



# The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans' Services  
July, 2024

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## Half-Scale Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Unveiled at the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial



The beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains served as a picturesque backdrop for the June 28 dedication of New Mexico's Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

The wall, a half-scale replica of the 500-foot-long national wall in our nation's capital, sits atop a hill overlooking the serene, peaceful Moreno Valley. Like the national wall, the replica wall features black granite panels engraved with the names of the 58,000 fallen U.S. service members from the war—including 398 New Mexicans.

"Today is a very special day for the state of New Mexico, our veterans, their families, friends, the community, and especially our Vietnam Veterans – welcome home," said DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, (*photo below*) whose father and father-in-law are Vietnam War veterans. "I want to thank the executive branch of our government, legislators, the General Services Department and all of our cabinet secretaries...because it takes 'team New Mexico' to accomplish an objective like this. To get this done, there was lots of collaboration with our veterans' organizations, grass roots groups and every veteran who has a vote on how we honor those who have served before us."

The \$1.7 million project broke ground last summer after capital outlay funding and additional funds from the governor's office were received. Initial fundraising had began through a privately financed project seven years earlier through a grass-roots effort started by Vietnam Veterans of America/Northern New Mexico Chapter 996 from Santa Fe.

"The amount of persistence and diligence shown by the Vietnam Veterans of America 996 through their lobbying, grass roots fundraising, and collection of donations was tremendous," said Secretary Herrera. "I believe everybody here appreciates all of the blood, sweat and tears that went into this to make it a reality. Without you, your vision and tenacity, this would have never happened."



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Lt. Gov. Howie Morales was the ceremony's main speaker (*left photo*). He said it is always special for him to be amongst veterans—especially those who served in Vietnam, as his father did.

“On behalf of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, myself, and our entire cabinet, this is our opportunity to say thank you for your service. It’s our opportunity to recognize the struggles of what you, along with your families, have been through,” said the lieutenant governor. “The reception our Vietnam veterans received when they came home is not something our country should be proud of. But I’m happy that we have been able to learn from it, so that we can now pay tribute to them.”

Jack McManus, the national president of Vietnam Veterans of America based, came from the national headquarters in Maryland.

“It is an honor for me to participate in this ceremony,” he said. “This is the perfect place for this memorial. It is serene, and it puts you at peace.”

State Representative Harry Garcia, who served with the Marine Corps in Vietnam along with two of his brothers, also attended the dedication. He worked legislatively on funding during the first round of the project.

“I am very happy that no one gave up on the vision for this memorial, because this wall means everything to us who served in Vietnam and lost friends and fellow service members,” said Rep. Garcia, from Cibola County. “I can’t put into words what it means to the family members of the fallen.”

Vietnam War veteran John Garcia, the current Small Business Administration/New Mexico Division director, credited the veterans from VVA Chapter 996 for bringing the wall to what he called “this sacred place in New Mexico.”

“Let us reflect and pay respectful tribute to those who left their families to serve their country bravely when called upon--and wore the American uniform with honor in a foreign land called Vietnam,” said Garcia, who is also a former DVS cabinet secretary. “Today, we especially honor those who served our country and gave their lives in performance of their duty, whose names are etched on this wall.”





... ISAIAH A DOBBINS • JAMES H DORRIS • ...  
 ... BILLY CHARLES • BOBBY JERRY JENKINS • ...  
 ... WILLIAM W MASTER • WALTER ...  
 ... GEORGE K SIBLER • ROGER C SNYLER • ...  
 ... BERRY J • KEITH C CAMPBELL • JAMES A DICKINS • ...  
 ... ER • FREDERIC W MILLER • JACK M SECRETY • ...  
 ... CHARLES C HARDING • LEKROY HENSLEY • ...  
 ... EDWIN E WILSON • ISRAEL ALICIA • ...  
 ... MARK D HOITE • LARRY D HUDKINS • ...  
 ... WILLARD D ARNOLD • RONALD E BERNESTORD • ...  
 ... MORRIS E BURNS • ALLEN BUTLER • ...  
 ... DONALD J EGAN JR • HAROLD J GILBERT • ...  
 ... ROBERT L KING • ROGER E NIEMI • ...  
 ... CERALDO RICO • BERNARD SANTOYO VAZQUEZ • ...  
 ... CARL W MUELLER • CHARLES C MYERS • ...  
 ... HAROLD W WINGET • EDWARD F RUSHING • ...  
 ... IRVING W HUBBELL • ALBERT H HAYES • ...  
 ... MICHAEL T SCROGIN • JOHN P BURKE • ...  
 ... THOMAS J LACK • PEDRO A SMITH • ...  
 ... RICHARD A LAWRENCE • WILLIAM L ANDREWS • ...  
 ... WAYNE N CARD • MICHAEL G CARTWRIGHT • ...  
 ... EDWARD H JACKSON JR • RODNEY D JOHNSON • ...  
 ... RICE J MARLER • JAMES H MONROE • ...  
 ... JAMES L MCCRARY • KENNETH W OYLES • ...  
 ... JOHN E QUAM • HOWARD W REECE • ...  
 ... WILLIAM D WESSLES • JOSEPH WIGGINS • ...



## Summer Honor Guard Training Conference Set for August 23 in Albuquerque

DVS, the New Mexico National Guard, and AARP New Mexico will present the 2024 New Mexico Honor Guard Summer Conference on August 23 in Albuquerque.

The conference will be from 8am-4pm at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial amphitheater, at 1100 Louisiana Boulevard SE. A free catered breakfast and lunch will be provided.



This is the second of two honor guard conferences scheduled this year to provide a learning and training opportunity for New Mexico's volunteer Honor Guards that render military honors at most funerals of veterans and spouses in the state. A similar conference was presented in Las Cruces on April 26 (*above photo*). Instruction will be provided by New Mexico National Guard Honor Guard members on the proper procedure of the draping of the American flag over the casket, the flag-fold, rifle volley, bugle rendition of *Taps*, and the presentation of the folded flag to family at the funerals of honorably discharged veterans in the state. The highlight of the conference is a three-tiered performance competition between large, medium, and small-size honor guards.

### **Pre-registration required**

Honor guards, and representatives from veterans' groups that would like to form a state-registered honor guard, must pre-register to attend the 2024 New Mexico Honor Guard Summer Conference by contacting Diana Myklebust at [diana.myklebust@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:diana.myklebust@dvs.nm.gov) or (505) 231-8911.



## Table Spaces Still Available for 2024 Military & Veterans Day at the NM State Fair

Military Appreciation Day at the State Fair is set for September 10 at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds in Albuquerque. This is the day set aside by state fair management, the New Mexico National Guard, and the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services to honor and thank active-duty service members and veterans for their service to our country. Free admission is given to veterans showing a copy of their DD214 form or a valid veterans'-designation New Mexico driver's license.

***There is a limited number of spaces available*** for agencies/organizations to set up informational tables/booths along "Main Street" and Heritage Avenue—the two main paths on the fairgrounds. Registration for these table spaces is being handled by the state fair and is now open via the state fair website:

<https://statefair.exponm.com/p/things-to-do/main-street-dayscopy1>

Registration will be done only by this website: No phone call registration requests to DVS or the state fair will be accepted.

For more information, contact State Fair Main Street/Special Projects Coordinator Craig Vencil at [craig.vencill@expo.nm.gov](mailto:craig.vencill@expo.nm.gov) or (505) 250-6140.

## DVS Benefits Outreach Visits Scheduled For July & August

DVS is scheduled to make the following July and August outreach visits at the locations listed below. Veterans and/or their eligible dependents are encouraged to stop by to file for--or ask information about--VA disability ratings, VA medical or mental health care, retiree pensions, military burials, and many other VA benefits.

DVS staff can also help with applying for state veterans' benefits such as the veterans' \$4,000 property tax exemption, waiving the property tax assessment for veterans rated 100% permanent and total disabled, disabled veteran fishing and hunting licenses, veterans' license plates, and many more state veterans' benefits. Staff will also help with any other issues a veteran or eligible dependent may need help with. Please bring a copy of your DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, as it is a necessary document for filing all veterans' benefits claims. DVS can help assist veterans file for lost or misplaced DD 214s.

Artesia	Jul. 18	United Veterans Center/402 W. Hermosa	9am-3:30pm
Cannon AFB	Jul. 23	Military & Family Readiness Center	3-4pm
Deming	Jul. 31	Deming Senior Center/800 South Granite	10am-12:30pm
Hagerman			
Jal		Jal Public Library/100 East Utah Ave.	
Raton	Jul. 17	Raton CBOC/1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Socorro	Jul. 23	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Artesia	Aug. 15	United Veterans Center/402 W. Hermosa	9am-3:30pm
Cannon AFB	Aug. 6 & 20	Military & Family Readiness Center	3-4pm
Capitan	Aug. 1	Capitan Public Library/101 East 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street	10am-3pm
Deming	Aug. 14	Veterans Food Bank/4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-2pm
Deming	Aug. 28	Deming Senior Center/800 South Granite	10am-12:30pm
Jal		Jal Public Library/100 East Utah Ave.	
Raton	Aug. 21	Raton CBOC/1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Santa Rosa	Aug. 14	Guadalupe County Veterans' Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro	Aug. 13 & 27	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm

The locations below are regularly-scheduled weekly outreach visits:

Santa Fe	T & Th	Santa Fe Vet Center/2209 Brothers Rd.	8am-2pm
Truth or Consequences	Wed.	State Veterans Home/992 S. Broadway	9am-4pm



DVS Las Vegas (NM)-based VSO Jimmy Saiz and VSO Assistant Tracy Knox staffed a table at a June 21 veterans' benefits fair in Mora hosted by VFW Post 1131.

## DVS Veterans' Service Officer Spotlight



**Fred Solis-Littlejohn**  
DVS Hobbs-based VSO

This month's VSO Spotlight is shining on DVS Hobbs/Lea County-based Veterans' Service Officer Fredy Solis-Littlejohn.

Freddy is coming up on his second year of working in the most southeastern of the agency's 17 field offices located throughout the state.

"My current job is the first time I've ever focused solely on helping veterans and their families," said Freddy. "It is a great honor to be able to help men and women who have served and defended our country...but may now need a little help in their post-military lives. I am happy to be able to help."

Freddie is a former California Army National Guardsman who came to DVS after working several years as an evidence technician with the Hobbs Police Department—where many of his coworkers were military veterans. Many of these former coworkers are now coming to him for help with their VA claims and applications for state veterans' benefits, and are also referring their friends to him.

"Freddy has done an excellent job connecting with veterans in the southeast corner of New Mexico," said DVS Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson. "He has a great positive attitude and is very flexible with his commitment to do whatever it takes to help veterans and their families."

Recently, Freddy was invited to talk to veterans about their eligible VA and state veterans benefits every day at a week-long veterans' equine therapy wellness retreat organized by the non-profit *Healing America's Heroes*—even joining in many of the equine events. *(right photo/next to the horse, alongside HAH President Eddie Crain)*

Lately he's been busy helping veterans file PACT Act claims for exposure-related health issues, and Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims by widows—including one case resulting in a widow receiving \$300,000 for a DIC claim with backpay.

"For me, my job as a VSO gives me a sense of duty and service, and a desire to make a difference--in any way, shape or form--in the lives our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they made while serving our country," he said. "I've also been fortunate to have a great support network with my supervisors and coworkers throughout DVS. It really is an honor for me to do what I do."



## Upcoming VBOC “Boots to Business” Veteran Entrepreneurship Classes

The New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)—the veterans business development division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services— will present its next four “Boots to Business” Introduction to Entrepreneurship classes in the following communities listed below.

The classes are for transitioning active-duty service members, veterans/National Guard/Reserve members, and spouses who are interested in starting their own business or growing an existing operation. All classes are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. You must have on-base privileges to attend the four classes marked with an asterisk (\*).

City	Dates	Venue/Address
*Cannon AFB	Jul. 18-19	CAFB Airman & Family & Readiness Center
*Holloman AFB	Sep. 12-13	HAFB Airman & Family Readiness Center
*Cannon AFB	Sep. 19-20	CAFB Airman & Family & Readiness Center
Albuquerque	Sep. 26-27	VBOC Office/Pinetree Corporate Ctr./Bldg. 2 (4801 Indian School Road NE)

### Boots to Business Program

These free two-day introduction to entrepreneurship courses will present information about the key elements of small business ownership and expansion, techniques for evaluating the feasibility of business concepts, and the steps needed to develop an all-important business plan—a “must” for anyone looking to start or expand a business.

The classes will also introduce a broad spectrum of entrepreneurial business concepts, how to access resources available for obtaining start-up or expansion capital, technical assistance, and how to pursue federal contracting opportunities. To register for these classes, please go to the national Boots to Business calendar at <https://sba.my.site.com/s/reboot-course-information> and click on the desired class.

For more information, contact VBOC Business Advisor Austin Walker at [a.walker@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:a.walker@dvs.nm.gov) or (505) 469-8501.

## Register Now for the 2024 New Mexico Veterans Business Summit

The VBOC will be joined by several small business development partners to present this intensive two-day conference on October 31 & November 1 in Las Cruces at the New Mexico State University Student Union Ballroom. It is free for entrepreneurial-minded military veterans, active service members, and their spouses who want to learn how to start or expand a small business, and secure federal contracts.

[Please click on this link](#) for more information and pre-registration.



## 2024 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference

DVS presented the 2024 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference on June 8 in Albuquerque at the Sheraton Uptown Hotel.

150 women veterans and vendors registered for the conference, which focused on educating women about U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), state, and local community benefits available for veterans.

According to the VA, women make up the fastest-growing

segment of our nation's veteran population. VA data shows there are two million women veterans in America--about 11% of our nation's 18.2 million veterans. Here in New Mexico, 12% (16,900) of our state's 141,700 veterans are women.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera opened the conference by noting that women have been working in some capacity in the military since our nation's Revolutionary War. He said it's important that women who've served apply for the benefits they've rightfully earned for serving our country (*above photo*).

"We are all brothers and sisters in arms—regardless of demographic," said Secretary Herrera, who is also a current New Mexico Army National Guard brigadier general and the state's deputy adjutant general. "It is my job, and the job of everyone at DVS, to make sure not only that you get the benefits you've earned, but also the respect you should get as veterans."

Secretary Herrera also urged attendees to help spread the word about two veterans' property tax exemption measures that will appear on this November's general election ballot. One will ask voters to increase the veterans' property tax exemption from \$4,000 off the taxable value of their home...to \$10,000. The other ballot measure will ask voters to approve a new service-connected disabled veterans' waiver to be based on a veterans' VA service-connected disability rating. Currently only 100% service-connected rated veterans are eligible for a 100% waiving of the property tax.

According to the ballot proposal, veterans rated 90% service-connected disabled would get a 90% waiving of the property tax. Those at 80% would get 80% of the bill waived...and so on down the line, to a 10% rating getting a 10% waiver.

DVS Field Services Division Director Robin Wilson provided information about the process of veterans working with a DVS veterans' service officer when filing VA health, disability rating, or pension claims. She said to expect a lot of questions during a thorough sit-down meeting, because symptoms veterans may think are insignificant could be tied to other service-related conditions that are eligible for VA health care treatment.

"It can be lengthy, and might seem invasive," she said. "But when we ask a lot of personal questions, we're not looking for reasons to say 'no.' We're looking to provide as many ways as possible for the VA to say, 'yes' and approve your claim."

*(continued on next page)*

Representatives from the New Mexico VA Health Care System talked about a \$1.5 million VA grant which will greatly expand its women veterans' program, other patient services, and LGBTQ+ care and support. Other presentations were about mental health empowerment for women (GD Psych Services), Creating Lives Worth Living (Kirtland AFB Integrated Prevention, & Resilience Office), Social Security (NM Social Security office), the New Mexico State Veterans Home, Hiring at Intel Corp. in Rio Rancho, Advocacy for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (New Mexico Indian Affairs Dept.), and information about service dogs for veterans (Paws & Stripes).

Also attending the conference were State Senator Shannon Pinto (D-McKinley & San Juan), and State Rep. Debra Sariñana (D-Bernalillo), who is an Air Force veteran (*right photo, chatting w/ DVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera*). Conference attendees were also able to stop by more than two dozen informational tables before the conference and during breaks.



LEFT PHOTO: DVS Executive Assistant to the Cabinet Secretary Shannon Quintana (far left), DVS HR Specialist Lori Gutierrez (in light pink sweater), and DVS Chief Financial Officer Danelle Lucero (center/top) helped check in conference attendees.



RIGHT PHOTO: A continental breakfast (pictured) and a plated enchilada lunch were also provided to all attendees.



LEFT PHOTO: Other DVS staff attended the conference to answer questions and make appointments with veterans. Pictured here is Roswell-based Veterans' Service Officer Danielle Thompson (*standing*) and her Belgian Malinois/emotional support dog "Maddox."



DVS Albuquerque Metro Area VSO Supervisor May Chavez (*at right*) is seen here going over VA health care questions with a veteran .



**(L to R):** Waiting to help veterans are DVS Southwest Region VSO Supervisor Miguel Garcia and DVS downtown Albuquerque-based VSO Ronn Saavedra.



DVS Grants/Cibola County-based VSO April Ball (*at left*) working with a veteran.



DVS Taos County-based VSO Leticia “Lety” Carrillo (*at right*) answering questions from a veteran. April Ball (*at left*) working with a veteran.



**(From L to R):** Instrumental in putting together the conference were DVS Health Care Coordination Division Social Worker Therese Castillo, DVS Health Coordination Director Diane Mourning Brown, and DVS Health Care Coordination Division Assistant Veronica Patterson.



## DVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera Addresses Roswell Veterans Town Hall Meeting

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) hosted a quarterly Veterans' Community Briefing on June 12 in Roswell at American Legion Post 28.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera started with introducing newly appointed New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) Director Breton M. Weintraub, M.D., who started his new position the day before.

"I'm excited and honored to be your new director of the New Mexico VA Health Care System," said Dr. Weintraub (*right photo*), who comes to New Mexico from the Fargo, ND, VA Health Care System, where he had been serving as director. "It's important that we continue to work with the state veterans' services department, but also the many veterans' service organizations, to ensure that every veteran gets the best health care possible."



Secretary Herrera pledged to continue working with the NMVAHCS to continue providing the very best possible care for veterans. Among the issues he highlighted is the need to expand transportation options for veterans beyond the current VA grant-funded Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program that offers free round-trip rides for to VA medical appointments for veterans in 15 VA-designated "highly rural" counties. Secretary Herrera said DVS received limited funding from the legislature last session to create a statewide program to cover the state's remaining 18 counties.



DVS Roswell-based Veterans' Service Officer Danielle Thompson was on hand to answer questions about and help with filing VA claims and applying for state veterans' benefits.

DVS has also received funding to strengthen its efforts to increase awareness and prevention of veteran suicide, and to help homeless veterans. Details will be released once they have been developed.

Secretary Herrera also talked about two veteran-related ballot initiatives in this November's general election. One will ask voters to approve raising the state veteran's property tax exemption from \$4,000...to \$10,000 off a veterans' primary residence in New Mexico. The other will ask voters to approve tying the disabled veterans' property waiver to a veteran's VA service-connected disability rating.

The secretary stressed the need to learn more about these two measures in the coming months before election day on November 5.

## DVS Participates in Governor's Latest *Cabinet In Your Community* Outreach Visit

DVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera, DVS Southeast Region Veterans' Service Officer Supervisor Matt Barela, and DVS Clovis-based Veterans' Service Officer Ben Padilla represented the agency in eastern New Mexico earlier this month at Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's latest *Cabinet In Your Community* multi-agency outreach.



The DVS team joined other agencies at Clovis Community College on July 8 (*right photo*), and in Portales, at Eastern New Mexico University the following day. It was the second regional "one-stop-shop" opportunity this year organized by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for people to meet state agency cabinet secretaries and staff to get information about state programs and services. A similar two-day outreach took place in the Farmington in April.



DVS Southeast Region VSO Supervisor Matt Barela (*in black shirt, far left*) and DVS Clovis-based VSO Ben Padilla (*seated next to Matt*) helped U.S. Marine Corp veteran Ron Kos at the *Cabinet In Your Community* event on July 8 at Clovis Community College. "We were pretty busy both days!" said Barela.

"You shouldn't have to come to Santa Fe--we should come to you," the governor told the crowd during a Q&A session at the July 8 Clovis visit. "There are a ton of benefits available, but I don't see enough New Mexicans taking advantage of them. We want to hear from you. Speak up!" she said.

"We were able to answer a lot of questions on both days by veterans who came from throughout the eastern part of the state," said Secretary Herrera. "Those that needed more in-depth help made appointments for in-office visits with Matt and Ben. We look forward to helping them with their claims."

Additional regional visits are scheduled later this year. DVS will put out the information once plans are finalized by the governor's office.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera (*seated in middle row, far left*) joined Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (*front row/middle, in purple*) and other cabinet secretaries at the Q&A session on July 9 in Portales, at Eastern New Mexico University.





## DVS Meets With Navajo Nation President Nygren

DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera and DVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley met with Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren and Navajo Nation VA Tribal Liaison Olin Kiyoomia on June 18 in Farmington.

Secretary Herrera and President Nygren discussed strengthening the relationship between DVS and the Navajo Nation to increase the state's service to Native American veterans needing help with filing VA claims and applying for state veterans' benefits.

FROM L to R: DVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley, DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren, and Navajo Nation VA Tribal Liaison Olin Kiyomi.

DVS Secretary Herrera stressed the agency's commitment to helping Native American veterans getting better access to VA health care—and the agency's plans to increase the reach of an existing transportation program offering free round-trip rides for veterans to and from their VA medical appointments.

The current VA-funded program only serves 15 counties in New Mexico. DVS is working to extend coverage to all 33 counties—along with communities within the Navajo Nation and other pueblo and tribal lands in the state. DVS will also soon acquire an all-season mobile unit to be staffed by veterans' service officers to go to underserved rural areas—including tribal lands—and help veterans with their benefits needs.

## Pueblo of Laguna Community Benefits Education Fair



LEFT PHOTO, L to R: DVS Albuquerque-based Veterans' Service Officer Mathew Zamora, DVS State Benefits Bureau Chief Jeff George, and DVS State Benefits Division Director Ed Mendez provided veterans' benefits information at the Pueblo of Laguna's Community Benefits Education Fair on June 7.

RIGHT PHOTO: Also providing information was DVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley (seated/at right, next to Mathew Zamora)



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



### VA Formally Announces the Construction of a New National Cemetery in Albuquerque

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced it will begin building a new national cemetery in Albuquerque in 2025.

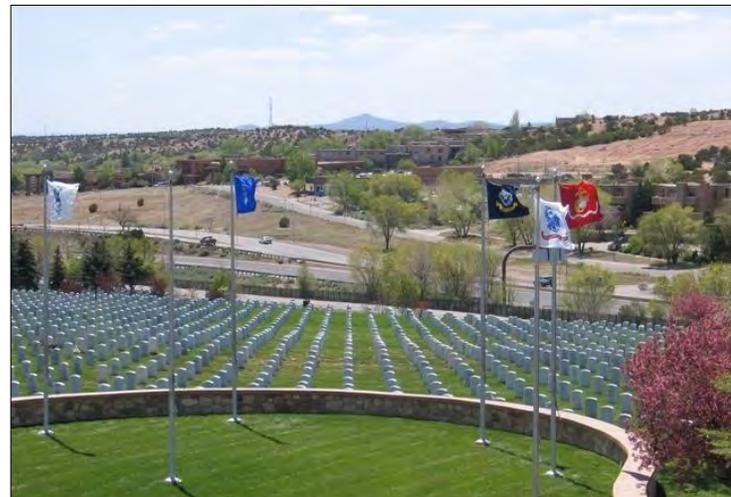
The facility, to be named the Albuquerque National Cemetery, will be in the city's west side, on 230 acres at the junction of Atrisco Vista Blvd. and the Shooting Range Access Road—just south of the Double Eagle II Airport.

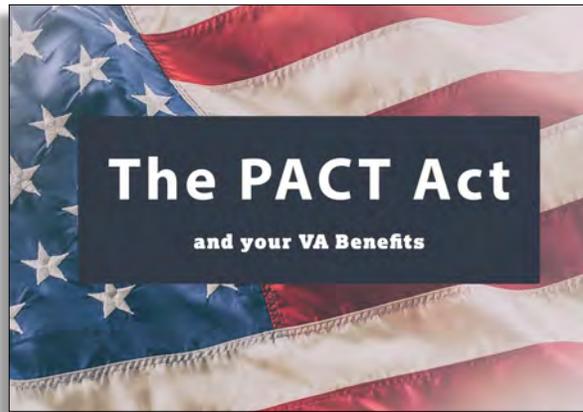
“The new Albuquerque National Cemetery will serve nearly 78,000 Veterans,” said Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters. “VA is pleased to extend access to VA burial benefits for veterans in the Santa Fe/Albuquerque area and provide them with a final resting place in honor of their service to the nation.”

The name Albuquerque National Cemetery was selected after VA solicited input from local veterans and community leaders, and is consistent with the requirements in [Title 38 United States Code § 531](#) requiring VA property to be named for the geographic area in which the facility is located.

The new cemetery will replace the existing Santa Fe National Cemetery (*right photo*), which was established in 1875 and which VA projects to reach full burial capacity within the next ten years. Consistent with the surrounding desert environment, the cemetery will be designed and built with water-wise landscaping, including finely crushed granite as ground cover in the burial sections. Similar landscaping can be found at VA's national cemeteries in El Paso, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona and Bakersfield, California.

VA operates 155 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites across the nation. Over 5.4 million people — including 4.1 million Veterans of every war and conflict — are buried in VA national cemeteries.





## VA Extends Presumptions of Service Connection for Three New Cancers

VA is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the [PACT Act](#).

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the [Federal Register](#), the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

- male breast cancer.
- urethral cancer.
- cancer of the paraurethral glands.

Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire [Southwest Asia theater of operations](#), which includes Iraq.

“We are working with urgency to deliver on the promise of the PACT Act to provide health care and benefits to as many toxic-exposed veterans as possible — we’re leaning in wherever we can,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “VA is working with one goal in mind: getting today and tomorrow’s veterans and their families the benefits they deserve as fast as possible.”

Any veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the [PACT Act was signed into law](#). VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted. So far, VA has paid out more than one million PACT Act claims worth \$5.7 billion.

### What is the PACT Act?

The *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promises to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, more commonly known as the PACT Act, expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances dating back to service during the Vietnam War. It removes the requirement of proving certain post-service health issues are linked to exposure to toxics during their service. VA now presumes this link is valid. The PACT Act may also give retroactive pay to veterans whose health care claims were previously denied. The law is named in honor of former Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Heath Robinson, who died in 2020 after battling lung cancer for three years. VA had repeatedly denied claims by Sgt. Robinson and his non-VA doctors that the cancer was caused by exposure to smoke from burning trash during deployments to Iraq in 2006 and 2007. Robinson’s widow Danielle continued to fight in Congress on her husband’s behalf after his death— with passage finally happening two years later.

#### Filing a PACT Act Claim

If you suspect a health condition is linked to service-connected exposure to toxics...and would like to file a VA claim, contact any DVS veterans’ service officer listed on the back two pages of this newsletter.

## VA Announces Updates to Its VA Home Loan Benefits Program

VA has announced that eligible veterans, active-duty service members, and surviving spouses who use the [VA-guaranteed home loan benefit](#) can pay for certain real estate buyer-broker fees when purchasing a home beginning Aug. 10, 2024.



VA hopes this will ensure that veterans remain competitive and are not disadvantaged on the homebuying market due to changes that may result from a key class-action settlement involving the National Association of REALTORS®, which is slated to take effect later this summer. A lawsuit had been filed alleging the existence of an anticompetitive agreement that resulted in home sellers paying inflated commissions to real estate brokers or agents in violation of antitrust law.

Previously, veterans could not pay their buyer-broker fees when using their home loans benefits. The VA home loan program, which celebrates its 80th anniversary later this month, is a critical benefit for eligible veterans interested in becoming homeowners.

[Created in 1944](#) as part of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act — also known as the “G.I. Bill of Rights” — this program has provided over 28 million loans to veterans to date. Last year, veterans obtained over 400,000 homes loans through this program.

“We always want to put veterans and their families in the best possible position to buy the homes they want, and that’s what this update is all about,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs. “Veterans using VA home loan benefits can now pay reasonable and customary amounts for certain charges — including commissions and other broker-related fees — thus ensuring that they remain competitive in the rapidly changing housing market.”

The temporary measures announced today will help ensure that veterans are not negatively impacted by the class-action settlement. VA will continue to monitor how the settlement affects the brokerage market and looks forward to pursuing a rulemaking.

VA encourages veterans using the VA-guaranteed home loan benefit to remember that they can and should still negotiate their buyer-broker fee. In addition, nothing in the settlement prevents veteran home-buyers from asking sellers to pay the fees at closing, which has long been and continues to be, a viable practice under VA’s rules.

In addition to other safeguards, all buyer-broker fees charged to veterans using the home loan benefit must be reasonable and customary within local markets. As the landscape of the real estate market evolves, VA will continue to monitor for changes, as well as new models of realtor commissions that may emerge and help lower costs, boost competition, and increase avenues to home ownership.

For more details about this new update and its impacts, visit this [FAQ](#) in VA News and [Circulars: Calendar Years 2021 to Present – VA Home Loans](#).

More information on the [VA Home Loan Program](#), loan volumes by [state](#) and [county](#), and a [video](#) are available through these links.

# Veterans Community Bulletin Board

The following pages 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.

# For veterans who use the Amarillo VA Health Care System...



**Come out and learn what VA can do for you!**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is inviting Veterans and their families to Summer VetFest events across the country. These events are a time for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors to come together. Learn about the health care and benefits you've earned and have some fun!



- ★ **Get answers to VA benefits and health care questions!**
- ★ **Learn more about VA services and Veteran resources!**

 **July 18, 2024**

 **12 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

 **Amarillo College  
West Campus  
6222 SW 9th Ave**



The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Attend a Summer VetFest event near you to learn how the PACT Act can help Veterans and their survivors receive the care and benefits they earned and deserve.

**Learn more about the PACT Act and what it means for your VA benefits and health care!**



**[VA.gov/PACT](https://VA.gov/PACT)**



# JOIN US VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

**Connecting  
you with what  
you need.**

**Offered Bi- Weekly  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Education Annex  
Building 39**

**Friday, May 3rd  
Friday, May 17th  
Friday, May 31st  
Friday, June 14th  
Friday, June 28th  
Friday, July 12th  
Friday, July 26th**

*Join for bi-weekly group with attendance from various community partners geared at providing support, resources and direct assistance.*

## Providing Assistance with:

- |                       |                           |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Food Resources</b> | <b>Community Services</b> | <b>Income &amp; Employment Support</b> |
| SNAP                  | HOUSING RESOURCES         | ONE-ON-ONE GUIDANCE                    |
| WIC                   | MEDICAID                  | JOB SEARCH & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE    |
| FOOD PANTRIES         | HEALTH & WELLNESS         | UTILITY RESOURCES                      |
|                       | CELL PHONES/TABLETS       |  |

Partners:



This event is presented by U.S. Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury...

JOIN US:

# VETERANS TOWN HALL



Friday, July 19



New Mexico Veterans  
Memorial  
1100 Louisiana Blvd, SE  
#5009, Albuquerque,  
NM, 87108



11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

With Rep. Melanie Stansbury  
and Rep. Mark Takano,  
Ranking Member on the house  
Veterans Affairs Committee





**Friday, July 19, 2024**  
**10am - 5pm**  
**Gallup Sports Complex**  
 925 Park Ave  
 Gallup, NM 87301



**2024 Operation Veterans Wellness**  
 Registration @ 6:00am  
 Start @ 6:30am  
 Contact Cheryl Toledo  
 505 722-9470  
 \*\* FREE EVENT \*\*

**Back-to-School Youth Activities**

**Food vendor will be on site**



**10:00am Presentation of Colors**

---

**10:15am Welcome Address**

---

**10:30am "Creating a Healing Forest: Wellness, Recovery Support, and Community"**

---

**12:00pm-5:00pm Gourd Dance**  
 (Please bring your own chairs)  
 Head Gourd Dancer: Stewart Jones  
 Head Drum: Michael Coan, Turquoise Mountain Singers  
 MC: Michael Salabiye

**10:00am - 4:30pm Resource Fair (Non-Profit Organizations only)**



For more information regarding Gourd Dance call TJ Anderson @ (928) 551-1053  
**\*\* THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT \*\***  
**\*\* NO SOLICITING \*\***

ISHKOTEEN JUDICIAL BUILDING ROTUNDA  
7-19-24 1 PM

JICARILLA APACHE NATION

# VETERANS 2024



## WARRIORS DAY

HONORING THE LATE  
PRESIDENT  
EDWARD VELARDE



JICARILLAVETERANS@GMAIL.COM

# Veterans' Health Administration New Mexico VA Healthcare System

Pueblo of Isleta Veteran Outreach Event

The Veteran Public is Cordially Invited!



**Where:** Pueblo of Isleta Veterans Center,  
4001 NM-314, Los Lunas NM 87031

**When:** Friday, July 19, 2024.

Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. (set up time 9:30 am).

We invite all Veterans, their families and caregivers to learn more about VA Health Care, Veterans Benefits and other VA Resources.

If you would like to sign up for VA Healthcare or benefits, bring a Copy #4 of your DD-214 Discharge document, Medicare or other health insurance cards, and a copy of last year's income taxes.

POC: Mr. Terry L. Obago, Program Manager, Native American Veterans Program, New Mexico VA Healthcare System 505-256-5407 or email: [terry.obago@va.gov](mailto:terry.obago@va.gov)

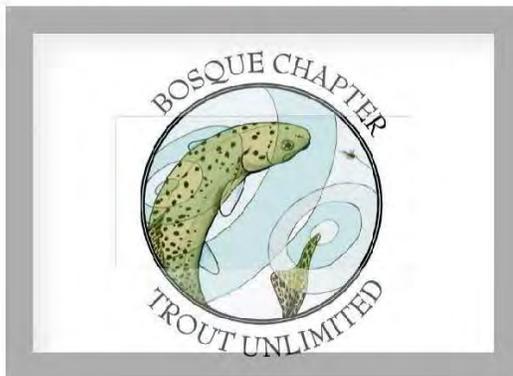
## **Veterans, Active Duty, and Families**

**Do You Want to Learn the Basics of Fly Fishing?**

**The Bosque Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Fly & Vets**

**Invite you to**

**Fly Fishing 101—A Fly Fishing Clinic for Beginners**



**THIS FREE, ONE-DAY CLINIC MEETS FROM**

**8:30-4:00 ON JULY 20 AT THE**

**NORTHWEST AREA GAME AND FISH OFFICE**

**7816 ALAMO ROAD NW, ALBUQUERQUE**

**THIS CLINIC IS BYOL (BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH)**

**AND DOES NOT REQUIRE A TROUT UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND**

**Attendance is limited to 24 Participants**

**For Information or to Register,**

**Contact**

**Jeff Harrell    [flynangler@gmail.com](mailto:flynangler@gmail.com)**



## ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

**You are invited to attend an ALL HANDS Veterans meeting schedule for the 1st day of August, 2024 at the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative building located at 118 Cruz Alta Road Taos at 2pm.**

The purpose of this event is to better inform all Veterans of current services and benefits available to you and your families.

### Invited speakers include representative of:

VA Regional Office Albuquerque (Michael Nelson)  
 VA National Cemetery Santa Fe (Victor Vasquez)  
 VA Medical Center Albuquerque NM (Adam West)

State of NM office of Veterans Services (Edward Mendez)  
 County Managers Office Taos NM (Brent Jaramillo)

Members of VFW Post 9516 Cerro, VFW Post 3259 Taos, VFW Post 7688 Questa and all local Veterans and family members are encouraged to attend as you all have made numerous sacrifices, while serving your country, and have earned the right to many of the current Government services.

For addition information please contact:  
 Allan L. Drucker - VACO Director Retired /VFW Post 3259  
**575-770-2512 • [aldrucker@msn.com](mailto:aldrucker@msn.com)**



Hosted by Taos VFW Post 3259 & New Mexico Office of Veterans Services

# The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

in collaboration with

## New Mexico VA Health Care System

and

## New Mexico VA Benefits Administration

Presents:

# Veterans Benefits Festival in August

*The VetFest celebrates the first anniversary of the PACT Act. At this event, staff will be ready to help Veterans apply for PACT Act-related benefits, enroll in VA health care, get screened for toxic exposures and more.*

**When: August 2, 2024**

**Time: 9am - 3pm**

**Where: N.M. Department of Veterans' Services  
Pinetree Business Park  
Building 2, First Floor  
4801 Indian School Road NE**

**Round Robin Events include:**

- Looped Video of the 2022 PACT Act
- Veteran Service Representatives from VA Benefits
- Women Veterans Counselor
- Native American Veterans Representative
- VA Health Care System Enrollment
- VA Level 1 Toxic Exposure Screen
- My HealtheVet
- And Others

**POC: Adam West @ (505) 376-9217 or  
[adam.west@va.gov](mailto:adam.west@va.gov)**

**Refreshments provided**



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual

★ FOUR CORNERS WARRIOR ★

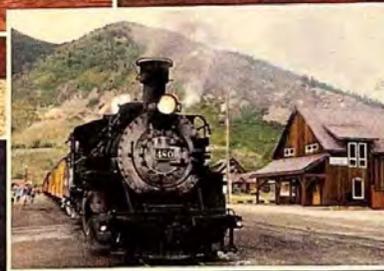
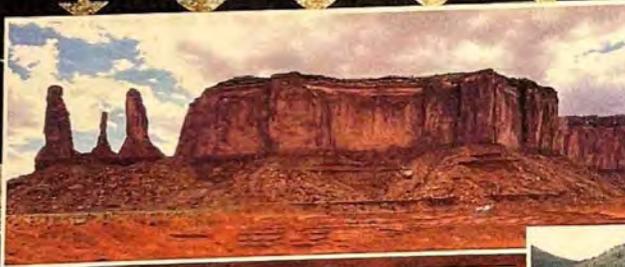
# ADVENTURE

Aug. 2-9, 2024



**THE WARRIORS WILL  
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO ENJOY...**

- Guided River Rafting
- First pitch at the Connie Mack World Series
- Rock Crawling
- Train Ride
- Monument Valley
- The BAR-D
- Fly Fishing
- River Rafting



*The Wounds* that ended or changed their military career still cause them pain. This week will cause them to smile, relax, and learn to have fun again. This week will allow us the opportunity to say **THANK YOU** for their service to our nation.



san juan PRINTING



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Simkins:  
phone: (505) 326-5723  
cell: (505) 793-2423  
email: hillcimkins@hotmail.com



**Goodwill**  
Industries of New Mexico 

# Patriot Palooza

VETERAN & COMMUNITY RESOURCE EVENT HOSTED BY  
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NEW MEXICO'S VETERAN SERVICES

**DJ & More!**

Disabled American Veterans  
Roadrunner Food Bank  
Department of Veteran Services  
Veterans Health Administration

NM Womens Veterans (DVS)  
Valencia Shelter Services  
Chicanos Por La Causa  
NM VA

The Rock at Noon Day  
Food Trucks

Kid's Face Painting  
Car Show



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE A TABLE!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

**OLD ROUTE 66 CAR SHOW**

**5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE**

**03  
AUGUST  
2024**



**11:00 AM  
TO  
3:00 PM**



# **Indian Springs Ranch**

## **Open House**

**Come visit us on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 from  
10:00am to 2:00pm.**

**We will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs.**

**We will be having a silent auction.**

**We will also be drawing the winner of our first  
annual Beef raffle.**

**All to inform the public of our mission and raise  
funds for future warrior retreats.**

**875 North Star Mesa Road**

**Mimbres, N.M. 88049**

**For more information: (575) 313-2422**

# Are you a Veteran ready to begin living your best life?

Experience a complimentary week full of mindful education, body rejuvenation and uplifting comradery with fellow veterans and their partners in the mountains of New Mexico. Learn valuable therapeutic and holistic tools while leaning in to Post Traumatic Growth.

**APPLY TODAY!**  
Download an application on our website.



Serving veterans and their families since 2009.  
**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

## 2024 RETREAT SCHEDULE

April 28- May 5

June 2-9

August 18-25

October 20-27



Retreats include **FREE** lodging, meals, and activities like massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding and more!  
\*Travel is participants responsibility.

### Eligibility for attendance:

- 1) Veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress
  - 2) Must bring a support partner
  - 3) Must be free from drug/alcohol abuse for at least 12 months
- \*Note: New Mexico veterans have first priority. Veterans from other states will be accepted as funds allow.



## OUR CONTACT



505-501-8337



retreats@vethealingcenter.org



www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org



P.O. Box 805, Angel Fire, NM 87710



HESPERUS



Rainforest  
Innovations



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

**SEPTEMBER 23 - 26, 2024 (Monday-Thursday)**

Lobo Rainforest Building | 101 Broadway Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

## DESCRIPTION

The University of New Mexico is partnering with Hesperus to bring an Entrepreneurship Bootcamp to Native American Veterans in New Mexico and the Southwest Region of the United States.

Offered only to Native American Veterans, the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV-NAV) is a unique program created to leverage the skills, resources, and infrastructure of higher education to offer cutting-edge, experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to Native American Veterans in New Mexico and the Southwest Region of the United States.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

- *Financing • Legal Issues • Marketing • Design Thinking • Business Model Canvas*
- *Idea Recognition • Operations • Profit Models • Supply Chain • Personal Selling*
- *Leveraging Technology • Government Contracting*

## ELIGIBILITY

Native American Veterans from New Mexico or the Southwest Region of the United States that have a passion for business ownership.

## COST

EBV-NAV is provided at no cost through the generous support of Hesperus and the University of New Mexico. Expenses covered by the program include transportation, lodging, and meals.

The program does not require use of GI bill or VOC-Rehab benefits.

*(more info on next page)*

## PHASE 1

### Online Course | Begins August 19th | Complete by September 15th

A four-week instructor led online course focused on entrepreneurial opportunity recognition, innovation, and small business management. Program participants will test the feasibility of their business idea or recently launched venture and develop a foundation of skills and abilities in the areas of value creation, marketing, sales, personal branding, value delivery, and finance. Must complete by September 15th.

## PHASE 2

### Albuquerque, NM | September 23 - 26

A four-day residency in Albuquerque, NM during September 23-26 where participants are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship educators from across the U.S. Although the residency is intense, special accommodations are made to meet the unique needs of participants to both educate and motivate. Program will start early morning on September 23rd. Please plan September 22nd and September 27th as travel days.

## PHASE 3

### Ongoing Support and Resources

Ongoing support following program completion will be offered by the University of New Mexico's suite of programs and services for entrepreneurs. In addition, program graduates will receive ongoing support from Hesperus, networking opportunities, and invitations to other programming.

## HOW TO APPLY

*Apply by August 12th for best consideration*

Contact Brandon Lorenzo below to learn more about the program and how to apply.



**Brandon Lorenzo**  
[brandonlorenzo1@unm.edu](mailto:brandonlorenzo1@unm.edu)  
 (505) 277-3181



*PTSD Moments by Arnulfo Peña,  
 Native American Veteran*



**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS  
DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)**

# 2024 PROGRAM & EVENT INFORMATION SHEET



### DAV FELLOWSHIP DINNER

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 5-7PM  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
**PLEASE RSVP AT:**  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)  
**(505) 294-6193**



### CROCHET & TEA

TUESDAYS, 1:30-3:00PM  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
**PLEASE RSVP AT:**  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)  
**(505) 294-6193**



### SUPPORT GROUP & SOCIAL HOUR

MONDAYS, 2-3PM  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WELCOME

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
**PLEASE RSVP AT:**  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)  
**(505) 294-6193**



### CLOTHING CLOSET FREE CLOTHING FOR VETERANS

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
**PLEASE VISIT:**  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)  
**(505) 294-6193**



### FOOD PANTRY FREE FOOD FOR VETERANS

DAV DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO  
2511 UTAH STREET NE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110  
**PLEASE VISIT:**  
[WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG](http://WWW.DAVNEWMEXICO.ORG)  
**(505) 294-6193**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OUR ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN, ALLISON VAZQUEZ @ [ALLISONNMDAV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALLISONNMDAV@GMAIL.COM)**



VA |  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
New Mexico VA Health Care System



# Quit Smoking Today

Tobacco Cessation classes are offered every  
Wednesday @ 1 p.m. inside the Education  
Building #39 , Classroom 1.

Veterans who are interested in quitting their tobacco use, or learning more about what treatment options are available to help with quitting, are welcome to attend the Tobacco Cessation Drop-in Group every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque (1501 San Pedro Drive SE).

This group is facilitated by a clinical psychologist and clinical pharmacist and provides both behavioral counseling and medication management to assist in tobacco cessation. You do not have to be ready to quit using tobacco to join the group.

Please note that the group is currently meeting in Classroom 1 in the Education Building (Building 39) through the end of July 2024. Please look for future GovDelivery announcements for an update on our meeting locations. The New Mexico VA Health Care System looks forward to seeing you at the group! For more info: (505) 265-1711



## 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](mailto:david.henley@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque Metro Area

**May Chavez** (ABQ metro supervisor)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor  
(505) 527-2302

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

### Albuquerque (Downtown)

**Ronn Saavedra**

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.  
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor  
(505) 525-3331

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

### Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

**DVS staff (9am-4pm)**

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical  
Ctr. 1501 San Pedro Dr. SE  
(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](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** (NW region supervisor)

San Juan College Vet Center  
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B  
(505) 327-2861

[robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:robert.guinn@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Leo Esquibel**

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

[leo.esquibel@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:leo.esquibel@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)

### 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.  
(575) 644-6869

[miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov)

### Las Cruces/Southwest NM

**Vincent Tellez**

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

[vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov)

(continued on next page)

**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.  
(505) 216-8782

[clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov)

**Rio Rancho/Northeast 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)

**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](mailto:clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov)

**Veterans Business****Outreach Center (Albuquerque)****Johnny Martinez (Director)**

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2  
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor  
(505) 372-9106

[johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov)

*\*the VBOC provides assistance for veterans and spouses who are looking to open a small business, expanding an existing operation, or securing federal contracts*

**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)

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

1600 SE Main Street /Suite A  
(575) 416-2284

[danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov)

**Taos/Northeast 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)

**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Jimmy Saiz**

917 Douglas Ave.  
(505) 520-5079

[jimmy.saiz@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jimmy.saiz@dvs.nm.gov)

**Santa Fe/Northeast NM****Phillip Hernandez**

Bataan Memorial Bldg.  
407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Rm 134  
(505) 218-3125

[phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov)

**DVS Tribal Liaison (Farmington)****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)

*\*the DVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach and claims-filing assistance for Native American veterans*