



The Guardian

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

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

DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program Expands Service in Western New Mexico

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Highly Rural Transportation Program (H RTP) has now expanded to include service to veterans living on western New Mexico Native American tribal land.

The program now serves veterans living in Acoma, Laguna, and Zuni pueblos—all three of which have parts or are entirely located in Cibola County. Service is also now available for the Cibola County town of Ramah, and Alamo in Socorro County.

The new areas are in two of the 15 counties served by this program that provides free round-trip rides for veterans to and from their home--and medical appointments at any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility or approved/eligible non-VA facility. It is funded by VA's Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas Grant, which can only be used for addressing transportation solutions in counties VA defines as "highly rural"—those with seven or fewer veterans per every 1,000 square miles.

The remaining 13 VA-defined highly rural counties in New Mexico served by the H RTP are: Catron, Colfax, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Sierra, Torrance, and Union.

The lack of transportation for medical appointments, according to DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Brig. Gen. Jamison A. Herrera, is a reason why many rural-area veterans neglect their health care needs. He said it is especially troublesome for many veterans living on tribal land.

"Public or private transportation agencies often don't have the ability or the authorization to serve tribal areas," said Secretary Herrera. "DVS has taken the necessary steps to ensure that veterans in the eligible counties have a safe and reliable way to get the health care they need."

Reservations Are Required

DVS has contracted with licensed private transportation companies to provide this free round-trip service. Veterans in the eligible counties can make a reservation by calling the DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program reservation number at (505) 429-5906 Monday- Friday from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

(continued on next page)

Reservations must be made at least three (3) days before a scheduled appointment at a VA or VA-eligible medical facility. On the day of the appointment, drivers will remain at or in the vicinity of the medical facility for the duration of the appointment.

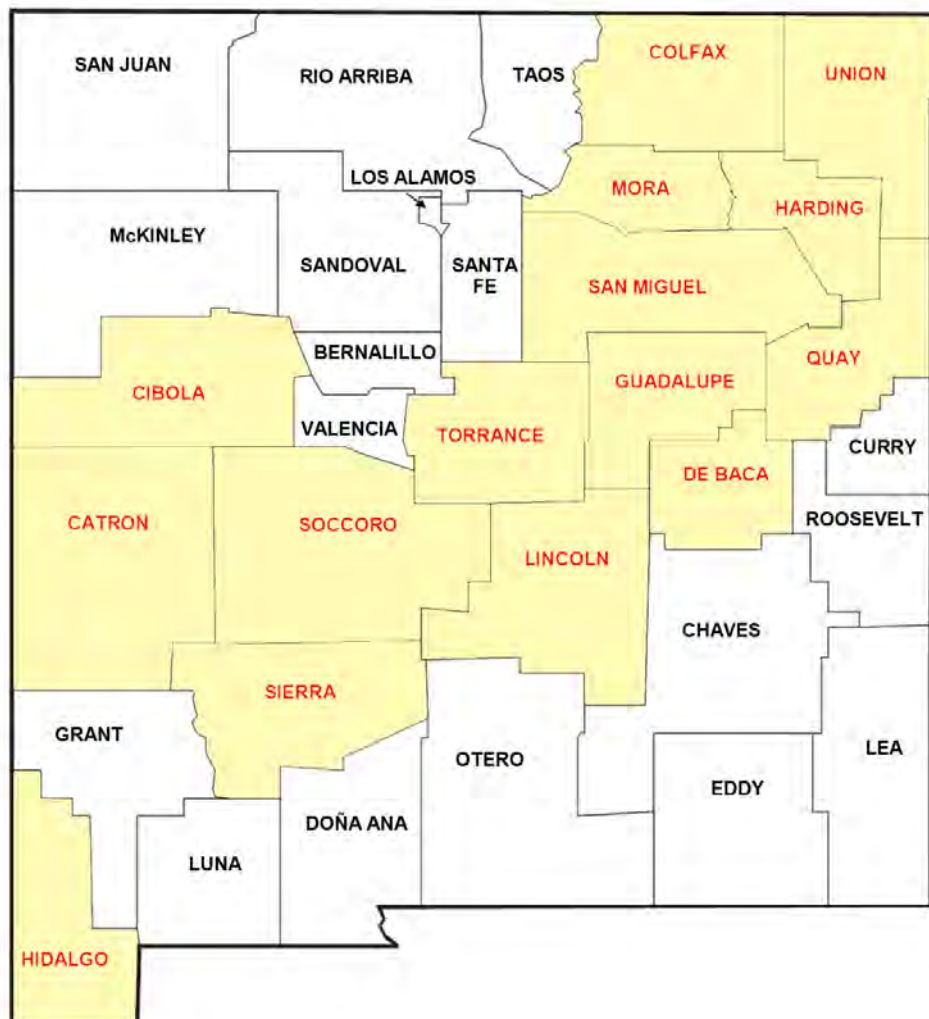
For more information about the DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation program, contact Connie Vargas at connie.vargas@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 372-8804.

Expansion to the rest of the state

DVS is busy working to expand this service to serve veterans throughout New Mexico. Gradual expansion would begin in the four-corners area of the state, southwest, and southeast New Mexico—and other areas where access to health care is limited.

“Even our largest-populated counties have rural areas or have urban-area veterans who also do not have a way to get to their appointments,” said Secretary Herrera. “The lack of transportation should never be a reason for veterans to neglect their health care.”

The 15 Counties Served by the DVS Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program



DVS Names New VBOC Business Advisor

Austin Walker is the new Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) business counselor/advisor. He will assist VBOC Director Johnny Martinez with the center's mission of helping veterans who are looking to open their own business or expand an existing operation.

Walker comes to the new position well-versed in the functions of the VBOC, which is the business development division of DVS. He had been serving as a DVS Albuquerque-based veterans' service officer who often provided assistance and outreach at many VBOC events in the Albuquerque metro area.



Austin Walker
VBOC Business Advisor/
Counselor

The Albuquerque native served three different stints with three different military service branches: serving in the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, with the New Mexico Army National Guard as a 13B artillery cannoneer, and in the U.S. Coast Guard as a radioman/telecom specialist/operations specialist. During his 23-years of military service, Clint was stationed in Seattle, several locations in the San Francisco Bay Area, Philadelphia, Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho. His military service even took him twice to the North Pole—and to the opposite end of the globe...to Antarctica. Along the way, Austin earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in New Media/Digital Audiences from Southern New Hampshire University.

Attention: Entrepreneurial-Minded Veterans in the Southwest!!!

Registration is open for the 2023 New Mexico Veterans Business Summit on October 31 & November 1 in Las Cruces at the New Mexico State University Corbett Center Student Union.

Entrepreneurial-minded military veterans, National Guard/Reserve members, transitioning active-duty service members, their spouses, and federal contractors anywhere in the southwest are encouraged to attend this free two-day conference presented by the VBOC.

The conference is presented in conjunction with National Veterans Small Business Week celebrating our nation's veteran-owned businesses. Representatives from the VBOC, the U.S. Small Business Administration New Mexico District Office, the Small Business Development Centers, the New Mexico APEX Accelerator, SCORE, and WESST will present information about resources to help veterans, service members, and spouses looking to open their own business, grow/expand an existing operation, or securing lucrative federal contracting opportunities.

Representatives from state agencies will have information about state licensing, training and economic development opportunities, business taxation, and more about operating a business here in New Mexico. Lunch will be provided. Though the conference is free, pre-registration is required and can be done online at www.nmvboc.org, or calling the VBOC at (505) 383-2400.

Fueling Entrepreneur Growth

New Mexico Veterans Business Summit

RESOURCES ★ NETWORKING
TIPS FROM EXPERIENCED OWNERS

National Veterans Small Business Week

October 31 & November 1 2023

*New Mexico State University
Corbett Center Student Union*

Register online at [NMVBOC.org](https://nmvbooc.org)

No computer? Call us to register: (505)383-2400



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS



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

Town Hall Meeting in Albuquerque on October 16

TOPIC: *New Mexican Veterans & Military Families*

Hosted by State Rep. Meredith Dixon

Supporting those who serve

Join your State Representative Meredith Dixon to talk about how our community can better support veterans and military families.

**Monday, October 16th
at 5:30-6:45 p.m.**

**Manzano Mesa
MultiGenerational Center
501 Elizabeth St SE**



Together. For a change.

Meredith will be joined by...



Hanson Scott
Board Member,
Kirtland Partnership
Committee, Brigadier
General, USAF (Retired)



Paul Cassidy
Board Member,
Kirtland Partnership
Committee



Brock Wolff
CEO, Veterans Integration
Center Department of
Veterans Services



Jamison Herrera
Cabinet Secretary,
Department of
Veterans Services

DVS Veterans' Service Officer Outreach Visits in October

DVS veterans' service officers are scheduled to make veterans' benefits outreach stops in the latter half of October 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Town/Venue</u>	<u>address</u>	<u>time</u>
Oct. 17	Grants/American Legion Post 80	121 Third St.	6-8pm
Oct. 18	Angel Fire/Nat'l Veterans Wellness & Healing Center	58 Ash Mountain Loop	11am-1pm
Oct. 18	Grants/VFW Post 3221	1408 Johnson St.	6-8pm
Oct. 18	Ft. Bayard/Ft. Bayard Medical Center	41 Fort Bayard Rd.	10:30am-noon
Oct. 19	Eunice/Eunice Public Library	1003 Avenue N	8:30-11:30am
Oct. 19	Jal/Jal Public Library	100 East Utah Ave.	1-3pm
Oct. 25	Deming/Senior Center	800 South Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Oct. 26	Lovington/Lovington Public Library	115 Main St.	8:30-11:30am
Oct. 26	Tatum/Tatum Community Library	23 East Broadway	1-4pm
	Ruidoso Community Center	501 Sudderth Rd.	9:30am-3:30pm

Of course, throughout the year 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. You can also call the DVS field services division located in the DVS Albuquerque satellite office at (505) 383-2400.



Dagmar Youngberg
DVS Carlsbad VSO

Persistence by DVS VSO Results in Widow Finally Being Awarded DIC Benefit

A widow of a Vietnam War Navy veteran is finally collecting Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from VA—thanks to the persistence and dogged determination by DVS Carlsbad-based Veterans' Service Officer Dagmar Youngberg, who refused to take “no” for an answer from VA in Washington.

DIC is a VA lifetime monthly paid benefit available to surviving spouses or some parents of service members who die while on active duty, training while on active service, or as a result of a service-connected injury or disease.

The widow's husband, when he passed away earlier this year, was rated at 20% service-connected disabled by VA. An initial DIC claim filed by her and Youngberg was denied by VA. Curious, the widow called and was told by a VA representative that her husband's rating was too low to collect DIC.

Disappointed, the 70-year-old widow just let it go at that. She and her late husband had adopted two young grandkids before his passing and could have really used the income to help raise the kids.

After three months, Youngberg reached out to the widow, asking about what she thought was a lack of a response from VA. The widow told Youngberg about the declined claim due to the low service disability rating.

This immediately “got my hackles up,” according to Youngberg.

“I've done this long enough to know better. Nothing in CFR 38 (*the Code of Federal Regulations; the set of rules and regulations issued by federal agencies of the United States regarding pensions, bonuses, and veterans' relief*) says anything about minimum rating requirements for DIC – even if it was rated 0%,” said Youngberg. “I know that service connected is still service connected...no matter what the rating...and should result in full eligibility.”

Youngberg pleaded with the widow not to give up and to let her re-file another claim. They did, and after persistent follow-up calls and emails by Youngberg, the VA granted DIC payments (“a nice monthly amount,” said Youngberg). Additionally, VA also provided a full burial allowance, and seven months of backpay (“another nice sum,” said Youngberg).

“Tears came to both of our eyes when she came into my office to show me her updated file and new VA response,” said Youngberg. “I feel so good about this. It strengthens my belief in the system. She no longer has to worry about money to raise her adopted grandkids and can now continue on with her life with peace of mind.”

52 Veterans Laid to Rest During the 2023 *Forgotten Heroes Funeral*

The cremated remains of 52 military veterans, who went unclaimed after death, were buried with military honors during the 2023 New Mexico Forgotten Heroes Funeral on September 28 at the Santa Fe (New Mexico) National Cemetery.

It was the largest number of veterans interred in the 13-year history of the program. The funeral provided the military burial that is available for any honorably discharged deceased veteran. New Mexico is the only state in the nation that has a program that provides one for veterans who are not claimed after death by any family.



DVS manages the Forgotten Heroes Funeral program. Everyone who attends these public funerals represents family of these veterans--ensuring that the veterans are *not* forgotten...and *not* alone in the end. DVS Acting Cabinets Secretary Jamison A. Herrera read the eulogy honoring the veterans. DVS videotaped the funeral and has [produced a brief video](#) highlighting the solemn and emotional highlights of the 2023 Forgotten Heroes Funeral.



DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Herrera Attends “Blue Mass” in Albuquerque

Acting DVS Cabinet Secretary Brig. Gen. Jamison Herrera (left photo/2nd from left), who is also currently the deputy adjutant general of the New Mexico National Guard, was among the many military, law enforcement, and first responder personnel attending the 14th annual Blue Mass on September 27 at the Kiva Auditorium in downtown Albuquerque.

The mass was presided by the Most Reverend John C. Wester, the archbishop of Santa Fe. In addition to the archbishop, New Mexico National Guard Chaplain 1st Lt. Peter Hinojos and Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller led the prayers and tributes to current and past first responders and military personnel



Gallup Community Based Outpatient Clinic to be Renamed After Hometown War Hero

President Joe Biden has signed into law a bill renaming the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura VA Clinic.



The name change honors the late Medal of Honor recipient and World War II veteran and Korean War hero Hiroshi Miyamura—the Gallup native and longtime resident of his hometown who passed away last November. In the Korean War, then-U.S. Army Corporal Miyamura was awarded the Medal of Honor, which is our nation's highest combat award, for single-handedly fighting off enemy forces that attacked and injured or killed his fellow squad members. Wounded, he was eventually captured and spent 28-months in captivity by North Korea.

The bill to rename the clinic, which was unanimously passed in Congress, was co-sponsored by New Mexico Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan. The New Mexico VA Health Care System is planning a public rededication ceremony at the clinic. DVS will provide the details as soon as those plans are finalized.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura is awarded the Medal of Honor from President Dwight D. Eisenhower on October 27, 1953.



(LEFT TO RIGHT): U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi Miyamura, and then-U.S. Representative Ben Ray Luján cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Gallup CBOC on June 5, 2015.



Active-Duty, Veterans Honored on “Military & Veterans Day at the State Fair”

Veterans and active service members were admitted free to the 2023 New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque on September 12 on *Military & Veterans Day at the State Fair*.

The annual day at the fair is presented by the New Mexico National Guard, DVS, and the State Fair to honor and thank the men and women who have

served or are currently serving our country in the U.S. military.

There was a brief 11 a.m. ceremony on the main stage, highlighted by the swearing in of nearly three dozen Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps recruits. *(right photo)*



Throughout the day, DVS along with more than three dozen veterans' and community service organizations had tables along the fairgrounds' “Main Street” with information about services available for veterans and their families.



ABOVE PHOTO: DVS Albuquerque VSO Austin Walker (far left).

RIGHT PHOTO: DVS Albuquerque VSO Ronn Saavedra (in baseball cap)



ABOVE PHOTO: DVS VBOC Director Johnny Martinez (center)

DVS Provides Benefits/Claims Information at Three “Stand Downs” For Homeless Veterans

DVS staff was on hand at “stand downs” for homeless veterans in Albuquerque (September 28), Taos (September 29), and Gallup (October 6).

The stand downs bring together federal, state, and local/community service agencies that provide assistance for the homeless and near-homeless—with an emphasis at these events on helping veterans. DVS was invited specifically to help any veteran with filing VA claims or filing for state veterans’ benefits.

In addition to services and programs, there was plenty of free clothing, footwear, backpacks blankets, toiletries, and many more items for veterans.

DVS veterans’ service officers and staff have been invited to two upcoming stand downs: October 20 in Las Cruces, and November 16 & 17 in Santa Fe. More information about these two stand downs are on the following two pages.



The Albuquerque Stand Down on September 28 at *The Rock at Noon Day Homeless Shelter*.



DVS Taos-based Veterans’ Service Officer Lety Carrillo (*at right*) provided benefits assistance at the September 29 Stand Down at the Taos Youth & Family Center.



DVS Gallup-based Veterans’ Service Officer Jon Livingston (*at right*) and Gallup State Veterans’ Cemetery Supervisor Gilbert Lopez were at the October 6 Gallup Stand Down at the city’s Red Rock Park.



VFW NEW MEXICO FOUNDATION
AND LAS CRUCES VET CENTER HOST



LAS CRUCES
VETERANS
HELPING HANDS
Stand Down

Housing services, haircuts,
Veteran Service Officers, VA
Disability Services, Social
Security assistance, and more
resources available onsite!



VFW POST 10124
709 South Valley Drive, Las Cruces



FRIDAY, 20 OCT 2023

9 AM - 1 PM

BREAKFAST STARTS AT 7:30 AM

To schedule van service, call 575-915-4899.

MORE INFORMATION: 575-405-9001



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Santa Fe's Veterans, First Responders and Homeless Stand Down

Help is available to those in need

★ **Hosted at the FOP Lodge #3** ★

**Please join us on
November 16th and 17th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

**November 16: Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, First Responders
Retired Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve**

November 17: Veterans & Homeless In Need

**Services Available: Food, Clothing, Consultations, Veterans
Service Officers, Santa Fe VET Center, Medical, Dental,
City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County Services & More**

**Location: FOP Lodge #3
3300 Calle Maria Luisa (Off Airport Road)
Santa Fe, NM 87507**

Attention Organizations - Tables are available - Offer Your Services

Contact for more Information

Kenny (505) 469-6270 | Phill (505) 988-6562

**American Legion - Post 12 - Non-Profit 501 (c) (19), - Veterans Service Organization
Donations can be made out and mailed to:**

**American Legion - Lucero Y. Nava - Post 12
1000 Cordova Pl #906 Santa Fe, NM 87505
Attention: Stand Down**





DVS to Commemorate Veterans Day at Its Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire

DVS will be hosting its annual Veterans Day ceremony on November 11 at its Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

lead the tributes at the agency's annual Veterans Day Ceremony on

Saturday, November 11, at the DVS-managed Vietnam Veterans

Memorial in Angel Fire.

Secretary Herrera will be joined by dignitaries, local military & veteran leaders, veterans, and non-veterans for the annual 11 a.m. ceremony in the monument's amphitheater. DVS cordially invites the public to join us as we celebrate the national day to honor the men and women who have sacrificed to serve our country.

A Request for Veterans Day Ceremony/Event Information

Do you know of a Veterans Day ceremony or event in your area? If so, please let us know about it so that we can list it on our annual Veterans Day List of Ceremonies/Events. Please include the following information in your response:

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

*****NOTE:** DVS will not list an event if any of the above information is not provided! (it is for the benefit of anyone who would like for information about your event.

Please email this information to DVS Public Information Officer Ray Seva at ray.seva@dvs.nm.gov. Thank you very much for your assistance!

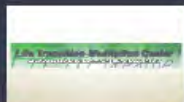
Veterans Community Bulletin Board

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.



LIFE TRANSITION MEDITATION CENTER

ALL VETERANS WANTED!

All veterans are welcome regardless of
discharge status, gender, ethnicity,
Two-Spirited, and LGBTQIA+



For Veterans By Veterans



**NO FEE !! EVERY
VETERAN FULLY
FUNDED!**

There is no cost to the Veteran, transportation to and from The Clyde and all accommodations are paid for from generous donations and grants.



DETAILS TO APPLY

Go to the website and email or download the application to participate in the Veterans Meditation Retreat.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Once your application is submitted the Veterans Meditation Retreat (VMR) Volunteers will work with you to plan your trip to The Clyde Hotel.



**SCAN FOR RETREAT
APPLICATION**

VETERAN MEDITATION RETREAT

WHEN: October 13-16

WHERE: The Clyde Hotel in Albuquerque, NM

WHY: To introduce Meditation healing tools

KUNM
89.9 FM Public Radio



The Frederick P.
**LENZ
FOUNDATION**
for American Buddhism

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US



Phone Number

505-982-4183

Email Address

info@lifetransition.com

Website

lifetransition.com



United Military Women of the SouthWest
is sponsoring a
Veteran Health and Welfare Event

26+ Vendors to assist with:



- Applying for/updating VA medical benefits
- increase interview skills, how to answer questions
- resume writing/Jobs
- Mental Health benefits
- school opportunities , and more

Where: American Legion Post #10, 1185 E. Madrid, Las Cruces, NM 88005

Date: October 16, 2023

Time: 9am - 2pm

For more information contact: Karen Woods, (575) 639-1265

Goodwill Industries of
New Mexico's 1st Annual



UNITY FOR HEROES

Veterans & Community Resource Fair

5000 San Mateo NE Albuquerque NM 87109
Saturday October 21st
11am - 3pm

Benefits, Healthcare and Services
Educational Resources
Veteran Legal Services
Financial Wellness Services
Employment Assistance Services
Veteran Service Officers
Mental Health & Wellness Services

**Fun activities for the whole family! Including children's
Trick or Treating, food trucks, raffles, & more!**

If you are interested in being a part of this event, please request a space by scanning the QR code or contacting Adriana Dodson at 505-881-6401 *1941 or by email at adodson@goodwillnm.org. Please confirm no later than October 6, 2023.





2nd Annual Veterans Benefits & Health Fair

October 21, 2023

9AM – 3PM

Receive assistance with filing for or information about:

VA Health Care Benefits, VA Health Care for Women Veterans, VA Disability Compensation and Pension, Death Benefits, Veteran Cemetery Burials, GI Education Benefits, Employment Assistance, State Benefits and much more.

Bring your DD-214 and all supporting documents!

The American Legion
Dean Lucas Post 25
2400 W. 7th Street - Clovis, NM 88101

Questions contact Dale Movius 505-273-0086



WNMU REMEMBRANCE MARCH III HOSTS



Where: Juan Chacon Parking Lot

When: 21 October 2023

Time: 8:00 AM Registration, 10:00 AM Start

Deadline: 6 October 2023

Cost: \$20 Registration made payable to
WNMU Foundation-Veteran Resource Fund

A 1 Mile Honor March around the beautiful
WNMU Campus if unable to make the Boston Hill Trail

[See Reverse for Map](#)

Presentation of plaques for Honored Veterans.

FREE Food and Drinks!!

Contact: [WNMU Veterans Affairs Manager Sylvia Sierra](#)
for more information at (575)-538-6871 or
(575)-654-5413 Or contact
Liz Lopez at (575)-574-2964



WESTERN
NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY

VETERANS

WEATHER PERMITTING

FREEDOM FLIGHT INC.

The POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon Team

TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Veterans Memorial Park

600 S. James St

Thursday, October 26th

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM



★ Tethered Rides

★ Balloon Glow

★ Photo Opportunities

★ Hamburgers & Hotdogs



PROPANE PROVIDED BY



27
October
2023

*COVID and Flu
vaccinations will be
given from 0800-1600*

Celebration Outreach

RATON CBOC VHA
1493 Whittier Street
Raton, N.M. 87740

**Come join us for free hamburgers & hot dogs starting at 1100-1330
Our Interdisciplinary Team members from ABQ will be here at the
Raton CBOC handing out information. There will also be give aways!**

**New Mexico Department of Veteran Services representative will be
on site to answer questions and assist Veterans.**

**There will be music and gathering of comrades in honor of our
surrounding veterans and so much more!**

We look forward to seeing you!

For More Details Contact:

Sherry Arguello @ 575-445-6049 or sherry.arguello@va.gov



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE NMNG
FALL FESTIVAL**

**TRUNK OR TREAT, CARNIVAL GAMES,
HAUNTED HOUSE, FOOD TRUCK, MUSIC,
AND MORE!**

**FRIDAY, OCT 27TH
DAY TRICK OR TREAT 1330-1530
FALL FESTIVAL 1600 - 2000
WITH TRUNK OR TREAT FROM 1700-1800.**

**600 WYOMING BLVD ABQ, NM
87123.**

Use the QR code to register for free!





You're Invited!



248th Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Friday, November 10, 2023

Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel, 54 Jemez Canyon Dam Rd
Bernalillo, NM 87004



All Veterans, Family, and Friends are invited
to join us in
Celebrating the 248th Birthday of the
United States Marine Corps

**This is a Full Traditional Marine Corps Ball
Including Formal Banquet**

For more information and Ticket Prices visit website [HERE](#)

or scan the following QR code:



Break Free:


Understand Your Survival

AD/Vet Substance Use Support Group

Our mission is to empower individuals in their recovery journey by fostering compassion, facilitating meaningful connections, and promoting the normalization of experiences with substance use as a tool for survival in the midst of trauma. We strive to create a supportive environment where individuals can find acceptance, understanding, and a sense of belonging as they navigate the challenges of substance use problems. We aim to support each person as they work towards healing, growth, and a life free from the grip of addiction.

- Located off Eubank
- Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- 8 week program
- Free of charge



Resources generously donated by  **DESERT WISE**

Interested in group? Contact us for more information:

(505) 361-1957 | breakfree@desertwise.com



Sujana Chowdhury
LMSW



Megan Sexton
LMSW



Brittany McKinley
MS, LSAA



Tom Hail
LCSW

23 years combined experience treating Active Duty and Veterans

Empowering recovery through compassion, connection, and normalization of experiences.



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

VA Expands Maternity Care For Women Veterans

Women veterans now have access to maternity care coordinators from the beginning of their pregnancy to 12 months post-partum — an expansion from the previous end-date of 8 weeks post-partum.

These coordinators help veterans navigate health care inside and outside of VA, connect veterans with care after delivery, ensure access to follow-up screenings, and [more](#). This means that all new mothers will have the support and resources they need from VA, regardless of where they give birth.



This expansion is a key step toward improving maternal outcomes for veterans and part of the work that VA is doing to implement the [White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis](#). In addition to these maternity care coordinators, VA provides veterans with the full range of [maternity care services](#) throughout pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum – including primary care, exams, tests, ultrasounds, newborn care, lactation support, and more.

Women veterans are the fastest-growing segment of veterans who use VA, which now provides health care to approximately 600,000 women veterans — half of whom are of child-bearing age. Pregnancies in women veterans using VA care have increased by more than 80% since 2014--from 6,950 pregnancies in 2014 to 12,524 in 2022.

Evidence shows that new mothers often need support and care coordination long after 8 weeks post-partum, which is why VA is taking action to support veteran mothers for much longer after they give birth,” said Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, MD. “We will also screen pregnant and postpartum Veterans for social determinants of health, mental health risk factors, relationship health and safety, and more.”

VA maternity care coordinators also screen for social, physical, and mental health concerns; answer questions about billing; provide resources for childbirth education; and offer lactation consulting during pregnancy and after delivery. Learn more about [VA maternity care coordination](#).



Veteran Burial Benefits

VA Expands Burial Benefits for Veterans and Their Families

VA announced that veterans, and their families, caregivers, and survivors now have access to expanded burial benefits to help with end-of-life expenses related to a veteran's gravesite, burial, funeral and transportation of remains to their final resting place.

Burial benefits are available to individuals who pay for a veteran's burial and funeral costs that are not reimbursed by any other organization.

The updated burial benefits are:

- Expanded reimbursement of transportation expenses, to include costs for transporting remains, to state or tribal veterans' cemeteries in addition to previously eligible national cemeteries
- Instituted a more generous single payment rate for non-service-connected burial benefits
- Extended the VA plot or interment allowance to Tribal organizations

VA provides burial benefits for all legal burial types, including cremation, burial at sea, and donation of remains to a medical school. Eligible individuals include a surviving spouse or legal partner, surviving child, parent or executor of the veteran's estate. Additionally, VA may pay burial benefits to a funeral home or third party who handled burial arrangements for a veteran whose remains are unclaimed.

There is no time limit to file for a service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, or the transportation benefit. However, claims for non-service-connected burial benefits must be filed within two years of the veteran's burial or cremation. A non-service-connected burial benefit is one where the cause of death was not related to military service.

Questions? Contact DVS

New Mexico has two VA-managed national cemeteries (in Santa Fe, and Fort Bayard), and three DVS-managed state veterans' cemeteries (Angel Fire, Carlsbad, Fort Stanton). If you have any question about veterans' burial benefits at these facilities, please contact DVS Cemeteries & Memorials Bureau Chief Davide Walker at david.walker@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 670-5824.



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—regardless of their location.**

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

411 10th Street #107
(575) 937-5620

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

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

Albuquerque Metro Area

Daisie Couch

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr
(505) 525-3331

daisie.couch@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

Carlsbad/Southeast NM

Dagmar Youngberg

101 N. Halagueno
(575) 988-5900

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

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.
(505) 537-1445

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

Farmington/Northwest NM

Candice Pioche-Zunie

San Juan College Vet Center
Room 1715-B
(505) 916-4835

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

(more offices are on the next page)

Grants/Northwest NM**April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Fred Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

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**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Jimmy Saiz**

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) TBD

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**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street /Suite 2A

(575) 416-2284

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**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**Taos/Northwest NM****Leticia “Lety” Cano**Health & Human Service Bldg.
145 Roy Rd.

(505) 709-5263

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**Pueblos/Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov