

DVS Celebrates Pride Month: A Statement from Commissioner James Hendon



Happy Pride! And a special thank you to the Veterans of the LGBTQ+ community for their service to this nation. You are the brave souls who make this country great, who make me proud to be an American, and who make the members of our agency proud to come to work every day.

This month we take the time to celebrate you, your adversity, your trials and tribulations, and your triumphs. This month we see and salute all of YOU. From those of you who chose to don the uniform at a time when you were forced to deny yourself, while being called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice, to those who served openly after the long overdue repeal of a discriminatory policy.

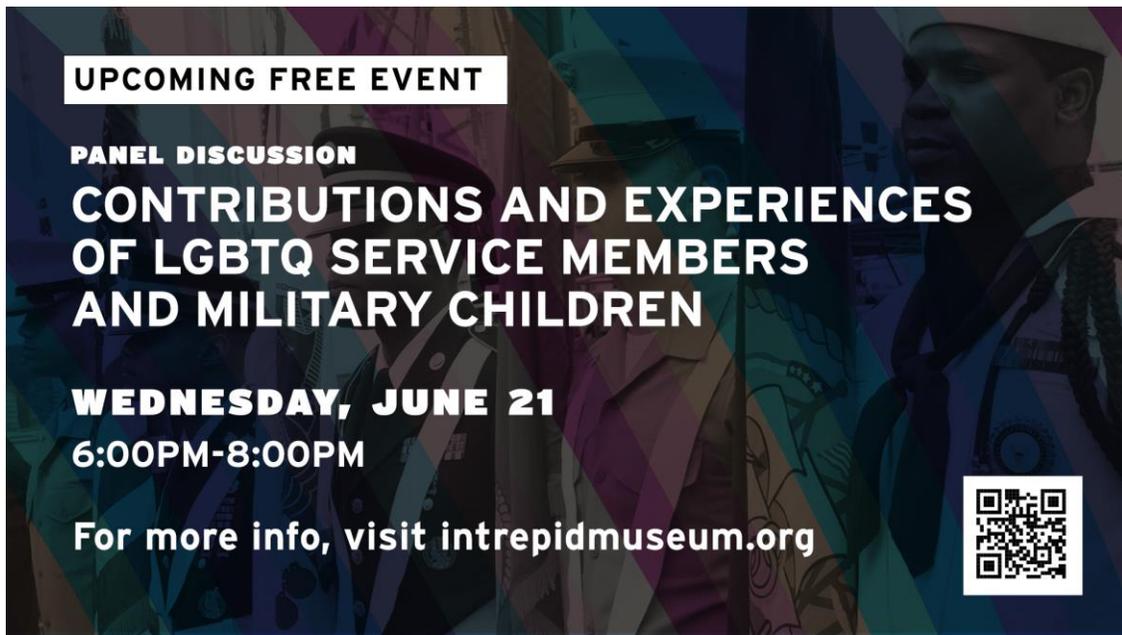
In spite of all that you endured, you answered the call to serve. Many of you stood in the breach and endured in silence, indignant, as you awaited the righteous change you deserved since the day you raised your right hand and swore to protect and defend this nation. This month we rejoice in the chorus of your brave and powerful voices. May we serve and protect your community with the same resolve you served and protected America.

Happy Pride Month!



James Hendon
Commissioner
NYC Department of Veterans' Services

Contributions and Experiences of LGBTQ Service Members & Military Children



UPCOMING FREE EVENT

PANEL DISCUSSION

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPERIENCES
OF LGBTQ SERVICE MEMBERS
AND MILITARY CHILDREN**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
6:00PM-8:00PM

For more info, visit intrepidmuseum.org



**Panel Discussion: Contributions and Experiences of LGBTQ Service
Members and Military Children**

Wednesday, June 21 | 6:00pm-8:00pm ET

In honor of Pride, join the Intrepid Museum for a conversation on the contributions and experiences of LGBTQ service members and military family members, particularly in the face of discrimination. Veterans and family members will share stories of resilience, struggle and activism in the past and present. Learn about the evolution of the military's policies and practices affecting LGBTQ service members as well as the new challenges service members and military children face today.

Light refreshments and beverages will be served at 6:00pm in the museum's hangar deck. Refreshments have been generously donated by The Marshal and Fresh from Hell. Panel will begin in the Intrepid Museum's Lutnick Theater promptly at 6:45pm.

[Learn More & Register](#)

**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 73,000 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 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 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**

VFW Patriot's Pen 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

Shenandoah Graduates and Military Veterans use Twitch Stream to Help Fellow Vets



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

By Colby Johnson
Published: Jun. 6, 2023

WINCHESTER, Va. (WHSV) - Two military veterans and E-sports graduates of Shenandoah University in Winchester have launched a weekly Twitch stream for veterans.

Since February Eric Gyamfi and Justin DiSantis have hosted [‘Brick by Brick Vets’](#) every Wednesday night.

“The fact of the matter is that I had too many guys lost to the [22 statistic](#), that have taken their own lives, and I said to myself I can change that because I’ve navigated

it successfully,” said DiSantis, who spent eight years in the U.S. Army Infantry before a decade long career in law enforcement.

After retiring from law enforcement, DiSantis was dealing with depression and PTSD from his time in the military and he went to the Department of Veterans Affairs for help. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

PIX11: [Veterans get more resources thanks to new debt ceiling legislation](#)

The Hudson Independent: [Congressman Lawler Seeks Veteran for Two-Year Paid Position in District Office](#)

NY Post: [Marine vet puts military logistics to work with launch of NYC pot home delivery service](#)

Yahoo Finance: [11 small business grants and resources for veterans](#)

Bloomberg: [US Veterans Are Accelerating the Push for Psychedelics](#)

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!

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

CA WRIISC Yoga Staff

650-815-9463

louise.mahoney2@va.gov

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

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

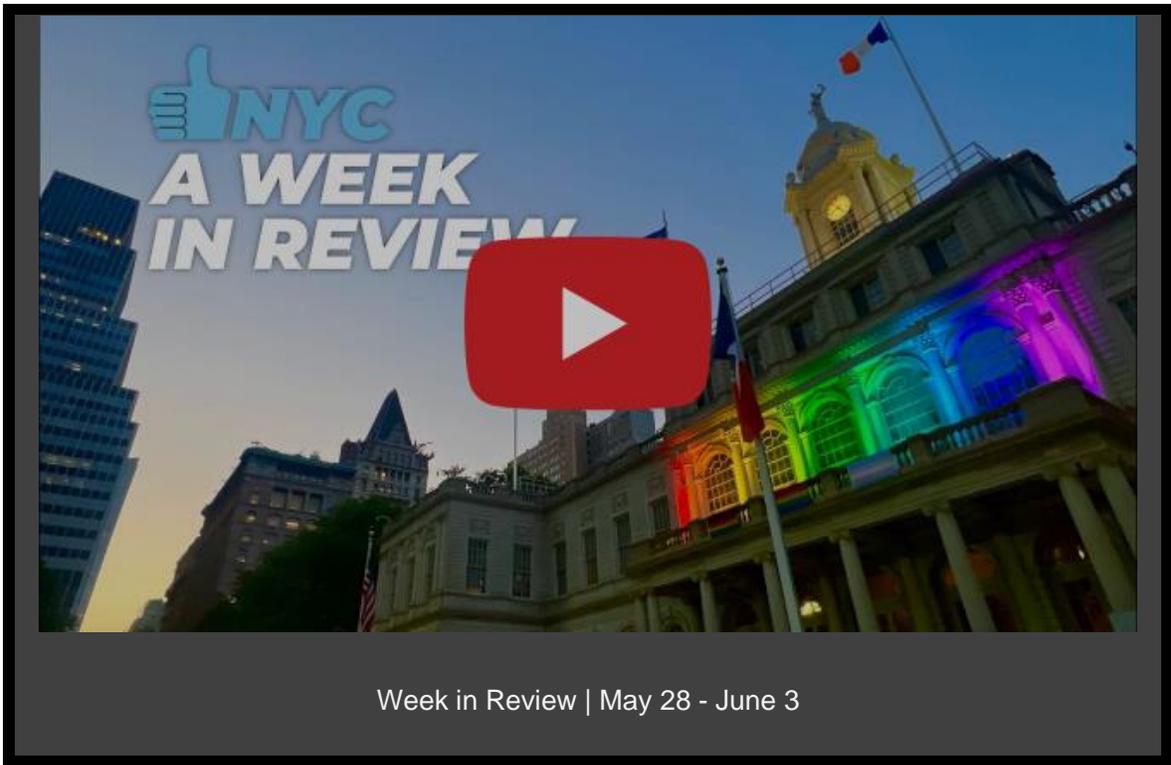


We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this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

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](#).

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](#)

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

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.

Clerical Associate (NYC H+H), Clerical Associate (NYC H+H) (PRO), and Maintenance Worker (NYC H+H) are for NYC Health + Hospitals only. Maintenance Worker (CUNY) is for the City University of New York only.

City Assessor - City Assessors perform professional tax assessing responsibilities at various levels of complexity, involving the performance and/or review of assessments of Class I, II, III and IV real properties and/or supervisory responsibilities involving professional tax assessing.

Environmental Engineer - Environmental Engineers under general supervision, perform responsible supervisory work, or difficult and responsible work in the field, office, or laboratory in environmental and/or fire protection engineering. Environmental Engineers

act as section engineers in charge of a major environmental or fire protection engineering section or the equivalent.

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.

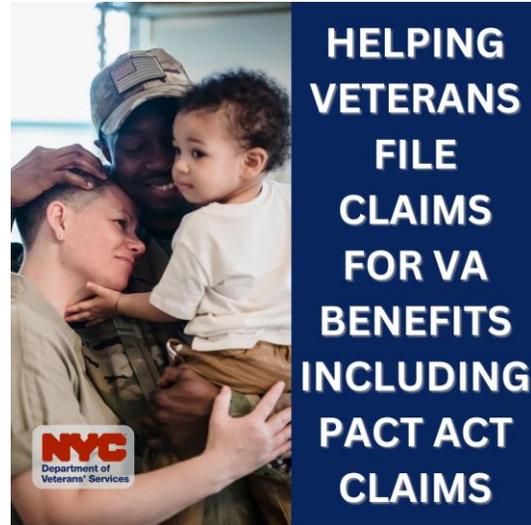
VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

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.