

## 2022 Year in Review



**Wow!** This year has been absolutely packed with community events, growth in services and initiatives, and expanding policy for our Veteran community. We are so grateful to all of you who have shown up in force to let New York City know we are here to care for and support our Veterans and their families. As we look ahead to 2023, we wanted to take some time to briefly review some of the amazing events and partnerships we developed over this past year in service to the NYC Veteran community.

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## Expanding Services



### [Veterans Affairs' \(VA\) Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award](#)

In January, our agency received the VA's Pillar of Excellence Award for the [Mission: VetCheck](#) program. Mission: VetCheck was created during the COVID-19 crisis to make supportive check-in calls to Veterans across New York City. The goal was to get Veterans the services they need despite the complications created by the pandemic. Partnering with the [Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health](#) and [New York Cares](#), over 36,000 phone calls were made to provide Veterans with information regarding vital public services, such as free meals, COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, as well as mental health resources.

### [Veteran Business Leadership Association](#)

In the spring, we launched the [Veteran Business Leadership Association \(VBLA\)](#): a program focused on certification, advocacy, leadership, education, and community outreach to promote successful Veteran small business development. VBLA offers educational workshops, networking opportunities, and one-on-one support to help

Veterans grow their business. We can't wait to see what our Veteran business leaders have in store for 2023 and what new entrepreneurs will bring to the table!

### [The Return of Veteran Resource Centers](#)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, our agency was forced to make the difficult decision to temporarily shutter our [Veteran Resource Centers](#) and offer our assistance virtually rather than in-person. We are proud to say that DVS has now reopened all of our resource centers across the five boroughs with the potential for more pop-up resource centers on the horizon. We are committed to meeting our NYC Veterans in the borough where they reside. These locations are staffed by DVS employees who connect Veterans and their families to essential information and services, including care coordination support and [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims](#) counseling. If you are a Veteran or family member in need of services then stop in and say hello! Find your nearest Veteran Resource Center [here](#).

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## Connecting with Our Community



### **The Return of Fleet Week**

In May, the 34th annual celebration of Fleet Week returned to New York City, hosting numerous vessels and thousands of Sailors and Marines returning from deployment for a little R&R. To kick off the celebrations, we welcomed our service members to Gracie Mansion to break bread and offer our gratitude for their service and commitment. We were honored to be part of so many Fleet Week celebrations, including one onboard the USS Bataan. Team DVS ended the week attending the myriad of ceremonies and parades honoring Memorial Day and the legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

### **The Bronx & Queens Furniture "Build-a-Thon Days"**

In collaboration with [The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York City](#), DVS brought volunteers and local leaders together to build furniture for Veterans who recently transitioned to permanent housing. In addition to working alongside Council Members Bob Holden and Eric Dinowitz, our team also recruited volunteers from [Team RWB](#) and [Team Rubicon](#) who helped pitch in. We were also joined by Mayor Eric Adams, who helped assemble folding tables for our Veterans in need.

### **Veterans on Campus BBQ**

In partnership with DVS, the [Student Veteran Association at Fordham University](#) hosted a BBQ to kick off the beginning of the fall semester. Veterans from [Fordham University](#), [New York Tech](#), [Pace University](#), [Manhattan College](#), and [Borough of Manhattan Community College](#) all gathered to eat some delicious food and enjoy some live music and poetry readings. There was even a surprise appearance from Veteran and founder of FUBU, J. Alexander Martin and the one and only Mr. Met!

### **Veterans Day**

While Veterans Day is only one day out of the year (technically), we celebrated our NYC Veterans and their families throughout November and took part in a string of events, celebrations and conversations leading up to the big day. Our agency deployed across the five boroughs to ensure NYC Veterans felt seen and heard, participating in everything from fireside chats, to an event that honored WWII

Veterans at the New York Stock Exchange and Times Square. On November 9th, we held the [4th Annual Women of Service to America](#) Ceremony with help from the [American Red Cross](#) and the [Columbus Citizens Foundation](#). For the official big day, November 11th, DVS hosted the Mayor's Veterans Day Breakfast welcoming over 400 people from the community to fuel up before the wreath laying ceremony and march down Fifth Avenue. This year over 20,000 supporters showed up to march despite the rain!

If your organization would like DVS to participate in a community outreach event or ceremony in 2023, click the button below to fill out our event request form!

[Invite DVS to an event!](#)

## Hard Fought Policy



### The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

**EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS**

Learn more at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

**VA**  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[The PACT Act](#)

President Biden signed the [Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act](#) this year providing sweeping disability compensation and health coverage to an estimated 3.5 million Veterans. The legislation creates a presumption of service connection to burn pits and other airborne exposures for over 23 illnesses, including certain cancers and respiratory and lung diseases. The VA will begin processing PACT Act requests starting January 1st, 2023. If you would like assistance filing your claim, fill out the form at [VetConnectNYC](#) and select "Benefits Navigation" as your preferred service. DVS has trained staff able to help you or your loved ones throughout the process.

### **Veteran Spouses Eligible for One-Time Civil Service Exam Fee Waiver**

In partnership with the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), DVS announced a one-time fee waiver on civil service exams for Veteran spouses. The addition is an extension of the current policy which grants an unlimited number of fee waivers for Veterans on all exams for City employment. If you are a Veteran or a spouse of a Veteran who is interested in a civil service career, please apply here through the [Online Application System](#).

### **GetCoveredNYC Expands to Focus Veterans**

With the help of the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU), we expanded GetCoveredNYC to include the Veteran community. GetCoveredNYC provides free assistance for New Yorkers seeking to enroll in health care, regardless of immigration status or income. In 2022, our agency partnered with the Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU) to connect more Veterans with healthcare options. Now, Veterans who text "CoveredNYCVet" ("SeguroNYCVet" en Español) to 877877 will receive a call from a GetCoveredNYC specialist who will help connect them to an appropriate healthcare coverage option, including VA healthcare, if they are eligible. Make your health a priority as we ring in the new year and Get Covered today!

**Thank you so much for an amazing year! Everyone here at the Department of Veterans' Services wishes you and your loved ones your best year yet in 2023!**

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## Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

See below for current job openings at DVS:

**No job openings at this time.**

### **VA Work Study Positions at DVS**

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions! Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Communications Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

**Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings**

If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to [VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

- Resume
- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

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## NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



You served your country. Now serve your city!

Do your part to keep the city running! The [NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services \(DCAS\)](#) makes City government work for all New Yorkers.

There are many diverse career opportunities with NYC DCAS.

Veterans are no longer required to pay application fees for NYC Civil Service examinations.

And Veteran Spouses are now eligible for a one-time application fee waiver for NYC Civil Service examinations.

See below for open competitive NYC Civil Service exam highlights:

### **Open Competitive Exams**

**Correction Officer** - Officers maintain security and are responsible for the care, custody, control, job training and work performance of sentenced and detained inmates within New York City correctional facilities.

**Police Officer** - Officers patrol an assigned area on foot or in a vehicle to prevent crime; apprehend crime suspects; intervene in various situations involving crimes in progress, aided cases, complaints, emotionally disturbed persons, etc.; respond to and investigate vehicular accidents; investigate specific offenses; interact with prisoners; operate and maintain patrol vehicles; issue summonses; obtain information regarding incidents by interviewing witnesses, victims, and/or complainants; safeguard and voucher found, seized or recovered property; provide information to the public; handle situations involving maltreated, abused, or missing children; interact with juveniles; may be assigned to crowd control for large-scale events such as demonstrations, rallies and parades; prepare forms and reports; and testify in court.

**Traffic Device Maintainer** - Traffic Device Maintainers prepare, install, maintain and repair vehicular traffic control devices; climb ladders to inspect, remove and/or replace traffic control devices; operate all kinds of hand and motorized tools; drive boom trucks and tower trucks reaching heights up to 30 feet or more; drive a motor vehicle; and work outdoors in all kinds of weather.

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be directed to the [Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter page](#). On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

Subscribe Here |

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## **VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool**



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: [nyc.gov/vetconnectpro](http://nyc.gov/vetconnectpro).

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## ***Programs and Initiatives***

### **Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?**

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). During a time of economic crisis and high unemployment, we want to ensure that all Veterans get the financial benefits they earned and deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](http://VetConnectNYC.org) form

**HELPING  
VETERANS  
FILE CLAIMS  
FOR VA  
BENEFITS**



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To request claims support, visit [VetConnectNYC.org](http://VetConnectNYC.org).



and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.

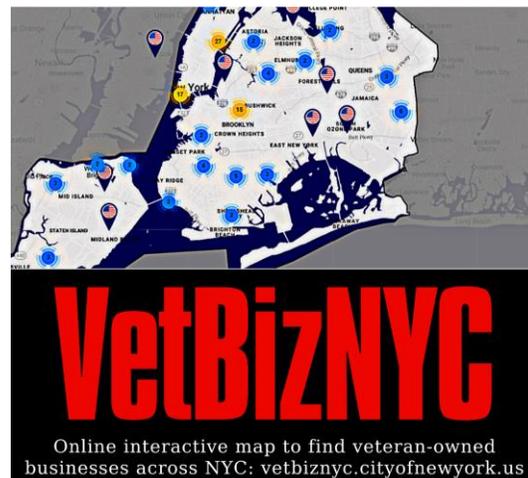
## **Our Fight to End Veteran Homelessness**



Over the past five years, our [Housing Support Services \(HSS\)](#) team has found homes for over 1,000 formerly unhoused Veterans. Click [here](#) to learn more about DVS's efforts to end chronic homelessness among Veterans in New York City.

## **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



## **Veteran Voices Project: Changing the Narrative of Veterans**



Administered by the [NYC Department of Veterans' Services](#), the [Veteran Voices Project \(VVP\)](#) is an oral history initiative designed to preserve the stories of New York City's Veterans

across all military branches and service areas. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/vetvoices](https://nyc.gov/vetvoices).

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## ***Contact Us***

- Complete the services request form at [vetconnectnyc.org](https://vetconnectnyc.org)
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website [www.nyc.gov/vets](https://www.nyc.gov/vets) and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).