



# The Guardian

The Newsletter of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

May, 2016

## Big Turnout for Veterans Town Hall Meeting in Carlsbad Hosted By NMDVS



*General Services Department Facilities Management Division Director George Morgan (standing/ top center, at left), NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox (standing next to Mr. Morgan), and NMDVS Cemetery Program Director Tom Wagner (standing next to Secretary Fox) listen to a veteran at the April 28 veterans town hall meeting in Carlsbad.*

Carlsbad veterans spanning several service eras packed the Carlsbad Public Library for a Veterans town hall meeting hosted by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services on April 28.

The veterans came to hear NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox, NMDVS Cemetery Program Director Tom Wagner, General Services Department Facilities Management Division Director George Morgan, New Mexico VA Health Care Services Director Andrew Welch, and New Mexico VA Regional Office Director Tim Love answer any questions about the proposed Carlsbad state veterans cemetery and any other veterans issues.

The meeting began with an update on the cemetery, which is one of four sites approved for construction by the VA through the state's Veterans Cemetery Program launched by Governor Susana Martinez to build rural-area veterans cemeteries in the state.

**"Carlsbad is going to have a cemetery. There's no two ways about that. We are currently in the initial stages,"** said Mr. Wagner. **"That's our promise to you. We will maintain it according to VA standards. You'll have the same requirements for eligibility. We will do everything possible to make sure that it is going to be a place befitting of fallen veterans who have sacrificed to serve our country."**

The plan calls for the cemetery to be built in the undeveloped northeast corner the existing of Sunset Gardens Memorial Cemetery. Mr. Morgan said the initial process of transferring ownership of the land from the city to the county is already underway.

**"It's a complicated process—one that we have strict guidelines which we have to follow,"** said Mr. Morgan. **"Right now, we're about 75% finished with this first step. We've done the appraisal. We've finished the phase one environmental study. This past March, we did the survey of the property. There's plenty we still have to do before the land is transferred to the state,"** he said.

*(continued)*

Mr. Morgan said after the land is transferred, the next step will be receiving formal approval from the federal government to move forward with the next phase—putting out bidding for the design of the cemetery, which is about 12-18 months away. Once this phase is completed, then the next step would be the selecting of a contractor.

**“We are progressing on schedule,” reiterated NMDVS Secretary Fox to the crowd. “Please be patient. Right now we have to make sure land is free and clear...no encumbrances. We have to make sure that legally the land can be separated from the Sunset Cemetery. That’s the first important step.”**

The latter part of the evening was devoted to question and answers about VA benefits. Mr. Welch and Mr. Love addressed some general questions before meeting privately with veterans to discuss more personal issues.

**“I was very pleased with the strong turnout and input from the crowd,” said Secretary Fox afterwards. “Bottom line: Carlsbad will be getting a cemetery. It’s going to take some time, but it will be built.”**



*NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox (left photo, top/center), New Mexico VA Health Care System Andrew Welch (right photo/standing at right), and New Mexico VA Regional Office Director Tim Love (right photo/standing at left) answered questions about VA and other veterans’ benefits. They were also joined by staff members to meet privately with veterans after the town hall meeting.*



**(Bottom Two Photos):** *Prior to the town hall meeting, veterans were treated to a free BBQ courtesy of the United Way of Southern Eddy County and CNG Catering of Carlsbad.*

# Bataan Memorial Day Observed in Annual Albuquerque & Santa Fe Ceremonies



*Attending the April 9 Bataan Memorial Day Ceremony in Santa Fe were (from L to R): Former Philippine Scout and Bataan Death March Survivor Atilano David, Ann Overmier, former Corregidor Prisoner-of-War Bill Overmier, and former Bataan Death March Survivor Ralph Rodriguez.*

The 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the infamous Bataan Death March of World War II was observed at ceremonies in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

On April 9, the New Mexico National Guard held its annual Santa Fe tribute at the Eternal Flame Monument in front of the Bataan Memorial Building. Bataan Death March survivors Ralph Rodriguez, Atilano David, and former Corregidor Prisoner-of-War William Overmier were in attendance.

Members of the New Mexico National Guard Color Guard lowered the American Flag—and raised a white “surrender flag” to commemorate the day 74 years ago—April 9, 1942-- when Allied forces surrendered to Japan on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. On that date, U.S. General Edward King ordered his troops to surrender to the much larger and better-equipped Japanese force. More than 75,000 Allied soldiers were

taken prisoner, including 1,800 members of the New Mexico National Guard—which had been six months into a training exercise when Japan attacked.

The prisoners were then forced to march sixty torture-filled miles to prison camps. Many died or were executed along the way. Those that survived the march, which became known as the **Bataan Death March**, then endured 3-1/2 years of brutal imprisonment. Less than half of the New Mexicans were alive by the time Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945—thus ending World War II.

New Mexico Adjutant General Andrew Salas, Deputy Adjutant General Juan Griego, and New Mexico National Guard Chief of Staff COL Ken Nava were among the more than three dozen national guard personnel in attendance. New Mexico Department of **Veterans’ Services Secretary Jack Fox was among the dignitaries who joined them and members of the public to pay tribute to those who defended the Bataan Peninsula. Secretary Fox had the honor of reading the official Bataan Memorial Day Proclamation on behalf of Governor Susana Martinez, who was also unable to attend due to a previously-scheduled commitment.**

**“I hereby proclaim today as Bataan Remembrance Day throughout the state in honor of the brave New Mexicans who suffered in the name of freedom,” read Secretary Fox. “America will forever remember these Heroes of Bataan. We will always be in awe of how they relied on their extraordinary strength and spirit to survive— enduring tremendous suffering so that we would remain free.” (continued)**



*NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox reads the Bataan Memorial Day Proclamation issued by Governor Susana Martinez at the April 9 Bataan Memorial Day Ceremony in Santa Fe.*

## **Albuquerque Ceremony**

On April 2, NMDVS Secretary Fox and New Mexico Adjutant General Salas were among the dignitaries attending the annual Bataan Remembrance Day ceremony in Albuquerque presented by the Filipino-American Foundation of New Mexico at the city's Bataan Memorial Park. Secretary Fox also had the honor of reading the Governor's Bataan Memorial Day Proclamation.

Mr. Overmier, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. David, were joined by Bataan Death March Survivor Ernest Montoya—with the latter two helping with the ceremonial raising and lowering the White Flag of Surrender.



*New Mexico Army National Guard SFC Ray Chavez lights a candle at the April 9 Bataan Ceremony in Santa Fe in honor of those who valiantly fought to defend the Bataan Peninsula against Japanese attackers during the early stages of World War II.*



*At the April 2 Bataan Memorial Day ceremony in Albuquerque, a ceremonial White Flag of Surrender was raised at the beginning of the ceremony and taken down at the end to commemorate the forced surrender of the more than 75,000 Allied troops to Japanese forces on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines on April 9, 1942.*



*New Mexico National Guard State Command Sgt. Major Greg Ivey (at left) and former Corregidor Prisoner-of-War Bill Overmier helped lay a ceremonial wreath dedicated to those who valiantly fought on the Bataan Peninsula.*

*A similar ceremonial raising and lowering was also featured in the April 9 Santa Fe ceremony*

## NMDVS Relocates its Field Office in Grants



**Tyrra Saavedra NMDVS**  
*Veterans' Service Officer*

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) has moved its field office in the city of Grants to the Cibola County Administration Offices Building, located at 515 East High Street.

NMDVS Veterans Services Officer Tyrra Saavedra is available to help veterans and their families in Suite "C" of the city offices complex. Walk-ins are always welcome, but due to a busy off-site outreach schedule, those seeking assistance with filing for their U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or state veterans' benefits are urged to make an appointment by contacting Ms. Saavedra at [tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us](mailto:tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us) or (505) 287-8387.

"Our new location provides us a better opportunity to serve the veterans and their dependents in the Grants area," said NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox. "It is centrally located and should make for a much better experience for those who need our services."

According to the latest data from the VA, more than 2,100 veterans live in Cibola County, ranking it 20<sup>th</sup> for veteran population among the state's 33 counties.

## NMDVS, City of Santa Fe to Host Veterans Benefits Fair on June 25



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) and the City of Santa Fe will host a Santa Fe Veterans Benefits & Resources Fair on June 25 from 10am-4pm at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center, located at 3221 W. Rodeo Road.

Military veterans, National Guard/Reserve component/transitioning active duty military personnel are invited to attend and meet representatives from the NMDVS and other local, state and federal agencies to learn VA health care/rural VA health care clinics, the G.I. Education Benefits Bill, employment and small business help for veterans, property tax exemptions for veterans, hunting/fishing/camping/museum discounts for veterans, transportation to VA health care clinics and the VA hospital in Albuquerque—and many more programs and services available for veterans and their families.



*City of Santa Fe*

"This is a great opportunity for veterans in Santa Fe and the surrounding counties to get information about their benefits," said NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox, who will be on hand to welcome veterans and their families. "A lot of agencies will be here under one roof—making it easy for veterans to gather as much information as they can from agencies who are committed to helping veterans and their families."

For more information, contact NMDVS Event Planner & Coordinator Joesetta Rodriguez at [joesetta.rodriguez@state.nm.us](mailto:joesetta.rodriguez@state.nm.us) or (505) 827-6365.

## NMDVS Among Hosting Agencies for Upcoming *Metro Public Safety/Recruitment Day*

More than seventy local, state, and federal public safety and law enforcement agencies are scheduled to be at the Eighth Annual *Metro Public Safety/Recruitment Day* on May 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Albuquerque at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

The free event is presented by the New Mexico Department of **Veterans' Services**, **The New Mexico Rural Veterans Coordination Program**, The New Mexico National Guard, the City of Albuquerque, and KOB-TV. Many of the participating agencies will also be looking to fill job vacancies. Military veterans are strongly encouraged to attend and bring their résumés.



Families are invited to visit the dozens of hands-on law enforcement and public safety exhibits and equipment on display. *Safer New Mexico* will present free car seat clinics to educate the proper installation and use of infant and toddler car seats. The New Mexico Fire and Police Bagpipes will give a special performance, and also on hand will be the Friends of Smokey Bear, a group which educates the public on the dangers of forest fires.

For more information, contact New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Health Specialist Joseph Dorn at [josephm.dorn@state.nm.us](mailto:josephm.dorn@state.nm.us) or (505) 383-2414.

## NM Veterans Business Outreach Center to Present Business Development Workshop in Portales



Military veterans and National Guard/Reserve/transitioning active-duty service members in the Portales/Clovis area who are interested in starting or expanding their own business are invited to a free business development lunch workshop on May 11 from 11:30am-1pm at the historic Yam Theater in Portales, located at 219 South Main Street.

Spouses are also invited to attend. A free hot lunch will be provided for all. The workshop is part of the ongoing *On the Road* series of business development workshops for veterans presented by the VBOC—the business development division of the New Mexico Department of

**Veterans' Services**—along with partnering agencies the U.S. Small Business Administration, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the SBDC Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), and Wells Fargo Bank. For this workshop, the Portales/Roosevelt County and the Clovis/Curry County Chambers of Commerce are also co-sponsors—along with Portales Main Street, the Roosevelt County Community Development Corporation, and the Clovis Industrial Development Corporation.

“Walk-ins” are welcome, but pre-registration is strongly recommended by contacting the Portales/Roosevelt County Chamber of Commerce at (575) 356-8541, [chamber@portales.com](mailto:chamber@portales.com), or online at [www.portales.com](http://www.portales.com). You can also contact the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce at (575) 763-3435 or [events@clovisnm.org](mailto:events@clovisnm.org).

# Annual “Run For The Wall” Cross-Country Motorcycle Riders Set to Roll Through NM May 19-21



*(Photos are of riders in previous “Run For The Wall” routes through New Mexico)*

Hundreds of motorcycle riders are expected to rumble through New Mexico on May 19, 20, and 21 as part of the annual **Run for the Wall** cross-country motorcycle ride to Memorial Day weekend activities in Washington, D.C. The ride honors the memory of military personnel Killed in Action (KIA) and those still listed as Missing in Action (MIA).

The ride featuring three cross-country routes begins May 18 in southern California—about an hour east of Los Angeles. As the riders make their way towards our nation’s capital, they will enter New Mexico on the following dates and along the following routes: (The public is encouraged to cheer the riders as they arrive, and attend ceremonies and events).

## **Southern Route**

Riders traveling through the Southern Route will arrive along Interstate 10 on May 19 in Deming, where they are scheduled to make a 4:50pm gas stop at the Savoy Truck Stop, located at the Hwy I-10/Hwy 418 interchange (Exit 68). The riders will continue on to Las Cruces, where they will stop for the night. There will be a 7pm dinner at the Barnett’s Las Cruces Harley-Davidson store located at Interstate 10 and Avenida de Mesilla. The dinner will be donated by Andale’s Restaurant from nearby Mesilla. The following morning (May 20), the riders will stop for a free breakfast at American Legion Post 10 and then head for the Las Cruces Veterans’ Memorial Park for a special wreath-laying ceremony before departing on Interstate 10 for Texas. For more information about the Southern Route through New Mexico, contact Keelan Banks at (575) 635-0065.

## **Central Route**

Riders traveling along the Central Route will also enter the state on May 19 traveling along Interstate 40 and are scheduled to arrive in Gallup at 3:30pm, where they will parade through the city on the way to the Red Rock Park for a **Gathering of Veterans** ceremony at 3:45pm. Dinner will be provided at 5pm by the city of Gallup. Riders are responsible for securing their own fuel and overnight lodging.



The following day (May 20), after a free breakfast at the Red Rock 10 Theater donated by the City of Gallup, riders will depart Gallup at 8am and are scheduled to stop for gas at 10:15am at the Route 66 Casino west of Albuquerque, where free gas will be provided courtesy of Thunderbird Harley-Davidson of Albuquerque. They then head north on Interstate 25 and are scheduled to arrive at 12:45 for a gas stop and lunch at the Camel Rock Casino just north of Santa Fe on Highway 84/285. The gas and lunch will be provided by the casino.

*(continued)*



The riders then head to the State Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Angel Fire, where they will gather for a scheduled 4:15 p.m. group photo. They will then head for dinner at the nearby Eagle Nest Senior Center—courtesy of the town of Eagle Nest. Riders are responsible for securing their own fuel and overnight lodging.

The following morning (May 21), riders will enjoy a free breakfast at the Eagle Nest Senior Center before departing at 7:30am for Raton—stopping for gas at 8:45am at the Conoco station and receive free gas and refreshments courtesy of Tim Trujillo and the *Independent Riders of Raton*. The riders will then leave the state and continue

their journey through Colorado. For more information about the Central Route, contact Jim “Ice Scout” King at (928) 871-4385.

### Midway Route

Riders along the Midway Route will enter New Mexico on May 19 riding on Interstate 40. They’re scheduled to make their first stop in Jamestown for fuel at 11:50 a.m. They will then stop for lunch at 1:20 p.m. in the town of Milan, at Milan Elementary school—food courtesy of Cibola County, the Town of Milan and other local donors. They are scheduled to make a fuel stop at the Route 66 Casino at approximately 3:45 p.m. and arrive in the heart of Albuquerque by 5 p.m. for dinner at the Ramada Inn/Hotel Circle. Riders will spend the night in Albuquerque and are responsible for securing their own lodging. The following morning (May 20), the riders will gather for a free breakfast at the Rich Ford auto dealership before depart eastbound on I-40 and are scheduled to arrive in Santa Rosa by 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the Blue Hole Center organized by American Legion Post 36. After lunch, the riders then depart for Amarillo, TX, where they are scheduled to spend the night. For more information about the Midway Route through New Mexico or the Bike Build Program, contact Chris Timm at (505) 238-8174 or [bigchris41@aol.com](mailto:bigchris41@aol.com).

## 3,100 Mile Warrior Expedition Hike Kicks Off in New Mexico

New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services Veterans Service Officer Bradley Brock (*front, in black shirt*) and NMDVS Rural Veterans Coordination Program SW Region Coordinator Angelina Trujillo (*seated next to Mr. Brock*) were part of a local kickoff of the 3,100-mile Continental Divide Trail Hike. The Grant County-based NMDVS duo met a five-man group of hikers passing through Lordsburg on April 27. Mr. Brock and Ms. Trujillo also helped clean up their gear, arrange local lodging, and help arrange for home-cooked meals.

The five hikers are all veterans who are hiking the Continental Divide Trail as part of the Warrior Expedition’s multi-trail long distance hiking expedition designed to assist veterans transitioning from military service—and “walk off the war.” Standing behind Mr. Brock and Ms. Trujillo are: John Harrah (U.S. Navy veteran), Clinton Greer (U. S. Army), John Maxwell (U.S. Army), Wade Stover (U.S. Army), and Justin Wilson (USMC). The trek began near the U.S./Mexico border and ends in Glacier National Park in the Montana/Canada border. More information about the hike can be found at [www.warriorexpeditions.org](http://www.warriorexpeditions.org).



## NMDVS Rural Veterans Coordination Program to Host Benefits/Resources Fair in Ft. Sumner

The Rural Veterans Coordination Program division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (NMDVS) will host a Ft. Sumner/De Baca County Veterans Resources Fair on May 11 from 9am-3pm at the Ft. Sumner Public Library, located at 235 West Sumner Avenue.

For more information, contact NMDVS Rural Veterans Coordination Program SE Region Coordinator Jim Cassidy at [jamesm.cassidy@state.nm.us](mailto:jamesm.cassidy@state.nm.us) or (505) 228-3024.



The NMDVS is also planning on hosting similar benefits & resources fairs in other communities in New Mexico later this year. More details will be released in future editions of *The Guardian* and through the media.

## NMDVS' RVCP, Women Veterans of New Mexico to Offer Women Veterans Retreats



The Rural Veterans Coordination Program division of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, *Women Veterans of New Mexico*, and the Mountain Gate Samonji are presenting unique women-only retreats for women military veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Partners/significant others are also eligible to attend.

**These free "regaining balance" retreats intend to teach** women veterans diagnosed with PTSD and women partners of veterans diagnosed with

PTSD tools that may help them reduce stress and find greater balance in their lives. These tools include special calming breath practices, journaling, art therapy, yoga or tai chi, and learning to use the natural world and physical exercise as mediators of emotional challenges through walks in the surrounding wilderness of the Mountain Gate retreat located in the Carson National Forest.

The first retreat is currently underway (May 4-8). The next retreats are scheduled for August 17-21 and October 26-30 for women veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress. There is also one weekend retreat for wives/female partners of vets with PTSD on June 3-5. All retreats begin at 6 pm on the opening date and end late afternoon on the closing date.

Retreats for women veterans are four days long and at this time are limited to four women participants in addition to our all-volunteer female staff. Retreats for wives and female partners of vets with PTSD begin Friday evenings and go through to Sunday late afternoon of the same weekend. Partner/spouses retreats are limited to six participants plus staff.

For more information and to apply/register, call (505) 404-0800 or go to [www.regainingbalance.org/index.html](http://www.regainingbalance.org/index.html).

# Veterans Wellness Center in Angel Fire Seeks Couples for PTS Retreats



The National Veterans Wellness and Healing Center in Angel Fire is offering free week-long retreats for couples which have a veteran, Guard, Reserve, or active-duty members diagnosed with PTS (Post-Traumatic Stress). These unique retreats combine traditional therapies with non-traditional healing methods such as Native American healing ceremonies, equine training, massage, yoga, aroma therapy, acupuncture, art therapy, reiki, and couples/group counseling sessions.

According to the center, the beautiful natural setting in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains is the perfect location to bring couples to where nature can assist with the healing process. The retreats are kept to a limited number of couples to ensure an intimate and relaxed healing experience.

All meals and lodging are also free. The couples need only to provide their own transportation to and from the center. The dates for the next retreats are May 22-29 and June 22-29. Additional retreats are planned for the summer and fall. For more information and to register, go to <http://veteranswellnessandhealing.org/> or call (575) 224-4848.



## Veterans With Post-Traumatic Stress Invited to Attend Christian-Based *Warrior Wash* Workshop

The Southern Rockies Educational Center invites veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress to attend a seven-day Warrior Wash Workshop—which addresses post-combat stresses from a Christian perspective. This unique retreat is from June 5-12 at the Southern Rockies Camp and Retreat Center located in Sacramento, New Mexico (in the Sacramento Mountains, near Cloudcroft). The retreat concludes with a special Purification Ceremony.



Transportation is available from Albuquerque to the retreat site. All meals and lodging are provided free to veterans. There is a \$50 registration fee that is refunded at the sign-in desk on the first day of the retreat.

For more information visit, go to [www.thewarriorwash.com](http://www.thewarriorwash.com) or contact Warrior Wash Director David Bachelor at (505) 492-0963.



## Memorial Day to Be Observed in Communities Throughout New Mexico

Memorial Day will be observed in ceremonies throughout New Mexico. As a courtesy for the veterans and citizens of the state, the New Mexico **Department of Veterans' Services is compiling its annual list of statewide Memorial Day Ceremonies.**

This year, Memorial Day falls on May 30. The department is asking veterans to e-mail information about Memorial Day/Weekend ceremonies and activities in your area. This information will be sent to **the statewide media, New Mexico's congressional delegation, and the Governor's Office.**



Please e-mail the following information to NMDVS Public Information Officer Ray Seva at [ray.seva@state.nm.us](mailto:ray.seva@state.nm.us):

- City
- venue
- time of event
- address of venue
- nature of event (i.e. parade/ceremony/concert/BBQ, etc.)
- sponsor of event (i.e. VFW/American Legion Chapter, city of Santa Fe, Elks Lodge, etc.)
- point of contact (POC)
- POC's phone number and E-mail address

### KNME-TV to Air Memorial Day Programming

KNME-TV--New Mexico's only Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) station--will air several special programs on Memorial Day & Memorial Day weekend in honor of all men and women who have died **while serving our country...and all those who have served in our military.**

KNME-TV can be found on channel 5.1 , or Ch.9.1 (KNMD-also seen on Comcast Ch.204 HD)  
Programs are listed in *chronological* order.

#### **Sunday (5/29)**

#### **BATAAN 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

Ch. 5.1 - 6:00 p.m.

On December 15, 2011, honoring the 70th anniversary of the fall of Bataan and the subsequent death march, Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) proposed S .2004, legislation to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II. The next day, Congressman Martin Heinrich (D-NM) proposed its counterpart in the House of Representatives H.R. 3712. One inspiration for this action was the documentary TRAGEDY OF BATAAN. New Mexico PBS produced a program with some of the NM survivors of the surrenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and incorporated the original documentary TRAGEDY OF BATAAN.

*(continued)*

**NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT 2016**

Ch. 5.1 - Sunday 5/29 at 7:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Ch. 9.1 - Monday 5/30 at 7:00 p.m.

Join co-hosts Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna for the 27th broadcast of this night of remembrance honoring the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home and all those who have given their lives for our country. This concert is presented from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, before an audience of hundreds of thousands, millions at home, and to our troops around the world via American Forces Network.

**Monday (5/30–Memorial Day)****NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT 2016**

Ch. 9.1 - 7:00 p.m.

Join co-hosts Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna for the 27th broadcast of this night of remembrance honoring the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families at home and all those who have given their lives for our country.

**TED TALKS “War & Peace”**

Ch. 5.1 - 8:00 p.m.

Join those who have experienced war -- fighters, journalists, psychologists and more, to learn how it affects everyone. Hear extraordinary, passionate talks and performances from Adam Driver, Rufus Wainwright, Sebastian Junger and many more vital voices

**SANDS OF WAR**

Ch. 9.1 - 8:30 p.m.

Using both current and rare archival footage, this program recounts the forgotten story of the Desert Training Center, established in the Mojave Desert by General George Patton to prepare one million soldiers to fight in World War II.

**POV: Of Men & War**

Ch. 5.1 - 9:00 p.m.

At a first-of-its-kind PTSD treatment center in California, follow Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families on their paths to recovery as they attempt to make peace with their pasts, their loved ones and themselves.

**HEROES ON DECK**

Ch. 9.1 - 9:00 p.m.

This documentary sheds light on a little-known training operation conducted by the U.S. Navy on Lake Michigan during World War II. Between 1942 and 1945, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy trained nearly 15,000 pilots, including 41st President George H.W. Bush, to land and take off from two makeshift aircraft carriers - the Sealandbee and Greater Buffalo - in the safety of landlocked Lake Michigan. These freshwater "flattops," converted from two vintage, side-wheeled, coal-fired passenger steamers, were unlike anything in the fleet and the training program was not without hazards.

There were many crashes including some fatal accidents. As a result, more than 100 classic WWII fighters and dive bombers sank to the bottom of Lake Michigan, preserved in the lake's frigid, oxygen-deprived depths. It wasn't until the late 1970s, that interest in resurrecting the WWII fighters surfaced, and with the approval of the U.S. Navy, a skilled team of professionals developed the tools and techniques to locate and recover the forgotten warplanes. Using deep-water divers, side-scan sonar, and remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROV's), many of the planes have been recovered, raised, and restored over the course of the past 30 years. These efforts continue today.

*(continued)*

**SKY BLUE SE**

Ch. 9.1 - 10:00 p.m.

This program captures the excitement, the exhilaration, the celebration and the poignant tragedies of the bold and daring, in Long Beach, California—in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Blessed by nature with abundantly clear blue skies and the deep blue sea, Long Beach was home to many of the most significant developments and accomplishments in America's naval and aviation histories. From 1910 to 1990, Long Beach naval and aviation activities made worldwide headlines and featured the most famous entrepreneurs, aviators, pioneers and daredevils.

Warm weather and coastal fascination enticed presidents such as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan...all of whom encouraged U.S. Navy expansion in Long Beach. The sky was no limit for the adventurous but rather a proving ground for pilots and pioneers like Amelia Earhart, Howard Hughes, Charles Lindbergh, William Randolph Hearst, Donald Douglas and many more.

**IN HER BOOTS**

Ch. 5.1 - 10:30 p.m.

Ten female veterans share their stories about their service. Their stories range from light and reflective, to revealing and personal.

**INDEPENDENT LENS “My Nazi Legacy: What Our Fathers Did”**

Ch. 5.1 – Sat., 5/7 at 10:00 pm

Meet the sons of two Nazi war criminals who jointly were responsible for thousands of deaths. Through frank interviews, the men reflect on their fathers' character and crimes and on the price of forgiveness.

**NOVA “Bombing Hitler's Supergun”**

Ch. 5.1 – Wed. 5/11 at 8:00 pm & Sun. May 15 at 10:00 am

Ch. 9.1 – Fri., 5/13 at 7:00 am & again at 1:00 pm; Sat. 5/14 at 8:00 pm

In the spring of 1943, Hitler hatched plans for a diabolical "supergun" in an effort to turn the tide of the war back in his favor. Now, follow historians and engineers as they retrace how such a weapon could work ... and how it could be destroyed.

**NAZI MEGA WEAPONS “Blitzkrieg”**

Ch. 5.1 – Wed., 5/11 at 9:00 pm & Sun. May 15 at 11:00 am

Ch. 9.1 – Sat. 5/14 at 9:00 pm

In the first two years of the war, Hitler's Germany crushes its enemies in a series of lightning offensives. A new word is coined to describe this incredible string of successes; 'Blitzkrieg' or 'Lightning War'. First the Stuka bombers blast a path through enemy lines, then the Panzer divisions cut through enemy defenses at speed. Together they're unstoppable. Hitler has the utmost confidence in the technical prowess and tactical genius of his new fighting machine. Blitzkrieg takes the Nazis to the brink of victory.

# 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War to be Commemorated in Santa Fe Ceremony



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War will be commemorated at a 10 a.m. ceremony on June 18 in Santa Fe at the Santa Fe Veterans Memorial.

An initiative issued was directed by the Secretary of Defense in 2008 to create a nationwide effort to honor America's Vietnam War veterans and commemorate the 50th anniversary of our country's involvement in the war from November, 1955, to May 15, 1975. A 2012 Presidential Proclamation extended the commemoration through Veterans Day, 2025.

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services State Cemetery Program Director and Vietnam War veteran Thomas Wagner is serving as the State Chairman of New Mexico's Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration ceremony—which is being presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, the American Legion Riders Chapter 26, the Santa Fe National Cemetery, the Santa Fe Vet Center, and the New Mexico Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

According to the nationwide initiative, the commemoration recognizes those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. VA data indicates more than nine million Americans served in the military during this war era. The commemorative effort makes no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War era. All answered the call of duty. For more information about this special ceremony, contact NMDVS Event Planner/Coordinator Josetta Rodriguez at [Josetta.rodriguez@state.nm.us](mailto:Josetta.rodriguez@state.nm.us).

## Public Invited to Special WWII Reenactments at the New Mexico National Guard Museum



The New Mexico National Guard invites the public to attend free World War II Living History Reenactments on Friday, May 13 from 1-4p.m. and Saturday, May 14 from 9a.m.-6p.m. at the New Mexico National Guard Museum in Santa Fe.

The museum is located at 1050 Old Santa Fe Trail, next to the Santa Fe Children's Museum and the Center for Contemporary Arts.

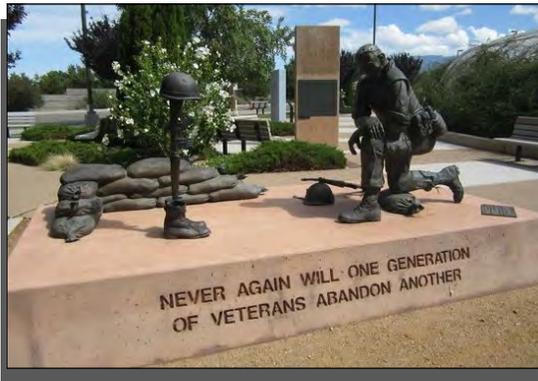
In addition to WWII Allied Forces and Axis camps, there will be weapons and

fully-restored military vehicles. Authentically-dressed "re-enactors" will also discuss life on the battle fronts.



There will also be 1940-themed special events and displays at the Children's Museum, and screenings of 1940's movies at the Center for Contemporary Arts. (Normal admission rates will apply.) More information can be found at [www.bataanmuseum.com](http://www.bataanmuseum.com).

# Free Monument-Cleaning Workshop Offered to Service Organizations and Individuals



The city of Albuquerque has obtained the services of a world class Monument Curator to develop a monument maintenance program for all of the monuments in the city of Albuquerque.

The curator is willing to share his expertise in how to properly clean, polish, and care for memorials with service organizations or individuals who are in possession of or are in charge of the **maintenance of veterans' memorials**. He will give a free maintenance training session on May 13 from 1p.m. to 4p.m. at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, located in Albuquerque at 1100 Louisiana Boulevard SE.

Lessons learned in the workshop will be put to use on May 20 at the popular New Mexico Veterans Memorial site itself—but anyone who maintains a memorial site is invited to attend the workshop. Please RSVP by contacting Beth Hemmerich at (505) 256-2042.



## ***Got a Veteran-Related Event Coming Up?? Let us Know. We'll Help Spread the Word.***

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) is happy to help get the word out through *The Guardian* about upcoming veteran-related events in your community.

Please provide all pertinent information—such as name of event, sponsor/presenter, date, time, venue, admission cost (if any), purpose of event, flyers, news releases, etc.—as well as a phone number or E-mail address of a person to be published as a point-of-contact for further information.

Please E-mail all information to [ray.seva@state.nm.us](mailto:ray.seva@state.nm.us)—ensuring that it is sent in a timely manner.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

Publication of an event in *The Guardian* is done solely as a “community service” for New Mexico’s veteran population. Unless stated, the NMDVS does not assume partnerships with organizations—or indicate responsibility of any event sent for publication in *The Guardian*. Responsibility for the purpose or staging of an event lies solely with the source sending event notifications to the NMDVS.

Publication of an event in *The Guardian* does not necessarily reflect an endorsement by the NMDVS or the state of New Mexico. The NMDVS will not publish any event notifications sent without a Point-of-Contact and supporting contact information.

The NMDVS reserves the right to withhold publication of an event.

# NMDVS FIELD OFFICES

There are seventeen field offices of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services offices throughout the state to assist veterans and their eligible dependents with filing for VA and state veterans benefits. Each office is managed by a nationally-certified *Veterans' Service Officer* who is committed to helping fellow veterans with filing for the benefits earned through their service and sacrifice for our country.

Please contact your nearest office to set up an appointment. For additional information, you can also contact the main NMDVS office in Santa Fe toll-free at 1-(866) 433-8387 or by visiting our website at [www.dvs.state.nm.us](http://www.dvs.state.nm.us) and going to the FIELD OFFICES link.

<b>ALAMOGORDO</b>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #1</b>	<b>ALBUQUERQUE #2</b>
Tony Woodards 411 10th Street # 107 Alamogordo, NM 88310 (575) 437-4635 <a href="mailto:anthony.woodards@state.nm.us">anthony.woodards@state.nm.us</a>	Jeff George 500 Gold Ave. SW Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505) 346-4810 <a href="mailto:jeff.george@state.nm.us">jeff.george@state.nm.us</a>	Gordon Schei 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87113 (505) 383-2404 <a href="mailto:gordon.schei@state.nm.us">gordon.schei@state.nm.us</a>
<b>CARLSBAD</b>	<b>CLOVIS</b>	<b>FARMINGTON</b>
Dagmar Youngberg 101 N. Halagueno Carlsbad, NM 88220 (575) 885-4939 <a href="mailto:dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us">dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us</a>	Matthew Barela 904 W. 6th Street Clovis, NM 88101 (575) 762-6185 <a href="mailto:matthew.barela@state.nm.us">matthew.barela@state.nm.us</a>	Beverly Charley 101 West Animas Room #104 Farmington, NM 88401 (505) 327-2861 <a href="mailto:beverly.charley@state.nm.us">beverly.charley@state.nm.us</a>
<b>GALLUP</b>	<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>HOBBS</b>
Tyrra Saavedra 908 E. Buena Vista Ave. Gallup, NM (505) 863-7457 <a href="mailto:tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us">tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us</a>	Tyrra Saavedra 515 E. High Street/Suite C Grants, NM 87020 (505) 287-8387 <a href="mailto:tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us">tyrra.saavedra@state.nm.us</a>	Dalton Boyd 2120 N. Alto Street Hobbs, NM 88240 (575) 397-5290 <a href="mailto:dalton.boyd@state.nm.us">dalton.boyd@state.nm.us</a>
<b>LAS CRUCES #1 &amp; #2</b>	<b>LAS VEGAS</b>	<b>LOS LUNAS</b>
J.R. Turner; George Vargas 2024 E. Griggs Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001 (575) 524-6220; 524-6124 <a href="mailto:jr.turner@state.nm.us">jr.turner@state.nm.us</a> ; <a href="mailto:george.vargas@state.nm.us">george.vargas@state.nm.us</a>	Karen Abeyta 917 Douglas Avenue Las Vegas, NM 87701 (505) 454-0068 <a href="mailto:karen.abeyta@state.nm.us">karen.abeyta@state.nm.us</a>	Theresa Zuni 1000 Main St. Cottage # 4 Los Lunas, NM 87031 (505) 841-5346 <a href="mailto:theresa.zuni@state.nm.us">theresa.zuni@state.nm.us</a>
<b>RATON</b>	<b>RIO RANCHO</b>	<b>ROSWELL</b>
Gary Fresquez 200 N. 3rd St. Raton, NM 87740 (575) 445-8282 <a href="mailto:gary.fresquez@state.nm.us">gary.fresquez@state.nm.us</a>	<i>The NMDVS is relocating its Rio Rancho Office. Please call the Albuquerque offices for assistance.</i>	Richard Moncrief 1600 SE Main St./Suite A Roswell, NM 88203 (575) 624-6086 <a href="mailto:richard.moncrief@state.nm.us">richard.moncrief@state.nm.us</a>
<b>SANTA FE</b>	<b>SILVER CITY</b>	<b>TAOS</b>
<i>The NMDVS Santa Fe Office is open Mondays &amp; Fridays. On these days, please call (505) 827-6355</i> <a href="mailto:Jeff.George@state.nm.us">Jeff. George@state.nm.us</a>	Bradley Brock 1211 North Hudson Silver City, NM 88061 (575) 538-2377 <a href="mailto:bradleya.brock@state.nm.us">bradleya.brock@state.nm.us</a>	Michael Pacheco 120 Civic Plaza Taos, NM 87571 (575) 758-9624 <a href="mailto:michael.pacheco1@state.nm.us">michael.pacheco1@state.nm.us</a>