

NEBRASKA

Women Veterans

SYMPOSIUM

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
Department of Nebraska

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



September 24-25, 2022

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center
110 2nd Avenue, Kearney**

Keynote Speaker

Denise H. Rohan 2017-2018 American Legion National Commander

Denise Rohan was elected national commander of the 2-million-member American Legion on August 24, 2017, in Reno, Nev., during the 99th national convention of the nation's largest veterans organization. She is the first woman to be elected to the top position of The American Legion.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise (Hulbert) lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for U.S. Army basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. in 1974. She served on active duty as a stock control & accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Va., until her honorable discharge in August 1976. She has served the American Legion since 1984. While commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wis., she established Sons of the American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333.

She was employed by the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She also served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard.

In 2018, Denise was recognized as one of the nation's top 25 influencers making a difference for military service members, veterans, and their families by "We Are The Mighty." She was also recognized as a trailblazer by V-WISE (Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship). She currently serves as Wisconsin's Selective Service System Director.

Her theme as national commander was "Family First" and her fundraising project provided temporary financial assistance to needy children of veterans and training for American Legion service officers, now known as the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).



Overview & Information

Over these two days, we hope to build and strengthen the Nebraska women veterans community by connecting them to each other to build a network of strength and connecting them to the resources and support available across our state. During the two-day symposium, these are a few of the special activities that will be happening each day:

Traveling Women Veterans Art Exhibit *Pre-Function Area*

Featuring artwork submitted by women veterans of Nebraska, including members of our state veterans' homes, this art exhibit will be traveling the state after first kicking off here at the symposium.

Veteran and Military Resource Exhibitors *Pre-Function Area*

Exhibitors from agencies and organizations across the state will be here to share the benefits, services, and resources they have to offer. Meet with veteran service organizations, USDVA representatives, and others to learn what you may be eligible for and how you can get involved in the Nebraska veteran community.

Interviews for Library of Congress Veterans History Project *Conference Room 173*

Congress created the Veterans History Project to collect, preserve, and make accessible to the public the personal accounts of American war veterans. Saturday, September 24th, interviewers will be on-hand to capture stories from attendees who wish to share their experiences.

Wellness Room *Conference Room 175*

Some of the topics discussed may include heavy subject matter. If you need to take a break, please feel free to utilize the wellness room.

All activities in Ballroom 1 unless otherwise indicated.

Friday, September 23rd

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Early Check-in (*Pre-Function Area*)

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Reception (*Stateroom ABC*)

Saturday, September 24th

- 7:30 a.m. Check-in (*Pre-Function Area*)
Breakfast (*Stateroom ABC*)
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Ceremony
Erin Colson, NDVA Women Veterans Coordinator
- 9:00 a.m. Honoring their Service -
Recognizing: World War II Veteran Wilma Kellogg
Remembering: SSG Lillian Clamens, U.S. Army
SFC Tricia Jameson, NE Army National Guard
SFC Linda Tarango-Griess, NE Army
National Guard
- 9:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker
Denise H. Rohan, American Legion Past National Commander
- 10:00 a.m. Center for Women Veterans
Ana Claudio, Global Outreach Manager, USN Senior Chief (Ret)
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Trauma, Healing, and Living
Heather Eller-Gilman, Readjustment Counselor
- 11:30 a.m. Warrior Writers Journal Writing Activity
Mary Baker, Warrior Writer, USAF Master Sergeant (Ret)
- 12:00 p.m. PenFed Foundation
Margie Smith, PenFed Community Relations Specialist
- 12:15 p.m. Announcements
Erin Colson, NDVA Women Veterans Coordinator
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (*Stateroom ABC*)
- 1:30 p.m. Veterans Benefits Administration

Healthcare Eligibility
David Conrad, VA NWHCS Enrollment and Outreach

Vet Center
Ken Colson, Outreach Specialist
- 2:00 p.m. VA Women Veterans Program
Kim Minor MSN, RN, Women Veterans Program Manager
- 2:30 p.m. Yoga Activity
Mary Ann Douglas, Recreation Assistant, Grand Island CBOC
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Peer Support
Jeni Hagen, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- 4:00 p.m. Suicide Prevention
Janelle Brock, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
- 4:30 p.m. Panel: "Celebrating Who I Was and Who I've Become"

• Jenn Jelinek, US Army (Ret), Executive Director, Nebraska/Western Iowa Women Veterans
• Colonel Mary Mild, Chief of the Joint Staff, Joint Force Nebraska Guard & Reserves
• Master Sergeant Jaia Veralea Upchurch, USAF, Superintendent, MFRC, Offutt AFB

Moderator: Matt Millen, USMC, Wounded Warrior Project
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner (*Stateroom ABC*)
Kate McCauley, Wounded Warriors Family Support CEO & President
- 7:00 p.m. *Lioness* film screening

Sunday, September 25th

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast (*Stateroom ABC*)
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements
- 9:00 a.m. Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
John Hilgert, NDVA Director
- 9:30 a.m. New Century Art Guild Art Activity
Troy Muller, Executive Director
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Interpersonal Violence
Marissa Kuzelka, Intimate Partner Violence Program Coordinator
- 11:30 a.m. Yoga/Tai Chi Activity
Mary Ann Douglas, Recreation Assistant, Grand Island CBOC
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Closing (*Stateroom ABC*)

Resources

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Main website: veterans.nebraska.gov

Find your CVSO: veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso

Mental Health Resource Map: veterans.nebraska.gov/healthmap

Central Office

402-471-2458

ndva@nebraska.gov

State Service Office

402-420-4021

ndva.sso@nebraska.gov

VA Healthcare & Eligibility (Nebraska/Western Iowa)

Main Phone/Mental Health Care: 402-346-8800

VA Healthcare & Eligibility (Black Hills)

Main Phone: 605-745-2000

Mental Health Care: 605-347-2511

Center for Women Veterans

va.gov/womenvet

Womens Memorial

womensmemorial.org

New Century Art Guild

newcenturyartguild.org

Uniting Us

unitingus.org

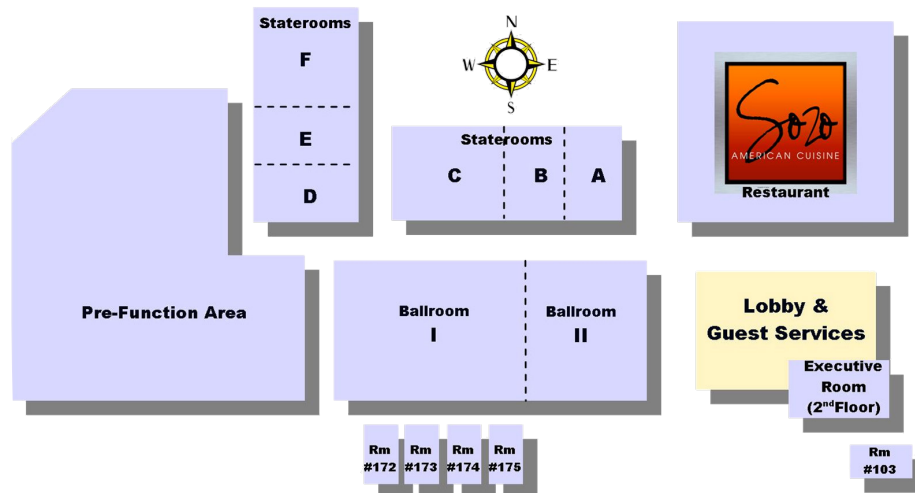
Veterans Crisis Line

veteranscrisisline.net

Phone: 988, then press 1

Text: 838255

Hotel Map



Thank You to Our Sponsors

The following organizations helped sponsor this event to ensure it remained free for every attendee. Please visit their booth in the exhibitor area to thank them for their support of Nebraska women veterans!



Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs
301 Centennial Mall South, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 95083
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2458 | ndva@nebraska.gov

veterans.nebraska.gov

