

A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 5 Issue 12, December 1, 2024, Newsletter



We at the Nebraska Veterans Coalition continue to research and provide veteran-related information to military members currently serving and veterans who have served in Active, National Guard, and Reserve. We also recommend and have continued supporting legislation to improve the lives of military personnel in Nebraska since 2014. Our newsletter distribution is over 2,000, including that of all Nebraska State legislators. We will do our best to post articles on our Facebook page and encourage those of the 5,200 followers to post to our page. Our Facebook administrators review all postings, ensuring they are appropriate. Our efforts to inform veterans are passed on to over 8,000 Nebraska veterans and supporters and forwarded or shared with many more.

You can post on our Facebook page (Nebraska Veterans Coalition). "Friend us," and encourage your Veterans Service organization or Veteran Owned Business to post veterans' events and other information and follow Twitter (X) @VetsCoalitionNE

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

COALITION MISSION

WHAT WE DO AND WHAT OUR GOALS ARE UPDATE

Can be found on our Website.

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition is a non-partisan and bi-partisan group formed to raise veterans' awareness about what is happening at the Nebraska Unicameral. To inform veterans of their elected officials and the legislation on veterans' benefits going through the Nebraska Unicameral.

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

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

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Find the previous Nebraska Veterans Coalition Newsletters here

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program

One of the first questions about ROTC is "Why should I join?" One big reason is that ROTC offers educational benefits and valuable training while still allowing students to have the full college experience

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is a leadership training and development program that prepares full-time, college-enrolled students for service opportunities in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Space Force (the Coast Guard offers a similar program called the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative [CSPI]). Joining ROTC opens a door to professional skills development, scholarship opportunities and tuition assistance, and, upon completion, attaining the rank of officer. Today, ROTC is offered at more than 1,700 colleges and universities.

Benefits of Joining ROTC !!!

One of the first questions about ROTC is "Why should I join?" One big reason is that ROTC offers educational benefits and valuable training while still allowing students to have the full college experience.

Education & Financial Benefits

Students who join ROTC can apply for a scholarship. The scholarship covers the full or partial cost of tuition, fees and books, as well as a monthly stipend for four years. These benefits are in exchange for mandatory active-duty service after completing ROTC. Academic advisors and on-campus ROTC recruiters can answer questions about these benefits and expectations.

ROTC Training and Scholarship

ROTC offers a competitive scholarship program that can make education affordable and help advance a student's personal and professional goals. It is offered at many traditional four-year colleges and universities, senior military colleges (all branches except the Coast Guard) and junior military colleges (Army and Navy ROTC only).

While it can vary by college and branch, each ROTC program will include some form of classroom instruction, field training exercises, leadership labs and physical fitness.

Top ROTC College Majors

Some ROTC branches may require the completion of a degree from an approved list, especially for a scholarship. Many of the top majors are beneficial for a future in the Military, such as:

MORE: https://www.todaysmilitary.com/education-training/rotc-programs?gad_source=1&qclsrc=aw.ds

Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

JROTC prepares student participants for life beyond the high school classroom with courses about leadership, health and wellness, physical fitness, first aid, geography, American history and government, communications and emotional intelligence. The program also teaches "soft skills" in the areas of collaboration, personal reflection and critical thinking.

More than 3,500 high schools in the United States offer JROTC, which is run by enlisted and retired service members from various military branches. The JROTC program typically lasts two to four years, with enrollment starting in 9th grade. Some schools also grant credits for core subjects taught in JROTC programs. Unlike ROTC, this program does not grant scholarships or benefits, and there is no service commitment.

College-level ROTC programs do not require enrollment in JROTC, and there is no requirement to enlist in the Military after JROTC participation.

Some examples of JROTC programs by Service branch include the following:

- Army: Raider fitness challenges, STEM camp, emergency first aid
- Navy: Navigation instruction, communication electronics, ship handling
- Air Force: Flying model programs, flight science, astronomy
- Marine Corps: Color guard, air riflery training, volunteer service
- Coast Guard: Nautical Science, calisthenics

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is a federal program that prepares high school students for leadership roles and citizenship:

Mission

To motivate young people to be better citizens by teaching them values such as citizenship, service, personal responsibility, and accomplishment

Curriculum

Includes lessons in leadership, health, physical fitness, first aid, geography, American history and government, communications, and emotional intelligence

Instructors

Retired officers and enlisted personnel from the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard

Benefits

Helps students develop self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills. It also provides opportunities that benefit the student, community, and nation.

History

The program was established by the National Defense Act of 1916 and expanded in 1964 to include all military services.

JROTC programs are offered at: Accredited secondary schools across the United States, Some middle schools, and US military bases around the world.

You can learn more about the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) by:

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program prepares high school students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities and privileges as American citizens. It is a stimulus for promoting graduation from high school, and it provides instruction and rewarding opportunities that will benefit the student, community and Nation. JROTC teaches young men and women the kind of self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills that can help them successfully meet the challenges of adulthood. This program is conducted at accredited secondary schools throughout the Nation, by instructors who are retired Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel.

Here's what to know when applying for an ROTC scholarship in high school.

[Start the application process](#)

To get started on your ROTC scholarship application, [create an account](#) and [log in](#) to the Scholarship Application. From there, you'll locate and contact the Recruiting Operations Officer at the school you plan to attend. Most of them have served before and understand the process you're going through.

Important dates to remember

[ROTC scholarship applications opened on June 12, 2024. Applications must be started no later than March 4, 2025 to be eligible for review by the Army ROTC National Scholarship Board for the 2025 – 2026 school year.](https://tinyurl.com/4ceszru8) <https://tinyurl.com/4ceszru8>

Information about each military service's JROTC program is found on their respective websites. Additional questions should be directed to the contact addresses below:

[LEARN MORE ABOUT JROTC](#)



Reply-To: Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

[Dear Nebraska Veteran or Service Member,](#)

When on a mission, service members often pause to conduct an "azimuth check" and ensure they are heading the right direction. The Nebraska Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs is asking you to help us do an azimuth check on the services and support available to Nebraska's military members and veterans. As a valued member of our military community, your insights and experiences are crucial to shaping future programs and policies. Please take a moment to complete a quick and easy anonymous online survey to improve Nebraska's support to our veterans.

[Click to take survey](#)

We understand many emails can be scams, and your trust is paramount. Please rest assured

this is a legitimate survey conducted by the University of Nebraska's Bureau of Business Research. For your convenience, the survey is also available on the official Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs website at veterans.nebraska.gov.

Thank you for your service and for considering this opportunity to share your voice. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to ndva@nebraska.gov.

[View email in browser](#)

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs · 301 Centennial Mall South · 4th Floor · Lincoln, NE 68508 · USA

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Comment:

John Stewart

The Nebraska Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs wants to hear from Nebraska's veterans and military service members to get feedback on the services and support available to them. As a valued military community member, your insights and experiences are crucial to shaping future programs and policies. Please take a moment to complete this quick and easy anonymous online survey to improve Nebraska's support for our veterans.

Businesses Supporting Veterans

Are you a veteran-owned business or a business hiring veterans?

Email your business card to us with a link to your website or Facebook page, and it will be added to this page) <https://nebraskaveterans.org/sponsors.htm>

Visitors to our webpage can click on your card to find your website.

Our email is comeoncubs100@gmail.com

Nebraska Veterans Organizations ***Join Us and add your link to our website***

Added

[VFW Post 2704 Bellevue](#)

[American Legion Post #211 Elkhorn](#)

[American Legion Post 266 Bennington](#)

[American Legion Post 36 Gering](#)

[VFW Post 759 Kearney](#)

[American Legion Post 52 Kearney](#)

[VFW Post 2503 Omaha](#)

[VFW Post 1581 Omaha](#)

[VFW Post 247 Omaha](#)

[American Legion Post 32 Papillion](#)

[American Legion Dept of Nebraska](#)

[American Legion Nebraska News](#)

[American Legion Nebraska Ladies Auxiliary](#)

[American Legion Nebraska Legion Riders](#)

[VVA Chapter 279 Omaha](#)

[American Legion Post #1 Omaha](#)

[American Legion Post 374 Millard](#)

[VFW Post 8334 Millard](#)

(If you wish your organization added here, send us an email with the link)

Or email comeoncubs100@gmail.com

Legislation

Nebraska Military and Veterans Benefits

Open Link

https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/Nebraska?fbclid=IwY2xjawG43dNleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHZrCbKprqR878iw34r3k4X20nRXJMNxdzd78COZzevgcVT9HJnCpue2d5Q_aem_j02WWf21xDwNYy4jFEoD1g#Taxes

Summary of Nebraska Military and Veteran Benefits: Nebraska offers special benefits for Service members, Veterans and their Families, including the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund, homestead property tax exemptions, tuition assistance for Service members, Veterans and dependents, special vehicle license plates, as well as hunting and fishing licenses. Eligibility for some benefits may depend on residency, military component and Veteran disability status.

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) Veterans Service Office and County Veterans Service Offices: The NDVA has the Veterans Service Office and County Veterans Service Offices that can assist Veterans, retired Service members and their Families find and apply for military or Veterans benefits under federal, state and local laws. All their services are provided free of charge.

[State Taxes](#)

[Education Benefits](#)

[Employment Benefits](#)

[Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\) Benefits](#)

[Health Insurance Benefits](#)

[Parks and Recreation Benefits](#)

[Miscellaneous Benefits](#)

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Facilities in Nebraska](#)

[Nebraska Military Resource Locator](#)

[Resources](#)

What are my Nebraska Military and Veterans State Tax Benefits? Nebraska Income Taxes on Military Pay: Military pay earned by Nebraska resident Service members is subject to state income taxes. Nebraska National Guard Income Exclusion: For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, Service members serving in the Nebraska National Guard can exclude 100% of their National Guard pay from Nebraska income taxes (must be included in their federal adjusted gross income). Service members serving in the following duty statuses are eligible for the income tax exclusion:

- Active duty attending drills, annual training, and military schools
- Active Guard Reserve (AGR)
- Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS)
- State active duty
- Federal Dual-Status Technician

Early Autumn 2024
Sen. Myron Dorn

The content of these pages is developed and maintained by, and is the sole responsibility of, the individual senator's office and may not reflect the views of the Nebraska Legislature. Questions and comments about the content should be directed to the senator's office at mdorn@leg.ne.gov

Autumn 2024 Update (OPEN)

November 15th, 2024

Days can be slow, but the years go by fast. Once again, we are on the cusp of the holiday season. Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The next legislative session is just a few weeks away. We are now considering what bills to introduce, and drafting the language for that legislation. Meetings with stakeholders have greatly picked up, as have zoom appointments and webinars. Many groups and individuals are hoping to get their proposals before the Unicameral.

There really are many needs – and even more wants – across the state MORE

Senator Myron Dorn

mdorn@leg.ne.gov

402-471-2620

www.nebraskalegislature.gov

District 30, State Capitol, PO Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

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Our mailing address is:

Nebraska State Senator

1445 K St, Lincoln, NE 68508-2731



Dear Friend,

It's finally over! The endless TV ads, uninvited texts, and yard signs scattered across neighborhoods are coming down now that the election is behind us. I think we're all grateful for a little political downtime, I know I certainly am. But now that the voice of the people has spoken, where do we go from here? On the state level, the outcome opens the door for impactful priorities like tax reform and advancing school choice. But there are also some critical bipartisan issues that should be on the agenda, starting with regulatory modernization.

Regulatory modernization is an area where Nebraska has already shown national leadership.

Looking ahead to the next legislative session, we'll be welcoming 16 freshman senators to the Unicameral. The learning curve for our new senators is steep, and the Platte Institute is here, ready to educate, support, and advocate alongside them as they navigate their new roles. We are committed to ensuring Nebraska continues to move forward on the issues that matter.

The election may be over, but the work is just beginning! Remember, when good policy wins, everyone wins. I always welcome your opinion on what issues should be at the core of the next legislative session.

MORE:..... <https://tinyurl.com/yjpvjw6x>

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.

[OpenSkyLIGHTS: Focus on Nebraska fiscal policy](#)

\$432 million

On Wednesday, Nebraska's Tax Rate Review Committee projected a **\$432 million budget shortfall** for the upcoming FY26-FY27 biennium, nearly **\$490 million below what was expected** after the conclusion of the 2024 special session in August. The Legislature will **set the budget** for the upcoming biennium in 2025. The **Committee's report cites three main reasons for this decline.**

MORE: [OpenSkyLIGHTS: Inside the numbers of Nebraska fiscal policy](#)



Legislative Coffee hosted by 88 Tactical

Name: Legislative Coffee hosted by 88 Tactical

Date: January 17, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM CST

[Register Now](#)

Event Description: Our first Legislative Coffee of 2025 will feature updates from our State Senators.

Location:

88 Tactical

15350 Shepard Street

Omaha, NE 68138

Date/Time Information:

Friday, January 17

8:00-9:30am

Contact Information:

Claire London

[Send an Email](#)

<https://www.sarpychamber.org/events/details/legislative-coffee-hosted-by-88-tactical-894505>

First Responders Foundation

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

A service dog is a calming presence, a support system, and a path to freedom for Veterans and retired First Responders. With our JAVELAN program, donations make it possible to train and place these remarkable dogs, ensuring they can be there when life feels challenging. [#HelpOurHeroes](#)

Your support means a new beginning for those who've given so much. Help us change lives, one paw at a time: <https://me-qr.com/pHOP9P7f>

Your donation of any amount goes directly toward the training and acquisition of service dogs, materials, and training fees associated with our JAVELAN program.

Home Base

Homebase.org (Open)

As a National Center of Excellence, Home Base operates the first and largest private-sector clinic in America and the only private-sector clinic in New England devoted to providing lifesaving clinical care and support for the treatment of invisible wounds.

Since our founding in 2009, Home Base has been breaking new ground, leading regional and national efforts with a multidisciplinary team of experts working to help Veterans, Service Members and their Families heal from invisible wounds. By caring for Veterans, Service Members and their Families in a family-based clinic and working in cooperation with the US Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA), Home Base serves as a replicable model to promote the health and well-being of Veterans, Service Members and their Families nationwide.

Open this link and listen to Their Story

[Our Impact | Home Base](#)

(Open)

[About | Home Base](#)

(Open)

[Our Partners | Home Base](#)

(Open)

Home Base

Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation

Free

Specializing in treating invisible wounds

Available Programs

Goals of the Treatment

<https://homebase.org/program/icp/> (Open)



What we do: <https://ateaseusa.org/> (Open)

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/Services: <https://ateaseusa.org/services/> (Open)

[Counseling Services](#)

[Vets 4 Vets Peer Support Group](#)

[1:1 Peer Support Services](#)

[Healing Circle for Warrior Women](#)

[Virtual Military Spouse & Caregiver Support Group](#)

[Trauma-Informed Yoga](#)

[Dialectical Behavior Therapy \(DBT\) group](#)

[Virtual Women's Vets 4 Vets](#)

[Teen Talk Group](#)

[Buddy Check](#)

Contact us for help finding the service that's right for you. [Contact Us](#)

[Mental Health Practitioners](#)

[Our Providers](#)

[Provider Resources](#)

[Become a Provider](#)

[Make a Referral \](#)

[How you can help.](#)

Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a military or medical hero.

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

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) [Emergency 988 suicide and crisis lifeline](#) [Live Online Chat](#)

Miscellaneous Information

[Heartland of America Chapter](#)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

<https://www.sarpychamber.org/list/member/heartland-of-america-chapter-moaa-15344215>

MOAA's and Heartland Chapter's Missions are the Same.

Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on state and local issues, interfacing with the Legislature and the Governor. We provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement. We are like family. As MOAA does, WE NEVER STOP SERVING.... We are One Powerful Voice – For every officer at every stage of life and career...

Join Us !! You will be glad you did !

Why Join MOAA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

More About MOAA <https://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed serv patrickljones@cox.net and their surviving spouses.

[Get Free Expert Help from SCORE Greater Omaha to Start & Grow Your Small](#)

Business.

A Partnership Focused on Making You More Successful

Our SCORE mentors are ready to assist. SCORE Greater Omaha mentors are highly successful business professionals with the experience and knowledge to help you achieve your small business goals. Browse mentor profiles or let us pair you with the right expert!

SCORE can help you start, grow or successfully exit a business. Small business owners who receive three or more hours of mentoring report higher revenues and increased growth.

Enter your ZIP code to find a free SCORE business mentor today.

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

Press release 25-13

SBA to Kick-off Season of Small Business™ with Small Business Saturday®

Champion small businesses nationwide and #ShopSmall on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

Now more than ever, small businesses need our support. Please join SBA and organizations across the country as they celebrate small business contributions to their communities by shopping at a small business on November 30, Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 and officially cosponsored by SBA since 2011. It is an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season.

- In 2023, the reported projected spending in the U.S. from those who shopped at small businesses on Small Business Saturday was around [\\$17 billion](#)

[\(Link is external\).](#)

Since 2010, the total reported U.S. spending at small businesses during the annual Small Business Saturday is an estimated [\\$201 billion](#)

- [\(Link is external\).](#)

Join the highly successful team of SBA, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and American Express in kicking off the 2024 holiday season. Support our nation's more than 34 million independent businesses this Small Business Saturday and all holiday season long.

<https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/organization/sba-initiatives/small-business-saturday>

[Nebraska District Contract Information https://www.sba.gov/district/nebraska](https://www.sba.gov/district/nebraska)

Guitars 4 Vets Nebraska

GUITARS FOR FREE TO MILITARY Veterans

Our weekly private guitar lessons are individually tailored. They're designed to help Veterans learn at their own pace, while accommodating any physical and/or emotional challenges. After completing 10 lessons, each Veteran is presented with a new acoustic guitar, gig bag, strap, tuner, strings, picks, method book and a certificate of completion. Individual chapters also organize monthly group sessions, where Veterans experience a supportive, communal atmosphere surrounded by peers who understand their experiences. During these sessions, Veterans can connect, talk, play music with other program participants and explore their musical interests.

Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/2duj6tdp>

Website <https://tinyurl.com/557kbkjj>

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

November Newsletter & Events

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

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.

Join the Nebraska Veterans' Registry today! This allows you to get the "Veteran" designation on your driver's license, order Military Honor Plates from the Nebraska DMV, and helps verify eligibility for state benefits. Veterans, including National Guard and Reserve veterans, are eligible to apply at veterans.nebraska.gov/registry.

Benefits Expert

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

Nebraska Veterans' Gateway

Get Started

Nebraska Veterans' Homes

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

Military & Veterans' Registry Application

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

Community Resource Directory

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

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/>

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 applying for Federal, State, and County Veterans programs and benefits. Federal Veterans Benefits include education, vocational rehabilitation, service-connected disability, non-service disability pension, healthcare, and burial benefits.

Nebraska Veterans programs include a tuition waiver, admittance to a Nebraska Veteran's 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)

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

SIOUX COUNTY

Service Officer Spike Jordan Cell: (605) 891-9556 siouxcountyvso@gmail.com

Location Sioux Courthouse

325 Main St

Mailing Address PO Box 158 By Appointment

Harrison, NE 69346

By Appointment

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

Also, CVSO for Dawes County

STANTON COUNTY

Service Officer Anthony McPhillips (402) 439-2196 cvso@stantoncountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 439-2200

Location Courthouse, 804 Ivy

Mailing Address PO Box 723 Stanton, NE 68779

Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday or by appointment

Website <https://stantoncounty.nebraska.gov/about/veterans-services-officer>

THAYER COUNTY

Veterans Voices: Lest we forget them

Nov 22, 2024 Updated Nov 23, 2024 [0](#) 3 min to read

https://www.chronicleonline.com/lifestyle/veterans-voices-lest-we-forget-them/article_9ff78442-3394-5901-8eca-e9af0e46f4e4.html

Lest We Forget Them

"Lest we forget" is a phrase that symbolizes remembrance and commemoration for those who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. Veterans Day has now passed and in Citrus County we've seen many activities to remember and honor the service and sacrifices of our Veterans and their families. It was a tremendous accomplishment resulting from the hard work of many in our communities. However, does this mean we should wait until Memorial Day or next year's Veterans Day to remember, honor, and help our veterans?

My concern, and one that is shared by many of our Veterans, is that until those next days of honor and remembrance, we will be forgotten. Particularly when citizens observe that our country is currently not sending our troops into combat after the tragic closure of the longest war in our nation's history in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, when you observe ongoing actions in the Middle East, troops are essentially in combat as radicals from numerous countries are attacking them. An undeclared war in itself.

I observed and experienced forgetfulness after the end of the Vietnam War, where I served. Countless numbers of Veterans and family members received little or no support for many years. I pray this will not happen for these new Veterans of today now that we have entered some semblance of peace.

My concern grows when I look at statistics, some difficult to research that are current today but are still shocking when reviewed and clearly indicate we cannot simply go about daily lives without providing support to our veterans. As example:

- a. Women Veterans experience unique challenges that can put them at greater risk of suicide. - According to data released by the VA in November 2023, the suicide rate among women Veterans jumped 24.1% between 2020 and 2021—nearly four times higher than the 6.3% increase among male veterans and vastly higher than the 2.6% increase among non-veteran women.- In 2021, there were 350 suicide deaths among women Veterans. The 2021 age-adjusted suicide rate for this population was 166.1% higher than that for non-veteran U.S. adult women.- The number of women calling or texting the Veterans Crisis Line has also risen to nearly 83,000 in 2023 from 70,316 women in 2021.

- b. The Pentagon reported an active-duty suicide rate of about 28 suicide deaths for every 100,000 service members last year, a 12% increase from 2022.
- c. There were 523 reported suicides in 2023, compared with 493 in 2022. The number of active-duty troops who died by suicide increased to 363 from 331.
- d. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Veterans under the age of 45.
- e. Veterans leaving the military are not prepared for the transition.
- f. Veterans have a wide range of needs that cannot be easily provided by a single organization.
- g. Veteran support organizations are not organized to provide holistic support to current and returning

Veterans.

- h. Veteran support organizations seem to be commonly established for homelessness, immediate or severe health issues and acute or chronic unemployment. Very little attention is given to preventing these conditions or intervening early to prevent them from becoming chronic.

I read a report in Stars and Stripes, the leading military newspaper, about the statistics I mentioned above concerning the 12% increase from 2022. There was a disturbing comment in that article.

"This increase is not statistically significant," said Liz Clark, the director of the Pentagon's Defense Suicide Prevention Office. The report states "not statistically significant" means there is low confidence that this is a true difference. Tell that to the hundreds of Veteran families each year who lost their loved one to suicide. I doubt it is "not statistically significant" in their lives. One major issue in our Veterans today is their disconnect from society, sometimes leading to suicide. There has been an attempt to emphasize attention to our veterans when the U.S. Senate approved a measure designating November 17th as "National Warrior Call Day". It draws attention to military Veterans who have become disconnected

from family, friends and support systems. This proves fatal for Veterans. Experts have reported that two-thirds of Veterans who die by suicide have not contacted services, such as the VA, and are battling their problems alone.

National Warrior Call Day marked a coast-to-coast push to connect with Veterans and service members. It asked that all Americans — especially active-duty and retired military personnel — call a warrior, someone who has worn or is currently wearing the uniform, and connect them with support, if necessary. With this connection, we can help identify those who may be suffering and redirect them to a path back to wellness through resources and support systems. You can learn more about it at www.warriorcall.org.

If you missed participating on this special day, I hope you will reach out and check on our Veterans and their families next year. But also continue to do so throughout the year. To those in our communities who came to the numerous County Veterans Day activities, thank you, but please don't let

it cease at that point. For your information, I have placed a slideshow of the Veterans Day Parade in Inverness on our website, where you can learn more about veterans, local organizations, community veteran leaders, etc. Go to www.veteransofcitruscounty.com

John Stewart is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and disabled Vietnam War Veteran. In 2016, he was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. His columns are sourced from public, government and private information. Content is checked for accuracy as best as possible; however, you have the responsibility to confirm content validity before committing any related actions. Visit his website at www.Veteransgrapevine.com

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