

# Women Veterans Conference

JUNE 8-10, 2026

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Three-day gathering for women who have served and their supporters.

## Speakers



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Zaneta Adams**

U.S. Army Veteran, attorney, nonprofit founder, consultant



**TUES SPEAKER**  
**Lorrena Black**

U.S. Army Veteran, Keynote and TEDx Speaker, Founder of She Served LLC



**WED SPEAKER**  
**Suhey Fisher**

U.S. Army Combat Veteran, Founder & CEO of Inner North™ and Sailor's Manifesto



**Toni Kennedy**

U.S. Army Veteran, CEO, Veteran 1st



**Dennis Lutz**

Major General (Ret) U.S. Army



**Terry J. Sabo**

U.S. Air Force Veteran, Director Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency



**Lucas Mansberger**

Senior Advisor, Breakwater Capital, LLC



**Jamie Nummer**

Homes For Heroes Director. Senior Loan Officer and Assoc. Real Estate Broker



**Susan Rosas**

CEO, YWCA, Kalamazoo, Michigan



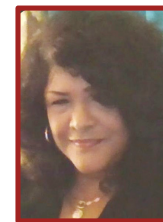
**Clarence Loyd**

Vice President | Chamber Director, Southwest Michigan First



**Elaine Taylor**

Executive Director of the National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)



**Toni Moses**

Relationship Manager, National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC)

### • Elected Officials •

**Bill Huizenga**

Congressman, Michigan 4th District

**Julie Rogers**

State Representative, State of Michigan

**Jen Strebs**

Kalamazoo County Chair of Board of Commissioners

**Drew Duncan**

Vice Mayor, City of Kalamazoo

**Stephanie Hoffman**

Commissioner, City of Kalamazoo, U.S. Army Veteran

• Relaxed Business or casual attire all events except the **BOOTS & GOWNS GALA** • Please visit the various displays and vendor tables •

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### Alison Mencarelli

Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, Battle Creek



### Michele Pascoe

U.S. Navy Veteran, Group Leader Women's Veterans Strong, Veteran Navigator Summit Pointe



### Lindsey King

Volunteer Supervisor, Victim Advocate, YWCA, Kalamazoo, Michigan



### Sherry Brockway

Director of Training and Prevention, YWCA, Kalamazoo, Michigan



### Rachel Newcomb

Women's Health Social Worker, VA Medical Center, Battle Creek



### Michele Martin

Director, VA Medical Center (VAMC) Battle Creek



### Ina Johnson Golden

U.S. Navy Veteran, (Vietnam Era) founder of Hometown Heroes

- Michigan Works
- Can Do Kalamazoo
- K9 Jaeger Foundation

CAN-DO KALAMAZOO

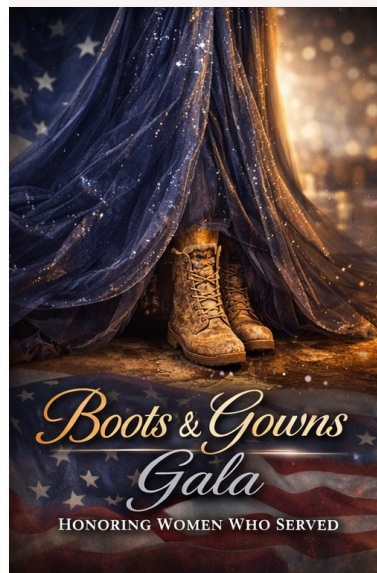


## Networking with DJ 'Awesome Aus'

Monday, June 8 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Shakespeare's Pub (4-min walk from hotel)  
241 E. Kalamazoo Ave. Kalamazoo



U.S. Army Veteran DJ "Awesome Aus" Austria Johnson



## Boots & Gowns Gala

Tuesday, June 9 | 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
An evening to celebrate the courage and legacy of women veterans.

Featuring the Lana Hoffman Trio



• Relaxed Business or casual attire all events except the **BOOTS & GOWNS GALA** • Please visit the various displays and vendor tables •

# Women Veteran Conference

Schedule Mon, Tue and Wed | June 8-10 | Kalamazoo, Michigan USA



## MONDAY JUNE 8

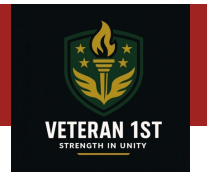
	Activity	Speaker   Notes
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>Continental and Breakfast   Registration</b>	
9:35 am – 9:40 am	Welcome Activities, Flag & Color Guard	MG Dennis Lutz
9:40 am - 9:45 am	Prayer	Leona Carter
9:45 am – 10:05 am	Congressman, 4 <sup>th</sup> District of Michigan	Bill Huizenga
10:05 am – 10:15 am	Welcome: City of Kalamazoo Vice Mayor	Drew Duncan
10:15 am – 10:20 am	City Commissioner & US Army Veteran	Stephanie Hoffman
10:20 am – 10:30 am	Kalamazoo County Commissioner	Jen Strebs
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Director	Terry Sabo
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Next Mission: Thriving Through Menopause	State Rep. Julie Rogers
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	<b>Lunch and Visit Vendor Tables</b>	
12:20 am – 1:10 pm	Empowering Her Voice	Zaneta Adams - KEYNOTE
1:10 pm – 1:55 pm	Financial Boot Camp: Budgets, Credit Scores, and More	<b>WORKSHOP A-1</b> Lucas Mansberger, CFA, CFP®, CAIA
1:10 pm – 1:55 pm	VA Loans for Home – Buying, Selling, and Maintaining Your Home as a Veteran	<b>WORKSHOP B-1</b> Jamie Nummer
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	VA Retirement – What you need to know now	Lucas Mansberger, CFA, CFP®, CAIA
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Financial Boot Camp: Budgets, Credit Scores, and More	<b>WORKSHOP A-2</b> Lucas Mansberger, CFA, CFP®, CAIA
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	VA Loans for Home – Buying, Selling, and Maintaining Your Home as a Veteran	<b>WORKSHOP B-2</b> Jamie Nummer
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	<b>Visit Vendor Tables</b>	
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b>   <i>Buffet-Style</i> at Shakespeare's Pub	
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Shakespeare's Pub   Networking & DJ Awesome Aus	Austria Johnson

## TUESDAY JUNE 9

8:00 am – 8:30 am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions	Clarence Loyd
9:00 am – 9:30 am	She Served. Now She Leads: Building a Business on Your Own Terms	Lorrena Black
9:30 am – 9:45 am	<b>Break – Move to Breakouts</b>	
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Ready to Start a Business?	<b>WORKSHOP C-1</b> Can Do Kalamazoo
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Look Your Best on Paper: Job Seeking and Resume Strategies	<b>WORKSHOP D-1</b> Michigan Works <b>Continued ... page 3</b>

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## TUESDAY JUNE 9 - *continued*

9:45 am – 10:15 am	Art of Networking	<b>WORKSHOP E-1</b> Elaine Taylor
10:15 am – 10:30 am	<b>Break – Move to Breakouts</b>	
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Ready to Start a Business?	<b>WORKSHOP C-2</b> Can Do Kalamazoo
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Look Your Best on Paper: Job Seeking and Resume Strategies	<b>WORKSHOP D-2</b> Michigan Works
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Art of Networking	<b>WORKSHOP E-2</b> Elaine Taylor
11:15 am – 11:45 am	How to Win as a Certified Veteran-Owned Business (National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC))	Toni Moses
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch – Visit Vendor Tables</b>	
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Welcome YWCA & Violence Against Women	Susan Rosas
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	VA Intimate Partner Violence	Alison Mencarelli
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Military Sexual Trauma - PTSD	Michele Pascoe
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Sexual Assault	Lindsey King
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm	Intimate Partner Violence Dynamics	Sherry Brockway
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>Dinner - Boots &amp; Gowns Gala</b> Silent Auction to benefit Veteran 1st	Lana Hoffman Trio

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Reconnecting Women Veterans to Purpose, Identity, and Inner Navigation	Suhey Fisher
10:00 am – 10:45 am	What's New: VA Women's Health	Rachel Newcomb
10:45 am – 11:00 am	<b>Break</b>	
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Exec. Director of the Battle Creek VA Medical Center	Michelle Martin
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	<b>Box Lunch</b>	
1:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Service Animal Resources: K9 Jaeger Foundation	Laurin Jahnke
2:00 pm – 2:45 pm	Beauty, Courage, and Service: Women in WWII	Ina Johnson Golden
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Closing Remarks: Farewells and Inspirations	Toni Kennedy

### • CONTACT •

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Conference  
information &  
registration

