

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 5, May 1, 2023, Newsletter

This is about us:

The Nebraska Veteran's Coalition

The Coalition has led the way in Nebraska since 2014 to persuade the Nebraska Unicameral to enact legislation designed to improve the lives of veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families to attract and retain Veterans as a means of increasing the size of the Nebraska Work Force. We continue to follow Nebraska state and federal veteran-related legislation along with joining several veterans group Facebook pages. We provide considerable information to veterans on various topics and guide them toward agencies that can help them.

If you are not already a member of our group of over 5,000 friends, please check us out on Facebook (Nebraska Veterans Coalition) and 'Friend' us. We also have a Twitter account - @VetsCoalitionNE. The Grapevine containing both Nebraska and National News and links to websites of interest to veterans. <http://www.nebraskaveterans.org/>,

We are members of a program for the Nebraska Governor's Challenge managed by the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs. The Governor's Challenge has many states and territories participating in the challenge. They are working to develop and implement state-wide suicide prevention best practices for SMVF, using a public health approach. SAMHSA has partnered with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ([See Governors Challenge Section Below](#))

Our mission statement can be found on our Facebook and website
We do not ask for, solicit, or accept funding/donations for our efforts.

Find this on our website

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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



[Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

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

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[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. We've gathered resources and tools to help shine the way for veterans and their families to find meaningful employment, receive training and education, and get assistance transitioning from military service to civilian life.

[Nebraska Veterans' Homes](#)

[Our 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. The four homes are located in Bellevue, Norfolk, Kearney, and Scottsbluff to provide care to veterans across the state. Click on the homes below to learn more about them. Our homes offer top-of-the-line health services, a range of recreational activities, friendly communities for veterans and their families, and so much more. Click here to view our State of Nebraska Veterans' Homes brochure.

[Military & Veterans' Registry Application](#)

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

- If the name of the DD-214 is different from the veteran's current legal name, documentation of the name change is required.
- If you are currently on active duty, please provide a military ID card. This does not include retirement ID cards or VA service cards.

A paper application is available if you prefer to mail in your application. Download Paper Application

[News & Events](#)

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

VA to award \$16 million in grants to help Veterans and service members...Posted: February 24, 2023

How one Veteran shares his aphasia diagnosis with the world...Posted: February 24, 2023

NDVA Receives Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for Virtual Claims Clinic Initiative Feb. 21, 2023

NDVA in the News Newsletter April 2023

[Tweets by NEVetsAffairs](#)

[Tweets by DeptVetAffairs](#)

[Tweets by VANWIHCS](#)

[Tweets by VAVetBenefits](#)

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](#)

Social media

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

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

VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaIowaVA/>

Legislative Calendar

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

Legislative Issues

2023 Military & Veterans Legislation

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/legislative-issues>

Nebraska Income Tax for U.S. Servicemembers, Their Spouses, and Civilians Working with U.S. Forces Information Guide

March 2023

Military Retirement Benefit. The military retirement benefit is defined as “retirement benefits that are periodic payments attributable to service in the uniformed services of the United States for personal services performed by an individual prior to his or her retirement.” Military retirement benefits attributable to uniformed service reported to the taxpayer on IRS Form 1099-R received from the United States

Department of Defense (DOD) or the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) are excluded from Nebraska taxable income. The military retirement benefit exclusion provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2716(15) includes retirement and annuity payments to a spouse, former spouse, or child that are based on another individual’s military service provided the benefit is reported on the taxpayer’s Form 1099-R issued by the DOD or OPM.

Taxable Nebraska Source Income. Taxable Nebraska source income is all income earned in Nebraska from the conduct of a trade or business by the servicemember or any dependent (other than a spouse) and all non W-2 wages earned by the spouse, from real or personal property used in or arising from a trade or business, or from civilian employment by the servicemember or any dependent (other than a spouse). “Civilian employment” includes working for a non-appropriated fund activity, such as post exchanges, military stores, or officers’ clubs, whether located on or off the military installation. Prizes awarded in a lottery game conducted pursuant to the Nebraska Lottery Act or under the Nebraska Charitable Gaming Act are also taxable Nebraska source income.

Overview

Military retirement benefits are excluded from Nebraska's taxable income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on the Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR) until amended. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of DOR and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.

This guidance document may change with updated information or added examples. DOR recommends you do not print this document. Instead, sign up for the subscription service at revenue.nebraska.gov to get updates on your topics of interest.

Nebraska Income Tax for U.S. Servicemembers Information Guide, March 27, 2023, Page 1

Dept. of Safety and Professional Services: Second round of DSPS Military Pathways Grant Program open for applications

- Moreover, veterans and military members are a valuable part of our state's workforce—this is a smart investment in Wisconsin's future."
- [April 3, 2023](#)

[Home](#) » [Press Releases](#) » Dept. of Safety and Professional Services: Second round of DSPS Military Pathways Grant Program open for applications

Madison, Wis. – The Department of Safety and Professional Services is now accepting applications for its second round of the Military Pathways Grant Program, a grant program created to expedite entry into the civilian licensed workforce for current and former military members. Included in the Governor's 2021-2023 budget, the grant program is an initiative to support active-duty military and veterans while also addressing workforce issues in Wisconsin.

The Military Pathways Grant Program will award up to \$50,000 to educational and training institutions seeking to create "crosswalks" or formal tracks that enable current and former military members to satisfy occupational licensing requirements with training completed during their service. This will be the second year the department has awarded funds for this program. Last year, the Military Pathways Grant Program awarded nearly \$50,000 to Milwaukee Area Technical College.

"Enabling veterans to maximize their skills in a licensed profession will positively impact Wisconsin's workforce shortage," said DSPS Secretary-designee Dan Hereth. "The brave men and women who serve our country have so much to offer our state, and this grant reflects our commitment to acknowledging their invaluable skills and training and helping them achieve their civilian career goals."

Hereth added that creating pathways for service members to maximize their credits and military training helps expedite the process of becoming licensed and employed in high-demand services across the state. DSPS developed the Military Pathways Grant Program in collaboration with the Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) in 2021. Through this collaboration, the two agencies offered multiple listening sessions with military, veteran, and educational stakeholders to understand and meet the military community's needs.

"Making the transition to civilian life is a crucial time for any service member," said WDVA Secretary-designee James Bond. "This program enables active military and veterans to use the valuable skills they acquired in service and apply them to a new career path. We owe it to these brave men and women to ease roadblocks to building a successful life at home."

HEALTH CARE

Panhandle Public Health District

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<http://pphd.ne.gov/>

VA Resets Multibillion Dollar EHR Rollout

The agency is halting future deployments of Oracle Cerner's EHR to focus on fixing the system.

[Sarah Sybert](#)

Fri, 04/21/2023 - 10:00

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced a "reset" of its electronic health record modernization program Friday, and is stopping all future rollouts of the Oracle Cerner system to fix issues at the five sites that currently use the new EHR.

"We've heard from veterans and VA clinicians that the new electronic health record is not meeting expectations – and we're holding Oracle Cerner and ourselves accountable to get this right," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in [a press release](#) Friday. "This reset period will allow us to focus on fixing what's wrong, listening to those we serve, and laying the foundation for a modern electronic health record that delivers for veterans and clinicians."

[VA](#) » [Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) » [News Releases](#)

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

Budget Cut Proposals Would Hurt Veterans

April 21, 2023, 01:02:00 PM

[Printable Version](#)

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Budget Cut Proposals Would Hurt Veterans

WASHINGTON — While the President's Budget details a [plan](#) to honor our country's sacred obligation to care for America's Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, the proposal to cut a broad range of critical programs by 22% would threaten critical services for Veterans – both at VA and across the federal government. The proposed 22% budget cut to VA would:

Threaten Medical Care for Veterans. The proposal would mean 30 million fewer Veteran outpatient visits, and 81,000 jobs lost across the Veterans Health Administration, leaving Veterans unable to get appointments for care including <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5874&mibextid=q5o4bk>

VA, NIH launch study of Gulf War Illness

The American Legion

Apr 17, 2023

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health [began a joint, five-year study](#) that aims to explain the chronic symptoms of [Gulf War Illness](#). The study may lead to more definitive diagnostic criteria for Gulf War Illness, the development of new diagnostic testing, and potential treatments. <https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/258624/va-nih-launch-study-gulf-war-illness?mibextid=Zxz2cZ&mibextid=q5o4bk#.ZEGZ2ROxCCg.facebook>

Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families Technical Assistance Center

SAMHSA's National Helpline

Main page content

<https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center>

- SAMHSA's National Helpline is a free, confidential, 24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and [Spanish](#)) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.
- [Also visit the online treatment locator.](#)
-

Frequently Asked Questions

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

SAMHSA's National Helpline, [1-800-662-HELP \(4357\)](tel:1-800-662-HELP) (also known as the Treatment Referral Routing Service), or TTY: [1-800-487-4889](tel:1-800-487-4889) is a confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information service, in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or substance use disorders. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations.

Also, visit the [online treatment locator](#), or send your zip code via text message: [435748](tel:435748) (HELP4U) to find help near you. Read more about the [HELP4U text messaging service](#).

<https://t.e2ma.net/message/m1dz6e/mx6qkxsb>

Suggested Resources

- [What Is Substance Abuse Treatment? A Booklet for Families](#)
- Created for family members of people with alcohol abuse or drug abuse problems. Answers questions about substance abuse, its symptoms, different types of treatment, and recovery. Addresses concerns

- of children of parents with substance use/abuse problems.
- [It's Not Your Fault \(NACoA\) \(PDF | 12 KB\)](#)
-
- Assures teens with parents who abuse alcohol or drugs that, "It's not your fault!" and that they are not alone. Encourages teens to seek emotional support from other adults, school counselors, and youth support groups such as Alateen, and provides a resource list.
- [After an Attempt: A Guide for Taking Care of Your Family Member After Treatment in the Emergency Department](#)
- Aids family members in coping with the aftermath of a relative's suicide attempt. Describes the emergency department treatment process, lists questions to ask about follow-up treatment, and describes how to reduce risk and ensure safety at home.
- [Family Therapy Can Help: For People in Recovery From Mental Illness or Addiction](#)
- Explores the role of family therapy in recovery from mental illness or substance abuse. Explains how family therapy sessions are run and who conducts them, describes a typical session, and provides information on its effectiveness in recovery.
- For additional resources, please visit the [SAMHSA Store](#).

[Visit the SAMHSA Facebook page](#) [Visit SAMHSA on Twitter](#)

New Strategy Outlines Five Priorities for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide

<https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center/news>

Spotlight: Hope & Recovery in Observation of Alcohol Awareness Month

<https://www.prainc.com/smvf-hope-recovery-alcohol-awareness-month/>

Caregiver Support Program: VA cares for caregivers

Veterans Health Administration sent this bulletin at 04/10/2023 05:30 PM EDT

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVHA/bulletins/3541291>

VA health care news you can use

There's a lot going on in VA health care. Here are some of our latest stories about Veterans and for Veterans. Find out [how to apply for VA health care benefits](#).

Caregiver Support Program: VA cares for caregivers

The Caregiver Support Program provides clinical services to caregivers of Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care. Make sure you're informed about the programs, resources and services available to you **Read More:** <https://news.va.gov/117598/caregiver-support-program-caring-for-caregivers/>

Copayment exemption for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans

Eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are now exempt from copayments for health care and all urgent care visits received on or after January 5, 2022. **READ MORE:**

<https://news.va.gov/117840/copayment-exemption-indian-alaska-native/>

MORE STORIES

<https://news.va.gov/news/health/>



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

[For those who would like to volunteer at Omaha VA!](#)

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

April 4 at 8:52 AM ·

VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Healthcare System appreciates the goodwill of our benefactors and volunteers who give back to America's Veterans. As a volunteer, you'll contribute to an excellent patient experience by providing important support functions throughout the healthcare system.

Volunteers can serve as greeters, patient escorts, courtesy cart drivers, activity cart hosts, cookie cart hosts, and more. We are currently in need of all of these positions at the Omaha VA Hospital located at 42nd and Center.

CDCE hosts weekly Volunteer Orientation Sessions on Thursdays at 1-2 PM at the Omaha Campus.

To sign up for Volunteer Orientation or get more information about volunteering or donating, contact VA Nebraska-Western Iowa's Center for Development office (also referred to as Voluntary Services) at VHANWICDCE@Va.gov or 402-995-5563.

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

The deadline to apply for Value-Added Producer Grants program is May 11

LYONS, NEBRASKA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has announced the availability of approximately \$31 million in funding for projects as part of the Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG) program.

Individual farmers and ranchers, as well as agricultural businesses and producer groups, may apply for the grants, which must be used to develop new products or expand existing markets for value-added products. The applicant must produce at least 50% of the raw agricultural product to which value is being added.

Two separate grants are available

MORE:

<https://tinyurl.com/2xv63y54>

March 29, is now celebrated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Several military and veteran organizations in Omaha held events to honor those who served during the Vietnam War era.

3 News Now Anchor Zach Williamson attended a few of the events and met with Vietnam War veterans to let them tell us why the honor now is so important to them.

Below are the military/veteran organizations involved in the events we covered on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. All the veterans we spoke to said involvement in these organizations played a huge role in their healing process after returning from the war.

[Omaha Vet Center](#)

[VFW Post 2503](#)

[Vietnam Veterans of America](#)

[American Legion Millard Post 374](#)

How to apply for a Veteran ID Card

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a digital form of photo ID you can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses. Find out if you're eligible for a Veteran ID Card—and how to apply.

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/?mibextid=q5o4bk>

State, Tribal Veterans Cemeteries Help VA Close In on Burial Site Goals

Listen to this article

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/04/04/state-tribal-veterans-cemeteries-help-va-close-burial-site-goals.html>

Apr 2023 Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

To meet its goal to ensure that nearly all former service members can be buried in a veterans cemetery close to home, the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) is relying on states, U.S. territories, and tribal nations to contribute space, funding, and oversight, with a little help from the VA.

The department has set an objective to provide burial space within a 75-mile radius for 95% of the nation's veterans. Currently just shy of that goal at 94%, the department needs assistance from regional, non-federal cemeteries, a VA official said last week.

"The only way we're going to get there, frankly, is ... going to be in partnership with the states," said VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn during a press call with reporters on March 28

The VA operates 155 national cemeteries and has provided grants to 122 veteran cemeteries run by states,

U.S. territories and Native American tribes. The department announced last month that it had awarded its billionth dollar in grant funding to these cemeteries after providing nearly \$1.9 million to North Dakota to expand that state's veterans cemetery in Mandan.

Enhanced Tribal Benefit

Households who qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and are located on qualifying Tribal lands can receive:

- Up to a \$75/month discount on your internet service, and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50).

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per [household](#). Program rules acknowledge there may be more than one eligible household residing at the same address.

Do I Qualify for the Enhanced Tribal Benefit?

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/enhanced-tribal-benefit/?mibextid=q5o4bk>

Vet Affairs Deputy nominee would be highest ranked woman in VA history

President Joe Biden on Wednesday named Veterans Affairs Chief of Staff Tanya Bradsher as his pick to serve as [the department's second ranking official](#).

If confirmed, Bradsher will become the first female nominee sworn into the post and the highest-ranking woman veteran in the history of VA leadership. Two other women have served as VA's deputy secretary, but only in an acting role.

Bradsher is a former Army lieutenant colonel whose 20 years in the service includes work in the Pentagon's public affairs office and a deployment to Iraq. She has served as VA Chief of Staff since 2021, acting as a senior advisor to [Secretary Denis McDonough](#) and former [Deputy Secretary Donald Remy](#), who left the post earlier this month.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2023/04/19/va-chief-of-staff-tapped-to-serve-as-departments-deputy-secretary/>



At Ease USA Offers Self-Defense Classes

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu originated as the ultimate form of self-defense. It's the very reason why the founders (the Gracie family) created the Ultimate Fighting Championship. Your instructor, Jason Minor, is a 20-year Air Force veteran and black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He has trained extensively under the original Ultimate Fighting Champion—and the world's leading self-defense expert—Royce Gracie. Jason will be assisted by two of his training partners Jennifer Herber and Nikki Fernandez.

In this class, you will learn proven self-defense skills and strategies. Jason will empower you to be proactive in order to prevent predatory assaults. In the unfortunate and rare event of an assault, he will also provide you with a plan of action, and several essential techniques, to successfully defend yourself and get away.

Here are 6 questions that this class will answer:

- What is a "predator?"
- What is "victim potential?"
- What is a predator's worst fear?
- What are the "Three Levels" of self-defense?
- What is the core strategy behind each level?
- What are techniques which can be applied for each level?

Sunday Afternoons-- 12:00- 1:30 pm

April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, and August 27

To Register

Contact: Beth Kramer (531) 247-4040 or beth@ateaseusa.org

At Ease 10605 Burt Circle, Omaha NE

Service Member & Veteran Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group*



Tuesday Evenings,
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

February 21
through May 9, 2023

At Ease USA
10605 Burt Circle • Omaha, NE 68114

Groups will run for 90 minutes with a 10 minute break.

*DBT is used to treat traumatic stress-related issues, including PTSD. This class will improve your relationships, reduce emotional suffering, help manage anxiety and rediscover hope for the future. Class is free to military service members and is limited to 12 members. Workbook included.

AtEaseUSA.org

Contact: Beth Kramer
531-247-4040
or beth@ateaseusa.org to register

Service Member & Veteran Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group

Groups will run for 90 min with 10 min break DBT is used to treat traumatic stress issues, including PTSD. This class will improve your relationships, reduce emotional suffering, help manage anxiety and rediscover hope for the future. Class is free to military service members and limited to 12 members.

Tuesday Evenings, 6:00- 7:30 pm
February 21-May 9, 2023

At Ease USA
10605 Burt Circle
Omaha, NE

Veterans Peer Support Group



Meetings will be held
every Monday

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

At Ease USA - Café
(enter through gym)

10605 Burt Circle
Omaha, NE 68114

For more information contact
At Ease USA clinical manager,
Laura Fischer, at 531-247-4040 ext 2.



AtEaseUSA.org

Veterans Peer Support Group

At Ease USA continues to offer a peer support group. These opportunities are free for our service members and healthcare workers. -

Every Monday night from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Now YOGA!

At Ease USA offers yoga classes. Taught by Sarah Lively of the Veterans Yoga Project, active military, veterans and their families are welcome to participate. Training will consist of five tools: Breath, Meditation, Mindful Movement, Guided Rest, and Gratitude

**Sunday Afternoon 2:00-3:00
April 30- May 21, 2023**



Nebraska Parks

Whether you're seeking the ultimate in modern conveniences in a picturesque outdoor setting or want to get back to nature amid the unspoiled beauty of the wilderness, you'll find just that within a Nebraska state park — all 75 of them.

[Learn About Parks](#) [Park Permits](#)

Hunting in Nebraska

Nebraska offers great hunting opportunities, varied species, plenty of public land, and many willing volunteers and educators to help you learn the basics. So let's gather with family and friends. Let's unplug and reconnect with nature. Let's get outside and do some hunting — Nebraska style!

Fishing in Nebraska

Nebraska's landscape is dotted with lakes, rivers and streams, providing plentiful and diverse fishing opportunities for experienced anglers, beginners and everyone in between. Whether you are new to angling or returning after a break, discover resources that tell you where are the best places to cast your line, what type of bait or lure you should use, and which of Nebraska's 100 fish species you've caught.

<https://outdoornebraska.gov/>

Spring shotgun turkey season begins on April 15

Excitement is building: Nebraska's spring turkey shotgun season opens on April 15. While nonresident permits were limited this year and have now sold out, Nebraska residents still have an opportunity to [buy a permit](#) and take to the field.

Other changes this year include:

- Hunters now may purchase up to two spring permits instead of three.
- A hunter may harvest no more than one turkey per calendar day during the spring season.
- Starting with the spring season, all turkey harvests must be reported via Telecheck. You can easily do

so online.

Learn more in the [2023 Turkey Guide](#).

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/3547686?mibextid=q5o4bk>

RAO Newsletter #2023-5 - DFAS Launches New Kind of myPay Account for Military Gray Area Retirees

A new kind of myPay account is now available from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Air Force Reserve "Gray Area Retirees." The new type of account was created to help these individuals stay connected and informed between the time they stop drilling and the time they start receiving military retired pay.

Gray Area Retirees are service members who served in the Guard or Reserve, qualified for retired pay, have retired from their service (stopped drilling), but are not yet at the age where they can start receiving retired pay. The time between retirement from service and the date when they are eligible to begin receiving retired pay is known as the "gray area." The "gray area" applies even if the member is in the Retired Reserve.

A Guard or Reserve member is generally not eligible to start receiving retired pay until they reach age 60. However, some periods of active duty or active service can reduce the age requirement below 60 years of age. myPay is DFAS' pay management portal used by approximately 5 million military members, federal civilian employees, and military retirees and annuitants.

In the new basic myPay account, Gray Area Retirees can confirm or update their email and mailing addresses to stay informed about news related to their upcoming retired pay. Additionally, when they apply for retired pay and have a current email address in their account, DFAS will email them notifications about the status of their application.

To find out more, Gray Area Retirees are encouraged to visit <https://www.dfas.mil/grayarea>.

SOURCE: DFAS – Nov 1, 2021

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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 04/03/2023

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

DIXON COUNTY

Service Officer Willard "Bill" Johnston (402) 755-5625 vso@dixoncountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 755-5655

Location Courthouse, 1st Flr.

Mailing Address PO Box 546 9 am to 3 pm

Ponca, NE 68770

Hours 1st & 3rd Thursdays

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

Also CVSO for Dakota County

DODGE COUNTY

Service Officer Mark Schneck (402) 727-2719 veteransoffice@dodgecountyne.gov

Secretary Renee Wagner Fax: (402) 727-2732

Location Courthouse, Rm. 203

Mailing Address 435 N. Park Ave., Rm. 203

Fremont, NE 68025

Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Website <https://dodgecounty.nebraska.gov/veterans-service-officer>

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Service Officer Benson Elmore (402) 444-7180 benson.elmore@douglascounty-ne.gov

Fax: (402) 444-4114

Asst CVSO Claire Guinzy claire.guinzy@douglascounty-ne.gov

Asst CVSO LaKeidra Roatch Lakeidra.roatch@douglascounty-ne.gov

Asst CVSO Damon Hobbs damon.hobbs@douglascounty-ne.gov

Mailing Address 1111 S 41st St, Ste 110

Omaha, NE 68105 8 am to 4:30 pm

Hours Monday – Friday Closed noon to 1 pm



Heartland of America Chapter --

We Never Stop Serving -- We Are One Powerful Voice -- for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career

Content is from members, MOAA's Take Action, Legislative Action Center, and other military-oriented sources. The material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same non-partisan policy as MOAA

(Open link for MORE <http://www.heartlandmoaa.us/>)

MOAA Home Page

Link

[MOAA - MOAA Home Page](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans CWV -

Center for Women Veterans (CWV)

<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

Welcome, all women Veterans, family members, caregivers, and advocates! The Center for Women Veterans' (CWV) mission is to monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits, services, and programs for women Veterans. We serve as an advocate for cultural transformation and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect to #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA. Today's VA is focused on the needs of women Veterans and cultural transformation. We aim to provide an environment free from harassment. VA has introduced White Ribbon, a national call to action to eliminate sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic violence. VA Secretary McDonough is making accountability of those who commit harassment or sexual assault an important part of creating a culture that is free from harassment and sexual assault, without fear of retaliation.

We are women Veterans proud to serve our sister Veterans and those who serve them. Stay in touch, sign up for email, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @VAWomenVets. We share information on benefits

<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

Women Veterans Outreach

<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/outreach/index.asp>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs CWV - News Update

We want to hear from women who have served in the military

In Case You Missed It: The Center for Women Veterans is sharing recent news stories that may interest women Veterans, military women, and their supporters every week. Share your thoughts about them on social media @VAWomenVets.

Women Veterans NOT using your earned VA Benefits & Services, we would love to hear from you. Please take our survey; it takes 5 minutes and is anonymous. <https://survey.voice.va.gov/?cwv-women-veterans>

Center for Women Veterans (CWV) Research for Women Veterans

<https://www.va.gov/womenvet/research/index.asp>

On this page:

[Participate in VA Research](#) | [VA Reports and Research](#) | [Special Volumes](#) | [PubMed.gov Resources](#)

VA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of any external website links. These sites are provided for informational purposes only.

SGLI Coverage Increase

Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum coverage has increased to \$500,000. The cost of a maximum-coverage policy will continue to be low, and the increase provides greater financial security for military families in the event of a death. VA life insurance benefits can help pay off debts, provide living expenses, and any medical or final costs surviving family members may face. [Learn what this update may mean for you.](#)

Track Your PACT Act Claim Status Online

The PACT Act expands benefits eligibility for Veterans exposed to toxic substances such as Agent Orange, radiation, or burn pits during their military service. Eligible Veterans and survivors are encouraged to file their claims now. If you have a [pending PACT Act claim, learn how to check the status online.](#)

Predatory Law Firms Scam for Benefits

Have you recently been aggressively contacted by a company or law firm regarding legal representation to file your PACT Act or Camp Lejeune presumptive VA claims? Dishonest attorneys are messaging Veterans with offers of assistance but charge inflated fees. VA will help gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply. Apply directly to VA securely online or in person at any regional office.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/3540855>

<https://offuttosc.com/shop>

OFFUTT AFB Thrift Shop!

Shopping at the Thrift Shop helps many community and base organizations, such as the Offutt AFB Fire Department, Military Birthday Balls, and local public schools by funding the [charitable giving](#) of the OOSC. Additionally, revenue from the Shop goes toward the [OOSC Scholarships Fund](#) for military-dependent high school seniors and military spouses of all ranks.

The Offutt Thrift Shop is located at -
Bldg 525, Castle Hall
Offutt AFB
(across from the BX)

You can shop with us -
Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
1st & 3rd Saturdays
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

[Consignments](#) are accepted
10:00 am - 12:30 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 1st/3rd Saturdays

Do you have a PCS coming up or just want to declutter?
Bring in your donations before the movers are scheduled!
Donations can be received via our donation shed,
out front by our consignment entrance.
The donation shed is accessible 24/7.
Shop Hours: OPEN Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
First and Third Saturdays of the month 10 AM - 2 PM

The Mission of the Veterans Advisory Group (VAG) of Lincoln

is to enhance the quality of the Lincoln Clinic patient by guiding Veterans through the system, making it a better experience, providing Veteran input to the Lincoln Clinic Site Management Team, and developing events that encourage the participation of the community.

The goal of the Veterans Advisory Group of Lincoln is to improve Veteran satisfaction, and advise on policies and practices supporting Veteran and family centered care:

- VAG Lincoln Members work with Veterans, their families, and the Lincoln Clinic Site Management Team.
- VAG Lincoln Members serve as an active resource to the Lincoln Clinic Staff with input and feedback on specific issues or projects, and to promote understanding of the services and policies of the Lincoln Clinic.
- VAG Lincoln Members review issues and concerns referred to them and provide recommendations to the Lincoln Clinic Site Management Team.

<https://vaglincoln.org/about-vag>

EVENTS



MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS' NIGHT

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH • 6:00 PM

https://gocreighton.com/images/2018/4/28/Military_Day.jpg

Creighton Baseball will host the Xavier's Musketeer's this Saturday, May 6th for the 11th Annual Military and First Responders game.

This event is the annual Military and First Responders Day celebration to honor our veterans, active-duty personnel, National Guard, first responders, law enforcement, fire department as well as the family members of those we have lost.

To receive up to 6 complimentary tickets, visit the Blue Jay Ticket Office, CHI Ticket Office or Charles Schwab Field starting Monday, April 17.

Come see military and First Responders equipment displays (Lot C) one hour before the game, skydivers, enlistment ceremony, fireworks, and tribute to our fallen.

Enlistments will be conducted on the field between the 2nd and 3rd inning. Last year future warriors from all branches of service took the Oath of Enlistment to a standing ovation by the over 10,000 in attendance. Color Guard provided by Omaha Public Schools, and the 30' x 50' American Flag will be brought onto the field by the Civil Air Patrol and Woodmen Life.

LTC (RET) Michael DeBolt, USA

Director of Army Instruction

Omaha Public Schools

P: 531-299-9435

C: 402-980-0554

My Strengths:

Communicating, Flexibility, Critical Thinking

I'm OPS Proud because:

JROTC has motivated young people to be better citizens since 1887.

**DON'T MISS THE THIRD ANNUAL
PATRIOTIC PARADE & CONCERT**

Saturday, May 27, 2023 - 10AM
The Gene Leahy Mall & Old Market in Downtown Omaha

Memorial Day is the day we repay our debts to all of our heroes. --James Martin Davis

RISE ABOVE Exhibit Accompanied by original restored P-51 Mustang; 2 Flights Auctioned!
See HiBid.com for details.

THIS PARADE IS LIKE NO OTHER!
Tuskegee Exhibit - Free Admission
Special Guest: Lt Col George Hardy, age 97, a Tuskegee Airman, WW II, Korea, Vietnam
80 Parade Entries
Veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, War on Terror
40-Member USMC Marching Band from New Orleans; will perform in Parade & Concert
Fort Riley Mounted Color Guard
This year's Parade includes children & adults in period costumes of America's history, plus cars, tractors & military vehicles.

This Parade Honors Gold Star Families.. Veterans, and First Responders
Parade begins 10th & Jackson to Howard Street north on 10th to Farnam and The Gene Leahy Mall. Concert begins immediately following Parade.

Entry form on website:
www.PatrioticProductions.org
[Facebook.com/PatrioticProductions](https://www.facebook.com/PatrioticProductions)

Sandhills Global
Presenting Sponsor

WERNER

WoodmenLife

SMART

Senator Pete Ricketts & Suzanne Shore

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023 AT 11 AM

Patriotic Parade & Concert

Memorial Day, previously called Decoration Day, often becomes another three-day weekend for many. Although a Parade may seem too jovial for such a somber day, the Parade and Concert (with Roll Call of the Fallen spoken by Gold Star families present), is an attempt to educate children and young folks about the debt we owe to those who paid the ultimate price.

Veterans are invited to walk or ride in the Parade. If not part of a group, please arrive at the Parade lineup area east of 10th & Jackson at 9 am and you will fall in line with the veteran peers of your era. We will have wagons or trailers for those who prefer a ride.

THE PARADE BEGINS WESTBOUND FROM 10TH & JACKSON TO THE OLD MARKET AND BACK TO 10TH STREET AND NORTH TO FARNAM.

CONCERT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE PARADE AT GENE LEAHY MALL.

LET'S MAKE THIS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND POWERFUL, AS WE TEACH OUR YOUTH WHAT IT MEANS TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED TO PROTECT AMERICA'S FREEDOM. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR THE PARADE, THANK YOU! DAN & LORI FALCON, PARADE LINEUP ORGANIZERS, WILL CONTACT YOU IN EARLY MAY WITH LINEUP DETAILS.

Gene Leahy Mall

Already confirmed are 40 Marines of the USMC Marching Band, Fort Riley's Mounted Color Guard, and the "Rise Above" exhibit featuring the perseverance of the Tuskegee Airmen & Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). Accompanying the exhibit will be an original (restored) P-51C Mustang flown by the Tuskegee Airmen.

Two tickets will be auctioned for the very rare flight in this aircraft over Omaha! More information will be posted on the website and Facebook page, including an entry application to participate in the parade. If coming as an organization or group, please complete the entry application found under Parade Info on the website. <https://allevents.in/omaha/patriotic-parade-and-concert/200023889394921#> Parking will be available east of 9th & Jackson.

WNCC Student Veterans Organization

The Western Nebraska Community College Student Veterans Organization (WNCC SVO) is an organization open for students of WNCC who are current or former veterans or are family members of veterans. This page is not affiliated with WNCC. It is operated by students solely for entertainment. Please keep comments appropriate.

Please RSVP to have a table at the 2023 Scottsbluff Veteran Stand Down!

Who: The Stand Down is for all veterans, service member, and their family members.

What: Providing our local veterans, service members, and their family member with local services available to them.

Where: John N. Harms Center Low Bay; 2620 College Park Drive, Scottsbluff, NE 69361

When: June 1st from 5-7 pm and June 2nd from 9am-2pm (Set up time will be open June 1st at 3pm and at 8:30am on June 2nd. If you set up on June 1st your area will be safe to stay set up for June 2nd.)

The poster to advertise for the event is attached the this email.

Please let me know if you are coming by responding to this email with the information below:

1. Your organization/name
2. Do you need electricity?
3. Please indicate what days you will be in attendance: just June 1; just June 2; both days

Please let me know if you have any questions about the Veteran Stand Down! We hope you can make it!

Kendra Lauruhn

Public Health Dental Hygienist

Lead Inspector and Risk Assessor

Panhandle Public Health District

18 W 16th Street

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Office 308-633-2866 ext. 206

Fax 308-633-2874

Updated email – klauruhn@pphd.ne.gov

Updated website - pphd.ne.gov



Another season of family fun is scheduled with Community Fishing Events

Join the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for another spring and summer of fun with Community Fishing Events.

Community Fishing Events provide opportunities for people of all ages who have never fished or have not fished in years to learn and enjoy the activity. Rods and reels, as well as bait and fishing instructions, will be available for free.

[READ More](#)

Schedule:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/3547c58>

Spring shotgun turkey season begins April 15

Excitement is building: Nebraska's spring turkey shotgun season opens April 15. While nonresident permits were limited this year and have now sold out, Nebraska residents still have an opportunity to buy a permit and take to the field.

Find where trout have been stocked

Guests at Central Nebraska state parks will enjoy many improvements

Low water affecting Nebraska boaters this spring

[READ More](#)

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/3547686>

Explore Outdoor Nebraska

Nebraska Game and Parks support the state's fish and wildlife and its natural places. Find your next adventure with us.

<https://outdoornebraska.gov/>



The 13th Annual Veterans Freedom Music Festival!

The 13th Annual 2023 Veterans Freedom Music Festival will be held at the Antelope Bandshell in Antelope Park from 11:00 AM until 5 PM on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

FREE Parking and Admission. Visitors should bring their own chairs and coolers. There are no alcohol or pets (other than service dogs).

[Learn More...](#)

The Veterans Advisory Group of Lincoln Welcomes You!

The Veterans Advisory Group of Lincoln is a group of Veterans helping Veterans. Known as VAG Lincoln, the purpose of the Veterans Advisory Group of Lincoln is to honor Veterans by providing ongoing events and support.

Due to property renovation at the Lincoln VA, most VAG Lincoln events are now held at the Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park, or at other locations throughout the city.

Want to Help Honor Our Veterans?

The Veterans Advisory Group of Lincoln Needs Your Help and Expertise. Here are a few things you can consider in helping to honor our Veterans:

- Become a Volunteer to help in the many events sponsored throughout the year.
- Contribute a dollar amount (no matter how big or small) to help fund activities. Note that ALL funds donated are used 100% for the purpose you designate!
- Become a Business Sponsor by helping fund our events, including the Veterans Freedom Music Festival, Monthly Coffee Haus Events, Art Show, Classic Car Show-n-Shine, Buddy Check, and the Staff Lunch.
- Be a Guest at most events and enjoy the experience!
- <https://vaglincoln.org/>

Lincoln's LARGEST Outdoor Music Festival ***

FREE Parking and Admission!***

2023 Condensed Band Line-Up and Events

<https://vaglincoln.org/music-festival>



**KOREAN WAR
REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY**

Sat July 29, 2023
Memorial Park - Omaha
**70th Anniversary of
the Korean Armistice Agreement**

-35 DEGREES BELOW ZERO AT CHOSIN
RESERVOIR WHERE 30,000 UNITED
NATIONS TROOPS FOUGHT THEIR WAY
OUT AFTER BEING SURROUNDED BY
60,000 CHINESE

U.S. CASUALTIES DURING THE WAR:
40,000 DIED
100,000 WOUNDED
7,800 MISSING IN ACTION

"OUR NATION HONORS HER SONS AND
DAUGHTERS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO
DEFEND A COUNTRY THEY NEVER KNEW AND
A PEOPLE THEY NEVER MET."

"THEY'RE ON OUR LEFT, ON OUR RIGHT, IN
FRONT OF US AND BEHIND US. THEY CAN'T
GET AWAY THIS TIME."
-LTGEN "CHESTY" PULLER, USMC

FOR DETAILS OR TO SPONSOR,
CONTACT PATRIOTIC PRODUCTIONS
AT 402-612-0210 OR INFO@PATRIOTICPRODUCTIONS.ORG

PATRIOTIC PRODUCTIONS

Images at the bottom: A soldier in a white uniform, a group of soldiers in a field, and a map of the Korean Peninsula showing North and South Korea.

July 27-29, 2023

10AM - Saturday, July 29, Memorial Park, Omaha

Korean War Veterans will be honored at this event. If they are no longer with us, we would like to honor their spouses and family members. Re-enactors will be camped at the park from Thursday evening through Saturday afternoon, with military gear, equipment and vehicles. A half-size replica of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. will arrive July 27 and remain for the ceremony.

<https://www.patrioticproductions.org/living-history>

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](#) [#lincolnpalade](#) [#LNKvets](#)
www.lincolnveteransparade.org

Lincoln Veterans Parade Art Contest

The 2023 Lincoln Veterans Parade theme is Veterans In Business. Recognizing our military veterans in the workforce as business leaders, entrepreneurs, or employees. Our heroes continue to move forward after service. The contest is to design a poster which reflects the parade theme. Designs can be full color and need to be provided in three different sizes. The deadline for submission is May 24th, 2023.

<https://tinyurl.com/mrxaepnh>

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