



THE UTAH

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

VETERANS VOICE

VETERANS.UTAH.GOV • JANUARY 2017



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WORLD WAR II/KOREAN WAR • VIETNAM WAR • COLD WAR/PEACETIME • GULF WAR/OIF/OEF • FAMILY



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Outreach, Websites, Claims Assistance, Events, and Resources



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
veterans.utah.gov

Register your information with the Veterans Information System:
uvisreg.utah.gov/vtsreg/public/Register



CLAIMS ASSISTANCE CALENDAR
veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar



COORDINATION OF VETERANS SERVICES
veterans.utah.gov/coordination-of-veteran-services

Upcoming Events — veterans.utah.gov/events-calendar

JANUARY

Friday – 20 January •
Wendover Trip
• George E Wahlen Veterans Home
Ogden, UT

Monday – 23rd & 30th January • 1600 - 1800
Marriage enrichment for combat veterans
• Vet Center 22 West Fireclay Ave. Murray,
UT

Thurs - Sat 26-28 January • 1400 - 2000
2017 Utah Senior Expo
• South Town Expo Cntr. Sandy UT

FEBRUARY

Monday – 1 February • 1000
Puppy Bowl
• George E Wahlen Veterans Home
Ogden, UT

Wednesday – 8 February • 1000 - 1400
22nd Annual Creative Arts Festival
Visual Arts Exhibit
• George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center
Bldg. 8, Multipurpose Center

Thursday – 9 February • @1400 & @ 1830

22nd Annual Creative Arts Festival
Performing Arts
• George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center
Bldg. 9, Auditorium

Friday – 10 February • 1300
22nd Annual Creative Arts Festival
Creative Writing
• George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center
Bldg. 8, Multipurpose Center

Monday – 6th & 13th February • 1600 - 1800
Marriage enrichment for combat veterans
• Vet Center 22 West Fireclay Ave. Murray,
UT

Tuesday – 14 February • 1400
Masquerade Ball
• George E Wahlen Veterans Home
Ogden, UT

Wednesday – 22 February • 1830 - 2000
Honoring Women Veterans
• Zions Founders Room
1 South Main Street, 18th Floor SLC , UT

Tuesday – 28 February • 1530
Mardi Gras
• George E Wahlen Veterans Home
Ogden, UT

MARCH

Thursday – 23 March • 1100 - 1500
Hiring Utah Heroes Job Fair
• South Towne Expo Center

Wednesday – 29 March •
Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Gary Harter, Executive Director

Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs

Happy New Year! We have enjoyed working with all of you in 2016 and look forward to even greater accomplishments and successes in 2017! As we did last year, this January edition of the Veterans Voice focuses on reflections of what occurred in the year just ended, kind of a Year-in-Review, if you will. Through the edition there are various articles and photos from many of our partners to include the U.S. Veterans Affairs, Utah National Guard, Hill Air Force Base, colleges and universities, and many others, reminding us of what has happened in the last twelve months.

First, I want to brag a little bit on a couple of 2016 events that stand-out. One of our best numbers is that the unemployment rate for veterans in Utah has hit an all-time low of 2.3%! Just a few years ago that number was over 7%, but with a terrific business community and group that came together in order to ensure veterans who were ready to work were made aware of companies that were looking for employees, success was the result. Veterans make great employees!

Secretary Robert McDonald was back in the state again in 2016 for the opening of the Veterans Wheelchair Games, which was hosted by the Salt Lake VA Medical Center. It was a tremendous event, supported by terrific companies and organizations.

The F-35 fighters stationed at Hill Air Force Base with the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings were declared combat-ready by the Air Force, the first operational units in the Air Force to achieve that distinction.

The Utah Air Guard celebrated the 70th anniversary of its formation.

Benefits received from the VA for Utah veterans now stands at over \$440 million annually, a 25% increase from just a few years ago. That is amazing!

All four of Utah's veterans nursing homes are five-star rated, which is the highest rating given, and we are the only state in the country to have all veterans homes attain that distinction.

The Department renamed the Payson Veterans Home in honor of Navy Captain Mervyn Sharp Bennion, a Medal of Honor recipient who was born in Vernon, Utah, and was killed at Pearl Harbor, the opening battle of World War II for the U.S.

We always want to remember those great veterans who passed away in 2016, stalwarts of selfless service whom we were glad to have in our formation, and the hundreds of military from Utah that are currently deployed around the globe, ensuring our freedoms and liberty.

I could go on and on, but what follows will tell it much better than me. We hope you enjoy it. 🚩

UDVMA'S Year in Review



Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus with Governor Gary R. Herbert presenting an artist's rendering of the proposed submarine USS Utah.



UDVMA Executive Director Gary Harter speaking at The Wall That Heals in West Valley City.



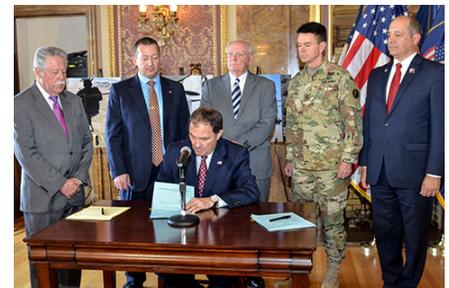
Over 100 Veterans gather for Vietnam's 50th Commemoration at The Utah State Capitol.



A Display of good sportsmanship at The National Veterans Wheelchair Games.



Flags commemorating Memorial Day placed by volunteers at The Utah Veterans Cemetery in Bluffdale, UT.



Military Appreciation Bill being signed by Governor Herbert in the Gold room at the Utah State Capitol.



13th Annual Veterans Memorial Golf Scramble held at Hubbard Memorial Golf Course at Hill Air Force Base.



U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, UDVMA and The National Ability Center held an event with Veterans.



Utah Veteran speaks at Utah Valley University's Veterans Day Event.



COL and Mrs. Jimmy Brown, Commander, Tooele Army Depot, participated in the local 4th of July parade.



The 76th Operational Response Command (ORC), Commander, Maj. Gen. Ricky L. Waddell, hosted a Utah Army Ball in celebration of the United States Army's 241st birthday.



In Nov, Governor Herbert hosted the senior military commanders in the state to a breakfast roundtable discussion on military and defense issues for the state and nation.



Dugway continues to provide critical chemical and biological agent testing for the Department of Defense, Homeland Security and first responder emergency planning and scenarios.



Training to discuss the sensitivity surrounding mental health issues and how to work with Veterans wishing to file mental health related claims through the VA.



Our Veterans Service Officers helped at our sponsored event for the Utah Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Volunteers helped Utah's homeless with hair cuts, dental care, and other benefits.



Veterans Education Summit held at Salt Lake Community College South City Campus in September.



Luncheon in honor of POW's that live within the State of Utah.



The Utah Veterans Home's hosted the National Association of State Veterans Homes in July.

TO HONOR & REMEMBER

by Erin Wynn

December 7, 2016 marked the 75th Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox attended as the official party from the State of Utah. His trip kicked off December 6th as he, along with Pearl Harbor survivors, World War II veterans and guests gathered at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, for a sunset tribute.

The USS Utah, which was moored on "Battleship Row," was struck by enemy fire on December 7, 1941 and quickly capsized. The battleship, visible only by the partially submerged hull, and the remains of many of her crewmembers, lies in Pearl Harbor to this day. The December 6th ceremony was one of the highlights of the trip for the Lt. Governor a native born Utahn. "Hearing taps played over the water was a very serene experience," he said.

Lt. Governor Cox and his wife, Abby, attended the official Commemoration ceremony on the morning of December 7th, recognizing all who died there that day, including 11 from Utah. They also attended many other events throughout the trip including the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. The parade had over 100 entries honoring veterans and their families, including the Park City High School Marching Band whom Lt. Governor Cox greeted at the conclusion of the parade at the Waikiki Shell.

The delegation met with a group of young Sea Cadets from around the country, including 16 members from Utah. They also spent time with survivors of the USS Utah and their families. The Lt. Governor met with Mary Kreigh, the twin sister of Baby Nancy, an infant who died at birth and whose father had intended to scatter her ashes at sea once the Utah left Pearl Harbor. He survived the attack, but for 60 men, and Baby Nancy, whose urn is still in her dad's locker aboard ship, the USS Utah is their final resting place.

Pearl Harbor-attack survivors who served aboard the Utah are entitled to have their cremains interred within the hull. According to the Lt. Governor, what he and Abby enjoyed most was meeting the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Listening to the vivid stories recounted by the survivors of torpedoed ships, who though in their 90s can recall the smallest details, touched the Cox Family. Overall, Lt. Governor Cox said it was an amazing couple of days. He and his wife Abby were honored to attend and represent the State at the invitation of the Governor of Hawaii and at the request of Governor Herbert. 🇺🇸





Former Navy SEAL Wins Governorship as Vets Head to Congress

In an election night that proved to be an unexpected nail-biter for the presidential race, a number of veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars found their own paths to victory. Some half-dozen fresh-faced veterans won seats in the House of Representatives by the wee hours of Wednesday morning as more remained locked in races too close to call.

To read the full article visit: <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/11/09/former-navy-seal-wins-governorship-vets-head-congress.html>

Veterans! Ready to be tobacco free? VA can help!

As soon as you stop using tobacco, the benefits begin. If you're ready to be tobacco free, your VA health care team can help. The American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout is an annual event that encourages smokers to make a plan to quit or to actually quit smoking on November 17, 2016.

To read more go to: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/32893/great-american-smokeout/>



WWII Veteran recalls Iwo Jima, the Medal of Honor & working with former prisoners of war

Hershel "Woody" Williams does not remember most of the Battle of Iwo Jima. After he took out the first pillbox, he does not remember how he returned to his station five more times over a period of four hours to retrieve serviced flamethrowers and continued to take out pillbox after pillbox. For those actions, Williams would be awarded the Medal of Honor. To read more go to: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/32822/herschel-woody-williams-recalls-iwo-jima-the-medal-of-honor-and-working-with-former-prisoners-of-war/>

Blood Pressure Study: Vietnam Era Veterans

Researchers at the Department of Veterans Affairs find both herbicide exposure and military service are associated with high blood pressure (hypertension) among Army Chemical Corps Vietnam era Veterans.

To read more go to: <http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2016/November/Research-on-Vietnam-Veterans-and-Blood-Pressure.asp>



Hiring Utah's Heroes & Utah Department of Workforce Services

DWS

by William J Greer



The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to strengthen Utah's economy by supporting the economic stability and quality of our workforce, including the state's veterans.

The department works directly with employers around the state to find qualified employees, and veterans are a hot commodity due to their experience, training and reliability.

Workforce Services works closely with veteran and community groups in the Utah Veterans and Military Employment Coalition to enable all veterans, especially those who have become disabled, to obtain sustainable employment. Over the last two years, Workforce Services and the coalition helped reduce the veteran unemployment rate to less than the statewide unemployment rate, which was 2.3 percent in December 2016. Two years ago, the veteran unemployment rate was nearly double the state's rate.

Now the focus is assisting all veterans to get better and more sustainable jobs. Veteran job fairs around the state in 2016 supported this effort, including events in Layton, Sandy & Provo. More are planned for next year. 🚩



Photos from Hiring Utah's Heroes Employment Fair





American Red Cross

The American Red Cross, Service to Armed Forces (SAF), is a program that is designed to support our military communities through the SAF Continuum of Care, from the time someone enlists in the United States military, to when they transition out into the civilian workforce, and also when they need to be seen at VA facilities and so forth. SAF is there every step of the way. SAF offers education (outreach and briefings), information, and referral.

Through our Education efforts, SAF is continuously seeking opportunities to provide outreach and briefings through many activities, to include Yellow Ribbon Events for Guard and Reserve components, Pre-Deployment briefings for active duty military, resource fairs, community partner events, and so on.

SAF information and referral helps service members, veterans, Department of Defense personnel (overseas), and their families with identifying their needs, providing general or specific information about useful resources and offering referrals to an organization that may assist them. Information and Referral also involves building and maintaining relationships with partner organizations in the community in order to meet needs that are not within the mission and programs of the American Red Cross. SAF strives to connect with local resources throughout the state to provide adequate assistance on an as-needed basis.

Please contact the American Red Cross, Service to Armed Forces, if you are in need of assistance or have any questions about the program.

Danielle Dao, Service to Armed Forces Manager

American Red Cross, Utah and Nevada Region

danielle.dao@redcross.org
 (801) 694-9156



DIXIE STATE



Active and inactive Uniformed Service Members crowded Dixie State University's campus for the Veterans Day Event on November 11, 2016.



The Unveiling of Dixie State University's new Veterans Memorial.



Completely paid for by donations and volunteer services, Dixie State University's Veterans Club made and dedicated this Memorial to all Veterans and their families.



Dixie State University's brand new Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 11, 2016 by the DSU Veterans Club.

SUU



The SUU Veterans Center paired up with Dixie Mountain Bike Trails Association for the opportunity to increase the number of trails in our local area.



The Student Veteran Association chapter hosted a Veterans Day Banquet with local support from the community for the Veterans.



SUU sponsored a team of student veterans to participate in the first skeet shooting competition held by Cedar City Marine Corps League Detachment #1315.



The Veterans Center hosted a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor veterans of all branches. This event was attended by Veterans from many eras.



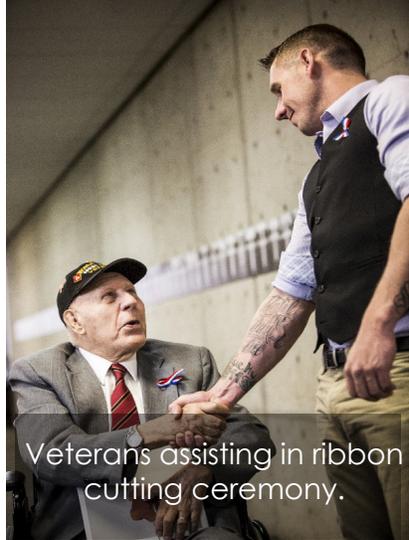
Tom Melville spoke at the Veterans Day event.



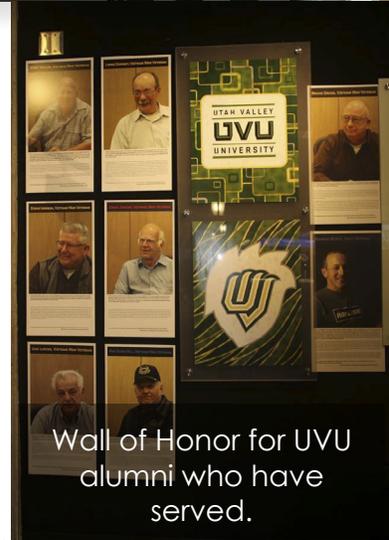
Utah Honor Flight came to visit, have breakfast, and tell stories.



UVU students signing a flag for deployed troops.



Veterans assisting in ribbon cutting ceremony.



Wall of Honor for UVU alumni who have served.

Salt Lake Community College



Photo gallery of students who have served since 9/11.



Volunteers pass out Valentines to Veteran patients at the VA Hospital, Nursing homes.



Veteran Graduates received a medallion and an honor cord to add to their regalia.

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration



The State of Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs was honored to hold, in conjunction with our many partners, an event to pay tribute to all Vietnam Veterans on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.



We want to give thanks for sacrifices made and recognize the values of all those who served during the Vietnam War time period.



For all Vietnam Veterans that live in or around the Salt Lake area please feel free to come in and pick up a free copy of the Utah's 50th Anniversary Commemoration Book and documentary called "Long Journey Home" at:



550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

If you are unable to come into the Salt Lake area for the Book and Documentary, please attend an event for distribution of the book. Or, you can visit our website for locations at: <https://veterans.utah.gov/book/>



Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal



On December 14th 2016, The State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, in conjunction with the Republic of Korea, hosted a ceremony celebrating the Veterans of the Korean war conflict.

Consul General, Shin Chae-Hyun of the Republic of Korea, and Korean women dressed in their traditional costumes presented medals to Veterans and their families. This was one of many ceremonies that has taken place in the State of Utah.



The Consul General spoke of the dedication and honor with which these Veterans have served. Their sacrifices have helped the Republic of Korea become an economic force in the world. This was one of hopefully many more ceremonies to take place so all veterans of the Korean conflict and their family members can be recognized.



For more information on the medal and to receive recognition please see Frequently asked question in this edition of the newsletter. 🚩



GEORGE E WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME



Each year across the nation, wreaths are laid in remembrance of our veterans. The GEWOVH has been a site for the "Wreaths Across America" since it's opening.



The Father's Day event was a dinner for all fathers in the veterans home. The country band "Hired Guns" played for them.



The parade was the first annual veterans day parade at the GEWOVH. Mrs. Melba Wahlen was the grand marshal.



The four state officers and Dennis McFall received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Leadership.

MERVYN SHARP BENNION CENTRAL UTAH VETERANS HOME



Veterans Day 5k/1 mile fun run/walk. Local high school students (including the JROTC) pushed some veterans on the 1 mile walk course.



Resident Bob Prinselaar receives a comfort quilt and is honored by the Sun River Chapter of the American Legion.



Nate Boyer was the guest speaker for Patriot Day. Here he is talking with the new Southern Utah Veterans Home State Officer Tony Moore.



We were honored to host a Veterans Day Program here at our Payson Nursing home.

SOUTHERN UTAH VETERANS HOME



Stan Snow 5k Walk Run roll in partnership with Santa Clara/Ivins Schools - Connecting with Veterans Service Project.



Veterans enjoyed looking at all the vintage cars displayed at the Southern Utah Veterans Home car show.



The Utah astronomy club helping to show veterans spots on the sun through a telescope.



William "Bill" Toole being honored for his years of service to the Devil Pups.

SALT LAKE VETERANS HOME



Our therapy kangaroo, Charlie, became a media star after being named the Utah Red Cross Animal Hero of the Year. Here he enjoys snuggling with Marine Dotty Lee.



Our veterans regularly go on outings to beautiful and interesting locations. Here they are visiting Snowbird on a beautiful summer day.



Governor Herbert was our guest speaker at this year's Memorial Day service. After the ceremony, he visited with all of our veterans. Here he is greeting Clair Davenport and his family.



Each summer the Salt Lake Veterans Home hosts an exciting blue grass music festival to let local bands perform and compete. The residents love the foot stompin' music.

HAFB



Kelly D. Capener (center) accepts the guidon from Brig. Gen. Steve Bleymaier, Ogden Air Logistics Complex commander, during a 309th Software Maintenance Group change of leadership ceremony July 29, 2016, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Capener assumed leadership of the group from Karl G. Rogers (right). (U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)



Brig. Gen. Steven J. Bleymaier, Ogden Air Logistics Complex commander, and Airman Adam Hornback, 75th Comptroller Squadron, cut the ceremonial birthday cake during the 2016 Air Force Ball at the Davis Convention Center, Layton, Utah, Sept. 16, 2016. It is tradition for the cake to be cut by the highest-ranking officer and the most junior-ranking Airman in attendance. (U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Gaither, 75th Air Base Wing command chief master sergeant, and his spouse, Lee, participate in his retirement ceremony Sept. 30 at the Hill Aerospace Museum. Gaither joined the Air Force in 1988 and served at numerous bases in the United States and overseas. (U.S. Air Force photo by R. Nial Bradshaw)



Airmen assigned to the 34th Aircraft Maintenance Unit and 75th Logistics Readiness Squadron perform hot refueling operations on an F-35 Lightning II fighter jet Nov. 8 at Hill Air Force Base. Hot pits operations allow for a faster refueling process since the pilot does not have to shut down the aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Cromar)



Utah, Lockheed Martin, Hill Air Force Base and other officials participate in a groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 2 at the base. The new, 75,000 square-foot office building is expected to be completed in late summer 2017 and will be leased by defense contractor Lockheed Martin and other tenants. The new building is part of the ongoing Enhanced Use Lease Program at Hill AFB, one of the largest projects of its kind in the Department of Defense. (U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Cromar) 🇺🇸

UNG



The Utah Guard continued to support our nation's freedoms. Our trained and ready Soldiers and Airmen continue to play a vital role in our nation's defense and homeland disaster response.



In 2016 Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken Jones of 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, took flight for the last time Jan. 29th. Utah Army and Air Guardsmen with the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, trained in a multi-agency, chemical-response-training exercise at Lakeview Hospital in Bountiful.



Utah Guard's 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment, or MCP-OD, federalized April 2016. Utah Guard's 65th Field Artillery Brigade rocked the small town of Guernsey, Wyoming, when more than 1,300 service members, 57 tracked vehicles, and 432 wheeled vehicles from six states converged for OPERATION GUNSMOKE.



This year members of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade enhanced their engineering warfighting skills during their brigade annual training event while improving Utah's Strawberry Reservoir.



The 151st Air Refueling Wing said goodbye to Brig. Gen. David Fountain for his many years of leadership, and welcomed Brig. Gen. Christine Burcke to the fold as the Utah Guard's first female general officer.

Utah Guard Army Aviation contributed to the wildland firefight at Box Canyon dropping water from the Blackhawk helicopter.

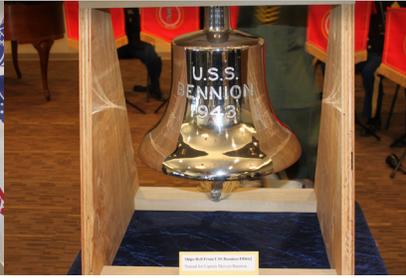
The Utah Guard experienced another significant leadership change in 2016 with the Army Land Component change of command in November when Brig. Gen. Val Peterson, culminating a 32-year military career, handed the reigns of command to newly promoted Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher.

Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert presented Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath with the Utah Cross in the Capitol Gold Room to honor him for actions of bravery and fortitude.

We look forward to future accomplishments. 🇺🇸



Renaming Ceremony of Payson Veterans Home



PAYSON – The State of Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs marked the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor by naming the Central Utah Veterans Home for a World War II Medal of Honor Recipient – Mervyn S. Bennion. Bennion was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor, as commanding officer of the USS West Virginia, which ultimately cost him his life.

Members of the Bennion family, along with representatives from the State of Utah, the United States Navy and the Payson community were in attendance at the event at 2:00 on December 7th at the Central Utah Veterans Home.

Captain Mervyn S. Bennion, U.S. Navy received his Medal of Honor for “conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and complete disregard of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor,” according to the citation of the award.

The Payson Veterans Home is a skilled nursing facility that opened in 2013 and can accommodate 108 residents. Avalon Healthcare operates the home under contract with the State of Utah. Utah has four veterans homes (Ogden, Salt Lake, Payson and Ivins) and all are five star rated, the only state in the national that has all of their veterans home with the top rating.

Executive Director of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Gary Harter stated, “We are privileged to name the Central Utah Veterans Home in honor of Captain Bennion, a true American hero who gave his life in service to our country. It speaks volumes to all who live here, the community and our great state.” 🇺🇸



The R&R Program: A New Option for Utah Service Members and Veterans With PTSD

By Dr. Craig Bryan

The University of Utah's National Center for Veterans Studies (NCVS) has created a new treatment option for service members and veterans struggling with PTSD: the R&R Program. Developed in partnership with the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah, the R&R Program is a two-week, family-oriented program that provides state-of-the-art treatment for PTSD in a relaxing retreat setting. During the course of the program, veterans participate in an individual cognitive processing therapy (CPT) every morning with an NCVS psychologist.

Each afternoon, veterans and family members participate in the many recreational activities available at the National Ability Center: hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, and much more. Veterans and family members also participate in classes focused on improving sleep and reducing anxiety. When needed, spouses and other family members can meet with NCVS psychologists as well for treatment.

CPT is one of only two treatments recommended by the Institute of Medicine, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense for PTSD. The treatment's high success rate has been carried over to the R&R Program as well: over 70% of program participants to date fully recover from PTSD during the two-week program. Because the R&R Program is supported by grants, donations, and volunteers, veterans and family members can participate at no cost.

The next R&R Program dates are January 12-25, 2017, and April 23-May 6, 2017. Service members and veterans struggling with PTSD who are interested in attending with their families should contact Mira Reynolds at ncvs@utah.edu or 801-57-7978 for more information.

Read more about the R&R Program online at <http://tinyurl.com/randrprogram> and watch a video testimonial from program alumni at <http://tinyurl.com/randralumni>. 



VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System FY 16 Data

UNIQUE PATIENTS

 **57,266**

 an increase of 1,420 from FY 14

 **OUTPATIENT VISITS**
685,269

an increase of 50,697 over FY 14 

COMPLETED APPOINTMENTS = Average Wait Times for Established Patients at the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center

Primary Care: **4.7** days

Specialty Care: **6.4** days

Mental Health: **2.8** days



OEF/OIF/OND/GWOT VETERAN ENROLLMENT

22,454 Veterans — 4,593 are female

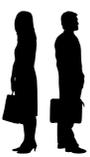
Salt Lake City VA Regional Office

25,841 Utah Veterans receiving compensation and pension

\$440 million paid annually



SALT LAKE CITY VETERANS BY SERVICE PERIOD
(Vet Pop. 9/15)

12,000 female  **151,000** male

SLC VSC (UTAH VETERANS)

Claims backlog (>125 days)  **95%** since 4/13 (9,471 to 496)

Percentage of Backlog (of total inventory)  **75.8% to 20%**

Average Days Pending  **51%** (165 days to 84 days)

Improved accuracy/quality  **82% to 98%** past 2 years



VOC. REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

1,048 Veterans enrolled

\$127 million in VR&E benefits paid

VSOC locations – U of U and SLCC

Out-based VR&E Offices located in
Ogden and St. George

SLC NATIONAL CALL CENTER (NCC)

Average of **2,263** calls daily



Dept. of Veteran and Military Affairs



VETS IN UTAH



7,030

WWII Veterans



14,253

Korean Veterans



46,268

Vietnam Veterans



33,102

Cold War/Peacetime Veterans



56,814

Current Conflict Veterans

9% female



91% male

Total Veterans in Utah
FY 2015

151,719

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS - Total Annual Economic Impact 2015

\$4.6 billion

Hill Air Force Base
• 20,000 personnel
• 48,000 supported jobs



\$225 million

Dugway Proving Ground
• 1,500 personnel
• 2500 supported jobs

\$114 million

Tooele Army Depot
• 550 personnel
• 1,100 supported jobs



VA HEALTHCARE DATA

VA compensation and pension increase • State of Utah

\$351,000,000

FY2013

\$440,000,000

FY2015

25%
FY2015

34,062

unique patients

57,373

enrolled patients

EMPLOYMENT



1,514

Nov. 2015

1,802

Nov. 2016

Unemployment rate
for veterans:

2.3%

Dec. 2016



668

Nov. 2015

669

Nov. 2016

Veterans on UI

EDUCATION



7,916

of Vets

540

of Family
Members Utilizing

95

of Institutions

CEMETERY

368

Veterans

40

Family



47%

Increase



VETERANS' HOMES (Residents January 2016)

363

Veterans

45

Family

408

Total

98%

Occupancy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL?

To have your name submitted to the Republic of Korea for receipt of the South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal, complete the form found on our website (<https://uvisreg.utah.gov/vtsreg/public/Register>) and e-mail or mail a copy of your DD-214 (Release from Active Duty Service Document) showing your service in the Korean Conflict to 550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105 Salt Lake City, Utah 84113.

Please include a short note indicating that you would like to be placed on the list to receive the South Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF MY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CLAIM?

There are several ways to check the status for VA disability claims. You can check online using an eBenefits account: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>, or you can go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you.

The Salt Lake Regional Office located at 550 Foothill Drive Salt Lake City Utah. You can also call the VA toll free at 1-800-827-1000.

HOW DO I CREATE MY EBENEFITS ACCOUNT?

You can register for an eBenefits account online using the eBenefits DS Logon

Account Registration Wizard. You will be walked through a series of questions to assist you in obtaining a Premium eBenefits Account, which gives you the highest level of access to eBenefits features.

To get a Premium eBenefits Account, you must verify your identity. Many people will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. Service members may verify their identity online by using their Common Access Card (CAC).

Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. For those unable to verify their identity online, you will instantly receive a Basic Account. However, Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling 1-800-827-1000 and selecting option 7.

My HealtheVet users with a DS Logon may use their secure identity to access eBenefits. Others may need to visit a VA Regional Office or TRICARE Service Center to have their identities verified in person.

HOW CAN I CONTACT THE UTAH NATIONAL GUARD HEADQUARTERS?

Utah National Guard Headquarters

12953 South Minuteman Drive, Draper, Utah 84020

Phone: 801 432-4400 

ZIONS BANCORPORATION



Because We Haven't Forgotten Our Veterans

Zions Bancorporation and its employees are proud to consider themselves among the best banks for the military community. In 2011, Zions launched the Military Internship Program which has been very successful in helping veterans find full time employment. The program has placed 100 % of its 64 participants, 32 within Zions Bancorporation and the rest with one of our partner companies.

Interns have been placed in different areas of the bank including Human Resources, Commercial Lending, National Real Estate, Treasury Management, International Banking, Risk Management, Interactive Marketing, Retail, Corporate Finance, Credit Admin, IT Support, Compliance, Fraud, etc. Our goal for each intern is to have the tools to find a great position with the bank or with another Utah employer. We do this by offering:

- Paid internships
- Work experience to enhance resumes
- Banking education
- Mentors
- Access to senior management
- Support from Military Relations Group
- Job search education and assistance
- Access to hiring officials from other area businesses
- Networking opportunities
- Community involvement

The Zions Bank team also provides career advice for guardsmen and reservists as well as bank employees interested in military careers. It has developed a military forum to help military and veteran employees with professional development. Employees also help identify outside benefits and resources for veteran and military employees and their family members.

For more information, please contact:

Margarita Angelo at margarita.angelo@zionsbank.com

UTAH'S GOT YOUR SIX USE YOUR Benefits



veterans.utah.gov

• EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • EMPLOYMENT • SUPPORT



VETERANS TEACHING GOOD CITIZENSHIP
By Paula Stephenson

The American Legion, as a Veterans Service Organization, operates on four pillars: 1. Support of the military and veterans, 2. Teaching Americanism, 3. Supporting our Youth and Communities, 4. Assuring a strong National Security. Two premier programs the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have for our Youth are The American Legion Utah Boys State Program, and The American Legion Auxiliary Utah Girls State Program. These programs take place in forty-nine states (less Hawaii) through the American Legion.

Utah Boys and Girls State is a one-week, on campus program run by The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary at Weber State University each June. Three semester hours in Political Science are awarded upon completion, and scholarships awarded at the end of each program exceeded \$2.8 million in 2017. The program teaches hands on about America's form of government, starting at the city, county, and state levels, with two students elected to each Boys Nation and Girls Nation as Senators, spending one week in Washington, DC representing Utah and learning the national level of government.

High school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one senior semester to complete are eligible. Interested students should contact their school counselors and may go to www.weber.edu/utahboysstate or www.weber.edu/utahgirlsstate. Class dates for Utah Girls State is June 5-10, 2017 and Utah Boys State is June 12-16, 2017. 🇺🇸



Outreach Calendar

A Veterans Service Officer (VSO) is scheduled to be at the location on the day and time indicated. Be advised that unforeseen events may cause the VSO to cancel or change a visit. Please verify this by calling the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (UDVMA) at 801-326-2372 or by visiting the UDVMA website: <http://veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar/>.

January 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
2 • New Years Day Observed	3 • Cedar City 0900 - 1200 • Price 1000 - 1500	4 • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1000 • Provo 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900- 1500 • Farmington 11:30 - 1230 • Manti 1000 - 1400 • Clearfield 1300 - 1400	5 • Logan 0800 - 1000 • St. George 0900 - 1200 • Fillmore 0900 - 1100 • USU 1000 - 1500 • Ogden 1100 - 1600 • Delta 1400 -1600
9 • Payson 0900 - 1300 • Beaver 0900 - 1600 • Panguitch 1130 - 1230 • Kanab 1400 - 1500	10 • Roosevelt 1000 - 1430	11 • Payson 0900 - 1500 • Provo Vet Ctr. 0830 - 1500 • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Richfield 0930 - 1130	12 • Ogden WVH 0800 - 1600 (appt. required) • Ivins 0900 - 1500
16 • Martin Luther King Day	17 • Cedar City 0900 - 1200 • Price 1000 - 1500	18 • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1100 • Provo 0830 - 1500 • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Payson Veterans Home 0900 - 1500 • SLCC 0930 - 1600 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Clearfield 1300 - 1400	19 • Logan 0800 - 1000 • St. George 0900 - 1400 • Fillmore 0900 -1100 • Ivins 0930 - 1500 • Povo Courthouse 1000 -1500 • Ogden Veterans Home 1100 - 1600 • Delta 1400 - 1600
23 • Payson 0900 - 1300	24 • Dixie State University 1300 - 1700	25 • Provo Vet Center 0830 - 1500 • Payson Veterans Home 0900 - 1500 (appt. required) • SUU 0900 - 1500 • Richfield 0930 - 1130 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Clearfield 1300 - 1400	26 • Ogden VH 0800 - 1600
30 • Payson 0900 - 1300	31		

Addresses per location are listed on pages 16 and 17...

Outreach Calendar Continued...



A Veterans Service Officer (VSO) is scheduled to be at the location on the day and time indicated. Be advised that unforeseen events may cause the VSO to cancel or change a visit. Please verify this by calling the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (UDVMA) at 801-326-2372 or by visiting the UDVMA website: <http://veterans.utah.gov/outreach-calendar/>.

February 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
		1 • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1000 • Provo vet ctrn 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900 - 1500 • Richfield 0930 - 1130 • DWS Manti 1000 - 1400 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Tooele DWS 1330 - 1500 • Clearfield 1300 - 1530	2 • Logan 0800 - 1000 • Fillmore 0900 - 1100 • USU 1000 - 1500 • Ogden 1100 - 1600 • Delta 1400 - 1600
6 • Payson 0900 - 1300 • Ivins 0900 - 1500	7 • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Cedar City 0900 - 1400 • Price 1000 - 1500	8 • Provo Vet Cnter 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900 - 1500 • Tooele DWS 1330 - 1500	9 • Ogden WVH 0800 - 1600 (appt. required) • St. George 0900 - 1200
13 • Payson 0900 - 1300 • Beaver 0900 - 1000 • Panguitch 1130 - 1230 • Kanab 1400 - 1600	14 • Roosevelt 1000 - 1430	15 • Ogden 0800 - 1000 • Provo Vet Cnter 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900 - 1500 • Richfield 0930 - 1130 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Clearfield 1300 - 1530	16 • Logan 0800 - 1000 • Fillmore 0900 - 1500 • Provo Courthouse 1000 - 1500 • Ogden Veterans Home 1100 - 1600 • Delta 1400 - 1600
20 • Presidents Day	21 • Cedar City 0900 - 1300 • Price 1000 - 1500	22 • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1100 • Provo vet ctrn 0830 - 1500 • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Payson Veterans Home 0900 - 1500 (appt. required) • SLCC 0930 - 1600 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Clearfield 1300 - 1400	23 • Ogden WVH 0800 - 1600 (appt. required) • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • St. George 0900 - 1200
27 • Payson 0900 - 1300	28		*ATTN: Tooele DWS 1330 - 1500 Will be held every 3rd Friday of the month.

ADDRESSES:

- Beaver (875 North Main St.)
- Cedar City (176 East 2nd North)
- Clearfield (1290 East 1450 South)
- Farmington (28 East State St.)

- Fillmore (75 West Center St.)
- Hill AFB (RAO, Building 430)
- Kanab (468 East 300 South)
- Logan (180 North 100 West)
- Ogden DWS (480 27th Street)

- Ogden Wahlen Veterans Home (1102 North 1200 West)
- Panguitch (665 North Main St.)
- Price (475 West Price River Dr.)
- Provo Courthouse (51 South

- University Ave.)
- Provo Vet Center (1807 N. 1120 W.)
- Richfield (115 East 100 South)
- Roosevelt (140 West 425 South)
- St. George (162 North 200 East)

The George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home, the Central Utah Veterans Home – Payson, and the Southern Utah Veterans Home – Ivins require appointments. Call:

Wahlen: 801-326-2372
 Ivins: 435-634-5220
 Payson: 801-465-5400

March 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
		1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1000 • Provo Vet Cntr 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900- 1500 • Richfield 0930 - 1130 • Farmington 11:30 - 1230 • DWS Manti 1000 - 1400 • Clearfield 1300 - 1400 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan 0800 - 1000 • Fillmore 0900 - 1100 • USU 1000 - 1500 • Ogden 1100 – 1600 • Delta 1400 - 1600
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Payson 0900 - 1300 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivins 0900 – 1500 • Cedar City 0900 - 1200 • Price Outreach 1000 - 1500 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payson 0900 – 1500 • Provo Vet Ctr. 0830 – 1500 • Tooele DWS 1330 - 1500 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden WVH 0800 – 1600 (appt. required) • St George 0900 - 1300
13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payson 0900 - 1300 • Beaver 0900 - 1000 • Panguitch 1130 - 1230 • Kanab 1400 - 1500 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosevelt Outreach 1000 - 1430 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden DWS 0800 - 1100 • Provo vet cntr 0830 - 1500 • Payson Veterans Home 0900 – 1500 • Farmington 1130 – 1230 • Clearfield 1300 – 1400 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logan 0800 - 1000 • Ivins 0900 - 1500 • Fillmore 0900 - 1100 • Provo Courthouse 1000 - 1500 • Ogden Veterans Home 1100 - 1600 • Delta 1400 - 1600
20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payson 0900 - 1300 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cedar City 0900 - 1400 • Price 1000 - 1500 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden 0800 - 1000 • Provo Vet Center 0830 - 1500 • Payson Veterans Home 0900 – 1500 (appt. required) • Richfield 0930 - 1130 • Farmington 1130 - 1230 • Clearfield 1300 - 1500 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden 0800 - 1600 • St. George 0900 - 1200
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payson 0900 - 1300 	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provo Vet Center 0830 - 1500 • Payson 0900 - 1500 • SLCC 0930 - 1600 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ogden 0800 - 1600

• Tooele DWS Center (305 N Main St #100)

* **ATTN:** Tooele DWS 1330 - 1500
 Will be held every 3rd Friday of the month.



THE UTAH

VETERANS VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105 - Salt Lake City, UT 84113
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2372
<https://veterans.utah.gov>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Benefits Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
1 (800) 827-1000

VA Salt Lake City Health Care System
George E. Wahlen Veterans Affairs Medical Center
500 Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 582-1565
<http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov>

American Legion Service Office
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2380

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2471

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113
(801) 326-2385

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4536

Utah National Guard
Bart Davis, Transition Assistance
12953 South Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020
(801) 432-4937

U.S. Department of Labor
Veterans Employment and Training Service
140 East 200 South, Suite 209
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 524-5703