

## DVS Celebrates the U.S. Army's 248th Birthday



This week the U.S. Army turned 248 years old! At Tweed Court House, Soldiers, City Government Officials, and civilians gathered to celebrate the occasion with speakers, performances, and even an Oath of Enlistment ceremony!

The event kicked off with the [United War Veterans Council \(UWVC\)](#) announcing Elana Duffy as an Honorary Marshall for this year's Veterans Day Parade.

Next up was a performance from the [Old Guard Drum and Fife Corps](#) the only unit of its kind in the U.S. Armed Forces and which has played at every Presidential Inaugural Parade since John F. Kennedy.

After the rousing display, New York City and DVS issued a proclamation commemorating the event and cementing the City's commitment to making itself Veteran and servicemember friendly.

In a stunning show of precision and artistry, the [U.S. Army Drill Team](#) executed a 5 minute performance wielding M1903 Springfields like batons.

The celebration then transitioned into an Oath of Enlistment ceremony for 5 future soldiers: representing each NYC borough. Each enlistee also received a citation honoring their passion and commitment to serving this nation.

The festivities ended with cake from Brooklyn's BCakeNY and songs from [West Point's Benny Havens Band](#).

Happy Birthday Army and thanks for reminding us to **Be All You Can Be!**

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## **Big Apple TAP: New York Mets Military Transition Summit in Partnership with NYC DVS**



### **New York Mets Military Transition Summit**

 Saturday | June 24, 2023

 CitiField | 41 Seaver Way, Queens, NY 11368

 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Theme: "Tools & Resources for Hacking Your Transition"**

The session will feature breakout rooms and discussion panels on the following topics:

- Navigating NYC
- NYC Community and Resources
- Financial Security

- Career and Education Networking
- Entrepreneurship
- Resources for Women Veterans
- Job Preparation
- Housing
- Health and Emotional Wellness

***Lunch & refreshments will be provided, along with a chance to meet Mr. & Mrs. Met, a tour of Citi field, giveaways, and more.***

***Scan the QR Code above to register! Space is limited! RSVP to secure your spot! Admission will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis!***

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### **About the NYC DVS Big Apple TAP Initiative**

The New York City Department of Veterans' Services now offers a Transition Assistance Program for recently separated service members and any Veteran interested in calling the Big Apple their home. This information session will serve as an introduction to our agency and highlight how we can serve as a resource for you and your loved ones during your transition and beyond. The information you receive during this session will help you take advantage of the benefits you earned while in uniform as well as get you acclimated to life in New York City.

This is not your “run-of-the-mill” Transition Assistance Program—this is Big Apple TAP—designed for the select few who are interested in settling down in New York City. At your last duty station, you were told about a suite of programs and services at the federal and state level as a part of your out-processing, but what about at the city level? Lucky for you, New York City has an agency dedicated to providing you and your family with information about the many programs and services unique to the Big Apple. Whether you plan to stay for a few years or a lifetime, we can help ease your landing!

To learn more about NYC DVS's Transition Assistance Program and to stay up-to-date with future sessions, [CLICK HERE](#).

Register for the New York Mets Military Transition Summit

## AmeriCorps/NYC VISTA Program



### What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

### What is AmeriCorps Vista?

VISTA members serve at New York City government agencies (known as host sites) full-time from **July 31, 2023 to August 2, 2024** to address critical city issues related to poverty by engaging in capacity-building work. Capacity building refers to tasks and activities that create, expand or strengthen the systems and processes that help an organization carry out its anti-poverty work. These tasks and activities include the transfer of knowledge/skills, products, and relationships.

For more info about AmeriCorps VISTA, visit [here!](#)

### DVS VISTA Job Opening:

The **NYC Veterans Support VISTA Member** will manage the DVS/NYC Cares Mission:

VetCheck program. The program connects Veterans to fellow New Yorkers through supportive check in calls. The VISTA Member will manage a robust volunteer effort where trained volunteers provide information on essential public services and other resources to Veterans.

For more info on DVS's job, visit our posting [here!](#)

#### **Who is eligible?**

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States
- Have successfully obtained a High School diploma or its equivalent prior to the start of the program
- Agree to and pass a criminal background check
- Ability to serve full time for the program term (generally M-F 9AM - 5PM)

#### **How to apply:**

To apply, create an [AmeriCorps account](#) and select apply now on our [job listing](#).

To learn more about **NYC Service**, visit their website [here](#).

To learn more about benefits of working for **AmeriCorps** visit their website [here](#).

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## **2023 Step Up for PTSD Awareness Virtual Walk**



June is PTSD Awareness Month! Join the National Center for PTSD as they virtually step up to raise awareness for PTSD.

Complete 27 minutes of exercise at any time during the month of June in recognition of PTSD Awareness Day on June 27th.

Click the button below to register and then show your support with these easy steps:

1. You will receive an email with a printable Step Up for PTSD Awareness Virtual Walk bib
2. Pin on your bib and get moving
3. Take a photo of yourself doing a physical activity, such as walking, running, biking, rolling or swimming
4. Post your photo on social media and tag the National Center for PTSD (Facebook: @VAPTSD) (Twitter: @VA\_PTSD\_Info)

For more information on PTSD, visit the [NCPTSD website](#).

[Learn More & Register](#)

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## VETERAN NEWS

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### **Biggest Troop Pay Raise in 2 Decades on Track in House Defense Bill**



Photo Credit: DoD, U.S Air Force photo by Branden Rae

By Rebecca Kheel

Published: Jun. 12, 2023

WASHINGTON DC (Military.com) - Service members would get a 5.2% pay raise next year under the House Armed Services Committee's draft of the annual defense policy bill, the committee confirmed Monday.

Including the raise in the committee's version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, puts troops on track to receive their highest pay raise in more than two decades.

The 5.2% pay bump matches what the Biden administration proposed in its fiscal 2024 budget request, which in turn matched a federal formula that ties annual military raises to growth in private-sector wages.

While the NDAA has months to go and multiple steps before it becomes law, lawmakers traditionally follow or exceed the administration's requested pay raise for troops. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

**Military Times:** [GOP budget bill would ban abortions, transgender services at VA](#)

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**VA News:** [VA programs to support Veterans who are struggling with loneliness](#)

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**USA Today:** [President Biden taking steps to help military spouses get and keep jobs](#)

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**CBS New York:** [Hauppauge church to dedicate headstone to former enslaved man who was never recognized](#)

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## **WRIISC Guided Phone-based Meditation from Home**

# Guided iRest™ Yoga Nidra Meditation Phone-based Class from Home



## For All Veterans

WRIISC guided meditation classes are available to *all* Veterans

Meditation can be practiced seated, lying down, or standing. *For safety, Veterans must not drive or operate machinery during class.*

## Questions?

DC WRIISC Yoga Staff

202-550-4248

[rebecca.mccullers@va.gov](mailto:rebecca.mccullers@va.gov)

CA WRIISC Yoga Staff

650-815-9463

[louise.mahoney2@va.gov](mailto:louise.mahoney2@va.gov)

For more info on VA's War  
Related Injury & Illness  
Study Center

[www.warrelatedillness.va.gov](http://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov)



Integrative Restoration™ is an evidence-based, mind-body approach that offers tools to help you relax deeply, release stress, increase resiliency, improve your interpersonal relationships and empower you to practice self-regulation and self-care to support your health & wellness. For more info, go to [Military | Integrative Restoration \(iRest\)](#)

**Coast to Coast offerings-- call in to join us each week-- no class limit!**

**Tuesdays: 5pm Eastern Standard Time**  
1-404-397-1596 USA or Toll Free 1-833-558-0712  
Access code: 433 794 55

**Thursdays: 8pm Eastern Standard Time**  
1-404-397-1596 USA or Toll Free 1-833-558-0712  
Access code: 199 731 6363

*\* Note: Class observes daylight savings time. Start times may vary according to your local time zone.\**



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
VA Health Care System

# VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Competition: 2023-2024 Theme “How are you inspired by America?”

## PATRIOT'S PEN



2023-2024 Theme

“How are you inspired by America?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

### What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 75,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

### How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition.

### Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

### How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.

- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of October 31, 2023. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

### How Am I Judged?

**Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**

You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

**Theme development is worth 35 points:**

Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

**Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**

Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

### What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2023-2024 theme is:

“How are you inspired by America?”

### Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

### Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find a VFW Post.”

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](http://vfw.org/contactus) to look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

For assistance contact  
the VFW National Headquarters  
at 816.968.1155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

## VFW Patriot's Pen Official Entry Form

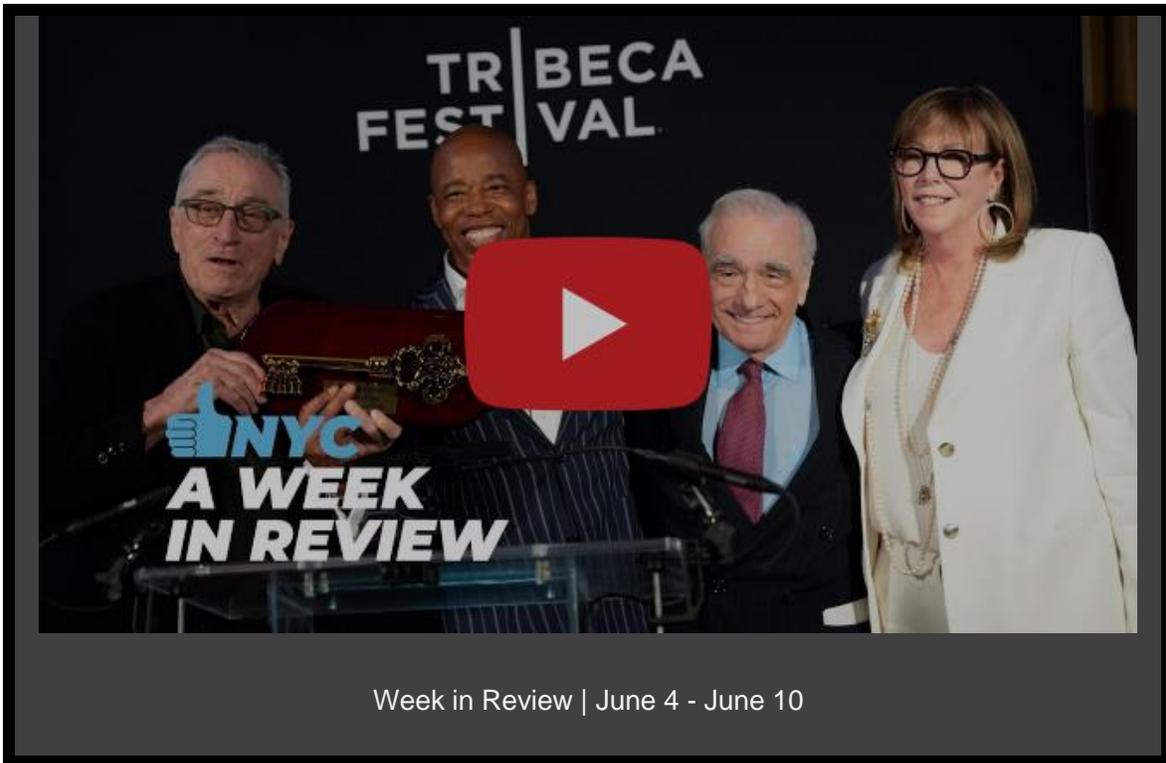


We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov) with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

### **A Message From Mayor Adams:**

Each week DVS will share a short update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



*The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.*

*Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox – at [nyc.gov/hearfromeric!](https://nyc.gov/hearfromeric)*

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



**[Current DVS Job Openings](#)**

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

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.](#)

**Client Services Manager** - DVS seeks a highly qualified candidate to join Community Services as a Manager. The Manager will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of a team responsible for performing intakes and sending referrals within the VetConnectNYC system, a multi-provider network of participating organizations, government agencies, and other partners that provide direct services to Veterans. The Manager will also be a subject matter expert in claiming VA benefits through accreditation by New York State Department of Veterans Services.

### **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](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

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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

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

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## NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



### Open Competitive Exams

**New York City Bridge Exam Program** - This examination is open to all candidates who wish to apply for and meet the requirements for any one or more of the titles indicated: Bookkeeper, Clerical Associate, Clerical Associate (PRO), Clerical Associate (NYC H+H), Clerical Associate (NYC H+H)(PRO), Computer Service Technician, Maintenance Worker (CUNY), Maintenance Worker (NYC H+H), Secretary, Staff Analyst Trainee.

**Watershed Maintainer** - Watershed Maintainers utilize computerized, electronic and mechanical equipment to perform duties related to the operation, maintenance, repair and

inspection of facilities, roads, bridges, equipment and lands in the watershed areas including reservoirs, aqueducts and groundwater, water and wastewater treatment and related systems of The City of New York; ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, local and Agency environmental health and safety laws, policies and procedures; operate motor vehicles and motor-powered equipment. All Watershed Maintainers perform related work.

**Estimator (General Construction)** - Estimators perform general construction estimating work of varying degrees of difficulty and responsibility. They may operate a motor vehicle to visit sites. Some of the physical activities performed by Estimators and environmental conditions experienced are: walking to and from inspection sites; climbing and descending from ladders or stairs to get to areas to be inspected; standing for extended periods of time; bending and stooping during inspections; working in confined areas; communicating orally; carrying clipboards and inspection forms; climbing around and over various objects; walking in areas that may be damp, dark, dusty, smoky or acrid; and working 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 to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

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## **Programs and Initiatives**

### **Affordable Housing For Veterans**



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

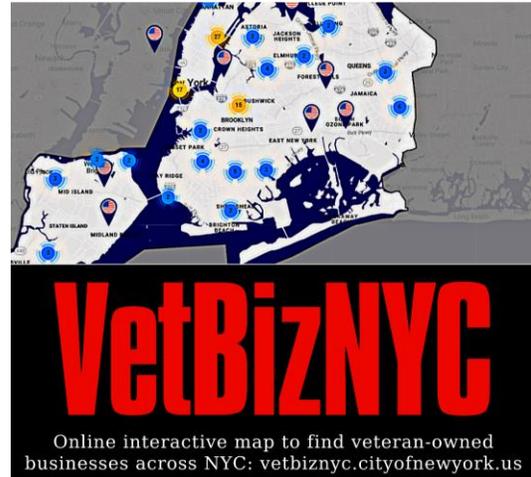
## **Empowering Veteran Business Owners**



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

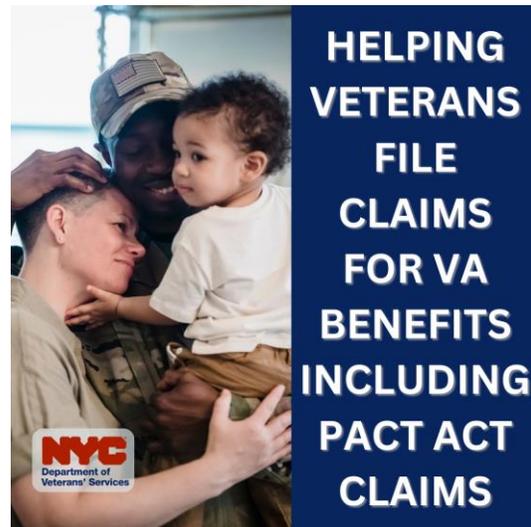
## **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

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.



## **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](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



## **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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## Newsletter Sign-up

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

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## Contact Us

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

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