



# The Guardian

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

• Website: [www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org) • Facebook: [NMDVSHealthcare2015](https://www.facebook.com/NMDVSHealthcare2015) • Instagram: [newmexicoveterans](https://www.instagram.com/newmexicoveterans)

## PACT ACT Informational Town Hall Meeting on Aug. 7 in ABQ



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is joining the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) and the Albuquerque VA Regional Office (VARO) for a PACT Act information town hall meeting August 7 in Albuquerque.

The meeting is from 1pm-2:30pm at Central New Mexico Community College's Veterans Resource Center, at 717 University Avenue SE.



DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana, NMVAHCS Director Robert McKenrick, and VARO Director Cesar Romero will present information/answer questions about the PACT Act. The landmark federal law, passed in Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden last summer, finally opens up VA health care for veterans from as far back as the Vietnam War who now have health issues they believe are linked to exposure to toxic materials during their service.

The timing of this town hall is significant. While there is no deadline to file PACT Act claims to possibly receive VA health care, veterans who submit a claim or a notice of intent to file a claim by **August 9** may be eligible for retroactive compensation dating to last August 10, 2022, when the first PACT Act claims were processed. Veterans who cannot attend the town hall meeting can "attend" virtually by logging on to [Access.live/2022PACTActTownHall...](https://Access.live/2022PACTActTownHall...) or by phone at (855) 531-1092.



"This is one of the most significant pieces of veteran-related legislation ever signed into federal law," said DVS Secretary Quintana. "I strongly encourage any veteran who thinks they may have a condition related to their service to join us in person, online, or by phone. You'll find out what are these medical conditions, where the affected service areas are, and how to file a claim."

The August 7 town hall meeting is the latest in a series of informational meetings and presentations this summer by the three agencies to spread the word to as many veterans as possible about the landmark VA health care law. Meetings were held in Hobbs (Jul. 19), Santa Clara Pueblo (Jul. 19) Taos Pueblo (July 19), and Santa Fe (Aug. 1).

Additionally, DVS hosted a PACT Act/veterans' benefits fair presented by the NMVAHCS on July 13 at the DVS Albuquerque office. Veterans who stopped by were able to file PACT Act or general VA health care claims or apply for state veterans' benefits.



Albuquerque VARO Change Management Agent Michael Nelson (*in blue shirt*) discussing matters with a couple that stopped by the July 31 Veterans Benefits Fair.



DVS Albuquerque Veterans Service Officer Austin Walker (*middle*) and DVS Albuquerque Region VSO Supervisor May Chavez answered questions about state veterans' benefits.

## DVS Staff Gives a Benefits Presentation at an Albuquerque Retirement Community



DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana (*standing, top-center in left photo*) was joined by several DVS staff to give a veterans' benefits presentation at the invitation of the Del Webb at Mirehaven Retirement Community in Albuquerque's west side on July 25.

There is a sizeable veteran population among the residents of the 55+ gated community. Many who attended were grateful for the information—admitting they've put off learning about and registering for their benefits. DVS has been invited to return in the fall for the benefit of those who did not

attend—but heard great reviews from their fellow veterans who were there.



## VETERANS BENEFITS

## DVS VSO Outreach in August

DVS veterans' service officers are scheduled to make veterans benefits outreach stops in August at the locations listed below.

Veterans or their eligible dependents can drop by to get information about or help with filing VA claims,

applying for state veterans benefits, or assistance with any other issues a veteran needs help with. Please bring a copy of your DD-214, which is necessary for filing all veterans' benefits claims. As a reminder, veterans or their eligible dependents can always make an appointment with any VSO at any of the 16 DVS field offices for in-office or virtual assistance. Please go to the last two pages of this newsletter for office locations and VSO contact information.

Aug. 7	Albuquerque-VA Hospital Lobby	1501 San Pedro Drive SE	8am-4pm
Aug. 9	Upper Fruitland Chapter House	Fruitland, NM	6pm-7:30pm
Aug. 9	Deming Veterans Food Bank	4045 Overhill Drive NW	11am-2pm
Aug. 16	Ft. Bayard Medical Center Lobby	41 Fort Bayard Road	10:30am-11:30am
Aug. 17	Artesia-United Veterans Hall	402 West Hermosa St.	9am-3:30om
Aug. 18	Eunice Public Library	1003 Avenue N	830am-11:30am
Aug. 18	Jal Public Library	100 East Utah Ave.	1pm-4pm
Aug. 21	Albuquerque-VA Hospital Lobby	1501 San Pedro Drive SE	8am-4pm
Aug. 23	Deming Senior Center	800 South Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Aug. 24	Lovington Public Library	115 Main St.	8:30am-11:30am
Aug. 24	Tatum Public Library	323 East Roadway St.	1pm-4pm
Sep. 4	Albuquerque-VA Hospital Lobby	1501 San Pedro Drive SE	8am-4pm

## Follow DVS on Facebook & Instagram!

In addition to *The Guardian*, the DVS website, and direct emails, DVS has a Facebook and Instagram account—both of which feature stories and information not always disseminated by the three aforementioned sources. Make sure you regularly log on to these two social media sources for more information!

*DVS Facebook Account*



[NMDVSHHealthCare2015](#)

*DVS Instagram Account:*



[NewMexicoVeterans](#)

## Podcast Focuses on a Half-Scale Replica of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall In Angel Fire

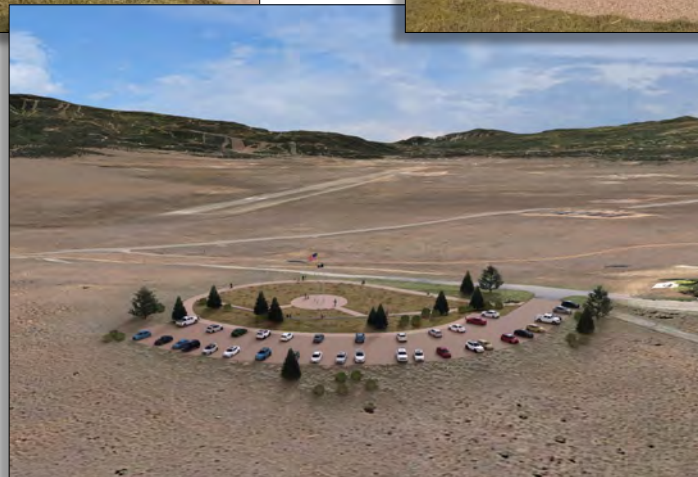
DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana (top/center of table) and members of the Vietnam Veterans of America/New Mexico Chapter recorded a podcast with Host Michael Croan on July 18 at the DVS-managed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.



Croan is the producer of the popular podcast *Echoes of the Vietnam War* that features powerful stories relating to the Vietnam War--told by Vietnam War veterans themselves. The topic of this podcast is the building of a half-scale replica at Angel Fire of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall--as well as a history of the Angel Fire monument. The podcast can be found at

Also in the photo/clockwise, after Secretary Quintana: DVS State Benefits Director Edward Mendez, Vietnam Veterans of America/New Mexico Chapter Vice President Jerry Martinez, Michael Croan, VVA NM President Jake Lopez, and VVA Northern NM Chapter 996 member Roger Blanco. The VVA chapter has been instrumental in helping to launch the half-scale replica project.

(below are artist renditions of the half-scale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall being built at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire



## Company Donates Trees to the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery



DVS would like to thank *Trees of Corrales* for donating 28 Patmore Ash trees to the Angle Fire State Veterans Cemetery. The trees have been planted along the main entrance to the cemetery. Once they mature and bloom, they will provide a beautiful framed path leading to the cemetery.

“Please know that your donation will truly enhance the visitation of families visiting their fallen loved ones,” wrote DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana in a formal thank you letter to the company. “For this, my staff and I will always be grateful to you for your generosity.”

## Albuquerque Senior Citizens Take Special Rail Runnter/Shuttle Trip to the Santa Fe National Cemetery

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana (*photo/at right*) and Santa Fe National Cemetery Assistant Director Denise Baker greeted a group of 28 senior citizens from Albuquerque making a special trip to the cemetery.



Rail Runner officials, led by Marketing/Community Outreach Director Marie Morra, organized the trip for these residents from eight assisted living facilities. The seniors took the Rail Runner Commuter Train to the Santa Fe Depot, where Santa Fe Trails shuttle buses were waiting to bring the group to the cemetery. The trip provided these residents—most of whom do not have transportation options—the opportunity to visit the gravesites of their veteran spouses or family members. Secretary Quintana thanked them and their departed family members for their service and sacrifice for our country.



# New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

## Military Honors Fall Training Conference and Competition 2023



**DATE:** Friday, August 25, 2023

**TIME:** 0800-1600

**LOCATION:**

New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park

1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

**POC:** Diana Myklebust, NMDVS 505-231-8911





DVS Secretary Donnie Quintana (*center-right, in gray coat*) was among the invited guests attending the tribute to Civil Rights activist Miguel H. Trujillo on August 3 at Isleta Pueblo.

## DVS Staff Attends Ceremony Honoring Former U.S. Marine & Civil Rights Activist

DVS staff attended a ceremony on August 3 at the Isleta Pueblo and Resort honoring the late civil rights activist Miguel H. Trujillo.

The Isleta native, who passed away in 1998, was a United States Marine who served our country during World War II and became a school teacher shortly after returning when the war ended.

In 1948, Trujillo tried to vote—but was disallowed due to a provision in the New Mexico Constitution that denied Native Americans the right to vote. This angered the Isleta resident—a U.S. citizen who had

recently risked his life to fight back against the country that attacked and declared war upon America. He successfully filed a lawsuit that overturned the Constitutional provision, and is credited with opening the door for all pueblo residents to vote.

Trujillo was posthumously presented the 2022 Margaret Chase Smith American Democracy Award for political courage for his work championing Native American voting rights. The award was accepted by his granddaughter, Patricia Abeita, this past February at the National Association of Secretaries of State's 2023 Winter Conference.



**Miguel H. Trujillo**  
*Civil Rights Activist*



**L TO R:** DVS Pueblos & Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley, DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa, DVS/VBOC Director Johnny Martinez, and 99-year-old WWII Navajo Code Talker Thomas H. Begay...one of only three surviving Navajo Code Talkers.



## DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Addresses Women's Summit in Albuquerque

DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa was among the speakers at a *Women Building Women Summit* on August 5 in at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque.

This inaugural summit focused on the empowerment of women—both in blazing trails at work, and

helping other women along the way. Figueroa, a former U.S. Army sergeant and combat medic who was deployed to Kuwait and South Korea, was joined by other women executives and visionaries to talk about their paths to success, and pass along advice and lessons learned along the way. A common theme was the importance of always believing in yourself. The summit was put together by Deanna Anaya, a former DVS state benefits division business operations specialist who now works at the New Mexico Department of Vocational Rehab.

"I've received tremendously positive feedback from the attendees," she said. "A lot of ideas were presented, and friendships were made and renewed. I hope to make this an annual event."

Among the speakers were (*above photo, from Left to Right*):

**Priscilla Smith**, a visionary leader making waves in the beauty industry as the CEO of Paixxão in Albuquerque, and the founder of *Passion's Story*.

**DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa**

**Summit Organizer Deanna Anaya**

**Michelle Rios-Rice**, a social worker and women's issues motivational speaker

**Marsie Silvestro**, CEO of InspHERational—a non-profit organization that specializes in developing planning, leadership, and empowerment.

**Neema Pickett**, a business consultant and trainers at WESST/Albuquerque who helps small businesses develop and grow.

## Help For Women Veterans

Women veterans who need assistance with anything from filing VA claims...to finding housing, employment and counseling...or anything else can contact DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa at (505) 372-9106 or [theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov)

# Veterans Community Bulletin Board

The following page(s) feature event and informational flyers provided to DVS by veterans and community service agencies. These flyers are published for the convenience of New Mexico's veteran community. Inclusion in *The Guardian* does not constitute an endorsement by DVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

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

Please note:

- Flyers must have the name of a point-of-contact from the organization...along with the contact's phone number or email address. Flyers without this information will not be published.
- DVS is not responsible for the accuracy of the content, products, or services in these flyers.
- Views expressed in these flyers are the independent views of the authors/owners of the third-party entity that created the flyer—and does not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, DVS expressly denies liability for any and all losses suffered by any persons or organizations who, in their independent discretion and reliance, either directly or indirectly rely on content, products, services or information offered by these independent third-party organizations.
- DVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.

# Removing the Stigma

a series of talks surrounding mental health



Presented by:

**EOD WARRIOR**  
FOUNDATION™

**Thursday, August 17th at 5:00 PM**

**Bombs Away Beer Company**

**9801 Acoma Rd**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87123**

*Panelists include Veteran Marine Corps EOD Veteran, **Dave Moran***

*Rick Iannucci & Nancy De Santis, Horses for Hero's*

*Jaime Galardo, Financial Enabler*

*Opening Remarks by **Maria Schabla**, EOD Warrior Foundation*

**More information on the next page...**



Removing the Stigma surrounding Mental Health in the EOD community

***“Mental health is health – period. It's on all of us to end the stigma of asking for help and support when we or someone we know is feeling distressed, anxious, or isolated. Reaching out is a marker of strength and resilience.”***

***Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III  
October 2022***

The Removing the Stigma panel discussion was designed to facilitate an open dialogue on the importance of mental health and the struggles that EOD technicians and their families face serving our country in one of the most dangerous career fields in the military.

The panel discussion centers around an EOD technician sharing their personal story and how they are taking care of their mental health. Experts in the Mental Health field provide relevant information and resources available for warriors and their families and the discussion concludes with an interactive question and answer session with our panelists, followed by food and drinks.

***“Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is  
the bravest thing that we will ever do.”  
Brené Brown***

This is a live event and will be broadcast via zoom to allow geographically remote individuals to attend and participate in the Q & A session. The talks will be shared to social media as a podcast and uploaded to the EOD Warrior Foundation YouTube page.

The event concludes with food & drinks provided by the foundation and recruitment for a POC to spearhead the monthly event

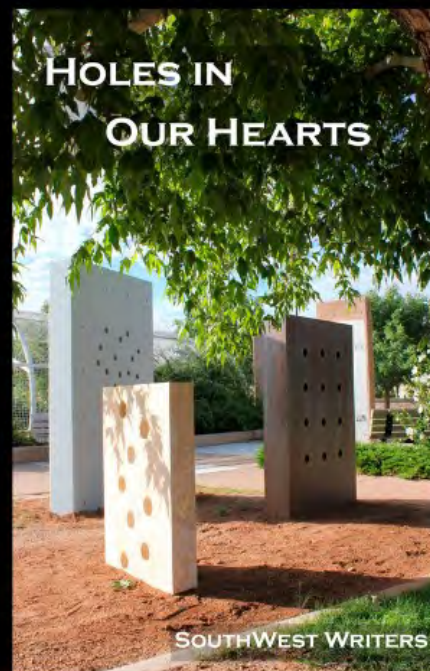
Locations:

Colorado Springs, Colorado – July 11<sup>th</sup>

Kaneohe, Hawaii – July 20<sup>th</sup>

Albuquerque, New Mexico – August 17<sup>th</sup>

San Diego, California – September 22<sup>nd</sup>



# NEW MEXICO ARTS & THE MILITARY

## **2024 MINI GRANTS**

### Call For Proposals



More information on the next page...

Based on the successes of the inaugural round of mini grant funding to NM organizations, New Mexico Arts, the state's arts agency, announces the Arts & The Military 2024 Mini Grants funding opportunity for arts organizations and veteran-focused organizations to create or expand opportunities for veterans and active-duty service members to engage with the arts.

-----

New for 2024 -> More Money! – Mini grants amount increased to \$2,500. > More Time! – Earlier announcement, Earlier deadline means more time to implement your project. We anticipate projects can be started in January 2024 and completed before June 30, 2024. > Less Administrative Burden! – Only 8 short answer questions, 2 pages. Submit proposal as a PDF document. No online account needed.

-----

Proposed projects should serve military and veteran audiences – including active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard members, veterans, their families and caregivers, and others. Projects could fall into three categories: Learning-Based, Audience-Based, or Capacity Building.

-----

Eligible applicants should be Federal 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations, units of government, schools, colleges, universities, and Indian tribal government entities. Organizations receiving New Mexico Arts funding in other grant programs can also apply for this Arts and the Military Grant opportunity. Deadline to apply: 5pm (MST) October 6, 2023

-----

Find the 2024 Arts & the Military Application and Guidelines at [www.nmarts.org/nma-military/](http://www.nmarts.org/nma-military/)

-----

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

**#Veteran-**

**Artists #Writing #VeteranWriters #WarriorWriters #arttherapyforveterans #arttherapyheals #veteran #veteranmentalhealth #veteranspouses #veteransupport #veteranmusic #veteranart #veteransongwriting #nmveterans #veterans #veterancommunity #veteransupport #militaryartist #veteransartist**



# Community Career Fair

Sponsored by Goodwill Industries of New Mexico



## Need a Job?

Dress for success and bring resumes!

**WHERE:** Goodwill  
5000 San Mateo Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

**WHEN:** Wednesday Aug. 9th, 2023  
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Questions? Please Call!

**505-314-1816**

### Featured Employers Include:

Seedcrest  
Alorica  
T-Mobile  
Resource MFG  
Albuquerque Convention Center  
Clearly Clean Janitorial  
Mike's Quality Painting

Associated General Contractors  
Pizza Nine  
City of ABQ-Security Division  
Goodwill NM  
San Bar Construction  
KBS Services  
Albertson's

ISLETA RESORT & CASINO

# NOW HIRING! CAREER FAIR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023  
10AM - 3PM • TRIPLE SEVENS

SELECTED FOOD & BEVERAGE  
POSITIONS FOR 16 YEARS & OLDER

*On the Spot  
Interviews and Hiring!*

## Join our Team

Extremely competitive benefits including Health & Wellness,  
Free Employee Dining, Career Advancements, PTO to include birthdays  
and much more!



**SPIN THE WHEEL FOR A PRIZE  
WHEN OFFERED A POSITION!**



**APPLY TODAY AT ISLETA.COM!**

11000 BROADWAY SE ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87105 • 505.724.3907



# Valencia County Career Fair



**Wednesday  
August 16th  
10 AM - 1 PM**

**WHERE? Los Lunas Transportation Center  
101 Courthouse Road, Los Lunas NM 87031**

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

- Albertsons
- Ambercare
- Arcosa Wind Towers
- AutoZone
- Blattner Energy
- City of Albuquerque - Albuquerque Police Department
- Core Civic
- Los Lunas Public Schools
- Manpower New Mexico
- Niagara Bottling, LLC
- NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Resource MFG/Select Staffing
- Sheet Metal Air Rail & Transportation Workers Local 49
- Valencia County Sheriff's Office
- Village of Los Lunas
- VIP Staffing
- Wall Colmonoy Corporation

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

Scan the QR Code to see  
all of our Hiring Events!



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

**Want to learn about exact job openings? Call us at 505-588-1571  
Or visit NM Workforce Connection in Los Lunas: 121 Don Diego Dr. SE, Los Lunas, NM 87031**

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

**FOLLOW US**



**@NMWORKFORCE**

# BERNALILLO CAREER FAIR

**THURSDAY**  
**August 17th**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

Town of Bernalillo  
**MARTHA LIEBERT  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

**WHERE? Martha Liebert Main Library**  
**134 Calle Malinche, Bernalillo, NM 87004**  
**Bring Resumes • Find a new career**

- Rio Rancho Events Center
- Santa Ana Star Casino
- Kelly Services
- Storehouse West
- Albertsons
- Goodwill Industries of New Mexico
- Streamline Services
- Road Runner Health Care
- NM Rural Water Association
- And more...

- **Get noticed by recruiters**
- **Apply for open positions**
- **Explore a variety of careers**
- **Get hired!**



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

**Want to learn about exact job openings? Call us at 505-771-2160 Or visit our NM Workforce Connection in Rio Rancho: 4061 Ridge Rock Rd. SE, Rio Rancho NM 87124**  
**[www.wccnm.org](http://www.wccnm.org)**

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

**Job Seekers  
Register Here!**



**FOLLOW US**



**@NMWORKFORCE**



# VETERAN HIRING & RESOURCE EVENT

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

New Mexico  
Workforce Connection

*A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network*

**111 N. MAIN ST**

**CLOVIS, N.M. 88101**

**Community Call to Action Employers and Resources needed!**  
**Please Book at link below to secure a spot to attend as an  
Employer or Resource:**

**<https://calendar.app.google/bbjG4jmZq1F7JBKY9>**



# Save THE Date

NEW MEXICO WORKFORCE CONNECTION  
LAS VEGAS CITY WIDE HIRING EVENT

FRIDAY  
AUGUST

9 AM | **25** | 6 PM  
2023

RSVP NOW TO SAVE YOUR TABLE

New Mexico  
Workforce Connection

A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network



# Juvenile Detention Center **RAPID HIRE** JOB FAIR



**BE THE CHANGE!**

**APPLY ON SITE**

Help contribute to the health of our community by being a positive role model for youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Youth Services Center  
(Juvenile Detention Facility)**

is seeking compassionate adults who want to make a difference in the lives of youths and their families.

**OPEN POSITIONS**

Youth Program Officer I & II

**\$2k Hiring Incentive  
Full Health Benefits  
Lucrative Retirement**

**AUG 26<sup>TH</sup> 2023  
10 AM - 2 PM**

**5100 SECOND STREET NW  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87107**

# Virtual Information Session



Explore careers and connect with Division Directors

**Monday, August 28th, 2023**  
**9:00 AM–12:00 PM**

**NEW MEXICO FORESTRY DIVISION**  
**9:00 AM–9:30 AM**

**NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS**  
**9:30 AM–10:00 AM**

**NEW MEXICO MINING AND MINERALS**  
**10:00 AM–10:30 AM**

**NEW MEXICO ENERGY CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT**  
**10:30 AM–11:00 AM**

**NEW MEXICO OIL CONSERVATION**  
**11:00 AM–11:30 AM**

**Register in advance to  
secure your spot!**

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



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

**CONTACT US:**  
Earl Nieto  
[Earl.Nieto@emnrd.nm.gov](mailto:Earl.Nieto@emnrd.nm.gov)  
(505) 479-1910  
[www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us)



New Mexico  
**Workforce Connection**

A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network



**Hiring Event  
with 45+ Employers!**

## Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center

 **501 Elizabeth St SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123**  
**August 30th, 2023 9 AM - 12 PM**



### Positions available:

- Accounting Technician
- Americorps Youth Development Professional
- Application Engineer
- Application Engineering Manager
- Before School Site Coordinator
- Carpenter
- Clinical Liaison
- Computer IT Specialist
- Customer Support
- Electrician
- Equipment Maintenance Technician
- General Maintenance
- IT Clinical Project Manager
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Manager Informatics
- Millwork Operation Project Manager
- Nurse Manager (RN)
- Occupational Therapist
- Project Engineer
- Safety Manager
- Senior Data Analyst
- Sr. Proposal Coordinator
- Utility Foreman
- Van Driver
- And more.....

### Top 8 Occupations Hiring:

- Administrative
- Customer Service
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Education
- Landscaping
- Manufacturing
- Medical

### Resource Organizations

- WIOA/Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act
- NM Department of Veterans Services
- VBOC Department of Veterans' Services
- SBDC of New Mexico
- NM Apprenticeship Program

**Need help with your resume?**

**Call 505-843-1900 OR EMAIL:**

**NMWORKFORCECONNECTION@WCCNM.ORG**

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

**VIEW OUR UPCOMING  
JOB FAIRS**



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

Follow us  





  
**@nmworkforce**



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



### VA Expands Breast Cancer Screenings and Mammograms for Veterans With Potential Toxic Exposures

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that veterans under 40 who may have been exposed to burn pits and other toxins during their service are now eligible for breast cancer risk assessments and mammograms (as clinically appropriate) at VA facilities.

Veterans are eligible for these screenings regardless of age, symptoms, family history, and whether they are enrolled in VA health care. Generally, VA follows American Cancer Society guidelines for breast cancer screenings, meaning that – aside from those covered by this new policy – most veterans become eligible for screenings and mammograms at age 40. This potentially life-saving expansion advances President Biden’s Unity Agenda and drives progress toward the goals of the Biden [Cancer Moonshot](#).

VA is expanding eligibility for breast cancer risk assessments and clinically appropriate mammograms as a part of implementing the [Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act](#). Dr. Hendricks Thomas was a Marine Corps veteran who deployed to Iraq in 2005, where she was exposed to burn pits. In 2018, she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer before passing away on April 5, 2022, at the age of 42.

“We at VA are expanding breast cancer screenings for toxic-exposed veterans because early detection saves lives,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This is an important step toward making sure that breast cancer is diagnosed early, treated early, and — hopefully — sent into remission early.”

These services are available to veterans who served in the following places and timeframes:

*(continued on next page)*

- Iraq between Aug. 2, 1990, and Feb. 28, 1991, and from March 19, 2003, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in Iraq.
- The Southwest Asia theater of operations, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar (but not including Iraq), from Aug. 2, 1990, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in such locations.
- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen from Sept. 11, 2001, until VA determines burn pits are no longer used in such locations.
- Other locations and time periods as determined by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

The risk assessment is a series of questions about a patient's toxic exposure(s), family medical history, and other risk factors to determine whether they should have a mammogram. Getting screened for breast cancer is an important part of maintaining overall health, and mammograms are the best way to find and treat breast cancer early, when there is a 99% survival rate. That's why early detection is a central pillar of the [Biden Cancer Moonshot](#), which is mobilizing efforts toward achieving two clear goals: to prevent more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047, and to transform the experience of people who are touched by cancer.

Breast cancer is also a presumptive condition under the [PACT Act](#), the largest expansion of Veterans care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law August 10, 2022, VA has delivered more than \$1.6 billion in PACT Act-related benefits to veterans and their survivors, and more than 4 million veterans have received VA's new [toxic exposure screening](#). VA encourages all toxic-exposed veterans and their survivors to apply for their PACT Act-related benefits today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Veterans who are interested in the breast cancer risk assessment screenings can contact their VA primary care provider or reach out to their local VA medical center. Veterans can enroll in VA health care [here](#).

## Expanding Mammography Screenings through the SERVICE Act

—Separate from the PACT Act, the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments (SERVICE) Act also expands toxic-exposure eligibility for veterans who served overseas.

—Signed into law on June 7, 2022, the SERVICE Act expands eligibility for clinically appropriate mammography screening to Veterans, of any age, who served in the following locations (does not include bodies of water around or air space above the following):

*(continued on next page)*

**Iraq**

- AUG 2, 1990 – FEB 28, 1991
- MAR 19, 2003 – until burn pits are no longer used

**Southwest Asia theater of operations including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar**

- AUG 2, 1990 – until burn pits are no longer used

**Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen**

- SEP 11, 2001 – until burn pits are no longer used

**Other locations and corresponding periods**

- as set forth by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR)

**Such other locations and corresponding periods**

- as VA, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, may determine appropriate

The SERVICE Act does not change health care enrollment or claims and benefits application requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Theresa Figueroa at (505) 372-9106 or [theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:theresa.figueroa@dvs.nm.gov).



## VA and NAACP Announce Partnership to Improve Quality of Life for Black and Minority Veterans

VA and the NAACP have announced an agreement to work together to advance and improve the quality of life for all veterans--including minority Veterans.

As a part of the partnership, VA and the NAACP will seek to increase the number of Black veterans enrolled in VA health care, increase awareness of VA benefits and services among Black veterans, and increase recruitment of culturally-competent providers at VA. VA and the NAACP will also meet regularly, share expertise and knowledge, and coordinate on outreach to minority veteran communities.

“At VA, it’s our mission to serve all veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors as well as they’ve served our country,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This historic partnership with the NAACP will help us deliver on that promise, enhancing our outreach to Black veterans and helping ensure that we provide every veteran with the world-class care and benefits they deserve.”

“As we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the integration of our armed forces, we must acknowledge the fact that Black veterans have not always received the just treatment they deserve,” said **NAACP & CEO Derrick Johnson**. “That’s why the NAACP is proud to embark on this historic partnership with VA to further our commitment to ensuring that representation does not come without respect. We look forward to all that we’ll accomplish together on behalf of our Black veterans.”

This partnership will be critical to VA’s goals to eliminate barriers and inequalities for veterans who have historically been underserved, and to provide world-class care and benefits to all veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. As a part of these efforts, VA also recently [created](#) a new Agency Equity Team – known as the I\*DEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Council – which is responsible for helping VA improve outcomes for historically underserved veterans, identifying and eliminating any disparities in VA health care and benefits, creating and implementing a VA Equity Action Plan, listening to and learning from historically underserved Veteran communities, and more. The Council is also working to eliminate disparities and barriers to recruit, hire, develop, promote, and retain employees, including those from historically underserved communities.

Data recently released by VA shows that since 2017, VA has delivered disability compensation benefits to a higher percentage of Black veterans than other veterans. However, grant rates for Black veterans were lower. Through this partnership and VA’s Agency Equity Team, VA is actively looking into these differences and working to address them.



## DVS Field Offices in New Mexico

DVS has field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally accredited veterans service officers. DVS VSOs 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: VSOs can also provide help by phone or email to any veteran or eligible dependent needing help from anywhere in New Mexico.**

### 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

**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)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

(temporarily vacant)

### Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

**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.

(505) 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)