

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
TRI-CITIES TOWN HALL**



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

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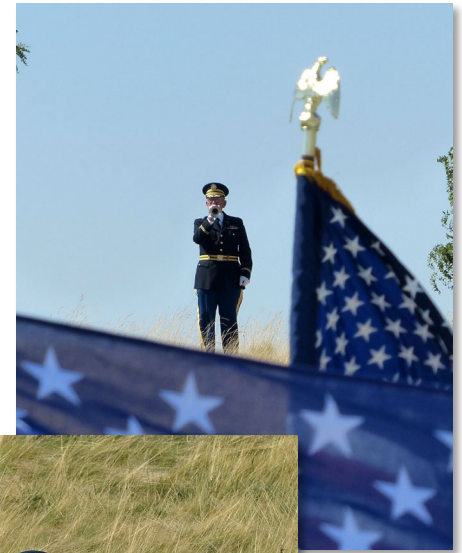
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# AGENDA

- Introduction
- WA State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake
- Current State
- Requirements
- Limitations/Challenges
- Ask
- Conclusion



# STRATEGIC PLAN

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



"*Serving Those Who Served*"



## Strategic Anchors

### Mission

***Serving Those Who Served***

### Vision

***Improving the Quality of Life for Veterans and Their Families***

### The WDVA Way

*We value everyone*



*We cultivate a healthy, inclusive, & safe workplace*



*We are honest, professional, & transparent*



*We listen to understand & speak with intent*



## 2023-2026 Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

### Save and transform lives

**Focus on health, growth, well-being, connectivity, and purpose, resulting in a 20% reduction in suicide among Veterans by 2025**

- Mitigate risk factors and enhance protective factors.
- Continue to grow community-based and governmental partnerships.
- Develop a behavioral health team.

**Place 80 Veterans experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in permanent housing by October 2024**

- Work with Commerce and local organizations to improve capacity.
- Expand capacity of the Transitional Housing Program.
- Expand other preventative services.

### Respect, empower, and inspire everyone

**Reduce the yearly employee turnover rate from 24% to 15% and fill 90% of positions by FY2025**

- Ensure employees are onboarded successfully.
- Continue involvement in the healthcare training partnerships.
- Identify and leverage what is working for WDVA employees by repeating success factors.

**Team members will experience an even greater sense of cooperation, teamwork and belonging in the workplace, as evidenced by a 10% increase in employee engagement feedback by 2026**

- Use feedback provided by employees to identify and close gaps.
- Leverage and continue to implement strategies in the WDVA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and State Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) plans.

### Be the leading state in Veteran service delivery and outcomes

**All State Veterans Homes achieve and sustain a Medicare 5-Star quality measure rating by 2026**

- Incorporate change management principles into the use of quality measures reports.
- Regularly provide and review data with staff and stakeholders to ensure milestones for improvements are visible and recognized.
- Incorporate staff and resident improvement ideas into problem solving efforts.

**Increase the percentage of WA State Veterans connected to their earned disability compensation benefit from 28% to 33% by 2026**

- Place resources strategically in regions experiencing gaps.
- Address the limited technology access for Veterans in rural counties and connect them electronically to their earned benefits.

### Operate effectively and efficiently

**Cultivate a culture of accountability and transparency by sharing our performance data from all divisions at least annually by 2026**

- Identify key performance indicators involving subject matter experts.
- Include the "why" behind each indicator.
- Use this data to tell their story, inform improvements, and give recognition.

**All programs use a standard process to demonstrate operational sustainability of services by 2026**

- Complete a current state and refine a standardized process that matches resources to operational capacity.
- Continue to implement the One Washington Project.



# **INTRODUCTION AND TODAY'S GOAL**

**Determine whether the Veterans Community supports the establishment of a State Veterans Cemetery in the Greater Tri-Cities area.**

**The Cemetery would serve an estimated 46,000 Veterans and their families from Southeast/South Central Washington in collaboration with the National Cemetery Administration's Cemetery Grants Program.**



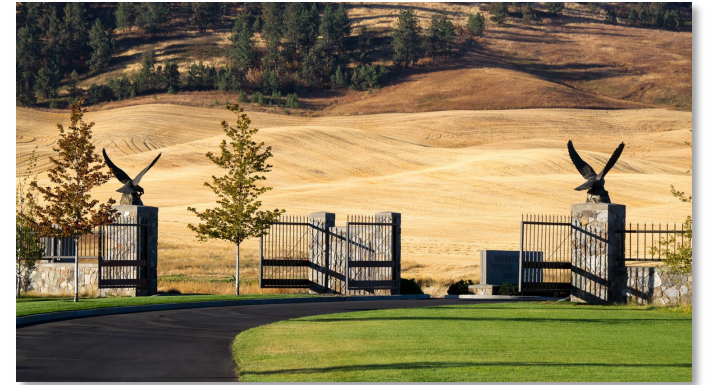
# WSVC MEDICAL LAKE, CURRENT STATE

- **Current Operations**
- **Service Hours 8am to 4pm, Mon – Fri**
- **900+ Interments Annually**
- **Preneed & Interment Scheduling**



# WSVC MEDICAL LAKE

- Provides for Burial needs of Veterans & Family Members
- 10K interments since 2010
- Source of Civic Pride – Respected Shrine to those Laid to Rest here
- Interments – Ratio
- Estimated capacity 65+ yrs

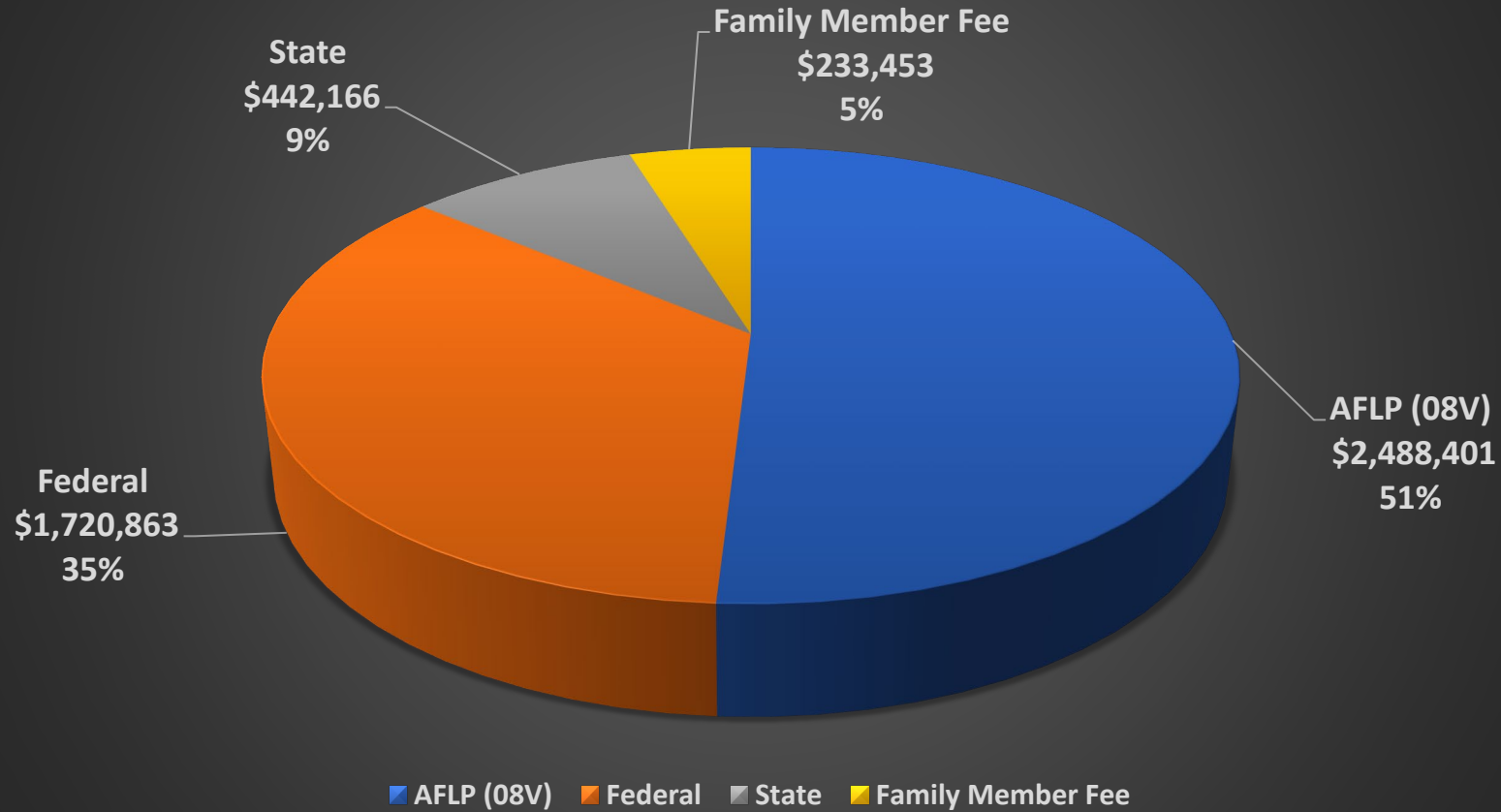


# WSVC MEDICAL LAKE



# WSVC, MEDICAL LAKE FUNDING

Washington Veterans Cemetery Funding, 2020-2023





# STATE VETERANS CEMETERY, MEDICAL LAKE



21702 West Espanola Rd  
Medical Lake, WA

- **Licensing Office**
- **Eligibility: Vet or Family Member**
- **Qualifying Documents: Mil ID, DD214, or declaration attesting relationship**
- **RCW 46.18.210**
- **Multiple Tags Allowed**

## **Armed Forces License Plates help support the State Veterans Cemetery**

**\$28** from the sale or renewal of each Armed Forces License Plate are directed to operating and maintaining the state veteran's cemetery, and to providing programs, and services for veterans without homes, and other activities that benefit veterans



# CEMETERY COST COMPARISON

## WSVC

**Plot: Veteran – no fee**  
**Family member – \$300**  
*Note: subject to increase*

**Open/Close: no fee**

**Grave Liner/Vault: provided**

**Govt. Monument: provided**  
*Setting Fee – none*

**Perpetual Cemetery Care: provided**

*VA Burial earned benefit saves families large  
burial expenses*

## Private Cemetery Estimates

**Plot: \$1K – \$9K**

**Open/Close Grave: \$350 – \$3K** *(Nat'l avg. = \$1,250)*

**Grave Liner/Vault: \$700 – \$7K**

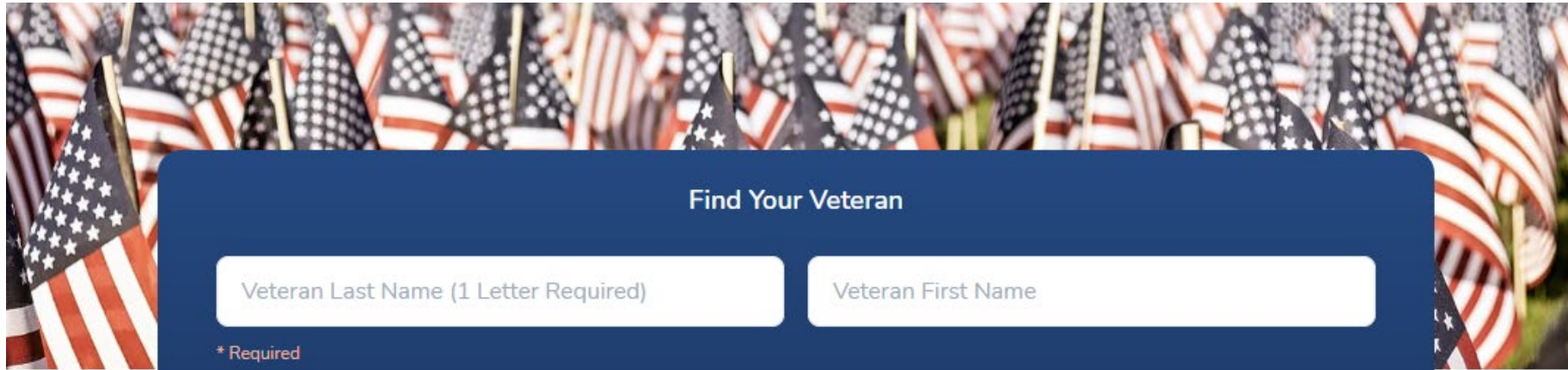
**Monument: \$500 – \$3K**  
*Setting Fee – \$150 to \$450*

**Perpetual Cemetery Care: trust funds** *(annual or  
one time, \$X00 or 5%-15% of plot purchase price)*



# VETERANS LEGACY MEMORIAL

*VLM.cem.va.gov*



Find Your Veteran

Veteran Last Name (1 Letter Required)

Veteran First Name

\* Required

Branch of Service  ▼

Year of Death

Country/State/Territory  ▼

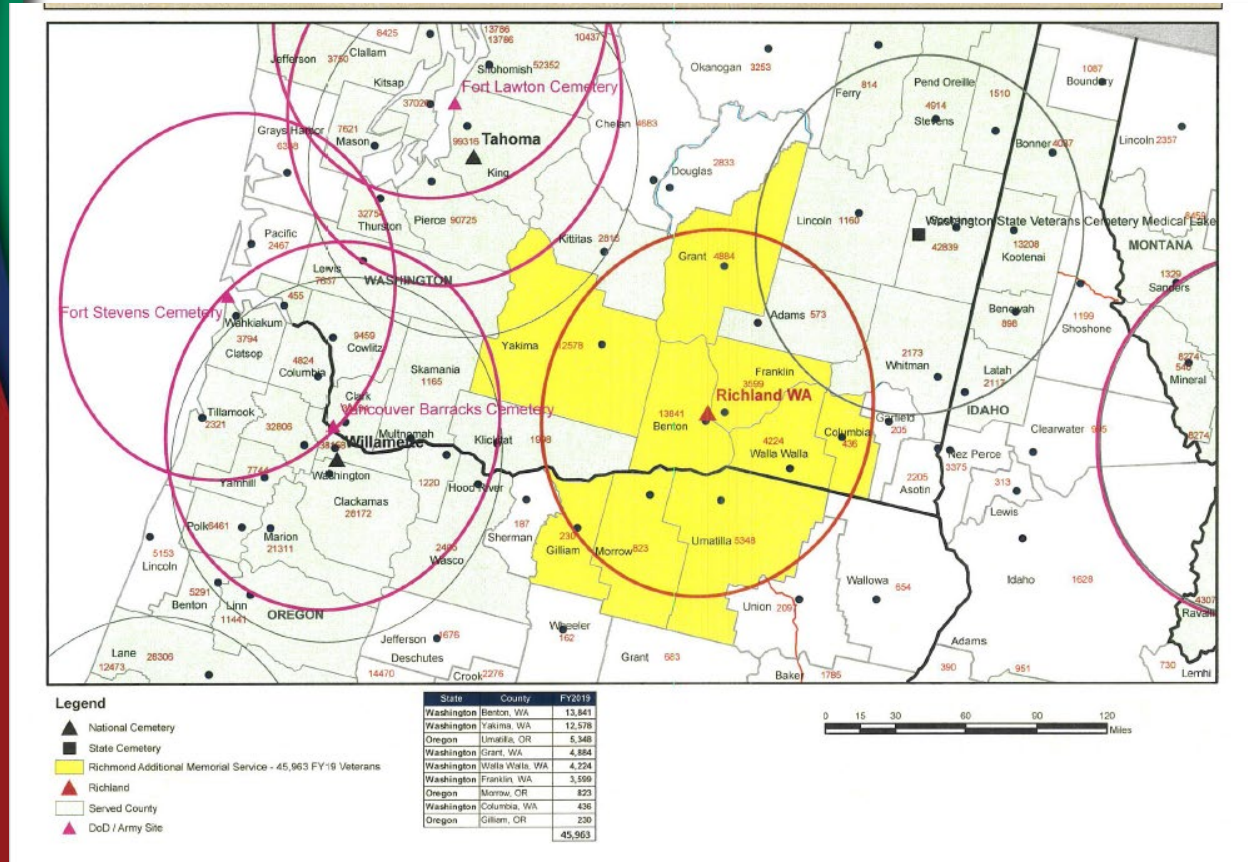
Cemetery

Advanced search

Welcome to the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)



# TRI-CITIES AREA VETERAN POPULATION



- **WDVA and VA are committed to developing a cemetery in South Central WA**
- **Facility will serve 46K Veterans**
- **Estimated to support 400 interments annually**
  - **Classifies as a medium size cemetery within the grant funding program**



# WSVC TRI-CITIES

## Planning Phases

- Feasibility Study ✓
- NCA Grant Preapplication ✓
- Land Acquisition
- Finalize Grant Requirements
- Award – Design, Build
- Dedication



# REQUIREMENTS

**Primary requirement for a state veterans Cemetery is that all cemeteries established under the grant program must conform to VA-prescribed standards and guidelines for site selection, planning and construction.**

- **Title to the cemetery; land must be vested in the state**
- **The cemetery should consider a 50-year life span at minimum**
- **Access to public infrastructure and utilities**
- **The VA Grant Program develops properties incrementally**



# **FUTURE PROJECT MILESTONES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

- **Land Acquisition**
- **State Capital Funding – for land acquisition and construction**
- **Federal VA Grant Application & Award**
- **Secure Operational Funding Source(s)**
- **Community Support – Volunteers, Projects or Amenities**



# ASK

- **Community Support**
- **Identify Property**

