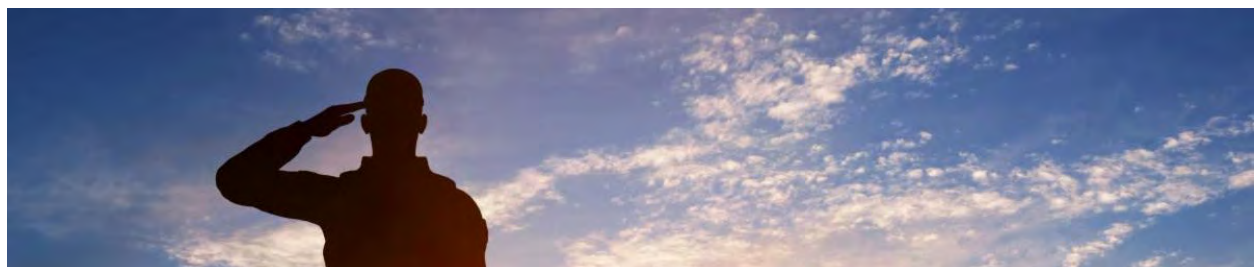


## NVTAC Monthly Newsletter: April 2023

**Monthly Newsletter**  
April 2023



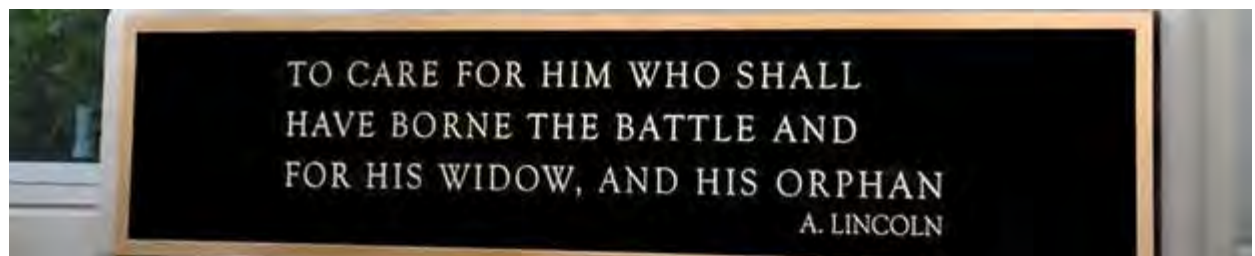
### APRIL SPOTLIGHTS



#### **New U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Mission Statement**

The VA has updated its 1959 mission statement to the following: "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors." The new mission statement removed the male pronouns and replaced them with non-gendered pronouns. "We are here to serve all Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors — and now, our mission statement reflects exactly that," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough.

[New VA Mission Statement](#)



#### **How Changing the VA's Mission Statement Benefits Female Veterans' Health**

A recent op-ed written by Andrea Renee Sandoval Rathbun, an army veteran who served as a medic, describes how the VA's new mission statement is a small step

towards improving inclusivity. The original mission statement read, "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans." This original statement "tells us [women] are bystanders in battle."

### [Motto Change Could Have a Big Impact on Female Veterans' Health](#)



## **Essential Industries Benefit from Veteran Workers**

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our essential services, from frontline workers to the trucking and cybersecurity industries. Numerous industries are still looking for skilled workers to fill in the gaps that were created due to the ramifications of the pandemic, and veterans have the skills necessary to fill those gaps.

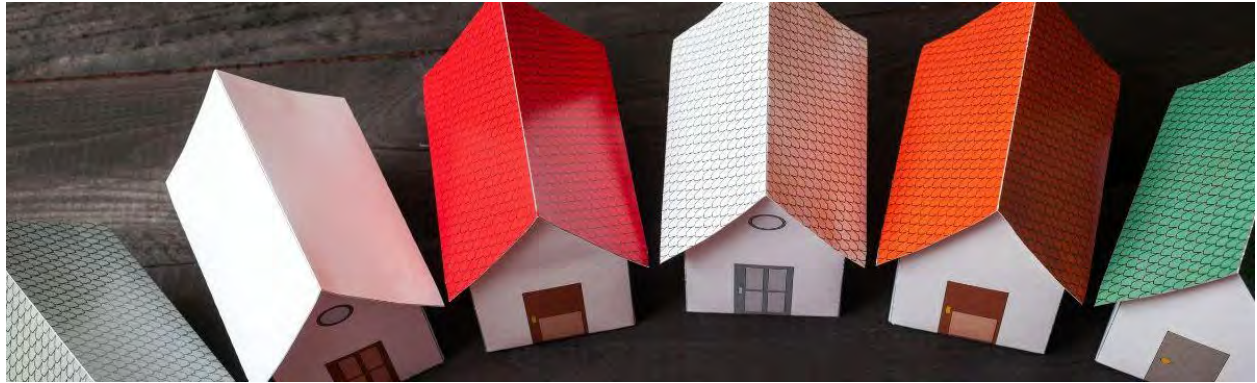
### [How Veteran Workers Benefit Industries](#)



## **\$1 Billion Reached in Grants for the National Cemetery Administration**

The [National Cemetery Administration \(NCA\)](#) has reached \$1 billion dollars in grants to states, U.S. territories, and tribes for the establishment, expansion, improvement, and maintenance of state, territorial, and tribal veterans cemeteries.

Thanks to these grants, the NCA covers the cost of the gravesite, the grave liner, the opening and closing of the grave, the government headstone or marker, the U.S. burial flag, the Presidential Memorial Certificate, and perpetual care of the gravesite. The veteran's immediate family members may also be eligible for burial.



## More Affordable Housing for Native American Veterans

The VA recently announced it was reducing the interest rate for [VA Native American Direct Loans](#) from 6 percent to 2.5 percent, making housing loans more affordable for Native American veterans. Through this program, the VA provides direct loans to Native American veterans as well as veterans who are married to Native Americans who are not veterans in order to help buy, build, or improve a home on trust land, providing limited closing costs without the need for a down payment or monthly mortgage-insurance costs.



## \$16 Billion in VA Benefits Compensation in 2022

In 2022, veterans and other claimants represented by the American Legion received [over \\$16 billion in VA benefits compensation](#). In addition, the Legion's Board of



Veterans' Appeals Unit represented more than 17,000 appellants, helping them to secure more than \$66 million in retroactive VA claims benefits.



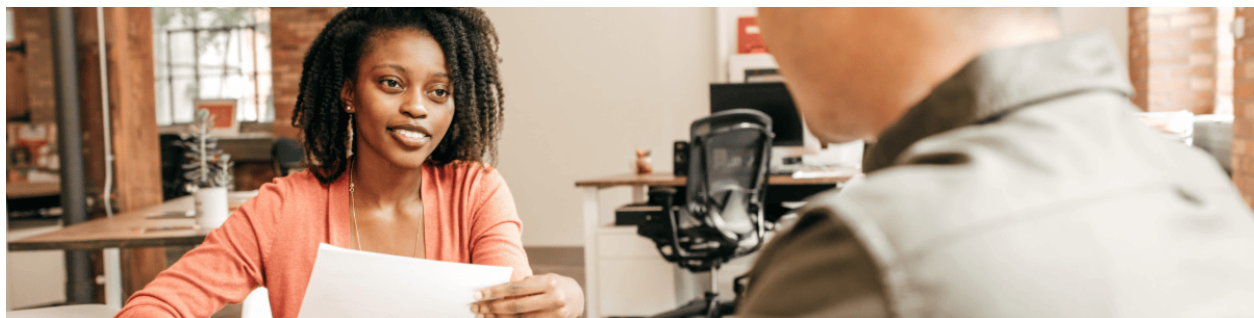
## New Phishing Scam Targeting Veterans

The Better Business Bureau discovered a phishing scam targeting veterans and their families. You receive an email or phone call informing you that you qualify for compensation for the Camp Lejeune class action lawsuit, which sought damages on behalf of individuals who were harmed by contaminated Camp Lejeune water, following exposure at the marine base for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

From here, whether by phone or computer, the scam takes several different forms. Clicking the email link could automatically download malware onto your computer or mobile device, putting you at risk for identity theft. Alternatively, the scammers may direct you to a website that asks you to fill out personal information. In yet another version of the scam, the scammers claim you need to pay an upfront fee to file your case and receive your compensation. They will continue to ask for filing fees until you become suspicious, at which point, they will disappear with your personal information and money.

[More About the Phishing Scam](#)

## SUCCESS STORY



*The following is a Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) success story of a veteran told from the grantee's perspective. The name of the veteran has been changed to protect their identity.*

## **An Employment Specialist Who Listens to the Veteran's Needs Can Make all the Difference**

When Thomas enrolled in HVRP in June of 2022, he had just been involuntarily exited from a housing program with nowhere to go. He had little hope of successfully completing another program. He was living out of his inoperable van for several weeks until another service provider placed him in a hotel for a few weeks. A pending criminal charge and marital separation contributed to the loss of his job and homelessness. During his initial conversation with his Employment Specialist, he was very vocal and expressed a lot of frustration and disappointment in his life, but his Employment Specialist was a compassionate person and a good listener, which allowed Thomas to trust them and establish a rapport. Several days following the intake, Thomas received a job offer from Amazon, and with the assistance of the service provider, he moved into his own apartment on July 8, 2022.

*Do you have a success story you would like to share? If you are a grantee who helped a veteran who is struggling with housing or employment, we would love to hear from you.*

[Submit Your Success Stories](#)

## **RESOURCES**



### **New National Veterans' Training Institute's (NVTI) Podcast Episode Coming Soon**

Keep an eye out for NVTI's latest podcast coming this May. Since May is Mental Health Awareness Month, NVTI will release the 15th episode in its podcast series, which will address burnout and secondary trauma for veteran service providers. This podcast will serve as a resource for veteran service providers who may experience burnout and secondary trauma while working with their veteran clients. Sign up on NVTI's site to

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receive notifications when this podcast, along with other great learning resources, will be released.

### [NVTI Podcasts](#)

**CYBERSECURITY &  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SECURITY AGENCY**



**AMERICA'S CYBER DEFENSE AGENCY**

## **Veteran and Military Spouse Employment Opportunities**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers [employment opportunities for qualified, eligible veterans](#), providing paths to over 53 career fields similar to jobs veterans held during their service years.

## **EVENTS**



## **Honor Flight Arizona Sends Veterans to Washington, D.C.**

[Honor Flight Arizona](#) flies World War II, Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans, who served in the U.S. armed forces from Phoenix, Arizona to Washington, D.C. at no cost to them to view their memorial. The spring schedule consists of five three-day trips, two of which have already taken place. The remaining trips will take place on April 25 – 27, May 9 – 11, and May 24 – 26, 2023.

