

VA



- Phoenix • Tucson • Prescott
- Phoenix Regional Office

STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

April 2026



Michael Welsh, MS, RD

Deputy Medical Center Director
VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



John B. Kettelle, MD

Interim Medical Center Director
VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, FACHE, CHC

Medical Center Director
VA Northern Arizona Health Care

Phoenix VA

Deputy Director Updates



Women Veterans Town Hall – Virtual Event

Women Veterans Town Hall

JOIN THE PHOENIX VA WOMEN
VETERANS' TELE-TOWN HALL

Thurs., March 12
4:30 - 5:30 PM



TOPIC: HEALTHY AGING

Phoenix VA held a Virtual Women Veterans Town Hall event, March 12, attended by more than 650 Veterans online.

The Topic for this Town Hall was Healthy Aging, and included presentations from Psychology, Nutrition, Recreation Therapy, and Community Care.





Celebrating our Certified Nurses

The Phoenix VA Health Care System celebrated Certified Nurses Day with activities to honor the professionalism, expertise, and dedication of nurses who achieve and maintain national board certification in their specialty.

The Phoenix VA joined other healthcare organizations, certification boards, educational partners, and leaders across the industry to recognize certified nurses.

This celebration is also connected with this year's upcoming Nurses Week theme, SOAR (Strengthening, Optimizing, Achieving, Rising), which reflects the growth, advancement, and excellence demonstrated through certification.



Crew of USS Arizona visits Veterans



Crewmembers from the USS Arizona (SSN-803), hosted by the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation, visited the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center on March 16.

While here, they visited residents of our newly renovated Community Living Center.

There was also a special surprise visit with Feliciano “Felix” Fortuna, a 103-year-old Veteran of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The new USS Arizona (SSN-803) will be the first U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name “Arizona” since the battleship USS Arizona (BB-39), lost at Pearl Harbor in 1941.



Phoenix VA attends the Maricopa County StandDown event on March 13.



It was an incredible day connecting with Veterans, sharing resources, and essential resources aimed at supporting stability, well being, and long-term success.

The Mobile Medical Unit was there to provide direct services to Veterans. Additionally, our team provided on-site health services, benefits help, and so much more.



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).



April 7

When: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 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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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#



April 21

When: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., 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.

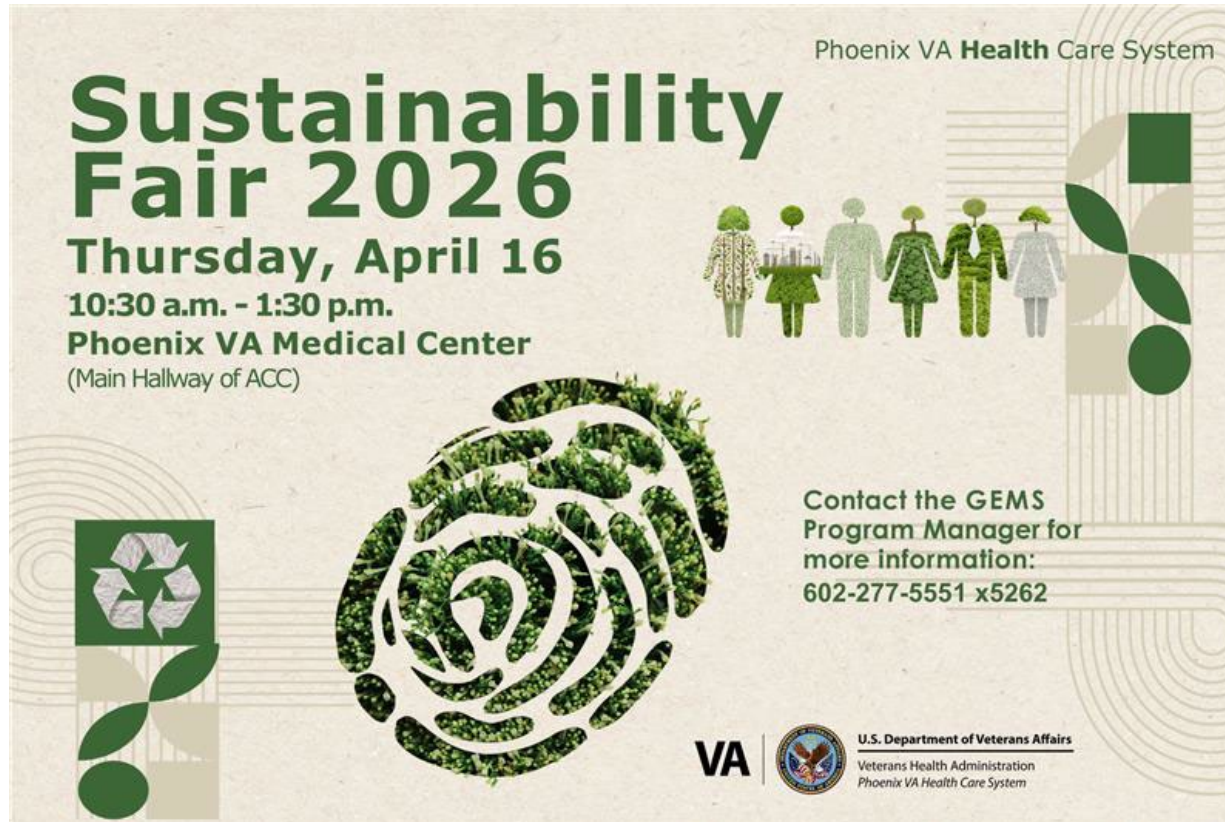
Sustainability Fair

April 16

When: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Thursday

Where: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

More Info: Contact GEMS Coordinator for more information: 602-277-5551 ext. 5262.





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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Questions?

Get Connected!

On the Web



www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media



linktr.ee/prphoenix



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We wanted to share some great news from last week's Joint Commission triennial accreditation survey. The visit went exceptionally well, and we're grateful to every member of the SAVAHCS team for helping make it such a success.

The surveyors consistently recognized the outstanding care we provide to our Veterans. Several even mentioned that they would be happy to receive their own healthcare at SAVAHCS. An incredible compliment to the dedication and professionalism of our staff.

Here are a few highlights from the survey:

- ☐ Home Health Care: No findings.
- ☐ Behavioral Health: One requirement for improvement, rated low risk and limited in scope.
- ☐ Hospital-wide: No high risk or widespread findings, along with multiple commendations for the quality of our facility and services.
- ☐ One surveyor noted that our matrix was the best they had ever seen.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for your hard work and commitment to our Veterans, and to our community partners for your ongoing support.

This successful Joint Commission visit reflects our shared efforts, the excellence you demonstrate every day, and the strong collaboration that helps us serve our Veterans with pride.



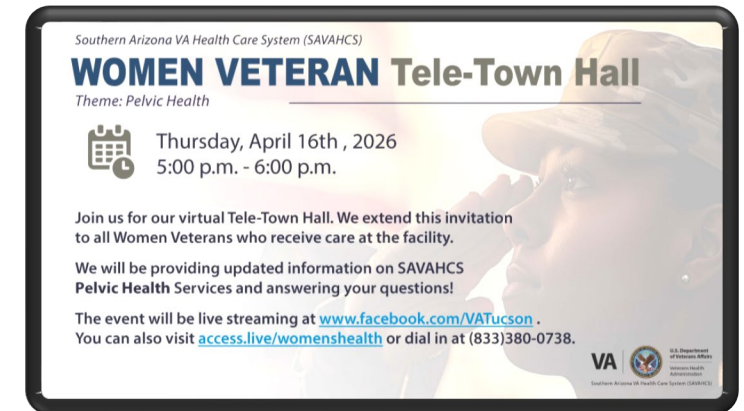
John B. Kettelle, MD

Interim Medical Center Director



Women Veteran Tele Town Hall

Join us for our virtual Tele-Town Hall on Thursday, April 16th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. We extend this invitation to all Women Veterans who receive care at the facility. We will be providing updated information on SAVAHCS Pelvic Health Services and answering your questions! The event will be live streaming at www.facebook.com/VATucson. You can also visit access.live/womenshealth or dial in at (833)380-0738.



We Rise Together Conference

Join us on Friday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This conference is a valuable opportunity to connect, learn, and grow as a community committed to safety and empowerment. Space is limited to 100 participants. Please scan the QR code below to register as soon as possible. For questions, please contact Jennifer Kirk at 520-308-2337 or Patty Valera at 520-345-3533.



SAVAHCS Quarterly Congressional, VSO, and Stakeholder Meeting

Join us on Thursday, April 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Microsoft Teams. We will be providing updates on SAVAHCS operations and VHA initiatives. Click [here](#) to join online day of event.

Meeting ID: 235 048 755 561 6 Passcode: VE7Rz3ZC

For advance questions and to RSVP, please email the Public Affairs Office at pao.savahcs@va.gov.



Jump-Start Your Engineering Career with the VA's TCF Program

The Veterans Health Administration's Technical Career Field (TCF) Program offers early-career engineers a unique chance to develop professionally while serving America's Veterans. This full-time program provides structured training, hands-on experience, and mentorship in areas like construction management, facility upgrades, maintenance, and healthcare engineering operations.

TCF positions are available at VA medical centers nationwide, and U.S. citizens from all engineering disciplines are encouraged to apply. Veterans are especially welcome.

Interested? Search "TCF, GS-801" or click this link, [USAJOBS](#) and take the first step toward a career that makes a real difference. Any questions, email Matthew.McKinley@va.gov.



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 working on installing the outer walls, interior partitions, and above ceiling utilities.





Thank you to everyone who joined us for the [SAVAHCS Fisher House 10th Anniversary Car Show and Resource Fair!](#) We had an amazing turnout of Veterans, families, caregivers, and staff who came together to celebrate a decade of supporting those who support our Veterans.

Since opening in 2016, the [SAVAHCS Fisher House](#) has welcomed more than 4,000 families at no cost, offering comfort during some of life's most challenging moments. We're incredibly grateful to our donors, partners, and everyone who helped make this celebration so special.



We are deeply grateful to [Pam Ray, National American Legion Auxiliary \(ALA\) President, Dolores Chavez, State of Arizona President, and Dawn Davidson, ALA Deputy Representative,](#) for their heartfelt visit to SAVAHCS. Their time with our Hospice Unit, Recreational Therapy, and Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center staff was truly inspiring.





We hosted our [Adaptive Sports Clinic](#), and it was an inspiring and energetic event for everyone who joined us. Veterans had the chance to try wheelchair basketball, pickleball, golf, disc golf and adaptive cycling, creating an uplifting environment focused on movement, confidence and community. We have a lot of Veterans with amputations or other limitations that make it difficult to participate in sports as an able-bodied person. Our partners with Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports brought incredible equipment and expertise to help make this day happen, giving everyone an opportunity to experience and return to an active lifestyle.



We had our [Tucson Veteran Engagement and Resource Fair](#) at the El Pueblo Activity Center. We were proud to assist more than 50 Veterans with VA resources and information, help several enroll in the VA health care system, schedule new patient appointments, and support them with new Veterans Health Identification Cards. Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) was also onsite and able to assist 18 Veterans with their benefits claims.



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!

NAVAHCS is proud to welcome Dr. Reem Haddad to its team!

Dr. Haddad comes with over 20 years of VA experience. She is board-certified in both dermatology and internal medicine, and currently serves as the lead dermatologist for VISN 22, which encompasses eight VA healthcare systems across Arizona, New Mexico and Southern California.

With Dr. Haddad's arrival, NAVAHCS is now offering in-person dermatology services.

These services include diagnosis and management of common skin conditions like acne, eczema, psoriasis, warts, rosacea, hair and nail disorders and genetic or infectious skin diseases.

It also includes skin cancer screening and treatment, such as evaluation and treatment of suspicious lesions.

If interested in these services, please speak to your Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) about setting up a consultation with Dr. Haddad.



Reem Haddad, M.D, F.A.A.D.
Dermatologist



**Applications Open on April 6
and Close on June 12**



Technical Assistance Materials to Support Applicants:

- [FY27 SSG Fox SPGP Application Guide](#)
- [FY27 NOFO Technical Assistance webinar for NEW applicants](#)
- [FY27 NOFO Technical Assistance webinar for RENEWAL applicants](#)
- FY27 Electronic Grant Management System (eGMS) guide—*coming soon!*

VA has announced the publication of the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the [Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). Through this opportunity, VA will award up to \$112 million to eligible community-based organizations that provide suicide prevention services to eligible Veterans, service members, and their families.

Eligible organizations with experience providing Veteran suicide prevention services as described in the NOFO are encouraged to apply. Please carefully review the NOFO for grant eligibility requirements, funding details, and other important information prior to applying.

Use this time before the application opens to carefully review the NOFO in its entirety, and if you believe your organization is a good candidate for this grant, give immediate attention to the Before You Begin section. Applicants will need to confirm or acquire the following - and these steps may take several weeks:

- Employment Identification Number
- System for Award Management (SAM) Active Registration
- Customer Engagement Portal Vendor File Request Submission
- Secure an ID.Me account with current organizational email—needed to access application

All applications must be submitted electronically in the electronic grant management system (eGMS). The link to the eGMS application portal will be posted here when applications open.



Free Hot Dogs for LHC Veterans

LHC, March 11



Foreign War Veterans Motorcycle Club, Big River Chapter, hosted a complimentary hot dog lunch for Veterans in the parking lot of our Lake Havasu City Clinic on Wednesday, March 11. The VSO hopes to continue hosting the gathering on a quarterly basis.

DAV Vehicle Donation

Prescott, March 18



A new DAV vehicle was donated to our facility. It will primarily serve our Flagstaff area Veterans. DAV provides rides to VA appointments at no cost to Veterans, no matter their service connection.



Vietnam War Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony

Prescott, March 27



We hosted our annual Vietnam War Veterans Day event on March 27. The event was well attended by Veterans, staff and the broader community.

Doctor's Day

March 30



Our facility celebrated Doctor's Day with signage, small gifts of appreciation for our physicians, and gratitude boards throughout our hospital on which patients could attach small notes of thanks for their care.



Bullhead City Stand Down

Bullhead City, March 6



61 Veterans attended this annual event hosted by the Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council of Mohave County. Nine Veterans enrolled in care, and three received primary care services from our mobile medical clinic.

John McCain Veterans Center Ribbon Cutting

Phoenix, March 11



Our director, Steve Sample, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Veteran-serving Axiom Care Recovery Center in Pheonix named after the late John McCain. The new facility provides comprehensive treatment, housing and recovery services for Veterans in Arizona. The McCain family attended, as did local, state and federal officials.



Hopi Tribal Council Visit

Moenkopi, March 16



We had the opportunity to meet with the new leaders of the Hopi Tribe, Chairman Lamar B. Keavama and Vice Chairman Mikah H. Kewanimptewa, along with leaders from the Village of Moenkopi and Geno Talas. During the discussion, we explored opportunities to enhance support for Hopi Veterans. We also shared our spring and summer FY26 outreach plans for the Hopi Nation.

Dilkon Medical Center Visit

Dilkon, March 16



We appreciated the opportunity to meet with leadership and tour the Dilkon facility. During our visit, we met with Virgil Davis, Chief Executive Officer of WIHCC / Dilkon Medical Center, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. White to discuss collaborative opportunities to better support Veterans in the region. We are grateful for their time, partnership, and commitment to serving their community.



Navajo Women Warriors Day of Recognition

Flagstaff, March 19



60 Veterans attended this event, 58 of whom were Navajo tribal Veteran women. The event demonstrated a significant need for accessible women's health services, particularly among Veterans who are significantly overdue for preventive screenings and specialty care. Eight Veterans enrolled in care, and nine received primary care services from our mobile medical clinic.

Verde Valley Stand Down

Camp Verde, March 25



67 Veterans attended this annual event hosted by the Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance. Ten of NAVAHCS's programs were represented by staff. Three Veterans enrolled in care, and four received primary care services from our mobile medical clinic.



Dolan Springs/Bouse/Parker

March 5-12



Combined Totals

- 49 Attendees
- 3 Enrollments/Registrations
- 2 Veteran VA Healthcare ID
- 7 Mobile Medical Appts.



Peach Springs/Kingman VFW

March 26-27



Combined Totals

- 53 Attendees
- 7 Enrollments/Registrations
- 6 Veteran VA Healthcare ID
- 17 Mobile Medical Appts.



The deployment to Peach Springs was our first time bringing services to the Hualapai Tribe. Our rural partners in the area really appreciated NAVAHCS representation and is ready for more events in the future.



Veterans Virtual Town Hall – April 15



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

VIRTUAL VETERANS Town Hall

April 15 | 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

QR Code

PatientPoint GOVERNMENT

- **WHEN:** 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15
- **WHERE:** Call 833-490 0775 or click access.live/NAVAHCS to join
- **WHAT:** This event will offer Veterans the opportunity to ask questions, discuss services available and receive helpful resources. Information will also be shared on **how to enroll and take advantage of VA health care and benefits.**

VA2K Coming in May

Optional Apparel Deadline April 12



16TH ANNUAL WALK & ROLL

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

The annual VA2K is coming to NAVAHCS in May 2026! Five of our locations are participating between May 18-21 (see flyer for details).

If interested in VA2K hats or T-shirts, please use one of the below links.

For individual items, click [HERE](#).

For group orders (minimum 24 T-shirts and/or 12 caps) click [HERE](#).

***All orders must be placed by April 12 to ensure on-time free delivery.**



Page Regional Stand Down



- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 24
- **WHERE:** Elks Lodge 2498, [806 Aqua Avenue, Page](#)
- **CONTACT:** nazveteranstanddowns@aol.com or [928-286-7446](tel:928-286-7446)

This **FREE** event allows Veterans and their families in the Page area who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to receive and stay connected to support services.

Open to all Veterans in need of the following **complimentary resources**: VA Healthcare and Benefits Assistance; Housing Support Services; Employment/Training Opportunities; Food Boxes; Counseling; Hygiene Kits; Veterans' Court; Community Services; Notary; Women Veterans Reception

Veterans: Please bring your DD-214, ID cards, Social Security cards, any court paperwork, copies of your resume, and any disability claim information.

For more information, please email nazveteranstanddowns@aol.com or call 928-286-7446.



VA Mobile Health Services Event

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Moenkopi Senior Center

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Hopi Health Care Center

Thursday, April 9, 2026
Bacavi Community Center

Times: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

This three-day event will allow Veterans an opportunity to receive direct health care services from medical staff and other VA on-site resources.

- Learn more about the VA health program.
- Enroll to begin receiving VA health benefits.
- Apply for compensation (disability) & pension claims.
- Gain information on Native American Direct Loan for homes.
- Seek VA Supportive Housing for homeless Veterans.

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

Spouses and/or Caregivers of Disabled or Elderly Veterans are invited.

Contact Hopi Veterans Services at (928) 734-3461/3462 for information.



- Moenkopi Senior Center – Tue, April 7
 - [Details](#)
- Hopi Health Care Center – Wed, April 8
 - [Details](#)
- Bacavi Community Center – Thu, April 9
 - [Details](#)

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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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