

2025 PARTNERSHIPS FOR VETERAN & MILITARY HEALTH CONFERENCE
ELEVATING VETERAN VOICES: ADVOCACY & INNOVATION
SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2025
POST CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Wednesday, September 3 (Pre-conference Events)

3:00 pm — Tour of Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center

5:00pm — Reception

Art Exhibit – Meet with Artists from the Veterans Art Council Art Gallery at VFW Post #1

Exhibit Hall Open

Posters on Display

Thursday, September 4

8:00 am — Conference link open/Visit Exhibit Hall/View Posters

8:25 am — National Anthem

8:30 am — Welcome

8:45 am — **Opening Keynote**

Retired U.S. Army **Master Sergeant Cedric King**

The Breaking Point is the Making Point

9:45 am — Q&A

10:00 am — **Break – Visit Exhibit Hall / View Posters**

10:30 am — **Panel Discussion**

VSO's: Veterans Advocating for Veterans

10:30 am — **Deke Letson**, Founder/Executive Director, V.E.T. Veterans Exploration Therapy

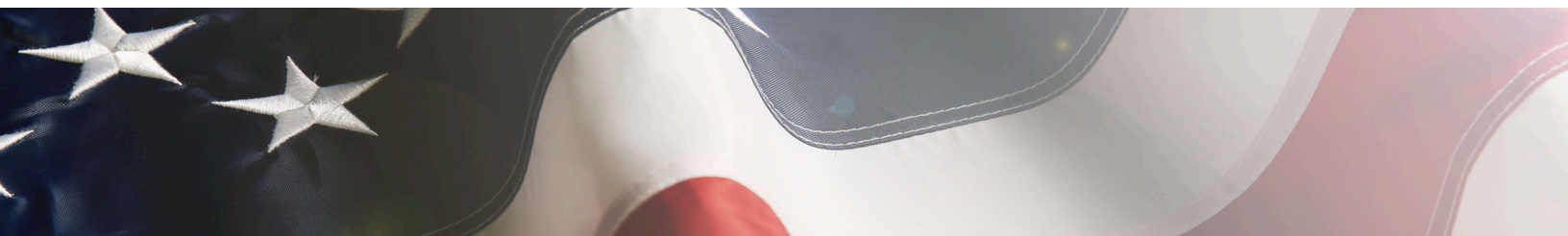
10:45 am — **Jim Stevens**, Past President, VFW Post 1 and Founder of Veterans Art Council

11:00 am — **Nigel Fischer**, Director of Advancement, Guitars4Vets

11:15 am — Q&A

11:30 am — **Lunch Break**

Visit Exhibit Hall / View Posters



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Thursday, September 4

12:30 pm — **Featured Speaker**

Lieutenant General (Retired) **Walter E. Piatt**, CEO, Wounded Warrior Project®

Keeping the Promise: Bringing every warrior home — mind, body, and soul.

1:30 pm — Q&A

1:45 pm — **Break**

Visit Exhibit Hall / View Posters

2:15 pm — **Panel Discussion**

Gold Star Advocacy

2:15 pm — Gold Star Parents: **Dr. Pat Bruckenthal** and **Mr. Ric Bruckenthal**

2:45 pm — Gold Star Sibling: **Kyle Yepsen**, *Deputy Director, CreatiVets*

3:15 pm — Gold Star Spouse: **Adri Loughmiller**, *Gold Star Spouses of America*

3:45 pm — Q&A

4:00 pm — **Break**

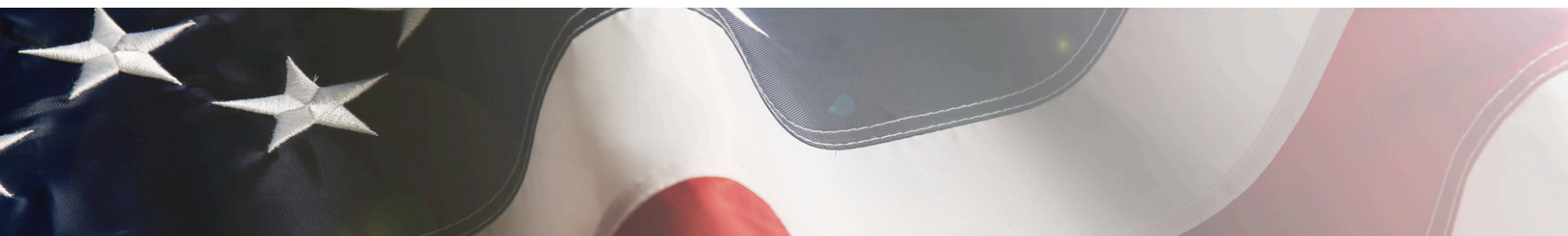
Visit Exhibit Hall / View Posters

4:15 pm — **Featured Speaker : Jake Rademacher**

Film Screening ***Brothers After War*** & **Discussion with Jake**

6:45 pm — **Pizza Party!**

End of Day 1



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Friday, September 5

6:00 am — **Work Out with Cedric**

8:00 am — Conference link open/Visit Exhibit Hall/View Posters

8:30 am — **Opening Remarks**

8:45 am — **Featured Speaker: Steve Schwab**, CEO, [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#)

9:45 am — **Q&A**

10:00 am — **Break**

Visit Exhibit Hall / View Posters

10:15 am — **Panel Discussion**

Narratives of Conflict and Care: Nursing and the Enduring Impact of the Vietnam War

Major (Retired) **Linda Schwartz**, PhD, RN, FAAN, [Vietnam Veterans of America](#)

Lena Yellowtail, MSN, RN, AMB-C

Amy Jacobs, PhD, M.A., B. A., *History Faculty, Kent Denver.*

Sharon Atienza, PhD, MS, AGPCNP-BC

11:45 am — **Q&A**

12:00 pm — **Lunch Break**

Visit Exhibit Hall / View Poster

1:15 pm — **Lightning Rounds (Selected posters)**

2:30 pm — **Transition/Break**

2:45 pm — **Concurrent Track Sessions**

4:15 pm — **Transition/Break**

4:30 pm — **Closing Keynote**

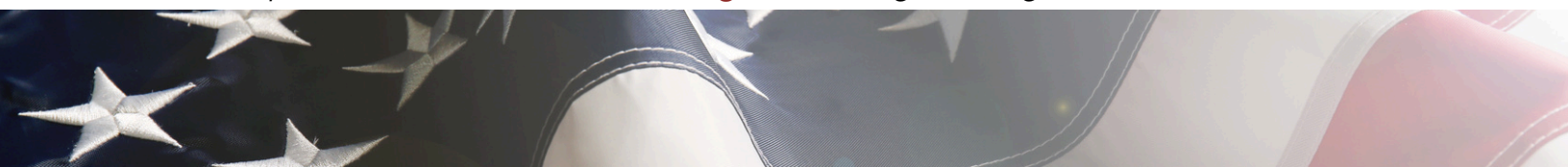
Heroines in Military Health Care: An Historical Perspective

Commander (retired) **Darlene M. Iskra**, PhD, U.S. Navy

5:45 pm — **Adjourn**

End of Day 2

6:30-8:30 pm — **Last Minute Networking:** Informal gathering at the Benson Hotel





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Saturday, September 6

Marcus Institute for Brain Health Art Studio Workshop

"Inkblot, Intuition and I - Creating Art to Connect With Your Inner Wisdom"

Presented by **Gayla Elliott M.A., A.T.R**

Space limited (12 max, 6/session), your choice of one session (same content):

Session 1: 8:00-11:00 am MT

OR

Session 2: 12:00- 3:00 pm MT

Additional fees apply.



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2025 Veteran & Military Health Conference Planning Committee Members*:

<p>Lori Trego, PhD, CNM, FAAN Conference Planning Chair Colonel, US Army (Retired) Professor Director, Consortium for Veteran & Military Health University of Colorado College of Nursing</p>	<p>Mona Pearl Treyball, PhD, RN, CNS, CCRN-K, FAAN Conference Planning Co-Chair Colonel, US Air Force, Nurse Corps (Retired) Professor and Specialty Director, Veteran & Military Health Care Academic Programs University of Colorado College of Nursing</p>
<p>Michael W. Hartford, MHA, LFACHE Captain, US Navy (Retired) Healthcare Consultant Marcus Institute for Brain Health & Avalon Action Alliance</p>	<p>Deborah J. Kenny, PhD, RN, FAAN Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (retired) Associate Professor Division Chair of Health Systems University of Colorado College of Nursing</p>
<p>Leona Lopez, PhD Director, Veteran & Military Student Services University of Colorado Denver & Anschutz Medical Campus</p>	<p>Irma Smith, MSN, RN Marcus Institute for Brain Health University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</p>



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<p>Marcy Polk, DNP, RN, NEA-BC Captain, US Army Reserve VISN 20 Utilization Management Officer & Bed Management System Lead Quality & Patient Safety Service U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Vancouver, WA</p>	<p>Allison Boyrer, MS, MA, BSN, RN Director, Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency Program (PB-RNR) VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System (ECHCS)</p>
<p>Morgan Phoebus, LCSW Case Manager, Office of Student Outreach and Support Student Affairs University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</p>	<p>Haydin Trimble Veteran, U.S. Coast Guard Transition & Support Coordinator, Veteran & Military Student Services University of Colorado Denver & Anschutz Medical Campus</p>
<p>Sarry Moscatel PhD, RN</p>	<p>Rachel Wagmaister, MS Project Manager, Practitioner Development University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences</p>

*The Committee wishes to express our gratitude to **Andrea Huswan, MS, Event Planner**





College of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

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Planning Organizations:

The University of Colorado College of Nursing, Anschutz Medical Campus

The University of Colorado School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences,
Anschutz Medical Campus

The University of Colorado Marcus Institute for Brain Health

Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Administration Medical Center

Avalon Action Alliance

