

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 3, March 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

Published by John Stewart

Click on Publication of Your Choice

<https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

I began this publication 25 years ago for a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in order to help me recover from a serious health condition impacting my memory, numerous cardiac problems and cancer. Doing this project has been extremely helpful in my recovery from those problems. I have been able to help many, many veterans and family members around the world. I am truly and blessed over these two decades to have this project during my fight against many Agent Orange-related diseases from the Vietnam War. In addition to the publications, I have added hundreds of links to veterans-related websites.

Veterans Pages: <https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

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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

LINCOLN COUNTY

Service Officer Thomas Gann (308) 534-4350 (x4268) ganntw@lincolncountyne.gov

Secretary Melissa Spading (308) 534-4350(x4267) jerabekMA@lincolncountyne.gov

Fax: (308) 535-3508

Mailing Address 311 N. Vine, Ste. 2 North Platte, NE 69101

Hours Monday – Friday

9 am to 5 pm

Closed from noon to 1 pm

Website <https://lincolncountyne.gov/veterans-services/>

LOGAN COUNTY
Service Officer Richard C. Cook (308) 636-6157 richcook47@yahoo.com
Fax: (308) 636-2734
Location Courthouse Stapleton, NE
Mailing Address PO Box 8, 317 Main Street Stapleton, NE 69163
Hours WEDNESDAY ONLY
1 pm to 4 pm
Website http://logancounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

Also CVSO for Thomas & McPherson County

LOUP COUNTY
Service Officer Emory Haynes (308) 872-2071 vso@custercountyne.gov
Secretary Janet Morgan Fax: (308) 872-6170 jmorgan@custercountyne.gov
Location Courthouse Broken Bow, NE 68822
Mailing Address 431 S. 10th, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Hours Monday – Friday
9 am to 5 pm
Website <https://loupcounty.nebraska.gov/veterans-services-officer>

Also CVSO for Blaine and Custer Counties

Legislation

The Nebraska Department of Revenue, Property Assessment Division, has posted the [2024 Nebraska Homestead Exemption news release](#) to the website. Homestead exemption information and forms are available on the [Property Assessment Division website](#). **Homestead exemption applications for the 2024 application year may start being submitted to county assessors today, February 2nd. Applications must be submitted on or before July 1st, 2024 due to June 30th falling on a Sunday.**

If you have any questions, contact the Legal/Policy Section of Property Assessment Division.

***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.***

[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** Notice of hearing for February 22, 2024

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

Blood LB 821 **Change provisions relating to the preliminary or advanced enrollments of certain students** Day Notice of hearing for February 12, 2024

Brewer LB 847 **Change provisions relating to emergency response to agree with other states and withdraw from interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact** Advanced and Enrollment Review

Brewer LB 848 **Change the maximum age for the Adjutant General** Placed in Select File

Jacobson LB 853 - **Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions** Notice of hearing for February 22, 2024

Bostar LB 869- **Change provisions relating to services of the county Veterans Service Committees** Notice of hearing for February 21, 2024

Sanders L 895 **Change provisions relating to recruitment and retention for the Nebraska National Guard** Placed in Select File

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

Frederickson LB 929 **Provided for coordination of the 911 service system and the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline** Notice of hearing for January 22, 2024

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** Hearing for 2/14/24

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** Notice of hearing for February 21, 2024

Hardin- LB1120 - **Require affidavits for certain purchases of real property near military installations** Hearing for 2/29/24

Day- LB 1149 **Provide an exemption from the motor vehicle tax for motor vehicles with Gold Star Family plates** Hearing for 2/6/24

Bostar LB 1289 **State legislative intent in appropriate funds to the Adjutant General and provide for a transfer from the Cash Reserve Fund** Hearing Scheduled Feb 7, 2024

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** Notice of Hearing Feb 21, 2024

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

Arch - LB 1412 **Governor's request Provide, change, and eliminate appropriations for the operation of state government, postsecondary education, state aid, capital construction and federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** Hearing Jan 30, 2024

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** Hearing Feb 29, 2024

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 appeal from the denial. requirements for membership of the State Board

Brewer LB 43 to amend section 85-505, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2022; to change the amount of tuition credits allowed during a fiscal year; to repeal the original section; and to declare an emergency.

Cavanaugh, M LB57 - Adopt the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act

LB80 - State intent regarding appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs

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

Erdman LB230 - Require qualifying identification for voter registration and voting, require in-person voting, provide penalties, eliminate certain fees for state identification cards and certified copies of birth certificates, and change provisions relating to operators' licenses and state identification cards

Brewer LB250 - Require periodic command climate surveys of the Nebraska National Guard

Brewer LB252 - Change provisions relating to veterans' homes and veterans' aid

Approved by Governor Feb 14, 2024

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

Holdcroft LB274 - Provide for persons with disabled veterans license plates to park in handicapped parking spaces

Blood LB561 - Adopt the Cosmetology Licensure Compact

Walz LB686 - Adopt the Cities of the First Class Firefighters Cash Balance

Brewer LB731 - Provide for service by state agency department heads in reserve components of the armed forces of the United States

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

HEALTH CARE

Veterans exposed to Agent Orange in US to see disability benefits under VA rule change

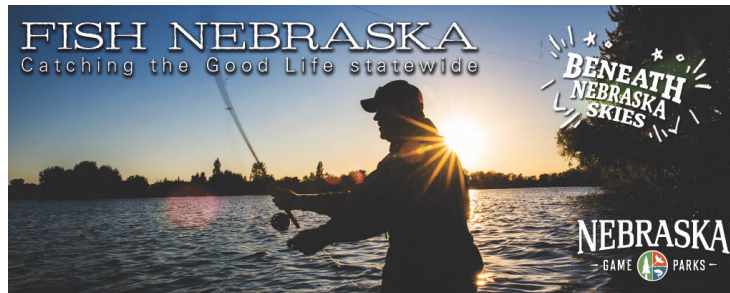
By Linda F. Hersey Stars and Stripes • February 9, 2024

Listen to this article (3min) at: <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2024-02-09/veterans-affairs-agent-orange-benefits-vietnam-12954239.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thousands of aging veterans with identified illnesses who were stationed at U.S. bases where Agent Orange and other herbicides were tested, stored or used between 1940 and 1970 will become eligible for disability benefits under a proposed rule change that the Department of Veterans Affairs disclosed Friday. The proposed rule change announced in the Federal Register represents the first time that all former service members who trained at certain U.S. locations where the defoliant was present will be able to qualify for disability benefits, the VA said. The U.S. military locations are in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. The proposed rule change would grant “presumptive benefit” status to veterans who developed certain cancers, heart conditions and other illnesses after being stationed in locations where the U.S. military tested, stored or used Agent Orange and other herbicides. “Presumptive benefit” status is a reference to eligibility based on diagnoses of illnesses — including certain forms of cancer and heart conditions — that have been linked to exposures of chemicals found in Agent Orange and other defoliants. The proposed rule change in the Federal Register will be formally published on Feb. 12, though it became available for viewing Friday. The rule is not expected to take effect for several months. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a statement that the rule change will allow for disability benefits to extend to more veterans. “This proposed change would make it easier for veterans exposed to herbicides who served outside Vietnam to access the benefits they so rightly deserve,” he said. “Our goal is to provide every veteran — of every era — with the VA health care and benefits they deserve.” Troops who served in Vietnam or in waterways throughout the country between 1962 and 1975 already are eligible for benefits related to Agent Orange exposure. The new rule clarifies that eligibility for Vietnam War-era veterans extends to individuals who served in specified offshore waters of Vietnam during that period. In addition to the U.S. locations, the rule change would extend benefits to qualifying veterans stationed at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick, Canada, from June 1966 to June 1967, and in Kumbhla, India, from 1945 to 1946. It also will expand the timeline of military service for troops who were exposed to herbicides during service in American Samoa, Cambodia, Guam, the Johnson Atolls, Korea, Laos and Thailand in the 1960s and 1970s. The announcement builds upon an expansion of benefits to former service members granted through the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, commonly known as the PACT Act. The PACT Act sought to improve access to disability benefits for veterans who developed certain

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION



Plan a fishing trip using Game and Parks publications

A whole year of fishing adventure is ahead of you. Plan a great fishing trip using the 2024 Fishing Guide and 2024 Fishing Forecast. Both publications are now available in print wherever fishing permits are sold; they can also be found online.

The Fishing Guide sums up Nebraska's fishing rules and regulations, and the Fishing Forecast shows the best fishing spots for various species across the state, based on 2023 lake sampling. Check it out now

Archery paddlefish applications to be accepted March 1-14

Game and Parks to host fly-tying workshops in March

Become a youth fishing instructor

Check out the state record fish caught in 2023

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/38a9a22>



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

Newsletter & Events **February 2024 Newsletter**

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

Service Showcase: Homestead Exemption

NDVA Wins VA Pillars of Excellence Award for Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic

NDVA Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023

2024 Veterans Legislative Day

Upcoming Veterans Claims Clinic in Fremont

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.

March

- March 16 - CoffeeHaus - Auld Pavilion, Lincoln, NE
- March 22 - Buddy Check - The Mill Coffee & Bistro at Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE

April

- April 2-3 - Veterans Claims Clinic - Christensen Field, Fremont, NE
- April 19 - CoffeeHaus - Auld Pavilion, Lincoln, NE
- April 22 - Buddy Check - The Mill Coffee & Bistro at Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, NE

MORE

- **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.

Benefits Expert

There are a lot of benefits available for veterans and their family members. Our Benefits Expert will guide you through all the county, state, and federal benefits available to help you find just the ones you are

eligible for or interested in.

Nebraska Veterans' Aid

Waiver of Tuition

DD-214 Request

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

Nebraska Veterans' Gateway

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

Resource Expert

Not sure what resources are out there or where to start? Our Resource Expert will help you find the tools and benefits available to help you transition to civilian life, further, your education, find employment, and more.

[Get Started](#)

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.

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

Military & Veterans' Registry Application

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

https://www.nebraska.gov/va_registry/index.cgi

Community Resource Directory

There is a wide variety of resources throughout the state, including resources for housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, transportation, community support, and more. Select one of the state's six behavioral health regions on the map below to see what resources are available in that area.

Disclaimer: These resources are not managed or delivered by the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs. While we strive to keep this list up to date, these resources are subject to change at any time by the organizations that provide them. If you see something that's incorrect, please contact us to let us know. <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/contact>



Five Things to Know, Feb. 19, 2024

The American Legion
Feb 19, 2024

1. [U.S. maritime forces on Saturday conducted five self-defense strikes targeting Iranian-backed Houth-controlled areas of Yemen, U.S. Central Command announced Sunday.](#) CENTCOM successfully conducted strikes against three mobile anti-ship cruise missiles, one unmanned underwater vessel (UUV) and one unmanned surface vessel (USV). It was the first observed Houthi employment of a UUV since attacks began in Oct. 23, according to CENTCOM.
2. [Two young citizen-soldiers who became close friends after enlisting in the Army Reserve were remembered at funerals in southeast Georgia on Saturday,](#) nearly three weeks after they died in a drone attack while deployed to the Middle East. A service for 24-year-old Sgt. Kennedy Sanders was held in the packed 1,200-seat auditorium of Ware County Middle School in Waycross. A similar welcome marked the final homecoming for Sgt. Breonna Moffett, 23, in Savannah. Moffett's funeral at a Baptist church was scheduled for the same time Saturday as Sanders' service 100 miles (161 kilometers) away.
3. [The mother of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny on Monday was denied access to a morgue where his body was believed to be kept after his death](#) in an Arctic penal colony, and Navalny's allies accused authorities of trying to hide evidence. Navalny's spokesperson Kira Yarmysh said that the Investigative Committee, the country's top criminal investigation agency, informed Lyudmila Navalnaya that the cause of her son's death remained unknown and that the official probe had been extended. "They lie, buy time for themselves and do not even hide it," Yarmysh posted on X, formerly Twitter.
4. [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday brushed off growing calls to halt the military offensive in Gaza, vowing to "finish the job"](#) as a member of his War Cabinet threatened to invade the southern city of Rafah if remaining Israeli hostages are not freed by the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Israel's government has not publicly discussed a timeline for a ground offensive on Rafah, where more than half the enclave's 2.3 million Palestinians have sought refuge. Retired general Benny Gantz, part of Netanyahu's three-member War Cabinet, represents an influential voice but not the final word on what might lie ahead.
5. Every day a lone bugler stands at the World War I Memorial across the plaza from a statue of Army Gen. John Pershing. The bugler salutes the American flag, lifts a simple brass instrument without valves or keys, and sounds the 24 distinctive notes of taps — the universal call sounded at dusk at U.S. military installations across the world. [To commemorate Presidents Day on Monday, the nonprofit Doughboy Foundation will recognize the 1,000th time that taps is performed since the memorial opened three years ago at 1400 Pennsylvania Ave. across from the White House visitor center.](#)

Veterans & Military Spouses Small Business Grant Program

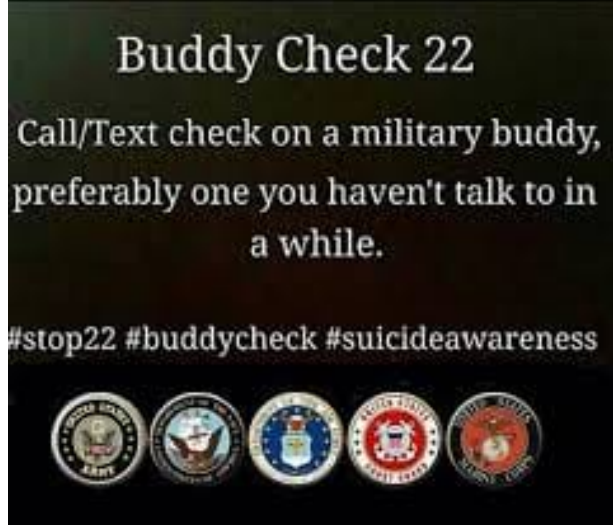
Hiring Our Heroes' Small Business Grant Program will award five small businesses owned by veterans and/or military spouses with a one-time \$10,000 grant to grow and support their businesses.

Small Business Award Grant Eligibility

Award program applications must be submitted by February 29, 2024. See complete rules for full eligibility details.

- Applicants must be a legal resident of and currently reside in the contiguous 48 states, Alaska and/or Hawaii.
- Eligible small businesses must be a for-profit business owned by a veteran or military spouse (at least 51% or more ownership) with 3 to 20 employees including the owner(s), all full or part-time employees, and independent (1099) contractors.
- Eligible small businesses cannot exceed more than \$5 million in annual revenue and must be located in an [economically vulnerable community](#) or can otherwise demonstrate financial need.

<https://www.hiringourheroes.org/small-business-grant/>



Come on out to the Seward VFW on the 22nd of the month in 2024!

Please note:

Buddy Check will now be at the Seward VFW. Buddy Check will NOT be held at Bottle Rocket. Bottle Rocket has been good to us, and we thank them for the great support they have been giving us. Over the past few months we've been discussing the pros and cons of moving Buddy Check to the VFW. We found that there are more pros to this than cons.

I plan to be ready to serve at 1900. We'll break a little bread, and talk about what needs to be talked about. 243 S 9th St, Seward, NE 68434

[#buddycheck](#) [#SuicideAwareness](#) [#Stop22](#) @followers

G.I. Bill students: Receiving more than one monetary benefit? Check your direct deposit on va.gov

Some students receive benefit payments to two banking accounts, but VA needs all students to consolidate their payments into one direct deposit account to help protect from fraud and to ensure VA pays Veterans on time, every time, without error.

If you're a G.I. Bill beneficiary who also receives other benefits, you need to ensure you have a single bank account selected for direct deposit by April 20.

If you received a notification via text message or email, please take action by April 20. If you do not receive a notification, you are not impacted.

MORE:

<https://news.va.gov/128952/g-i-bill-students-receiving-more-than-one-monetary-benefit-check-your-direct-deposit-on-va-gov/>



Thank you, Westroads Mall, for embracing the "Flights of Honor" exhibit, which returned to Westroads Mall this week, where it will remain indefinitely. For now, it is located just north of Von Maur on the main level.

Thank you, Exchange Club of Omaha, for sponsoring the exhibit's appearance at Westroads!

Also, a huge thank you to our team of volunteers who helped set it up Sunday evening after mall hours: Dan, Jim, Dick, Stan, Mike, & Pauletta!

This emotional and powerful exhibit includes hundreds of photos of the 13 Honor Flights from Omaha/Lincoln that took 3,500 veterans to Washington, D.C. between 2008-2019

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=781476490676378&id=100064421030389&mibextid=WC7FNe)

[story_fbid=781476490676378&id=100064421030389&mibextid=WC7FNe](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=781476490676378&id=100064421030389&mibextid=WC7FNe)

Offutt Air Force Base

Starting Mon. Feb. 12, 2024, Offutt AFB Visitor Control Center (VCC) hours revert to 7:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday.

Visitors should report to the VCC with their sponsor to request a pass. Posted sentries at USSTRATCOM Gate-1 provide visitor



Air Force Eyes Bringing Back Warrant Officers After Decades-Long Absence

[Air Force](#) officials are considering bringing back warrant officers and may start creating a training program this year, reversing a decision from 65 years ago when the service ended that grade, according to a planning document obtained by Military.com.

The three-page planning order says that "great power competition" -- Defense Department lingo for escalating defense spending and resources against adversaries such as China -- is underscoring the need to resurrect warrant officers, the corps of highly technical service members who are above the enlisted ranks but below the commissioned officer ranks.

"The service must examine new ways to develop and retain a highly capable, technologically capable corps of air-minded warfighters," the document says. "To fully leverage the technical depth and breadth of talent of our airmen and cultivate the strategic advantage USAF technicians have historically provided, we will make the necessary preparations to re-establish a WO [warrant officer] corps and deliver foundational training for designated WO-1 candidates."

The planning order, which originated from Air University and was dated Jan. 26, was marked controlled unclassified information, a term used for unclassified but protected information.

Rose Riley, a Department of the Air Force spokeswoman, declined to comment on the document but noted that next week is the Air and Space Forces Association's Warfare Symposium in Colorado, a conference where Air Force officials often make policy announcements and speak with members of the press.

"There's nothing we have to offer on that," Riley said. "Anything related to the [secretary of the Air Force's] plans for re-optimizing for great power competition will be announced next week."

Warrant officers are used by the other service branches as highly technical subject matter experts and single-track leaders. They typically come from the enlisted ranks.

The Air Force had warrant officers when it spun off into a separate service branch in 1947, a role it had inherited from the [Army](#).

[According to the Warrant Officer Historical Foundation](#), the Air Force discontinued the grade in 1959.

"They determined that structure, training and retention needs were best served by eliminating their warrant officer program," the Warrant Officer Historical Foundation said on its website. "There were approximately 4,500 Air Force warrant officer authorizations when this decision was made."

The last active-duty Air Force warrant officer was CWO-4 James H. Long, who retired in 1980, according to the foundation.

The last Air Force Reserve warrant officer, CWO-4 Bob Barrow, retired from the ranks in 1992, and was honorarily promoted to CWO-5. He is still the only person in the Air Force ever to hold that grade.

It does not appear, per the document, that the new warrant officer program would be producing pilots.

The Air Force's January planning document details what it will take "to develop a concept of operations (CONOP) to establish a training pipeline to reintroduce a USAF non-aviation warrant officer (WO) program as a technical corps NLT October 2024."

The Air Force has [previously shot down](#) the idea of using warrant officers as a way to fill the ongoing pilot shortage with aviators. In 2018, Air Force officials said at a conference that the Rand Corp. think tank was tasked with looking at the idea but its study did not recommend it, Military.com reported.

If the training program is successful and occurs, it would be "effectively delivering foundational training for up to 200 junior WO-1s per year and up to 50 senior warrant officers WO-2s -- WO-5s with officer's commissions per year to build and sustain a WO corps."

Candidates to become warrant officers could come from the active-duty, Air [National Guard](#) and reserve, according to the pre-decisional document.

Related: [Air Force Again Shoots Down Proposal to Make Warrant Officer Pilots](#)

Related Topics: [Military Headlines](#) [Air Force Topics](#) [Promotions](#) [Officer](#) [Warrant Officers W01/W-2 through CW5/W-5](#)

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/02/06/air-force-eyes-bringing-back-warrant-officers-after-decades-long-absence.html>



What we do: <https://ateaseusa.org/>

We support active military, veterans and more with confidential, research-supported, cost-effective treatment for [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#). We're excited to share that our organization has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid!

At Ease USA was founded in 2009 in response to the lack of wounded warriors getting the treatment needed upon their return home.

At Ease USA (AEU) is committed to providing access to confidential trauma treatment and therapeutic support for active military, veterans and their loved ones, regardless of their ability to pay. AEU complements existing services offered by military and veterans organizations, with a focus on the elimination of barriers to treatment for those suffering from the effects of deployment and the uncertainty of war.

Programs

Behavioral Health Services

Vets 4 Vets Peer Support Group

Peer Support Services

[Omaha](#) [North Platte](#)

Virtual Military Spouse & Caregiver Support Group

Virtual Women's Vets 4 Vets

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group

Trauma-Informed Yoga

Buddy Check

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

Veterans / Military

[How We Can Help](#)

[PTSD Resources](#)

[Find a Provider](#)

We support active military, veterans and more with confidential, research-supported, cost-effective treatment for [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#).

Healthcare Workers

[How We Can Help](#)

[PTSD Resources](#)

[Find a Provider](#)

Mental Health Practitioners

Nebraska Provider Roster <https://ateaseusa.org/our-providers/>

Contact us

At Ease USA

10605 Burt Circle

Omaha, NE 68114

[531.247.4040](tel:531.247.4040)

[Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm](#)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

[1.800.273.TALK \(8255\)](tel:1.800.273.TALK(8255))

[Emergency 988 suicide and crisis lifeline](#)

[Live Online Chat](#)

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

PTSD is a disorder that develops in some people who have experienced a shocking, scary or dangerous event.

It is natural to feel afraid during and after a traumatic situation. Fear triggers many split-second changes in the body to help defend against danger or to avoid it. This "fight-or-flight" response is a typical reaction meant to protect a person from harm. Nearly everyone will experience a range of reactions after trauma, yet most people recover from initial symptoms naturally. Those who continue to experience problems may be diagnosed with PTSD. People who have PTSD may feel stressed or frightened even when they are not in danger.

One out of every five deployed troops will develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder — many troops and their

families returning to Nebraska will undoubtedly require mental health services. Not every traumatized person develops ongoing (chronic) or even short-term (acute) PTSD. Not everyone with PTSD has been through a dangerous event. Some experiences, like the sudden, unexpected death of a loved one, can also cause PTSD. Symptoms usually begin early, within 3 months of the traumatic incident, but sometimes they begin years afterward. Symptoms must last more than a month and be severe enough to interfere with relationships or work to be considered PTSD. The course of the illness varies. Some people recover within 6 months, while others have symptoms that last much longer. In some people, the condition becomes chronic.

EVENTS

Center for Women Veterans 2024 Women's History Month Events

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs sent this bulletin at 02/23/2024 08:00 PM EST

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/bulletins/38ca1a5?reqfrom=share>

VFW Commemorates Women's History Month

The VFW takes the opportunity to recognize and celebrate women for their contributions throughout American history

March 01, 2023

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to celebrate our nation's women service members, veterans and countless other selfless contributors to the United States throughout the month of March, Women's History Month.

The VFW Celebrates Women's History Month With women being integral to every facet of American life, it's surprising the nation has only been officially celebrating women's history for 41 years. In 1981, Congress passed a joint resolution Public Law 97-28, designating "Women's History Week" beginning March 7, 1982, to recognize and celebrate "American women of every race, class and ethnic background" whose roles and contributions had been "consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American History." Authorized and requested by the law, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring Women's History Week and called on the people of the United States to mark the observance with ceremonies and activities.

Within a few years, 14 states had already expanded the week-long commemoration to the entire month of March. Finally in 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed the newly passed Public Law 100-9 designating the month of March as Women's History Month. Since then, every American president, Democrat and Republican, has issued proclamations. The 2023 White House proclamation on Women's History Month can be found here.

The VFW salutes all women service members, veterans and unsung heroes for their indelible contributions to our freedom and our way of life

. <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2023/3/vfw-commemorates-womens-history-month>

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