur B. Jaramillo; who passed away in 1999 (*right photo*) ...



**Arthur B. Jaramillo**  
WWII USN S3



**Jesse Lucero**  
Vietnam War USMC LCpl

...and USMC Lance Cpl and Vietnam War veteran Jesse Lucero (*left photo*), who passed away in 1991.

The two natives of Sandoval County were honored by the Sandoval County Historical Society & Museum. At the ceremony, Secretary Quintana read aloud two letters he prepared that honored the men—thanking them and their families for their service and sacrifice for our country.

He concluded his presentation by presenting folded flags, DVS coins, and the letters he wrote and read aloud. Secretary Quintana also announced that three replacement Purple Heart Award medals will be arriving by the summer for the Lucero Family. Jesse had been awarded three Purple Hearts, which are presented to active-duty service members wounded in combat. The medals, according to the family, have been unaccounted for since his passing.



DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana presents a folded flag to Elizabeth Jaramillo Dalton, daughter of former USN S3 Arturo B. Jaramillo.



Secretary Quintana presents a folded flag to Natali Montoya, the goddaughter of USMC LCpl Jesse Lucero.



# 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.

# CREATING CALMNESS Resiliency Workshop

**DATE: Wed, June 21st, 2023**  
**Time: 6:00- 7:30 p.m.**



**American Red Cross**

New Mexico

## RESILIENCY WORKSHOP SERIES

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

**Offered FREE to all active duty, veterans, military family members**  
**Call: 505-262-6162 to RESERVE YOUR TICKETS.**



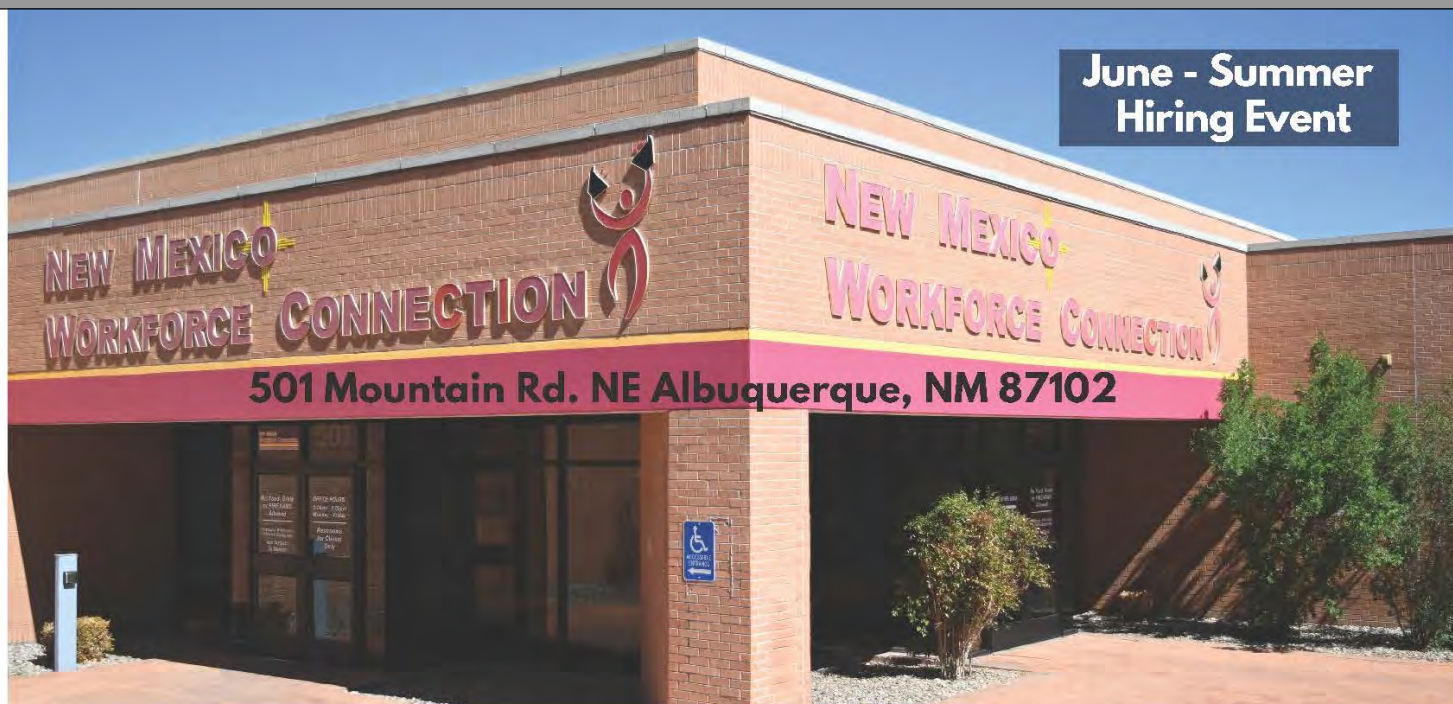
**RESERVE ONLINE**

<https://NMRedCross.eventbrite.com>



**American Red Cross**





**June - Summer  
Hiring Event**

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**



**WEDNESDAY  
June 21st  
9 AM - 12 PM**

**25+ Employers Will Be in Attendance!**

**WHERE?**

**501 Mountain Rd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102**

**Bring Resumes! Find a new career!**

- Get noticed by recruiters
- Apply for open positions
- Explore a variety of jobs
- Get hired

**New Mexico  
Workforce Connection**  
A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network



**VIEW OUR UPCOMING  
JOB FAIRS**

**Need help with your resume? Call 505-843-1900  
OR EMAIL NMWORKFORCECONNECTION@WCCNM.ORG**

Equal opportunity program in which auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

**Follow us**  
f i y t d in  
**@nmworkforce**





# Pine Hill Health Center Health Fair

**When?** : June 23, 2023 @ 9:00 am-4:30pm

**Where?** : Pine Hill School Gymnasium

Presentations/Booths from:



Also in Attendance:

Pine Hill EMS

Behavior Health

PH Wellness Center

Patient Benefits

VA Native American Veterans Program

And many others....



(Come out and enjoy Booths, Presentation, and Incentives)

**Education is Key in Understanding your Healthcare needs**



In Raton...June 25

New Mexico  
Workforce Connection

A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network



Northern Area Local  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD



New Mexico  
Department of  
WORKFORCE  
SOLUTIONS



Domino's



To register your  
business for this  
event scan this code



For more events and  
workforce training and  
employment information,  
like follow and share

# HIRING EVENT

Raton Convention Center

901 South 3rd St.

June 21st From 9-2

Dress for success

Bring Resume

Local Job Opportunities

For more Information contact the  
New Mexico Workforce Connection

Raton office at (505) 803 6931

WIOA Title I-financially assisted programs and activities are an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay New Mexico: 711 (Voice) or 1-800-659-8331 (TTY). FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Division of Behavioral and Mental Health Services presents:

# 2023 Operation Veterans Wellness

"Moving Forward, Healing Together"



Registration @ 11:30  
Start @ 12 noon  
Contact Cheryl Toledo  
(505) 722-9470  
\*\* FREE EVENT \*\*



**Friday, July 21, 2023**  
**10am - 4pm**  
**Gallup Sports Complex**  
925 Park Ave  
Gallup, NM 87301

**10:00am Presentation of Colors**

**10:15am Welcome Address**

**10:30am "What is Mental Health" Presentation**

**12:00pm Fun Run/Walk & Youth Activities**

**12:00pm-3:30pm Gourd Dance**  
(Please bring your own chairs)

Head Gourd Dancer: Travis King, US Army Veteran

Head Gourd Singer: Michael Coan, Turquoise Mountain Singers

MC: Michael Salabiye

**10:00am - 3:30pm Resource Fair (Non-Profit Organizations)**



CITY OF  
**GALLUP**



For more information call TJ Anderson @ (928) 551-1053

**\*\* THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT \*\***

**\*\* NO SOLICITING \*\***

**\*\* Sponsors not responsible for theft, accidents, injuries, etc \*\***



## WHY SHOULD I JOIN?

### You may help researchers to:

- Understand how genes, lifestyle, and environment influence health and wellbeing.
- Create better mobile apps to encourage healthy habits.
- Make new discoveries to advance health research for Veterans and for all of us!

**A healthier future.  
Let's work on it together.**



## HOW DO I JOIN?

1. Visit [VA.JoinAllofUs.org](http://VA.JoinAllofUs.org) (if you don't see a VA logo on this page, re-type the address)
2. Register using an email or cell phone number (you will need to have one of these readily available to verify your account)
3. Once you sign the Primary Consent form, click "Find a Partner" and select the VA closest to you
4. Review and sign the optional electronic health record (EHR) consent
5. Complete the Consent to Get DNA Results
6. Complete surveys found under "Program Opportunities"
7. Call the VA *All of Us* Information Center at (833) 805-0426 to set up an appointment for your physical measurements and blood draw, or for help

You can complete these steps during your appointment, but completing them on your own will shorten your appointment time.

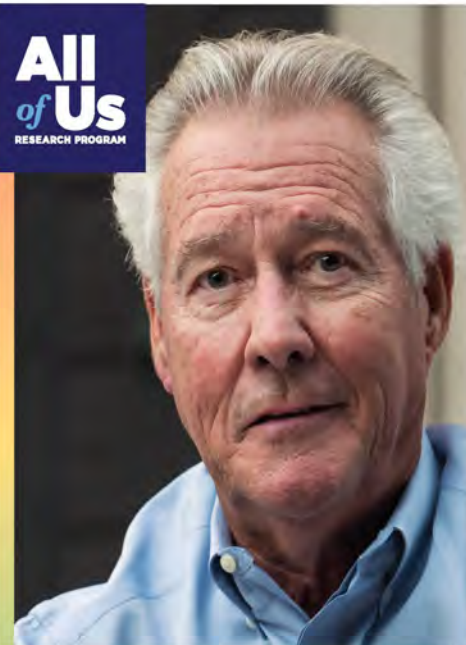
*All of Us* works closely with the Million Veteran Program (MVP), but is not the same program. You can join both.

## JOIN TODAY

**Veterans.JoinAllofUs.org**  
**(833) 805-0426**  
**allofus@va.gov**

*All of Us* and the *All of Us* logo are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**All  
of  
Us**  
RESEARCH PROGRAM



**Everybody's health  
tells a story.  
What's yours?**



**Veterans.JoinAllofUs.org**  
**(833) 805-0426**  
**allofus@va.gov**

## What can I expect from the program?

- You may receive DNA results
- You may learn more about your own health
- You will be able to contribute to public health research, such as research on the impact of COVID-19
- If you complete all the enrollment steps, you will receive \$25

### Precision medicine is health care that is based on each person.

It is made up of three factors:



#### ENVIRONMENT

Like where you live

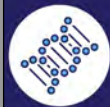
+



#### LIFESTYLE

Like what you eat

+



#### BIOLOGY

Your genes and family history

## The *All of Us* Research Program

The *All of Us* Research Program is a large research program. The goal is to help researchers understand more about why people get sick or stay healthy.

Researchers need you to join to make sure Veterans are represented in this important research. People who join will share information. This might be about their health, habits, and what it's like where they live. It might also be about family history and genes.

Your participation may help researchers to further health research, which may improve health for everyone. You may even learn more about your genes along the way.



## WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION WILL I GIVE?

You **will** be asked to:



Complete the Consent to Get DNA Results



Take online surveys



Share your electronic health records (EHR)

You **may** be asked to:



Give blood and urine samples



Have your physical measurement taken

This program will have new research activities that you may complete from time to time, either online or in person. You can choose to stop taking part in this research program at any time.



Join Veterans. JoinAllOfUs.org  
learn more.



## Veterans need your help!

### MYTH:

- The VA takes care of all Veterans

### FACTS:

- 60% of Veterans are not in the VA system
- Approximately 40% of those do not qualify
- There are an estimated 564,000 Veterans in Colorado, New Mexico & Wyoming
- About 338,400 are on their own, not belonging to any Veteran organization
- The majority have families who are also underserved



Since 2017, Qualified Listeners, a Colorado-based 501(C)3 nonprofit organization, has been filling the gaps in services. We are a Veteran and Family Resource Hub. We change lives, we impact lives, and we save lives. Our services are FREE to Veterans and their families, but it takes money to provide these services.

“

I'm an 84-year-old paraplegic Korean War Veteran. Qualified Listeners helped me get enrolled into the VA system. I now have mobility improvements in my home, including a new wheelchair, hearing aids, and a significant reduction in my prescription medications. This would not have happened without Qualified Listeners.

”

“

As a woman Veteran, I've not felt safe in talking about these things until I met Qualified Listeners.

”

“

I don't know what we would do without Qualified Listeners, we were stuck with no help until we met you.

”



Contact us to learn more

720-600-0860

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

P.O. Box 563  
Dacono, CO 80514

PO Box 2382  
Tijeras, NM 87059

## VETERAN & FAMILY RESOURCE HUB



We Help Veterans and Families Find  
More Peace In Their Lives



# What does Qualified Listeners do?

**WE HELP VETERANS AND FAMILIES FIND MORE PEACE IN THEIR LIVES!**

## ✓ LISTENING

To everyone who calls and can be followed by phone or in-person sessions, including, assisted living facilities or Hospice visitations.

## ✓ VET TRANSPORTS

Medical appointments or other necessary trips.

## ✓ FREE VETERAN & FAMILY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Printed and Online with quarterly updates. Over 11,000 in circulation in print and online.

## ✓ MOBILITY DEVICES & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Pickup and distribute donated goods.

## ✓ COORDINATE HOME, YARD, & AUTO REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

## ✓ PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING BURIALS

## ✓ DIRECTING PEOPLE TO SERVICES

Assistance with connecting to Veteran Service Offices, household budgeting help, home insurance, health insurance, & drug & alcohol abuse assistance.

## ✓ COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Including errands, gift cards, home modifications for mobility challenges, & housing.

## ✓ CONNECTING VETERANS TO MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS

## ✓ CONNECTING VETERANS TO JOBS & VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

## ✓ ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE VETERAN

Teach service providers to understand the actual needs of Veterans and their families, outside or inside the VA.

## ✓ CONNECTING VETERANS TO GROUPS

Including Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), PAMVET breakfast club, Monday morning Ken's coffee group, & Honor Flight programs.

## ✓ CONNECTING VETERANS TO OTHER VETERANS

By branch, by military job, & by era.

## ✓ HEALING THROUGH HELPING

Help our volunteers to learn the power of Healing through Helping

**WE CHANGE LIVES, WE IMPACT LIVES, WE SAVE LIVES.**

If you would like to volunteer, donate, or are seeking help, please contact Qualified Listeners today!

720-600-0860 | [QualifiedListeners.org](http://QualifiedListeners.org)  
P.O. Box 563 | Dacono, CO 80514  
PO Box 2382 | Tijeras, NM 87059



**SERVING COLORADO, NEW MEXICO & WYOMING**





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

### VA, National Nursing Groups Sign New Collective Bargaining Pact

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has signed a national master collective bargaining agreement with National Nurses Organizing Committee, National Nurses United (NNOC/NNU) — the union that represents more than 13,707 VA nurses.



The agreement will help VA's dedicated nurses continue delivering more care to more veterans than ever before in our nation's history. It will also help VA better retain nurses, hire nurses more quickly, improve the safety environment for nurses, and add the nurses required to implement the [PACT Act](#) — the largest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in decades.

VA nurses deliver world-class care to veterans every day. During [the pandemic](#), VA nurses helped provide more than 332 million health care appointments to Veterans, care for more than 870,000 Veterans with COVID-19, and vaccinate more than 4.4 million veterans. Thanks in large part to the work of VA's nurses, a recent [national review of more than 40 peer-reviewed studies](#) showed that VA care is consistently as good as – or better than – non-VA health care. And among the Veterans who receive their care from VA, approximately 90% trust VA to deliver their care – a testament to the work of VA nurses.

This agreement is a part of VA's broader efforts to support bargaining unit employees and execute [President Biden's Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment](#). More than 79% of all VA's public servants are bargaining unit employees, and VA is committed to supporting them as they serve our nation's Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

“Nurses are the bedrock of VA health care, saving and improving veterans' lives every day,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “This agreement with NNOC/NNU helps us hire, support, retain, and onboard VA's incredible nurses — which, in turn, will help us continue delivering world-class care to our nation's Veterans.”

The agreement with NNU will help VA continue its efforts to hire and retain nurses. In the first half of fiscal year 2023, VA hired 6,568 registered nurses, 1,216 licensed practical nurses, and 1,768 nursing assistants — more hires in these three critical occupations than at any time in the past 20 years. *(continued on next page)*

In total, VA expects to exceed its goal of hiring 10,678 nurses this year. These efforts build on additional hiring and retention efforts for nurses during fiscal year 2022, including raising wages for nearly [10,000 VA nurses](#) and increasing pay flexibility for nurses through PACT Act authorities. As a result of these efforts, nursing turnover rates at VA remain far lower than in the private sector.

This agreement with NNU follows [three key agreements](#) VA made with the National Federation of Federal Employees in February and a [tentative agreement with AFGE](#) in April.

Additionally, over the past two years, VA has taken several critical steps to support all bargaining unit employees, including 1) reestablishing the National Partnership Council, a forum for open communication between labor leaders and VA leadership; 2) restoring official time for doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and other Title 38 employees, meaning that these employees can use work hours to advocate on behalf of their bargaining unit coworkers; 3) reestablishing yearly and Semi-Annual Labor Management meetings with VA union partners; and 4) including the unions in critical employee-centric decisions, such as the creation of the [VHA Reduce Employee Burnout and Optimize Organizational Thriving Task Force](#) to address employee burnout



## Nationwide Patient Survey Shows VA Hospitals Outperform Non-VA Hospitals

According to [Medicare's latest nationwide survey of patients](#), VA hospitals outperformed non-VA hospitals on all 10 core patient satisfaction metrics — including overall hospital rating, communication with doctors, communication about medication, willingness to recommend the hospital, and more.

As a part of the survey, Medicare awards *star ratings* from one star to five stars, with “more stars representing better quality care.” Based on patient surveys between July 2021 and June 2022, 72% of VA hospitals received four or five stars for **Overall hospital rating** compared to 48% of reporting non-VA hospitals.

Additionally, VA hospitals received a higher percentage of four or five star ratings than non-VA hospitals for **Communication with doctors** (87% vs. 48%), **Communication with nurses** (59% vs. 35%), **Responsiveness of hospital staff** (63% vs. 34%), **Communication about medicines** (80% vs. 8%), **Cleanliness of the hospital environment** (69% vs. 52%), **Quietness of the hospital environment** (49% vs. 38%), **Discharge information** (65% vs. 55%), **Care transition** (76% vs. 35%), and **Willingness to recommend the hospital** (76% vs. 52%).





## 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

**May Chavez** (*ABQ metro supervisor*)

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr  
(505) 383-2400

[helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Austin Walker**

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr  
(505) 383-2400

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

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Hope Fryer**

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr  
(505) 383-2400

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

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**Ron Saavedra**

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr  
(505) 383-2400

[ronald.saavedra@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ronald.saavedra@dvs.nm.gov)

### 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** (*SE 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****Jimmy Saiz**

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) TBD

[jimmy.saiz@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jimmy.saiz@dvs.nm.gov)**Rio Rancho/Northwest NM****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) 372-9106

[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)