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#ICYMI

British Army Major Ends 1,000-mile Barefoot Walk in NC to Raise Awareness for Daughter’s Rare Disease

Last month, British Army Major Chris Brannigan ended his 1,000-mile barefoot march from Maine in North Carolina on a mission to fund research for his 9-year-old daughter’s rare genetic disorder called Cornelia de Lange syndrome. NCDMVA joined military representatives, UK and North Carolina government officials, and local leaders at Raleigh Station 1 to cheer Brannigan on as he completed his journey.

View photos
Recording Available: 2021NC Women Milvets Virtual Summit

The 2021 Women MilVets Virtual Summit, hosted via Facebook Live, was a huge success. The event featured special welcome messages from Governor Cooper, NCDHHS Secretary Cohen, and NCDMVA Secretary Gaskin. Topics for discussion included Mental Health, VHA Women's Health Services, Veteran Benefits Administration, State Benefits and Employment. If you missed it, a recording is available online.

Watch now

NC Governor's Working Group: Social Determinants of Veteran Suicides Series Continues through January

In September, the NC Governor’s Working Group began a five-part series discussing Veterans Suicide and Prevention. This series will run through January 2022 and will feature a deep dive into one of the most critical issues facing Veterans today.

Watch Part 2 in the series on the “The Role of Trauma” here and mark your calendar for Part 3 of the series on November 16.

Learn more

NCDMVA At Work

NCDMVA Challenging NC Employers to Hire Veterans through Veterans Day

In September, NCDMVA joined North Carolina for Military Employment (NC4ME), the North Carolina Department of Commerce, and
Governor Roy Cooper in challenging North Carolina businesses to "Honor Veterans by Hiring Veterans" by hiring at least one veteran, transitioning service member, National Guard/Reserve member or military spouse between September and Veterans Day.

This week, Governor Cooper proclaimed Nov. 8-12 “Employ A Veteran Week,” and a variety of events to help connect veterans to jobs and other services are taking place across the state.

Charlotte celebrates First African American Marines with street renaming

On Thursday, October 28th, the City of Charlotte renamed Phifer Avenue to Montford Point Avenue in honor of the first African Americans who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. Montford Point is the North Carolina base where African American enlistees trained because they weren't allowed to do so with their white counterparts. The ceremony recognized those Montford Marines and their families. The U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard was also present, as well as the Johnson C. Smith University drumline. Among the guest speakers attending the unveiling were Montford Point Marine Association President James Averhart, Charlotte Chapter 40 President Craig Little, and NCDMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin.

NCDMVA Secretary LtGen Walter Gaskin, National Montford Point Marine President James T. Averhart
Apply: NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans

Recipients receive tuition and fees at NC approved schools. Qualifying students may receive room and board allowance.

To learn more visit milvets.nc.gov/services/scholarships

More information

It's that time again: Toys for Tots

NCDMVA is collecting donations for this year's Toys for Tots drive. Please drop off new, unwrapped toys and books at NCDMVA (413 N Salisbury St, Raleigh, NC 27603 or Dobbs Bldg. 430 N. Salisbury St.) before Dec. 15, 2021. Donations may be dropped off Monday - Friday, 9am to 4pm. Visit the Toys for Tots Website for more information.

Call NCDMVA at 844-624-8387 with questions.

Heroes Corner: Free Duke Football Tickets

You can request complimentary Heroes Corner Duke Football tickets directly though GoDuke.com/servicetickets. Thanks to the generosity of Duke Football fans, hundreds of tickets have been pre-purchased to be distributed to military and first responder units for the following games on a first-come, first-served basis:

- Saturday, November 6th vs. Pittsburgh @ 12:00pm (Military Appreciation Day)
- Thursday, November 18th vs. Louisville @ 7:30 pm
- Saturday, November 27th vs. Miami

Got tickets
Is it time to get your COVID-19 booster?

To strengthen and extend protections against COVID-19, many North Carolinians who have been fully vaccinated can now receive a COVID-19 booster shot if they are eligible.

[Image]

Find out if you are eligible

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

The Department of Veteran Affairs has extended the presumptive period for qualifying chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans to December 31, 2026. To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, click here.

You are not alone. Connect with Care Now

VA’s top clinical priority is preventing suicide among all Veterans — including those who do not, and may never, seek care within the VA health care system. As a Veteran, you can play a role in fulfilling this mission, and VA can equip you with tools to do your part. You can explore suicide prevention resources to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

#MilVetsNC 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.

Patty O'Sullivan: Dare County Veterans Service Employee of the Month

Last month, NCDMVA stopped by the Outer Banks Veterans booth at the Outer Banks Seafood Festival to congratulate Dare County Veteran Services Officer, Patty O'Sullivan, for her well-deserved recognition as Dare County’s October Employee of the Month.

For more information about the wide array of veteran’s services that are available in Dare County, visit [www.DareNC.com/Veterans](http://www.DareNC.com/Veterans).

October 2021 Dare County Employee of the Month: Patty O’Sullivan, Dare County Department of Health & Human Services Veterans Services Officer.

Saluting and honoring veterans in our State Veterans Homes

Every November 11th, the nation comes together to remember and honor the service and sacrifices of our Veterans. Veteran’s Day means many things to many people. Residents of our State Veterans Homes, all of whom are veterans themselves, reflect on what Veteran’s Day means to them.

Henry Strayhorn - NCSVH Salisbury

*Being a Veteran means more to me than ever before. The gratitude and respect people now have for service members makes me feel good. The benefits were a lifesaver for me and my family. I would not be where I am today without my military service. Veteran’s Day is a day to celebrate all things military members have done and continue to do. I feel proud to show my service on Veteran’s Day. My grandchildren appreciate my service and sacrifice.*

- Mr. Henry Strayhorn, Salisbury State Veterans Home, United States Air Force

John Gauldin - NCSVH Salisbury

*“Veterans make this a better country. I am glad so many people have served and sacrificed so much for this country. Americans standing up for others and their country makes me proud, especially on Veteran’s Day.”*

- Mr. John Gauldin, Salisbury Veterans Home, United States Army
A lot of men and women have died, it a day of honoring those that have died.”
- Sgt Frank Love, Black Mountain Veterans Home, United States Marine Corp

See Our Veterans

See more of the men and women that having given so much of themselves for our freedoms

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
Click here for more upcoming events.

In addition, restaurants, retail stores and businesses across America will show their gratitude this month by providing special deals for veterans and their families. For a list of participating organizations click here: [https://bit.ly/3GH1ZD](https://bit.ly/3GH1ZD)

## Community Calendar

### November Events

- **Nov 6** [Wake County Veterans Day Parade, Raleigh](https://www.wakegov.com/veterans_events)
- **Nov 6** [Home for Our Heroes 5K, Mooresville](https://www.cityofmooresville.com/1233/home-for-our-heroes-5k)
- **Nov 6** [USO & SPIN Gaming Camp](https://www.uso.org/events)
- **Nov 6** [Bridge II Sports Adapted Archery, Durham](https://www.bridgeiio.org/events/)
- **Nov 6** [Salute to Veterans: Parade – Uptown Charlotte](https://www.charlotte.gov/events/)
- **Nov 6** [Veterans Day Ceremony, Union County Veterans Services-Opening Ceremony](https://www.unioncountync.gov/departments/veterans-services)

Visit NCDVA's Events Page for the most up-to-date listing of 2021 Veterans Day events and parades across North Carolina.
Submit your community events for consideration to Publisher@milvets.nc.gov

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