



# Serving Those Who Served

## 2026 Veterans Conference

July 8 -10, 2026 | Washington, DC

Draft Agenda

### TUESDAY, JULY 7

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8:30a – 5:00p     **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING**     Independence HI

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

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7:00a – 11:00a     **EXHIBITOR CHECK-IN & SET UP**     Independence Foyer

7:00a – 8:30a     **BREAKFAST**     *On Your Own*

7:00a – 7:00p     **HOSPITALITY DESK**     Independence Foyer

*\*Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions*

8:30a – 11:15a     **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING LISTENING SESSIONS**     Farragut Square/Lafayette Park

*NOTE: These listening sessions are for state workforce agency staff only. This includes JVSG staff (DVOPs, LVERs, Consolidated Staff and JVSG Coordinators). Wagner Peyser, WIOA partners and state agency administrators who oversee or work with Veterans are also welcome. Individuals may choose to register for either session, but not both.*

**Pre-registration & Name Badge ARE required. Space is limited!**

**8:30a – 9:45a**     **Listening Session A** with U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment & Training Service & the National Veterans Training Institute

Moderators: TBA

**10:00a – 11:15a**     **Listening Session B** with U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment & Training Service & the National Veterans Training Institute

Moderators: TBA

11:30a – 7:00p    **EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE**    Independence Foyer

11:15a – 12:30p    **LUNCH**    *On Your Own*

12:30p – 1:15p    **OPENING CEREMONIES**    *Independence Ballroom*

## **WELCOME TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS CONFERENCE**

**Lori Adams**, Senior Policy Advisor, NASWA

**Anna Hunter\***, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security and NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee Chair

## **PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS**

**Joint Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington\***

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Jessie Jane Duff\***, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Veterans Employment & Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor

## **WELCOME TO WASHINGTON, DC**

**Julian Purdy\***, Director, DC Mayor's Office on Veterans Affairs (*invited*)

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE NASWA VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS & RECOGNITION OF ALL VETERANS IN ATTENDANCE**

**Anna Hunter\***, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security

## **ICEBREAKER**

Veterans at each table will share their answers to these questions with each other:

1. Where did you go for Basic Training?
2. What was your least favorite MRE?
3. What countries did you visit during your time in service?
4. What was your first job after the military?

1:15p – 1:45p    **OPENING PLENARY**    *Independence Ballroom*

## **NASWA WELCOME**

Hear from Scott B. Sanders, NASWA President and CEO, as he provides a brief update of what has been happening at NASWA over the past year, with a focus on new initiatives, projects, and programs to benefit your state or territory and its residents.

**Scott B. Sanders**, President & CEO, NASWA

**A WORD FROM OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS**

1:45p – 2:00p      **NETWORKING BREAK**      Independence Foyer

2:00p – 3:00p      **PLENARY SESSION**      *Independence Ballroom*

**Jeremiah Workman\***, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment & Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor

3:00p – 3:10p      **TABLE TALK**      *Independence Ballroom*

3:10p – 4:10p      **PLENARY SESSION**      *Independence Ballroom*

**A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSORS**

**Rob Arndt\***, CEO & Founder, BufferSprings

4:10p – 4:20p      **TABLE TALK**      *Independence Ballroom*

4:20p – 5:20p      **PLENARY SESSION**      *Independence Ballroom*

**Bill Stierle**, Owner, Subtext Solutions

5:20p – 5:30p      **TABLE TALK**      *Independence Ballroom*

5:30p – 7:00p      **WELCOME RECEPTION with Exhibitors**      Independence Foyer

*\*Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions*

## THURSDAY, JULY 9

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7:30a – 5:00p	<b>HOSPITALITY DESK</b> *Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions	Independence Foyer
7:30a – 5:30p	<b>EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE</b>	Independence Foyer
7:30a – 8:30a	<b>HOSTED BREAKFAST</b>	Independence Ballroom
8:30a – 9:45a	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	Independence Ballroom

### MARK SANDERS AWARD PRESENTATION

The 2026 Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Veterans, with special emphasis on eligible Veterans with Qualifying Employment Barriers, Transitioning Service Members and eligible spouses, recognizes the efforts of an entire one-stop career center, state, region or initiative whose efforts to serve Veterans go above and beyond the scope of mandatory service provision. This award is named in honor of Mark Sanders, who, during his distinguished career with the California Employment Development Department and in leadership positions with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, was untiring in his efforts to promote excellence in services to Disabled Veterans. The workforce center in Sacramento, California, is named in his honor.

Presenters: **Scott B. Sanders**, President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies

**Nakita Mongar**, JVSG Program Coordinator, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development and Chair, NASWA Mark Sanders Committee

**Sultan Camp\***, Director, Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Centers

9:45a – 10:00a	<b>TABLE TALK</b>	Independence Ballroom
10:00a – 10:15a	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>	Independence Foyer
10:15a – 10:50a	<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	Independence Ballroom

10:50a – 11:00a **TABLE TALK** Independence Ballroom

11:10a – 12:00p **PLENARY SESSION** Independence Ballroom

### **SERVING NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS**

12:00p – 1:00p **HOSTED LUNCH** Independence Ballroom

1:15p – 2:15p **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

2:15p – 2:30p **NETWORKING BREAK** Independence Foyer

2:30p – 3:30p **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

3:30p – 4:00p **NETWORKING BREAK** Independence Foyer

4:00p – 5:00p **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

## **FRIDAY, JULY 10**

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7:30a – 12:00p **HOSPITALITY DESK** Independence Foyer

\*Check in & pick up your name badge to attend all sessions

7:30a – 12:00p **EXHIBITOR SHOWCASE** Independence Foyer

7:30a – 8:30a **HOSTED BREAKFAST** Independence Ballroom

8:30a – 9:30a **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

9:40a – 10:40a **PLENARY SESSION** Independence Ballroom

### **SWEET HOME (YOUR STATE NAME HERE)**

Moderator: **Sarah Morrissey**, Director, New Hampshire Employment Security

Speakers: **TBA**

10:40a – 11:00a **NETWORKING BREAK** Independence Foyer

11:00a – 12:00p **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION** Independence Ballroom

**Jessie Jane Duff\***, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Veterans Employment & Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor

### **FINAL THOUGHTS AND CLOSING**

**Anna Hunter\***, Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security, and NASWA Veterans Affairs Committee Chair

### **CONFERENCE ADJOURNS – SAFE TRAVELS EVERYONE!**

*See you next year!* Mark your calendars for August 11-13, 2027, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, DC.