

February 2025 MONTHLY OUTREACH **NEWSLETTER** 





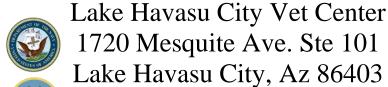


### FEBRUARY 2025 VET CENTER NEWSLETTER



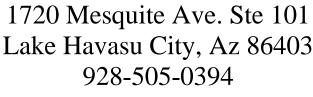














Lake Havasu







Connection. Camaraderie. Community.



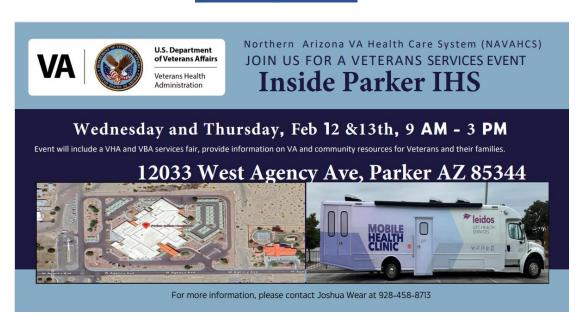


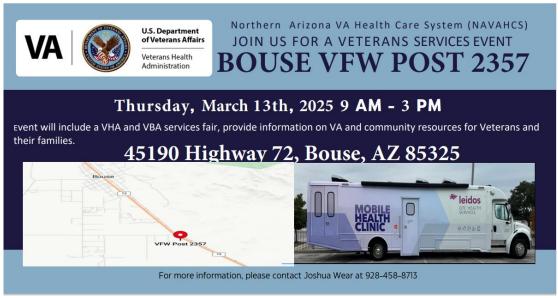
February 2025 MONTHLY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

# Happy February 2025 to our Clients, Partners, and Veteran Community!

We have many new and exciting things happening at your Lake Havasu City Vet Center every month!

Some great events this month that the Vet Center will participate in!



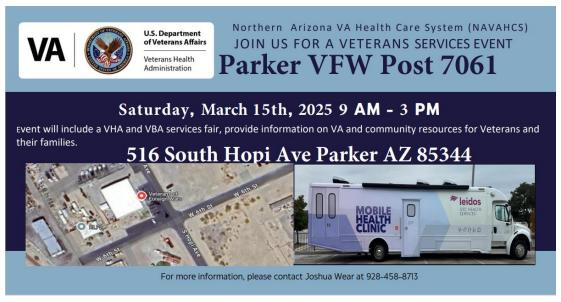


To add or remove your name from our mailing list, please email <a href="mailto:stacy.lee2@va.gov">stacy.lee2@va.gov</a>



# February 2025 MONTHLY OUTREACH NEWSLETTER







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Our Vet Center Monthly Groups!
We have some great groups, check it out!







## Women's Group

Bi-Weekly Thursdays 11:00-12:30pm







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#### **VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is making <u>acute</u> and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers presumptive for service-connection for:

- **Gulf War Veterans:** Veterans who served in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater of operations (which includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations) during the Persian Gulf War on or after Aug. 2, 1990.
- **Post-9/11 Veterans:** Veterans who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, or Uzbekistan and the airspace above these locations during the Gulf War on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This includes Veterans who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base in Uzbekistan after Sept. 11, 2001.

This step lowers the burden of proof for these Veterans, meaning that they do not need to prove that their service caused their condition to receive benefits for it. Instead, VA automatically assumes service connection for the condition and provides benefits accordingly. Additionally, when a Veteran becomes service connected for a health condition, it gives them access to free health care for that condition. The presumptions for urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers went into effect Jan. 2, 2025, and the presumptions for acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, and myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis will be effective Jan. 10, 2025.

This expansion is part of a comprehensive, yearslong effort by VA and the entire Biden-Harris Administration to expand access to benefits for Veterans as part of President Biden's Unity Agenda for the nation. In 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law — the largest expansion of Veteran benefits in generations. VA then made millions of Veterans eligible for <a href="health care">health care</a> and <a href="benefits">benefits</a> years earlier than called for by the law and launched the largest outreach campaign in VA history to encourage Veterans to apply. As a result, VA is currently delivering <a href="more care">more care</a> and <a href="more benefits">more Veterans</a> than ever before — and earning Veteran trust at record rates.

"At VA, our goal is to provide *every* Veteran with the care and benefits that they've earned for their service to our nation — and that's what this is all about," said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough.** "Adding these presumptives lowers the burden of proof for Veterans to get the benefits they deserve for the conditions that followed them home from war. We encourage Veterans with these conditions — and all Veterans — to apply today for the benefits they deserve today."



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Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has conducted the largest outreach campaign in VA history to ensure that Veterans are signing up for the care and benefits they are newly eligible for. As a result of this effort, nearly 890,000 Veterans have signed up for VA care since the bill was signed into law (a nearly 40% increase over the previous equivalent period) and Veterans have submitted more than 4.8 million applications for VA benefits (an 42% increase over the previous equivalent period and an all-time record). In total, more than 1.3 million Veterans have enrolled in VA health care since President Biden took office in 2021, and VA has delivered more than \$600 billion in earned benefits directly to Veterans, their families, and survivors during that time.

In addition to supporting all Veterans who served during the Gulf War, Iraq War, and Afghanistan War, these steps are also a part of a comprehensive effort VA is undertaking to listen to Veterans who served at the Karshi-Khanabad base and ensure that VA is providing them — and their survivors — with the care and benefits they deserve. Partly as a result of these efforts, K2 Veterans have higher claim and approval rates than any other cohort of Veterans: 13,002 K2 Veterans of the approximately 16,000 known K2 Veterans are currently enrolled in VA health care, more than 11,800 are service connected for at least one condition, the average K2 Veteran is service connected for 14.6 conditions at a 70% disability rating, and the average service-connected K2 Veteran receives an average of \$30,000 a year in earned benefits. VA continues to work to ensure that all K2 Veterans get access to the benefits they deserve.

VA encourages Veterans with these conditions to apply for benefits today, and encourages eligible Veterans with previously denied claims to reapply. VA will update publicly available information and conduct general outreach to Veterans and survivors to publicize this new eligibility and how to apply. To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit <a href="VA.gov">VA.gov</a> or call 1-800-MYVA411.

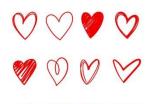




If you or your organization would like to be added to our monthly newsletter list, please contact us at <u>928-505-0394</u>, and we will get you added!



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As a not-for-profit organization, Hospice of Havasu puts all its profits and donations back into patient and community programs and services, such as grief support groups, individualized grief and caregiver counseling, the We Honor Veterans program to thank and recognize patients who have served our country, the Music & Memory program for patients living with dementia, and educational community workshops which cover topics like advance directives, wills, healthcare power of attorney, and how to organize important financial, legal, and medical documents.

Hospice of Havasu is a proud member of the national "We Honor Veterans" program, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the <u>National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization</u> (NHPCO).

Through this program, we are able to honor veterans who are Hospice of Havasu patients or Transitions clients with a special recognition ceremony in the presence of family and friends. It's our way of saying thank you for the sacrifices our veterans have made in their service to our country. There is never a charge to honor a veteran, thanks to support from our generous donors.

Quarterly, Hospice of Havasu puts together a Resource Exchange with local medical/hospice, and numerous other businesses to allow them to network with each other to provide better services to the residents of our cities.

Hospice of Havasu has put together an amazing resource guide for Lake Havasu City, as well as Bullhead City. They are linked here, you can also contact Hospice of Havasu to obtain a hard copy.

https://www.hospicehavasu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/LHC\_RG\_10.8.24\_website.pdf

https://www.hospicehavasu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BHC RG 10.8.24 website.pdf

Contact this awesome non-profit organization anytime at:

Tel: 928-453-2111

Email: info365@hospicehavasu.org

Address: 232 London Bridge Rd Bldg. A, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403



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We welcome you to reach out to us or refer any Veteran or their family members to us for resources, assistance, and navigation of the VA System.

We are your central hub for all things Veteran, and we CAN help! If you aren't sure what questions to ask, call us or come in. If you aren't sure what your benefits are, call us or come in!

Khristina from Nation's Finest is in our office to serve you on Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 0800-1630! If you need a place to live, please come on in and ask for her to see if you are eligible for their services!

We have a state employed Veteran's Service Officer in our office WEEKLY, they are here to help you file a disability claim!

You can Schedule your OWN appointment! (We cannot schedule appointments for you)

Click/follow this link or type it in to your browser:

https://calendly.com/d/5bs-yvv-ky7

Todd Baldwin from Arizona DES is in our offices once a week,
Thursday mornings from 0800-1200.

No appt. needed!
He can help you find work!

