



MILITARY & VETERAN ORGANIZATION TASK FORCE
ADVANCING THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

MVO TASK FORCE CONNECT

Volume 14, January 2025


Building partnerships


Supporting our Veteran Business Owners


Identifying training opportunities


Creating valuable networking relationships



IN THIS ISSUE: MVO TASK FORCE MEMBERS



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to the MVO Task Force Connect!

Happy New Year! It's time to celebrate the start of a new beginning. The New Year brings a fresh start, a chance to renew energies, provides more exciting opportunities, a chance to set new goals and embark on new adventures.

So many memorable moments transpired over this past year for both the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) and the Military and Veteran Organization Task Force (MVO TF). NVBDC witnessed unprecedented achievements from an official partnering with the International Trade Administration opening worldwide opportunities for all our certified Veteran-owned businesses to hosting a record-breaking national event. The Task Force continued to grow throughout 2024 signing on an array of different organizations and continues to provide so many different services and assistance to all our Veterans and their families. Another major achievement was the creation of our "resource webinar" series through a partnership with our NVBDC Services Committee. This series will continue to provide a stage for our Task Force members to shine.

We are looking forward to 2025 as we continue to grow the Task Force, bringing more opportunities to partner and host numerous events with all of our Task Force members.

As we kick off the new year, meet a few of our long-standing Task Force members in this edition. The CA Veteran Chamber of Commerce works side-by-side with 250,000 CA Veteran-owned Businesses as they strive to enrich the lives of California's transitioning military, Veterans, and their families across a wide spectrum of needs under their five pillars of support: Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, Wellness, and Family. CTLDomGroup, Inc., embodies their Mantra, "Live Today, Why Wait for Tomorrow." Learn how this unique organization serves our Veterans tirelessly every day through a combination of networking, community events, and public seminars that introduce otherwise unreachable populations to health and wealth strategies. And if you know of a Veteran interested in the food service industry, look no further than Veteran's Support Network. Veteran's Support Network is dedicated to addressing the needs of our Veterans, specifically our unhoused Veterans. Their mission is to teach and provide the necessary skills needed to improve each Veteran's personal situation. Learn about their eight-day training and certification program in food service.

The new year will bring NVBDC 365 opportunities to continue moving ahead making the world a better place for our Veterans and their families. From all of us at NVBDC and the MVO Task Force, welcome to 2025! We are excited to continue working with you as we strive to make each day, each opportunity, better than the next. We wish you and yours the best of everything yet to come in 2025!

Together we can achieve more for America's Heroes.

Kathryn M. Poynton, LTC (ret)
Director, Military & Veteran Organization (MVO) Task Force
NVBDC Board of Directors



 JOIN NOW



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



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2025 dawns, the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) celebrates 2024 as a transformative year.

In 2024, NVBDC expanded its impact position as the leading certification organization for veteran-owned businesses (VOBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOBs).



Founder and CEO Keith King providing opening remarks at the NVBDC National Event, Detroit, MI

LEARN MORE



NVBDC Team



Empowering Veteran Entrepreneurs Through Gold Standard Certification

In 2024, NVBDC reached new milestones in its mission to certify and support VOBs. With numerous new certifications, the organization continued to connect veterans with corporate procurement opportunities to engage in a competitive marketplace.

Key highlights include the introduction of enhanced online certification resources, as well as forming partnerships with prominent corporations and agencies to expand procurement opportunities for certified VOBs.

Advancing Educational Initiatives

NVBDC's 2024 educational initiatives focused on empowering veterans with tools and knowledge to succeed. The webinar series, Mastering Resources – Unlocking the Keys to Success, addressed topics such as financial literacy, exporting strategies, and resources for our veteran and our military communities. An acclaimed series, it showcased industry experts and provided actionable insights for participants.

The annual NVBDC National Conference offered breakout sessions in partnership with the International Trade Administration (ITA) and the U.S. Commercial Service, which emphasized the importance of global markets and exporting, equipping veteran business owners with the skills to expand internationally.

NVBDC's Executive Learning Series Summit, in partnership with CVS Health and Roger Williams University, offered selected NVBDC-certified SD/VOBs an immersive curriculum designed to expand their business capacity, professional skill sets, and growth potential.



Continued



“Our goal is to create an environment where veteran-owned businesses can thrive through education and networking...”

– John Taylor



L-R/ Rachelle Wilmer, Joanne Cobb, Toni Moses, members of the NVBDC certification team



Kendee Yamaguchi, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Field, ITA, shakes hands with NVBDC Founder & CEO, Keith King

LEARN MORE



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT.)

Innovative Monthly Webinars by the NVBDC Services Committee

The NVBDC Services Committee’s monthly webinar focused on business innovation, as well as collaboration between veteran business owners and supplier diversity professionals. Launched in early 2024, this webinar series serves as a networking hub for building connections between veteran entrepreneurs and industry professionals.

“Our goal is to create an environment where veteran-owned businesses can thrive through education and networking,” said John Taylor, Chair of the NVBDC Services Committee. “These webinars are a testament to our commitment to empowering veteran entrepreneurs and enhancing supplier diversity.”

1. Jumpstart Webinars: Focused on networking and creating direct interactions between veteran business owners and supplier diversity professionals. Featured corporate members included Flagstar Bank, Freddie Mac, Delta Airlines, and UScellular.

2. Service Learning Forums: Educated veteran business owners on certification benefits and supplier diversity strategies. This year’s speakers were from Comerica, Chase, CVS, Dell, and Toyota.



Launch of the Innovative Veteran Marketplace

The 2024 NVBDC National Veteran Business Matchmaking Event was a pivotal moment with the launch of the new Innovative Veteran Marketplace, a dynamic platform designed to connect VOBs with corporate buyers. Met with enthusiastic feedback, the marketplace will be a cornerstone of NVBDC's initiatives to enhance economic opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs.

Strengthening Youth Leadership Through NVBDC JROTC Scholarships

Another significant 2024 milestone is the expansion of the NVBDC JROTC scholarship program. Thanks to a new partnership with **Denny's Hungry for Education initiative, scholarships were awarded to a record number of JROTC cadets.** Spearheaded by Dr. Sid E. Taylor, **the program distributed over \$200,000 in scholarship funds.**

The program's tagline, *Investing in Our Future Leaders*, resonated throughout the veteran



and corporate communities, driving

increased contributions and further cementing NVBDC's commitment to nurturing the next generation.

Veterans Leading the Way in Supplier Diversity

NVBDC remained at the forefront of supplier diversity initiatives in 2024, emphasizing VOBs' critical role in corporate supply chains. The organization's presence at major events, including the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Supplier Diversity Conference and the National Contract Management Association meeting, underscored its commitment to promoting VOBs in national and global arenas.

Keith King, NVBDC Founder and CEO, made headlines with high-profile interviews on platforms like JetStar Radio, Veterans Radio, and at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Conference, where he emphasized the economic impact of veteran entrepreneurs and the importance of certification.

Continued



FUTURE INITIATIVES:

International Expansion

Digital Innovation

Scholarship Growth

Veteran Business Matchmaking Event

VOCS Certification Platform Updates



LEARN MORE



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT.)

Expanding the MVO Task Force

The NVBDC Military & Veteran Organization (MVO) Task Force achieved unprecedented growth in 2024, solidifying its position as a powerhouse for advocacy and support for VOBs. The Task Force expanded its roster to over 70 strategic partners, underscoring the commitment to empowering veteran entrepreneurs by creating transformative pathways for success.



This expansion continues to bolster the NVBDC MVO Task Force's influence to advocate for SD/VOBs, create collaborative initiatives, and provide resources across diverse sectors. With a growing network of partners, the NVBDC MVO Task Force is poised to drive even greater impact in 2025 and ensure that veterans have the tools and connections needed for success.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As NVBDC looks toward 2025, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to support veteran business owners. Key initiatives for 2025 include:

- **International Expansion:** With NVBDC's partnership with ITA and U.S. Commercial Service, it offers support in accessing global markets and export opportunities
- **Digital Innovation:** Introduce innovative digital tools to streamline the certification process and enhance member engagement
- **Scholarship Growth:** Expand JROTC scholarship program and surpass 2024's record-breaking contributions
- **2025 National Veteran Business Matchmaking Event:** NVBDC's 2025 flagship event will be held at the Marriott Spartanburg in Spartanburg, South Carolina, on October 29 & 30, and will include Vets Night Out and the Veteran Marketplace

Exciting Updates to the VOCS Certification Platform

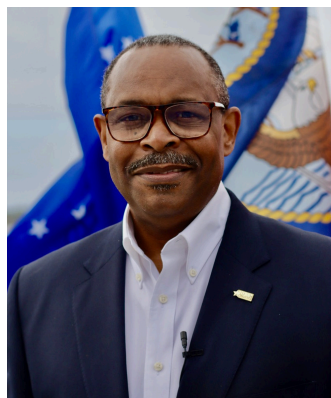
NVBDC will implement significant upgrades to its proprietary Veteran-Owned Certification System (VOCS) platform in 2025, including:

1. **Success Story Integration:** Certified VOBs can share success stories, including achievements and unique value propositions, directly in their profiles
2. **Introductory Video Uploads:** Businesses can record/upload introductory videos to their profiles to add personal and dynamic messages to target potential partners
3. **Expanded Profile Capabilities:** Businesses will have options to list additional accolades and certifications, ensuring their profiles reflect the full extent of their qualifications and expertise
4. **Supplier Profile Optimization Campaign:** Working closely with VOBs to complete and regularly update their profiles, NVBDC will provide guidance to help businesses maximize their visibility
5. **Enhanced Search and Filtering:** Enables corporate members to filter results more precisely, ensuring efficiency when searching for suppliers

NVBDC's Growing Podcast Presence

A growing audience is attracted to NVBDC's podcasts. Through its partnership with Veterans Radio, these podcasts are a platform to share success stories, highlight NVBDC initiatives, and provide valuable insights for veteran entrepreneurs.

Through certification, education, and advocacy, NVBDC continues to invest in the economic and social empowerment of the veteran community. With the momentum from 2024, 2025 will be an impactful year, as NVBDC grows as a catalyst for veteran business success on national and international levels.



MAURICE WILSON, LEADER, CALIFORNIA VETERAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CALIFORNIA VETERANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ADVOCATES FOR VETERAN BUSINESS SUCCESS

Led by Maurice Wilson in outreach, the California Veterans Chamber of Commerce (CAVCC) is dedicated to supporting veterans, active-duty service members, and their families across California as they transition to civilian life.

Wilson's involvement in the organization stems from his passion for helping veterans make a seamless transition to civilian life. By fostering an environment that supports veteran-owned businesses, CAVCC strives to harness the unique skills and experiences that veterans bring to the table.

CAVCC's goals focus on advocacy for veteran-owned businesses, providing business training, and building a supportive network. Through initiatives like workshops on financial literacy and networking events connecting veterans with mentors and investors, the organization is creating a thriving ecosystem for veterans in business.

One major achievement of the CAVCC is the Shore-based Transition Assistance and Reintegration Readiness (STARR)

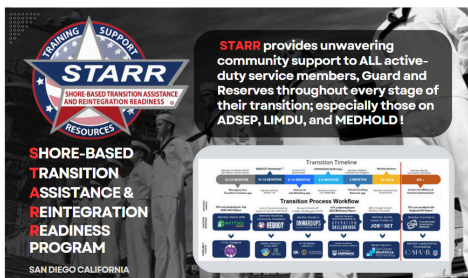
Program, a collaborative effort with the San Diego Veterans Coalition and Navy Region Southwest. A recently implemented program, STARR is poised to positively impact thousands of transitioning service members in the San Diego area, enhancing their employability and reintegration through personalized transition assistance, career planning, and ongoing wellness support.

Reflecting on the CAVCC's mission, the quote, "Success is not how high you have climbed, but how you make a positive difference to the world," by Roy T. Bennett, encapsulates the Chamber's dedication to fostering veteran success in business and encouraging veterans to make a positive impact in their communities.

To support the California Veterans Chamber of Commerce, readers are encouraged to join as members, attend events, or explore partnership opportunities. Volunteering expertise or time can also make a significant difference in expanding the Chamber's reach and impact. For more information, visit the California Veterans Chamber of Commerce website.



Flyer for Civic Communities Veteran Pitch Contest



CAVCC's STARR Program Matrix



Civic Communities Veteran Pitch Contest Group

LEARN MORE





TIFFANY DANIEL, FOUNDER

CTLDomGROUP'S MISSION EMPOWERS MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

At the heart of CLTDomGroup, INC. is a passion for helping military members and their families transition successfully to new locations or retirement. Founded by Tiffany Daniel, a retired Army veteran, the organization was created to be a resource for veterans and their loved ones, ensuring they have the guidance, support, and tools they need during times of change.

"I wanted to build a resource that addresses the specific challenges military families face during transitions," said Daniel. "Our mission is to help veterans navigate the complex process of transitioning to civilian life, focusing on mental health, educational, and health benefits, and the overall family dynamic. We're here to ensure that no one is left behind."

CTLDomGroup provides a range of resources designed to strengthen and support the military community. From one-on-one Meet and Greets to Town Hall meetings and workshops, the organization meets veterans where they are, listens to their concerns and offers solutions that help them overcome their challenges. The primary focus continues to be mental health, with CTLDomGroup dedicating significant effort to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health struggles among military members.

This focus led to the creation of the Mental Health Awareness Project, which marked its one-year anniversary last month. The project is composed of five key programs designed to guide veterans through their mental health journey: Identifying the Need, Call to Action, Walking Through It, Doing the Work, and Celebrating the Wins. While CTLDomGroup has yet to secure a grant for this project, it has received generous donations, demonstrating the community's support for the cause.

"As someone who has been through the challenges of military life and transition, I know firsthand how critical mental health support is," Daniel shared. "The Mental Health Awareness Project was created to provide that essential support, from identifying needs to celebrating the wins along the way. It's a journey, and we're here to walk through it together."

One of the main goals of CTLDomGroup is to help maintain or reignite the family nucleus. Through its programs and community-based resources, the organization works to ensure that



Therapeutic horticulture session

military families remain connected, and provides the tools and support necessary to keep families strong. The CTLDomGroup's approach is deeply personal and rooted in the founder's experiences. With a board consisting of 80% veterans, the group's commitment to its mission is unwavering.

In addition to mental health, CTLDomGroup focuses on guiding veterans through their educational benefits and helping them transition to civilian careers. The organization's personalized workshops and Town Hall meetings offer valuable resources for benefits, educational opportunities, and overcoming obstacles that may arise during the transition process.

For those looking to support CTLDomGroup's efforts, there are several ways to get involved:

- Join the organization
- Donate
- Become a sponsor for an event
- Volunteer a service

By joining forces with CTLDomGroup, you can help ensure that veterans and their families receive the support they need to thrive. Visit www.ctldomgroup.org to learn more about the organization and how you can get involved.

"As a retired Army veteran, I am driven by the desire to ensure our fellow service members don't face the same struggles that we did," Daniel said. "Our mission is personal, and it's fueled by our experiences. We want to ensure no veteran or military family is ever left behind."

CTLDomGroup is more than just an organization — it's a community of like-minded individuals and veterans working together to ensure the success of our service members and their families.



Mindfulness and meditation



Therapeutic equine session

LEARN MORE

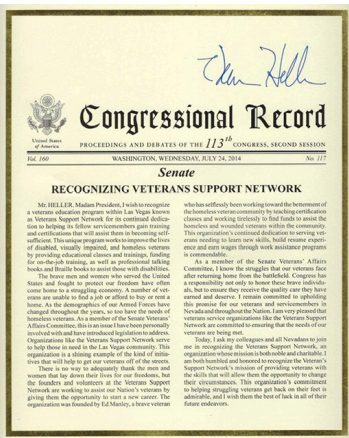




**EDWARD MANLEY,
FOUNDER**



Certification graduation celebration lunch at the Golden Nugget, Las Vegas



VSN Certificate of Congressional Recognition

LEARN MORE



VETERAN SUPPORT NETWORK EMPOWERS VETERANS AND CHANGES LIVES

Veterans face unique challenges as they transition to civilian life, and one of the most pressing is finding meaningful, sustainable employment. **Veteran Support Network (VSN)** helps veterans build a brighter future through education and certification, particularly in the food service industry.

Founded by **Edward Manley**, a retired Army veteran with extensive experience in both the military and food service industries, VSN focuses on providing military personnel and civilians with tools they need to succeed. Through its innovative programs, it empowers veterans to gain valuable management skills and certifications that can open doors to new opportunities.

At the heart of VSN's mission is the Manley Method — a rigorous online training system designed to teach, test, and certify individuals, equipping them with the latest knowledge and skills employers are seeking. "We change lives by helping veterans figure out what they want to do in life and build a resume that stands out," says Manley.

The organization offers an extensive certification program aimed primarily at military food service personnel, where proper certifications often make the difference in terms of job placement and promotions. According to Manley, **54% of those who made E-9 over a 10-year period had VSN's certifications** — a testament to the effectiveness of these programs. Program participants earn a certificate that makes them more competitive for jobs with better earnings and growth potential.

VSN also serves unhoused veterans by providing them with the resources to update their resumes and gain certifications that boost their confidence and job prospects. This includes access to a \$1999 GI Bill-approved program, which is offered at no cost to veterans.

VSN is expanding its mission to reach other industries like restaurants, catering, and health care. "We want veterans to understand that their GI Bill can be used for more than just college," Manley explains. "They can use it to gain industry-specific certifications that help them land better jobs and move up the career ladder."

In addition to providing certifications, VSN partners with the **National Veteran Business Development Council's (NVBDC) MVO Task Force** to further support veterans in their careers. This collaboration helps increase VSN's reach and impact, ensuring more veterans have access to the resources and support they need to thrive.



First class at Veterans Village, Las Vegas, with unhoused veterans

VSN also celebrates significant achievements, as when its certifications were accepted by **CMS (Medicare/Medicaid)** as one of the only two approved certifications for food service managers in nursing homes and long-term-care facilities.

Manley has dedicated over 50 years to serving the food service community, and was the **second-ever President Emeritus of the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA)**. Manley also is the founder of the **Enlisted Aide of the Year Award**, which honors military chefs serving high-ranking officers, and the **Military Culinary Competition**, a celebrated community event held outside the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C., for 16 years.

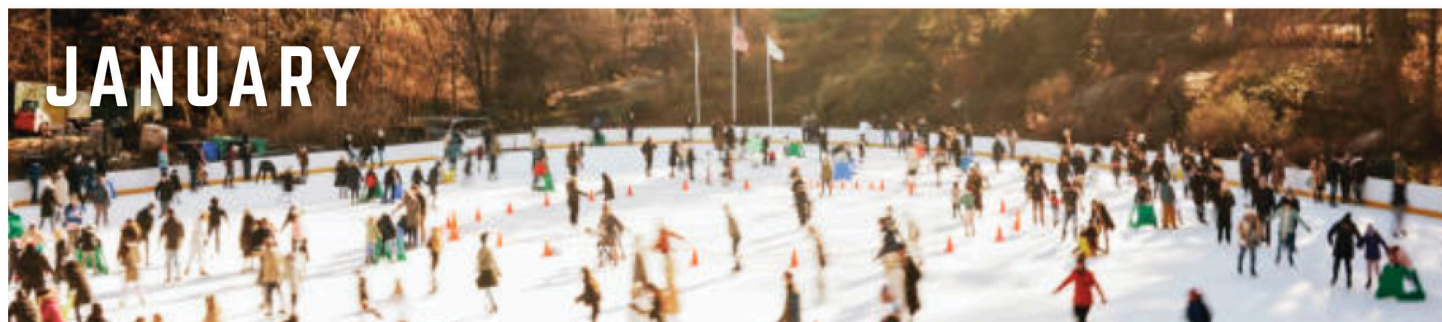
For Manley, it all comes down to giving back. "We do what we do because we believe in helping others," he says. "I want to change lives and help veterans get the careers they deserve."

To learn more about how you can support **Veteran Support Network** or participate in its programs, visit www.vetsupportnetwork.org or reach out to Manley directly at ed@ehmanley.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS*

[VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE HERE](#)

*LISTED ARE UPCOMING EVENTS KNOWN AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. ADDITIONAL EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.



6
VetBizCentral Small Business Start-up Orientation
 VetBiz Central

7-21
Pass the Guidon
 Vet-to-CEO

8
Wealth & Wellness Wednesday
 Veterans Growing America

9
Work Force Coffee Chat
 ID Veterans Chamber
Boots to Business/Reboot Course: Michigan Boots to Business Reboot
 VetBiz Central

14
Texas Veteran Commission Monthly Q&A
 TVC- Entrepreneur Program

16
“Vetwoking” Event
 Veterans Entrepreneur Alliance
JB Langley-Eustis Area, VA Veteran Hiring Fair
 RecruitMilitary

Tampa, FL Veteran Hiring Fair
 RecruitMilitary

22
Indiana National Guard Entrepreneurship Training
 VetBiz Central

23
DoD Skillbridge for Employers
 ID Veteran Chamber of Commerce

San Antonio, TX Veteran Hiring Fair
 RecruitMilitary

25
Boots to Business/Reboot Course: Indiana Farming or Ranching Boots to Business Reboot
 VetBiz Central

28
Western Region Hiring Event
 RecruitMilitary

31
Raleigh, NC Veteran Hiring Fair
 RecruitMilitary

*Happy
 New
 Year!*

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

[JOIN NOW](#)



NVBDC.ORG | 888-CERTIFIED | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS*

[VISIT OUR EVENTS PAGE HERE](#)

*LISTED ARE UPCOMING EVENTS KNOWN AT TIME OF PUBLICATION. ADDITIONAL EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

FEBRUARY

5
**Dual Enrollment
 Virtual Event**
 Central Penn College

6
**Dallas, TX Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

**Fort Liberty, NC Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

9-11
17th Annual Conference
 IWEC Foundation

11
**Transitioning Army &
 Spouse Hiring Event**
 RecruitMilitary

11 FEB-8 APR
**Business Accelerator
 Program**
 Vet-to-CEO

12
**Wealth & Wellness
 Wednesday**
 Veterans Growing America

13
Work Force Coffee Chat
 ID Veterans Chamber

**Scott AFB Area, IL
 Veteran Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

**Camp Pendleton, CA
 Veteran Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

19
**Fort Moore GA -
 Navigating the Transition
 Wilderness - A Candid,
 In-Depth Life Planning
 Workshop**
 Still Serving Veterans

Partner Virtual Event
 Central Penn College

20
“Vetwoking” Event
 Veterans Entrepreneur Alliance

**Atlanta, GA Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

**Phoenix, AZ Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

20
**Boots to Business/Reboot
 Course: Innovation
 Connector Indiana Boots
 to Business Reboot**
 VetBiz Central

25
**Eastern Region Hiring
 Event**
 RecruitMilitary

26
**Columbus, OH Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary
Master’s Lunch & Learn
 Central Penn College

27
**Fort Bliss, TX Veteran
 Hiring Fair**
 RecruitMilitary

**DoD Skillbridge for
 Employers**
 ID Veteran Chamber
 of Commerce

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

[JOIN NOW](#)



NVBDC.ORG | 888-CERTIFIED | NVBDCTASKFORCE.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS*



Women Veterans Program

Peer Group Workshop
Join us to learn about the women veteran organizations in Texas and how you can create a peer group in your area.

January 22, 2025 | 3PM CT
Register at <https://bit.ly/41edK0r>



www.tvc.texas.gov

KEITH KING
NVBDC FOUNDER AND CEO

INSIGHTS INTO SUPPLIER DIVERSITY



You don't want to miss this!

TUNE IN NOW!
NVBDC.ORG/NVBDC-PODCAST
888-CERTIFIED




NVBDC 2024
VETSTAR INTERVIEW

KEITH KING
VIETNAM VETERAN
NVBDC FOUNDER & CEO



Idaho Veterans CHAMBER of COMMERCE




JOIN US

VETERANS+FAMILY CAREER SEEKERS & EMPLOYERS



ZERO DARK THIRTY COFFEE & CAFFEINA
COFFEE ROASTING CO.
6575 W OVERLAND RD, BOISE ID 83709
2nd Thursday every month
9:30 - 10:30 AM



NVBDC
CHANGING HOW AMERICAN BUSINESSES PERCEIVE VETERAN OWNED COMPANIES

ARE YOU A VETERAN THINKING OF BECOMING A BUSINESS OWNER

NVBDC.ORG



START HERE

IWEC FOUNDATION 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE > FEBRUARY 9-11, 2025



IWec FOUNDATION

Barcelona, Spain

NANCY PLOEGER
CONFERENCE MANAGER

WITH ANNETTE STEVENSON,
NVBDC BOARD MEMBER AND U.S. ARMY VETERAN




NVBDC 2024
MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT



VETERANS RADIO

You don't want to miss this!

TUNE IN NOW!
NVBDC.ORG/NVBDC-PODCAST
888-CERTIFIED



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS HOSTED BY OUR MVO TASK FORCE MEMBERS](#)

[JOIN NOW](#)

