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# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

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## NDVS Leadership

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### Katherine Miller (U.S. Army, Retired) - Director



Colonel (U.S. Army, Retired) Katherine Miller was raised in Reno and served 34 years in the United States Army. Starting as an enlisted soldier, she culminated her military service with assignments as a military police brigade commander serving in the United States and in Afghanistan, and as the Commander of the Department of Defense's largest correctional organization. After retiring she taught college at the University of Maryland and the University of Nevada, Reno. She served as the Deputy Director for the Nevada Department of Veterans Services prior to accepting appointment as the Director.

Her education includes a Master's of Science Degree from the U.S. Army War College and a Masters of Public Administration from

Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Contact: [Millerk@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Millerk@veterans.nv.gov)



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### Kathleen Dussault, Deputy Director of Benefits



RADM (Retired) Kathleen Dussault is the new NDVS Deputy Director of Benefits. Ms. Dussault (pronounced "Doo-So") succeeds Willette Gerald, who is retiring from a long and successful career supporting the people of the great State of Nevada.

"Concerned that it would be nearly impossible to locate a professional with the skill set and dedication Willette demonstrated, I think all within the NDVS and throughout Nevada will find that Ms. Dussault brings the right combination of talent and experience to our team," said NDVS Director Kat Miller.

Ms. Dussault, a career naval officer who has successfully led large military and civilian organizations, has served as an Executive Fellow for the Institute for Defense and Business, a member of the Board of Directors for the Military Officers Association of America, Senior Vice President for Corporate Services, United Services Automobile Association (USAA), the Director, Logistics Programs and Corporate Operations, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Commander, Joint Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Logistics Management.

The Las Vegas native holds a Master's of Science Degree from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C. in National Resource Management; a Master's of Science Degree from Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California in Contracts and Procurement Management, and Bachelor's Degree from the University of Virginia in American Government. She is also a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business' Senior Executive Program.

Contact: [Dussaultk@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Dussaultk@veterans.nv.gov)



### Wendy Simons, Deputy Director of Veterans Wellness



Reno native Wendy Simons serves in the recently created position of Deputy Director of Wellness for the Nevada Department of Veterans Services. Her lifelong career in the health care industry includes time as an owner/administrator of assisted living facilities, and spans several decades of service to seniors, state agencies, academia and volunteer organizations. She is the former Chief of the state regulatory agency of



the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, under the auspices of the Department of Public and Behavioral Health.

After a short semi-retirement, Simons joined the Nevada Department of Veterans Services as the Deputy Director of Wellness, a position created in 2015. She oversees development of the upcoming Northern Nevada Veterans Home, as well as the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City and several other health related programs. Simons holds a Bachelor's degree in Health Education. She has served as adjunct faculty for the UNR School of Medicine's Geriatric Education Center, in addition to being a member of numerous boards and commissions.

Contact: [Simonsw@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Simonsw@veterans.nv.gov)

**Linda Gelinger, Nevada State Veterans Home Administrator**



Linda Gelinger has been appointed Administrator of the Nevada State Veterans Home by NDVS Director Miller. The appointment was effective December 14th.

Ms. Gelinger has more than 25 years of successful experience as a licensed Administrator in Southern Nevada in the private sector and currently serves as a member of the Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators. She has had several family members serve in the military here and overseas.

Contact: [Gelingerl@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Gelingerl@veterans.nv.gov)

**Executive Officer, Amy Garland**

Contact: [Garlanda@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Garlanda@veterans.nv.gov)

**Community Outreach, Blake Boles**

Contact: [Bolesb@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Bolesb@veterans.nv.gov)

**IT Manager, John Lusak**

Contact: [Lusaki@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Lusaki@veterans.nv.gov)

**Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery Superintendent, Eric Grimes**

Contact: [Grimese@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Grimese@veterans.nv.gov)

**Personnel Officer I, Karen Judson**

Contact: [Judsonk@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Judsonk@veterans.nv.gov)

**Public Information/Community Outreach, Liz Watson**

Contact: [Watsonl@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Watsonl@veterans.nv.gov)

**Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery Superintendent, Chris Naylor**

Contact: [Naylorc@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Naylorc@veterans.nv.gov)

**VAST Program Director, Steve Sitton**

Contact: [Sittons@veterans.nv.gov](mailto:Sittons@veterans.nv.gov)

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## Nevada Veterans Advocacy

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### Nevada Veterans Advocacy Programs

This section of the website is still being built. If you have immediate questions or would like an NVA brochure emailed to you contact our office at 775-321-4880.

Every Nevada Veteran and their family should be able to access information regarding benefits and opportunities they are eligible for. Sadly, many of our Nation's heroes are unaware of the "Sea of Goodwill"... the outpouring of support offered by local communities, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies.

This program educates and certifies Nevada Veterans Advocates (NVA) so that they may help connect service providers with those veterans seeking support.

#### What Does a Nevada Veterans Advocate Do?

A Nevada Veterans Advocate is a person who helps educate active military members, guard and reserve members, Veterans and their families about benefits and opportunities they may be eligible for. *Simply put Nevada Veterans Advocates are people who want to help others and take the time to learn how to do so!*

Thank you again for your interest in helping others!

[Click here](#) for a full list of NVA Course Slide Presentations!

#### How to Get Certified:

Enroll in and complete the Nevada Veterans Advocate Course... either to help advise others...or to learn about State of Nevada and federal VA benefits that you might benefit from!

The course consists of 20 courses answering the most critical and common questions asked by veterans seeking assistance.

Upon completion of the course, participants can contact the NDVS VAST Director at (775) 321-4880 to request certification.

Once certified, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion, a State of Nevada Veterans Resource Directory, and a Nevada Veterans Advocate shirt.

So what are you waiting for? Join a team of professionals that are making a difference—one veteran—one family—one survivor at a time.

To become a Nevada Veterans Advocate (NVA) take the Nevada Veterans Advocacy Course on-line...AT NO COST!

Sign up at:

<https://nvapps.state.nv.us>

- Click on *Register with the System*
- Create Your NVAPPS Profile and remember your ID and Password, you will need it at the next step.

#### Almost there!

- Now log into nveLearn, the State of Nevada Professional Development Center using your NVAPPS login and password at <https://nvelearn.nv.gov>.
- Click on *Course Catalog*
- Click on *Courses for Other Nevada public entities and the public.*
- Click on *Veterans Advocacy and Support*
- Click on *Nevada Veterans Advocate Certification Courses*
- Click on the course you wish to take!



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