

VA



- Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
- Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

October 2026



Elijah Ditter, MHA

Medical Center Director

VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



Leslie Lockridge, DNP, RN

Medical Center Director

VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, FACHE, CHC

Medical Center Director

VA Northern Arizona Health Care

Updates on what's
to come.

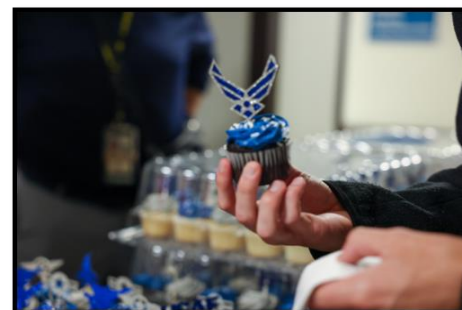
The Phoenix VA hosts **Veggies for Vets**, Sept. 10

- The Phoenix VA gave Veterans free vegetables during its quarterly Veggie for Vets program, Sept. 10.



Phoenix VA celebrates **U.S. Air Force Birthday**, at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, Sept. 17.

- For the Air Force's 78th birthday, the Phoenix VA handed out food and beverages to Veterans and staff members.



Books for VETERANS, Oct. 6

When: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Where: Carl T. Hayden, ACC,
South Entrance

More information: The book
mobile is coming to visit!

BOOKS FOR VETERANS

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



OCTOBER 6, 2026

10 AM - 12 PM



**CARL T. HAYDEN VA MEDICAL CENTER
ACC SOUTH**

650 E. INDIAN SCHOOL RD



THINGS TO DO AT THE ROLLING LIBRARY:



Get a library
card



Check out books, movies,
seeds & Culture Passes



Cool off inside
the Bookmobile



Connect with friendly
library staff



THE BOOKMOBILE WILL VISIT THE CARL T. HAYDEN VA
MEDICAL CENTER EVERY FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH!



PhoenixPublicLibrary



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

VA



White Cane Safety Day, Oct. 28

When: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: 32nd Street

More information: Connect with fellow Veterans in person, share stories, inspiration, celebrate independence, mobility & resilience.

2026 White Cane Safety Day BLIND AMERICANS EQUALITY DAY

October 28

INFORMATION FAIR &

Connect with fellow Veterans in person, share stories, inspiration, celebrate independence, mobility & resilience.



*Awareness.
Independence.
Stronger Together.*



9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Phoenix 32ND Street VA Clinic
Education Conference Rooms 1-3
400 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85008



Visual Impairment Service Team
Tom Hicks, VIST Coordinator, 602-914-5323



For all individuals interested in learning **IN PERSON** about Blindness and Low Vision. Exhibitors include local non-profit agencies, state agencies, advocacy groups and more.

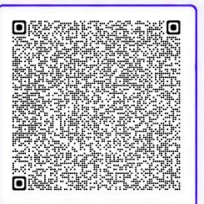
Virtual Presentations on Microsoft Teams



Dial in from any phone:
+1 872-701-0185, 134039914#



Request a direct link:
MyHealtheVet or
William.lhle@va.gov,
(602) 914-5335



Scan to Join

Short Teams link:
<http://ow.ly/Qhjz50ZRcAJ>



Community Mental Health Summit, Oct. 27



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT
Care Connections: Where Service Meets Support
Hosted by Phoenix VA

 **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026**
9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

 **Steele Indian School Park Memorial Hall**
300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix

 **Complimentary breakfast, light lunch & giveaways!**

PRE-REGISTER TODAY ➤

Scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/phoenix-veterans-health-administration-community-mental-health-summit-tickets-1993499612003?aff=oddtcreat>



- **When:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Steele Indian School Park Memorial Hall
- **More information:**

National Family Caregiver Month Outreach Event, Nov 2

- **When:** 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.
- **More Info:** Visit the **Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, Staff Sgt. Alexander W. Conrad clinic, 32nd Street, and Northwest Clinic** to meet our Caregiver Support Team and find out about services and support available to Veterans and their Caregivers.



The graphic features a pink and orange gradient background with white sunburst patterns in the top-left and bottom-right corners. At the top right is the VA Caregiver Support logo, which includes a heart with three stars. The main title is in large, bold, blue font. Below it is a subtitle in bold black font, followed by a paragraph in regular black font. The date and time are in bold black font. At the bottom, there are four white boxes with blue borders, each containing the name of a location and its address.

VA Caregiver Support

National Family Caregiver Month Outreach Event

You Care. We're Here to Support You.

Visit any of these locations to meet our Caregiver Support Team and find out about services and support available to Veterans and their Caregivers.

Monday, November 2, 2026 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center 650 E Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85012	Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic 400 N 32nd Street Phoenix, AZ 85008
Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veteran Affairs Health Care Clinic 3285 South Val Vista Drive Gilbert, AZ 85297	Northwest VA Clinic 13985 W Grand Ave #101 Surprise, AZ 85374

Women Veterans Midlife Resource Expo, Nov 10

- **When:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Carl T. Hayden & 32nd Street
- **More Info:** Come for a day dedicated to Women Veterans navigating midlife transitions. Connect with resources, attend informative seminars and participate in breakout classes from Recreation Therapy – all in one place.

PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WOMEN VETERANS MIDLIFE RESOURCE EXPO

NOVEMBER 10, 2026
9AM-2PM
PHOENIX 32ND ST. VA CLINIC
400 NORTH 32ND STREET PHOENIX, AZ 85008

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PRE-REGISTER,
CALL 602-277-5551 EXT. 6764

PLEASE LEAVE A VOICEMAIL WITH A CALLBACK NUMBER IF YOUR CALL IS NOT ANSWERED



Seminars | Breakout Classes | Resource Fair
Refreshments Provided

Join us for a day dedicated to Women Veterans navigating midlife transitions. Connect with resources, attend informative seminars and participate in breakout classes from Recreation Therapy – all in one place.

Questions? Call the Women Veterans Program at 602-277-5551 x6764.

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



VETSGIVING, Nov 14.

When: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Carl T. Hayden,
North Parking Lot

More information: free turkey, games, prizes, and the humane society will be providing limited veterinarian services for Veteran's pets.



Phoenix - PVAHCS



Questions?

Get Connected!

On the Web



www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media



linktr.ee/prphoenix



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• Phoenix Regional Office



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) staff will be available at the **Tucson VA Medical Center, Quarters 13**, to meet one-on-one with Veterans to help with questions related to disability compensation, pensions, and filing claims on **Wednesday, October 14** from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** If you have any questions, please call 1-800-827-1000.



SAVAHCS Virtual Veteran Healthcare Updates

Join us for our [Virtual Veteran Health Care Update](#) on **Wednesday, October 14**, from **1:00 p.m. –2:00 p.m.** We will share important health care updates, helpful resources, and information about how VA is supporting Veteran wellness and safety. Veterans, families, and caregivers are encouraged to join in on the conversation.



VA

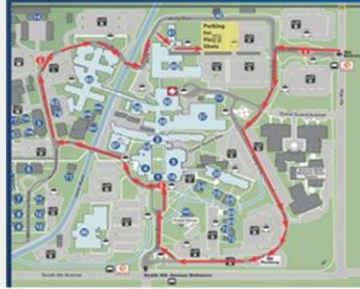


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Drive-Through Flu Shot Clinic

We will be hosting a drive-through flu shot clinic on the following date and time, **Saturday, October 17** from **7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the **Tucson VA Medical Center** located at **3601 South 6th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85723**. Please enter through the Ajo Gate entrance and follow the signage.



SAVAHCS MAIN CAMPUS DRIVE-UP FLU SHOT CLINIC

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

No appointment necessary. The drive-up clinic will be held at the Tucson VA Medical Center on the following dates and times below.

September 26 (Saturday)
October 17 (Saturday)
7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tucson VA
Driveway between Bldg 80 & 81
3601 S. 6th Ave, Tucson AZ

VA 

Fight Against Breast Cancer

Join us on **Thursday, October 22** at the Tucson VA as we come together to support the health and strength of Veterans during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Wear pink or your SAVAHCS Breast Cancer Awareness T-shirt and stop by the **Building 80 lobby** from **10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** to connect, learn, and take action for your health. For more information email Elizabeth.Hammond3@va.gov.

Join the **FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER**

As a Veteran, you know what it means to protect and serve. Now, it's time to focus that strength on your own well-being. Join us for an event dedicated to breast health education, vital resources, and a community of support built just for you.

Supporting the Health & Strength of Veterans

Thursday, October 22

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Tucson VA Building 80, Lobby
3601 S. 6th Ave, Tucson AZ

Wear PINK or your SAVAHCS Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirt

Take Action for Your Health

Take the Lead on Prevention: Identify your personal risks early and take proactive, preventive steps.

Master the Timeline: Understand exactly how mammograms work and when you need to schedule your screenings.

Navigate Your Benefits: Access specialized VA Women's Health services designed specifically to support Veterans.

For more information: elizabeth.hammond3@va.gov

VA  

VA





Expand and Renovate Clinics Bldg. 80: Construction continues on the second-floor expansion, which will add approximately 11,250 square feet of new space. Crews are currently installing utilities, walls, and other structural components needed to complete the expansion. SAVAHCs staff are expected to move into the new space by December 2026. After the expansion is complete, renovations will begin on approximately 10,150 square feet of existing space to create an updated, team-based care environment. The east entrance to Building 80 is expected to reopen for Veterans, patients, and staff on September 30, 2026.

Emergency Department (ED): The general contractor has completed the floor slab, which will add approximately 8,000 square feet to the existing Emergency Department. They are now installing drywall, medical gas piping, water piping, patient-lift supports, insulation for ductwork and piping, windows, and electrical wiring. Phase 1 is now expected to be completed by the end of March 2027

Renovate Mental Health Bldg. 90: Interior Design finished installing the Phase 1 exam room furniture in August 2026. Phase 1 was turned over on September 14, 2026, and staff are expected to start using the space in October. Phase 2, which includes the admin staff area, is planned to be turned over on November 1, 2026. Once all renovation work is complete, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for both Mental Health projects: the Expanded Mental Health area and the Renovated Outpatient Mental Health Clinic.





We held a heartfelt [9/11 Remembrance Ceremony](#) marking the 25th anniversary of the attacks. SAVAHCs Director, Dr. Leslie Lockridge led the observance, honoring the lives lost and the strength of our nation. Staff and Veterans gathered together in reflection, unity, and gratitude, as SAVAHCs staff proudly reaffirmed the Federal Oath of Office proclaiming our commitment to our nation's heroes.



Our [Unsheltered Veterans Surge Event Week](#) wrapped with an inspiring Homeless Summit on Friday, September 18. A powerful reminder of what our community can accomplish when we stand together. The week showed what collaboration can achieve, and the hope it brings to Veterans seeking stability, support, and community.

Click [here](#) to read full article on the Surge Event.

Click [here](#) to watch the Surge Event video.



For [Hispanic Heritage Month](#), our Hispanic Heritage Special Emphasis Program Managers, Sarah Soberanes and Alexis Flores, hosted an incredible Car Show on Friday, September 18! It was a vibrant celebration of culture, complete with amazing live mariachi performed by Wakefield Middle School and a lineup of classic cars that stole the show.



We gathered for the annual [POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony](#) on Friday, September 18 at the Pima Air & Space Museum to honor the heroes who were Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. We had the honor of hearing Former POW and WWII Veteran Harvey Horn share his remarkable story of sacrifice, resilience, and devotion to our nation. We remain committed to remembering their service and keeping the promise to bring every missing service member home. You are not forgotten.



Our outreach team was honored to attend the [Tohono O'odham Nation Veteran Stand Down](#) on Saturday, September 12. We assisted Veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare, obtaining their Veteran Health Identification Cards, and provided information on our Women's Health Program, Suicide Prevention, Native American Advocate Program, and additional VA resources. We are truly grateful for the invite and the opportunity to support the community.



SAVAHCS Emergency Department physicians teamed up with providers from Fort Huachuca on Wednesday, September 23 for a [focused SIMLAB training session](#) aimed at strengthening clinical readiness and inter-agency collaboration. LTC Vanessa J. Ramirez, Commander/Director of Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center, visited the session and observed the hands-on exercises, underscoring the strong and growing partnership between our teams.

GET
your
FLU SHOT



Flu shots are now available during scheduled clinic appointments in Primary Care clinics, specialty clinics, and the hemodialysis unit. Walk-in flu vaccinations are available at the Immunization Clinic located in Building 80 South at the Tucson VA Medical Center located at 3601 South 6th Ave., Tucson, AZ 85723 Monday through Friday, (except for Federal Holidays) from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) will provide flu vaccines during scheduled clinic appointments and will accommodate walk-ins during regular business hours.

Flu vaccination appointments may also be scheduled separately. For a list of CBOC locations, visit <https://www.va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care/locations/> or call the SAVAHCS main number at 520-792-1450.

Please remember, do not come to get your flu shot if you are sick, have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or have had recent contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19. We ask that you wear a shirt that allows nurses easy access to your upper arm close to your shoulder.



Please welcome some of our new employees!

We're excited to see the positive impact of the new VA 30-day hiring model, which helped us bring this group onboard quickly and efficiently.

Questions

Follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- ☐ Website: va.gov/southern-arizona-health-care
- ☐ Facebook: facebook.com/VATucson
- ☐ Instagram instagram.com/vatucson
- ☐ X/Twitter: x.com/TucsonVA
- ☐ YouTube: [Subscribe now](#) and join the SAVAHCS community!



Tuesday Majors

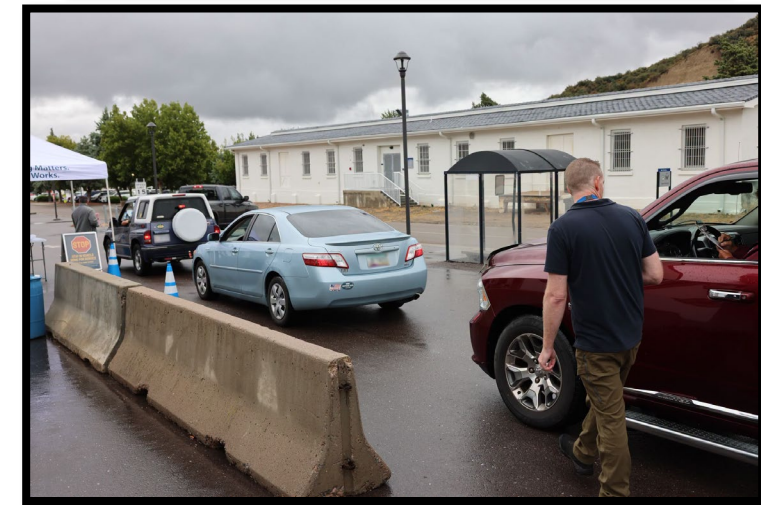
Interim Associate Director for
Patient Care Services

Ms. Majors — Professional Summary

- VA nursing leader with experience spanning emergency/trauma, critical care, primary care, quality, and patient safety; joined VA in 2015.
- Holds dual MBA and MSN in Nursing Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University; HCLDP Class of 2026 graduate.
- Progressed through increasingly complex VA leadership roles, including Emergency Department Manager, Acting Chief Nurse of Critical Care, National Emergency Medicine Senior Nurse Consultant, and Chief of Quality & Patient Safety.
- At Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, helped raise the CMS Star Rating from 2 to 3 stars; reduced unadjusted readmissions from 19.11% to 13.78%; and advanced infection-prevention performance.
- Known for accountable, transparent, collaborative leadership that promotes psychological safety and continuous improvement; engaged more than 1,500 staff in safety initiatives.
- Creator of Project ReNew and experienced leader of successful OIG and Joint Commission surveys.

- **Prescott drive-through clinic:** Available at the Prescott VA campus only, September 28–October 9, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available.
- **Prescott walk-in clinic:** Visit Main Building 117, October 13–November 6, Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., for flu and COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Community clinic walk-ins:** Flu vaccines are now offered on Wednesdays at Anthem, Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu City, and Page VA clinics. The Kingman VA Clinic will begin offering a weekly walk-in clinic starting Oct. 21. COVID-19 vaccinations at these sites require an appointment with your PACT.
- **Local pharmacies:** Veterans can also get flu and COVID-19 vaccines at TriWest-participating pharmacies, including Bashas', Safeway, Fry's, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, Costco, and Sam's Club.

[More Details](#)





The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$4,070,884 in grants to the following community organizations that provide suicide prevention services to Veterans in Arizona:

- Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (All Counties) = \$750,000
- Axiom Community of Recovery (Maricopa and Pinal Counties) = \$661,210
- Boulder Crest Foundation (Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz) = \$237,500
- Central Arts Alliance (Maricopa County) = \$672,174
- National Community Health Partners (Pima and Yuma Counties) = \$750,000
- U.S.VETS Arizona (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, and Yavapai Counties) = \$750,000

[Read more](#)

5th Annual Suicide Prevention Poker Run

Prescott, Sept. 12



- Record 163 motorcycles with over 200 attendees! (132 motorcycles last year)
- Big thank you to VFW Post 10227, which served 216 lunches at the last stop.

POW/MIA Day Recognition Ceremony

Prescott, Sept. 18



- Relatives of POW/MIA service members shared meaningful accounts/reflections.

Recovery Month Celebration

Prescott, Sept. 30



- Included food, fun and supportive services.
- About 85 Veterans attended.
- Several Veteran speakers shared their stories of recovery.

Post at Fort Whipple Grand Opening Celebration

Prescott, Oct. 2



- This new housing community managed by U.S.VETS Prescott and Gorman & Co. features the adaptive reuse of six early-1900s Officer's Quarters and a brand-new four-story apartment complex, creating a total of 103 affordable, supportive apartment homes for senior, homeless, and at-risk Veterans.
- 86 Veterans are currently using VA Supportive Housing vouchers to live in these units located right on the Bob Stump VA Medical Center campus in Prescott.

Williams Stand Down

Williams, Sept. 11



- 82 Veterans attended: 10 were experiencing homelessness and 5 were at risk of homelessness
- Several of our programs tabled to share resources, as did VBA.
- Mr. Sample was the keynote speaker.

Veterans Creative Arts Competition

Prescott, Sept. 10-13



- 65 entries from 42 different Veterans
- Encourages Veterans to use creative arts as a rehabilitative tool to cope with disabilities.
- Our new acting ADPCS, Tuesday Majors, attended the award ceremony to congratulate the winning artists.

Hope Fest

Prescott, Sept. 19



- Great annual opportunity to engage with Veterans in the community who might not otherwise seek out VA services on their own.

Yavapai County Stand Down

Prescott, Sept. 25



- 235 Veterans checked in.
- Record number of vendors participated
- NAVAHCS HUD-VASH Program Coordinator Toni Monreal spoke

Fort Defiance Agency (Navajo)

Aug. 25-27 & Sept. 22-24



- Our Rural Health Outreach Team traveled with our Mobile Medical Clinic to Wide Ruins, Oak Springs, Houck, White Cone, Indian Wells and Teesto.

Upcoming



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

N.N. DISTRICT 10 VETERAN SERVICE EVENT

OCTOBER 20, 2026 | 9AM - 3PM

NAVAJO NATION VA OFFICE, CHINLE, AZ

- Enroll to begin receiving VA health benefits.
- VA service connection and pension claims services.
- Native American Direct Loan program information.
- Meet with Service providers, and community partners
- Meet with VA Benefits services.

Veterans bring a copy of DD Form 214 and/or medical evidence for claims.

Contact Priscilla Gibbs, at 928-910-3975 for information.
Navajo Nation VA Office:
 191 Highway Rd, Chinle, AZ (36.1524 x -109.5567)




- **Chinle Agency Office** - Tue, Oct. 20 – [Details](#)
- **Round Rock Chapter House** – Wed, Oct. 21 – [Details](#)
- **Many Farms Chapter House** – Thu, Oct. 22 – [Details](#)
- **Golden Valley VFW** – Thu, Oct. 29 – [Details](#)
- **Golden Valley American Legion** – Fri, Oct. 30 – [Details](#)

Mental Health Summit

Prescott, Oct. 16

Virtual Veteran Town Hall

Phone or Online, Oct. 21



NAVAHCS Mental Health Summit

Stronger Together: Expanding Access & Preventing Suicide Through Partnership

Friday, October 16, 2026
8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Questions? Call Karen Jensen, LCSW
(928) 445-4860
Ext. 2718

NAVAHCS PRESCOTT CAMPUS
Building 161
500 Highway 89 North
Prescott, AZ 86313

Scan to register for this **FREE** event.
Space is limited.



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS)



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS)

VIRTUAL VETERANS Town Hall

October 21st | 5 - 6 pm

- ASK QUESTIONS
- DISCUSS SERVICE AVAILABLE
- PROVIDE VETERANS WITH HELPFUL RESOURCES

VISIT [ACCESS.LIVE/NAVAHCS](https://access.live/NAVAHCS) OR
CALL 833-490-0775 ON ANY
TOUCH-TONE OR CELLULAR PHONE




- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, October 16
- **Where:** [Bob Stump VA Medical Center](#), Building 161
- **What:** Learn about virtual health resources, vet center services, vocational programs, suicide prevention programs and more!
- **Registration Required:** Click [HERE](#)
- **Questions:** 928-445-4860 ext. 2718

- **What:** Offers Veterans the opportunity to ask questions, discuss services available and receive helpful resources.
- **When:** 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21
- **Where:** Call 833-490 0775 or visit access.live/NAVAHCS to join



Lake Havasu City Stand Down

Lake Havasu City, October 17

2026 STAND DOWN

**Presented by Lake Havasu
City Veterans Resource Team**

October 17
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Aquatic Center
Relics and Rods Hall
100 Park Ave.**

**Lunch provided by LHC
Elks Lodge #2399**

**For questions, call
928-732-0444**

**For Havasu transportation, call
928-230-0392**

ARIZONA VETERANS STANDDOWN ALLIANCE
AVSA
A PROGRAM OF THE ARIZONA HOUSING COALITION

**Local Veteran resource
organizations will provide:**

Housing
Assistance

Legal
Assistance

Clothing

VA Benefits &
Health Care

- **When:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17
- **Where:** Lake Havasu City Aquatic Center, [100 Park Ave, Lake Havasu City](#)
- **For Questions:** 928-732-0444
- **For Lake Havasu City Transportation:** 928-230-0392

Navajo County Stand Down

Holbrook, October 23

NAVAJO COUNTY STAND DOWN

**SUPPORTING OUR
VETERANS**

★ **VETERANS STRONG** ★

WHO
Veterans of Navajo County

WHAT
Stand Down
Free services & support for veterans

WHEN
Friday, October 23, 2026
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

WHERE
404 East Hopi Drive
Holbrook, AZ 86025

928.369.8455

fishersforveterans@gmail.com

- **When:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23
- **Where:** Navajo County Fairgrounds, [404 E Hopi Dr, Holbrook, AZ 86025](#)
- **More Info:** 928-369-8455 or fishersforveterans@gmail.com



Questions?

Visit our website or follow us on social media for the latest updates and to stay informed

- Website: <https://www.va.gov/northern-arizona-health-care/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VAPrescott>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/va_prescott/?ig