



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Donnie Quintana
Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

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DVS to Host Next Local Veterans Community Briefing in Raton **May 17 (9 a.m. - noon)** **Colfax County Administration Building (230 North Third St.)**

(Raton)– The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will host its next local veterans community briefing in Raton on May 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Colfax County Administration Building, located at 230 North Third Street.

DVS Cabinet Secretary Donnie Quintana will be joined by agency division directors to provide updates on DVS initiatives for 2023 and beyond. Among the topics to be outlined are plans to expand coverage of the Highly Rural Veterans Transportation Program currently providing free round-trip rides to medical appointments for veterans in fifteen counties, and the building of a half-scale replica of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at the DVS-managed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

Scheduled to join DVS at the briefing are representatives from the New Mexico VA Health Care System and the Albuquerque VA Regional Office to talk about the PACT Act. This is the new law that expands VA medical care

for veterans who are experiencing health issues that might be linked to exposure to toxins during their military service. Proof of exposure is not required—a veteran needs only to document his or her service in regions as defined by the PACT Act.

An update on other VA developments will also be provided.

A representative from VA's Loan Service Center will outline the VA home loan process and how veterans can apply for VA home loans.

“I encourage veterans in the northeast part of the state to attend this briefing, and to spread the word to other veterans,” said DVS Secretary Quintana. “We’re going to have a lot of valuable information which can help you and your family.”

The briefing will be videotaped, and an edited video will be posted on the DVS website. Similar briefings are planned for communities in other parts of the state this year.

For more information, please contact DVS Event Coordinator Joseph Dorn at joseph.dorn@dvs.nm.gov or (505) 861-9117.

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