



The Guardian

The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services
November 2025

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New Mexico Commemorates Veterans' Day

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) will commemorate Veterans' Day through ceremonies and events across the state.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera will serve as the keynote speaker at the Santa Fe Veterans' Day Ceremony, held at the Santa Fe Convention Center on Tuesday, November 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Santa Fe Concert Band and members of the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus will perform patriotic music in observance of Veterans Day.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire will host its annual Veterans' Day Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Native New Mexican and Vietnam War Veteran Jerry Martinez will deliver the keynote address, and the Cimarron High School Band will provide music during the event, which will take place inside the museum at the memorial.

NMDVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James will attend the Albuquerque Veterans' Day Ceremony on November 11. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial. The Dukes of Albuquerque Concert Band will perform, and a flyover courtesy of the New Mexico Chili Flight is scheduled.

The public is invited to honor and celebrate all men and women who have served our country as members of the United States military. NMDVS urges all New Mexicans to attend a Veterans' Day ceremony in their community. The next page lists ceremonies and events submitted to NMDVS.



Veterans' Day Events Across New Mexico

The Veterans' Day events listed below are based on information provided to the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS). NMDVS does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or status of the event details and assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions, or changes. Individuals are encouraged to contact event organizers directly to confirm times, locations, and other details.

City	Venue	Event	Time	More Info:
Thu. (Nov. 6)				
Roswell	Goddard High School	Assembly	1:30 pm	(575)-627-4800
Sat. (Nov.8)				
Albuquerque	Historic Fairview Cemetery	Celebration	1pm	website
Alamogordo	10th and Oregon Ave.	Parade	10:00	(575)-437-6120
Alamogordo	Alameda Park	Concert	2-6pm	(575)-439-4159
Artesia	Artesia Park	Celebration	9am-1pm	562-860-3361
Clovis	Main Street Hilltop Plaza	Parade	10am-11am	(575)-763-3435
Clovis	VFW Post 3280	Parade awards	12pm	(575)-736-3435
Las Cruces	Downtown Main St./Lohman Ave.	Ceremony/ Parade	10:30am	website
Peñasco	Peñasco Community Center	Luncheon	11:30am-2pm	(505)-310-9660
Roswell	Downtown	Ceremony	9am	(575)-268-0220
Roswell	Downtown	Parade	10am	(575)-268-0220
T or C	Veterans Memorial Park	Ceremony	10am-11am	(575) 894-4200
T or C	NM State Veterans Home Lunch & Live Music	Lunch	11am-1pm	(575) 894-4200
Zuni	Zuni High School Cafeteria	Celebration	10am	(505)-782-7281
Sun. (Nov.9)				
Paguate	Veterans Park Postal Road (Laguna)	Ceremony	11am	(505)-263-6722
Tue. (Nov.11) Veterans' Day				
Albuquerque	USS Bullhead Memorial Park	Parade	9am	(505)-768-4495
Albuquerque	New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park	Ceremony	10:30am	(505)-768-4495
Albuquerque	Paws and Stripes/617 Truman 87110	Event	10am-2pm	(505)-999-1201
Angel Fire	Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial	Ceremony	11am	(575)-377-2293
Belen	Veterans Memorial Eagle Park		2pm	(505) 236-3618
Carlsbad	Veterans Memorial Park	Parade/ Ceremony	10am	(575)-887-1191
Clovis	American Legion Post 25	Breakfast	7am-11am	(575)-763-5392
Española	Veterans Memorial Wall	Ceremony	10:45am	(505)-903-3666
Gallup	901 West Aztec Ave.	Parade	11am	(505)-863-1275
Gallup	Courthouse Square, 215 West Aztec Ave.	Ceremony	11:30am	(505)-863-1275
Portales	Veterans Memorial Building	Ceremony	10:30am	(575)-760-3341

Veterans' Day Events Across New Mexico

City	Venue	Event	Time	More Info:
Tue. (Nov.11) Veterans' Day				
Portales	Veterans Memorial Building	Ceremony	10:30am	(575)-760-3341
Rio Rancho	Southern and Country Club Drive	Parade	10am	(505) 892-4499
Rio Rancho	Veterans Monument Park	Ceremony	11am	(505) 892-4499
Roswell	ITC Commons, ENMU Roswell	Celebration	11am-1pm	(575)-624-7000
Santa Fe	Santa Fe Community Convention Center	Ceremony	11am-12pm	website
Socorro	Isidro Baca Park, Center Street	Ceremony	11am	(575)-835-0240
Santa Rosa	David Flores Veterans Center	Ceremony	11:30am	(575)-472-0380
T or C	Sierra Vista Hospital	Ceremony	10am-11am	website
Wed. (Nov.12)				
Santa Fe	Santa Fe Community College/Jemez Room	Ceremony	11am-12:30pm	(505)-428-1314
Sat.. (Nov.15)				
Albuquerque	Indian Pueblo Cultural Center	Screening	12pm-1pm	(505)-843-7270

Veterans' Day is observed each year on November 11 to honor all who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Its origins date back to the end of World War I, when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. One year later, the United States marked November 11 as Armistice Day to recognize World War I Veterans.

Following World War II and the Korean War, it became clear that the nation owed gratitude to Veterans of every generation. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation renaming the federal holiday Veterans' Day and expanding its purpose to honor all American Veterans, past, present, and future. To all New Mexico Veterans, service members, and families, thank you. Your service has strengthened our state and safeguarded our nation's core values. Veterans' Day is not only a date on the calendar, it is a reminder that your dedication, sacrifices, and continued contributions matter every single day.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is committed to ensuring that every Veteran and their family have access to the benefits, resources, and support they have earned. We are proud to serve those who have served. All of us at the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services believes every day is Veterans' Day and extend our deepest gratitude and respect. Thank you for your service and continued commitment to strengthening the communities you call home across the Land of Enchantment.



Veterans' Day Programming from PBS

New Mexico PBS (KNME – Ch. 5.1, Ch. 5.4, and streaming) will present a series of Veterans' Day programs throughout November 2025, honoring those who serve, have served, and the families and communities who support them. For program details, visit www.nmpbs.org. All programs will also be available to stream for free on the PBS app following their broadcast.



BREAKING ENIGMA: A WORLD WAR II GAME CHANGER

Ch. 5.1 – Sunday, Nov. 9, 11:00 pm;

Ch. 5.4 – Saturday, Nov. 8, 3:00 pm; Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10:00 pm

The breaking of Germany's top-secret Enigma Code at Bletchley Park in the UK, was one of WWII's biggest secrets, alongside the construction of the atomic bombs. Some historians estimate that deciphering the German military code shortened the war by 2 years and possibly saved 14 million lives.

SALUTE TO SERVICE 2025: A VETERANS' DAY CELEBRATION

Ch. 5.1 – Monday, Nov. 10, 8:00 pm; Ch. 5.4 – Wednesday, Nov. 12, 8:00 pm

Country music legend Trace Adkins joins the U.S. Army Field Band to host, and features unforgettable performances by opera superstar Angel Blue, jazz vocalist Kurt Elling, and more.

CORPSMAN! PEARL HARBOR

Ch. 5.1 – Monday, Nov. 10, 9:00 pm

Ch. 5.4 – Saturday, Nov. 8, 2:00 pm; Wednesday, Nov. 12, 9:00 pm

Narrated by sports commentator Jim Nantz, this program follows one man - Harry Chandler's story on that "day of infamy" and the days that followed America's sudden entry into WWII, while also examining the role of corpsmen and medics during the war.

THE LAST 600 METERS: THE BATTLES OF NAJAF AND FALLUJAH

Ch. 5.1 – Monday, Nov. 10, 10:00 pm; Ch. 5.4 – Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:00 am

The battles of Fallujah and Najaf in 2004 were the two deadliest battles of the Iraq War. This film tells the story of these battles, not through narration, but through the words and deeds of those who fought there.

AMERICAN HEART IN WWI: A CARNEGIE HALL TRIBUTE

Ch. 5.1 – Tuesday, Nov. 11, 7:00 pm; Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2:00 pm

Experience this electrifying live theatrical event, created and narrated by historian John Monsky, that brings America's World War I story to life through a dynamic fusion of breathtaking music, powerful storytelling, and unforgettable characters.

PEARL HARBOR - INTO THE ARIZONA

Ch. 5.1 - Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10:00 pm

On the eve of the 75th anniversary, join the first expedition to explore inside the USS Arizona since the date that will live in infamy, as state-of-the-art imaging technology reveals the aftermath and incredible story of the Pearl Harbor attack.

HONOR SONG

Ch. 5.4 - Friday, Nov. 21, 9:00 pm

New Mexico Filmmaker -- Celebrating the long history and service of Native Americans in the U.S. military, **Veterans of the Southwest** share personal stories and perspectives of their military service and their cultural experience, highlighting the continuing dedication of service in the military; the particularly high level of representation of Native American females; and how the integration of cultures plays a role for the future.

NMDVS Services Uninterrupted

While the federal government continues its shutdown, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) remains fully open and committed to serving Veterans and their families across the state. As a state agency, NMDVS operates independently from the federal government and is not affected by the shutdown. Every NMDVS office is continuing normal operations, ensuring that Veterans can still receive the help they need to access both state and federal benefits.

NMDVS Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are available statewide to assist Veterans with filing and tracking VA claims, gathering necessary documentation, and answering questions about how the shutdown may affect their benefits. Even though the VA's Albuquerque Regional Office is currently closed to the public, claims processing continues, and NMDVS VSOs are ready to help Veterans navigate any temporary disruptions or confusion that may arise.

In addition to federal benefits assistance, NMDVS continues to help Veterans and eligible family members access valuable state programs. These include property tax exemptions, Lifetime Veterans Park Passes, educational scholarships, reduced-fee hunting and fishing licenses, and specialty license plates. NMDVS is also a trusted point of contact for connecting Veterans with other state and community resources that support housing, education, employment, and well-being.

Now more than ever, NMDVS wants Veterans to know they are not alone. Whether you need help filing a claim, understanding your benefits, or accessing state programs, our staff is here to guide and support you. Visit your nearest NMDVS field office or contact the department online at: <https://www.nmdvs.org/> or by phone at 1-833-433-8387 to connect with a Veteran Service Officer who can ensure your benefits and services continue uninterrupted.

November is Veterans and Military Families Month

National Veterans & Military Families Month, first established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA, is recognized each year to acknowledge the sacrifice, resilience, and courage that you and your loved ones have shown in service to our country.

This month, we honor your service, your dedication, and the sacrifices you made. We honor your families, who carried the weight of service alongside you. We honor your continued leadership in your communities long after the uniform is set aside. And we honor the example you set for future generations of Americans.



Whether you served in combat or in critical support roles, at home or abroad, in peacetime or in war, your devotion has helped safeguard everything we value as Americans and New Mexicans. And behind every Veteran is a network of family members who served in their own way, waiting, supporting, and holding down the home front through deployments, relocations, and uncertainty.

With countless service members still deployed around the world, we recognize the sacrifices of active-duty personnel, the New Mexico National Guard, and the many Reservists who call this state home. Their families continue to show resilience, pride, and strength that reflect the spirit of the Land of Enchantment.

This month, we honor your service and the sacrifices you made. We honor your families, whose love and support ensured you could carry out your missions. We celebrate the leadership you continue to provide in New Mexico's towns, cities, Tribal lands, and rural communities long after your uniform is retired. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors your legacy, which inspires future generations to step forward in service.

Upcoming DVS Veterans' Benefits Outreach Visits

NMDVS 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 other VA benefits.

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

Please bring a copy of your DD 214, NA 13038, NOAA 56-16, PHS 1867, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, which are necessary for filing all Veterans' benefits claims. VA award letter showing percentage of disability, NM Driver's License, ID, voter Registration card, and Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death

Albuquerque	11/13	Bernalillo County BLD> 415 Silver Ave. SW	9am-2pm
Artesia	11/19, 12/17	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	11/12	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Capitan	12/3	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	11/12	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	11/26	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-3pm
Española	11/5	Workforce Connection Ctr. 56 Co Rd. 126B	10am-2pm
Eunice	12/11	Eunice Library, 1003 Avenue N	9am-11:30am
Farmington	11/14	Public Library 2101 N Farmington Ave.	10am-2pm
Jal	12/11	Woolworth Library, 100 E Utah Ave	1pm-3:30pm
Lovington	12/18	Lovington Library, 115 Main St.	9am-11:30am
Rio Rancho	11/5	County Office 1500 Idalia Rd. Bldg. D	2pm-5pm
Roswell	11/11	ENMU Veteran Resource 23. W. Mathis St.	11am-1pm
Ruidoso	11/5	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Fe	11/12	SF Community College 6401 Richards Ave.	11am-12:30pm
Socorro/Belen	11/11	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Tatum	12/18	Tatum Library, 323 E Broadway St.	

The following are weekly outreach visits:

Santa Fe	Mondays	Santa Fe Vet Center, 6535 Airport Road	9am-4pm
Santa Fe	Fridays	Santa Fe Vet Center/, 6535 Airport Road	9am-2pm
T or C Vet. Home	Wednesdays	State Veterans' Home/992 S. Broadway	9am-4pm

Veterans and their eligible dependents may always contact any of the NMDVS 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



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT

OF VETERANS' SERVICES

BERNALILLO COUNTY ASSESSOR'S VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT

BERNALILLO COUNTY BUILDING

415 Silver Ave. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102

Thursday, Nov. 13th, 2025, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM



NM Dept of Veterans' Services & Bernalillo County Assessor's
office representatives will be on site to assist eligible veterans
and unmarried widows applying for:

- * *\$10,000 Standard Veterans Property Tax Exemption.*
- * *Percentage Based Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption.*
- * *Disabled Veterans Permanent & Total property Tax Waiver.*

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
 - * DD214 must be full form, unredacted and include character of service
 - * Visit www.archives.gov to request discharge paperwork if needed.
2. If applicable, VA Federal Award letter verifying service-connected disability rating
 - * If you do not have a copy of your current VA Award letter, a free copy can be obtained by establishing an account at www.va.gov or by calling 1-800-827-1000.
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

Calling all New Mexico Women Veterans and Service Members!



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services proudly supports the Military Women's Memorial Strive for 500 Campaign—a nationwide effort to honor the legacy of women in uniform by preserving their stories.

We need you to represent New Mexico, as each state is challenged to register at least 500 women Veterans. Our state is home to thousands of incredible servicewomen, and their legacies deserve to be remembered by their families and all of New Mexico.

For more than 30 years, the Military Women's Memorial has collected names, photos, service records, and personal experiences of women who answered the call to serve. This permanent archive is the only one of its kind, ensuring "HERstory" is recognized as an essential part of America's story.

It is free and easy to register, so join and be counted. If you are a woman who has served, add your story to the Military Women's National Digital Repository. By joining the "Strive for 500" initiative, you can help shine a light on women's service and inspire future generations of New Mexicans.

Your service matters. Your story inspires. Your legacy deserves to be remembered.

Visit <https://womensmemorial.org/> to share your story and be part of this important effort.

Property Tax Exemptions and Lifetime Veteran Park Passes

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) State Benefits Division is accepting applications for the Veterans property tax exemptions and the NM State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass.

1. Property Tax Exemptions:

The standard Veteran property tax exemption is now \$10,000 and will adjust annually for inflation beginning in 2026. Additionally, the Disabled Veteran Exemption allows eligible Veterans or their unmarried surviving spouses to apply for a tax exemption equal to the Veteran's federal disability rating. Applications must be submitted to NMDVS and filed with your County Assessor.

2. New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass:

Eligible New Mexico Veterans can apply for a free lifetime pass providing unlimited access to all state parks, including day-use and overnight camping. Standard entry and camping fees are waived; however, reservation and special facility fees still apply.

Documents needed to verify eligibility for the benefits

- A copy of DD-214, NA 13038, NOAA Form 56-16, or PHS Form 1867
- Proof of New Mexico residency (driver's license, voter registration, or state tax return)
- VA Award Letter showing percentage of disability (only for tax exemption)
- Widow/Widower copy of marriage and death certificates (only for tax exemption)



If you have questions, please call NMDVS at 505-827-6300 or 505-383-2400. Visit any of our field offices or visit nmdvs.org for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.

United States Marine Corps Celebrates 250 Years

This year marks a historic milestone, the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Established on November 10, 1775, by the Continental Congress, the Marine Corps was created to serve as an elite fighting force dedicated to defending the nation's freedom, values, and sovereignty. For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood at the forefront of American defense, answering the call of duty in times of both war and peace, across the globe and here at home.

Throughout its storied history, the Marine Corps has embodied the enduring values of courage, honor, and commitment. From the beaches of Iwo Jima to the mountains of Afghanistan, Marines have consistently demonstrated resilience, unity, and an unshakable dedication to mission and country.

New Mexico shares a proud and lasting connection to this legacy of service. Among the state's most revered heroes are the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II, Marine warriors whose unbreakable code, rooted in their sacred language, played a crucial role in securing victory in the Pacific Theater. Their bravery and innovation remain symbols of both cultural pride and military excellence.

As we honor the Marines who have served and continue to serve, the State of New Mexico recognizes not only their extraordinary contributions but also the strength and sacrifice of their families and communities who stand behind them.

On this 250th anniversary, we celebrate the men and women of the United States Marine Corps, past, present, and future, for their unwavering commitment to protecting the freedoms we hold dear. Their legacy continues to inspire generations to serve with honor and uphold the highest ideals of duty and country. Semper Fidelis. Always Faithful.





NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CEREMONY

NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

12 PM-1 PM



The United States Marine Corps was established 250 years ago on November 10th, 1775. Join us as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. We will participate in the nationwide “50 State Cake-Cutting” initiative, coordinated by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, to honor Marine Corps traditions and legacy. The ceremony will honor our serving Marines and our beloved Marine Corps veterans with the presentation of colors, the reading of the state proclamation, the Commandant’s official birthday message, guest speakers, and a cake-cutting ceremony to honor the Marine Corps Tradition.



Army Veteran Placido Borrego Honored On His 101st Birthday



New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera joined family and friends at Bonanza Creek Ranch in La Cienega on October 6 to celebrate U.S. Army Veteran Placido Borrego's 101st birthday. Secretary Herrera presented Mr. Borrego with a commemorative plaque recognizing this remarkable milestone, along with his extraordinary service, life-long dedication to New Mexico and the nation.

Drafted in 1943 at age 19, Mr. Borrego served as an Artillery Gunner with the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Division during World War II. He fought bravely in France and, after being wounded in combat, returned to the fight until his honorable discharge in 1946.

After returning home to Española, he married his beloved wife of 63 years, Delfina Calles y Borrego. He continued his service with the Army Reserves, being called to active duty during the Korean War, where he trained troops until his discharge in 1951. He later joined the New Mexico National Guard, where he served through the Vietnam War era, earning the Victory and Good Conduct Medals. Mr. Borrego was also called to duty during the 1980 New Mexico State Penitentiary riot, exemplifying his lifelong courage and commitment.

After more than 40 years of military service, Mr. Borrego retired from the New Mexico National Guard in 1984, leaving a lasting legacy of sacrifice, leadership, and devotion.

"Mr. Borrego's life reflects the true spirit of service and resilience that defines our Veterans," said Secretary Herrera. "It was an honor to celebrate this incredible milestone with him and his family."

NMDVS & Navy League Join to Honor 101 Year Old Navy Veteran

On October 18, 2025, representatives from NMDVS attended the New Mexico Navy Ball, presented by the Navy League of New Mexico Council and the Navy Reserve Center Albuquerque. NMDVS Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James and Director of State Benefits Edward Mendez presented U.S. Navy Veteran Raymond Bonda with a New Mexico state flag that had been flown over the Capitol in his honor. David Williams, CDR USN (Ret.), President of the NM Council of the Navy League, also presented Mr. Bonda with a Centennial plaque in celebration of his recent 101st birthday.



Mr. Bonda enlisted in the U.S. Navy shortly after graduating from high school in 1943. His journey to boot camp took him through Albuquerque, a city he would later call home, where he worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service until his retirement in 1984. During World War II, Mr. Bonda served aboard the USS Gardiners Bay (AVP-39), a seaplane tender, where he repaired battle-damaged aircraft throughout the Pacific.

After World War II, he continued his service in the Naval Reserve and was called back to active duty during the Korean War in 1950. Assigned to the Air Wing aboard the USS Princeton (CV-37), where he again repaired damaged aircraft, including the Navy's early jet fighter, the F9F Panther.

Mr. Bonda's wife, Carole, shared that, "he feels like a rock star, with all the recognition he has received for his service and longevity." Everyone in attendance wholeheartedly agreed. NMDVS extends its gratitude to the Navy League for including the department in honoring Mr. Bonda, and to Mr. Bonda himself for his dedicated service and sacrifices to the State of New Mexico and our nation.

Stand Down Events Across The State

“Stand Down” is a military term that originated during wartime, referring to periods when weary combat troops were withdrawn from the front lines and moved to secure locations to rest and recover.

Stand Down events today support and advocate for homeless and low-income Veterans. These events provide essential supplies and services, including food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and benefits counseling. The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) proudly supports Stand Down events across the state.

NMDVS staff attended the Veterans Wellness Conference - Stand Down/ Hand Up Project hosted by the City of Gallup at the Red Rock Park Convention Center in Church Rock, NM, on October 3, 2025. This free, in-person event featured presentations and a resource fair focused on Veterans and their needs in the community.

On Friday, October 10, 2025, the annual San Juan County Stand Down was a tremendous success, delivering critical services and support to local individuals experiencing homelessness, including Veterans. Participants received hot meals, haircuts, showers, dental care, and access to a wide range of community resources. NMDVS was honored to collaborate with San Juan College Veterans Center and American Legion Post 93.

On October 17, 2025, the Veterans Integration Center hosted its Stand Down at The Rock at Noon Day in Albuquerque. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera opened the event, bringing together organizations and volunteers committed to honoring the service and sacrifices of Veterans while connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with vital services and benefits.

In Las Cruces, on October 24, 2025, NMDVS staff and volunteers joined together for a day dedicated to serving homeless and near-homeless Veterans with the respect and dignity they deserve.

NMDVS extends sincere gratitude to all volunteers, partners, and organizations who came together to support and uplift Veterans and others experiencing homelessness in communities across New Mexico.



Park Renamed to Honor WWII Woman Veteran

The City of Albuquerque renamed High Desert Park to Dorothy Jensen Blanchard-High Desert Park yesterday, October 30, 2025, as part of the ABQ Stories of Us initiative to honor an extraordinary World War II veteran whose legacy of service and leadership helped open doors and break down barriers for generations of women in the military.

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) leadership attended the event, with Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera speaking along with Mayor Tim Keller and other city of Albuquerque representatives. Dorothy's daughter, Linda Blanchard, and her husband, Bomi Parakh, also thanked everyone for their support in the effort to rename the park.

Dorothy Jensen Blanchard proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1952 as a member of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). Rising to the rank of Yeoman Chief Petty Officer, she played a vital role supporting naval operations during and after World War II, including assignments at the Merchant Shipping Office, working at the highest levels in the Pentagon. During her service, Blanchard witnessed key moments in American history, including the signing of the National Security Act of 1947. This led to the creation of the U.S. Air Force and the establishment of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque the following year.

Her distinguished career shaped national defense policy and paved the way for greater inclusion of women in the armed forces. She received the "Living Legend Award" in 2023 from the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, for her extraordinary military contributions and lifetime of civic engagement. This legacy continues to inspire women in uniform today.

"She set a path for women and all service members to follow," said NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jaimison Herrera. "Let's not mark today as a singular day celebrating her 101 years of life; she was constantly praising, pushing, and being a patriot."

Later in life, Blanchard made Albuquerque her home, living in the High Desert area from 2000 until her passing in 2024 at the age of 101.

NMDVS supports the Military Women's Memorial Strive for 500 Campaign, a nationwide effort to honor the legacy of women in uniform like Dorothy Jensen Blanchard by preserving their stories. We need you to represent New Mexico, as each state is challenged to register at least 500 women Veterans. For more than 30 years, the Military Women's Memorial has collected names, photos, service records, and personal experiences of women who answered the call to serve.

If you are a woman who has served, add your story to the Military Women's National Digital Repository. By joining the "Strive for 500" initiative, you can help shine a light on women's service and inspire future generations of New Mexicans.

Your service matters. Your story inspires. Your legacy deserves to be remembered. Visit <https://womensmemorial.org/> to share your story and be part of this important effort.



Women Veterans Corner

“Connecting Women Veterans — One Story at a Time.”

Amberly Viner, U.S. Air Force Veteran who served in OIF/OEF, Women Veteran Program Manager



Did you know:

Women have served in every U.S. conflict since the American Revolution, but it wasn't until 1948 along with the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act that women were granted permanent status in the regular and reserve forces of the U.S. military.

Bonus November Connection:

On November 8, 1967, Ann E. Dunwoody, General, U.S. Army, was born. This is significant because she later became the first woman in U.S. military history to achieve the rank of four-star general in 2008. Happy Birthday General Dunwoody!!

Refer to link for more information: <https://foundationforwomenwarriors.org>

Topic of Month:

Being as November celebrates Veterans' Day, let's touch on the question of “why women who have served in the military do not consider themselves a Veteran?” How do we expect society to recognize us if we don't identify ourselves?

Answer:

There are many reasons for these perceptions but let's break it down.

For decades, the word “*Veteran*” was often linked to men who fought in combat. Because women were historically excluded from those roles, many still question whether their service “counts.” Too often, women Veterans are overlooked — mistaken for spouses, underrepresented in history, and even unseen within Veteran spaces.

Many women downplay their service, viewing it as simply “doing their job,” while others distance themselves from the label due to experiences of gender bias or harassment. This invisibility, combined with limited outreach, means some women still don't realize they fully qualify for VA and state Veteran benefits — regardless of combat or deployment status.

As proud **New Mexico Women Veterans**, we will change that narrative.

We stand together, lift each other up, and proudly say: **“I am a Veteran. I served.”**

Women Veterans Program

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Women Veterans Program (WVP) upholds the state's commitment to dignity, respect, and excellence in service for all Veterans and their families. WVP serves as the first point of contact for women Veterans seeking assistance or guidance in overcoming barriers faced during and after military service. Through partnerships with federal, state, and community organizations, the program provides comprehensive advocacy, outreach, and individualized support to address the unique needs of women who have served our state and nation. WVP connects women Veterans to federal and state benefits, healthcare, mentorship, education, and employment resources, while fostering peer-support networks that empower and uplift. Whether transitioning to civilian life or seeking continued support, the Women Veterans Program is dedicated to serving those who have served.



If you are a woman Veteran seeking assistance, guidance, or connection to resources, the Women Veterans Program is here to help. Reach out today to learn more about the services and support available to you at nmdvs.org

Take Your First Step Toward Entrepreneurship



Offered through the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), Boots to Business is a free, two-day foundational entrepreneurship course designed for transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business.

Participants will gain essential knowledge on the core principles of business ownership, including how to evaluate the feasibility of a business idea and how to develop a strategic business plan—an indispensable tool for any new or expanding venture. The curriculum also covers key topics such as securing start-up or growth capital, accessing technical assistance, and exploring federal contracting opportunities.

Join us for one of our dynamic, full-day sessions, typically held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that on-base access is required for classes held at military installations.

Whether you're just beginning your entrepreneurial journey or looking to expand your business, we're here to help guide your next steps. For more information about the Boots to Business program or to register, please contact VBOC Advisor **Christina Stover** at christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov or call **(505) 469-8501**.

City	Dates	Location
Clovis, NM	November 13 & 14	Cannon Air-Force Base
Albuquerque, NM	November 17 & 18	Kirtland Air Force Base
Alamogordo, NM	December 18 & 19	Holloman Air-Force Base

** Participants will require base access*

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

We Would Love to Help Promote Your Business!

Register your veteran-owned business with VBOC today!

Scan the QR code to fill out the form.



U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Jeff George, Bureau Chief with the State Benefits Division. Last month, Jeff and his team faced the task of clearing a large backlog of service requests. Jeff didn't just lead from behind a desk. He rolled up his sleeves and worked shoulder-to-shoulder with his staff and other departments, answering messages, solving problems, and setting the tone for a culture of accountability and service. His "can-do" attitude and willingness to jump into the trenches inspired his team to push through the volume and stay committed to the agency's mission.

Edward Mendez, Director of State Benefits, expressed, "I am proud to recognize Jeff for his exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to serving New Mexico's Veterans. His tireless work ethic and commitment to excellence exemplify what it means to 'Serve Those Who Have Served.'"

What brought you to NMDVS?

I decided to make a career change and applied. I was unaware of NMDVS's existence. During the interview, I explained how I had filed for disability on my own, along with the appeal ordeal I went through to receive a 10% rating. I promised that if I received the Veteran Service Officer training, no Veteran receiving my assistance would be as confused about the process as I was. It's been a great journey guiding Veterans through the complicated VA system to receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.



How long have you been with the agency?

I started as a VSO with NMDVS in March 2008, and was promoted to Bureau Chief, State Benefits Division on January 20, 2020.



What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

The ability to assist clients in receiving the benefits they have earned and receiving the heartfelt gratitude of a Veteran or widow that I have helped.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

My father was a Marine Corps Veteran and served in Vietnam. I served in the Army from 1993 to 1996 as an M1A1 Armor Crewman. I am a member of the American Legion in Santa Fe, the DAV in San Juan County, and the VFW in Los Alamos.



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

My hobbies include hiking, snowshoeing, and billiards. I am the captain of eight and nine-ball teams in the Santa Fe American Poolplayers Association.

Three words to describe you?

Knowledgeable, hardworking, and honest.

NMDVS is hiring! View new job postings on the State of New Mexico careers page [here](#).





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

VA Announces Cemetery Grants for Angel Fire and Fort Stanton

The Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announced that it has awarded two significant grants to the State of New Mexico to enhance its Veterans cemeteries. A grant of up to \$1,325,135 has been allocated for the expansion of the Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery, and a grant of up to \$5,993,108 has been awarded for the expansion of the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery.

Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery, located in south-central New Mexico, provides a final resting place for more than 12,000 Veterans and their eligible family members in the region. Established to honor the service of New Mexico's Veterans, the cemetery has become an important site for memorial services and community remembrance. The awarded grant will fund the development of 202 in-ground cremation gravesites, as well as improvements to roadways, landscaping, and irrigation systems, ensuring a dignified and accessible environment for visitors.

Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, nestled in the scenic northern mountains of New Mexico, serves over 18,000 Veterans and their eligible family members. Known for its serene natural setting and panoramic views, the cemetery provides a peaceful and solemn space for commemorating the lives of those who served. The grant will support the construction of an administration building, a maintenance building and yard, a committal service shelter, and 144 in-ground cremation gravesites. Additional improvements will include landscaping and irrigation, enhancing both functionality and the overall aesthetic of the grounds.

These expansions demonstrate New Mexico's commitment to honoring its Veterans and ensuring that they and their families have access to well-maintained, respectful cemeteries for generations to come.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) operates three State Veterans Cemeteries dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of New Mexico's Veterans and their eligible family members. Located in Fort Stanton, Gallup, and Angel Fire, these cemeteries provide a dignified resting place for those who served our nation. Each site reflects the state's deep respect and gratitude for its veterans, offering beautifully maintained grounds, military honors, and perpetual care.

For more information on the State Cemeteries please visit the NMDVS website here: <https://www.nmdvs.org/cemetery/>





VETERANS FIELD GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates 97 percent of VA employees continue to work during a shutdown, according to the VA Human Capital Contingency Plan. VA is committed to provide quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").



SERVICES TO VETERANS NOT IMPACTED:



VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and providing all services.



VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.



Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.



The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.



Call Centers: VA's primary call center (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) will remain open 24/7. The VA Benefit Hotline (1-800-827-1000) will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.



Suicide prevention programs, homelessness services, and caregiver support will continue.



SERVICES TO VETERANS IMPACTED:



VA will cease providing transition program assistance and career counseling.



Call Centers: VA's GI Bill (1-888-GIBILL-1) and National Cemetery Applicant Assistance (1-800-697-6947) hotlines will be closed.



VA benefits regional offices will be closed.



Public Affairs and unfunded outreach to Veterans will cease, including social media, VetResources emails, and responses to press inquiries.



No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.

Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.

No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.



No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.



HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!

The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access VA resources 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/ or www.VA.gov for updated information.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Download the VA Welcome Kit www.va.gov/welcome-kit/

Subscribe to #VetResources www.va.gov/vetresources/

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then Press 1

Call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) or visit <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>



ANGEL FIRE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Discover a Place of Honor and Healing

Nestled in the serene Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands as a powerful tribute to courage, sacrifice, and remembrance.

Whether you're a veteran, a family member, a history enthusiast, or a traveler seeking a moment of reflection, this sacred site offers a space for healing, learning, and remembrance. Explore the Peace and Brotherhood Chapel, view historical exhibits, the half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall, and walk the peaceful grounds that honor the lives of those who served.



The half-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall

An Experience of Honor, Healing, and History

This striking granite tribute spans 250 feet in length and is etched with the names of more than 58,000 American heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. Whether you're a veteran, a family member, or someone seeking to understand the cost of freedom, this wall invites reflection, remembrance, and unity.

The Memorial is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services in collaboration with the David Westphal Veterans Foundation.

It continues to serve as a place of reflection, education, and community.

Open daily, admission is free and open to all.

Located off US Hwy 64 at 34
Country Club Rd. Angel Fire, NM



For details, directions and more, visit
www.nmdvs.org or www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org



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 non-profit 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 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.
- 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 NMDVS.
- 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.
- NMDVS reserves the right to edit or decline to publish any flyer.

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



DigitalSkills COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc. INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety. TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use. EXCEL BASICS: Intro to spreadsheet features: how to sort & filter and formulas to get you started. CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.	MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spell-check documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout' MICROSOFT POWERPOINT: Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations.. MICROSOFT EXPLORER: Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS. MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar. GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online. GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.	DigitalSkills INTRO TO CODING@ Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & web development. CODING WORKSHOP@ Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python. APP DEVELOPMENT @ Intro to app coding, a look at IOS & Android with interactive learning exercises. GAME DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises. DISCOVERING DATA: Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.
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TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to
www.goodwillnm.org/events... OR CALL 505.314.1875...
 OR EMAIL mimartinez@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE...

NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2	3 Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Computer Basics 10:30 am - 11:30 am	4 Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Internet Basics 10:30 am - 11:30 am	5 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	6 Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Resiliency@ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	7 Career Compass W Your New Job@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Money Management@ 10:30 am - 11:30 am	8
9	10 Computer Basics 9:00 am - 10:00 am Typing 101 10:30 am - 11:45 am	11 Public Speaking Intro 9:00 am - 10:30 am Cybersecurity 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	12 Microsoft Word 9:00 am - 10:15 am Microsoft PowerPoint 10:30 am - 11:45 am	13 COMMUNITY CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. Job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	14 Excel Basics 9:00 am - 10:15 am Discovering Data 10:30 am - 11:45 am	15
16	17 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	18 Microsoft Explorer 9:00 am - 10:15 am Microsoft Outlook 10:30 am - 11:30 am	19 Resiliency Workshop@ 9:00 am - 10:30 am Excel Basics 11:00 am - 12:15 pm	20 Google Docs 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google Slides 10:30 am - 11:30 am	21 Intro to Coding@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Coding Workshop@ 10:30 am - 11:30 am	22
23	24 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	25 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	26 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	28 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	29



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 Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training

VIRTUAL OPTION CLASSES: You can choose to attend some of our
 FREE classes online from home (look for the @ after the class
 name)...or come and attend in-person

SAN MATEO

SAN MATEO OPPORTUNITY CENTER 5000 SAN MATEO BLVD NE, ABQ, NM 87109

EmploymentSkills Career Compass Employment Skills Series: N/CAREER EXPLORATION@ Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT. E/RESUME & APPLYING@ Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online. S/INTERVIEW & SOFT SKILLS@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication. W/YOUR NEW JOB@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work. PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.	WellnessSkills STRESS MANAGEMENT@ A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to overcome it. STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@ Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress REENTRY RESOURCE & CAREER FAIR on 11/06/25 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Are you ready to re-enter the workforce and rebuild your life after incarceration? Connect with employers and others who believe in your potential.	LifeSkills RESILIENCY@ An in-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life. RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@ Discover tools to help you develop a plan to strengthen your 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. OFFICE HOURS: Meet with instructor for extra help. Get questions answered or use for skills practice.
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DigitalSkills COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc. INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the Internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety. TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use. EXCEL BASICS: Intro to spreadsheet features: how to sort & filter and formulas to get you started. CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.	MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout. MICROSOFT POWERPOINT: Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations... MICROSOFT EXPLORER: Learn how to download, save, organize, find files and navigate Windows OS. MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar. GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online. GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.	DigitalSkills INTRO TO CODING@ Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & web development. CODING WORKSHOP@ Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python. APP DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to app coding, a look at iOS & Android with interactive learning exercises. GAME DEVELOPMENT@ Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises. DISCOVERING DATA: Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.
TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to www.goodwillnm.org/events...OR CALL 505.881.6401 x1903... OR EMAIL kpaul@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE...		NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2	3 Google Docs 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Google Slides 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	4 Excel Basics 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Cybersecurity 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm	5 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	6 Microsoft Word 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Microsoft PowerPoint 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	7 Typing 101 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Microsoft Outlook 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	8
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LOMAS

LOMAS SERVICE CENTER 6001 LOMAS BLVD NE ABQ, NM 87110

EmploymentSkills Career Compass Employment Skills Series: N/CAREER EXPLORATION@ Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT. E/RESUME & APPLYING @ Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online. S/INTERVIEW & SOFT SKILLS@ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication. W/YOUR NEW JOB@ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work. PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice session.	WellnessSkills STRESS MANAGEMENT@ A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to overcome it. STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@ Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress REENTRY RESOURCE & CAREER FAIR on 11/06/25 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Are you ready to re-enter the workforce and rebuild your life after incarceration? Connect with employers and others who believe in your potential.	LifeSkills RESILIENCY@ An in-depth look at how to withstand & recover from the difficulties of life. RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@ Discover tools to help develop a plan to strengthen your 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. OFFICE HOURS: Meet with instructor for extra help. Get questions answered or use for skills practice.
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The Way of Art

New Mexico Veterans Create

October 30 - November 28, 2025

**Saturday,
November 1**

**NMVA Members
Meeting**

1:00-2:00pm

(in upper level meeting room)
at Mesa Public Library, 2400
Central Ave., Los Alamos)

**Public
Reception:
2:00-4:00pm**



Blessing Series: Red Tail Hawk by Roy Breckenridge

LOS ALAMOS
Public Library



at MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY
2400 Central Ave., Los Alamos

For more information go to:
<https://stepupgallery.org>



EQUINE & PISCATORIAL THERAPY

by Healing America's
Heroes



\$0

for Veterans or
First Responders
to attend

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Healing America's Heroes is a
nonprofit organization dedicated to
helping veterans and first
responders heal from
PTSD, MST, and TBI
through recreational therapy

575-244-3751

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Southwest University
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chronic disease through evidence-based nutrition
healing practice.**

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SUNM.EDU**





ALBUQUERQUE FISHER HOUSE



VA



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



IS YOUR FAMILY MEMBER ELIGIBLE? ASK YOUR VA CARE TEAM

A "home away from home" allowing families and loved ones to be close during an inpatient stay and to focus on what's important--the healing process.

A member of the inpatient Veterans Care Team must enter the request for bedside support of a veterans, a family member cannot call directly **FISHER HOUSE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (50 FAMILIA)**

- 50 miles/from ABQ Fisher House
- Family member/caregiver of an inpatient Veteran at the VA
- Actively engaged in the inpatient's treatment plan
- Medically stable and capable of self-care (Guest must be)
- Independent and able to live in a shared space setting
- Living in stable, permanent housing (not homeless)
- Is free from communicable illness (flu, chicken pox, measles, C-Diff, COVID, etc.)
- Agrees to the Fisher House Guest Agreement and Rules



Raymond G. Murphy/NMVAHCS
Albuquerque Fisher House
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE, Building 85
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
(505) 265-1711 Ext. 3180 - ABQFisherHouse@va.gov

because A Family's Love
is Good Medicine



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL HALL OF HONOR

November 8th , 2025

Door Open at 5:30 pm

Social Hour from 5:30–7:00 pm

Ceremony 7:00–8:00 pm



MG Coryton
McDowell Woodbury



Lt Col Wilson Hurley



CPT John S Wilson



CPL Tony Reyna



**EVENT
TICKETS**

**New Mexico Military Museum
1050 Old Pecos Trail
Santa Fe, NM 87505**



**HOTEL
RESERVATION**

Attire: Cocktail, Class A (AGSU/ASU with tie), or Dress Blues.

Reserve your seat today at nmnghoh.org



MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR®

**Help us find
Operation
Homefront's next
award recipients!**



For more information,
scan the QR code or visit
operationhomefront.org/mcoy

WHAT

Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

WHEN

The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23, 2026 during the Month of the Military Child.

WHO

Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

RECIPIENTS

Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a \$10,000 cash award, a laptop computer, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

**Nominations accepted
September 3 to
December 2, 2025**



Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) has launched the American Service Fellowship: a new initiative that will provide full scholarships for at least 50 public servants—including Veterans and active-duty service members—from across the United States to enroll next fall for a one-year, fully funded master's degree.

The fellowship is open to public servants in the United States:

- U.S. military veterans and active-duty military
- Federal, state, tribal, and local public employees—including public school teachers, fire fighters, and police officers
- Alumni of national service programs such as Peace Corps and AmeriCorps

Participating students will get a world-class public policy education at no cost, as well as an opportunity to work with and learn from other great public servants from across the nation. Most of all, we'll give them the tools they need to further their careers and tackle the biggest challenges we face.

Please visit the American Service Fellowship website for more information here:

<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/american-service-fellowship>

New Mexico 2025 LGBTQ+ Health Summit

Understanding & Responding to
Current Changes in Policy and Funding

How are new federal policies affecting Medical and Behavioral
Health Care, Research, and Public Health?

|

How is New Mexico State Government Responding to Current
Events and Protecting Safety and Quality of Care for All?

How are Funders Responding to Current Events to Increase
Equity?

What Can Our Community Do to Ensure Our Health & Wellbeing?

The Summit is free, but
registration is required.

Free parking will be
available.

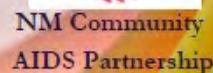
Saturday, 11/8/2025

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

UNM Domenici Center
and Online

For more information write to: NMCAP@yahoo.com

To register: <https://bit.ly/46rOqXa>



LAS CRUCES VETERANS DAY PARADE

THANK YOU
VETERANS



Saluting
our
ROTC.



Poster Art by Serenity Madrid - Mesa Middle School, 7th grade

11:00 am Saturday, November 8, 2025

Parade begins at Lohman Avenue and Main Street, travels north on Main Street, through the roundabout and south on Water Street to the staging area

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE FOR THE PARADE AT CITY HALL

Register for participation in the parade at
<http://lascrucesvetday.org>



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 11, 2025 11AM

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Join the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire as we honor the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Keynote speaker is Jerry Martinez, a native New Mexican and Marine Corps Veteran of the Vietnam War.

Musical performance by the award winning Cimarron High School Band

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire was the first Memorial in the United States dedicated to Vietnam Veterans. It was built by Dr. Victor "Doc" Westphal!, in honor of his son, David, and all who served.

Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial
34 Country Club Rd.
Angel Fire, NM 87710
575-377-2293





HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

**Ceremony @
10:30 AM**

**NOV. 11,
2025**

VETERANS

DAY

Please join us in honoring our Veterans!

Music provided by Dukes of Albuquerque Concert Band,
Flyover courtesy of the New Mexico Chili Flight,
Create Letters for Veterans in the visitor center!



**NM Veterans Memorial Park
1100 Louisiana Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108**



**For more information:
(505) 768-4495**



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

STARTS
AT 9AM

NOV. 11
2025

VETERANS

DAY

Parade





Veterans Day 2025: Ceremony & Navy Week Events

Veterans Day Ceremony

Tues, Nov 11, 2025 | 11am – 12pm | Santa Fe Community Convention Center

Join us for a special ceremony honoring our veterans with patriotic music, military traditions, and community leaders.

The ceremony will feature Master of Ceremony Jim Williams, COL, US Army Retired, patriotic music by the Santa Fe Concert Band and Community Orchestra Choir, a drill team exhibition by the San Diego Naval Base Drill Team, and the posting of the colors and flag honors by local veterans and JROTC. Keynote remarks will be delivered by DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, and the Governor's Proclamation will be read along with a welcome by Mayor Alan Webber.

The event also includes the Pledge of Allegiance, reflections on Veterans Day, recognition of dignitaries, and closing remarks and prayers.

Performance by Navy Band Southeast

Sat, Nov 15, 2025 | 1-2 pm | The Plaza

To help celebrate Navy Week, enjoy live performances by the Navy Band on the Plaza, celebrating our naval service and connecting with the community.



For more information or to view a full calendar of City of Santa Fe events visit santafenm.gov/events or scan the QR code.



CITY OF SANTA FE



VETERAN'S DAY

EVENTS IN SIERRA COUNTY, NM

to thank & honor our Veterans for their sacrifices and contributions.

Saturday, November 8th, 10-11am

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK

Honor Ceremony at "The Wall"

- Presentation of Colors & Flag
- Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation
- National Anthem
- Keynote Address
- Guest Speakers
- Veteran Tribute
- Retiring of Colors
- Hamilton Military Museum Tours (8:30-10:00am; 2:00-4:00pm)

Saturday, November 8th, 11am-1pm

New Mexico State

VETERANS' HOME

Lunch & Live Music by Southern Blend

All events guests are invited to enjoy lunch & music in the main dining hall.

Tuesday, November 11th, 11am-12pm

SIERRA VISTA HOSPITAL

Hall of Honor Ceremony & Challenge Coin Presentations

- Military vehicles & bikes display (10-11am)
- Presentation of Colors & Flag
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence at 11:11
- Brief Welcome
- Challenge Coin Significance
- Challenge Coin Presentations
- Hall of Honor Walk
(thanking Veterans one-on-one)
- Procession to Veterans' Memorial Park where military vehicles will be on display until 1:00pm and guests may tour the museum until 4:00pm.

Please show our Veterans your appreciation by attending these memorable events!

City of Gallup Veterans Day Parade

"Honoring 80th Anniversary of World War II"

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Parade Lineup - 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Gurley Collision Center, 901 West Aztec Avenue

Parade Start time - 11:00 a.m.

**8th Street and West Aztec Avenue to
Gallup Downtown Courthouse Square,**

215 West Aztec Avenue

Scan Code for Online Parade Entry Form:

<https://www.visitgallup.com/gallup-veterans-day-parade/>

Veteran Organizations

Marching Bands

Musical Bands

Schools/ Youth Groups

Military/ ROTC Groups

Non-profit Organizations

Royalty

Government/ Political

Private Entities/ Businesses



**CITY OF
GALLUP**

Registration Opens: September 3, 2025

Registration Closes: November 3, 2025

Contact:

Delene Santillanes, Marketing & Projects Coordinator

Email: dsantillanes@gallupnm.gov

Ben Welch, Community Services Coordinator

Email: bwelch@gallupnm.gov

PAWS AND STRIPES



HELPING DOGS, HELPING HEROES

VETERANS DAY

Join Us for a COMMUNITY EVENT



TUES. NOVEMBER 11TH
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

About Our Event!

We warmly invite ALL Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, Reserves, and family members to join us for a day of fun and camaraderie!

This is a family-friendly event.



617 Truman Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

This is NOT a pet friendly event
Only Service Dogs are allowed



Event Highlights

Giveaways

We'll have FREE treats, swag, snacks and a raffle drawing every 30 min!



Resource Fair

Meet representatives from local Veteran-friendly organizations.



Crafting and Games

Learn to make a dog collar for your furry friend or try your hand at a number of games for prizes.



Plant and Book Swap

Bring a used book or a plant clipping to trade. We have lots of both to share!



Local Food Trucks

Grab a bite from local favorites.



Contact us
505-999-1201

Email
veterandogs@pawsandstripes.org





New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. ,

Albuquerque

Gold Star Mothers

&

High Desert Design Club

CORDIALLY

INVITE YOU TO A

GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

MARKER DEDICATION

Wednesday,

November 12, 2025

1:00 pm

Albuquerque Garden Center

10120 Lomas Blvd N.E., Albuquerque, NM

Light Refreshments will be served

For more information Call Shirley Tetreault (505) 259-2263

Operation Holiday Cheer

DATE: November 15, 2025

Time: 9:00-11 AM

Location: Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers
Troop Support Center
2919 2nd St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

The Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers invites the community to join us in packing and shipping 400 holiday care packages to our deployed service members. Please check out our website at <https://www.rgvnmbism.org/> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rgvbsm>.

Thank you for helping us show appreciation and gratitude to those serving who won't be home for the holidays. To purchase items for the care packages, scan the QR code.



New Mexico Saint Barbara's Day Banquet 2025

***Reignite and Celebrate the historical lineage of Air
Defense Artillery within the State of New Mexico. Keep
the Legacy of Honor Alive.***



Friday, December 5, 2025



5:30 PM – 9:00 PM



Mountain View Club

22000 SE Club Road •

Albuquerque, NM 87123

Formal Dress Attire

Scan below to Register:



[Firsttofire.net/events](https://www.firsttofire.net/events)



The event will be limited to the first 60 registrants, including spouses and guests.
Access the registration portal via the QR code in the lower corner or via this link:

<https://www.firsttofire.net/events>

WAYLON ★★★

★★★ **BAILEY BAND**

PRESENTS

**OPERATION
VET REVIVAL**



LIVE BENEFIT

**FREE
FOR
VETS**

HISTORIC LOBO THEATER

**19
DEC**

CONCERT



FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE: <https://www.nmvic.org/benefitconcert>



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) 437-4635

david.henley@dvs.nm.gov

Alamogordo/Southeast NM

Matthew Quinn (VSO I)

411 10th Street #107

(575) 546-8367

matthew.quinn@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 Metro Area

Adam Calderon

Good Will Office
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE

(505) 274-0393

adam.calderon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Mike Nelson

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 525-3331

mike.nelson@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

John Membrila

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 584-2153

john.membrila@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Anthony Johnson

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) -681-0499

anthony.johnson@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

James Brandon

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 470-7503

james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

David Swisher

Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 525-3331

david.swisher@dvs.nm.gov

Belen/ABQ Metro & Central NM

Rob Miller (Central/Mobile Supervisor)

Belen Business Center
719 South Main St.

(505) 537-9339

rob.miller@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VARO) *CLOSED*

Corey Riedel

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor

(505) 479-0672

corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

**Temporally closed due to federal shutdown (no appointment needed)*

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

Joseph Lovato

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Ctr.
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE

(505) 623-1729

joseph.lovato@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE Supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Ambrose Oliver

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 916-4835

ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov

(continued on next page)

Farmington/Northwest NM**Jenny Iser**

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 327-2861

jenny.iser@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**Grants/Northwest NM****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

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

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (SW Supervisor)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 361-5298

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

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

Clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Arturo Marlow** (NE Supervisor)

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Melissa Herrera** (VSO I)

917 Douglas Ave.

Melissa # 575-781-0614

(575) 520-5079

melissa.herrera@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) 988-5900

benjamin.mendoza@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****Leticia "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 Wednesday**

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

(505) 372-9106

Amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**

San Juan College Veterans Center

4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@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.

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