



# DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

## ON POINT NEWSLETTER

### April 2021 Newsletter

## Thank you for Subscribing...

In this month's edition of On Point, COVID-19 remains the top priority and a main focus as the Department aims to point veterans, active duty service members, and their families towards the resources they need.

DMVA On Point Newsletter highlights the Department's month of activities and profiles partner agencies, departments, and community activities centered around helping North Carolina's active duty military community and veteran population. Learn more at [www.milvets.nc.gov](http://www.milvets.nc.gov)

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## Heartwarming Family Reunions Underway at Black Mountain

Uplifting photos and stories are being shared as visitations between patients and their loved ones are underway. Most are reuniting for the first time since the pandemic began last year.

As COVID-19 vaccinations ease the pandemic numbers, family members embrace while carefully following safety guidelines to celebrate this milestone of being able to safely visit with loved ones again.

[Click Here](#)



NCSVH at Black Mountain resident greets family members as vaccinations help to return life back to normal.



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## From the NC DHHS



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Office of Communications

## People Fully Vaccinated by County of Residence - NC Providers

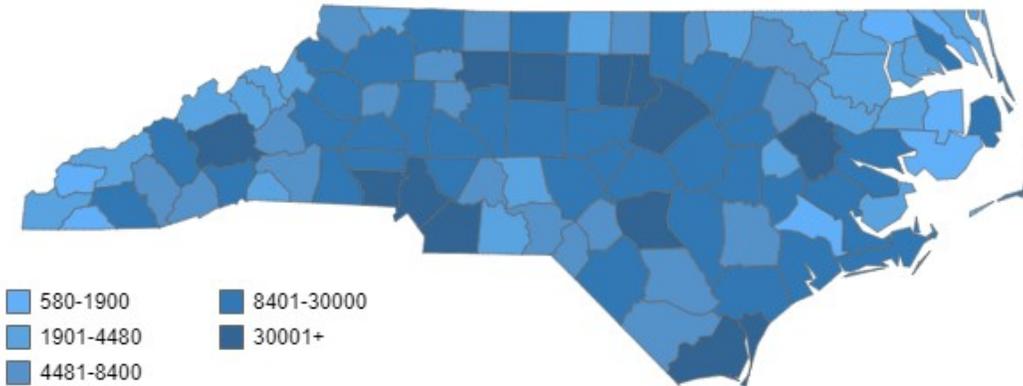
Select Metric:

People Fully Vaccinated

Select County:

North Carolina

1,641,691  
People Fully Vaccinated  
North Carolina



People Fully Vaccinated: 2,894 NC residents missing county information; 39,645 out of state residents

March 31, 2021

For a deeper look [Click Here](#)

## Month of the Military Child

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. The Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.

Learn more about this important time of the month and how the Department is recognizing our military children.

[Click Here](#)



## Those we've Lost - From Asheville Watchdog

*Many great people have been lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Civilians, men, and women who served in the U.S. military.*



Charles Hollinshead, courtesy of the Hollinshead family and the Mountain Xpress

[Asheville Watchdog is a nonprofit news team producing stories that matter to Asheville, Buncombe County and all of US.](#)

It is imperative to stop, read, and understand the lives lost to COVID-19 and the impacts that they have had on our world, then and now. Take time to read this heartfelt article that highlights the accomplishments, passions and lives of the men and women taken to soon by this disease.

[Click Here](#)

## Profiling Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery Superintendent Phil Davenport

Born and raised in western North Carolina, Phil grew up during the Vietnam War era. His father served in the U.S. Army. Attending Brevard College and UNC-Asheville. Phil's background includes extensive experience in management and construction cleaning and finishing. For the past 9+ years he has worked at Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery-Black Mountain as Administrative Assistant.

*"I am extremely blessed to be able to continue helping serve the Heroes who served us so faithfully. Very excited to begin the new chapter here at WCSVC, we will continue to focus on meeting the needs of the families we serve and maintaining these hallowed grounds to the best of our abilities. And thank you, J.D. Whisnant for your excellent guidance here at this facility. Your leadership, efforts and accomplishments will always be remembered and appreciated".*

Phil is married to wife Shannon, they have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



NCSVC - Phil Davenport - Cemetery Superintendent

## DMVA Welcomes New Key Team Members

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs welcomes two new team members to fill key positions in the Department to make way for a prosperous 2021.

**Macey Webb** will serve as Legislative Liaison for the NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA).

Before joining DMVA, Macey worked for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce as an Administrative Hearing Officer where she held and adjudicated unemployment insurance claims. Driven to see justice served by always doing what is right, Macy is eager to get to work advocating on behalf of North Carolina's military and veteran community.

Macy received her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

**Jessica Coscia** will serve as the new Communications Director for the NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA). In this role, she will oversee communications and media relations efforts to enhance the visibility of the Department's programs, services, and benefits.

From the news desk to the halls of Congress, Jessica's career has led her to a diverse career informing diverse audiences and engaging decision-makers on key issues ranging from health care to Latino issues to veteran's education.

More recently, she worked in Washington, D.C. serving as Communications Director for U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey (TX-33) and as Vice President of Communications & Marketing with Student Veterans of America (SVA), where she was responsible for developing and implementing communications strategies for proactive outreach, crisis communications, and creating campaigns to spearhead public relations efforts.

She is a graduate of William Peace University and lives in Raleigh with her husband Brendan and rescue pup, Parker.

Next month's edition of On Point, we profile other key Department staff recently added to the DMVA family.



## Special Attention

### The Veterans Support Specialist

The Veteran Support Specialist (VSS) Program will be administered virtually for the first time since its 2015 inception. Classes begin April 8th - 9th. Program goals include:

- Increasing the ability to serve veterans in a

more holistic manner, understanding needs and identifying resources beyond VA Benefits and Healthcare.

- Improve one-on-one interaction with veterans by teaching relationship-building skills gleaned from the Peer Support methodology.
- Assist veteran service officers and technicians in engaging vets directly and “walk them through what can be a fragmented system of care.”
- Improve understanding of veteran needs, learn what challenges they face, and which resources are in high demand.



This first iteration of virtual training space is limited, however; notification of future classes will be posted.



### Central Piedmont Community College

Topic: Whole Health and Wellness

Host: Richard Bartell, Central  
Piedmont Community College

Contact: [Richard.Bartell@cpcc.edu](mailto:Richard.Bartell@cpcc.edu)

Date: April 29, 2021

Time: 10:00 to 11:15 am



### 2021 DRIVE-THROUGH VETERAN & SERVICE MEMBER RESOURCE FAIR

WE INVITE VENDORS TO JOIN US



WHEN: APRIL 10, 2021

TIME: 11 AM- 2 PM

WHERE: CREE | WOLFSPEED  
4600 SILICON DRIVE  
DURHAM, NC 27703

CLICK HERE FOR VENDOR REGISTRATION



COVID-19 COMPLIANT

CONTACT: BROOKE DICKHART, GREATER TRIANGLE VMFA /THE JOEL FUND

★ [BROOKE@THEJOELFUND.ORG](mailto:BROOKE@THEJOELFUND.ORG) ★





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## Events

### April 2021 Events

- Apr 8-10 [Addiction Medicine Conference 2021](#)
- Apr 9 [Forsyth County Veterans Stand Down](#)
- Apr 10 [Drive-Through Veteran Resource Fair , Durham](#)
- Apr 12-25 [SC StoryCorps](#)
- Apr 12-16 [Patriots Path Workshop](#)
- Apr 12 [Red Cross Resiliency Partner Presentation](#)
- Apr 15 [Spring 2021 Employing U.S. Veterans Virtual Conference](#)
- Apr 15 [Feeding Independence, Charlotte VA Health Care Center](#)
- Apr 15 [Red Cross Resiliency Partner Presentation](#)
- Apr 16 [NC4ME Hiring Event](#)
- Apr 22 [NC Governors Working Group, Raleigh](#)
- Apr 24-30 [FUND USO Inaugural Spring Break 5K virtual event](#)
- Apr 24-25 [Bridge II Sports Cycling USA Archery Instructor Certification - Level 2](#)
- Apr 26-30 [Patriots Path Workshop](#)
- Apr 27 [NC4ME NC SHRM Why and How to Hire Military Veterans and Spouses](#)
- Apr 28 [Patriots Path Speed Networking](#)
- Apr 29 [NC STRIVE, CPCC](#)

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## DMVA Public Service Announcement

### Cemeteries

Interments scheduled after March 26, will be offered the option of a committal service at the time of interment. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability.

Listed below are guidelines to follow until further notice. Please advise your local funeral homes regarding these changes.

- Services are 30 minutes, Monday – Friday, at 10am, 12pm, 2pm. Family and attendees must exit the cemetery at the conclusion of the service.
- Caskets & urns must be thoroughly disinfected before entering the cemetery.
- Up to 100 attendees are permitted at committal services. This does include funeral staff or Military Honor Guards.
- Cemetery chairs or podium will not be placed at the committal area.
- Next of Kin information will be given to funeral staff.
- Attendees aren't permitted to handle or touch caskets or urns before, during or after the service.
- Attendees not of the same household must maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from each other. Masks and frequent use of hand sanitizer are required. Sick individuals are asked not to attend.
- Funeral flower arrangements are not permitted to be left during the committal service, but, families or funeral staff may place one arrangement after all services for the day.
- Attendees must depart the cemetery at half past the hour.
- Families may continue to choose direct interment and opt for a memorial service at later date when restrictions have been lifted.

## NC DMVA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Operations & Procedures

The NC Department of Military And Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all veterans, their families, our staff and the general public during this pandemic. The Department is committed to providing updates on a continuing basis and will make changes to operations and procedures as needed.

See here direct links to [Governor Cooper's office](#), and the North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services [COVID-19 dashboard](#). Please continue to monitor these websites and stay vigilant.

[Click Here](#)



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.

