

The Guardian

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

April 2025

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

•Facebook: <u>NMDVSHealthcare 2015</u>

•Instagram: newmexicoveterans

Property Tax Exemptions Update



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is now accepting applications from Veterans for the new property tax exemptions recently signed into law on March 20, 2025.

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is now 10,000 dollars and will be applied to the Veteran/unmarried Spouse survivor's 2025 notice of value. In 2026 and subsequent tax years the amount shall be adjusted for inflation.

For the tax year 2026, the Disabled Veterans Exemption allows for the Veteran/unmarried surviving spouse to apply for an adjusted exemption in an amount equal to the percentage of the Veteran's disability as determined by federal law. Veterans who choose to add the new Disabled Veteran tax exemption must submit an application to NMDVS and file it with the County Assessor. These exemptions are designed to provide financial relief to all Veterans for their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.

NMDVS has scheduled Veteran property tax exemption events throughout the state to explain the changes. NMDVS will also have Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) on-site to assist Veterans and their eligible dependents with filing VA claims and obtaining federal and state benefits.

Moriarty	4/17	Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Facility, 2506 NM-333 Moriarty, NM 87035	9am-2pm
Las Cruces	4/24	Dona Ana County Assessors, 845 N. Motel Dr., Las Cruces, NM 88007	9am-2pm
Bernalillo	5/14	Westside 5600 Coors Blvd. NW Albuquerque, NM 87120	9am-2pm
Bernalillo	5/14	Northeast 6001 San Mateo Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87109	9am-2pm

If you have questions on the new Veteran's property tax law, please call the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services at 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400. Visit nmdvs.org for a property tax exemption form and get your certificate now.

Our VSOs also help connect veterans to vital community resources, such as, transitional housing and medical and behavioral health care. Information and assistance on federal and state benefits, local Veterans' programs and referral services are available at any of our field office locations.

The NMDVS Healthcare Division works with mental health providers throughout the state to help veterans in crisis. If you need help, call or text 988 and press 1 for the Veterans crisis line. For more information on programs, resources, and services provided by NMDVS and our partners, please call 1-866-433-8387 or visit nmdvs.org.



VETERAN'S CONFERENCE 2025

HONORING SERVICE: NM VETERANS & TRIBAL VETERANS GATHERING

- 3°5-

BUFFALO THUNDER RESORT

30 BUFFALO THUNDER TRAIL, SANTA FE, NM 87506PUEBLO BALLROOM

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM



Join the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services for a day of connection, resources, and recognition at the 2025 Veterans' Conference. This event brings together Veterans, family members, service providers, and advocates from across the state for an inspiring and informative experience.

SCAN TO
REGISTER
LIMITED TO 250
ATTENDEES!

FREE REGISTRATION
ALL VETERANS &
FAMILIES WELCOME

- · Guest Speakers and Veteran leaders
- State & Federal resources and benefits information
- Networking with Veteran-friendly organizations
- · Dedicated Breakout Sessions for:
 - Tribal Veterans
 - Women Veterans
- *For applications, bring your DD 214 and if applicable, VA Award Letter*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NMDVS.ORG OR CALL 505-383-2400

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Veterans' Conference 2025, May 3rd Honoring Service: NM Veterans and Tribal Veterans Gathering



Join the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services for a day of connection, resources, and recognition on Saturday, May 3^{rd,} from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. The conference will be held at the Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino Pueblo Ballroom, 30 Buffalo Thunder Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87506.

Our annual conference enables veterans to learn about the programs and services available through NMDVS and it's partners who are dedicated to building stronger bonds and collaboration with our Tribal Veterans and Veteran community organizations.

Join us for a day filled with networking and education, featuring dedicated tribal and women Veteran breakout sessions. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Conference starts at 9:00 am and ends at 3:30 pm, with a buffet breakfast and lunch provided for attendees. Registration is free, and seats are limited.

Veteran Service Officers will be on-site to assist with VA and state benefit claims. Bring your DD-214, VA award Letter, insurance cards or any other VA correspondence to claim the benefits you have earned.

For conference registration click here.

Ribbon Cutting of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park

The City of Española Celebrated the Ribbon cutting of the newly reconstructed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park on April 5th. The Park was constructed over 35 years ago and remains one of the most utilized parks in the community. It was dedicated in the early 1990s to honor the Vietnam Veterans of the Española Valley. Improvements include upgraded lighting, dugouts, walkways, and playground structures.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Bureau Chief of Cemeteries and Monuments, David Walker, attended the ribbon cutting and celebration. Española Mayor John Ramon Vigil commented, "Recognizing our veterans is so important, and having such a vibrant, active space dedicated to their memory is a fitting way to honor their sacrifices." Additional upgrades to the park are already in the planning stages.





Tribute to Women in The Military

In March, we honored women's history in and out of uniform. Although women have served in the military since 1948, Women's History Month wasn't officially recognized and celebrated until 1987. From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the deserts of Kuwait, women have served in the military in one form or another for more than 200 years. They have had to overcome decades of obstacles to achieve their status: serving in greater numbers, combat roles, and leadership positions worldwide.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) attended the 40th annual Tribute to Women in the Military event on March 7th at American Legion Post 13 in Albuquerque. The Tribute to Women in the Military was first held in 1985 to honor military women, past, present, and future. It is held on the first Friday of March in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is open to everyone: women, men, children 12 and over, active duty, reserve/guard, retirees, Veterans, and civilians. Women Veterans from around the state participated in the event to celebrate and honor military women in all Service branches.

Mary Cox was honored at the event as one of the founders and helped develop the Tribute to Women in the Military Committee in 1985. Mary has served the organization for 40 years and continues to serve today.

Veteran Mary Cox joined the Navy in 1959 when she was only eighteen and went to Bay Bridge, Maryland for Basic Training. Her rank was 2nd Yeoman. She served during the Vietnam War until 1963. Mary has played a huge role in the Veteran community, volunteering at the Veterans Memorial as the curator for displays, Vietnam Veterans of America, and other Veteran organizations with her late husband of fifty years, William Cox, also a Navy Veteran.

The oldest and youngest Veterans in attendance were recognized for their contributions to women Veteran organizations in New Mexico. Diana Wong, an Air Force Veteran and member of the Women Veteran Warriors Color Guard team, presented a rose to each of them. Santa Fe resident Stella Levadie, the oldest at 104, served in the Navy and Air Force during WWII. Amberly Viner, NMDVS Women Veteran Program Manager and Air Force Veteran, was the youngest.







Above Photos: (left) Women Veteran Program Manager Amberly Viner, Mary Cox, and NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera. (middle) Stella Levadie (right), Dianna Wong and Amberly Viner.

Bataan-Corregidor Commemoration Ceremony April 5th



On Saturday, April 5th, The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera gave the keynote speech at the 83rd Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan event at Bataan Memorial Park in Albuquerque.

The New Mexico Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation, the New Mexico Filipino-American Foundation, and the New Mexico National Guard honored the memory and sacrifice of the brave New Mexicans, Americans, and Filipinos who took part in one of the most memorialized historical events in New Mexico.

More than 1,800 members of the New Mexico National Guard's 200th Coast Artillery regiment were surrendered in the Philippines along with 70,000 other American and Filipino troops on April 9, 1942. They were put on a 65-mile forced march under brutal conditions, which became known as the Bataan Death March. Three years as prisoners of war followed, with only about half of the New Mexican POWs surviving their ordeal.

Agapito J. Silva, President of the New Mexico Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation (NMBCMF), shared the story of his father's fight to stay alive after three and a half years as a prisoner of war. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera recounted the events of his father-in-law's life in the Philippines during the conflict. Traditional Filipino dancing, wreath laying, 44th Army Band, and flag ceremonies were part of some of the day's activities.









Above Photos: (left) NMCMF Agapito J. Silva. (center) NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera. (right) White flag raising ceremony.

Commemoration of the Fall of Bataan Ceremony April 9th

The New Mexico National Guard, in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, held its annual ceremony in Santa Fe on April 9th to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of Bataan's surrender in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The ceremony was held before the eternal flame at the Bataan Memorial Building, 407 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

The ceremony celebrated courage, honor, and an important part of the legacy of the 1,800 New Mexicans of the New Mexico National Guard's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments. They had been in the Philippines for about eight months for a training exercise when Japan launched a surprise attack on that country just hours after its December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

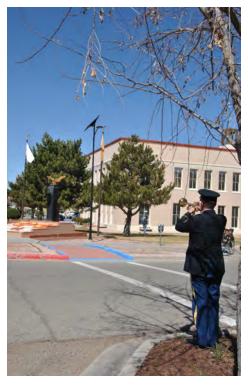
The New Mexico National Guard soldiers were activated and immediately became part of a larger American and Filipino force that put up a valiant fight against a vastly larger Japanese invading force. After four months of intense combat, supplies and food were exhausted for the remaining 75,000 Allied troops, who were pinned down in the Bataan Peninsula. Allied Command ordered a surrender on April 9, 1942. The captured American and Filipino prisoners of war would then be part of the Bataan Death March.











Above Photos: (left) NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera delivers the Governor's proclamation, NMNG LTC Isaac Tenorio. (center) NMNG role players. (right) TAPS plays for the Bataan Veterans laid to rest since April 9th.

Secretary Herrera Visits Senior Center with Sen. Ben Ray Lujan

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera was invited to speak by Senator Ben Ray Lujan's office to share updates on the Veteran property tax exemption with the community and introduced Senator Ben Ray Lujan as he visited with constituents on March 17th at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center in Santa Fe.



Cabinet Secretary Herrera and Senator Lujan visited with area residents to discuss veteran and senior topics. Secretary Herrera presented Vietnam War Veteran and Santa Fe Resident Clayton Darrow with a commemorative coin to honor his service.

Barbara Morin, daughter of Filiberto Ruiz, former director of the Veteran Service Commission, shared her thanks for visiting the center.



If you need assistance or want more information on the wide range of services and programs available throughout the state of New Mexico, please reach out to NMDVS toll-free at 1-866-433-8387 or visit us at https://www.nmdvs.org/healthcare/

Photos: (left) NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera with Barbara Morin. (Right) NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Herrera with Vietnam Veteran Clayton Darrow and Senator Ben Ray Lujan.

Save The Date! New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Women Veterans' Conference 2025, June 14th

This will be a day dedicated to the education and empowerment of women Veterans in New Mexico. Join us for a day filled with enlightening workshops, inspiring speakers, crucial health care information, VA programs, federal and state benefits, and connections to several other resources dedicated to helping women Veterans.

This year's conference theme, "Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future", will bring together women veterans, community leaders, and advocates for a day of empowerment, connection, and collaboration. Let's honor your service, share your stories, and forge a brighter future together.



Whether you're attending to learn, network, or simply find inspiration, this event is for you. This event can truly make a difference in the lives of our New Mexico women Veterans.

Location and registration information coming soon! Follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> for conference updates and information.

Veteran Integration Center Facility Expanding

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) was invited to tour the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (VIC) on March 26th to see the progress on the expansion of this life-changing facility. The VIC was founded by then NMDVS Cabinet Secretary John Garcia in 2005 to provide vital services primarily for at-risk homeless Veterans and their families. Garcia named the "VIC" as a silent tribute to his father, WWII Veteran Lt. Victor "Vic" Garcia.

The VA-certified Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing Facility enables Veterans and their families to obtain stable housing and achieve financial security. The 42-bed facility, located at 2701 Mulberry St. SE in Albuquerque, provides emergency, transitional, and rapid re-housing services for Veterans offering basic needs and wellness support.

Phase 2 of the facility, currently under construction and scheduled for completion this summer, will include a chapel, library, barber/beauty shop, and a working space for other Veteran service organizations to assist residents.

Phase 3 is scheduled for completion by the end of 2025 and will feature outdoor walking trails and exercise courts in the recreation area.

NMDVS works with the VIC and other registered nonprofit organizations throughout the state that specifically address Veteran homelessness. Call the NMDVS Health Care Coordination Division at 866-433-8387 or visit us at https://www.nmdvs.org/ for more information and assistance.









Photo (left to right): Greg Seely, VIC Development Director; Fermin Ortega, VIC COO; Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary; Brock Wolff, VIC CEO; Eric James, NMDVS Deputy Secretary; Theresa Castillo, NMDVS Social Worker; Roberto Martinez, NMDVS Suicide Prevention Coordinator; Tim Pesavento, VIC Program Director.

Let a dedicated VSO help You get the VA Benefits You Deserve

Filing a claim with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) can feel overwhelming, but you don't have to do it alone. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) has a team of highly trained, VA-accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) available to assist you. These professionals specialize in navigating the VA claims process and are dedicated to helping veterans and their families secure the benefits they have earned. Whether you are filing for the first time or re-applying after a past denial, a VSO will ensure your claim is complete, accurate, and backed by the necessary evidence.

One of the most important steps in filing a claim is gathering the right documentation. A VSO can assist you in obtaining service records, medical documentation, and other essential paperwork to support your claim. When preparing to file, be sure to bring your DD-214, marriage certificate, birth certificates for dependent children, and contact information for any civilian medical providers who have treated your condition. You'll also need to provide a brief but clear explanation of how your health concerns relate to your military service, whether it involves an injury, illness, or exposure to hazardous conditions. With the right documents and an expert VSO guiding you, your claim will be stronger and more likely to succeed.

Even if you've been denied benefits in the past, don't lose hope! VA laws and regulations have changed, expanding eligibility for many conditions, particularly those related to toxic exposures, combat injuries, and service-connected disabilities. Now is the time to re-apply, and an NMDVS VSO can help you determine if you qualify under these new laws. They stay up to date on VA policy changes and know exactly how to navigate the system to give you the best chance of success. Best of all, their services are completely free!

The benefits you've earned are within reach, and an NMDVS VSO is ready to help you claim them. Don't let the complexity of the process stand in your way-reach out today and take the first step toward the support and compensation you deserve. Whether you're filing for the first time or revisiting an existing claim, now is the perfect time to take action. Contact your local NMDVS VSO and get started on securing the benefits you've earned through your service! Call 866-433-8387 or visit one of our field offices throughout the state. Visit https://www.nmdvs.org/ for even more information.

Congratulations to the VSOs who completed the recent NMDVS Introduction to Benefits course.

Ben Mendoza - VSO II

David Swisher - VSO II

Joseph Lovato - VSO II

Adam Calderon - VSO I

Dennis Esquibel - VSO I

And a special thank you to the guest VSOs who joined us:

Anthony Fuentes from the Navajo Nation and Marcus Lujan and Ulysses Abeita from Isleta Pueblo.













Upcoming DVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits

DVS is scheduled to make the following 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.

Staff can also help with applying for state Veterans' benefits such as fishing and hunting licenses, Veterans' license plates, new property tax exemptions and many more state Veterans' benefits.

Please bring a copy of your DD Form 214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, which are necessary for filing all Veterans' benefits claims. DVS can help Veterans file for lost or misplaced DD 214s.

Artesia	4/22, 5/20, 6/17	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	4/29, 5/13	101 N Halagueno St.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	4/22, 5/6,5/13	Military & Family Readiness Center	2:30-5:30pm
Capitan	6/4, 8/6,10/1,11/5	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	5/14	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	4/23	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-3pm
Espanola	5/7, 6/4	702 Bond St.	9am-3pm
Holloman AFB	4/21, 5/12	Military Family Readiness Center	8am-10am
Las Cruces	4/24	Dona Ana County Assessor, 845 N Motel Dr.	9am-4pm
Moriarty	4/17	Soil & Water Conservation Dist. Facility, 2506 NM-333	9am-2pm
Ruidoso	5/7, 7/9, 9/10	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Socorro/Belen	1st & 3rd Tue.	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Moriarty	4/17	Soil Water Conservation Bldg. 2506 NM-333 Moriarty	9am-2pm

The following are weekly outreach visits:

Santa Fe	Mon. & Fri.	Santa Fe Vet Center/2209 Brothers Rd.	9am-3pm
Truth or Consequences	Wed.	State Veterans' Home/992 S. Broadway	9am-4pm

As a reminder, Veterans and their eligible dependents can always contact any of the 17 DVS field offices statewide listed on the last two pages of this newsletter. Each office is staffed by nationally certified Veterans Service Officers (VSO), who can also offer assistance by phone or email. If you know of or are hosting a veterans' or community event that would benefit from having a Veterans' Service Officer on site to help answer questions on benefits available please contact DVS Field Services Director Robin Wilson at Robin.Wilson@dvs.nm.gov

TORRANCE COUNTY ASSESSORS VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT

Thursday April 17th (9:00 am - 2:00 pm)

Central Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District Facility 2506 NM-333 Moriarty, NM 87035







NM Dept of Veterans' Services and Torrance County Assessor representatives will be on site to assist eligible veterans and unmarried widows of veterans with applying for their qualified property tax waiver or exemption.

Standard Veterans Property Tax Exemption

A \$10,000 reduction of the taxable value of a veterans' New Mexico property assessment. Tax year 2025

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

A reduction of the taxable value of a veterans' New Mexico property assessment based on the veterans lawfully obtained federal disability rating. Tax year 2026

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Waiver

Waives the property tax payment of the primary residence for veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 100% Permanent & Total, Tax year 2025

The following documents will be required to verify Property Tax certificate eligibility:

- 1. A copy of your DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA form 56-16, or PHS form 1867
- 2. If applicable, VA Award letter verifying Permanent & Total service-connected disability
- 3. Proof of New Mexico Residency Includes one of the following documents:

Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return

For more information:

Torrance County Assessor's Office
Jeff George jeff.george@dvs.nm.gov

(505) 544-4300 or

(505) 699-4087

DONA ANA COUNTY ASSESSORS VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT

Thursday April 24th (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

Office of the Dona Ana County Assessor 845 N Motel Blvd. Las Cruces, NM 88007







NM Dept of Veterans' Services and Dona Ana County Assessor

representatives will be on site to assist eligible veterans and unmarried widows of veterans with applying for their qualified property tax waiver or exemption.

Standard Veterans Property Tax Exemption

A \$10,000 reduction of the taxable value of a veterans' New Mexico property assessment. Tax year 2025

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

A reduction of the taxable value of a veterans' New Mexico property assessment based on the veterans lawfully obtained federal disability rating. **Tax year 2026**

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Waiver

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The following documents will be required to verify Property Tax certificate eligibility:

- 1. A copy of your DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA form 56-16, or PHS form 1867
- 2. If applicable, VA Award letter verifying Permanent & Total service-connected disability
- 3. Proof of New Mexico Residency Includes one of the following documents:

Valid NM Driver's license / Current voters registration card / Most recent NM income tax return

For more information:

Dona Ana County Assessor's office
Jeff George jeff.george@dvs.nm.gov

(575) 647-7400 or (505) 699-4087



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES 16TH ANNUAL MILITARY HONORS SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE & COMPETITION





FRIDAY, APRIL 25^{TB}, 2025 SONOMA RANCH GOLF COURSE 1274 GOLF CLUB RD LAS CRUCES, NM 88011



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Therese Castillo, LMSW,CPSW, Social Worker/Healthcare Coordinator for New Mexico. Therese has been with the NMDVS Healthcare Coordination Division since September 2023. She is responsible for providing behavioral health assistance for Veterans experiencing PTSD, suicide ideations, substance abuse, and homelessness. She is also the liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). Much of her work involves outreach and collaboration with Veteran and community partners. Therese's supervisor, Diane Mourning Brown, describes her as "caring, knowledgeable, professional, and always willing to help any veteran or staff member in need."

What brought you to NMDVS?

I have always been passionate about working with Veterans and deeply value their service and sacrifices. Supporting those who have served our country is a cause that is very close to my heart.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

My connection to the military runs deep—my husband, daughter, son, brother, and father-in-law have all served in the armed forces.

Could you tell us a little about yourself, your hobbies, and what you enjoy in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy traveling and cooking. Exploring new places and cuisines allows me to connect with different cultures and create meaningful experiences.

Three words to describe you:

Empathetic, loyal, Blessed

What do you do and enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

I take great pride in working with Veterans, providing them with essential support services, and continuously expanding my knowledge of available resources to better serve them and their families. Being part of a department dedicated to advocacy and demonstrating true compassion for Veterans is incredibly fulfilling.



Photos: (top) NMDVS Women Veteran Manager Amberly Viner, Daun, and Darlene Maderias of the Forget Me Not Veterans Park in Socorro with Therese Castillo. (bottom) Therese Castillo is on vacation in Hawaii.

NMDVS is hiring! View new job postings on the State of New Mexico careers page at https://careers.share.nm.gov/



New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center "Boots to Business" Classes

Join us at the New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC) for our exciting "Boots to Business" classes! We're dedicated to empowering veterans, transitioning service members, National Guard and Reserve members, as well as spouses who are eager to start or grow their businesses.

These engaging sessions are held from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with some onbase classes from 8:00am to 4:30pm. Don't forget, on-base privileges are required for those special sessions marked with an asterisk (*). We can't wait to support you on your entrepreneurial journey!



City	Dates	Venue/Address
Silver City	April 15 &16	B2B Reboot, Western NM University, SMB Seminar Room
*Cannon AFB	May 1-2	CAFB Airman & Family Readiness Center
*Kirtland AFB	May 19-20	KAFB Airman & Family Readiness Center

The 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, such as accessing resources available for obtaining start-up or expansion capital, technical assistance, and pursuing federal contracting opportunities. To register for these classes, please go to the blue registration links found with each listing. For additional information about the Boots to Business program, or the New Mexico VBOC, contact VBOC Director johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov or call (505) 469-8501.

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

The New Mexico Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

The VBOC is funded by a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) grant managed by DVS to help Veterans, transitioning active service members, National Guard & Reserve members, and their spouses who are interested in starting or growing a small business. It can help with everything from business planning, start-up and expansion funding, marketing, landing federal contracts, and anything else a small business needs to launch and grow.

DVS was the first state agency in the nation funded by the SBA to offer this "one-stop-shop" when the SBA launched this grant program in 2010.

The VBOC is located in the DVS Albuquerque office at 4801 Indian School Road NE/Building 2. Drop-in visits for business counseling are welcome—but scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended.



New Mexico VA Veteran Town Hall
April 15, 2025



In-person & Live Streaming Veteran Town Hall

Don't miss our next New Mexico VA In-person & live streaming Veteran Town Hall on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. The event will <u>be located in</u> the New Mexico VA auditorium building #39. Veterans can join the event in person or watch it live on Facebook by scanning the QR code on the flyer or clicking the link below: https://www.facebook.com/share/1GN1G8Yw8z. See you there!!



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

Calming The Body's Alarm System



Modern pain researchers agree that the purpose of pain is protection, not damage detection. Pain is like an alarm system that goes off when danger is detected. Our brains use all the available information to alert us to danger and then signal pain to protect us.

Chronic and persistent pain is our body's alarm system becoming oversensitive and going off all the time, even when there is no actual danger. Persistent pain is defined as pain that lasts more than three months, even after the original injury or condition has healed. In other words, there is no injury or harm (danger) occurring, yet the alarm never

returns to its normal sensitivity; this is the brain continuing to produce pain when there is no real danger to the body.

There are several effective approaches to help calm down and reset the alarm system, including gentle movement, pain education, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and mindfulness. Mindfulness activates the relaxation response of our nervous system and is a wonderful tool to help calm down the oversensitive alarm system. It is easy to learn and can be completed in just a few minutes.

Give mindfulness a try by following the 13-minute Mindfulness for Chronic Pain video, guided by VA Social Worker Hang Ruan, LICSW, of VISN 20 Clinical Resource Hub by clicking on the link below. With ongoing practice, mindfulness helps calm down the alarm system by gradually resetting our brain and nervous system to produce a more accurate response to physical stress. When the alarm is no longer blaring all the time, we can get our life back, and have the space and energy to focus on things that are important to us.

Learn more about <u>mindful awareness</u> and find additional tools to support your health and well-being here: <u>https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/circle-of-health/mindful-awareness.asp</u>

How VA is Taking Action To Prevent Veteran Suicide

VA offers many crisis prevention and intervention services, including the <u>Veterans Crisis Line</u>. We're constantly working to enhance and refine these services to effectively provide Veterans with the resources they need.

One of our most recent projects, Caring Letters, works to support Veterans after they contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Over the course of a year, the program mails eight letters demonstrating ongoing support and reducing risks associated with isolation and lack of care. Recipients of the letters have reported feeling appreciated, cared for, supported, connected, encouraged, validated, heard and seen.

VA also supports Veterans outside VA programs and facilities. The **COMPACT Act** allows eligible Veterans in acute suicide crisis to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for no-cost emergency health care. This may include inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans don't need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit. For more information visit the VA website here: COMPACT Act

The Pact Act and your VA Benefits

Understanding the PACT Act: Enhancing Benefits for Veterans

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 represents a significant legislative effort to improve health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service. Enacted on August 10, 2022, this law addresses long-standing concerns related to exposures from burn pits, Agent Orange, and other hazardous substances.

The PACT ACT

Key Provisions of the PACT Act

The PACT Act introduces several critical changes to Veteran benefits:

Expanded Health Care Eligibility: The Act broadens and extends eligibility for VA health care to include veterans from the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras who were exposed to toxic substances.

Presumptive Conditions: Over 20 new presumptive conditions related to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures have been added. This means Veterans diagnosed with these conditions are presumed to have developed them due to their service, simplifying the process for receiving benefits.

Additional Exposure Locations: The Act recognizes more locations associated with Agent Orange and radiation exposure, expanding the scope of Veterans eligible for related benefits.

Mandatory Toxic Exposure Screenings: All Veterans enrolled in VA health care are now required to undergo screenings for potential toxic exposures, ensuring early detection and treatment.

Recent Updates to VA Benefits

In line with the PACT Act's provisions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented several updates:

Immediate Health Care Enrollment: As of March 5, 2024, the VA has eliminated the phased-in approach to health care eligibility. This change allows three new cohorts of Veterans to enroll in VA health care immediately, accelerating access to essential services.

Regulatory Revisions: The VA is updating outdated benefits regulations, particularly concerning toxin-exposed Veterans with conditions such as constrictive bronchiolitis and leukemias. This update aims to provide more accurate disability ratings and enables Veterans to receive the support they need.

For more information from the VA on the Pact Act's changes, visit: https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/

How the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Can Assist Veterans

For Veterans residing in New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NM DVS) offers comprehensive support to navigate these changes:

Benefits Counseling: NMDVS provides personalized guidance to help Veterans understand and apply for the benefits available under the PACT Act. Their team is equipped to assist with the complexities of the claims process. **Health Care Enrollment Assistance**: Veterans seeking to enroll in VA health care can receive support from NMDVS to ensure a smooth and efficient enrollment process.

Outreach and Education: NMDVS conducts informational sessions and meetings to educate Veterans about the PACT Act's provisions and other benefits, ensuring they are well informed about their entitlements.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to contact NMDVS to explore the benefits and services available to them, ensuring they receive the care and support they have earned through their service. Call toll-free 1-866-433-8387 or visit us at https://www.nmdvs.org/

Veterans' Community Bulletin Board

The following pages feature events and informational flyers provided to the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) 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 NMDVS of the organization, content, products, or services contained therein.

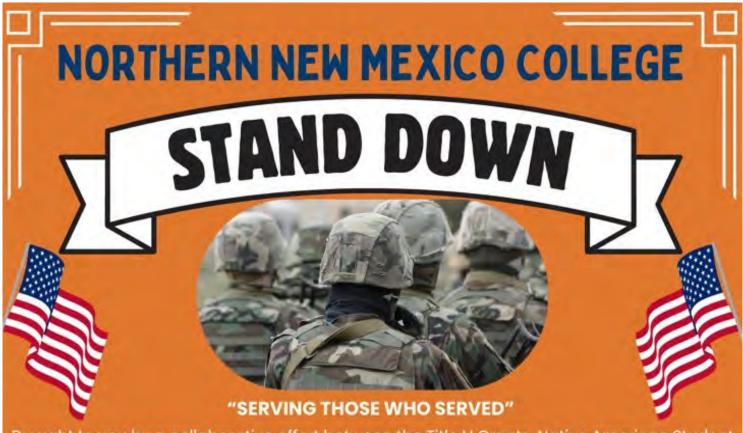
NMDVS invites government agencies and <u>non-profit</u> service organizations to send flyers for publication in *The Guardian* announcing an upcoming or ongoing veteran-related event. NMDVS will run these flyers as a public service courtesy to the Veteran community.

Please note:

- · Flyers <u>must</u> 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.
- · NMDVS 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 do not necessarily reflect the views of DVS.
- To the maximum extent permitted by law, NMDVS expressly denies liability for any 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.
- · NMVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.

Please send you submissions to DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov

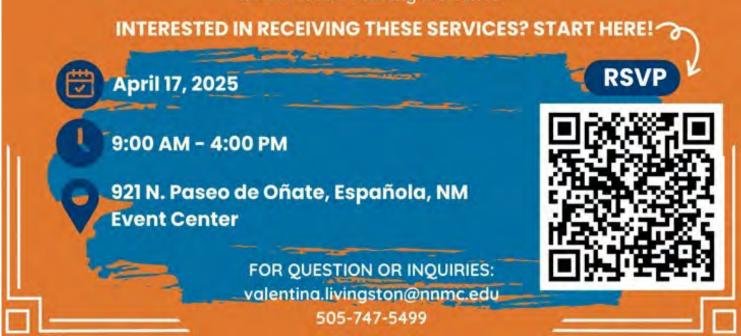




Brought to you by a collaborative effort between the Title V Grants, Native American Student Center, Veteran Resource Center, Education Opportunity Center, Counseling and Student Support Services, and Student Life.

Join the Northern Veterans Club and the NNMC Veteran Resource Center in our Stand Down Outreach Event, where we join forces to support our brave heroes in need. This event will provide essential resources, including food, shelter, clothing, career prep, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling.

Your participation can make a difference in the lives of local veterans experiencing hardship and/or homelessness. Let's show our gratitude and help them rebuild their futures. Together, we can make a lasting difference!



GoodSkills



TO REGISTER FOR CLASS: SCAN QR CODE ... OR GO ONLINE to www.goodwillnm.org/events...OR CALL 505.314.1875...OR EMAIL mimartinez@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE.



APRIL 2025

FREE CLASSES FOR THE COMMUNITY!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
asses eld at 100 SAN ATEO VD NE	CROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	1 CAREER COMPASS N: Explore A Career 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	2 CAREER COMPASS E: Resume/Applying 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	3 CAREER COMPASS S: Interviewing 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	4 CAREER COMPASS W Your New Job 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	5 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL	INTERNET BASICS: Lea search engines, brows EXCEL-BEGINNERS: W spreadsheet features: filtering & basic formu EXCEL-FUNCTIONS: L WEEKDAY, SUMIFS, "a and data validation. EXCEL-PIVOT TABLES:
	7	8	9	10	11	12	PivotTable construction EXCEL MINDSET: Focu
eege \	Resiliency 9:30 am - 11:00 am	Excel-Beginners 9:30 am- 11:00 am First Impressions 11:30 am -12:30 pm	Microsoft: Explorer 9:30 am - 10:45 am Internet Basics 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	RESOURCE FAIR 9:00 AM-3:00 PM BE PRO BE PROUD MOBILE WORKSHOP 20+Organizations Resources onsite 5000 SAN MATEO	Microsoft Word 9:30 am - 10:45 am Microsoft PowerPoint 11:00 am -12:15 pm	DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES	skills needed to use er MICROSOFT WORD: For documents Learn to s images/shapes. Desig MICROSOFT POWERP animate slides and pla
sses	14 Stress Management Workshop 9:00 am - 10:30 am	15 Microsoft Word 9:00 am - 10:15 am Microsoft PowerPoint 10:30 am -11:45 am	16 Thinking Critically 9:00 am - 10:00 am First Impressions 10:30 am -11:30 am	17 Excel-Beginners 9:00 am- 10:30 am Cybersecurity 11:00 am -12:00 pm	18	REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES	MICROSOFT EXPLORE upload, save, organize Windows OS. CYBERSECURITY: Lear phishing & how to prof INTRO TO CODING: Pr JavaScript, Python and CODING WORKSHOP:
	21	22	23	24	25	26	coding skills in JavaSc
cene	Resiliency Workshop 9:30 am - 11:00 am	Intro to Coding 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Coding Workshop 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Game Development 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Money Management 3:00 pm- 4:00 pm	COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managersjob leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	App Development 1:00 pm-2:30 pm Microsoft Word 3:00 pm-4:15 pm	NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS!	APP DEVELOPMENT: Ir iOS & Android, plus int exercises. GAME DEVELOPMENT: games and using game
_	28	29	30				

DigitalSkills

ut the internet, nline safety. p intro to , formatting,

out VLOOKUP. e vs relative" cells Coming Soon

th review of e Coming Soon ental & analysis II Coming Soon save, spellcheck insert

earn to design, presentations. to download, files. Navigating

entify cyber threats, ir digital assets.

ning overview of evelopment. ding games to build vthon app coding, a look at e learning

creating video

LifeSkills/WellnessSkills

STRESS MANAGEMENT: Detailed look at causes of stress & strategies to overcome. RESILIENCY: In-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life. STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP: Discover meditative/other practice to relieve stress RESILIENCY WORKSHOP: Discover tools to develop plan to strengthen resiliency skills MONEY MANAGEMENT: Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses & credit THINKING CRITICALLY: Become better thinkers. Build analytical skills, learn to determine the validity of information.

EmploymentSkills

Career Compass Employment Skills Series (NESW):

N/EXPLORE A CAREER: Explore career interests, identify existing skills & analyze for potential jobs E/RESUME & APPLYING: Create/improve resume and learn how to apply for jobs online better. S/INTERVIEWING: Best practices in interviewing & professional communication for success. W/YOUR NEW JOB: Building relationships, good attitude & behavior skills to grow in your new position.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Using time management, words, appearance & body language to make good impression.







CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS!

"HEROES HIRING HEROES" EMPLOYMENT EVENT

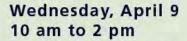
RSVP TODAY!

RSVP for One or More of the Upcoming Dates and Locations with the Listed Point of Contact.

Wednesday, March 26 10 AM to 2 PM

Las Cruces, Convention Center 680 E. University Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001

fernando.caro@dws.nm.gov 575-680-0837



Alamogordo, Tays Event Center 5001 Scenic Dr. Alamogordo, NM 88310

michael.gardner@dws.nm.gov 575-437-9210 ext 1011

Tuesday, April 22 10 AM to 2 PM

Los Alamos, American Legion Post 90 1325 Trinity Dr. Los Alamos, NM 87544

corey.dabney@dws.nm.gov 505-303-1479







Thursday, April 24 10 AM to 2 PM

Farmington Elks Lodge 1747 801 Municipal Drive Farmington, NM 87401

kevin.bahe@dws.nm.gov 505-416-0148

Wednesday, April 30 10 AM to 2 PM

Albuq, American Legion Post 13 1201 Legion Rd NE Albuquerque, NM 87102

joseph.luebbers@dws.nm.gov 505-588-3006





To Register For All Events Scan Here:



Employers must have job openings to participate. No fee to participate. Organizations that choose to make donations to the American Legion Post for this event will be listed as a sponsor.

WWW.JOBS.STATE.NM.US









@AJCnewmexico



HELP US SEND OUR VETERANS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

TO REGISTER A VEHICLE OR VENDOR SPACE:
Please scan our QR code, or visit us at honorflightnorthernnm.org

For questions, please email info@hfnnm.org

SCANTOREGISTER

GIVEAWAYS

SPECTATORS ARE FREE!





"HEROES HIRING HEROES"
EMPLOYMENT/RESOURCE
EVENT

Save the Date

April 22nd, 2025 10 AM to 2 PM

American Legion Post 90 1325 Trinity Dr, Los Alamos, NM



Everyone Welcome! Open to Veterans and Non-Veterans Scan the QR Code to Register

Building Futures: MANSCO Apprenticeship Signing Ceremony & Showcase

Wednesday, April 23rd 11am-1pm



For an exciting event celebrating the registration of **New Mexico's first Heavy Equipment Operator Registered Apprenticeship Program!** Hear from Mayor Eric Enriquez, Director Katrina Vigil from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), and the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). Experience hands-on demos with <u>Tenstar</u> Simulation's interactive simulator and 4Rivers Equipment's John Deere heavy machinery — plus enjoy food and drinks while connecting with industry leaders and community partners.

Scan the QR code to reserve a spot!



ARE YOU A VETERAN IN SEARCH OF GUIDANCE?

Enjoy a complimentary week filled with mindful education, body rejuvenation, and uplifting camaraderie alongside fellow veterans and their partners in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico.

Discover valuable therapeutic and holistic tools while embracing Post Traumatic Growth.





NATIONAL VETERANS

WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER



2025 RETREAT SCHEDULE

NEW DATE ADDED!!
April 6-13



April 27- May 4

June 1-8

September 7-14

October 19-26



Retreats offer complimentary lodging, meals, and a variety of activities such as massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding, and much more!

Please note that travel

expenses are not included.



505-501-8337
retreats@vethealingcenter.org

Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

1. Veterans diagnosed with PTS

- 2.A support partner must accompany you
- 3. Participants must have been free from drug or alcohol abuse for at least 12 months

Note: New Mexico veterans will receive priority. Veterans from other states will be accepted as funding permits.

Apply Today!





Donate Today!





Kirtland Air Force Base
New Mexico

377 ABW Retiree Activities Office





NEW MEXICO VETERANS' ART (NMVA) SEEKS VETERAN ARTISTS

New Mexico Veterans Art is seeking veteran artists to participate in a May exhibition at the Placitas Library in Placitas, NM. "Operation Art: A Salute to Veterans" will run from Tuesday, May 13 - Thursday, June 12, 2025 with a reception by the artists on Friday, May 23 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. The library is located at 453 Highway 165, Placitas, NM 87043. There is no entry fee for the exhibition, but the library will receive a 30% commission on each sale.

To exhibit, veterans must be members of NMVA. However, membership fees have been suspended until 2026 thanks to the organization's receipt of grant funds. (Membership is typically \$30/year). To join, contact NMVA membership chair Patty Gallegos: pcgallegos29@gmail.com prior to entering the show.

Email your intent to participate to Harriette Tsosie at: hftsosie@gmail.com

Download the Call for Art on the NMVA website: https://nmveteransart.com/event/operation-art-a-salute-to-veteran-artists/



Artist: Cat Tsosie. Gourd Rattle



Santa Clara Pueblo hosts

New Mexico Tribal Veterans Symposium

Save the Date

May 15, 2025

Resource Tables

- · Please bring:
 - A copy of discharge paper DD214
 - Award letter
 - · Last year's taxes
 - Medical/Insurance cards

9:00AM - 2:00PM REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8AM

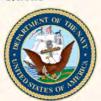
SANTA CLARA EVENTS CENTER

460 NORTH RIVERSIDE DR. ESPANOLA

More information and to RSVP, Contact Virginia at vhalfmoon@santaclarapueblo.org Please RSVP by Monday, May 5, 2025















PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR VETERAN SISTERS

For Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard, and Women Veterans.

Regardless of era or discharge status all sisters are welcome.

Go to: live.televeda.com/signup Referral Code: AZVETS Thursdays
7 Pm - 8 Pm AZ Time

Scan QR code to register •



Peer Facilitator is US Army Veteran and Certified Peer Support



4th Annual Dennis Geshel Memorial Golf Tournament Benefiting Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico

Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico is a non-profit organization created to honor New Mexico's veterans for all their sacrifices. Funds raised from the golf tournament help take our heroes on a FREE 3-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Current priority is given to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans along with Veterans from other conflicts who may be terminally ill.



Breakfast and registration at 8AM. Lunch will be served directly following the tournament. Collared shirts are required.

Isleta Eagle Golf Course 4001 New Mexico 47 Friday, September 12, 2025 Morning Shotgun—9AM



For registration and more information, please contact

Mark Reynolds at 505.321.2968 or Adeline Herrera at 505.250.6662

https://www.honorflightnorthernnm.org/golf-tournament.html



NMDVS Field Offices in New Mexico

NMDVS has field offices throughout the state that are staffed with nationally accredited veterans service officers VSOs) dedicated to helping veterans with filing VA claims, applying for state veterans benefits, or with anything else a veteran or their family needs.

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 for any veteran or eligible dependent anywhere in New Mexico.

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

David Henley

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

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (Downtown)

Corey Riedel

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg. 500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor (505) 479-0672 corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

Carlsbad CLOSED APRIL 1ST

(575) 988-5900

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov Danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov

Covered by Hobbs and Roswell

101 N. Halagueno

Farmington/Northwest NM

Ambrose Oliver/Jeni Iser

1800 East 30th St. (505) 916-4835/(505) 327-2861

ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov

Hobbs/Southeast NM

Fred Solis-Littlejohn 2120 North Alto St. (575)-241-0714 fred.solis-little@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

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

Joseph Lovato

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Ctr. 1501 San Pedro Dr. SE (505) 623-1729 joseph.lovato@dvs.nm.gov

(no appointment needed)

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE region supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St. (575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Gallup/Northwest NM

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

john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov

Las Cruces/Southwest NM

Miguel Martinez (supervisor) 2024 E. Griggs Ave. (575) 644-6869 miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov

(continued on next page)

Albuquerque (Bernalillo/Moriarty)

Melissa Sena

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2 4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor (505) 274-0939

melissa.sena@dvs.nm.gov

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller (Albuquerque Supervisor) Belen Business Center 719 South Main St. (505) 537-9339 rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

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

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Grants/Northwest NM

April Ball

551 Washington Ave. (505) 521-8132

april.ball@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) 261-8782

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

Tracy Knox

917 Douglas Ave. (505) 520-5079

tracy.knox@dvs.nm.gov

Las Vegas/Northeast NM

Dennis Esquibel

917 Douglas Ave. (575) 520-5079

dennis.esquibel@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

Roswell/Southeast NM

Ben Mendoza

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

danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov

Roswell/Southeast NM

Danielle Thompson

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

danielle.thompson@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

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/Northeast NM

Letica "Lety" Cano

Health and Human Services Bldg. 145 Roy Rd. (505)-709-5263

leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov

State Veterans Home/T or C NM

VSO Staff/Every Thursday

922 South Broadway St. Truth or Consequences, NM

Woman Veterans Program

Amberly Viner (Program Manager)

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2 4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor 4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B (505) 372-9106

Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov

NMDVS women veterans program is committed to making sure

women veterans have equitable access to programs and services and claims-filing for women.

Tribal Liaison

Beverly Charley

San Juan College Veterans Center (575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov

NMDVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach assistance for Native Americans.

NM Veterans Business Outreach Center (ABQ)

Johnny Martinez (Director)

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

johnny.martinez@dvs.nm.gov

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