

Updated: Oct. 2023

Demographics

525,343 Veterans
65,325 Active duty
17,565 National Guard
and Reserve
2,000,000+ Family members

The WDVA network of Veterans Service Offices filed 12,378 claims for VA compensation and/or pension benefits in FY22-23.

Impact on Veterans

Veterans who receive VA service-connected disability compensation or nonservice-connected pension benefits receive an average of \$1700 per month from the VA and are often entitled to additional benefits such as VA medical care, education and employment benefits, and benefits for family members and survivors.

Impact on State

VA disability compensation and pension benefits result in over \$3.4 billion per year flowing directly into the Washington economy and an additional \$2.2 billion per year in VA healthcare expenditures. Veterans receiving VA healthcare are also not as dependent upon state healthcare resources.

WDVA Director

David Puente, Jr.

WDVA Deputy Director

Solomon Gilbert, Jr.

WDVA Assistant Director

Mary J. Forbes
MaryF@dva.wa.gov

www.dva.wa.gov

1-800-562-2308

benefits@dva.wa.gov

Veterans Services Administrator

Steven J. Gill
360-789-5886
StevenG@dva.wa.gov

Veterans Services Programs

Call Center

WDVA's call center is a toll-free, statewide service that evaluates the needs of Veterans and their families and then refers them to experts within our Veterans Services Network.

Veterans Benefits and Claims Assistance

WDVA partners with six nonprofit Veteran service organizations, 26 counties, and seven Indian tribes to assist Veterans and their family members with Veterans benefits and disability claims assistance through its networks of VA-accredited Veterans Services Officers.

Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans

Our 130-bed housing program, split between Pierce and Kitsap counties, is designed to provide a safe and stable environment for both men and women Veterans without homes who are committed to returning to employment, permanent housing, and/or independent living.



Veterans Innovations Program

This program provides assistance to Veterans who served on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and have an Honorable or General Discharge, and are facing financial hardships due to their support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program

The HVRP helps Veterans who are homeless or at-risk-of-homelessness reintegrate into the workforce and obtain financial stability. Services include case management and employment assistance.

Veterans Estate Management Program

WDVA can act as the representative payee for Veterans and their immediate family members who are in receipt of VA or Social Security Administration benefits and need assistance managing their financial affairs.

LGBTQ+ Outreach Coordinator

This position ensures that all Veterans receive the benefits and entitlements they deserve, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Veteran Owned Business Certification

We support the establishment and growth of businesses owned by Veterans and service members with certification services and business development initiatives.

Apprenticeship Program

This program informs and connects Veterans with work-based learning opportunities, and assists Veterans with referrals and enrollment.

Military Spouse Initiative

We coordinate with state, federal, military, and private organizations to collaborate on career and career-related support for military spouses.

Transitioning Warrior Program

The TWP assists service members' integration into civilian life after the military. Services include preparation of Pre-Separation VA disability claims, information on state and federal benefits, gap funding, warm handoffs to other state VA agencies, counseling services, and other services designed to assist service members before they exit the military.

King County-funded Homeless Programs

This program assists homeless or shelter-less Veterans by offering case management, financial assistance, community resource referrals, and some employment assistance.

Veterans Reentry Case Management

This King County project provides case management and social services navigation for justice-involved Veterans while incarcerated and up to 120 days post-release who reside in or are being released to King County.

Washington State Justice-Involved Veterans

Designed to assist justice-involved Veterans with access to VA benefits. Veterans who are currently in custody or recently released from a state or federal corrections facility will be connected to resources through community partners. WDVA works in partnership with other reentry services to facilitate transition to a healthy and productive life within the community.

Transition and Readiness Council

We work with and coordinate state, federal, and military services to support transitioning Veterans enter civilian employment, higher education, and other endeavors.

Counseling and Wellness Programs

988 LIFELINE | THERE IS HOPE!

Suicide Prevention Program

WDVA provides connections to community resources, facilitates suicide prevention programming, and collaborates with federal, state, and local experts to provide innovative programs across the state. A dedicated Suicide Prevention Program Manager and five-member Suicide Prevention Peer Specialist Team collaborate with federal, state, and nonprofit entities to support service members, Veterans, and families in this ongoing battle.

Veterans Training Support Center

This King County initiative raises awareness and understanding of issues specific to Veterans, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries. It also aids agency and institution staff in establishing best practices to empower Veterans in reintegration to civilian life and pursuit of their goals. VTSC provides training through a classroom-based or virtual platform.

Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC)

The VCC provides Veterans with self-directed connections to the lands, waters, and communities in Washington State by offering opportunities to do meaningful work in conserving and restoring natural ecosystems with our environmental conservation and agricultural community partners. We support Veterans in establishing and maintaining healthy reciprocal relationships with nature and their community so that through their own efforts they may increase their self-efficacy and resiliency and realize a positive shift in their mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

Commercial Tobacco Cessation Program

The CTCP provides resources and support for veterans wishing to quit using tobacco products and aims to increase cessation efforts among Veterans in Washington State through education and training. Commercial tobacco includes any product containing tobacco and/or nicotine.

Veterans Peer Corps

This group of Veterans and family members is committed to supporting Washington Veterans through mentorship, guidance, and assistance in accessing the services and resources available to Veterans. The program provides training for peer mentors and seeks to construct a community of support and camaraderie.

The Counseling Program provides community-based, no-cost, professional, confidential counseling services to general discharged, war-era Veterans, reservists, guard, and family members.

Note: King County residents are seen no matter the era of service or discharge.

Licensed mental health professional contractors offer a wide range of specialized treatment services, i.e. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Military Sexual Trauma, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other issues related to military service.

For more information and a list of Counselors, visit dva.wa.gov/ptsd



Orting Veterans Farm

Our farm, located on the Soldiers Home campus, offers the opportunity for Veterans to lease fertile farmland (including irrigation access, a community greenhouse and tools, and cold storage), and the chance to connect with and learn from other Veteran farmers, attend training and workshops, and volunteer to grow food for the community.

VA Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant

Enables the WDVA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of eligible Veterans and their families through outreach, peer support, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources serving eight rural counties in northwest and north central Washington.

Vet Corps - AmeriCorps

Vet Corps members are stationed at colleges, universities, and community organizations through Washington State to assist Veterans and family members as they transition from military to civilian/collegiate life. These members also provide training and support to faculty, staff, administration, and community members to increase awareness of Veterans' needs.

Brain Injury & Recovery Program

WDVA's Brain Injury and Recovery Program provides no-cost services to Veterans and family members affected by both traumatic and acquired brain injuries. Services include individual support, education, and consultations; screening tools and training; employer support services; and treatment evaluation, consultation, and community outreach.

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

**Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
Dial "988"**

**www.dva.wa.gov
1-800-562-2308**

**Counseling and Wellness
Director**

Keith Meyer
360-789-9304
Keith.Meyer@dva.wa.gov

State Veterans Cemetery

Impact on Veterans

The creation of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake fills a significant service gap for Veterans and families in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

More than 10,000 Veterans and family members have been interred in this national shrine since it opened in 2010.

Impact on State

Proceeds from the sales of Armed Forces License Plates support ongoing maintenance of the State Veterans Cemetery. In FY2023, these license plates generated \$605,480 to directly support operations.

Administrative Office

Open Mon-Fri

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed weekends and holidays

21702 W. Espanola Rd.
Medical Lake, WA 99022
Office: 509-299-6280
Fax: 509-299-6286
Email:
cemetery@dva.wa.gov

Veterans Legacy Memorial:

www.va.gov/remember
Virtual memorial page for Veterans interred in Veterans' cemeteries

Note: pets and tobacco use are not allowed on cemetery grounds out of respect to families.

Cemetery Director

Rudy Lopez
509-299-6280
Cemetery@dva.wa.gov

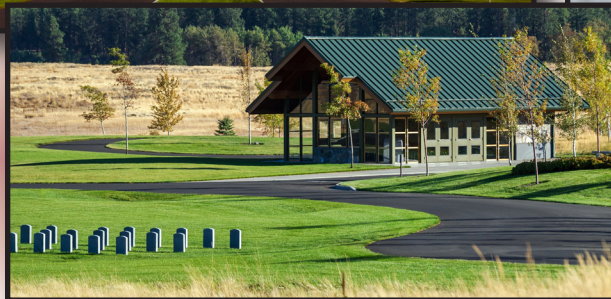
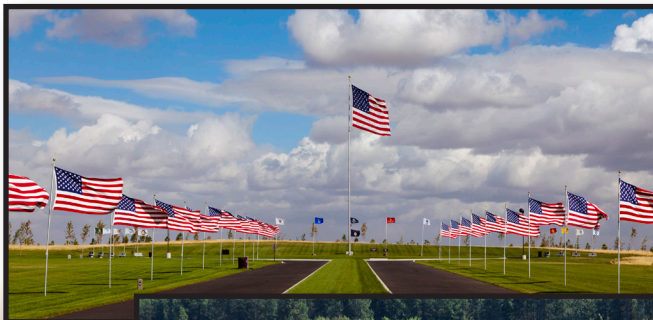
Eligibility

Interment eligibility mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements. In general:

- All honorably discharged U.S. Veterans
- Spouses
- Dependent Children (in limited cases)

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery serves Veterans and their families, fulfilling a nation's promise to care for its Veterans. Washington State residency is not a pre-requisite for burial. Refer to the following link for specific eligibility criteria.

http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp



Burial Options and Services

The State Veterans Cemetery provides for traditional in-ground casketed burials. Traditional burials include ground plot, cement liner, and an upright inscribed granite marker.

The following options are available for cremation inurnment:

- Columbarium niche includes inscribed granite niche cover
- In-ground cremation inurnment includes ground plot and upright inscribed granite marker
- Scattering Garden with inscribed granite marker

Traditional graveside services are not permitted. All services are held in the Committal Shelter offering a safe and respectful place for remembrance. Services may include Military Funeral Honors for Veterans and Military Retirees in accordance with Public Law 106.65. Families have the option of using a variety of volunteer-supported functions to personalize their loved ones' committal service.

An information kiosk located in the Administration Building foyer contains an electronic grave locator allowing family and friends to easily locate the gravesite of their loved one.

National Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Locator:

<http://www.cem.va.gov>

Mobile:
m.va.gov

Pre-need and Costs

Handling end-of-life affairs can be stressful on families. Pre-need applications allow you to determine interment eligibility to accommodate your families' pre-needs plan, and makes sure your wishes are known. For these reasons, pre-need planning is encouraged.

Military discharge documentation, such as a DD-214 (Veteran) and a marriage certificate (married couples), are required to pre-register. Upon verification, you will receive a determination letter which should be kept with other important records.

Interment costs for eligible Veterans are paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. \$300 is collected at the time of interment for eligible spouses and dependent children.



Volunteers and Donations

There are numerous opportunities for individuals to donate their time or resources at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, including:

- Honor Guard Rifle Teams
- Cemetery Ambassadors
- Buglers
- Cortege Drivers
- Photographers (community events)
- Ministers
- Monetary Donations - Gravesite flags (special holidays), special projects, public events

Veterans Holiday Remembrance

The facility hosts an annual event in mid-December to honor and remember Veterans for the holidays. Public donations determine the cemetery's ability to cover each marker with holiday greenery. Donations should be made payable to "WDVA Cemetery."

State Veterans Homes

Washington Soldiers Home

The Washington Soldiers Home was established in 1891 and is located on 174 acres in Orting's beautiful Puyallup Valley. It was the first of four homes established to serve Washington State Veterans. Each summer, residents and family members enjoy the annual family picnic and a fishing derby at the pond.

Occupancy: 97

**For a tour or more information,
call 360-893-4515**



Washington Veterans Home

The Washington Veterans Home was established in 1910 in Port Orchard on a 31-acre bluff overlooking Puget Sound. In 2005, a new nursing care building was opened, providing a "Resident Centered Care" concept that focuses resources around the individual resident. All primary services for residents are available within a forty-bed "neighborhood."

Occupancy: 240, including a 40-bed secured memory care neighborhood.

**For a tour or more information,
call 360-895-4700**

Spokane Veterans Home

Opened in 2002, the Spokane Veterans Home is located in the heart of Spokane's medical centers. The Home is a place where Veterans are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, in distinctive settings that provide a sense of belonging.

Occupancy: 100

**For a tour or more information,
call 509-344-5770**



Walla Walla Veterans Home

The Walla Walla Veterans Home opened in 2016 and is co-located on the campus of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center. This nursing care facility was designed using a "small house" model and provides care in eight individual homes. All residents enjoy a private room with a private bathroom. Each house has an open kitchen, dining area, and living space much like a traditional home. Additionally, the Homes are equipped with shared services such as laundry and a state of the art bathing suite.

A memory care house provides a home-like environment to address the needs of Veterans who require nursing home-level care in a secure setting.

Occupancy: 80

For a tour or more information, call 509-394-6800



Admission Criteria

- Require nursing home-level care
- Served at any time in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Served in the National Guard and was activated for 180 days or fulfilled the initial service obligation
- Received an honorable discharge
- Resides in WA State

OR

- Is the spouse of a Veteran who is a resident, or is a widow of an eligible Veteran
- Is a Gold Star Parent

Supportive Services

- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Recreational activities
- Volunteer programs
- Hospice
- Community involvement
- Religious programs
- Transportation

Impact on Veterans

Veterans rated 70-100% Service Connected Disabled, or whose service connected disability is the reason nursing care is needed, may have their nursing home care paid by the Federal VA.

Impact on State

State Veterans Homes are eligible to receive Per Diem payments from the Federal VA, reducing the state's Medicaid obligation and saving those dollars for individuals in non-state Veterans homes.

Admissions

**1-877-838-7787
www.dva.wa.gov**