



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

July 2022 Newsletter

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#ICYMI

Homeless Veterans Stand Down in Fayetteville's Festival Park



A homeless Veterans Stand Down was conducted at Festival Park in Fayetteville on June 16, 2022. Stand Downs are typically one to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless veterans like food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and legal services.

Veterans participated in the Stand Down with the support of NCWorks,

Veterans Services of the Carolinas, Steven Cohen Military Family Clinic and more. The outreach event provided free lunch, medical screenings, housing, employment assistance, VA and Social Security benefits counseling.

On any given night, there is an estimated 107,000 homeless veterans nationwide. A Stand Down

refers to a community-based intervention program designed to help them. Homeless veterans are brought together in a single location for one to three-days and are provided access to the community resources needed to begin addressing individual needs and rebuilding their lives. Like in the military, this *Stand Down* affords the homeless veterans the opportunity to renew their spirit, health, and overall sense of well-being.

See other photos from this event [Here](#)

On The Move



Congratulations NC DMVA Veterans Homes for Winning Best Nursing Homes 2022

Two of the Department's State Veterans Homes have been recognized by Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report as one of *Americas Best Nursing Homes*.

Recently, the **Fayetteville Veterans Home** was ranked 3rd by Newsweek Magazine! These national rankings are based on three critical criteria: overall performance data, peer recommendations, and each facility's handling of COVID-19.

For the second year in a row, the **Salisbury Veterans Home** has been recognized as one of the *Best Nursing Homes – in the Long-term Care category for 2021-2022* by US News & World Report! To be recognized as one of the 2021-22 U.S. News Best Nursing Homes, a facility must have been “High Performing” in Short-Term Rehabilitation, Long-Term Care, or both

NC DMVA and all nursing home staff remain committed to our beloved veterans. We are thankful for your unwavering allegiance and selfless commitment in service to our country.

[NC State Veterans Homes - Skilled Nursing Care DMVA](#)

[America's Best Nursing Homes 2022 - All Winners \(newsweek.com\)](#)

[Best Nursing Homes Long-Term Care 2021-22 \(U.S. News & World Report\)](#)





247th Army Birthday & Reenlistment Ceremony at Segra Stadium

June 14th, the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) hosted the U.S. Army's 247th birthday cake cutting and reenlistment Ceremony at Segra Stadium in Fayetteville, to celebrate the the first United States Army.



Distinguished guests include United States Army Forces Command (not pictured), (Pictured Left to Right) Deputy Commanding General - Army National Guard, Major General Troy D. Galloway, Spring Lake Mayor, Kia Anthony and Alderman Marvin Lackman, Hope Mills, Mayor Jackie Warner and Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Fayetteville Mayor Pro Tem, Kathy Jensen and North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary Ariel Aponte.

Be sure to check out more photos from the event by clicking below.

[Visit our Flickr Page](#)

Secretary Walter Gaskin Holds Discussion with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Col. Luke Teel



Secretary Walter Gaskin visited Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for an official meeting with Colonel Luke J. Teel, the newest Commander of the 4th Fighter Wing. This elite group is responsible for training and deployment of one of the largest fighter wings in the United States Air Force, consisting of nearly 7,000 Airmen and civilians. Between the two leaders, a fruitful discussion took place surrounding the vision and priorities of improving the quality of life for military members and their families.

NCDMVA Intern

Charlie Hammerle is a senior at Fayetteville State University and was selected as a 2021 Marian Drane Graham Scholar through the UNC System Office. He is focusing his capstone



Far Left: Charlie Hammerle poses with fellow NC State Government 2022 Interns

research on accessing higher education while on Active Duty.

While serving seven years in the United States Army, Hammerle developed a strong interest in the development and welfare of junior servicemembers. As a result, he was placed in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as part of his scholars program. Hammerle has been involved with all aspects of the Hall of Firsts program including; learning about the program planning for the inaugural class of honorees, and assisting in preparations of the application website for 2022's new class.

His family's history of military service has instilled a personal connection with service to one's community, which he acts upon through volunteer work at two Cumberland County organizations; the Fayetteville and Cumberland County Continuum of Care on Homelessness, and with Refuge and Strength Fitness.

NC State Government Internship Opportunity

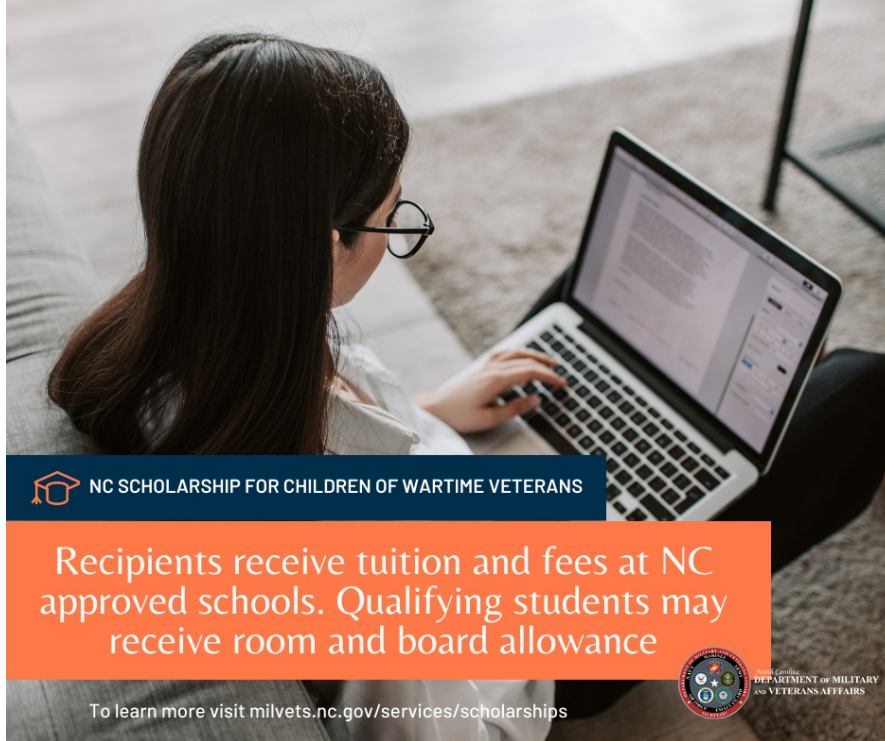
The 8-week program gives students in the UNC System institutions a chance to develop a stronger understanding of issues facing higher education through meetings with UNC System office, visiting UNC campuses, as well as meetings with key policy leaders and elected officials in North Carolina and Washington, DC. The Scholars work in a state government agency and complete a specialized research project on a topic of their choosing.




Left to right: Charlie Hammerle - Mathematics Study at FSU - Intern with NCDMVA, Sarah Tisinger - Intern with Emergency Management - Study at WCU, intern with the Department of Public Instruction, NCDMVA Sec. Walter Gaskin, Avangelyne "Angel" Padilla - Social Work Study at UNCC - intern with the North Carolina Business Committee for Education - Governor's Office, Jeremiah Williams - Political Science Study at UNCC - intern with the North Carolina Community College System Office.

Public Service Announcements


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

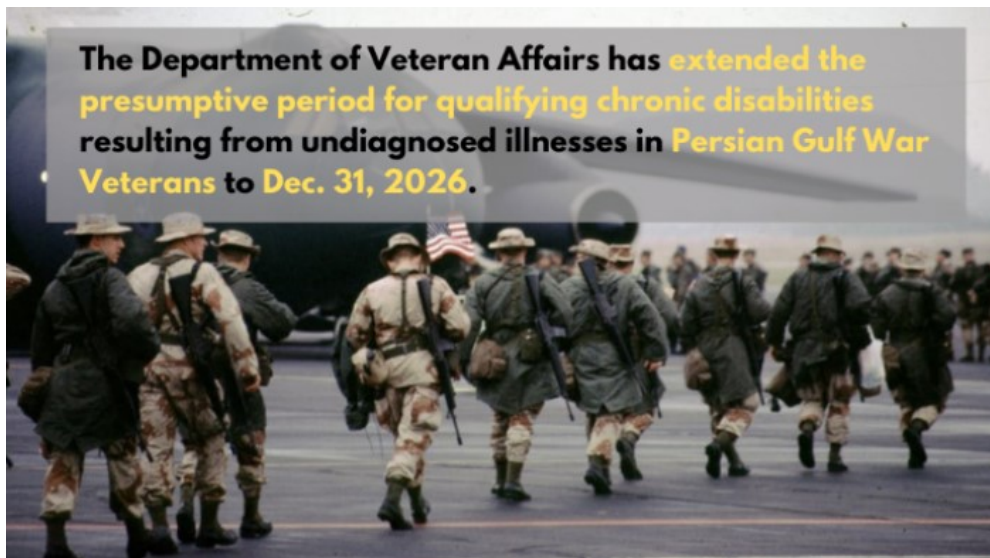
To learn more visit milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships



[More information](#)

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

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. To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, [click here](#)



To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, [click the button below.](#)

[More information](#)

Join VA's Education Network

Join VA's GI Bill® network by applying for education benefits!

You'll gain access to tools and funding that help you pursue your educational and career goals, no toggling or troubleshooting needed.

Connect with your benefits here:

<https://bit.ly/3cImlxL>

More Information

You are not alone! Connect with Care Now.



VA's top clinical priority is preventing suicide among all Veterans — including those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. As a Veteran, you can play a role in fulfilling this mission, and VA can equip you with tools to do your part. You can explore [suicide prevention resources](#) to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

More information

Leaderboard

NCDMVA Region I Manager

Jeremy Hughes was born in Thomasville, North Carolina and grew up in Salisbury. He currently lives in western North Carolina on a small mountain farm. He



proudly served in the North Carolina Army National Guard with the 621st Engineer Detachment in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hughes credits the Guard for teaching him comradeship and self-discipline,.

“It also taught me the Army’s core values, of loyalty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.” Hughes said.

He came to the North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NCDMVA) wanting to continue life as a public servant after noticing the difficulties his friends and he were having getting healthcare and benefits upon returning home from Iraq.



“I was finishing law school at the time,” Hughes said, “and thought a person should not have to have a law degree to get healthcare or benefits for injuries caused during military service after going to war for our country.” So he decided to apply for a position with DMVA because "it was a perfect fit to use my education, military service, and experience to help others."

As a DMVA staff member, Hughes is proud to help veterans and their families to receive benefits earned through service. Among other strategies, continuing outreach, and supporting county partners are few of the ways that he uses to produce positive outcomes.

"I have many special moments in my life and firmly believe everyday is a special blessing filled with miracles, sprinkled with all kinds of greatness."

Welcome to the NCDMVA Family

Greg A. Lusk

Major Gen. Greg Lusk retired from the US Army and the NC National Guard in January 2020 after 40 years of service. He then served as the Senior Advisor to Secretary Erik Hooks of the NC Department of Public Safety until he retired from state government on May 1, 2021.

Since March 1, 2022, Lusk has been serving as the Chief of Staff for the NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. A priority for Lusk is to "meet as many veterans as possible, and learn firsthand, of the many accomplishments and contributions they make to our noble mission."

Among many accomplishments, Lusk counts his service



with DMVA as one close to his heart. "I am honored and proud to serve amongst the most selfless and committed professionals in state government," Lusk said.

"I'm blessed to be married to my college sweetheart and we have three children and two grandchildren."



Sabrina Chandler

Ms. Chandler has 16 years of state government experience serving in financial leadership roles in agencies with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Environmental Quality, NC Educational Lottery, Office of State Controller and Department of State Treasurer.

She also brings eight years of private industry experience to the job including stints at Wachovia, Wells Fargo, First Union, SouthTrust banks, and Central Carolina hospital.

"Working for state government and DMVA in particular, is special to me because it allows me to use my expertise to be of service to my community and the entire state."



Kathleen "Kate" Howell

Ms. Howell joined the Air Force in 1989, becoming a Crew Chief on the F-4E Phantom and A-10 Warthog aircraft.

She has been stationed at George AFB, CA, and Pope AFB, NC, and is a Gulf War veteran. Throughout the years, she has endeavored to assist military and veteran families whenever possible.

She continues to serve both the State of North Carolina and the military and veteran communities through her position as the Executive Assistant to Lt. Gen USMC (ret) Walter E. Gaskin, Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

She and her husband were both working for DPS when

they met and married.

"Together we have five children and eight grandchildren. My family is everything to me and brings me so much joy."



Tammy Martin

A North Carolina native, Ms. Martin was born and raised in Fayetteville and is a proud graduate of E.E. Smith High School and NC State University.

Her career includes experience in commercial television production, writing, producing, directing, and managing the State Services Network (SSN). SSN was a state government distance learning and satellite-based videoconference network. In this role, she worked with federal, state, and local public agencies. Also provided producer and studio support for government officials appearing live or recorded in national and local news outlets.

She brings state government experience from, the Departments of Natural and Cultural Resources, Administration, Governor's Press Office and as a Public Information Officer with Public Safety.

Her father was a Master Sergeant in the segregated Army and as the NC DMVA Communications Director," it's my family legacy of service and excellence I'm proud to continue. I hope to make them proud!"

Save the Date

BENEFITING VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES



DUPLIN COUNTY STAND DOWN 2022

SERVING WAYNE, LENOIR, PENDER & ONSLOW
COUNTIES



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, MEDICAL SCREENING,
HOUSING REFERRALS, VA BENEFITS, FOOD,
TOILETRIES, BARBER SERVICES, CLOTHING, AND
LEGAL SERVICES.

**SERVING VETERANS
IN NEED**

**FREE
ENTRY**

THURSDAY
14TH JULY 2022
10A - 2P

CAMPBELL CENTER
513 SE RAILROAD ST.
WALLACE, NC 28466

SPONSORS

DUPLIN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH MINISTRIES * PENDER UNITED INC.
* NCWORKS CAREER CENTER DUPLIN COUNTY * SPIRITUAL DESTINY
INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES * SMITHFIELD FOODS * DAV CHAPTER
98 * DUPLIN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES * PENDER COUNTY
VETERAN SERVICES * VETERAN SERVICES OF THE CAROLINAS *
DUPLIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT * JACKSONVILLE VETERAN
SERVICES

FOR MORE INFO CALL

MUST BRING PROOF OF VETERANS STATUS

ZACHARY BRANCH
919.731.7950
DR. DENIECE COLE
919.738.2006

OFF-BASE TRANSITION > TRAINING

Employment-focused training for veterans, including those veterans currently serving in the Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserve members), and their spouses.

Off-Base Transition Training (OBTT) is an extension of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Transition Assistance Program. OBTT workshops are short, educational modules to help participants meet their employment-preparation needs.

Job Search Techniques - Resume Essentials - Interview Skills - Federal Hiring - LinkedIn - Employment Rights - & more!



FREE WORKSHOPS

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
DOL.GOV/OBTTWORKSHOPS**

July 2022:

Cumberland: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – July 5, 2022

Wake: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Raleigh, NC – July 12, 2022

Cumberland: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – July 19, 2022

Wake: Wake Tech, Raleigh, NC – July 26, 2022

August 2022:

Cumberland: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – August 2, 2022

Wake: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Raleigh, NC – August 9, 2022

Cumberland: AJC NCWorks Career Center, Fayetteville, NC – August 16, 2022

Buncombe: Asheville Village Event – August 22-23, 2022

Wake: Wake Tech, Raleigh, NC -August 30, 2022

More Information

JULY 2022



National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

The month of July brings awareness to the unique struggles that racial and ethnic minority communities face regarding mental illness in the United States.

Community Calendar

[Click here](#) for an up-to-date listing of military and veterans-focused events across North Carolina this month.

July 2022 Events

- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 21 – US Veterans Administration Created
- July 26 – Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act
- July 25 – Hire a Veteran Day
- July 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- July 29 - Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps

Want to be included in a future issue?

To recommend content, news, and resources for future issues or to find more information, please connect with us at publisher@milvets.nc.gov. You can view previous issues [here](#).

Share your news



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 North Carolina'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.

North Carolina Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

Let's Get Social!

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



NC DMVA | www.milvets.nc.gov

NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs | 413 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

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