

A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 6 Issue 1, January 1, 2025, Newsletter



Happy New Year

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

Special Veteran Links

Click here [Links](#) for a variety of Veteran Websites

Personal Letters were sent to each senator

Nebraska Senators ending their tenure in 2024

Thank You for the countless hours you dedicated during your tenure in the legislature. The staff of the Nebraska Veterans Coalition appreciates your efforts, particularly for supporting bills that specifically pertain to veterans. The bills you introduced, supported and fought for to improve our state's economic standing in the Nation have also affected the Nebraska veterans.

This is the last newsletter you will receive at your government email address, and we would like to keep you informed on veterans' issues. Please open the link at the top of this page and join our distribution with your personal email address.

Nebraska Senators continue their second four-year term

Thank you for being one of the unique citizen legislators who take on much responsibility on behalf of Nebraskans. We appreciate your support for veterans-related legislation during your previous term and look forward to continuing to collaborate with you.

Nebraska Senators reelected for their second four-year term

Congratulations to you as you re-entered a unique group of citizen legislators that take on much responsibility on behalf of Nebraskans. We appreciate your support for veterans-related legislation during your previous term and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Nebraska Senators elected to their first four-year term

Congratulations to you as you enter a unique group of citizen legislators that take on much responsibility on behalf of Nebraskans. We appreciate your willingness to serve the citizens of Nebraska. We will send you a personal letter as a welcome and introduce ourselves as soon as your government email address is activated. You will begin receiving our monthly newsletter starting in February.

Nebraska Federal Legislators

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We hope you find it interesting if we send it to your personal email address or to a staff member. We'll reach out to your Nebraska staff to make sure you are receiving information that keeps Nebraska veterans updated.

Nebraska Veteran Service Organizations and Veteran Service Groups

We would like your assistance in informing members of your organization via email or Facebook. If you are a Commander or on the organization's board, please forward our newsletter to your membership and reference us in your newsletter and website. When approved, we now post the newsletter and frequent articles on some of the organization or group's Facebook pages.

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 this month

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 and our website, send us an email with the link)

Our email is comeoncubs100@gmail.com

cc: nevetscoalition@outlook.com

Legislation

Summary of letter sent to:

Honorable Senator von Gillern

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition would like to honor Nebraska veterans who have served honorably in the armed services. Several states have legislation establishing a Veterans Hall of Fame. The Nebraska Veterans Hall of Fame would recognize and honor those military veterans who have significantly contributed to the State of Nebraska through their work and lives during and after military service.

We're reaching out to you to ask you to introduce a legislative bill to establish the Nebraska Veterans Honor of Fame.

Attachments were sent to Senator von Gillern .

Summary of letter sent to:

Honorable Senator Holdcroft,

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition found that several states exempt state income tax for active military pay and that Nebraska does exempt 100% State Income Tax for the Nebraska National Guard (Statute 77-2716 (21) a). This statute must be amended as the exemption excludes the U.S. Reserve Forces living in Nebraska.

The following are Nebraska State income tax exemptions that should be considered:

- Exempt from NE Income tax (amend Statute 77-2716 (21) a) Inactive duty military pay for — National Guard and Reserve members, salary for customary annual training, weekend drills, and other inactive duty training and AGR members
- Introduce a bill that provides a 100% state income tax exemption for military residents serving on active duty and stationed in NE, regardless of the length of their tour.
- Resident NOT stationed in NE; all military income is not taxable and considered a nonresident for tax purposes.
- Exempt Nebraska income tax for all Active-Duty military pay included in Federal AGI, including pay on Title 10 or Title 32, Annual Training, and for Active Training or Schools,
- We are contacting you to request that you introduce a legislative bill to exempt specific military active duty Nebraska income tax.
- Attachments were sent to the Senator Holdcroft.

Summary of letter sent to

Honorable Senator Sanders,

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition requests a bill to provide a stipend similar to several other states to Veteran Service Organizations whose honor guards support fallen veterans by offering Military Funeral Honors..

Nebraska does not have a statute in Nebraska law that provides a fund of this type. The veteran service organizations in Nebraska struggle to maintain membership, and it is hard to find volunteers to perform as honor guards at veteran funerals. These funds will be used to offset costs paid by qualifying organizations that provide honor guard burial details at the funerals of qualifying Nebraska Veterans.

We are contacting you to request that you introduce a legislative bill to provide a \$75.00 stipend to Veterans Service Organizations for Honor Guard services per funeral.

Attachments were sent to Senator Sanders.

The 108th Legislature, 2nd Session, adjourned sine die on April 18, 2024.

Bills that were Indefinitely Postponed are shown on this link

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/veterans.nebraska.gov/files/2024%20Legislation.pdf>

Indefinitely Postpone (IPP) - to suspend all further activity against a [bill](#) or [resolution](#).

Legislators are requested to review and consider introducing the (IPP) veteran-related bills in the 109th Legislative Session

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Open this link and visit the NDVA website

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

For

Legislative Issues

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

Sign up to Receive Our Legislative Tracker Each Week

[Select "Legislative Issues" when you subscribe to our email newsletter.](#)

2024 Legislative Special Session

The 108th Legislature, 1st Special Session, adjourned sine die on August 20, 2024.

[2024 Legislative Special Session Tracker \(8/23/24\)**](#)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

DAY 1 January 8, 2025

2025 Tentative Nebraska Legislative Calendar

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/session/2025tentativecalendar.pdf>

Find Your Senator (Should be updated on January 8, 2025)

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

Senator Roster Listing (print friendly)

(Should be updated on January 8, 2025, with names of all senators, phone numbers and office locations and more

sample email addresses (first letter of first name then last name @leg.ne.gov) (jsmith@leg.ne.gov)

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/senators/roster.pdf>

Search Bills and Resolutions

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

Public Input Options

Your Testimony or online comments are very important

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php>

Ensuring that members of the public have the opportunity to have their voices heard is vital to the legislative process. The following options allow 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 ADA Written Testimony (American with Disabilities Act) Online Comments

Annotated Committee Hearing Guidelines

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 at least 3 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

Hearing Dates

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar/hearings_range.php

New for 2024

Simplified Bill View

Inclusion of New Public Input Methods

Public Committee Documentation Review

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?>

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-)

New and experienced users of the legislature’s bill page may find sorting amendments, motions, and bill activity confusing. The Legislature is introducing a simplified bill page alternative. This page will show the process of the legislative bill, akin to a delivery tracker, as well as adopted amendments and successful motions. Those that wish to see all bill activity, including filed and pending matters, should switch to the “detailed view”.

New this session, every bill voted out of committee will have additional documentation displayed along with the committee statement. The first document will be a list of those who submitted comments for the public hearing record. These names will be listed based on the position they took on that particular piece of legislation. The second document is a list of non-testifiers who attended the public hearing. These individuals signed the “white or gold sheet” in the back of the room but did not testify before the committee. For more information about our public input options, we invite you to visit our Public Input page.



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>

Nebraska Passes Universal Job Licensing Law

In a win for workers and their families, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen signed legislation on March 5 that eases occupational licensing restrictions so Nebraskans can more easily get a job. The bill, LB16, requires licensing agencies to recognize job licenses from other states, which means someone who moves to Nebraska with a good standing occupational license no longer has to jump through [unnecessary state-specific hoops](#) just to work in the Cornhusker State. Modeled by the Goldwater Institute in Arizona, this policy, also called “[universal licensing recognition](#),” [streamlines](#) the licensing process so workers can get to work faster. Since Goldwater helped Arizona pass a similar law in 2019, more than [9,000 workers](#) have already been safely licensed through universal recognition.

In addition to recognizing job licenses from other states, the law also makes it easier for people with a [conviction record](#) to find work after they have paid their debt to society. Before this law, licensing boards had leeway to prevent those with a record from obtaining a job license in a certain field. With LB16 now in place, exclusion from licensure now has to be directly related to or based on the past conviction.

<https://spn.org/articles/nebraska-eases-workforce-licensing-rules/>

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act

Moving from place to place requires a lot of effort and changes. Two laws make it easier for military spouses regarding their residency, voting and state taxes.

In 2009, the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act amended the [Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act](#). MSRRA allows maintain the same state of legal residency as the service member provided the spouse had also lived in the state. A second amendment to the SCRA, called the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, allows military spouses to claim their service member's state of legal residence as their own, if they choose to do so.

Maintaining your legal residence under MSRRA

Using your spouse's state of legal residence.....

Income covered by MSRRA.....

License Portability.....

For more information.....

Gov. Pillen Hosts Ceremonial Bill Signing to Highlight Military Centric Legislation

December 10, 2024 CONTACT: Laura Strimple, (402) 580-9495

LINCOLN, NE – Against a backdrop of flags and military helicopters, Governor Jim Pillen was joined by state senators today as he signed ceremonial copies of four bills supporting the Nebraska's National Guard (NENG). The ceremony took place at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1, on the National Guard Base in Lincoln. Members of active and retired military, Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly, NENG Adjutant General Craig Strong, media and guests were also on hand for the event.

In his opening remarks, Gov. Pillen thanked the state's military members for answering the call to service seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. "I can assure you that many are incredibly grateful because you are there, and because you make a difference."<https://governor.nebraska.gov/gov-pillen-hosts-ceremonial-bill-signing-highlight-military-centric-legislation>

HEALTH CARE

Home Base

[Homebase.org](https://homebase.org) (Open)

Free No Cost for treatment, transportation or lodging

Specializing in treating invisible wounds

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](#)

[VA's Medical Foster Home program](#)

“The Medical Foster Home program gave him a family again.

The MFH program offers Veterans who need daily care a unique alternative to nursing homes. Veterans live in caregivers' homes, receiving personalized attention and one-on-one care, and are supported by VA's Home-Based Primary Care teams. These teams include doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who provide medical care directly in the home.

<https://news.va.gov/137070/vas-medical-foster-home-program/>

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Prepare for VA's secure sign-in changes

In 2025, you'll need to start using a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in.
Learn how to create an account

Why this matters to you

In 2025, you'll have 2 secure sign-in account options (Login.gov and ID.me) for all VA websites and apps. We'll remove the My HealthVet option after January 31, 2025, and the DS Logon option after September 30, 2025. You'll still be able to use your My HealthVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with a Login.gov or ID.me account.

What you can do

Create a Login.gov or ID.me account now

We encourage you to create a Login.gov or ID.me account now. If you already have one of these accounts but haven't yet used it, start now so you have time to get used to it before the change. With Login.gov or ID.me, you'll have access to all the same information and services you use today.

[Prepare For VA's Secure Sign-In Changes | Veterans Affairs](#)

Miscellaneous Information



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

Information Guide March 2023 [8-364.pdf](#)

Overview The federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides that compensation received by a servicemember from his or her uniformed service can be taxed only by the state in which the servicemember has his or her legal residence. The place of residence at the time of entry into the service is presumed to be the state of legal residence or domicile, and remains so until legal residence in another state is established.

The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (VBTA) added an election to allow the military servicemember spouse to claim the military servicemember's state of residency for tax purposes for any taxable year of the marriage beginning with tax year 2018. Nebraska recognizes the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) designations of "combat zones" and allows the same income exclusions, filing extensions, suspension of audits, collection activities, and notices for servicemembers outside the U.S. Also, Nebraska extends the same provisions to civilians working with the U.S. Forces in combat zones, as allowed to civilians for federal tax purposes. Military retirement benefits are excluded from Nebraska taxable income for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on the Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR) until amended. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of DOR and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document. This guidance document may change with updated information or added examples. DOR

Tax information for members of the military

<https://www.irs.gov/individuals/military>

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces have special tax situations and benefits. Understand how that affects you and your taxes.

Get general information about how to file and pay taxes, including many free services by visiting

[How to file your taxes: step by step](#)

[Check if you are eligible for military tax benefits](#)

The following webinar is available for view:

Military Spouse Entrepreneur

Thursday, January 18, 2024 1:00 PM Eastern Time

- [Military Spouse Entrepreneurial Webinar \(01/18/2024\)](#)

This webinar outlines tax-related resources for military spouse entrepreneurs. IRS employees and partners discuss small business tax and self-employed tax centers, gig economy tax centers, volunteer income tax assistance (VITA), payments, and more.

This session is designed to raise awareness to military spouse entrepreneurs of the various tax resources and information available on IRS.gov to assist these taxpayers with meeting their tax obligations as a small business owner. There will be Question and Answer sessions throughout the presentation.

What you will learn:

- Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center
- Gig Economy Tax Center
- Tax Information for Businesses
- Employer Identification Number
- Online Tax Calendar Tool
- Electronic Federal Tax Payment System
- Small Business Tax Workshop
- e-News Subscriptions

Register here to attend the event: [https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/1104/49640?](https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/1104/49640?fbclid=IwY2xjawHa0tFleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHVsqay6rnEG0CFB9L6GdfXAN45rMpXAmDBUG_04Z_FObWmapU63oN_wotg_aem_bjU7oBB6GnmQRW8PKXAvVw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHa0tFleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHVsqay6rnEG0CFB9L6GdfXAN45rMpXAmDBUG_04Z_FObWmapU63oN_wotg_aem_bjU7oBB6GnmQRW8PKXAvVw](https://www.webcaster4.com/Webcast/Page/1104/49640?fbclid=IwY2xjawHa0tFleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHVsqay6rnEG0CFB9L6GdfXAN45rMpXAmDBUG_04Z_FObWmapU63oN_wotg_aem_bjU7oBB6GnmQRW8PKXAvVw)

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS SOURCE HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED FOR ACCURACY BY THE NEBRASKA VETERANS COALITION (DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH)

!!!!!!

<https://vetsguardian.com/veteran-benefits-for-nebraska/>

- **Nebraska Income Taxes on Military Pay:** Military pay earned by Nebraska resident Service members is subject to state income taxes.
- **Nebraska State Income Taxes on Military Retired Pay:** Military retired pay is exempt from Nebraska income tax. Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) does not withhold taxes for state or local income tax, but it is reported annually on IRS Form 1099-R. TSP distributions after retirement are not subject to state taxes; early distributions may incur higher taxes.
 - **Nebraska Taxes on Military Disability Retirement Pay:** Military Disability Retirement Pay received as a pension, annuity, or similar allowance for personal injury or sickness resulting from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces should not be included in taxable income. Some of the payments that are considered disability benefits include Disability compensation and pension payments for disabilities paid to Veterans or their families.
 - Grants for homes designed for wheelchair living
 - Grants for motor vehicles for Veterans who lost their sight or the use of limbs or benefits under a dependent-care assistance program
- **Nebraska State Taxes on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):** DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of U.S. Armed Forces Service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-connected injury or disease.
- **Military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)/Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) Nebraska State Tax Benefits:** SBP, RCSBP and RSFPP annuities are not taxed in Nebraska.
- **Combat Zones Exclusion and Filing Extensions for Nebraska Income Taxes for Deployed Service Members:** Nebraska follows federal guidelines for tax filing extensions and does not tax income

received by a Service member while serving in a designated combat zone, contingency operation, or in a qualified hazardous duty area.

- Nebraska Wartime Veteran and Surviving Spouse Homestead Property Tax Exemptions: The Nebraska Homestead Exemption Program offers a full or partial property tax exemption for eligible Veterans and Surviving spouses on their homestead and one acre of land. To qualify, the Veteran or Surviving spouse must own and occupy the homestead from January 1 through August 15 of the taxable year. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge and served during the following wartime periods:
 - World War II, December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946
 - Korean War, June 25, 1950, through January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam War, February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975 (in the Republic of Vietnam)
 - Vietnam War, August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975
 - Lebanon, August 25, 1982, through February 26, 1984
 - Grenada, October 23, 1983, through November 23, 1983
 - Panama, December 20, 1989, through January 31, 1990
 - Persian Gulf War beginning August 2, 1990
 - Global War on Terror beginning September 14, 2001, until a date to be determined
- Non-Service-Connected Totally Disabled Veterans – Partial exemption based on income limits: This exemption is available for Veterans with a non-service-connected total disability rating from the VA and is based on Household Income Limits. Household income determines the percentage of exemption the Veteran is eligible for.
 - Service-Connected Totally Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses – 100% exempt: This exemption is available to Veterans receiving compensation for a 100% service-connected disability rating from the VA. The homestead is 100% exempt regardless of homestead value and income level. Veteran or Surviving spouse must meet the following requirements who is receiving compensation for a 100% service-connected disability.
 - Surviving spouse (who does not remarry until age 57) and was married to a Veteran who: Died due to a service-connected disability.
 - Died while on active duty and was service-connected
 - Died while on active duty during wartime
 - Veterans and Surviving Spouses Whose Home was Purchased or Modified with Funds from the VA – 100% exempt. This exemption is available to a Veteran who is paraplegic or has multiple amputations whose home was substantially contributed to by the VA. This homestead is 100% exempt regardless of homestead value and income level. This exemption is also available to the survivor's spouse if they do not remarry until age 57. Applications are made through local county assessors. All forms must be filed after February 1 and before June 30 each year.
- Nebraska Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption: Nebraska offers the Nebraska Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption for one motor vehicle owned and used for personal transportation by a disabled or blind Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sales Tax:

- Statewide: 5.5%
- Counties: can levy an additional sales tax of no more than 2.0%
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 6.02%

Recreation

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/>

[Celebrating the National Guard](#) [By Jim Pillen](#) [December 20, 2024](#)

When you are elected Governor of a state, you take on an awesome responsibility – that of commander-in-chief. It's not something you get the chance to prepare or train for. It has been an eye-opening experience in discovering all that our soldiers and airmen do.

2024 has involved multiple missions for our Nebraska Army and Air National Guard. There are too many to list, but highlights included:

- Assisting in the aftermath of the eastern Nebraska tornado
- Supplementing rescue operations to Iowa's National Guard during the June floods
- Deployment to the Texas border
- Completing training operations with 7,500 Ukrainian soldiers in Germany
- A mission to Guam involving the Air Guard's 155th Refueling Wing

MORE.....

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/celebrating-national-guard>

[Join us for our Boots to Business | Reboot program!](#)

[This one-day, hybrid program is there to help you dive into the world of business ownership or self-employment. Boots to Business](#)

Class

Nebraska Enterprise Fund-Hybrid-2025-01-24-Reboot

Details

Class Name Nebraska Enterprise Fund-Hybrid-2025-01-24-Reboot

Class Duration One Day

Class Type Reboot

Maximum Class Size The maximum number of students that can sign up for the class

25

Class Date(s) 2025-01-24

Contact info This field is used for email or phone number

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<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/3c88f64>

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Bighorn sheep management hunt applications begin Dec. 31

Lottery applications will be accepted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission between Dec. 31-Jan. 13 for a bighorn sheep management hunt. This hunt is intended to balance the current ram-ewe ratio and provide additional hunting opportunity.

Two permits will be issued to Nebraska residents for the March 1-31, 2025, season, which will take place in portions of Scotts Bluff and Banner counties. A pre-hunt orientation is required. Guide service will be provided by Game and Parks. More:.....



From: Jim Vokal Date: November 20, 2024 at 9:15:43 AM CST

Subject: jump in the rankings

Dear Friend,

I've got good news - Nebraska's tax reforms are starting to pay off. The Tax Foundation's 2025 State Tax Competitiveness Index shows Nebraska has climbed from #30 to #24, reflecting the positive changes in our tax code, primarily from income tax cuts in 2023. While some of this improvement is due to new methodology in the rankings, much of it is directly attributable to Nebraska's hard work over the last two years to improve the state's tax competitiveness. Earlier this week, I sat down on the latest episode of Nebraskanomics with Platte Senior Tax Advisor Michael Lucci to discuss this rise in the rankings.

As a whole, the Great Plains region continues to be a leader on the tax front. Wyoming and South Dakota remain the top two states in the nation, and Iowa made a significant leap this year, climbing from #33 to #20, surpassing Nebraska along the way. While our rise is encouraging, it underscores the need to keep pace with our neighbors to remain competitive.

Nebraska's corporate income tax now ranks #20 nationally, and our individual income tax is #26. Our sales tax continues to be a competitive advantage at #13, and Nebraska's unemployment insurance tax is among the best in the country, ranking #3. However, as we all know, property taxes and the inheritance tax remain major challenges, ranking #45 nationally and holding back our overall competitiveness.

The 2023 income tax reforms are already driving improvements, with additional rate reductions scheduled in the coming years. Yet significant opportunities remain to enhance Nebraska's tax code without a steep revenue cost. Reducing the tangible personal property tax burden for businesses and ag producers and lowering property tax levies would address our state's low property tax ranking.

Eliminating Nebraska's inheritance tax is another reform that has had the attention of our team for several years. As one of five states that still imposes this outdated tax, we are discouraging people from staying and investing in our communities and unnecessarily hurting our farmers, ranchers, and small business owners. When forty-five other states do not have an inheritance tax, you can imagine the impact on these rankings.

Tax rankings are not just numbers—they represent the environment that businesses and families navigate every day. By building on the progress we've made and addressing areas like property taxes, taxes on machinery and equipment, and repealing our state's inheritance tax, Nebraska can ensure a future where everyone thrives.

It's important to remember when discussing tax rankings that this analysis represents a specific point in time, and while this year's index showed positive movement for Nebraska, other states are continuing to make improvements. The upcoming 2025 legislative session is an immense opportunity for Nebraska to make great strides and compete with our neighbors.

The latest State Tax Competitiveness Index is proof that reform is both possible and impactful.

Protecting the gains we've made while continuing to address opportunities for improvement gives us a shot to stay in the game and do what's right for Nebraska taxpayers.

P.S. - Earlier this week I sat down with Platte Institute Senior Tax Advisor Michael Lucci to discuss

Nebraska's new ranking on the [latest episode of Nebraskanomics](#). Be sure to tune in to get further insights on this report, as well as an in-depth analysis on Platte Institute's Annual Cost of Medicaid Expansion Report which we released last month.

Thanks for reading,

Jim

Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute and host of [Nebraskanomics](#).

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Open this link and visit the NDVA website

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

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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/>



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

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

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.

Job Converter

Turn your military knowledge into your new job. Our converter will give you ideas of civilian jobs you may already have the skillsets for based on your military occupational specialty.

Job Search

Find the job that's perfect for you right here in Nebraska. Browse openings from across the state in a wide variety of fields.

More Tools from Our Partners

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=bqhlwyIZvc>

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

THOMAS COUNTY

Service Officer Richard C. Cook (308) 636-6157 richcook47@yahoo.com

Assistant Nath Coco nathancocos@yahoo.com

Location Courthouse

503 Main Street

Mailing Address PO Box 226

Theford, NE 69166

Hours TUESDAY ONLY 1 pm to 4 pm

Website https://www.thomascountynebraska.us/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

Also CVSO for Logan & McPherson County

THURSTON COUNTY

Service Officer Penny Warren (402) 385-3119 vso@thurstoncountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 385-3544

Location Courthouse, 106 S. 6th St.

Pender, NE 68047

Mailing Address PO Box 516, Pender, NE 68047

Hours Tuesdays – 8:30 am to 5 pm

Website https://thurstoncountyne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html

Also CVSO for Burt County

VALLEY COUNTY

Service Officer Dale Beethe (308) 728-5470 veteransservices@valleycountyne.gov

Admin Assist Sheree Brown

Fax: (308) 728-5698

Mailing Address 129 S 15th St Ste 105

Ord, NE 68862

Hours Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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



On October 31, Governor Jim Pillen joined NDVA, military representatives, and leadership from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new resource center for local service members, family members, and military veterans. The Nebraska Resource Center is the first of its kind in the nation, bringing a military, veteran, and dependent support center to a public-facing storefront within a military base exchange. NDVA developed the idea to support service members and families stationed at Offutt AFB and encourage them to stay in Nebraska when they discharge from the service.

The Nebraska Resource Center is located in the Offutt Air Force Base Exchange and offers a wide range of services to military members, veterans, and their families. It's staffed by an accredited veteran service officer from NDVA who can connect veterans with state and federal benefits and services, including reviewing service records, determining eligibility, assisting in the completion and submittal of forms, advising on appeals, and more.

We also have resources on employment opportunities and career advancement, details on occupational licensure and tax reforms in the state, options for transitional or permanent housing, ideas for recreational and leisure activities throughout Nebraska, opportunities for spouses and dependents, and much more.

We want to show you all the reasons you should choose Nebraska as your home, so stop down to see what we have to offer and how you can enjoy the Good Life today!

[Learn More About the Nebraska Resource Center](#)

Compromise Defense Bill Would Give Junior Troops 14.5% Pay Raise in 2025

Junior enlisted service members will get a 14.5% [pay raise](#) next year under a compromise defense bill expected to pass Congress this month.

Under a deal reached by the House and Senate over the weekend, this year's National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, will allow all service members to receive a 4.5% pay bump next year. Additionally, troops in the ranks of E-1 through E-4 will get an extra 10% on top of that, for a total of 14.5% for the military's most junior troops.....

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/12/09/145-pay-raise-junior-enlisted-troops-2025-included-negotiated-defense-bill.html>

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