

Nebraska Veterans Coalition



Leading the way for Nebraska's Veterans

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A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 4, Issue 11, November 1, 2023, Newsletter

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition Mission

WHAT WE DO AND WHAT OUR GOALS ARE

The Nebraska Veteran's Coalition is a non-partisan or bi-partisan group. It was formed to bring awareness to veterans about what is going on in the Nebraska Unicameral related to veteran-related legislation and its status regarding Veteran benefits.

For those who feel a friend would like to see this information, just forward it.

Our goal is to provide veteran-related information, keeping veterans updated on Veterans' News

Please join our Facebook group page, because it has many interesting posts. You can post to it and encourage your Veterans Service organization to post veterans' events and other information on our Facebook page (Nebraska Veterans Coalition). "Friend us," View our Website- www.NebraskaVeterans.org and follow Twitter (X) @VetsCoalitionNE

See our mission statement on our website!

Our website has considerable information on it. John Stewart does awesome with the site for us.
www.NebraskaVeterans.org

Thank You,
Dean Kenkel

We do not solicit or accept funding/donations for our efforts.

Join our
Newsletter



Find our
Website



[Open To America's #1 Veterans Magazine](#)

[The Grapevine](#)

[Click on Publication of Your Choice](#)

<https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

Find the previous Nebraska Veterans Coalition Newsletters here

[Joe Trader: 22 Heartbeats & Tom Brewer: From Army Ranger to Nebraska State Senator](#)

In this rough but important interview, I discuss with Senator Brewer his experiences growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, his military service, time in war, his service to his community and what he believes are some of the reasons behind finding success after military service.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svi1ii1dfoc>



[Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

NDVA Twitter https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

NDVA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs/>

[Benefits and Services Overview](#)

Part of our mission is to help veterans identify and access benefits. There is a wide range of county, state, and federal benefits related to education, employment, finance, health care, housing, legal assistance, recreation, taxes, and more. Use our Benefits Expert to help guide you to the benefits you're interested in or learn about some of the most-used benefits. If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to contact your County Veterans' Service Officer or a State Service Officer.

[Nebraska Veterans' Gateway](#)

Welcome to your gateway to career and employment resources for Nebraska veterans.

[Nebraska Veterans' Homes](#)

Nebraska's state veterans' homes offer top-of-the-line domiciliary, intermediate, and skilled nursing care for the men and women who have served our country, as well as eligible family members.

[Military & Veterans' Registry Application](#)

Applicants must submit a DD-214 or NGB-22 indicating the length and character of services.

[Newsletter & Events](#)

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/news>

MORE

NDVA Receives VA Grant for Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island, Groundbreaking Nov. 10

The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs (NDVA) has awarded \$2.5 million to the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation to go towards the construction of its Vietnam War Memorial in Papillion.

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/ndva-awards-25m-grant-vietnam-war-memorial>

Other VA social media:

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#) [Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaIowaVA/>

Contact the Governor

Cabinet

Connect with the Governor

[Subscribe for Text or Email Updates](#)

Lincoln Office/State Capitol:

Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 94848

Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Phone: 402-471-2244

Fax: 402-471-6031

Email: [Gov. Pillen at the State Capitol](#)

[Contact the Governor | Office of Governor Jim Pillen \(nebraska.gov\)](#)

Cabinet

[Cabinet | Office of Governor Jim Pillen \(nebraska.gov\)](#)

Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development

[Home - Nebraska Department of Economic Development](#)

Our Mission: to provide quality leadership and services that enable Nebraska's communities, businesses, and people to succeed in a global economy. Ask about moving here, living here, starting a business here, growing a business here.

Nebraska Department of Labor

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/>

The state agency responsible for administering laws and rules governing the employment relationship is to serve, promote, and advocate for economic development, job growth, and quality of life in the state of Nebraska.

Nebraska Department of Revenue

[Nebraska Department of Revenue](#)

The state agency responsible for serving the public by administering the state revenue laws with integrity, efficiency, and consistency.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

[Department of Health and Human Services \(ne.gov\)](#)

The state agency "Helping people live better lives" provides the motivation to make a difference. Educate and protect people through public health activities like ensuring clean and safe drinking water and e-license and certify all health care professionals. Touch our state's most vulnerable citizens. Assists the elderly, low-income, and those with disabilities; provides safety to abused and/or neglected children and vulnerable adults; and thousands of Nebraskans rely on the services of our seven 24-hour facilities.

Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is to provide assistance to Nebraska veterans and their dependents in acquiring county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to this country.

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

[Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry | P.O. Box 95128 | Lincoln, NE 68509 \(nechamber.com\)](#)

The mission of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry is to promote and protect Nebraska's free enterprise system by ensuring a competitive business climate, economic growth, and greater prosperity for all Nebraskans.

School, City, County, State Boards

Your State Legislator

Legislation

2023 Nebraska Military & Veterans Legislation

2023 Legislative Tracker (6/9/23) Bill Tracker (6/9/23)

Open the bill # on the left of the listing enter your comment online and express yourself as a proponent of the bill and all senators will be able to see it

The deadline to submit comments for the official hearing record has passed but you may continue to submit comments as the Legislative session progresses.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/index.php>

Senators' Landing Pages

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

Each senator offers a page where the public can find his or her contact information, committee assignments and news releases. Senators' pages also contain his or her biography, district map, photos and information about bills the senator introduced. Click on a senator's name below to access his or her page or [find your senator](#).

Search Bills and Resolutions

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

Choose one of the following methods to find a bill or resolution or do a keyword search of past legislation.

Standing Committees

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/standing-committees.php>

The Legislature has 14 standing committees that are organized around various public policy areas in order to facilitate the processing of legislation. These committees hold public hearings on the legislation. Typically, hearings are held in the afternoon of legislative days, and they begin in mid-January and last through early March.



Dear Friend,

My message this week is simple, thank you to everyone who made this year's legislative summit a success. I'm still inspired by the number of people that attended and left with key insights on issues like workforce, taxes, education and regulation. Attendees also heard from state leaders who make change happen each and every day in our state. The Platte Institute Legislative Summit isn't just another event on senators' social docket; it connects national experts with change makers and gives a snapshot into the next steps to make Nebraska great.

The theme for this year's summit was "Keep up the Momentum," and after such a successful past session, how could it not be. But how do we truly keep the momentum moving forward? Let's start by remembering the lessons from this year's panelist and speakers. \

Starting off the day, I welcomed Speaker John Arch to the stage to give a debriefing on the past session and give a look forward for 2024. While rules debate may not be going away, he pointed out this was very obviously an incredibly successful year filled with bipartisan consensus on many key issues. For the Platte Institute, this meant lowering Nebraska's top income tax rate to 3.99%, removing a piece of your property tax bill, creating more transparency through the creation of a video archive of legislative activities, and opening the door for more choice in education.

Following Speaker Arch, we had a panel on workforce led by Platte Institute's Senior Fellow, Dr. Laura Ebke. It's clear that Nebraska has unlocked potential in our workforce. Whether it be formerly incarcerated individuals looking for a career post release or someone moving from another state looking to continue their career, we must remove barriers to entry and achievement. One of my key takeaways from this panel is that we have a fantastic advocate for LB 16, the Universal Recognition bill, in Senator Danielle Conrad. It's imperative that we move universal recognition over the finish line this year and put out the welcome mat for workers from other states.

Later in the morning, we had our panel on tax policy led by Platte Institute's Chief Strategy Officer, Jim Smith. This panel featured national experts from across the country, and one thing that is abundantly clear: other states are not staying stagnant on tax relief, and neither can we. To remain competitive, we must continue to explore ways to make our tax climate even friendlier as possible for business, families, and entrepreneurs. That starts next session with the elimination of the state inheritance tax, sustaining tax cuts

and finding further ways to lower and control property taxes.

Finally, in our education and regulation panel, led by Platte Institute's Director of Government Relations Nicole Fox, we talked extensively about regulatory and education barriers in Nebraska. Whether it is an innovative entrepreneur trying to launch a business or a family looking for education options, other states are capitalizing on solutions Nebraska has yet to explore. These solutions often involve government and the establishment getting out of the way, and the Platte Institute is committed to continue to be a champion in these efforts.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in this year's summit. As Speaker Arch said, this event marks the unofficial start of the legislative season. As senators begin making their way back to Lincoln and setting their priorities for 2024, let's encourage them to "Keep up the Momentum" of this year, keep the foot on the pedal, and have another session marked by monumental achievement.

I would welcome any feedback or ideas on what you think should be addressed when senators convene in January.

Thanks for reading,

Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute and host of Nebraskanomics.

Senate passes Kennedy amendment to protect veterans' Second Amendment rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVqNyV6Wgxs>

Senator Tom Brewer
43rd District
10-27-2023

My office continues to receive a high volume of calls about constitutional carry and state preemption. When LB 77 was passed and signed into law back in April of this year, many people thought the fight was over. Here is the current version of Nebraska Statute § 13-330:

- (1) The Legislature finds and declares that the regulation of the ownership, possession, storage, transportation, sale, and transfer of firearms and other weapons is a matter of statewide concern.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any home rule charter, counties, cities and villages shall not have the power to:
 - (a) Regulate the ownership, possession, storage, transportation, sale, or transfer of firearms or other weapons, except as expressly provided by state law; or
 - (b) Require registration of firearms or other weapons.
- (3) Any county, city, or village ordinance, permit, or regulation in violation of subsection (2) of this section is declared to be null and void.

I wanted to include it in my column here because some of our local government officials seem to have missed it. In Omaha, Mayor Jean Stothert has refused to rescind her August 30th executive order banning firearms in public parks, parking lots, sidewalks, and other locations "under [the] City's control." Omaha still has an ordinance requiring daily reports to the police chief on all gun sales. Omaha's City Council is expected to pass further firearms restrictions as well. They have announced plans to ban hobbyists from making their own firearms and to prohibit certain politically unfashionable firearms accessories.

In our state's capital, Lincoln, Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird rescinded her September 1st Executive Order only to replace it with another illegal weapons ban on September 12th that still includes parks and public parking lots. Just as problematic, Lincoln has not taken any action to repeal its sixteen local weapons ordinances that now cannot be enforced under Nebraska law.

I am continuing to evaluate whether more legislation is needed to address these flagrant acts of lawlessness by local officials. However, I was pleased to learn that the Nebraska Firearms Owners Association (NFOA) is not planning to wait for more action from the Legislature. They believe that the law is already quite clear and that it is time for the courts to get involved. For that reason, they have engaged Attorney Jacob Huebert of the Liberty Justice Center to seek a judicial remedy for these local infringements. The Liberty Justice Center is a national public interest law firm "that seeks to protect economic liberty, private property rights, free speech, and other fundamental rights."

Mr. Huebert has a proven track record of fighting for constitutional rights. He successfully represented the plaintiff in *Janus v. AFSCME*, a landmark labor law case decided on First Amendment grounds by the Supreme Court of the United States. I am confident that he will provide excellent representation for the

NFOA and other Nebraskans who wish to exercise their Second Amendment rights without government interference.

My legislative office—along with many other concerned Nebraskans—has reached out to these cities to try to resolve this legal conflict. It was my hope that we could persuade them to do their legal duty. Unfortunately, it appears that these local governments will have to be compelled by the courts to comply with Nebraska law.

Please contact my office with any comments, questions, or concerns. Email me at tbrewer@leg.ne.gov, mail a letter to Sen. Tom Brewer, Room #1423, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509, or call us at (402) 471-2628.

[Recapping OpenSky's Fall Policy Symposium – VIDEO INCLUDED](https://mailchi.mp/openskypolicy.org/recapping-openskys-fall-policy-symposium-video-included?e=dd22186504)

<https://mailchi.mp/openskypolicy.org/recapping-openskys-fall-policy-symposium-video-included?e=dd22186504>



Advocacy

Future COLA: 3 Factors That Will Impact Pay Raises for Military Retirees

Where will inflation land next year?

And could the latest adjustment be the last calculated under the existing system?

Could TRICARE Cuts Threaten Access to Pediatric Health Care?

One hospital is filing suit over the new reimbursement policy. Find out what the change could mean for military families.

New DoD Suicide Prevention Policy Misses the Mark

Congress must act to ensure quality of life concerns are addressed.

How You Can Help

- Spread the word: Amplify your message by encouraging your network to join our [Legislative Action Center](#) and ask Congress to [improve the quality of life for our servicemembers](#). You do not need to be a MOAA member to use the action center.
- Get personal: Customize your message with a personal story to your lawmakers. Share the message with friends.
- Check on your buddies: Suicide prevention can be described as a battle against isolation and the fight to improve connections and personal protective factors. Find the time to pick up the phone and call an old friend with a [Buddy Check](#).

You can learn the latest on MOAA's legislative priorities at [MOAA.org/Advocacy-News](https://www.moaa.org/Advocacy-News).

HEALTH CARE

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Dear Veterans,

At VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, our healthcare teams are deeply experienced and guided by the needs of Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Find a health facility near you, and manage your health online. Sign up for community events and updates.

We are pleased to inform you that VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System clinics and medical centers will remain operational in the event of a government shutdown.

All patient care services and appointments will continue as normal.

Veterans in need of emergent or mental health care can seek assistance at the Omaha VAMC or a nearby

emergency department at any time. For urgent/non-emergency care needs, visit the Omaha VA Hospital Express Care Clinic or your nearest in-network urgent care center. [Learn more about locations, times and services.](#)

Additionally, Veterans should plan to keep all scheduled appointments.
If you need to cancel your appointment, please call 402-346-8800.

Veterans, family members, and caregivers may also manage appointments, request prescription refills, and send messages to their patient-aligned care team via secure messaging at My HealtheVet.
If you have an emergency and need immediate attention, please call 911 for assistance. Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency should call 988 and press 1 or visit their nearest emergency room.

[VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#)

We are honored to continue to provide world-class care to our Veterans. Please follow us on social media and monitor our website for local updates. [VA Midwest Health Care Network](#)

[Check Out These Updated TRICARE Handbooks](#)

Looking for more information about your TRICARE health plan options? These updated handbooks can help:

- [TRICARE Choices in the United States Handbook](#)
- [TRICARE Overseas Program Handbook](#)
- [TRICARE Choices for National Guard and Reserve Handbook](#)

TRICARE has a variety of publications, including fact sheets and newsletters. Learn about TRICARE health, dental, and pharmacy benefits, costs, and more.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHSTMA/bulletins/36da5b3>

[TRICARE Open Season: 13 Nov - 12 Dec 2023. Interested in options or changing:](#)

<https://tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/OpenSeason>

Tricare Retired Reserves (TRR) - Gray Area under age 60 - has premium. For retired National Guard and Reserve members:

Tricare Select (TS) - Retired and reached age 60 - has premium.

Tricare Prime – generally, must live near a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) - has premium

Tricare for Life (TFL)– must be 65 and/or eligible for Medicare - no premium: Must be enrolled in Part A and Part B or Advantage Plan (FAQ #18 for Advantage Plans <https://tricare.mil/FAQs>)

Dental and Vision Open Season: Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) Open Season is 13 Nov - 11 Dec 2023:

TRICARE Beneficiaries may be eligible for Dental and Vision.

Retirees not covered under TRICARE may be eligible for Dental.

Website: <https://www.benefeds.com/>

Eligibility: <https://www.benefeds.com/eligibility>

Compare plans: <https://www.benefeds.com/tools>

[Every September, we recognize Suicide Prevention Month.](#)

Over the course of those 30 days, as it does throughout the year, VA works to raise awareness of suicide prevention efforts and encourages Veterans and their supporters to take action.

[But suicide prevention isn't something that happens one month a year.](#)

[Read on](#)

<https://news.va.gov/125125/help-prevent-veteran-suicide-all-year-round/>

[VA Email News Update](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent this bulletin at 10/16/2023 04:00 PM EDT

[Focus on your mental health with VA virtual tools](#)

[Reducing the risk of suicide among homeless Veterans](#)

[Vets First Podcast Season 3: Exploring vision loss challenges](#)

[VA pharmacists are part of your care team](#)

Subscribe to updates from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/37618b4?reqfrom=share>

Veterans Day Omaha Events and Discounts 2023

In honor of Veterans Day, enjoy local events, restaurant discounts, and free admission to some area attractions for veterans and active military personnel. Thank you for your service!

[Veterans Day Omaha Events and Discounts 2023 / Family Fun in Omaha](#)

Veterans Day deals at restaurants and retailers around Lincoln

A number of restaurants and retailers around Lincoln are giving discounts to service members for Veterans Day.

[Veterans Day deals at restaurants and retailers around Lincoln \(klkntv.com\)](#)

The Omaha Vet Center has moved, please visit us at our new location.

The new address is:

2132 S. 42nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The brand-new building will be just south of the Omaha VAMC and the Center Mall.

For more info, contact Robert Montag, Outreach Specialist at 402-346-6735.

[#OmahaVetCenter](#) [#NebraskaVeterans](#) [#VeteransFirst](#)

Become a Volunteer

Your time and talent can make a real difference in people's lives.

Blood Donor Ambassador

Blood Transportation Specialist

Disaster Action Team (DAT)

Disaster Health Services

90% of the Red Cross workforce are volunteers.

<https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html#step1>

NEVetsAffairs (@Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs) posted:

NEW: Veterans' Homes Virtual Tours Curious what kinds of amenities our veterans' homes offer? Now you can take a virtual tour of... [Read More](#)

POSTED OCTOBER 4, 2023 [Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Affairs](#)

Cost-of-Living Adjustment

More than 71 million Americans will see a 3.2% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2024. We will mail cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees.

[Want to know your new benefit amount before your notice arrives?](#)

Starting in early December, you will be able to securely view and save your Social Security COLA notice online via the Message Center inside my Social Security. Make sure you are signed up for notifications from the my Social Security Message Center by choosing email or text under "Message Center Preferences." Benefit amounts will not be available before December. With convenient access to your COLA notice by mail or online, you don't need to contact us to get your new benefit amount.

[Log in to your personal my Social Security account today!](#)



HONOR the military veterans experiencing homelessness at a special Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 10, 4 p.m., at the Sienna Francis House. After the ceremony, veterans will receive backpacks and enjoy dinner and entertainment by Guitars for Vets.

<https://www.bellevue.edu/event-forms/backpack-drive/>

DONATE money to help fill 100 backpacks with essential items like coats, hand and feet warmers, socks, snacks and more. Bellevue University Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation may be tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law. Please consult your tax advisor on the specifics of the deductibility of your gift.

[I want to donate to support the Military Veteran Backpack Drive.](#)

VOLUNTEER to help pack 100 backpacks so they can be distributed to military veterans seeking shelter at the Sienna Francis House and New Visions Homeless Services on the morning of Friday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m., at 2108 Harvell Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005.

[I want to sign up to volunteer to pack backpacks.](#)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, Oct. 2

Backpack Drive donation window opens

Friday, Nov. 10

Backpack Drive donation window closes

Friday, Nov. 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers pack backpacks at the Military Veteran Services Center

2108 Harvell Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005

Friday, Nov. 10

Veterans Day ceremony and backpack presentation to military veterans at the Sienna Francis House

1117 N. 17th St., Omaha, Nebraska 68102

900 US troops deploying to Middle East to support Israel, add stability,

By Doug G. Ware/Stars and Stripes

Oct 27, 2023

Almost 1,000 American troops have received orders to deploy to the Middle East to support Israel in its conflict with Hamas and provide stability in the region, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin decided several days ago to put 2,000 troops on pre-deployment orders to prepare for possible missions in the Middle East. On Thursday, the Pentagon said some of those orders have been activated.>>>> MORE

<https://www.legion.org/260360/900-us-troops-deploying-middle-east-support-israel-add-stability-pentagon-says>

Team RWB Omaha

About

Team RWB's mission is to enrich the lives of Americas veterans by connecting them to their community through social and physical activities. We run, walk, crossfit, cycle, yoga, attend fitness classes, and laugh a lot! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/342236012571858>

12-MILE HIKE FOR HUNGER, 27 OCTOBER, BENEFIT FOR FOOD BANK OF THE HEARTLAND

In partnership with the Nebraska Army National Guard, Team RWB members are invited to participate in the 2023 Hike for Hunger to benefit the Food Bank of the Heartland. (For those unable to hike/ruck the 12-miles, you are welcome to come to see us off at Stinson Park and/or meet us at the turnaround point or finish. Donations for the food bank will be gathered at the finish from 0800-1200 during the day of the event.)

RWB members may elect to walk/hike or carry a ruck containing approximately 30 pounds of donated food items. For those who would like to ruck with donated food items, most needed items include: canned vegetables, canned tuna/chicken, canned fruit, peanut butter, rice/pasta, canned ad dry beans, juice, cereal, baby food/formula, and shelf-stable milk.

The event begins at 0800 27 October at Stinson Park. The route takes hikers north to the turnaround point at Democracy Park and the hike ends at about 1200 at Saint Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church at 1725 S 60th St in Omaha. Lunch and refreshments will be available to participants at Saint Matthew's after the event.

Let's bring out the Eagle Nation to support a worthy cause in our community! Please note your interest or participation in the app:

<https://members.teamrwb.org/events/77254>

County Veterans Service Offices Directory

This month's

FEATURED COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER INFORMATION

Extracted from

Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

County Veterans Service Offices Directory (Updated 10/18/2023)

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso>

HITCHCOCK COUNTY

Service Officer Robert Scott (308) 334-5300 rscottvso@hitchcockcountyne.gov

Fax: (308) 334-5398

Location Courthouse, 229 E. D St.

Mailing Address PO Box 248 Trenton, NE 69044

Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm

Website http://www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

HOLT COUNTY

Service Officer Kenneth Stenka (402) 336-1200 vso1@holtcountyne.gov

Admin Assist Micky McIntire (402) 924-3010 home vso2@holtcountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 336-1200

Location Courthouse Annex, O'Neill, NE

Mailing Address 128 N. 6th St., Ste. 5 O'Neill, NE 68763

Hours, Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Closed from noon to 1 pm

Website <http://www.co.holt.ne.us/veterans.html>

Also CVSO for Wheeler & Boyd County

HOOKE COUNTY

Service Officer Todd Peters (308) 546-7557 (cell) Toddpeters69152@gmail.com

Fax: (308) 546-2490

Location Courthouse, 303 NW First St., Mullen, NE

Mailing Address PO Box 184, Mullen, NE 69152

Website http://www.co.hooker.ne.us/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

The American Legion National Headquarters

You are never alone. There's a community out there, waiting just for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/234504451817625/permalink/633759748558758/?mibextid=S66qvF>

Around Nebraska

History, Attractions, Nature, Accommodations

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/states/nebraska/>

Make Connections

<https://www.maketheconnection.net/>

Find Stories Like Yours

Veterans and their loved ones talk about their experiences, challenges, and recovery.

Life Events & Experiences

- [Sharing LGBTQ+ Identity With Providers](#)
- [Death of Family Members or Friends](#)
- [Families & Relationships](#)
- [Financial & Legal Issues](#)
- [Homelessness](#)
- [Work-Related Problems](#)
- [Physical Injury](#)
- [Preparing for Deployment](#)
- [Retirement & Aging](#)
- [Spirituality](#)
- [Student Veterans / Higher Education](#)

- [Transitioning From Service](#)

Signs & Symptoms

- [Alcohol or Drug Misuse](#)
- [Anger and Irritability](#)
- [Chronic Pain](#)
- [Confusion](#)
- [Difficulty Concentrating](#)
- [Dizziness](#)
- [Eating Problems](#)
- [Feeling on Edge](#)
- [Feelings of Hopelessness](#)
- [Flashbacks](#)
- [Gambling](#)
- [Guilt](#)
- [Headaches](#)
- [Loss of Interest or Pleasure](#)
- [Nightmares](#)
- [Noise or Light Irritation](#)
- [Reckless Behavior](#)
- [Relationship Problems](#)
- [Social Withdrawal / Isolation](#)
- [Stress and Anxiety](#)

Latest update on the construction progress of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial!!

<https://www.facebook.com/nvvmfoundation/videos/302164315961925>

Putting in the work. Like only Nebraska does.

Nebraska has what it takes to build what the world needs. But we need you

<https://onlyinnebraska.org/>



CENTER for
RURAL AFFAIRS

<https://tinyurl.com/yodb4xlo>

Workshops offer military veterans the chance to explore agriculture, discover resources

For the past three years, military veterans and active service members, along with their families, have had the opportunity to explore agriculture through a series of workshops designed to navigate a year in the life of a local farmer who is also a veteran. Hosted by the Center, the workshops have covered the topics of horticulture, pork production, and poultry production, teaching business and financial skills, as well as how to discover resources applicable to all types of agricultural operations. [Check out the experiences of three participants and their families.](#)

From beginner to advanced, farming is for everyone

Workshops designed with veterans in mind

Veterans gain valuable takeaways

Future farming plans

For more information about the Center's events, including "A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer," visit cfra.org/events.

<https://tinyurl.com/yovlf9uv>

Advantages & Disadvantages of Survivor Benefit Plan

Advantage: You will leave a guaranteed income to your beneficiary

Eligible beneficiaries under the plan will receive 55 percent of the retiree's elected amount of coverage.

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp/advantages/>

Advantage: SBP benefits are inflation-indexed, and coverage and cost are not affected by illness or age

Unlike many private life insurance policies, SBP coverage will not be canceled or revoked due to any illness you may have or your age. Whether you retire at age 45 or 80, you or your spouse's age or health will never be considered a liability and never impact the cost of the program. In addition, the receipt of survivor benefits will not be affected by Social Security benefits. Finally, the SBP annuity is protected against inflation, increasing each December with a Cost of Living Adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index.

Advantage: You can pay for SBP benefits with a pre-tax payroll deduction

For nearly all retirees, Survivor Benefit Plan premiums are automatically deducted from your gross pay prior to the deduction of federal income tax. This decreases your total taxable income.

Disadvantage: Cost

SBP coverage is supplied at no cost while you are in active service. During your retirement, however, a monthly deduction is taken from your pay to pay for your SBP coverage. This can be as much as, but no more than, 6.5 percent of your gross retired pay.

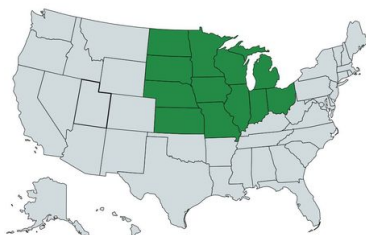
You might consider the relationship between the cost of the program and its benefits. To earn an even return on your investment, your beneficiary typically must receive payment for seven months for every five years you pay SBP premiums.

Disadvantage: Once you enroll, changing your election is difficult

Although it may seem unnecessary to consider providing for your loved ones until later on in life, please be aware that the decisions you make at retirement regarding your SBP can be difficult to change. For example, if, at retirement, you have an eligible spouse or children and decide not to have them covered under the plan, it will be very difficult to have your current or any future spouse or children covered under the plan in the future.

Related Links

- [NDAA 2023 SBP Open Season](#)
- [SBP Withdrawal due to VA Disability](#)
- [Special Needs Trust](#)
- [Same-Sex Marriage SBP](#)
- [Enroll](#)
- [Eligible Beneficiaries](#)
- [Cost](#)
- [Paying for SBP](#)
- [Update Beneficiary](#)
- [Change or Stop Coverage](#)
- [Educate Your Beneficiaries](#)
- [What Happens When You Die](#)



The Fallen Outdoors MIDWEST ALL VETERAN Community Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1829232140644438>

We have several teams in the process of rebuilding. If you are interested in becoming staff in IA, NE, or SD, please message me so I can link you to the staff page for information. If you are interested and live in another state please reach out to the team lead. The lead list is pinned to the top of this page.

1. As a staff member of TFO, there are many roles you must fulfill in order to continuously work towards growing this organization.

a. Plan and facilitate hunting/fishing trips for veterans that you host. Professional guided hunts don't count as the staff minimum (5 per year required).

b. Make and maintain contacts with guides/landowners to facilitate trips

c. Contact local businesses for monetary donations and items for raffles/giveaways

d. Seek out upcoming expos/shows to bring to the team lead for review and approval to obtain booth space. Participate in these expos/shows in order to share the mission of TFO (1 required per year)

1. Continuously conduct yourself in a professional manner and with good hygiene so as to not bring discredit to TFO and the veteran community.

1. Follow your chain of command. Everything goes to the team lead first, if they don't have the answer they know where to get it. If there is an issue with the team lead please discuss it with staff first then escalate to the regional director if needed.

1. Staff must complete 5 trips and 1 show per year to stay active. Team leads must be notified of deployments, TDY, or special circumstances.

1. Follow all bylaws and staff contract criteria while fulfilling our mission.

Will VA Pay for Your Funeral? The Answer May Surprise You

It's something none of us want to think about our demise. What will happen after we're gone? Will we have a big funeral? Will anybody show up?

If you want to have a big funeral and a fancy tombstone in a nice cemetery, it will cost a lot. That's OK.

You're a veteran; the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) will pay. Right?

Well ... not so fast. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8vbbyt>

The High Cost of Dying

Funeral Prices

Casket Prices

Cemetery Prices

Paying the High Cost of Dying

What Will the VA Pay?

Burial and Plot Allowance

Cemetery

Stay on Top of Your Veteran Benefits\

Related Topics: [Veteran Memorial Benefits](#) [Veteran Benefits](#)

EVENTS

Veterans Small Business Training and Mentoring Event - Omaha, Neb.

<https://www.cfra.org/veterans-small-business-training-and-mentoring-event-omaha-neb>

About: If you are a service member, veteran, part of the National Guard or Reserve, a military spouse and looking to start or grow your business, the U.S. Small Business Administration can help. Join this information session to access the resources available through the SBA's partners and Veterans Business Outreach Center. You will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with resource partners in the following areas:

- Funding
- Obtaining veteran certification
- Creating marketing strategies
- Navigating challenges faced by veterans in the community

Cost: Free

When: Thursday, Nov. 2, from 4:15 to 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Highlander Accelerator, 2112 N. 30th St., Suite 103

To register, [click here](#).

Hosted by: U.S. Small Business Administration, Veterans Business Outreach Center, and Nebraska Enterprise Fund

The Center for Rural Affairs Women's Business Center is a resource partner.



Veterans Shine On

Thursday November 2, 2023 AT 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/OmahaParks>

Memorial Park Event by [City of Omaha Parks & Recreation](#)

Please join us for a special night honoring our Veterans, and the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The event will include guest speakers, a laying-of-the-wreath ceremony for our war

representatives, music, and the grand lighting of the WWII Colonnade. Speakers include Mayor Jean Stothert, Congressman Don Bacon, Councilmember Pete Festersen, and special guest Dr. Carolyn Manhart. Public · Anyone on or off Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1294285247904753/?ref=newsfeed>



Wreaths Across America - Offutt Air Force Base Cemetery

Help Offutt be in the Top 5 again for 2023! Our community is so wonderful in helping to honor and remember our veterans. For more information on how to sponsor wreaths and volunteer opportunities, please visit www.offuttosc.com/wreaths-across-america

Wreaths Across America:

When/Where: 1100hrs, 16 Dec 2023, Wyuka Cemetery, Lincoln

When/Where: 1200hrs, 16 Dec 2023, Omaha National Cemetery

Site: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/social/NE0024-NationalSocietyofColonialAmerica-NebraskaSociety?Sid=157954%7C1488300%7C0%7C4>

Job Seeker Assistance Workshop Wednesdays

Join us for in-person Workshop Wednesdays.
Nebraska Department of Labor's reemployment team will be available
to provide you with the tips you need to
be successful in finding a job.

WHEN: Wednesdays from 10 am – 10:45 am

No registration or appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome!

WHERE: Nebraska Department of Labor – Grand Island American Job Center
203 E Stolley Park Rd, Ste A

Workshop Wednesday topics include:

NOVEMBER 1ST

Resume & Application Tips

NOVEMBER 8TH

Interviewing Tips

NOVEMBER 15TH

NDOL Supportive Services Information

This event is open to the public
with priority of service given to Veterans and Military Families

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

A proud partner of the
americanjobcenter
network

Equal Opportunity Program Employer 1 700 800 833 7202
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

NEBRASKA
- GAME PARKS -

Nebraska Outdoor Calendar

<https://calendar.outdoornebraska.gov/events/photo/page/2/>

Event News, Park News

<https://outdoornebraska.gov/about/press-events/news/fort-atkinson-shp-candlelight-tour-is-nov-4/>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023 AT 2 PM

2023 Lincoln Veterans Parade

Nebraska State Capitol
2023 Lincoln Veterans Parade
VETERANS IN BUSINESS
K street from S 21st to S 14th Street
Sunday, Nov. 12th at 2 PM

On Sunday afternoon, everyone is invited to line K Street to see so many great sponsors, businesses, organizations, vehicles, and people in salute to our American heroes. This year we are giving special recognition to our military veterans in the workforce as business leaders, entrepreneurs, or employees. Our heroes continue to move forward after service.

The parade will start at 2 PM on 21st and K Street, moving westbound to S 14th. The parade line will stop at the Capital Building for the opening ceremony. We have 2 stations along the route of radio hosts providing emcee support. The parade will have a Live TV and Streaming Broadcast of the entire event. Expecting to last 60 to 90 minutes.

Getting involved and helping others is not just in the military but is what Nebraskans do. Send a message or visit the website to find more information. From joining the Planning Committee, helping setup on parade day, or just posting a sign in the yard.

2023 VETERANS IN BUSINESS

This year's parade will be honoring veterans in business. 2021 saw one of the highest numbers of new business starts in the US – more than 5.4M. 10.7% of new business owners in 2021 were veterans. Veterans are playing a bigger role in driving the economy forward, translating military training to business success. Veterans are significantly more likely to start a business in Goods-Producing/Logistic sectors (construction, manufacturing, utilities, transportation, and warehousing) than all new business owners.

[#VeteransInBusiness](#) [#lincolnpade](#) [#LNKvetswww.lincolnveteransparade.org](#)



at ease usa

<https://ateaseusa.org/programs/>

Providing PTSD services to those who serve

Programs

Contact us for help finding the program that's right for you.

Behavioral Health Services

Vets 4 Vets

Trauma-Informed Yoga

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group

Peer Support Services

Military Spouse Support Group

Teen Talk Group

Events

<https://ateaseusa.org/events/>

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Nebraska Veterans Coalition
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Omaha, NE 68116
Phone: (402) 630-5840

Get In Touch

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Nebraska Veteran Coalition | 10000 Maple Street, Omaha, NE 68116

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