

WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

JANUARY 2023



WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



A Message from the Director

"Permanent Vacation" - A Final Farewell from WDVA Director Alfie Alvarado-Ramos

To our Veterans, family members and friends:

This is my final Veteran Voices greeting as director of your WDVA. I announced my retirement last month, or what I call Permanent Vacation, after 30 years with this amazing agency. "Serving Those Who Served" has been an honor and privilege and I leave state government with confidence and a song in my heart because WDVA will be in great hands.

Through 30 years, that started with my first opportunity at the Soldiers Home in 1993 to today, I have seen tremendous growth in staff, programs, services and relationships. Your WDVA has the largest portfolio of services of any state Veterans Affairs department in the country. This is due to our team's creativity, focus on innovation, passion to serve, and to YOU. We could not do this work without our partners and friends who make our arms a little longer to embrace and serve our warriors and their families.

I am so proud of programs that cover a wide range of options and services that fit just about every possible

WE'RE HIRING

**RNs | Drivers
LPNs | Chefs
CNAs | & More**

Make an impact and join a career in Serving Those Who Served!

APPLY NOW!
Recruiters@DVA.WA.GOV

Available Opportunities:

[WDVA Executive Assistant, Full Time - Permanent, Central Office Olympia](#)

[WDVA Digital Navigator, IT Support Technician 2, Non-Permanent, Project Position, NW Washington](#)

[WDVA Digital Navigator, IT Support Technician 2, Non-Permanent, Project Position, SW Washington](#)

[WDVA Digital Navigator, IT Support Technician 2, Non-Permanent, Project Position, Eastern Washington](#)

[WDVA Mental Health Practitioner, Full Time - Project, Washington Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Multiple Positions, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Walla Walla Veterans](#)

veteran need. We have more than 30 programs that include environmental conservation, suicide prevention, agriculture, traumatic brain injury, clinical counseling, military spouse community integration, peer support, transitional housing, incarcerated veterans, LGBTQ+, apprenticeships, estate management, long term care, Women Veterans, and state cemetery (and plans for more) to name a few.



[Read More](#)

Press announcement of Alfie's retirement

Join Us for Alfie's Retirement Ceremony - [Celebrating the Career of Alfie Alvarado-Ramos Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF *Alfie Alvarado-Ramos*

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

QR CODE

SCAN TO RSVP

JANUARY | 26 | 2023

ASIA PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER, TACOMA

5-6 SOCIAL
6-8 DINNER & PRESENTATIONS
Prepayment required by Jan. 16

Mail check or money order for \$35 payable to Alfie's Retirement
WDVA c/o Liza Narciso
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504

INITIAL RSVP: WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/ALFIEEVENT
QUESTIONS: COMMUNICATIONS@DVA.WA.GOV

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS "Serving Those Who Served"

[Home](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Multiple Positions, Spokane](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Orting](#)

ALL WDVA JOBS:

[State of Washington Job Opportunities |](#)

Other Positions Available at our Walla Walla, Spokane, Orting & Port Orchard Veterans Home.
Recruiters@dva.wa.gov

Join Us for a Double-Event

Women Veterans Forum Hosted by the WVAC

Veterans Town Hall Hosted by the (VAAC)

9-10am - Women Veterans Forum
Calling all women veterans to join us at our first "she served" forum. Join us as we connect and discuss the needs of Washington State Women Veterans in your region and how we can provide equitable access and support through continuous outreach and engagement.

10-1230pm - VAAC Town Hall
Join your Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and community partners as we hear updates on:

- WDVA Services (to include women veteran services)
- Federal VA Caregiver Program
- County Veterans Assistance Fund
- PACT Act
- Suicide Prevention Program & More...

Friday February 01, 2023
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
15005 NE 65TH STREET
VANCOUVER, WA 98682

LIVE STREAM

QR CODE

communications@dva.wa.gov or www.dva.wa.gov

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS "Serving Those Who Served"

Washington State Health Care Authority's traveling "Flags of Honor" Raised at WDVA Central Office.



January Events & Observances List



Here is a current list of upcoming events that your WDVA is tracking.

Please email us your events at communications@dva.wa.gov so we can get them added.

January 16 - [Operation Veteran Freedom workshop #76 | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

January 26 - [Retirement Invitation - WDVA Director Alfie Alvarado-Ramos | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

January 28 - [VFW Post# 1854 PACT Act Briefing and VBA Claims Clinic | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

February 01 - [Women Veterans Forum in Vancouver, WA \(Prior to VAAC Town Hall\) | WDVA](#)

February 01 - [VAAC Town Hall in Vancouver, WA | WDVA](#)

April 15 - [Tacoma Dome Resource Fair & Stand Down | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Submit your event at www.dva.wa.gov/calendar

The event was sponsored by HCA's Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG), which supports retired military members, veterans, spouses of current military members, staff with serving family members, and staff who are interested in supporting the mission of VERG.

VERG's traveling flag initiative has been in place since June 2020. Under this effort, HCA partners with organizations to host our flags at their location. Since the start of the initiative, our flags have logged nearly 52,000 miles in countries around the world. These flags have been flown by several branches of the military, including the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and National Guard; and in locations including Afghanistan, Iraq, Cuba, Korea, Kuwait, Italy, Germany, Guam, and Japan.

The event celebrated the career of Department of Veterans Affairs Director Lourdes "Alfie" E. Alvarado-Ramos, who will retire from state service at the end of January and received the honorary flags this year during a surprise presentation.



Photos

Port Orchard Veterans Home

Residents at the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard recently painted along with Sarah Cray during her "Let's Make Art" session for our honored residents.

Stay Updated with Legislature for Veterans and Families

Interested in what's happening at the Washington State Legislature for Veterans and their Families?

Visit the WDVA Legislative Updates website to see what has been introduced so far and sign up for weekly updates from the WDVA Legislative Update [ListServ](#) [Legislative Updates | WDVA](#)



Pictured are some of our residents showing off their artwork. Once a month, the residents are invited to join along with Sarah and one of her projects.

Spokane Veterans Home



Christmas at the Spokane Veterans Home

Christmas at the Spokane Veterans Home was a great success. We had family, volunteers from the base and veterans join us.

Our local Air Force base came and helped us with presents and serving of food and they also made sure every one of our veterans had a gift for

The 2023 Legislative Session begins on January 9 and runs for 105 days. You can watch hearings at www.tw.wa.gov and in some cases participate virtually by signing up at: [Washington State Legislature How to Testify](http://www.tw.wa.gov/legislation/how-to-testify)

WDVA Spotlight Video



Traveling Flags of Honor Visit WDVA Central Office

Walla Walla Veterans Home



Walla Walla Veterans Home Holiday

Christmas. It was so nice to be able to celebrate Christmas in person once again and everyone had fun visits with Santa.

Our Veterans enjoyed spending time with Santa and enjoyed taking pictures with him, family members and our many volunteers.



Celebration with Department of Corrections Employees

Sending a big thank you to our Washington Department of Corrections, Walla Walla (Washington State Penitentiary) for the amazing Christmas party you gave our Veterans, Veteran spouses, and Gold Star Parents.

The personalized gifts from your staff were enjoyed by each resident. It was very special to have so many of you on site participating, interacting, and hand delivering presents around campus for those unable to attend the main party. It's an honor to be comrades in State service with you all.

Love and warmth to all of you from this past holiday season from all of us at the Walla Walla Veterans Home. [#ServingThoseWhoServed](#) [#WACorrections](#) [#holidaycheer](#)



Veteran Commerical Tobacco Cessation Program

VETERAN COMMERCIAL TOBACCO CESSATION

UNDERSTAND | DEVELOP | ESTABLISH | COLLABORATE

You can help recognize Washington as a **Purple Heart State**...Donate Today!

Mail Donations To:
WDVA Purple Heart
Sign Campaign
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504



Total Sign Costs
\$1,100 Larger Signs
\$1,000 Smaller Signs
All Donations Welcome

Your donation helps place signs at all WA highway entrances!

To Donate or For More Info:
communications@dva.wa.gov



Veterans are known to have high tobacco-use rates and more than a third of all active-duty smokers in the military start smoking after they enlist.

Your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program exists to connect Washington's veterans and military families to resources that help decrease tobacco dependence, increase cessation efforts, and provide support for staying stopped.

[Read More](#)

Recognizing and Honoring Washington State Purple Heart Veterans – Washington Highway Sign Campaign

Every donation counts towards the goal of placing Purple Heart Highway Signs at all 34 state entrances into Washington!

Purple Heart Medals are presented to Armed Forces members who are killed or wounded in combat.

Learn more: [Purple Heart Donation](#)

Seahawks Visit Washington Soldiers Home Campus



There was an extra special holiday spirit in the air on the grounds of the Washington Soldiers Home with a surprise visit from the [Seattle Seahawks'](#) Blitz the Mascot and the [Seahawks Dancers!](#)

Wreaths Across America Day at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery



The Seahawks had the opportunity to tour WDVA Transitional Housing Program for Veterans (Roosevelt Barracks for men and Betsy Ross for women veterans), the Orting Veterans Village (tiny home program for veterans) and also helped hand out gifts during our Holiday Gift Shop for Washington Soldiers Home honored residents.

We would like to thank all of the many volunteers who helped make this event possible and would also like to thank the Seahawks for helping to bring some holiday cheer to the Washington Soldiers Home! [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#) [#SeahawksSalute](#)

More Photos: [Seahawks Visit Washington Soldiers Home and Transitional Housing Program For Veterans | Flickr](#)



On Wreaths Across America Day, we honored our fallen veterans by placing wreaths on gravesites at [Washington State Veterans Cemetery](#) and more than 3,000 cemeteries nationwide. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Photos courtesy of Mark Losh, Karin Bruhn, Jenny Price, Amanda Kay, and Mrs. Spokane.



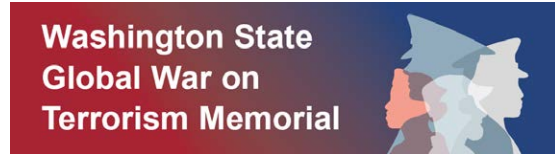
Help Support the Washington State Global War on Terrorism Memorial

Suicide Prevention License Plate Emblem

You can pre-order your Suicide Prevention License Plate Emblem by sending a check/money order for the \$18 to Department of Licensing

Special Plate Unit Department of Licensing

PO Box 9909
Olympia, WA 98507-8500



The Washington State Global War on Terrorism Memorial is a way of honoring the people who have served and given their lives to defend this country from terrorism. Some service members never found closure from their service, so while the war may be largely over, the battle continues in their daily lives. The GWOT must not become a "forgotten war." We have a duty to honor these veterans and gold-star families with an enduring reminder that we appreciate their sacrifice.

Donate: [Washington Global War on Terrorism Memorial - Office - WA Secretary of State](#)



Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2023 at Serving Those Who Served.

Your feedback is instrumental in the continued improvement of your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDVA2022>

1102 Quince St SE, Olympia WA

1-800-562-2308

Communications@dva.wa.gov

[Unsubscribe](#)

www.dva.wa.gov