

March 1, 2024

To
Montana Board of
Veteran Affairs

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"The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature"

Article II, Section 35, Montana Constitution



Monthly Update

March 2024

Upcoming Events for April 2024

- April 6 > American Legion District 3, Conrad
- April 6 > VFW District 3, Billings
- April 7 > American Legion District 8, Great Falls
- April 13 > American Legion District 10, Miles City
- April 13 > VFW District 2, Fort Benton
- April 14 > American Legion District 11, Billings
- April 20 > American Legion District 20, Polson
- April 20 > VFW District 4, Belgrade
- April 20 > VFW District 5, Circle
- April 21 > American Legion District 5, Missoula
- April 21 > VFW District 6, Broadus
- April 27 > VFW District 1, Whitefish

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Veterans Services Program

Statistics

February Claims Production	467
Fiscal Year Claims Production to Date	3740
1st Trimester \$ Receipt for MVAD Clients	\$141,459,357
Fiscal Year \$ Receipt for MVAD Clients	\$141,459,357
February Outreach	31 days
Fiscal Year Outreach to Date	290 days
February Native American Claims	5
Fiscal Year Native American Claims to Date	92

Notable Events

- ✓ **East Region:** Billings – VSP Meeting, Belgrade – VSO/VBA Meeting, Community Resource Fair, VSO Congressional Forum, East MT Meeting, VFW VNS Update
- ✓ **North Region:** Great Falls – Malstrom Capstone Event, Helena – APC event, RRTP roundtable
- ✓ **West Region:** Kalispell – American Legion post event, Missoula – QTC/VA event, Butte – VSP Meeting

Notable Operational Initiatives

- ✓ 3 VSOs completed AL Basic course, 2 VSOs attending VFW national meeting in April
- ✓ PACT Act Claims Year to Date = 766
- ✓ Outreach Claims Year to Date = 506

Notable Personnel Actions

- ✓ North and East RVSO – Interviews 3/4/24
- ✓ Belgrade and Great Falls VSO – Post soon
- ✓ VFW DSO – Post soon

Veterans Cemetery Program

Burials

Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery February	3
Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery Fiscal Year to Date	22
Montana State Veterans Cemetery February	11
Montana State Veterans Cemetery Fiscal Year to Date	131
Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery February	8
Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery Fiscal Year to Date	112

Initiatives

- Volunteers hours fiscal year to date: 554+ hours
- Acquired vehicles for Facilities Manager and Bureau Chief
- Did pre-registration/education at the Ravalli County Veterans Service Center

Status Update

- Have selected second groundskeeper for Fort Harrison, Cole Salois. He starts on March 11th and Mike Connolly started on February 26th. Cemetery Manager, Ezra Wooten, started on February 12th.
- Memo of Agreement with National Cemetery Administration for the placement of First Special Service Force medallions is currently with legal pending review.
- Cemetery team met with architects and are in the process of finalizing expansion grant for Fort Harrison.