

DVS Look Back: Fleet Week and Memorial Day



It was an amazing week for the military and Veteran community as well as us here at DVS! This past Fleet Week we held, participated, sponsored, co-sponsored, and volunteered at countless events!

The best part of the entire experience was seeing New Yorkers and Veterans coming together to support our sea services as we celebrated the return of our "Away Team" and honored the sacrifice and memory of those who paid the ultimate price in service to this country.

Here's a brief roundup of some of the memorable events held around the city during Fleet Week and Memorial Day weekend.

NASDAQ Opening Bell:

Cue the confetti! Blue Star Families and Commissioner Hendon in partnership with CSX, rang the bell to start the trading day for the NASDAQ stock exchange. The NASDAQ was the world's first electric exchange and is the second most active exchange on earth (beaten only by the NY Stock Exchange). You can watch the ceremony [here](#).

Parade of Ships and Reception:

America's naval power was on display (also Canadian, Italian, and British) as New York received 12 ships into its harbor. Guests arrived at the harbor nice and early to get a sea level view of the mighty ships passing through the Hudson river. Summit at One Vanderbilt

opened its doors to guests as well to provide the sky view, capturing the entire procession at 1400 feet! In the evening New York was invited aboard the USS Wasp to celebrate with our returning Sailors.

Fleet Week Kickoff Breakfast:

Mayor Adams invited our service branches to a delicious breakfast at Gracie Mansion to jumpstart New York's hospitality and celebrate our sea servicemembers. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro (born and raised in Hell's Kitchen) exchanged gifts with the Mayor and lauded the delicious spread.



Cypress Hills National Cemetery:

When we asked people to show up and help plant flags, we didn't expect such a massive turnout! As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and over 26,000 flags were placed in less than 2 hours. Afterwards, [Neir's Tavern](#), one of the oldest bars in the entire country, opened their doors to honor the occasion. Don't forget to stop by Cypress Hills this weekend to pick up the flags that were placed!

Memorial Day at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum:

Celebrating our heroes, the Intrepid hosted hundreds if not thousands of visitors who paid their respects and learned some military history. High ranking military and civilian officials shed light on the significance of the day for us Americans as well as laying wreaths in the harbor for our fallen brothers and sisters.

Parades:

Across the boroughs, New Yorkers held Memorial Day parades to remember and honor those who laid down their lives in defense of this great republic. With beautiful weather, from [Staten Island](#) to [City Island in the Bronx](#), the love and support was felt throughout the City and State.

Again, thank you so much for showing up in such huge numbers to all the events across the city! Stay tuned for our next big event coming in September as [The Wall That Heals comes to New York City!](#)

SAGEVets Yoga with the Veterans Yoga Project



Join SAGEVets for yoga once a month on Zoom with the Veterans Yoga Project. Classes will include breathing techniques for stress management, gentle seated chair stretches, and guided relaxation. The instructor will be Clarissa Alliano, Veterans Yoga Project NY Metro Area Manager, Mindful Resilience for Trauma Recovery.

These classes are suitable for all, including beginners and those with limited mobility. Sessions are on Mondays, from 1:30PM to 2:30PM.

Upcoming Session Dates:

 Monday June 5, 2023

 1:30PM - 2:30PM

🔑 Virtual (Zoom)

📅 Monday and July 3, 2023

🕒 1:30PM - 2:30PM

🔑 Virtual (Zoom)

Please RSVP using the button below. The link for the zoom meeting is usually sent to you the Friday before the yoga session.

[RSVP for SAGEVets Yoga](#)

**VFW Voice of Democracy Program: 2023-2024 Theme
“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”**

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



2023-2024 Theme

“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, "What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

The Rules

Who can enter?

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

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. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, **Oct. 31, 2023**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

VFW Voice of Democracy Official Entry Form

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!

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

VETERAN NEWS

As 2023 Warrior Games kick off, Veterans give thanks: 'It just gives value and purpose'



Photo Credit: DoD, U.S Army photo by PFC Dominique Dixon

Yahoo Sports | 6/1/2023

By: Chase Darden, Staff writer

This week will kick off the 13th anniversary of the Department of Defense's annual Warrior Games Challenge in San Diego.

The games, which will go from Friday through June 12, will highlight the exceptional physical skills and mental toughness of wounded, ill and injured active-duty and veteran service members. About 200 men and women representing the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and U.S. Special Operations Command will compete in a variety of adaptive sports. The games will be hosted

by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Naval Air Station North Island.

For veterans and Warrior Games participants Annie Knox and Chris Ferrell, the games present an opportunity to channel their warrior spirit despite their injuries that have kept them out of combat, as well as to prove to others and themselves that they can still accomplish whatever they set their minds to. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

U.S. News & World Report (AP): [Just Days to Spare, Senate Gives Final Approval to Debt Ceiling Deal, Sending It to Biden](#)

Military.com: [Poisoned Water: How a Navy Ship Dumped Fuel and Sickened Its Own Crew](#)

The War Horse: [America Faces a Tidal Wave of Aging Veterans, Including a 237% Increase in Women Over 65 by 2041](#)

VA | News: [VA seeks female Veterans for management trainee program](#)

Spectrum NY1: [Bill clears Senate to help undocumented NY veterans become naturalized](#)

JFK Redevelopment Program Veteran Contracting Opportunities



JFK REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM VETERAN CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

THE JFK REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WILL REIMAGINE THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE AT JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WHILE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL, MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (MWBE) AND SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES (SDVOB). THE NEW JFK WILL FEATURE STATE-OF-THE-ART TERMINALS THAT WILL PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN TRANSFORMING THE AIRPORT INTO A WORLD-CLASS.

SPONSORED BY:



CAZAR LOGISTICS
A VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED COMPANY

The New Terminals at JFK

The new terminals at JFK will be developed by The New Terminal One (NTO/T1) and JFK Millennium Partners (JMP/T6). They seek certified service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOBs) to participate in the \$19 Billion program. [\(Click here\) for information about the SDVOB Certification.](#)

SDVOB JFK Opportunities?

There will be a networking session and exhibition by Prime Contractors and the PANYNJ who are interested in learning more about your business and helping you become pre-qualified for opportunities at NTO/T1 and JMP/T6.

Event Information



Date & Time

June 12, 2023
10 am to 1 pm



Location

89-14 Parsons Blvd Jamaica, NY 11432
4th and 5th Floor



Registration

www.JFKVETOPPS.eventbrite.com

Light Refreshments to be served.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

516.636.1090

EHernandez@Atlascollective.org
www.atlascollective.org

40 Main Street, Suite B, Hempstead, NY 11552

Register Today!

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](#).



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 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)

DCAS Civil Service Pathways Fellowship



Ready to start your career working for the City of New York? NYC Citywide Administrative Services is accepting applications for their Civil Service Pathways Fellowship. This **two-year program** is designed to create a pipeline from college to a career in civil service.

The **Fellowship** is set to begin in **August 2023** and is subject to the requisite approvals for city agency placement.

Applicants

The Fellowship position for the NYC Department of Veterans' Services highly encourages student Veterans and student Veteran spouses to apply!

How to apply

Fill out DCAS's application [here](#)!

If you have any further questions about the program, please reach out to the **Department of Citywide Administrative Services** ([DCAS](#)).

For questions about the prospective role at DVS, please reach out to **Assistant Commissioner of Operations & Administrative Services**, [Jason Parker](#).

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](https://www.nyc.gov/jobs) and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.

Manager of Claims - The Community Services Unit works to close gaps and empower New York City Veterans’ and their families through the proper connection to resources and support offered through our VetConnectNYC program. The Manager of Claims will be expected to manage claims processes including intake, preparation and filing of claims for a broad spectrum of federal, state, local, and private Veterans’ benefits, such as for Disability Compensation, Non-service Connected Pension, and other benefits.

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](#)

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:

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

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

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Police Officer - Police Officers perform general police duties and related work in the New York City Police Department including connecting and building relationships with the community. They 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.

School Safety Agent - School Safety Agents patrol designated areas of school buildings and surrounding areas; identify and prevent infiltration of unlawful or prohibited items through scanning; give routine information to visitors and direct them to the proper personnel and offices; request identification of, and remove from the premises, any unauthorized persons; aid sick and injured persons and call for medical, police or fire assistance, when needed; notify supervisors of all emergency incidents and complete any related documentation; respond to altercations between students and other persons, and attempt to separate the involved persons and resolve conflicts; maintain records of persons entering and leaving buildings; monitor security camera systems to ensure facility entrances are secure; identify persons violating Department of Education Rules and Regulations; apprehend persons violating the Penal Law and notify the proper administrative personnel; prepare reports and testify in regard to these violations at Superintendent's or Principal's hearings and/or in court; monitor and use radios to request assistance from co-workers; may operate motor vehicles; and perform related work.

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](#)

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.

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.

Contact Us

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

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