



The Guardian

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

•Website: www.nmdvs.org

•Facebook: [NMDVSHHealthcare2015](https://www.facebook.com/NMDVSHHealthcare2015)

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

POW/MIA Recognition Day



April 4th is a day of remembrance for American service members who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. Within the Veteran community, the day honors those who endured captivity and remembers those who never returned home.

From World War I to more recent operations, thousands of U.S. service members were taken prisoner or remain unaccounted for. The mission to account for the missing continues today through the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which conducts recovery missions, researches historical records, and uses modern forensic science to identify remains and return them to their families.

For New Mexico, the observance carries particular significance. Many New Mexicans were among those captured or listed as missing, including members of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment and 515th Coast Artillery Regiment of the New Mexico National Guard who fought in the Philippines during World War II and endured years of captivity after the fall of Bataan.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services honors those Veterans who endured captivity as prisoners of war and remembers the service members who remain missing in action.

Annual Bataan Remembrance Ceremony April 9th

Each year on April 9th, New Mexicans gather to honor one of the most significant chapters in the state's military history during the Bataan Remembrance Ceremony, presented by the New Mexico National Guard in partnership with the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services.

The ceremony commemorates the 1,800 soldiers of the New Mexico National Guard's 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments stationed in the Philippines on Dec. 8, 1941, when Japan launched a surprise attack just hours after Pearl Harbor. Originally deployed for training, these New Mexicans soon became part of a combined American and Filipino force defending the Bataan Peninsula against Japanese invasion.

After four months of intense fighting, Allied forces, outnumbered and running out of food and supplies, surrendered on April 9, 1942. Thousands of American and Filipino troops were taken prisoner and subjected to the brutal Bataan Death March.

The ceremony will take place before the eternal flame at the **Bataan Memorial Building Thursday, April 9th at 11:00 am, 407 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**



Medal of Honor Day



Each year on March 25th, the nation observes National Medal of Honor Day, recognizing the extraordinary bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who have received the United States' highest military decoration. The date commemorates March 25, 1863, when the first Medals of Honor were presented, marking the beginning of a tradition that continues to honor acts of heroism more than 160 years later.

The Medal of Honor, also known as the Congressional Medal of Honor, is awarded only to service members who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and remarkable valor at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. Because of the extraordinary standards required for the award, fewer than 3,600 service members in U.S. history have received the medal.

In 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day, creating a nationwide opportunity to reflect on the courage of those who have performed acts of valor in defense of the United States. Communities across the state and the country mark the day by honoring recipients and remembering the sacrifices of generations of American service members.

Medal of Honor Recipients Who Were Born In New Mexico

<i>Fernandez, Daniel,</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Albuquerque, NM</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>
<i>Jennings, Delbert Owen</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Silver City, NM</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>
<i>Martinez, Joseph P.</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Talpa, NM</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Miyamura, Hiroshi "Hershey"</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Gallup, NM</i>	<i>Korean War</i>
<i>Moon, Jr., Harold Herman</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Albuquerque, NM</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Petry, Leroy Arthur</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Santa Fe, NM</i>	<i>War on Terror-Afghanistan</i>
<i>Rocco, Louis Richard</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Albuquerque, NM</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>
<i>Ruiz, Alejandro Renteria</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Loving, NM</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Valdez, Jose Frank</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Gobernado, NM</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Walker, Kenneth Newton</i>	<i>Army AC</i>	<i>Cerrillos, NM</i>	<i>World War II</i>
<i>Worley, Kenneth Lee</i>	<i>USMC</i>	<i>Farmington, NM</i>	<i>Vietnam War</i>

Visitors who want to learn more about New Mexico's Medal of Honor legacy can explore exhibits across the state. The New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe features a display honoring several recipients through photographs and brief biographies, and the Capitol Visitors Information Center offers a pamphlet highlighting New Mexico's Medal of Honor recipients. Additional exhibits are on display at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque, where visitors can learn more about the stories and service of the Veterans. For more information, visit:

<https://www.nmvetsmemorial.org/visit.html#/>

National Medal of Honor Day serves as a reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty displayed by America's service members. For New Mexicans, it is also an opportunity to remember the heroes from our own communities whose actions continue to inspire future generations. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) proudly honors the legacy of these Medal of Honor recipients and the enduring example of service they represent.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day



Annually, March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a time to honor the men and women who served during the Vietnam War and remember those who never returned home. First established as a national observance in 2017, the date commemorates the departure of the final U.S. military units from South Vietnam following the Paris Peace Accords; 2026 marks the 53rd anniversary.



Millions of Americans served during the Vietnam era. Many were deployed to Vietnam, while others supported operations throughout Southeast Asia or served at bases around the world. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, between six and seven million Vietnam Veterans are living today in the United States and abroad. The day also honors those who were prisoners of war, those still listed as missing in action, and the thousands who gave their lives during the conflict.



U.S. involvement in Vietnam expanded gradually, beginning with military advisors in the early 1950s and growing through the early 1960s before escalating with the deployment of large combat units in July of 1965.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire, NM stands as one of the nation's most recognized sites honoring those who served. The memorial welcomes visitors from across the country each year to reflect on the sacrifices made during the war. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) dedicated a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at the site. Like the national wall in Washington, D.C., the black granite panels are engraved with the names of more than 58,000 service members who died during the war, including nearly 400 New Mexicans.



The Angel Fire memorial complex includes a visitor center, museum exhibits, a memorial walkway, gardens, an amphitheater, and a Huey helicopter display overlooking the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery. Approximately 45,000 visitors come to the memorial each year.



National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a reminder to recognize the service and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans. On March 29th, NMDVS encourages all New Mexicans to thank the Vietnam Veterans in their communities and honor their lasting legacy of service.

Carlsbad Veterans Community Meeting

Veterans, family members, and community leaders gathered at American Legion Post 7 in Carlsbad on February 25th, 2026, for a Local Community Veterans Call Meeting hosted by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS). The event allowed attendees to hear updates on initiatives affecting Veterans and receive direct assistance with benefits and services they have earned.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary, Jamison Herrera, joined Division Directors, Ed Mendez and Robin Wilson, in presenting information on state and federal benefits. Among the key discussions were the proposed New Mexico State Veterans Cemetery in Carlsbad and the federal funding opportunity that could help bring the project to life. Plans call for the cemetery to be developed on a 17-acre site and built in phases to serve Veterans throughout southeastern New Mexico.

The first phase of the cemetery would be supported through the proposed \$8 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Cemetery Grant Program. Initial development would include burial spaces, in-ground burials, cremation sites, and pre-placed crypts, along with a memorial wall, committal shelter, and administration building.

Secretary Herrera acknowledged that the effort to establish a state Veterans cemetery in Carlsbad has taken years of planning and persistence. "It's been an uphill battle, with a lot of back and forth," Herrera said. "There was some consternation as to whether we would ever get this project done. This is a big step in the right direction."

Local and state leaders also attended the meeting, including Carlsbad Mayor Rick Lopez; State Representative Cathrynn Brown; and Victor Vasquez representing U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján's office, along with leaders from local chapters of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. City officials reaffirmed their commitment to working alongside NMDVS to help bring the cemetery project to completion and expand access to burial services for Veterans and their families in the region.

In addition to the presentations, NMDVS benefits personnel and Certified Veteran Service Officers provided assistance with property tax waivers and exemptions, applications for the New Mexico State Parks Lifetime Veteran Pass, VA disability compensation claims, and other state and federal benefits.

Community meetings such as this one are part of NMDVS's ongoing outreach effort to ensure veterans and their families have access to accurate information, meaningful updates, and personalized support close to home. Through continued engagement across the state, NMDVS remains committed to connecting those who served with the benefits and services they have earned.

For more information on upcoming events, benefits, and services available to Veterans and their families, visit nmdvs.org or call 1-866-433-8387.



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 inquire 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	3/18, 4/15, 5/20	United Veterans Hall, 402 W Hermosa Dr.	9am-4pm
Carlsbad	3/25, 4/8,	VFW Post 8703, 1919 San Jose Blvd.	10am-3pm
Cannon AFB	3/24	TAP Seminar, MFRC, 1554 Spear Loop	11am-12pm
Capitan	4/1, 6/3, 8/5, 10/7	Capitan Public Library, 101 E 2nd St.	10am-3pm
Deming	4/8, 5/13	Old VFW Bldg., 4045 Overhill Dr. NW	10am-1pm
Deming	3/25, 4/22, 5/27	Luna County Senior Center, 800 Granite St.	10am-12:30pm
Mora	4/1, 5/6	Mora VFW, 2825 Hwy 518	9am-4pm
Raton	3/18, 4/15, 5/20	Raton VA Clinic 1493 Whittier St.	10am-2pm
Ruidoso	5/6, 7/1, 9/2, 11/4	Ruidoso Community Ctr/501 Sudderth Dr.	10am-3pm
Santa Rosa	4/8, 5/13	Guadalupe County Veterans Ctr/720 Lake Dr.	10am-2pm
Socorro/Belen	4/14, 5/12	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

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

Date	Location	Time
March 19	Lordsburg City Hall, 409 W. Wabash St., Lordsburg, NM 88045	8am-3pm
March 20	Luna County Courthouse, 700 S. Silver Ave, Deming, NM 88030	9am-2pm
April 1	Hatch Library/Senior Center, 522 E. Hall Street, Hatch, NM 87937	10am-5pm
April 2	V.F.W. Post 1389, 1305 NM 195, Elephant Butte, NM 87935	9am-2pm

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

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 for more details and property tax exemption or park pass applications.

Tax Exemption and State Benefits Events Schedule

Lordsburg	3/19	Hidalgo County Clerk's Office, 300 Shakespeare St., Lordsburg, NM 88045	9am-3pm
Deming	3/20	Luna County Assessor's Office, 700 S. Silver Ave. Deming, NM 88030	9am-3pm
Aztec	4/2	San Juan County Assessor's, 100 S. Oliver Dr. Suite 400, Aztec, NM 87410	9am-3pm
Los Alamos	4/10	County Assessor's Office, 1000 Central Ave., Los Alamos, NM 87544	9am-3pm

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption HB285

Fact Sheet

What HB 285 does

HB 285 clarifies and streamlines New Mexico's Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption—covering eligibility, how to claim and keep the exemption, rules for surviving spouses, multi-owner properties, and protest procedures. HB 285 included an emergency clause, which took effect on February 25th, 2026.

Who Qualifies?

- A disabled veteran is someone honorably discharged from the U.S. Uniformed Services (or recognized civilian service), and determined under federal law to have a permanent service-connected disability
- The exemption applies to property owned by the veteran, including joint/community property with a spouse, and to property held in certain grantor trusts created by the veteran or the veteran's surviving spouse.
- Surviving spouses qualify if they were married to the veteran at the time of death and continue to occupy the home as their principal residence. If the surviving spouse remarries at any time, the benefit is forfeited and cannot be reestablished.

What Is the Exemption?

- The exemption reduces property taxes by an amount equal to the veteran's VA disability percentage multiplied by the property's taxable value (after other standard exemptions).
- To receive the exemption, the veteran must continuously occupy the property as their principal residence.

If You Move Homes

- The veteran and unmarried surviving spouse may keep the exemption on the old home for the remainder of the year or apply it immediately to a new principal residence—even if outside the usual 30-day application window.

Multiple Disabled Veteran Owners

If more than one qualifying disabled veteran owns and resides at the same property, the exemption applied is the highest disability rating among them.

How To Claim (and Keep) the Exemption

Initial claim requirements:

- A Department-prescribed form certifying that the veteran/survivor owns and occupies the property as their principal residence.
- A Certificate of Eligibility from the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services.
- If your VA disability claim is pending and your certificate isn't issued within 30 days of the county assessor's notice of valuation, you may file a protest and attach a copy of the VA claim receipt (per 38 U.S.C. § 5103 notice).
- If you become ineligible (e.g., status or ownership change), you must notify the county assessor by the last day of February of the following tax year.
- Once approved, your exemption automatically continues each year unless eligibility or ownership changes.

Oversight & Penalties

- County assessors must verify eligibility and prevent multiple exemptions across counties or multiple properties. The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services assists with verification and may charge \$5 for a duplicate eligibility certificate.
- Intentional misuse of the exemption is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine. Assessors/employees who knowingly allow ineligible claims face the same penalty and automatic removal from office.

Need Help?

Contact the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), which can issue Certificates of Eligibility and assist with questions. Contact NMDVS: Vet.Benefits@dvs.nm.gov, NMDVS.org, or call 1-866-433-8387

Reference HB285 by clicking [here](#).

Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial Manager Retires

DB Herbst's connection to the memorial spans nearly two decades. From 2009 to 2017, he served as both a volunteer and employee with New Mexico State Parks before becoming manager of the Angel Fire Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2017, under the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS), a role he held until his retirement at the end of February, 2026.

A Marine Corps Veteran himself, DM was known for his deep knowledge of the memorial's history and mission. Herbst ensured the site remained a place of reflection, healing, and remembrance for Veterans, families, and visitors. He was equally respected for the compassion and dignity he showed to every person who came to the memorial, welcoming Veterans, spouses, Gold Star families, and guests with patience and understanding.



As a leader, Herbst was known for putting his team first, recognizing staff members' work, and fostering a strong sense of pride and purpose in serving Veterans and visitors.

NMDVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera praised Herbst's lasting contributions and the relationships he helped strengthen through his work.

"DB is the consummate professional," Herrera said. "He has poured his heart into the Angel Fire Memorial and has improved our relationships with all who have engaged with our agency on behalf of those who have served. All will miss DB, and we wish him fair winds and following seas."

Presenting DB with a plaque and a state flag flown in his honor were Deputy Cabinet Secretary Eric James; Angel Fire Administrative Coordinator Ernie Sutliff; Director of Veterans State Benefits Ed Mendez; and IT Director Pablo Garcia.

As Herbst begins his retirement, NMDVS thanks him for his years of dedicated service and wishes him the very best in the years ahead.

Senior Day at the State Capitol



On Friday, February 13th, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) participated in Senior Day at the New Mexico State Capitol alongside state agencies, community partners, and advocacy organizations from across the state.

Representing NMDVS, Tribal Liaison Beverly Charley, Social Worker and Healthcare Coordinator Therese Castillo, and Eligibility Interviewer Clifford Quintana met with Veterans and family members throughout the day, providing information on benefits, answering eligibility questions, and offering guidance on accessing available services.

Hosted by the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department, Senior Day highlights issues important to the state's aging population and raises awareness of programs and services available to older New Mexicans. The event provides an opportunity to connect directly with state agencies, engage with policymakers, and learn more about resources that support health, independence, and overall well-being.

Events such as Senior Day allow NMDVS to connect with Veterans and their families while ensuring they remain informed about the state and federal benefits they have earned.



Women Veterans Corner

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

Amberly Viner, Women Veteran Program Manager

Did you know:

The month of March is Women’s History Month. This initiative started in the United States after the observance grew from a week-long celebration in March beginning in the 1970s to a nationally recognized month in 1987 after Congress designated March as Women’s History Month. The initiative highlights women’s roles in politics, science, culture, education, and more. International Women’s Day is celebrated annually on March 8th.

Topic of the Month:

“Shaping History, Leading Today”

Being as March is Women’s History Month, it’s a time to honor the trailblazers who paved the way and to recognize the women who continue to shape our future. Women Veterans are a powerful part of that story. Their service did not simply make history; it continues to influence leadership, policy, advocacy, and community strength every single day.

Throughout military history, women have stepped forward to serve in times of conflict, transition, and transformation. They have broken barriers, challenged expectations, and proven their capabilities across every branch and role. Their resilience and commitment helped reshape the Armed Forces, expanding opportunities for future generations of service members. But the story does not end with the uniform.

Today, women Veterans are leaders in our communities, serving as business owners, healthcare professionals, educators, elected officials, advocates, and mentors. They bring with them the discipline, integrity, and mission-driven focus cultivated during military service. Their leadership strengthens families, workplaces, and entire communities.

Women Veterans also continue to lead within the Veteran space itself. They advocate for improved access to healthcare, trauma-informed services, equitable benefits, and recognition of women’s unique service experiences. Their voices are shaping policies, influencing programs, and ensuring that future generations of women who serve will encounter a more inclusive and supportive system.

As we recognize Women’s History Month, we celebrate not only the history women Veterans helped build, but the impact they are making right now. They are shaping history and leading today.

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer... You have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” — Harriet Tubman

The New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services Women Veterans Program (WVP) is dedicated to serving women Veterans and their families with dignity, respect, and excellence. As a primary point of contact, WVP provides advocacy and individualized support to help women Veterans navigate challenges faced during and after military service.

Through partnerships with federal, state, and community organizations, the program connects women Veterans to earned benefits, health care, mentorship, education, employment resources, and peer support networks. Women Veterans seeking assistance or connection to resources are encouraged to visit nmdvs.org to learn more.



Every servicewoman deserves to take her rightful place in history. Without each individual story, our nation's history is incomplete. Are you a military woman? **Register** your service, or the service of a woman you know for **free** at womensmemorial.org or scan this QR Code:



“HERstory” 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 to share your story and help preserve the history of women Veterans.

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	March 20th Small Business Lenders Expo	WESST Enterprise Center, details here
Virtual B2B	March 26th & 27th	Microsoft Teams Link click here for details
*Clovis, NM	April 30th	Cannon AFB, MF&R Center
*Albuquerque, NM	May 11th & 12th	KAFB Consolidated Services Bldg.

** 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



Mobile Outreach Vehicle Services NM Communities

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) continues expanding its reach across the state through its Mobile Outreach Vehicle, delivering benefits assistance and claims support directly to Veterans and their families in rural and underserved communities.

Recent stops in Cuba, Ramah, Lovington, Raton, Fort Sumner, Pecos, and Clayton demonstrated strong community engagement as Veterans and family members met with NMDVS staff to learn about and apply for the state and federal benefits they have earned through their service.

Members of the NMDVS Mobile Outreach team, including Veteran Service Officers Jason Liddell and Alex Fontaine, worked directly with Veterans during these visits, providing one-on-one assistance with VA disability compensation claims, health care eligibility questions, and other federal benefits, while also helping connect individuals with state programs and services.

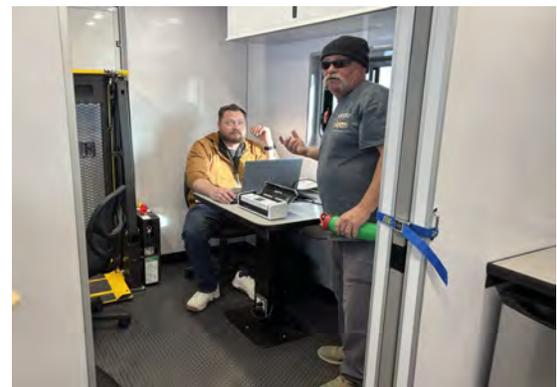
The Mobile Outreach Vehicle is designed to operate independently in areas where access to services may otherwise be limited. The fully self-sufficient unit allows NMDVS teams to travel throughout New Mexico and set up outreach events directly in local communities, eliminating the long travel distances many rural Veterans face when seeking assistance.

During each visit, Veterans and eligible family members can meet with certified Veteran Service Officers who provide guidance on filing VA claims, reviewing benefits eligibility, and navigating the federal system. NMDVS benefits staff also help connect Veterans with state programs, resources, and local partners who support the Veteran community.

The outreach visits also create opportunities for NMDVS to strengthen partnerships with local leaders, tribal communities, and Veteran service organizations. These connections help expand awareness of available benefits and ensure Veterans know where to turn when they need assistance.

As service visits expand across rural New Mexico, the Mobile Outreach Vehicle is helping ensure geography is never a barrier to receiving earned benefits. By bringing services directly into communities, NMDVS remains committed to making sure Veterans and their families can access support, file claims, and receive assistance where they live.

For more information about upcoming Mobile Outreach Vehicle visits or available benefits and services, visit nmdvs.org or follow the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) recognizes Leticia "Lety" Cano, Veteran Service Officer at the NMDVS Taos office. Lety is the definition of a team player. She is flexible, easygoing, and always willing to step in wherever needed. During a critical staffing shortage in Farmington, she did not hesitate to travel where needed and provide coverage to ensure there was no service interruption. She has consistently traveled throughout northern New Mexico to make sure Veterans continue to receive the benefits they earned through their service. Her willingness to go above and beyond reflects the very heart of our mission. Lety's commitment, adaptability, and servant leadership strengthen not only the Taos office but our entire division.

Robin Wilson, NMDVS Director of Field Services, shared, "Lety's superpower is her calmness. In an environment where Veterans and families often come to us during some of the most stressful times of their lives, her steady, reassuring presence makes a meaningful difference. She approaches every situation with patience, professionalism, and compassion, helping Veterans feel heard, respected, and supported."

Thank you, Lety, for your dedication to New Mexico's Veterans and for being a steady force our team can always rely on.

How long have you been with the agency?

I have been working for NMDVS since August 2022.

I was previously serving the Veteran community as a Disabled Veteran Employment Specialist with Workforce Solutions.

What do you enjoy most about your work with NMDVS?

Making a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families in our community.

What is your connection to the Veteran community?

I am a Marine Corps Veteran and understand the need for advocacy and representation, as well as for navigating the resources earned by our service to this country.

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

I love nature and I am surrounded by it here in Taos, I don't have to go too far to find serenity, you will find me outside gardening in the warm weather. I am a food enthusiast. Food brings people together, and I love spending quality time with family and friends. I also enjoy reading and studying the history and anthropology of the promised land, and anything else I find interesting.

Three words to describe you?

Grateful, Content and blessed with family and friends.



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)

Reasons Veterans Are Choosing a VA National Cemetery

For many Veterans, choosing a VA National Cemetery is more than a decision. It's a legacy that reflects their service. It's a place of lasting beauty for family to visit. It's eternal rest among those who served.



Watch their stories. Hear their reasons.

Fellow Veterans and their spouses share why they are choosing a VA national cemetery in this powerful new video. It captures what words often cannot — the calm, the care, and the peace of mind that comes from knowing their legacy will be honored at no cost to their families. Watch the video here:

[Honoring our Veterans Forever in VA National Cemeteries](#)

Are You Eligible for VA Burial Benefits?

If you or your spouse are considering a VA national cemetery, you can apply now to see if you're eligible. The online pre-need application takes less than 10 minutes and can help you:

- Ensure your final wishes are honored
- Bring peace of mind to your family
- Potentially save thousands of dollars

Complete your pre-need burial eligibility application now by clicking the link below.

[Complete Your Pre-need Burial Eligibility Application Now](#)

Your Story, Your Legacy

You can now tell your own story before you pass away through Veterans Legacy Memorial's (VLM) ["Your Story, Your Legacy"](#) feature. You can privately submit images, autobiographies, written tributes, military and life milestones, and historical documents. After passing away, the content you entered will become public and appear on the VLM website, the largest online memorial site dedicated to America's Veterans.

To get access to the "Your Story, Your Legacy" page, you first need to submit a [VA pre-need burial eligibility application](#) online. Once approved, you will receive an email to set up your personal VLM page. Watch the short video to learn more here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1QWvsCn7I0>

You can find additional information, such as the new flyer ["Why I'm Choosing a VA National Cemetery,"](#) on the NCA web page at <https://www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/>.

For questions, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535-1117 (TTY: 711) and select 4, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET.

Subscribe to NCA email updates to receive new planning tools tips, and burial benefit news. [Click to subscribe for more VA burial benefits information.](#)

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

WHY I'M CHOOSING A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY



"I'm a Veteran. I want to be buried where other heroes are."

Olivia Nunn, U.S. Army Veteran



"What surprised me most about the benefits is that my spouse can also be buried at a VA national cemetery. This is something that is very important to us, knowing we can be buried together in a sacred, peaceful setting is humbling."

Derek White, U.S. Air Force Veteran



"I know how expensive it can be to plan a funeral for a loved one. I'm really relieved that VA's burial benefits will help ensure my family isn't burdened financially."

Juanita Petterson, U.S. Army Veteran



"Wherever our girls end up, knowing there will be a VA national cemetery near them gives us peace of mind. It's important to us that our family can visit without needing to travel too far."

Rick McCoy, U.S. Marine Corps & Army Veteran

Learn more about VA's burial benefits and explore your options at VA national cemeteries:

www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families





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

IN-PERSON VETERAN DISCUSSION
New Mexico VA Health Care System
TOWN HALL
Tuesday, April 14
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Information fair
Tuesday, April 14
4 p.m.-5 p.m.

1501 San Pedro Drive SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
Auditorium Building #39

If you can't attend in person...
Watch the Town Hall on Facebook
Go to our New Mexico VA Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/VANewMexico>

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

KIRTLAND Air Force Base JAG

WILL CLINIC FOR VETERANS

HOSTED BY

KIRTLAND AFB JAG & New Mexico VA Health Administration Service (HAS)

*Free will preparation for eligible Veterans of modest means.
Spouses may attend for support — only Veterans may execute wills.*

Free service • First-come, first-served • Basic wills only



Last Will and Testament

Why Make a Will?

- Ensure your property and assets go to the people you choose.
- Provide care instructions for dependents.
- Name an executor to manage your estate.

FREE LEGAL SERVICE

- May 12, 2026
- August 11, 2026
- November 10, 2026

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Walk-in only

No appointment needed

New Mexico VA Health Care System
1501 San Pedro Drive SE, Bldg. Annex
Albuquerque, NM 87108

BRING WITH YOU

- Photo ID
- Beneficiary information
- Prior will (if any)
- Completed worksheets
- Please complete worksheets before arrival
- Please contact Ladonna Somers (contact information below) for the worksheets

CONTACT US: Ladonna Somers LCSW, CCM
Veterans Justice Program Specialist
(505) 265-1711 ext. 6886



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



ATTENTION VETERANS

Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity introduces our
Critical Systems Replacement Program (CSR)

This is a no cost program for Veterans

Eligible projects:

- Heating and cooling systems
 - Window Replacements
 - Roof Replacement
 - Bathroom modification

Low-income Veteran homeowners are encouraged to apply

Must be current on mortgage, homeowner insurance and taxes

For more information contact **Toye Adams** at **(505) 359-2436**

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM. APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE APPLICATION AND MEET HUD INCOME GUIDELINES.

Veteran benefits are not counted as income for eligibility

<p align="center">Digital Skills</p> <p>TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use.</p> <p>COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p>INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety.</p> <p>ANDROID BASICS: Learn the basics about using your android phone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p> <p>IPHONE BASICS: Learn the basics about using your iPhone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p>	<p>GOOGLE DRIVE: Learn the basics of this cloud-based integrated storage & file sharing service.</p> <p>GOOGLE DOCS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based word processor. Create, edit & collaborate on docs online.</p> <p>GOOGLE SLIDES: Learn the basics of a cloud-based presentation software. Create & share slideshows.</p> <p>GOOGLE SHEETS: Learn the basics of a cloud-based data driven document. Create, edit & share spreadsheets.</p> <p>GOOGLE AI PROMPTING ESSENTIALS: Learn to prompt effectively giving clear & specific instructions to generative AI. Save time & unlock more of AI's benefits for work/home</p>	<p>MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout'</p> <p>MICROSOFT POWERPOINT: Learn to design, animate slides and play/save presentations..</p> <p>EXCEL 100: Intro to review spreadsheet features & application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.</p> <p>EXCEL 200: Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.</p> <p>EXCEL 300: Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds & more.</p> <p>CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.</p>
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TO REGISTER FOR FREE CLASSES: SCAN QR CODE ...OR GO ONLINE TO
www.goodwillnm.org/events...**OR CALL 505.314.1875...**
OR EMAIL mimartinez@goodwillnm.org FOR ASSISTANCE...

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Microsoft Word 9:00 am - 10:00 am Microsoft PowerPoint 10:30 am - 11:45 am	3 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	4 Google Drive 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google Docs 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	5 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	6 Google Slides 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google Sheets 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	7
8	9 Cybersecurity 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google AI Prompting Essentials 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	10 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	11 Excel 100 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Excel 200 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	12 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	13 Resume 101 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Excel 300 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	14
15	16 Internet Basics 9:00 am - 10:00 am Typing 101 10:30 am - 11:30 am	17 REVENUE FUNDS OUR FREE PROGRAMS & SERVICES 	18 Stress Management@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Computer Basics 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	19 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	20 Android Basics 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm iPhone Basics 2:30 pm - 3:45 pm	21
22	23 First Impressions 9:00 am - 10:00 am Google Sheets 10:30 am - 11:30 am	24 NEW MEXICANS FIND JOBS! 	25 Stress Management Workshop@ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Money Management@ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	26 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers.. job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	27 Public Speaking Intro 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Google AI Prompting Essentials 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	28



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 87108

<p align="center">Employment Skills</p> <p>RESUME 101 Learn best practices for resume writing, with hands on creation, proofing and editing support.</p> <p>FIRST IMPRESSIONS Using time management, words, appearance & body language to make good impression</p> <p>PUBLIC SPEAKING INTRO: Know, manage & influence the audience. Basics followed by practice.</p>	<p align="center">Life Skills</p> <p>MONEY MANAGEMENT@ Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses & credit</p> <p align="center">Wellness Skills</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT@ A detailed look at the cause of stress and some strategies to overcome it.</p> <p>STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP@ Discover some meditative practices & other options to relieve stress</p> <p>GOOGLE AI ESSENTIALS: Ask about our FREE self-paced online course offered via Coursera...or for more info go to goodwillnm.org/ai-essentials-course and apply now.</p>
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DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS

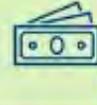
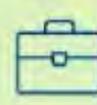
Google Play Store Apple App Store




<p align="center">GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE on 3/12/26 & 3/26/26 from 1 pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE</p> <p>Diverse employment opportunities. Speak with hiring managers and get valuable job leads.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Skills</p> <p>COMPUTER BASICS: Learn basic parts of computer: buttons, ports, hardware, software, etc.</p> <p>INTERNET BASICS: Learn about the Internet, search engines, browsers, & online safety.</p> <p>TYPING 101: Learn where to place your fingers on a keyboard, what each key does & basic mouse use.</p> <p>CYBERSECURITY: Learn to identify cyber threats, phishing, scams & protect your digital assets.</p> <p>DISCOVERING DATA: Learn ways to collect and interpret data to use to guide your decision making.</p>	<p>GOOGLE AI PROMPTING ESSENTIALS: Learn to prompt effectively giving clear & specific instructions to generative AI. Save time & unlock more of AI's benefits for work/home</p> <p>ANDROID BASICS: Learn the basics about using your android phone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p> <p>IPHONE BASICS: Learn the basics about using your iPhone. The home screen, settings, apps etc.</p> <p>INTRO TO CODING: Programming overview of JavaScript, Python & web development.</p> <p>CODING WORKSHOP: Fun coding games to build coding skills in JavaScript & Python.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Digital Skills</p> <p>EXCEL 100: Intro to reviews spreadsheet features & application layout. Build your first basic spreadsheet.</p> <p>EXCEL 200: Learn basic formulas (+, -, X, /) how to use auto fill, and how to sort and filter data on spreadsheet.</p> <p>EXCEL 300: Learn to create dropdowns, charts, tables and how to freeze panes, add backgrounds & more.</p> <p>MICROSOFT WORD: Format, save and spellcheck documents. Insert images/shapes. Design layout</p> <p>MICROSOFT OUTLOOK: Learn to navigate Outlook interface, to compose/sort email & use calendar.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">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...</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">MARCH 2026</h1>
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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 Career Compass N: Career Exploration @ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Computer Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	3 Career Compass E: Resume/Applying @ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Internet Basics 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	4 Discovering Data 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Cybersecurity 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	5 LEARN. GROW. SUCCEED. INSPIRE.	6 YOU DONATE ITEMS TO GOODWILL 	7
8	9 Career Compass S: Interview/Soft Skills @ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Thinking Critically @ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	10 Career Compass W Your New Job @ 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm Money Management @ 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	11 Intro to Coding @ 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm Coding Workshop @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	12 ALBUQUERQUE CAREER FAIR 1-3 pm Meet company hiring managers... job leads! 5000 SAN MATEO	13 DONATIONS SOLD IN GOODWILL STORES 	14
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Goodwill Industries of New Mexico Training

GoodSkills

<p>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</p>	<h1 style="margin: 0;">LOMAS</h1> <p style="font-size: small;">LOMAS SERVICE CENTER 8001 LOMAS BLVD NE ABQ, NM 87110</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Employment Skills</p> <p>Career Compass Employment Skills Series:</p> <p>N/CAREER EXPLORATION @ Explore career interests, identify skills, analyze potential jobs via SWOT.</p> <p>E/RESUME & APPLYING @ Create/improve resume and learn how to apply to jobs online.</p> <p>S/INTERVIEW & SOFT SKILLS @ Best practices in interviewing & professional communication.</p> <p>W/YOUR NEW JOB @ Building relationships, good attitude, knowledge & behavior skills at work.</p>	<p>DOWNLOAD GOODWILL'S FREE APP GOOD FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS</p> <p>Google Play Store Apple App Store</p>  	<p style="text-align: center;">Life Skills</p> <p>MONEY MANAGEMENT @ Financial literacy class on paychecks, budgets, expenses & credit</p> <p>THINKING CRITICALLY @ Become better thinkers. Build analytical skills, learn to determine the validity of information.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">GOODWILL CAREER FAIR - ALBUQUERQUE on 3/12/26 & 3/28/26 from 1pm-3 pm at 5000 San Mateo Blvd NE Diverse employment opportunities. Speak with hiring managers and get valuable job leads.</p> </div>
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DAV Auxiliary
Making a Difference

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY UNIT #29

Veterans and Dependent Benefits Seminar



 **Saturday, March 14, 2026**

 **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

 **Village Ranch House**

3476 Main Street, Suite D
 Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031

Serving Veterans and Their Families

DAV Auxiliary Unit #29 invites veterans, spouses, dependents, caregivers, and family members to attend an educational seminar focused on benefits, planning, and preparedness.

Featured Presentations

- DAV National Service Office
- Noblin Funeral Service

Topics Include

- VA filings and survivor benefits
- Funeral and burial planning
- Financial readiness
- Available support services

Why Attend?

Planning for death is never easy, but it is essential. Taking steps now can spare your family confusion, financial stress, and emotional hardship. This briefing empowers dependents to carry out a veteran's final wishes with confidence, dignity, and respect.

For More Information:

-  DAVA Adjutant Roybal
-  (505) 977-4423
-  nmdava29@gmail.com

CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS

MARCH 18, 2026

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

5600 EAGLE ROCK AVE NE

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87113

CNM WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER - ROOM 111

This in person event will help you understand the requirements of basic safeguarding of covered contractor information systems. We will discuss the current regulations and how to move forward to meet them.



APEX
ACCELERATORS

Topics include:
FAR 52.204-21
DFARS 252.204-7012
NIST SP 800-171



<https://nmapex.ecenterdirect.com/events/14096>

This APEX Accelerator is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Defense. NM APEX Accelerator is also funded by the State of New Mexico.

NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS

NAVAJO WOMEN WARRIORS DAY OF RECOGNITION



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

*Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort
22181 Resort Boulevard
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004*

PLEASE BRING DD-214, MEDICAL DOCUMENTS, AND PROFESSIONAL BINDER. PHOTOGRAPHER AVAILABLE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WOMEN HEALTH CARE, FAMILY SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ON SITE

POC: Patricia Burnside (623) 206-7673
VSO, Northern Agency p.burnside@navajo-nsn.gov



**"A brave man may fight many battles,
but a woman fights the battle of life every day."
Navajo proverb**

Established April 2022 through Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CAP-24-22

The Center for Women Veterans Announces

The Women Veterans Southwest Regional Summit "Boots on the Ground for Boots on the Ground"



Texas • New Mexico

Oklahoma • Arizona

Your Voice Matters.
Tell us what you think

Hosted in Texas



More details are
coming soon

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SVLBFY>



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Center for Women Veterans

17th Annual Vietnam Veterans Honor Walk



Dool'kai' Vietnam Veterans

Upper Fruitland with Eastern Agency Vietnam Veterans
Sponsoring HONOR WALK

March 24-28, 2026

Hwy 371, New Mexico Vietnam Veterans Memorial Hwy
Thoreau, NM to Farmington, NM

All Veterans Welcome

Contact: Mike Bekis, 505-258-3216
Honor Bike Riders: Seresa Betoni, 505-278-4061
Horseback Riders Welcome

Tues. March 24

0600 Hours
Thoreau NM, Breakfast & Prayer
0700-0800 Hours
Start of Walk
1230 Hours Lunch
1800 hours
Stand down/Supper
Crownpoint Veterans & NTU College

Wed. March 25

0700 hours
Crownpoint NM, Breakfast
1230 Hours Lunch
1800 hours
Stand down Tsaya Trading Post, Supper provided by White Rock Chapter Veterans

Thurs. March 26

0700 hours
Lake Valley NM, Tsaya Trading Post, Breakfast provided by Lake Valley Chapter Veterans
1230 Hours Lunch
1800 hours
Stand down/Supper Provided by Burnham Chapter Veterans, Burnham Junction

Fri. March 27

0700 hours
Burnham NM, Breakfast provided by Burnham Chapter Veterans
1230 Hours Lunch provided by Nageezi Veterans
-Walk to Hwy 371 bridge
1800 hours
Stand down @ Among the Waters Park, Farmington NM-Dinner TBA

Sat. March 28

BIKE RIDERS meet@0600 HRS (route 5 & hwy 371) & Meeting 0800 hrs-KSU@0900 hrs
0800 Hours-Meet at Junction of US 371 & N36, **Fun Walk** to Upper Fruitland, Walter Collins Multipurpose Gym
0900-1000-Open to All Event & Ceremony
1000 Hours-Awards/Honoring & Recognition with Luncheon



KNDN will announce all information and will be live

Not responsible for accidents. No alcohol or drugs. Be safe.

A Day of Patriotism & Community



9TH ANNUAL NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR ★ VETERANS DAY ★

FRIDAY

27TH

MARCH

2026

200 BUFFALO BLVD
SHIPROCK, NM

1000
1700

PROGRAMS
PRESENT 

VETERANS HEALTH CARE, SUICIDE PREVENTION, HOME
IMPROVEMENT & STRUCTURAL ALTERATION

BOOTHS
PRESENT 

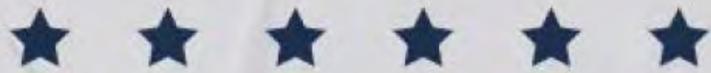
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, CLAIMS, HOUSING & OTHER
PROMOTIONAL BOOTHS

SERVICES
PRESENT 

ABQ VA REGIONAL OFFICE, VET MOBILE UNIT, VA CLAIMS,
RESEARCH & NEW CLAIMS

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:** 

CALL: 505-635-3249 OR PAWIKI LORAE 928-308-3615



SUNLAND PARK

VETERAN RESOURCE EVENT



Veterans, service members, their families and friends, and all members of the community are encouraged to stop by this resource event to learn more about the VA health care and benefits they have earned with their military service.

THURSDAY MARCH 26

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunland Park Sports Complex

4700 McNutt Blvd

Sunland Park, NM 88063

Tables and chairs will be provided

For more information, please contact

Sam Jones at 915-227-6589, sam.jones@va.gov

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
El Paso VA Health Care System

Las Cruces
VETCENTER EST. 1929

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY



Please join us in honoring our Vietnam Veterans with a ceremony, food, vendors, and camaraderie!

29 March 2026

1 PM - 3 PM

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



**VENDORS, PLEASE JOIN US!
SCAN THE QR CODE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(505) 768-4495**



Zuni Veterans Program

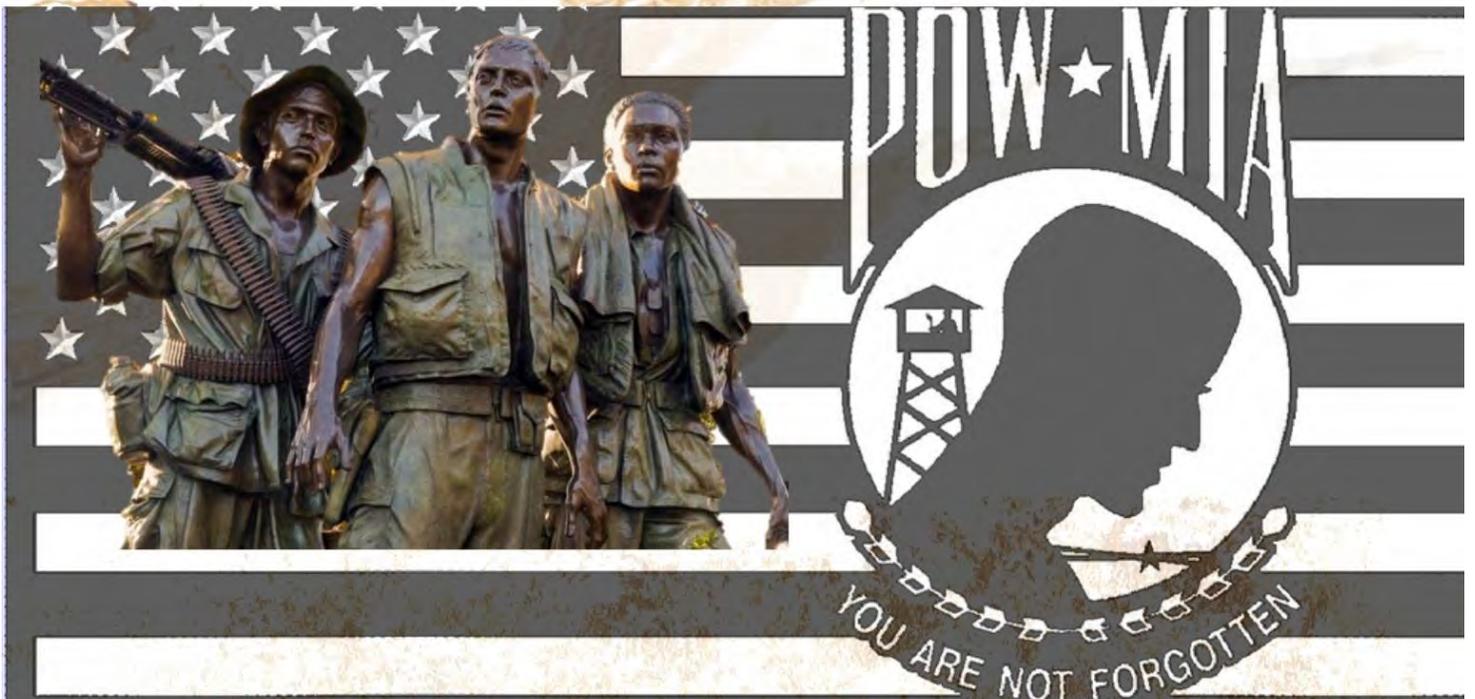
Will host

Vietnam War Recognition

March 29, 2026 @10am

Zuni Community Center

Parade will start after Recognition event



For more information call

Zuni Veterans Program

(505)782-7281/7124 Cell (505)728-1275

VIETNAM



VETERAN

VETERAN OR FIRST RESPONDER SEEKING GUIDANCE?

Enjoy a complimentary week filled with mindful education, body rejuvenation, and uplifting camaraderie alongside fellow veterans, first responders and their partners in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico. Discover valuable therapeutic and holistic tools while embracing Post Traumatic Growth.

NATIONAL VETERANS

WELLNESS & HEALING CENTER

UPCOMING 2026 RETREAT DATES:

April 12-19

May 3-10

June 7-14

August 23-30

September 13-20

Retreats offer complimentary lodging, meals, and a variety of activities such as massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, horseback riding, and much more! Please note that travel expenses are not included.

Eligibility Criteria for Attendance:

1. Veterans & First Responders diagnosed with PTS
2. A support partner must accompany you
3. Participants must have been free from drug or alcohol abuse for at least 12 months

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

505-501-8337

retreats@vethealingcenter.org

Apply Today!



Donate Today!



NVWHC is a non-profit serving veterans and their families since 2009.

HORSES FOR HEROES -NEW MEXICO, INC.
COWBOY UP! & WISDOM WAY FOR WARRIORS
 WWW.HORSESFORHEROES.ORG

VETERANS TELLING YOUR STORY

As part of our 2026 Resilient Warrior Program we invite Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserves to these workshops:

What: Saturday, April 11 & Sun. April 12th

Telling your Story: with *Matthew Hanson* for Screenwriters and Indie Film Producers.

Saturday, May 2nd
 Screenwriting for TV and Movies with *Mike Bercham*

Saturday, September 19th
 Telling your Story with *Anne Hillerman*

Time: All Workshops begin at: 0900 sharp! -1600
 (Lunch will be provided)

Where: Crossed Arrows Ranch
 3774 NM-14
 Santa Fe, NM 87508

How to participate:
 If interested, send an email to us at:
info@horsesforheroes.org
 Please provide your name, phone number and attach a copy of your DD 214 or a copy of your NM Drivers License with **VETERAN** certification on it. *Space is limited.*

Proudly endorsed by Santa Fe Regional Film Commission!





How to do business with the NM Air/Army National Guard and NM Department of Military Affairs along with General Services Department

Date & Time:

Friday, April 17, 2026

0800 – 1130

Location:

National Guard Regional Training Institute

27A Bataan Blvd, Santa Fe NM 87508

0800–1100 – Industry Day training hosted by
NM APEX Accelerator

- Overview of NM APEX Accelerator
- How to do Business with NMARNG, NM National Guard, and the NM General Services Department

1100–1130 – Meet and greet between industry and directors of various departments within the NM National Guard

Register: <https://nmapex.ecenterdirect.com/events/14094>

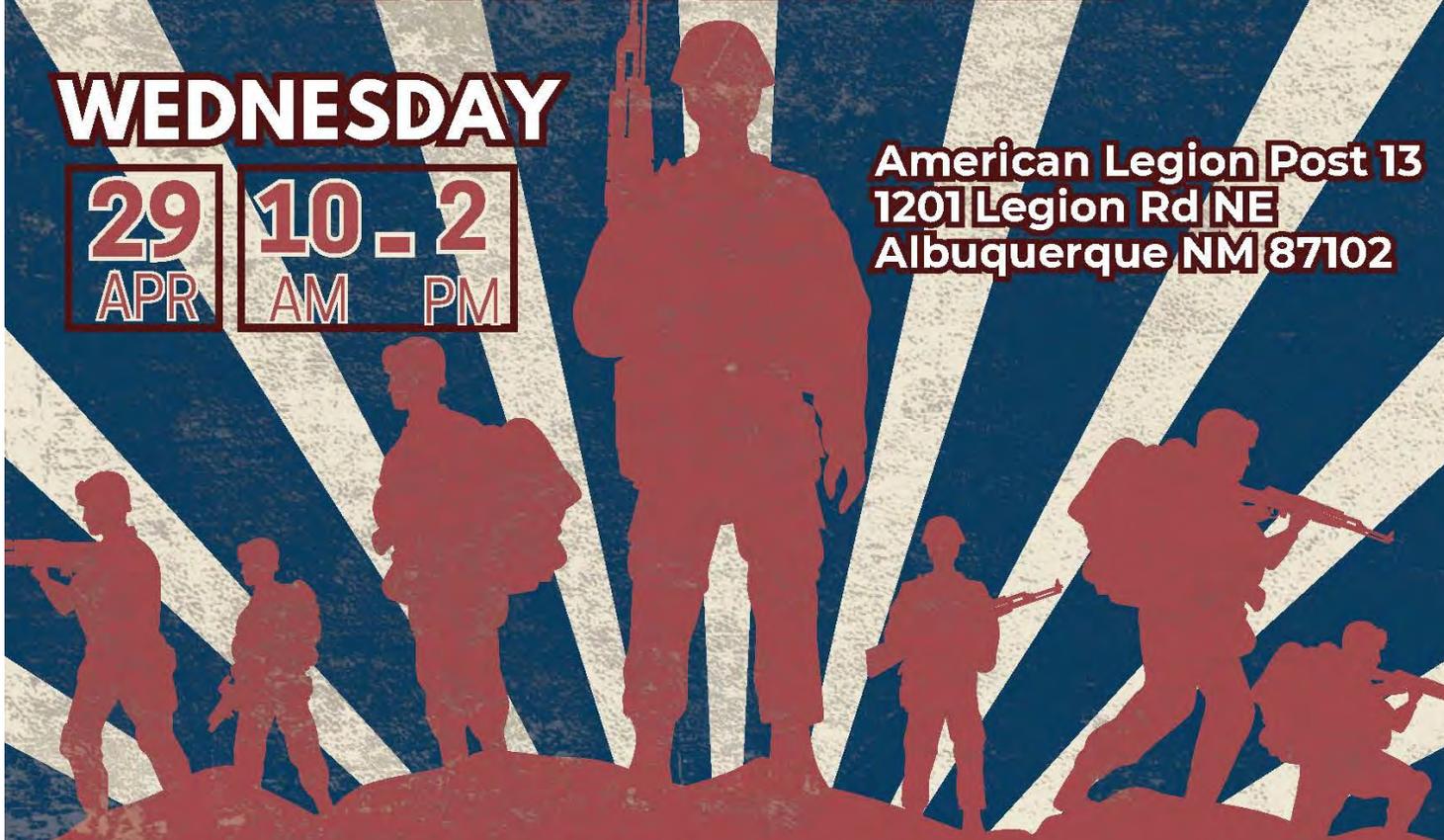
SAVE THE DATE

11TH ANNUAL HEROES HIRING HEROES EMPLOYMENT EVENT

WEDNESDAY

29
APR **10 - 2**
AM PM

American Legion Post 13
1201 Legion Rd NE
Albuquerque NM 87102



**EVERYONE WELCOME!
OPEN TO VETERANS
AND NON-VETERANS**



Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico is a proud partner of the American Job Center Network. This project/publication is supported through the U.S. Department of Labor as part of a grant award financed from state, local, federal and/or non-federal government sources. For full funding disclosure information, please type the following URL in your browser or click on the link: www.wccnm.org/funding.

Equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aids & services available upon request. Our website: www.wccnm.org



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Bringing VA Benefits Home

Mescalero Community Center
108 Central Avenue; Mescalero, NM 88340

April 29, 2026 (Wednesday)
8:30 am to 4 pm (MDT)



DURING THE EVENT - YOU CAN

- Obtain a Medical Disability Exam, if eligible
- File your claim with VBA
- Get answers to VA claim and benefits questions
- Talk with NM Veteran Services
- Enroll in VA health care
- Apply for Tribal Veteran Copayment Exemption
- Access VA Native American Direct Loan at 2.5%

CONTACT

- **KELTON STARR 575-464-4500** or **ANGEL PONCE 505-XXX-XXXX** or **LORAE HOMANA PAWIKI 928-308-3615**



Native American Training Institute
PRESENTS

2026 Veterans Symposium



Veterans, Service Members and Dependents are invited and encouraged to attend this symposium to ensure veterans have access to the many benefits, entitlements and services provided by NM Department of Veterans Services, Veterans Administration and Indian Health Services. Veterans will have the opportunity to voice their issues, concerns and needs directly to government officials, agencies and service providers to make certain their questions are adequately addressed, including:

- NM Department of Veterans' Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, NM Department of Military Affairs
- On-site assistance in filing for VA and State benefits
- Program and service opportunities to Women Veterans
- Flag Folding Ceremony
- Medical and Healthcare Services: PACT ACT, PTSD, Suicide Prevention
- Legacy Plan
- Honor Song Documentary
- Promote and provide adequate healthcare needs and transportation services in rural communities.
- Training and certification information for Veteran Service Officers

Friday May 1st, 2026

8 AM - 5 PM

Isleta Resort & Casino

Contact

Larry Archuleta

(505)907-8699

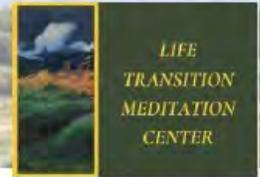
Randi Suina

(505)331-5249

nati.nm.us@gmail.com

FREE ADMISSION FOR
VETERANS, THEIR
SPOUSES & SERVICE
PROVIDERS

Day-Long Veterans Meditation Retreat For Veterans, By Veterans



Every Veteran welcome regardless of discharge status, gender, race, LGBTQI+ and/or Two-Spirited identity

Register Now

Space is limited: contact us through this registration form.



Scan to register

WHEN: May 16th, 2026

WHERE: Holy Cross Retreat Center, 600 Holy Cross Rd., Mesilla Park, NM 88047

9:00 am – 4:00 pm, noon lunch

Free of Charge

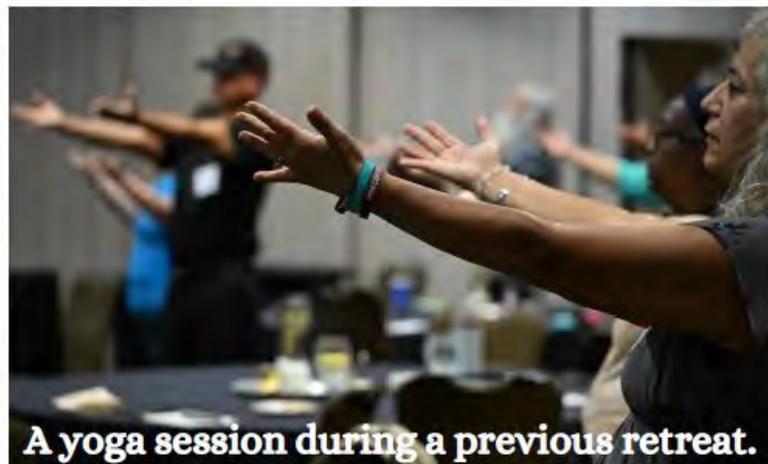
All expenses sponsored by the McCune Foundation and Life Transition Meditation Center

WHY: Introduce Meditation techniques, improve Veterans' mental health

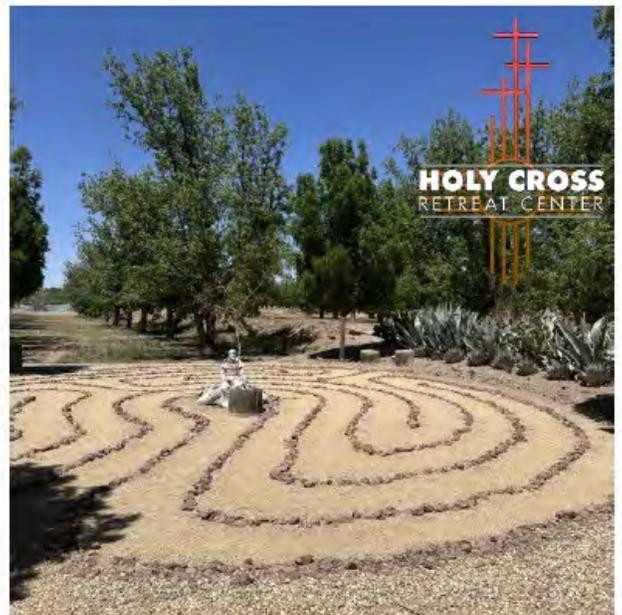


PayPal

\$50 refundable registration donation through PayPal or mailed check (info in registration)



A yoga session during a previous retreat.



HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTER



LEARN MORE

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AVAILABLE NOW!

Supporting veterans and their families by identifying needs and connecting you to trusted resources. Whether you're navigating benefits or accessing community support, we're here to help you take the next steps forward.

SERVICES OFFERED

- One-on-one assistance
- Community referrals
- Warm agency hand-off
- Advocate support

 Aristie@pawsandstripes.org

 (505) 705-3609

APPLY TODAY! 





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

END OF TOUR

RECOVERY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY

9AM - 1 PM

*Matt 25 Hope Center
1200 N Thornton St,
Clovis, NM*

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



Happens every Saturday for more information: <https://www.endoftourrecovery.org/>



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

La Sondra Menchego

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

(505) 525-3331

lasondra.menchego@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

Calvin James

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

(505) 681-0499

calvin.james@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque Metro Area

John Membrila (VSOI)

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

(505) 584-2153

john.membrila@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VARO)

Eric Ballheimer

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

(505) 479-0672

eric.ballheimer@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque (VA Hospital)

James Brandon

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

(505) 623-1729

james.brandon@dvs.nm.gov

(no appointment needed)

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

Alex Fontaine

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

(505) 470-7503

carl.fontaine@dvs.nm.gov

Albuquerque/Mobile Unit

Jason Liddell

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

(505) 490-7532

Jason.liddell@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

Clovis/Southeast NM

Matt Barela (SE Supervisor)

904 W. Sixth St.

(575) 825-9602

matthew.barela@dvs.nm.gov

Clovis/Southeast NM

Ben Padilla

904 W. Sixth St.

(505) 537-1445

ben.padilla@dvs.nm.gov

Farmington/Northwest NM

Ambrose Oliver

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 916-4835

ambrose.oliver@dvs.nm.gov

(continued on next page)

Farmington/Northwest NM**Jenny Iser**

1800 East 30th St.

(505) 327-2861

jenny.iser@dvs.nm.gov**Hobbs/Southeast NM****Freddy Solis-Littlejohn**

2120 North Alto St.

(575) 241-0714

fred.solis-little@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Clint Anderson**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 216-8782

clint.anderson@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Wayne Minkler**

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 781-0614

wayne.minkler@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Danielle Thompson**

1600 SE Main Street/Suite A

(575) 416-2284

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**Tribal Liaison****Beverly Charley**San Juan College Veterans Center
4601 College Blvd./Room 1715-B

(575) 241-3322

beverly.charley@dvs.nm.gov**Gallup/Northwest NM****John Livingston** (NW Supervisor)

908 E. Buena Vista Ave/Room 1A

505-389-8731

John.livingston@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Miguel Martinez** (SW Supervisor)

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(575) 644-6869

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

917 Douglas Ave.

(505) 331-8838

arturo.marlow@dvs.nm.gov**Rio Rancho/Northeast NM****Dustin Newsom**Sandoval County Admin. Bldg.
1500 Idalia Rd./Bldg. D/Room 2041

(505) 221-7190

dustin.newsom@dvs.nm.gov**Santa Fe/Northeast NM****Phillip Hernandez**Bataan Memorial Bldg.
407 Galisteo St./1st Floor, Room 134

(505) 218-3125

phillip.hernandez@dvs.nm.gov**State Veterans Home/T or C NM****VSO Staff/Every Wednesday**922 South Broadway St.
Truth or Consequences, NM**Grants/Northwest NM****April Ball**

551 Washington Ave.

(505) 521-8132

april.ball@dvs.nm.gov**Las Cruces/Southwest NM****Vincent Tellez**

2024 E. Griggs Ave.

(505) 361-5298

vincent.tellez@dvs.nm.gov**Las Vegas/Northeast NM****Melissa Herrera** (VSO II)

917 Douglas Ave.

(575) 520-5079

melissa.herrera@dvs.nm.gov**Roswell/Southeast NM****Ben Mendoza**

1600 SE Main Street/Suite A

(575) 988-5900

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**Woman Veterans Program****Amberly Viner** (Program Manager)Pinetree Corporate Center/Bldg. 2
4801 Indian School Rd. NE/2nd floor

(505) 372-9106

amberly.viner@dvs.nm.gov

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