

MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, March 2024



Building
partnerships



Supporting our
Veteran Business Owners



Identifying training
opportunities



Creating valuable
networking relationships



WELCOME:

New MVO Task Force Members



THIS ISSUE:

Featured MVO Task Force Members



Welcome to the MVO Task Force Connect!

The MVO Task Force is unstoppable! I'm proud to announce the task force has hit yet another milestone surpassing 1K followers on our NVBDC MVO TF LinkedIn page. Why you ask is this such an important accomplishment?

In today's world social media has become one of the strongest driving forces we see each and every day that helps "spread the word" instantaneously to millions of individuals. These social platforms provide the means to promote ideas, push causes, drive policies and most importantly share information. While Facebook was created with more of a social overtone, LinkedIn, by design, was developed to support specifically the business world allowing professionals to market and share content and ideas through networking.

Everyday we highlight opportunities, events and newsworthy information for our MVO TF partners on both our social media platforms: LinkedIn and Facebook. We also promote a variety of opportunities for our Veteran business owners to help grow their business along with helpful hints on how to move their business forward. These platforms continue to provide each of our task force members continuous opportunities and means to expand their brand and market all they have to offer our military and veteran community. But with anything worth doing there is always more we can do to achieve ways to support our entire MVO TF network.

Let's push ahead to continue encouraging everyone within your individual networks to join our NVBDC MVO TF social media pages. The more members we have on these social media platforms the more opportunities for our events to reach a larger audience - **It's just that simple.**

I hope you enjoy this current issue, our NVBDC MVO TF Newsletter. Grab that cup of coffee, sit back, and read about 4 more of our fellow TF members, join in the 10th anniversary celebration of NVBDC's certification of Service-Disabled and Veteran-Owned Businesses. We invite you to check out all of the exciting upcoming events. Encourage your network to add these events to their calendar. There are some exceptional programs and events coming up!

Together we can achieve more for America's Heroes.

Kathryn M. Poynton, LTC (ret)
Director, MVO TF
NVBDC Board of Directors

 JOIN NOW



NVBDC.ORG | [888-CERTIFIED](tel:888-CERTIFIED) | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG



LTC Kathryn Poynton (Ret)
Military & Veteran Organization
Task Force Director
OIF/OEF Veteran
Bronze Star Recipient



BG Richard S. Miller (Ret) NVBDC
President
Deployed to Afghanistan
Bronze Star Recipient



Keith King
NVBDC Founder and CEO
Vietnam Combat Veteran

**To learn more about
our Board Members
click here**



A Decade of Impact: National Veteran Business Development Council's Unparalleled Achievement

Ten years ago, a vision was born - a vision to create a level playing field for veteran-owned businesses, to champion their entrepreneurial spirit, and to pave the way for their success. That vision took shape as the NVBDC, and today, under the leadership of the indefatigable Keith King, it stands as a beacon of support and opportunity for America's finest. King, a veteran himself, understood the unique challenges faced by veterans transitioning from military service to the world of business. He knew that their skills, discipline, and dedication deserved a platform, a voice, and a network to help them thrive. Thus, the NVBDC was born, with a mission to certify and connect SD/VOB's with corporate members seeking diverse and reliable suppliers.

As NVBDC marks its tenth anniversary, it stands alone as the preeminent force in certifying veteran-owned businesses in the United States. Unique in its achievement, the NVBDC is recognized as the sole veteran business certification agency accepted by the members of the Billion Dollar Roundtable—a testament to its stringent standards and the quality of businesses it certifies. These elite corporate members have collectively spent over \$4 billion with NVBDC-certified veteran-owned businesses up to 2023, showcasing the council's significant impact on facilitating veteran participation in the nation's economic activities. This remarkable expenditure represents just a fraction of the potential market, accounting for only 25% of the NVBDC's current corporate membership.

Such a figure not only underscores the trust and reliance placed in NVBDC certifications by major corporations but also highlights the vast opportunities still available for certified veteran-owned businesses to tap into.

Over the years, the NVBDC has not rested on its laurels, continuously pushing the boundaries to support veteran entrepreneurs. Its certification of over 3,000 service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses is a major milestone, serving as a gateway for these businesses to access lucrative corporate supply chains committed to diversity and inclusiveness. Looking to the future, the NVBDC is poised to expand its influence further, leveraging its success to unlock even more opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs. With its proven track record and the ongoing support of its corporate members, the council will continue to champion the cause of veteran-owned businesses, ensuring their contributions are recognized and their potential fully realized in the years to come.

To our certified veteran business owners, corporate partners, and supporters: thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to another decade of success, growth, and making a difference in the lives of military veterans transitioning into the business world.

Together, we are building a legacy of strength, resilience, and excellence while ensuring the legacy of our veteran business owners continues into successful business ventures.

The **Arise Veteran Foundation** is a combination of Veterans and Family of Veterans with a massive passion for helping our brothers and sisters get the support they need.

Check them out [here!](#)



The Arise Veteran Foundation, located in Chesterfield, MO, is a remarkable organization, steadfast in its mission to uplift the lives of veterans and their families. This foundation, born from a blend of veterans and their relatives, radiates a deep passion for supporting those who have served our nation. The Arise Veteran Foundation understands that the needs of veterans are diverse and complex. Hence, it has tailored a multifaceted approach to address these needs, ensuring that every veteran receives the support they require to thrive in post-military life.

One of the foundation's primary services is mentoring combat veterans and their families affected by PTSD. Recognizing the deep scars left by combat, the foundation offers programs designed to aid in the healing process, providing a supportive community where veterans can share their experiences and find solace in the understanding of those who have faced similar challenges.

For veterans in need of more comprehensive care, the Arise Veteran Foundation steps in with solutions like assisted living memory care and nursing homes. These facilities are equipped to offer the highest level of care, ensuring that veterans, particularly those facing health challenges like dementia, receive the respect, dignity, and quality of life they deserve.

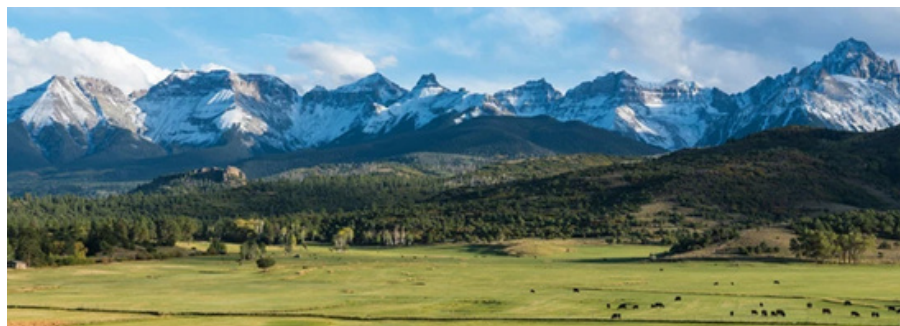
The foundation also provides assisted living facilities designed to offer veterans a blend of independence and support.

These facilities cater to veterans who are capable of living independently but may require assistance with daily activities. It's an environment that fosters community and supports the well-being of its residents. Understanding the importance of meaningful employment for veterans, the foundation offers medical hiring assistance. This program is designed to connect veterans with job opportunities in the medical field, aligning with their skills and experiences, thus facilitating a smoother transition to civilian careers.

In a unique twist to supporting veteran programs, the Arise Veteran Foundation has introduced RSK recycling solutions. This initiative focuses on recycling leather, with the proceeds directly benefiting veteran programs. It's a sustainable approach that not only supports the environment but also provides additional funding for the foundation's activities.

The Arise Veteran Foundation is a lifeline for veterans and their families navigating the challenges of post-military life. Through its comprehensive range of services, from mental health support to assisted living and job assistance, the foundation not only honors the service of veterans but actively contributes to their well-being and success in civilian life. It's a testament to the power of community, compassion, and commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for their country.





In the heart of the Rocky Mountains, in Yampa, Colorado, lies a flourishing market farm, Forever West Farms, co-founded in 2018 by an inspiring veteran, Taylor Drew. Taylor's journey to becoming a successful farmer and a beacon in the veteran community began with his participation in the Veterans to Farmers (VTF) course in 2017.

The impact of Veterans to Farmers (VTF) extends significantly beyond individual veterans to their families, communities, and the broader agricultural landscape. Veterans participating in this program have collectively help grow thousands of pounds of food each year. This achievement reflects not just a commitment to sustainable agriculture but also the successful reintegration of veterans into civilian life through meaningful and productive work. Additionally, with over 220 program graduates by 2023, VTF has made a substantial contribution to empowering veterans, helping them assimilate effectively into private citizenry while fostering a strong sense of community and camaraderie through agricultural education. For more detailed information, please visit their website:

<https://www.veteranstofarmers.org/>



Taylor's commitment to the veteran community didn't stop at farming. In 2019, he joined the VTF board to give back, embodying the mission of VTF – training veterans in agricultural systems, technologies, and business operations for a fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle. VTF offers a pathway for veterans to recover, learn, and contribute to addressing the nation's food insecurity.

The ethos of VTF resonates with the challenges faced by veterans in civilian life. Transitioning back to civilian life can be daunting, often exacerbated by physical injuries and mental health issues. VTF's curriculum and community provide a nurturing environment for veterans to channel their military skills – hard work, attention to detail, and service – into farming. It also offers therapeutic benefits for those dealing with trauma, including PTSD and TBI. VTF's approach extends beyond farming education. It connects veterans with resources for further training, grant opportunities, business development classes, and a supportive community. Veterans are encouraged to pursue their "Second Service" – to teach, support, and assist their fellow veterans, reinforcing the spirit of service and community.





INVESTVETS MISSION

INVESTVets aims to improve employment outcomes for those who have served in our nation's Armed Forces and their families in Michigan by eliminating cultural barriers and empowering veterans.

Established in July 2015 as the employment pillar of the Lansing Area Veterans Coalition, INVESTVets has focused on the most significant barrier to veterans' employment: the military-civilian cultural gap.



Michael Poyma,
Employment Specialist with VA Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E); also serves as Executive Director for InvestVets



Founded in July 2015 as the employment branch of the Lansing Area Veterans Coalition, InvestVets was brought into existence by Executive Director Michael Poyma.

Mr. Poyma has a long-standing commitment to advocating for the needs of service-connected disabled veterans.

InvestVets was founded upon the realization that the primary obstacle to veteran employment was the cultural divide between veterans and non-veterans. Mr. Poyma recognized that traditional methods like job fairs were insufficient and instead focused on creating impactful events that promote cultural understanding.

InvestVets is committed to improving employment opportunities for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and their families in Michigan. By bridging cultural gaps and fostering an inclusive environment, the organization aims to empower veterans and enhance their job prospects within the broader military and veteran community.

The community-based organization connects employers with veteran and military talent by offering activities that reduce the high expectations and stress that are common with traditional job fairs.

Comprised of partners from private and public organizations, the InvestVets network includes more than 550 employers throughout Michigan.

Mr. Poyma revealed that starting in January 2024, the organization initiated a monthly virtual job fair. As the year progresses, they intend to broaden their virtual offerings by providing informational webinars for employers. The aim is to create industry-focused networking events that connect veterans with potential employers. Additionally, there's a possibility of organizing a few in-person events before the year concludes.

"InvestVets" goal is to provide an all-inclusive and barrier-free network for military and veterans to connect with that will provide access to employment services and job opportunities." Said, Michael Poyma.

InvestVets welcomes anyone to their network. Whether you're an employer, veteran, or service provider, look for InvestVets at their website <https://investvets.org/> or on LinkedIn or Facebook.



MONTHLY JOB CLUB FOR VETERANS

Second Thursday of the Month, 2-3 p.m.
Visit tinyurl.com/investvetsclub to register





IMPACTING AND EMPOWERING THE LIVES OF WOMEN VETERANS

Our MISSION is to create a community for women veterans through networking groups, community events, and conferences worldwide to provide opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive. We contribute to the overall well-being of women veterans through building a supportive community and providing resources and education.



Melissa Washington, a Navy Veteran, is the President and Founder of the Women Veterans Alliance (WVA), the premiere network focused on directly impacting the quality of life for women veterans. The WVA was created when Melissa saw a need to bring women veterans together to equip, empower, and encourage each other.



The Women Veterans Alliance, founded and led by Melissa A. Washington, a service-disabled woman veteran, has become a pivotal organization in the veteran community. As the CEO and Founder, Washington oversees an organization that encompasses the Women Veterans Alliance, Women Veterans Giving, Veteran.Events, and co-publishes Women Veterans Magazine. Her involvement and commitment to this cause are deeply personal and professional, driven by a recognition of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women veterans, active duty, and Guard members.

The Women Veterans Alliance began as a simple monthly meet-up in the Sacramento area. From these modest beginnings, it has grown into a nationwide force, impacting thousands of women veterans economically, socially, and mentally. Washington started this group to offer women who have served in the military an opportunity to network in a professional setting, addressing the need for recognition and dedicated support for women veterans.

The organization's mission is clear and ambitious: to create a community for women veterans through networking groups, community events, and conferences worldwide. The aim is to provide opportunities for these women to connect, grow, and thrive. The vision is to connect over two million women veterans globally, equipping, empowering, and encouraging them with knowledge, mentorship, and career opportunities to achieve their greatest potential.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Women Veterans Alliance has set significant milestones. Key among them is the April 27th Women Veterans Engage Conference, slated to be hosted at 13 locations across the United States.



Furthermore, the organization is launching the Women Veterans Pennsylvania Magazine, with hopes of expanding to more states. The magazine is currently in other states to include California and Texas.

These efforts underscore a continued commitment to raising awareness and fostering connections among women veterans through various platforms, including speaking engagements and social media.

Melissa A. Washington's message to other organizations and the community at large is encapsulated in the powerful words of Wayne Gretzky: "You miss 100% of the shots you never take." This quote reflects the ethos of the Women Veterans Alliance – a call to action and a reminder of the power of initiative and community.

The organization is not just a network; it's a movement toward acknowledging and empowering a sometimes overlooked segment of the veteran community. Through their work, they hope to leave a legacy of support, growth, and recognition for women who have served their country with honor and distinction.

Upcoming Events & Happenings*

*Listed are known upcoming events at time of publication. Further details are available at our website

March 5	VEA Spring Cohort: Business Fundamentals(runs through 9Apr24) HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance	
March 6	San Diego, CA Veterans Job Fair HOST: RecruitMilitary	
March 7	Houston, TX Veterans Job Fair HOST: RecruitMilitary	
March 8	Monthly Job Club for Veterans HOST: InvestVets	
March 14	Job Fair at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Fort Myer, VA HOST: RecruitMilitary	Job Fair at Fort Bliss, TX HOST: RecruitMilitary
March 16	Spring Open House HOST: Central Penn College	Women's Empowerment: Aligning Forces HOST: MI Women Veteran Empowerment
March 16	MMAA "Celebrate Women Veterans"- Art Exhibit & Ritual Storytelling Event HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	
March 18	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America	
March 19	National Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
March 20	Empowerment Workshop @BattleBorne for All Vets HOST: Women Veterans Empowered & Thriving	
March 21	16th Annual Scholarship Awards & Hall of Fame Ceremony HOST: U.S. Army Women's Foundation	Vetworking HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance
March 28	Jacksonville, FL Veterans Job Fair HOST: RecruitMilitary	Job Fair at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA HOST: RecruitMilitary
March 28	Pittsburgh, PA Veterans Job Fair HOST: RecruitMilitary	
April 15	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America	
April 23	Central Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	

Do you have news to share or are you interested in featuring your organization in a future issue? We welcome your updates and interest. Please connect with **MVO Task Force Director Lt. Col. Kathryn Poynton, Ret.** • kpoynton@nvbdc.org • 703-282-6862

Upcoming Events & Happenings*

*Listed are known upcoming events at time of publication. Further details are available at our website

April 27	Women Veterans Engage Conference HOST: Women Veterans Alliance	
May 5	Cinco De Mayo Celebration to support Military Families HOST: Patriot Hills of NY	Veterans, Guns & Cigars, Tampa FL HOST: Meritorious
May 7	Military Spouse Virtual Hiring Event HOST: RecruitMilitary	
May 20	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America	
May 21	National Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 1	Women Veterans Magazine Pennsylvania Launching June 2024 HOST: Women Veterans Alliance	MMAA National Gala HOST: MMAA
June 4	National Government Agency Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 17	MMAA Strong Communities HOST: Modern Military Association of America	
June 18	Eastern Region Virtual Career Fair for Veterans HOST: RecruitMilitary	
June 23	Annual Heritage Military Banquet & Awards Ceremony HOST: The Montford Point Marines of America	
July 10	VEA Summer Cohort: Scaling Your Business (run through August 14, 2024) HOST: Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance	
August 8	8th Annual "Doing Business with the Federal Reserve & Private Industry" Conference HOST: National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)	
November 8-9	National Veteran Business Matchmaking Conference and Vets Night Out at Detroit, MI HOST: National Veteran Business Development Council	
November 10-12	17th Annual IWEC Foundation Conference in Washington DC HOST: Women Veterans Alliance	

Do you have news to share or are you interested in featuring your organization in a future issue? We welcome your updates and interest. Please connect with **MVO Task Force Director Lt. Col. Kathryn Poynton, Ret.** • kpoynton@nvbdc.org • 703-282-6862



Meet NVBDC at the WBENC **AMPLIFY** NATIONAL CONFERENCE!



**March
20-21**



**From
9am - 6pm**



**Denver,
Colorado**



AMY APPLEWHITE
NVBDC OFFICE MANAGER



KATHRYN POYNTON
NVBDC BOARD MEMBER

888-CERTIFIED

NVBDC.ORG



BOOTH #2039
Aurora Exhibit Hall



LOOKING TO SCALE YOUR VETERAN BUSINESS?

TRIPLE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES



**WOMEN VETERAN
BUSINESS OWNERS**
YOU CAN NOW TRIPLE
YOUR OPPORTUNITIES
WITH **NMSDC, WBENC**
AND **NVBDC SD/VOB**
CERTIFICATION



888-CERTIFIED
NVBDC.ORG

Did you know that if you're a Woman Veteran Business Owner certified by WBENC and NMSDC, you can now TRIPLE your opportunities by also being Certified by NVBDC?

If someone sent this newsletter to you and you would like to receive your own copy please email us at kpoynton@nvbdc.org

JOIN NOW



NVBDC.ORG | [888-CERTIFIED](tel:888-CERTIFIED) | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG