



# THE DISPATCH

OCTOBER 2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO DEPT. OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Colorado's dignified final resting place

*Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison*

The DMVA takes pride in serving the veteran community across the state, from the Western Slope to the Eastern Plains.

Located in Grand Junction, the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado is the final resting place for over 2,000 service members.

Opening in 1999, it sits on 22.5 acres of land in the foothills of the Rocky Mountain. It serves as the veteran cemetery for the Western Slope and has a capacity of 3,337 units including caskets, cremated remains, and memorial garden plots for those whose remains were never recovered.

Funeral ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery are conducted at no cost to the family of the veteran. The cemetery is free to enter and is open to the public from dawn until dusk each day.

Beyond a residency requirement, if a servicemember wished to be interred there they must have served on active duty and have been a resident of Colorado either upon enlistment or upon their death.

The bulk of the maintenance of the facility is completed by volunteers. And many of the ceremonies are conducted using the help of local veteran organizations who donate time, money, and resources towards ensuring that their brothers and sisters are laid to rest with honor.

The Veterans Memorial Cemetery is continually developed by its groundskeepers and administrative staff. Recently, the facility was expanded to make room for additional columbaria and make room for more burial plots.



**Patriot Guard Riders stand guard at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction. In the background, a restored WWII Jeep can be seen. The Jeep is one of three, each representing either the Army, Navy, or Air Force, that the cemetery uses in its funeral ceremonies.**

The cemetery has taken steps to prepare for the rise in numbers of funerals for veterans as those who fought in the Korea and Vietnam conflicts continue to age.

“We know that there will be more veteran families coming to us for support,” says Angela Ingalls, the Cemetery Administrator. “We are ready to ensure that each and every one of them gets the honor they deserve.”

The DMVA and the State of Colorado salute the men and women who work tirelessly to serve those we have lost. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

### Keeping memories alive - Page 2



**Check Page 3 for new Professional Development Opportunities and Job Openings!**

# Keeping memories alive

*Parker White, DMVA Public Information Officer & Legislative Liaison*

Angela Ingalls started with the DMVA in December of 2019 as the Cemetery Administrator at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado. While not a veteran herself, she came from a family of servicemembers and found purpose in ensuring that the men and women who serve this country are laid to rest with honor.

“Serving veterans and their families is the best part of this job. When I can see a grieving widow smile, I know that we did our part. That’s what makes this job worth it.”

Angela was born in Ft. Worth, Texas but moved up to Colorado as a child. She attended high school in Castle Rock and went on to graduate from the University of Colorado – Denver. After school she found herself working in cemetery affairs and fell in love with it.

“It’s not just business and balance sheets. It’s people. Getting to be there during the roughest and hardest time in their lives. We work to give them closure so they can start the healing process.”

When she came to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, however, Angela immediately realized that it served as a part of a larger community. She was touched by the outpouring of support from local veteran organizations.

“The community just comes together. They are always there to support the veterans we lay to rest. It changed my perspective on the industry. The jump from corporate to the western slope cemetery allowed me to give back, rather than just selling funerals.”

Angela oversees 6 full-time employees and over 20 volunteers. She recently oversaw a \$2.5 million Capital Construction Project that built 8 new columbaria and improved infrastructure across the cemetery. In addition to her duties as cemetery administrator, Angela began advocating for the veteran community in Grand Junction.

Angela has worked with the Patriot Guard Riders, Wreaths Across America, the American Legion, the Colorado Army National Guard Honor Guard, and a host of other agencies and organizations in order to ensure veterans are given the rights they deserve.

“It’s about honoring the fallen and speaking up for the living. Managing this team and seeing the impact that it has on the cemetery and veteran community is all I could ever ask for.”

Recently, Angela began advocating at the federal level for the family of a soldier who was killed in the Korean War.

PFC Jose Archuleta was killed in action (KIA) in the Korean War on August 11, 1950. For his actions, he was awarded the Silver Star posthumously. His body was never found, and his initial listing of missing in action (MIA) was later changed to killed in action.

When the family came to Angela to have his memory honored and a headstone placed at the Western Memorial Cemetery, she obtained a copy of the report on his death.

Angela was blown away by the story of Archuleta volunteering to cover the retreat of his platoon under heavy fire. An action that would lead to his death.

She began researching and found that the act of heroism that earned him the Silver Star, had the potential to be upgraded to a Medal of Honor.

Angela gathered materials and worked with US Congresswoman Lauren Boebert to submit a request to the US Army to upgrade PFC Archuleta’s Silver Star to a Medal of Honor.

Currently, that request is being reviewed by the Senior Army Decoration Board.

Since taking on her role Angela has gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving our veteran community. Angela, we cannot thank you enough for all you do.



**Pictured: Angela Ingalls with her hand over her heart, during the Missing in America Ceremony**

# Professional Development Opportunities

This month we are highlighting three **no-cost** professional development opportunities available to you. At the end of this section there will be a link to enroll, find more information, and explore other opportunities:

### Human-Centered Design:

In this course, learners will gain an overview and working knowledge of Human-Centered Design and how it will benefit them in their state government roles. This self-paced training is 20 seated hours. It focuses on:

- Examine and develop personas
- Identify and create an empathy map
- Apply these practices to design the day-to-day aspects of the government to meet the needs of all the people of Colorado.

### Agile Management Pathways:

This **self-paced** course is offered by Colorado State University (CSU) Global and is entirely online via the CSU Global online and is approximately 15 seated hours. The course focuses on leadership development and is part of the four-course CSU Global Professional Series. These credits can be applied to an undergraduate degree in Project Management or Organizational Leadership. Other courses in the program include:

- Change Management
- Lean
- Contract Management

### State of Colorado Contract Management:

This **self-paced** course offered by Colorado State University (CSU) Global is the perfect place to start for learners who are new to Contract Management. The course is entirely online via CSU Global online and is approximately 15 seated hours.

This will benefit anyone who manages contracts, task orders, scopes of work, or any type of agreement that requires an awareness of the State's fiscal rules. Individual contributors who interface with and source vendors as well as leaders who manage direct reports who interface with and source vendors who are new to contract management.

For more information about these opportunities go to:

<https://operations.colorado.gov/professional-development-opportunities>

## Job Listings

See below for current openings:

### -Women's Veterans Service Officer

\$4,974.00 Monthly

### -Electrical Trades II

\$5,158.00 Monthly

### Civil Air Patrol Program Manager

\$4,370.00 Monthly

### Lodging Business Manager

\$3,858.00 Monthly

### -Technology Solution Technician

\$3,801.00 Monthly

### -Groundskeeper

\$3,331.00 Monthly

### -Air National Guard Patrol Officer I

\$3,216.00 Monthly

### -General Laborer Greeley

\$2,893.00



## Remembering Burgundy Hodges

We recently lost a member of our DMVA family. Burgundy Hodges was the former Executive Assistant to The Adjutant General of Colorado from 2016 to 2020. She passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, August 28, 2022. A book has been placed outside of the TAG Suite at JFHQ, inside the two-story building, for those who wish to send condolences to the family.

# Major Events Last Month

## Division of Veteran Affairs:

-The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction performed military honors for U.S. Army Private Jose L. Archuleta Sept. 9. Private Archuleta is a Korean War Soldier declared missing in action in 1950, and in 1953, declared deceased by the Department of the Army.

-The Division of Veterans Affairs, along with the Colorado National Guard, and the Department of Human Services conducted a series of visits via helicopter to Veteran Community Living Centers across the states.

## Civil Air Patrol:

-Congressman Neguse presented an award to a cadet at Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, Sept. 27.

-Kansas Wing volunteers conducted two blood transport missions in support of the American Red Cross, on Sept. 21 transporting 27 boxes of blood between three states. Kansas Wing also received a request for an urgent transport of blood products from the ARC Wichita facility to the University of Colorado Medical Center, Aurora.

## CO National Guard:

-The Colorado Hoist Rescue Team, including one UH-60 Black Hawk aircrew with four CONG Soldiers from the High-Altitude Army National Guard Training Site in Gypsum, supported a search and rescue mission for an injured hiker in the vicinity of Madden Peak in La Plata County Sept. 24

- The 140th Wing conducted a readiness exercise at Buckley Space Force Base, Aurora, Pueblo Regional Airport, Pueblo, and Western Nebraska, Sept. 22-25. Wing personnel conducted 24-hour training operations in a simulated combat environment

# Upcoming Events September

## Division of Veteran Affairs:

-The Western Region One Source will be conducting a Stand Down and Resource Tour on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. This event is tailored towards getting homeless veterans in the Grand Junction area the resources and help they need.

-The West Metro Veterans Fair will take place Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm and will include more than 40 veteran non-profit organizations to help those in need.

## Civil Air Patrol:

-On Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> the Colorado Wing of the Civil Air Patrol will be conducting a “Voyage to Mars” teamwork and youth development event through the Challenger Learning Center in Colorado Springs. The event will take cadets through a simulated space mission and will develop critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills while further developing interest in aeronautics and general aerospace knowledge.

## CO National Guard:

-Chief of the National Guard Bureau, will visit the 233rd Space Group, Greely Air National Guard Station, and 120th Fighter Squadron, Buckley Space Force Base, for a mission briefing and flight line tour Oct. 15.

-Army National Guard will make an appearance at the Cherry Creek School District military appreciation football game with a display of a helicopter and ceremonial cannon salute Oct. 1 and a static display of a helicopter at the Denver Public Schools military appreciation event Oct. 28.



The Colorado Combined Campaign runs from Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> and is the official giving program of Colorado state employees. If you want to give back this holiday season, scan the code to the right or visit [www.coloradocombinedcampaign.org](http://www.coloradocombinedcampaign.org)