



DMVA

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ON POINT NEWSLETTER

August/September 2022 Newsletter

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#ICYMI



Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Wayne County Schools Unveil Wayne School of Technical Arts

A ribbon cutting ceremony took place to celebrate and recognize the opening of the Wayne School of Technical Arts (WSTA) at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

The opening of WSTA is revolutionary and points to the directions in which education is evolving. Wayne School of Technical Arts is the first public school located on a military installation in North Carolina. This distinction puts the school in an elite group of public schools across the country.

A STEM based curriculum will be in place with an internationally recognized Advanced Placement Capstone degree program, created to bolster access to higher education.

Governor's School Supply Drive



Having the necessary school supplies is critical in teaching our youth and ensuring their success.

After a few weeks of collecting donations by the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs employees from across the state, and dropped off at local State Employees Credit Unions, on Friday, September 9th, the entire NCDMVA family proudly continued to support Governor Roy Cooper's 2022-23 school supplies drive with direct

donations from the Raleigh headquarters to Wayne County Public Schools (WCPS).

NCDMVA employees donated items to WCPS Central Office. Much needed donations of boxes of paper, pens, pencils, inspirational notes, masks, calendars, binders, crayons, notebooks, sanitizing cleaning products, and many other supplies needed in the classroom were all presented. All donations were greatly appreciated, and an anonymous donor gifted Chromebooks, to the Wayne County Public School System as well. The laptop computers and all the other donated supplies were presented to the central office and will be given to the schools most in need.

NCDMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin, Lt. Col. Tammy McElhlany from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Wayne County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. David Lewis, SECU Vice President, Sheree Millard and Michael Rowe Assistant Branch Manager from the local North Carolina State Employees Credit Unions, all came together to present the supplies donated by state employees and DMVA Raleigh staff.

See other photos from this event [Here](#)



Secretary of Defense Employer Freedom Award Presented to Check Defense



On Friday, September 9th, one of the oldest organizations in direct support of the National Guard and Reserve, presented the Freedom Award to Check Defense based out of Raleigh North Carolina.

The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense office established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers, as well as to seek employer conflict resolutions that may arise from the commitment of Guardsmen.

The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for outstanding support of employees serving the Guard and Reserve.

The September 9th Annual Freedom Awards program had only presented the award to 325 employers since 1996. Annually, only 15 out of over 2,000 nominations are selected to be reviewed by a national board comprised of senior Defense officials and business leaders. This year's top nominee, Check Defense, pushed through the pack with its provided support services for numerous Federal agencies, and commercial industries across six technical specialized sectors, including solutions for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Above - NCDMVA Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary, Charles Lee presents the Governor's ESCR Week Proclamation to NC-ESGR, National Chair, Ron Bogle.

See other photos from this event [Here](#)



From left to right: National-ESGR Chairman, Ron Bogle; Freedom Award Recipient, CEO Check Defense, Josh Koshcheck; NC-ESGR Chairman, Iwan Clontz; NC-ESGR Vice Chairman, Ed Hamilton.

NCDMVA At Work

State Veterans Home of Fayetteville Administrator Takes on New National Role



North Carolina State Veterans Home of Fayetteville Administrator, Whitney Bell, has been elected President of the National Association of State Veterans Homes. We would like to thank Ms. Bell for all of her professionalism, time, and commitment as a director, administrator, and caring team member to our aging veterans.

From all of NCDMVA Staff, Thank You for all you do!

National Conference

NC attendees of the National Association of State Veterans Homes conference in San Diego, aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier.



Left to Right: Felton Wooten (Black Mountain SVH Administrator), Jennifer Bugniazet (Regional Finance Coordinator), Emily Kanavage (Regional Nurse Consultant), Sally Davis (Salisbury SVH Administrator), Tyler Arnold (Chief Development Officer), Whitney Bell (Fayetteville SVH Administrator), Terry Westbrook, DMVA Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tonia Holderman (Regional Admissions Coordinator), Bonnie Ard (Kinston SVH Administrator), Kathleen Banks (Kernersville SVH Administrator), and Dennis Mize (Georgia War Veterans SVH Administrator)

UNCW Veterans Hall Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Thursday, September 15th, the University of North Carolina Wilmington, had its grand opening and dedication ceremony for its new Veterans Hall.

LtGen. NCDMVA Secretary Walter Gaskin was amongst the first to open the ceremony with words expressing the progressive vision of such a grand facility to now the reality of the plan that has come to fruition. Secretary Gaskin also awarded specially designed medals to six (6) very well-deserving World



NCDMVA Secretary LtGen. Walter E. Gaskin honors one of six World War II veterans at UNCW Veterans Hall grand opening ceremony

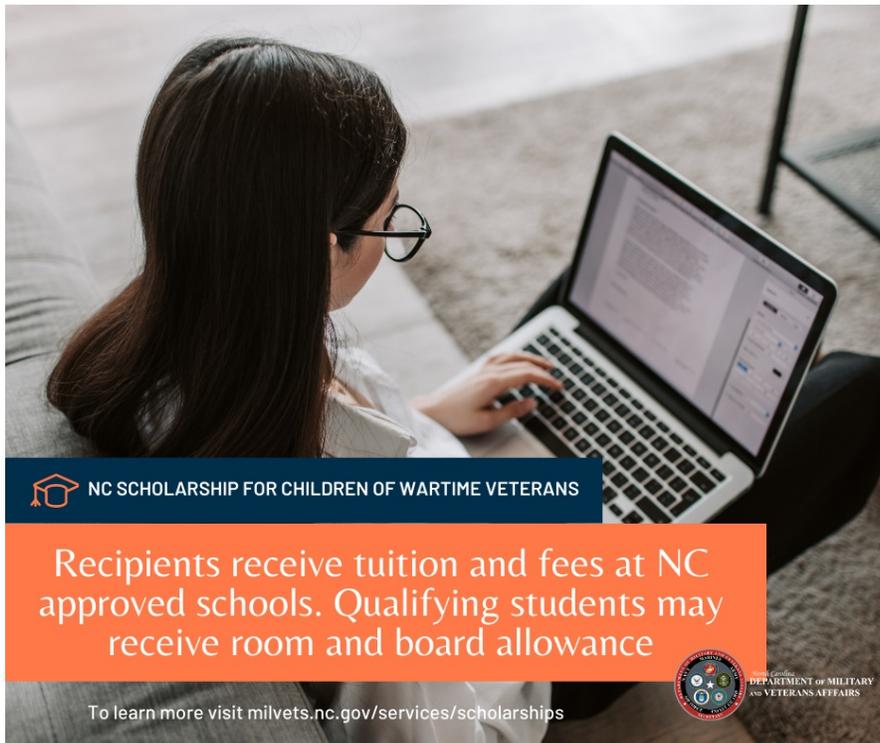
War II Veterans.

The UNCW campus is said to be made up over two thousand veterans and military affiliated students. Inside of the Veterans Hall is the Office of Military Affairs, which has as its core mission to provide various resources for student veterans and affiliated military postgraduates.

See more photos [here](#)

Public Service Announcements

Apply: NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans



 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



North Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

More information

Is it time to get our COVID-19 booster?

While COVID-19 will continue to come in waves, we have the tools to move NC forward.

Stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to help **prevent and protect** against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov).



The CDC recommends anyone 18 years or older who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine get a booster six months after their second dose to help strengthen and extend protections against COVID-19.

The FDA authorized the boosters recently. The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster is also available and is recommended for individuals ages 18 and older who were vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months prior.

For full details click below

[More Information](#)

Extension of Gulf War Presumptive Period

The Department of Veterans 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](#).

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To learn more about VA and Gulf War Veterans, click the button below.

More information

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Join VA's Education Network

Join VA's GI Bill® network by applying for education benefits!
You'll gain access to tools and funding that help you pursue your educational and career goals, no toggling or troubleshooting needed.

Connect with your benefits by clicking the button below.

More Information

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.

[More information](#)

Leaderboard



Administrative Specialist De'Anna Jones poses for a quick picture between a busy work assignment.

NCDMVA Welcomes to the Team Ms. De'Anna Jones

The Department is pleased to welcome aboard new Administrative Specialist Ms. De'Anna Jones. New to the Department, De'Anna's administrative position consist of file management, office continuity and creative workspace design. She also will work on special assignment for executive management projects.

De'Anna comes to the NCDMVA Raleigh HQ office by way of Jacksonville North Carolina. She is a graduate of Rolesville High with extended Business Administrative Marketing studies from

Wake Tech Community College. Her second round of studies include a pursuit in cosmetology.

Welcome to the DMVA Family!

Save the Date



The Inaugural Defense Summit presents best practices in advancing North Carolina as the most military, veteran, and defense industry-friendly state in the nation.

Summit objectives include:

1. Advocate for individual, community, and installation resilience
2. Build installation and military host-community partnerships
3. Coordinate installation, defense sector, education, and research

Summit topic panels include:

- Energy Resilience
- Land Management - Training and Encroachment
- Installation Sustainment
- Installation and Community Advocacy
- Intergovernmental and Cooperative Service Agreements
- Military Quality of Life - Housing, Education, Childcare, and

Workforce

- State - Friendly Defense Industry and Military Contracting
- Academic Research and Development
- Legislative Initiatives
- Military Hiring Event Concurrent with the Summit

[Click to Register](#)

Or go to: <https://defensecommunities.org/regional/north-carolina/>

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA



Thursday, September 29, 2022 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (EST)

<http://www.oshr.nc.gov/careerexpo22>

#Work4NC #NCCareerExpo22

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Share your news



North Carolina Department of Military
and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) 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 North Carolina'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.



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