



## Happy New Year Routt County Veterans!

**JANUARY 2018 ISSUE**

I have been the VSO for a little over 2 years and that time has flown by extremely fast for me. I have met so many wonderful Veterans over the time period and still meeting new faces every week. I know there are many more Veterans out there in our community that I have not met in person yet. Please spread the word and even if they do not need any of my services, at least have them come in so I can meet them and add them to my database. There are a lot of exciting changes coming for the VA, for our Veterans across America and for our Military Men and Woman currently serving. Hopefully things will continue to get better as the year passes.

Please call me **970-870-5469** or email me at [nbreitung@co.routt.co.us](mailto:nbreitung@co.routt.co.us) to set up an appointment with me and please continue to help pass on my contact info to other fellow veterans young and old in Routt County. My hours are as follows: Tues: 7:00am-5pm and Thurs: 7:00am-5pm. For **EMERGENCYs ONLY** please call **651-226-4345** my mobile phone.

## TOPICS THIS QUARTER:

### TRICARE AND VA HEALTHCARE

#### Tricare:

For those of you that served 20+ years and retired from the military that are using Tricare I have attached an additional document that has new information for 2018 on Tricare benefits.

#### VA Healthcare:

Things are constantly changing in the VA Healthcare system as you know for those of you that are enrolled and using it. If you need to enroll in the VA Healthcare system please come in and see me and I will give you the forms and steps for how to do so.

### SIGNING UP FOR VETERAN ID AND MORE

#### New Veteran ID:

<https://www.vets.gov/veteran-id-card/> they are overwhelmed w/ applications. Process is not yet polished. This ID is just for proof you are a Veteran. This is NOT a VA HEALTHCARE ID, and you MUST have an HONORABLE discharge to apply for it. Here is more information on the new ID and other.

<https://themilitarywallet.com/veterans-id-card/>

#### Shopping Online at BX's:

Now Veterans are able to shop online at BX locations and receive substantial discounts on various products. In order to shop online at these sites you must first Register at: <https://www.vetverify.org/form.xhtml> You will need to input your social security number,

birthdate, and upload a copy of your DD214 digitally, in addition to more info in order to sign up. It is a secure site.

## EDUCATION

### **Cyber Security Courses:**

For the younger most recent veterans still thinking about what career path to take, or mid aged veterans looking for a career change, considering going into Cyber Security is a career field that will be in HIGH demand in the future. If you are of sound mind with GEEK like interests this would be a great path for you. They put Veterans first and know that you have served your country and want to continue serving and helping to SECURE our nation.

SANS INSTITUTE is one of the premier online training centers for Cyber Security Courses and degrees. See their courses and online ROADMAP at:  
[www.sans.org/roadmap](http://www.sans.org/roadmap)

## CONNECT WITH FELLOW SERVICE MEMBERS

### **Together We Served**

Great new website that allows you to connect securely with fellow comrades from your branch of service. As soon as I signed on...up popped a couple folks from my squadron and nearby squadrons....Sooooooo COOL!

AIR FORCE: <https://airforce.togetherweserved.com>

NAVY: <https://navy.togetherweserved.com>

MARINES: <https://marines.togetherweserved.com>

ARMY: <https://army.togetherweserved.com/>

COAST GUARD: <https://coastguard.togetherweserved.com>

## USING YOUR VA HOME LOAN

### **Colorado VA Home Loan Limits**

There has been a recent VA Loan increase in the amount you can borrow for your VA Home Loan. <https://www.military.com/money/va-loans/home-purchase/va-loan-limits-for-high-cost-counties.html>

If you have not already come into see me to get your C.O.E. Certificate of Eligibility from the VA please stop by, or you can download it at:

<https://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-26-1880-ARE.pdf>

Complete the form and mail it to appropriate location listed on form. It takes about 30 Days to receive your document. Also check with your local Real Estate professionals to see what specials they are offering for Veterans.

Here are some FAQ's on obtaining and using a VA HOME LOAN

<https://www.military.com/money/va-loans/home-purchase/faqs-on-v-a-home-loans.html>

## FUNDRAISING FOR LOCAL VETERANS EMERGENCY NEEDS

### **Need Your Help With A Large Fundraiser for Local Veterans**

For the past two years I have written a grant for a large ask of about \$35,000 from the State of Colorado and been unsuccessful at getting it awarded. This year local American Legion and VFW would like to do a large Veteran Fundraiser to raise money for our local veteran population to help with emergency needs on a case by case basis. More information will be coming soon about this. We would like to do a brainstorming meeting sometime soon possibly in February to get planning for this underway.

## TRANSPORTATION

The American Legion Post 44 has been awarded the VTF Grant through the State of Colorado for fiscal year July 2017- June 2018 in the amount of \$6,500. This money is meant to “supplement” veteran’s transportation costs, not to pay it in full. The State of Colorado has also cut back on the amount they awarded counties this year. We were granted the money to use this year and if we don’t use it, we will not get the same amount next year. If you travel to any of the VA’s in Colorado or to Craig clinic and do NOT receive reimbursement at the facility, please come to me AFTER your appointment and I will pay you Mileage for your trip.

If you are a Routt County veteran needing transportation to either Grand Junction or Denver VA hospital or clinic in Craig please call me at 970-870-5469 as early as possible so I can make arrangements for your transportation. I also have forms that you need to complete after your trip, in order to get reimbursed.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST TO YOU

Please email me any specific topics of interest to you and I will do my best to uncover the latest up to date information possible of your topic and include it in upcoming issues of my newsletter.