

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Memorial Day Weekend Events at Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

Angel Fire, NM – As part of the State of New Mexico's ongoing tradition of honoring fallen veterans, Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park is hosting a series of events for Memorial Day weekend.

"Memorial Day weekend is a special time of healing and reflection at the park. Please consider honoring all of our Veterans on this special weekend," said State Parks Director Tommy Mutz.

May 23 & 24th

Volunteer Orientation 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Making Memorial Day Weekend a success requires many hands. If you would like to donate time, please attend our orientation. Volunteers are needed inside to assist in the library on the computers and outside helping with our three ceremonies.

Saturday, May 24th

POW/MIA Update 1-2 p.m.

Please join Colonel Ward Nickisch, US Army Retired, for this informative talk about our POW/MIA's.

Flag Retirement Ceremony 3-5 p.m.

This year, Flag Retirement becomes a part of our Memorial Day Weekend. Visitors are encouraged to bring flags for retirement. If you will be unable to attend but have flags to retire they can be dropped off at the Memorial or Angel Fire Fire Station #1.

Sunday, May 25th

Native American Storytelling 11-noon

Vietnam Veteran, USAF Ret. MSgt Albert R. Cata from Okhay Owingeh Pueblo will share his talents as a storyteller in the park's conference room. In June of 1995, Americana Television from Branson, MO, recognized him as one of the 20 leading Native American storytellers in the country.

Hope and Healing for Homefront Families 1-2 p.m.

Dana Morgan, President of Homefront Ministries and Rosie Williams of Pointman Homefront join us to share resources for our families with loved ones in the military. You are not alone!

POW/MIA Update 2-3 p.m.

Please join Colonel Ward Nickisch, US Army Retired, for this informative talk about our POW/MIA's.

Candlelight Vigil 6-7:30 p.m.

This ceremony honors all our servicemen who didn't make it home. Speakers from Gold Star Wives, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 574 and Disabled American Veterans of New Mexico will be featured. Dress in layers as the ceremony is planned for the amphitheater, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be held inside the visitor center.

Monday, May 26th

Memorial Day Flag March 8:45–9:30 a.m.

Join us for a visually stunning display as Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 318 leads a giant American flag up the hill to the Memorial. Volunteers to carry the flag are always needed. Kids are especially appreciated. If you'd like to help, assemble at the blinking light intersection of US 64/NM 434 no later than 8:45. For observers, make sure you get up the hill to the Memorial before 9 a.m. as the highway will be closed during the march.

Flag Raising and Morning Prayers – 9-9:30 a.m.

Native American Veterans from Okhay Owingeh will raise our flags and offer morning prayers. On Memorial Day, the flag is flown at half-staff until noon -- to both honor the sacrifices of those who gave their lives and to inspire those who continue in their stead.

Book Signing with Joe Galloway 10–10:45 a.m.

Joe Galloway spent 22 years as a foreign and war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, and nearly 20 years as a senior editor and senior writer for U.S. News & World Report magazine. He is the author of the books *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young* and *We Are Soldiers Still*. Mr. Galloway is our keynote speaker for the weekend and will have a book signing in our conference room.

Memorial Day Ceremony 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Please join us as we honor our veterans. The keynote speaker for this year is Joe Galloway. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and beach towels since seating is in our outdoor amphitheater.

Please call Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park at 575.377.2293 if you have questions.

For more information about this and all New Mexico State Park events, please visit www.nmparks.com.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.