



The Guardian

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

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DVS Launches *Operation Holiday Cheer* 2023 to Lift Spirits of Residents at the State's Two Veterans' Homes

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) has kicked off *Operation Holiday Cheer* 2023. Launched three years ago, *Operation Holiday Cheer* urges New Mexicans to send Christmas holiday season cards to residents and staff at the state veterans home in Truth or Consequences, and the veterans wing of the Fort Bayard Medical Center.

Many of these resident veterans do not have any family members. May have little or no contact with family—not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year. Additionally, many of the staff at the two facilities work through the holiday season to provide year-round, round-the-clock care for the residents.



Cards should be sent directly to the homes. They will be randomly and evenly distributed among residents and staff. Cards for residents need only be addressed with “Dear Veteran” or “Dear Hero,” and contain a short message of appreciation for the veteran’s military service.

Cards to staff members can be addressed with “Dear Frontline Hero” or other terms of endearment, along with a brief message of appreciation for providing care for the home’s residents.

Cards should be mailed to:

The New Mexico State Veterans Home

992 South Broadway
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
ATTN: Operation Holiday Cheer

Fort Bayard State Veterans Home

41 Fort Bayard Rd.
Santa Clara, NM 88026
ATTN: Operation Holiday Cheer



State Launches Program Providing Assistance for Caregivers of Seniors in Six Counties

The New Mexico Aging & Long-Term Services Department has launched the *New Mexi-Care Caregiver Health Model* to provide financial assistance and training for caregivers of senior citizens in the following six counties: Catron, De Baca, Harding, Lincoln, San Miguel, and Sierra counties.

This program also provides financial assistance and training to caregivers who assist family members or friends with physical or cognitive limitations

The goal of the program is to allow older adults to thrive in their own homes and communities—with assistance by caregivers—reducing the number of nursing home placements and emergency department visits in the state.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Applicant must be age 60+
- Live in Catron, De Baca, Harding, Lincoln, San Miguel, and Sierra counties
- Have cognitive or physical limitations requiring assistance with two or more activities of daily living such as: feeding, dressing, personal hygiene, incontinence, toileting, and/or ambulating (walking)
- Cannot be eligible for Medicaid

Maximum Gross Income Level

- \$3,300/month for an individual
- \$6,600/month for a couple

Resource Level (total for savings plus checking accounts)

- \$19,800/month for an individual
- \$39,600/month for a couple

Eligible veterans and their caretakers are strongly encouraged to apply...and [may apply online](#), or call the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department at 1-(866) 654-3219 and select-ing option #4.





Judy M. Griego
Former DVS Secretary

Former DVS Secretary Griego Inducted Into New Mexico National Guard Hall of Honor

Former DVS Cabinet Secretary Judy M. Griego was among two individuals and two combat units inducted into the New Mexico National Guard Hall of Honor on November 11 during a Veterans Day evening induction ceremony and dinner/dance at the Clyde Hotel in downtown Albuquerque.

The former DVS secretary, who led the agency from 2019-2020, served 36 years in the Army National Guard. She was the first female general in the history of the Guard. In 2011, then-Colonel Griego became the first woman promoted to the rank of brigadier general. She retired from service in 2016. She became one of the first two women inducted into the Guard's Hall of Honor at the ceremony.

Inducted into the Hall that night along with her was former NMNG Maj. Antoinette Baca. She was commissioned from the non-commissioned ranks as a major and appointed as assistant adjutant general by then Adjutant General Henry Rolf Brown in 1921.

This happened 35-years before a law signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 that formally allowed women to join the National Guard as medical officers. The following year, the National Guard formally recognized its first woman to join the Army National Guard.

Also inducted into the Hall of Honor were the following two combat units:



Maj. Antoinette Baca
Former NMNG Adj. Gen.

1st New Mexico Cavalry

Organized on May 31, 1882, by consolidation of the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Regiments of New Mexico Infantry, the 1st Cavalry fought in New Mexico and Arizona and was one of the founding units of the New Mexico National Guard.

188th Tactical Fighter Squadron

This squad was formed from the 188th Fighter Bomber Squadron, which was federally recognized in July of 1947, as the inaugural unit in the New Mexico Air National Guard.

It was initially activated for the Korean War, where it flew over 1400 air-to-air and close-air support missions, earning 6 MIG-15 Kills. The squad was the only New Mexico unit to deploy during the Vietnam War. Its airmen flew over 6000 combat sorties, earning more than 600 awards and decorations including: Eight silver stars, 29 Distinguished flying crosses, 26 bronze stars, 270 air medals and three Purple Hearts.

DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Herrera Addresses Rotary Club of Santa Fe Luncheon

DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera was invited to speak at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Santa Fe on November 9 at the Santa Fe Women's Club. *(right photo/upper right corner)*



It was the first time in several years, according to RCSF President Carolyn Moore, that a member of DVS had spoken to the group. The 50 members—several of whom were veterans—who gathered for the luncheon were eager to learn about DVS and how it helps veterans.

“We are not the VA. That is a federal agency. We are a state agency,” said Secretary Herrera. “We not only help veterans file VA claims, we can leverage our connections with other state, federal, and community agencies to help veterans and their families with whatever it is they need help with.”

Secretary Herrera also briefed the appreciative crowd about upcoming developments for the agency—including expanding the agency's existing Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program, which provides free round-trip rides to VA medical appointments from a veteran's home in 15 of the state's most rural counties. The program, he said, recently expanded to include service to three pueblos (Acoma, Laguna, and Zuni) and two Navajo Nation communities (Ramah, in Cibola County; and Alamo, in Socorro County).

“We are working to expand coverage to every county in the state,” he said. “Every veteran should be able to have access to transportation for their medical needs.”

The secretary also drew applause when he mentioned the progress of a half-scale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on the northeast corner of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.



“Everything is going well,” he said of the replica of the wall in Washington, D.C. that has the names of the 58,200 American service members who lost their lives in the Vietnam War—including 398 New Mexicans. “The foundation is already laid, and the names are now being etched on the granite panels. We're looking at completion and a dedication next spring—and I hope to see you there.”

(artist's rendition of the half-scale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall being built in Angel Fire)

Albuquerque VSO Invited to Korean War Veterans Luncheon



DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans Service Officer Daisie Couch (*above photo/center, in red top*), who is Korean-American, was invited by the Hiroshi Miyamura Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association of New Mexico to a special luncheon on November 14 in Albuquerque.

The luncheon commemorated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that formally stopped all military operations on the Korean peninsula on July 27, 1953.

Attending the luncheon was Consul General Kim Youngwan, from the South Korean Consulate in Los Angeles (*to the left of Couch*), Korean War veterans from the U.S. and South Korea, their spouses, and local surviving families of Korean War veterans.



DVS Las Cruces VSOs Make Outreach Stop at NMSU

DVS Las Cruces-based Veterans Service Officers Clint Anderson (*at left*) and Vincent Tellez made an outreach visit to the heart of the New Mexico State University campus on November 9.

The duo makes frequent outreach visits to NMSU to answer questions from veterans who may need help with their GI® education benefit bill...or help with any other veterans' benefits.



DVS Makes Outreach Stop at Cannon AFB

DVS Alamogordo-based Veterans' Service Officer Dave Henley (*standing at the front of the classroom*) made an outreach stop at nearby Holloman Air Force Base on November 29.

Henley is an Air Force veteran and an Alamogordo native who was stationed for a time at the base during his 23-year career. He makes monthly outreach stops at his old stomping grounds as part of the base's Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program to go over available VA and state veterans' benefits for service members who are close to completing their service. On this date he briefed 30 transitioning airmen.

DVS Celebrates Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire

DVS celebrated Veterans Day today at the annual Veterans Day ceremony at its Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

Acting Cabinet Secretary Jamison A. Herrera (*right photo*), U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-New Mexico—*bottom left photo*), and American Gold Star Mothers Past President Becky Christmas (*bottom right photo*) honored veterans in their remarks during an abbreviated ceremony that was moved indoors due to windy conditions and cool temperatures. [Here is a link to a short 2:30 video](#) highlighting their remarks.



Veterans Day Ceremonies in Other Communities

Alamogordo



The city of Alamogordo held its annual Veterans Day Parade on 10th Street on Saturday, November 11—on Veterans Day. The Holloman Air Force Base Color Guard did the honors of parading the colors.

(photos courtesy: USAF CMSgt Jeff Martin/49th Wing Command Chief, Holloman AFB)



DVS Alamogordo-based Veterans' Service Officer Dave Henley (in gray shirt/blue windbreaker, both photos) took part in Alamogordo's parade—driving his truck adorned with the DVS logo. Henley is an Alamogordo native who retired from the U.S. Air Force as a master sergeant after 23 years of service. He is thrilled to be able to work in his hometown helping his fellow veterans with their VA and state benefits needs. *(photos courtesy: Rick Pineda/DVS Veterans' Services VSO Associate)*

Albuquerque (New Mexico Veterans Memorial)



The New Mexico Veterans' Memorial in southeast Albuquerque hosted the city's annual Veterans Day ceremony. Mayor Tim Keller (*right photo*) was among the speaker who honored the service and sacrifice of veterans. Music was provided by the *Dukes of Albuquerque Concert band*. The ceremony was presented by the Memorial, the United Veterans Council of Greater Albuquerque, One Albuquerque, and the New Mexico Rail Runner. (*photos courtesy of Marie Cimaruski*)



LEFT PHOTO: The ceremony served as the end of the annual Veterans Day Parade that started at U.S.S. Bullhead Park. The New Mexico National Guard's 44th Army Band played patriotic songs along the 1-1/4 mile parade route. (*photo courtesy: Pearl Barela*)

RIGHT PHOTO: Veterans Day was originally named "Armistice Day" in honor of the armistice that ended World War I—and those who served in the war. At the Albuquerque ceremony, the veterans' service organization *Veterans For Peace* had the honor of ringing the Memorial's Armistice Bell to open the ceremony at 11a.m.; the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—the same time the Armistice was signed in 1918 to end World War I. Doing the honors of ringing the bell was WWII Navy veteran Sally-Alice Thompson, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. (*photo courtesy: Charles Powell/Veterans For Peace, Chapter 63*)

Albuquerque-NM Veterans Memorial *(continued)*



LEFT PHOTO: One of the highlights of the Albuquerque Veterans Day Ceremony was the swearing in of six Marine Corps recruits. *(photo courtesy: John L. Jones)*



RIGHT PHOTO: The American Legion Post 13 Honor Guard from Albuquerque had the honor of rendering the rifle volley towards the end of the ceremony. *(photo courtesy: Lydia Zazueta)*

Albuquerque (American Legion Post 13)



LEFT PHOTO: Members of the New Mexico Army National Guard's 20th Signal Operations Company held a reunion on Veterans day at American Legion Post 13 *(photo courtesy: Robert Gallegos)*

Albuquerque (Barelas Senior Center)



RIGHT PHOTO: The garden area at Barelas Senior Center was once again awashed in patriotism on Veterans Day, courtesy of the center's lead gardener, Patrick Turrieta—a Desert Storm/Desert Shield U.S. Navy veteran. This memorial features 50 hand-cut white ceramic stars set in a cement blue painted star representing all 50 states. Lots of live red and white chrysanthemums filled out the beautiful display. *(Photo courtesy: Patrick Turrieta)*

Beclabito (San Juan County/Navajo Nation)



In the Navajo Nation/San Juan County town of Beclabito, the Beclabito Chapter Veterans Organization held a small Veterans Day ceremony at the chapter house.

LEFT PHOTO: Holiday trimmings were placed atop the plaque honoring the 127 service members from the area.

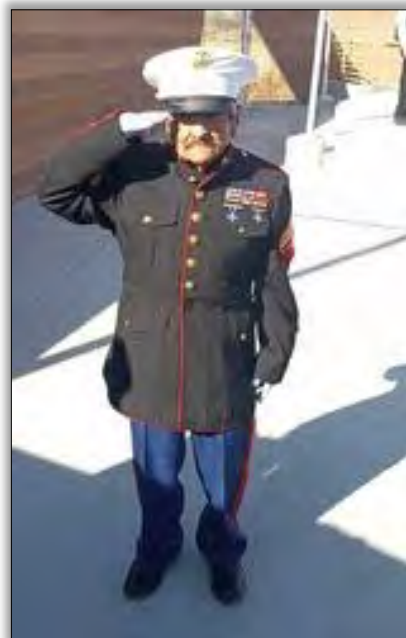
RIGHT PHOTO: Roger Billie III (at left) and Snow Jones had the honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of our National Anthem. (photo courtesy: Beverly Charley/DVS Tribal Liaison)

Belen



The city of Belen held its annual Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Eagle Park. (Left photo courtesy: Ben Salazar) (right photo courtesy: Michael Pacheco)

Belen (continued)



Among the many veterans attending the Belen Veterans Day Ceremony were (left photo/L to R): Jan Herrbach, a Vietnam-era Army field medic...Rodney Alderete, a U.S. Marine “tunnel rat” who was awarded a Silver Star and Purple Heart during his service in Vietnam...and U.S. Navy Vietnam combat veteran Allan Herrbach.

Carlsbad



LEFT PHOTO: U.S. Air Force veteran JW Sutphin reflects at a missing man table set up for the city's annual Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

RIGHT PHOTO: A Freedom Flight, Inc. POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon and its crew came out to the park for the ceremony. The organization flies its balloons to ceremonies and events throughout the country to raise awareness about the 81,000 American service members listed as missing in action dating back to WWII. (photo courtesy: JW Sutphin/Retirement Director, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce)

Clovis



Some of the members of American Legion Post 25 who cheerfully prepared a Veterans Day breakfast at AL Post 25.

(photo courtesy: Ben Salazar/Field Rep, Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez)

Corrales



At the northwest Albuquerque Walmart, VFW Post 5432 from the nearby Sandoval County village of Corrales held its annual Buddy Poppy Donation & Membership Drive (From L to R: Post 5432 Service Officer and former DVS Field Services Division Director Ken Adair, Boy Scouts of America Troop 1919 members Abigail Opel and Jessie Brown; Post 5432 members Rudy Chavez and Pat Orell. *(photo courtesy: Terry Brown/Post 5432 Commander)*

Corrales (continued)



More from the Poppy Drive by VFW Post 5432...

LEFT PHOTO: Post 5432 Commander Terry Brown, and Lisa Martinez—granddaughter of post founder Horacio Martinez:



RIGHT PHOTO: VFW Post 5432 member Ruben Mares, Surgeon Tom Totoris and member Robert Henning.

Deming



In Deming, SCPO Chad Troyer (USN-retired, at podium) was the keynote speaker at the city's Veterans' Day ceremony presented by the city American Legion Post 4. Flanking Troyer are *Post 4 Commander Ken Teague, and American Legion District 7 Vice Commander Thom Barry*) Photo credit: State Rep. Jenifer Jones (R-Doña Ana/Hidalgo/Luna counties)

Farmington



Members of American Legion Post 93 made a Veterans' Day visit to the Life Care Center Nursing Home in Farmington. The AL Post 93 members chatted with the center's residents. They thanked veterans for their service to our country—giving them awards and American flag pins as a token of appreciation. (Photo credit: Gino Pezzella/Commander, American Legion Post 93)

Farmington (continued)



LEFT PHOTO: Members of American Legion Post 93 thanking a veteran for his service during the a Veterans Day visit to the Life Care Center Nursing Home in Farmington.



RIGHT PHOTO: The Farmington High School JROTC Color Guard posted the Colors at the annual Elks Club Veterans Day Ball. (photos courtesy of Gino Pezzella/Commander, American Legion Post 93)

Grants (Vietnam Veterans Memorial)



LEFT PHOTO: New Mexico Army National Guard Col. Eric James, State Rep. Harry Garcia (D-Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, San Juan, Socorro, & Valencia counties; Magistrate Judge Tony Mace, and State Sen. Joshua Sanchez (*R-Cibola, McKinley, Socorro, and Valencia*) attended the Veterans Day Ceremony in Grants at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (photo courtesy: State Sen. Joshua Sanchez)

Grants (Univ. of NM-Grants Campus)



On Friday, November 10, New Mexico State University-Grants Campus hosted a free picnic-style buffet lunch in honor of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. The event was open to the public. (photos courtesy: Steven Soboleff/VA Student Program Coordinator, NMSU-Grants)

Hobbs



VFW New Mexico State Commander Victoria Haddox addressed the crowd attending the annual Veterans Day ceremony in Hobbs. Attendees were able to check out the latest bricks bearing the names. These bricks were installed by the city as part of the park's "Veterans Path of Freedom." The city installs these bricks free of charge for any veteran who lived in Lea County at the time of their entry into military service. (photos courtesy: Freddy Solis-Littlejohn/DVS Hobbs-based VSO)

Las Cruces



LEFT PHOTO: Outgoing Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima, Brig. Gen Fermin A. Rubio (NMANG-retired), DVS SW Region VSO Supervisor Miguel Martinez, and DVS Las Cruces-based VSO Vincent Tellez were among the hundreds of people who attended the city's annual Veterans Day parade through downtown Las Cruces. (photo courtesy: Miguel Martinez/DVS SW Region VSO Supervisor)

Las Cruces Parade *(continued)*



LEFT PHOTO: The Military Officers Association of America Mesilla Valley Chapter members who rode in the organization's parade float: (Standing) Jake Montoya, NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, which provided the truck and trolley; (seated, l-r) Christine Sautter, Lori Fichman, Rosemary Brady, Jean Olson, Catherine Jarvis, Gary Fichman, Grant Kotovsky, Tom Williams *(photo courtesy: Jean Olson)*

RIGHT PHOTO: Members, auxiliary members, and family from American Legion Post 10 in Las Cruces were also among the many entries in the parade, which made its way through downtown *(photo courtesy: William Wight/Commander, American Legion Post 10)*.

Logan



LEFT PHOTO: In Logan (Quay County, in eastern New Mexico), American Legion Post 77 member Bobby Casados gave a bugle rendition of *Taps* during the annual Logan Municipal School District's Veterans' Day ceremony.

RIGHT PHOTO: American Legion Post 77 Adjutant Ben Salazar was the guest speaker at the ceremony in the Logan High School auditorium *(photos courtesy: Ben Salazar/American Legion Post 77 Adjutant/Membership)*

Los Alamos



American Legion Post 90 hosted the town of Los Alamos' annual Veterans Day ceremony at Ashley Pond.

The Los Alamos NJROTC Color Guard posted the Colors and rendered a rifle volley during the ceremony (*LEFT PHOTO*), featuring a tribute to veterans by guest speaker MSgt. Pedro Hernandez (USMC-retired) (*RIGHT PHOTO*) *Photos courtesy: Jim Mariner/Past American Legion National Historian.*

Portales



Veterans Day in Portales was celebrated with a ceremony hosted by American Legion Post 31 at the city's Veterans Memorial Building.

LEFT PHOTO: AL Post 31 member Leslie Rector and Vivian Cato had the honor of posting the Colors to start the ceremony.

RIGHT PHOTO: The Portales High School Honor Choir, under the direction of Maggie Mendoza (*far right*) and the National Anthem after the posting of Colors. (*photos courtesy: Randy Dunson/Commander, American Legion Post 31*)

Rio Rancho



Marine Corps League Detachment 1316, VFW Post 5890, and American Legion Post 118 presented the city of Rio Rancho's annual Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. *LEFT PHOTO:* Maj. Lauren Hull (USMC-retired) served as grand marshal of the pre-ceremony parade, and guest speaker at the ceremony. Here she is welcomed by Mayor Gregory Hull (no relation to Maj. Hull) and MCL Detachment 1316 member Mike Haas.

RIGHT PHOTO: L to R, MCL Detachment members Rick Young, Mike Haas, and Adrian Glass (photo courtesy: Stephanie Pugh/Secretary, Women Marines Association)

Santa Fe



Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham attended the annual Veterans Day Ceremony in Santa Fe at the Santa Fe Veterans Memorial. The ceremony was presented by the Santa Fe Veterans Advisory Board. The governor greeted and chatted with attendees before and after the ceremony. During the ceremony, the governor read the official governor's Veterans Day Proclamation and thanked all veterans for their service and sacrifice for our country. (*left photo courtesy: Pam Scotty/R&R for Veterans*)(*right photo courtesy: The New Mexico National Guard*)

Santa Fe Veterans Day Ceremony *(continued)*



LEFT PHOTO: At the Santa Fe Veterans Day Ceremony, U.S. Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez also praised and thanked veterans in her remarks. Seated behind her is the St. Michael's High School Choral Arts Society, which sang the National Anthem—and later, “America The Beautiful.” *(photo courtesy: Ben Salazar/Field Representative for Sen. Teresa Leger Fernandez)*



RIGHT PHOTO: The Santa Fe High School Navy JROTC posted the Colors to help start the ceremony. *(photo courtesy: The New Mexico National Guard)*

Santa Fe-Post Ceremony Luncheon



After the Santa Fe Veterans Day ceremony, VFW Post 2951—which is right around the corner from the Memorial, hosted a free Veterans Day luncheon. **LEFT PHOTO:** Buddy Poppy girl Catalina Ferrara.



RIGHT PHOTO: From L to R—VFW Post 2951 Commander Gary Logsdon; Santa Fe High School NJROTC Cadets LCDR Niven Horvath, Unit Commanding Officer Cadet PO3 Bianca Gonzalez, Cadet SR Daphne Alvidrez, and VFW 2951 Trustee Gary Donato. *(photo courtesy: Angelia Velarde-Logsdon/VFW Post 2951 Auxilliary President)*

Santa Rosa



In Santa Rosa, retired New Mexico National Guard Brig. Gen. and former DVS Cabinet Secretary Jack Fox (*left photo*) was the keynote speaker at a Veterans Day ceremony at the David J. Flores Veterans Center. (*photo courtesy: Curtis Michaels/Reporter, Guadalupe County Communicator*)

RIGHT PHOTO: More than ninety people attended the ceremony, which featured a luncheon with food donated by Santa Rosa/Guadalupe County businesses and Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools. (*photo courtesy: Retired NM Army National Guard CSM Willy Griego*)

Springer



In Springer (southern Colfax County), members of American Legion Post 92 pose with 102-year old WWII Veteran “Jump” Deker (*next to podium, behind walker*) (*photo courtesy: Danny Cruz/American Legion Post 92*)

Amarillo, TX



Many eastern New Mexico Veterans get the VA health care through the Amarillo (Texas) VA Health Care System. On November 11, it hosted the 16th annual Welcome Home Veterans Day Benefits Fair at the Amarillo/Tri-state Fairgrounds. (*photo courtesy: Emily Smallwood/Amarillo VA Health Care System*)

Manila, The Philippines



Retired U.S. Navy Reserve Commander Dave Williams, who is the Vice President of the New Mexico Council/Navy League of the United States (*at left photo; middle in right photo*), attended the annual joint Filipino & American Veterans Day ceremony in Manila, the capital city of The Philippines. With him in the left photo is U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay L. Carlson (*center*), and Williams' wife Sherrie. (*Top photos courtesy of Dave Williams*)

The ceremony was at the Manila American Cemetery. Often referred to as the “Arlington of the Pacific,” the 152-acre site lies within the boundaries of the former Fort William McKinley. It has the largest number of graves outside of the U.S. of American service members (nearly double the number buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in France).

More than 16,60 Americans who lost their lives in the Pacific theater of World War II are buried here— most of whom lost their lives in New Guinea and the Philippines. An additional 570 Philippine Scouts are also buried here. More than 36,000 service members whose remains were never recovered at memorialized on walls throughout the site.

(bottom photos courtesy of the Manila American Cemetery)



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.


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
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As a Fox Grant participant, **PWP** reaches veterans ahead of a crisis to provide assistance in various areas of their lives. Our goal is to know every veteran in our community and end veteran suicide one warrior at a time.
Together, we can do better.

If you are a veteran, veteran spouse, or caregiver, looking for resources in the Permian Basin, we are here to support you.

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- Housing
- Higher Education
- Employment
- Social Networking
- Recreation
- Healthcare
- Spirituality

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Connect@PermianWarriorPartnership.org



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HANDMADE Roper's Saddle RAFFLE to benefit Korean and Vietnam Veterans



For Honor Flight

Made by Korean War
Veteran James Motley

Donated to Honor Flight by an
anonymous donor

- 15" wooden tree
- Steel horn
- Semi-quarter horse bars
- Rough out seat
- 6 tickets for \$100

Drawing Date - February 3,
2024 at Tuff Hedeman
Bull Riding event in El Paso.



\$20
per ticket

For more information, contact Elaine Pickett—Honor Flight of Southern NM/El Paso
hf@atriumpt.com
(575) 635-8364



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

VA's Million Veteran Program Welcomes Its One Millionth Veteran

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Million Veteran Program (MVP) welcomed the one millionth veteran into the program--making it the first research program in the world to include extensive health and genetic data for this many participants.



Launched in 2011, MVP allows researchers to better understand veteran health challenges and conduct groundbreaking, life-saving research. The program aims to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of health conditions affecting veterans and, ultimately, all Americans.

To date, MVP data has been used in more than [350 peer-reviewed research publications](#) about a wide range of health conditions — including cancer, diabetes, PTSD, suicide prevention, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular diseases, kidney disease, and more.

"Thanks to the veterans who signed up for this program, VA can better understand — and eventually treat — the health conditions that affect veterans of all eras and backgrounds," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "This will help us improve health care and ultimately save lives, for veterans and non-veterans alike."

"Our research is stronger when it includes all veterans--and we're not stopping now that we've enrolled one million participants," said VA's Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal, M.D. "Because these veterans chose to join our mission, VA now has the largest global database of genomic information that is connected to health information — a critical tool that will improve the health of veterans for generations."

"I look at [MVP] as a way to do my part and make sure the men and women that served alongside me, before me, and after me are all properly taken care of," said Afghanistan veteran and MVP participant Benjamin Flynn. "It is my hope that research projects like the Million Veteran Program will provide information and open up new possibilities for providing absolute top-of-the-line treatment for Veterans when they come back. I'm proud to be a member of MVP for the simple fact that I'm still helping — I'm still serving."

Key facts about the Million Veteran Program:

- It reflects the diversity of the veteran population: More than 250,000 minority veterans and 100,000 women veterans have joined the program, and MVP includes more people of African ancestry than any research program in the world. This allows researchers to learn more about — and ultimately treat — populations that have historically been underrepresented in research.
- It's been used in the largest-ever genetic studies on anxiety, depression, blood pressure, heart disease, non-alcoholic liver disease, and more: These studies have helped increase the understanding of genetic risk factors for these conditions, paving the way for future treatment and research.
- It helped lead to a breakthrough in understanding post-traumatic stress: A [study of more than 165,000 MVP participants identified several genes related to reexperiencing traumatic memories](#), the most distinctive symptom of PTSD. The study shed new light on the biology of PTSD.
- It's the world's largest database on nutrition: When veterans enroll in MVP, they are asked to complete a lifestyle survey that gives VA important information about what foods they eat and at what quantities — which helps researchers make important discoveries for veterans and all Americans. For example, one recent MVP-driven study found that [yogurt of any kind](#) is good for heart health.

Veterans can join MVP by voluntarily providing a blood sample, filling out surveys about their health and wellness, and granting researchers secure access to their health records. That data is secured, protected, and anonymized for patient privacy, then used to study the interactions between genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures to learn more about how those factors impact health.

Any veteran can enroll in MVP online at www.mvp.va.gov, or by calling (866) 441-6075 for more information.





FORECLOSURE NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

VA Urges Pause On VA-Guaranteed Loan Foreclosures

VA is calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024. During this pause VA will work with servicers on workable home retention solutions for veterans.

In 2023 VA has helped more than 145,000 veterans and their families retain their homes and avoid foreclosure. Even in the dynamic housing market of the last several years, rates of foreclosures of VA-backed mortgages are

among the lowest in the country. But VA officials say they are aware that there are still many veterans struggling to make their payments.

To ensure these veterans can remain in their homes, VA is taking the following two steps:

- **It is calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024.**

During this pause, VA will work with servicers on workable home retention solutions for veterans.

- **It is extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification Program through May 31, 2024.**

This extension will allow veterans to obtain a zero-interest, deferred-payment loan from VA to cover missed payments. It will also allow for the modification of an existing VA-guaranteed loan to achieve affordable monthly payments for the duration of this extension.

By pausing foreclosures and extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program, VA said it can continue assisting veterans with their loans while it launches its newest home retention option, the *VA Servicing Purchase (VASP)* program. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will allow VA to work with veterans experiencing severe financial hardship to adjust their loans--and their monthly payments--so they can keep their homes.

For more information, veterans can go to the [VA Housing Assistance](#) website, or call (877) 827-3702. VA has loan technicians able to work with veterans to help them stay in their homes, including discussing available home retention options such as repayment plans, special forbearance, loan modification, and more.

VA will continue to actively review its portfolio of loans and work with loan servicers to try and keep all veterans and their survivors with a VA-guaranteed mortgage in their homes.

More information can be found on the [VA home loans](#) website.



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 calling or emailing from anywhere in New Mexico.**

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 floor
(505) 527-2302

helen.chavez@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Ron Saavedra

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

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

Diana Powers

Pinetree Business Park/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd flr
(505) 274-0393

diana.powers@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (downtown)

DVS staff Mon. & Wed. (9am-4pm)

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor
(walk-ins/no appointment needed)
(505) 383-2400

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
(505) 537-9339

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
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B
(505) 327-2861

robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Candice Pioche-Zunie

San Juan College Vet Center
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B
(505) 916-4835

candice.pioche@dvs.nm.gov

(more offices are on the next page)

Gallup/Northwest NM**John Livingston**

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A
(505) 389-8731

john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov**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.
(575) 644-6869

miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.
(505) 361-5298

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) 520-5079

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 A (575)
416-2284

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov**Santa Fe/Northwest NM***Temporarily vacant***Silver City/Southwest NM****Clarissa Sierra**

Western New Mexico University
1000 West College Ave.
Juan Chacon Bldg./Rm. 138A
(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**DVS Pueblo/Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B
(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov