

VA



- Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
- Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

May 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

Phoenix VA Director Updates



Area faith leaders hosted at Phoenix VA

The Phoenix VA hosted a meeting of area faith leaders at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center on April 14.



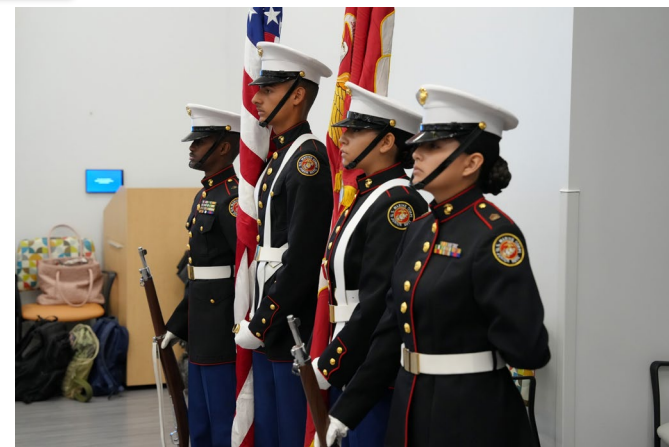
Sustainability Fair

The Phoenix VA Health Care System held its third annual Sustainability Fair on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center. More than sixteen hundred Veterans and employees showed up to find out what their community offered in terms of sustainability.



Volunteer Appreciation Week

Phoenix VA honored volunteers at the Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic on April 20. The event, held during national Volunteer Appreciation Week, observed April 20-24 recognized the invaluable contributions our volunteers make across VA.



Patient Experience Week

During the final week of April, Phoenix VA participated in activities through the week to celebrate and recognize all the care and support our staff provide to create a positive experience for our patients. This year, the week culminated in a pizza party on the patio.



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

PATIENT EXPERIENCE WEEK 2026

Mon	WOW Moments
Tue	PX Activity Booklet & Toolkit
Wed	WECARE Rounding, PX Pop Quiz
Thu	PX Digital Scavenger Hunt
Fri	Veteran & Staff Appreciation

WWII Paratrooper and POW Honored with Centenarian Award

Phoenix VA Medical Center Director Mr. Elijah Ditter presented the award on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs April 20. The award included a hand-signed letter and commemorative coin from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins recognizing Mr. Metcalfe's remarkable milestone and extraordinary service to his country.





Phoenix VA attends MST Luncheon

Staff from Phoenix VA attended an MST Luncheon at American Legion Post 1, where they spoke to Veterans and provided information on services available, April 24.



Fisher House Updates





Bookmobile

2026 Schedule | VA Medical Center



10:00 A.M. to
12:00 P.M. 1st
Tuesdays

⇒ April 7

⇒ May 5

Things to do on our rolling free library:

- Get a library card that works at all 17 Phoenix Public Library locations.
- Borrow books and movies.
- Check out a Culture Pass or seeds for your garden.

See you soon!

For more information, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or call 602-262-4636 (for TTY dial 7-1-1).



May 5

When: 10:00 am – Noon, Tuesday, April 7

Where: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

More Info: Services available include borrowing a variety of books and movies, get a new Library Card, check out a Culture Pass, or some seeds for your garden.

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Phoenix VA's 20th Annual
CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center
Recreation Therapy Clinic**



NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
COMPETITION



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

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Creative Arts Festival

May 7

When: 10 am – 1 pm, Thursday, May 7th

Where: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

More Information: Phoenix VA Events Page:

<https://www.va.gov/phoenix-health-care/events/87475/>

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**VEGGIES
FOR
VETS**

🍏 🍎 🥕 🥔 🥒

600
bags of fresh fruits and veggies!

May 14, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Distribution begins at 9:00 a.m.

Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center
ACC Hallway and Drive Thru

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Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

Veggies for Vets

May 14

When: 9 – 10:30 am, Thursday, May 14th

Where: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

More Information: This upcoming event brings together community partners and volunteers to distribute 600 bags of fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables at no cost for our Veterans.





VSO MIXER

Third Tuesday of
the month
1-2 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided

- The event is open to current VSO's and those interested in partnering with Phoenix VA.
- An agenda will be distributed one week prior to each meeting.
- You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time throughout the month. We look forward to your continued partnership and participation.

To RSVP, please email:
prphoenix@va.gov

Phoenix VA 32nd Street
Outpatient Clinic
and
Teams ([Click Here](#))

Or call in:
[+1 205-235-3524](tel:+12052353524)
Conference ID: 746 788 251#



May 19

When: 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Tuesday

Where: Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic

More Info: Agenda will be distributed prior to each meeting. You are welcome to send questions, comments, suggestions, and discussion topics to prphoenix@va.gov at any time prior to the next meeting.



Caregiver & Family Resource Fair

Join the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Caregiver Support Program for an opportunity to learn about the wealth of resources available to caregivers and families of Veterans.

Date, Time, Location:

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
from 9:00 - 11:00 AM
at the Phoenix VA 32nd Street Clinic
400 N 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
in Education Rooms 1, 2, and 3

Contact Us @

Caregiver Support Team
602-277-5551 ext. 7777

You're there to support your Veteran.
We're here to support you.
www.caregiver.va.gov



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

May 20

When: 9:00 – 11:00 am, Wednesday

Where: Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic

More Info: Visit the Phoenix VA for this resource fair to learn about the wealth of services and support available to caregivers and families of Veterans.



16TH ANNUAL



WALK AND ROLL

FOR VETERANS AND EMPLOYEES

MAY 20

6:00 A.M. - 10 A.M.

AT

**CARL T. HAYDEN VAMC
NORTHWEST VA CLINIC
SSA W. CONRAD VA CLINIC**

*For more information,
contact Jayson.Lutes at
Jayson.Lutes@va.gov*



May 20

When: 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Wednesday

Where: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

More Info: This event is for Veterans and Staff.

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Phoenix - PVAHCS

Questions?

Get Connected!

On the Web



www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media



linktr.ee/prphoenix



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Smile Stones

Join us for a fun and meaningful break at Smile Stones: Rock Painting for Veterans! On Friday, May 14, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

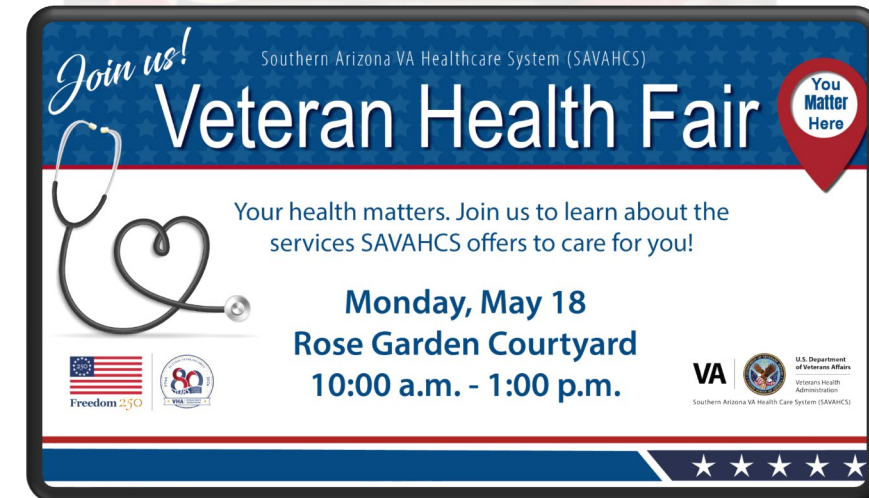
In Building 4 Auditorium. No experience is needed—just bring your creativity and enjoy some time painting uplifting messages or colorful designs. All materials will be provided, and you're welcome to keep your stone or share it to brighten someone's day.



Veteran Health Fair

Join us on Monday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Rose Garden. This is a great chance to learn more about the services available at SAVAHCS.

Stop by, ask questions, and discover resources designed to support your well-being. We hope to see you there!



Mental Health Open House

You're invited to our Quarterly Mental Health Open House on Thursday, May 28, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Come explore the range of mental health services available at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.

Reserve your spot today by calling 520-629-4810.

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

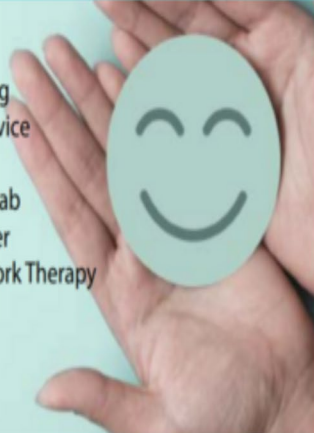
Quarterly

Mental Health *Open House*

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Bldg. 4, Conference Rooms A & B and Virtually via Teams Webinar

- Peer Support
- Women's Health
- Whole Health
- Veterans Justice Outreach
- Homeless & Housing Resources
- Substance Use Treatment
- Same-Day Mental Health Screening
- Family Counseling
- Employment Service
- Psychotherapy
- Psychosocial Rehab & Recovery Center
- Compensated Work Therapy

Please RSVP at (520) 629-4810 as soon as possible to reserve your spot.



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Do not pay for VA or Community Care Appointments up front.

Protect yourself from a recent scam targeting Veterans.

A Veteran recently received a fake letter claiming he had a VA appointment and was asked to pay for the visit.

- VA later confirmed he was not enrolled in VA health care, and no appointment had been scheduled.
- The letter and payment request were fraudulent.

Remember:

- ❑ Veterans should never pay for any VA or Community Care appointment before or at the time of the appointment.
- ❑ VA does not charge upfront fees for appointments.
- ❑ VA does not send payment requests by email, text message, or phone.
- ❑ Community Care appointments are authorized by VA and are free to Veterans except standard VA co-pays when applicable.

If you receive a suspicious letter, call, or message:

- ❑ Do not send money or share personal financial information.
- ❑ Contact your local VA medical center directly to verify any appointment.
- ❑ Report suspicious activity to the Integrity and Compliance Helpline at (866) 842-4357 or VHAOICHelpline@va.gov, VSAFE at 1-833-388-7233 or the [VA OIG](https://www.va.gov) Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.



VA Secure Messaging

Skip the phone lines and connect with your care team directly using VA Secure Messaging! With just a few clicks from your My HealtheVet account, you can send non-urgent questions, request prescription renewals, and manage appointments anytime.

It's fast, convenient, and puts your health at your fingertips. Log in today at www.va.gov and take charge of your care!

If you or the Veterans you serve have questions, please call the SAVAHCS Virtual Health Resource Center at (520) 629-1713 or send an email to TucsonVHRC@va.gov.

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

VA Secure Messaging

Your Direct Link to Your Care Team

Skip the phone lines—message your VA provider anytime!

VA Secure Messaging lets you send non-urgent questions, request prescription renewals, and manage appointments—all from your My HealtheVet account.

✓ Safe ✓ Convenient ✓ Free

Log in today: www.va.gov

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Veterans Health Administration
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

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Make a Difference as a Volunteer Driver or a Volunteer Visitors

We are seeking volunteer drivers around Sierra Vista and Yuma areas to help transport Veterans to their medical appointments in Tucson. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as Volunteer Visitors for homebound and isolated Veterans. These volunteers offer one-on-one social interaction, engaging in activities such as conversations, art projects, games, walks, and gardening. No hands-on care is required, and visits can also provide a break for caregivers.

For details on how to become a volunteer driver or a volunteer visitor, contact the SAVAHCS Center for Development and Civic Engagement Office at (520) 629-1822 or email TucsonCDCE@va.gov.



Expand and Renovate Clinics Bldg. 80: The General Contractor has built the base on the second floor near the elevator area to support the steel framework for the new addition. Station Level Projects will finish the elevator area by installing the floor and painting the walls. The East entrance of Building 80 is closed. This closure is projected to remain until the upper floor is sealed and the sidewalk is reinstalled sometime in late Spring.

Please use the West entrance near the Emergency Department for patient access to the Cholla, Ocotillo, and Saguaro Clinics. We know this is inconvenient, but it's necessary for everyone's safety during the construction.

Emergency Department (ED) Renovations and Expansion: The General Contractor completed the floor slab which will eventually add another 8,000 square feet to the Existing ED. They are now covering the outer walls and finishing the roof. Inner walls are almost ready for inspection. Please use the designated sidewalks for pedestrian travel (marked in green).





[The American Legion Riders of Arizona, Chapter ALR 39 Gilbert](#) led the annual Fisher House Ride to Tucson, joined by ALR Chapter 36 Tucson, SONS Squadron 138, and many other dedicated riders. Together, they delivered an incredible \$40,000 in donations to support the SAVAHCS Fisher House.

Thank you all so much for your generosity and for supporting the families who rely on the Fisher House. Click [here](#) to watch the video highlight.



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We came together to honor some truly special people—our volunteers—at the annual [Volunteer Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony](#).

These incredible individuals give their time, energy, and hearts to support Veterans and our medical center all year round, and we couldn't be more grateful!

One of the highlights was announcing our Volunteers of the Year (VOY). Congratulations to:

- ☐ Ernest Pinkie, Male VOY and Engineering Dept. volunteer
- ☐ Micheala Thurston, Female VOY and Medical Media volunteer
- ☐ Ana Martinez, Youth VOY and devoted member of our Youth SERVE Program





We welcomed [Executive Director of VA Chaplain Service Kimberly Willis](#) and the Program Manager for the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. As part of the VA Secretary's Sprint 3 Initiative, they joined clergy from a variety of faith traditions across southern Arizona in a two-hour Focus Group. Faith leaders, along with SAVAHCS Staff Chaplains and the Suicide Prevention Coordinator, spoke openly about the challenges Veterans face, barriers to care, and how spiritual communities can strengthen their role in suicide prevention.



We gathered to celebrate this year's [National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival](#) results. Out of over 7,000 entries submitted from over 4,500 Veterans from 124 VA facilities, SAVAHCS Veterans received 10 medals! The celebration honored not only the medalists but the importance of creative expression in Veteran health and healing. Click [here](#) for full article and list of winners.



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!

National Volunteer Week

April 19-25



We celebrated our volunteers all week long with photos, chalk art, Thank You boards and a volunteer luncheon.

More photos can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Patient Experience Week

April 27 - May 1



To celebrate the week, we coordinated fun activities for our inpatients, set up tables for Veterans to vote on the “best care team”, and hosted an award ceremony for our employees who have exhibited Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence (ICARE values) in the workplace.



ACMF Symposium

Phoenix, April 15-16



Our Director attended the Arizona Coalition for Military Family's annual statewide symposium. The event brings together the military, government, and community to strengthen services and support for Arizona's 500,000+ service members, Veterans, and their families.

Page Regional Veterans Stand Down

Page, April 24



Our Director and outreach staff participated in this 2nd annual event.

72 Veterans attended. 3 reported they were experiencing homelessness and 4 said they were in transitional housing. 6 Veterans enrolled in VA care and 5 received health services via our Mobile Medical Clinic.



U.S. Vets Connection Hub Ribbon Cutting

Prescott Valley, April 29



U.S. Vets Prescott hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Veterans Connection Hub in Prescott Valley. Located at [2865 Glassford Hill Road, Suite A](#), the hub provides general social services and resources to Veterans and active-duty members in the community. The organization has a similar hub located in Prescott that is focused on homeless services, and they're about to open a third hub in the Verde Valley as well.

Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day

Kykotsmovi, April 30



Our rural health outreach staff attended to represent our health care system and answer any questions about services we offer. The event was in recognition of the 10 Hopi Code Talkers who served with the 81st "Wildcat Division", U.S. Army, 5th Army Air Force, during World War II.



Hopi Tribal Outreach

April 7-9



Combined Totals

- 16 Attendees
- 1 Enrollments/Registrations
- 3 Veteran VA Healthcare ID
- 8 Mobile Medical Appts.

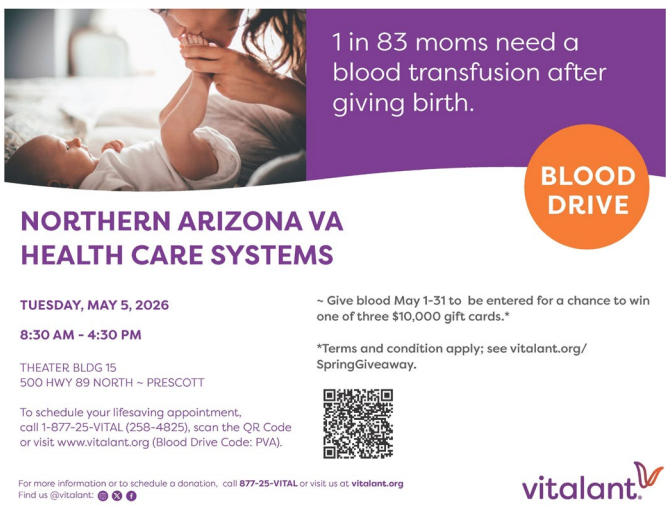
This was our first tribal outreach for our western territory (Hopi/Navajo). Rural Outreach will continue in that region through the end of the fiscal year.

Upcoming Rural Outreach

- **Hopi Health Care Center – Tue, May 5**
 - [Details](#)
- **Sichomovi – Wed, May 6**
 - [Details](#)
- **Shungopavi – Thu, May 7**
 - [Details](#)
- **Teec Nos Pos Chapter House – Tue, May 12**
 - [Details](#)
- **Four Corners Regional Health Center – Wed, May 13**
 - [Details](#)
- **Red Valley Chapter House – Thu, May 14**
 - [Details](#)

Blood Drive

Prescott, May 5



1 in 83 moms need a blood transfusion after giving birth.

BLOOD DRIVE

NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

THEATER BLDG 15
500 HWY 89 NORTH - PRESCOTT

To schedule your lifesaving appointment, call 1-877-25-VITAL (258-4825), scan the QR Code or visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: PVA).

~ Give blood May 1-31 to be entered for a chance to win one of three \$10,000 gift cards.*

*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/SpringGiveaway.

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org. Find us @vitalant.

vitalant.

- **When:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5
- **Where:** Bob Stump VA Medical Center, [500 Hwy 89 North, Prescott, AZ](#) - Building 15 (Theater)
- **Appointments Encouraged:** Call (877) 258-4825 or visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: PVA)

Kingman Veteran Resource Fair

Kingman, May 8



ELKS VETERANS SERVICE

AVSA
ARIZONA VETERANS STANDDOWN ALLIANCE
A PROGRAM OF THE ARIZONA LODGING COUNCIL

NATION'S FINEST

BERRY AMBROSIO A HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT Veterans Council

Veteran Resource Fair
Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center

1776 Airway Ave #B
Kingman, AZ 86409

Friday, May 8th 2026
10AM- 2PM

Vendors and Volunteers can sign up for the event by following the QR Code:

Multitple agencies available:
Contact events@javc.org

- **When:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday, May 8
- **Where:** Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center, [1776 Airway Ave #B, Kingman, AZ](#)
- **More Info:** events@javc.org



High Country Stand Down

Flagstaff, May 15



- **When:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friday, May 15
- **Where:** Arizona State Veteran Home, 2100 N Gemini Dr, Flagstaff, AZ
- **More Info:** nazveteranstanddowns@aol.com or 928-286-7446

VA2K

Five Locations, May 18-21

16TH ANNUAL WALK & ROLL

VA2K

NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
500 Highway 89 North, Prescott, AZ 86313

Join us for the 16th Annual VA2K Walk and Roll event this May! Check below for the specific dates and times at each NAVAHCS location. Together, we'll walk to promote wellness and support our Homeless Veterans Program by collecting donations. We look forward to seeing you there!

Main Campus	Anthem Clinic	Cottonwood Clinic	Flagstaff Clinic	Kingman Clinic
May 21, 2026 10:00AM-2:00PM	May 20, 2026 7:00AM-7:30AM	May 21, 2026 7:00AM	May 18, 2026 8:00AM	May 20, 2026 All Day

Help our homeless Veterans. Donate today!
Suggested Items: laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, sponges, dish soap, Clorox wipes, zip lock bags, trash bags, mouth wash, \$10 gift cards for food/grocery stores, \$10 gift cards for gas, razors (men and women), backpacks, sleeping bags, pop top canned food (fruit, soups, etc.), bottled water, sustainable snacks, Tuna/chicken packets, dog food, cat food, T-Shirts (any size), men's underwear packages (new only, any size), Sweat pants (any size)

Note: New items only—no used goods! Drop them at the donation boxes. Receipts ready. Questions? Call ext. 5288. Your kindness counts!

Questions about the 16th Annual VA2K Walk & Roll?
Contact: Samuel Jun Francke, Whole Health Program Coordinator, samuel.francke@va.gov

- **Flagstaff:** May 18, 8 am, [1300 W University Ave, Flagstaff, AZ](#)
- **Anthem:** May 20, 7-7:30am, [41810 N Ventura Dr B, Anthem, AZ](#)
- **Kingman:** May 20, All Day, [2668 Hualapai Rd, Kingman, AZ](#)
- **Cottonwood:** May 21, 7 am, [501 S Willard St, Cottonwood, AZ](#)
- **Prescott:** May 21, 10am-2pm, [500 AZ-89, Prescott, AZ](#)
- **Help our homeless Veterans. Donate today!** NAVAHCS will have donation boxes set up at the events to collect items to support our homeless Veterans.

For a list of suggested donations, please click [HERE](#).



Memorial Day Ceremony

Prescott, May 25



- **When:** 11 a.m. Monday, May 25
- **Where:** Prescott National Cemetery, [500 AZ-89, Prescott, AZ](#)
- **More Info:** joshua.sisson@va.gov, 928-495-8476

[Prescott National Cemetery](#) invites the public to join them at the cemetery in honoring those who have served. The event will feature a Posting of the Colors, flag-folding ceremony, wreath presentations, and guest speakers.

Parking & Shuttle Information:

Free parking will be available at [Yavapai College's Prescott Campus](#). Shuttle service will run between the college and the cemetery.

- Shuttles begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Last shuttle to the cemetery departs at 10:30 a.m.
- Event parking signage will be posted throughout the college campus

Volunteer Opportunities:

Community members are invited to assist with placing and retrieving flags:

- **Flag Placement:** Friday, May 22 at 9:00 a.m. (parking available at cemetery for volunteers)
- **Flag Pickup:** Tuesday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m.



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

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