

# A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 6 Issue 3, March 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/>

Copyright Veterans Grapevine 1996-2023. All Rights Reserved

**Find the previous Nebraska Veterans Coalition Newsletters here**

## Special Veteran Links

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

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:comeoncubs100@gmail.com)  
cc: [nevetscoalition@outlook.com](mailto:nevetscoalition@outlook.com)

Added this month

**Heartland of America Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of**  
**America (MOAA)**  
[Heartland MOAA](#)

[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](#)

### 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.*

## Legislation

### 109th Legislative Session

The Nebraska Legislature<sup>[1]</sup> (also called the Unicameral)<sup>[2]</sup> 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",<sup>[3]</sup> 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.<sup>[4]</sup>

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**

e  
**Senators Danielle Conrad, Jane Raybould, Barry DeKay, Bob Andersen, Glen Meyer,  
Beau Ballard,**

---

**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 Legislation.pdf](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 February 28 , 2025**

[https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/2025 Legislation.pdf](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=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3qr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-iVcNwPF13V N rWfMG0eEAp8i osKmA aem LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO nw)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHa3H5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHfj3qr8CK69Ny0Tzh7QWImYKkF-iVcNwPF13V N rWfMG0eEAp8i osKmA aem LJGvxzZFR2lvz2qTHO nw](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CHeHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQm3Yfd0hvrz6EXTbDKxhRtUnFnFVSkmc3hyg4UcWKpizd7OiBX4CRGM4A aem 9TbwBm4K7wdhaDfO9ITUFQ)

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CHeHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQm3Yfd0hvrz6EXTbDKxhRtUnFnFVSkmc3hyg4UcWKpizd7OiBX4CRGM4A aem 9TbwBm4K7wdhaDfO9ITUFQ)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CHeHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQm3Yfd0hvrz6EXTbDKxhRtUnFnFVSkmc3hyg4UcWKpizd7OiBX4CRGM4A aem 9TbwBm4K7wdhaDfO9ITUFQ](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/new/new.php?fbclid=IwY2xjawHC9CHeHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHQm3Yfd0hvrz6EXTbDKxhRtUnFnFVSkmc3hyg4UcWKpizd7OiBX4CRGM4A aem 9TbwBm4K7wdhaDfO9ITUFQ)

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](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar/hearings_range.php)

---

## Tax Season Guidance for Veterans

Maximizing benefits, accessing free assistance and avoiding scams  
VBA Benefits Delivery Protection & Remediation

As tax season approaches, many Veterans begin gathering their necessary financial documents and consulting with tax professionals. VA wants Veterans to know they may qualify for special tax breaks and free assistance programs to help them navigate the filing process and maximize their returns. Whether a Veteran files their taxes independently or uses a tax professional, VA encourages Veterans and their loved ones to review the following tips and resources to both help them navigate the tax season with confidence and to avoid [tax season scams](#).

**MORE:**

<https://news.va.gov/138085/tax-season-guidance-for-veterans/>

---

## Welcome to Nebraska Online Voter Registration

You may use the voter registration portal to: Register to vote in Nebraska

<https://www.nebraska.gov/apps-sos-voter-registration/>

---

## HEALTH CARE

---

**Today, VA Secretary Doug Collins announced in a video that VA has found \$2 billion in cuts to contracts that will be redirected to Veterans' health care and benefits.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8Z\\_RkqSAzo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8Z_RkqSAzo)

**"The Veteran is back first at the VA," Collins stated. "We're putting the Veteran first in everything we do."**

A key change includes eliminating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, [reallocating \\$14 million toward Veterans' health care and caregiver programs](#). Additionally, the department has identified and redirected \$98 million to further support health care benefits for Veterans.

VA Secretary Doug Collins outlined key accomplishments at VA during the first 30 days of the Trump administration, emphasizing the department's commitment to prioritizing Veterans.

**MORE:**

<https://news.va.gov/138566/secretary-doug-collins-accomplishments-30-days/>

---

## **New TRICARE Dental Program Contract Brings Updates in March 2025**

A new TRICARE Dental Program contract will bring changes and improvements starting March 1. United Concordia will continue to administer the TDP. However, they'll offer new services and lower costs for many members. If you have TDP coverage, you'll see these changes in your February bill for coverage effective March 1.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHSTMA/bulletins/3cfc9da>

## **A Message to TRICARE West Region Beneficiaries from the Defense Health Agency Director**

On Jan. 31, Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland, Director of the Defense Health Agency, shared a message with TRICARE West Region beneficiaries.

The message discusses the challenges that many military families have faced with the transition to the incoming West Region contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance. It outlines the corrective actions in place to fix shortcomings for the long-term and describes how the DHA is working closely with TriWest to ensure your healthcare needs are met.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHSTMA/bulletins/3d05a0c>

---

***Home Base***

[Homebase.org](https://www.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/>



***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](#)**

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Veterans / Military: How We Can Help PTSD Resources**

**Healthcare Workers: How We Can Help PTSD Resources**

**Family Services: How We Can Help PTSD Resources**

**Mental Health Practitioners**

**Our Providers**

**Provider Resources**

**Become a Provider**

**Make a Referral \**

**How you can help.**

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

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

Contact us:

At Ease USA, 10605 Burt Circle, Omaha, NE 68114

[531.247.4040](tel:531.247.4040) **Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline [1.800.273.TALK \(8255\)](tel:1.800.273.TALK) **Emergency**

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

---

## Miscellaneous Information

---



On the last Thursday of each month at Don & Millies located at 144th & Harrison

**MARCH 27, 2025**

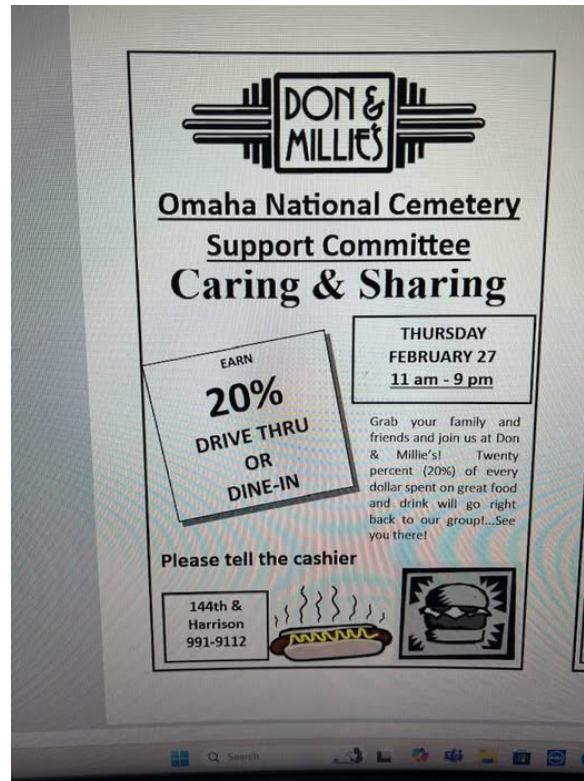
**(January through October),**

the Omaha National Cemetery Support Committee receives 20% of all sales. The committee is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

The committee organizes and supports events at the request of the cemetery director, including events such as Memorial Day, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Wreaths Across America, outreach programs, event traffic control, lobby staffing, grounds beautification, monument cleaning, and a new endeavor — to fund a major monument for the cemetery.

Thank you for considering it!

Flyer is being updated with March date!!!!



### 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 !

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed service and their surviving spouses.

### Our website has a Monthly Newsletter and sponsors

Currently being updated

Visit

<https://heartlandmoaa.org/>

FACEBOOK

[https://www.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=heartland chapter moaa](https://www.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=heartland+chapter+moaa)

### 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/>

### Offutt 55th Force Support Squadron

#### Need a new ID?

Remember, MPF Customer Service operates by appointment ONLY.

Visit our website to make an appointment: <https://www.offutt55fss.com/military-personnel-flight/>



\*Limited emergencies can be handled on a walk-in basis (unlocks, cert updates, lost IDs, etc.)  
MPF is located in Bldg 49. Open Monday - Friday from 8 - 3:30pm.  
[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=939549891679898&id=100068746870334&mibextid=wwXlfr&rid=jnN44UfOGoylITu8](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=939549891679898&id=100068746870334&mibextid=wwXlfr&rid=jnN44UfOGoylITu8)

---

From: "Amy Mitchell"  
To: "comeoncubs100@gmail.com"  
Cc: "P. Colin Kane"  
Sent: Tue, Feb 18, 2025 at 21:05

**Subject: SHEEPDOG at the 20th Omaha Film Festival**

**OMAHA! We are thrilled to share that SHEEPDOG will be premiering at the 20th @OmahaFilmFestival Friday, March 14th, 8:05 PM @ Aksarben Cinema - Screen 6. Continuing our SOLD-OUT film festival run, seating is very limited, and tickets will go fast.**

**If you are a Veteran, Active Duty Military, 1st Responder, Mental Health Worker, or Gold Star Family member and would like to attend, please reach out to us for FREE tickets at: [sheepdogOFFtickets@gmail.com](mailto:sheepdogOFFtickets@gmail.com)**

Sir/Madam,

I hope this note finds you well.

I am reaching out on behalf of a powerful and moving award-winning feature film entitled SHEEPDOG, which will be screening at the 20th Annual Omaha Film Festival on Friday, March 14 at 8:05 p.m. at the Aksarben Cinema (Screen 6).

SHEEPDOG is the first film for this generation that truly explores the physical and psychological repercussions of trauma from war with an empowering message. The film follows decorated US Army combat Veteran Calvin Cole (Steven Grayhm), who is court-ordered into treatment and into the care of a VA trauma therapist in training (Virginia Madsen).

The filmmaker/actor/director, Grayhm, spent the last 12 years working on the film to make it as realistic as possible as the movie details one veteran's journey through post-traumatic GROWTH. It is raw, and poignant and shows that both the VA and the community writ large play a part in helping our veterans transition back home. The film also stars Vondie Curtis-Hall as the protagonist's father-in-law and Vietnam veteran.

SHEEPDOG has won Best Screenplay at the Boston Film Festival and the Jury Award at the Naples International Film Festival.

**We hope you will not only join us on the 14th for this special film but will help to spread the message of this screening to your Nebraska Veterans Coalition community and friends. To that end, I have attached images for social media and text to share. To learn more about SHEEPDOG, please visit: <https://www.sheepdogthemovie.com/>.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We appreciate all you do for our military, veterans, and their families.

Warmly,

Amy Mitchell

Co-Producer/Military and Veteran Liaison

SHEEPDOG, the movie

\*\*\*\*\*

SHEEPDOG has been heralded as "a rare perfect film" with 5 STARS. Top Film Critic Joe Neumaier says, "SHEEPDOG stands tall in the company of such giants as COMING HOME, AMERICAN SNIPER, and THE MESSENGER." Shot on location in Western Massachusetts, SHEEPDOG is the first film for this generation to truly explore the physical and psychological repercussions of trauma, focusing on Post Traumatic Growth (PTG). It is an uplifting original story, inspired by countless first-hand accounts about recovery, redemption, and the journey of healing, themes that now mirror our post-pandemic zeitgeist. Top Film Critic Tony Toscana calls SHEEPDOG, "One of the best films of the year"

WINNER | JURY AWARD | BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE | Naples International Film Festival

WINNER | BEST SCREENPLAY | BEST ACTRESS | BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR | 40th Boston Film Festival

: For tix and festival schedule visit: [OmahaFilmFestival.org](http://OmahaFilmFestival.org)

For more info visit [SheepdogTheMovie.com](http://SheepdogTheMovie.com)

[#SHEEPDOG](#) [#OmahaFilmFestival](#) [#OFF20](#) [#Veterans](#) [#FirstResponders](#) [#GoldStarFamilies](#)  
[#MentalHealthWorkers](#) [#YouMatter](#) [#VeteransInFilm](#) [#PTG](#) [#YouMatter](#)

---



**MyVetBENEFITS**

**Newsletter**

<https://mailchi.mp/7df6ee63d0de/myvetbenefits-january-newsletter-1186915?e=5994fc6d60>

---

## 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/>

---

## Suggested events

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

---

### **2025 PGA HOPE NEBRASKA PROGRAMMING**

For any questions about PGA HOPE or the 2025 schedule, please contact Amber Bogle at

[abogle@pgahq.com](mailto:abogle@pgahq.com)

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of PGA REACH Nebraska, the charitable foundation of the Nebraska PGA. PGA HOPE introduces golf to Veterans to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

<https://tinyurl.com/9ppxbk3y>

---

## **Proudly Serving Nebraska & Iowa** **Welcome to the Veterans Business Outreach Center**

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) Program is designed to proudly provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling, and resource partner referrals to transitioning service members, veterans, National Guard & Reserve members, and military spouses interested in starting or growing a small business. VBOC at Nebraska Enterprise Fund is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. <https://tinyurl.com/mpambfs9>

<https://www.facebook.com/100095612280245/posts/532984983231907/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=ANy22RoelqkC8NZb>

**March events** [https://x.com/SBA\\_Nebraska](https://x.com/SBA_Nebraska)

- **FREE SBA/NBDC Small Business Workshop Series in March - REGISTER TODAY** Join our free March workshop series, either in-person or online from 4PM-5:30PM CST! Topics include: Understanding Financial Statements – 3/6/25
- AI Techniques for Your Small Business – 3/13/25
- Pricing Strategies for Your Small Business – 3/20/25
- Marketing Your Small Business – 3/27/25
- [https://x.com/SBA\\_Nebraska](https://x.com/SBA_Nebraska)
- **Questions? Contact**

Jo Eckert

Economic Development Specialist/Public Information Officer

Nebraska District Office

10675 Bedford Avenue, Suite 100

Omaha, NE 68134

U.S. Small Business Administration

(402) 221-7200 (office)

(402) 660-5428 (cell)

- [Jo.Eckert@sba.gov](mailto:Jo.Eckert@sba.gov)
- 

## **Nebraska Fishing News & Opportunities**

**Fish Nebraska: State record fish; fly tying workshops; Fishing Forecast**

## 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.

Contact info

**This field is used for email or phone number (402) 685-5503 ext 503**

[eswarik@nebbiz.org](mailto:eswarik@nebbiz.org)

[https://sba.my.site.com/s/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIHVRhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHYnBriiJdtlZHJ6HH3xtSZvqp0oG-UOhJfD8ovVAKxCzAiPR4mdkOfqGg\\_aem\\_g\\_dNry7TDytXh1iQUYt1MQ](https://sba.my.site.com/s/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIHVRhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHYnBriiJdtlZHJ6HH3xtSZvqp0oG-UOhJfD8ovVAKxCzAiPR4mdkOfqGg_aem_g_dNry7TDytXh1iQUYt1MQ)

## **Offutt AFB-In-Person-2025-03-18-Boots to Business Class Details**

**Class Name**

**Offutt AFB-In-Person-2025-03-18-Boots to Business**

**Class Duration**

**Two Days**

**Class Type**

**Boots to Business**

**Maximum Class Size**

**The maximum number of students that can sign up for the class 25**

**Class Date(s)**

**2025-03-18 -- 2025-03-19** <https://sba.my.site.com/s/class/a00SJ000007K8LcYAK/offutt-afbinperson20250318boots-to-business>

- [Air Warfare, Networks & Digital Warfare](#)

### **New plug-and-play AI can protect pilots of non-stealth planes: Raytheon**

The upgrade allows existing radar warning receivers to analyze unfamiliar signals in real-time — fast enough to warn the pilot if it's an enemy radar locking on. "It could go on any kind of F-16" or a wide range of other aircraft, Raytheon Vice President Michael Baladjanian told Breaking Defense. <https://tinyurl.com/4e86hkba>

## *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](https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

### *February Newsletter & Events*

<https://mailchi.mp/nebraska.gov/ndva-newsletter-february-2025?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](https://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](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**

---

## **STEAMFITTERS and PLUMBERS TRAINING PROGRAM**

Application for admittance into the Steamfitters and Plumbers Apprentice Training Programs will be accepted for two weeks, Monday through Friday, beginning on **March 3rd through March 14th, 2025**. Applications from the Tri-City area can be completed in Grand Island the Nebraska Department of Labor, 203 E. Stolley Park Rd, Suite A from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you reside in Kearny or Hastings the nearest Nebraska Department of Labor office will be the Grand Island location. Please see flyer for more information. Refer candidates and questions to our office. Thank you!

**Vicki Pflasterer, CLSSYB**

*Reemployment Coordinator – Business Service Rep/Job Seeker Staff*

Nebraska Department of Labor

203 E. Stolley Park Rd., Ste A, Grand Island, NE 68801

Direct Line 308-385-6309. Office Line 308-385-6300, Fax Line 308-385-6029

### **STEAMFITTERS and PLUMBERS**

### **TRAINING PROGRAM**

3375 Oak View Dr • Omaha, NE 68144

Phone (402) 333-5859 • Fax (402) 333-0858

B.A.T approved Cert. #NE0030008

Application for admittance into the Steamfitters and Plumbers Apprentice Training Programs will be accepted for two weeks, Monday through Friday, beginning on March 3rd through March 14th, 2025. Applications must be completed in Omaha at Steamfitters and Plumbers Local 464, 3375 Oak View Drive from 8:00 am to 3:30pm, in Lincoln at the American Job Center, 14th & N Street (across the street from the Bennett Martin Public Library) from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and in Grand Island the Nebraska Department of Labor, 203 E. Stolley Park Rd, Suite A from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you reside in Kearny the nearest Nebraska Department of Labor office will be the Grand Island location.

**QUALIFICATIONS NECESSARY FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A PROBATIONARY PIPE TRADES APPRENTICESHIP:**

1. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of employment; 06/01/2025.

2. Complete the application and submit the following:

- a) Birth certificate or other such document for proof of age;
- b) High school diploma and transcript or high school equivalency (GED) certificate & official report of test results;
- c) Military transfer or discharge Form DD-214, if applicable;
- d) Photo identification.

3. Pass a math test to be scheduled.

4. Appear for an interview when notified.

**IF YOU ARE ACCEPTED FOR A PROBATIONARY APPRENTICESHIP, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO:**

1. Pass a mandatory pre-employment drug screen and submit to a for cause drug test.
2. Submit to a background check
3. Serve as a probationary apprentice for a minimum of one year (1,700-2,000 hours of on-the-job training);
4. Serve a 5-year apprenticeship including the probationary period (8,500-10,000 hours of on-the-job training);
5. Report to work every day with good attendance and punctuality. The beginning wage rate for a first-year apprentice is now \$21.07 per hour;
6. Provide for your transportation to and from the apprentice classes and jobsites;
7. Work under the direction of a journey worker on the job site and perform job duties satisfactorily.
8. Attend related training classes regularly and maintain an acceptable average in those classes. The day-time classes meet twice a month for eight and one-half hour a day and some Saturdays and nights for a period of five years, or as the Joint Apprenticeship Committee may direct;
9. May have to purchase text material for use in related training classes as required;
10. Abide by all rules & regulations of the Joint Apprenticeship Committee. If a minor, have your parents consent to enter into and abide by the provisions of an apprenticeship indenture, and all rules & regulations as established and set forth by the Joint Apprenticeship Committee, as approved by the Bureau of Apprentice Training of the U.S. Department of Labor.

EEO Training Program

Call the L.U. 464 Training Center if you have any questions at 402-333-5859.

Look at our Web Site for further information [www.lu464.org](http://www.lu464.org)

---

[Trump chooses Hung Cao, who sought Virginia Senate seat, as undersecretary of the Navy](#) By Gavin Stone  
The Virginian-Pilot • February 28, 2025

Read more at: <https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-02-28/hung-cao-senate-bid-navy-under-secretary-nominee-16988619.html>

Source - Stars and Stripes

<https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2025-02-28/hung-cao-senate-bid-navy-under-secretary-nominee-16988619.html>

---

### **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**

WHEELER COUNTY

Service Officer Kenneth Stenka (402) 336-1200 [vso1@holtcountyne.gov](mailto:vso1@holtcountyne.gov)

Admin Assistant Micky McIntire (402) 924-3010 home vso2@holtcountyne.gov

Fax: (402) 336-1200

Location Courthouse, O'Neill, NE 68763

Mailing Address 128 N. 6th St., Ste. 5 O'Neill, NE 68763

Hours Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Website [http://www.wheelercounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans\\_services/veterans\\_services.html](http://www.wheelercounty.ne.gov/webpages/veterans_services/veterans_services.html)

Also, CVSO for Holt & Boyd County

#### YORK COUNTY

Service Officer Nick Wollenburg (402) 362-4047 [yorkcvso@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcvso@gmail.com)

Admin Assistant Angelica Noziska [anoziska@gmail.com](mailto:anoziska@gmail.com)

Fax: (402) 362-4025

Location Courthouse, Rm. 110 510 N Lincoln Ave. York, NE 68467

Mailing Address PO Box 505 York, NE 68467

Hours Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Website <https://www.yorkcounty.ne.gov/veterans-services.html>

Also CVSO for Fillmore County



*Serving Military Members, Veterans, and their Families*

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](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1829232140644438>

### **About Welcome to The Fallen Outdoors (TFO) MIDWEST ALL VETERAN Community Page!**

This is a place for Veterans, both past and present, and Gold Star family members to connect, support each other, and discuss outdoor-related topics. It's also where all TFO-approved member trips, events, and fundraisers for teams within the region will be posted. Join us for HOPE, CONNECTION AND HEALING! More information about our Organization: The Fallen Outdoors is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization that connects veterans to each other in the great outdoors. Our mission is to organize therapeutic outdoor adventures for those currently serving, those who have served in the past, and our Gold Star families. We aim to connect veterans and service members with like-minded individuals and teach them skills and a passion they can continue for a lifetime. This is a place for Veterans, both past and present, and Gold Star family members to connect, support each other, and discuss outdoor-related topics. It's also where all TFO-approved member trips, events, and fundraisers for teams within the region will be posted. Join us for HOPE, CONNECTION AND HEALING!

. Today, TFO thrives in nearly every state and serves over 200,000 veterans a year across the nation. What started as a simple idea to help veterans get outdoors has transformed into a lifestyle that the TFO nation lives and breathes every day. "Living our dreams, because they gave up theirs." See less

Private Only members can see who's in the group and what they post. Visible Anyone can find this group.

---

To understand a Military Veteran you must know:

- \* We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.
  - \* We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.
  - \* We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.
  - \* We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.
  - \* We found new friends and new family.
  - \* We became brothers and sisters regardless of colour, race or creed.
  - \* We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.
  - \* We didn't get enough sleep.
  - \* We smoked and drank too much.
  - \* We picked up both good and bad habits.
  - \* We worked hard and played harder.
  - \* We didn't earn a great wage.
  - \* We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.
  - \* We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.
  - \* We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.
  - \* We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.
  - \* Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.
  - \* Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.
  - \* Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.
  - \* We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.
  - \* We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.
  - \* We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.
  - \* We have dealt with victory and tragedy.
  - \* We have celebrated and mourned.
  - \* We lost a few along the way.
  - \* When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.
  - \* We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.
  - \* We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.
  - \* We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.
  - \* We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.
  - \* Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.
  - \* It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.
- 

FAIR USE NOTICE: This newsletter may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. The Editor/Publisher of the Bulletin at times includes such material in an effort to advance the reader's understanding of veterans' issues. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U. S. C. Section 107, the material in this newsletter is distributed without profit to those who have expressed an interest in receiving the included information for educating themselves on veteran issues so they can better communicate with their legislators on issues affecting them. To obtain more information on Fair Use refer to <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this newsletter for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

**Nebraska Veterans Coalition**  
**Address:** 10000 Maple Street  
Omaha, NE 68116  
**Phone:** (402) 630-5840

[Get In Touch](#)