

A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 6 Issue 2, February 1, 2025, 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

Special Veteran Links

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

Personal Letters were sent to each senator

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

(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

Added this month

Heartland of America Chapter Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

[Heartland of America Chapter, MOAA | Non-Profit
- Sarpy Chamber , PAPILLION, NE](#)

[MOAA Nebraska Chapter Papillion](#)
[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](#)

Legislation

109th Legislative Session

The Nebraska Legislature^[1] (also called the Unicameral)^[2] is the [legislature](#) of the [U.S. state](#) of [Nebraska](#). The Legislature meets at the [Nebraska State Capitol](#) in [Lincoln](#). With 49 members, known as "senators",^[3] the Nebraska Legislature is the smallest [U.S. state legislature](#). A total of 25 members is required for a majority; however, in order to overcome a [filibuster](#), a two-thirds vote of all members is required, which takes 33 votes.^[4]

Unlike the legislatures of the other 49 U.S. states and the [U.S. Congress](#), the Nebraska Legislature is [unicameral](#). It is also [nonpartisan](#) in that members are elected in nonpartisan elections, and the Legislature does not officially recognize its members' [political party](#) affiliation or maintain a formal partisan leadership structure. All 49 members elect, by secret ballot, the Legislature's officers (except the [Lieutenant Governor](#), who serves as President of the Legislature) and committee chairs with the aim of ensuring lawmakers select leaders they truly support without undue pressure or influence from other branches of government, the political parties, or other sources of outside influence.

A Big Thank You to

Senators who have supported specific veteran-related legislative bills by adding their names to the bill

Senators Danielle Conrad, Jane Raybould, Barry DeKay

Senators who introduced veteran-related legislative bills during the first session of the 109th Legislative Session

Brad vonGillern
Victor Rountree
George Dugan
Bob Andersen
Tom Brandt
John Cavanaugh
Teresa Ibach
Megan Hunt
Ashiel Spivey

Rick Holdcroft
Dunixi Guereca
Dan Lonowski
Dan McKeon
Barry DeKay
Rita Sanders
Ben Hansen
Tony Sorrentino

Your input is needed for All Veteran Related Legislative Bills.

The hearing may have concluded, but you can still submit comments, which is essential. Senators have the option to view them. Your input may sway them to vote based on your suggestion.

Please read the bill as introduced. After you turn in your comment, you will receive an email to verify and complete the process.

This NDVA lists all of the bills identified as veteran-related. Click on the bill number and it will connect you to the Nebraska legislative site to search for that bill. If you use a bill tracker and have two email addresses, you can track all of them. (Free).

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/2025%20Legislation.pdf>

Many bill hearings are scheduled for early February; you should comment ASAP. Even if the bill has had a hearing, you should still comment. !!!

Help get these bills out of committee.

Thanks,

Dean Kenkel

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>

30 Active Bills

Bill Tracker January 31, 2025

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/2025%20Legislation.pdf>

Hearing Dates (Have a short lead time)

Testify or utilize online comments before hearing, if possible

Find the hearing dates for veterans' bills by using this link provided by the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

<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.

DVA link has all of the bills identified as veteran-related. Click on the bill number to connect you to the Nebraska legislative site to search for that bill. You can use the State bill tracker and have email updates sent directly to your email address as changes occur. If you have two email accounts, follow 15 on each. (Free). <https://www.nebraska.gov/billtracker/>

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

The official site of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

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

New in 2024

Simplified Bill View

Inclusion of New Public Input Methods

Public Committee Documentation Review

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CllleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw)

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CllleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CllleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CllleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3gr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-IvCnwPF13V_N_rWfMGQeEAp8i_osKmA_aem_LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO_nw)

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.

2025 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

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

Find your Senator and District

Enter street address, city, state and zip code

[Nebraska Legislature - Find Your Senator](#)

Senator Roster Listing (print friendly)

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

Complete Legislative Hearing dates

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

1/16/2025

Dear Mr. Kenkel,

Thank you for contacting our office to share your views regarding veterans. I appreciate the opportunity to engage with you on this issue.

As a U.S. Air Force veteran, I know firsthand the sacrifice that our nation's veterans and their families have made to support and defend our Constitution and to protect our country. Service members leave the comfort of their homes and their families to risk their lives in service to our great nation.

In the 118th Congress, I introduced H.R.2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, which provides monetary increases under the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program for veterans. This bipartisan bill would allow veterans with a service-connected disability to receive up to \$10,000, whereas veterans with a non-service-connected disability could receive up to \$5,000. Veterans who have made incredible sacrifices for our nation should be able to live comfortably in their homes and live as independently as they want.

Additionally, I am a cosponsor of H.R.1282, the Major Richard Star Act, which would allow eligible combat-related disabled veterans with less than 20 years of service to receive both Department of Defense benefits and VA disability compensation. I am also a cosponsor of H.R.6023, Veteran Restitution and Justice Act of 2023, a bipartisan bill that would allow veterans who experienced sexual trauma to receive retroactive disability benefits starting from the day of discharge.

Further, under the Biden administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs had prioritized illegal immigrants over our nation's veterans. Reports show the administration has used the VA's Financial Service Center to provide care to illegal immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. To this end, I am a cosponsor of H.R.6744, the No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act, which would prohibit the VA from providing healthcare or processing claims for illegal immigrants.

House Republicans are committed to ensuring the VA meets the needs of our nation's veterans. I will continue to work with my colleagues to strengthen veterans' benefits and improve the quality of care they receive. One of my long-term goals is to replace the decrepit in-patient VA facility in Omaha. It is 70 years old and it shows.

Again, thank you for contacting our office, and please feel free to do so at any time. It is an honor to represent you and the Second Congressional District of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Rep. Don Bacon

Member of Congress

81-836.

Policy of the state; Committee on Pacific Conflict; created; members; meetings; powers; Governor; annual state threat assessment.

(1) It shall be the policy of the State of Nebraska to:

- (a) Support the civilian and military command of the United States and its efforts to promote and maintain prosperity, peace, and security for America and its allies;
- (b) Enhance the defensive posture of this state so as to protect state citizens and assets and to contribute to the broader defensive posture of the United States by reducing security vulnerabilities within this state; and
- (c) Exercise foresight and make reasonable preparations for a potential regional or global conflict centered on the Pacific theater which could involve attacks upon the United States and its allies in the Pacific theater, which could involve asymmetrical attacks on the American homeland, and which could cause the disruption or complete severing of supply chains between this state and its vendors and the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China, or other countries in the Pacific theater.
- (2) The Committee on Pacific Conflict is hereby created. The committee shall consist of the following seven voting members:
- (a) The Director of State Homeland Security, appointed pursuant to section 81-830, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee;
- (b) The Director of Administrative Services;
- (c) The state investment officer;
- (d) The Adjutant General; and
- (e) Three individuals with applicable knowledge of the threats posed to this state in the event of a Pacific conflict, including at least one individual who represents an entity that is responsible for the operation and maintenance of critical infrastructure in this state. Such individuals shall be appointed by the Governor.
- (3) The committee shall also include four members of the Legislature, to be appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council. The legislative members shall be nonvoting members of the committee.
- (4) Appointments to the committee shall be made within sixty days after April 17, 2024.
- (5) The committee shall be authorized for an initial period of three years.
- (6) The first meeting of the committee shall be held within ninety days after April 17, 2024.
- (7) The committee shall meet no less than once every three months. Additional meetings may be called at the will of the majority of the voting members of the committee, and emergency meetings may be called at the will of the chairperson of the committee or the Governor. In the interest of state and national security, meetings of the committee shall not be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the records and documents of the committee shall not be considered public records for purposes of sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.
- (8) At the discretion of the committee, an advisory board may be established and subject matter experts may be consulted to provide expertise or collaborative research support.
- (9) The committee is authorized to liaise with relevant federal government authorities, authorities from other state governments, and experts from research institutions for the purpose of obtaining information that is useful for the committee's work.
- (10) The committee is authorized to produce policy recommendations for the State of Nebraska.
- (11) The committee is authorized to conduct secure hearings or briefings with critical infrastructure providers for the purpose of understanding the threats, risks, and vulnerabilities posed to critical infrastructure in the event of a Pacific conflict, including potential mitigation or emergency response strategies.
- (12) The Governor shall annually produce and publish a state threat assessment no later than the day prior to the annual address made to the Legislature by the Governor. The annual state threat assessment shall provide an overview of the substantial threats to state or national security, state or national economic security, state or national public health, or any combination of such matters, occurring within and threatening the State of Nebraska to the extent such information can be provided and stored in a manner that meets national security standards. The state threat assessment shall include summary nonconfidential findings of the Committee on the Pacific Conflict. Such summary nonconfidential findings shall include no information that would create any risk to state critical infrastructure or other sensitive state assets.
- (13) The committee may, at the discretion of the committee and upon an affirmative vote of five of the committee's seven voting members, produce a confidential report that shall be kept in a secure location to be determined by the Governor and which shall only be accessed with the approval of the Governor. Such report shall contain information, instructions, and other findings that the committee deems useful to preserve for the elected leaders of the State of Nebraska.

Source

- Laws 2024, LB1300, § 6.
- Operative Date: April 17, 2024

Cross References

- Open Meetings Act, see section 84-1407.

Department of Veterans Affairs Memorandum

Date: January 21, 2025

From: Acting Secretary

Subj: Hiring Freeze Guidance (VIEWS 12678309)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials

1. This memorandum provides additional guidance regarding the freeze on the hiring of federal civilian employees as directed by President Trump on January 20, 2025, via Presidential Memorandum (PM) entitled "Hiring Freeze.

https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/12678309_memo-hiring-freeze-guidance-signed.pdf

News | Jan. 14, 2025

Check Out the Updated TRICARE Publications Suite

By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Are you looking for the latest details about your [TRICARE health plan](#)? You're in luck! TRICARE has updated its entire [publications suite](#) with the latest information about your health plan. The new publications now include current details like how to find your [TRICARE region](#), how to contact your [regional contractor](#), and what you'll pay for care. These updates make it easier to understand and use your TRICARE benefit.

MORE:

<https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/4028471/check-out-the-updated-tricare-publications-suite>

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA **ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE** **FIRST SESSION**

LEGISLATIVE BILL 414

Introduced by Dungan, 26.

Read first time January 17, 2025

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public health and welfare; to establish a1
suicide mortality review team; to define terms; to provide for2
powers and duties; and to require a report as prescribed.3

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/109/PDF/Intro/LB414.pdf>

Section 1. (1) The suicide mortality review team is established in1
the Department of Veterans' Affairs.2

(2) For purposes of sections 1 to 6 of this act:3

(a) Department means the Department of Veterans' Affairs;4

(b) Director means the Director of Behavioral Health for the5
Department of Veterans' Affairs; and6

(c) Review team means the suicide mortality review team established7
in subsection (1) of this section.8

Sec. 2. (1) The suicide mortality review team shall consist of the9
following members: (a) The director or designee; (b) a representative of10
the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System; (c) a representative of11
Nebraska Local Outreach to Suicide Loss Survivors; (d) a representative12
of Division of Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human13
Services.14

(2) The director shall appoint the following individuals to be15
additional members of the suicide mortality review team: (a) An education16
administrator; (b) a hospital representative; (c) an emergency medical17
services representative; (d) a member of law enforcement; (e) a mental18
health professional or a licensed clinical social worker; and (f)19
additional members as needed.20

(3) The department shall provide professional and administrative21
support to the review team.22

Sec. 3. The suicide mortality review team shall:23

(1) Develop a suicide mortalities data collection system;24

- (2) Conduct an annual analysis of the incidences and causes of25 suicides in this state during the preceding fiscal year;26
(3) Develop protocols for suicide investigations, including27 protocols for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, medical examiners,28 health care facilities, and social service agencies;29
(4) Study the adequacy of statutes, ordinances, rules, training, and30 services to determine the changes required to decrease the incidence of31

-2-

preventable suicides and, as appropriate, take steps to implement these1 changes;2

(5) Educate the public regarding the incidences and causes of3 suicide and the public's role in preventing these deaths; and4

(6) Designate a member of the suicide mortality review team to serve5 as chairperson.6

Sec. 4. The review team shall establish a cooperative agreement7 with the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System to allow for the sharing8 and storing of all information relevant to the review team's review9 process, including, but not limited to, data collection and reporting10 within the Nebraska Violent Death Reporting System.11

Sec. 5. (1) The director and the representative of the Nebraska12 Violent Death Reporting System may apply for a subpoena for purposes of13 collecting data and information from all necessary sources. Such14 subpoenaed information shall be entered into the Nebraska Violent Death15 Reporting System and provided to the review team using an aggregate16 narrative only. Such sources include, but are not limited to, (a) death17 investigation reports from a coroner, (b) forensic autopsy reports, (c)18 subject to subsection (3) of this section, law enforcement reports,19 including probation and corrections reports, (d) medical records and20 discharge notes, including hospital, primary care, outpatient, and21 specialist records, (e) mental health therapy notes, (f) substance use or22 treatment reports, (g) school records, (h) emergency medical services23 data, (i) prescription drug monitoring program data, (j) toxicology24 findings, (k) interviews with next of kin when available and willing to25 participate, and (l) employment records.26

(2) A review team shall have access to information and records27 relating to a suicide under review by the review team. Within five28 business days of a review team's request, it shall be provided with29 access to information requested.30

(3) A law enforcement agency, with the approval of the prosecuting31

-3-

attorney, may withhold from a review team investigative records that may1 interfere with a pending criminal investigation or prosecution.2

(4) All information and records acquired by a review team are3 confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery, or introduction4 into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding, except that5 information, documents, and records that are otherwise available from6 other sources are not immune from subpoena, discovery, or introduction7 into evidence through those sources solely because they were presented8 to, or reviewed by, a review team.9

(5) Members of a review team, individuals attending a review team10 meeting, and individuals who present information to a review team shall11 not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding12 information presented in a meeting or opinions formed as a result of a13 meeting. This subsection does not prevent an individual from testifying14 to information that is obtained independently of a review conducted by a15 review team or that is public information.16

(6) A member of a review team may contact, interview, or request17 information from a family member of an individual who died by suicide.18 The review team shall approve any contact, interview, or request before19 the review team member contacts, interviews, or requests information from20 such family member.21

Sec. 6. (1)(a) No later than April 1, 2026, and each April 122

thereafter, the review team shall prepare and submit electronically to23
the Clerk of the Legislature, the Department of Health and Human24
Services, and other non-profit organizations, a report that summarizes25
the following information for each individual who died by suicide26
reviewed by the review team in the previous calendar year: (1) Cause of27
death; (2) factors contributing to the death; (3) age; (4) sex; (5) race;28
(6) geographic location at the time of death; and (7) date of death.29
(b) The report shall also include the number of suicide deaths that30
were not reviewed in the previous calendar year.31

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(2) The report may include recommendations for actions that may1
prevent additional suicide deaths and any other information, as2
determined by the review team.

Home Base

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)

Omaha Fisher House

The Omaha Fisher House features 16 fully-furnished suites and serves as a "home away from home" for the families of Veterans or military service members receiving treatment at the Omaha VA Medical Center. The facility also features a large kitchen and dining area, an elevator, and a full laundry.

The Omaha Fisher House enables family members to be close to their loved one during hospitalization by providing comfortable, cost-free lodging, in a relaxed setting that is only a short walk away from the hospital.

There is no cost to stay and there is no financial eligibility required.

The Fisher House program, established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, provides free temporary accommodations at no cost, for family members of hospitalized Veterans and active-duty military personnel. Fisher House Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, Veterans, and their families and caregivers. For more information on the Fisher House Foundation, please visit: <https://fisherhouse.org/>

On this page: <https://www.va.gov/nebraska-western-iowa-health-care/programs/omaha-fisher-house/>

The Lincoln VBA Regional Office is pleased to invite female [#Veterans](#) to attend a Veterans Claims Clinic on February 18th and 19th, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM on both days. This event will be held at the Bellevue University John B. Muller Administrative Building in Bellevue, NE.

[Veterans Benefits Administration \(VBA\), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) personnel and examiners will be available to assist with processing benefits claims, conducting exams (where applicable), and answering any questions regarding VA compensation and pension benefits. No appointments or reservations are required for attendance.

Please be sure to bring a photo ID for verification purposes.

For more information, please visit benefits.va.gov/lincoln or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. We look forward to supporting you!

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA/posts/pfbid02NLk6SKTythcDsqkDQAnJ2Ux1eF7zVoLsyZ7wCFsw2AHybHQ9rfPhAMrKkiQZPhtal>



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

At Ease USA was founded in 2009 in response to the lack of treatment for wounded warriors 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](#)

NEW

6-Week Trauma-Informed Yoga Services (National Guard)

Equine-Assisted Therapy

Vet4Vet Peer Networking Services

Military and Veteran Event

We will also have a golf tournament on Friday, May 23rd at Tregaron Golf Course. Please save the date, we will be posting sponsorship information soon to our website.

Forge Ahead 5K Run

Our annual 5K will be held on Saturday, June 7th at Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area, another save the date and info on signing up will be available soon.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kim Burkhalter

At Ease USA

Camp Recharge

Calling all military families! Pack your bags for a weekend full of adventure, relaxation, and family fun. We're combining the thrill of the outdoors with the benefits of wellness activities designed just for you!

- **June 13-15, 2025 Register** <https://ateaseusa.org/events/>

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

[Upcoming sign-in changes protect Veteran data](#)

[Read how to make a Login.gov or ID.me account](#)

After Jan. 31, 2025, Veterans won't be able to sign in to VA.gov, VA apps or other VA online services with a My HealtheVet user ID and password. After Sept. 30, 2025, Veterans won't be able to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.

Veterans will have two sign-in account options: a Login.gov or an ID.me account. Veterans can use their account to sign in to VA.gov, VA apps and any other VA online service they use to manage their VA benefits and care.

<https://news.va.gov/137835/upcoming-sign-in-changes-protect-veteran-data/>

[Governor's Wellness Walk Encourages Healthy Living](#)

Governor Jim Pillen

January 24, 2025

CONTACT:

Laura Strimple, (402) 580-9495

Dave Minarik, (402) 540-2901, dmlnarik@nebraskasportscouncil.com

Governor's Wellness Walk Encourages Healthy Living

LINCOLN, NE – Today, Governor Jim Pillen, UNO Athletic Director Adrian Dowell, Mavericks Head Soccer Coach Donovan Dowling, Mavericks Women's Soccer Coach Tim Walters, Nebraska Sports Council President Dave Minarik and Husker Women's Basketball player Callin Hake met at the State Capitol today to talk and walk. The talk, shared in a brief news conference, encouraged Nebraskans to make healthy living a priority in 2025. The walk, multiple laps through the Capitol's 2nd-floor hallways, provided an example of a simple way to fit physical activity into a busy daily routine.

MORE:

[https://governor.nebraska.gov/governors-wellness-walk-encourages-healthy-living?](https://governor.nebraska.gov/governors-wellness-walk-encourages-healthy-living?fbclid=IwY2xjawlHSj5leHRuA2FibQlxMAABHQwA9_ZJux8yukTxMu9mVAHiEascwVvUeaS1Zsizeq3DQPQkY4EyGx3S8A_aem_5s9iWmZte7BetGkCIB_MTw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawlHSj5leHRuA2FibQlxMAABHQwA9_ZJux8yukTxMu9mVAHiEascwVvUeaS1Zsizeq3DQPQkY4EyGx3S8A_aem_5s9iWmZte7BetGkCIB_MTw](https://governor.nebraska.gov/governors-wellness-walk-encourages-healthy-living?fbclid=IwY2xjawlHSj5leHRuA2FibQlxMAABHQwA9_ZJux8yukTxMu9mVAHiEascwVvUeaS1Zsizeq3DQPQkY4EyGx3S8A_aem_5s9iWmZte7BetGkCIB_MTw)

[VA Health Connect reaches millions of Veterans](#)

120 million calls handled

January 21, 2025

Lidonna Beer

Communications Specialist, Office of Integrated Veteran Care

The word is out: [VA Health Connect](#) is a simple way for Veterans to connect with a real person right now for:

- Help with scheduling appointments.
- Pharmacy needs.
- Medical evaluations and guidance.
- A virtual meeting with a medical provider, including tele-emergency care if appropriate.

VA Health Connect has handled more than 120 million calls with more than 10 million unique calls from Veterans and their families and caregivers. Veterans can call from anywhere at any time to get the care they need when they need it.

One Veteran truck driver called VA Health Connect from the road and a VA nurse convinced him to go to the ER for symptoms of deep vein thrombosis. The Veteran had four clots in his leg that could have caused a heart attack or stroke if not urgently treated. His call to VA Health Connect likely saved his life.

Veterans can call from anywhere at any time

When you have a question about your health and want to speak with someone right away through VA Health Connect, call your local VA medical center and select 1 for pharmacy, 2 for scheduling, or 3 to speak with a nurse.

To find your local VA medical center number, check the [Find VA Locations](#) webpage. You can also download the [VA Health Chat app](#) from the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app can also be launched in a web browser.

VA Health Connect and tele-emergency care do not replace emergency room care. Veterans should call 911 or go to the emergency room if they think they are experiencing a life-threatening emergency.

If a Veteran is in crisis or if a person is concerned about a Veteran in crisis, they should contact the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) to receive 24/7 confidential support. Veterans don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to contact the crisis line. To reach responders, dial 988 then press 1; [chat online](#), or text 838255.

Miscellaneous Information

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers 2025 Edition

Attention Veterans, Family Members, Survivors, and Caregivers

The 2025 Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers provides information on benefits and services currently available by law and regulation. The information provided in the guide is validated by VA as of Oct 10, 2024. Please go to [va.gov](#) to access the latest updates on Veteran care and benefits.

MORE:

<https://tinyurl.com/4njc48xy>

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. Our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support. 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 !

Find Our Events and Current News <https://www.sarpychamber.org/list/member/heartland-of-america-chapter-moaa-15344215>

<https://www.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=heartland%20chapter%20moaa>

Our website with Monthly Newsletter and sponsors

<http://www.heartlandmoaa.us/>

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 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 they made to their country: Never Stop Serving. <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

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.

Veteran Entrepreneurs: We're Here for You at Every Stage!

At VBOC - NE & IA, we're proud to serve not only those thinking about starting a business but also current veteran business owners looking to grow and thrive. Whether you're fine-tuning your strategy, exploring new

markets, or navigating challenges, we're here to support you with expert resources and mentorship. Learn more today: [<https://bit.ly/4fOdt88>](<https://bit.ly/4fOdt88...>)

US troops arriving in Texas, California to support border security

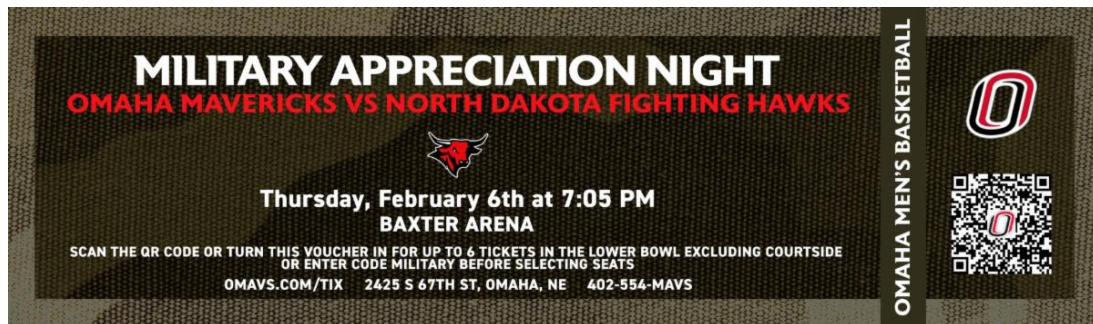
<https://reader.militarytimes.com/2025/01/24/us-troops-arriving-in-texas-california-to-support-border-security/content.html>

Trusted Traveler Program at Bases Across US Suspended Following Las Vegas, New Orleans Attacks

Military installations across the country are increasing security measures and suspending certain base visiting privileges following attacks by one current and one former service member last week in New Orleans and Las Vegas. MORE>>>>

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/01/06/trusted-traveler-program-bases-across-us-suspended-following-las-vegas-new-orleans-attacks.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHtNmJleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHeSK7eKTNWHj5XgyDTZjmdt1SmSoADUDPVQexT3r9KCmz25lnk7ZMkRfyQ_aem_pNOKjhSHiqkDyBOhXpSnfg

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=28280062531639564&set=gm.9666754740002667&idortvanity=1001038876574340>



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Suggested events

<https://www.facebook.com/events/537229002688585>

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https://www.defense.gov/News/fbclid/lwY2xjawH0yeBleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHW5sq2ydEDY9x4HYblBYj03UGHnGN8rluMqI3QXZTdTp6eAbNgKe5-2onA_aem__AHVLS3P-zWUEFRyQ33g/

U.S. Small Business Administration

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The U.S. Small Business Administration is the only federal agency fully dedicated to small business).

About U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration is an independent federal agency that works to assist and protect the interests of American small businesses. We administer our programs through district offices throughout the United States and provide additional services through a network of resource partners: Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, U.S. Export Assistance Centers, Women's Business Centers, and Veteran's Business Outreach Centers. All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

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

Welcome to Boots to Business

Boots to Business (B2B) is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The course provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. Active Duty Service members (including National Guard and Reserve), Veterans of all eras, and spouses are eligible to participate.

[Starting Your Journey:](#)

[Introduction to Entrepreneurship](#)

[Continuing Your Journey:](#)

[Follow-on Support](#)

https://sba.my.site.com/s/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIHVRhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHYnBriiJdtIZHJ6HH3xtdSZvqp0oG-UOhJfD8ovVAKxCzAiPR4mdkOfqGg_aem_g_dNry7TDytXh1iQUYt1MQ

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/>



<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=bqhlwyIZv2c>

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Service Officer Edward Lautrup (402) 426-6838 veteranservices@washingtoncountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 426-6825

Location Courthouse, Main Flr., Blair, NE 68008

Mailing Address: 1555 Colfax, Blair, NE 68008
Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Website <http://www.co.washington.ne.us/veterans.html>

WAYNE COUNTY

Service Officer Yancey Keiser (402) 375-2764 ykeiser@waynecountyne.gov
Fax: (402) 375-0103
Location Courthouse, Wayne, NE 68787
Mailing Address 510 Pearl St, Wayne, NE 68787
Hours Monday – Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm
Website <https://www.waynecountyne.gov/147/Veterans-Services>

WEBSTER COUNTY

Service Officer Gary Ratzlaff (402) 746-2493 vso@webstercounty.ne.gov
Fax: (402) 746-2710
Location Courthouse Red Cloud, NE 68970
Mailing Address 621 N. Cedar St, Red Cloud, NE 68970
Hours Monday & Wednesday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Closed from noon to 1 pm
Website <https://webstercounty.ne.gov/>



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](#)

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Get In Touch

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