



WELCOME HOME ALLIANCE  
FOR VETERANS

# Welcome Home Montrose Warrior Resource Center Newsletter

April 2016

<http://welcomehomemontrose.org/>



## Swimming PT

It was 115 degrees that summer at Ft Riley, Kansas. We were told that if everyone got swimming suits we would go swimming for PT; some complied, some didn't. Finally, they came through and said, "We have bathing suits and you WILL be going swimming."

They marched us over to the swimming pool by the field house, but then realized that nobody had a key to access the field house to be able to change. They lined us up two abreast outside and one of the cadre went down the row throwing swimsuits. The orders were, "**Quickly! Get out of your clothes and into you swimsuit!**"

**Because the suits came in many sizes, none of them landed at the right sized GI.** It became a "Chinese Fire Drill" to find the suit that would fit you. After a lot of confusion and chaos, we finally got our suits and got to go swimming.

Unfortunately, during the melee, the General's wife had driven by on her way to the PX and has seen an entire field of bare-buttred men running around.

The company commander heard about it from the headquarters and we didn't go swimming again.

Thanks to SGT Bob Koch, US Army 1953-1955 for providing this month's story.

Please submit your Humor In Uniform stories to Kirk Shiflett at:  
kshiflett@welcomehomemontrose.org



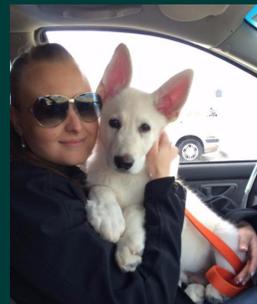
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Welcome Home Montrose  
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Warrior Resource Center  
11 South Park Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401  
970-765-2210

## From the Executive Director - Emily Smith

Spring is in the air...then the snow flies again, typical Colorado weather. Along with the random weather patterns is the nearly unavoidable illnesses of the season.

I tend to lay blame at the feet of our beloved children that I believe to carry germs around



Emily Smith and the newest member of the family who's already fitting in well with the "big dogs". Only worry is possibly loosing him at the cabin in the snow this winter!

with them as if they're Petri dishes, but that may be just me. Hopefully all of you are doing well and enjoying the glimpses of warm weather. I'm excited about the plans for our Freedom Festival (10-11 June 2016) that are coming together well thanks to the efforts of Judi Newland (Sustainability Coordinator), Kirk Shiflett (Executive Assistant), Mike Trickey (Events Coordinator), Gina (Silent Auction Volunteer), Randy Leonard (American Legion Commander), and soon-to-be more hands on volunteers!

[Montrose Monitor article on Emily Smith](#)

[more about Emily](#)

## Where We Have Been & What We've Been

From the Executive Assistant - Kirk Shiflett

## Doing In March:

### Veterans Across Colorado Want THIS!

They say the greatest compliment is imitation and that's just what other communities are wanting to do. Montrose, as a whole community, has done so much over the last few years to take their ever present patriotic support to the next level and it's being noticed. Veteran supporters from the San Luis Valley, located in South East Colorado, traveled across the state to get a closer look at the Warrior Resource Center and see what steps were taken in the beginning to create this organization. Of course, it wasn't just a few people that have made all this possible so they got to see just how much each of you has put into the success and how important the diverse input and effort has been. It was a pleasure hosting them for a couple of days, we hope they didn't walk away too overwhelmed, but each of you should know how impressed they were by YOUR dedication, support, and unity on behalf of all veterans.

### Check Off the Bucket List

We were top 10 finishers!!! Okay...there may have only been 10 teams, but that's completely besides the point \*wink\* \*wink\*, oh the things we're willing to do for charity. In all honesty, it was an extremely fun night filled with laughter, cheers, and even a few

boos regarding some of the judges comments. The event was sold out and raised over \$40,000 for CASA here locally. Thank you to everyone that attended, sponsored, and supported this great cause. My husband and I really did enjoy ourselves and have checked "competing in a dance completion" and "public humiliation for charity" off our bucket list (no, they weren't on there to begin with).

### Veterans AA Group Formed

After seeing the benefits that veterans were gaining by coming together, an individual decided to start an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting just for veterans. Utilizing the "safe" feeling already associated with Warrior Resource Center, the meetings will be held each Monday evening from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

### Amazing Financial Support

It was an honor to be selected by the Montrose Women's Club to receive a generous donation. This support will help go a long way to continuing the programs and services that are available to all our local veterans and their families. It was humbling to sit along side so many other organizations that do so much for our community, THANK YOU!

## Yard/Bake Sale to Benefit the WRC!

Denise Smith, a local military spouse, wanted to help support the Warrior Resource Center and has decided to organize a yard sale! The yard sale will take place on **Saturday, 16April2016** from 0900-1400 and all money raised will directly benefit the WRC.



If you would like to help support her efforts by donating items of some value, volunteering to tag or organize, or help the day of the sale,

It is hard work, which we are enthusiastic about, to build the resources and demands for our veterans. The local resources we encounter daily are an extraordinary gathering of talented community and veteran members; this month our community has been especially proactive by providing recreation to our veterans through Operation Second Chance and the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (TASP). Our great community is unique to veterans and is building a powerful and growing network for change. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who stepped up to cover shifts taking care of our veterans.



Kirk Shiflett,  
Executive Assistant  
Extraordinaire

We welcome your interest in our programs and this expanding community of leaders, volunteers, and donors. We invite you to spread the word about this organization and to continue to read our newsletter and website for the latest updates. Thank you for your contributions. As always, remember our veterans deployed and those who could not come home.

## Where We'll Be & What We'll be Doing in April!

### Strategic Planning

With the goal to continue moving forward and strengthening the organization, the Board of Directors will be having a strategic planning meeting which will include a couple of new board members. We are looking forward to what this year will bring!

### West End Veteran's Coffee

13April2016 starting at 1000 at Hopkins Field Airport in Nucla. All veterans are welcome!

### 947th Drill Support

Every drill we are honored to represent the support of the community by bringing coffee and doughnuts to the local armory for our National Guard troops. Starbucks and Looney Bean take turns donating the coffee and City Market South donates the doughnuts. If you would like to volunteer to help at this months drill on Saturday, 16April, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Eifling, at the WRC at 970-765-2210

### Yard/Bake Sale to Benefit the WRC

\*\*\*SATURDAY, 16 APRIL! 0900-1400\*\*\* Start the Yard Sale season off right and support the WRC at the same time! Doors open to this indoor yard sale at 0900 and once it's gone, it's gone. This is the result of a lot of hard work by one of our local military spouses, Denise Smith, and we can't thank her enough for wanting to support us!

### West End Health Fair

We will once again be participating in the West End Health Fair at the Naturita Elementary School on Saturday 30April16 from 0700-1200. It's a great opportunity to connect with veterans and offer support.

### Second Chance Humane Society Ridgway

There are a couple slots open for the dog behavioral training courses offered at the Ridgway Animal Resource Center (Shelter).

There is a puppy class & an adult dog class being offered on Saturdays for 6 weeks beginning April 16th. If you are interested

please contact Denise directly at 970-323-0742.

We really appreciate Denise, and everyone involved, for stepping up to help us keep our doors open and programs running for the benefit of all our local military, veterans, and their families!

## Welcome New Board Members!

There are some individuals that have been a part of this adventure from the very beginning and continue to serve on our Board of Directors. Pat Blackwelder, Kirk Hartman, and Frank Anderson have dedicated so much over the last four years that it is difficult to find the appropriate words to thank them. Last year, Rich Parr, Terri Wilcox, and Darcy Arnold filled seats and brought with them diverse backgrounds and insight to help take the organization forward in growth and expansion.

Now, it is truly my pleasure to announce that Valerie Meyers, Terri Leben, and Harry Alfred have joined the team. Their passion for our mission shines through and we will greatly benefit from their contributions. While it's still an adjustment, and no one could take the place of Melanie Kline, we are looking towards the future of this organization and it's unlimited potential. It's an exciting time!

## Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV)

HHV is available on

**Thursdays at the WRC from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Come in and check out the kits for veterans, located across from the reception counter.



## Ongoing at the Warrior Resource Center 11 S Park Ave Montrose, CO

**Mondays:** Traveling Gym  
3:30pm-4:30pm  
AA Meeting 5:30pm-6:30pm

**Tuesdays:** Tae Kwon Do  
5:00pm-6:00pm  
(canceled until 04May16) Tai Chi 6:00pm-7:15pm

**Wednesdays:** Traveling Gym  
3:30pm-4:30pm

**Thursdays:** Veterans Coffee 8:00am-10:00am (veterans

please contact the shelter at (970) 626-2273 to claim a spot. After this training course is completed, then you can be considered for their future Dog Therapy Certification course later this year. Details this summer.

## Veterans ID Cards

### Veteran ID Cards: What your options are now and in the future



On July 20, 2015, the president signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015. This act allows Veterans to apply for an identification card directly from VA. The VA identification card will allow Veterans to demonstrate proof of service for discounts at private restaurants and businesses.

It should be noted that the identification card is different from a Veteran Health Identification card or a DoD Uniformed Services or retiree ID card. As such, the VA identification cards cannot be used as proof of eligibility to any federal benefits and does not grant access to military installations.

When available, Veterans will be able to request an ID card from VA for a fee. VA is currently making plans to implement the new law in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible while protecting Veterans' personal information. We estimate that VA will be able to implement the program in 2017. The cost of each card has not yet been determined.

In the meantime, Veterans who would like an identification card that displays their military service do not have to wait until VA implements the new law. You can access and print a free Veterans identification card through the joint VA/DoD web portal, eBenefits. This paper identification card serves as proof of honorable service in the Uniformed Services, as defined in laws about the Department of Defense (DoD). Veterans can get a free eBenefits account by going to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.

\* Your driver's license or state identification card can carry a Veteran designation. This option is currently available in 49 states, along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. We expect the 50th state, Washington, to offer this service in August 2017. Veterans wanting more information should contact their state department of motor vehicles or state department of Veterans affairs at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

ONLY) PTSD Group 10:30am-  
12:00pm  
Eagle Head Cane Presentation FIRST Thursday 1:00pm  
Tae Kwon Do 5:00pm-6:00pm

**Fridays:** Country Jam Session starts at 6:00pm  
Spouse's Luncheon: 29 April 2016 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.  
(military spouses ONLY)  
Wives of Warriors 2:00pm-4:00pm  
(military spouses ONLY)

## VA's Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274

Assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.



Your feedback helps us to continue improving, we appreciate your input, suggestions and ideas.  
Thank you for taking the time!  
[click here](#)



## Business Window Sticker Program

### BUSINESSES:

Sign up to support our troops locally and show YOUR patriotism HERE or contact Judi Newland at 970-765-2210

### VETERANS:

Take a look at the updated list of participating businesses [HERE](#).

### [NEW BUSINESSES LISTED!](#)

Stop by the WRC for a list that includes offers businesses are giving to you and your family this holiday season.

THANK YOU!

## Supply Tent

WHM & WRC merchandise available  
at the Warrior Resource Center  
[Click Here To View Prices & Sizes!](#)



WE HAVE BIG MUGS,  
AND WE CAN NOT LIE!

20% Discount on Mugs for Veterans!



*With the suicide, divorce and unemployment rates so high in our military population, the Montrose community means to set the standard in how to serve those who stepped up to serve all of us. By strengthening our services, identifying and filling our gaps, creating programs and removing the barriers in our community, we are preparing a place where any veteran of our armed forces can thrive in the life they choose.*

Welcome Home Montrose Inc.  
Warrior Resource Center  
11 South Park Ave

Montrose Colorado 81401  
970-765-2210

[www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org](http://www.WelcomeHomeMontrose.org)

Please consider making a donation to support our mission. Click [here](#) now.

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