

## Navy Veteran and Cultural Icon Harry Belafonte, Dies at 96



**Video** | AP News

**Harry Belafonte** | 1967 - 2023

**Photo** | Courtesy of the Library of Congress and Department of Defense

25 Apr 2023

Military.com | By [Amy Bushatz](#)

Before Harry Belafonte was a superstar, known as the "King of Calypso" for his smash hits in the 1950s and for funneling his wealth into support for the civil rights movement, he was a World War II Navy Veteran who narrowly missed the war's biggest stateside disaster.

He died April 25, 2023, at age 96 at his home in New York. The cause was congestive heart failure, according to his spokesman.

Belafonte dropped out of high school in New York City, and after watching a World War II propaganda film, he enlisted at age 17. He ultimately served 18 months between 1944 and 1945 at Port Chicago, California, near San Francisco. In the

still-segregated U.S. military, Black service members were not typically assigned to frontline fighting units and instead served in support roles stateside. Belafonte's job was to load military ships bound for the Pacific theater. But just before he arrived in Port Chicago, 320 service members -- two-third of them Black sailors -- were killed when munitions detonated during loading onto a cargo vessel. About 390 service members and civilians were also injured. The deaths and injuries are believed to account for 15% of all Black service member casualties during the war. "It was the worst homefront disaster of World War II, but almost no one knows about it or what followed," Belafonte said, according to a Defense Department press release about his service.

After leaving the Navy in 1945, Belafonte returned to New York City and used his **GI Bill** to pay for classes at The New School Dramatic Workshop. His fellow students included future actor Marlon Brando and Sidney Poitier, who became a lifelong friend. Later, he developed an interest in folk music.



Harry Belafonte, Matilda LIVE 1982

Belafonte's first widely released single, which became his signature audience participation song in virtually all of his live performances, was "Matilda," recorded on April 27, 1953. His breakthrough album "**Calypso**" (1956) became the first

long-playing record in the world to sell more than 1 million copies within a year. The album introduced American audiences to calypso music, and Belafonte was dubbed the King of Calypso.

Belafonte was an early supporter of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s and one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s close friends. Throughout his career, he has been an advocate for political and humanitarian causes, such as the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

To read the full article, [CLICK HERE](#).

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**Exclusive Film Screening:**  
***Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call***

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & FILM SCREENING & POST FILM DISCUSSION

COLONEL KALSI: BEYOND THE CALL



EMMY WINNING CREW



MAY 8TH



4:00PM



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY'S MCNALLY AMPHITHEATER  
140 W 62ND ST, NEW YORK, NY 10023

Join NYC's Department of Veterans' Services at Fordham University for an exclusive screening of *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond The Call*. Created by a highly decorated and Emmy winning crew, *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond The Call* follows **Dr. Kamaljeet Kalsi's** story as an American Sikh Army officer struggling to serve his country with honor and dignity.

Dr. Kalsi was born a Sikh and grew up immersed in the traditions and tenets of his faith, wearing a turban and maintaining long hair and a beard as part of his strict religious uniform. When he entered training, the Army appeared to have no issue with Dr. Kalsi holding on to his religious identity or attire. But when the time came for him to deploy to Afghanistan, they reneged on their promise and demanded he

cut his hair and shave his beard, as it would interfere with the mission and "esprit de corps," a reason that was often given to keep marginalized groups out of the Armed Forces.

The evening will begin with light refreshments, followed by opening remarks and the screening at 5 PM with a 1-on-1 Q&A with Dr. Kalsi at the film's conclusion.



[Register on Eventbrite Here](#) |

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**Denim Day NYC 2023**



**Denim Day NYC** is a coalition of survivors, advocates, community organizations, city council members, and city agencies working together to **raise awareness** about **sexual assault**. Denim Day NYC hosts events throughout the year all around NYC to promote awareness about sexual assault and connect New Yorkers to resources. Since 2010, Denim Day NYC has hosted a rally and press conference in April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to unite New Yorkers around the issue of sexual assault and show solidarity with survivors.

### **History**

Denim Day grew out of a [1998 Italian Supreme Court decision](#) that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans. The judges reasoned the victim's tight jeans meant that she had to have helped her assailant remove them, implying consent. People all over the world were outraged, and wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assault. [Peace Over Violence \(POV\)](#), a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles led by Patti Giggans, organized the country's

first Denim Day event in 1999. Under POV's leadership, Denim Day LA & USA has grown into a national movement. In 2011, more than 2 million Americans participated in Denim Day.

In the spring of 2010, Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center's Start Strong Bronx (SSB) program launched Denim Day NYC at the invitation of their Los Angeles grant partner, Peace Over Violence who originated the event. SSB partnered with the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, the Violence Intervention Program, Sanctuary for Families, Bronx Family Justice Center, the NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault and the Bronx Borough President, who hosted their press conference and rally on the Bronx Courthouse steps. Concurrently, the [Crime Victims Treatment Center \(CVTC\)](#) spearheaded efforts to raise awareness in hospitals in all five boroughs. CVTC brought together SAFE programs to hold tabling events in the main areas of the hospitals, accessible to all patients, visitors, and staff. Following the 2010 rally, SSB, St. Luke's Roosevelt, and the Alliance held the first city-wide press conference at City Hall presided over by the Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and City Council Member Julissa Ferreras and supported by all five borough presidents. Since then, the press conference is now attended by over 45 community-based organizations and dozens of elected officials.

### **Sexual Violence Awareness and Resources**

- NYC Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence ([ENDGBV](#))
- NYC Family Justice Centers ([FJC](#))
- The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (NYCAASA) [Therapy and Support Groups](#)
- National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673

To learn more about **Denim Day** and upcoming events, visit [Denim Day NYC](#).

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## **DCAS Civil Service Pathways Fellowship**



Ready to start your career working for the City of New York? NYC Citywide Administrative Services is accepting applications for their Civil Service Pathways Fellowship. This **two-year program** is designed to create a pipeline from college to a career in civil service.

The **Fellowship** is set to begin in **August 2023** and is subject to the requisite approvals for city agency placement.

### **Applicants**

The Fellowship position for the NYC Department of Veterans' Services highly encourages student Veterans and student Veteran spouses to apply!

### **How to apply**

Fill out DCAS's application [here](#)!

If you have any further questions about the program, please reach out to the **Department of Citywide Administrative Services** ([DCAS](#)).

For questions about the prospective role at DVS, please reach out to **Assistant Commissioner of Operations & Administrative Services**, [Jason Parker](#).

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## VETERAN NEWS

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### Why the VA in Atlanta is throwing 'drive-through' baby showers for pregnant Veterans



A pregnant military veteran receives a tiara at a 'drive through' baby shower at the VA in Atlanta. Among researchers, there's concern that women veterans may be at [heightened risk](#) for pregnancy complications, compared to their civilian counterparts.

Photo by: [WABE's Jess Mador](#)

April 24, 2023 11:39 AM ET

[NPR](#) | By [Jess Mador](#)

ATLANTA — Navy veteran Carisma Carter was eight months pregnant when she pulled her red car up in front of the Atlanta VA Clinic. Her seat was pushed far back from the steering wheel, to make room for her big belly.

"I'm having two boys, twins. It's my first pregnancy," she said.

Carter knows the pregnancy risks she could face as a Black woman, especially in Georgia, where the latest [data](#) show Black women are more than twice as likely as white women to die during or after pregnancy.

"I take care of my body during the pregnancy but yeah, I'm very aware," Carter said. "And I just try to stay positive."

The number of [women serving](#) in the United States military has been growing. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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## **More Veteran-related Headlines**

**VA News:** [Veterans and survivors have filed more than 500,000 toxic exposure-related benefits claims under the PACT Act](#)

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**Task and Purpose:** [The VA would face major budget cuts under the GOP's debt ceiling plan](#)

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**Gothamist:** [Dozens of homeless New Yorkers are moving into vacant apartments thanks to a new program](#)

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**NBC News:** [The Veterans Crisis Line is fielding a record number of cries for help, VA stats show](#)

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We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov) with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

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This week's highlight is **Román Baca** and **Exit12 Dance Company**. Román Baca is a former professional ballet dancer, US Marine Iraq War Veteran, choreographer, artist, academic, and researcher, who splits time between Harlem, NYC and London. After the war, Mr. Baca co-founded Exit12 Dance Company where he is now the Artistic Director. Mr. Baca has mounted numerous productions on stage for, with, alongside, and supporting the global military community.

Mr. Baca is also a Deputy Project Lead and consultant for Bravo 22, an arts, wellness, and recovery program for the UK military community funded by the Royal

British Legion, and is a PhD Candidate at York St. John University investigating the impact of military training on the body and mind, releasing that training through movement creativity and imagination, dialogue, and building of a personal utopia. Mr. Baca completed his MFA at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance as a Fulbright grantee, and was the 2019 awardee of the Selma Jeanne Cohen Dance Lecture Award for his research into the dance and the military.

With Exit12, Mr. Baca creates choreography that tells stories of the impact of war on veterans and their families, often in ways that language cannot express. Exit12's unique approach to public performance enriches audiences with a look into the issues that affect our world and the individuals who courageously commit to service and positive change. Exit12 combines movement, discourse, and multi-media in its performances, allowing audiences accessibility on an individual level, humanizing the experience of war.

Exit12's programming is led, created, informed, refined, and delivered by members of the military community and military connected artists.

Exit12's practice and research has been investigated and validated through two practice-based research efforts focused on how choreographing military stories increases empathy in audiences, and how engagement with the performing arts impacts creativity, imagination, and future-thinking for members of the military community, publications pending.



Exit12 Dance Company and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum are proud to announce their partnership to present **Truths Colliding**; an eight-week series of creative workshops that bring together veterans, refugees, and Exit12 artists to dialogue about the impact of war on personal and cultural identity, April 3-May 24. A **free culminating public performance** will be held **Friday, May 26th**, marking Fleet Week NYC and Memorial Day Weekend.

Admission is **free** and **pre-registration** is required!

[Register for Exit12's Intrepid Performance Here](#)

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## **The Neon Nutrition Kitchen: Veteran-Only Pantry Days**

Attention NYC Veterans! [The NeON Nutrition Kitchen](#) will be hosting Veterans-only Pantry days on Staten Island and The Bronx, providing non-perishable foods as well as a meat/fish to Veterans and their families.

There will also be a Veterans Benefit Coordinator on site to help with claims and benefits.



The flyer for the NeON Nutrition Kitchen in Staten Island features a blue and orange design. At the top, it says "NeON Nutrition Kitchen" with a logo. Below that, there are two circular images: one showing a person packing a bag of groceries and another showing a table with various food items. The text "The NEON Nutrition KITCHEN" is written in a stylized font. The main heading is "FREE HEALTHY FOODS". Underneath, it says "NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy". A "WHAT" icon is next to this text. The schedule is "Every Friday - 10am to 1pm from March 3 - May 26". A "WHERE" icon is next to the location: "Staten Island 340 Bay Street". At the bottom, there are logos for NYC Department of Veterans' Services, NYC Young Men's Initiative, and NeON. A small disclaimer at the bottom reads: "For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3862."

Staten Island:

 Fridays, March 3 - May 26

 340 Bay Street

 10a-1p



The flyer for the NeON Nutrition Kitchen in the Bronx features a blue and orange design. At the top, it says "NeON Nutrition Kitchen" with a logo. Below that, there are two circular images: one showing a person packing a bag of groceries and another showing a table with various food items. The text "The NEON Nutrition KITCHEN" is written in a stylized font. The main heading is "FREE HEALTHY FOODS". Underneath, it says "NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy". A "WHAT" icon is next to this text. The schedule is "Every Monday - 9:30am to 12:30pm from March 13 - June 6". A "WHERE" icon is next to the location: "Bronx 198 East 161st 10451". At the bottom, there are logos for NYC Department of Veterans' Services, NYC Young Men's Initiative, and NeON. A small disclaimer at the bottom reads: "For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3862."

The Bronx:

 Mondays, March 13 - June 6

 198 East 161st

 9:30a-12:30p

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## A Message From Mayor Adams:

Each week DVS will share a short update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



*The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.*

*Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox*

*– at [nyc.gov/hearfromeric!](https://nyc.gov/hearfromeric)*

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## **Critical Financial Assistance Programs**



## Financial assistance support for post-9/11 New York veterans and their families

We believe warriors can thrive with access to integrated services focused on their individual and collective well-being.

### Critical Needs Program

Hope For the Warriors Critical Needs program serves as a short-term financial bridge for post 9/11 veterans and their families, and for survivors of traumas as they navigate through long-term recovery.

**Support includes financial education and financial assistance to help offset income loss due to:**

- Delays in disability claims processing
- Combat related loss of income
- Homelessness and homeless prevention
- Increased care due to injury progression
- Housing support for veteran to engage in intensive outpatient and/or inpatient psychiatric treatment for PTSD, MST, depression, anxiety, or equivalent mental health diagnoses
- Assistance in the form of financial grants, resource referrals, supportive counseling and financial literacy training



To learn more about these services visit [hopeforthewarriors.org/connect-to-services](https://hopeforthewarriors.org/connect-to-services)

For questions, please contact: [jsooklal@hopeforthewarriors.org](mailto:jsooklal@hopeforthewarriors.org)



This program is supported by a grant from The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers, bolster the health outcomes of vulnerable communities, eliminate barriers to care, and bridge gaps in health services. Named after a tireless advocate for immigrants, children, and the poor, the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation funds programs and initiatives across New York State that either provide direct healthcare services or address the social determinants of health. For more information, visit [www.cabrinihealth.org](http://www.cabrinihealth.org).





# Elizabeth Dole Foundation

CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

**Goal:** The Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance provides financial relief to all eras of military and Veteran caregivers through a grant that aims to put you and your family on the path to financial wellness. These grants aim to provide high-impact financial assistance to prevent or address a significant crisis or to improve the quality of life of the caregiver family. These grants fill the gaps that other programs may not cover.

## Who is eligible for the grant program?

- Adult caregiver, (18 years and older), for a military service member or veteran
- Demonstrates financial assistance need
- Vendor or name of Company is legally able to receive taxable income in the U.S., this includes they're being a citizen, green card holder, and/or permanent resident who can provide a W9 and SSN or (TIN)

**Amount:** Depending on need, grants will be made on a case-by-case review at the discretion of EDF staff. These are grants that aim to assist with larger needs to put you on a path of financial wellness.

## How do you define “financial assistance needs”?

If you are experiencing an unforeseen emergency with life-changing consequences, we encourage you to apply.

## Examples of grants:

Natural Disaster Assistance

Medical/Dental bills not covered by insurance

Home repairs/additions due to safety of Veteran

Car modifications needed for the Veteran

Certificate program to build job readiness skills for caregiver

Transportation

Hope Fund for Critical Financial Assistance Program through the  
Elizabeth Dole Foundation

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## May 2023 - Citywide Hiring Events



### Saturday, May 6, 2023

**Event:** NYC Government Hiring Hall

**Location:** Bronx – Betances Community Center

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 4 PM

**Featured Titles:** Engineering titles, Inspector titles, Maintenance Worker, Assistant City Highway Repairer, Apprentice (Construction Laborer), Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Clerical Associate, and community titles.

### Thursday, May 11, 2023

**Event:** NYC Government Hiring Hall

**Location:** Brooklyn – Sun Arts Center

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Featured Titles:** Engineering titles, Inspector titles, Maintenance Worker, Assistant City Highway Repairer, Apprentice (Construction Laborer), Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Clerical Associate, and community titles.

### Wednesday, May 17, 2023

**Event:** Citywide Hiring Pool

**Location:** Municipal Building – 1 Centre Street

**Time:** 9 AM – 4 PM

**Featured Title:** Computer Specialist (Software) (including vacancies in other comparable titles)

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

**Event:** NYC Government Hiring Hall

**Location:** Manhattan – 31 Chambers Street

**Time:** 9 AM – 4 PM

**Featured titles:** Engineering titles, Inspector titles, Maintenance Worker, Assistant City Highway Repairer, Apprentice (Construction Laborer), Case Manager, Eligibility Specialist, Job Opportunity Specialist, Clerical Associate, and community titles

**Thursday, May 25, 2023**

**Event:** NYC Government Hiring Hall

**Location:** TBD

**Time:** 9 AM – 4 PM

**Featured titles:** TBD

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**Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!**



**Current DVS Job Openings**

Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.](#)

**Veteran Housing Coordinator** - The NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS) Veteran Housing Coordinator (VHC) program provides peer-to-peer housing assistance for homeless veterans living within the five boroughs of New York City. This program is designed to help NYC reach and sustain “functional zero”, the point at which veteran homelessness has effectively ended and there is a system in place to rapidly rehouse any new veteran entering the homeless system. The VHCs are at the front line in the ongoing citywide commitment to providing safe and affordable housing to every veteran that becomes homeless.

### **VA Work Study Positions at DVS**

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions! Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

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If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to [VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov):

- Resume

- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

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## **NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams**



### **Open Competitive Exams**

**Police Officer** - Police Officers perform general police duties and related work in the New York City Police Department including connecting and building relationships with the community. They patrol an assigned area on foot or in a vehicle to prevent crime; apprehend crime suspects; intervene in various situations involving crimes in progress, aided cases, complaints, emotionally disturbed persons, etc.; respond to and investigate vehicular accidents; investigate specific offenses; interact with prisoners; operate and maintain patrol vehicles; issue summonses; obtain information regarding incidents by interviewing witnesses, victims, and/or complainants; safeguard and voucher found, seized or recovered

property; provide information to the public; handle situations involving maltreated, abused, or missing children; interact with juveniles; may be assigned to crowd control for large-scale events such as demonstrations, rallies and parades; prepare forms and reports; and testify in court.

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be directed to the [Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter](#) page. On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

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## **Programs and Initiatives**

### **Affordable Housing For Veterans**



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

### **Empowering Veteran Business Owners**



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

## **VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship**

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



## **Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?**

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



## **VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool**



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: [nyc.gov/vetconnectpro](https://nyc.gov/vetconnectpro).

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## **Newsletter Sign-up**

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

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## Contact Us

- Complete a service request form at [vetconnectnyc.org](http://vetconnectnyc.org)
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website [www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets) and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov).