

GENERAL WILLIAM STARK ROSECRANS | VFW POST 3261

It's not the dues you paid to be a member, it's the price you paid to be eligible.

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Post Commander James "Jimmy C" Carradine



Dedicated volunteers and donors load trucks in the rain.

Recent storms have created havoc for residents throughout California. I encourage you to check out the Ready LA County website at

<https://ready.lacounty.gov/rain/>, which provides a host of tools and information, emergency survival tips, and much more to help us all stay safe.

Rotary District 5280 (Carson-Gardena-Dominguez) recently held their annual Camp Pendleton Collection in our Post parking lot. The collection drive supports Marine families throughout the country, including 10,000 children under the age of five and more than 160 babies born each month. The items collected included diapers, toys, bathtubs and \$25 Target and Walmart gift cards.



VFW Post 3261 Officers Jr. Vice Commander/ Service Officer Larry "Skip" Anglin and 1st Year Trustee Robert J. Galda presented a \$200 Target/ Walmart gift to Glenn Mitchell, Rotary District 5280 Sergeant-at-Arms.

CANTEEN
 Open Monday—Sunday
 2 — 10 PM



BINGO WEDNESDAY
 Open @ 4:30 PM
 Starts @ 6:30 PM
Menu:

Hot Dogs | Hamburgers
 Cheese Toast | Patty Melt
 Taco Salad | French Fries
 Desserts: Brownies &
 Pineapple Upside
 Down Cake

**RENT THE HALL FOR
 YOUR NEXT PARTY OR
 EVENT!**

(Capacity: 250 Persons)
 Security Deposit is \$500
 (Required to hold the date)

Friday & Saturday \$2,000
 (Bar closes at midnight)



VA Supporting the Homeless

VA Announces \$5 Million in Grant Funding For Transitional Supportive Housing for Homeless Veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 30, 2024 — 1:30 PM

VA housed more than 46,000 homeless Veterans in 2023

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless Veterans in 2023 — surpassing [the calendar year goal to house 38,000 Veterans](#) by 22.5%.

In 2023, VA also engaged with 40,203 unsheltered Veterans to connect them with the housing and resources they need, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by 43.6%; ensured that 95.9% of Veterans housed have remained in housing, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by 0.9%; and ensured that 96.4% of the Veterans who returned to homelessness have been rehoused or are on a pathway to rehousing, exceeding the Department's [calendar year goal](#) by 6.4%.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and President Biden, who has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness [has fallen by 4% since early 2020](#) and by more than 52% since 2010.

“No Veteran should ever experience the tragedy and indignity of homelessness. More than 46,000 formerly homeless Veterans are going to sleep tonight in good, safe, stable homes — and there’s nothing more important than that,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “While this is an important step forward, we’re not stopping here — we’re going to keep pushing until every Veteran has a safe, stable place to call home in this country they fought to defend.”

VA's efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built on the evidence-based "[Housing First](#)" approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more. This initiative is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's broader efforts to reduce homelessness. (Cont. on page 3)

(Cont. from page 2)

VA has also made progress in combating Veteran homelessness in the Greater Los Angeles area, providing 1,790 homeless Veterans with permanent housing in 2023 — which is the most of any city in America and exceeding the local [calendar year goal](#) for 2023 by 19.3%.

This is the second year in a row that VA has housed more than 40,000 homeless Veterans. In 2022, [VA housed more than 40,000 formerly homeless Veterans](#), prevented more than 17,700 Veterans and their families from falling into homelessness, and helped nearly 191,700 additional Veteran families who were experiencing financial difficulties to retain their homes or avoid foreclosure.

VA staff and its community partners nationwide help Veterans find [permanent housing](#) such as apartments or houses to rent or own, often with subsidies to help make the housing affordable. In some cases, VA staff and partners help Veterans end their homelessness by reuniting them with family and friends.

For more information about VA's comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness, visit [VA.gov/homeless](#).

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-housed-more-than-46000-homeless-veterans-in-2023/>

Announcement comes just days after VA announced housing more than 46,000 homeless Veterans in 2023.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2024 — 9:00 AM

VA announces \$5M in grant funding for transitional supportive housing for homeless Veterans

WASHINGTON —Today, as a part of ongoing efforts to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs [published a Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for approximately \$5 million in grants per year (for up to two years) to help Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The funds are available through VA's [Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem](#) Program, which offers financial assistance to eligible community organizations that provide Veterans with transitional housing and case management — including connecting eligible Veterans to VA benefits, community-based services, and permanent housing. These special needs grants support homeless Veterans who are women, elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill, or who have care of minor dependents.

Ending Veteran homelessness is a top priority of VA and President Biden, who has made supporting Veterans a key pillar of his [Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. Earlier this week, VA announced that it permanently [housed 46,552 homeless Veterans in 2023](#)

(Cont. on page 4)

Cont. from page 3)

surpassing [the calendar year goal to house 38,000 Veterans](#) by 22.5%. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness [has fallen by 4% since early 2020](#) and by more than 52% since 2010.

“We won’t rest until every Veteran has the safe, stable home that they deserve,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “These grants will allow VA — alongside community organizations — to help provide housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk Veterans.”

VA’s efforts to combat Veteran homelessness are grounded in reaching out to homeless Veterans, understanding their unique needs, and addressing them. These efforts are built on the evidence-based “[Housing First](#)” approach, which prioritizes getting a Veteran into housing, then providing them with the wraparound support they need to stay housed, including health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more. This initiative is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s broader efforts to reduce homelessness.

Only the [16 existing special need grantees](#) are eligible to apply. Awards will fund two years of operations starting fiscal year 2025 on Oct. 1, 2024, and ending Sept. 30, 2026. Grant applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 15, 2024.

[View the special need NOFO](#), and [learn more about GPD](#) or email GPDGrants@va.gov. For more information about VA’s comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless).

The State of Homelessness Among Women Veterans in 2023

By Shawn Liu
Director of Communications, Homeless Programs Office

Army Veteran Kimberly Carrillo left the military after five years in part because she lacked access to adequate daycare. After her marriage ended and her mother died, she fell into depression, lost her job and couch-surfed, kids in tow. Carrillo and her family were homeless.

Marine Veteran Natasha McCoy spent 20 years after service gainfully employed as a truck driver, residing in her vehicle. From the outside, she seemed fine. On the inside, she was anything but. “When I quit driving, I had a period when I was adrift,” said McCoy, a member of the Cherokee Nation. (Cont. on page 5)



(Cont. from page 4)

Air Force Veteran Alex Dobson was homeless for six or seven years before she entered the military. When she found herself without a safe place to call home after leaving the military, the familiar feelings of danger and invisibility came flooding back. “You’re in survival mode,” said Dobson, a member of the Muscogee Nation.

Carrillo, McCoy and Dobson’s [stories](#) illustrate the different ways homelessness can impact the lives of women Veterans. Thankfully, they are among the nearly one million Veterans and their family members whom VA has connected with permanent housing or with services that prevented them from falling into homelessness since 2010. That includes nearly 22,000 women Veterans served through VHA Homeless Programs in fiscal year 2023.

But we recognize that VA must accelerate efforts to provide [housing solutions](#), [health care](#), and [community employment services](#) to address the unique challenges of nearly two million women Veterans—the fastest growing segment of the Veteran population—and their families.

That’s especially true now as we look at data on homelessness among women Veterans.

Rising number of women Veterans who are homeless

Although it’s true that, from 2020 to 2023, total homelessness among Veterans decreased by 4.5%—from 37,252 to 33,574—homelessness among women Veterans actually increased by nearly 24%—from 3,126 to 3,980—according to data from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#).

In that same period, the number of unsheltered women Veterans—those living on the streets, in a car or in another unsafe situation—jumped nearly 48%, from 1,464 to 2,165.
(Cont. on page 6)

(Cont. from page 5)

While the general proportion of women Veterans experiencing homelessness is still low, the trend is concerning, given that VA estimates women are on track to make up 18% of all U.S. Veterans by 2040.

Factors that contribute to homelessness among Veterans

Reducing and preventing homelessness among women Veterans starts by recognizing some of the contributing factors unique to them:

- Trauma. There's [evidence](#) of a connection between women Veteran homelessness and trauma. Women Veterans who were homeless have told VA researchers that the experience of trauma before, during and after military service contributed to their housing instability.
- Military sexual assault. We also find that one in three women say “yes” when screened by VA health care for military sexual assault (MST), which is sexual assault or threatening sexual harassment during a person's military service.
- Intimate partner violence. Many women Veterans who are homeless also report having a history of intimate partner violence.
- Poverty. Housing is a large expense for anyone, but studies show that women are more likely than men to be at risk of poverty.
- Single parenthood. Women also shoulder more of the costs of child-rearing, particularly as single parents.

Other complex challenges, often connected to or worsened in service, can be common characteristics of women Veterans' experience of housing instability. These include childhood adversity, substance use, relationship termination, medical problems, a post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis and unemployment.

Making sure women Veterans and their families have housing

If you are a woman Veteran not yet connected to VA, you should know that you and your family matter and you deserve a safe place to call home. We know that homelessness doesn't always look the same for men and women, and so the solution may not be the same.

What is universal in our approach is a focus on “[Housing First](#).” Evidence of this approach shows that it is the most effective way to end Veteran homelessness. Our goal is to help you get or stay housed and connect you to other wraparound supports you may need to remain housed—health care, job training, legal and education assistance, and more.

To assist in these efforts, VA has programs for women Veterans with children; free, confidential, [specialized care](#) for women survivors of MST and other trauma; gender-specific health care services; community employment services and much more.

Visit the [VA Homeless Programs website](#) to learn about initiatives that support safe, stable housing for women Veterans. (Cont. on page 7)

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Learn more about VA programs

If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).

Check out the [Ending Veteran Homelessness podcast](#) to learn more about what VA is doing to end and prevent homelessness among Veterans. Listen to our [episode on improving access and outcomes for women Veterans](#).

[Get involved with housing homeless Veterans.](#)

[Subscribe to the Homeless Programs Office newsletter](#) to receive monthly updates about programs and supportive services for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/127679/state-of-homelessness-among-women-veterans-2023/>

VA Proposes Rule Regarding Exposure to Agent Orange & Other Herbicides

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2024 — 9:00 AM

VA proposes rule to extend presumed areas of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides, making it easier for exposed Veterans to receive their earned benefits

VA continues to expand access to health care and benefits for toxic-exposed Veterans as a part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation.

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam. Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States ([full list of US locations where Agent Orange was tested or stored](#)), [Canada](#), and [India](#) to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

A presumption of exposure means that VA automatically assumes that Veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to certain toxins. Presumptives lower the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits, helping Veterans get the benefits they deserve as (Cont. on page 8)

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quickly as possible. This expansion of presumptives will help Veterans who served in the specified locations receive health care and benefits for [certain cancers and chronic conditions](#). To be eligible, a Veteran must have served in the identified location(s) during a specific time period and currently have a condition(s) presumptively associated with herbicide exposure. Delivering world-class health care and benefits to toxic-exposed Veterans is a top priority for VA and the Biden-Harris Administration. As a part of President Biden's pledge to serve Veterans with military toxic exposures, over the past few years, VA has expanded presumptive service connection for more than [hundreds of health conditions](#) related to toxic exposures under the [PACT Act](#) – the [largest expansion of Veteran care and benefits in generations](#). Thanks to this historic action, VA is delivering [more care and more benefits to more Veterans](#) than ever before in U.S. history.

"This proposed change would make it easier for Veterans exposed to herbicides who served outside Vietnam to access the benefits they so rightly deserve," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. "Our goal is to provide every Veteran – of every era – with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction."

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit [VA's website](#), use [VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#), or work with a VA-recognized [Veterans Service Organization](#) to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their [state Veterans Affairs Office](#). [Survivors](#) can file claims for benefits based on the Veteran's service if the Veteran died from at least one of the recognized presumptive herbicide diseases.

This proposed rule also codifies provisions in the [PACT Act](#), the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#), and the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2021](#).

For more information about the changes, visit [The Federal Register](#).

SOURCE: <https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-presumes-exposure-agent-orange-herbicides/>

Thanking Women Veterans for Their Service

'We work with persistence and patience'



Jennifer Umland served in the Army for four years, from 1986 to 1990. She was stationed with the 101st Airborne Unit in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Umland is a Bronze Legacy Life member of VFW Post 1894 in Clinton, Missouri, and resides in the same town. As an avid supporter of the VFW, Umland is #StillServing in her second year as Post adjutant. (Cont. on page 9)

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She recently launched the Post's Ladies Military Support/Service Officer Event, bringing in a female VFW Accredited Service Officer to assist with claims.

"This has become an annual event," Umland said. "We brought in several veteran-owned businesses from our community and VA services that offer benefits to women veterans and their families."

Umland and other attendees even joined together at the event to start a First Friday Female Potluck.

"We have a great turnout with around 10 women veterans and their families gathering together every month," she said.

Umland, who is all too familiar with the struggles that women veterans face, recognizes how important this type of camaraderie is.

"I've heard so many stories from women veterans whose spouses are thanked for their service," she said. "It's like people don't know how to respond to women who have served. It's an uphill battle."

She now works to educate the local community on who veterans really are.

"We work with persistence and patience. Every male and female who walks through our Post doors is asked 'Are you a veteran?' and thanked for their service," she said.

Umland works tirelessly to ensure that her community knows that women have and will continue to serve in the military.

"Making a positive influence in the community and talking about our service as women veterans has helped make more people aware of the situation," she said.

Between things like organizing potlucks, educating the community, placing flags at headstones on Memorial Day and being her Post's adjutant, Umland is passionate about #StillServing her community every day.

"I will always support the VFW and put our motto, 'No One Does More For Veterans,' into action," she said.

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/2/thanking-women-veterans-for-their-service>

THE VFW CELEBRATES **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



VFW Celebrates National Black History Month

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is honored to join the nation in celebrating our nation’s Black American service members, veterans and their families throughout the month of February, National Black History Month.

When Carter G. Woodson set out in 1926 to establish a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture, he wanted to remind Americans that Black history is America’s history. While initially observed as a weeklong commemoration, it was President Gerald Ford who, in 1976, issued the first official observance and the establishment of Black History Month, a homage for which every American president, Democrat and Republican, has issued proclamations. The 2024 White House proclamation on National Black History Month can be found [here](#)

National Black History Month offers the opportunity to both celebrate and educate generations of Americans on the triumphs by a rich cultural heritage that has played such a vital role in making our country what it is today.

Neither America, nor its armed forces would possess such strength and the long history of success without the innumerable contributions and bravery of our Black veterans. The VFW salutes all Black American service members, veterans and their families for their indelible contributions to our freedom and our way of life.

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/1/vfw-celebrates-national-black-history-month>

VFW Expresses Condolences for Troops in Middle East After Deadly Drone Attack

The following is a message from
VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento
January 29, 2024

WASHINGTON — On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Auxiliary, we are saddened and concerned hearing the news that three American service members were killed and more than 30 others were injured after a drone attack on a U.S. military installation in Jordan yesterday.

First, we send our condolences and prayers to the Gold Star families whose loved ones were lost in this grievous terroristic act. We honor your sacrifice and honor the lives and service of your fallen soldiers.

While we are always concerned for the safety of U.S. service members serving in harm's way, reports of increasing drone attacks on U.S. and allied troops serving in the Middle East are particularly disturbing. It shouldn't take Americans losing their lives for our Defense Department to dramatically increase force protection measures against what has seemed to become a common asymmetric tactic of terror in the region.

After more than 20 years of gathering invaluable lessons-learned in our global fight against terrorism, one of the most poignant is that terrorists cannot stand against a sudden and overwhelming response. That is why this administration needs to act swiftly and decisively to ensure these attacks are no longer a threat to our forces.

SOURCE: <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2024/1/vfw-expresses-condolences-concerns-for-troops-in-middle-east-after-deadly-drone-attack>



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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VFW POST 3261 OFFICERS

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Senior Vice Commander – Anthony Dixon

Junior Vice Commander - Larry "Skip" Anglin

Quartermaster – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Chaplain - Michael J. McArdle

1st Year Trustee – Robert J. Galda

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Adjutant – Norman "Norm" Chibana

Service Officer – Larry "Skip" Anglin

Judge Advocate – Michael McArdle

