

## October 2021 Newsletter

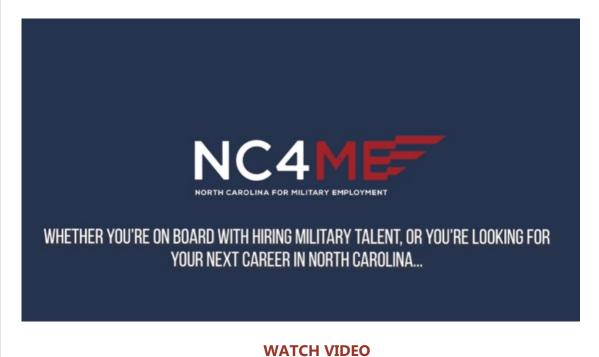
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## **#ICYMI**

## NCDMVA Joins NC4ME to Challenge NC Employers to Honor Veterans by Hiring Veterans

North Carolina for Military Employment (NC4ME) is partnering with the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA), the North Carolina Department of Commerce, and the Governor Roy Cooper's office to challenge every employer to "Honor Veterans by Hiring Veterans" during the 60-day period between September 11 and November 11, Veterans Day.



Visit <u>NC4ME.org/OnBoard</u> for more information.



NCDMVA Celebrates 6 Years of Honoring NC's Veteran & Military Families

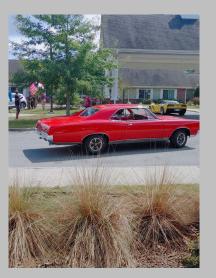
Did you know that <u>NCDMVA's</u> <u>headquarters</u> are housed in one Raleigh's earliest surviving office buildings? NCDMVA recently celebrated six years of serving North Carolina's service members and Veteran families in this historic landmark. <u>Click here to learn</u> <u>more.</u>

## Kinston Veterans Enjoy a Parade

Hot Rods 4 Veterans put on a parade Saturday, September 18th at the NC Veterans Home in Kinston. The



event showcased modern and vintage cars in a five-lap parade around the parking lot while veterans watched from their porches and rooms. A veterans choice award was presented to cars that were favorites of the residents. Car owners also dropped off donations to the home ranging from canteen supplies, toiletries to 2021 Hot Rods 4 Veterans T shirts.







Nancy Cozean Jacob of the Sarah Barton Murphy Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Jason Furr, commander of the Farmington Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5896; and John Kramer, commander of the Farmington American Legion Post 416, pay their respects at the gravesite of Revolutionary War veteran. Lt. William Alexander.

#### Revolutionary War Veteran Honored

Two-hundred and forty years after he served, military honors were held for Lieutenant William Alexander, a North Carolina Revolutionary War soldier. Farmington. The ceremony took place at Alexander's gravesite in Farmington, NC and included members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Farmington Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Farmington American Legion Post.

## NCDMVA At Work

## **Charlotte Veterans Stand Down & Resource Fair**

On September 10th the Queen City hosted a veteran's event sponsored by Operation Decisive Victory, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and The US Department of Veteran Affairs. The event offered help to homeless veterans and their families in the form of free food, clothing, haircuts, benefits counseling, housing assistance, and more. Participants were located at City Plaza for the five-hour event. **See our <u>Flickr page</u> for pictures from the event**.



DMVA Veterans Service Technician, Jeanie Hampton, stands by at Operation Decisive Victory.

Wilmington Veterans Experience Action Center On September 23rd, 24th and 25th The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Winston-Salem Regional Office (USVA) held a veteran's benefits event in Wilmington.

Representatives from the USVA were there to help veteran file claims, address current claim questions and help veteran learn about benefits for education, home loans and burial benefits.

Vet Center counselors were also there to assist with bereavement, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, and mental health screening questions. More than 650 attendees benefitted during this three-day event which took place at the American Legion Post 10 in Wilmington. **See more pictures from our Flickr page**.

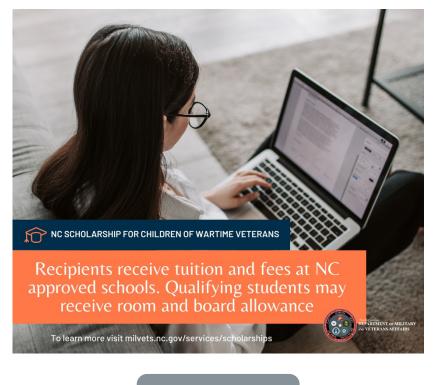


VEAC cubicles setup and ready to assist veterans with VA claims, benefits, services and more.

## **DMVA Public Service Announcements**

#### Next Round of NC Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans Now Open

Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans are now open for the 2022 scholarship program. The NCDMVA is offering a four-year scholarship to students of deceased, disabled, combat, or POW/MIA veterans. Students who want to apply must be under the age of 25 and a resident of the state. The deadline to be considered for January 2022 is December 1, 2021.



To learn more about our scholarship program visit <u>https://www.milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships</u>

Learn how to apply

NETWORKING SESSION: OCTOBER 12, 2021

HIRING EVENT: OCTOBER 13, 2021

NC4ME has teamed up with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for the <u>Goldsboro / Seymore</u> <u>Johnson Networking + Hiring Event</u>. NC4ME and the SJAFB team will be working together to diligently monitor the COVID-19, and will move to a fully virtual event if necessary. This is a hybrid event, allowing both employers and candidates to have the option to attend in-person or virtually. Come prepared to share your experience and earn a place on some great teams.



## Vet Tix: Giving Something To Those Who Gave



Through the <u>Tickets for Troops Program</u>, the <u>Veteran Tickets Foundation</u> (Vet Tix for short) teams up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, and venues to provide free and discounted tickets to active duty military and veterans. Their <u>Hero's Wish</u> initiative creates once in a lifetime experiences for wounded warriors and families of men and women killed in action. Attending these events

improves mental welfare, strengthens family bonds, builds positive, life-long memories and encourages service members to stay engaged with American life and local communities.

#### Become a Vet Tix member.

To become a Vet Tix member, active duty or honorably discharged service members just need to <u>verify military service on the Vet Tix website</u>. From there, check out the donated and discounted tickets for events you're interested in.

#### Giving something to those who gave.

Supporting our Troops is more than just a magnet on a car, Vet Tix is doing something much bigger here. VetTix is a national non-profit, non-governmental 501c(3) taxexempt organization reporting a 95% charity rate, meaning 95 cents out of every dollar they receive goes back to the Veterans and military members they serve. Visit them at <u>www.vettix.org</u> for more information.



## **#MilVetsNC Leaderboard** Hispanic Heritage Month

With honor, in gratitude: our Leaderboard recognizes the impact of North Carolina's military and Veterans community, and the individuals who work on behalf of those who have served.

#### Assistant Secretary Military Affairs Ariel Aponte

Even as a young man, Aponte knew the military was the right choice for him because he wanted to not only defend the nation, but also represent Hispanics and his family in a honorable way. The early years were tough as Aponte's low grades only got him into the army as a cook. He did not let that stop him though as he says, "I put in the hard work, and I didn't take the easy way out," and became a Special Forces member with ten deployments to Afghanistan, and a 20-year career to his name.

He retired in 2018, but still wanted to be part of the military world and joined the North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, as a temp, in July of 2018. Just like in the army Aponte wasn't satisfied with his role and after a mere year rose to his current position as Assistant Secretary Military Affairs.

To Aponte Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize all the Hispanic contributions made to North Carolina in the past, currently and what is yet to come. He sums it up with the word, "Orgulloso" which means proud in Spanish. He wants to make his family and Hispanics every where proud to be who they are, and that makes him want to carry the torch for his people.

As far as advice for other young Hispanics seeking to make a mark in the world, he says believe in the core values that the Hispanic culture instills in you and do what it takes to overcome obstacles. To break those barriers that will be put in front of you, you must do as I did early on, Aponte says. "Put in the hard work and don't take the easy way out."



DMVA Assistant Secretary, Military Affairs, Ariel Aponte

# NORMENARS, SERVICE BARDERS, ADVOCATES HILVETSNO LEAD ERDARD

Nominate a Service Member, Veteran for #MilVetsNC Leaderboard

DMVA's monthly #MilVetsNC Leaderboard feature is an opportunity to highlight NC service members, veterans, and those who work on their behalf.

It's easy, all it takes is one (1) email to **publisher@milvets.nc.gov** with some background on why this veteran, service member or military veteran advocate should be featured. Please include 1-3 photos.

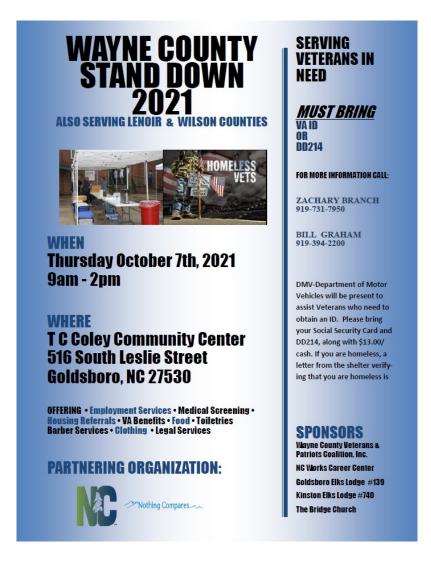
Email subject: #MilVetsNC Leaderboard Nomination

**Photo submission guidance:** The images must be larger than 200 kilobytes. If the photo is low resolution and/or grainy, it probably won't work. Please include a photo caption for each photo. Include a general description detailing the context of the photo, names of those pictured, the event taking place, location and date.

## Save the Date

## Wayne County Stand Down

Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm



## 2021 NC Women MilVets Virtual Summit

Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 9 am - 12:30 pm

#### The 2021 NC Women MilVets Summit

continues its tradition of empowering military and veteran women to live healthy and happy lives, become successful leaders in their communities, and advocate on behalf of their communities.

#### Who should attend?



Educate, Empower, Enrich: Emerging & Lighting the Way Forward

Join us!

GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON VETERANS.

SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Join the discussion

- Women who are:
- Active Duty Military;
- Veterans;
- Reserve, and;
- NC National Guard.

Join us for an interactive exchange of ideas emphasizing business, entrepreneurship, education, career opportunities and health and wellness through breakout, panels, and Q&A.

The program will be streamed on Facebook Live.

Click here for more information.



In September, in honor of <u>Suicide Prevention</u> <u>Awareness Month</u> the <u>NC Governor's</u> <u>Working Group</u> (NCGWG) began a five-part series on the Social Determinants of Veteran Suicide.

This series will run through January 2022 and will feature a deep dive into one of the most critical issues facing Veterans today.

Click here to find out how you can be a part of the discussion.

## **Community Calendar**

**October Events** 

- Oct 9 (POSTPONED) North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts, Raleigh
- Oct 10 VBH and the Panthers Play 60 Kids Combine, Charlotte
- Oct 10 World Mental Health Day
- Oct 12 Carolina Marines Golf Tournament, Ft. Mill-SC
- Oct 12-13 <u>NC4ME Virtual Hiring Events</u>

- Oct 13 US Navy Birthday Hooyah!
- Oct 14 Employer Spotlight: Akima
- Oct 18-22 GOLD STAR SPOUSES PATRIOTS PATH WORKSHOP
- Oct 19 <u>NC4ME Exec Vets Transition to Corporate America</u>
- Oct 20 Federal Employment: Where to Begin
- Oct 21 <u>2021 NC Women MilVets Virtual Summit</u>
- Oct 22-23 <u>2th Annual Honor the Warriors Ride</u>
- Oct 22-23 <u>4th annual Addiction Medicine Essentials conference</u>
- Oct 23 Vet Info Fair, Ft Bragg Harley Davidson
- Oct 24 Vets to Vets United WakeMed Soccer Park 5K, Cary
- Oct 26 Day of the Deployed
- Oct 26 Military Spouses: 5 Steps to Get Hired
- Oct 28 <u>Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and their Families</u> <u>meeting: Social Determinants of Veteran Suicide Series, Pt. II of V; The Role of</u> <u>Trauma, Meeting Agenda</u>
- Oct 30 <u>3rd Annual Salute to Service Jeep Show, Lexington</u>
- Oct 30 US Veterans Hall of Fame Gala, Concord

Submit your community events for consideration to <u>Publisher@milvets.nc.gov</u>

\*Always include event name, event summary, date/time, location, RSVP details, and website(s).

**Click here for more events** 

The Hall of Firsts October 9, 2021 (Postponed)

The 2021 North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts Inaugural Induction Ceremony and the accompanying exhibit at the <u>North Carolina Museum of History</u> have been postponed until Spring 2022.

Stay tuned for updates!

Click here to learn more about the NC Military Hall of Firsts.



North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) supports both active and reserve uniformed military personnel and their families; military installations and communities; and military veterans and their families in North Carolina. The Department seeks to provide timely and responsive engagement to enhance NC's current military and veteran friendly environment. In addition, the Department also seeks to foster and promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and healthcare for the above communities. Lastly, the Department works to accomplish these services by providing assistance and coordination between the Federal Government, the State of NC, its political subdivisions, and collaborative and supporting agencies.

## Let's Get Social!

Connect with us on social media for more news, updates, issue reports, action calls, and time sensitive items of note.



## NC DMVA <u>| www.milvets.nc.gov</u>