



## WDVA Veteran Voices

March 2025

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## Greetings from your WDVA Director: David Puente

It was an honor for me, alongside several WDVA leaders, to represent our state and agency at the [National Association of State Veterans Homes](#)' annual winter conference. This key gathering brought together Veterans Home professionals from across the nation to engage with the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and learn about significant regulatory and oversight changes that will directly impact the Veterans and families we serve at our four State Veterans Homes.

During the conference, we had the privilege of meeting with members of our Congressional Delegation, including U.S. Senator Patty Murray, Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, Rep. Dan Newhouse, Representative Rick Larsen, Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Rep. Emily Randall, and Congressman Smith. These discussions allowed us to share [WDVA](#) priorities on both the state and federal levels.

We also had the opportunity to meet with staff members from other offices within our Washington delegation. We're confident that these efforts will lead to significant developments for Washington state, including the replacement of Veterans Homes on two of our campuses and the creation of a new State Veterans Cemetery in the Tri-Cities. We're excited for the future and the positive impact these initiatives will have on our Veterans.

For a list of current Legislative Updates on Veteran related bills, visit [WDVA Legislative Updates](#)

To receive WDVA Legislative Update e-mails visit: [WDVA Legislative e-mail updates](#)

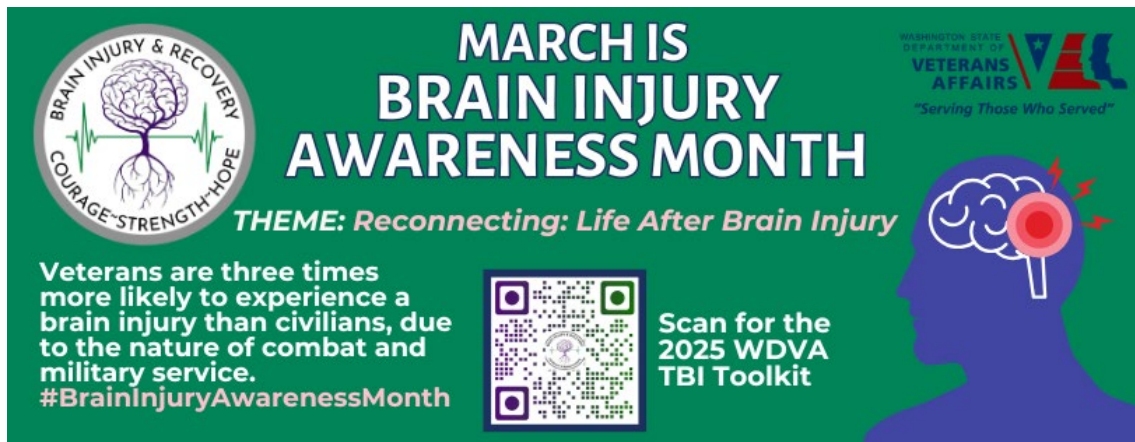
Click the link below for an update to Tri-Cities Veterans Community on the Proposed Tri-Cities State Veterans Cemetery.

[Feb 2025 Update to Tri-Cities Veterans Community on the Proposed Tri-Cities State Veterans Cemetery | WDVA](#)



## **WDVA News and Current Events**

**Brain Injury Awareness Month**



**MARCH IS  
BRAIN INJURY  
AWARENESS MONTH**

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**  
"Serving Those Who Served"

**THEME: Reconnecting: Life After Brain Injury**

Veterans are three times more likely to experience a brain injury than civilians, due to the nature of combat and military service.  
**#BrainInjuryAwarenessMonth**

Scan for the 2025 WDVA TBI Toolkit

March is a special month dedicated to raising awareness about brain injuries. Established in 1980 by the Brain Injury Association of America, formerly the National Head Injury Foundation, Brain Injury Awareness Month educates, advocates, and brings attention to the challenges individuals with brain injuries face.

This year's theme is **Reconnecting: Life After Brain Injury**.

Click the link to watch our [Brain Injury Awareness Month Video](#)

To access the Brain Injury and Recovery Toolkit click: [Brain Injury and Recovery Toolkit](#)

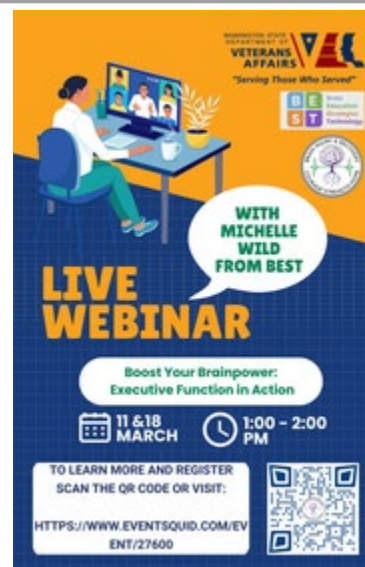
## Boost Your Brain Power Live Webinar!

In honor of Brain Injury Awareness month, we are hosting a variety of activities!

We are cohosting with Michelle Wild from [BEST](#) to offer a **2-part Lunch & Learn Webinar Series; Boost Your Brainpower: Executive Function in Action**.

In this 2-part series, attendees will be provided practical skills to help their clients manage their time effectively, organize their daily life, and handle emotional responses when routines change. Learn to help empower your clients to increase their independence and confidence!

Check out our [website](#) for more information and to access our [Brain Injury and Recovery Toolkit](#).



WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**  
"Serving Those Who Served"

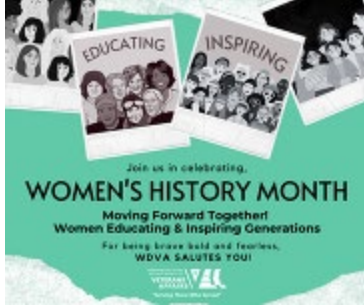
**LIVE WEBINAR**

WITH MICHELLE WILD FROM BEST

Boost Your Brainpower:  
Executive Function in Action

11 & 18  
MARCH 1:00 - 2:00  
PM

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTSQUID.COM/EV-ENT/27600](https://www.eventsquid.com/ev-ent/27600)



## Women's History Month

As we step into March as Women's History Month, we are excited to recognize and celebrate women and women Veterans' incredible contributions.

This year's theme is [Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations](#)

As part of this celebration, we are proud to shine a spotlight on trailblazing women in military leadership who have made extraordinary contributions to breaking barriers and creating opportunities for future generations. These remarkable leaders have redefined what's possible and continue to inspire us all.

To read more visit: [Women's History Month - Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations | WDMA](#)

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## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Join us on March 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Columbia Room of the Legislative Building as we honor our Vietnam Veterans and warmly welcome them home.

Commemorative pins will be presented to all Vietnam Veterans and their spouses. If you've already received one, we encourage you to wear it with pride!

For any questions, please feel free to email us at [communications@dva.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dva.wa.gov).

To view the event on our calendar visit: [Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans](#)

We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you!

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## LGBTQ+ Veteran Allyship Workshops

Your WDVA LGBTQ+ Veterans Program is offering no-cost workshops as part of the LGBTQ+ Veteran Ally Program.

These workshops are interactive sessions that prepare Veteran service providers with information to better serve LGBTQ+ Veterans and their families.

Space is limited. Register today!

To learn more and register visit click the link below.

[LGBTQ+ Veteran Allyship Workshops](#)

For more information on how the state definition of "Veteran" has expanded state benefits to include any Veteran already eligible for federal Department of Veterans Affairs monetary benefits, please visit our [Definition of a Veteran | WDVA](#) webpage.

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## Check out what's happening at our Veterans Homes

### Washington Veterans Home

Congresswoman [Emily Randall](#) visited the Washington Veterans Home to deliver heartfelt Valentine's cards created by local elementary students for our Veterans. A beautiful way to show appreciation and spread love to those who have served



### Washington Soldiers Home

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting honored residents and their families gathered for an unforgettable Super Bowl LIX celebration featuring the Kansas City Chiefs versus the Philadelphia Eagles. The Activity Room was football themed creating a vibrant and festive atmosphere.

## Walla Walla Veterans Home

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers with [Volunteers Love Serving Veterans](#) who helped make the Valentine's parties a heartfelt success with music, refreshments, balloons, special treat bags, and meaningful conversations.

We're deeply grateful for the support of community organizations that helped make these events possible.

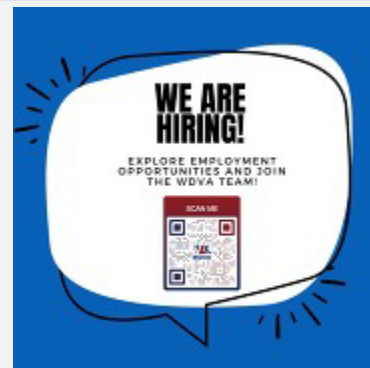


## Spokane Veterans Home

WDVA Director David Puente and Chief Financial Officer Terry Westhoff recently had the privilege of meeting with residents at our Spokane Veterans Home to engage in an open dialogue about the current state of affairs and the progress of the replacement Spokane Veterans Home.

## WDVA Job Opportunities

Take a look at our [available opportunities](#) with WDVA!



## Events & Observances Calendar

[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

## Calendar

< > today

March 2025

month week day list

Submit an event for posting consideration.  
Submissions accepted will be added within 2  
business days if your submission meets the criteria.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		10:00 LGBTQ+ Veteran Allyship Workshop - 18:00 Women Veterans Listening Session -	10:00 Career Fair - Hawk Transition Center -			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		13:00 Boost Your Brainpower: Executive Function in Action - 17:00 Forward2gether Veteran & Military Family Peer Group -	10:30 VERG Monthly Meeting March 2025 -			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		13:00 Boost Your Brainpower: Executive Function in Action -				14:00 Washington State Patriotic Day -
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						11:00 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Event on Capitol Campus -

Submit an Event

## Program Spotlight



### Transitional Housing Program

Transitional housing facilities in Port Orchard and Orting help those in need with stable housing, vocational rehabilitation, and employment. Veterans are surrounded with staff and wrap-around services that lead to successful program completion and return to the community.

To learn more, watch the Transitional Housing Program Overview: [\(29\) WDVA Transitional Housing Program Overview - YouTube](#) or visit our website at [Veterans Transitional Housing Program | WDVA](#)



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