

Happy Holidays from Team DVS!

Happy Holidays

Dear NYC Veteran Community,

As this year comes to a close, we at the Department of Veterans' Services wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your support!

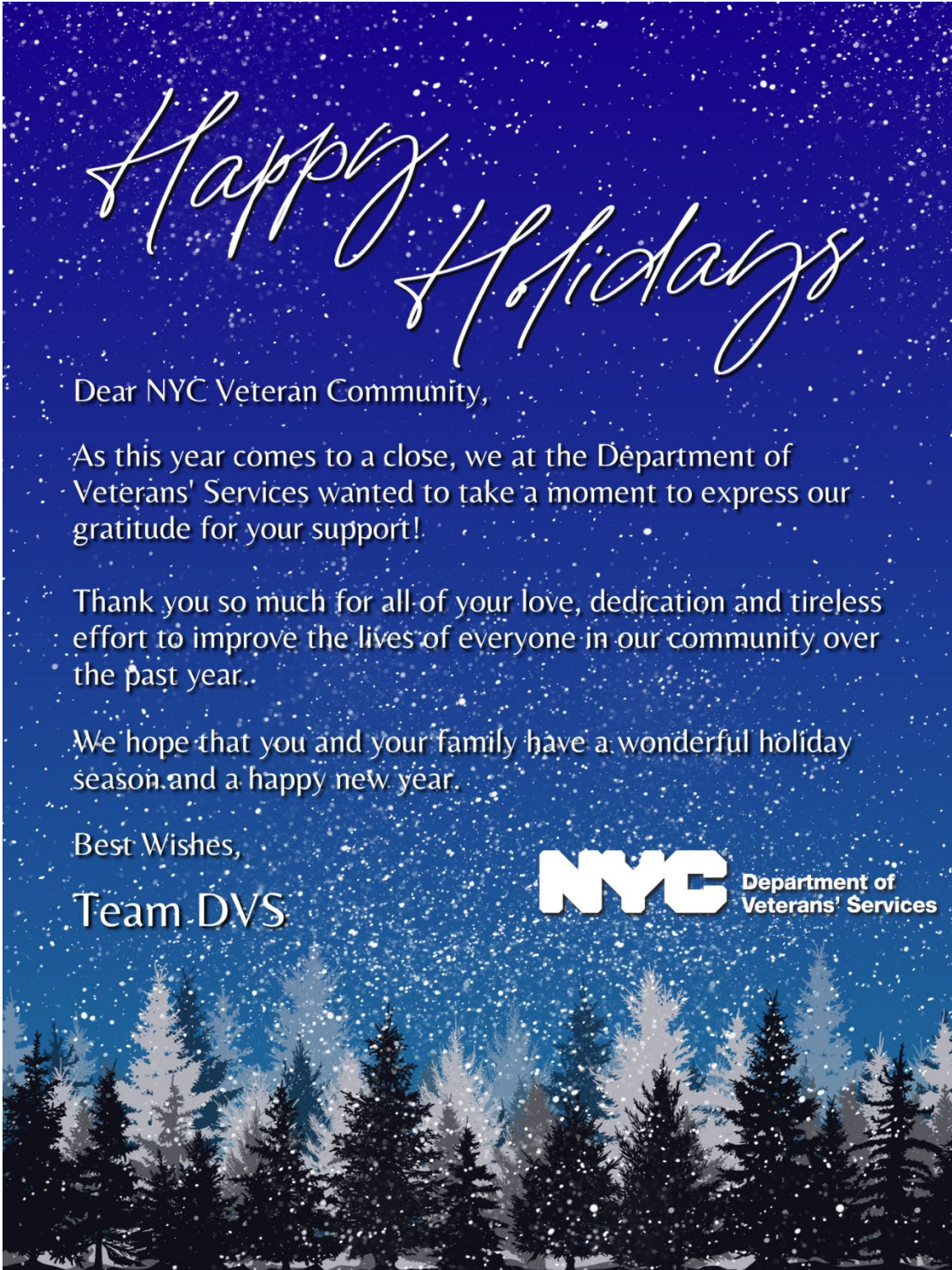
Thank you so much for all of your love, dedication and tireless effort to improve the lives of everyone in our community over the past year.

We hope that you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Best Wishes,

Team DVS

NYC Department of
Veterans' Services



And please remember, you are not alone this holiday season. If you or a loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis the [Veteran Crisis Line](#) can help. Dial 988 and press 1, or text 838255 to be connected to professional and confidential support.



The Veterans Crisis Line is available for all Veterans and their loved ones.

Step into the New Year – Take a hike!



Looking forward to a fresh start in 2024? Why not plan for something fun on New Year's Day and help New York State Parks and Recreation celebrate the kickoff to their Centennial year!

Celebrate the New Year in the outdoors with a First Day Hike at one of the many events across the state and nation.

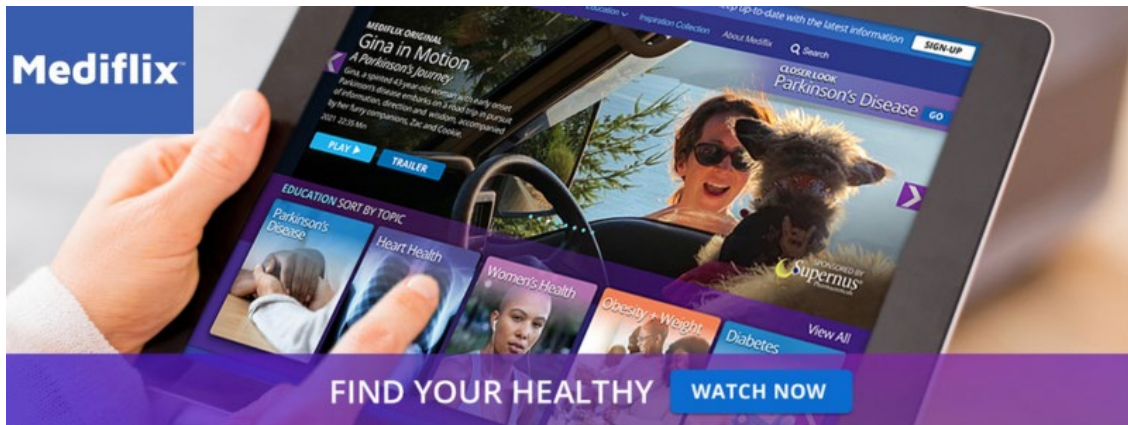
The **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks)**, the **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)**, and the **Canal Corporation** invite New Yorkers to kick off 2024 by participating in one of the many hikes being held at state parks, historic sites, wildlife areas, trails, and public lands across the Empire State.

The 13th annual event includes options for hikes ranging from self-guided treks to staff- or volunteer-led hikes, with some locations offering multiple options allowing people the time and space to enjoy nature's winter wonders.

The walks and hikes are family-friendly and typically range from one to five miles depending on the location and conditions. Hikes are planned at state parks and historic sites, DEC State lands, wildlife areas, Forest Preserve trails, canal trails and towpaths, and environmental education centers.

[Find First Day Hike Events](#)

Help Shape Vetiflix— For Veterans by Veterans



[Mediflix](#) is an online health education platform that is looking to build Vetiflix—a Veteran’s specific version. Currently Mediflix offers a comprehensive health video library, essential insights into various medical conditions, and the opportunity to ask personalized questions to expert physicians. They need your valuable insights to make a similar exceptional platform for Veterans and their families.

If you are a Veteran interested in helping to shape Vetiflix, please follow the guidelines below:

1. Pre-Screening Survey: Start by completing a quick pre-screening survey: [Vetiflix Interest Form](#). This will help them understand your unique healthcare needs. Mediflix is currently recruiting participants interested in learning more about Type 2 Diabetes, Coronary Artery Disease, and Obesity.
2. Exclusive Invitation: After the survey, you’ll receive an exclusive code to access Mediflix.
3. Test and Feedback: Over the following 3 months, Mediflix welcomes you to explore the platform, share feedback, and influence its development. They will check in with you from time to time through the app, text message (optional), and via a final feedback survey.

Your input will shape the direction of Vetiflix, which is purposely being built for Veterans by Veterans to ensure it addresses the specific concerns of all Veterans. Together, they aim to build a resource that enhances the well-being of the Veteran community.

Please note that all information remains confidential, and our agency is not being compensated for recruiting participants. We do believe that Vetiflix can be a powerful tool for Veterans and their families to utilize when seeking information about physical and emotional conditions.

Thank you for your willingness to carve out the time to take part in this effort. We look forward to your involvement.

Feel free to spread the word about this platform among your Military and Veteran colleagues.

[Vetiflix Interest Form](#)

NYSERDA Offshore Wind Open House Information Events



NYSERDA is hosting **educational Offshore Wind Open Houses** beginning in January 2024.

Join NYSERDA, New York State agencies, offshore wind project developers, and other industry partners to learn about the State’s work to responsibly develop offshore wind to advance the critical clean energy needed to meet New York’s Climate Act goals.

These events are open to the public and provide an opportunity for participants to engage

directly with individuals working on offshore wind energy development. Advance registration is not required.

Astoria, Queens	Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET Variety Boys and Girls Club 21-12 30th Rd, Queens, NY 11102
Red Hook, Brooklyn	Wednesday, January 10, 2024 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET Joseph Miccio Community Center 110 W 9th St, Brooklyn, NY 11231
Capital Region	Wednesday, January 17, 2024 Location TBD
Long Island	Tuesday, January 23, 2024 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. ET and 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET Hofstra University Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center Hempstead, NY 11549
Long Island	Wednesday, January 24, 2024 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. ET Long Beach Public Library 111 W Park Ave, Long Beach, NY 11561

**Dates and locations are subject to change*

[Find More Offshore Wind Events](#) |

VETERAN NEWS

**Defense bill grants Native American veterans
more paths to advocacy**



Military Times

By [Jonathan Lehrfeld](#) and [Nikki Wentling](#)

December 20, 2023

An organization representing Native American veterans is set to receive a congressional charter after a nearly 20-year effort, making it the first-ever Native American-dedicated group recipient and the first of any veterans group to receive a charter in almost 15 years.

A charter for the nonprofit National American Indian Veterans, or NAIIV, was included in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. The national defense policy bill passed through Congress last week and is headed to the desk of President Joe Biden, who is expected to sign it.

The charter will allow the organization to testify about veterans' issues before Congress, said Joey Strickland, a retired colonel of Choctaw descent who works as the group's chief of staff. It also provides a pathway for NAIIV to have some of its members accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, permitting them to log into VA systems and help veterans and their families with benefits claims — assistance that is currently lacking on tribal lands.

“It was a long, hard fight,” Strickland said. “When we found out it passed, it was euphoric. This has been denied to Indian veterans for so many years, and we’ve finally made a breakthrough.” [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

The White House: [Readout: White House Hosts Inaugural Veteran Scam and Fraud Evasion Task Force Meeting to Discuss Protecting Veterans and Service Members from Fraud](#)

The Washington Post: [He tried to get his disabled veteran son help. Now, he’s burying him.](#)

CBS News: [LGBTQ military veterans finally seeing the benefits of honorable discharge originally denied them](#)

VA | News: [VA proposes fee process changes that would allow Veterans, their attorneys, claims representatives to receive fees or benefits faster](#)

Institutional Investor: [More Than Ever, Goldman Sachs Wants to Hire Military Veterans](#)

A Message From Mayor Adams:

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

As we come to the end of the year, we’re proud of the innovative work we’ve done to drive crime down, promote economic growth, and build a stronger city for all New Yorkers. Here at DVS, this year, we held our first Military Transition Summit in partnership with the NY Mets, welcoming newly separated servicemembers and veterans to help them acclimate to life in the Big Apple.



Week In Review | December 10 - 16

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!

[Mayor Adams Continues to 'Get Stuff Done' for Working-Class New Yorkers Halfway Through First Term](#)

[Mayor Adams' Statement on City Council Bills That Will Make New York City Less Safe](#)

[Mayor Adams, Community Partners Break Ground on Willets Point Transformation, Largest Affordable Housing Project in 40 Years](#)



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 with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

First virtual National Military Veterans Artist Network Symposium

The **Virtual** Military Veterans Artist Network Symposium

**Thursday, January 25
1:00—4:00 pm EST**

Register at zoomto.me/uZmzo



THE ART
STUDENTS
LEAGUE
OF NEW YORK

The first virtual National Military Veterans Artist Network Symposium is happening next month! This forum is hosted by Americans for the Arts and the Art Students League of New York with multiple distinguished guest speakers. Whether you're a—professional who has been in the industry for years, artist beginning your career, individual who has artistic interests or looking to heal through artistic expression—this symposium can provide you with the tools you need to further your artistic journey.

This summit offers: an introduction to the legacy of Veterans in America's modern and contemporary art history, an introduction to government and private sector

entities looking to support you, networking with fellow artists and professionals in your desired field, discussing "decrutment" and the transition to civilian life, as well as tips and tricks to make a career in the arts sustainable.

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](#)

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:

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

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

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Hospital Care Investigator (NYC H+H) - Hospital Care Investigators (NYC H+H), under direct supervision, conduct investigations in a health care setting to determine the eligibility of applicants for medical assistance payment programs or the ability of patients and their legally responsible relatives to pay for hospital or health care charges and take the necessary actions to bill and collect for these services; explore alternative sources for payment of health care setting services rendered; code, verify and modify demographic and insurance data obtained from source documents and enter such data into a computerized system; perform billings and collections functions in order to obtain maximization of health care setting's revenue. View the full job description [here!](#)

Associate Laboratory Microbiologist - Associate Laboratory Microbiologists, under general direction, supervise a major program, project, or activity, laboratory or laboratory section, or perform difficult professional work with wide latitude for independent judgment and initiative in scientific laboratory work in one or more laboratory specialties, in accordance with the applicable City, State, and Federal regulations. View the full job description [here!](#)

Administrative Park and Recreation Manager - Administrative Park and Recreation Managers, under general direction, with varying degrees of latitude for

the exercise of independent judgment, are responsible for maintenance and operations, technical services and/or recreation programs, projects and activities for various Parks and Recreation properties and facilities; and drive to and within various Parks locations. View the full job description [here!](#)

To view all available 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](#)

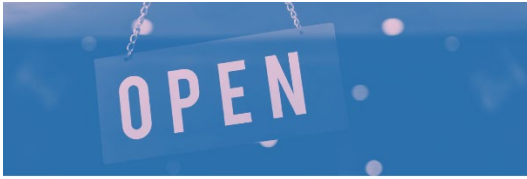
Programs and Initiatives

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.



[nyc.gov/vetjobs: Veteran-specific Employment Resources](#)



Central to the agency's mission is our commitment to serving veterans who are looking for meaningful employment and opportunities to advance economically. DVS ensures that transitioning veterans receive access to the resources they need to start a new career in NYC.

Visit [nyc.gov/vetjobs](#) for veteran-specific job boards, vocational training programs, career fair listings, professional mentorship opportunities, and other employment resources.

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.

Contact Us

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

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

