



**The United Veterans Coalition of Colorado**  
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<http://www.uvcoc.org>  
**August 2020                      Newsletter                      Vol. 4 No. 8**

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dennis Orr

This has certainly been a year of changes and firsts. The first first-our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet will be virtual due to the unwelcome pandemic. It will be shown on YouTube at a date to be announced.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> first is our featured speaker for the Banquet, our first woman veteran, Dr. Janine Davidson, President of Metropolitan State University. She is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and the first woman to fly the tactical C-130. She also served as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Under Secretary of the Navy.

Our next first is our new Newsletter Editor, Ida Tholen- Ida is the Sgt-Of-Arms of American Legion Post 206, the first all-female post in Colorado. She is a member of the UVC Legislative

**UVC Awards Banquet  
 (Sponsorship Categories Underlined)**

Article Submitted by Karen Hone

Join UVC for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet – Virtually!

A video featuring the awards and Dr. Davidson’s remarks

will be posted on YouTube by 5:00pm on Sunday, August 23, 2020

A link will be emailed out in advance.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors!

**Stars & Stripes Presenting**

Lockheed Martin

Platinum

KPMG

Gold

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Veterans Community Living Centers

Woodruff Foundation

*>p4 awards*

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1st Vice President

Dick Young

If you haven't noticed, this is turning into a very busy time for our United Veterans Coalition of Colorado (UVC). With the COVID-19 virus keeping most people inside, with many unemployed, normal schedules no longer followed, and the world seemingly being turned upside down on us, the UVC seems busier than ever, transforming a usually very successful Annual Awards Banquet attended by some 300-450 people into a Virtual UVC Awards Banquet which all can watch on their T.V. on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. And then, having the film of the Banquet so all can view it later with family, friends and neighbors.

For Veterans, you need to send in a photo or photos of you, alone, with your family, friends, shipmates, those that served with you. E-mail them immediately to [Karilhenley@gmail.com](mailto:Karilhenley@gmail.com). They will be shown as part of our Virtual Awards Banquet as part of our Salute to Veterans. **WE NEED YOURS!** Don't you want to see yourself on the screen? E-mail them today.

Our biggest challenge is finding and getting more new faces helping take on the expanded efforts of our UVC. We have some critical leadership positions needing good leaders and workers. Are you willing to help this very effective Veterans organization as it grows to do more of what our By-Laws call for us to do: 1) activate our member organizations (we have over 100 and the list is growing; 2) work with our Legislators and other public policy makers to ensure proper support for veteran issues and concerns (our two Legislative Committees: Federal and State, with excel-

>*president*

Committee, the Colorado American Legion Press Association, and the National American Legion Media Association. She served this great country for 26 years in the United States Army and the Colorado National Guard. During her military career she served as a Multi-Channel Radio Communications, Supply, and Food Service. She was a food service manager at the time of her retirement in 2016. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism before entering the military. She also has a Master's Degree in Management and Leadership.

Let's welcome Ida as she takes over from Steve Bender, who has been an exemplary Newsletter Editor. Steve has big shoes to fill and I am confident Ida will fill them admirably.

I will miss Steve but know he is now assisting at the UVC foundation.

Our Zoom meetings have been going well as we build a true statewide organization and we will continue to use Zoom into the future even when we can meet in person again.

lent leadership from the top, continue to make good things happen for our Veterans; and 3) inform and educate the citizens of Colorado about the needs and high value contributions that veterans and active duty military contribute to our communities (and now with a very active Communications Committee, and a hard charging Chair, Terri Clinton?

So, please, whether a Veteran or not, come help make it better for those Veterans who do need help. You'll feel much better helping than not.



Dennis Churgovich, Chair  
Federal Legislative Committee

Thanks to the efforts of Lori Trego and Debbie Kenny the UVC Executive Committee has voted to support The Deborah Sampson Act, HR 3224 and S 514. The House version of The Deborah Sampson Act passed on November 12, 2019. Six of Colorado's Congressional Representative voted this bill passage. The Senate version of this bill, S 514, has been assigned to the Senate's Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Deborah Sampson Act will address inequities and barriers that women veterans face when accessing VA care and benefits. This bill will ensure that gender specific services are continuously available at every VA medical center. The UVC will be sending a letter to our Senator, Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, requesting their support and co-sponsorship of S 514. To put a name with a face, Deborah Sampson became a hero of the American Revolution when she disguised herself as a man and joined the Patriot forces. She served in the Continental Army from 1782-1783 and was awarded a full military pension for her military service after years of petitioning Congress. Deborah and Margaret Corbin, were the first American women known to have served in combat. Today, there are over two million women veterans in the United States. They comprise the fastest-growing, and most diverse demographic in both the military and veteran population. Since the UVC has requested that the Colorado Congressional Delegation's support and co-sponsorship of The Major Richard Star Act, HR 5995 and S 3393, Senator Michael Bennet and Congressman Ed Perlmutter have added their names as co-sponsors. This bill will provide a combat disabled retiree with fewer than 20 years of service to concurrently receive, without reduction, disability and retirement compensation. This bill is named after Army Major Richard Star, who had to retire early when diagnosed with service connected terminal lung cancer. Major Star served as a combat engineer in Afghanistan and Iraq. For more information <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2i6CBjYjY> or [www.moaa.org/star-interview](http://www.moaa.org/star-interview)



Terri Clinton, Chair  
Communications Committee

The United Veterans Coalition's (UVC) newsletter has been an invaluable resource and the main way we have communicated with our member organizations over the years. Steve Bender has done an amazing job for us since January 2017. Having been a newsletter editor myself for a large Legion post, I can commiserate and offer my congratulations on a job well done. Steve isn't leaving us, he's taking on a role with the UVC Foundation. I hope when you see Steve, you offer him a quick thanks and wish him well!

Communications committee member, Ida Tholen, will be replacing Steve as our newsletter editor. I want to personally thank her for taking on this role. It can be a lot of work, and we're wishing her the very best!

Speaking of the work it takes to create our newsletter, we do rely on many of you to provide articles and content. To make this a smooth transition, and so that we are all working towards the same goal, please follow the guidelines for article submission:

- 1) Articles should be 400 words or less (I know this is a tough one; I fought a valiant battle, but lost). In all honesty, we're trying to keep the newsletter between 6-10 pages.
- 2) We expect to include monthly articles from the following: Elected UVC officers, UVC committee chairs, UVC regional representatives, the VA ECHCS, VARO, VISN 19, VA National Cemetery Administration, state agency representatives who attend our monthly meetings, the DMVA, the Veteran Court, and congressional staffers. Of course, you may contact the editor if you would like to submit an article, and the editor may reach out, on occasion, to request an article about a certain topic.
- 3) The DEADLINE is COB 3 days after the Executive Committee meeting, which falls on the last Tuesday of the month.

You may contact Ida at: [idtholen@gmail.com](mailto:idtholen@gmail.com). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [teri\\_clinton@yahoo.com](mailto:teri_clinton@yahoo.com).



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

*Renaye Murphy, Director  
VA Regional Office Denver*

### Saying Goodbye

I started with the VA in 1998 at the Oakland VA Regional Office as a claims processor and worked my way up in Portland, Houston, and Seattle before moving to Denver in 2010 as the Assistant Director to then Director, Janice Jacobs. I continued to work as Assistant Director to Bill Kane and then was selected for the position of Director in 2015 after Bill retired. During my tenure in Denver, our offices in Lakewood and Cheyenne have become one of the top-producing VBA offices in Compensation and Vocational Rehab and Employment. Our Regional Loan Center exceeded all targets each year that I was the Director and had one of the best foreclosure avoidance rates in the country. I instituted virtual town halls to provide needed outreach to the Western Slope and other rural areas and fought to obtain full time outreach specialist in Grand Junction. I stood up public contact areas in the Colorado Springs CBOC and at the Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center. I oversaw the processing of all spina bifida and birth defects claims for the nation and assisted with clearing out the backlog of legacy appeals claims after the implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act.

I will serve in the capacity of Executive Director, Portland and Anchorage Regional Offices and will be physically located in Portland. My decision was based on personal and family reasons. While I love Colorado, I have no family members here, but I do have close family in the Northwest. I will be admin-

*> awards*

#### Silver

American G. I. Forum

Arapahoe CountyCSU Global

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Frank McCurdy

InnovAge

Metropolitan State University

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

Rocky Mountain Navy

TREA The Retired Enlisted Association

Vivage Senior Living

Welburn, Sullivan, Meck & Tooley

istering benefits for Veterans in Oregon and Alaska much as I have for the Veterans in Colorado and Wyoming. I am looking forward to serving there, and will have unique opportunities to serve rural and tribal populations

I am the proud daughter of a Navy Veteran who served during the Korean Conflict and I have always treated Veterans the way I would have liked my dad to be treated. It has been a true pleasure and honor to work with the UVC members and I will always remember my time here fondly.



*Kate Hatten*  
*Executive Director*

Home Front Military Network's (HFMN) mission is to connect military service members, veterans and their families to resources offered by our trusted community partners and to provide emergency financial assistance.

HFMN helps service members, veterans and their families navigate support systems through web-based and call-in information and assistance to find the services that are the best fit and follows alongside these individuals and families every step of the way. Our key services include:

- Financial Assistance
- Navigation (Case Management)
- Education & Outreach

HFMN facilitates collaboration among and provides training for military, VA and community partners to offer veterans, active duty personnel, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veteran family members robust, holistic assistance to address the unique needs and challenges of our military and veteran community.

HFMN's nearly 50 partner agencies offer an array of resources and support to provide a continuum of care:

- Advocacy
- Behavioral Health
- Benefits Assistance
- Caregiver Support
- Education
- Employment
- Family Services
- Financial Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Physical Health
- Reintegration
- Social Services

Those who need assistance can reach us online or by phone:

Our [Network of Care](https://PikesPeak.CO.NetworkOfCare.org/Veterans) website includes a comprehensive resource and referral directory, library and assistive devices marketplace ([PikesPeak.CO.NetworkOfCare.org/Veterans](https://PikesPeak.CO.NetworkOfCare.org/Veterans))

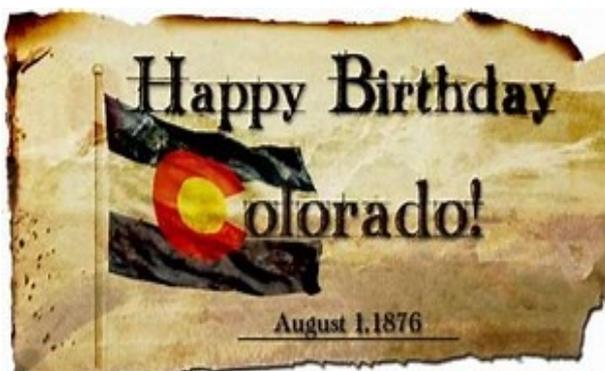
Our Case-Managers can be reached by phone at 719-577-7417 from M-F 8am to 5pm, via email or through our [online contact form](#)

Website: <https://HomeFrontMilitaryNetwork.org>

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/homefrontmilitarynetwork/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HomeFrontMili>



**Veteran’s Treatment Court**

**Article Submitted by Deb Davis**

The veteran’s treatment court model requires regular court appearances, as well as mandatory attendance at treatment sessions, and frequent and random testing for drug and alcohol use. Veterans respond favorably to this structured environment, given their past experiences in the Armed Forces. However, a few will struggle, and it is exactly those veterans who need a veteran’s treatment court program the most. Without this structure, these veterans will reoffend and remain in the criminal justice system. The veteran’s treatment court can ensure they meet their obligations to themselves, the court, and their community.

Veteran’s treatment courts also act as a "one-stop shop," linking veterans with the programs, benefits, and services they have earned. For example, the Veterans Health Administration's (VBA) Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist is present during the court docket with a laptop computer able to access confidential medical records, make treatment appointments, and communicate this information to the court. The VBA may provide a representative to ensure that veterans receive disability compensation, and education and training benefits. Volunteer veteran mentors provide morale and motivational support. These team members are not employed by the criminal justice system and normally would not be present at the courthouse.

The court is just and equitable in its decisions regarding the mentee. Other veteran service organizations are also involved. For example, WarriorNow, a local not-for-profit, provides daily call-ins for mentees and weekly training for men-

**Military Calendar Holidays Events Observances**

<https://militarybenefits.info/military-calendar-holidays-events-observances/>

August

**Entire Month Antiterrorism Awareness Month**

- August 1 Air Force Day**
- August 4 Coast Guard Day**
- August 7 Purple Heart Day**
- August 10 U.S. Dept. of Defense Birthday**
- August 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day**
- August 16 National Airborne Day**
- August 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday**

**The next UVC Member Meeting will be August 11th at 0900 hours on Zoom.com**

tors.

COVID-19 has really done a number on the mentees. Without the structure they desperately need, many have relapsed and are finding it difficult to get back on track. We as mentors have had to step up and be even more involved with our mentees. Their success is our success.