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Greetings from your WDVA Director: David Puente

Veterans Day is more than a date on the calendar, it's a moment to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, and service of those who have worn our nation's uniform. At WDVA, this day holds special meaning across our four Veterans Homes, where residents embody the legacy of service every day.

From Port Orchard to Spokane, Orting to Walla Walla, our Homes provide more than care. They offer community, dignity, and connection. On Veterans Day, staff and volunteers come together to celebrate our Residents with heartfelt ceremonies, shared stories, and quiet moments of gratitude. These events remind us that honoring Veterans isn't just symbolic it's personal.

As we recognize their service, we also invite everyone to support these Homes in a tangible way. Donations help provide comfort items, recreational activities, and personal touches that make our Homes feel like home. Whether it's a warm blanket, a holiday gift, or a new book, your contribution makes a meaningful difference.

To learn more about Donations watch this video: <https://youtu.be/ZbaLZWIBmVU> or visit: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/donations>

Looking for another way to give back?

Volunteers play a vital role in enriching the lives of our Residents. whether through friendly

visits, event support, or simply lending a listening ear. If you're interested in volunteering at one of our Veterans Homes, we'd love to hear from you.

For volunteer opportunities please visit our website [Volunteers | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wdva.wa.gov/volunteers)

Thank you for being part of this mission. On Veterans Day and every day, we honor our Residents not just with words, but with action.

For more information about our Veterans Homes visit: [Veterans Homes | WDVA](https://www.wdva.wa.gov/veterans-homes)



WDVA News and Current Events

Honoring Service: 2025 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards

Honoring Service: 2025 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards



The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), in partnership with the [Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee \(VAAC\)](https://www.wdva.wa.gov/veterans-affairs-advisory-committee), proudly announces the recipients of the 2025 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards. These annual awards honor individuals and organizations across Washington who have gone above and beyond in serving and supporting the state's Veteran community.

Award Recipients Include:

Superior Service Award:

- *Alfie Alvarado-Ramos* (Thurston County) – Celebrated for over 30 years of transformative leadership and advocacy in and out of uniform.

Distinguished Service Award:

- *Christopher Diaz* (Skagit County) – Honored for strengthening one of the state's most effective county veteran service programs.

Team Award:

- *Blue Mountain Action Council & OIC of Washington* (Walla Walla County) – Recognized for their unwavering support across 17 rural counties.

Legislators of the Year:

- *Rep. Stephanie Barnard* (8th District) – Sponsored HB 1106 expanding property tax relief for veterans.
- *Rep. Clyde Shavers* (10th District) – Sponsored HB 1102 to enhance County Veterans Services.
- *Sen. Marcus Riccelli* (3rd District) and *Sen. Leonard Christian* (4th District) - Instrumental in securing \$8M for a replacement Spokane Veterans Home.

These awards reflect the power of service, advocacy, and leadership in improving the lives of those who served.

As we celebrate these honorees, we invite you to reflect on your own legacy. Whether you're a veteran, family member, or ally, your voice and actions help shape a stronger future for those who follow.

2025 Veterans Day Events & Observances



Checkout the Statewide list of 2025 Veterans Day Events and Observances!

Visit [2025 Veterans Day Events & Observances](#)

[Honoring Veterans History Awareness Month | WDVA](#)

Click the links below to view Videos:

[2025 Veterans Day Greeting from Your WDVA Director](#)

[Veterans History Awareness Month Video](#)

Thank You for your Service!

Commanders Call Town Hall - All Are Welcome to Attend



Join us for a Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) Commanders Call Townhall.



This year's meeting will focus on four priority areas, with an emphasis on rural Veterans and their families. It will include an opportunity for attendees to participate in breakout group conversations, they include:

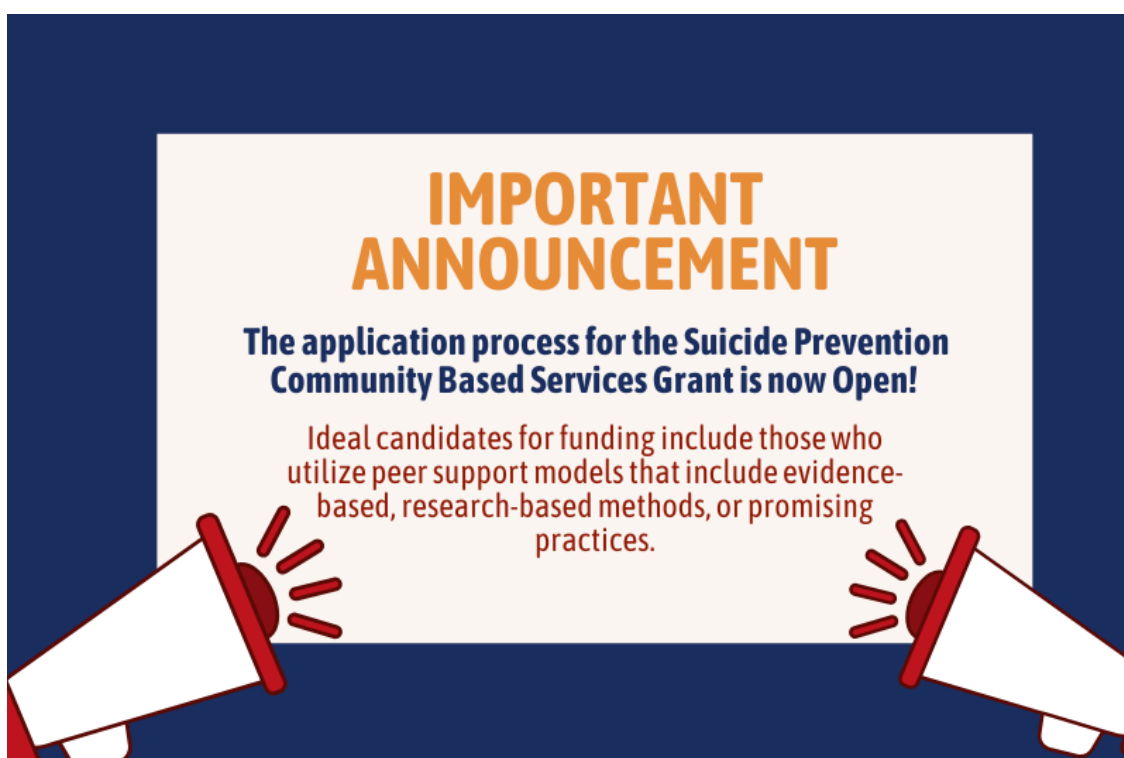
Women Veterans - Resources & Support

Suicide Prevention - Save & Transform Lives

Unhoused Veterans - Save & Transform Lives

Connecting Veterans & Families to Earned Benefits - Be the Leading State in Veteran Service Delivery and Outcomes.

To register visit: [Commander's Call RSVP](#)



Washington Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking applications from eligible Washington-based, Veteran-serving organizations to apply for the Suicide Prevention Community Based Services Grant (SPCBSG). WDVA is seeking to fund programs and organizations that serve Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) who are at risk of suicide. Ideal candidates for funding include those who utilize peer support models that include evidence-based, research-based methods, or promising practices.

Deadline is December 1, 2025

To learn more about the Grant, Eligibility and how to Apply visit:

[Request for Grant Applications - Suicide Prevention Community Based Services Grant Award | WDVA](#)

WDVA vs WDVA Campaign

Student Veterans: It's game time—on and off the field.

From Oct 8 - Nov 11, the [Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and Washington Departments of Veterans Affairs are going head-to-head in the [#BattleForTheW](#) culminating in the UW Badgers vs. UW Huskies Salute to Service game.

But this isn't just about bragging rights! it's about unlocking YOUR benefits.

Washington Veterans and dependents may qualify for tuition waivers, book stipends, and campus support services. Plus, mental health resources, career help, and Vet Corps mentors are standing by to support your journey.

Explore your benefits. Claim your future.

For more information visit: [WDVA vs. WDVA: Interstate Matchup Highlights Veterans Benefits in Lead Up to Badgers-Huskies Game | WDVA](#)

Check out WDVA vs WDVA Campaign Videos:

[WDVA Director Intro Shout Out Video](#)

[WDVA vs WDVA Campaign - Dr Houghton Spotlights the UW Student Veteran Life](#)

[WDVA vs WDVA Campaign - WDVA Director Shout Out Video from UW Student Veteran Life Office](#)

Did you know?

That your doctor can write a Nexus Letter connecting your claimed disability with the in-service incident that caused it to add support to your VA claim?



To learn more, visit [VA.gov Home](#) | [Veterans Affairs](#)

Check out what's happening at our Veterans Homes

Washington Veterans Home



Irene from [Seniors Creating Art](#) stopped by to lead our residents in a fall themed art project, generously funded by a grant through their organization!

She provided paints, stencils, and some inspirational photos and patterns as guides.

Attendance was high, and everyone jumped right in to painting! Thanks, Irene, and everyone in our activities staff who assisted with the class!



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

Our Washington Soldiers Home Residents recently enjoyed the Puyallup Fair!

A heartfelt thank you to the [Washington State Fair](#) for donating admission tickets and to the volunteers from the Puyallup Elks, PNW Vets, JBLM military personnel, individual volunteers, and dedicated staff



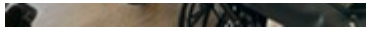
Walla Walla Veterans Home

Hipsters and Pink Ladies were rockin' & rollin' at the 1950s Sock Hop at the Walla Walla Veterans Home!



Spokane Veterans Home

Recently, four talented musicians from the Spokane Symphony visited our Veterans Home to share the healing power of music. Their performance delighted residents across the campus, and they offered a special set for our memory care community bringing comfort, joy, and even



sparking cherished memories.

Moments like these remind us how deeply music can connect, uplift, and honor the lives of those we serve. We're grateful to the Spokane Symphony for their time, talent, and heartfelt presence

WDVA Job Opportunities

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



Events & Observances Calendar

[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

Calendar

< > today November 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
				10:00 Thurston County Veteran Resource and Job Fair - 11:30 Tahoma National Cemetery Veteran and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - 18:00 Writing Workshop at the Minority Vets Community Center -	12:30 #OptOutside Outdoor Meetup -	08:00 Full List Veterans Day Events & Observances 17:30 Our Stories, Our Community - 18:00 MusicWorks 4 Veterans Sound/VetJam at Lakewood Playhouse -
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Full List Veterans Day Events & Observances -						
09:00 Seahawks Salute to Service 50/50 Raffle -	10:00 VERG Veterans Day Event -	03:00 Veterans Day Celebration - Pasco -	10:30 VERG Monthly Meeting November 2025 -		09:00 Tri-Cities Veterans Resource Expo & Stand Down -	
15:00 2025 NAACP Veterans Day Program -	18:00 Ghostbusters Movie Night -	09:00 Kitsap County Veterans Day Program and Resource Fair -				
		10:00 America's Team Museum - Veterans Day Display -				
		10:00 Veterans Day Ceremony at the Spokane				

[Submit an Event](#)

Program Spotlight

Brain Injury & Recovery Program

The WDVA Brain Injury & Recovery Program supports Washington veterans living with brain injury, diagnosed or not. We provide resources, guidance, and advocacy to help veterans access the care they need.

That means that we:

- Offer one-on-one support to veterans navigating brain injury.
- Connect veterans with trusted resources and referrals.
- Champion the groups and agencies making a difference for our veteran community.



- Provide training and guidance to any organization, summit, or event seeking to better support veterans living with brain injury or related symptoms.

To learn more visit: [Brain Injury & Recovery-TBI Program | WDVA](#)

Listen to a Veteran's Brain Injury Recovery Journey, watch the video: [A Veteran's Brain Injury and Recovery Journey](#).

Additional Information



Mindfulness for TBI Survivors - Virtual Workshop

Discover how mindfulness can ease symptoms of brain injury, reduce stress, and improve focus for survivors and those who support them.

This interactive workshop includes:

- Simple mindfulness techniques for daily life
- Insights on how mindfulness supports healing
- Practices to boost presence, calm and clarity

To register visit: [Mindfulness for TBI Survivors](#)



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