

# A Volunteer Organization Bringing Awareness To Veteran's Issues

Volume 7, Issue 4, April 1, 2026, Newsletter



## OPENING THE LINK WITH EACH ARTICLE WILL LEAD TO THE WEBSITE'S COMPLETE PUBLICATION

### Current Information to share with Veterans in Nebraska.

We at the Nebraska Veterans Coalition continue to provide information to military members currently serving and veterans who have served in the Active, National Guard, and Reserve. We will publish monthly Event Newsletters and post them on the Coalition Website, Facebook, and (X), with events removed after their conclusion.

We strongly suggest that you forward the Newsletter to your mailing list and friends. You can post events on our Facebook page (Nebraska Veterans Coalition). "Friend us," and encourage others to join.

"We urge all Veterans Service Organizations and other Veterans groups' event planners to submit their ads to this email address for the broadest possible circulation: [nevetscoalition@outlook.com](mailto:nevetscoalition@outlook.com). A brief description and a link to your flyer are the most efficient ways to submit ads." Our distribution is an easy way to increase VSO membership, support posts, and local communities, and advertise veteran-owned businesses. Fundraising events must benefit veterans or veteran organizations.

For your information, the Nebraska Veterans Coalition does not sponsor or endorse any external events. NVC shares information to raise awareness and promote collaboration.

### Businesses Supporting Veterans

Are you a veteran-owned business, or are you hiring veterans?

Email your business card to us with a link to your website or Facebook page, and a copy will be added to this page: <https://nebraskaveterans.org/sponsors.htm>

Visitors to our webpage can click on your card to find your website.

Our email is [comeoncubs100@gmail.com](mailto:comeoncubs100@gmail.com)

Please open this link to the Coalition Newsletter, and add your email address to join our distribution:

**We do not solicit or accept funding/donations for our efforts.**

### COALITION MISSION

#### WHAT WE DO AND WHAT OUR GOALS ARE: UPDATE

**It can be found on our Website.**

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition is a bipartisan group formed to raise veterans' awareness of what is happening in the Nebraska Unicameral. To inform veterans about their elected officials and the legislation affecting veterans' benefits currently being considered in the Nebraska Unicameral.



*Open To America's#1 Veterans Magazine  
The Grapevine*

*Published by John Stewart*

*Click on Publication of Your Choice*

Veterans Pages: <https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

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**Find the previous Nebraska Veterans Coalition Newsletters here**

*Open To America's#1 Veterans Magazine  
The Grapevine*

*Published by John Stewart*

*Click on Publication of Your Choice*

1. Veterans Pages: <https://veteransgrapevine.com/>

### About The Grapevine

I began this publication 25 years ago for a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post to help me recover from a serious health condition impacting my memory, numerous cardiac problems and cancer. Doing this project has been extremely helpful in my recovery or ability to deal with them. As a result, I have been able to help many, many veterans and family members around the world. I am truly blessed over these two decades to have this project during my fight against many Agent Orange-related diseases from the Vietnam War. In addition to the publications, I have added hundreds of links to veteran-related websites.

### Click On the Publication of Your Choice

Florida

Virginia

Nebraska Newsletter

### Click Here For a Variety of Veterans Website Links

U.S. Government Websites National Guard and Reserve Websites

Websites by War: National Organizations, Military Branch of Websites, GI Bill Information, Locate People, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), DoD Websites, State Homebuyer Programs, Military Health Websites, Military Spouse Assistance, VA Websites and Information, Veterans Affairs Websites

## County Veterans Service Offices Directory

*Contact your County Veterans Service Officer and offer your help*

*Help with providing transportation for fellow veterans*

*Offer your business as a place for Buddy Check Meetings*

**This video is provided by the Nebraska Association of County Officials**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bqhlwylZv2c>

A County Veterans Service Office staff member provides confidential counseling and assistance to Veterans and their families applying for Federal, State, and County Veterans programs and benefits. Federal Veterans Benefits include education, vocational rehabilitation, service-connected disability compensation, non-service-connected disability pension, healthcare, and burial benefits. Nebraska Veterans programs include a tuition waiver, admittance to a Nebraska Veteran's home, and emergency financial assistance from the Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund.

Eligibility for State financial assistance requires an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge from active duty. This requirement is not met by active duty for training only. (Specific residency and service dates are required for some State Benefits)

**County Veterans Service Offices Directory\_ (Updated Monthly )**

(OPEN) <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso>

## Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Open this link and visit the NDVA website**

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

**Follow**

NDVA Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NEVetsAffairs/>

NDVA Twitter [https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

**Newsletter & Events**

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/news>

## NDVA Calendar of Events

Every month, NDVA sends a calendar of events listing the agency's hosting or attending. Below are some upcoming events.

### Benefits and Services Overview

Part of our mission is to help veterans identify and access benefits. There is a wide range of county, state, and federal benefits related to education, employment, finance, health care, housing, legal assistance, recreation, taxes, and more. Use our Benefits Expert to help guide you to the benefits you're interested in or learn about some of the most-used benefits. If you have additional questions, don't hesitate to contact your [County Veterans Service Officer](#) or a [State Service Officer](#).

### BENEFIT EXPERT

There are a lot of benefits available for veterans and their family members. Our Benefits Expert will guide you through all the county, state, and federal benefits available to help you find just the ones you are eligible for or interested in.

### MOST POPULAR BENEFITS AND SERVICES

[NEBRASKA VETERANS AID](#)

[WAIVER OF TITRION](#)

[DD2-214 REQUEST](#)

[APPLY TO THE VETERANS REGISTRY](#)

[INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES](#)

### Community Resource Directory

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/healthmap>

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#) [Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA/>

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### Nebraska Veteran Service Organizations and Veteran Service Groups

*If you are a Commander or on the organization's board, please forward our newsletter to your membership and reference us in your newsletter and website. When approved, we now post the newsletter and frequent articles on some of the organization's or group's Facebook pages. We would like your assistance in informing members of your organization via email or Facebook.*

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## **US identifies troops killed during actions against Iran**

The soldiers, who were assigned to the 103rd Sustainment Command in Des Moines, Iowa, were killed during an attack by an unmanned aircraft, the release added.

<https://tinyurl.com/ms72rhkf>

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## **Legislation**

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### The Nebraska Legislature Legislative Calendar

<https://nebraskalegislature.gov/calendar/calendar.php>

**The 109th Legislature, Second Session, started on January 7, 2026. This session runs for 60 days and**

**Ends on April 17, 2026.**

**Priority Bills 2025**, ; and LB-272 (Sen. Dugan), held by the Revenue Committee.

**LB-676 (Sen. Hansen), in the Select File 2025;**

**Carryover Bills From 2025 ON JANUARY 7, 2026:** LB 426 Jan 07, 2026 Education Committee in General File; LB 676 Select File (Enrollment and Review); LB 694 Judiciary Committee General File; LB 82; LB152; LB 223; LB 249; LB307; LB 374; LB425: LB 508; LB 583;

**General File - the first stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. Bills on General File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Select File.**

**Select File - the second stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. Bills on Select File may be amended, returned to committee, indefinitely postponed or advanced to Final Reading.**

**Final Reading - the third and last stage at which a bill is considered by the full Legislature. The clerk reads the entire bill aloud, unless final reading is waived, and senators vote without debate on**

whether to submit the bill to the governor.

**Enrollment and Review Initial - the Enrollment and Review process that a bill undergoes after it is advanced from General File.**

**Enrollment and Review for Engrossment - the Enrollment and Review process that a bill undergoes after it is advanced from Select File. During this stage, the bill is engrossed and reprinted for Final Reading.**

**The following Bills (IN THIS COLOR) have status changes**

**LB717 -Approved by Governor on February 20, 2026**

Adopt changes to federal law regarding banking and finance, change provisions relating to control of certain banks and trust companies, digital asset depository institutions, interest rates on certain loans, installment loans, mortgage loan originators, mortgage bankers, and the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act, and change references to the Nebraska Money Transmitters Act in the Controllable Electronic Record Fraud Prevention Act

Sponsor Jacobsen

**Actions: Approved by the Governor on February 25, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63126&docnum=LB717&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63126&docnum=LB717&leg=109)

**LB1001 Approved by Governor on March 16, 2026**

Change and eliminate provisions relating to licensed racetrack enclosures, licenses and wagering on horse racing, assistance to problem gamblers, bingo, gift enterprises, the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, the Charitable Gaming Division of the Department of Revenue, keno at licensed racetrack enclosures, and the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund

**ACTION: Final Reading Enrollment and review March 10, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63426&docnum=LB1001&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63426&docnum=LB1001&leg=109)

**LB1072**

**Sponsor: Speaker Arch at the request of the Governor**

Provide for and change transfers from the Cash Reserve Fund and provide, change, and eliminate provisions relating to fees, funds, fund transfers, agency powers and duties, and various statutory programs

**Actions: Placed Final Reading Enrollment and Review for engrossment**

Raybould AM2554 to AM2165 file

Juarez AM2584 to AM2165 filed

Guereca AM2579 to AM2165 filed

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62666&docnum=LB1072&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62666&docnum=LB1072&leg=109)

**LR293**

Urge the United States Congress to swiftly enact legislation to provide for veterans' access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder

**Actions: In the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, February 12, 2026**

**Feb 19, 2026: Reported to the Legislature for further consideration**

Urge the U.S. Congress to swiftly enact legislation to provide for veterans' access to treatment for TBI and PTSD

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62911&docnum=LR293&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62911&docnum=LR293&leg=109)

**LB 693**

Prohibit, as a deceptive trade practice, certain conduct relating to assistance or referrals in veterans' benefits matters

**Priority bill in 2025 Carryover (Sen. McKeon),**

**Actions: in the General File 2025**

**Senators' names added in May 2025: Prokop, Storer, Raybould, Sorrentino, Strommen, Dorn.**

**,Cavanaugh, J, Brandt, Bostar, Dungan.DeBoer, Kauth, Wordekemper, Murman, Lippincott, Meyer,**

**Hallstrom, Dover, Cavanaugh, M, Quick, Jacobson, Holdcroft, Rountree, Conrad, DeKay, Bosn**

**Quick's Name withdrawn January 7, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=59589&docnum=LB693&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=59589&docnum=LB693&leg=109)

**LB787 Priority Bill**

Change provisions relating to the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs and eliminate provisions relating to veterans' homes

Sponsor Sanders

**Actions: Placed in (Select File Mar 18, 2026.**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62778&docnum=LB787&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62778&docnum=LB787&leg=109)

**LB826 Priority Bill**

Change provisions related to veterans' late applications for homestead exemptions

Sponsor Senator DeKay

**Action: Placed in General File. February 18, 2026**

**Dugan's name added**

**Conrad's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62608&docnum=LB826&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62608&docnum=LB826&leg=109)

**LB838-Priority Bill Feb 11, 2026 Banking, Commerce and Insurance**

Change provisions relating to the financial exploitation of vulnerable or senior adults

Sponsor Jacobson

**Actions: Placed in Final Reading March 24, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63102&docnum=LB838&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63102&docnum=LB838&leg=109)

**LB847 -Priority Bill Feb 11, 2026 Business and Labor Committee**

Sponsor: Kauth

**Adopt the Nebraska Registered Apprenticeship Act, change provisions relating to funds, child labor, the Business Innovation Act, the Contractor Registration Act, the Employee Classification Act, the Employment Security Law, and the Nebraska Wage Payment and Collection Act, and transfer administration of student internships to the Department of Labor**

**Actions: Advanced to Enrollment and Review for Engrossment Mar 24, 2026**

**March 10, 2026, Placed in Select File**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63335&docnum=LB847&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63335&docnum=LB847&leg=109)

**LB904 Priority Bill**

**Change provisions relating to Chinese military companies under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act**

Sponsor Arch

**Actions: Mar 23, 2026, Enrollment and Review Initial**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62725&docnum=LB904&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62725&docnum=LB904&leg=109)

**LB965 - Priority Bill**

**Prohibit sexual abuse of a probationer or problem-solving court participant; prohibit sexual abuse by a conservator, guardian, guardian ad litem, or child welfare service provider; provide for administration of naloxone by probation employees; and change conduct constituting the offense of incest**

Sponsor Bostar

**Actions: IN Judiciary Committee January 28, 2026 Hearing 1/28/26**

**Sen Hallstrom's name added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62618&docnum=LB965&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62618&docnum=LB965&leg=109)

**LB786**

**Change provisions relating to Military Honor Plates under the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, create a fund, provide for grants to certain needy service members, and provide duties to the Adjutant General**

Sponsor Sanders

**Actions: Placed in General File, February 19, 2026,**

**Change Provisions relating to Military Honor Plates: create a fund to provide for grants to certain needy service members & provide duties to the AG Committee**

**Conrad's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62974&docnum=LB786&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62974&docnum=LB786&leg=109)

**LB972 -**

**Adopt the Recreational Vehicle Industry Regulation Act and change provisions relating to parking spaces for handicapped or disabled persons, certain license revocations, the Motor Vehicle Industry Regulation Act, the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act, the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act, the Nebraska Rules of the Road, and the State Boat Act**

Sponsor:

**Actions: Mar 11, 2026, Enrollment and Review ER141 filed**

**March 11, 2026, Placed in Select File**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62768&docnum=LB972&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62768&docnum=LB972&leg=109)

**LB816**

**Provide privileges and immunities relating to peer support services communications by public safety personnel**

Sponsor Storer

**Actions: Enrollment and Review ST61 filed. Placed on Final Reading with ST61 March 17, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62858&docnum=LB816&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62858&docnum=LB816&leg=109)

**LB830**

**Change and eliminate provisions relating to the payment of state salaries, the use of deferred maintenance funds, and county payments for state institutions**

Sponsor Lonowski

**Actions: In General File, March 17, 2026**

**Hearing on J1/30/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62839&docnum=LB830&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62839&docnum=LB830&leg=109)

**LB882**

**Change provisions relating to homestead exemptions for certain veterans and surviving spouses**

Sponsor Andersen

**Actions: Placed on General File with AM2430 Mar 24, 2026 Hearing 1/29/26**

**Conrad's name was added**

**Dugan's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62753&docnum=LB882&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62753&docnum=LB882&leg=109)

**LB1226 -**

**Provide for the issuance of a combination hunting and fishing permit and certain stamps to certain veterans -**

Sponsor Andersen

**Actions: IN General File 13 March 2026**

**Conrad's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62656&docnum=LB1226&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62656&docnum=LB1226&leg=109)

**LB998 -**

**Change provisions relating to the state income tax deduction for members of the Nebraska National Guard**

Sponsor Andersen

**Actions: Placed on General File with AM2430 Mar 24, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63419&docnum=LB998&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63419&docnum=LB998&leg=109)

**LB736**

**Adopt the Athletic Trainer Compact**

Sponsor Roundtree

**Actions: IN Health & Human Services Committee January 22, 2026, Hearing 1/22/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62925&docnum=LB736&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62925&docnum=LB736&leg=109)

**LB738**

**Provide for Honoring Women Veterans license plates**

Sponsor Roundtree, Conrad

**Actions: IN Transportation and Telecommunications Committee January 20, 2026**

**Hearing on 1/20/26**

**Conrad's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62769&docnum=LB738&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62769&docnum=LB738&leg=109)

**LB753**

**Provide for recognition and enforcement of military protective orders under the Protection Orders Act**

Sponsor Roundtree

**Actions: Mar 23, 2026, Enrollment and Review Initial, Hearing on 1/21/26**

**J. Cavanaugh's name added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63051&docnum=LB753&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63051&docnum=LB753&leg=109)

**LB756**

**Change a motor vehicle tax exemption and a property tax exemption relating to certain disabled veterans**

Sponsor Wordkemper

**Actions: In the Revenue Committee, January 29, 2026, Hearing on 1/29/26**

**J. Cavanaugh's name added**

**Conrad's name was added**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63150&docnum=LB756&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63150&docnum=LB756&leg=109)

**LB767**

**Adopt the Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Veterans Act**

Sponsor Holdcroft

**Actions: IN the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing 1/21/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62968&docnum=LB767&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62968&docnum=LB767&leg=109)

**LB 735:**

**Adopt the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact**

Sponsor Roundtree

**Actions: IN Health & Human Services Committee, January 22, 2026, Hearing 1/22/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62598&docnum=LB735&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62598&docnum=LB735&leg=109)

**LB804**

**Provide confidential peer support counseling for law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel, and Nebraska National Guard personnel**

Sponsor Lonowski

**Actions: IN the Judiciary Committee, January 22, 2026, Hearing on 1/22/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63164&docnum=LB804&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63164&docnum=LB804&leg=109)

**LB871**

**Increase and provide for inflation adjustments for amounts exempt from judicial enforcement and the homestead and exempt property allowances**

Sponsor Conrad

**Actions: IN Judiciary Committee, February 04, 2026, Hearing on 2/04/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63091&docnum=LB871&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63091&docnum=LB871&leg=109)

**LB872**

**Eliminate an income reduction for extraordinary dividends and certain capital gains for income tax purposes**

Sponsor Conrad

**Actions: IN Revenue Committee, February 20, 2026, Hearing on 2/20/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63004&docnum=LB872&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63004&docnum=LB872&leg=109)

**LB870 -**

**Change residence requirements relating to tuition and fees at state postsecondary educational institutions -**

Sponsor Andersen

**Actions: IN Education Committee January 26, 2026 Hearing 1/26/26**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62659&docnum=LB870&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62659&docnum=LB870&leg=109)

**LB923**

**Change & eliminate provisions relating to county records**

Sponsor Clouse

**Actions: IN the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, February 19, 2026**

[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62683&docnum=LB923&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62683&docnum=LB923&leg=109)

**LB968 -**  
Appropriate funds to the Military Department for grants for equipment for emergency events  
Sponsor Prokop  
**Actions:** IN Appropriations Committee February 17, 2026 Hearing 2/17/26  
[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=62957&docnum=LB968&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=62957&docnum=LB968&leg=109)

**LB1117 -**  
Change provisions relating to tuition waivers and provide for reimbursement to postsecondary institutions  
Sponsor Ibach  
**Actions:** In the Revenue Committee on February 12, 2026, Hearing 2/12/26  
[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63270&docnum=LB1117&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63270&docnum=LB1117&leg=109)

**LB1234**  
Adopt the Freestanding Birth Center Act  
Sponsor Hansen  
**Actions:** IN Health and Human Services Committee, February 12, 2026, Hearing 2/12/26  
[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=63777&docnum=LB1234&leg=109](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=63777&docnum=LB1234&leg=109)

**[Click on the Link to Bills above and contact your district Senator by phone, email or submit an online comment with your opinion. Your Online Comments can be submitted after the hearing through this portal, which will be available to all legislators and staff. Comments submitted may be read and/or discussed during hearings and during floor debate.](#)**

### **NDVA website**

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>  
NDVA Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NEVetsAffairs/>  
NDVA Twitter (X) [https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw](https://twitter.com/NEVetsAffairs?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)  
[https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/2026\\_Legislation.pdf](https://veterans.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/2026_Legislation.pdf)

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## **Nebraska Homestead Exemption**

**Nebraska Homestead Exemption Application, Form 458**  
**For filing after February 1, 2026, and on or before June 30, 2026**

[https://revenue.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/pad/homestead/Homestead Exemption Information Guide.pdf](https://revenue.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/pad/homestead/Homestead_Exemption_Information_Guide.pdf)

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## **Claim for Nebraska Personal Property Exemption, Nebraska Advantage Act, Form 312P or ImagiNE Act, Form 1107P Due on or Before May 1, 2026**

Feb 18, 2026 (LINCOLN, NEB.) - The Nebraska Department of Revenue (Department) reminds all taxpayers who have signed an agreement with the Department under the Nebraska Advantage Act or the ImagiNE Act, and who anticipate qualifying for the exemption from personal property taxes, to file the respective Claim for Nebraska Personal Property Exemption, Form 312P or Form 1107P, and any applicable schedules on or before May 1, 2026. A separate Form 312P or Form 1107P must be filed for each project. Forms can be found on the Department of Revenue website [HERE](#) under the Nebraska Advantage Act and ImagiNE

**MORE:** [https://revenue.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/news-release/pad/2026/News\\_Release\\_Tax\\_Incentive\\_Forms\\_312P\\_and\\_1107P.pdf](https://revenue.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/news-release/pad/2026/News_Release_Tax_Incentive_Forms_312P_and_1107P.pdf)

County assessor contact information is available on the Department's website [Visit our website](#)

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## **2026 VFW Washington Conference**

VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore's message to Congress was clear and unwavering: Honor the Contract. "When Americans raise their right hand and volunteer to serve, this nation makes a solemn promise: if they are wounded, become ill or die in service, America will care for them and their families. That promise is not charity. It is the binding contract between service members and the country they defend."

Watch her testimony at <https://tinyurl.com/yc5njcy2> #VFWDC2026 #HonorTheContract

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Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute and host of Nebraskanomics.

Dear friend,

Last week, two of Platte Institute's priorities for this legislative session took a major step forward in their path to becoming law.

LB 938 and LB 575 were both amended into LB 803, one of the Revenue Committee's priority bills, which now sits on General File. While that may not sound all that significant, it is one of the clearest signals you can get that legislation has strong support and a real chance of passing this session. This is a meaningful step forward, not just because these ideas advanced out of committee, but because of what these policies actually do for Nebraskans.

First, LB 938 creates First-Time Home Buyer Savings Accounts in Nebraska. At its core, this bill is about helping Nebraskans achieve something that has become increasingly difficult, especially for young families: homeownership.

One of the biggest barriers to today is not the mortgage itself, but the upfront costs. Down payments, closing costs, and other expenses can put homeownership out of reach even for those who are otherwise financially ready. LB 938 takes a practical, market-driven approach to that challenge.

It creates a tax-advantaged way for individuals and families to save for a home. Parents can help their children get started, and young adults can take ownership of their own savings. It is flexible, voluntary, and rooted in a free market approach.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with State Treasurer Joey Spellerberg on the latest episode of Nebraskanomics to discuss LB 938 and the role his office has played in advancing the proposal.

As a strong supporter of the bill, Treasurer Spellerberg offers insight into how these accounts can work in practice, along with a broader conversation on the work of the Treasurer's Office and his perspective on property tax reform from his time as a mayor. I would encourage you to give it a listen.

The second bill amended into LB 803 is LB 575, which as frequent readers of these weekly emails will already know, builds on one of the Platte Institute's most important policy wins in recent years: Truth in Taxation.

Nebraska's Truth in Taxation law brought much-needed transparency to the property tax system. But transparency only works if elected officials are able to act on the feedback taxpayers provide.

LB 575 improves our current Truth in Taxation law by moving joint public hearings earlier in the process, before local budgets are finalized. That means when you receive that postcard in the mail, your voice can actually shape the outcome, not just react to it.

It's a simple fix, but an important one. It gives taxpayers a more meaningful seat at the table and helps ensure that local spending decisions better reflect the people paying the bill.

Taken together, these two policies move Nebraska in the right direction. They help families build wealth, strengthen communities, and improve accountability in government. And hopefully with the Truth in Taxation change, control spending and property tax increases.

There is still work to be done this session, but this is real progress worth celebrating.

Thank you for reading and for your support as we continue to build a stronger, more prosperous Nebraska.

Jim

P.S. - In case you haven't heard from me enough yet, I recently joined The Inner Circle Podcast from Omaha Magazine with Gil Cohen to talk about Platte's work and the policies shaping Nebraska's future. I hope you'll give it a listen!

Jim Vokal

✘ It's time to stop the status quo. Let's remove economic barriers and make Nebraskans proud.

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### [Gov. Pillen Signs Executive Order for Assistance with Ag Supplies for the State of Nebraska](#)

CONTACT: Laura Strimple, (402) 580-9495 March 16, 2026

Lincoln, NE – Due to the Nebraska wildfires that have severely impacted livestock feed and supplies within the state of Nebraska, Governor Jim Pillen has issued an executive order to provide

emergency relief. <https://governor.nebraska.gov/gov-pillen-signs-executive-order-assistance-ag-supplies-state-nebraska>

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**From: Senator Deb Fischer**

**Date: March 6, 2026, at 1:36:25 PM CST**

**Subject: Thank you for contacting the Office of Senator Deb Fischer**

Dear Dean,

Thank you for contacting me about benefits for veterans. I agree with you, and that is why I am a cosponsor of the legislation you mentioned, the Major Richard Star Act.

As you mentioned, the Major Richard Star Act would allow veterans who had to retire from the armed forces due to a combat-related disability prior to serving 20 years to receive both their full military retired pay from the Department of Defense and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. You will be happy to know that I was a cosponsor of an amendment to add the Major Richard Star Act to the fiscal year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

The past and current members of our armed forces have made great sacrifices. I believe that the federal government has a fundamental responsibility to ensure that all veterans injured during combat receive the full care and benefits they deserve. Like you, I am a strong supporter of this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to get it signed into law. Please be assured I will keep your comments in mind as the Senate continues its work in the days and weeks ahead.

Thank you again for sharing your comments with me. Please continue to keep me apprised of the issues important to you by visiting my website: [www.fischer.senate.gov](http://www.fischer.senate.gov). I look forward to keeping in touch.

P.S. If you are in Washington, please plan to attend the Nebraska breakfast. The breakfast will resume once a month when the Senate is in session. Call my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-6551 or visit my website for current dates and to [RSVP](#). To stay updated on my work on this issue and others, sign up for monthly e-updates from my office [HERE](#).

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**Disabled Veteran License Plates are available to any person who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, who was discharged or otherwise separated with a characterization of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) and is 10% service-connected disabled.**

<https://dmv.nebraska.gov/dvr/dav-plate>

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## HEALTH CARE

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### AT EASE USA

*What we do:* <https://ateasATWEASeusa.org/who-we-are/> (Open)

At Ease USA was founded in 2009 in response to the lack of treatment for wounded warriors upon their return home. At Ease USA (AEU) is committed to providing access to confidential trauma treatment and therapeutic support for active military, veterans and their loved ones, regardless of their ability to pay. AEU complements existing services offered by military and veterans organizations, with a focus on the elimination of barriers to treatment for those suffering from the effects of deployment and the uncertainty of war.

Services » [At Ease USA \(Open\)](#)

#### Program Purpose

- Create a group of passionate volunteers who serve as champions for At Ease USA (AEU).
- Expand awareness of services, reduce stigma around mental health, and connect military, veterans, medical heroes, and families with resources.
- Offer meaningful engagement beyond one-time volunteering or donations.

Program Purpose: <https://ateaseusa.org/allies/> [Open Link](#)

#### Military and Veteran Event

- [Contact us for help finding the service that's right for you.](#) [Contact Us](#)

Veterans / Military: [How We Can Help PTSD Resources](#)

Healthcare Workers: [How We Can Help PTSD Resources](#)

Family Services: [How We Can Help PTSD Resources](#)

### Mental Health Practitioners

[Our Providers](#), [Provider Resources](#), [Become a Provider](#), [Make a Referral](#)

#### How can you help?

Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a military or medical hero. <https://ateaseusa.org/donate/>  
At Ease USA, 10605 Burt Circle, Omaha, NE 68114 [531.247.4040](tel:531.247.4040) [Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm](#)  
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline [1.800.273.TALK \(8255\)](tel:1.800.273.TALK) [Emergency](#)  
[988 suicide and crisis lifeline](#) [Live Online Chat](#)

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### 2.9 million Veterans used VA telehealth for part of their care in fiscal 2025

Every Veteran's story is unique, and so are their health care needs. That's why more Veterans are turning to VA telehealth. With secure, convenient virtual options, VA telehealth makes it easier than ever for Veterans to access expert, familiar care. Take 81-year-old Veteran Jim Smith. Making regular trips to VA facilities to get help managing his diabetes was no longer an easy option for him. Being able to use [VA Video Connect](#), VA's secure videoconferencing app, to meet virtually with his providers from home has been a definite benefit for him. MORE: <https://news.va.gov/144279/91-7-veterans-use-va-telehealth-are-satisfied/>

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### A reality we can't ignore

Women in the military face unique pressures and the mental health impact is profound.

Research shows:

29.1% of female service members report experiencing suicidal thoughts 33.2% report having attempted suicide. These numbers are significantly higher than those reported by their male peers, a stark reminder that one-size-fits-all support is not enough.

If you or someone you love could use support, At Ease USA offers a virtual healing circle for female veterans or active service members, every other Thursday from 7–8 PM. A confidential space to connect, share and begin healing. Visit our website to learn more and register.

<https://www.facebook.com/100066583587064/posts/1290105986552175/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=0ISby8iVKMRf1LUS> **At Ease USA's Post**

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## Center for Women Veterans

**Mission: To advocate for improved outcomes & access to VA benefits, services, & opportunities for women Veterans through education, outreach, and collaboration.**

<https://tinyurl.com/488vxpcd>

From Navy flight surgeon to pioneering researcher, Dr. Royce Ellen Clifford is advancing how we prevent and treat hearing loss in Veterans. Using data from VA's Million Veteran Program, her work could lead to customized hearing protection and care. This is the power of MVP: Veterans contributing data to drive research that matters. Learn more about MVP and how you can contribute to research: <http://mvp.va.gov>

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## Miscellaneous Information

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### Agent Orange Forgotten Veterans of all Eras

In 1969, at just 22 years old, Margaret “Peggy” Mancuso left everything behind to serve as a U.S. Army nurse at the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam.

Deep in the brutal fighting of the Central Highlands, she worked endless shifts as medevac helicopters thundered in day and night, carrying wave after wave of broken young soldiers. She held the hands of dying boys calling for their mothers, fought desperately in surgery to save lives and limbs, and kept going even as rockets shook the ground beneath her feet.

The horrors she witnessed stayed with her forever, yet her courage and compassion never wavered.

Peggy came home forever changed, carrying silent scars she rarely spoke about. That single year forged the strong, quiet hero so many would come to admire.

Thank you, Peggy, for your service and your heart. You are, and always will be, a true hero.

[#VietnamNurse #ArmyNurse #NeverForget](https://www.facebook.com/groups/352658892309522/permalink/1965719167670145/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=Lt8lvCGZQck0Vj7w)

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### Nebraska Veterans Aid Fund (NVA)

The NVA Fund was established in 1921. This temporary emergency aid fund assists veterans, their spouses, and dependents when an emergency occurs disrupting their normal method of living and when other resources are not immediately available. For NVA purposes, veteran means any person who: [https://veterans.nebraska.gov/nebraska-veterans-aid-fund-nva?](https://veterans.nebraska.gov/nebraska-veterans-aid-fund-nva?utm_medium=paid&utm_source=fb&utm_id=120241874943650718&utm_content=120241874945270718&utm_term=120241874944060718&utm_campaign=120241874943650718)

[utm\\_medium=paid&utm\\_source=fb&utm\\_id=120241874943650718&utm\\_content=120241874945270718&utm\\_term=120241874944060718&utm\\_campaign=120241874943650718](https://veterans.nebraska.gov/nebraska-veterans-aid-fund-nva?utm_medium=paid&utm_source=fb&utm_id=120241874943650718&utm_content=120241874945270718&utm_term=120241874944060718&utm_campaign=120241874943650718)

As of September 3, 2025, applications can be made through a [State Service Officer](#), in addition to the [County Veterans Service Officer](#) or Post Service Officer of any recognized veterans service organization.

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## Nebraska.Gov

**Good Life. Great Opportunity.**

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION ATTRACTIONS

COURTS ALL SERVICES ALL AGENCIES SUBSCRIBERS EXECUTIVE BRANCH FIND A JOB

(OPEN) <https://www.nebraska.gov/>

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**Get Free Expert Help from SCORE Greater Omaha to Start & Grow Your Small Business.**

A Partnership Focused on Making You More Successful  
Our SCORE mentors are ready to assist. SCORE Greater Omaha mentors are highly successful business professionals with the experience and expertise to help you achieve your small-business goals. Browse mentor profiles or let us pair you with the right expert!  
SCORE can help you start, grow or successfully exit a business. Small business owners who receive three or more hours of mentoring report higher revenues and increased growth.  
Enter your ZIP code to find a free SCORE business mentor today.  
Free Small Business Mentorship and Resources | SCORE

## **Events in April, 2026**

(Online Live EVENTS) Greater Omaha

**Recorded Webinars FREE (OPEN)** [https://www.score.org/business-education?location\\_filter\\_options=173&keywords=&f%5B0%5D=training\\_type%3AAlive&page=0](https://www.score.org/business-education?location_filter_options=173&keywords=&f%5B0%5D=training_type%3AAlive&page=0)

(OPEN) <https://www.score.org/lincoln/about>

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## **Introducing the Claim Assist Portal: A new, easier way to respond to VA claim requests**

March 4, 2026

Office of Business Integration, Veterans Benefits Administration

VA is making it easier than ever to keep your [claim](#) on track. With the new Claim Assist Portal, you'll have a faster, more convenient way to respond when additional information is needed.

If you've filed a benefits claim, you may receive an email with a direct link to the portal, helping you respond quickly and confidently so your claim can keep moving forward. No paperwork, scanning or searching through VA.gov required.

What to expect <https://news.va.gov/145318/introducing-the-claim-assist-portal/>

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## **U.S. Small Business Administration Services we provide**

Our office provides help with SBA services, including funding programs, counseling, federal contracting certifications, and disaster recovery. We can also connect you with our partner organizations, lenders, and other community groups that support small businesses.

**Areas we serve: The Nebraska District Office serves the entire state of Nebraska**

**41 Upcoming SBA events April 2026 to Nov 18, 2026**

Use the fields to narrow your search and select the "Search for events" button to see your results. A list of our most recently published events is also included below.

(OPEN) <https://www.sba.gov/events?district=49>

- **Questions? Contact: Jo Eckert, [Jo.Eckert@sba.gov](mailto:Jo.Eckert@sba.gov)**

Economic Development Specialist/Public Information Officer

Nebraska District Office: 10675 Bedford Avenue, Suite 100, Omaha, NE 68134

U.S. Small Business Administration (402) 221-7200 (office), (402) 660-5428 (cell)

You're not too small to grow international sales with help from SBA export finance programs:

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## **The Native American Direct Loan and one Veteran's journey to stability**

VA remains committed to working with tribal communities nationwide to expand awareness and participation in the NADL program. Native American Veterans can learn more about the [NADL program](#) or attend an informational session. Tribes can access [training resources online](#) from the VA Loan Guaranty Training website under "Available Training – Native American Direct Loans."

<https://news.va.gov/145619/native-american-direct-loan-veterans-stability/>

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## **Nebraska Veterans Organizations**

**Join Us**

**Click on the name of the organization below.**

**It will take you to their website.**

**Added this month (0)**

**MOAA Heartland of America Chapter, Bellevue, NE**

**American Legion Post 363 in Winnebago**

**ESGR Nebrasaka**

**VFW Post 2704 Bellevue**

**American Legion Post #211 Elkhorn**

**American Legion Post 266 Bennington**

**American Legion Post 36 Gering**

[VFW Post 759 Kearney](#)  
[American Legion Post 52 Kearney](#)  
[VFW Post 2503 Omaha](#)  
[VFW Post 1581 Omaha](#)  
[VFW Post 247 Omaha](#)  
[American Legion Post 32 Papillion](#)  
[American Legion Dept of Nebraska](#)  
[American Legion Nebraska News](#)  
[American Legion Nebraska Ladies Auxiliary](#)  
[American Legion Nebraska Legion Riders](#)  
[VVA Chapter 279 Omaha](#)  
[American Legion Post #1 Omaha](#)  
[American Legion Post 374 Millard](#)  
[VFW Post 8334 Millard](#)

*(If you would like your organization added to our website, please send us an email with the link.)*

Our email is [comeoncubs100@gmail.com](mailto:comeoncubs100@gmail.com)  
cc: [nevetscoalition@outlook.com](mailto:nevetscoalition@outlook.com)

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## Interesting Local Events

(OPEN) <https://tinyurl.com/2vawzbjf>

Things to do in Omaha

(OPEN) <https://www.luxurytravelmagazine.com/news-articles/things-to-do-in-omaha-nebraska>

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**Offutt AFB Air and Space Show and Offutt Air Force Base**  
**IT'S OFFICIAL! The Defenders of Freedom Air & Space Show is August 8-9, 2026**  
**Relive the excitement with clips from previous shows.** 📺

<https://www.facebook.com/theoffuttairshow>

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## Nebraska National Guard Museum

Welcome to the Nebraska National Guard Museum. The Museum is open for individual and large tour groups <https://tinyurl.com/dtj7scb>

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## Welcome to Boots to Business

(OPEN) <https://tinyurl.com/55nyv7em>

The Boots to Business Programs consist of Boots to Business (B2B), Boots to Business Reboot (B2BR), and Military Spouse Pathway to Business Courses. These courses are entrepreneurial education and training programs offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). B2B is offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as part of the Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program (TAP). B2BR is the same curriculum, offered off-installation. The Military Spouse Pathway to Business offers military spouses free, flexible entrepreneurship training—available in-person or online—tailored to their unique lifestyle.

Contact info: This field is used for email or phone number

[eswarik@nebbiz.org](mailto:eswarik@nebbiz.org) Phone number (402) 685-5503 ext 503



## Catch these Game and Parks education events in April

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission educators have scheduled interesting and engaging events for the curious in April.

Don't forget to purchase a vehicle park entry permit to enter the state parks, except one is not required to park in the Schramm Education Center parking lot. Get one at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](http://OutdoorNebraska.gov) or at state park entrances.

The April offerings are: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NEGPC/bulletins/40ee3e2>

**Outdoor News: Rainbow trout released**

Our fish hatchery staff will be releasing 12-inch trout in urban and community waters across the state. Work started the week of Feb. 15 and continues through the end of April. Find a water body near you on our website and plan now for a relaxing day outdoors and maybe a tasty fish dinner.

[Visit NEBRASKAland Digital Archive](#)

### OFW sites and WMAs impacted by fires are closed

Open Fields and Waters public walk-in access properties and wildlife management areas affected by wildfires are closed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission until further notice. Hunters are urged to stay away from OFW sites and WMAs affected by the recent wildfires in Lincoln, Dawson, Keith, Arthur, Morrill, Garden, and Cherry counties for public safety reasons and to allow recovery efforts to proceed. See a list and maps of closed Game and Parks properties at [OutdoorNebraska.gov](http://OutdoorNebraska.gov). Search "Closures and Safety Advisories." Refer to the Nebraska Public Access Atlas for a legend that applies to maps of closed OFW sites at [OutdoorNebraska.gov/guides-maps/public-access-atlas/](http://OutdoorNebraska.gov/guides-maps/public-access-atlas/).

## Nebraska Veterans' Gateway

(OPEN) <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/nvg>

Welcome to your gateway to career and employment resources for Nebraska veterans. Resource Expert, Job Converter Job Search, More Tools from Our Partners

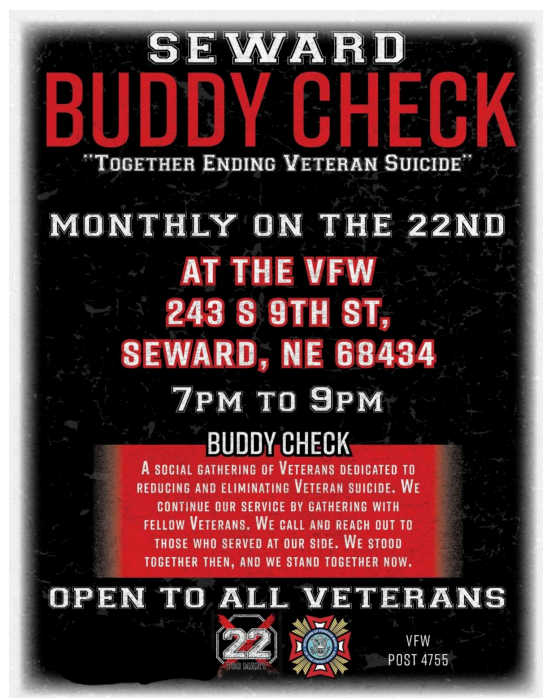
### Friends of Fort Atkinson

An Association of living history volunteers dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the military and pioneer life of Fort Atkinson in the Missouri Territory, 1819-1827. The reconstructed fort is located in Fort Atkinson State Historical Park in Fort Calhoun, NE, 8 miles north of I-680 on Hwy 75. For more information, visit [www.fortatkinsononline.org](http://www.fortatkinsononline.org)

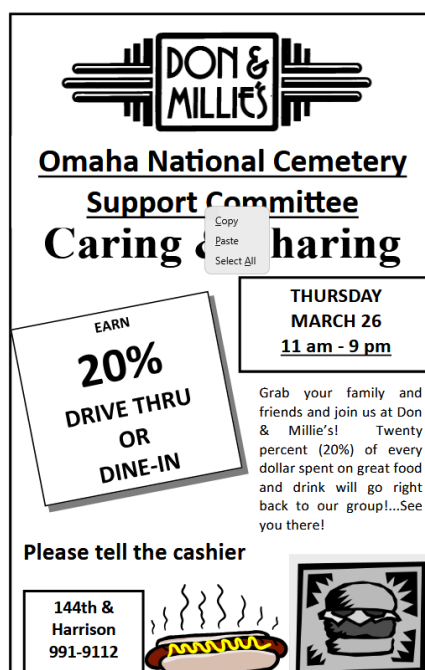
### 2026 Living History Schedule

May 2nd & 3rd: June 6th & 7th: July 4th & 5th: Aug 1st & 2nd: Sept 5th & 6th: Oct 3rd & 4th: Candle Light Tour Nov 7th

(paid reservation required for the Candle Light Tour) A state park vehicle permit is required. Permits are available at the Visitor Center. For more information, call: (402) 468-5611



**SEWARD BUDDY CHECK**  
 "TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"  
 MONTHLY ON THE 22ND  
 AT THE VFW  
 243 S 9TH ST,  
 SEWARD, NE 68434  
 7PM TO 9PM  
**BUDDY CHECK**  
 A SOCIAL GATHERING OF VETERANS DEDICATED TO REDUCING AND ELIMINATING VETERAN SUICIDE. WE CONTINUE OUR SERVICE BY GATHERING WITH FELLOW VETERANS. WE CALL AND REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO SERVED AT OUR SIDE. WE STOOD TOGETHER THEN, AND WE STAND TOGETHER NOW.  
**OPEN TO ALL VETERANS**  
 22 SEWARD  
 VFW POST 4755



**DON & MILLIE'S**  
**Omaha National Cemetery Support Committee**  
**Caring & Sharing**  
 THURSDAY MARCH 26 11 am - 9 pm  
 EARN 20% DRIVE THRU OR DINE-IN  
 Grab your family and friends and join us at Don & Millie's! Twenty percent (20%) of every dollar spent on great food and drink will go right back to our group!...See you there!  
 Please tell the cashier  
 144th & Harrison 991-9112



### **Be part of something unforgettable this Memorial Day Weekend.**

[Patriotic Productions](#) is bringing the World's Largest American Flag to the Sandhills Global Event Center and it takes 650+ volunteers to help unfurl this massive 250' x 505' flag weighing nearly 3,000 pounds.

We're looking for community members, families, and groups who want to take part in this incredible moment. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to sign up to help unfurl the flag.

This FREE community event will also feature a drone show by Fantasy Drone, entertainment, food, drinks, and more.

Sign up to volunteer and be part of the experience at [patrioticproductions.org](https://patrioticproductions.org).

[#SGEC](#) [#Patriotic](#) [#MemorialDay](#) [#USA](#) [#FamilyFun](#) [#FreeEvent](#)

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### **B-21 Raider completed 'close-proximity flight' with KC-135 tanker, US Air Force confirms**

The U.S. Air Force has confirmed that a B-21 Raider flight test aircraft conducted a "close-proximity flight" with a KC-135 Stratotanker on Tuesday as part of the bomber's ongoing test campaign. The event, spotted by aviation photographers over the Mojave Desert near Edwards Air Force Base, California, during a mission lasting approximately 5.5 hours according to spotter reports and online flight tracking, represents a precursor step toward validating capabilities essential for the B-21's long-range, penetrating strike role. MORE:

<https://reader.militarytimes.com/2026/03/12/b-21-raider-completed-close-proximity-flight-with-kc-135-tanker-us-air-force-confirms/content.html>

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The USS John F. Kennedy transits the Atlantic Ocean during sea trials on Jan. 28, 2026. (MCS2 Kaitlin Young/U.S. Navy)

### **Newest Ford-class carrier USS John F. Kennedy aces sea trials**

The U.S. Navy's second nuclear-powered Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier completed testing Wednesday, roughly a week after it powered out to sea.

The USS John F. Kennedy, which is set to join the fleet in 2027,

<https://reader.militarytimes.com/2026/02/05/newest-ford-class-carrier-uss-john-f-kennedy-aces-sea-trials/content.html>

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This photo provided by the U.S. Navy shows a Boeing F/A-18E Super Hornet landing on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Indian Ocean on Jan. 22, 2026. (Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel Kimmelman/U.S. Navy via AP)

### **US shoots down Iranian drone approaching aircraft carrier**

A U.S. Navy fighter jet shot down an Iranian drone that was approaching the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea, U.S. Central Command said Tuesday, threatening to ramp up tensions as the Trump administration warns of possible military action to [get Iran to the negotiating](#)



## **Ongoing military conflicts are causing world war worry**

• Mar 20, 2026 Updated 34 mins ago

One of the greatest difficulties for many veterans is having to sit back and watch an ongoing military combat action like that now being found in Iran. I would also have to include the conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and many other locations occurring in our very disturbed world.

John Stewart

Some of us who served in uniform wish we were there fighting for freedom again; others are sick and tired of war and radicalism and related violence and deaths that seemingly never ends. Plus, those of us suffering from PTSD probably wish we did not have to turn on nightly news and see people dying in combat, innocent citizens being hanged in the public, or people in towns and villages without any means to end their suffering from illnesses, homelessness and starvation all because of war.

What is the future we veterans and the rest of the world will face from these situations? In my previous article here, I addressed the possibility of a war in Iran because of their intended development of a nuclear weapons capability, to include extreme long-distance delivery methods. Something America could not tolerate because it would threaten us and the rest of the world. Obviously, my predictions of probable war in Iran have happened.

Let me address more points about this war.

It is truly amazing to see the success of our country in Iran while deploying the greatest military equipment and personnel in the world. Delivering horrendous attacks, destroying missile sites, aircraft, runways and of course the bunkers harboring nuclear activities. Obviously, there is no way to report the numbers of Iranian military that have been eradicated by our relentless military missions, but I am confident they are huge losses.

Unfortunately, we do know specifics of our own losses which have made many Americans sad and angry. For us veterans it is another impact to our lives as we sit back and watch the never-ending news coverage about the loss of our brothers-in-arms, with their families suffering horribly at home.

But the attacks in Iran continue with an outcome yet to be determined. As far as we know, the same type of regime is in power with the son of the now deceased radical father apparently in charge.

Actually, at the time of this article, nobody seems to know for sure if his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, is alive after subsequent attacks.

A cleric beats his chest as he mourns during the funeral procession of Iran's intelligence minister Esmail

Khatib and, according to Iranian officials, his wife and daughter, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, March 20. Vahid Salemi / Associated Press

**Iranian government**

I have often tried to describe to people what I believe is the accurate description of the type of government found in Iran. I always use a many-headed snake as an example. You cut off one head, and another takes over, more poisonous than its predecessor. You cut more off, the sequence of accession and increased poison continues.

We are seeing it today as government heads are repeatedly killed by Israel or us. The only way to succeed in the mission is to take out the entire snake and, hopefully, replace it with someone without radicalism who will not begin growing radical snakeheads again.

In my personal opinion it will be difficult, if not impossible, and I predict that without boots on the ground by our military forces another many-headed snake system will take charge of Iran and continue with radical operations.

I previously wrote about my own involvement with Iranians during multiple deployments there before the fall of the Shah in 1979. Becoming more involved later during Operation Eagle Claw, the failed rescue of Americans from our U.S. embassy being

held hostage, I was heavily involved with operational support planning, deployment of military forces and my own subsequent personal deployments into theater of events. Those deployments and my prior interaction with military and government officials in Iran also lead me to believe it is going to be extremely difficult to eradicate the snake. For the sake of the wonderful Iranian people and the families of our lost warriors, I certainly hope we will be successful. It will be even more difficult with the involvement of Russia in Iran who is probably providing weapons, intelligence and much more. Of course, Putin will do anything to cause further turmoil in the Middle East as long as it is against America and Israel. A man entertains children in a bomb shelter as air raid sirens warn of incoming missile strikes from Iran in Ramat Gan, Israel,

Friday, March 20.

Oded Balilty / Associated Press

Ukraine war

Meanwhile, seemingly placed on a back page by media, is the war in Ukraine. I believe both sides are in serious trouble in that war. Ukraine from the devastation being caused by Russian indiscriminate bombings of civilian homes, schools, hospitals, utilities and many other noncombatant scenarios. Russia from the enormous loss of military manpower and facilities.

It's looking like a war that will never end until one government or the other is nearly wiped from the face of the earth. I believe, that because of Russia's military strength and the tremendous losses of Ukraine's military warriors and equipment, it is only a matter of time before Russia will prevail. Russia, if facing a lost war, with their backs to the wall always having the final opportunity of introducing tactical nuclear weapons into the arena that could not be counteracted by Ukraine's forces.

Firefighters battle a blaze in an apartment building following a Russian missile attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine, March 7.

Andrii Marienko / Associated Press

No matter the outcome, we veterans and the world will sit back and watch with great anxiety.

Meanwhile, in China

Another area I am personally concerned about and one that perhaps our entire country should be watching closely, is ongoing operations being conducted by China while we have our heads turned toward Iran and Ukraine and Russia.

Most of us know that China wants Taiwan because Taiwan has become a tech hub and the leader in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing, thus holding an incredible strategic importance for the U.S. and the rest of the world. Enough, it seems in the mindset of Chinese leaders, to go to war over.

If China is controlling that resource, it is a nightmare scenario for the U.S. because China could keep the most advanced designs and processes for themselves and thereby set our military backward by decades.

Plus, China and the U.S. want Taiwan because of the location of the island off the coast of China. From a military strategic point, the island sits between Japan, the Philippines, the Pacific Ocean and China. So, whoever controls Taiwan could place military bases there and control important logistics routes in the area, similar to what we are seeing with Iran and the Persian Gulf.

Most people do not realize the size of China's massive fishing fleet operating in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and the South China Sea, as they compete with fishers from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines. Of the 3.1 million fishing vessels in Asia, China operates 864,000 of them.

In a conflict or crisis over Taiwan, China could mobilize tens of thousands of civilian ships, including fishing boats, to clog sea lanes and complicate military and supply operations of its opponents.

Let me give you an example of China's ongoing preparation using those boats for possible war with Taiwan and seizure of the waterways.

What's going on

Thousands of Chinese fishing boats have been massing in geometric formations in the East China Sea, in coordinated actions that experts believe are part of Beijing's preparations for a potential regional crisis or conflict. Chinese fishing boats would actually be too small to effectively enforce a blockade but could obstruct movement by American warships and act as missile and torpedo decoys, overwhelming radars or drone sensors with too many targets.

And, many could be armed with mines, drones and other war materials. Something we are seeing introduced by Iran in the Persian Gulf.

The unusual recent geometric boat formations were spotted by Jason Wang, the chief operating officer of ingeniSPACE, a fantastic geospatial data company integrating remote sensing data across multiple phenomenology.

Last Dec. 25, it was reported that approximately 2,000 vessels were as close as 1,640 feet to each other in straight lines, holding their positions for about 30 hours in near gale-force winds before suddenly scattering.

In a second incident occurring on Jan. 11, around 1,000 Chinese fishing vessels

clustered in an uneven rectangle, about 250 miles long, for more than a day in the same area of the East China Sea. They were not there to fish.

Some experts said the only plausible explanation was that China was testing its ability to marshal a large number of fishing vessels that could potentially be deployed in a military operation, such as a blockade or invasion of Taiwan, or a crisis with Japan. Our heads now pointed toward Iran and Ukraine need to be somewhat swiveled around. So, that concludes this second article of mine about a few of the ongoing crisis situations in our world. And there are many more. My thoughts on them being that the world may be in serious trouble on different fronts and, worst yet, each probably involves America.

We veterans know what war is and how horrific it can become but many of those in the world causing these events do not know those facts until the deaths begin.

A terrible lesson to be learned.

John Stewart is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and disabled Vietnam War Veteran. In 2016 he was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. His columns are developed from public, government and private information. Content is checked for accuracy as best as possible. However, you have the responsibility to confirm the contents before committing any related actions.

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