



"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

Table of Contents

August 2017

Message from the Director **Page 2**

**Serving Those Who Served
Conference/Soldiers Home
Residents Enjoy the Eclipse/Port
Orchard Visit from USS Turner** **Page 3/4**

**Earn While You Learn with
Apprenticeships/Forever G.I. Bill
Signed into Law/Subscribe to
WDVA Events** **Page 5/6**

**American Job Center Opens on
JBLM/ 2017 Korean Wreathlaying
Ceremony/ Nominate Woman
Veteran of the Year** **Page 7/8**

**Nominate: Outstanding Service
to Veterans Awards/
NOW HIRING: Four WA Veterans
Homes** **Page 9/10**

**Homeless Women Vets get New
Wing/Contact Us** **Page
11/12**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. This annual event honors our missing service members and their families, and highlights the government's commitment to account for them.

Across the country, local POW/MIA ceremonies will take place, culminating with countless events and the national ceremony in Washington, DC, on Recognition Day.

For many years Washington State Veteran Darrell Pilat planned a ceremony at the State Capitol on the third Friday in September to ensure his brothers were not forgotten.

The torch has now been passed to Rich Angeli, VFW POW/MIA Chairman, who is planning the state's September 15 Event.

Washington State POW/MIA Recognition Event

Join us for the Annual Observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day at the POW Monument on the Capitol Campus. Starts at 10 a.m. on September 15, 2017 Capitol Campus, Olympia
More Info: richangeli@hotmail.com

WDVA Hot Jobs:

[Attending Physician/Medical Director Orting](#)

[Nursing Assistant Residential Living \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 2 \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 Resident Care Manager WWWVH](#)

[Registered Nurse 3-Staff Development Coordinator/Investigations](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov



"Serving Those Who Served"

A Message from the Director Lourdes "Alfie" E. Alvarado-Ramos Alfie@dva.wa.gov



NEW TBI Mobile App Launch: Max Impact

On August 23rd, your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs launched the Max Impact TBI App aimed at empowering veterans, family, friends and caregivers of veterans living with the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury.

MAX, is a virtual service dog designed to make an impact for Veterans who have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury. Veterans can use a screening tool to determine whether symptoms may be related to a TBI, be connected with area providers who can help, learn how to manage symptoms and better relax, and connect with other veterans with TBIs all in the safety of their own home.

Of the 600,000 veterans who call Washington State Home, it is estimated that one in five have some level of a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Traumatic Brain Injury is an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. Examples of external forces are falls, exposure to blasts, being hit in the head, sudden and violent change in air pressure and more.

It can be hard for individuals to determine whether symptoms are related to TBI and often they are attributed to other issues such as depression, anxiety or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The app may be a tool to help a Veteran seek treatment for TBI or learn how to better manage TBI symptoms.

App is available to download for free at iTunes and the Google Play Store.

iTunes: [https://
itunes.apple.com/us/app/max-
impact/id1266331417?
ls=1&mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/max-impact/id1266331417?ls=1&mt=8)

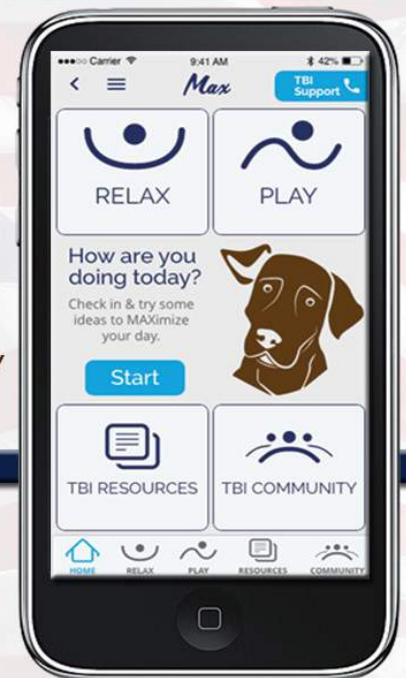
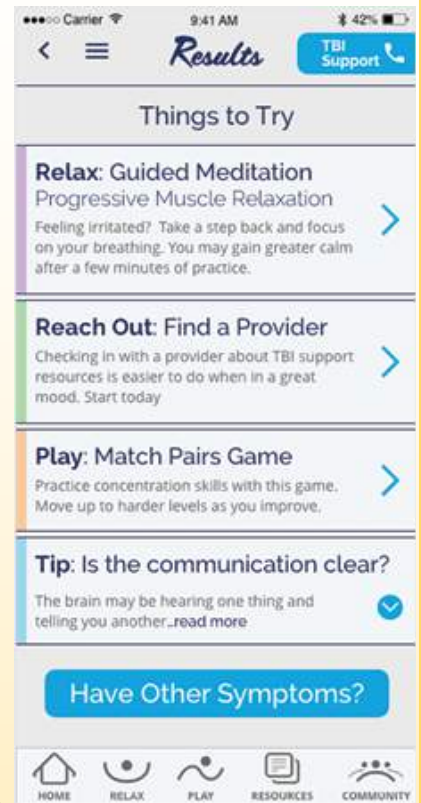
Google Play: [https://
play.google.com/store/apps/
details?
id=gov.wa.dva.maximpact](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.wa.dva.maximpact)

Or search for it on iTunes and/or Google Play store as just one word, "MaxImpact"

More Information on the Max Impact TBI Mobile App:

[WDVA Website](#)

[Max Impact Brochure](#)



Serving Those Who Served Conference held in Wenatchee



WDVA held their second annual, "Serving Those Who Served Conference," at the Wenatchee Convention Center July 26 and 27.

This two-day veteran's resource providers conference was not only aimed at establishing better collaboration and connection for all those who work with veterans and their families, but also provided a wealth of knowledge from industry experts in areas that impact the lives

of our veterans and their families.

The conference saw more than 150 attendees featuring individuals from organizations such as Washington National Guard, Federal VA, TriWest, Department of Corrections, Veteran Service Officers and many others were both presenting and in the crowd.



"Our goal with the conference was to provide the most current information and resources about veterans and their families in Washington State," said Schmidt. "Ultimately, we hope to better serve all individuals and groups that are Serving Those Who Served!"



Pictured Here: Veterans speak and perform their military experience during The Telling Project's performance at the Serving Those Who Served Networking Social Hour at Pybus Market on July 26, 2017.

If you missed it, you can view presentation videos and download materials at: <http://dva.wa.gov/program/serving-those-who-served>

VIEWABLE BREAKOUT SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- County Veterans Assistance Programs
- Federal VA
- Local Housing Providers
- Military Department and Department of Defense
- County Providers
- Veteran Service Organizations

VA Geriatrics & Gerontology Committee Visit Port Orchard

-conference

Our Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard hosted the VA Secretary's Committee on Gerontology and Geriatrics.

The committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology by assessing the capability of VA health care facilities to meet the medical, psychological and social needs of older veterans and by evaluating VA facilities designated as Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers.

We presented the concept for a behavioral health unit to better serve the needs of our more challenged

Port Orchard Veterans Home Residents Enjoy Visit from USS Turner Joy



The USS Turner Joy Leadership school, Chief selectees visited the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard for a service project.

They cleared the overgrown garden areas to restore a better view of the bay. After the project was complete, the chief selectees will return to visit the residents in their dining rooms throughout campus.



Washington Soldiers Home Residents Enjoy Eclipse

Residents at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting joined the eclipse viewing fun on August 21, 2017. Some of the residents even recalled seeing solar eclipses many decades ago. Looks like they had an amazing view!



Thunderbirds Pilots and Crew Visit Spokane

Spokane Veterans Home Residents welcomed the Thunderbirds to visit the facility and sign their flight books.

While there, the Thunderbirds provided details about flying their aircraft and about the many events and locations they travel to.

We send special thanks to the Thunderbirds pilots and crew for taking the time to visit Veteran residents.



Earn While You Learn: Apprenticeships

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Earn while you learn

Looking for a hands-on, living-wage job in a booming industry? Washington State offers apprenticeships in a variety of fields to include **construction, aerospace manufacturing, maritime, IT, and more**. Use your GI Bill to learn career skills, securing a job through apprenticeships. Go to the Hawk Transition Center or the L&I website to learn more.



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

www.Lni.wa.gov/Apprenticeship



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Forever G.I. Bill Signed into Law

The *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017*, H.R. 3218, passed by the House and Senate was signed by the President on August 16, 2017.

Also known as the *Forever G.I. Bill*, the legislation improves provisions in the existing G.I. Bill and provides more flexibility for using educational benefits. The measure contains a number of provisions that specifically impact disabled veterans and their families, including:

Increases monthly Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) payments by about 40 percent effective October 1, 2018 (note: effective August 1, 2018, DEA decreases from 45 to 36 months to be consistent with other VA educational programs);

- Eliminates the 15-year limit for using the G.I. Bill, allowing for the use of the educational benefits for life, for those who were discharged after January 1, 2013;
- Grants full G.I. Bill benefits to Purple Heart Recipients, regardless of total time in service effective August 1, 2018;
- Provides G.I. Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care for active duty injuries effective August 1, 2018;
- Restores used G.I. bill benefits to enrolled students whose school permanently closes after January 1, 2015, effective November 14, 2017; and Allows veterans who are National Guard members and Reservists who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits, to "pause" their eligibility so their time under the VR&E program is not negatively affected while called up for active duty orders. This provision takes effect immediately.

To see the complete text of the *Forever G.I. Bill* [click here](#)

DON'T MISS OUT ON VETERAN/MILITARY EVENTS IN THE STATE! Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Events Calendar

Subscribe to our WDVA Events Tab by clicking **Subscribe**

www.facebook.com/WDVA
<https://www.facebook.com/wsdva/events>

Events 108 Subscribers

THIS WEEK

MAY 4	Job Fair Success Workshop Tomorrow 9 AM · by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	ERP Bldg 551 Barnes Blvd...	<input type="button" value="★ Interested"/>
MAY 5	Interview Ready Thu 9 AM · by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	Employment Readiness Res...	<input type="button" value="Get Tickets"/> <input type="button" value="★ Interested"/>
MAY 5	Military Job Fair Thu 10 AM · by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	American Lake Conference Ctr Tacoma	<input type="button" value="★ Interested"/>

Don't have Facebook...No Problem!

Join our Listserv and/or visit our WDVA Website Calendar

Listserv: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WDVA&A=1>

WDVA Web Calendar: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/calendar>



American Job Center Opens on Joint Base Lewis-McChord



Joint Base Lewis-McChord ([JBLM](#)) in Washington state was opening the first American Jobs Center (AJC) on a military base Friday for transitioning service members, [spouses](#) and working-age dependents. Col. Daniel Morgan, JBLM's garrison commander, was joining with the Washington State [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and the Washington State Military transition council at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the AJC, a project of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

The AJC will bolster the existing support services at JBLM, and public-private partnerships in the region, to aid transitioning service members in joining the civilian workforce. In a statement, Morgan said that bringing the AJC to JBLM was the result of two years of planning to take advantage of the AJC's expertise in training, referrals, career counseling, job listings, and other services.

"In an era of fiscal uncertainty," Morgan said, "the best way ahead is to link official federal, state, and local resources in a sustainable manner so we have transparency across the spectrum and can measure our success versus a loosely knitted approach that is overwhelming our people." "The American Job Center provides this transparent, collaborative, and sustainable approach for all stakeholders that can network veterans and the labor force anywhere and anytime," Morgan said.

Chris Gentz, a deputy transitions manager at JBLM's Service Member for Life -- Transition Assistance Program, said that setting up the AJC at the base could be the forerunner to AJCs at other military bases. "We are at the forefront involving anything transitions" at JBLM, Gentz told the Northern Guardian, the base newspaper. "We're really the trial board because of the success of our initiatives."

"The hope is once we've proven the success with this formula, (the American Job Center) can be transplanted into other military installations," Gentz said. The American Job Center will provide specialists to help veterans work on improving their resumes, and developing networking tools and interviewing skills. AJCs across the nation reportedly served more than one million veterans last year. [Via Military.com](#)

2017 Korean Wreathlaying Event



Pictured Here: On July 22nd, we celebrated once more with Korean and American veterans of the Korean War for the 64th Armistice. Called the forgotten war... it is not forgotten, especially for the Korean people and our veterans who served in that war. Another fantastic day on our Capitol campus! – *WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado*

Nominate Now: Washington Woman Veteran of the Year

The Washington Woman Veteran of the Year Award recognizes a woman veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a veteran and an outstanding member of the community.

This award is open to all women veterans in Washington State. Nominations may be submitted by any individual, organization or institution.

NOMINATE By September 10, 2017:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetSF8nH22j0dJcwxhB48ChnHy0jIR8gBlpKM7EVER5X-EnSA/viewform>

2017 Vietnam Traveling Wall Visits DuPont PowderWorks



The American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Memorial made a four-day visit to DuPont, with an opening ceremony July 27 and a closing event Sunday. More than 1,800 people visited the park on the first two days, according to Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Stewart, Marine Corps Headquarters, the Pentagon.

Nominate Now: Outstanding Service to Vets Awards



2016 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awardees

The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee is still accepting nominations for the 2017 Washington State Outstanding Awards for Service to Veterans.

These awards presented by the Governors Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, are open to all who serve veterans in Washington State and nominations may be submitted by any person, organization or institution.

Nominations are due by September 17, 2017 and the winners will be honored in the 52nd Auburn Veterans Day Parade, followed by a special luncheon after the parade.

There are three Nomination Categories to choose from:

Superior Award – This award is the Committee's highest honor and is given to recognize clearly superior accomplishments, achievements and outstanding performance.

Distinguished Service Award – This award is used to recognize significant accomplishments and special contributions.

Team Award – This award is designed to recognize significant accomplishments of a team or group of individuals. This may be for their contributions on a special project, special contribution and outstanding performance.

NOMINATE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee4uzYqueDn-FliNkhr8dvfsa4g6Q-SuhkjS6ikZD7zC6Cyg/viewform>

For more information, contact Liza Narciso at 360-725-2157 or at lisan@dva.wa.gov

Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall



The next Governor's VAAC Town Hall will be held at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (15005 NE 65th, Suite 106, Vancouver, WA 98682 on September 21, 2017.

We want to hear from you about Veterans Issues Important to you and your family!

The VAAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Members divide into small groups and plan Town Hall meetings in locations across the state to serve two purposes:

- 1) To provide a forum for veterans and their families to learn about the services and resources available in their own communities.
- 2) To educate VAAC members on issues that are important to veterans and their families across the state so that the VAAC can share this information with the WDVA Director and the Governor.

Meet area leaders and providers to learn about local veterans services and benefits, and hear about veterans issues being debated in the Washington State Legislature.

- Receive information on employment, education and housing benefits.
- Learn about the wide range of benefits available including compensation and pension and military funeral honors.
- Find out about counseling, financial assistance and support for you and your family.
- Learn how to enroll in VA Healthcare and apply for state and federal benefits.

Learn more at www.dva.wa.gov or 1-800-562-0132 option 1

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"Serving Those Who Served"

Homeless Women Vets get New Wing

The ribbon has been cut and doors are open at the Building 9 Women Veterans Wing at the Building 9 for Veterans Transitional Housing Program in Port Orchard.

"Although we have always served women veterans at Building 9, we saw a need for them to have additional privacy and more security in the building," said Building 9 Project Specialist Melissa Duffy. "So our team worked together to create a women's wing complete with a beautiful sitting room."



This expanded wing in the Building 9 Transitional Housing Program will provide transitioning homeless female veterans with the privacy and space they need.

The Building 9 Veterans Transitional Housing Program is a 60-bed transitional housing facility available to assist veterans in need of stable housing, vocational rehabilitation and increased income potential.

Veterans participating in the Building 9 program are surrounded with supportive staff and services designed to assist and lead them to productive completion of the program and ultimately a successful return to the community.

"I am really excited about this program," Duffy said. "It makes me proud to see so many clients and individuals willing to put in so much effort and come together to accomplish this."



Other Building 9 facility services include case management, mental health services, an on-site job center, on-site chemical dependency services and transportation to case management-related appointments. The facility is located on bus lines and is accessible from the Seattle area by ferry.

Those interested in becoming eligible for admission into the Building 9 Transitional Housing Program must have served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, received an Honorable Discharge, been homeless for one or more nights, be clean and sober for at least the last 30 days, have a desire to lead a clean and sober lifestyle, have a desire to make meaningful life changes leading to independent living, and be willing to undergo a criminal background check.

"It's a great place for women to be able to come and come together and work on their transition out of homelessness," said Duffy.

For more information, contact Building 9 at 360.895.4371 or email bldg9@dva.wa.gov.

via Northwest Military <http://www.northwestmilitary.com/news/army-west-blog/2017/07/homeless-wo...>



"It's All About Us"
2017 Women Veterans Summit

September 16, 2017
Lynnwood Convention Center
3711 196th St. SW, Lynnwood, WA

REGISTER: www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-women-veterans-summit-tickets-33634142626

POC: LisaN@dva.wa.gov



Keep informed about upcoming Veteran events by checking
our Calendar/Public Events Page often
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/calendar>

Have an event of interest to Veterans you want others to know about?
Send fliers and information to
communications@dva.wa.gov

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communications@dva.wa.gov

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View previous editions here:
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters>

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