



A Message From the Director

Greetings from Your WDVA Director - David Puente



After months of hard work, we are so proud to announce that our 6th Annual Serving Those Who Served Conference was a huge success! It was an incredible event filled with engaging discussions, innovative ideas, and great connections.

This two-day conference for veteran service organizations, resource providers, and partner agencies offered a wealth of knowledge from industry experts in areas that affect the lives of our Veterans and their families in addition to improving collaboration and connections among all those who work with them. Each session was recorded, and videos will be posted to our website soon, so if you weren't able to attend, you will still have an opportunity to watch the conference breakout sessions.

We want to thank everyone who attended, and who shared their expertise. Job well done to the WDVA team and our non-WDVA Partners on the planning committee for your tireless efforts and hard work. We hope to see everyone again next year!

Please email us at communications@dva.wa.gov to provide any feedback or recommendations you may have to make the next Serving Those Who Served Conference even better.



For more photos of the Serving Those Who Served Conference click [here](#)

WDVA News and Current Events

WDVA Women Veterans Forum and Town Hall - (Spokane) October 18

JOIN THE VETERAN CONVERSATION!



"Serving Those Who Served"



OCTOBER 18

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
POST 1435**

**212 S DAVID ROAD
SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99212**

8:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

WOMEN VETERANS 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.

10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

VAAC TOWN HALL

Join your Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, Spokane VA, and community partners as we hear updates on WDVA Services, PACT Act, County Veterans Program Suicide Prevention Program & more.

WOMEN'S FORUM REGISTRATION



TOWNHALL LIVE STREAM



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

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) will host a Women Veterans Forum from 8:30 to 9:30 and a Veterans Town Hall from 10:00 to 12:30 on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1435, 212 S David Road Spokane Valley, WA 99212.

This double event is presented by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and the Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC).

Women Veterans are encouraged to participate in the Women Veterans Forum to network, talk about the needs of Washington State Women Veterans in your area, and discuss how we can provide equitable access and support through ongoing outreach and engagement. The WVAC, which has 14 members, works to ensure that women veterans in Washington have fair access to VA services and benefits provided by the federal and state. Please register for the Women Veterans Forum at [Women Veterans Forum Tickets, Wed, Oct 18, 2023 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

The VAAC is composed of 17 members and advises the Governor and the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) on issues and programs concerning veterans. Join the Town Hall livestream starting at 10am where you will have an opportunity to comment and ask questions <https://www.facebook.com/wsdva>

During the Veterans Town Hall, community partners and service providers will discuss how they are helping local veterans and their families. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the programs and services available to veterans, families, and resource providers.

Visit the WDVA website at <http://www.dva.wa.gov> or call 1-800-562-2308 for additional information.

MORE INFORMATION:

Information on the WVAC: [Women Veterans | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Information on the VAAC: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/councils-committees/governors-veterans-affairs-advisory-committee-vaac>

Outstanding Service to Veterans Award Nominations - Deadline for submission is September 30th



It's time to celebrate the hard work and dedication of those who make a difference.

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

Superior Award, Distinguished Service Award and Team Award.

[Submit Nomination](#)

September Events & Observances Calendar



[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

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



Walla Walla Veterans Home

Several [Walla Walla Veterans Home](#) residents participated in the [2023 Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days](#) Rodeo Patriot Program! A deeply moving and unforgettable experience.



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

We are thrilled to have successfully graduated our first Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) cohort at our [Washington Soldiers Home](#)! We are proud of the hard work and dedication all of our graduates have put in.

Congratulations to Clarissa Soto, Tayvin Reiquam, and Alan Talamantes on their successful completion of this program.



Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard

The residents and staff at the [Washington Veterans Home](#) welcomed two Air Force Gold Wing Band members on August 21. This particular concert is always highly appreciated because the Air Force band from California sends a different performance group to entertain each year.

Our residents tapped their feet and enjoyed the music performance!



Spokane Veterans Home

Residents at the [Spokane Veterans Home](#) celebrated the start of the football season with an indoor tailgate party! The gathering also provided an opportunity to recognize SVH Team Members for their work on the newly designed outdoor patio area.

WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



Click the link below for available opportunities with WDVA!

[State of Washington Job Opportunities](#)

Program Highlight

Supporting Veterans with Tools for Tobacco-Free Living



Veterans Commercial Tobacco Cessation

The Veterans Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program (DVA), in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health and funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), aims to connect Washington's veterans and military families to resources that aid in reducing tobacco dependence, boosting cessation efforts, and offering support for maintaining an abstinence.

[Learn More](#)

More Resources

STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM

Providing earlier identification and intervention for Veterans with suicide risk factors. Veterans are connected to programs such as VA Health Care, compensation or pension payments, counseling, peer support and other community resources.



Services

- Suicide prevention intervention
- Outreach and education on suicide prevention, peer support, and wrap-around services available throughout the state
- Peer Support Case Management
- Referrals and warm handoffs to resources

Regions

- **North West:** San Juan, Skagit, Island and Whatcom County
- **North Central:** Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Kittitas County



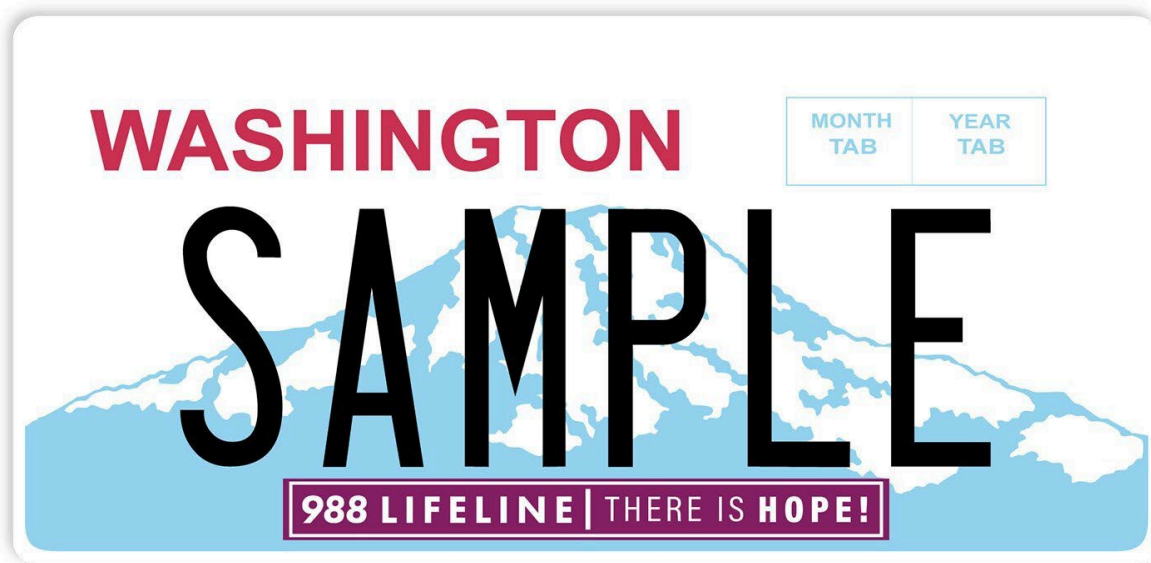
"Serving Those Who Served"

For more information and to apply
contact Eric Burns at
eric.burns@dva.wa.gov or
(360)725-9849
www.dva.wa.gov

Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program enables the WDVA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of eligible Veterans through outreach, peer support, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community benefits and resources.

[Learn More](#)



September is Suicide Prevention Month

Please Raise Awareness of [#SuicidePrevention](#) programs by purchasing this license plate emblem. The \$18 fee supports organizations that provide resources to at-risk and transitioning veterans, military members, and their families.

To become a partner in the fight against suicide and purchase a license plate emblem, please visit: [Washington State Department of Licensing](#)

We Want to Hear from You About the New Format

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

Your feedback is instrumental in the continued improvement of your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and will help to inform us on potential topics and subjects that we should include in the future.

Please email us at communications@dva.wa.gov with any feedback you may have.



Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

1102 Quince St. SE, PO Box 41150, Olympia, WA 98504-1150

[1-800-562-2308](tel:1-800-562-2308)



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