



# DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

## ON POINT NEWSLETTER

## August 2021 Newsletter

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### #ICYMI

#### PHOTOS AVAILABLE: Sec. Gaskin honors U.S. Coast Guard with proclamation

**The ceremony was part of the annual Coast Guard Day event at Base Elizabeth City. Elizabeth City was officially re-certified as a Coast Guard City at the USCG Day Ceremony.**

On Wednesday, to celebrate Coast Guard Birthday, Secretary Gaskin visited Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City to present Rear Admiral Laura M. Dickey, Commander of Coast Guard District 5 with Governor Cooper's proclamation, which the Governor issued in honor of the United States Coast Guard's 231st birthday. As part of the event a brief ceremony was held to recertify Elizabeth City as a "Coast Guard City." The city first received the Coast Guard City designation from the Coast Guard in May 2015. Under the program's rules, cities are required to seek recertification every five years. To date, 29 cities have been declared by Congress to be "Coast Guard Cities."

Photos of the event are available [here](#)



U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Laura Dickey and NC Department of Military Affairs Secretary, Walter E. Gaskin, LtGen (Ret.)

# DMVA At Work

## Sec. Gaskin joins community leaders to honor US Marine with a 'Hero Home' in Garner

### Operation: Coming Home and Mattamy Homes Hold Key Ceremony for Combat Wounded Veteran, US Marine SSgt. Matthew Polizzi and his family

DMVA Secretary, **Walter E. Gaskin, LtGen (Ret.)** joined Operation: Coming Home and partners in Garner as they honored combat-wounded veteran, US Marine Staff Sergeant (SSgt.) Matthew Polizzi and his family with a new home in Mattamy's Oak Park community.

The project is a result of Operation: Coming Home, a joint volunteer project by the Home Builders Association of Raleigh-Wake County (HBA), the US Veterans Corps (USVC), and companies such as Mattamy Homes that build and donate homes for wounded combat veterans.



**Garner, N.C. (July 15, 2021)** – North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary, Walter E. Gaskin, LtGen (Ret.) thanks Polizzi family for their service and congratulates them on their new Hero Home.

Watch the full event recording [here](#)

## DMVA Public Service Announcements

New measures to protect state employees and the public at state facilities

**DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE.**

Find a vaccine location near you at [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov) or call 888-675-4567.

YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

The graphic features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. It includes four circular inset images: a man in a light green polo shirt wearing a blue surgical mask, a woman in a red hijab wearing a blue surgical mask, a woman in a patterned top wearing a white surgical mask, and a woman in a white top wearing a white surgical mask. The text at the bottom reads "YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT." with a stylized eye icon in the letter 'O' of "SHOT".

Governor Cooper recently announced Executive Order 224 as part of the state's stepped-up efforts to control the steady and significant increase of COVID-19 across North Carolina. The Order puts into place new measures to protect state employees and members of the public at state offices, buildings, and facilities. Executive Order 224 applies to all Cabinet agencies and non-Cabinet agencies are strongly encouraged to participate. Starting on Monday, August 2, changes will begin at state facilities to protect the health and safety of state employees and visitors. Accurate and regularly updated information about COVID-19 vaccines and testing is available at [YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov](http://YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov).

## Veterans Service Centers Reopen to General Public

After more than 15 months, all 12 Veteran Service Centers across North Carolina reopened for public contact on July 1st! Veterans may now schedule in person appointments and offices may accept walk-in traffic. Personnel will continue to exercise good personal protective practices with sneeze guards installed at every person's work station and disinfecting hand wash stations across facilities. These safe practices continue with the wearing of masks, face shields, and gloves for anyone who has an in-office visit and wishes to glove up. The Department continues to monitor employees for symptoms of COVID-19. Please call **844-624-8387** to schedule an appointment.

Click [here](#) for more information about Veterans Service Centers across North Carolina.

## Slow internet? No internet?

**Trouble paying for internet?**  
You can get help.

**Who Can Get Help?**  
Some people who may get the discount:  
• Have income at or below 135% of federal poverty guidelines  
• Receives Lifetime benefits through SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit  
• Lost a job or significant amount of income since February 29, 2020

**Want Help?**  
Many households are struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. But the federal Emergency Broadband Benefit Program provides:  
• \$50 a month for internet services  
• \$75 a month for those living on tribal lands  
• \$100 discount for a laptop, computer or tablet bought through a participating provider

**How Do I Get Help?**  
You can apply online or by mail beginning May 12, 2021. For application and eligibility requirements visit [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org). For questions, call 833-511-3011.

**SLOW internet?  
NO internet?**  
We need to know.

The N.C. Broadband Survey is designed to gather information on locations without adequate internet access and speeds in our community.

For Homes & Businesses **WITH Internet Service**  
Visit [NCBroadband.gov/Survey](http://NCBroadband.gov/Survey) to take the survey now.

For Homes & Businesses **WITHOUT Internet Service**  
Text "internet" to **919-750-0553**. Standard text messaging rates will apply.

Your feedback directly impacts grant and infrastructure funding in your community.

**NCDIT**  
Broadband Infrastructure Office

The NC Broadband Survey is designed to gather information on locations without adequate internet access and speeds in our community. Please take the survey and pass this information along! <https://ncbroadband.gov/survey>

## Leaderboard

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.

### Kimberly Lindsay Williams: Helping NC Service Members Get Hired

Kimberly Williams has more than thirty years' experience leading human resource professionals in the private sector, public sector, and nonprofit environment. Kimberly's experience in the public sector and non-profit includes directing the Human Resource function for local government, school division, health care and workforce housing.

Kimberly is currently the Chief Human Resource Officer for the City of Jacksonville, North Carolina. Her passion for assisting military service members, began with serving as a volunteer with Virginia Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (VaESGR) as Regional Chair and later as State Director for their Employment Initiative Program (EIP). Kimberly has twice been presented the Seven Seals Award for meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the Department of Defense. She founded and is currently leading the North Carolina statewide employment initiative **NC4ME**, *North Carolina for Military Employment*, a comprehensive public-private partnership.

Kimberly serves as a member of the Governors Working Group for Veterans and their Families. She is married to her husband Keith, who are the proud parents of two children, their son a Physician's Assistant (PA) in Virginia and their daughter a Sergeant in the Marine Corps.



Kimberly Williams  
Founder and CEO of NC4ME

**Nominate a Service Member or Veteran for #NC4VetsSpotlight**



Do you want to light up the face of a special Service Member or Veteran? You're in luck!

#NC4VetsSpotlight is an opportunity to highlight your favorite Service Member or Veteran and his/her service.

It's easy. All it takes is one email to [publisher@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:publisher@milvets.nc.gov) with as much background information on your nominee as you can put together and 1-3 photos.

**Pictures:** Everyone loves pictures, so the better the quality, the better the tribute will be. The images should be larger than 200kb. Please note: If the photo is grainy, it probably won't work. Email [publisher@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:publisher@milvets.nc.gov) with any questions.

## Special Attention

### Community Calendar

#### Catawba County's Parade Day Honors War Veterans



In honor of U.S. war veterans and active duty servicemen and women in all armed service branches, Catawba County's Parade Day will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, with a "Honoring Our Heritage" theme. Citizens will gather for the 132nd annual Soldiers Reunion where activities for the day will be held around the Courthouse Square.

The Hickory Veterans Service Center and the Catawba County Veterans Services will share a booth on the square to meet and greet veterans, answer questions, and distribute Resource Guides.

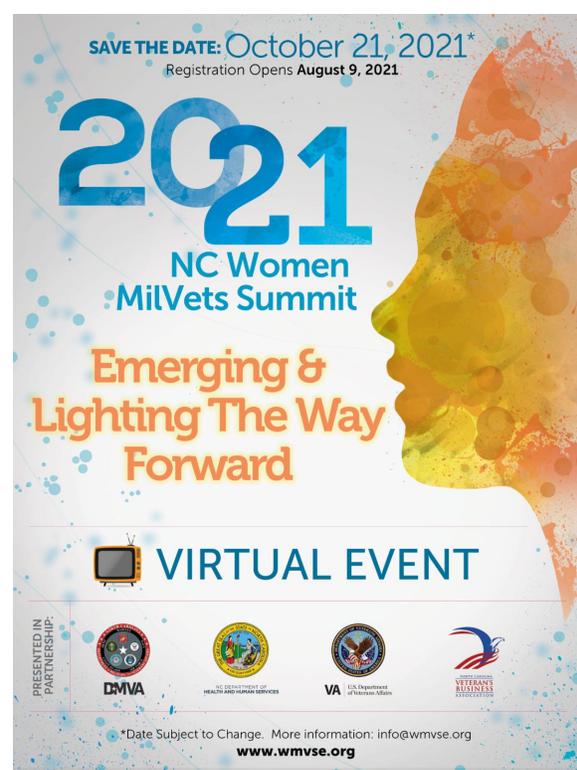
## NC Women Milvets Summit

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

**Thursday, October 21, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

The North Carolina 2021 Virtual Women Military/ Veteran Summit is a biennial event aimed at empowering military and veteran women to live healthy and happy lives, become successful leaders in their communities, and to advocate on behalf of military and veteran women when necessary. The intent of the summit is to capture an audience of women that are Active Military, Veteran, Reserve and NC National Guard.

Women veterans, active military, and civilians will participate in this event. These presenters will provide information regarding federal and state benefits and resources. There will also be an exchange of ideas emphasizing business, entrepreneurship, education, career opportunities and health and wellness. The event will feature breakout sessions of presenters and a panel providing more information and a Q&A session.



## Save the Date: NC Military Hall of First

On October 9, 2021 the North Carolina Museum of History will unveil the inaugural **North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts** (NCMHOF) exhibit.

NCMHOF in partnership with the North Carolina Museum of History and reflects the State of North Carolina's ongoing commitment to honor the contributions of our nation's heroes who proudly represent our great state.

The mission of the North Carolina Military Hall of Firsts is to publicly emphasize the honor brought to our state and nation by the sacrifice of North Carolina military veterans and their families; to promote equal and inclusive opportunities for veterans and their families in all aspects of society; and to identify and support all individuals and organizations that contribute to this important mission.

### UPCOMING OBSERVANCES

- Aug 7 **Purple Heart Day**
- Aug 10 **Department of Defense Birthday**
- Aug 16 **National Airborne Day**
- Aug 29 **Marine Corps Reserve Birthday**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 17-18 [NC4ME + Western Region NCWorks Virtual Networking & Hiring Event](#)
- Aug 19 [Veterans on Wall Street speaker Anthony Weekly, Charlotte](#)
- Aug 20 [Valor Games Southeast 2021, Resource Fair](#)
- Aug 20 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Paddling Clinic, Lake Crabtree](#)
- Aug 20-21 [Bridge II Sports 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Rocky Mt](#)
- Aug 21 [Valor Games Southeast 2021, Sports](#)
- Aug 21 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Archery and Air Rifle, Durham](#)
- Aug 22 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Paddling Clinic, Lake Crabtree](#)
- Aug 23 [Valor Games Southeast 21 Golf Tournament, Durham](#)
- Aug 25 [Conversations for Connection, Virtual](#)
- Aug 26 [HKY4Vets Virtual Hiring Event, Hickory](#)
- Aug 26 [NC Governors Working Group, Raleigh](#)
- Aug 26 [Vets & Patriots Military Veterans Happy Hour, Denver](#)
- Aug 28 [AAFE Veteran Business Expo, Charleston-SC](#)
- Aug 28 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Archery and Air Rifle, Durham](#)
- Aug 28 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Cycling, American Tobacco Trail](#)
- Aug 29 [Marine Forces Reserve Birthday](#)
- Aug 30 [Bridge II Sports Adapted Golf, Durham](#)

Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date event information.

Share your photos, stories, and events with us for consideration at  
[Publisher@milvets.nc.gov](mailto:Publisher@milvets.nc.gov)

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### State Veterans Cemeteries update COVID-19 guidance

The Department will revisit changes to operations as Governor Cooper's Road to Recovery Plan updates.

### Cemeteries

Interments are 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.

- Services are 30 minutes, Monday – Friday, at 10am, 12pm, 2pm. Family and attendees must exit the cemetery at the conclusion of the service at half past the hour.
- Caskets & urns must be thoroughly disinfected before entering the cemetery.
- There is no limit on the number of attendees at a committal service.
- 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 who are not vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain distance when they cannot maintain six feet of distance.
- Funeral flower arrangements are not permitted to be left during the committal

service, but, families or funeral staff may place one arrangement on the gravesite after all services for the day have concluded.



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.

