

## **Vietnam War Veterans Day added to flag calendar**

The House of Representatives passed a bill which would amend the flag code to include National Vietnam War Veterans Day on the list of days that Americans should fly the U.S. flag.

March 29 of each year is the designated day.

The bill, which cleared the Senate in February, has been signed by the President.

### **VA clinic in Southwest Valley**

A new U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs primary care clinic in west Phoenix is expected to improve health services for thousands of veterans in the Southwest Valley.

The 20,000-square-foot clinic at Thomas Road and 93rd Avenue provides primary care and mental health services, nutrition, pharmacy consultation and has a laboratory draw station.

The clinic, which opened in January, is expected to serve 4,000 veterans, said RimaAnn Nelson, director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System. Buckeye Vice Mayor Craig Heustis said the new clinic will offer care to an underserved population of veterans in the region.

“The biggest problem we have out west — from Buckeye, all the way to Lake Havasu, all the way to Yuma — is that there’s nothing for veterans,” said Heustis, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam. “There’s nothing west of right here.”

Heustis said he has advocated for a VA clinic in the Southwest Valley ever since a VA clinic in Buckeye closed amid public outcry in 2013. That clinic served about 390

veterans before shutting down because the VA couldn't find a contractor to operate the clinic.

## **Midtown VA clinic**

Midtown VA Health Care Clinic is located at 5040 N. 15th Ave. in Phoenix. This VA Clinic provides Primary Care and some mental health services.

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder clinic is located at the Midtown Clinic. It has social work, nutrition, clinical pharmacy consultations, and a laboratory draw station.

The clinic is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## **Veteran-friendly bill signed**

Governor Doug Ducey signed a bill to make it easier for veterans to transition to civilian life by reducing duplicative licensure requirements.

HB 2271 requires regulating agencies to consider a veteran's relevant military experience, education, and training for the purpose of satisfying similar requirements when issuing licenses, certifications, or other registrations.

"Our returning service members should be met with gratitude and support, not government red-tape," Ducey said. "Their training and education often more than meets what would be required for a civilian license or certification. I'm proud to sign this bill eliminating this unnecessary roadblock and making it easier for veterans to get jobs when they return home."

Today's legislation builds on Gov. Ducey's efforts to eliminate onerous licensing requirements and enhance economic opportunity for veterans. Efforts over the past two years include:

- Invested in programs that connect veterans to employers;
- Offered certifications to universities that offer unique services;
- Made it easier to gain academic credit for military service;
- Provided tax relief to military families who survive their loved ones;
- Streamlined government to improve customer service for veterans.

HB 2271 was sponsored by Rep. Maria Syms, R-Paradise Valley. Information or assistance, contact Governor Duceys office at 602-542-1342.

## **Employment workshop**

USAA Employment Workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon April 26 at the Library Computer Commons Coronado Room and is open to all veterans and their dependents. Please call Hannelly Center at 602-285--7342 or email [pc-veteran-services@phoenixcollege.edu](mailto:pc-veteran-services@phoenixcollege.edu).

## **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month with many different activities planned.

April 15 is Ask Me About Respect 5K Trail Run/Walk. The run starts at 7 a.m. followed by exhibit tables and MST survivor presentation. The event starts at 5636 E. McDowell Road in Phoenix. The cost is \$25 per person to register. This is a timed run. There will be placement medals as well as participation medals given to registered runners.

April 20 is Teal Thursday; please wear teal to show support for Military Sexual Trauma awareness. Education and a speak-out presentation is scheduled at the VA Hospital in Phoenix in the Ambulatory Care Clinic basement quads from 1 to 3 p.m. Survivors can share their stories of hope and healing. The contacts are Sharon Coleman, 602-234-7157, or Jan Nelson, 602-653-6668.

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