Note from the Director

Hello and welcome to our March/April 2016 edition of VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. The change in seasons is definitely upon us. Here out east, we were blessed with some very nice weather and cherry blossoms in full bloom, but the blossoms were followed by strong winds, rain and “wintry mix,” so winter hasn’t quite let go of us yet in our Nation’s Capital.

The Federal Register comment period for whether to propose amendments to Title 38 Part 14 that I reference in the last director’s letter came to a close on April 26, 2016. It is important to note that all comments are being carefully reviewed and considered by VA’s Office of General Counsel, and if it is determined that the agency will move forward with proposed language to amend the rule, that the actual language will be available for public comment. So if you missed the opportunity to voice concerns by this deadline, you may have another opportunity to weigh in if the decision is made to move forward with the proposal. Written comments may be submitted to Tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

Spring time usually kicks off travel season for our tribal government relations specialists and this year is no exception. Way out west, Terry Bentley (Pacific District) served as a panelist for the California State Department of Veterans Affairs Leadership Summit 2016 (Holiday Inn Sacramento, CA, April 20-21). Terry’s presentation focused on sharing best practices, unique and common leadership challenges and examples of collaboration that the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations and VA staff experience in serving California Veterans. Terry will then focus her attention on the Tribal Veteran Representative Training (TVR) and Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs and hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Wild Horse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, OR May 17-19). The goal of this event is to provide training and outreach regarding VA services and benefits to TVRs and Veterans advocates working within Indian Country. For more information about both of these events, contact Terry, Terry.Bentley@va.gov.

In the meantime, over in the Southwest, the New Mexico VA Health Care System (NMVAHCS) is planning on staffing a VA outreach booth during the 33rd Annual Gathering of Nations Pow Wow (WiesPies Arena “The Pit” April 28, 29 and 30 in Albuquerque). Thanks to Native American Veterans Coordinator, Jim Toya and the leadership of the NMVAHCS for supporting this event, which is also co-sponsored by the OTGR. Last year alone, the outreach booth had over 1200 (!) inquiries from Veterans and their family members during the 3 day event and we’re looking forward to another busy booth this year. Our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the area, Homana Pawiki, has been busy criss-crossing the Southwest meeting with tribal officials and either participating in or facilitating logistics meetings for upcoming Veterans Training Summits, outreach events and commemorative activities (San Carlos Apache Tribe Veterans Cemetery Dedication (Arizona), meeting with the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Rural Veterans Coordination Project staffer Robertson Yazzie, Jr. who provides outreach and education support to Veterans in northeast New Mexico, O’odham Veterans Council/Celebration planning meeting (Arizona) and representatives from the Navajo Nation Department of Veterans Affairs to discuss
implemementation of Tribal HUD – VASH, a program designed to assist Veterans struggling with homelessness). Speaking of the Southwest, I participated in the Hopi Code Talker Recognition Day ceremonies (Hopi Veterans’ Memorial Center, Kykotsmovi, AZ, April 23). I’ve heard such good things about this event for several years now and this is the first time I’ve been able to experience it in person. I enjoyed spending time with the Veterans, family members, community members and visitors who were on hand to honor the important legacy of the Hopi Code Talkers. For more information on the Hopi Code Talker Recognition Day, contact Eugene “Geno” Talas at ETalas@hopi.nsn.us.

Looking towards the Continental District, Tribal Government Relations Specialist Mary Culley has also been on the road quite a bit, with highlights from the past month including meeting with representatives from Cherokee Nation, the Oklahoma State Legislature’s Native American Caucus and in the days ahead will be presenting to the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board Epidemiology Conference as well as the Lawton, OK U.S. Public Health Service Centennial Celebration. For more information about these events, feel free to contact Mary at Mary.Culley@va.gov. Also on the horizon in Oklahoma, the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Jack C. Montgomery VA in Muskogee, OK will be hosting a FREE training on 5/9/2016 to 5/13/2016 at the Muskogee Creek Nation Dome Building in Okmulgee. This training is open to anyone who is interested in attending.

The purpose of this knowledge-based training is to help the attendees understand the VHA-VBA-NCA benefits, programs, and services available so they can most effectively help the returning Veterans of the current OEF/OIF conflict and engage them in current programs available to them. If you should have any questions about this event, please feel free to email William.Richardson@VA.gov or call (406) 447-7547.

In the Central Region, Peter Vicaire has been organizing events and planning site visit trips that are taking place with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho in Wyoming, Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribes in Montana, Lac Courte Oreille in Wisconsin, Seneca in New York and the Passamaquoddy in Maine. He is presenting information on Native Veterans to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) at their upcoming conference in Green Bay, WI and also preparing an upcoming presentation on veteran courts, veteran justice outreach and engaging with tribal courts to help justice-involved veterans.

If you have questions, suggestions or would like to be added to our newsletter listserv, don’t hesitate to contact our newsletter editor: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov or email us at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

Happy Reading,

Stephanie Birdwell
Joe Medicine Crow, a war chief, historian and the last link to the Battle of Little Big Horn, dies at 102

Here's an article from The Washington Post which ran online on April 4. There is also an interesting VIDEO [2:08] on their website

“According to Crow tradition, a man must fulfill certain requirements to become chief of the tribe: command a war party successfully, enter an enemy camp at night and steal a horse, wrestle a weapon away from his enemy and touch the first enemy fallen, without killing him.

Joe Medicine Crow was the last person to meet that code, though far from the windswept plains where his ancestors conceived it. During World War II, when he was a scout for the 103rd Infantry in Europe, he strode into battle wearing war paint beneath his uniform and a yellow eagle feather inside his helmet. So armed, he led a mission through German lines to procure ammunition. He helped capture a German village and disarmed — but didn’t kill — an enemy soldier. And, in the minutes before a planned attack, he set off a stampede of 50 horses from a Nazi stable, singing a traditional Crow honor song as he rode away.

“I never got a scratch,” he recalled to the Billings Gazette decades later.

Medicine Crow died Sunday at 102, according to the Gazette. He was the Crow’s last war chief, the sole surviving link to a long military tradition. But he was also an activist, an author, a Medal of Freedom recipient and a vital chronicler of the history of his tribe.

“I always told people, when you meet Joe Medicine Crow, you’re shaking hands with the 19th century,” Herman Viola, curator emeritus at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian, told the magazine at Medicine Crow’s alma mater, Linfield College.

Medicine Crow was born in a log home near Lodge Grass, Mont., in 1913. He was given the name Winter Man by a visiting Sioux warrior, he wrote in his memoir, in the hope that he would grow up strong, healthy and able to endure adversity.

His upbringing matched his name. Medicine Crow’s maternal grandfather, Yellowtail, raised the boy in the Crow warrior tradition, putting him through a grueling physical education regime that involved running through snow barefoot to toughen his feet and bathing in frozen rivers to strengthen his spirit. From other relatives, Medicine Crow heard stories of the Battle of Little Bighorn from people who were there, including his great uncle, White Man Runs Him, who served as a scout for George Armstrong Custer.

But life on the Crow Reservation in the early 20th century was also steeped in hardship. The tribe was down to about 2,000 members, devastated by disease and hunger, not to mention the loss of children at harsh boarding schools that attempted to strip them of their heritage. In his memoir, Medicine Crow recalled how his relatives stole cattle to survive.

“We were down to our lowest ebb,” he said of that time.
According to Linfield Magazine, Medicine Crow believed that school was his means to reverse the tide. He recalled how another Crow chief, Plenty Coups, had told him that education would make him a white man's equal, the lack of it "will make you his victim."

"That to me was a personal challenge," Medicine Crow told the magazine in 2009. "I wanted to prove to people, not only to Indian people but people in general, that an Indian is capable of becoming a good college student. People said that Indians are just too dumb, they are not capable of getting a college education. I wanted to disprove that."

Crow graduated from Linfield College, a liberal arts school in Oregon, and in 1939 he got his master's in anthropology from the University of Southern California — the first person from his tribe to earn a graduate degree. His thesis: “The Effects of European Culture Contacts Upon The Economic, Social, and Religious Life of the Crow Indians.”

After graduating, Medicine Crow went to work at a Native American school in Oregon. But then came the attack on Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war, and by 1943 Medicine Crow had enlisted in the Army.

"We were a war-faring people," he told the Billings Gazette. "Naturally, I thought about the famous warriors when I went to Germany.... I had a legacy to live up to." Plains Indians won honor by counting "coup," or acts of bravery in battle. The most illustrious coup was to touch an enemy and escape unharmed — something that Medicine Crow wasn't intending to do when he helped raid a German village. But then he (literally) bumped into a German soldier while scouting in an alley.

"I swung my rifle to knock his rifle off his hands," he told filmmaker Ken Burns for the documentary "The War." "All I had to do was pull the trigger." Instead, Medicine Crow dropped his own weapon and "tore into" the other man. After a moment's tussle, he grabbed the man's neck. "I was ready to kill him," he said. And then the German yelled, "Mama."

"That word 'Mama,' opened my ears. I let him go."

When Medicine Crow came home from the war in 1946, he recounted that incident and his other exploits in Europe to Crow elders, not realizing they added up to anything more than a few stories. "You have completed the four deeds," they told him. He chuckled as he recalled the moment when it dawned on him, "So I guess you're looking at the last Plains Indian war chief," he said in “The War."

In 1948, Medicine Crow was appointed tribal historian and anthropologist. He had an impeccable recall of stories he'd been told as a child, and he served as the last living link to the Crow's pre-reservation way of life and history. He served on historical and educational commissions, authored nearly a dozen books on Crow culture, and wrote a history of the Battle of Little Bighorn based on the memories of his great uncle, Custer's Crow scout, who tried to warn the general that he was about to be ambushed but who was ignored. Medicine Crow had tried to incorporate that history when he was recruited to help write "They Died With Their Boots On," the 1941 Errol Flynn film about the battle, but he was likewise dismissed by the movie's white producers.
“I said, ‘Someday I’m going to write my own Custer production and tell it like it is,’” Medicine Crow told the magazine True West in 2009. In 1964, he did; that script is used in reenactments of the battle today.

For much of his life, Medicine Crow served as an emissary between the Crow community and the white world. As a child, he translated for his great uncle, White Man Runs Him, when white reporters came to interview him about the Battle of Little Bighorn. He lent his voice and his memories to countless exhibits on Native American culture at museums around the country. He spoke at colleges and conferences and a United Nations summit. “There is a middle line that joins two worlds together,” he told Linfield Magazine. “I walk that line and take the best from each and avoid the worst. I’ve lived a good, well-balanced way of life. I encourage my grandchildren and young Crow Indians to do the same and they will be happy.” Medicine Crow used his platform to speak for his people. In 2008, when then-Sen. Barack Obama was making a campaign stop at a veterans’ center in Billings, Mont., Medicine Crow confronted the candidate.

“When you get to the White House,” he said, according to the Cody, Wyo., Enterprise, “remember we Indian people since 1492 have been at the bottom of the ladder in America. We want you to bring us up to level … recognize us as first-class citizens.” The next year, President Obama would award Medicine Crow the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States. During the ceremony, Obama said that Medicine Crow was “a good man, a ‘bacheitche’ in Crow,” according to the AP.

“[His] life reflects not only the warrior spirit of the Crow people,” he continued, “but America’s highest ideals.”

In a statement Monday, Obama repeated that Medicine Crow “was a bacheitche – a good man. “The first of his people to go to college and earn a Master’s, he wore war paint beneath his uniform and an eagle feather beneath his helmet during World War II,” the president’s statement continued. “His bravery in battle earned him the Bronze Star from America, the Legion d’honneur from France, and in 2009, I was proud to honor him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Yet I suspect his greatest honor was one he earned from his people: the title of war chief – the last Crow to hold that distinction.

“Dr. Medicine Crow dedicated much of his life to sharing the stories of his culture and his people. And in doing so, he helped shape a fuller history of America for us all. Michelle and I honor 102 years of a life well lived, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the entire Crow Nation.”
WASHINGTON - U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, today [April 22, 2016] introduced the Tribal Veterans Health Care Enhancement Act, legislation that would improve tribal veterans' access to health care.

Their bill would allow the Indian Health Service (IHS) to cover the cost of veterans' copays for services rendered at the Veterans Health Administration (VA) and would require the agencies, in consultation with Indian tribes, to outline an implementation plan through a memorandum of understanding. Tribal veterans who seek treatment at IHS are often referred to the VA for services that require a co-pay.

"We made a promise to tribal veterans, and it’s our responsibility to see that it’s honored," said Thune. "By allowing IHS to cover VA copays incurred by tribal veterans, we can ensure that our nation's heroes receive the care they have both earned and deserve. This legislation will build upon work we did through the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve coordination of care between IHS and the VA and streamline care for tribal veterans."

"I am pleased to join Senator Thune on this important piece of legislation," said Rounds. "Native American veterans shouldn't have to worry about additional costs when they seek health care services. The important thing is that they receive timely, quality care. Our legislation will help streamline health care for all Native American veterans to make certain they receive the care they've been promised. I appreciate Senator Thune's efforts on this issue."

Specifically, this legislation would:

* Allow for IHS to pay for veterans’ copayments for services rendered at a VA facility pursuant to an IHS referral;
* Require IHS and VA to enter into a memorandum of understanding to provide for such payment; and
* Require a report within 45 days of enactment with respect to:

  o The number, by state, of eligible Native American veterans utilizing VA medical facilities;
  o The number of referrals, by state, received annually from IHS to the VA from 2010 to 2015; and
  o Update on efforts at IHS and VA to streamline care for eligible Native American veterans who receive care at both IHS and VA, including changes required under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and any barriers to achieve efficiencies.
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
38 CFR Part 14
Recognition of Tribal Organizations for Representation of VA Claimants

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of Tribal consultation.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is considering issuing a proposed rulemaking to amend its regulations concerning recognition of certain tribal, state, and/or local organizations for purposes of VA claims representation. Specifically, the proposed rulemaking would amend VA’s regulations to expressly provide for the VA recognition of tribal organizations, so that representatives of Native American claims may assist Native American claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of their VA benefit claims. In addition, the proposed rule would allow an employee of a Tribal government to become accredited through a recognized State organization. Effective Date: Comments must be received by VA on or before April 11, 2016.

For Further Information Contact: Clay Ward, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, 202-401-7445, or by email at TGB@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA is considering issuing a proposed rulemaking that would amend part 14 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to provide for the recognition of Tribal organizations so that representatives of Native American claimants may assist Native American claimants in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of their VA benefit claims. The purpose of the proposed rulemaking would be to address the needs of Native American populations who are geographically isolated from existing recognized Veterans Service Organizations or who may not be utilizing other recognized organizations due to cultural barriers or lack of familiarity with those organizations. First, the proposed rulemaking would allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recognize Tribal organizations in a similar manner as the Secretary recognizes State organizations. Specifically, this proposed rulemaking would consider applications from a Tribal organization that is established and funded by one or more Tribal governments to be recognized for the purpose of providing assistance on VA benefit claims. In addition, the proposed rulemaking would allow an employee of a Tribal government to become accredited through a recognized State organization, in a similar manner as a county veterans’ service officer may become accredited through a recognized State organization. Finally, the proposed rulemaking would extend office space opportunities already granted to employees of State organizations who are accredited to national organizations to similar employees of Tribal organizations. The intended effect of this proposed rule would be to improve access to Native American veterans in VA-accredited organizations and VA-accredited individuals who may assist them on their behalf. The proposed rulemaking would not preclude Tribal laws. This Tribal consultation is seeking input from Tribal governments regarding VA’s consideration of the issuance of such proposed rulemaking. VA is also seeking comment on the potential compliance costs.

In order to become accredited as a Tribal organization, the organization must meet the State organization requirements in 38 CFR 14.629(d). Pursuant to §14.629(d), an organization requesting recognition must have as a primary purpose serving veterans, demonstrate a substantial service commitment to veterans, either by having a stable organizational membership or by showing performance of veterans’ services to a sizable number of veterans; commit a significant portion of its assets to veterans’ services; and have adequate funding to properly perform those services; maintain a policy and capability of providing complete claims services to each claimant requesting representation or give written notice of any limitation in its claims services with advice concerning the availability of alternative sources of claims service; and take affirmative action, including training and monitoring of accredited representatives, to ensure proper handling of claims. VA is seeking comment on the amount of time and the costs of persons’ time to show that the organization meets these requirements. VA’s Office of General Counsel accepts recognition requests via mail, fax, or email.

Signing Authority: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approves this document and authorizes the undersigned to sign and submit this document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert D. Snyder, Interim Chief of Staff, approved this document on March 3, 2016, for submission.


William F. Rasso,
Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2016-05412 Filed 3-9-16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8000-11-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
40 CFR Part 52
[EA-P-005-04M-2014-0658; FRL-9943-45-Region 6]
Air Plan Approval: Ohio; Base Year Emission Inventories for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve, under the Clean Air Act (CAA), a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) on July 18, 2014, to address emission inventory requirements for the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, Ohio (OH) and Columbus, OH ozone nonattainment areas and for the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana ozone nonattainment area under the 2008 ozone national annual attainment standard. The EPA requires emission inventories for all ozone nonattainment areas. The emission inventories contained in Ohio’s July 18, 2014, submission meet the EPA requirements. EPA is also proposing to confirm the state of Ohio has acceptable stationary source annual emission regulations, which have been previously approved by the EPA.
Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way

Here’s a webinar from the National Institute of Corrections on veteran treatment courts which can be accessed [HERE](http://nicic.gov/library/029869)

Judges and administrators of the Hopi Tribal Court took training on veteran courts and plan on starting theirs this year. For more information, please contact Peter Vicaire at [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)

This program on justice-involved veterans, highlights the lifesaving role being played by veterans treatment courts (VTCs) across the country.

From WWII through the continuing global war on terror, there are approximately 21.5 million veterans in the U.S. today. So many of these men, and increasingly women, return home damaged mentally and physically from their time in service. These wounds often contribute to their involvement in the criminal justice system. As a result, veterans are overrepresented in our jails and prisons.

For these justice-involved vets, Veterans Treatment Courts are providing a pathway to recovery so that they can be restored to functioning and contributing members of society.

Veterans Treatment Courts, or VTCs, provide hope, restore families and save lives. The first VTC, founded in 2008 in Buffalo, New York, has inspired the creation of more than 220 courts of similar nature in jurisdictions, both large and small, across the country. Hundreds more are in various stages of planning and implementation.

These courts have the support of the communities they serve, as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and local service providing agencies. Critical to the success of VTCs are veterans who volunteer to be trained and serve as mentors to justice-involved veterans.

This training program will: Introduce Veterans Treatment Courts as an effective intervention and an alternative to incarceration for justice-involved veterans; Identify the unique issues which contribute to veterans’ involvement in the criminal justice system at the local, state and federal levels; Highlight the inception of Veterans Treatment Courts and the role they play in improving public safety, reducing recidivism, saving taxpayer dollars and, most importantly, restoring the lives of those who have served our country; Showcase model Veterans Treatment Court Programs, including Veterans Peer Mentor Programs; Demonstrate how to implement and sustain an effective VTC, including the vital role of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Peer Mentors; and Provide resources and next steps for jurisdictions interested in implementing a Veterans Treatment Court or looking to improve an existing program.
Veterans and Agent Orange Update

Department of Veterans Affairs
Institute of Medicine Report:
Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014
March 2016

Statement:
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appreciates the work of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on behalf of Vietnam Veterans in their evaluation of scientific and medical information regarding the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange, other herbicides used in Vietnam, and additional components contained in herbicides including dioxin.

A technical workgroup of VA subject matter experts has been assembled to review IOM’s report Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014, to determine how the recommendations can be implemented to help improve the health and well-being of Vietnam Veterans.

Background:
VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as diseases that are associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service in Vietnam, and are presumed to be associated with that service. A list of the diseases for which Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits is available at http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp

The IOM was charged with conducting updates every two years through 2016 based upon new, relevant, scientific and medical literature. Public Law 114-58 mandated an extension requirement for biennial updates through 2016. For every biennial update, the statute directs each new IOM Committee to determine, to the extent that scientific data permits meaningful determinations, whether there is a statistical association between specific diseases and exposure to herbicides used during the conflict in Vietnam, whether there is an increased risk of disease among individuals exposed to herbicides during service in Vietnam, and whether there is a plausible biologic mechanism or other evidence of a causal relationship between herbicide exposure and a disease.


Starting in 1991, VA began recognizing diseases associated with herbicide exposure during service in Vietnam and has added a total of 15 diseases to the list based on IOM’s findings. These diseases are: Hodgkin’s disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, early-onset peripheral neuropathy, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, soft-tissue sarcoma, chloracne, type-2 diabetes mellitus, AL amyloidosis, ischemic heart disease, all chronic B-cell leukemias, Parkinson’s disease, and spina bifida in the offspring of Vietnam Veterans.
Native America Calling ~ HUD-VASH Housing For Native American Veterans

Here’s a radio interview from Native America Calling regarding the recent HUD-VASH on Tribal Lands Pilot Program. It aired on March 8 and can be accessed [HERE](http://www.nativeamericacalling.com/housing-native-american-veterans/)

“More than two dozen tribes have nearly $6 million in new funding from HUD to help Native American homeless veterans. It’s a promising development to help a prevailing problem on reservations and in urban areas. Some tribes are getting as much as $142,000. They estimate the new influx of cash will help a total of 500 veterans who don’t have a roof over their heads. But already there are some complaints about bureaucracy interfering with the process. Which tribes are having the most success helping homeless veterans? And what challenges remain helping the men and women who have served in the military?”

Guests: Teresa Pittman – regional coordinator for the HUD VASH program; Taylor Real Bird (Crow) – assistant director for the Apsaalooke VA; Mitchelene Big Man (Crow) – president and founder of Native American Women Warriors and a retired Army Veteran

VA Reimburses $37.5+ Million to IHS and Tribal Health Programs

Tribal health clinics interested in entering into a reimbursement agreement with VA for serving veterans should send an initial note of interest to: tribal.agreements@va.gov

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Here is the cover page for a 29-page guide that was recently released regarding the HUD-VASH on Tribal Lands Pilot Program. It can be accessed [HERE](#) or if the link is not yet active, you can contact Peter.Vicaire@va.gov to get a copy emailed.
Swords to Plowshares ~ Discharge Upgrade

Here is some information from an organization that provides free legal consultation for veterans. Their website is [HERE](#).

Swords to Plowshares is one of the few organizations in the country that provides free legal consultation and attorney representation to veterans seeking assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and military discharge upgrade cases. Our attorneys play an essential role by helping veterans remove unjust legal barriers to VA benefits. Our services are targeted to address the needs of homeless and low-income veterans. **All services are free of charge.** Our clients have a 90% success rate for claims that come to resolution. Every $1 we spend on the free legal services we provide for veterans leverages $26 in direct VA benefits.

**VA Benefits and Related Issues**
- Service-connected disability compensation
- Non-service-connected pension
- Character of discharge applications for basic veteran eligibility
- Medical care entitlement
- Rating increases
- Overpayment issues
- Appeals

**Military Discharge Review/Upgrade**
- Discharge Upgrade applications
- Requests for corrections to military records

**Who Qualifies?**
Any veteran, regardless of discharge status, era of service, or length of service is eligible for a free assessment. If you or someone you know is in need of veterans benefits assistance, please stop by during Drop-in hours or contact our Legal Team at [legal@stp-sf.org](mailto:legal@stp-sf.org).

**Hours & Locations**
We offer drop-in legal advice and benefits assessment at five San Francisco Bay Area locations.

**Legal Drop-In Hours**
Swords to Plowshares Drop-in Center
1060 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-4788
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 – 10 AM

*Drop-in is restricted to these dates:* April: 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
May: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31; June: 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
Department of Health and Human Services ~
Telehealth Network Grant Program

Here is some information on a tribal-specific telehealth grant opportunity from the Department of Health and Human Services.

“This announcement solicits applications for the Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP). The primary objective of the TNGP as noted in Section 330I(d)(1) is to demonstrate how telehealth programs and networks can improve access to quality health care services in rural, frontier, and underserved communities. TNGP networks are used to: (a) expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of health care services; (b) improve and expand the training of health care providers; and/or (c) expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, and patients and their families, for decision-making. Applications are especially encouraged from networks that will demonstrate how telehealth can expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of health care services through SBHCs, especially those which may also serve the broader community beyond normal school hours.”

The full synopsis and more information can be retrieved at Grants.gov – here: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=281424

Tribal Veteran Representative Training

The Department of Veteran's Affairs, the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Jack C. Montgomery VA in Muskogee will be hosting a FREE training on 5/9/2016 to 5/13/2016 at the Muscogee Creek Nation Dome Building in Okmulgee. This training is open to anyone who is interested in attending. The purpose of this knowledge-based training is to help the attendees understand the VHA-VBA-& NCA benefits, programs, and services available so they can most effectively help the returning Veterans of the current OEF/OIF conflict and engage them in current programs available to them. We hope that you will be able to attend this important training and look forward to seeing you in Okmulgee!

If you should have any questions about this event, please feel free to email William.Richardson@VA.gov or call (406) 447-7547.
USDA Tribal Relations Specialist Job Opportunity
~ Veterans Preference~

The Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service will soon be advertising to fill the position of
GS-0301-13, Regional Tribal Relations Specialist
Located at the Regional Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
This is a permanent full-time position in the Regional Forester’s staff group.
Salary range with Milwaukee locality pay is $87,426 - $113,659
Generous benefits package includes leave, medical, thrift-savings, teleworking.

About the Position
The Regional Tribal Relations Specialist serves as a Special Assistant to the Regional Forester and is the
Region’s senior advisor on American Indian affairs and federal Indian Law and Policy. The Regional
Tribal Relations Specialist serves as the Regional Forester’s ambassador to the Tribes affiliated with the
Eastern Region; provides leadership and accountability for the consistent application of federal Indian
Law and Policy throughout the Region; and facilitates opportunities for the Agency to fulfill the
Government’s trust responsibilities and treaty obligations. The incumbent serves as the Region’s
principal point of contact with USDA Office of Tribal Relations and the Forest Service Office of Tribal
Relations.

Scope of the Program
The Eastern Region Tribal Relations Program provides advice, counsel, and training services to the Forest
Service workforce to promote a culture of understanding that results in proactive, effective, and
meaningful dialogue with Indian tribes. The program’s principal clients are the Forest Service line
officers, decision-makers, program managers and project leaders. The program’s goal is to provide them
with the appropriate context and knowledge to ensure trust
responsibilities are recognized and
fulfilled and that decisions respond
to the current and future needs of
Indian tribes and tribal members.
The Eastern Region Tribal Relations
Program supports the work of all
National Forest units and programs
to engage in consultation and
collaboration with tribes when
undertaking the formulation and
implementation of policies,
programs and actions that have
tribal implications, as defined in
Executive Order 13175 and DR
1350-062.
Regional efforts are focused on 83 federally-recognized tribes that retain rights and interests in the management of Forest Service lands and programs within the 20 states of the Eastern Region. The Eastern Region also maintains active relationships with numerous inter-tribal organizations, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), American Indian professional associations, and urban Indian centers. The protection of treaty rights and the preservation of appropriate opportunities to exercise those rights on lands managed by the Forest Service are an integral part of the Eastern Region Tribal Relations Program. Treaty reserved rights have been asserted on more than 7.5 million acres (64%) of Forest Service land within the Eastern Region. In a unique setting, the Chippewa National Forest manages over 300,000 acres of land within reservation boundaries.

About the Forest Service

The United States Forest Service (USFS) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers the nation’s 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands, which encompass 193 million acres. Major divisions of the agency include the National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, Business Operations, and the Research and Development branch. Managing approximately 25% of federal lands, it is the only major federal land management agency that is outside the U.S. Department of Interior.

Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the nation’s benefit. Congress later directed the Forest Service to broaden its management scope for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation.

The mission of the Forest Service is “To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.” Its motto is “Caring for the land and serving people.” As the lead federal agency in natural resource conservation, the Forest Service provides leadership in the protection, management, and use of the nation’s forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. The agency’s ecosystem approach to management integrates ecological, economic, and social factors to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment to meet current and future needs.

The Forest Service organization includes ranger districts, national forests, regions, research stations and research work units and the Northeastern Area Office for State and Private Forestry. Each level has responsibility for a variety of functions.

About the Region

The Eastern Region is one of nine Forest Service administrative regions in the National Forest System. It consists of more than 12 million acres spread across 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the East and Midwest. Over 40% of the U.S. population lives within this area.

Eastern forests were created from overdeveloped land that had been heavily eroded by farming, logging and mining activities. The Weeks Act of 1911 authorized the federal government to purchase these lands from willing private sellers. Since then, the forests have been professionally managed for multiple uses. Today, people value the National Forests for providing clean air and water; wildlife habitat; recreation opportunities; forest products; and other goods and services.
CANDIDATE RESPONSE OUTREACH FORM

Regional Tribal Relations Specialist
GS-0301-13, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Please reply no later than June 3, 2016

If you are interested in this position, please provide the following information to help us reach all interested parties. All information will be kept confidential. This vacancy will probably not be filled until late summer of 2016.

Name: ________________________________
E-Mail Address: ________________________________
Telephone Number: ________________________________
Are you a Federal Employee (Y/N): ____________
Current Title/Series/Grade: ________________________________
Agency: ________________________________
Are you a Tribal Employee (Y/N): ____________
Tribe: ________________________________

If not a current permanent (career or career conditional) federal employee, are you eligible to be hired under any of the following special authorities?

☐ Person with Disabilities ☐ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act
☐ Veterans Readjustment ☐ Former Peace Corps Volunteer
☐ Disabled Veteran 30% Disability ☐ Student Career Experience Program
☐ Other ________________________________

What combination of experience, training and education has prepared you for this position? (Check all that apply):

☐ Agency Tribal Liaison ☐ Policy Development (tribal)
☐ AI-AN Program (federal agency SEP) ☐ Regulatory (federal)
☐ Federal Indian Law Practitioner ☐ Regulatory (tribal)
☐ Legal Department (JD or Paralegal) ☐ Section 106 (federal)
☐ NAGPRA Coordination (tribal or fed) ☐ Section 106 (tribal)
☐ Natural Resources (federal) ☐ Tribal Government
☐ Natural Resources (tribal) ☐ Tribal Program Administration
☐ Policy Development (federal) ☐ Other ________________________________

Please send this completed form by e-mail to Larry Heady, Regional Tribal Relations Specialist, at lheady@fs.fed.us. Call (218) 626-4332.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.
USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity employer.
VA DIRECT HOME LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS LIVING ON TRUST LAND

Helping You Use the Benefits You’ve Earned

How to Apply for a Loan

- Check whether your tribal organization has a Memorandum of Understanding with VA to participate in the program.
- Log on to www.eBenefits.va.gov to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility or submit a paper application (VA Form 26-1880) to the Atlanta Eligibility Center.
- Contact your local VA Regional Loan Center to learn more.
- Find a home and sign a purchase agreement or contract with a homebuilder.

NADL Program Benefits

- No downpayment
- No private mortgage insurance
- Low fixed interest rate
- Low closing costs
- Up to $417,000 in most areas, more in high-cost areas such as Alaska and Hawaii
- Reusable benefit

For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp or call 1-877-827-3702.
Home Depot Veteran Housing Grants

The Home Depot Foundation’s (THDF) Veteran Housing Grants Program awards grants to nonprofit organizations for the development and repair of veterans housing. To date, the Foundation has awarded more than $80 million, and has helped impact more than 17,000 units of housing for veterans. Awards typically range from $100,000 to $500,000.

Many one-off single family home repair requests are a better fit for our Team Depot or Community Impact Grant programs. Veteran Housing Grants are best suited to fund single family home repairs when they are a part of a permanent program managed by the nonprofit partner.

Eligible Projects
- New construction, rehab or repair, single family or multifamily, permanent supportive housing or transitional housing.
- Grants are awarded solely for the physical construction or repair of housing for veterans (hard costs). THDF does not provide funding for soft costs, such as furnishings, rental subsidies, tenant services, etc.
- Target population of veterans, at or below 80% AMI.
- Projects in which at least 20% of the units are reserved for veterans.
- All veterans served are honorably discharged.
- Project will commence within the next twelve months.
- THDF grant funding must comprise less than 50% of the total development cost of the project.
- 75% of the project’s funding sources must have been identified at the time of proposal submission.
- The amount of funding requested does not exceed $25,000 per veteran unit.
- For multifamily rental projects, proposals requesting above $100,000 must provide evidence of a third party binding agreement that ensures the units are a.) reserved for veterans; b.) occupied by veterans for a minimum of 15 years for rental or 3 years for homeownership (i.e. project-based HUDVASH, other funder requirement, deed restriction, zoning requirement, etc.).

Eligible Applicants
- Grants are only awarded to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that have been in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service for at least 5 years.
- Organizations with a current operating budget of at least $300,000 and audited financial statements from the past three years.
- Organizations with previous experience developing, and either currently manage or own, veteran specific housing.
- For rental projects, nonprofit must have a 15+ year ownership stake in the development.

Preferred Project Criteria
- Projects which serve the housing needs of women veterans with children, Post 9/11 wounded warriors, veterans with caregivers, homeless veterans, or aging in...
place for senior veterans.

- Projects which combine addressing the housing needs of veterans with supportive services or opportunities for community service activities.
- Projects with a funding request between $15,000 and $25,000 per veteran unit.
- Projects located in urban/major metropolitan areas.
- Projects with a mix of local private/public financial support as well as a mix of local, city, state, federal and private funding.
- Proposals which clearly demonstrate how organization will track and report outcomes.
- Proposals which clearly demonstrate how organization will locate and identify veterans.
- Organizations willing to provide volunteer opportunities for local Home Depot store associates.
- Multi-family developments which:
  - Have a substantial track record in developing and managing housing projects for veterans as well as providing services to veterans.
  - Have site control.
- Single Family New Construction projects which:
  - Have a track record in developing, gifting and selling housing to veterans.
  - Have site control of the lots.
  - Veterans have been identified and qualified.
- Single Family Home Repair projects which:
  - Have a track record of identifying and managing critical repairs on a veteran's home.
  - A waitlist of veterans exists.

**Process**

All applicants will first complete a questionnaire to determine their eligibility to receive funding through this program. If the project is eligible, applicants will be directed to submit a Grant Proposal for consideration by THDF. Only proposals submitted through the online application process will be considered for funding. Proposals submitted by mail, phone, or e-mail will not receive funding and will be directed to the online application process.

A THDF staff member will follow up with you regarding the status of your proposal no later than 45 days after submission. Proposals will be declined, approved for Application or queued for the next funding cycle. Proposals are meant to gauge the Foundation's interest in participating in a project while allowing us to queue projects strategically in our pipeline. Proposals will continue to be accepted year round and after the deadlines below however will be queued for the next funding cycle.

If your proposal is competitive, you will be invited to complete an Application. Upon completion, a site visit may be conducted and your organization will be subject to a third party review. Pending a successful review, a final decision will be reached at the Foundation’s Board meeting. Please review the table below to determine the appropriate deadline to submit your proposal.
Determinations
Final determinations will be made three times a year. Please review the table below to determine the appropriate deadline to submit your proposal. Again, proposals are accepted year round. If a proposal is submitted after the deadlines below, it will be queued for the next funding cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Grant Proposal Due Date</th>
<th>Final Determinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10/27/15</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/24/16</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6/23/16</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may access the Grant Proposal using the links below. To complete the questionnaire and to submit a Grant Proposal, click here. To access a saved Grant Proposal, click here.

Grant Terms & Reporting Requirements
If awarded, the terms for this grant will be 12 months from the approval date. You will be required to submit an interim report and a Final Report that will be outlined in your grant agreement. Site visits may be conducted with prior notification by THDF Staff.

Contact Information
Questions? Please visit our FAQ page.

For further inquiries, contact us via email at HD_Foundation@HomeDepot.com. The Veteran Housing Grant Program only provides grants to nonprofit organizations for the development and repair of housing for veterans. Please use “Veteran Housing Grant Program” in the subject line of your email.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WWFS Announces New Program to Benefit Native American Veterans

OMAHA, Nebraska, Feb. 1, 2016 – Wounded Warriors Family Support has launched a new program to support Native American veterans who need transportation and transition assistance on their reservations.

Wounded Warriors Family Support has teamed with the Office of Tribal Government Relations at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on the new Native American Veterans Support, Transition and Resources (NAVSTaR) program. This program will ensure that Native American veterans, especially those who are combat wounded, are helped in a meaningful way.

“As a youngster growing up in New Mexico, I learned first-hand about the Navajo Code Talkers and their contribution to Marines during the brutal island hopping campaign in the South Pacific during World War II,” said Col. John Folsom, USMCR (Ret.), founder and president of Wounded Warriors Family Support. “I have had the honor to serve with Native Americans during my 30 years of service. We have a firm commitment to support our Native American veterans, especially tribes that are the most isolated and poor.”

So far, Wounded Warriors Family Support has provided Ford vehicles to the Blackfeet Nation, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Oglala Lakota Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Three Affiliated Tribes.

Last November, Wounded Warriors Family Support donated a 2016 Ford Transit Connect to the Oglala Lakota Nation in an effort to provide safe and dependable transportation to VA facilities. The donation was in memory of Lance Cpl. Brett Lundstrom, who was killed Jan. 7, 2006, while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment in Iraq.

“Brett was returned to Pine Ridge and honored with a warrior’s funeral,” Folsom said. “I appreciate his life and service, especially given the backdrop of the crushing poverty of the Pine Ridge reservation.”

About Wounded Warriors Family Support
Wounded Warriors Family Support is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support to the families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations. This organization is run by combat veterans for combat veterans. Rated a four-star nonprofit by Charity Navigator, Wounded Warriors Family Support aids veterans and their families in healing the wounds that medicine cannot. For more information about Wounded Warriors Family Support, visit www.wwfs.org.

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Media contacts:
Kevin Schuster, PR Coordinator
402-895-2552 ext. 314
kschuster@lukaspartners.com

Col. John Folsom, Wounded Warriors Family Support
402-490-7875
johnfolsom@wwfs.org

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OTGR Central Region
(IA; MI; MN; MT; ND; NE; SD; WI; WY)

Monthly Native American Veterans Coffee & Treats

Join us monthly from 8:30-10:30am at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E. Franklin Ave, MPLS, MN 55404 on March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8 and August 5.

Sponsored by your HNAV committee:
Amanda Lindem, Fond du Lac Band
Barbara Benjamin-Robertson, Mille Lacs Band
Jacque Wilson, Bois Forte Band
Johnny Smith, Red Lake Nation
Nancy Davis-Cruz, Retired U.S. Army LTC
Todd Dorrance, MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Roberts Boyd, Red Lake Nation
Carl Prinsen, White Earth
Valerie A. Larsen, Leech Lake
Lyle H. Iron Moccasin, Veterans Employment Rep
Questions - 952-708-3004
OTGR Southern Plains Region
(KS; OK; TX)

Society of American Indian Government Employees
13th Annual National Training Program
Hard Rock Hotel, Catoosa, OK
Save the Date
June 6 - 9, 2016

Qualified Training in the areas of
- Professional Development
- Cultural Awareness
- Federal Indian Law & Trust Responsibility
- Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity and Inclusion
- Indigenous Natural Resources
- Special programs for Veterans, Youth and Tribal Government Employees

Please join us at this beautiful newly renovated tribal facility owned and operated by the Cherokee Nation.
www.wilsoncherokeenation.com

Watch for updates at www.saige.org
Veterans & Military Appreciation Day
Day of Remembrance

Thursday, May 19th, 2016
Hosted By The
East Central University
Veterans Upward Bound Program
Please join us in the Chickasaw
Business and Conference Center,
located at 830 E. Main St
Ada, OK 74820

Vendor Tables available at 9:00 AM
Program Begins at 10:00 AM
Lunch first come, first serve after program
This event is made possible through generous donations
and is free and open to the public

Program Highlights:
Special Guest Speakers
Waco Blakey
OEF/OIF Veteran
Transition Patient Advocate @ OKCVAMC &
President of Honoring America’s Warriors
Scholarship Presentation:
The Recipient of the
Bret D. Isenhower
Scholarship will be announced during the program.

Door Prizes during lunch!!!
SAVE THE DATE!!! May 19, 2016!!!

The Veterans Upward Bound Program at East Central University is happy to let you know the date has been set for Veterans and Military Appreciation Day!! Please plan to join us on Thursday, May 19, 2016 on the ECU Campus in Ada, OK, in the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center inside the Stonecipher School of Business Building, located at 830 E Main Street, Ada, OK 74820. (We will be in the same location as last year.) An official flyer to publicize the event will be ready very soon, and I will share that with you so you can help me promote the event. In the meantime, please feel free to share this information with other organizations, programs and businesses which serve veterans and their families – we like to have LOTS of vendors!!

If you would like to host a table of information, we would love to have you join us! You can complete the attached registration form and fax or email it back to me, or simply reply to this email and provide me with the requested information. Thank you in advance for helping us to make this day a huge success, we could not do this without you! I need this info no later than May 1, but the sooner I get it, the better. I will be able to promote your attendance if I know you are planning to be here.

Tentative agenda for the day:

9:00 Tables of information
10:00 Program (tentative program agenda is attached)
11:30 - lunch/door prizes

Lunch will be provided immediately following the program and door prizes for veterans will be awarded after everyone has gone through the line. All activities should conclude by 1 pm-1:30 pm. For your information, I am attaching the tentative program agenda so you will have an idea of what we are planning for the day. As speakers are confirmed I will update you. I am very pleased that the Bret D. Isenhower Scholarship winner will be recognized during this event. In addition, there will also be a fundraiser to help establish this scholarship at the University.

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I look forward to having you on campus as we recognize and appreciate those who have or who are currently serving in the various branches of the military. This event is free and open to the public.

Respectfully,

Mary Meeks, Director, Veterans Upward Bound, East Central University, 1100 E 14th, PMB S-36 - Ada, OK 74820 - 580.559.5541 - 580.559.5224 fax
Flame of Freedom Ceremony

Friday May 13, 2016 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Mekusukey Mission, 35445 Hwy 59, Seminole

Open to the public. Everyone welcome. Free community event!

12 noon
Free lunch for all.

1 pm – 5 pm
Information Booths for Veterans

5 pm
Free Spaghetti Dinner for all.

6:30 pm
Flame of Freedom Ceremony:
- Seminole Nation Honor Color Guard
- Seminole Nation Princesses
- Presentations
- Flame Ceremony
- Honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families
- Missing Man Ceremony

Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 of Mississippi will be stopping at the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma on their ride to Washington, DC, where they will finally arrive at the Vietnam Wall on Memorial Day, May 31, 2016.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Department of Veterans Affairs
K. Galen Greenwall, Director  Office (405) 234-5242
Veterans of the Vietnam War

**WELCOME HOME RALLY**

**Saturday * May 14, 2016 * 4 PM**
Mekusukey Mission, 35445 Hwy 59, Seminole

**FREE LUNCH, 12 noon**
Come and meet fellow veterans!

**VETERAN ASSISTANCE BOOTHS, 1 pm – 4 pm**
Various organizations will be on hand to assist veterans.

**VIETNAM VETERANS “WELCOME HOME” CEREMONY, 4 pm**
Special recognition of Vietnam veterans present.

**PIZZA DINNER, 6 pm**
Free dinner for all in attendance!

**COMMUNITY EVENT**
This free event is open to the public. Join us!
Everyone welcome — men, women, children.

**PRESENTATION OF OFFICIAL PINS**
As part of this special event, all United States Veterans who served on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, will be presented an official Vietnam War Commemoration lapel pin.

This is part of the Rolling Thunder “Flame of Freedom” Weekend
Friday-Saturday, May 13-14, 2016

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Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
K. Galen Greenwalt, Director
Office (405) 234-5242
THUMMIM (TRUTH)

HISTORICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NATIVE COMBAT VETERANS

Friday, July 15, 2016

Community Center 4505 S.E. 15th Street Del City, OK 73115

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Seminars  1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Meal  2:00 pm – 7 pm
Gourd Dance
OTGR Southwest Region
(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

Operation Jumpstart
Student Veteran Educational Boot Camp
UNM-Gallup

The first-ever "Educational Boot Camp" is being hosted at UNM-Gallup to assist eligible veterans to gain skills to achieve success in higher education. This boot camp will help students knock off academic rust, enhance core skills and provide an orientation to resources in the community and on campus.

May 17th—19th
Math

May 23rd—26th
Reading and Writing

*Classes will begin at 0900 daily and will finish at 1500

Instruction will be computer-aided and classes will be taught by college instructors. Daily snacks will be provided for all in attendance. Students who commit to completing this course will receive a travel stipend and school supplies for the upcoming semester. There will also be a "Challenge Coin" luncheon to recognize the students’ commitment to higher education.

**There are only 15 seats available for training and seats will fill quickly.

Please contact
Nick Brokeshoulder at (505) 863-7645 or nbrokesh@unm.edu
Hank Hargis at (575) 737-3725 or hargis@unm.edu

Sign up now for Operation Jumpstart
For Immediate Release
March 24, 2016

NM Dept. of Veterans’ Services to Dedicate Opening of Gallup Field Office; Will Also Host Veterans Cemetery Town Hall Mtg.

Wednesday, April 6 (10am & 11am)
Gallup, NM (Ford Canyon Senior Center/908 E. Buena Vista Ave.)

(GALLUP, NM)-- The public is invited to join New Mexico Department of Veterans’ Services (NMDVS) Secretary Jack Fox and local leaders for a 10am grand opening ceremony for the new NMDVS Gallup field office. NMDVS Veterans’ Service Officer Tyrre Saavedra will be available to help veterans and their families from 8:30am-4:30pm on the following days:

- March 22-24
- April 5-7, 26-28
- May 10-12, 24-26
- June 7-9, 21-23
- July 12-14, 26-28
- August 9-11, 23-25
- September 13-15, 27-29
- October 11-13, 25-27
- November 8-10, 21-23, 28-30
- December 13-15, 27-29

When: Wednesday April 6, 2016 (10 am/11 am)

Where: Ford Canyon Senior Center
908 E. Buena Vista Ave. Rm. 1A
Gallup, NM 87301

Cemetery Town Hall Meeting
After the ceremony, the public is invited to stay for a special 11am cemetery town hall meeting hosted by NMDVS Secretary Fox, NMDVS State Cemetery Program Director Tom Wagner and other state officials to give an update on the progress of the proposed Gallup State Veterans’ Cemetery.
Wild Horse Casino Event Center

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Veterans Group

07.15.2016
1 PM
Dulce, N.M.

JicarillaVeterans@gmail.com
(760)681-9631
OTGR Western Region
(AK; CA; ID; NV; OR; WA)

SAVE THE DATE
September 17, 2016
Women Veterans Summit
Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort
15347 Suquamish Way NE
Suquamish, WA 98392

www.dva.wa.gov/women/women-veterans-summit