



# The Guardian

*The monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services*  
**January 2026**

•Website: [www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org)

•Facebook: [NMDVSHealthcare2015](https://www.facebook.com/NMDVSHealthcare2015)

•Instagram: [newmexicoveterans](https://www.instagram.com/newmexicoveterans)

## **Military and Veterans Day At The Legislature** **“Celebrating Our History, Building Our Future”**

New Mexico will proudly honor its military Veterans, National Guard members, reservists, and active-duty service members during the 2026 Military and Veterans Day at the Legislature on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at the New Mexico State Capitol, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501. Information tables will open at 8:00 a.m. in the East and West exhibition halls, followed by a formal ceremony at 12:00 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda, bringing together service members, Veterans, families, and state leaders to recognize military service. Presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG), this annual event reflects New Mexico's strong commitment to honoring those who have served and supporting the military and Veteran community across the state.

The day will offer opportunities to meet with legislators and engage in conversations about supporting Veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Attendees can also connect with service organizations dedicated to improving the lives of past and present service members across the state.

“Celebrating Our History, Building Our Future” is this year's theme and carries special significance. Following the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps in 2025, and as our nation and New Mexico now mark 250 years of history, we recognize the men and women whose courage, commitment, and sacrifice built and defended both New Mexico and the United States.

Veterans, service members, families, and the public are invited to attend. Military and Veterans Day at the Legislature honors service, connects attendees with resources, and reaffirms New Mexico's commitment to those who have defended our freedoms while strengthening the future of our military and Veteran community.





# MILITARY AND VETERANS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE



**Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

**New Mexico State Capitol**

**RESOURCE TABLES OPEN AT 8AM**

**FORMAL CEREMONY BEGINS AT 12PM**



## "Celebrating Our History, Building Our Future"

**Resources from state, federal, and community organizations**

**Interact with NMDVS, NMNG staff and legislators**

**Discover benefits available to Veterans and family members**

**Presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services  
in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard.**

**This annual event recognizes New Mexico's strong commitment  
to its military and Veteran community while looking to the next 250 years.**



**For more information visit [nmdvs.org/news-and-events/](https://nmdvs.org/news-and-events/)**



# Anniversary of the Start of the Gulf War



This month marks the anniversary of the start of the Gulf War, a major United States and coalition military effort that unfolded in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in August 1990. The international community swiftly condemned the aggression, and after months of diplomatic pressure and the buildup of coalition forces under Operation Desert Shield, military action began on January 17, 1991.



Operation Desert Storm opened with an extensive air campaign designed to weaken Iraqi command, control, and infrastructure, followed by a coordinated ground offensive that advanced across Kuwait and southern Iraq. The conflict involved forces from more than thirty nations and represented one of the largest military coalitions assembled since World War II. Hundreds of thousands of American service members participated in the effort, serving in roles ranging from air and ground combat operations to logistics, medical support, engineering, and communications.



For New Mexico, the conflict was not a distant event overseas. The New Mexico Air National Guard 150th Fighter Group, based at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, played a direct role. On December 11, 1990, members of the unit's Security Police Flight deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the mission.

Also called up was the 720th Transportation Company of the New Mexico Army National Guard from Las Vegas, New Mexico; another example of local citizen soldiers responding to a global crisis.



Nationwide, the scale of the commitment was vast. By the end of the conflict, about 700,000 United States service members had deployed to the Gulf region. Approximately 17 percent of those came from National Guard and Reserve units, showing how many citizen soldiers from everyday jobs and small towns answered the call to serve.

In doing so, those New Mexicans served alongside active-duty forces in a mission that influenced global security. Their contributions helped bring about liberation and regional stability, and their service remains a meaningful thread in New Mexico's military heritage.



As we observe this anniversary, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services extends our gratitude to the Veterans who served in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and we also recognize the families who supported them before, during, and after deployment. Their sacrifices and ongoing support remind us how world events can directly shape the lives of our local communities.



## Upcoming NMDVS 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	1/21, 2/18, 3/18	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	10am-3pm
Belen	1/21	Belen Senior Center, 715 S. Main Street	9am-1pm
Carlsbad	1/14, 1/28, 2/11	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	1/27, 2/3, 2/24	TAP Seminar, MFRC, 1554 Spear Loop	11am-12pm
Capitan	2/4, 4/1, 6/3	Capitan Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-2pm
Deming	1/14, 2/11, 3/11	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	1/28, 2/25, 3/25	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Jemez (Mobile Unit)	1/30	Jemez Pueblo Comm. Library, 020 Mission Rd	12pm-5pm
Mora	2/4, 3/4	Mora VFW, 2825 Hwy 518	9am-4pm
Raton	1/21, 2/18, 3/18	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	3/4, 5/6	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	1/14, 2/11, 3/11	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	1/13, 2/10, 3/10	Forget Me Not Veteran Ctr/705 N. California	9am-3pm

### 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 can 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](mailto:Robin.Wilson@dvs.nm.gov)**



# What to Expect When You Meet with a Veteran Service Officer

Meeting with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for the first time can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. The initial meeting is simply a conversation where we learn about your service, your health, and the benefits you want to pursue. We review your DD-214 and any medical or service records you may have. If you do not have all of your documents, a VSO can help you request them from the appropriate sources.

Once your records are gathered, a VSO will begin preparing your claim forms. We explain why each document is important and submit a complete claim directly to Veterans Affairs (VA). After submission, a VSO continues to monitor your claim, communicate with the VA on your behalf, and update you on any requests for additional information.

Working with a VSO ensures you are not navigating the VA system alone. We provide ongoing support, answer questions, and help you understand each step of the process. Veterans who work with a VSO often feel more confident and better prepared to advocate for themselves. If you are planning to file a claim or have questions about your benefits, schedule an appointment with a local accredited VSO today and take the first step toward making your benefits work for you.

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](http://nmdvs.org) or call 1-866-433-8387 to find your nearest Veterans Service Officer.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is honored to serve those who have served our nation, ensuring every Veteran receives the benefits, dignity, and care they deserve.

## Tips for Your First VSO Visit

- Bring your DD-214 or other separation documents.
- Gather any medical and service records related to your claim.
- Write down your questions and goals before the meeting.
- Be honest and thorough about your service and health history.
- Take notes during the visit so you remember next steps.
- Ask your VSO to explain any forms or processes you don't understand.
- Don't worry if you're missing records, your VSO can help request them.

## Mobile Outreach Vehicle Ribbon Cutting January 30th



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on **Friday, January 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Blvd. SE, Albuquerque**, to celebrate the launch of its new Veterans Mobile Unit.

The Mobile Unit expands access to Veteran benefits and services by bringing claims assistance, benefits counseling, and outreach directly to Veterans where they live and gather, particularly in rural New Mexico communities. The unit is fully self-sufficient and staffed by accredited Veteran Service Officers, enabling state and federal benefits claim services to be delivered efficiently across the state.

The public is invited to attend and help mark this important step forward in improving access and opportunity for New Mexico's Veterans and their families.



## New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services



# Mobile Outreach Vehicle

## Coming to Your Community!

**Veterans – Get the Benefits You Earned!**



The NMDVS Mobile Outreach Team will be on-site to help you access both  
Federal and State Veterans' benefits.

### What We Provide:

- Assistance with VA and State of New Mexico benefit applications
- Guidance on healthcare, compensation, pension, and education benefits
- Information on State programs and services for veterans and families

### What to Bring:

- DD-214 or proof of military service
- Photo ID
- Relevant medical, financial, or service documents to support your application
- VA Letters

**Location: Jemez Pueblo Community Library**

**20 Mission Rd. Jemez, NM 87024**

**Date & Time: January 30, 2026 / 1:00PM to 5:00PM**

**Don't miss this opportunity to meet with a Veteran Service Officer in person and get help with your benefits.**

For more information, contact:



NMDVS Central Office: (866) 433-8387



[www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org)

*The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is here to help Veterans,  
and their families obtain state and federal 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 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)

NMDVS schedules Veteran property tax exemption events that are held throughout the state to explain changes and issue certificates. Applications for the New Mexico State Park Lifetime Veterans Pass will also be accepted and issued on-site to qualified Veterans.

Information and assistance on federal and state benefits, local Veterans' programs, and referral services are available at any of our field office locations.

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](http://nmdvs.org) for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.



In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, all New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026.

Offices will re-open during normal business hours on Tuesday, January 20th. Thank you for your understanding as we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his lifelong commitment to service, equality, and justice.

Claim the benefits you have earned. Contact NMDVS at 1-833-433-8387 or visit [www.nmdvs.org](http://www.nmdvs.org) to find an office near you.





# **RIO ARRIBA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EVENT**

## **CHAMA SENIOR CENTER**

2449 US-84 #64, Chama, NM 87520

**Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 | 9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**



### ***NM Dept of Veterans' Services & Rio Arriba 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](http://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](http://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**



# Holiday Visit to State Veterans' Home in T or C



On Friday, December 19th, the New Mexico State Veterans' Home (NMSVH) in Truth or Consequences welcomed leadership from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) for a special holiday visit focused on connection and spreading seasonal cheer.

During the visit, residents were presented with creative comfort totes as a heartfelt token of appreciation for the service and sacrifice of the Veterans and family members who call the home their own. In the spirit of the season, additional holiday totes were also sent to residents at the Fort Bayard State Veterans' Home in Santa Clara, NM, ensuring Veterans at both facilities were remembered and honored.

The tour was graciously guided by NMSVH Assistant Administrator Otes Farr-Galloway and Eva Peña, who shared insight into the care, services, and daily operations that support Veterans at the facility. NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera, Deputy Secretary Eric James, and Benefits Director Edward Mendez personally delivered the holiday totes and visited with residents throughout the home.

The professionalism and compassion demonstrated by the NMSVH care professionals and staff were evident throughout the visit. From the welcoming environment to the beautiful facility itself, the team's dedication to honoring and caring for Veterans was clearly on display. NMDVS extends its sincere appreciation to the staff, Veterans, and their families for the visit.

The New Mexico Department of Health oversees the New Mexico State Veterans' Home. Recent renovations were made possible through forty million dollars in legislative funding and an additional twenty million dollars in bond funds. The new facilities opened in 2024 and were designed to enhance residents' comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

The modern campus features private suites with individual bedrooms and accessible bathrooms. The home includes 131 beds and serves honorably discharged Veterans, their spouses, and parents who have lost children in the service of their country.

For more information about the New Mexico State Veterans' Home, visit: <https://www.nmhealth.org/about/ofm/lctcf/nmsvh/>





# Holiday Meal Kits for New Mexico Veterans and Seniors

With funding from the Governor's Hunger Fund, staff and volunteers from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), Aging and Long-Term Services, and the Health Care Authority (HCA) joined forces on December 18th at the HCA warehouse in Albuquerque to assemble holiday meal kits. HCA staff transported the holiday meal kits throughout the state. This annual program is part of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's ongoing commitment to supporting vulnerable New Mexicans.



Each kit included spiral-cut ham, green beans, potatoes, butter, rolls, eggnog, pie, and a blanket provided by the NMDVS. These meal kits were distributed to Veterans and seniors in coordination with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department in Laguna, Zuni, To'Hajiilee, and Acoma. Veteran organizations and senior centers are also supported distribution efforts in Roswell, Gallup, Grants, Deming, Lordsburg, Raton, Santa Rosa, and Tucumcari.



Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who dedicated their time and effort to make this meaningful holiday outreach possible.



## A Season of Remembrance



In December 2025, communities across New Mexico gathered at Veteran cemeteries throughout the state to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes through annual wreath-laying ceremonies. These visits were a meaningful reminder that those who served are never forgotten.

At New Mexico's state Veteran cemeteries in Angel Fire, Gallup, and Fort Stanton, volunteers, Veterans, families, and community organizations placed evergreen wreaths on the graves of fallen service members. Wreaths were also laid at Santa Fe National Cemetery, where volunteers joined families and Veterans in honoring thousands of service members who are laid to rest there. The ceremonies were part of the annual Wreaths Across America observance, which brings communities together nationwide each December to remember the fallen, honor those who served, and teach future generations the value of freedom.

These annual ceremonies passed on the values of service and sacrifice as New Mexicans gathered to honor the past and strengthen the bond between our communities and those who served.





## Four Chaplains Day

February 3, 2026, marks the 83rd anniversary of Four Chaplains Day, a solemn occasion to honor four U.S. Army chaplains whose courage and compassion during World War II remain a powerful example of servant leadership, unity, and sacrifice.

On the night of February 3, 1943, the troop transport USAT Dorchester was traveling through the dangerous waters of the North Atlantic, often called “Torpedo Alley,” near Greenland. With more than 900 service members and crew aboard, the ship came under torpedo attack from a German U-boat. As the Dorchester lost power and began to sink into the freezing waters, chaos erupted below deck.



Amid the panic, four chaplains of different faiths moved calmly into action: George Fox, Alexander Goode, John Washington, and Clark Poling. Together, they guided soldiers to lifeboats, distributed life jackets, and offered prayers and words of comfort in English, Hebrew, and Latin to steady frightened men facing the unthinkable.

When the ship’s supply of life vests ran out, the four chaplains made their ultimate sacrifice. Each removed his own life jacket and gave it to a young soldier who had none. Survivors later recalled a lasting image: the four chaplains standing together on the slanted deck, arms linked in prayer and song, as the Dorchester slipped beneath the waves. Of the 902 men on board, only 230 survived.

As we observe Four Chaplains Day in 2026, the New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services proudly joins the nation in honoring these four men and the enduring values they represent. Their example reminds us that service transcends faith, background, and rank, and that true leadership is defined by compassion, courage, and a selfless commitment to others.

## Preserving Women Veterans and Service Members Stories



The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services needs your support in honoring the lasting contribution of women in uniform by preserving their stories. Our state is home to thousands of incredible servicewomen, and their legacies and service deserve to be remembered.

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.

Registration is free and easy. If you are a woman who has served, add your story to the Military Women’s National Digital Repository. By sharing your experience, you 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 [womensmemorial.org](https://www.womensmemorial.org) to share your story and help preserve the history of women Veterans.





## Women Veterans Corner

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

**Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager**

### Did you know:

The first woman to enlist in the U.S. military in a non-nursing role was Loretta Perfectus Walsh, who joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in March, 1917 as a Chief Yeoman (F) for World War I. This broke barriers by serving in clerical/administrative work and becoming the first female Chief Petty Officer, opening doors for thousands of women in non-traditional roles. Her enlistment proved women could handle technical and administrative jobs, leading to over 11,000 other women joining as "yeomanettes" to support the war effort.

<https://soldiersangels.org/first-but-never-forgotten-remembering-7-women-veterans/>

### Topic of the Month:

As we begin a new year, this is a meaningful time for reflection, gratitude, and renewal. The past year brought moments of strength, challenge, connection, and growth for women Veterans across our community. We are deeply grateful for the resilience, courage, and support shown by women who continue to lead, serve, and uplift one another long after their military service. Each experience, whether difficult or rewarding, has contributed to the wisdom we carry forward into this new year.

Reflection allows us to pause and acknowledge where we've been and how far we've come. Last year, many women Veterans navigated transitions, accessed long-earned benefits, reconnected with the community, and found their voices through advocacy and shared stories. We also learned valuable lessons about the importance of self-care, asking for help, setting boundaries, and recognizing that growth does not always happen in a straight line. These lessons strengthen our foundation and remind us that progress is built through persistence and support.

As we move into this new year, we do so with a fresh perspective—one rooted in reflection, informed by experience, and inspired by possibility. We carry forward the lessons of resilience, the power of community, and the importance of honoring our own journeys. With gratitude for the past and hope for what lies ahead, we step into the new year committed to growth, connection, and continued empowerment for women Veterans everywhere.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." - Albert Einstein.

### 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](http://nmdvs.org)



New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

# WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

## Meet & Greet

## Las Cruces, NM

**Monday, January 12th, 2026, 5:00pm-7:00pm**

**Location: Veteran of Foreign Wars, VFW Post-10124  
709 S. Valley Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88005**

## JOIN US

Join us for an informal networking event with the Women Veterans Program Manager and fellow veterans to foster collaboration and engagement.

Guests will receive a brief program overview, followed by an opportunity for open discussion and questions.

Your feedback and perspectives are invaluable in guiding future initiatives and advancing our mission to serve the Women Veterans population in New Mexico.



HOSTED BY: WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM MANAGER

**Amberly Viner**

U.S. Air Force OIF & OEF Veteran



For more information or assistance, contact the Woman Veterans Program Manager at 505-372-9106 or [Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:Amberly.Viner@dvs.nm.gov).  
NMDVS programs and services can also be found at [nmdvs.org](http://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](mailto:christina.stover@dvs.nm.gov) or call **(505) 469-8501**.

City	Dates	Location
*Albuquerque, NM	February 26th & 27th	Kirtland Air-Force Base
*Alamogordo, NM	February 19 & 20	Holloman Air-Force Base
*Clovis	January 22 & 23	Cannon 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 Randal (Randy) Myklebust, Interment Supervisor at the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery. Randy began his career with the agency at the Gallup State Veterans Cemetery as an Interment Specialist. Through his hard work and commitment, he earned a promotion to Interment Supervisor at the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, where he continues to excel in his leadership role.

Edward Mendez, NMDVS Director of Veterans State Benefits, noted, "Randy has consistently demonstrated outstanding performance, always volunteering for extra assignments and assisting other facilities whenever needed. Most recently, he stepped up to provide guidance and support to the staff at the newly acquired Taos State Veterans Cemetery. His willingness to share his expertise as a seasoned supervisor and manager is helping to build strong leadership for the future of the cemetery program, and his contributions embody the values of service that define our agency's mission: "Serving Those Who Have Served."

#### **What brought you to NMDVS?**

I wanted to give back to those who served, and NMDVS gave me the chance to do that with the stability of a state career.

#### **How long have you been with the agency?**

I've been with NMDVS for six years, and it's been a meaningful journey.

#### **What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?**

What I enjoy most is helping grieving families lay their Veterans and spouses to rest. The families are very grateful for what we do, and that gratitude makes this work incredibly meaningful.

#### **What is your connection to the Veteran community?**

Central New Mexico Community College paired my wife and me to run the Sky Warriors program. We provided Veterans living with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries a unique way to heal and connect, by learning how to crew a hot air balloon.

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

I've been involved in ballooning since 1983, and that really is my thing. It's what I love to do when I have free time.

#### **Three words to describe you?**

Reliable, Compassionate, Fun-loving



**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)

### Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Benefit Option

VA has announced an amendment to the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Family SGLI (FSGLI), and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Accelerated Benefit Option (ABO) regulation.

This update allows an alternate applicant to apply for an ABO on a member's behalf, such as when a member is medically incapacitated. With accelerated benefits, you can get up to 50% of the face value of your coverage in increments of \$5,000—paid to you before death.

#### **This change will:**

- Allow an alternate applicant to apply for the ABO on behalf of a terminally ill member who is medically incapacitated.
- Authorize a member to apply for the ABO when their insured spouse is terminally ill.
- Ensure that that stepchildren and children aged 18-22 who are in school are included in FSGLI dependent child coverage.

This change comes as an update to the ABO that's been in effect since 1998 when only the member could apply. Visit VA benefits for more information: <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance/totally-disabled-or-terminally-ill/>

### Veterans Wellness Path

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the release of the Veterans Wellness Path app for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Veterans Wellness Path supports the transition from military service to home, and encourages balance and connection with self, family, community, and environment. The app also includes support for urgent issues like PTSD. Through the app, Native Veterans can complete daily check-ins, browse tips for strengthening relationships, and try exercises to heal the body, mind, emotions, and spirit. To learn more about the Veterans Wellness Path app, check out the YouTube tutorial [here](#).



To download, use the QR code on the next page or visit the App Store or Google Play Store.

For more information, visit: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/veterans-wellness-path>

Veterans Wellness Path was developed by the Office of Rural Health in partnership with the National Center for PTSD's Mobile Mental Health program, with input from Native American and Alaska Native Veterans. The app can be recommended to any Native Veteran who is interested in a resource to support their mental health and wellness. Veterans may also find it useful for supporting each other and those in their communities.



# VETERANS WELLNESS PATH

**Veterans Wellness Path is a free and secure mobile app for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans that offers mental health support by encouraging balance and connection with self, family, community, and environment**



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

**Available for iOS and Android**





# BIG NEWS

## FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES!



**More New Mexicans can  
access NM STABLE  
accounts!**

**The disability age of onset for  
eligibility will  
increase from 26 to 46  
beginning January 1, 2026**

**About NM STABLE:** The New Mexico State Treasurer's Achieving a Better Life Experience (NM STABLE) program is a tax-advantaged savings and investment program designed to help individuals with disabilities, and their families save money for qualified disability-related expenses without losing their public assistance benefits.



**NM  
STABLE**

Achieving a Better Life Experience

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NM STABLE ACCOUNTS AND THE  
UPCOMING ELIGIBILITY CHANGES, VISIT [WWW.NMSTABLE.COM](http://WWW.NMSTABLE.COM)**



# Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial

## Angel Fire State Veteran Cemetery

David Westphall Veterans Foundation

### Visit the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial

#### Discover A Place of Honor to Reflect and Heal

The Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial stands as a powerful tribute to courage, sacrifice and remembrance located in the Moreno Valley near Angel Fire, New Mexico.

Whether you're a veteran, a family member, a history buff or a traveler seeking a moment of reflection, this sacred site offers a space for learning, healing and remembrance.

- ★ Explore the Peace and Brotherhood Chapel,
- ★ View historical exhibits in our extensive museum,
- ★ Visit the half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall, and
- ★ Walk the brick lined walkway memorializing Veterans who served to assure our freedom

You will come away with a greater appreciation of the men and women who have and are serving our country today.

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

Open year round to all,  
admission is free.

For details, directions and more visit:  
[www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org)  
or call 575.377.6900



The Memorial is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services in collaboration with the David Westphall Veterans Foundation serving as a place of reflection, education and community.





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](mailto:DVS.PIO@dvs.nm.gov)





<p><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>TYPING 101:</b> Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does &amp; basic mouse use.</p> <p><b>COMPUTER BASICS:</b> Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p><b>INTERNET BASICS:</b> Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, &amp; online safety.</p> <p><b>CYBERSECURITY:</b> Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams &amp; protect your digital assets.</p>	<p><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>GOOGLE DRIVE:</b> Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage &amp; file sharing service.</p> <p><b>GOOGLE DOCS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit &amp; collaborate on docs online</p> <p><b>GOOGLE SLIDES:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create &amp; share slideshows.</p> <p><b>GOOGLE SHEETS:</b> Learn the basics of a cloud-based data driven document. Create, edit &amp; share spreadsheets.</p> <p><b>GOOGLE AI ESSENTIALS:</b> Ask about our FREE self-paced online course offered via Coursera ...or for more info go to <a href="http://goodwillnm.org/ai-essentials-course">goodwillnm.org/ai-essentials-course</a> and apply now.</p>	<p><b>DigitalSkills</b></p> <p><b>INTRO TO CODING@:</b> Programming overview of JavaScript, Python &amp; web development.</p> <p><b>CODING WORKSHOP@:</b> Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript &amp; Python.</p> <p><b>APP DEVELOPMENT @:</b> Intro to app coding, a look at iOS &amp; Android with interactive learning exercises.</p> <p><b>GAME DEVELOPMENT@:</b> Intro to creating video games and using game engines thru interactive exercises.</p> <p><b>DISCOVERING DATA:</b> Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.</p>
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TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to  
[www.goodwillnm.org/events...](http://www.goodwillnm.org/events...) OR CALL 505.314.1875...  
 OR EMAIL [mimartinez@goodwillnm.org](mailto:mimartinez@goodwillnm.org) FOR ASSISTANCE...

# JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4	5 Typing 101 9:00 am - 10:00 am Computer Basics 10:30 am - 11:30 am	6 LEARN.	7 Thinking Critically@ 9:00 am - 10:00 am Internet Basics 10:30 am - 11:30 am	8 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	9 Cybersecurity 9:00 am - 10:00 am Discovering Data 10:30 am - 11:30 am	10
11	12 GROW.	13 Google Drive 9:00 am - 10:15 am Google Docs 10:30 am - 11:30 am	14 Google Slides 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google Sheets 10:30 am - 11:45 am	15 Resiliency@ 9:00 am - 10:30 am Resiliency Workshop@ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm	16 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	17
18	19 Intro to Coding@ 9:00 am - 10:00 am Coding Workshop@ 10:30 am - 11:30 am	20 SUCCEED.	21 App Development@ 9:00 am - 10:00 am Game Development@ 10:30 am - 11:30 am	22 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	23 Money Management@ 9:00 am - 10:00 am Resume 101 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	24
25	26 INSPIRE.	27 Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 10:30 am - 11:45 am	28 Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills@ 9:00 am - 10:15 am Career Compass W: Your New Job@ 10:30 am - 11:45 am	29 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	30 First Impressions 9:00 am - 10:00 am Public Speaking Intro 10:30 am - 11:30 am	31



**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

<p><b>EmploymentSkills</b></p> <p><b>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</b></p> <p><b>N/CAREER EXPLORATION@:</b> Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT.</p> <p><b>E/RESUME &amp; APPLYING@:</b> Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online.</p> <p><b>S/INTERVIEW &amp; SOFT SKILLS@:</b> Best practices in interviewing &amp; professional communication.</p> <p><b>W/YOUR NEW JOB@:</b> Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge &amp; behavior skills at work.</p> <p><b>PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO:</b> Know, manage &amp; influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.</p>	<p><b>EmploymentSkills</b></p> <p><b>RESUME 101</b> Learn best practices for resume writing, with hands on creation, proofing and editing support .</p> <p><b>FIRST IMPRESSIONS</b> Using time management, words, appearance &amp; body language to make good impression.</p> <div data-bbox="591 1850 1029 2024"> <p><b>GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE</b>          on 1/8/26 &amp; 1/22/26 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 &amp; bring copies of your resume!!</p> </div>	<p><b>LifeSkills</b></p> <p><b>RESILIENCY@:</b> An in-depth look at how to withstand &amp; recover from the difficulties of life.</p> <p><b>RESILIENCY WORKSHOP@:</b> Discover tools to help you develop a plan to strengthen your resiliency skills.</p> <p><b>MONEY MANAGEMENT@:</b> Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses &amp; credit</p> <p><b>THINKING CRITICALLY@:</b> Become better thinkers. Build analytical skills, learn to determine the validity of information.</p>
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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.

**CYBERSECURITY:** Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.

**MICROSOFT OUTLOOK:** Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar.

**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.

**EXCEL 100:** Intro to review spreadsheet features & application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.

**EXCEL 200:** Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.

**EXCEL 300:** Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds & more.

**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.

TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE to  
[www.goodwillnm.org/events...](http://www.goodwillnm.org/events...) OR CALL 505.881.6401 x1903...  
 OR EMAIL [kpaul@goodwillnm.org](mailto:kpaul@goodwillnm.org) FOR ASSISTANCE...

**JANUARY 2026**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4	5 Career Compass N: Career Exploration@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Computer Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	6 Career Compass E: Resume/Applying@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	7 Microsoft Word 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Microsoft PowerPoint 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm	8 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	9 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	10
11	12 Career Compass S: Interview/SoftSkills@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Thinking Critically@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	13 Career Compass W Your New Job@ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management@ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	14 Microsoft Outlook 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm CyberSecurity 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	15 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	16 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	17
18	19 Excel 100 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Excel 200 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	20 Excel 300 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Microsoft Explorer 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	21 Money Management@ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Stress Managemnt@ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	22 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	23 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	24
25	26 Intro to Coding 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Coding Workshop 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	27 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	28 Computer Basics 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Stress Management Workshop@ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	29 App Development 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Game Development 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	30 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	31



**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 EmploymentSkills 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.

DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP  
 GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Google Play Store

Apple App Store

**LifeSkills**

**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.

**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



# JOIN US AT END OF TOUR RECOVERY WORKSHOP

Veterans & First Responders!  
Come learn a new skill or  
build upon prior experience-  
join us this Saturday!

## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Take home a project you are proud of- we provide the materials
- Supportive, mission-driven environment
- Sense of community

**EVERY SATURDAY!**

**9AM - 1PM**

MATT 25 HOPE CENTER (1200 N  
THORNTON ST, CLOVIS, NM)



SHOW UP OR SAVE A SPOT BY  
REGISTERING AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.ENDOFTOURRECOVERY.ORG/](https://www.endoftourrecovery.org/)

SUPPLIES  
PROVIDED  
BUT  
DONATIONS  
WELCOMED!





# CALLING ALL FEMALE VETERANS!

*Join Us on a Honor Flight!*



To the brave women who served, your sacrifices are not forgotten.  
We've noticed that far too few women veterans are not applying  
to attend the annual Honor Flight trips.  
We want to change that!

**LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY!**  
[www.honorflightnorthernnm.org](http://www.honorflightnorthernnm.org)



*LIFE  
TRANSITION*  
MEDITATION  
CENTER

**Devotion to Practice & Education of Mind and Body Globally**

## Veterans & Families Tuesdays-Mindfulness Meditation Join Zoom Meeting Free/No-Charge

Take this opportunity for Veterans to practice in silence in your own community with some guidance. Family members of all ages are invited. This time is designed to cultivate mindfulness in a community of breathing together and belonging. **No experience is needed. All Veterans and their families welcome.**



2024 2nd Annual Veterans Meditation Retreat-Photos: Iscah Carey



Time: Tuesdays 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, MST

Click or Phone to Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81742732958>

Meeting ID: 817 4273 2958

Passcode: 205957

Phone: 312-626-6799



Hover camera here to join

Web: *Life Transition Meditation Center*



For more information please contact:

Meditation Teacher Ralph Steele

Veteran & Former Buddhist Monk

505-982-4183

Photo: David Hoptman



PO Box 9286 Santa Fe, NM 87504 USA | (505) 982-4183 | [www.lifetransition.com](http://www.lifetransition.com)  
Non Profit 501 (c) 3 | Tax ID # 20-0193687



# SAVE THE DATE

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY  
AT THE LEGISLATURE



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

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The New Mexico State Capitol

490 Old Santa Fe Trail,  
Santa Fe, NM 87501



# SENIOR DAY

NEW  
DATE



**FEBRUARY 13, 2026**

## *Join us at the Roundhouse*

Join us on February 13<sup>th</sup> for Senior Day at the Legislature where you can participate in our free resource fair, learn more about New Mexico Aging Services' initiatives, budget requests, and advocate for funding that makes positive impacts in the lives of New Mexicans every day.



**RSVP TO ATTEND SENIOR DAY:**

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeniorDayFeb132026](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SeniorDayFeb132026)

### EVENT DETAILS

- 8:30 AM** Check-In and Light Refreshments
- 8:30 AM** Resource Fair
- 9:00 AM** Legislative Tours Around the Roundhouse
- 11:00 AM** Speakers
- 12:00 PM** Closing

Complimentary T-shirt sponsored by LANL Foundation and tote bag sponsored by AARP New Mexico for the first 300 attendees. Breakfast burritos sponsored by Non Metro New Mexico Area Agency on Aging.

Join a Legislative Tour and connect with your legislator.



FOR GROUP REGISTRATION OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.AGING.NM.GOV/SENIORDAY](http://WWW.AGING.NM.GOV/SENIORDAY)





# HEARTS &

# HERO'S NIGHT

February 14, 2026  
5:30-9:00 PM

Angel Fire Community Center: 15 CS Ranch Rd.

## AN EVENING OF FUN , FELLOWSHIP & PHILANTHROPY.

Come roll the dice for a night to remember! NVWHC is hosting a casino-style fundraiser with drawings to honor our brave protectors. Dive into games, groove to the music, sip on delightful drinks, and nibble on fancy hors d'oeuvres. Let's make this Valentine's Day a heartwarming celebration with purpose!

**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT :**  
**THE NATIONAL VETERANS WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER**



For tickets, Sponsorships and Donations:

**575-377-5236**

[retreats@vethealingcenter.org](mailto:retreats@vethealingcenter.org)

[www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org](http://www.veteranswellnessandhealing.org)







Southwest University  
of Naprapathic Medicine

## **YOUR NEXT MISSION: HEALING THROUGH NUTRITION**



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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](mailto:ABQFisherHouse@va.gov)

*because* A Family's Love  
is Good Medicine





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

### Alamogordo/Southeast NM

**Matthew Quinn (VSO I)**

411 10th Street #107

(575) 546-8367

[matthew.quinn@dvs.nm.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:james.brandon@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](mailto: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](mailto:corey.riedel@dvs.nm.gov)

### Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

**NMDVS Staff**

Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Ctr.  
1501 San Pedro Dr. SE  
(505) 623-1729

*(no appointment needed)*

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Matt Barela (SE Supervisor)**

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

[matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov)

### Clovis/Southeast NM

**Ben Padilla**

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

[ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Ambrose Oliver**

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

[ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov)

### Farmington/Northwest NM

**Jenny Iser**

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

[jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov)

*(continued on next page)*



**Gallup/Northwest NM**

**John Livingston** (NW Supervisor)  
 908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A  
 (505) 389-8731  
[john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:john.livingston@dvs.nm.gov)

**Las Cruces/Southwest NM**

**Miguel Martinez** (SW Supervisor)  
 2024 E. Griggs Ave.  
 (575) 644-6869  
[miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:miguel.martinez@dvs.nm.gov)

**Las Vegas/Northeast NM**

**Arturo Marlow** (NE Supervisor)  
 917 Douglas Ave.  
  
 (505) 331-8838  
[arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov)

**Roswell/Southeast NM**

**Ben Mendoza**  
 1600 SE Main Street/Suite A  
  
 (575) 988-5900  
[benjamin.mendoza@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:benjamin.mendoza@dvs.nm.gov)

**Silver City/Southwest NM**

**Clarissa Sierra**  
 Western New Mexico University  
 1000 West College Ave.  
 Juan Chacon Bldg./Room 138A  
 (575) 313-5627  
[clarissa.sierra@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:clarissa.sierra@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](mailto:beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov)

*NMDVS tribal liaison focuses on educational outreach assistance for Native Americans veterans*

**Grants/Northwest NM**

**April Ball**  
 551 Washington Ave.  
 (505) 521-8132  
[april.ball@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:april.ball@dvs.nm.gov)

**Las Cruces/Southwest NM**

**Vincent Tellez**  
 2024 E. Griggs Ave.  
 (505) 361-5298  
[vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov)

**Las Vegas/Northeast NM**

**Melissa Herrera** (VSO I)  
 917 Douglas Ave.  
  
 (575) 781-0614  
[melissa.herrera@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:melissa.herrera@dvs.nm.gov)

**Roswell/Southeast NM**

**Danielle Thompson**  
 1600 SE Main Street/Suite A  
  
 (575) 416-2284  
[danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:danielle.thompson@dvs.nm.gov)

**Taos/Northeast NM**

**Leticia “Lety” Cano**  
 Health and Human Services Bldg.  
 145 Roy Rd.  
  
 (505)-709-5263  
[leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov](mailto:leticia.cano@dvs.nm.gov)

**Woman Veterans Program**

**Amberly Viner** (Program Manager)  
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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.*

**Hobbs/Southeast NM**

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**State Veterans Home/T or C NM**

**VSO Staff/Every Wednesday**  
 922 South Broadway St.  
 Truth or Consequences, NM