



The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Sonya L. Smith
Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

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Registration Now Open For the 2022 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference

Free breakfast & lunch provided

Saturday, June 11 (9am-3pm)
Albuquerque

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave. NE

(ALBUQUERQUE)— Registration is now open for the 2022 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference in Albuquerque on Saturday, June 11, from 9am-3pm at the Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Workforce Training Center, at 5600 Eagle Rock Avenue NE.

The conference, presented by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS), is free for women veterans and transitioning active-duty women service members. Representatives from DVS, the New Mexico VA Health Care System, and the Albuquerque VA Regional Office will have information about VA, state and other veterans' benefits—including benefits specifically for women veterans.

Doors open for check-in at 8:30am. A free self-serve breakfast will be provided featuring breakfast burritos, pastries, fresh fruit, coffee/tea, and orange juice. A free buffet-style

lunch will also be provided featuring traditional New Mexican cuisine catered by Garcia's Kitchen of Albuquerque.

According to the latest VA data, almost 11% (2,045,000) of our nation's 19.1 million veterans are women. Here in New Mexico, 16,600 of our state's 148,300 veterans are women—also 11% of the veteran population.

In addition to educating these women about their eligible veterans benefits, DVS Cabinet Secretary Sonya Smith said the conference hopes to attract women who have served, but for some don't consider themselves veterans.

"Women who have served our country—whether they retired after serving 20-years, served one four-year commitment, or were medically discharged after less than a year—they are veterans, too" said Secretary Smith, an Air Force veteran who served in support of Operation Desert Storm and who will deliver the conference's welcome address. "I also meet women who think veterans benefits are only for men, for those who saw combat, or just for military retirees. No...no...and no! If you honorably served, you are a veteran—and I invite you to come to this conference to learn about your VA and state veterans benefits you are entitled to as a woman veteran."

Though the conference is free, pre-registration is required and can be done by contacting DVS Women Veterans Program Manager Robin Wilson at robin.wilson@state.nm.us or (505) 372-9106.

Request for photos of women veterans from their service days

The 2022 New Mexico Women Veterans Conference is on the day before National Women Veterans Day (June 12). To help DVS celebrate the day honoring the service of women veterans, women are encouraged to send a photo of themselves in uniform as active service members. Please include your branch of service, your name, your rank, and when you served.

These photos will be published in the June edition of *The Guardian*—the monthly DVS newsletter—which will be emailed statewide the first week of June.

Photos should be emailed to ray.seva@state.nm.us. Please also indicate if you would like to sign up to receive the agency's monthly newsletters and news releases.

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) provides support and services to New Mexico's veterans and their families. DVS treats every veteran, regardless of their rank achieved during military service, with the respect and gratitude befitting someone who has honorably served our country. We strive every day to live up to our agency's official motto: *Serving Those Who Served*.

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