



EAGLE COUNTY

April 29, 2020

COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Jack Rudder, Chairman
Division of Veterans Affairs East
1355 S. Colorado Blvd, Bldg. C Suite 113
Denver, Colorado 80222

Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605
970-328-8629(f)
eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us
www.eaglecounty.us

Thank you for your letter encouraging county support of local Veterans Service Officers. Eagle County is honored to have one full-time and one part-time VSO serving our local veterans. The Board of County Commissioners prioritizes these critical roles by providing county funding of more than \$70,000 to the VSO team which supports market based pay rates, fringe benefits, training, and outreach as well as community based resources for our veterans such as equine therapy, Eagle County Military Families group, Healing Waters Fly Fishing Program and Come Back Yoga program.

Pat Hammon, an Army veteran is our full-time VSO. She serves on the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs, the Western Slope Veterans Coalition as well as serving on the Western Region OneSource Advisory Board. She actively engages with local veterans providing not only application assistance but connections with local resources to address identified needs for the veterans. And, where there may not be a resource, Pat finds a local resource or brings a new resource to our community.

Carolyn Schneider, a Navy veteran, is our part-time VSO. She works to keep our veteran community informed and connected through regular email communications, a monthly newsletter, and facilitating the local Eagle County Military Families group while also providing application assistance.

A key example of this team's commitment to our Veterans happened during the initial weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak. Pat and Carolyn reached out to every Veteran in their records to be sure they were okay, had the information needed about the outbreak and that the veterans were informed of all available resources. They are calling everyone over the age of 75 or with underlying health conditions every week. This helps stay in touch and adds a sense of support in these times of isolation.

Our local veterans were so appreciative that Pat and Carolyn took the time to connect with each veteran individually and check on them.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the great work being done by Eagle County's VSO team!

Sincerely,

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Chair, Eagle County Board of County Commissioners