



# G.P.V.S.C STAFF

Executive Director  
Chauncey Parker

Veterans Support Services Manager  
Wesley Old Coyote

Administrative Manager  
John Gardipee, Sr.

Veterans Transportation Supervisor  
Browning Office  
Shane Sinclair

Veterans Transportation Manager  
Thomas Lewis

Veterans Service Drivers  
Browning Office  
Matt Webber  
Louis Pollock

VTS Administrative Assistant  
Tallis Caplette

Communications Specialist  
Becky Lewis

Veterans Transportation Supervisor  
Ft. Belknap Office  
Francois Nelis

Finance Manager  
Marianne Capellen

Veterans Service Driver  
Rocky Boy / Ft. Belknap  
Weston Sutherland

Finance Clerk/HR Assistant  
Leo Johnson

Food Service Operator  
Rocky Boy Office  
Coby Stump

Veterans Outreach Case Managers  
Rocky Boy Office  
John Gardipee, Jr.  
Jeffery Jones

Food Service Assistant  
Rocky Boy Office  
Brian Jones

Veterans Outreach Case Managers  
Browning Office  
Patrick Calf Looking  
Ryan Hoyt

Veterans Service Driver  
Ft. Belknap Office  
Verlin Littlelight

Veterans Service Driver  
Rocky Boy Office  
Keith Billy

Graphic Designer  
Amber Lewis

# G.P.V.S.C BOARD MEMBERS

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Board Secretary

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Member-at-Large

Joseph Eagleman  
Board Treasurer



## American Legion Post 67 Meeting

At Northern Winz Casino  
11275 US-87, Box Elder, MT 59521

Tuesday  
May 9th  
6:00pm

## Support the Great Plains Veterans Services Center and Donate



Non-Veteran-  
\$23.00

Veteran-  
\$18.00

American Legion Post Member-  
\$15.00



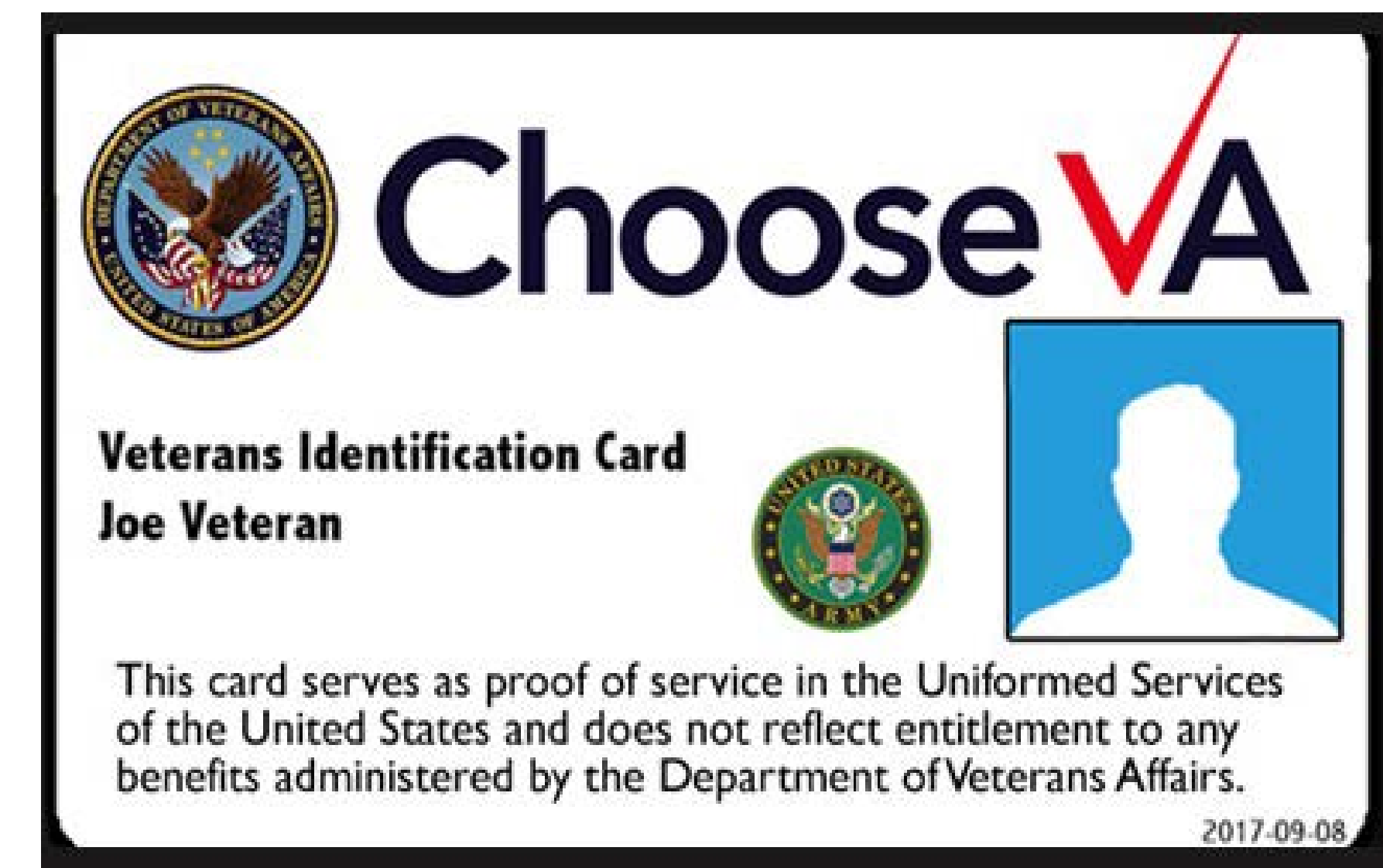
Follow us on Social Media



visit our website at [www.greatplainsveterans.org](http://www.greatplainsveterans.org)

## CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES FOR UPCOMING BBQ'S AND OTHER EVENTS.

# YOUR VA ID CARD IS THE PROOF YOU NEED FOR DISCOUNTS



It's a question often asked by those who once served in the military. Many businesses offer discounts to Veterans for restaurants, hotels, stores, recreational activities and even home improvement, among other perks. Former service members will want to take advantage of those opportunities.

First, you'll want to apply for VA's Veteran ID Card (VIC), which is a digital photo ID you can use to get those discounts. Since September 2022, all new Veteran ID cards have been digital. A Veteran with a physical ID card can continue using it to get discounts. The VIC is separate from the VA health care ID, which a Veteran receives when enrolling in VA health care.

A Veteran without any of these accounts can create a free Login.gov or ID.me account. If you are unable to submit your VIC application through VA.gov, please use Access VA.

When applying, make sure to have your social security number; a digital copy of your DD214, DD256, DD257 or NGB22 that you can upload; and a copy of a

current and valid government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, passport or state-issued identification card.

You'll also need a digital color photo of yourself from the shoulders up. The photo should follow all of these standards:

Show a full, front view of your face and neck with no hat, head covering or headphones covering or casting shadows on your hairline or face.

Be cropped from your shoulders up much like a passport photo.

Show you with your eyes open and in a neutral expression.

Be taken in clothing you'd wear for a driver's license photo.

Be a square size and have a white or plain-color background with no scenery or other people in the photo.

Show what you look like now, meaning a photo that is no older than 10 years old; it should be uploaded as a .jpeg, .png, .bmp or .tiff file.

A Veteran must meet certain criteria to be eligible for a VIC, including both of these requirements:

Service on active duty, in the Reserve or in the National Guard, including the Coast Guard.

Receipt of an honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions.

If the Veteran received an other-than honorable, bad conduct or dishonorable character of discharge, that person is not eligible for a Veteran ID card. If

a Veteran has an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, VA must verify that person's eligibility before approving an application. The Veteran must provide a copy of his/her discharge papers when applying for a VIC to prove their character of discharge.

After a Veteran applies for a VIC, VA will check that person's eligibility and verify that the character of discharge meets eligibility requirements, the ID submitted is valid and the image chosen to appear on the card meets photo requirements.

VA will then send an email letting the Veteran know the status of the application. If the Veteran has an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, the application will take more time to process. VA may need to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center, part of the National Archives and Records Administration.

If a Veteran receives an email from VA asking for additional information or evidence to process the application, that person must sign in to AccessVA and update the application.

VA will send an email with the digital card attached if a Veteran is eligible for a Veteran ID Card. For more information, email VA at [vetidcard@va.gov](mailto:vetidcard@va.gov).

H A P P Y

Mother's Day



From all of us at GPVSC

# WHITE HOUSE PLEDGES CAREGIVER SUPPORT, BUT VA PROGRAM'S FUTURE UNCLEAR



President Joe Biden (center) smiles after signing an executive order regarding expanded support for caregivers in the Rose Garden of the White House on April 18. (Susan Walsh/AP)

The program provides stipends to family members of some veterans with service-connected injuries that limit their ability to live independently. The payouts generally hover around \$3,000 a month for the most severely wounded individuals, and about \$1,800 for others with less catastrophic injuries.

About 30,000 families receive benefits through the program. Last March, amid a review of participant eligibility that threatened to change benefits for up to 90% of enrolled veterans, VA Secretary Denis McDonough announced a halt to any dismissals from the program and vowed to rewrite program rules.

Last September, with details of those looming changes still unclear, department leaders announced that “legacy” participants of the VA caregiver program would remain eligible for benefits through September 2025, except in select cases such as fraud or caregiver changes.

Following the White House announcement, VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes said that the ongoing caregiver program review is “coming to a conclusion” and “based on the outcome of [that] review, we will determine whether proposed changes through rule-making are necessary.”

The executive order instructs VA officials to “consider” making those decisions by the end of the current fiscal year, on Sept. 30.

Holly Ferrell, executive director of Veteran Warriors — whose members include more than 3,500 caregivers in the VA program — said the continued questions about that review overshadow the potential benefits of the new presidential order.

“These services are either starting to expand or are slated for expansion,” she said. But caregivers she speaks with are less concerned with improvements to the program than with wholesale eligibility changes in the future that could boot them from receiving any support.

President Joe Biden this week signed a new executive order promising to expand caregiver services for veterans, but some advocates say the move does not clear up uncertainty surrounding Veterans Affairs’ long-term support for those families.

During a White House ceremony on April 18, Biden said the new order on caregiver services included 50 separate actions by federal agencies designed to aid “childcare workers, nurses, home care workers and family caregivers.”

Nationwide, an estimated 5.5 million individuals are providing caregiver services to injured service members and veterans, often giving up their own careers to provide around-the-clock medical and emotional support. Biden said his new order would “cut red tape and give veterans who need assistance at home more flexibility to pick their own caregivers.”

It also includes instructions for VA to develop a

pilot program to provide psychotherapy support via video telehealth for caregivers of seriously ill or injured veterans. In a statement, VA officials said the moves are already underway at the department, and the new order would help strengthen and

improve the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Steve Schwab, CEO of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation — an influential policy voice on veterans caregiver issues — said the executive actions “have the potential to provide relief in some of the areas of greatest need for military caregivers,” including expanded respite care services, better mental health support and improved financial support for veterans in need.

But the moves do not include a new timeline for new rules regarding VA caregiver support eligibility, an issue that has been looming over the program for more than a year.

## MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONAL FEED



Please come and join us this Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th at 10am. GPVSC will be having a traditional Memorial Feed.

We invite the community and all families who have lost a Veteran.

## COMMUNITY CLEANUP AT GPVSC



Come Join our efforts to keep the Veterans Center, Veterans Memorial Park and surrounding areas clean.

We will be meeting at GPVSC at 10am. Trash bags will be provided.

## SEN. TESTER, SECAF, AND DAF SENIOR LEADERS VISIT MALMSTROM AFB



Kendall; Lt. Gen. Robert Miller, Air Force Surgeon General; and Maj. Gen. Mike Lutton, commander of the 20th Air Force.

emphasized the commitment to transparency with the study, and to the Airmen and Guardians who have stood and continue to stand watch nonstop.

“Our mission here is to get an answer for what is happening,” Lutton said. “Part of that is an absolute commitment by our leadership across the Air Force to take any questions you have seriously and investigate them. It is not something you are owed, is it something you deserve, this includes total force and our veterans.”

As part of the visit, the also group toured a missile alert facility/launch control center, received updates on both the Sentinel and MH-139A Grey Wolf helicopter programs, and were briefed on planned improvements to quality-of-life on base.

As the study progresses, updates and resources will continue to be posted online at: <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Resources/Missile-Community-Cancer-Study/>

If any Airman – past or present, Guardian, or family member has a question or concern, they are encouraged to speak to their medical provider or they can submit their question through the AFGSC Official Website at: <https://www.afgsc.af.mil/Contact-Us/> or via the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General at: <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/Contact-Us/>

The four leaders held an open forum with Malmstrom Airmen, discussing potential blood cancer concerns that have recently arisen. Col. Tory Woodard, U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine commander, also took questions.

“You perform the single most important mission in the Department of Defense,” Kendall said. “I am here to assure that the senior leadership of the department is very much on top of this. We are going to do everything we can to find out what is going on and make sure you are safe – it is our fundamental responsibility to you.”

The leaders reiterated the seriousness with which they are taking the concerns. At the direction of Gen. Thomas Bussiere, the Air Force Global Strike Command commander, The study is leaving no stone unturned.

Previous studies at Malmstrom in 2001 and 2005 are being cross-checked against new and updated medical literature that may have emerged since those studies were completed.

“We aren’t the only ones looking at this study and the results,” Miller said. “We are partnering with outside agencies such as the National Cancer Institute, the VA, the Defense Health Agency and the public health experts, to make sure that the study is done right, and we give the results a hard scrub for your health and safety. What is most important to us is transparency.”

As one of three bases accomplishing the nation’s Intercontinental Ballistic Missile mission, Malmstrom Airmen supply, defend, maintain, and stand on alert at missile sites and launch every hour of every day. With the broad array of career fields that interact with and support the ICBM infrastructure, Miller

## STATE, TRIBAL VETERANS CEMETERIES HELP VA CLOSE IN ON BURIAL SITE GOALS



To meet its goal to ensure that nearly all former service members can be buried in a veterans cemetery close to home, the Department of Veterans Affairs is relying on states, U.S. territories and tribal nations to contribute space, funding and oversight, with a little help from the VA.

The department has set an objective to provide burial space within a 75-mile radius for 95% of the nation's veterans. Currently just shy of that goal at 94%, the department needs assistance from regional, non-federal cemeteries, a VA official said last week.

“The only way we’re going to get there, frankly, is ... going to be in partnership with the states,” said VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn during a press call with reporters March 28.

Read Next: Air Force Will Allow More Body Fat for Recruits as Service Struggles to Find New Airmen

The VA operates 155 national cemeteries and has provided grants to 122 veteran cemeteries run by states, U.S. territories and Native American tribes. The department announced last month that it had awarded its billionth dollar in grant funding to these cemeteries after providing nearly \$1.9 million to North Dakota to expand that state's veterans cemetery in Mandan.

Since the start of the program in 1978, the VA has helped provide more than 800,000 interment sites for U.S. veterans.

To reach its 95% goal, the VA needs roughly 200,000 more sites, largely in rural areas. According to Quinn, building a national cemetery in locations that have fewer veterans doesn't make sense. Instead, helping states like Michigan, Texas and Nebraska, which all are considering establishing new veterans cemeteries, would help.

“We do give the states the map of, and the chart of, the veterans served in each area. So we'll continue to do that,” Quinn said.

Veterans buried in non-federal facilities receive the same burial and memorial benefits as those enshrined in VA national cemeteries, according to Quinn. Those benefits include a gravesite; opening and closing of the grave; perpetual care of the site; a headstone or marker; burial flag; and certificate.

“My father, brother and two uncles are interred in the state of Montana grant-funded veterans cemetery, and I knew no difference. All I knew is that their grave sites were national shrines and would be cared for in perpetuity,” Quinn said.

The VA's fiscal 2024 budget requests \$835 million for the National Cemetery Administration, an increase of 7.5% from current levels. The proposed budget includes \$60 million for the cemetery grant program, up from \$50 million in fiscal 2023.

Without including the state, regional and tribal cemeteries, just 77% of the nation's 16.5 million veterans would have access to a VA cemetery within 75 miles of where they live, Quinn said, calling that an “an unacceptable number.”

“That shows you the importance of this valuable cooperative program,” he added.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

# SUICIDE PREVENTION COLUMN:

What is suicidal ideation?

It is misconceived that Suicidal thoughts involve a person thinking about ending their own life. However, there is no universally accepted definition of the term "suicidal ideation" in the medical community. Some people Trusted Source say that suicidal ideation involves actively planning suicide, whereas suicidal thoughts do not necessarily indicate a person has the intention to end their life.

However, others consider planning as a separate category and believe that suicidal thoughts and ideation are the same. Suicidal ideation is common. In 2020, 12.2 million Trusted Source people in the United States reported seriously thinking about suicide. Of these, around 10% attempted suicide. With support and treatment, though, suicide is preventable.

This article discusses suicidal ideation, including the symptoms, causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. It also explains where to get help.

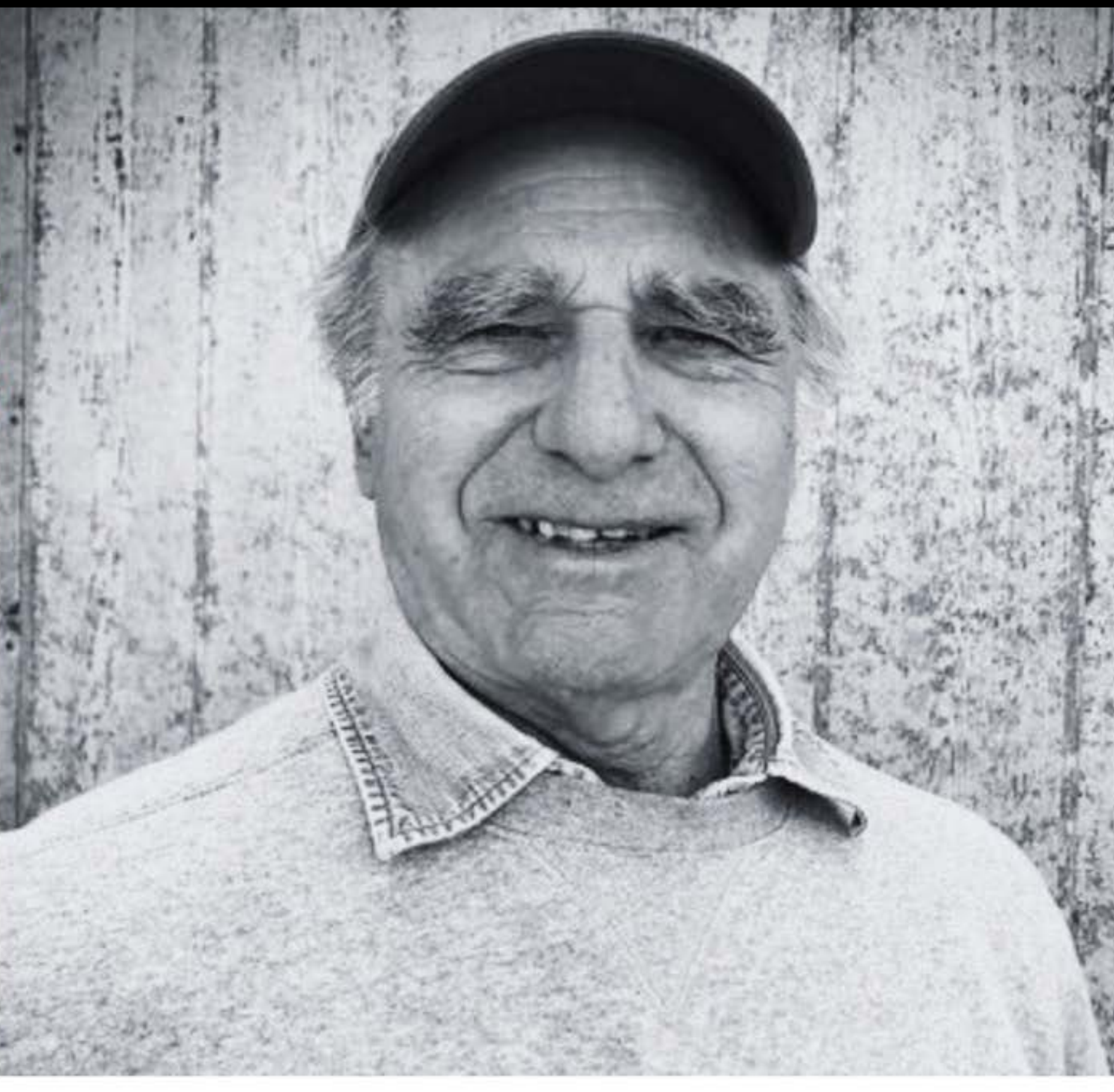
### Suicide prevention

If you know someone at immediate risk of self-harm, suicide, or hurting another person:

- Ask the tough question: "Are you considering suicide?"
- Listen to the person without judgment.
- Call 911 or the local emergency number, or text TALK to 741741 to communicate with a trained crisis counselor.
- Stay with the person until professional help arrives.
- Try to remove any weapons, medications, or other potentially harmful objects.
- If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, a prevention hotline can help. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24 hours a day at 988. During a crisis, people who are hard of hearing can use their preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

**SURVIVE AND THRIVE**  
 YOU MATTER • YOU ARE NOT ALONE • HELP IS AVAILABLE

*He had the heart that cared completely. He had the smile that brought so much pleasure. He had the love that brought joy beyond measure.*



In memory of  
**Michael D. Ley**

2/25/1950 - 4/1/2023

# GPVSC CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY OBSERVANCE DAY



Rocky Boy-

Great Plains Veterans Services Center (GPVSC) visited both Rocky Boy and Box Elder Elementary School Libraries this week to deliver a book donation from local children's authors. Both librarians, Jessica Sutherland (Rocky Boy Schools) and Kim Nixdorf (Box Elder Schools) offered a warm welcome to our organization.

During our visit on April 26th, GPVSC donated twelve books that were donated from various local children's authors in honor of National Library Outreach

Day. "Our children should never want for new reading material, especially in our school libraries", said Jon Monteaux, GPVSC Board President. Jon and his wife Mary are committed to making sure children have resources, both at school and at home. Chauncey Parker, Executive Director of GPVSC has decided to partner with the Monteaux's to ensure children aren't missing out on literary experiences. The library's next book sale won't be until early next school year.



*Sending a heartfelt thank you to our book contributors!*  
 Tia Monteaux Walls, Grandma Atha, Amanda Hansen, Mary McKenzie, and Hopa Mountain.

It is with a heavy heart that we report the death of our fellow Veteran and GPVSC Board Member, Army Veteran Michael Ley. Mike was on the original Rocky Boy Veterans Center Board of Directors and sat on our Great Plains Veterans Services Center board until his recent passing. Mike was a board member for almost six years when he was selected to be a board member in 2017. When Mike started with the organization, we had two employees and only provided services to Rocky Boy Veterans. His dedication to the organization and involvement in the rebranding in 2022 helped launch our expansion efforts to initiate three service programs.

Mike supported the expansion of the organization to five offices and 22 employees serving Veterans on three reservations and 17 counties throughout Montana. Executive Director Chauncey Parker said, "As with all our board members, Mike played an important role in getting our organization to where it is today and upholding our mission of Veterans helping Veterans for a Better Future."

# Instructions:

Sudoku puzzles require you to find the missing numbers in a 9x9 grid, with that grid itself divided into 9 square grids of 3x3.

You can't just add any numbers though. There are rules that make solving the puzzle challenging.

To solve a Sudoku, look for open spaces where its row, column and square already have enough other numbers filled in to tell you the correct value. The more squares you fill in, the easier the puzzle is to finish!

**A number can only occur once in a row, column, or square.**

## April's Answers

9	8	1	3	6	5	2	7	4
7	6	5	4	8	2	3	1	9
2	4	3	1	7	9	8	5	6
1	9	2	6	3	4	7	8	5
4	3	7	5	2	8	9	6	1
8	5	6	9	1	7	4	3	2
3	2	4	7	5	6	1	9	8
5	1	8	2	9	3	6	4	7
6	7	9	8	4	1	5	2	3

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

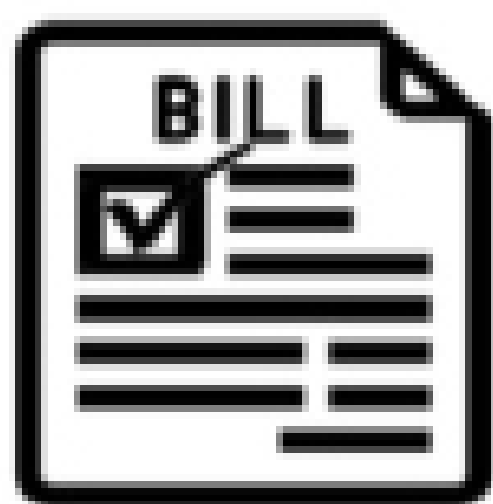
# May's 2022 Sudoku Puzzle

Answer in June's Newsletter

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

## CHECK CASHING SERVICES

Unload Debit Card, Bill Pay, Buy Bitcoin



### DEBIT CARD SERVICES

Cash withdrawal fees:

Post 67 Member: \$1

Veterans: \$1.50

Non-Veteran: \$2.50



### CHECK CASHING SERVICES

Fees:

Post 67 Member: 1%

Veteran: 1.5%

Non-Veteran: 2%



### BILL PAY SERVICES

Fees

Veteran: FREE

Non-Veteran: \$3.50

Same Day Venders:

Hill County Electric

Triangle Communications

Other venders allow 1-3 days posting time to your account

### CHECK CASHING POLICIES

- ✓ NO MONEY ORDERS
- ✓ WE CASH CANADIAN CHECKS UP TO \$500
- ✓ US GOVERNMENT CHECKS CAN ONLY BE CASHED BY THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM THE CHECK IS ISSUED

### CHECK CASHING HOURS:

MON-FRI: 8:30am - 4:00pm

SAT-SUN: CLOSED



MY ONE REASON FOR BUCKLING UP

"BECAUSE I WANT TO KEEP MY CULTURE AND TRADITIONS ALIVE"

-BREEANNA-

ALWAYS BUCKLE UP AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

When you don't buckle up, you endanger more than just your own life. Drivers and passengers often don't consider how unbuckled occupants can be thrown at high speed during a crash and can cause serious harm or even death, not only to themselves but to others in the vehicle. That's why it's so important to buckle up and insist others do the same.



f /SafeOnAllRoads

# HRTG GRANT NEWS

The Veterans Transportation Manager is pleased to announce that Great Plains Veterans Services Center's (GPVSC) Transportation Program has been awarded an additional \$350,000 grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs Rural Health. This additional funding will be added to our current Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG). The added funds were greatly needed to assist the organization with the increased transportation costs, one of which is the higher price of gasoline. The Veterans Transportation program currently reaches out to Veterans in 17 rural counties across the state. These services are FREE for Veterans from all branches and all age brackets. The GPVSC transport team provides safe and reliable transportation to and from VA health

care facilities and authorized non-VA health care appointments (including dental). GPVSC will be able to add additional driver positions, provide routine maintenance (to include new windshields and tires), and add more vehicles to our transportation fleet. We currently have five staff drivers and they have already covered more than 31,000 miles so far this year. "I am very proud of the Transportation team and everything they have done for our Montana Veterans and our organization", said Tom Lewis, Veterans Transportation Manager. If you or someone you know would be interested in transporting Veterans, please contact our Transportation Department at (406) 395-5610 or toll free at (877) 385-5250.

## JJ RECIEVES SPECIAL TRAININGS TO ADVANCE HIS SKILLS TO HELP THE VETERAN COMMUNITIY heart.



John Gardipee, Jr is a Veterans Outreach Case Manager for GPVSC. He has recently completed a series of trainings through The Southcentral Foundations Warrior Wellness Program in Anchorage, Alaska to gain more knowledge to better help our community Veterans.

The training started with Soldiers Heart Training in October 2022, to better his knowledge about how to help Veterans dealing with trauma, triggers, grieving losses, finding meaning and forgiveness, looking towards the future, and how this all affects family and friends around them.

Next was the Arrigan House in November 2022. The goal of this training was to raise awareness about ending domestic violence, child sex abuse, and child neglect in Indigenous People. They helped connect stories and understand the powers of empathy and compassion for yourself and others, and ways to listen and respond from the

heart.

Finally, the ALET (Advances Leadership Education Training) in February 2023. This training concludes the Warrior Wellness Program series and is to gather knowledge on Learning Circles. Discovering how to conduct Learning Circles and their process. John said, "It gave us tools to process circle times and learn time management for each participant, conflict management and helping Veterans work through their Road Maps".

The growth that John experienced was endorsed by a group member from Soldiers Heart. The member offered this affirmation about John's journey, "I am Honored to have gotten to know you during this training. I consider it a great privilege to hear your story and share mine with you. I'm inspired by your passion for your people and your culture. I'm excited for your journey forward. I see great things for you".

For John, the training wasn't an experience that he was planning on impacting him this much, but it was definitely something that he needed. "I want to help my fellow Veterans and fellow Indigenous People. I will use the skills I have gained from these trainings to help people whether that be by being a listening ear, or to show empathy and compassion. I am ready to use this gift to help people in my community," reflected John.

## VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

GREAT PLAINS VETERANS SERVICES CENTER

SCHEDULE YOUR RIDE TODAY

CALL (877) 385-5250



## VA WAIVES COPAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans are no longer required to make copayments for health care and urgent care received through VA. The Biden-Harris administration and VA are proud to implement this rule, which is estimated to impact approximately 25,000 American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Under this new policy, VA will reimburse copayments paid on or after Jan. 5, 2022 and waive future copayments for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Beginning Tuesday, April 4, Veterans can submit documentation to qualify for the copayment exemption. Eligible Veterans include any Veteran who meets the definitions of "Indian" or "urban Indian" under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act – including Veterans who are members of an American Indian Tribe, certain Veterans who are descendants of Tribe members, Alaska Native Veterans, and more.

"American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans deserve access to world-class health care for their courageous service to our nation," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "By eliminating copays, we are making VA health care more affordable and accessible —

which will lead to better health outcomes for these heroes."

To receive this financial relief, eligible Veterans should mail 1) a completed VA Tribal Documentation Form (VA Form 10-334), and 2) a copy of official tribal documentation demonstrating that they meet the definitions of "Indian" or "urban Indian" to PO Box 5100, Janesville, WI 53547. For more information on copayment waivers for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans.

VA posted a final rule for public inspection in the Federal Register today establishing the waiver and process for Veterans to submit documentation to have their VA copays waived. This rule implements Section 3002 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 Public Law 116-315, signed into law Jan. 5, 2021.

Learn more about copayment exemptions for Native American and Alaska Native Veterans and VA benefits and programs for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

**FOLLOW US FOR NEWS AND UPDATES**



**WWW.GREATPLAINSVETERANS.ORG**





# THE GREAT PLAINS VETERANS SERVICES CENTER IS PROUD TO BE IN PARTNERSHIP OF THESE FOUNDATIONS.



**BlueCross BlueShield of Montana**



**POTLATCH FUND**



Help for Homeless Veterans  
**877-4AID-VET**  
va.gov/homeless (877) 424-3838



# Community Events

Month of the Military Caregiver

National Military Appreciation Month

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)- First Full Week

National Correctional Officers Week- First Full Week

National Nurses Week- May 6th- May 12th

Armed Forces Week- May 13th- May 20th

A representative from the Great Falls Vet Center will be at the office a couple times a month to answer any VA related questions, aid in enrollment, and offer counselling services for eligible Veterans. The representative will also be available to answer questions about benefits and services.

For more information or to schedule and appointment Call Rich or Becky at (406) 452-9048

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Silver Star Service Banner Day and Loyaty Day	2 VET CENTER 10am-3pm	3	4 Happy Birthday Coby National Day of Prayer	5 GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing	6
7	8 VE Day	9 VET CENTER 10am-3pm American Legion Post 67 Meeting 6pm	10	11	12 Military Spouse Appreciation Day GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing	13 Children of the Fslen Patriots Day
14 HAPPY MOTHERS DAY	15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day	16 VET CENTER 10am-3pm	17	18	19 Happy Birthday Weston GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22 Maritime Day	23 VET CENTER 10am-3pm	24	25	26 GPVSC Weekly Raffle Drawing	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30 VET CENTER 10am-3pm	31			

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Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2023 will occur on Monday, May 29.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But

during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

# WARRIORS CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

## ARMY

Royce Bird  
 Forest Doney  
 Richard Lujan  
 Justin Murphy Small  
 Orion Wolf Chief  
 Shane Ketchum  
 Leo Johnson

## AIRFORCE

Trey Henderson  
 Maia Henderson

## NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE

Dominic Pullin

## NAVY

Jessica Stump

## \$ GPVSC Weekly Raffle \$

A promotional graphic for a weekly raffle. It features a blue background with falling dollar bills. A large white circle in the center contains the text "WIN!!!" in green, followed by "\$1,000 CASH" in green. Below this, it says "SECOND CHANCE DRAWING" and "\$100 CASH" in green. At the bottom left, a white box contains the text "DRAWINGS FRIDAY @ 3PM" in green. A small image of a raffle drum is at the bottom center.

LIVE @GREATPLAINSVETERANS

**ATTENTION!!!!**  
 Guard and Active Duty members or family members please contact the GPVSC to update your status.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING AND ADVERTISING WITH GPVSC....  
 CONTACT REBECCA LEWIS FOR DETAILS  
 406-395-5610