

WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

MARCH 2023



A Message from the Director

WDVA Military Spouse Initiative Recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Working together to combat issues faced by military spouses is a top priority for *your* WDVA. Over the past few years, we have been able to hear directly from our state's military spouses and work with the legislature to create a Military Spouse Initiative to make sure their voices are heard.

WDVA is known for identifying innovative approaches to the issues that affect our veteran and military families and the Military Spouse Initiative is no different, bringing together partners to address issues such as military spouse employment, professional licensure, childcare, and basic needs security.

These collaborations are key to successfully serving the military family community in Washington and serving military families sets them up for success as they become a veteran family. That is why the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded our [Military Spouse Initiative](#) an

WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available

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 Resident Transportation Driver, On-Call, Walla Walla Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Food Service Worker Lead, Part-Time, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Registered Nurse 2, WA Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Cook 1, Full Time - Permanent, Walla Walla Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Program Manager, Program Specialist 4, Full Time - Project, King County](#)

[WDVA Administrative Assistant 3, WA Soldier's Home](#)

[WDVA Veterans Benefit Assistant, Central Office, Olympia](#)

Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award. The Pillars of Excellence Award recognizes outstanding state programs that support veterans within their states and this is WDVA's seventh award since 2014.

This award is a direct result of the work of our Military Spouse Liaison, Olivia Burley, and the incredible partnerships she has forged in such a short time including with the [Washington State Military Transition & Readiness Council](#), our partner state and federal agencies, and most importantly, through the military families that stand courageous in making sure their voices are heard.

To learn more about this award, please visit: [NEWS RELEASE - WDVA Receives 2023 Federal VA Pillars of Excellence Award for Military Spouse Initiative | WDVA](#)

[Read More](#)

March 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.

March 14 - [DAV Recruit Military - Military Community Virtual Hiring Event | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

March 16 - [2023 Alliance Northwest | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

March 16 - [Chelan/Douglas Job & Resource Fair Sponsored by the American Legion | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

March 17 - [Seattle Veterans Stand Down | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

March 24 - [Better Serving Gender Minority Veterans: Gender, Military Service, and Veteran](#)

[WDVA Stationary Engineer 2, Non-Permanent, WA Soldier's Home](#)

[WDVA Licensed Practical Nurse 2, Full Time - Permanent, Washington Soldiers Home](#)

[WDVA Health Records Tech, Office Assistant 3, Non-Perm, Spokane](#)

[WDVA NC Peer Support Case Manager, Program Specialist 4, Full Time - Project](#)

[WDVA NW Peer Support Case Manager, Program Specialist 4, Full Time - Project](#)

[WDVA Capital Budget and Grants Analyst, Olympia](#)

ALL WDVA JOBS:
[State of Washington Job Opportunities |](#)

*Hiring Incentive of up to \$4,500!
All newly hired permanent NAC's or NAC Leads are eligible!*

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

Woman History Month Message from your Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC)



[Identity | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

March 28 - [Washington State Agency Hiring Event | WDVA](#)

March 30 - [Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Event - State Capitol - March 30 | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

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

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

***** WELCOME HOME *****
VIETNAM VETERANS
Day!
 HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS AND WELCOMING THEM HOME
 COMMEMORATIVE PINS WILL BE PROVIDED TO VIETNAM VETERANS AND SPOUSES, IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A PIN PREVIOUSLY, PLEASE WEAR IT!
 POC: COMMUNICATIONS@DVA.WA.GOV 12PM, March 30, 2023
Vietnam Memorial on Capitol Campus



Spokane Veterans Home

Spokane Veterans Home Bowling Battle

“It matters because I AM SHE and SHE IS ME!”

March is Women’s History month, and throughout the month, the public is invited to honor women by exploring this year’s official theme: “celebrating women who tell our stories.”

Your WDVA honors the contributions of women serving in the military and the family members of veterans and celebrates the diversity and history of their achievements to a storied veteran history we all share. There are currently more than 2 million women veterans who live in the United States.

The mission of the WDVA Women Veterans Advisory Committee, or WVAC, shall be to ensure that Washington's women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits.

- Connect women to their identity as veterans
- Change the public perception of what veterans look like
- Connect women veterans to benefits
- Connect women veterans to community

“The WVAC is important because it's very reason for being is so that the challenges women veterans face is not diluted, dismissed, or misunderstood in a sense we are responsible for ensuring that ALL of our women veterans are seen and honored for

Knocking down the pins was the objective and our honored residents "knocked down" the competition.

Our Spokane Veterans Home recently took a bowling trip to Lilac Lanes in Spokane for a friendly Army vs Navy game, with our Army residents taking home bragging rights.

Afterwards, the residents took on the veterans home staff and once again were named, victorious. The residents even challenged the staff members to "actually hit the pins down".



We would like to thank all of the volunteers and staff who made this event possible.

Valentine's Visits at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Sonia Kramer Valentine's Day Donation & Visit

Sonia Kramer & her husband Christopher Tremillo delighted WA Soldiers Home

their service," said WVAC President and U.S. Army Veteran, Shellie Willis.

[Read More](#)

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 [Legislative Updates | WDVA](#)

February Events at the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard

The month of February was full of in-person entertainment, holiday parties, a tailgating party for the big game, and a NEW (on going) Music Therapy group that the residents really enjoyed. The U.S. Navy Jazz Band also came and had an excellent musical performance along with the many other activity program offerings.



This photo shows the new entertainer that came in to play

residents with a Valentine's Day visit and gift bags filled with delightful goodies! Residents dared to be playful & silly when they discovered exciting novelties inside their Valentine's bags.



Thank you to Sonia Kramer & Christopher Tremillo for bringing Valentine's cheer to the WA Soldiers Home residents with the thoughtfully curated gift bags and heartwarming visit.

Suicide Prevention License Plate Emblem

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

Special Plate Unit Dept of Licensing
PO Box 9909
Olympia, WA 98507-8500

More Info: [988 license plate emblems now available for Washington drivers | News | nbcrightnow.com](https://www.nbcrightnow.com/news/988-license-plate-emblems-now-available-for-washington-drivers)

PURCHASE A SUICIDE PREVENTION LICENSE PLATE "LIFELINE EMBLEM"

Members of the public are invited to help raise awareness for suicide prevention programs by purchasing a new suicide prevention license plate emblem.

All Washington State vehicle owners are eligible to purchase the emblem displaying the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number and the message that "There is Hope!".

Emblems cost \$18 and can be placed on any passenger vehicle, truck, and large trailer license plate, including special and personalized plates.

Please ask for an application today!



SUICIDE PREVENTION LICENSE PLATE EMBLEM-\$18
\$10 from every plate goes to the Veteran and Military Member Suicide Prevention Account



for the residents.



This picture is of Congressman Derek Kilmer during his visit on Valentine's Day.

WDVA Spotlight Video



Recruitment Video -WDVA invites you to join us in, "Serving Those Who Served!"

Walla Walla Veterans Home

Stay Updated with National News - Federal VA Press Releases

[VA to award \\$52.5 million in grants to local organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide](#)

[VA increases maximum life insurance coverage for Veterans and service members by \\$100,000](#)

[VA to award \\$16 million in grants to help Veterans and service members with disabilities participate in adaptive sports](#)

[Veterans can now access their disability benefit decisions online \(va.gov\)](#)



Walla Walla Reopens Whitman House

We're happy to announce that we've pulled through the toughest years known to the healthcare field in decades (COVID-19 pandemic), and our Whitman house has finally reopened. Stevens will soon reopen as well.

This good news is directly attributed to our rapidly growing employee-family of nurses and nursing assistants!! ❤️ We have the people to take care of the people. Our mission of Serving Those Who Served can be more fully realized as we open our doors in Whitman/Stevens and welcome those who need our care.

Read More: [\(20+\) Facebook](#)

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

Your donation will place signs at all WA highway entrances

Show Your Support!

Donate and Help Make Washington State a PURPLE HEART STATE



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](#)

Working Families Tax Credit

A new tax credit for Washington workers. Get up to \$1200 back

From now through Dec. 31, 2023, individuals and families can [apply](#) for the Working Families Tax Credit. There are three ways to apply:

- Online using MyDOR, our secure filing system.
- Efile through federal tax preparation software or professional tax preparers.
- By mail using a paper application.

If you aren't sure whether you'll qualify, use our quick [Eligibility Assistant](#).

[Apply Now](#)

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>

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1-800-562-2308

Communications@dva.wa.gov

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www.dva.wa.gov