

VA



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STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

November 2025



Elijah Ditter

Medical Center Director

VA Phoenix Arizona Health Care



Maria Nguyen, MPH

Interim Medical Center Director

VA Southern Arizona Health Care



Steve Sample, MS, CHC, VHA-CM

Medical Center Director

VA Northern Arizona Health Care

Fisher House Updates



Phoenix VA Executive Leadership Team discusses clinical collaboration, resource sharing, and partnership strategies with **Luke Air Force Base**, Oct. 15.



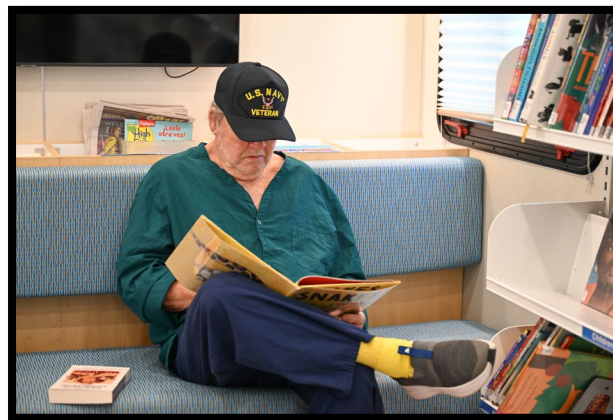
Phoenix VA celebrates **U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday** at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC, Oct. 14.

- The birthday festivities included light refreshments, a big birthday card, a video briefly highlighting the U.S. Navy's capabilities and global presence, and music.
- View Photos: <https://bit.ly/4oTSOEH>.



Phoenix VA in conjunction with the Phoenix Public Library Systems hosts its fourth **Bookmobile** event at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, Oct. 7.

- Veterans, their families, caregivers and Phoenix VA staff were able to check out books, movies, seeds, and Culture Passes from the friendly library staff aboard the Phoenix Public Library bookmobile as well as return books, get a library card, and cool off inside the bookmobile.
- The traveling library will continue to visit the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center every first Tuesday of the month.
- The next visit will be Nov. 4.



Seven **guitars and their cases** were donated to the Phoenix VA's Recreation and Creative Arts Therapy program at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, Oct. 3.



- Veterans First Ltd/Instruments for Success donated seven guitars and their cases for our Recreation and Creative Arts Therapy program here at Phoenix VA.
- Phoenix VA Recreation and Creative Arts Therapy Department offers Music Therapy services to Veterans both inpatient and outpatient. Trained music therapists use music to improve physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being.
- These guitar donations will support Creative Arts programming, where Veterans can learn guitar as one method to support self-expression and develop coping skills.
- Thanks to Stephen Bradford, Dane Hill and Gabe Forsberg for their partnership with us and their dedication to serving Veterans.

Phoenix VA conducts a **street cleanup** from 7th St to 7th Avenue in Phoenix, Oct. 25.



- More than 20 volunteers including Veterans and their families came out and participated. As a result, we collected 12 full bags of trash along the way to help beautify our community around the VA.
- Some of the volunteer groups included DAV and Veterans Affinity. Thanks to all who participated including Michael Koenig and DAV, Rick Kreiberg with Veterans Affinity, and all the Veterans, staff and families who came out to support.
- Stay tuned for the next Adopt-A-Street event.

Phoenix VA Women Veterans program hosted a **“Veterans Breast Cancer and Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Education Expo,”** on Oct. 22.



- The expo was held to inform Veterans about VA services and resources available to address breast cancer and concerns related to intimate partner violence.
- Presenters included the breast imaging team, sharing information about the risk for developing breast cancer; the Women Veterans Program, showcasing all the services that are available to women throughout the Phoenix VA Health Care System; the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program, sharing information to assist those experiencing or using IPV behaviors in their relationships; Maternity Care Coordinators showcasing lactation demonstrations; and Wigs Plus Vets, an outside vendor contracted to provide wigs to those Veterans who are undergoing chemotherapy and have experienced hair loss as a result of that therapy.



Bookmobile Phoenix, Nov. 4

BOOKS FOR VETERANS

 **NOVEMBER 4, 2025**
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!**

- **When:** 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Tuesday
- **Where:** Carl T. Hayden VAMC – ACC Entrance
- **More Info:** The Phoenix Public Library Bookmobile will be on site for Veterans, their families, and caretakers.

Veggies for Veterans Phoenix, Nov. 5

VEGGIES FOR VETS

600

bags of fresh fruits and veggies!

Nov. 5, from 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



- When: 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Wednesday
- Where: Carl T. Hayden VAMC – ACC Hallway and Drive Thru
- More Info: To distribute 600 vegetables to Veterans and their families..



VSO Mixer Phoenix, Nov. 13

- **When:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Thursday
- **Where:** Phoenix 32nd Street VA Clinic
- **More Info:** Share ideas and discuss how the Phoenix VA can strengthen Veteran outreach efforts across the valley. Your thoughts and suggestions are greatly appreciated! The event is open to current Veteran Service Organizations and those interested in partnering with Phoenix VA.

Phoenix VA Healthcare System



VSO MIXER

**Thursday, November 13
2-4 p.m.**

**Phoenix VA 32nd Street
Outpatient Clinic**

Food and drinks will be provided!

- Share ideas and discuss how the Phoenix VA can strengthen Veteran outreach efforts across the valley. Your thoughts & suggestions are greatly appreciated!
- The event is open to current VSO's and those interested in partnering with Phoenix VA.

To RSVP, please email:
prphoenix@va.gov



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

VetsGiving Phoenix, Nov. 15

- **When:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Saturday
- **Where:** Carl T. Hayden VAMC, 7th Street at VA Medical Center Entrance
- **More Info:** Family friendly Veteran event that will include Carnival Games, Live Music, A Variety Show, Bookmobile, Giveaways, Vendors, and more.



Phoenix - PVAHCS

Questions?

Get Connected!

On the Web

VA www.phoenix.va.gov

On Social Media

 linktr.ee/prphoenix



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Mr. John McPherson, has been selected to serve as the Acting SAVAHCS Assistant Director. He started on October 20, 2025. He will provide oversight for the Chaplain, Center for Development and Civic Engagement (Voluntary Services), Environmental Management Service, Supply Chain Management (Logistics), Organizational Experience Service, Medical Media, Public Affairs, Veteran Experience Office, Healthcare Technology Management (Bio-Med) and will serve as the liaison to Contracting, Information Security Office, Information Technology Service, Prosthetics Service, and Veteran Canteen Service.

Mr. McPherson began his career as a Technical Career Field (TCF) Intern at the VA Northern Indiana HCS (VANICHHS) in 2009. Mr. McPherson's leadership roles include serving as the Mobility Manager, Deputy Chief of Health Administration Service (HAS), and Group Practice Manager. In 2021, Mr. McPherson became the Chief of HAS at VANICHHS where he has also assisted as the Assistant Director, Interim Chief of Community Care and Interim Chief of HAS at the Richard L. Roudebush VAMC.

Mr. McPherson is a proud Boilermaker, receiving his undergraduate degree from Purdue University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in business administration. Mr. McPherson enjoys being outdoors and spending time with his wife and 6 children.

We welcome him, thank him for choosing to serve in this 120-day detail and in service to our Veterans.



John McPherson

Acting SAVAHCS Assistant Director

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System



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Veterans Day Activity- Coffee & Cookies

Join us on Monday, November 10 for our Veterans Day Cookies and Coffee event in the building 80 lobby from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This is our way of showing appreciation to all our Veterans who have served our country.

SAVAHCS Health Seminar

Join us for our Veteran health education seminar on Friday, November 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 4 auditorium. Come and gain valuable insights, participate in wellness activities, and hear inspiring testimonials from fellow Veterans.

To register call (520)792-1450, extension 1-2985 to leave a message with your name and date of birth.



SAVAHCS Health Fair

Join us for our Veteran Health Fair on Friday, November 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the rose garden courtyard. Veterans can visit resource tables to learn more about health care services and resources available to them.



Text message example:

Veteran Refill Reminders started 10/15/2025

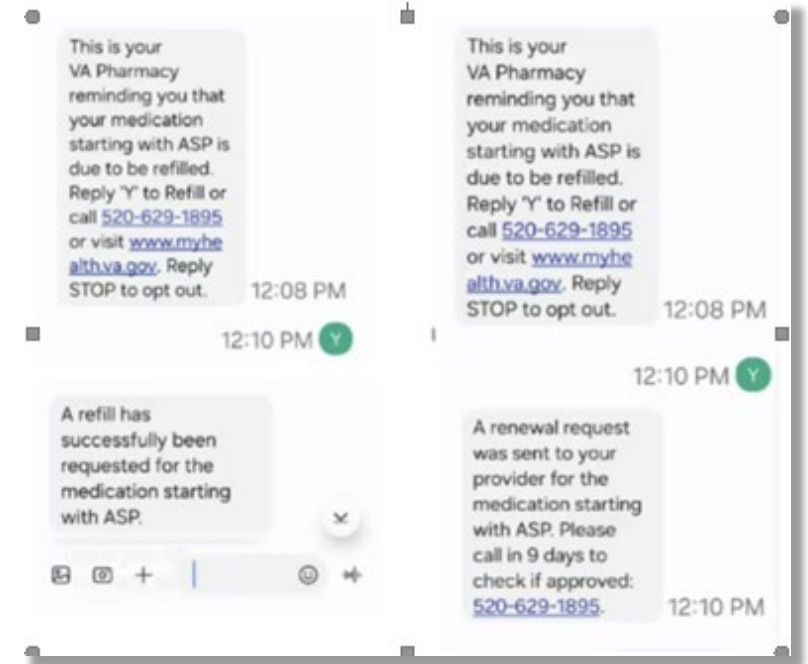
AudioCARE Prefill will send refill/renewal alert reminders to Veterans through text messaging. Phone calls will be made to Veterans without a cell phone.

Veterans can follow prompts to request medication refills/renewals

All Veterans who have a valid phone number on file will be enrolled

Veterans can opt-out of the program by replying “STOP” via text (future update will include phone call opt-out option)

Medications not included in alerts: Controlled substances, short-term medications (e.g., antibiotics, corticosteroids)



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SAVAHCS Vaccination Clinic

Vaccination Clinic

- Vaccination Table set up in Building 80 Lobby (near information desk)
 - Open 0730-1500
 - Walk in – no appointment needed
 - Flu vaccines offered to all Veterans
 - COVID vaccines offered to Veterans 65 years and older
 - 64 years and younger please contact your PACT team to discuss
- CBOCs offer walk-in flu/COVID (65+) vaccines for Veterans



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 steel structure next to the Ocotillo Clinic is up, but we have paused the rest of the steel work due to design changes. The East entrance of Building 80 will be closed until February 2026. 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 major parts of the steel structure installation are now complete. Next, the contractor will start installing the roof decking, followed by preparing the finish floor slab. Additionally, the contractor will be installing a set of double doors in the main hallway of Building 80 on November 1st and 2nd.

Mental Health Building 90 renovation project to convert the Agave clinic into a Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)-compliant layout: The Mental Health Renovation project has 95% of the walls erected for Phase 1. The General Contractor is currently running electrical and plumbing, to be completed within November. Phase 2 is expected to begin in late December and finish by March 2026.





Our outreach staff had the honor of attending the [Gila River O'odham Veteran Celebration \(OVC\)](#) Stand Down. It was a meaningful and successful day, as our staff members helped with enrollment, VA health identification card renewals, and a variety of other VA healthcare resources to Veterans, their families, and community partners in attendance.



We extend a heartfelt thank you [VFW Post 549 of Tucson Charities](#) for their generous donation of \$536 worth of ready-to-eat food items for our Homeless Clinic pantry! VFW Post 549 of Tucson Charities has been a steadfast supporter of our Veteran Programs, and we are deeply grateful.



Our outreach team had an amazing experience at the annual [Cochise County Veteran Stand Down](#), hosted by the remarkable Cochise Serving Veterans organization. We provided eligibility assistance and shared valuable resources on suicide prevention, women's health, health promotion and disease prevention.

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We had an incredible time celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at SAVAHCS. Thanks to [Wakefield Middle School and the Tucson Unified School District \(TUSD\)](#) for the fantastic performance by their mariachi band. The celebration highlighted and honored the rich cultural heritage and significant contributions of our Hispanic and Latino Veterans and communities.



[Tucson Fisher House](#) opened its doors to the community and staff in honor of Zachary Fisher's birthday, the founder of Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses across the country provide a "home away from home" for the families of Veterans receiving care.



We had the privilege of witnessing a remarkable conversation between [WWII Navy Veteran George Riccuito](#) and Retired Air Force Veteran and USS Sterett Historian Steve LeFebvre. This meeting beautifully underscored the enduring bonds of service and the importance of preserving history through personal stories. [Read more.](#)



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!

Don't let illness crash your holidays—get vaccinated today!

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are now both offered at NAVAHCS.

COVID-19 shots are available for Veterans 65+ or those with underlying health conditions listed [here](#).

Drive-thru Flu & COVID Clinic at Bob Stump VA Medical Center in Prescott:

- Mon–Fri, 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (closed federal holidays) through Dec. 5.

Flu Walk-In Clinics (For COVID-19, call before you go to confirm availability):

[Anthem](#): Wed, 1–3 p.m.

[Cottonwood](#): Tue, 1–4 p.m.

[Flagstaff](#): Wed, 1–3 p.m.

[Lake Havasu](#): Wed, 1–4 p.m.

For all other NAVAHCS locations please call to schedule an appointment. Free vaccines are also available with our community partners found [here](#).



Drive-Thru Vaccine Fort:
Parking Lot S



2025 Trail Ride and All Horse Parade

Prescott, Oct. 4



- About 60 horses passed through our campus for part of this annual event.
- Proceeds from the ride support our local Veterans.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

Prescott, Oct. 21



- We hosted a candlelight ceremony for Veterans, families, friends and staff to honor the lives lost through pregnancy and infant loss.



“Pink Out” For Breast Cancer

Prescott, Oct. 15



1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. Military women are 40% more likely to develop breast cancer. Male breast cancer accounts for less than 1% of all breast cancer cases.

“Go Purple” For Domestic Violence Awareness

Prescott, Oct. 23



“Go Purple Day” is a national day of action each October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Purple symbolizes survivors who were hurt by physical & emotional abuse but still go on to thrive and live a life free of violence.



Twin Arrows Stand Down

Flagstaff, Oct. 3



- NAVAHCS programs attended to provide resources
- Director Sample spoke about the importance of serving our rural and Tribal communities

Vets Matter Golf Tournament

Dewey, Oct. 4



- \$11,924 was donated to NAVAHCS to provide clothing to Veterans we serve.



Lake Havasu City Stand Down

Lake Havasu City, Oct. 18



- Staff from our Lake Havasu City Clinic provided resources and flu shots.
- About 65 Veterans, family members, and community members stopped by our staff's table.

Navajo County Stand Down

Holbrook, Oct. 24

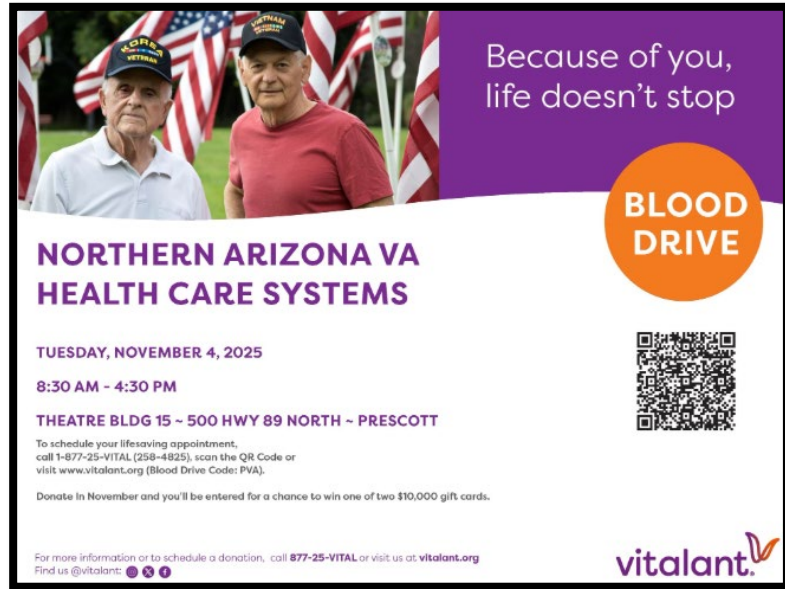


- Several of our outreach staff provided resources, including enrollment and homeless support.
- About 28 Veterans attended.



Blood Drive

Prescott, Nov. 4



Because of you,
life doesn't stop

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

**NORTHERN ARIZONA VA
HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
THEATRE 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).

Donate in November and you'll be entered for a chance to win one of two \$10,000 gift cards.

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. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4
- **Where:** Bob Stump VA Medical Center, [500 Hwy 89 North, Prescott, AZ](#) - Building 15 (Theater)
- **Appointments Encouraged:** To schedule your lifesaving appointment, call (877) 258-4825 or visit www.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: PVA)

Veteran Benefits Q&A Session

Prescott, Nov. 5



**VETERAN
BENEFITS
Q&A SESSION**

Join the Arizona Department of
Veterans' Services at an
informational session talk about VA
compensation, pension, survivors
benefits, the PACT Act and more!

- **When:** 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5
- **Where:** Prescott Resort (Prescott Room), [1500 Hwy 69, Prescott, AZ](#)
- **Contact:** 602-255-3373

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Veterans Day Parade

Prescott, Nov. 11



- **When:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11
- **Where:** Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza, [120 S Cortez St, Prescott](#)
- **Theme:** Celebrating America's Patriots – 250 Years of Military Service
- **More Info:** <https://prescott-az.gov/city-of-prescott-seeks-participants-for-2025-veterans-day-parade/>

National Diabetes Awareness Day Event

Prescott, Nov. 14



We'll have Registered Nurse Diabetes Educators and Pharmacists on hand to answer any questions Veterans may have about diabetes.

- **When:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14
- **Where:** Bob Stump VA Medical Center, [500 Hwy 89 North, Prescott, AZ](#) - Building 15 (Theater)

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Veteran Services Event

Presented By NAVAHCS and VFW Post 2357

Date: November 20th 9 am till 3 pm

Location: 45190 Hwy 72, Bouse, AZ
(33.9119, -113.9901)

- Learn about Veteran programs and services.
- Speak with Dept. of VA staff at event.
- Enroll for Veteran benefits.
- Medical appointment/services for eligible veterans.

POC: Joshua Wear, RHC 928-458-8713 / Andrew Taylor, RHC 928-237-8310

- **Bouse VFW – Thur. Nov. 20**
 - [Details](#)
- **Parker Regional Center For Border Health Clinic – Fri. Nov. 21**
 - [Details](#)

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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