

DVS Celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: A Statement from Commissioner James Hendon



Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is an occasion to celebrate the profound contributions that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made to our nation's rich and diverse history. It is a time to acknowledge the valuable ways in which these groups have influenced every facet of this nation's culture and left an indelible mark on its history.

An inspiring example of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander dedication, commitment and service our country can be found in the 442nd Infantry Regiment, a segregated unit composed entirely of Asian Americans soldiers of Japanese ancestry. During World War II, this unit fought in some of the bloodiest battles in the European theater, cementing its legacy as one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. Despite the racism and discrimination they faced at home, the members of the 442nd Infantry Regiment fought with unwavering courage and distinction, earning numerous accolades, including the Presidential Unit Citation and 21 Medals of Honor.

The story of the 442nd Infantry Regiment serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in service to our country. It is a testament to the strength of our nation, to our ideals of democracy, our endeavor to form a more perfect union that despite being met by discrimination and adversity at every turn, members of these communities have

consistently answered the call to serve, protect, and defend the United States with unwavering pride and commitment.

As we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we recognize the rich cultural heritage and profound contributions of these groups to our nation. We also reaffirm our commitment to creating a more inclusive and just society, one that fully recognizes the contributions of all Americans. Let us honor the legacy of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander's to our nation and remember their service this month and every month.

Happy AANHPI Heritage Month!



James Hendon
Commissioner
NYC Department of Veterans' Services

Memorial Day Weekend Flag Planting at Cypress Hills National Cemetery



Cypress Hills National Cemetery

Memorial Day Weekend Flag Planting

Remember the Wreath Laying we did in December at Cypress Hills? On May 27th, for Memorial Day weekend, we'll be honoring our Veterans by planting flags at their graves. There are over 27,000 Veterans buried at [Cypress Hills National Cemetery](#) and we will be sure to honor every last one, so no hero is left behind.



May 27 (rain or shine)



9am Start



Cypress Hills National Cemetery

625 Jamaica Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11208

Things to Consider:

- Wear comfortable clothing and dress accordingly for the weather.
- We suggest you wear gloves as the flags are on wooden poles and can give you splinters as you insert the flags into the ground.
- Feel free to bring little carts or backpacks to carry as many flag bundles as possible.
- **Bring water/hydration.**

For questions or concerns, please reach out to Carlos Varon via email at: lcvaron@gmail.com or by phone at: 718-374-1926

Women Veterans Empowerment Workshop



Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving is a reintegration program for women Veterans that utilizes writing and performance to empower them to thrive in their daily life. WVE&T guides women Veterans to reconnect with their mind, body, soul and passion for life. Through creativity, compassion and camaraderie in a nonjudgmental space, we empower each other to ascend to the best version of ourselves.

Upcoming Event

 **Sunday, May 7**

 Zoom Virtual Platform

 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT

The focus of this workshop is on Cis Gendered Women Veterans only. Additionally the following are the workshops areas of concentration:

- Scheduling time for yourself without apologies
- Practicing speaking, writing and living without taking things personally
- Learning to empower yourself from within
- Practicing observing without judgment

- Investing in a compassionate, cooperative community of Empowerment for YOU!

Previous artistic experience is not necessary.

[Register for the Workshop Here](#)

Exclusive Film Screening:
Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call

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.



Trailer for Colonel Kalsi: Beyond The Call

[Register on Eventbrite Here](#)

AmeriCorps/NYC VISTA Program



What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities.

What is AmeriCorps Vista?

VISTA members serve at New York City government agencies (known as host sites) full-time from **July 31, 2023 to August 2, 2024** to address critical city issues related to poverty by engaging in capacity-building work. Capacity building refers to tasks and activities that create, expand or strengthen the systems and processes that help an organization carry out its anti-poverty work. These tasks and activities include the transfer of knowledge/skills, products, and relationships.

For more info about AmeriCorps VISTA, visit [here!](#)

DVS's VISTA Job Opening:

The DVS NYC VISTA Member will manage the DVS/NYC Cares Mission: VetCheck program. The program connects Veterans to fellow New Yorkers through supportive check in calls. The VISTA Member will manage a robust volunteer effort where trained volunteers provide information on essential public services and other resources to Veterans.

For more info on DVS's job, visit our posting [here!](#)

Who is eligible?

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States
- Have successfully obtained a High School diploma or its equivalent prior to the start of the program
- Agree to and pass a criminal background check
- Ability to serve full time for the program term (generally M-F 9AM - 5PM)

How to apply:

To apply, create an [AmeriCorps account](#) and select apply now on our [job listing](#).

To learn more about **NYC Service**, visit their website [here](#).

To learn more about benefits of working for **AmeriCorps** visit their website [here](#).

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](#).

VETERAN NEWS



A Ukrainian delegate punched a Russian delegate in the face during a summit of Black Sea nations in the Turkish capital, after his Ukrainian flag was snatched away to stop him photobombing a video interview with Russia's lead delegate. Video showed Ukraine's Olesandr Marikovski hitting the Russian and retrieving the blue and yellow flag.

More Veteran-related Headlines

ABC News: [Biden, Republicans spar over Veterans' benefits amid debt ceiling show down](#)

CNBC: [Job growth totals 253,000 in April, beating expectations even as the U.S. economy slows](#)

The Daily Princetonian: [‘Understanding where we fit in’: Princeton’s growing veteran community spans borders](#)

Military Times: [Veterans in Proud Boy Jan. 6 case found guilty of seditious conspiracy](#)



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.



This week's highlight is **US Air Force Veteran Colonel, James P Stanton**. James P. Stanton, producer and playwright of *The Sun Also Sets*, is a 2014 graduate of the Hunter College Department of Theatre's Master of Arts and Baruch College's Masters of Arts Administration, 2019. He was a recipient of the CUNY Vera Roberts Fellowship for his anti-war play *A Fortnight at Tripler* which was also recognized as a 2020 AITAF Bridge Award Semi Finalist. He is an ensemble member of The Public Theater's Public Works and most recently performed in their 2022 Shakespeare in the Park production of *As You Like It*. A native New Yorker, Colonel Stanton is a combat veteran who served in the Air Force as a fighter and bomber pilot, commander, accident investigator and strategic international analyst. He is now an actor, playwright, attorney, and served as an administrative law hearing officer for the City of New York. His New York theatrical production company is The Stanton Firm LLC.

Upcoming Event

***The Sun Also Sets* By James P Stanton Directed by Desiree Sanchez** is a full length play running at Theater for the New City, **opening 5/17 and runs through 5/24.**

 **May 17, 2023 - May 24, 2023**

 **Theater For the New City** 155 1st Avenue New York, NY 10003

 **8:00 p.m. EDT**

About the Play

Imagine a summer hiking a Spanish trail to the Pyrenees and finding your companion to be more and more intolerable. This is where Heather finds herself, that is until a strong handsome American whisks her off on a grand adventure: the Running of the Bulls, the traditional Festival of San Fermin in Basque country. When the companion and his Spanish tour guide decide to pursue her, all bets are off. Who falls in love with whom?

***Tickets are Free** for Military Veterans, Active Duty, and their family members. Use the code **VeteransSunset23** at checkout. Proof of Military Affiliation will be checked at the box office the night of the show.

[Register on Eventbrite Here](#)

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.





FREE HEALTHY FOODS

WHAT NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day
Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy

WHEN Every Friday - 10am to 1pm
from March 3 - May 26

WHERE
Staten Island
340 Bay Street



For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3882.





FREE HEALTHY FOODS

WHAT NeON Nutrition Kitchen Veterans Only Day
Free Packaged Groceries, Produce and Dairy

WHEN Every Monday - 9:30am to 12:30pm
from March 13 - June 6

WHERE
Bronx
198 East 161st 10451




For requests regarding accessibility or language interpretation services please email disabilityfacilitator@probation.nyc.gov or call 212-510-3882.

Staten Island:

 Fridays, March 3 - May 26

 340 Bay Street

 10a-1p

The Bronx:

 Mondays, March 13 - June 6

 198 East 161st

 9:30a-12:30p

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)

Critical Financial Assistance Programs



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**

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

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.

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](#)

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

Assistant Mechanical Engineer - Assistant Mechanical Engineers, perform mechanical engineering work of moderate difficulty and responsibility and may supervise subordinate employees. They perform engineering calculations using college level math; perform design work on mechanical parts, basic plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems and water distribution systems; prepare quantity estimates, cost estimates, memos, reports, letters and specifications; review manufacturers' catalogs and samples, drawings (shop, plan, construction, design), shop testing procedures for mechanical equipment to meet standards and outside consultants' designs; take photographs of project sites and details of existing buildings; take and verify measurements of buildings, bridges and mechanical parts; develop drawings of proposed and final designs, mechanical component sections and details; attend meetings with developers, contractors, architects and fabricators; participate in inspection operations by observing, checking and certifying the installation of materials and equipment; attest to equipment performance and test results of materials; research reference materials; may drive a motor vehicle or take public transportation to various work sites. All Assistant Mechanical Engineers perform related work.

Police Communications Technician - Police Communications

Technicians work in the Police Department Communications Section, serve as 911 call-takers; obtain necessary information from callers in order to initiate emergency assistance; serve as radio dispatchers of police resources; view pictures, videos and listen to audio attachments sent via "Text to 911"; and perform clerical, administrative and other duties related to the provision of emergency service.

Staff Analyst - Staff Analysts perform professional work of varying degrees of difficulty and responsibility in the preparation and administration of agency budgets and the conduct of economic research and studies; in the preparation and conduct of administrative, procedural and operational studies and analyses concerning the agency's organization and operations; and in personnel administration; may supervise and train less experienced staff. Staff Analysts utilize computers in the performance of these duties.

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.

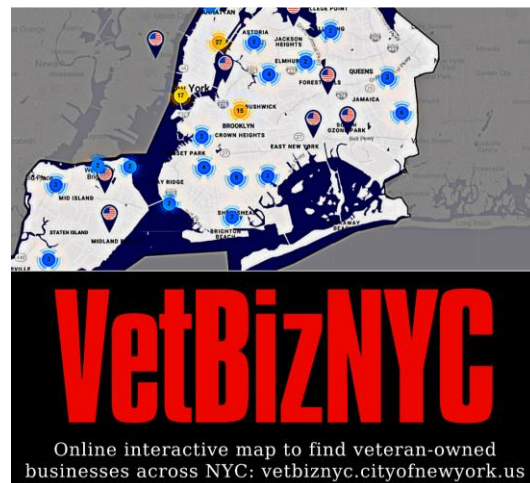
Empowering Veteran Business Owners



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.



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.

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](https://www.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.