



October 2025



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## **Greetings from your WDVA Director: David Puente**

At the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), we believe that honoring our Veterans doesn't end with their service, it continues in how we care for them and their families, even after their final salute. Today, I'm proud to share an important milestone in that commitment.

The [State Veterans Cemetery at Medical Lake](#) is expanding its columbarium section, a long-planned project rooted in respect, foresight, and service to our Veteran community. This meaningful addition of eight new walls, offering approximately 5,000 niches, ensures we can continue meeting the interment needs of Washington's Veterans and their families for years to come.

This expansion reflects WDVA's enduring promise to provide a dignified, peaceful resting place for those who served. It also stands as a testament to the care and dedication of Cemetery Director Rudy Lopez and his exceptional team, whose dedication made this possible.

We invite you to learn more about the [State Veterans Cemetery](#) and to visit this sacred space, where gratitude and remembrance live on.

Visitation Hours: 8am – Sunset, 7 days/week *Note: Severe winter weather may limit access on weekends.*

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. *(Closed for State Holidays)*

Learn more: [Cemetery | WDVA](#)



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## WDVA News and Current Events

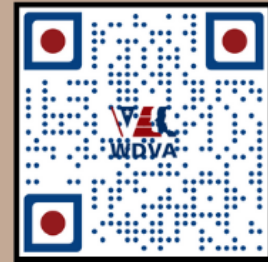
**Veterans Town Hall and a Women Veterans Forum**

# JOIN US!

## VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TOWN HALL & WOMEN VETERANS FORUM

Scan QR Code  
or Email us for  
the Livestream  
Link:

Communications  
@dva.wa.gov



**OCTOBER 22**



**8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**



**MATHEW FAZZARI VFW POST 992**  
102 N. Colville St.,  
Walla Walla 99362

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME TO  
ATTEND**

**Walla Walla County** - Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) will host a Women Veterans Forum from 8:30 to 9:30 and a Veterans Town Hall from 10:00 to 12:30 on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the Mathew Fazzari VFW Post 992, located at 102 N. Colville St., Walla Walla 99362. If joining virtually, please [register now](#).

This double event is presented by the [Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee \(VAAC\)](#) and the [Women Veterans Advisory Committee \(WVAC\)](#).

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**2025 Veterans Day Events & Observances**



Veterans Day is a time to honor and celebrate the service of those who've worn our nation's uniform. WDVA is building a statewide calendar of events to help communities connect, reflect, and show appreciation.

If your organization is hosting a Veterans Day event, whether it's a ceremony, parade, resource fair, or community gathering we'd love to include it.

Please upload your event to [WDVA Event Submission](#) and send event details and flyers to [communications@dva.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dva.wa.gov)

Visit [2025 Veterans Day Events & Observances | WDVA](#) for Veterans Day events and observances throughout Washington.

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## September Highlights: WDVA in Motion

In case you missed it, here's a quick roll-up of WDVA activities from September:

[Spokane County Takes Action: 200 Suicide Prevention Emblems Bought to Support Veterans | WDVA](#)

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

# Did you know?



That any private payments made to WDVA nursing homes while a claim is in process are reimbursed after the veteran reaches a 70% disability rating?



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

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

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

## Washington Veterans Home



Residents and staff at WVH had the privilege of welcoming The American Legion National Commander, Dan K. Wiley, during his recent visit to Washington. Commander Wiley toured the campus, met with veterans and caregivers, and shared his appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

His presence was a meaningful reminder of the strong ties between national leadership and local veteran communities.

Click the link to watch the Washington Veterans Home Foster Dog Program Video: [WVH Foster Dog Program](#)



## Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

Residents from the Washington Soldiers Home headed to the WA State Fair to join in its 125th birthday celebration. With volunteers and staff by their side, they strolled through the fairgrounds, taking in the buzz of the crowd, the sights and sounds, and the mouthwatering smell of fair food drifting through the air.

Big thanks to the WA State Fair for donating admission tickets and heartfelt appreciation to the volunteers from Puyallup EIKs, PNW Vets, JBLM, community members, and WDVA staff who made the day possible.



## Walla Walla Veterans Home

We're honored to celebrate Harold (104) and Ed (102), two extraordinary WWII Veterans, alongside fellow WVVH residents who enjoyed a truly memorable experience.

Thanks to the entire WVVH team for making it happen, with special appreciation to Walla Walla Regional Airport, Flying Legends, and Wings Over Walla Walla for their continued dedication to our Veterans.



## Spokane Veterans Home

To beat the heat, our residents took aim in a refreshing round of Squirr-a-Mole! Armed with squirt bottles, our veterans showed off their coordination and reflexes as they waited for staff to pop up through a tarp, then let the water fly!

Not only was it a blast, but the game also offered great opportunities for physical movement, hand-eye coordination, and a few well-earned laughs.

We love finding creative ways to keep our veterans cool, active, and smiling.

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## WDVA Job Opportunities

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



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## Events & Observances Calendar

[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

## Calendar

< > today

October 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
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			10:30 VERG Monthly Meeting October 2025 -			11:00 Our Stories: Stories Behind the Uniform @ MAC museum Spokane -
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	17:30 Forward2gether Peer Groups -	11:30 VA Women Veteran Focus Group -	10:00 VA Resource Fair - Vancouver Campus of the Portland VA Medical Center 10/15/2025 -	10:00 VA Resource Fair - Vancouver Campus of the Portland VA Medical Center 10/15/2025 -	12:00 SSMCP Behavioral Healthcare Forum -	09:00 Yakima Stand Down and Benefits Fair -
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			08:30 Veterans Town Hall & Women Veterans Forum - VFW Post 992 -			
			11:00 Bellevue College Veterans Resource Fair -			
			12:00 VA New Patient Orientation -			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			09:00 Joint Committee on			

Submit an Event

## Program Spotlight

### Transitioning Warrior Program

The Transitioning Warrior Program is dedicated to guiding service members, Veterans, and their families through every step of the benefits process on Joint Base Lewis-McChord and throughout surrounding communities.

Whether you're navigating your transition from military to civilian life or seeking support as a Veteran, our team is here to help you access the resources you've earned.

#### What we do:

- VA Disability Claims Support
- Guidance on VA Programs and Services
- Community Outreach and Education
- Trusted Referrals to Partner Agencies



If you or someone you know is preparing to separate from military service, don't wait! Connect to your earned benefits now.

To learn more and to get connected with a Veteran Benefit Specialist visit [Transitioning Warrior Program | WDVA](#) or e-mail [jblmvabenefits@dva.wa.gov](mailto:jblmvabenefits@dva.wa.gov)

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## Additional Information



### Explore Washington's Outdoors: Free Access for Veterans

Washington's natural beauty is for everyone and veterans with a qualifying disability can enjoy it year-round with the **Lifetime Disabled Veteran Pass**. This free pass provides access to day-use areas at state parks and other state recreation lands, along with discounts on camping, moorage, and more.

Eligible veterans can apply through the Washington State Parks website: [Lifetime Disabled Veteran Pass | Washington State Parks](#)

In addition, **Discover Pass Free Days** offer everyone a chance to visit state lands without a pass. Here are the remaining free days for 2025:

**Tuesday, Nov. 11** – Veterans Day

Plan your next adventure and help spread the word to fellow veterans and community members.

For more details visit: [State land agencies announce 2025 Discover Pass free days | Washington State Parks](#)

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## Changes to Washington State Disabled Veteran Parking



Veterans with a qualifying discharge, a 70%+ disability rating, and a federally defined service animal can now apply for **special disability parking privileges** — valid for five years and available through Oct. 1, 2035.

**For more information and application form, go to [dol.wa.gov](https://dol.wa.gov)**

You are eligible to apply for parking for individuals with disabilities if you are a veteran and:

- You have received a qualifying discharge with a 70 percent disability rating or higher from the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- You use a service animal.

If you can provide proof of both items and your application is approved, your parking will be valid for 5 years.

To learn more and to apply for a permit visit: [Disabled veteran parking | Washington State Department of Licensing](#)

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[1-800-562-2308](tel:1-800-562-2308)



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