



"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

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WDVA Hot Jobs:

- [Attending Physician/Medical Director Orting](#)
- [Nursing Assistant Certified Port Orchard](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse 2 Orting 0133](#)
- [Nursing Assistant Residential Living \(Walla Walla\)](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse 2 On-Call Port Orchard](#)
- [Registered Nurse 2 On-Call Port Orchard](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

Honoring Veterans at the State Veterans Cemetery

Our Washington State Veterans Cemetery at Medical Lake had the honor of interring 43 individuals (41 veterans and 2 spouses) on October 3, 2017. The remains were found



Those interred came from the following services:

- US Army
- US Marines
- US Navy
- US Air Force
- US Merchant Marines

Their dates of service spanned 1872 - 1990 and included service in every major war from WWI up to the Persian Gulf.

The cremated remains were found in storage and ended up at various funeral homes before coming to Medical Lake.



Special thanks goes to Yakama Warriors Association's Color Guard for presenting the colors, VFW State Commander John Bradburn for providing remarks during the ceremony and to members of the Patriot Guard Riders, whom read names and also tolled a bell for each interment.



"Serving Those Who Served"

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



Working Together To Serve Veterans and Their Families

I want to take a moment to personally thank the Veteran Service Officers and Advocates who took time to attend the WDVA one-day Veteran Service Officer Information Session on September 20th.

Not only did we have the opportunity to hear some fantastic presentations by experts in the field, we also took time to break bread together and strengthen the partnerships that make our Field Services Network the best! I am incredibly impressed with the level of professionalism exhibited by each of you who attended. Your attentiveness to the presenters and your willingness to ask questions is what made the day far more than just a series of PowerPoint presentations!

It is amazing to me that we still find veterans and family members struggling in communities across our state who simply don't know that they could be eligible for help from the Federal VA, help that they earned by honorably serving our Country! That's where each of you come in. You are the first point of contact to help someone apply for a financial or medical benefit that has the potential to change their lives in a positive way.



A special thanks goes to Chris Nolan and Brent Neeser from the VA St. Paul Pension Center, for travelling to Washington State and putting more tools in our collective tool-boxes! Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension are two areas where I see real possibilities for increasing claims and connection to benefits. I have challenged my team at WDVA to actively seek out veterans and widows for whom

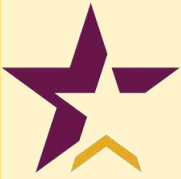
this benefit could make a difference, and then work to get them connected! In addition, Annie Deandrea from the Washington Military Department, Cesar Romero the Assistant Director for the Seattle VA Regional Office and our own Caesar Plasencia provided excellent information on the claims process.



As you continue working in your communities, please continue to use your VSO or our team at WDVA if you encounter an issue you're not familiar with. Let's make sure that veterans and families are directed to the right service even if it's a service provided by another organization!

Thank you for doing what you do, and helping to *Serve Those Who Served!*

Operation Family Caregiver—Making a Difference in WA



OPERATION FAMILY CAREGIVER

A program of The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving

Being thrust into the role of caregiving for a veteran can be overwhelming, and Operation Family Caregiver (OFC) offers practical assistance to make the transition smoother. Created at the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, and funded by the Bob Woodruff Foundation, this program is now offered in Washington State through a partnership with Easterseals Washington.

With OFC, a specially trained Caregiver Coach provides one-on-one, free and confidential support to anyone caring for a service member or veteran with service-related injuries, both seen and unseen. The key is to provide evidence-based problem-solving strategies for anyone who has taken on the responsibility of helping a service member or veteran get through each day. Outcomes include caregivers who report lower daily stress, higher satisfaction with life, and improved health.

Meredith McMackin, an OFC Caregiver Coach and Gold Star and Blue Star Mother, understands the pressures of caregiving and the hesitancy to ask for help. She uses the OFC tools in the way that is most convenient and comfortable for the caregiver. “We often meet virtually or check in through quick phone calls,” Meredith comments. “We brainstorm creative ideas to solve problems ranging from inaccessible living areas to jam-packed schedules, and we emphasize self-care and stress reduction. The sessions are focused and pro-active!



Space is still available, and more info can be found here: <http://www.easterseals.com/washington/our-programs/military-veteran-services/operation-family-caregiver.html>, or call 206-281-5700, ext. 123.

Obtain a Veteran Designation on your ID Card/Drivers License



You can get a Veteran designation on your driver licenses or ID card. It's free if you're only changing your Veterans status.

Bring your DD Form 214 that shows "honorable" or "general under honorable conditions" status to a [driver licensing office](#). If you don't have your DD Form 214 you can [request your military service records online, by mail, or by fax](#) (archives.gov).

LEARN MORE: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/military.html>

Port Orchard Veterans Home Residents Enjoy Visit from USS Turner Joy



What a wonderful time to have Bikes 4 All visit the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting. The organization visited veteran residents at the home on August 29th.

Bikes 4 All is an amazing organization that provides adaptive bicycles & equipment to assist our residents in riding bikes. We would like to thank them for providing lots of smiles and joy all around!



Spokane Veterans Home Residents Enjoy Tailgate Party



On September 15th, our Spokane Veterans Home had the VFW Department of Washington Auxiliary, Combat Vet Association and the Buffalo Soldiers groups join together and volunteer with the Spokane Veterans Home to put on a fun Tailgate party for our residents.

The groups assisted with the set up for the event, helped the resident's soak four nurses in the Dunk Tank and one of the residents even dunked our Activities Director six times in a row (calling all Seattle Mariners scouts).

Residents enjoyed a Tailgate BBQ and the groups helped out by bringing their motorcycles and trucks. Special thanks also goes out to The Combat Vet Association for making shadow boxes for all of our residents that included their service medals. #WeLoveOurCommunity



Washington Soldiers Home 2017 Family Picnic



The aroma of delicious barbecue ribs and chicken catered by WARTHOG Barbecue Pit piqued the appetites of the residents and guests during the WA Soldiers Home 2017 Family Picnic.



The festivities were complete with live music by the Dream Chasers and antics by Melon-E the Clown.



Thank you to Resident Council for sponsoring the catering and live music, as well as volunteers and staff for your contributions to this event!



Earn While You Learn: Apprenticeships

APPRENTICESHIPS

Defending America, Now Build America



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



"Serving Those Who Served"

www.Lni.wa.gov/Apprenticeship

www.dva.wa.gov

Federal VA Unveils Claims Submission Option to Complete Claims within 30 Days

As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) continued efforts to improve timeliness of services for Veterans and their families, VA unveiled the Decision Ready Claims (DRC) initiative, a disability claims submission option with accredited Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) that promises to deliver faster claims decisions to Veterans and their families.

"The DRC initiative is a collaborative effort between VA and VSOs to help Veterans receive faster decisions on disability claims," said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. "VA works closely with participating VSOs to make sure they are properly trained in this new process and given the tools they need to participate successfully in the program on behalf of the Veterans they serve."

Veterans who choose to submit their claim under DRC can expect to receive a decision within 30 days from the time VA receives the claim. VSOs will ensure all supporting evidence — such as medical exams, military service records, etc. — is included with the claim submission. This advance preparation by the VSOs allows claims to be assigned immediately to claims processors for a quick decision.

DRC was first implemented May 1, 2017, at the St. Paul (Minn.) Regional Office, and is now available at all VA regional offices. While DRC is currently limited to claims for increased compensation (commonly known as claims for increase), and requires Veterans to work with VSOs, VA's goal is to expand the types of claims accepted under the initiative and allow Veterans other ways to submit their claim under DRC.

DRC is another key step in aggressively modernizing VA's benefits delivery to Veterans in a fully digital operating environment. With electronic claims processing as a foundation, VA's innovation will improve service to Veterans, their families, and survivors.

2017 Women Veterans Summit held in Lynnwood



The 2017 Women Veterans Summit was recently held on September 16, 2017 at the Lynnwood Convention Center with hundreds of women veterans in attendance.

This year's theme was "It's All About Us...Our Self-Awareness, Self-Love, Self-Confidence...It's Time to Be Good to Ourselves," and breakout sessions were taught on career development, VA Benefits & Resources and suicide awareness. Shellie Willis, provided the event's keynote presentation from

Redefining Your Future, which works to Empower service women, women veterans, and military spouses to transition while completely redefining their lifestyles and perspectives following military service.

We would like to thank the Inter-Tribal Women Veterans Color Guard, Mayor of Lynnwood Nicola Smith and the many organizations that supported this year's Women Veterans Summit.



To learn more about upcoming conferences and events, please visit: <http://dva.wa.gov/women/women-veterans-summit>



Civil War Veteran PVT Zachariah Stucker Honored



For 103 years, the cremated remains of the Civil War veteran were forgotten in storage, ending up at the historic Lake View Cemetery on Seattle's Capitol Hill.

No one came forward to lay claim to the remains of Pvt. Zachariah M. Stucker. So at the cemetery they were stored in an aboveground crypt, along with 1,700 other unclaimed souls.

"It was 100 years of dust, and some human ash, as unfortunately the urns had had many moves and gotten scattered a little," says

Loretta-Marie Dimond, of Kent.

There, in a copper utility box, wrapped in paper, placed in a cardboard box, were the ashes of Stucker.

Dimond and her husband, Jim, both in their early 60s, both history majors in college, have made it their passion to find a resting place for Civil War veterans.

"It was the most important event in American history. It created the nature of the federal union, changed it from the United States 'are' to the United States 'is,'" she says.

On September 28th, their hours of research, along with that of others who search for veterans never laid to rest in this country, such as the [Missing in America Project](#), culminated in the interment of Pvt. Stucker.

It was done with full military honors at the Veterans Home Cemetery near the [Washington Veterans Home](#) in Port Orchard. Some 400 people attended, many of them vets with their "Vietnam vet" or "U.S. submarine veteran" caps. Some were in wheelchairs and it was with slow motion that they'd take off their caps when the national anthem was played. READ MORE: [Via Seattle Times](#)



Submit 2017 Veterans Day Events & Observances

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting event and observances information for 2017 Veterans Day. Every year, WDVA compiles various events taking place across the state and combines them into one document to share with the community and the media.

Please submit your 2017 Veterans Day Events & Observances to our communications inbox at communications@dva.wa.gov no later than October 20th.

2017 POW/MIA Recognition Event



The National POW/MIA Recognition Day was observed on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. This annual event honors our missing service members and their families, and highlighted the government's commitment to account for them. Across the country, local POW/MIA ceremonies took place, culminating with countless events and the national ceremony in Washington, DC, on the POW/MIA Recognition Day.

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Causes
1,000,000
hospitalizations and
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and difficulty
breathing

Adults 65+,
people with chronic
illnesses, smokers, and
children are
especially at risk

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as easy as getting a
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can also ask
your doctor about
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vaccine

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www.va.gov to
make an
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today!

Get the benefits you've earned and the vaccines you need. **#Vax4Vets**

Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall



The next two Governor's VAAC Town Halls will be held in Aberdeen at the Pearsall Building (2109 Sumner Avenue, Aberdeen, WA 98250) on October 19, 2017, and again in Spokane at the Lincoln Center (1316 North Lincoln St., Spokane, WA 99201) on November 16, 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

Submit 2017 Veterans Day Events & Observances

2017 VETERANS DAY

2017 Events & Observances for Washington State

November 11, 2017 www.dva.wa.gov

<p>Washington Soldiers Home, Orting (November 11)</p>	<p>2:00pm Chilson Hall, Orting Veterans Home Terryn@dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Washington Veterans Home, Retsil (November 11)</p>	<p>10:00am 1141 Beach Dr, Lower Activity Room, Retsil WA TamiR@dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Spokane Veterans Home (November 11)</p>	<p>10:00am, Saturday, 222 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 Jeanette Sauer-Smith, 509-344-5788 JeanetteS@dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Walla Walla Veterans Home, Walla Walla (November 11)</p>	<p>2:00pm 92 Wainwright Dr., Walla Walla WA 99362 TonyaW@dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Auburn Veterans Day Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 11)</p>	<p>11:00am, Saturday, Nov 11 East Main St Downtown Auburn Kristy Pachciarz, 253-931-3052 kpachciarz@auburnwa.gov</p>
<p>Thurston County Veterans Council (November 11)</p>	<p>10:30am—Music 11:00am Capitol Rotunda, Olympia, WA TCVCChairman@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Veterans Day Event Hosted by Veteran's Employee Resource Group (VERG) (November 11)</p>	<p>8:30am Winged Victory Memorial on Capitol Campus Olympia Jennifer.Mcdaniel@dva.wa.gov</p>

Information has been provided to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by sponsors of events. www.dva.wa.gov
facebook.com/WSVDVA or twitter.com/WDVA



Submit 2017 Veterans Day Events & Observances

2017 VETERANS DAY

2017 Events & Observances for Washington State

November 9 - November 11, 2017 www.dva.wa.gov

<p>Tahoma National Cemetery "20th Veterans Day Ceremony" (November 11)</p>	<p>11:00am 18600 Southeast 240th Street Kent, WA 98042 Thomas.yokes@va.gov or 425-413-9614</p>
<p>West Valley High School Spokane (November 10)</p>	<p>9:45am 8301 E Buckeye Ave, Spokane, WA 99212 Carol.Preston@wusd.org</p>
<p>Veterans Day Concert @Benaroya Hall, (November 11)</p>	<p>2:00pm Benaroya Hall 206-417-5677 bspicer@washelli.com</p>
<p>Fort Vancouver National Site Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 11)</p>	<p>10:00am Ceremony/11:00am Parade Fort Vancouver National Site Natalie Hantho, 360-992-1804 events@thehistorictrust.org</p>
<p>Grandview's Veterans Day "505" Brunch (November 11)</p>	<p>10:00am, Must RSVP Grandview Community Center, 812 Wallace Way, Grandview James Davidson, 509-830-3849 adjutant.walegion57@gmail.com</p>
<p>Rotary Veterans Day Program (November 9)</p>	<p>12:00pm , \$15 for lunch Wenatchee Red Lion Ford Barrett, ford@financial-alternatives.net</p>
<p>West Richland Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 11)</p>	<p>9:30am Downtown West Richland (Van Giesen St.) May Hayes, 509-967-0521 mayhayes@westrichlandchamber.org</p>

Information has been provided to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by sponsors of events. www.dva.wa.gov
facebook.com/WSVDVA or twitter.com/WDVA



DOWNLOAD: Max Impact TBI Assistant Mobile App

Max
IMPACT
TBI ASSISTANT



This is a Washington Department of Veterans Affairs mobile app designed for veterans, family members, and resource providers that work and for veterans.



Download the free app today at:

iTunes: <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>

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

2017 Tribal Veterans Summit

The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) participated in the 2017 Washington State Native American Veterans Summit on September 26-27.

This event was hosted by the Suquamish Tribe in Suquamish WA and cosponsored by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations.



The purpose of this event was to share knowledge on federal and state benefits and programs available to American Indian and Alaska Native veterans including service-connected disability and nonservice-connected pension benefits, and to develop collaborative approaches to supporting these veterans in their own communities.

This event also helped tribal, federal, and state leaders in the veterans community to

develop a better network of veterans service providers and also provided an opportunity for these service providers to learn about and celebrate American Indian culture and history in order to better serve these veterans and their families.

There are approximately 6,000 American Indian and Alaskan Native veterans in Washington State. American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the United States armed forces at a higher rate than any other ethnic population and they have access to some unique programs in order to better meet their needs in their communities, in addition to having the same access to all the other veterans benefits that any veteran is eligible for.



Earlier this year the Suquamish Tribe became the first American Indian tribe in Washington State to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, which was made possible by recent Federal rule changes that allow accredited state veterans agencies, such as WDVA, to extend accreditation to Tribal Veterans Representatives and Service Officers.



If you would like to learn more about the new Federal rules or this agreement, please contact Steven Gill, WDVA Veteran Services Administrator and Tribal Liaison at 360-725-2235 or steveg@dva.wa.gov.



DON'T MISS OUT ON VETERAN/MILITARY EVENTS IN THE STATE!

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Events Calendar

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



Events	108 Subscribers	Subscribe
THIS WEEK		
MAY 4 Job Fair Success Workshop Tomorrow 9 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited ERP Bldg 551 Barnes Blvd...		★ Interested
MAY 5 Interview Ready Thu 9 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited Employment Readiness Res...	Get Tickets	★ Interested
MAY 5 Military Job Fair Thu 10 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited American Lake Conference Ctr Tacoma		★ 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>



Have an event of interest to Veterans you want others to know about?

Send fliers and information to

communications@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Veteran Voices
PO Box 41150
1102 Quince Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-1150
1-800-562-0132 opt. 1
communications@dva.wa.gov

Veterans Voices is published every other month for Washington Veterans and all interested in news affecting veterans and their families.

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

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