

2d Vice President's Report, April 7, 2022 BOD Meeting

Program for the Memorial Service, Saturday, May 14, 2022 delivered.

Re-contact and confirmations with all supporting individuals and organizations confirming relocation of the Memorial Service Program to Rio Rancho Veterans Memorial Park. One more email blast will be sent reminding members of the event and soliciting volunteers' assistance at the Park, that are not board members, to set-up, greet, socialize, and clean-up. The script is in the works.

Our Memorial Program also will be **advertised in the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services newsletter, *The Guardian***.

The **United Veterans Council (UVC)** is coordinating and sponsoring the **Memorial Day program, Monday, May 30, 2022 at the NM Veterans Memorial Park**. Music starts at 0900 hours and the program begins at 1000 hours. There will not be a vehicle parade from Bull Head Park to the Memorial Park along Gibson Blvd. Keynote speaker is Becky Christmas, resident and rancher in Las Vegas, New Mexico, mother of Todd Christmas (USA, d. 2004), member and past president of the New Mexico Gold Star Mothers Chapter, National Executive Board member and past-national president (2028-2020) of the American Gold Star Mothers. Attended the Albuquerque Chapter MOAA Annual Meeting in October 2019.

Check ALBUMOAA MAILCALL for more information.

- **The Santa Fe VFW Post is having the Memorial Day Observation Preparation** on Friday, May 27th. Individuals, couples, and organizations will rendezvous at the Santa Fe Veterans National Cemetery after 0900 hours to receive flags to place at the headstones and columbarium across the cemetery. The distribution of over 50,000 American Flags will be made to volunteers for marking gravestones. Check ALBUMOAA MAILCALL for more information.

If there are questions concerning the event preparation at the Santa Fe Veterans National Cemetery contact me at 2ndvice@albumoaa.org or 505-271-6454 and I will assist in getting you information.

Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

Local veteran advocacy is being sought to address the VA announcement of the potential closures of rural clinics used by New Mexico, Pueblo, Tribes, and Indian Nation veterans. Clinics in Gallop, Espanola, Raton, and Las Vegas were clinics identified and recommended for potential closure in a study performed for the VA. The locations are known as CBOC's, Community Based Outpatient Clinics. Data used for the analysis was based on anecdotal articles and clinic appointments. The data results are being challenged in New Mexico based on their rural location, the lack of primary care providers, and cancelled appointments due to pandemic closures, and the lack of providers at the clinics, themselves. Push back to the VA announcement has prompted

an investigative commission to be formed to follow-up on the contract study recommendations.

When a veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care System, veterans are assigned to a primary care facility, which may be a CBOC, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), or other VHA facility type (e.g., VA Nursing Home). The intent of using CBOCs is to provide healthcare to the veteran in close proximity to the veteran's home by using community healthcare clinics. This, also, could include services provided by memorandum of agreement with First Nation Healthcare funded through the BAI.

Fairview Memorial Park

700 Yale Blvd. SE (and Avenida Cesar Chavez)
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

The original area of the cemetery was called Fairview Cemetery. It is non-perpetual care area with burials dating back to 1881. It is now a "Not for Profit" separate entity and was renamed "Historic Fairview Cemetery". This area is located on the north side with access through the perpetual care area of the cemetery. The Historic Fairview portion of the cemetery is closed to new burials.

NM DVS to Lead Multi-Agency Effort to Restore Historic Albuquerque Cemetery DVS is leading a multi-agency effort to restore the Historic Fairview Cemetery in Albuquerque—where nearly 500 veterans are buried in gravesites that, along with the rest of cemetery's 12,000 plots, have eroded to the point of needing major repairs.



DVS met with representatives from the Historic Fairview Cemetery nonprofit organization, State Historical Preservation Officer, and SBA New Mexico District Director to discuss forming a partnership to make the badly needed repairs and install landscaping at the cemetery.

Among the veterans buried at the cemetery are those who served in our nation's Civil War, and "Buffalo Soldiers"—African American members of the U.S. Army who were assigned to defend post-Civil War U.S. frontier outposts and forts, including many here in New Mexico. Other veterans buried there served in the Spanish-American War, World War I, and all war eras up until the cemetery's last burial in 2012.

If you are interested in researching and working with the NM DVS and Historic Fairview Cemetery to restore the grave stones and markers please contact the DVS public affairs to join their work parties and restoration efforts and follow announcements at their website and newsletter monthly newsletter and to receive updates on outreach clinics, events, programs, new content to our website and social media platforms, and so much more. Check The Guardian the monthly newsletter of the New Mexico Dept. of Veterans Services.