



James W. Hendon  
COMMISSIONER

Glenda Villareal  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** December 21, 2023

**CONTACT:** Charles Rivera, 646-740-7296 or [charivera@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:charivera@veterans.nyc.gov)

**Department of Veterans' Services Reflects on 2023 Achievements**

**NEW YORK CITY** – As we bid farewell to 2023, the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) takes pride in reflecting on a year marked by impactful initiatives and partnerships that have positively shaped the lives of veterans across New York City.

**Empowering Veteran Entrepreneurs:** In collaboration with Small Business Services (SBS) and the Ron and Kerry Moelis Family Foundation, [DVS proudly announces the successful recipients of the inaugural NYC Boss UP Veteran Entrepreneurship Program grants](#). Honored at Mayor Adams' Veterans Day breakfast, visionary small business owners were awarded a \$20,000 grant and SBS mentorship, highlighting our commitment to fostering the success of veteran entrepreneurs and contributing to the city's economic resurgence.

**"Veterans Feeding Veterans" Initiative:** This Thanksgiving, HelloFresh, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Veterans' Services, [generously donated 1,300 turkeys, 1,000 meal kits, and 1,000 chicken meal kits to over a dozen organizations](#). With support from Amazon affiliates Cazares Logistics and Twin Woods Transportation, these meal kits were delivered to veterans and military families in need, marking another successful chapter in the ongoing ["Veterans Feeding Veterans" initiative initiated by HelloFresh and New York State in June 2020](#). The program has been a vital lifeline, particularly during the challenging times of COVID-19, addressing food insecurity for veterans in New York City, the North Country, and Western New York.

**Honoring Vietnam Veterans:** In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of combat operations in Vietnam, [DVS successfully brought The Wall That Heals](#), a traveling replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C., to Flushing Meadows Corona Park this fall. [This initiative provided New York City with a poignant opportunity to express gratitude and remembrance](#) for the over three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces during the Vietnam War.

**Supporting Transitioning Service Members:** The collaboration between the New York Mets and DVS reached new heights with [the first-ever Military Transition Summit at Citi Field](#). Themed "Tools & Resources for Hacking Your Transition," [the summit provided essential support and information to recently separated service members and Veterans in New York City](#). By connecting participants with valuable resources, the summit played a pivotal role in ensuring a smooth and successful transition journey.

As the year comes to an end, the Department of Veterans' Services expresses gratitude for the unwavering support of our partners, the resilience of our veteran community, and the dedication of each and every member of our team. DVS looks forward to continuing their mission in the coming year, ensuring that veterans and military families in New York City thrive both in-and-out of uniform.

###



James W. Hendon  
COMMISSIONER

Glenda Villareal  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

### About the NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS)

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services' mission is to connect, mobilize, and empower New York City's veteran community to foster purpose-driven lives for US Military Service Members — past and present — in addition to their caregivers, survivors, and families. We assist NYC veteran community members on issues that include, but are not limited to: employment, housing, food security, wellbeing, benefits, culture, and targeted advocacy. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/vets](http://nyc.gov/vets), call (212) 416-5250, email [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov), or follow us on social media @nycveterans.