



# United Veterans Coalition of Colorado

5400 East Yale Ave, Denver, CO 80222

<http://www.uvcoc.org>

September 2023

Newsletter

Vol. 6 No. 9

## Officers

### President

Margaret "Marti" Crockett

1st Vice President

Bob McLaughlin

2nd Vice President

Patricia Hammon

Secretary- Joe Goldling

Treasurer - Tom Yagley

### Regional Vice Presidents

Sr Regional – Howard Richards

Central Aurora – Josh Medina

Central Pikes Peak – Rich Lewis

Northeast – TJ Cruz

Northwest- Pat Hammon

Southeast – Brian McCain

Southwest – Dr. Theresa Larson

### Director Consultants

Mike Wheaton & Laurie Kuntz

### Legislative

Federal Legislative Chair

Grace Sweeney Maurer

State Legislative Chair

Shelly Kalkowski

State Legislative Vice/Consultant

Bill Hanna

State Legislative Liaison

Dan Jablan

All chairs can be found on the UVC website:

<https://uvcoc.org/leadership/>

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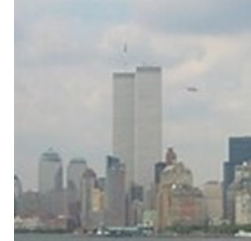
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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Marti Crockett



Can you believe it is September already? The past couple of months have been busy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> "Tee It Up for Veterans" golf tournament was held in July with a few ups and downs. The original course was unfortunately destroyed by the June rains and local flooding.

After experiencing a small bout of panic, I was able to find another course with the same date open. It was held on the hottest day of July with 34 teams and 14 wonderful volunteers. Last year happened to be the coldest day possible.

This year we were blessed to have a Navy Seal, Rorke Denver, as a player. He was able to provide medical assistance to player that had a cardiac event near the end of the tournament. He continued his noteworthy appearance by driving up my auction sales with his autographed books and a movie he wrote and starred in. What a great day!

With my goal met, I was able to donate to Helping Heroes who organized and ran a special retreat for veterans suffering from PTSD/Combat Stress. The retreat hosted 11 combat vets, to which I was fortunate enough to attend and witness a very rewarding and uplifting experience.

During the summer months Bob McLaughlin, Pat Hammon, and I, have met with some of the Primary Organizations. We have met with their new leaders and gathered ideas of where their organization is heading and what we can do to help them. We will continue to meet with the other organizations and develop more plans to help.

I look forward to meeting all of you and finding out your mission and goals for the upcoming year and how the UVC can help.

## Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center Turns 5

The UVC and the advocacy of its Primary members worked tirelessly for 14 years to make this come to fruition. We could not be prouder. Please visit our website for the fabulous video provided by the VA.

<https://uvcoc.org/>





**State Legislative Committee**  
Shelly Kalkowski, Chair  
Dan Jablan, Legislative Liaison  
Bill Hanna, Legal Advisor

The UVC State Legislative Committee met throughout the summer to identify, prioritize, and recommend specific and general policy goals for the upcoming 2024 General Assembly. The annual goals, as prioritized, were unanimously approved during the August 8 EXCOM and distributed to legislators by the end of the month. Legislators are already planning their initial bills and requesting bill titles.

The following are the 2024 specific goals, actions for which UVC state legislative leadership team will be seeking sponsors and coordinating strategy.

Support the 2024 Department of Military & Veteran Affairs (DMVA) budget request for the Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to include renewing and enhancing the Veterans Assistance Grant (VAG) cash fund created in Section 28-5-712(3) CRS. **NOTE: The VAG program providing grants for veteran non-profits is scheduled to sunset September 2024.**

Restore with interest \$3 million to the Veterans Trust Fund. **NOTE: These Tobacco Settlement dollars were transferred to the General Fund during the 2020 budget process.**

Support a bill or resolution to establish an annual June 12 Colorado Women Veterans Day.

Support legislation providing for no-fee camping limited to five nights per month in state parks for 100% disabled Colorado veterans.

Stay tuned for the October newsletter which will feature UVC's General Policy goals. This committee is taking a September break from monthly meetings. **The next State Legislative Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 0830.**



## Military Calendar Holidays Events Observances

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

### September

Entire Month National Suicide Prevention Month

Entire Month National Service Dog Month

September 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

September 4 Labor Day

September 11 Patriot Day

Sept. 15-17 Rosh Hashana (begins at sunset)

September 17 -23 Constitution Week

September 15-Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 18 Air Force (USAF) Birthday

September 18 Office of the Sec. of Defense Birthday

September 18 Air National Guard Birthday

September 24 Gold Star Mother's Day

September 24-25 Yom Kippur

September 29 VFW Day

