

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



Call 1-800-562-2308 for Statewide Assistance

www.dva.wa.gov

www.facebook.com/WSDVA

www.twitter.com/WDVA

"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

Table of Contents

March 2016

Message from the Director	Page 2
Maintain Your Base Access with an Enhanced Drivers License/Get Involved with VetBikes	Page 3/4
2016 Alliance Northwest & VetBOSS/Egg Hunt at Retsil	Page 5/6
Leading the Way in CFD/ Retsil Receives Recycler of the Year	Page 7/8
Orting Wins EPA Award/ Easter at Spokane Home	Page 9/10
Update on Veteran Bills/ Contact Us	Page 11/12

Urging Employers to say, "Yes" to Hiring Veterans - YesVets

Employers who hire a veteran will be recognized with a YesVets window decal they can display at their business to demonstrate support for America's service members. They will be recognized each year with annual decals that can be displayed next to the YesVets decal. Visit www.YesVets.org for more info

Pictured Here: WDVA Receives their YesVets Decal



WDVA Hot JOBS:

- [Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead Medical Director \(0074\)](#)
- [Physician 3 \(Part-time or Full-time\) \(3052\)](#)
- [Stationary Engineer 2 \(0120\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse 3 \(SVH Pool\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse 2 \(SVH Pool\)](#)
- [On-Call Truck Driver 2 \(Activities Bus Driver\) 0289](#)
- [NURSING ASSISTANT \(WVH Pool\)](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov



"Serving Those Who Served"

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



March 29th: National Vietnam Veterans Day

On March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam. Three million Americans served in the conflict and thousands upon thousands returned home with physical and emotional wounds. More than 58,000 others never returned home, laying down their lives in service to our nation.

Our Vietnam War Veterans, whether in country or not, were scorned and insulted by vociferous antiwar activists. Many of those protestors have come to realize the negative effect their actions caused and are working hard to make amends. So today, while opposition to the conflicts and continued troop presence in Afghanistan and Iraq is fierce, support and respect for our troops is widespread. While service members today often travel in uniform, a uniform that today elicits high esteem from the public, Vietnam War veterans often traveled in civilian clothes to avoid verbal attacks and the like.



To Washingtonians who served during the Vietnam War, thank you, truly, thank you for your service. To those of you who have family members who served during that time, hug them a little tighter or give them a call if they are far, as the late 60's and 70's were tough times for them. Many were able to put that time behind, but others, while they physically came home, are still missing in action emotionally. This is why our WDVA efforts to connect all veterans and their families to their earned benefits are critical to finally bring our Vietnam brothers and sisters home.

Thank you,

Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos (Alfie)

Director

WA Department of Veterans Affairs



Pictured Here: Daughters of the American Revolution honor Vietnam Veterans as the State Capitol.

Base Access: Documents Needed for Enhanced License

Wondering what documents you'll need to obtain your Enhanced Drivers License (EDL) to travel onto Washington state military bases? Take a look at the requirements from Washington State Department of Licensing and don't wait until it's too late! Visit www.dol.wa.gov for more information



What documents do I need to get my EDL/EID?

This list will help you meet the requirements to get an enhanced driver license (EDL) or enhanced identification card (EID). We can only accept original documents or government-certified copies with a raised seal or stamp. We cannot accept internet printouts, temporary, uncertified, notarized, or altered documents. We may retain copies of any documents you bring.

If you have a Washington driver license or identification card with a photo, you will need to bring the following when you go to a driver licensing office:

1. Proof of United States citizenship
2. Social Security number

If you do not have a Washington driver license or identification card with a photo, bring:

1. Proof of United States citizenship
2. Social Security number
3. Proof of identify
4. Proof of Washington State residence

Proof of United States citizenship

To prove citizenship, show us one of the following:

- United States Passport that is valid or has been expired no more than five years
- Valid United States Passport card
- Original certified* state birth certificate (issued by the city, county, or state)
- Certificate of naturalization
- Certificate of citizenship
- Department of State Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Valid out-of-state enhanced license or ID

* A certified birth certificate has a registrar's raised, embossed, impressed, or multicolored seal; a registrar's signature; and the date it was filed with the registrar's office, which must be within one year of your birth.

Social Security number

Be prepared to tell us your Social Security number. You don't need to show us the card. Your name and Social Security number must match Social Security records.

Proof of identity

Show one of the following:

- Valid United States Passport
- Valid state-issued driver license, enhanced driver license, or ID card
- Military ID
- Government employee ID card (state, federal, or city) showing your name and signature
- Tribal identification card

Proof of Washington State residence

To prove you live in Washington, show us **one document from this list with your name and current Washington resident address.**

- Concealed weapons permit
- Homeowner's insurance policy or invoice showing the address of the insured property or residence
- Home utility bill (such as gas, electricity, water, garbage, or land line telephone, or cable) or hook-up work order dated within the past 60 days. You must be the only person named on the bill or work order.

Vet Bikes & Building 9 for Veterans



Building 9 for Veterans Transitional Housing Program is located at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, WA.

The 60-bed transitional housing facility is available to assist those in need of stable housing, vocational rehabilitation, and increased income potential.

VetBikes.org

Veterans are surrounded with supportive staff and wrap-around services designed to lead to their successful completion of the program and to the community.

Building 9 for Veterans is also the home of the Vet Bikes Program's main bike shop, which is a veteran run 501c3 non-profit providing adaptive sports bicycles to recovering veterans in the Washington and Colorado state areas.

While a bicycle can be adapted to meet unique needs of a physically disabled veteran, the vast majority of our referrals and requests come from disabilities that cannot be seen, and do not always require a bike heavily adapted to help in the treatment of their disability.

VetBikes is dedicated to cycling sport therapy and offers recovering disabled veterans a path where the supported veterans can rise, and have risen, from introductory levels to international competition.

The comprehensive program offers bicycle ownership, placement with local cycling clubs for community integration, sporting mentors, professional mechanical instruction, and an introductory path to a career in the cycling industry. The mission is proudly supported by a wide range of sponsors and partner organizations.

Here at the WDVA Building 9 for Veterans, clients staying at the home volunteer in the bike shop and learn the bike mechanic trade, while also serving their fellow veterans.

Building 9 for Veterans has also successfully referred hundreds of veterans to the program ensuring better quality of life for those with disabilities.

It is quite the sight to see veterans riding around all over our campus in bikes that they are proud to use and OWN!

If you have unused bikes or components gathering dust in your garage, please consider making a donation to [VetBikes](http://VetBikes.org). You can learn more about the program by visiting their website at VetBikes.org.



Alliance Northwest 2016 & VetBOSS



Alliance NW is the largest event in the region, bringing together prime contractors, government agencies and small businesses for a full day of relationship building.

Those new to government contracting had an opportunity to meet government agency representatives, explore sub-contracting opportunities with prime contractors and attend high-quality training workshops. The Veteran Owned Business Opportunity Showcase offered key insights and seminars geared toward Veteran Owned and Service Disabled Veteran Owned government contractors and businesses who wish to do business with state and federal agencies.

Combining VetBOSS with Alliance NW created a full day event where VOSB/SDVOSB not only networked and learned about opportunities for them, but also saw where they fit in the larger picture of state and federal government contracting.

Save the Date: Alliance Northwest—Puyallup Fairgrounds—March 9, 2017
See you next year!

Children's Easter Egg Hunt at WA Veterans Home in Retsil



Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt at Washington Veterans Home in Retsil

There were many Veteran smiles this past weekend as we held our annual egg hunt event for our resident's & staff's families and children.

We would like to extend huge thanks to our helpful volunteers from the Washington Youth Academy, made it is possible to not only hide all of the eggs, but also offered face painting, egg dying & coloring, baby chicks and helped facilitate the large egg hunt.

Once all the preparation work was done, the cadets each were stationed at the activity areas to help the kids enjoy the day.

There were more than 100 children at this year's event. We also extend our thanks to the many donations from the community that ensured everyone went home with lots of candy and prizes.

Leading the Way for Combined Fund Drive

WDVA Receives Combined Fund Drive's (CFD) Highest Participation Percentage

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs was recognized by the Secretary of State's Combined Fund Drive Office for 2015's Highest Participation Percentage from a Large Agency at 46.82%. WDVA staff contributed \$15,285.65 to charities in their communities. Of that \$3,918.75 was raised to provide support to homeless veterans.

The Combined Fund Drive (CFD) is Washington State's workplace giving program for active and retired public employees. State and higher education employees are invited to give to the charity of their choice through payroll contribution and agency fundraising events.



Secretary of State, Kym Wyman presents a CFD award to Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos and WDVA Deputy Director, Gary Condra.

You can view the full 2015 Combined Fund Drive Report here <http://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/cfd/2015-Annual-Campaign-Report.pdf>

Checking in with the Construction of YOUR Walla Walla State Veterans Home



WDVA leaders took a trip to Walla Walla to meet with Absher Construction to view the progress of the Walla Walla State Veterans Home, which is set to open in early 2017.

Watch the progress at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/veteran-homes/walla-walla-veterans-home>



Retsil Receives Recycler of the Year Award



Washington Veterans Home Retail has been selected to receive the WSRA 2016 Institution Recycler of the Year Award.

Our committee of recycling professionals from around the state reviewed many impressive nominations, and we are delighted to count you among those who will be highlighted at our annual Awards Banquet and Plenary Session at the WSRA Annual Conference, May 15-18, 2016 at The Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee WA

Recycler of the Year (ROY) Award recipients will also be featured on the WSRA website, in our quarterly newsletter, and in a statewide news release in early April. We will notify you when the release goes out, and ask that you please delay public announcement of your award until after that time.



One representative from your organization will be our guest on Tuesday, May 17 for a morning plenary session to discuss your accomplishments, and an evening banquet to receive the award. Other representatives and guests will need to register to attend the banquet and other conference activities at www.wsra.net or by calling the WSRA office at 206-244-0311.

We encourage you to take advantage of the many informative sessions and interactive workshops offered during the entire conference, starting Sunday afternoon. You may book a room at The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel our host hotel, by calling 509.662.1234 or booking online at: <http://coa.st/71xy>

Your award "champions," Eirik O'Neal and Jeff West will work with you to prepare for the plenary session and banquet. They will contact you soon!

Again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of your exceptional work in recycling. We look forward to celebrating with you at The Wenatchee Convention Center!

Warm regards,

Awards Committee

Washington State Recycling Association

The vision and voice of recycling in Washington state



WSRA's 36th Annual Conference & Trade Show

May 15-18, 2016
Wenatchee Convention Center
Wenatchee, WA

Orting Wins 2016 Energy Savings Program



And the Winner Is: Washington Soldiers Home. Orting is the winner in the energy savings program for 2015. Our Facilities Department has done an OUTSTANDING job in reducing energy by using boiler time based on needs not just run time, more preventative maintenance on systems in the buildings, etc.

The 2015 Battle of the Buildings final report has been submitted. Our weather normalized site energy savings in 10 facilities was about 15 million kBtu's, reducing annual energy use by 9 percent!

Here is a quick summary of the weather normalized site energy savings:

- 27% DVA Washington Soldiers Home**
- 15% ECY Bellingham Field Office**
- 15% Pierce Ft. Steilacoom Campus**
- 6% Pierce Puyallup Campus**

Also they are about 90 days away from reaching 365 days without a time loss injury. June 10th will be the one year mark.



I am very proud of the Facilities Department.

Willie Slusarski, NHA

Superintendent

Washington Soldiers Home

1301 Orting-Kapowsin Highway East

Orting, WA 98360

Spokane Residents Celebrate Easter



Spokane Veterans Home residents enjoying a special visit from the Easter Bunny and lots of "egg"-cellent activities to celebrate.

2016 Legislative Session Review



The **2016 Regular and Special Session** has come to a close and several important pieces of legislation will be enacted in June. Below is a recap, but visit <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/legislative-updates> for a more in-depth review.

ESHB 1213 County veterans assistance fund:

Modifies the definitions of "veteran" and "family" for the purposes of the Veterans' Assistance Fund. Deletes references to RCW 41.04.005 and .007. Gives Counties the ability to pass bylaws so that

they can expand eligibility for the fund. Effective 6/9/2016

ESHB 1351 National Guard hunting license: Requires the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue three types of recreational hunting licenses to resident full-time members of the Washington State Guard and National Guard at no charge. Effective 6/9/2016

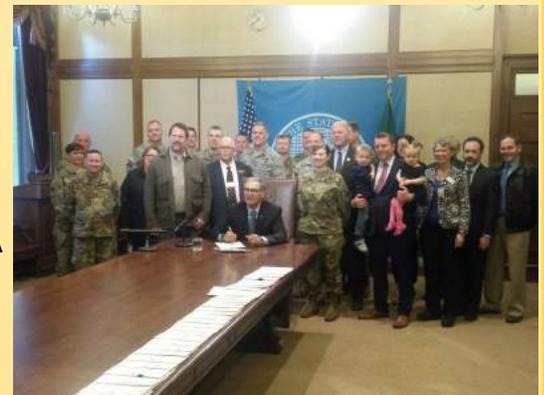
HB 2637 Historic cemetery preservation: Creates the Washington state Historic Cemetery Preservation Capital Grant program in the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. \$50,000 grants may be awarded biennially, subject to appropriation. Effective 6/9/2016

E2SHB 2793 Suicide education: Establishes a Safe Homes Task Force (including WDVA participation) to develop suicide awareness and prevention education messages and training and implement advocacy efforts with key stakeholders to pair suicide prevention training with distribution of devices for safe storage of lethal means. Effective 6/9/2016

SB 6202 National Guard employment rights: Requires the Attorney General to take enforcement action to protect a state service member's employment rights after the Adjutant General has attempted to resolve the matter with the employer. Effective 6/9/2016

SSB 6254 Purple Heart license plates: Allows individuals qualified to display Purple Heart special license plates to purchase additional plates for use on more than one motor vehicle. Additional funds are deposited into the Stewardship account to be used for the State Veterans Cemetery and homeless veteran services. (Effective date not available at time of printing)

SB 6405 Civilian health program: Exempts the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) from the definition of "health plans." Permits CHAMPVA coverage to be offered to groups other than to those set forth in statute. (Effective date not available at time of printing)



Serving Those Who Served:

A Conference For All Who Provide Services to Our Veterans

-Establish greater connection & collaboration between the
Veteran Service Community on both sides of WA state.

Register: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1813238>

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016 9:00 AM -
Thursday, May 26, 2016 12:00 PM**

**Keep informed about upcoming Veteran events by checking
our Calendar/Public Events Page often
<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](http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters)

Governor of Washington

Jay Inslee

WDVA Director

Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos
(Alfie)

alfie@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Deputy Director

Gary Condra

garyc@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Assistant Director

Mary Forbes

maryf@dva.wa.gov

Communications Director

Heidi Audette

heidia@dva.wa.gov

Community & Media Relations

Gary Lott

garyl@dva.wa.gov

Web & Veteran Owned Business

Jennifer Montgomery

jenniferm@dva.wa.gov

