

Nebraska Veterans Coalition



Leading the way for Nebraska's Veterans

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A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 5 Issue 2, February 1, 2024, Newsletter

Let us make 2024 the Year of Military Veterans Appreciation.

We at the Nebraska Veterans Coalition have researched, recommended, and continued supporting legislation to improve the lives of veterans, active and reserve military in Nebraska since 2014. We will do our best to post articles on our Facebook page and this monthly Newsletter. Our efforts to inform veterans are passed to over 8,000 Nebraska veterans and supporters.

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

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition Mission

See our mission statement on our website!

www.NebraskaVeterans.org

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

[County Veterans Service Offices Directory](#)

Contact your County Veterans Service Officer and offer your help

Help with providing transportation for fellow veterans

Offer your business as a place for Buddy Check Meetings

This video is provided by the Nebraska Association of County Officials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bqhlwylZv2c>

A County Veterans Service Office staff provides confidential counseling and assistance to Veterans and their families who are applying for Federal, State, and County Veterans programs and benefits. Federal Veterans Benefits include Education Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation, Service-connected disability, Non-service disability pension, Healthcare, and Burial benefits.

Nebraska Veterans programs include waiver of tuition, admittance to a Nebraska Veterans home, and emergency financial assistance from the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund.

Eligibility for State financial assistance requires Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge from active duty. This requirement is not met by active duty for training only.

(Specific residency and service dates are required for some State Benefits)

[Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

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

[County Veterans Service Offices Directory](#) (Updated Monthly)

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

[The Nebraska Veterans Coalition](#)

[presents this month's](#)

[FEATURED COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER INFORMATION](#)

KIMBALL COUNTY

Service Officer Matthew Meyers (308) 235-3141 matthew.meyers@scottsbuffcountyne.gov

Admin Assist Darcee Wheeland darcee.wheeland@kimballcountyne.gov

Location Courthouse, 1st Flr.

Mailing Address 114 E. 3rd St. Kimball, NE 69145

Hours

Monday – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Friday Closed noon to 1 pm

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

Also CVSO for Scottsbluff County & Banner County

KNOX COUNTY

Service Officer Gary Jones (402) 288-5617 vetservice@knoxcountyne.org

Fax: (402) 288-5652

Location 209 Lovell Street, Annex Bldg. 2, Center, NE 68724

Mailing Address PO Box 205 Center, NE 68724

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

Website https://co.knox.ne.us/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

LANCASTER COUNTY

Service Officer Mark LaKamp (402) 441-7361

OFFICE E-MAIL veteran@lancaster.ne.gov

Fax: (402) 441-7392

Location 600 South 70th St. Building #2, Suite #200

Lincoln, NE 68510

Vet Benefit Spc Susan Baumann

Vet Benefit Spc Mark McDonald

Vet Benefit Spc Jason Meyer

Vet Service Spc Donna Reifschneider

Hours Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4 pm

Closed from noon to 1 pm

Website <http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/484/Veterans-Service-Center>

Legislation

2024 Veterans Legislative Day

The Nebraska Veterans Council will be hosting Veterans Legislative Day on Friday, February 2 in the Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol building in Lincoln. Featured speakers at the event include NDVA Director John Hilgert as well as several state senators who have introduced bills affecting veterans in Nebraska. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the event begins at 8:30. If you're unable to make it but still want your voice heard on a certain bill, you can submit online comments via the Legislature's website. Information on submitting online comments and other methods of public input is available by [clicking here](#).

[Learn More About Veterans Legislative Day](#)

Get Ready to Testify at the Hearings for the bills related to Veteran/Active/Guard and Reserve

Nebraska State Senators are encouraged to cosponsor or add their name to, and support veterans-related bills.

This link provides a free bill tracker that will automatically send you updated actions on veteran-related bills to your email. The free bill tracker allows fifteen bills per email address. If you have more than one email address, you can set up two or more accounts.

<https://www.nebraska.gov/billtracker/>

Bill tracker will give you the hearing date as soon as it is identified

Veteran-related Bills introduced in January 2024

Search Bills and Resolutions

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills>

Public Hearings

How to share your views with senators

Nebraska's unique Unicameral Legislature relies heavily on the "second house" – the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Ensuring that members of the public have the opportunity to have their voices heard is vital to the legislative process.

The following options provide ways for citizens to share their views on a bill with the Legislature.

Please read each option carefully, as each has a different outcome as to how your input is recorded.

[In Person Testimony](#)

As always, persons attending a public hearing in person will have an opportunity to present verbal testimony to the committee and be subject to questioning by the committee members. In-person testimony is generally limited to 5 minutes although the chair of each committee has discretion to modify that time limit.

Persons verbally testifying will be listed as a testifier on the committee statement as has been the practice, and have their position included within the official committee hearing record

[Position Comments for the Public Hearing Record](#)

[Submission of Online Comments](#)

[ADA Accommodation Written Testimony](#)

To facilitate public input on legislation, a feature was added to the Nebraska Legislature's website for submission of written comments on pending legislation on the Legislature's website at any stage of the process. (To access this feature, search for the bill you wish to submit a statement on and click the corresponding button near the top of the bill page.) This feature will appear once a bill has been scheduled for a public hearing.

Persons submitting comments online will have the option to request the comments be included in the official

public hearing record as an exhibit if the comments are submitted and verified before noon CST on the last workday before the public hearing.

Open This Link and enter the Bill Number
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

As a minimum please review the Statement of intent or read the Bill as Introduced

Open the tab "Submit Comment"

Personal data will autofill after 1st entry

Make your expanded comment expressing you are a proponent or opponent

To complete your input an email will be sent to you verifying your comment has been received.

Blood LB835 Interstate Compact for School Psychologists Hearing 1/22/2024

Blood LB832 Juvenile Jurisdiction Military Children Hearing 1/24/2024

Blood LB826 Reduced Games and Parks Veterans/Active Military Families Hearing 1/26/2024

Blood LB824 Interstate Compact Dentists/Dental Hygienists Hearing 1/24/2024

Blood LB823 Interstate Compact Physician Associates

Blood LB822 Interstate Compact Social Workers\Hearing 1/26/2024

Jacobson LB 853 - Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions

Bostar LB 869- Change provisions relating to services of the county

Veterans service committees

Holdcroft- LB965- Change provisions relating to certain license plates issued to persons with military affiliation as prescribed Hearing for 2/6/24

Lippincott LB 971- Change provisions for a free hunting permit for veterans to hunt on Veterans Day Hearing for 1/31/24

Brewer LB 973- Withdrawn

Blood LB977 Prohibit discrimination based on the military or veteran status Hearing for 1/26/24

Conrad LB 1001 Provide a migratory waterfowl hunting season for veterans

Vargas- LB 1036 Provide for issuance of free annual combination fishing, fur-hunting, and hunting permits, habitat stamps, aquatic habitat stamps, and Nebraska migratory waterfowl stamps to certain veterans and members of the armed forces of the United States Hearing 1/26/2024

Brewer- LB1037 - Prohibit certain conduct relating to assistance or referrals in veterans benefits matters

Hardin- LB1120 - Require affidavits for certain purchases of real property near military installations Hearing for 2/12/24

Day- LB 1149 Provide an exemption from the motor vehicle tax for motor vehicles with Gold Star Family plates

Lippincott -LB1298 Provide for the issuance of veteran, honorary, and distinctive licenses under the Motor Vehicle Operators's License Act Hearing for 2/6/24

McDonnell- LB 1363 Change provisions to the rate and disbursement of documentary stamp tax, the Military Base Development and Support fund, the Nebraska Film Office Fund, the Innovation Hub Cash Fund, and the Economic Recovery Contingency Fund

McDonnell LB 1364 Changes provisions of the Site and Building Building Development Act and provides for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund Hearing for 2/13/24

Sanders LB 1407 Rename and change provisions relating to the Military Base Development and Support Fund Hearing for 2/7/24

Brewer- LB 1417 Governor.s request Create, eliminate, terminate, and provide change, eliminate, and transfer powers, duties and membership of boards, commissions, committees, councils, task forces, panels, authorities, and departments and change and eliminate funds

Bills carried over from the 2023 session

COMMENT ONLINE

These bills have gone through hearings and many need to move from committee

Comments can still be submitted for the following bills

Your Comment will inform the legislators of the importance of veteran-related bills

The option to submit written comments on pending legislation exists on the Legislature's website at any stage of the process. (To access this feature, search for the bill you wish to submit a statement on and click the corresponding button near the top of the bill page.

Open This Link and enter the Bill Number
<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

As a minimum please review the Statement of intent or read the Bill as Introduced

Open the tab "Submit Comment"

Personal data will autofill after 1st entry

Make your expanded comment or simply that you are a proponent or opponent

To complete your input an email will be sent to you verifying your comment has been received.

Blood LB10 - Change motor vehicle and property tax exemptions for disabled veterans

Briese LB 16 Requires occupational boards to issue certain credentials based on credentials or work experience in another jurisdiction and decide regarding an application with a criminal conviction, provide for jurisprudential examinations and appeals from the denial of a license, and change requirements for membership of the State Board

Day LB 126 - Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions

Hansen- LB 188 - Authorize the Commissioner of Education to issue temporary certificates to teach veterans as prescribed

Vargus- LB 248- Prohibit discrimination based on lawful source of income under the Nebraska Fair Housing Act and create the Landlord Guarantee Program

Brewer- LB 266- Change provisions regarding eligibility for Military Honor license plates

Wayne- LB 793- Provide duties for judges relating to problem-solving courts

Sanders LB 771- Provide for the Department of Veterans Affairs to award grants to qualifying postsecondary institutions

Track all bills by following Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Legislative Issues

[https://veterans.nebraska.gov/legislative-issues.](https://veterans.nebraska.gov/legislative-issues)

You can pull all veteran-related legislative bill numbers hearing dates, and statuses from their Legislative Tracker

2024 Legislative Session

The 108th Legislature, 2nd Session, is scheduled to run January 3 to April 18, 2024.

Legislative Tracker coming 1/19/24.

[2024 Legislative Calendar](#) *

[2024 Legislative Committees](#) *



Dear Friend,

Since 2020—in three different legislatures—we’ve been talking about expanding our workforce licensing reform beyond the Platte-initiated, first-in-the-country LB299 in 2018. Why? Because we want to grow our workforce and reduce barriers for individuals trying to live the American Dream. LB16, now prioritized by Senator Danielle Conrad, provides for recognition of licenses from outside of the state, and a fair chance at achieving their dreams for those who have a criminal record that’s been discharged.

Senators Andrew La Groene, Tom Briesse, John McCollister, and Danielle Conrad have all carried versions of what is now LB16. Those who follow the Legislature know this is a diverse group of legislators, past and present. But I don’t want to talk about the senators carrying this legislation; I want to talk about some people who could benefit (and benefit Nebraska) if this bill becomes law.

- Mike Beyer is a U.S. Navy Veteran from Bridgeport, Nebraska. He served for eight years in the Navy as a construction electrician, including a couple of years working as an electrician at Camp David and two tours in Iraq serving as the electrician for SEAL teams. When he returned to Nebraska to marry his high school sweetheart and start his family, he’d hoped to go to work as a journeyman electrician for a local electrician and someday buy the shop. The licensing board told him that his experience and training as an electrician would only count for one year of a four-year apprenticeship—that he’d have to start over before he could take his journeyman’s exam. LB16 would have helped Mike and veterans like him who have received some of the best training in the world through the military and would like to start their civilian lives without starting from scratch.
- Nick Smith is a native Nebraskan. He went away to college in Texas and earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology. Then he returned to Nebraska for a while and got a master’s degree in educational administration. After that, he returned to Texas and obtained a teaching certificate, where he taught special education and coached sports. Recently, Nick moved back to Nebraska to be closer to family, and Lincoln Public Schools wanted to hire him on the spot to teach special education. While he was eventually able to get a temporary certificate, in order to continue teaching, he’ll have to spend time and money for added education in order to continue doing a job that he had done in Texas. LB16 makes it the policy of the state of Nebraska to recognize that skills move with those who have them, and that it should be easier for those working in licensed professions to cross state lines. LB16 would have helped Nick and saved him time and money in extra education. It will make it possible for Nebraskans who have spent time in other states to return to family seamlessly.
- Alana used to live in Nebraska. In her late teens, she got into some trouble related to substance abuse and ended up incarcerated. She worked to turn her life around, took classes, completed her obligation to society, and then went to work (and back for more school). Her goal was to get some advanced education in counseling and psychology to help others in Nebraska who had the same struggles she had. Her grades were good, and she was accepted to academic programs in Nebraska but warned that she’d never be able to be licensed in the state due to her years-in-the-past criminal record. Last we heard, she moved to Florida to work on her doctorate degree since Florida doesn’t have the same limitations on licensure that Nebraska does. LB16 could have helped Alana to stay in Nebraska, earn her licensure, and help those who most need it.

Mike, Nick and Alana are just a few of the people we’ve heard from as we’ve tried to reduce barriers in workforce licensing. Other potential beneficiaries of LB16 include military spouses who are licensed in

occupations in other states. Of course, all Nebraskans benefit when there are more trained workers who can come to our state, to work in our businesses, to wire our houses, and teach our kids. In 2020, three other states had passed legislation similar to that found in LB16—broad recognition of out-of-state licenses. Since then, 17 other states have jumped on board, some including the fair chance components (including our neighbors in Iowa and Missouri). It's time for Nebraska to act to welcome skilled workers and offer opportunities to those willing to take it. I hope you'll help us to push LB16 across the finish line this year. [Go here to take action](#) and help us lay out the welcome mat for Nebraska. Thanks for reading,
Jim
Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute and host of Nebraskanomics.
☐ It's time to stop the status quo. Let's remove economic barriers and make Nebraskans proud.

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.



NACO Legislative Report

January 12, 2024 <https://t.e2ma.net/message/r8oq8g/3994mk0j>

Inheritance Tax Repeal and County Office Proposals

January 5, 2024 <https://t.e2ma.net/message/rgrp7g/7wml3osj>

Nebraska Legislature Convenes for 60-Day Session



Department of Nebraska

URGENT

DAV - CALL TO ACTION

The 108th Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature has been convened. There are several bills that can have a positive impact on Nebraska's disabled veterans. We are asking that you please look

at the following bills which have been backed by the DAV and that have adopted resolutions of support for them.

LB-126 which would provide a partial homestead exemption based on a veterans disability rating.

LB-695 which would exempt the first \$25,000 of valuation on real property.

LB-853 which would grant a homestead exemption for disabled veterans based on their disability rating ie: 10% disability would grant a 10% tax exemption on a homestead you have lived in for one year up to 90% tax exemption for a 90% a veteran with a 90% disability rating.

LB-966 which would define the use of a new DAV license plate as well as what qualifies for a Handicap parking permit.

LB-10 which would grant a vehicle tax exemption for one vehicle for a disabled veteran.

We are asking that after careful consideration each member reach out to their elected State Senator and ask them to not only support these veteran friendly bills but also sign on as a co-sponsor of the bills. We in the Department can only do so much in the way of lobbying our senators. The most effective tool is a simple call or an e-mail from you to your elected senator. It lets them know that you are watching how they respond to veterans legislation and your support of them in the future will take into account their actions on these issues. If you need help find the bills or your senators e-mail, phone number or the actual bill itself it can easily be found on the following link:

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

Thanks in advance for you help on this. Together we can make it happen.

Please help us make this happen for our fellow brothers and sisters who have answered the call to serve and defend this great nation.

Jim Shuey -- Benefits Protection Team Leader
DAV -- Department of Nebraska

Fritz Lee -- Department Commander
Jamie Jakub -- Department Adjutant

[TO JOIN THE DAV CAN, Click Here!](#)

[DAV Commanders Action Network](#)

HEALTH CARE



To improve care for Veterans, VA to fund studies on new therapies for treating mental health conditions

For immediate release on January 5, 2024 1:00 pm

New research would determine the benefit of psychedelics for treating PTSD and depression in Veterans
WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a request for applications (RFA) for proposals from its network of VA researchers (in collaboration with academic institutions) to study the use of certain psychedelic compounds in treating posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/to-improve-care-for-veterans-va-to-fund-studies-on-new-therapies-for-treating-mental-health-conditions/>

Women Veterans, VA may surprise you

We're continuously expanding services to improve your care

January 15, 2024

By Dr. Sally Haskell

Acting Chief Officer, Office of Women's Health

Women Veterans, you may be surprised to learn about all the VA has to offer. If you haven't checked out VA in a while, things have changed. We recognize each of you are unique and your health care needs are not "one-size-fits-all." That's why VA continues to expand its services, so we can provide you with the best care possible to better fit your needs.

All of your care coordination in one place

When it comes to your health and well-being, we have you covered. VA is a one-stop-shop where you can receive care coordination for all your health needs in one place. You have access to a full spectrum of gender-specific comprehensive health care at VA, and our Whole Health approach is all about focusing on what matters to you.

Your VA health care coordination includes primary and preventative care, reproductive health, fertility services, maternity care, mental health, and resources for your overall well-being, like exercise, sleep and nutrition.

<https://news.va.gov/127508/women-veterans-va-may-surprise-you/>

The State of Veteran Suicide (2022)

Updated: Mar 29, 2023

America's Warrior Partnership (AWP) recently released a striking report concluding that the veteran suicide rate is 2.4 times greater than the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) estimates. According to AWP's findings, 22-24 veterans ages 18-64 commit suicide each day and 18-20 veterans in the same age group die per day by self-injury. Combined, this points to at least 40-44 veterans taking their lives every day.

<https://www.missionrollcall.org/post/state-of-veteran-suicide>

What Is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder?

Symptoms of PTSD

The team at Northpoint Nebraska is here to help people with a PTSD treatment program.

Post-traumatic stress disorder does not only affect combat veterans. First responders, frontline workers, survivors of childhood trauma and abuse, and people who have lived through collective trauma and natural disasters can develop and live with PTSD without knowing it.

If you or someone you love is struggling with signs of PTSD, know you are not alone. Northpoint Nebraska's Omaha clinic is here to help. Our mental health treatment programs use evidence-based and alternative therapy programs to help manage PTSD and co-occurring disorders. Call us now at 402.698.3475 to enroll in our PTSD treatment program.

<https://www.northpointnebraska.com/mental-health-treatment-programs-nebraska/ptsd-treatment-program-nebraska/>

Veterans, Dry January, and the VetChange App: A Path to Sobriety and Well-Being

Dry January as a Catalyst for Change

Dry January, a growing trend where individuals abstain from alcohol for an entire month, can serve as a powerful catalyst for Veterans seeking positive change. By committing to a month of sobriety, individuals create an opportunity to break unhealthy habits, reassess their relationship with alcohol, and experience the physical and mental benefits of abstaining.

The Role of the VetChange App

The VetChange app, developed by the National Center for PTSD, offers a valuable resource for Veterans looking to navigate the complexities of alcohol use and mental health. This app provides evidence-based tools and support tailored to the unique needs of Veterans, addressing both alcohol-related concerns and the impact of PTSD on overall well-being.

Key Features of the VetChange App

1. Assessment tools to help Veterans understand their alcohol use patterns and the potential connection to PTSD symptoms.
 2. Personalized goals for reducing or eliminating alcohol use.
 3. Practical strategies for coping with stress, managing triggers, and improving overall mental health.
 4. Connections with a supportive community through the app.
- Dry January started as a way to avoid alcohol for the month right after the excesses of the holidays, but anyone can start at any time. The VetChange app is free, easy to download and use, and is available 24/7.
- For more information and to download the app:
<https://tinyurl.com/yqb8j773>

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION



Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Open this link and visit the NDVA website

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

Follow

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

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

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Newsletter & Events

January 2024 Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/nebraska.gov/ndva-newsletter-january-2024?e=64def6304a>

Service Showcase: Nebraska DD-214 Repository

Sign Up For NDVA's Veterans Legislative Tracker

2024 Veterans Legislative Day

2024 Women Veterans Symposium

NDVA's Benefits and Services PSA

NDVA SSO @ NETWAR 43.0

UNO Basketball Hosting Military Appreciation Night

Now Hiring: 12-Hour Shifts for RNs and LPNs at the

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

NDVA Calendar of Events

Every month, NDVA sends out a calendar of events that the agency will be hosting or attending. Below are some upcoming events.

February

- February 2 - [Veterans Legislative Day](#) - Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln, NE
- February 3 - [VFW Midwinter Conference](#) - Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE
- February 16 - CoffeeHaus - Auld Pavilion, Lincoln, NE
- February 22 - Buddy Check - The Mill Coffee & Bistro at Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE
- February 23-24 - [NETWAR 43.0](#) - College of Saint Mary, Omaha, NE

MORE

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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.

[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.

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/>

[Army Sees Sharp Decline in White Recruits](#)

The [Army's recruiting](#) of white soldiers has dropped significantly in the last half decade, according to internal data reviewed by Military.com, a decline that accounts for much of the service's historic recruitment slump that has become the subject of increasing concern for Army leadership and Capitol Hill.

The shift in demographics for incoming recruits would be irrelevant to war planners, except it coincides with an overall shortfall of about 10,000 recruits for the Army in 2023 as the service missed its target of 65,000 new soldiers. That deficit is straining the force as it has ramped up its presence in the Pacific and Europe: A smaller Army is taking on a larger mission and training workload than during the peak of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- [leading to soldiers being away from home now more than ever](#).

A total of 44,042 new Army recruits were categorized by the service as white in 2018, but that number has fallen consistently each year to a low of 25,070 in 2023, with a 6% dip from 2022 to 2023 being the most significant drop. No other demographic group has seen such a precipitous decline, though there have been ups and downs from year to year.

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/01/10/army-sees-sharp-decline-white-recruits.html>

[What is InternNE?](#)

<https://www.internneb.org/>

The internNE, Powered by the Aksarben initiative, previously recognized as the Intern Nebraska Grant Program (internNE), is a \$20 million collaborative effort between the Aksarben Foundation and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The program aims to connect students and employers statewide by reimbursing eligible internship expenses.

Resources : <https://www.internneb.org/resources>

[Six reasons why military Veterans should consider opening a franchise in 2024](#)

1. Veterans are highly trained
2. You don't need business experience
3. Veteran benefits
4. Not just restaurants
5. Veterans are no stranger to risk
6. Free franchise coaching services for Veterans

Get free franchise coaching from Vetpreneur

<https://news.va.gov/127511/veterans-should-consider-opening-a-franchise/>

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their support of their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Nominations must come from a Guard or Reserve member who is employed by the organization they are nominating, or from a family member.

The award was created to publicly recognize employers who provide exceptional support to their Guard and Reserve employees. It is the highest in a series of employer recognition awards given by the Department of Defense.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these citizen warriors with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve. This award recognizes employers who provide the most outstanding support for their Guard and Reserve employees and is presented annually by the Secretary of Defense.

The [nomination process](#) is open to all Guard and Reserve personnel or a family member acting on their behalf and applications are submitted online to ESGR. A national selection board comprised of senior Defense officials and business leaders selects the award recipients.

<https://www.freedomaward.mil/>



The Story of James Montgomery Flagg's Iconic Poster

The top hat, the goatee, the burning eyes, and that long accusing finger – the "I Want YOU!" poster has become one of the most iconic images in American history. Used by the U.S. Army to recruit troops during the [First World War](#), this image transformed the character of Uncle Sam into a stern and powerful figure. His persuasive pose and marked demeanor proved to be a hugely effective tool during the war, and a staggering four million copies of it were printed between 1917 and 1918.

<https://illustrationchronicles.com/i-want-you-the-story-of-james-montgomery-flagg-s-iconic-poster>

Latest on Eppley Airfield \$950 million expansion plan leaves room to grow

By [6 News staff reports](#)

Published: Jan. 17, 2024 at 7:34 AM CST|Updated: 4 hours ago

OMAHA, Neb. (WOWT) - The Omaha Airport Authority on Wednesday announced plans to significantly expand [Eppley Airfield's terminal at a cost of \\$950 million](#). The cost will include renovations. The plan will allow long-term growth.

The authority said passenger traffic demand has been on the rise. The year 2023 ended up being the second busiest in its history with more than 5 million passengers traveling through the airport. That exceeded pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

As part of the Build Terminal Modernization Program, the Omaha Airport Authority has entered into a contract with Holder Construction for the terminal expansion and renovation.

Courtesy: Omaha Airport Authority(WOWT)

<https://www.wowt.com/2024/01/17/eppley-airfield-announces-950-million-expansion-plan/>



This year, give the gift of outdoor experiences

Time outdoors is rejuvenating, memorable — and fun! This year, give someone you love the chance to enjoy that experience.

Here are just a few gift ideas perfect for anyone who enjoys the Nebraska outdoors:

- 2024 park permits: Give someone a whole year's worth of amazing experiences at Nebraska's beautiful state parks.
- 2024 hunting and fishing permits: Nebraska is filled with opportunities for hunters and anglers; help someone else make the most of them with the gift of a permit.
- Nebraskaland Winter Special: Save up to 70% on a subscription to Nebraskaland Magazine and receive the stunning 2024 Nebraskaland Calendar.

These are just a few gift options; see more at our website.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/37e8e4b>

Rollout of the X-59 Quesst Supersonic Plane (Unveiling NASA's X-59: The Future of Hypersonic Flight Official NASA Broadcast)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjCdGqgD9Bs>

NASA will provide live coverage of the X-59 aircraft reveal at 1 p.m. PST on Friday, Jan. 12, as part of the agency's Quesst mission to make commercial supersonic flight possible.

For the first time, the public will see the painted aircraft unveiled during a ceremony hosted by prime contractor Lockheed Martin Skunk Works in Palmdale, California.

The ceremony and rollout of the aircraft will stream live on the [NASA+](#) streaming service. Coverage also will air on NASA Television, the [NASA app](#), [YouTube](#), and on the agency's website. Learn how to stream NASA TV through a variety of platforms, including social media.

Members of the public can sign up to get their own virtual boarding pass for the X-59's first flight. Via NASA's Flight Log experience, participants' names will be digitized and downloaded onto a storage device that will be carried personally by the X-59 pilot. Participants will also receive a printable boarding pass with their names, and the flight will be entered into their logbooks.

NASA's X-59 is a one-of-a-kind experimental aircraft that will demonstrate the ability to fly supersonic while generating a gentle "sonic thump" rather than the normally loud sonic boom.

Once the X-59 completes assembly and testing, NASA's Quesst team will select several U.S. communities to fly the aircraft and gather data on how people perceive the sound it produces. The agency will provide that data to U.S. and international regulators to potentially adjust current rules that prohibit commercial supersonic flight over land.

For more information about Quesst, visit:

<https://www.nasa.gov/Quesst>

<https://www.aerotechnews.com/edwardsafb/2024/01/11/watch-x-59-rollout-on-nasa-plus-youtube-website/>



Team RWB's (Red, White & Blue) mission is to connect the American veteran to the community through physical fitness and social activities.

What do we do as a group we have FUN-We all do not run! Some ran; some walked in the Lincoln Marathon-everyone finished! #BOOM! We are learning paddle boarding; some are tri-athletes, others like rock-climbing, hiking, socials-bowling or coffee socials-many other opportunities-we adapt for all. It's a great time to get together with like-minded individuals and community members to come out to have fun! Great part is AD, Guards Reserves, Veterans and Community members can join. It's one team!

How do I join go to: Teamrwb.org and join the team (top left side). Fill in the boxes; next, select the team that one closest to you Omaha or Norfolk, and hit enter! A message will be sent to the Chapter Captain next we will contact you. Look forward to meeting you soon! Any questions or concerns for Omaha:

robbin.alex@teamrwb.org or Norfolk: dave.alder@teamrwb.org



Providing PTSD services to those who serve

Programs

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

Behavioral Health Services

Veterans Services programs provide confidential, individualized counseling services for active military personnel, veterans, frontline healthcare workers and their loved ones regardless of ability to pay. [Learn More](#)

Vets 4 Vets Peer Support Group

Peer support is rooted in hope & connection through empowering and empathetic relationships between those with similar and shared life experiences.

[Omaha](#)

[North Platte](#)

1:1 Peer Support Services

We offer 1:1 Peer Support Services to our military veterans. AEU's Vets4Vets program creates opportunities for veterans and service members to heal together.

[Omaha](#)

[North Platte](#) \

Virtual Women's Vets 4 Vets

This virtual women's support group encompasses a range of activities and interactions between female veterans. This group will resume in the near future. Please watch our social media for more information!

Virtual Military Spouse & Caregiver Support Group

T.R.I.B.E. Together Resiliency Inspires Brave Evolution. At this virtual Lunch & Learn, you can expect to gain a deeper understanding of stress, trauma and PTSD in this safe environment.

[Learn More](#)

Trauma Informed Yoga

This yoga class will focus on the Five Tools of Mindful Resilience: Breathing, Meditation, Mindful Movement, Guided Rest and Gratitude. This evidence-informed practice has been proven to relieve the impact of PTSD.

[Learn More](#)

Teen Talk Group

This September and October AEU is offering a teen talk group focused on opening the dialogue for adolescents ages 12 to 15 regarding emotional wellness, healthy decision making, amongst other related topics. This is a 6 week group and spots are limited!

[Learn More](#)

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group

The DBT Group is intended for active duty service members and veterans. DBT has proven to be effective treatment for PTSD. It can improve your ability to handle stress without losing control and acting destructively.

[Learn More](#)

Buddy Check

Buddy Check was started in support of veterans struggling with mental health challenges and addiction. This group will resume in the near future. Please watch our social media for more information!

EVENTS



All-

On Thursday, February 15th, UNO will be having a military appreciation night for the UNO Men's Basketball game against South Dakota on Thursday, February 15th (Tipoff is at 7:05PM). Active military personnel (active duty, guard & reserve) or veterans can receive up to 6 free tickets for the game. Please see the attached voucher (Promo code: Military) to claim 2 free tickets. If you need more than 2 tickets, please feel free to visit the Baxter Arena Ticket Office or contact them at [402-554-6287](tel:402-554-6287)/unotickets@omavs.com. If you could please spread the word in your organization/department, as well as to those you serve, it would be greatly appreciated. In addition, some of the organizations that you represent have newsletters and if you could include this announcement in said newsletter, that would be great. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Promo Code: **MILITARY**

Regards,

Chase Kratochvil

Director of Federal & Military Relations

Office of the Chancellor

Military-Connected Resource Center | MBSC 117

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2024 Tour de Nebraska to ride through the Sandhills June 25-30

January 20th, 2024 | RRNRegistration is now open for the 36th annual Tour de Nebraska that will take bicyclists on a northern trek through the Sandhills and Niobrara National Scenic River. It will take place between June 25 to 30.

The trip will visit Springview, Bassett, Ainsworth and Valentine.

Registration is open at bikereg.com/tour-de-nebraska. Registrants can save \$20 by using promo code: LOYAL.

A media release provided on the Tour de Nebraska website says sponsors were inspired by the Nebraska Sandhills and the Niobrara National Scenic River. It says the area is also a destination for outdoor activities with welcoming and charming hospitality and friendly locals. Tour de Nebraska features a "double" format with two nights in Valentine, which is hometown to state suds partner, Bolo Brewing Co. Sponsors say travelers will be able to take in some inspiring landscapes, a homegrown brewery, kayaking/tubing opportunities and hospitality found in Western Nebraska. Courtesy/Tour de Nebraska
<https://ruralradio.com/krvn/news/2024-tour-de-nebraska-to-ride-through-the-sandhills-june-25-30/>



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