

'The Wall That Heals Coming to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Fall 2023 & Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the End of Combat Operations in Vietnam



New York —The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) took part in a Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of combat operations in Vietnam. Organized by the United War Veterans Council (UWVC), the event brought together over two hundred members of the community to honor the service and sacrifice of America's Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, DVS and the UWVC announced that The Wall That Heals, a traveling version of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C., will visit Queens this fall.

For over a decade, men and women fought to protect and defend this nation during a period where American involvement in the Vietnam conflict faced public scrutiny both at home and abroad. Despite its controversial nature, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines served with valor, dutifully protected their brothers-and-sisters-in-arms, and asked for little upon their return home outside of dignity and

respect. More than 58,000 service members paid the ultimate price during the war, and over 1,500 remain missing or unaccounted for.

It is in this acknowledgment of the sacrifice and awareness of the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War that we have the chance to make clear to those who served that New York City still cares. Today, 50 years after the last American troops left Vietnam, we must recommit to the Veterans of this era and reframe our collective consciousness in a way that prioritizes the healing of every American affected by this conflict.

For the people of New York City the opportunity to remember and offer their respect will present itself later this year with The Wall That Heals—a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., along with a mobile education center, will be coming to Flushing Meadows Corona Park from September 28, 2023 to October 1, 2023 and will be free and open to the public. The Wall That Heals is a partnership with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) that honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War.

“This week, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of combat operations in the Vietnam War and honor the sacrifice of the brave men and women in uniform, our Gold Star Families, and all the families of those who have served our country so bravely,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “Those who have served know what it takes to put their life on the line on behalf of their fellow Americans. We owe you what we value most, our freedom, and hope that you will join us this fall when The Wall That Heals comes to Flushing Meadows Corona Park to honor and offer healing to our Vietnam War era brothers and sisters.”

FULL PRESS RELEASE

**ATTENTION: Upcoming VAB Public Session Wednesday,
April 19th (Queens, Location TBD)**

★ **Attention - Date Change for Upcoming April Session** ★

NYC VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC SESSIONS



**CALLING ALL VETERANS! YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED TO HONOR THE SERVICE YOU GAVE!
TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE NYC VETERAN FRIENDLY!**

Wednesday, February 8th (Manhattan) **Wednesday, April 19th (Queens)**
Wednesday, June 7th (Staten Island) **Wednesday, August 9th (Bronx)**
Wednesday, October 18th (Brooklyn)

For those who will be meeting in person, the location is 1 Centre Street (David N. Dinkins Municipal Building) room 2208.
Lite refreshments will be served.

All Sessions begin at 6pm sharp and are hybrid. For those choosing to attend via zoom, follow the link below.

Meeting ID: 861 1325 9398 – Passcode: 355418

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86113259398?pwd=R1d2dk1BUWpLUVVlOXBsH01ZFhRUT09>

All Veterans, their family members and caregivers are encouraged to attend!
Please use the link below to gain access to the session.

If you are an organization that provides services that can assist NYC Veterans and their families, please contact the VAB to publicly share information about your organization to our veteran audience. If you have a question that you want answered at the public session, please use this **Email:** nycveteransadvisoryboard@gmail.com

The next Veteran Advisory Board Public Session will now be held on April 19, 2023 in the borough of Queens. Visit www.nyc.gov/vetboard for the latest information related to this upcoming session.

Trailblazers: The Women in Our Ranks Making History



Vietnam War Veteran and flight nurse: *Bobbi Hovis*

By *Debbie Cox,*

Vietnam War Commemoration

(April 23, 2019)

Growing up in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, Bobbi Hovis spent most of her free time sailing and fishing. She was determined to do something unique with her life. Ms. Hovis graduated from nursing school in 1947 and was commissioned as an officer and nurse in the U.S. Navy. “I was the first Navy nurse to volunteer for Vietnam and the first Navy flight nurse to volunteer for Korea,” she says. At the age of 38, then-Lieutenant Commander Hovis volunteered to go to Vietnam. There were very few U.S. servicewomen there at the time. Bobbi Hovis was in Saigon during the tumultuous early 1960s and witnessed many of the historic events that eventually led the United States into war in Vietnam. Ms. Hovis describes what it was like to fulfill her duties to heal wounded and ill Americans and Vietnamese while witnessing incidents like the 1963 Buddhist Crisis, and the chaotic and violent coup that overthrew and killed President Ngo Dinh Diem. During the coup, she was

almost shot by an insurgent and saved only by a balcony balustrade and a lucky ricochet. “Winston Churchill said one time, ‘There is nothing so exhilarating in life than to be shot at and missed.’ And that’s what happened to me.” She still has the bullet—as well as several other distinctive artifacts acquired during her barrier-breaking Navy career.

Read Hovis's complete interview [here](#).



First woman in U.S. history to oversee a military service: Vice Admiral, Vivian Crea

*by William H. Thiesen, Ph.D., Atlantic Area Historian
(March 10, 2023)*

The early 2000s saw more barriers broken by OCS’s female graduates. In 2000, Vivian Crea became the first female officer promoted to flag rank and first to assume command of a Coast Guard district. In 2004, she served concurrently as commander of Coast Guard Atlantic Area and Coast Guard Defense Force East, becoming the first woman to serve in either role. In 2006, she became the 25th

Vice-Commandant of the Coast Guard under Adm. Thad Allen. Crea was the first woman to hold the second highest position in the Coast Guard or in any military service. Moreover, while serving as acting commandant, she was the first woman in U.S. history to oversee a military service.

Read more about women trailblazers in the U.S Coast Guard [here](#).

Critical Financial Assistance Programs



Financial assistance support for post-9/11 New York veterans and their families

We believe warriors can thrive with access to integrated services focused on their individual and collective well-being.

Critical Needs Program

Hope For the Warriors Critical Needs program serves as a short-term financial bridge for post 9/11 veterans and their families, and for survivors of traumas as they navigate through long-term recovery.

Support includes financial education and financial assistance to help offset income loss due to:

- Delays in disability claims processing
- Combat related loss of income
- Homelessness and homeless prevention
- Increased care due to injury progression
- Housing support for veteran to engage in intensive outpatient and/or inpatient psychiatric treatment for PTSD, MST, depression, anxiety, or equivalent mental health diagnoses
- Assistance in the form of financial grants, resource referrals, supportive counseling and financial literacy training



To learn more about these services visit
hopeforthewarriors.org/connect-to-services

For questions, please contact:
jsooklal@hopeforthewarriors.org



This program is supported by a grant from The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of vulnerable communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health services. Named after a tireless advocate for immigrants, children, and the poor, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation funds programs and initiatives across New York State that either provide direct healthcare services or address the social determinants of health. For more information, visit www.cabrinihealth.org.



Elizabeth Dole Foundation

CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF) welcomes qualified applicants to be considered for the Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance Program. Applicants must demonstrate an urgent need for critical financial support. All awarded funds will be paid directly to vendor if request is approved by EDF. All approved vendors (the company we are making the payment for on your behalf), must provide a W-9 form. A Form W-9 is a form available from the IRS. It is a commonly used form and provides information to EDF about the company (vendor) EDF will be paying. It includes Name of company, address, and their EIN, which is like a social security number for companies.

Goal: The Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance provides financial relief to all eras of military and Veteran caregivers through a grant that aims to put you and your family on the path to financial wellness. These grants aim to provide high-impact financial assistance to prevent or address a significant crisis or to improve the quality of life of the caregiver family. These grants fill the gaps that other programs may not cover.

How was the Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance Program developed?

The fund is made possible by the generosity of the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation.

Who is eligible for the grant program?

- Adult caregiver, (18 years and older), for a military service member or veteran
- Demonstrates financial assistance need

- Vendor or name of Company is legally able to receive taxable income in the U.S., this includes they're being a citizen, green card holder, and/or permanent resident who can provide a W9 and SSN or (TIN)

Amount: Depending on need, grants will be made on a case-by-case review at the discretion of EDF staff. These are grants that aim to assist with larger needs to put you on a path of financial wellness.

How do you define “financial assistance needs”?

If you are experiencing an unforeseen emergency with life-changing consequences, we encourage you to apply.

Examples of grants:

Natural Disaster Assistance

Medical/Dental bills not covered by insurance

Home repairs/additions due to safety of Veteran

Car modifications needed for the Veteran

Certificate program to build job readiness skills for caregiver

Transportation

[Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance Program through the Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

The Neon Nutrition Kitchen: Veteran-Only Pantry Days

Attention NYC Veterans! [The NeON Nutrition Kitchen](#) will be hosting Veterans-only Pantry days on Staten Island and The Bronx, providing non-perishable foods as well as a meat/fish to Veterans and their families.

There will also be a Veterans Benefit Coordinator on site to help with claims and benefits.

NeON Nutrition Kitchen

The NeON Nutrition Kitchen

FREE HEALTHY FOODS

WHAT NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day
Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy

WHEN Every Friday - 10am to 1pm
from March 3 - May 26

WHERE
Staten Island
340 Bay Street

NYC NYC YOUNG MEN'S INITIATIVE
Department of Veterans Services
FOOD BANK **PROVIDING ESSENTIAL FOOD AND SUPPLIES**
NeON

For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3882.

NeON Nutrition Kitchen

The NeON Nutrition Kitchen

FREE HEALTHY FOODS

WHAT NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day
Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy

WHEN Every Monday - 9:30am to 12:30pm
from March 13 - June 6

WHERE
Bronx
198 East 161st 10451

NYC NYC YOUNG MEN'S INITIATIVE
Department of Veterans Services
FOOD BANK **PROVIDING ESSENTIAL FOOD AND SUPPLIES**
NeON

For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3882.

Staten Island:

Fridays, March 3 - May 26

340 Bay Street

10a-1p

The Bronx:

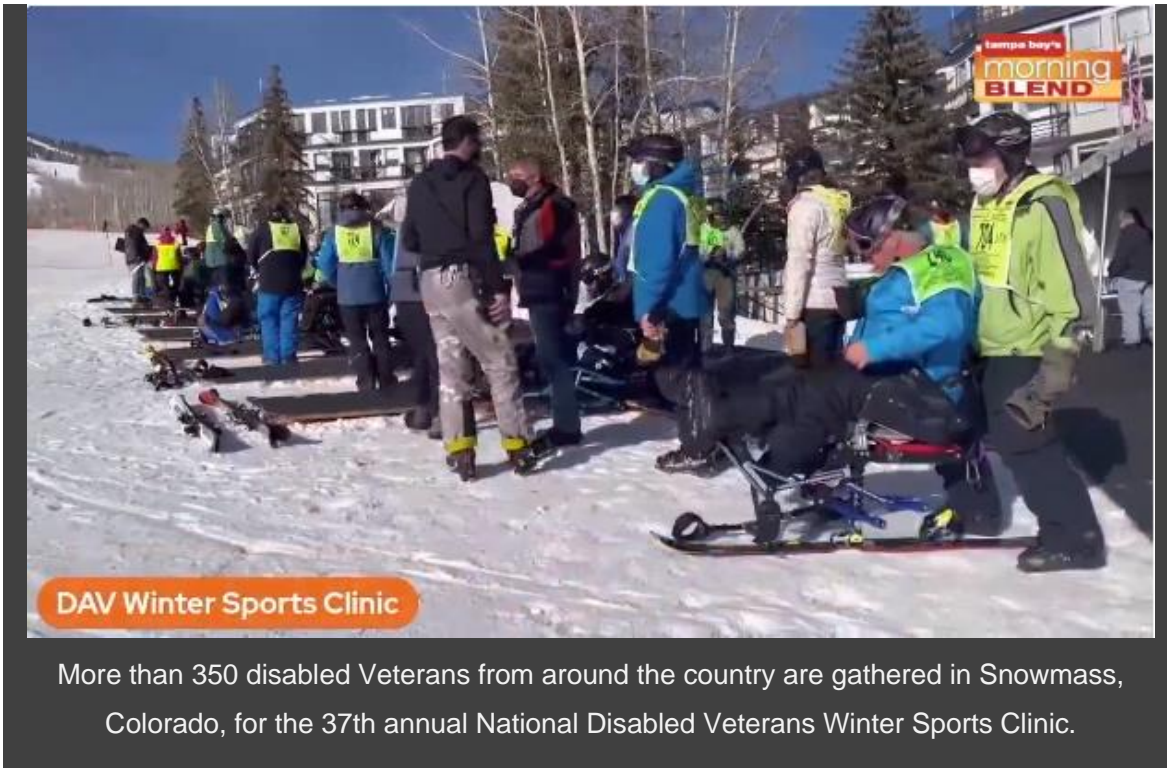
Mondays, March 13 - June 6

198 East 161st

9:30a-12:30p

VETERAN NEWS

'Miracles on a Mountainside' Helping Hundreds of Disabled Veterans



Tampa Bay's Morning Blend
March 30, 2023

Hundreds of disabled veterans from around the country are in Snowmass, Colorado right now for the 37th annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Often referred to as “Miracles on a Mountainside,” this event is allowing veterans with disabilities, such as traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, amputations, neurological disorders, visual impairments, and other profound injuries and medical concerns, to participate in activities many of them never believed possible.

The annual clinic showcases the health and rehabilitative benefits of adaptive sports, including Alpine and Nordic skiing, sled hockey, scuba diving, snowmobiling, and rock climbing. These experiences provide the catalyst to improve overall physical well-being, mental health, self-esteem, community re-entry, and readjustment... [\[READ MORE\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

Star & Stripes: [Senator seeks to resolve GI Bill payments problem for veterans studying overseas](#)

KGO (ABC-7, Video): [Exclusive: Syringe vending machine installed at SF apartment complex for veterans](#)

Military Times: [Transgender vets call for more protections from Congress, VA](#)

New York Post: [Female fighters step in the ring for first time at NYC's Battle of the Badges](#)

Spectrum News NY 1 (Video): [Bipartisan lawmakers push to expand medical marijuana access for veterans](#)



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.



This week's artist highlight is **Amanda Raquel Dorval**. Amanda, originally from Queens, NYC, is a Nuyorican-Dominican artist, library professional, Middle Eastern Studies graduate student, and anti-war Veteran who served seven years in the US Air Force as an Arabic linguist. She received her BA in art history from Barnard College and graduated in May 2022 with an MS in Library and Information Science from Long Island University with a concentration in Archives Management, Rare Books and Special Collections. Amanda was the Bibliographer of Indigenous American art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Watson Library from 2021 to 2022. She was a 2022-2023 Research Fellow at the Hispanic Society Museum & Library, and also has library/archive experience at the American Museum of Natural

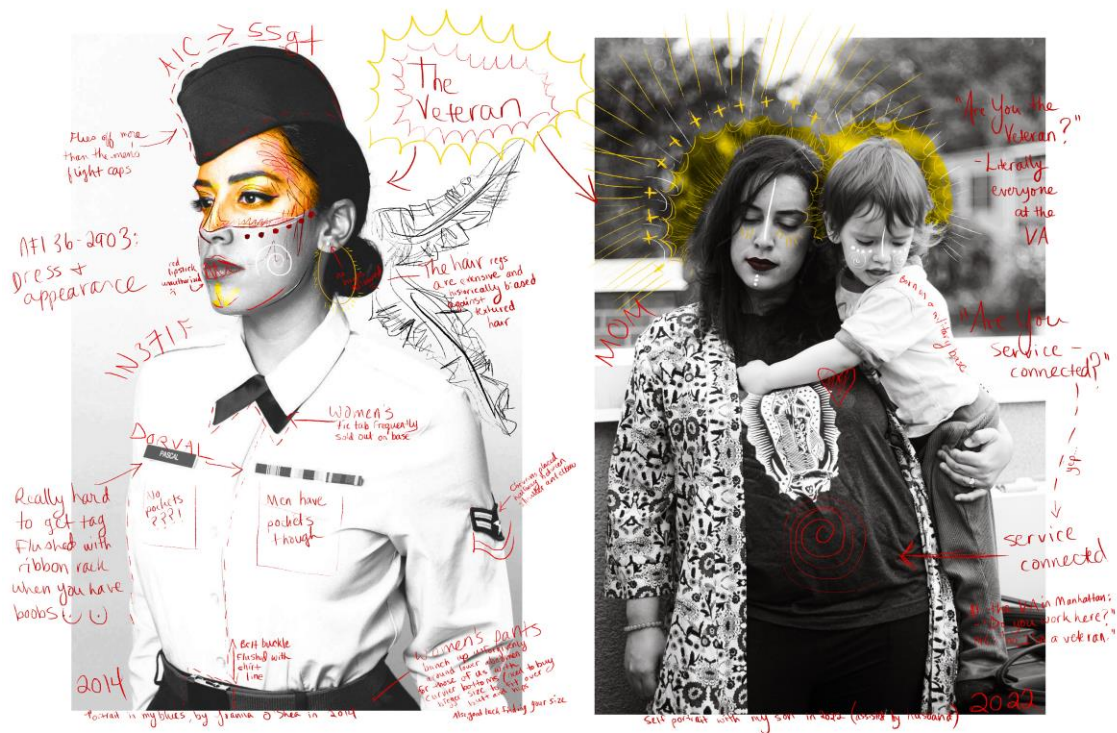
History, World Monuments Fund, Brooklyn Museum, Jewish Museum, and Wildenstein Plattner Institute. She is also currently pursuing a second masters degree in Near Eastern Studies at New York University, where she is interested in the cross-cultural influences between the Middle East and Latin America as well as visual culture and heritage in Iraq.

Art Medium:

Digital photo drawing

Title:

"Are you the Veteran?"



Self-portrait diptych, with son. "Are You the Veteran?" is a self-portrait digital photo drawing that uses some humor in order to highlight some of the not-so-great aspects of being a woman Veteran of color.

Artist Statement:

I was born in NYC to Puerto Rican and Dominican parents, but my genetic makeup is Southern Iberian, Indigenous, and Western Sub-Saharan African. This mestizaje is reflective of the racial mixture that resulted from brutal colonialismo in the Caribbean after the arrival of Columbus in 1492.

My work explores Nuyorican experience and the cultural legacy of colonialism in Puerto Rico, though I also tie in aspects of my own military experience. I explore traditional themes and motifs that either come from Puerto Rico's indigenous Taíno culture, were brought over by European conquistadores, or which exemplify Nuyorican culture. My primary media includes beadwork, photography, embroidery, sewing, weaving, costume design, and Western painting techniques. I consider my artistic style mestizo, a mixture of indigenous and Western traditions which mirrors my own genetic mestizaje. The culture of the Taínos is prominent in my art. It is estimated that 60% of modern-day Puerto Ricans have Taíno DNA. Additionally, dark-skinned women are a dominating presence in my work. Finally, I often invoke religious themes which are entrenched in modern Puerto Rican culture.

To view more of Amanda's art or to contact her, visit her [website](#) or [Instagram](#).



[Website](#)



[Instagram](#)

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)

April 2023 - Calendar of Citywide Hiring Events



Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Brooklyn – Ingersoll/Whitman Community Center

Time: 9:00 am – 2 pm

Targeted Titles: Maintenance Worker, Assistant City Highway Repairer, Apprentice (Construction Laborer), Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Clerical Associate, and community titles

Thursday, April 13, 2023 - (This date may be subject to change. Alternate Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023)

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Manhattan – Location TBD

Targeted Titles: Inspector, Maintenance Worker, Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Apprentice (Construction Laborer) Clerical Associate, City Park Worker and City Highway Repairer, and community titles

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Bronx - Monroe College

Time:

Targeted Titles: Clerical Associate, Maintenance Worker, Inspector, Assistant Highway Repairer, Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, and Clerical Associate

Friday, April 28, 2023

Event: NYC Government Hiring Hall

Location: Queens: Location TBD

Targeted Titles: Engineer(Civil, Electrical, Environmental), Inspector, and Project Manager

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.](#)

Veteran Housing Coordinator - The NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) Veteran Housing Coordinator (VHC) program provides peer-to-peer housing assistance for homeless veterans living within the five boroughs of New York City. This program is designed to help NYC reach and sustain “functional zero”, the point at which veteran homelessness has effectively ended and there is a system in place to rapidly rehouse any new veteran entering the homeless system. The VHCs are at the front line in the ongoing citywide commitment to providing safe and affordable housing to every veteran that becomes homeless.

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

Currently No Open Exams Available

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.

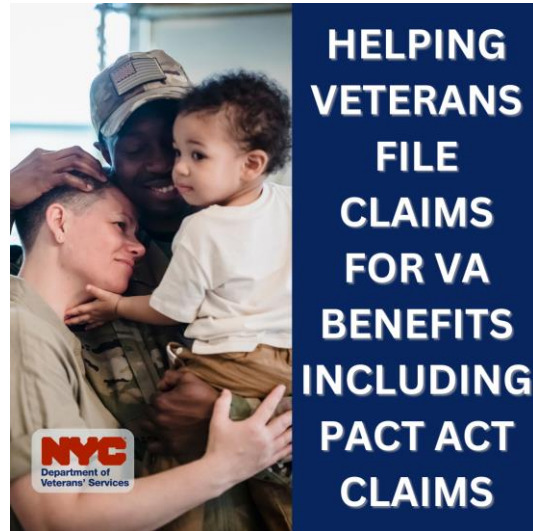
VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

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.