



The Guardian

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

December 2025

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Armed Forces 250th Anniversary

This year, our country commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States Armed Forces, with three of the nation's original military branches celebrating this milestone together: the United States Army, the United States Navy, and the United States Marine Corps. Established in 1775 during the earliest days of the American Revolution, these branches formed the foundation of the modern military and set in motion a tradition of service that continues today.

Over time, the Armed Forces expanded to include the United States Coast Guard, the United States Air Force, and the United States Space Force. Together, these six branches form the military structure that defends our nation across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace. Their combined missions reflect a commitment to protecting the United States for two and a half centuries.

As we honor this historic anniversary, we recognize the generations of service members who answered the call. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen have stood watch in times of peace and conflict. They have protected American interests worldwide, supported allies, responded to disasters, and served communities here at home. Their dedication reflects the enduring values of honor, integrity, and resilience that define our nation.

Here in New Mexico, we also take pride in a unique point. The New Mexico National Guard traces its lineage back to Spanish colonial militias formed in 1598, making it older than the United States itself and one of the oldest military organizations in the country. For centuries, New Mexicans have stepped forward to defend their homeland and support the missions of the Armed Forces with distinction and courage.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors the many New Mexicans who have contributed to this legacy. Our state's Veterans have served in every branch, in every conflict, and in every era of American history. Their service, sacrifice, and continued leadership strengthen communities across the Land of Enchantment long after their time in uniform.

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States Armed Forces, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all Veterans and their families who support them. Your courage shaped our history. Your service protected our nation. Your example continues to inspire future generations who choose to serve.

Thank you for your service to our state and nation.



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, a day of reflection honoring the 2,403 service members and civilians who lost their lives during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. In less than two hours on that quiet Sunday morning, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched the surprise attack that crippled the United States Pacific Fleet and destroyed 188 American aircraft. Eight battleships and three cruisers were destroyed or heavily damaged. The USS Arizona and USS Utah were sunk, taking with them hundreds of Navy sailors and Marines; more than 900 aboard the USS Arizona were never recovered. Today, the USS Arizona Memorial stands above the ship's resting place, honoring those who remain forever entombed within.

Naval History records describe how the USS Arizona erupted in a massive explosion after being hit by Japanese bombers, igniting fires that burned for more than two days. Across the harbor, chaos and heroism unfolded as service members fought fires, rescued the wounded, and defended their ships against overwhelming force.

The attack began around 7:55 a.m. and within hours, Japan carried out coordinated strikes on American and British bases across the Pacific, including the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island, Midway, and Hong Kong. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the nation, calling December 7th, “a date which will live in infamy”, and asking Congress to declare war. The United States’ entry into World War II would call upon extraordinary courage and sacrifice from what would come to be known as the Greatest Generation.

New Mexico National Guard units were among the first to answer the call, including the 200th Coast Artillery, which had been federalized just months before the attack. Many of these soldiers would soon be deployed to the Philippines, fighting to defend Bataan and Corregidor and enduring some of the war’s most difficult chapters. Across the state, from the pueblos and ranching communities to cities and towns, New Mexicans stepped into vital roles. Communities rallied behind the war effort through bond drives, rationing, and volunteer service.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ensures that the events of that morning, and the service of all who responded, are never forgotten. The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services honors Veterans who survived, families who lost loved ones, and the legacy that New Mexicans have proudly upheld for generations.



National Guard Birthday

On December 13th, the nation celebrates the United States National Guard's birthday. As the oldest branch of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard has stood ready since 1636 to defend the nation and support communities in times of need. In New Mexico, that legacy stretches even further, tracing its proud history back to the colonial militias of Spanish Nuevo México in 1598.

Early territorial militias, known as the New Mexico Volunteers, fought bravely in the Civil War, playing a decisive role in the Battle of Glorieta, and serving with Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders. Their service laid the foundation for the modern New Mexico National Guard.

New Mexicans have served in every major conflict in United States history. During World War II, the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments defended the Philippines with extraordinary courage, and the 804th Tank Destroyer Battalion served with distinction and honor in Europe.

At home, the New Mexico National Guard continues to answer the call during state emergencies, responding to wildfires, floods, and other disasters to protect communities across the state.

As we mark the National Guard's birthday, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors the Guard members who currently serve or have previously served, as well as the families who support them, and all who continue this proud tradition of readiness and duty.



United States Space Force Birthday

December 20th marks the birthday of the United States Space Force, the newest branch of the United States Armed Forces, and the first military service established in more than 70 years. Created in 2019, the Space Force is charged with organizing, training, and equipping Guardians to protect America's interests in space, an operational domain that has become vital to national security, global communication, and daily life worldwide.

Since its establishment, the Space Force has undertaken missions including satellite operations, missile warning, global positioning systems, space surveillance, and the protection of critical space-based technologies. Guardians support joint operations across every branch of the military, ensuring our nation maintains a secure and resilient presence in space.

New Mexico continues to play a meaningful role in America's space mission. With a long history of aerospace innovation, military testing, and national laboratory research, the state remains a hub for space exploration and defense. Many New Mexico Veterans, civilians, and families have contributed to advancing the capabilities that make Space Force operations possible today.

As we recognize the Space Force's birthday, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors every Guardian, past, present, and future, whose expertise and dedication safeguard our nation in this evolving frontier. Their service strengthens our country's ability to meet new challenges and ensures the United States remains a leader in space for generations to come.



New Mexico Celebrates Marine Corps 250th Anniversary



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services proudly celebrated the 250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps—250 years of service, sacrifice, and strength since its founding on November 10th, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

From the Revolutionary War to modern-day missions around the world, Marines have defended our nation's freedom with honor, courage, and commitment.

NMDVS marked this historic milestone with a ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda, featuring the Cibola High School Marine Corps JROTC Color Guard, the reading of the Commandant's Birthday Message, the reading of the Governor's proclamation by NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, and a traditional cake-cutting ceremony.



We extend our gratitude to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation for leading the national celebration of the Marine Corps' 250th. We also thank the American Bakers Association and the Retail Bakers of America for coordinating the birthday cake, and offer special appreciation to Chef Shelia Begay and Chef Melvina Jones of Navajo Technical University for crafting this extraordinary tribute to the proud legacy of the Marine Corps.



Thank you to USMC Sergeant Major (Ret.) Joe Caputo, Commandant of MCL El Perro Diablo #478, Jeffery Eakman, Reverend Karen Street, Former State Representative and Marine Corps Veteran, Harry Garcia, and everyone who participated and attended.

To every Marine, past and present, thank you for your faithful service to our nation. Semper Fidelis.



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 certificates if applicable. NMDVS can help Veterans file for lost or misplaced DD 214s.

Artesia	12/17, 1/21, 2/18	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Carlsbad	12/10, 12/23, 1/14	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Capitan	2/4, 4/1, 6/3	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	12/10, 1/14	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	1/28	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Eunice	12/11	Eunice Library, 1003 Avenue N	9am-11:30am
Jal	12/11	Woolworth Library, 100 E Utah Ave	1pm-3:30pm
Lovington	12/18	Lovington Library, 115 Main St.	9am-11:30am
Mora	1/7, 2/4	Mora VFW, 2825 Hwy 518	9am-4pm
Raton	12/17, 1/21	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	1/7, 3/4, 5/6	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	12/10, 1/14, 2/11	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	12/9, 1/13	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm
Tatum	12/18	Tatum Library, 323 E Broadway St.	1pm-4pm

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 accredited 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

Forgotten Heroes Honored at Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery

The unclaimed remains of nine Veterans were laid to rest on Wednesday, November 19th, at Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery. More than 200 community members, Veterans, and supporters gathered to stand in place of family and offer a final salute to those who served our nation.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), in collaboration with the Scenic Chapel Funeral Home in Alamogordo, ensured these Veterans and one military spouse were interred with full honors. Stephen McConnell, Interment Supervisor at Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery, and his staff worked closely with area communities to organize and support this solemn ceremony. The service featured an Army Honor Guard from Fort Bliss and an Air Force Honor Guard from Holloman AFB. Pastor Alan Ward of Saddle Creek Cowboy Church delivered the eulogy, offering a heartfelt tribute to their lives and service.

Reflecting on the community's response, NMDVS Director of Benefits Ed Mendez shared, "The turnout for the Forgotten Heroes Ceremony at Fort Stanton was tremendous. Our southern New Mexico community stepped forward, ensuring these Veterans received the dignity and recognition they earned through their service".

NMDVS operates State Veterans Cemeteries in Angel Fire, Gallup, Fort Stanton, and, opening soon, Taos. For more information on cemeteries, benefits, and services, visit nmdvs.org/benefits.



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.

Burial Flag Honors Presented to State Representatives

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) presented ceremonial burial flags on November 5th to New Mexico Representatives Debra Sariñana and Alan Martinez. Following a briefing to the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee (MVAC) in Santa Fe, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera presented MVAC Vice Chair Rep. Debra Sariñana with the flag she accepted as next of kin during the 2025 Forgotten Heroes Ceremony held in September. Later that afternoon, Secretary Herrera also presented Rep. Alan Martinez with the flag he received as next of kin at a Veterans Services Event held at the Sandoval County Government Complex.

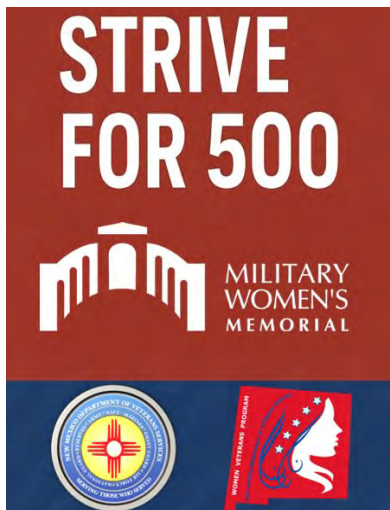
Both representatives received these flags in recognition of their participation in the annual Forgotten Heroes Burial Ceremony, which honors and lays to rest the unclaimed remains of Veterans across New Mexico.

NMDVS extends its gratitude to Representatives Sariñana and Martinez for their continued dedication and advocacy on behalf of New Mexico's Veterans.

For more information on Cemeteries and Memorials operated by NMDVS and State Veteran Benefits, visit our website at: <https://www.nmdvs.org/benefits/>.



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 service-women, 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.

Fisher House: Supporting Veterans and Families

The Albuquerque Fisher House provides free, temporary lodging for families of Veterans and active-duty service members receiving care at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center. Its mission is simple: to ensure no Veteran goes through illness or recovery without the support of loved ones.

The home offers comfortable rooms, shared kitchens, and welcoming gathering spaces where families can rest, connect, and find comfort during difficult times.



Leading this effort is Fisher House Manager Carlos Velasquez, whose dedication comes from nearly two decades of service in the U.S. Army and National Guard. After being medically retired in 2016, he continued his career with the VA in roles such as Veteran Services Representative, Field Examiner, and Supervisory Budget Analyst. His commitment to helping Veterans brought him to the Fisher House, where he ensures every family feels supported the moment they arrive. Carlos notes that since opening in December 2019, the Albuquerque Fisher House has served 1,318 families and 1,934 individual guests, saving Veterans an estimated \$870,000 in lodging and food expenses.



Carlos welcomes community partners to tour the home and learn more about its impact. For more information, click [here](#) or call 505-265-1711, ext. 3180

Supported by volunteers, donations, and a caring staff, the Albuquerque Fisher House remains a vital resource for New Mexico Veterans, providing comfort, stability, and hope when it matters most.

What Is a Veteran Service Officer and How Can We Assist You?



A Veteran Service Officer (VSO) is a state-accredited professional who is legally authorized to assist Veterans, service members, and their families in obtaining the benefits they have earned through military service. Under Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR), specifically 38 CFR §14.628, VSOs are recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as accredited representatives trained to prepare, present, and prosecute claims for VA benefits. In New Mexico, the Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) employs VSOs across the state who serve as advocates, not as employees of the federal VA, ensuring Veterans receive every possible benefit available under federal, state, and local programs.

VSOs provide one-on-one assistance with all aspects of a Veteran's claim, from gathering military service records and medical documentation to submitting formal applications for disability compensation, pensions, education benefits, survivor benefits, and VA healthcare applications. They are skilled in interpreting VA laws, regulations, and evidence requirements, helping Veterans avoid costly delays or denials. Under 38 CFR §3.103, Veterans are entitled to representation in any claim, and NMDVS ensures that this right is exercised through free, professional, and confidential advocacy. Beyond federal benefits, VSOs also connect clients to New Mexico state programs, including property tax exemptions, educational scholarships for dependents, and burial benefits at the State Veterans Cemetery.

To prepare for an appointment with a VSO, Veterans and family members should bring key documents such as:

- DD-214 or other discharge papers
- Marriage and birth certificates (for dependents)
- Any medical evidence related to claimed conditions
- A list of current medications

Private medical records, and records of in-service events or exposures can also strengthen a claim. VSOs help Veterans assemble this documentation into a comprehensive submission, ensuring the VA has all the necessary evidence to make an accurate, timely decision.

NMDVS is proud to stand beside every Veteran, spouse, and survivor as they navigate the complex world of VA benefits. Whether you are filing your first claim, appealing a denial, or seeking survivor assistance, our VSOs are here to advocate for you. Visit nmdvs.org or call 1-505-264-2400 or 1-866-433-8387 to find your nearest Veterans Service Office.

We are honored to serve those who have served our nation, ensuring that every Veteran receives the benefits, dignity, and care they deserve.



Veterans Day Across New Mexico

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) took part in Veterans Day commemorations across the state, joining communities in honoring the service and sacrifice of New Mexico's Veterans.

In Santa Fe, the annual Veterans Day ceremony was held at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. It featured patriotic performances by the Santa Fe Concert Band and the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera delivered the Governor's proclamation and the keynote address, reflecting on the history and significance of Veterans Day.

In Albuquerque, celebrations began with a parade from USS Bullhead Memorial Park to the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park. The event included live music from the Dukes of Albuquerque Concert Band, a flyover by the New Mexico Chile Flight, and remarks from NMDVS Deputy Secretary Eric James, who also delivered the proclamation. On November 8th, NMDVS staff participated in a tribute at Historic Fairview Cemetery to honor all Veterans and those laid to rest there. The ceremony featured live music and a wreath-laying tribute.

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, attendees gathered inside the memorial's museum for the annual ceremony. Native New Mexican and Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran Jerry Martinez delivered a powerful keynote address, and the Cimarron High School Band performed in tribute to all who have served.

Sierra Vista Hospital in Truth or Consequences honored Veterans both in the community and receiving care at the hospital with a Hall of Honor Ceremony and Challenge Coin presentation. NMDVS Veteran Service Officer and Central Region Manager Rob Miller addressed fellow Veterans and guests, speaking about the enduring importance of service.

The Ojo Encino Veterans Organization hosted a commemorative Veterans Day celebration and parade on November 14th to honor military service members and Veterans within the community. The event, held at the Ojo Encino Day School Gymnasium, brought together ceremonial traditions, student involvement, and community recognition for local Veterans. NMDVS Deputy Secretary Eric James attended as a guest speaker, offering remarks in support of the community and its Veterans.

NMDVS extends its gratitude to all New Mexicans who took part in Veterans Day commemorations and to the community partners whose support helped make these well-attended events possible







Navajo Nation Veterans Appreciation and Recognition Day

The Navajo Nation Veterans Affairs Department hosted a Veterans Appreciation and Recognition Day on November 3rd at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, bringing together Veterans, families, tribal leaders, and community members to honor the service and sacrifice of Native Veterans.

A highlight of the event was the signing of a proclamation declaring the Navajo Nation a Purple Heart Nation. Purple Heart recipient Ned Mitchell was among those recognized for their courage and dedication. Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren, Executive Director Bobbie Ann Baldwin, and representatives from the Military Order of the Purple Heart led the ceremony, reaffirming the Nation's commitment to honoring wounded warriors.



Gilbert Yazzie, Commander of the Breadsprings Chapter Veterans Organization, helped recognize local Veterans, while NMDVS Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley provided information on state benefits and programs.

The NMDVS Tribal Liaison Program plays a vital role in fostering collaboration across all Tribal communities in New Mexico. Serving as the primary point of contact for Native American Veteran concerns, the Tribal Liaison ensures ongoing communication and partnership.



For more information, contact Beverly Charley, NMDVS Tribal Liaison, at Vetdvs.triballiaison@dvs.nm.gov.

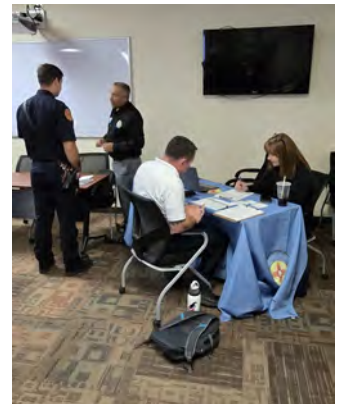
Rio Rancho Veterans First Responders Benefits Resource Fair



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) met with City of Rio Rancho First Responders, November 19th, at the Fire and Rescue Administration Headquarters.

The event was dedicated to our Veteran First Responders with resources, state benefits, VA claims assistance, and an overview of NMDVS programs. Thank you to Fire Chief James Wenzel and the City of Rio Rancho for the opportunity to share information and assist those who serve or have served our community.

If you need more information on Veteran services and benefits, NMDVS can assist you at one of our field locations. Please call 1-866-433-8387 or visit nmdvs.org and claim the benefits you have earned.



Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedicated

On November 12th, the New Mexico Gold Star Mothers, in partnership with New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., and the High Desert Design Club, hosted a Gold Star Memorial Marker Dedication Ceremony at the Albuquerque Garden Center, located at 10120 Lomas Blvd NE.

The ceremony honored the families of fallen service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. The Gold Star tradition, which began during World War I, continues to symbolize the profound loss endured by families who lost loved ones in service to freedom. Since 1928, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. has carried this tradition forward, offering comfort, community, and advocacy so that the stories of the fallen are never forgotten.

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera delivered remarks recognizing the strength and sacrifice of Gold Star families. "No words can fully express the depth of your sacrifice", Secretary Herrera said. "This memorial is more than stone and bronze. It is a promise that we will never forget".

Representatives from the New Mexico Garden Clubs, the Albuquerque Gold Star Mothers, and the High Desert Design Club spoke about the meaning of remembrance and the importance of preserving the legacy of fallen service members. Tom Tozier, the Mayor of Albuquerque's Liaison and Coordinator of Military & Veteran Affairs, accepted the marker on behalf of the city.

Set amid the beauty of the Albuquerque Garden Center, the dedication concluded with the unveiling of the Gold Star Memorial Marker by Gold Star Mothers Jo Ann Zembiec and Shirley Tetreault, a solemn and lasting tribute to the courage, sacrifice, and love of those who have given everything for our nation.

Here in New Mexico, Gold Star Families have been honored through ceremonies and memorials across the state. These markers stand as lasting symbols of honor, hope, and healing for families of the fallen. NMDVS joins in honoring all Gold Star Mothers and Families. We remain committed to remembering their loved ones, supporting their healing, and ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.





Women Veterans Corner

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

Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager

Did you know:

Women Veterans are the fastest-growing Veteran population in the United States, and by 2045, women are projected to make up more than 18% of all living Veterans.

Their increasing presence is reshaping VA healthcare, benefits, outreach, and the future of military service.

Bonus December Connection:

On December 22, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, Lt. Reba Z. Whittle became the only American military woman held as a POW in the European Theater during World War II.

Despite her capture, she continued to care for wounded soldiers showing extraordinary courage that paved the way for future generations of women in military service. For more information click on the following link:

<https://news.va.gov/93004/reba-whittle-pow-who-will-not-be-forgotten/>

Topic of the Month:

For many women Veterans, December brings a mix of celebration, reflection, and, at times, stress. The holidays can be joyful, but they can also feel overwhelming, especially when balancing family expectations, finances, memories of service, or the emotional weight that often surfaces at this time of year. If this season feels heavier than usual, you are not alone.

Women who served carry unique responsibilities and experiences, and it's important to remember that your wellbeing matters, this month and every month. Here's a few things to remember during this time:

You're allowed to slow down- The holiday schedule can pull you in every direction. Give yourself permission to set boundaries, say no when you need to, and prioritize rest. A calmer season starts with recognizing your own needs.

Recognize and honor your feelings- The holidays can stir up memories—some comforting, some difficult. Many women Veterans report this time of year as a trigger for anxiety, grief, or loneliness. Your feelings are valid. Take breaks when needed, reach out for support, and give yourself grace. Strength is asking for help when you need it.

Check in with your support system- Whether it's family, a trusted friend, another woman Veteran, or a support group, connection is a protective factor. A five-minute call can ease stress and remind you that you're surrounded by others who understand your journey.

Self-care Tips: Small daily habits can make a big difference: A quiet morning walk, deep breathing or mindfulness, writing down three things you're grateful for, staying hydrated and eating consistently (easy to forget during busy times!) These simple acts help steady the mind and support emotional regulation.

*This season, remember: you've served, you've sacrificed, and you deserve grace and support.

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



NMDVS Veteran Transportation Programs

The Highly Rural Transportation program offers Veteran transportation to and from VA-authorized medical appointments through programs funded by both VA and the state. Veterans can schedule free round-trip, non-emergency, medical transportation to VA-authorized appointments and VA-approved non-VA healthcare providers.

Highly Rural Transportation Program (H RTP):

The Highly Rural Veteran Transportation Program (H RTP) is funded through the Highly Rural Transportation Grant (H RTG) provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The program focuses on providing transportation services in 15 designated “Highly Rural” counties: **Catron, Cibola, Colfax, De Baca, Guadalupe, Harding, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Mora, Quay, San Miguel, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Union**

Services are available to any areas within Native or Tribal Lands.

Statewide Veterans Transportation Program (SVTP):

Funded by the New Mexico Legislature, this program expands service to the remaining 18 counties not covered under H RTP. Like H RTP, it provides Veterans with safe, no-cost transportation to VA, specialty, and approved community care facilities in the following counties:

Bernalillo, Chaves, Curry, Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Lea, Los Alamos, Luna, McKinley, Otero, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Taos, Valencia

NMDVS administers both programs in coordination with transportation providers across the state. Veterans can schedule rides by calling **505-429-5906**. A copy of the Veteran’s VA ID card or a driver’s license/state ID with the “Veteran” designation is required. All appointments must be authorized by the VA. Please allow at least three days’ advance notice to schedule transportation.

Learn more: <https://www.nmdvs.org/rural-veterans-transportation-program/>

NMDVS remains dedicated to building healthier communities by connecting all Veterans and their families to the highest quality care, services, and eligible benefits through advocacy and collaboration.

The H RTP program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

HIGHLY RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services collaborates with transportation providers to offer free rides for Veterans attending VA medical appointments, ensuring easy access to care. Personalized door-to-door service is provided. Contact the NMDVS Highly Rural Transportation program for more information.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 505-429-5906

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE 3 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE

RIDES FOR VA APPROVED MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ONLY

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL 505-429-5906

This program is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

STATEWIDE VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services announces the new Statewide Veterans Transportation Program! (SVTP) NMDVS is dedicated to serving those who have served our country. Now expanding into 18 additional Counties, this new program will make sure all Veterans in New Mexico can access the care they need, wherever they are.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 505-429-5906

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RIDES FOR VA APPROVED MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ONLY

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL 505-429-5906

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
Albuquerque, NM	Veteran Business Lendor Expo, December 9th	Nexus Launchpad, 2420 Alamo SE #104
Grants, NM	Boots to Business Reboot, December 10&11	NMSU Campus, Martinez Hall Rm. 007
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: Turn Your

BIG Ideas into **Bankable Outcomes**



Veterans Small Business Lending Expo

**December 9, 2025
1-4 PM**

**NewSpace Nexus Launchpad
2420 Alamo Ave SE, Suite 104
Albuquerque, NM 87106**





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Shannon Quintana, Executive Assistant to the Cabinet Secretary. Shannon is recognized for her honesty, reliability, and exceptional work ethic. She consistently follows through on commitments, supports her team, and manages shifting priorities with accuracy and professionalism. Her leadership has been especially valuable in overseeing governor-related projects, where she approaches each assignment with initiative and skill.

Jamison Herrera, NMDVS Cabinet Secretary, expressed, "Shannon's efforts are the reason I can continue the support to our Veterans throughout our great state, professional in every detail yet deeply caring in every interaction. As the caretaker for all of us in NMDVS, she assists each person with grace and dedication, ensuring that no challenge is faced alone. Her unwavering support and quiet strength are not just invaluable—they are critical to our success".

What brought you to NMDVS?

NMDVS is my first job working with the State of New Mexico, and I was interested in the services they were providing.

How long have you been with the agency?

In January, I will have been with NMDVS for 8 years. Before NMDVS, I worked for a civil engineering company for 13 years and the Santa Fe Community Housing Trust for 4 years.

What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

Most of the work I do isn't directly with Veterans, but I am happy to support them in any way I can. I enjoy working with many areas of NMDVS to support staff so they can work their magic to assist Veterans with their needs.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

I have quite a few family members who served in the armed forces. My father and both grandfathers served in the Army, my uncle in the Navy, and several great-uncles who served in the Korean / Vietnam eras.

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

Most of my free time is spent with family. We enjoy going to Broncos and Nuggets games as often as we can. We love to support the Lobos at football and basketball games. We are active parishioners at Cristo Rey Catholic Church. I enjoy listening to country and latino music.



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)

New Scam Targeting Veterans: VA Benefits Overpayment

Clever scammers are targeting Veterans, surviving spouses, and family members who receive VA benefits. They pretend to be official VA representatives and use official communication channels to demand repayment for alleged benefits overpayments. Fraudulent letters, emails, and texts often include fake VA letterheads and logos, making it difficult to distinguish genuine VA communications from [scams](#).

**SCAM
ALERT**

Common tactics used by scammers

- Fake VA letterheads and logos: Scammers often use fake VA letterheads, logos and even spoofed phone numbers to make their communication appear authentic.
- Claims of overpayment: Scammers claim you have been overpaid on your VA benefits and now owe money back to the VA.
- Pressure tactics: Scammers may pressure you into making immediate payments directly to them instead of through official VA payment channels.
- Requests for sensitive information: Scammers may ask for sensitive information, such as your VA login credentials, password or financial information.

If you receive a letter or any communication about a VA benefits overpayment, log into your official [VA.gov account](#) immediately to verify if you truly owe money. The VA website will provide clear information on whether you owe any money. If you find you do owe money, VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) offers many [repayment options](#).

How to protect yourself

- Verify the authenticity of the letter: If you receive a letter or communication about a VA benefits overpayment, log into your official VA.gov account immediately to verify if you truly owe money.
- Only use official VA channels: If you find you do owe VA money, resolve the debt directly using VA.gov or by calling VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) at 1-800-827-0648.
- Never share login information: VA will never ask for your login credentials or passwords.
- Be cautious of unsolicited contact: Be wary of unsolicited emails or texts asking for personal details or directing you to external websites that are not part of [VA.gov](#).
- Do not pay upfront fees: If someone demands an upfront payment to help with your VA debt or claims, it's a scam.
- Avoid clicking on unknown or suspicious messages: Be cautious if you receive an email or text asking for your personal information.

Never share sensitive information: Never share sensitive information, such as social security numbers, bank account details or credit card information when responding to unsolicited requests.

How to report VA overpayment scams

- Contact VA: If you have been the target of a scam or suspect of fraudulent activity, contact VA immediately at 1-800-827-1000.

Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud can find out more and report to the appropriate agency [online](#) at VSAFE.gov or calling (833) 38V-SAFE.



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





HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 19

Accepting unexpired non-perishable food items
for distribution to our Veterans in need.



Drop-Off Locations

Trujillo Family

110 Alvarado Drive SF

**Signature Sweets
& Flowers**

3322 Coors Blvd. NW #5

**HELP OUR PROUD VETERANS
IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS**

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 505.314.1875... OR EMAIL mimartinez@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE...		DECEMBER 2025

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



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.	Wellness Skills 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 GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE on 12/11/25 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Diverse employment opportunities. Speak with hiring managers and get valuable job leads. Dress for success & bring copies of your resume!!	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...		DECEMBER 2025

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14	15 Computer Basics 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Excel Basics@ (Online Only) 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm Happy Hanukkah	16 Discovering Data 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Resiliency Workshop@ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	17 Typing 101 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	18 SUCCEED.	19 INSPIRE.	20
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GoodSkills

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

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.	Wellness Skills 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 GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE on 12/11/25 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Diverse employment opportunities. Speak with hiring managers and get valuable job leads. Dress for success & bring copies of your resume!!	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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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES U.S. Military Veterans



Light the Way

funded by PNM | TNMP Foundation



SCHOLARSHIP

6-month FUSE Membership

Light the Way scholarships for US Military Veterans are made possible with generous support from the PNM | TNMP Foundation. Recipients will receive a free six-month Regular Membership to FUSE Makerspace.



bit.ly/3Jcf7Ge

Training for your Future Fund

SCHOLARSHIP

Intro Workshops



In order to use any tools and equipment, the recipient will also need to complete the appropriate intro workshop. This is a separate scholarship available to cover the cost of workshops: *Training for your Future Fund*. We recommend applying for both scholarships at the same time.

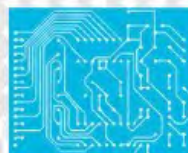


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FUSE Makerspace
powered by CNM Ingenuity

(505) 224-FUSE
101 Broadway NE Suite 3100
fusemakerspace.org



CASUALTY SERVICES & SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

Our Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR) offers timely casualty reporting, compassionate notifications, and ongoing support for next-of-kin. Surviving family members of retired Air Force, Space Force, or other U.S. Armed Forces members can receive personalized help applying for eligible benefits.

We also provide guidance on the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), including counseling, elections, and beneficiary updates, to help protect your family's future.

Book your appointment today—scan the QR code to schedule your personal consultation!

GET STARTED



The
Survivor
Benefit
Plan





Veterans & Military Fare-Free MyBlue™ Program

NORTH
CENTRAL
RTD

Blue
bus

Starting Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025, eligible veterans and active-duty military ride fare-free in all MyBlue™ service zones.

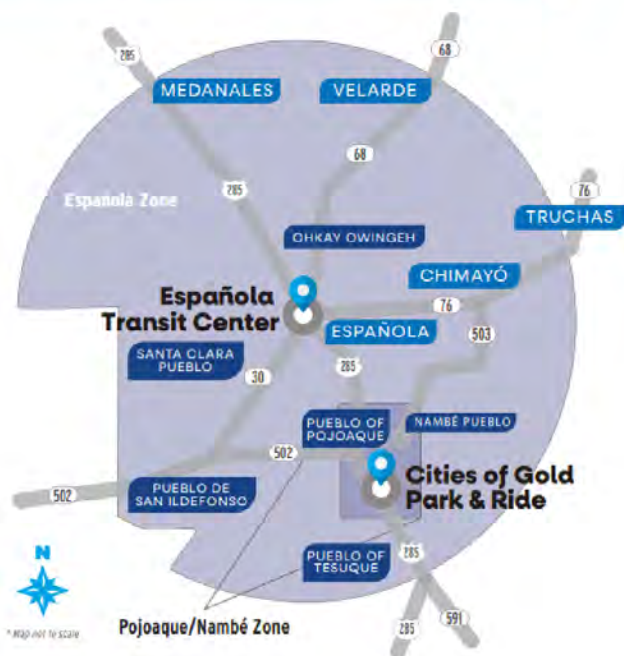
How to ride fare-free:

1. Apply online at ncrtd.org/veterans to verify eligibility.
2. Receive your Military/Veteran Membership in your MyBlue™ account.
3. Book fare-free rides!

Learn More & Apply: ncrtd.org/veterans

Zone Maps Below and for more information click [here](#).

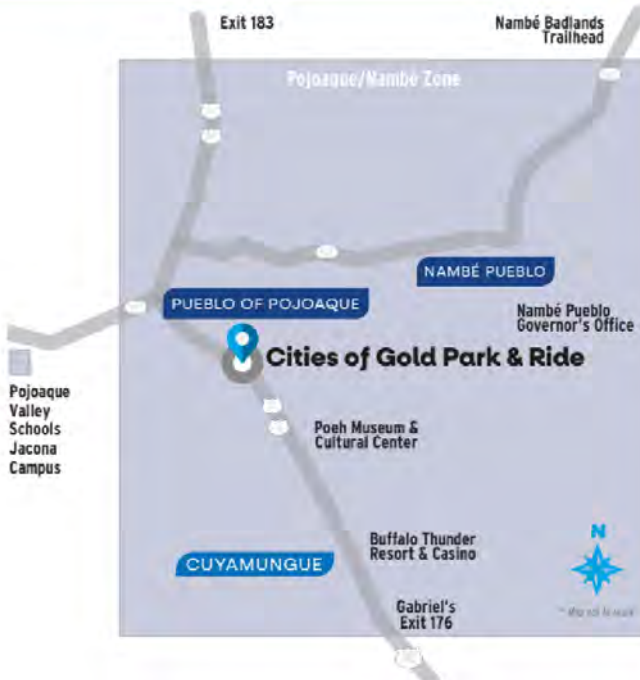
ESPAÑOLA MYBLUE™ ZONE



EDGEWOOD MYBLUE™ ZONE



POJOAQUE/NAMBÉ MYBLUE™ ZONE



TAOS MYBLUE™ ZONE



LA CIENEGA MYBLUE™ ZONE



Thank You For Your Service

Veterans & Active Duty Military Ride Free

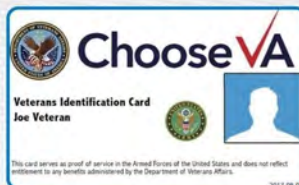
7 DAYS A WEEK*



Just Show your ID and Ride for Free



VA medical card **VHIC**



Veteran's ID **VIC card**



Valid driver's license with
Veteran's Designation



Department of Defense
Retired or Dependence



Department of Defense
Active Duty

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for Veterans or
First Responders
to attend

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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



BLUE MASS



BLUE MASS WILL TAKE PLACE
AT SANTA MAIRA DE LA PAZ CATHOLIC CHURCH
11 COLLEGE AVE., SANTA FE, NM 87508
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025
AT 5PM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE MASS

ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE FIGHTERS, MILITARY,
VETERANS, EMS, DISPATCHERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS
WILL BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED WITH HONORS AND DIGNITY.
THEY ARE INVITED TO WEAR THEIR OFFICIAL UNIFORMS
TO REPRESENT THEIR AGENCIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

CONTACT CHAPLAIN "CHAPPY" JOSE L. VILLEGAS, Sr.
(RETIRED NMSP/FBI) AT (505)470-7046



Career Workshops That Get Results!

The Off-Base Transition Training (OBTT) pilot program is an opportunity for veterans, veterans currently serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and their spouses to take control of their career through workshops to help meet their employment goals. OBTT provides employment preparation, education and opportunities that allow attendees to maximize their career potential.

Enroll in a Workshop Near You: Albuquerque, NM

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Goodwill Industries of New Mexico
5000 San Mateo Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Federal Hiring Basics

Learn to navigate your federal job search. This workshop covers the basics of the hiring process and explores resources to help you obtain federal employment.

Time: 12:30PM-2:30PM

My Next Career Move

Explore factors that influence career choice and understand the outlook of your desired occupation. This workshop provides the basic tools needed to begin career exploration.

Time: 2:45PM-4:45PM

Register online @ www.signupgenius.com/go/OBTT_NM



For more information, contact: Omar De La Cruz
OBTT Employment Resource Coordinator
Omar.DeLaCruz@serco-na.com | (505) 541-6401



VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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

575-937-5620

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 (VSO I)

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)

Corey Riedel

Dennis Chavez Federal Bldg.
500 Gold Ave. SW/3rd floor
(505) 479-0672

corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

Joseph Lovato

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NMDVS women veterans program is committed to making sure women veterans have equitable access to programs and services and claims-filing for women.