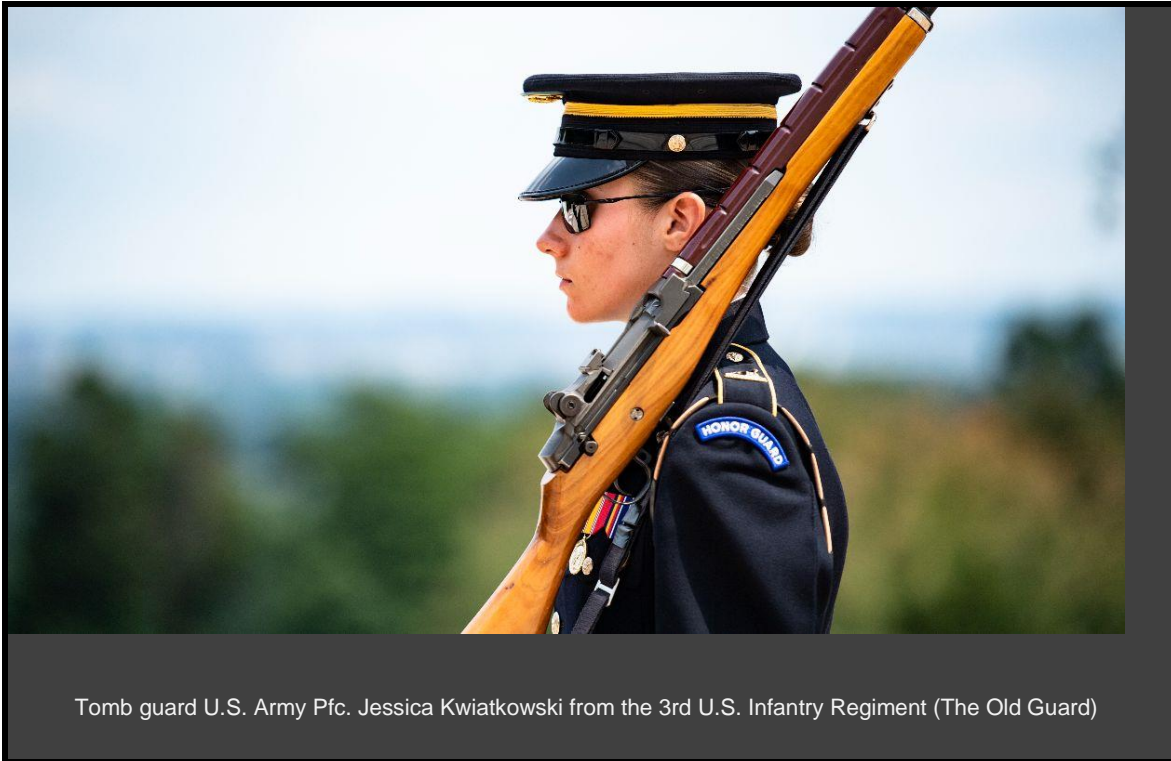


## Tomb Guard Braves Storm



U.S. Department of Defense

Aug. 4, 2023 | By [Kevin M. Hymel, ANC Historian](#)

Army PFC. Jessica Kwiatkowski leaned forward as she walked against the wind and rain. As a Tomb Guard with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, she walked her twenty-one steps in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in the middle of a violent rainstorm on the evening of Saturday, July 29, 2023. Amid the storm, she walked her post without the ability to see.

Rain had speckled and fogged up her sunglasses, making vision impossible. Counting her steps, she made her way to the "Green Box," a one-person-sized shelter on the north side of the Tomb that includes a phone. Once there, she called the Tomb Guard Quarters and told her fellow guards about her dilemma. They told her to just wipe off her glasses. "With what," she asked, "my wet gloves?" Then they told her to walk without her glasses. She refused. "These are like my goggles

right now," she told them. She would be just as blind in the lashing rain without them.



**Arlington National Cemetery**

@ArlingtonNatl



We couldn't be prouder of the [@USArmyOldGuard](#) Soldiers who watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

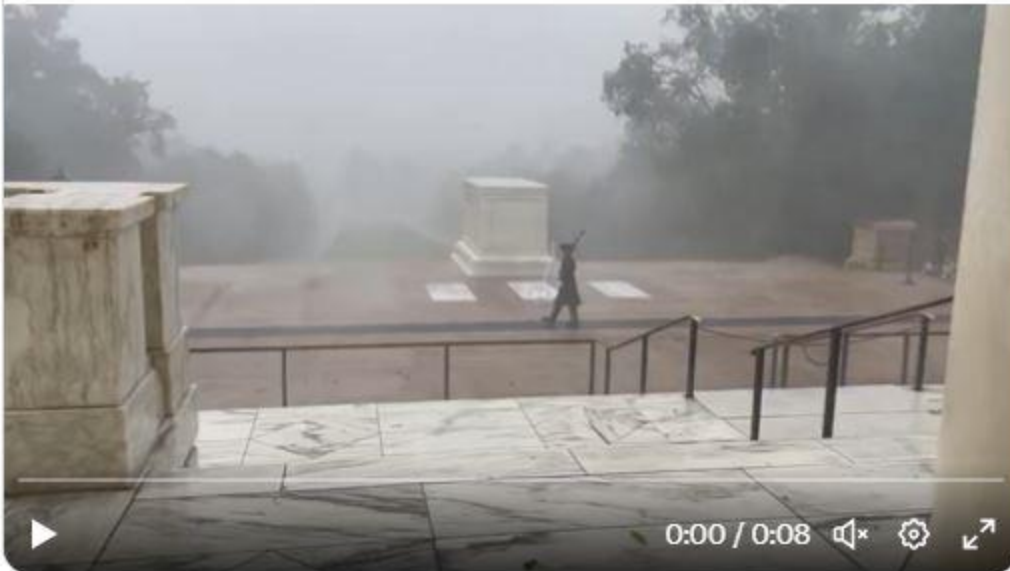
Winds reached 60-85 mph in the DC region. This sentinel leans into it and continues marching.

Honor.



**40 Minutes of Hell** @pneaville · Jul 29

@washingtonpost my buddy (@SunsetGrilleDC) was at @ArlingtonNatl when the storm hit and got this video of the a member of the Third Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) staying on mission during the storm. Powerful.



Kwiatkowski returned to walking the mat. As the Tomb Plaza flooded with water, she could not see the lines that guided her where to go, so she continued counting her steps. She leaned into the winds as they tried to blow her back. The powerful gusts made her rifle drill movements a challenge. "I

couldn't change shoulders without dropping my weapon," she explained. "I just had to take the rifle off [one shoulder] and place it on my other."

As she trudged through the heavy rain and wind, she worried about one thing: "I was surprised my ceremonial cap didn't fly off." [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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**Agent Orange Day  
Remembrance Event: Saturday, August 19, 2023  
Hosted by VVA Chapter 126**



Tomorrow, **August 19th, from 6 pm to 8 pm**, the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 126** will sponsor the **third New York City Agent Orange Remembrance and Awareness Day event** at the **Vietnam Veterans Plaza** in lower Manhattan.

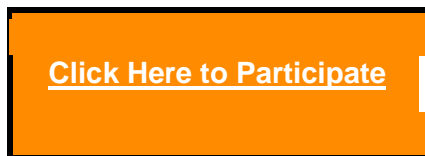
At this event, we will **honor those who have died from Agent Orange-related and burn pit illnesses, with a candle lighting ceremony** where an orange candle is lit and placed before the monument by a loved one in their honor.

This **August 10th** marks the **62nd anniversary of the first use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War**.

The **58,479 who died in combat in the Vietnam War** have their names engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and are forever memorialized. However, almost eight times that number, the **400,000 who died**

from Agent Orange illnesses after they came home from Vietnam do not have a monument in New York City.

Your participation is simple and straightforward. Come to the event and honor those we lost or are afflicted with Agent Orange caused illnesses. If you have a loved one who is suffering or has passed because of Agent Orange, give us their name and we will read out their name and light a candle for them at the dedication ceremony. If for any reason you can not come to the event in person, send us their name for inclusion into the program and we will read their name to honor him for you. [\[LEARN MORE\]](#)



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**The Wall That Heals | *In Memory* Program  
Application Deadline August 28th**

## **WAS YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN'S LIFE CUT SHORT AFTER THEY RETURNED HOME?**

### HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE THROUGH THE **IN MEMORY** PROGRAM

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have suffered each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD/ suicide, cancer and other causes related to their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *In Memory* program honors those who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

**The Wall That Heals will be on display in  
New York City, NY from September 28th -  
October 1st.**

Apply to honor your veteran, through In Memory, by August 28th and their photo will be included as part of the mobile Education Center display when The Wall That Heals is on display in New York City.

To apply online , visit [www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program](http://www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program)



The VVMF's *IN MEMORY* program invites families and communities to remember those Vietnam Veterans whose lives were cut short by their service.

Honorees submitted before August 28, 2023, will be remembered on a special video display at The Wall That Heals during its visit to New York City from Sept 28 - Oct 1.

These veterans will also be included in a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 15, 2024, and will be celebrated in a number of other ways by the VVMF. You can sign up or learn more at [vvmf.org/InMemory](https://vvmf.org/InMemory)

Thank you in advance for your help in honoring our Vietnam Veterans!

[Submit Your Loved Ones to the In Memory Project Here](#)

[Read More About The Wall That Heals](#)

[Volunteer Registration Form for The Wall That Heals](#)

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### **A Message From Mayor Adams:**

Each week DVS shares a brief update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



Week in Review | August 6 - August 12

*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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[Transcript: Mayor Adams, DCP Director Garodnick Unveil Proposal to Convert Vacant Offices to Housing Through City Action, Outline Next Step in "City of Yes" Plan](#)

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[Mayor Adams Announces New York City has Cared for More than 100,000 Asylum Seekers Since Last Spring](#)

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[Mayor Adams Signs Bill to Create Nation's Largest Permanent Outdoor Dining Program](#)

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## VETERAN NEWS

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### After Legal Battles, Sikh Graduates Marine Corps Boot Camp with Beard, Turban



*(Pictured above: At his Marine Corps graduation, Pfc. Jaskirat Singh hugs Lt. Col. Kamaljeet Singh Kalsi, founder of the Sikh American Veterans Alliance. Pfc. Singh is wearing a turban, beard, unshorn hair and a "kara" -- a metal bracelet traditional to the Sikh faith. (Courtesy Sikh American Veterans Alliance)*

11 Aug 2023

Military.com | By [Drew F. Lawrence](#)

In a historic legal win for religious freedom in the military, a member of the Sikh community graduated from [Marine Corps](#) recruit training Friday while wearing articles of faith intrinsic to the South Asian religion.



Pfc. Jaskirat Singh stood at attention -- while wearing a turban, beard and unshorn hair -- as he listened to the national anthem play on the parade deck at [Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego](#). For Singh, the day was not only the culmination of three months of hard training, but nearly two years of legal tumult that allowed him to don traditional Sikh wear at boot camp.

He is likely the first enlisted Marine to graduate from recruit training while wearing articles of faith intrinsic to the Sikh tradition, specifically a beard and turban, according to the Sikh Coalition which, along with other advocates, has helped him and more than 50 Sikh Americans secure military accommodations for religious wear.

"I am honored to serve my country in the Marine Corps, and proud that I was able to do so while respecting my Sikh faith," Singh said in a press release from the Sikh Coalition. "I hope that my graduation sends a clear message to other young Sikhs who are considering military service: Your faith does not have to be a barrier to any career." [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

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## More Veteran-related Headlines

**CBS News:** [80-year-old veteran charged with trafficking meth was victim to elder fraud scheme, family says](#)

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**NYPL:** [The New York Public Library Celebrates 50 Years of Hip-Hop](#)

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**Military.com:** [Veterans Health System Surpasses 400K Employees as Record Hiring Continues](#)

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**The Hill:** [Air Force veteran Greg Hach announces challenge to Santos](#)

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## NYC Emergency Management Veterans Hiring Event

**VETERANS:**



# We're hiring!

OPEN POSITIONS:

**Community  
Engagement**

**Government  
Relations**

**Procurement**

JOB SECURITY. GREAT BENEFITS. A REWARDING MISSION.



**Join our Zoom meeting:**



**contact:**

Veronica Geager,  
Deputy Director of  
People & Culture  
vgeager@oem.nyc.gov

 @nycemergencymgmt

 @nycemergencymgt

 @nycemergencymgmt

 NYC Emergency Management



If you require a reasonable accommodation to attend this webinar, please contact Veronica Geager at vgeager@oem.nyc.gov

Are you a veteran interested in a career opportunity helping New Yorkers before, during, and after emergencies? Do you want to be part of a team that includes the best and brightest emergency management professionals in the world? Well, look no further! NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) is hiring for various positions including community engagement, government relations, and procurement. Join DVS and NYCEM to learn about these job opportunities, the City's hiring process, and to hear from current NYCEM employees about their experiences on the job.

📅 Wednesday, August 30, 2023

🕒 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

🔗 Zoom Meeting

For more information, please contact: Veronica Geager, Deputy Director, People and Culture at [vgeager@OEM.NYC.GOV](mailto:vgeager@OEM.NYC.GOV)

[NYCEM Registration Link](#)



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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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## **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](https://www.nyc.gov/jobs) and select “Veterans’ Services” from the agency menu to learn more about and apply to the job below.

**Client Services Manager** - DVS seeks a highly qualified candidate to join Community Services as a Manager. The Manager will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of a team responsible for performing intakes and sending referrals within the VetConnectNYC system, a multi-provider network of participating organizations, government agencies, and other partners that provide direct services to Veterans. The Manager will also be a subject matter expert in claiming VA benefits through accreditation by New York State Department of Veterans Services.

## 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**

**Administrative Education Analyst** - Administrative Education Analysts plan and/or oversee large scale and/or highly technical and complex budget administration functions that involve distribution of funds under education laws and in accordance with legal mandates based on school needs, in the areas of instructional services, continuing education, special education, district/central headquarters, and school administration; to read more visit the posting [here!](#)

**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. To read more, visit the posting [here!](#)

**Inspector (Housing)** - Inspectors (Housing), under general supervision, perform technical work in the inspection of dwellings and other structures for the enforcement of the Multiple Dwelling Law, Housing Maintenance Code and other laws, rules and regulations that govern occupancy, safety and sanitary conditions of such dwellings and structures. To read more, visit the posting [here!](#)

To view more job listings, visit the exam board [here!](#)

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).