

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

- Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
 - 2 June 2016
 - Santa Fe, NM
 - Secretary Jack Fox



Current Status



- 1. Curtail Travel and Outreach
- 2. Three Vacant Veteran Service Officer Positions
- 3. Delay State Veteran Cemetery Hires
- 4. No Out of State Travel
- 5. In Pay Band Salary Corrective Action on Hold
- 6. Currently Managing Active Veteran Cemetery

FY 17 Facts



- **1. Cut \$449K from FY 16**
- **2. Cancel VSO Organization Contracts**
Cancel Mesilla Valley Hope Contract
- **3. No training for VSO Staff (Normally 2x)**
No Out of state travel
No Native American VSO training
No Women's Conference
No Support for Veterans' Conferences
- **4. Reduction of Funeral Honors Program**
- **5. Must hire 2 cemetery staff**
- **6. Will repurpose 2 vacant VSO to create women's program and ASD positions**

FY 17 Priorities



- 1. Create women veteran program
- 2. Transportation Summit with solutions
- 3. Develop Long Term Aging Partnership with plan In coordination with DOH,& ALTS
- 4. RVCP Extension
- 5. Create additional ASD positions
- 6. Open & Staff Ft. Stanton Cemetery (Merchant Marine cemetery operational)
- 7. Phase out Fiduciary Program
- 8. Expand Health Program
- 9. Obtain POA for current VSO Staff
- 10. In pay band

FY 18 Budget Needs



- 1. Restore FY 18 Budget to Realistic Levels
- 2. New FTE Needs
 - VSO Rio Rancho
 - VSO Santa Fe
 - VSO Gallup
 - Two Cemetery Staff for Gallup Veteran Cemetery
 - Administrative Assistant for Cemetery Director

HealthCare Coordination Division



- Veteran Transportation Update
- 1. Inventory of all Veteran Transportation Providers
- 2. VA Transportation Coordinator
- 3. Established Vet Connect 1-800-672-7006
- 4. Network of Care
- 5. Transportation Summit
- 6. SAHMSA Policy Academy

State Veteran Cemetery Program



- 1. VA Approval of Four Proposed Sites
 - Ft. Stanton
 - Gallup
 - Angel Fire
 - Carlsbad
- 2. DVS has Operational and Maintenance Oversight

State Veteran Cemetery Program



Ft. Stanton State Veteran Cemetery

- August 2015 VA Approval of Design and Construction
- October 2015 VA Awards \$5.7 Million Construction Grant
- November 2015 Ground Breaking
- Spring 2017 Grand Opening

State Veteran Cemetery Program



- Gallup State Veteran Cemetery
 - Proposed Location Transferred to State Ownership
 - RFP for AE Firm to Complete Concept and Design
 - June 2016 Contract for AE Firm
 - September 2017 Projected VA Grant Award
 - Winter 2017 Planned Ground Breaking
 - Spring 2018 Planned Grand Opening

State Veteran Cemetery Program



- Angel Fire and Carlsbad State Veteran Cemeteries
 - Proposed Locations Identified
 - Complete Title Searches by November 2016
 - Board of Finance Review and Approval
 - Spring 2018 RFP for AE Firms

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

- DVS Will Continue to Partner with Local, State, And Federal Agencies to Support Veterans
- DVS is Actively Engaged in Planning for Future Needs of the Veteran Community
- DVS Stands Ready to Move Forward



New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services

- Questions

