

WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

AUGUST 2022



A Message from the Director



Celebrating Our Auxiliary Service Organizations

In this edition of the Veteran Voices, I would like to highlight and celebrate you, our Auxiliary Service Organization members. Most are composed of veteran spouses and survivors and many have dual membership as they also served in the military. I often refer to our Auxiliary members as the heart and soul of the larger organization because of their spirit of volunteerism, giving, activism, motivation and passion. Auxiliaries across our nation help veterans and their families get a feeling of belonging while improving their quality of life. The banner service organization is usually the first contact that veterans make before seeking assistance from the Federal VA through claims and camaraderie.

As they connect and work through the benefits and services maze, having Auxiliary organizations in communities across the state, means that

August 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.

August - Veterans Training Support Center - [VTSC Events | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

August 10 - Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall - [VAAC Town Hall in Yelm | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

August 11 - VA S.A.V.E. Suicide Prevention Training - [VA S.A.V.E. Suicide Prevention Training \(2 CEUs\) | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Aug 24/25 - Serving Those Who Served Conference - Wenatchee - [Save the Date! 5th Annual Serving Those Who Served | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

September 09 - Clark County Veterans Expo & Stand Down - [CLARK COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE CENTER 2022 VETERANS EXPO and STAND DOWN | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

veterans and their families have that additional layer of understanding and assistance by family members who walked the same path.

As veterans, we know about raising our hands, volunteering, and making sure no one is left behind. These are essential functions that you also provide to veterans and their families in our great state! Your commitment, patriotism and civic involvement is what ensures that future generations know and understand the sacrifices made by Veterans and especially their families. By planning community events, fundraising, and supporting youth, hospitalized Veterans and our State Veterans Homes, you ensure that the Veterans Community stays at the forefront of the hearts and minds of our leaders, friends and neighbors.

If you're interested in contacting a VSO near you, please visit: [Resources | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

[Read More](#)

WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Veterans can use this new option by dialing 988 and pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line. Veterans may still reach the Veterans Crisis Line with the previous phone number—[1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) and Press 1—by text ([838255](text:838255)), and through chat (VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

[Learn More](#)

Gold Star License Plates

The Gold Star License Plate program helps families remember their loved ones and provides some financial relief to those families in the realm of vehicle registration.



Learn More: [Gold Star Plate | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Walla Walla Veterans Home

Our honored [Walla Walla Veterans Home](#) Veterans enjoyed this year's Flying Legends of Victory Tour in Walla Walla!

They were able to see the B-17 "Flying Fortress" ~

\$3,000

incentive payment

for current and new NAC staff!



Full-time NACs and NAC Leads who have been permanent employees for one year are eligible for an immediate payment of **\$3000**.

New hires are eligible for a payment of **\$1,500** on the date of their hire. These new staff members may also be eligible for an additional **\$1,500** after their six-month probationary period and any required training.

Any current staff who recommend hires that lead to a permanent, full-time staffer can receive a **\$200** payment.

For more information, go to

www.dva.wa.gov/nursing-assistant-recruitment-and-retention-incentive



"Sentimental Journey" and the B-25 "Mitchell ~ Maid in the Shade" from inside the cool, air conditioned comfort of our WWVH bus/van.

We would like to thank the flight crew for boarding and providing a personal presentation to our honored veterans and staff.

[#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)



[More Photos](#)

Available Opportunities:

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

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

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

[WDVA Fiscal Analyst 4, Olympia](#)

[WDVA Bus Driver \(Truck Driver 1\), On-Call, Walla Walla](#)

[WDVA Recreation & Athletic Specialist 1, Spokane](#)

[WDVA Director of Counseling & Wellness, Olympia](#)

[WDVA Dietician 1, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Brain Injury and Recovery Program Specialist 3, Olympia](#)

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

[State of Washington Job Opportunities |](#)

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

[View More](#)

Port Orchard Veterans Home



The Show Must Go On...

The Amphitheater at the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard was finally utilized for resident enjoyment, and what a show it was!

The Port Orchard Academy of Dance performed some of their competition pieces for our honored residents under the beautiful, beaming sun. The costumes, the music and the smiles of the performers brought so much joy to all of our honored residents and staff who attended.

This was the first performance since the pandemic started for the Port Orchard Dance Academy and they did not disappoint. What an honor to have them performing once again.

"In some ways their performance demonstrated the circle of life because their last performance before being shut down by Covid-19 too was here at the Washington Veterans Home," WWH Activities Staff [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)



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

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](#)

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

Show Your Support!

Donate and Help Make Washington State a PURPLE HEART STATE

Your donation will place signs at all WA highway entrances





Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

It was a beautiful sunny day at the WA Soldiers Home during the July 4th Picnic where after 3



years, residents indulged in great company, rockin' tunes, and an out-of-this-world barbecue meal!

Spokane Veterans Home



Spokane Veterans Home honored residents join together for shared story time. During shared story time, everyone was able to join together and plan events for the next month, tell jokes, discuss current and past news and more.

Any chance they get to enjoy the shade while also enjoying one another's presence is always a good day! #TheseAreOurHeroes

The lively tunes from Music Works 4 Veterans and mouth-watering aroma of barbecue ribs & chicken captivated our honored residents while staff & volunteers served up the delicious picnic fare!

Thank you to the Puyallup Elks Lodge #1450 who were among the volunteers at the July 4th Picnic for the generous donation of \$500.00 toward the Family Picnic! WSH community partners Boy Scout Troop 274-Puyallup and American Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces also volunteered.

Transitional Housing Program Community Barbecue



Outstanding Service to Veterans



We would like to thank the [Military Order of the World Wars - The Puget Sound Chapter](#) for donating and helping to prepare an amazing barbecue meal for our Transitional Housing Program honored veterans in Port Orchard.

The weather was perfect and the food was delicious and our THP honored veterans and staff were excited to spend an afternoon breaking bread together. [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#) [#TheseAreOurHeroes](#)



[View More](#)

DVA's New Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program

Learn more about WDVA's New Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program (CTCP)

The Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program (CTCP) was established in partnership with

Awards - Nominate Now



[Washington State Outstanding Award For Service to Veterans \(google.com\)](#)

You know who they are, volunteers, service officers, community members or others who day in and day out go above and beyond the call of duty making sure veterans and their family members are cared for. Whether they submit claims for benefits, arrange funeral honors for grieving families, coordinate events or donate countless hours in veterans hospitals or nursing homes, here is your chance to nominate them for one of seven Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards.

This awards program is sponsored by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and award winners are invited to participate in the Auburn Veteran's Day Parade, followed by recognition at a special luncheon.

You can nominate individuals for Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards in the following categories:

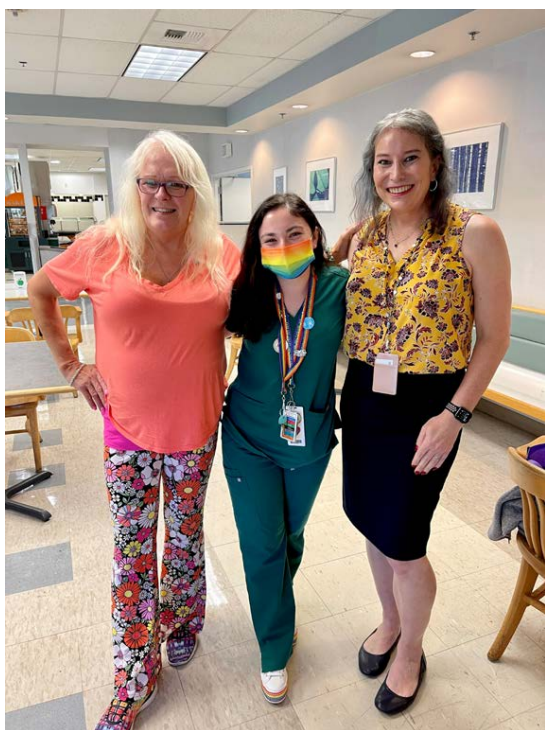
- Superior Award - This award is the Committee's highest honor and is given to recognize clearly superior accomplishments, achievements, and outstanding performance.
- Distinguished Service Award - This award is used to recognize significant accomplishments and special contributions.

Washington Department of Health to help prevent tobacco use, eliminate dependence, and increase cessation efforts among Veterans in Washington State.

Individuals with military or veteran status are known to have higher tobacco-use rates than the general population and more than a third of all active-duty smokers in the military start smoking after they enlist. Military members and their families have unique challenges and barriers to successfully quit tobacco-use, such as frequent moves, deployment, and behavioral health issues linked to active military duty, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The CTCP program acknowledges that these challenges and barriers often remain for individuals long after their transition from the military to civilian life.

Learn More: [Veteran Commercial Tobacco Cessation | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wdva.wa.gov/veteran-commercial-tobacco-cessation)

WDVA LGBTQ+ Outreach



Your WDVA LGBTQ+ Outreach coordinator, Robin Lang, recently met with Cassandra Williamson, Director, Research and VA Engagement with the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) and Bridget

- 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.

Nominations may be submitted by any person, organization, or institution and must be received by September 30, 2022.

Like Us on Facebook: WA State Military Spouse Liaison



Now announcing our newest social media platform, our Washington State Military Spouse Liaison Facebook page. Get connected with updates on employment, child care, military resources and military life in Washington State.

Please follow us and share the page with your community for news, resources, and content geared towards supporting our military spouses and their families in Washington State. [#TheseAreOurHeroes](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonMilitarySpouse/)

For more information on our Military Spouse Liaison and available resources, visit www.dva.wa.gov/militaryspouseinitiative or contact militaryspouse@dva.wa.gov.

Visit the Facebook Page here:

www.facebook.com/WashingtonMilitarySpouse/?notif_id=1659476612521769¬if_t=page_admin&ref=notif

Reposa, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator with VA Puget Sound.

They discussed current issues and policies affecting LGBTQ+ veterans and how they can work together to improve care and support.

Cassandra is traveling across the Continental United States meeting TAVA members and supporters as well as meeting with state and federal VA leadership. She is sharing her experiences and expertise, while building networks to help support LGBTQ+ Veterans.

Thank You Vet Corps Alumni for your service!



Register Now: [Serving Those Who Served | 5th Annual Conference | 2022 \(eventsquid.com\)](https://www.eventsquid.com/2022/08/25-26-2022/serving-those-who-served-5th-annual-conference)

5th Annual
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
STATE-WIDE CONFERENCE
'TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW'
★★★ AUGUST 25 & 26 | 2022 ★★★
IN-PERSON | NO-COST CEUs | LOCATION: WENATCHEE, WA
REGISTER AT
[DVA.WA.GOV/STWS](https://dva.wa.gov/stws)

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

Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2022 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>



Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
1102 Quince St SE, Olympia WA
1-800-562-2308

[Unsubscribe](#)

Communications@dva.wa.gov

