



The United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

<http://www.uvcoc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/>

November 2019

Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 11

**Officers**

President

Dennis Orr 303-870-7053

1st Vice President

Dick Young 720-300-3356

[dickyounq123@gmail.com](mailto:dickyounq123@gmail.com)

2nd Vice President

Ed Aitken

Recording Secretary Karen Hone

Treasurer Paul Gremse

**Committees**

State /Federal Legislative Co-Chairs

William "Robby" Robinson

Shelly Kalkowski

State Legislative Liaison

Dan Jablan

Communications, Chair

Dennis Churgovich

Membership

Chair Dick Wilson

Vice-chair Greg Hay

Nominating Committee

James Craig, Past President

Banquet

Chair Bernie Rogoff

Mgr Karen Hone

By-laws Chair Les Kennedy

Nominating Chair Frank McCurdy

UVC Newsletter

Steve Bender 719-310-9930



**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dennis Orr

As we head into the holiday season many of our fellow veterans are having a difficult time with their own lives - some are homeless, some suicidal - others struggling with employment, family, health and other issues. Your UVC is co-operating with the VA and our state's veterans agencies in identifying and trying to assist those veterans with their issues. As part of our ongoing efforts we will be adding an interactive map to the UVC website that shows where VA and Urgent Care Facilities are in the state as well as American Legion and VFW Posts. We will include their contact information as well as address and meeting times. Other types of facilities will be added as the need arises.

I have been undergoing a treatment called "Muscle Activation" that was recommended to me by one of the neurosurgeons at the VAMC. Last year I had a Spinal Stenosis operation that due to the length I was on the operating table left me with nerve damage in my left leg and a drop foot. I had limited success with physical therapy. I tried and continuing trying the muscle activation treatment which gets the muscles working when they are not. I have had success in that I

> p2 president

**UVC Annual Awards Banquet**

**Keynote Speaker Announced**



Janine Davidson, Ph.D., is the president of Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado's third-largest public university and the only access-oriented higher-education institution in the state. Prior to her appointment in 2017, Davidson served as the 32nd undersecretary of the U.S. Navy. Her appointment as Navy "under" followed nearly 30 years of academic, civilian and military service. She began her career as an Air Force officer and cargo pilot, and was the first woman to fly the branch's tactical C-130.

Davidson's various honors include: "HillVets Top 100 Most Influential Veterans"; University of South Carolina Distinguished Alumna; Secretary of the Navy Medal for Distinguished Public Service; Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service; Girl Scouts of Colorado 2018 "Woman of Distinction"; and the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce 2019 "Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Business."

Currently, Davidson serves as a presidentially appointed commissioner for the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service. Locally, she serves on a number of nonprofit boards and is co-chair of Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's "Complete Count" 2020 census committee.



The next UVC Member Meeting will be November 10th at VFW Post 9644 at 2680 W. Hampden Ave., Englewood, CO 80110

8:30a Network

9:00a-11:00a Meeting

**In This Issue**

P1 UVC President / Keynote

P3 Legislative Committee / Marvin M.

P3 UVC Goals

P4 Northern Colorado

P5 Communications Committee

P6 Dept Vet Affairs

P7 Conversations on Aging

P8 Addendum A

P9 Addendum B

P10 Addendum C

>president

can now walk normally in my stocking feet and in some shoes and it is getting better with each treatment. I also learned that Muscle Activation has been very successful for TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). At the present time the cost for the treatments is not covered by insurance or the VA. I am writing this to bring attention so that the VA will look at this treatment as another way to combat TBI along with other times when muscle activation is needed.

Your UVC is planning a fundraiser with the Colorado Avalanche, probably in February. The theme will be Women Veterans Night at the Colorado Avalanche. Stay tuned for more details, particularly as the Avs are having a great season thus far.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

###



*Marvin Meyers receives the very first Marvin Meyers Lifetime Achievement Award from President Orr at the monthly UVC general membership meeting.*

Whereas; the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado (UVC) Awards Committee met September 10, 2019, at the VFW Post 9644, at 10:00am to consider establishing a Lifetime Achievement Award: and

Whereas; recognizing that some standard for receipt is also desirable, the UVC Awards Committee recommends a new life Time Achievement Award be named after Marvin Meyers, and

Whereas Marvin Meyers has served the UVC for four decades in every capacity to include president; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, and every other officer or committee chairman position; and

Whereas Marvin's accomplishments as an advocate and lobbyist are legendary;

Therefore, be it resolved the UVC Unanimously approves a Lifetime Achievement Award named after founder, Marvin Meyers.

### State Legislative Committee Update

Shelly Kalkowski / Robby Robinson Co-chairs

Over the past few months, the State Legislative Committee has been busy identifying, discussing and recommending the UVC's 2020 General Policy and Specific Legislative Goals. The unprioritized draft of the two sets of goals was approved by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee at the Oct. 22 meeting.

Primary Member Organizations are now in the process of submitting to the State Legislative Committee co-chairs their prioritized lists of the goals. The Legislative Committee co-chairs will compile the priorities to present at the next general meeting on Nov. 12 for a final vote. It's important that each Primary Member Organization designated representative or alternate be present at this meeting.

The new UVCoc By-Laws, Article VIII, paragraph B.1 state: Both Federal and State Legislative Goals and Priorities shall be adopted by a unanimous vote of Primary Organizations' designated representatives present. A NO vote on any legislative issue shall prevent the issue from going forward. Paragraph B.2 states: Each Primary Organization shall have one designated organization representative and one alternate as designated by that Primary Organization's Chief Executive Officer and are expected to be active in UVC matters. Only that designated or alternate may cast the organizational vote.

We are still looking for individuals from any of our member organizations who would like to serve on the Legislative Committee. There is lots of work to be done preparing these issues, seeking bill sponsors, helping with bill drafting, testifying, and importantly, generating supporting material for our members to "weigh in" with their individual legislators on the bills.

> State Legislative

The Executive-Committee-approved goals follow:

**General UVC 2020 State Policy Goals:**

Support continued, and enhanced funding of programs and benefits provided through multiple state agencies to address the needs of Colorado's veterans, military personnel, members of the National Guard, Reserves, and their families.

Support efforts to address veteran homelessness, including affordable housing, livable wages, drug prevention, mental health care and suicide prevention, job and career training, and education.

Support legislation that furthers, in tangible and meaningful ways, Colorado being recognized as a veteran and military welcoming, supportive and inclusive state.

Support legislation and funding to increase job training, entrepreneurship, recruitment, counseling and placement for veterans transitioning to civilian life.

Support legislation and funding to support aging and disabled veterans care and mental health and suicide prevention.

Support federal and state executive agency and/or legislative actions that address women veteran issues.

**Specific UVC 2020 State Legislative Goals:**

Support authorization and funding for the operation and expansion of Veterans Courts so they are available to eligible veterans statewide.

Support establishment of a state women's veteran program and/or coordinator position within the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Support a study by CDHS to determine the need for veteran's community living centers, adult daycare, memory care and/or domiciliary care in El Paso County and NE Colorado.

Support legislation allowing private employers to give preference to veterans when hiring and retaining employees so long as the veterans are equally as qualified as other indi-

viduals.

Support creation of a Colorado state income tax exemption for recipients of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments.

Support legislative authorization to provide competitive wages for dietary, housekeeping and maintenance staff at the state Veterans Community Living Centers.

###

Dick Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

Now the task and the challenge we all face is to make this upcoming April 19<sup>th</sup> UVC Banquet the largest and most successful Banquet we have ever had. And this will require all of us to get involved to make it the success we must have.

You all know that this is the only major fundraiser ESGR has each year. And with the inability to fill the Banquet Hall last year, we must make it up this year. And we can, but only if all of us take it on as a personal challenge.

What ideas/thoughts do you have that could help make it be the success it must be? More publicity? What kind and what audience? More ticket sales? To what groups? Support from all of our UVC Member Organizations? How do we motivate them? A stronger effort for our Silent Auction? Can we get some go getters to take this on? A longer reception? Fewer speeches? How many awards to be given? Can we do this more efficiently?

All kinds of questions. And we need your thoughts/your input/and your help to accomplish our mission: the best and largest UVC Awards Banquet in its 88 years of existence.

So please speak up. E-mail me with your thoughts/ideas/how you can best help. There is no such thing as a bad idea. And plan on being one who will help to make this Banquet the success it must be.



Northern Colorado Report  
Shelly Kalkowski, UVC Rep.

### New Northern Colorado VA facility to bring more services

CHEYENNE, Wyo.—The Cheyenne Veterans Affairs Medical Center is in the initial planning for its newest VA Outpatient Clinic that is scheduled to be completed by winter of 2022. The new clinic will be located at 4875 Byrd Drive, in Loveland, Colorado.



According to Carolyn Thompson, master planner for the facility, the new 75,645

*The initial conceptual drawing of the new Northern Colorado Outpatient Clinic will be able to see more than 200 Veterans per day, and is scheduled to be open by December, 2022.*

useable square-foot facility will provide more than double the space offered at the current Loveland and Ft. Collins facilities combined.

“With the added space, we will be able to bring several new resources to northern Colorado, such as radiology and dental,” Thompson said.

The new state-of-the-art-facility will have 550 parking spaces, and employ approximately 60 additional staff members for a combined total between the existing Loveland and Ft. Collins Clinics of more than 200 professionals. The Cheyenne VA Health Care System currently employs approximately 1,000 employees across Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Construction is expected to begin by summer of 2020, and will take two years to complete.

Questions should be directed to the Cheyenne VA Healthcare System, Public Affairs Officer, Samuel House, 307-778-7523, or [Samuel.house2@va.gov](mailto:Samuel.house2@va.gov).



### 48th Annual Awards Banquet



**United Veterans Coalition of Colorado** Sunday, April 19, 2020

Renaissance Hotel  
3801 Quebec Street  
Denver 80207

### Keynote Speaker

**Janine Davidson, Ph.D., President**

**Metropolitan State University of Denver**



Dennis Churgovich, Chair  
Communications Committee

In the hopes that each reader of this newsletter will pass it on to members of their parent organization or to other veterans, there will be a series of articles from the Communication Committee which will highlight benefits and services available to all veterans.

Today's topic is the Vet Centers which are under the umbrella of the Veterans Administration. Vet Centers were first opened in 1979 at the request of Vietnam Veterans who desired a place to meet that had less of a structure than the VA. I find this little fact amazing because it has only been recently that I have learned about the existence of Vet Centers. It just may be the best kept secret of the VA but the more I learn about their services, the more I am impressed.

Vet Centers are staffed by small, multi-disciplinary teams of dedicated providers, of whom many are combat veterans themselves. They are in our community to help veterans and their families with confidential readjustment counseling and outreach services. The Vet Centers goal is to help veterans make a successful transition in the civilian world.

Presently over a third of their staff have served in Iraq &/or Afghanistan. Services include individual and group counseling, marital and family counseling, bereavement counseling, and employment counseling.

Currently there are six Vet Centers in Colorado: Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Grand Junction, and Pueblo. I have met with Justin Brandenburg of the Boulder Vet Center. He spoke to my VFW post in Brighton and can be reached at 303-440-7306.

I have spoken to Jessica Lubudda of the Denver Vet Center. She is willing to speak to members of your organization about the services provided by the Vet



## November Days of Observance

### USPS deadlines for military Christmas holiday mail

[http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2015/pr15\\_055.htm](http://about.usps.com/news/national-releases/2015/pr15_055.htm)

### Military Family Month

A month to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of the families of the U.S. Armed Forces. [Learn more...](#)

### November 3, 2019 - Daylight Saving Time ends

### November 10, 2019 - Marine Corps Birthday

### November 11, 2019 - Armistice Day (France)

A day set aside to remember those who died or were injured in World War I and other wars. [Learn more...](#)

### November 11, 2019 - Veterans Day

The anniversary date of the signing of the armistice which ended the World War I.

Also a day set aside to thank military veterans for their service. [Learn more...](#)

LINK - [A listing of classroom resources, parade listings, and more.](#)

LINK - [Coloring page for military children](#)

LINK - [Veterans Day promotions, freebies and initiatives](#)

### November 28, 2019 - Thanksgiving Day

LINK - [Organizations that help deployed military personnel celebrate Thanksgiving Day.](#)

LINK - [Coloring page for military children](#)

Source: <http://www.operationwearehere.com/>

Center. She can be reached at 303-326-0645.

There are plans to have 300 Vet Center across the United States and surrounding territories. For more information go to the following link: <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5193> ###



## Department of Veterans Affairs

### VA expenditures in Colorado Receive \$3.8 Billion

On May 14, 2019, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) released the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDx) for Fiscal Year 2018. The GDx report provides the estimated dollar expenditures for major VA programs at the state, county, and Congressional District levels. Expenditure data are grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension; Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction and Related Costs; General Operating Expenses and Related Costs; Loan Guaranty; and Medical Expenditures.

The GDx FY18 Report also includes Veteran population estimates at the state, county and by Congressional District level and the number of unique patients who used VA health care services. The Veteran population data is an indication of the number of Veterans who may be using benefits and services from VA. About 9 million unique Veterans out of 19.5 million Veterans use VA benefits and services. The count of unique patients is based on the home residence of the patient.

Some highlights from the 2018 GDx national statistics:

- As the Veteran population declined from 2009 to 2018 (-15 percent), the total expenditures VA pays for Veteran services and benefits increased 86 percent over the same period.
- States with larger Veteran populations (California, Texas and Florida) also had larger total VA expenditures. Similarly, states with lower Veteran populations had lower VA expenditures.
- The District of Columbia had the lowest Veteran population in FY18 and lower VA expenditures, but it had the highest percent rise in total VA expenditures (8.8 percent) from FY17 to FY18.
- Puerto Rico has the highest compensation and pen-

sion (C&P) benefit dollars and the highest estimated enrollment of all Veterans that reside in the territory.

#### Colorado statistics:

Colorado ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 53 states and territories in the nation on average compensation and pension (C&P) benefit dollars.

Colorado ranks 47<sup>th</sup> out of 53 states and territories in the nation on estimated enrollment, this is based on unique patients versus estimated Veteran population.

#### Contribution to Strategic Priorities:

The annual GDx helps state governments compare their Veteran population and their dollars received from VA with other states. Some reasons for the disparities are beyond their state's control. For example, Veterans often cross state lines to use DC's VA Medical Center. Other disparities the state can do something about. For example, Veterans in one state may not be using their VA benefits and services they earned at the same rate as Veterans in another state. States have used the GDx data as justification to hire and train more State and County Veteran Service officers to do outreach and change the expenditure statistics for their state. Strategies by some states and local governments were to use the annual GDx expenditure data to collaborate with private businesses and stakeholders. By forming partnerships, they have enticed Veterans to retire in their area or move there. This, in turn, should increase the Veteran population living in their area and increase the likelihood that more VA services and benefits would be used in their area.

<https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>

**Note: See Addendum C  
for full listing of expenditures**