

2nd Vice President Report October 5, 2023:

Albuquerque MOAA Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, October 15, 2023 (1200 – 1500 Hours) **New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park** Conference Room. We are serving “Sliders” with catered barbeque Brisket and Chicken and a side dish salad and dessert.

Charitable Donation Organizations have been notified and invited to attend.

Debra Selisky, President, NM6 Valencia County Chapter Blue Star Mothers

Mary Jefferis, President, NM2-Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers

Tracy E. Hicks, Program Manager, Albuquerque Fisher House

Brock Wolff, Chief Executive Officer, New México Veterans

Integration Center

Lindsey Kay, CEO, Founder, Paws & Stripes, Inc.

Dave Keylon, President, New Mexico 100 Club

Veterans Day Planning for Saturday, November 11, 2023

Attached enclosure is the proposal submitted and discussed with the City of Albuquerque Veterans and Military Affairs representative, United Veterans Council, and associate organizations attending the CABQ sponsored Veterans Day event / ceremony in Albuquerque at the NM Veterans Memorial Park.

Attachment: Propose Veteran Remembrance and Honoring at Veterans Day recognition in Albuquerque, NM.

The intent of the proposal was to actually identify veterans and military units who served or lived in New Mexico during a period of national conflict as federal troops commissioned by the Congress and the Department of War.

The proposal also sets in place a progressing pattern for planning, organizing, and executing the currently planned Veterans Day event and future Veterans Day events at the NM Veterans Memorial Park.

The proposal may create a teaching opportunity to the community that will be prepared and conducted by the NM Veterans Memorial Park Foundation and CABQ to highlight the history of New Mexico veterans and military units that participated in conflicts and wars. The City of Albuquerque Veterans and Military Affairs representative will follow-up the preliminary discussion to create potential programs and organize the military associations, educational groups, and identified stake holders in Albuquerque and NM to participate.

Traveled with Vice President of the Veterans for Art to research and collect information and visual graphics and photos to create the Program of Events cover page graphic for the 2023 Veterans Day event at the NM Veterans Memorial Park. Explored the City of Las Vegas Rough Rider Museum documents and artifacts; and Explored the Fort Union National Park Museum, Visitor Center, library, and marked sites of Fort' barracks, store houses and maintenance sheds, hospital, livery stables, era photos, documents, and artifacts held by the National Park Service. (They were helpful, or just happy to have visitors who had knowledge about the Fort and its military units, and asks questions that they could expound upon.) We photographed artifacts, era photographs, tintypes, documents, and remnants of the Fort's logistic, stables, living areas, and hospital stucco walls that remain. Photo emphasis on acquiring character depictions of the veterans serving at Fort Union over time. Faces are more impactful than crumbling walls. Buffalo Soldier Troops from the 10 Cavalry Regiment served at Fort Union.

Veterans for Art has their monthly Board meeting on Saturday, October 7th. I will attend to discuss their organization members designing and creating the Program Cover page for the Veteran Remembrance and Honoring on Veterans Day at the NM Veterans Memorial Park. This becomes an annual work project for the Veterans for Art. Veterans for Art currently displays at its Art Show works designed and composed by NM Veterans in November each year at the EXPO grounds.

Regarding the sponsored Veterans Day events annually in Albuquerque at the NM Veterans Memorial, the broad aspect is member organizations of the UVCGA working together to highlight and teach the

community annually an aspect about serving as a military service veteran with a unit associated with New Mexico during a war time conflict.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 23, 2023 “Meal Train” at the VA Fisher House

I have assembled four *sous chefs* and myself to prepare Thanksgiving Dinner for those spouses, family members, and care givers of inpatient veterans at the VA Hospital. These spouses, family members, and care givers staying over the holiday weekend will do so because the veteran receiving inpatient care is not well enough to be discharged and travel back to his home to be with family for this holiday. Our MOAA Chapter will make the holiday a little brighter for those staying at the Fisher House without their families. We anticipate that there will be only a few spouses in-residence over Thanksgiving as the oncology, orthopedic, and heart clinic medical staff are off for four days and not scheduling treatments. All the more reason not to leave a veteran's spouse lonelier at the Fisher House while others are celebrating a holiday. We will build the menu around “Houck's Gringo Tamales.” Planning and organizing tasks with the volunteer members will start following the Annual Members Meeting event. The MOAA costs will be reimbursement for groceries and is expected to be less than \$100. We do not get a live trial run of our recipes. There will be no entertainment brought into the Fisher House – VA Campus rule as to potential germ-virus exposure of the spouse or care giver who then may carry the germ-virus into the VA hospital ward.

100th Birthday – Awards Presentation – POW/MIA Chapter Event

Received very nice compliments from attendees at the 100th Birthday – Awards Presentation – POW/MIA Chapter event on September 15th. Those that enjoyed the event the most were family members attending with the veterans we recognized and the friends of Al Baye. Al Baye's daughter and son-in-law attended as did the daughter and son-in-law of Bob Kemble (BG (R) USA) who presented the Atomic Veterans Commendation Medal to Al Baye. (There is nothing that makes a family prouder to be at our events

than seeing their father recognized by other veterans. This is particularly true for our spring members Memorial Service.)

We had one ex-POW attend, Bob Hudson. As a 1LT co-pilot of a B-52, his aircraft was downed over North Viet Nam in the late stages of the Viet Nam conflict, he was captured, and detained in Hanoi. Bob retired from the USAF and has served as the President of the state Air Force Association Chapter in New Mexico.

I have additionally located two additional ex-POWs living in the Albuquerque area that we can invite to our next years event. POW / MIA Day seems to be a day that we can use to hold our 100th Birthday recognition day and take the opportunity to recognized those who bravely endured and were honorable comrades to the others captured and imprisoned.

There currently are no Christmas or New Years organization sponsored events scheduled at the NM Veterans Memorial Park for December 2023.

I will explore with the VA Volunteer Services their events and needs during December in the hospital. If our “Meal Train” event goes smoothly, I may try to find another squad of *sous chefs* and return to the Fisher House.