



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

January 2022 Newsletter

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#ICYMI

NCDMVA Deputy Secretary Martin Falls: *Lifetime of Service Celebrated*

Martin Falls' career of service was celebrated at a retirement luncheon on Thursday, December 9th. The celebration was held at the National Guard Armory in Raleigh. Falls looks forward to time with family and friends.

Thank you for your service, Colonel Falls, you will be missed.



[View photos](#)

Korean War Soldier Returned to Durham 70 Years After He Went Missing

Army Cpl. Leon E. Clevenger went missing during combat against the North Korean People's Army on July 11, 1950, when his unit was overrun near present-day Sejong City, South Korea.

The Durham native was laid to rest with full military honors on December 11th at the Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in Durham. North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Terry Westbrook, presented Cpl. Clevenger's family with the "U.S. Army Corporal Leon E. Clevenger Day" proclamation, signed by Governor Roy Cooper.



[Read More](#)

2022 Wreaths Across America: Remember, Honor, Teach

On December 18th, welcomed Wreaths Across America organizers, volunteers, Boys and Girls Scouts of America, Color Guard, active-duty service members, and others to [Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery](#) for one of the more than 2,700 wreath-laying ceremonies being held nationwide and over 70 events hosted across North Carolina for Wreaths Across America Day.

N.C. Secretary of the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Walter Gaskin, delivered welcome remarks and presented the ['Wreaths Across America Day' Proclamation](#) signed by Governor Cooper during the ceremony.



NCDMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin salutes after placing wreaths honoring soldiers at Wreaths Across America event at Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery, Dec. 18, 2021.

[View photos](#)

Successful Toys For Tots Campaign

Thanks to everyone who participated in a very successful 2021 Toys for Tots Campaign. NCDMVA staff and Dobbs Building personnel donated 75 toys to the campaign. We look forward to doing it again in 2022.



Pictured (from left) NCDMVA Director of Veteran Services, Terry Westbrook, Chair of the NC Utilities Commission, Charlotte Mitchell, and NCDMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin, Dec. 15, 2021.

Christmas Spirit at Black Mountain Veterans Home



Our State Veterans Home in Black Mountain received the First Place trophy in the Christmas Parade with their Polar Express themed float.

A member of the Clark Alexander Chapel UMC of Asheville drops off homemade prayer shawls, wheelchair totes and candy for Black Mountain residents.



Hickory Elks Lodge 1654 brought donations including snacks, warm pullovers, board games, and an Atomic Patriot Arcade Basketball set for the Black Mountain residents.



Alan Mainer, the Western NC Coordinator of Operation North State, (left), brings goodies to Black Mountain Veterans twice a year.



NCDMVA At Work

NCGWG: Social Determinants of Veteran Suicide Series Continues through January

In November, the NC Governor's Working Group kicked off a five-part series on the Social Determinants of Veteran Suicide. This series runs through January 2022 and dives deep into one of the most critical issues facing Veterans today.

Watch Part 4 in the series on the "Resulting Instabilities" [here](#) and mark your calendar for Part 5, "Restoration of Self Worth" on **January 27th**.

[Learn More](#)



Public Service Announcements

Hidden Heroes Coffee



THE ELIZABETH DOLE FOUNDATION
HIDDEN HEROES TOGETHER WITH
WAKE TECH
WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY
& THE JOEL FUND
PRESENT

HIDDEN HEROES *Coffee*

A hybrid in-person and virtual coffee discussion
promoting safety in our communities.

Discussion to include

- Crisis Intervention
- Challenges faced by our Community
- Community Services provided by our Police
- Training for Mental Health Issues
- Educational Opportunities
- Open Discussion

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FRIDAY
28 JANUARY 2022
9:00 - 10:30 AM
AT WGU
1009 SLATER ROAD, SUITE 310
DURHAM, NC 27703

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR VISIT
thejoelfund.org/hidden-heroes-coffee/

★ ★ ★

FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE SERVED.



[More Information](#)

VA: Suicide Prevention Challenge

In 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced its intent to launch a [Suicide Prevention Grand Challenge \(SPGC\)](#) in 2022. The SPGC is seeking bold, ground-breaking innovations across the broad problem space of Veteran suicide prevention to save lives and reduce Veteran suicide by at least 10 percent.

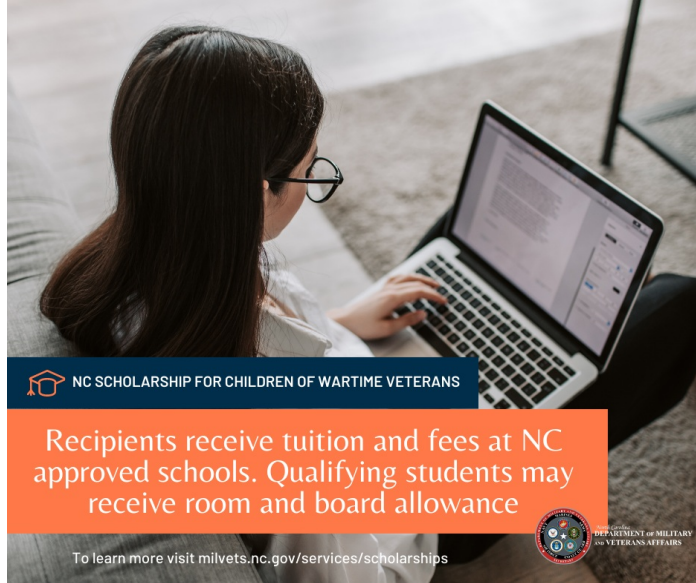
You are cordially invited to a virtual session, "[Meeting of the Minds](#)," on **Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Eastern**. The purpose of the session is to elicit different perspectives and test assumptions to inform the direction of the VA SPGC. The discussion will be generalized and is meant to be a listening exercise, so it would not preclude interested attendees from participating in the future grand challenge activities.

Please **RSVP [here](#)**, or forward this invitation on to a relevant stakeholder or subject matter expert **within your organization**. The meeting link and other information will be shared via calendar invite to those who RSVP in just a few weeks.

Please place a hold on your calendar for now, and we hope that you will join us on January 27, 2022 from 11:00am – 3:00pm Eastern Time. **This event is open to external innovators to help the VA solve the problem of Veteran suicide.**

[More information](#)


Apply: NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans



NC SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS

Recipients receive tuition and fees at NC approved schools. Qualifying students may receive room and board allowance

To learn more visit milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships



[More information](#)

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

The Department of Veteran Affairs has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026.



[Visit our website](#)

Join VA's GI Bill Network



[More information](#)

Leaderboard

NCDMVA welcomes Patrick Hoss



Going from two to three may not seem like much, but Communications Director, Jessica Coscia, says the help was needed.

The Communications Team partners closely with a variety of internal and external stakeholders—internally from the Secretary, all units, divisions and staff statewide—as well as external state and federal agencies and media organizations to amplify NCDMVA's important contributions across a wide range of subjects.

Hoss' background is in newspaper, magazine, and television

news, but none of those outlets really let him be as creative as he can be here at the NCDMVA. "It also feels good knowing what you are doing is really having an effect on the people you are doing the work for," he said.

Patrick supports with general communications duties, such as the daily news clips, the monthly newsletter, and media relations support. "It is a different job than any I have done before," Hoss said, "but it is also a job I actually look forward to getting up and coming into the office for."

We are glad to have Patrick on the team! Please join us in welcoming him to NCDMVA.

Save the Date

January

- 7 – National Invisible Pain Day
- 17 – Martin Luther King Day
- 23-29 - Snowcare for Troops Awareness Week
- 27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)

February

- 2 – Groundhog Day
- 3 – Four Chaplain’s Day
- 4 – World Cancer Day
- 4 – National Wear Red Day
- 13 – Superbowl Sunday
- 14 – Valentine’s Day
- 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 21 – Presidents Day
- 19 - Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 28 - Desert Storm Veterans Day

Community Calendar

- Jan 12: [Hire Heroes USA Kickstart Your New Year Job Search](#)
 Jan 12: [Mar 2 Cohen Clinic-Centerstone Parenting Workshop-Wednesdays](#)
 Jan 18: [Hire Heroes USA Employer Spotlight: Amazon Careers in Program Management Within Corporate Operations](#)
 Jan 19: [Hire Heroes USA Federal Employment: Where to Begin](#)
 Jan 19: [IVMF Beyond Traditional Therapy](#)
 Jan 19: [Mar 9 Cohen Clinic - Centerstone Couples Workshop - Wednesdays](#)
 Jan 27: [Mar 9 Cohen Clinic - Centerstone Couples Workshop - Wednesdays](#)
 Jan 26: [Hidden Heroes Coffee](#)
 Jan 27: [NCGWG Social Determinants of Veterans Suicide Webinar](#)
 Jan 19: [Mar 9 Cohen Clinic - Centerstone Couples Workshop - Wednesdays](#)

[Click here for more events](#)

Want to be included in a future issue?

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[Share your news](#)



North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) supports both active and reserve uniformed military personnel and their families; military installations and communities; and military veterans and their families in North Carolina. The Department seeks to provide timely and responsive engagement to enhance NC’s current military and veteran friendly environment. In addition, the Department also seeks to foster and promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and healthcare for the above communities. Lastly, the Department works to accomplish these services by providing assistance and coordination between the Federal Government,

the State of NC, its political subdivisions, and collaborative and supporting agencies.

Let's Get Social!

Connect with us on social media for more news, updates, issue reports, action calls, and time sensitive items of note.



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