

Coast Guard Week | New York City Renews its Designation as a "U.S. Coast Guard City"



What an amazing couple of weeks it has been for the U.S. Coast Guard! From New York City, once again, being declared a Coast Guard City, to wrapping up their 42nd Coast Guard Art Program at the Salmagundi Club, the Coast Guard has been the talk of the town. And if those aren't enough Coastie milestones, let's not forget that today they are celebrating their 233rd Birthday!

Coast Guard recognizes New York City as official Coast Guard City

New York City was re-designated a "Coast Guard City" by the Coast Guard this past Monday, an honor that recognizes New York's longstanding efforts to embrace Coast Guard members and their families stationed in New York during their tour of duty.

There are currently 29 cities that have received the distinction, and the designation must pass through Congress for approval. The designation comes with an active and ongoing commitment to acknowledge and empower the work of the Coast Guard members and make them feel at home while protecting our shores.

The ceremony pictured above was held port side of the famous *USCGA Eagle*, nicknamed "America's Tall Ship." Used for training by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the *USCGA Eagle* is the only square-rigger ship in U.S. government service.

Also on display was FDNY's fire boat, spraying its hoses in celebration of the renewed

promise.

At the event, the promotion of Captain Zeita Merchant was also announced, marking a historic achievement as the first Black woman selected for flag rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Coast Guard's 233-year history.

Congratulations Captain Merchant and Happy 233rd Birthday U.S. Coast Guard! 🎉🎂

**Agent Orange Day
Remembrance Event: August 19, 2023
Hosted by VVA Chapter 126**



Text from VVA Chapter 126

On **August 19th, from 6 pm to 8 pm**, the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 126** will sponsor the **third New York City Agent Orange Remembrance and Awareness Day event** at the **Vietnam Veterans Plaza** in lower Manhattan.

At this event, we will **honor those who have died from Agent Orange-related and burn pit illnesses, with a candle lighting ceremony** where an orange candle is lit and placed before the monument by a loved one in their honor.

This **August 10th** marks the **62nd anniversary of the first use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War**.

The **58,479 who died in combat in the Vietnam War** have their names engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and are forever memorialized. However, almost eight times that number, the **400,000 who died from Agent Orange illnesses after they came home from Vietnam** do not have a monument in New York City.

Your participation is simple and straightforward. Come to the event and honor those we lost or are afflicted with Agent Orange caused illnesses. If you have a loved one who is suffering or has passed because of Agent Orange, give us their name and we will read out their name and light a candle for them at the dedication ceremony. If for any reason you can not come to the event in person, send us their name for inclusion into the program and we will read their name to honor him for you. [\[LEARN MORE\]](#)

[Click Here to Participate](#)

The Wall That Heals | *In Memory* Program
Application Deadline August 28th

WAS YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN'S LIFE CUT SHORT AFTER THEY RETURNED HOME?

HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE THROUGH THE **IN MEMORY** PROGRAM

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have suffered each year due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD/ suicide, cancer and other causes related to their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *In Memory* program honors those who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

**The Wall That Heals will be on display in
New York City, NY from September 28th -
October 1st.**

Apply to honor your veteran, through In Memory, by August 28th and their photo will be included as part of the mobile Education Center display when The Wall That Heals is on display in New York City.

To apply online , visit www.VVMF.org/In-Memory-Program



The **VVMF's** *IN MEMORY* program invites families and communities to remember those Vietnam Veterans whose lives were cut short by their service.

Honorees submitted before August 28, 2023, will be remembered on a special video display at The Wall That Heals during its visit to New York City from Sept 27 - Oct 1.

These veterans will also be included in a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on June 15, 2024, and will be celebrated in a number of other ways by the VVMF. You can sign up or learn more at vvmf.org/InMemory

Thank you in advance for your help in honoring our Vietnam Veterans!

[Submit Your Loved Ones to the In Memory Project Here](#)

[Read More About The Wall That Heals](#)

[Volunteer to Help with The Wall That Heals](#)

VETERAN NEWS

**Veterans are encouraged to enroll for
PACT Act benefits by Aug. 9**



Updated August 2, 2023 2:08 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

[Quil Lawrence](#)

There are lots of reasons that veterans put off getting screened for toxic exposures. Dan Nevins can relate.

"Damn, I've already paid all my dues. I lost both legs. I have a traumatic brain injury. I have all these lingering issues ... I don't deserve more!" says Nevins, who lost both his legs to a bomb blast in Iraq. But he's urging vets to [go to the VA](#) anyhow.

"Yeah, cancer doesn't discriminate," he says.

A cancer diagnosis surprised Nevins and his doctor two years ago. He's young and healthy with no clear risk factors, except having been in Iraq, where hundreds of thousands of troops were exposed to toxic fumes from burn pits — open fields where the military incinerated all manner of waste.

"They're like, 'Well, it could be some of the "environmental impacts" you had from your service,' " he says.

Nevis says he's lucky, because they caught it early. And he's also lucky because in the past, it might have taken years for the VA to grant that his cancer was connected to his service, the key to getting VA disability benefits. [\[READ MORE...\]](#)

More Veteran-related Headlines

Associated Press: [Veterans sue U.S. Defense and Veterans Affairs departments to get access to infertility treatments](#)

Military Times: [Mobile medical units to be deployed across US to aid homeless vets](#)

ABC25 WBPB: [Veterans who served near burn pits should 'immediately' get a breast cancer risk assessment](#)

PR Newswire: [Army Veteran Receives All-Terrain Trackchair at New York Yankees Game](#)

Chicago Tribune: [Vietnam vets commemorate Chicago's 1986 'Welcome Home' parade in new book](#)

Friday Movie Nights at the Intrepid Museum



Free Fridays are back! The Intrepid Museum is once again extending its hours free of charge on the last Friday of June, July and August from 5:00pm-9:00pm. Celebrate the ship's 80th commissioning anniversary and enjoy special programs, including our free summer movie series, featuring classic "ship" themed films.

Current and former service members and their guests are invited to use the Member line for priority entry. No registration required.

Friday, August 25: *Top Gun: Maverick* (also includes access to Cat Shot Café for free snacks and drinks)

MOVIE NIGHT GUIDELINES AND HELPFUL TIPS:

- **Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis and space is limited.**
- Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs, picnic baskets and blankets to view the films outdoors, free of charge, on a huge inflatable screen on the flight deck.
- Light concessions will be sold onsite, and visitors are encouraged to bring their own food and non-alcoholic beverages.

- Alcohol is not permitted.
- All exits are final; there is no reentry allowed.
- Movie will begin at sunset.
- The Space Shuttle Pavilion will close at 8:00pm.
- The bridge will be closed during free Fridays.
- All movies will have open captions.

[Learn More About Summer Movie Nights at the Intrepid Museum](#)



This week DVS is showcasing a piece created by **Donna Zephryne**. Donna was born in Harlem New York and grew up in Bay Shore, Long island. She graduated from Columbia University School of Social Work in May 2017 and currently works for the New York State Office of Mental Health at Pilgrim Psychiatric Center Outpatient Intensive Case Management as a Bridger. Donna was Active Duty Army, stationed at Hunter Army Airfield Savannah Georgia 3rd Infantry Division as a mechanic. She is also a combat Veteran completing two tours in Iraq.

Since returning home Donna enjoys sharing her experiences and storytelling through writing. You may have seen some of her work in The New York Times, the Long Island

Poetry Association, and Military Experience and The Arts. Donna is also involved with Wounded Warrior Project, Team Red White and Blue, the VFW, Team Rubicon, and actively plays sled hockey for the Long Island Rough Riders.



Untitled Sculpture by Donna Zephryne

To learn more about Donna or to contact her, visit one of the buttons below!





We are looking to highlight Veterans in the arts community! Whether it's an upcoming free exhibition, performance, or piece/installation you've created, we want to showcase your work and help spread the word. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and promoted at our discretion. We want this to be a space for Veteran artists to express themselves in an authentic way.

Please email submissions to connect@veterans.nyc.gov with a brief bio, an artist statement, art medium, and your affiliation to the Veteran community.

A Message From Mayor Adams:

Each week DVS will share a short update about how our administration is getting stuff done for New Yorkers.



Week in Review | July 22 - July 28

The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.

Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox – at nyc.gov/hearfromeric!

Join Our Team! Be Part of the Mission!



Current DVS Job Openings

Being part of our team is a great way to continue to serve.

[Visit NYC.gov/jobs](https://nyc.gov/jobs) and select "Veterans' Services" from the agency menu to learn more [about and apply to the job below.](#)

Client Services Manager - DVS seeks a highly qualified candidate to join Community Services as a Manager. The Manager will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of a team responsible for performing intakes and sending referrals within the VetConnectNYC system, a multi-provider network of participating organizations, government agencies, and other partners that provide direct services to Veterans. The Manager will also be a subject matter expert in claiming VA benefits through accreditation by New York State Department of Veterans Services.

VA Work Study Positions at DVS

The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) supports VA Work-Study Positions!
Here is a current list of available VA Work-Study openings:

- [Administrative Intern](#)
- [Benefit Intern](#)
- [Care Coordination Intern](#)
- [Data Analyst Intern](#)
- [Information Technology Intern](#)
- [IT Support Intern](#)
- [Legal Intern](#)
- [Outreach Coordinator Intern](#)
- [Veteran Business Promotion Intern](#)

If you are interested in applying for a DVS-specific Work-Study position and meet eligibility requirements, please submit the following to VAWorkStudy@veterans.nyc.gov:

- Resume
- Job Specific Cover Letter
- Supporting Documents found in the Job Description

[Check Here for VA Work-Study Postings](#)

NYC Civil Service Job Openings and Exams



Open Competitive Exams

Contract Specialist - Contract Specialists, under supervision, with some latitude for independent initiative and decision making, perform professional work of routine difficulty managing contracts for social services programs.

Inspector (Elevator) - Inspectors (Elevator), under general supervision, perform technical work in the inspection of the construction, alteration, capacity and safety of equipment and devices, including passenger, freight and sidewalk elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, wheelchair lifts, conveyors, personal hoists and amusement devices, for conformance to codes, rules, laws, plans or specifications. All Inspectors (Elevator) perform related work.

Public Health Nurse (School Health) - Public Health Nurses (School Health), under supervision, perform public health nursing duties in a school health program and make home visits. All Public Health Nurses (School Health) perform related work.

To read more, visit the full job descriptions [here!](#)

To receive monthly updates on upcoming civil service exams click the button below to be

directed to the [Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter](#) page. On the registration form, select "City Jobs and Civil Service Announcements".

[Subscribe to the DCAS Newsletter Here](#)

Programs and Initiatives

Affordable Housing For Veterans



The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) maintains a list of federal, state, and city programs that offers a limited, but selective list of affordable housing options for veterans seeking financial relief for their housing arrangements. Visit our [Affordable Housing for Veterans](#) page to learn more.

Empowering Veteran Business Owners



The primary mission of the [VBLA](#) is to serve Veterans seeking support and assistance with running a business and in their pursuit of New York City Government contracting opportunities. Our leadership association engages with the private sector, government, advisory board, and local partners to build a consortium that

facilitates the growth and development of Veteran Businesses.

VetBizNYC: Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurship

DVS has launched [VetBizNYC](#), an interactive map that identifies Veteran-owned businesses across the five boroughs. New Yorkers can use our interactive map to find and support Veteran-owned businesses in their community.



Are You Getting the Benefits You Deserve?

The [NYC Department of Veterans' Services \(DVS\)](#) represents NYC Veterans in claims for benefits from the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#). Our team is also qualified to assist with PACT Act related claims. If you had a toxic exposure during your service, time is crucial for you to get the benefits you deserve. To file a claim, fill out the [VetConnectNYC.org](#) form and select **Benefits Navigation** as your preferred service.



VetConnectPro: A First-in-the-Nation Employment Tool



[VetConnectPro](#), is a new employment tool designed to help Veterans find employment within NYC government. The platform features a military skills translator that can match your service experience and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) to City jobs and civil service exams. Upload your resume and get started today: nyc.gov/vetconnectpro.

Newsletter Sign-up

If you received this newsletter by way of a friend or colleague and have yet to sign-up on your own, click [here](#), and stay up-to-date with the latest news impacting the community, updates on city services, info on DVS programs, Veteran-specific resources & more.

Contact Us

- Complete a service request form at vetconnectnyc.org
- [Message the Commissioner](#)
- [Partner with DVS](#)
- [Press Inquiries](#)
- [Event Request Form](#)

Stay tuned on our website www.nyc.gov/vets and social media platforms [@nycveterans](#), or via email at connect@veterans.nyc.gov.