

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



Call 1-800-562-2308 for Statewide Assistance

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"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

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Volunteer or Donate to Wreaths Across America

Washington Soldiers Home Cemetery (WAWSHO)
(Orting)

[https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?
page=17624](https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=17624)

Washington Veterans Home Cemetery (WAWVHR)
(Retsil)

<https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=17625>

Washington State Veterans Cemetery (WAW SVC)
(Medical Lake)

[https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?
page=14984](https://wreaths.fastport.com/donateLocation.html?page=14984)

Remember. Honor. Teach.

On December 17, 2016, Washington State will place wreaths on Veteran gravestones at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, 21702 W. Espanola Road, Medical Lake, WA 99022, Washington Soldiers Home Cemetery, Orting Kapowsin Hwy E, Graham, WA 98338, and at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Retsil, 1141 Beach Dr., Port Orchard, WA 98378.

Visit the www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org website to find the full list of events taking place and to "Donate" or "Volunteer" at a location of your choosing. If you would prefer to donate to a local fundraising group, click the "View" button. We appreciate all of your support with this year's campaign!



WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Medical Director](#)

[Plant Manager 2](#)

[Nursing Assistant-Residential Living](#)

[Dietary Manager](#)

[Registered Nurse 3-Staff](#)

[Development](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 Resident Care](#)

[Manager](#)

[Cook 1 On Call](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

"Serving Those Who Served"

A Message from the Director Lourdes "Alfie" E. Alvarado-Ramos Alfie@dva.wa.gov



Four Amazing and Rewarding Reasons Employers Should Say YES to Hiring Veterans!



1) Show your customers you support Veterans with a YesVets sticker in your window! It's free and makes it easy to connect with veterans that have the skills your business needs. Just visit www.yesvets.org, sign up for YesVets and get connected with a Veterans employment representative from your local WorkSource who will help you find a Veteran to fill your vacant positions. Once you've hired, you will receive a YesVets decal letting your customers know that you hire Veterans with pride! So far 634 Veterans have been hired in YesVets and 385 employers have registered!

2) Take advantage of Tax Credits available to businesses that hire certain unemployed veterans.

- The Work Opportunity Tax Credit provides employers, who hire veterans from certain groups, a tax credit from \$2,400 to \$9,600, based on the length of unemployment and whether the veteran has a service-related disability. [How to apply for the WOTC.](#)
- Under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, employers may receive funding for training assistance and/or supportive services to eligible candidates **AND** certain jobs may qualify for On the Job Training (OJT) opportunities that can reimburse an employer 50 percent of a trainee's wages, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Visit WorkSourceWA.com to connect with veterans services.
- B&O Tax or Public Utility Tax Credits of up to \$1,500 are available to businesses that hire unemployed veterans for full-time employment. Businesses can earn credits through June 30, 2022, and must claim all credits earned by June 30, 2023. Visit dor.wa.gov for information on the B&O and PUT Tax Credits.

3) Get free access to veterans employment representatives at WorkSource and their new job match system, WorkSourceWA.com, powered by Monster.com. You get unlimited job postings, automatic rankings, and side-by-side comparisons of applicants—and you can even specify that you're looking for qualified veterans to fill your positions! It's never been easier to find the right talent for your business.

4) Veterans make GREAT employees! Military personnel are often cross-trained in multiple skills and have experience in varied tasks & responsibilities. Many Veterans have learned what it means to go all in at the job. They have also appreciate the challenges and satisfaction of a job well done. Much of this experience can translate to their participation in the workforce making the Veteran an asset on the job. Visit www.yesvets.org today to learn how easy it is for YOU or the businesses you patronize to hire a Veteran!



Governor's Proclamation: Hire-A-Veteran Month

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington has more than 65,000 active duty military, national guard and reserve forces, and nearly 600,000 veterans who have willingly volunteered to serve our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, many veterans who are making the transition from active service to civilian life find themselves competing for limited job openings; and

WHEREAS, Washington's Military Transition Council was the first of its kind in the United States and has resulted in a 24 percent increase between 2011 and 2014 in the number of service members leaving Joint Base Lewis-McChord with jobs; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes that veterans are a well-trained pool of labor with a wide range of skills and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington and the Employment Security Department are committed to providing veterans and their family members with the employment and training opportunities needed to achieve happy and successful careers; and

WHEREAS, the Employment Security Department and Department of Veterans Affairs have teamed up with the Washington State Legislature and others to launch a statewide YesVets Hiring Initiative to recognize employers who hire veterans, resulting in 377 employers hiring 596 veterans since February 2016; and

WHEREAS, our state offers a Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Business and Occupation (B&O) tax credit, Public Utility Tax (PUT) credit for employers who hire eligible veterans, and our state certifies Veteran Owned Businesses and encourages all agencies to increase contracts with them; and

WHEREAS, 9.2 percent of the staff working for the state of Washington's executive branch agencies are veterans; and

WHEREAS, there is no greater way to repay our veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice than to help them secure employment, self-reliance and economic stability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November, 2016 as

Hire-A-Veteran Month

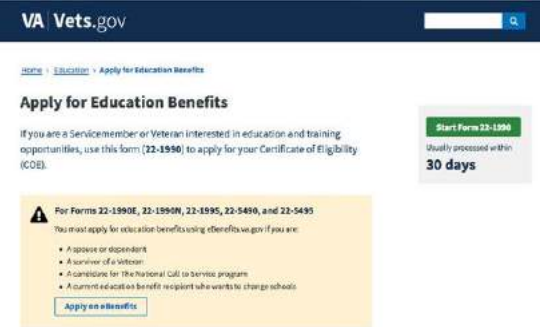
in Washington State, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 8th day of November, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee



Apply for GI Bill Benefits Online at Vets.gov



The Veterans Benefits Administration is excited to announce that Veterans and Servicemembers will now be able to apply for their GI Bill benefits online at Vets.gov.

Better yet, the GI Bill benefits application—VA Form 22-1990—has been redesigned. The application's shift to Vets.gov away from the VonApp feature inside eBenefits is part of the MyVA transformation.

Some of the improvements to the VA Education Benefits Application include a mobile-first design where the app adjusts to any size screen, whether you use a mobile device or a desktop computer; easy-to-understand "plain language," a simplified user interface with large fonts and more white space, and 508 accessibility.

"The new GI Bill application VA debuted through Vets.gov is impressive," said Barrett Bogue of Student Veterans of America. "This is a win for student Veterans, and this application further solidifies VA's commitment to improving the Veterans' experience. At SVA, we're eager to continue working together on behalf of all student veterans."



JBLM Apprenticeship Fair—September 2012

Washington State Apprenticeship Statistics:

15,203 Apprentices in WA state

1,396 are Women (9%) / National Average (3%) – 3X the national average!

3,956 are Minorities (26%)

Veterans make up 10% of the Apprenticeship Workforce - 1,334 are Veterans (10%)

In FY 2015, more than 197,500 individuals nationwide entered the apprenticeship system



2016 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards



Washington States Outstanding Service to Veterans Awardees honored in Auburn

Several Washington residents were honored on Saturday, November 05, 2016, with Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards for their contributions to Washington State's veterans and their families during the past year.

The awards - co-sponsored each year by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs - recognize individuals who devote time and energy to improving the lives of Washington's veterans.

The awards are presented at a special luncheon in Auburn, following the awardees participation in the City's annual Veterans Day Parade.

The 2016 Outstanding Service to Veterans are:

- ⇒ **Monica McNeal - Kirkland**
- ⇒ **Francisco Ivarra - Seattle**
- ⇒ **Shawn Durnen - Puyallup**
- ⇒ **Jason Schlegel - Pasco**
- ⇒ **Aaron Quinonez - Ravensdale**
- ⇒ **Growing Veterans - Mt Vernon**
- ⇒ **YesVets Initiative Team**
- ⇒ **Senator Steve O'Ban – 28th District**
- ⇒ **Representative Gina McCabe – 14th District**



Congratulations to this year's winners and we hope you continue to serve those who have served!

Spokane Residents Enjoy Re-Creation

Spokane Veterans Home residents enjoyed a lively Broadway-style "School Days" performance by Re-Creation complete with singing, dancing and numerous costume changes.

Re-Creation conducts national tours to our nation's VA Medical Centers and veteran's homes through the concern, dedication and generosity of Americans like YOU! *Learn more at <http://www.re-creationusa.org/>*



Veterans Day Events at the Capitol



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2016, ceremonies took place on the Capitol Campus in Olympia. The Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) Veterans Day Ceremony took place at the Winged Victory Memorial, while Governor Inslee and many others enjoyed a Veterans Day Ceremony in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building.

These events provided an opportunity for veterans, their families and members of the community to come together and show appreciation for our Veterans of past and present, their service, and contributions to our country and community.

Veterans Day events provide a way of remembering that after military service is over, Veterans need to be supported in their transition, as well as to provide a public opportunity to recognize Veterans and show gratitude. Community members can also learn how integral their Veteran neighbors are.

Events like these show the public the reality of Veteran's sacrifice and contributions to society. We should never forget how fortunate we are to have the freedoms that we have in this country.



Washington State Military Transition Council Quarterly Meeting Aboard the U.S.S. Stennis

WSMTC creates partnerships between private and public organizations that help service members successfully transition from their military career into civilian employment and career opportunities in Washington.

"The purpose behind this visit is to help... service members effectively integrate back into the civilian work force as they transition from the military," said Paul Cruz, the project manager for WSMTC, from Barrigada, Guam. "The intent is to make [the transition] seamless and easier and ensure that the military families are taken care of as soon as they exit the military." via U.S.S. Stennis (<https://stennis74.wordpress.com/>)

WDVA Serving Tribal Veterans

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to serving all veterans and their families including the approximately 6,500 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans and their families in Washington State.

American Indian and Alaska Natives serve in the United States armed forces at a higher rate than any other ethnic population and they have access to some unique programs and services that are meant to better meet their needs in their communities. It is the goal of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs to support the expansion of these programs, such as the Federal VA tribal health care reimbursement agreements and the VA Native American Direct Home Loan Program, in addition to ensuring that American Indian and Alaska Native veterans have access to all the same programs and services that other veterans are eligible for.

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs partners with Tribal Veterans Representatives, Tribal Veterans Service Officers, and Native American veterans from Indian tribes across Washington State, and tribes in northern Oregon and northern Idaho, in order to bridge the cultural and geographic barriers that sometimes exists. One way we do this is by sponsoring an annual Tribal Veterans Summit in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations, the Seattle VA Regional Office, and local VA medical centers.

For More Information on Tribal Veterans, Please Contact Steve Gill at SteveG@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Service Dog Conference



"This conference pushed attendees to softly challenge some of the perceived notions of service dog owners and provided means to better support those who currently have a service animal," said Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Behavioral Health Program Director, Peter Schmidt. "We were also able to help clarify some of the differences between service, therapy and emotional animals."

"It is important for veterans and the public to know the difference between service animals, emotional support and therapy animals, since there is quite a contrast between the legal definition of a service animal and the other two categories," said Schmidt. "A service animal has gone through a formal training process and serves a specific function for someone with a diagnosed disability."

The focus of this conference was for self-exploration and to identify which mode of support is best for those combat veterans living with the invisible wounds of Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Military Sexual Trauma.

Visit dva.wa.gov for more info!



Trick or Treating at Retsil Veterans Home



A very special [#ThankYou](#) to all of our Washington Veterans Home in Retsil staff who brought their children to the home to interact with the veteran residents for this year's Trick or Treat event.

Ghosts, goblins and witches invaded the Washington Veterans Home early this year for our 15th Annual Trick or Treat event for our residents families and the children of our staff. There were more than 100 kids at the home with parents and grandparents available to trick-or-treat f...rom room to room throughout the evening.

Many people worked together to make it a successful evening for the residents and our guests. Thanks goes to numerous volunteers and volunteer groups who donated candy. A special thank you to volunteers from the [NGYCP- Washington Youth Academy](#) who helped our residents pass the candy out and also had to run around refilling candy bowls throughout the evening.

The biggest thanks goes to all of the parents who brought their children in to share this night with our residents.

What's your favorite costume?



American Legion Post 94 Receives Renovation Upgrades



Rural Veterans Coordination Project (RVCP) Program received assistance from [The Home Depot](#) with Renovation Upgrades to the [American Legion Post 94 Lacey Washington](#) on October 28.

We would also like to thank WestCare and numerous volunteers for dedicating their time and effort to assist with these much-needed upgrades.



Veterans Can Receive Free Captioned Telephones

Free Captioned Telephones

No Monthly Fees or Contracts Required



CapTel is a telephone designed specifically for people with hearing loss. It allows the user to both hear and read what is being said. The phone is complete with both amplification, tonal control, speaker phone, and answering machine. Users of the CapTel not only are able to read what someone is saying live during a conversation, but they can review the captions after the fact and read their answering machine messages.

The program through OEI (Outreach Education, and Installations) is completely free, Federally funded under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and overseen by the FCC. Website: www.oeius.org

For a Veteran to qualify to receive a free CapTel they must be certified by a qualified professional. Veteran Service Officers and VA Social Workers are able to certify any American to participate that meet the criteria listed below.

Certification can be done online or by signing a form and faxing it in. Upon receipt of a completed certification, the

Veteran will receive the equipment and service for Free. We also provide complimentary installation and education support for all CapTel users. The goal of our program is to provide accessible and effective captioned telephone solutions.

Criteria for the program:

1. Experience hearing loss
2. Benefit from Captioning
3. Have access to internet where the phone will be installed
4. Have access to telephone service where the phone will be installed

TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE CapTel Phone
Contact: Jeretta Scott at 206.910.9594 or Jeretta.Scott@oeius.org

Walla Walla Veterans Home Hiring Event & Logo Contest

**The Walla Walla Veterans Home Needs a New Logo!
And YOU Can Help Design It!**



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Washington Veterans Home in Retsil



Spokane Veterans Home



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
DECEMBER 05, 2016
WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED:
DECEMBER 15th
SEND LOGOS TO:
COMMUNICATIONS@DVA.WA.GOV



**FILL OUT BLANK TEMPLATE ON BACK OF PAGE &
MAIL BACK TO WDVA**



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Walla Walla Veterans Home Hot Jobs: Now Hiring

Job Title	Location(s)	Emp. Type	Salary	Closing date
Medical Director	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$119,220.00 - \$231,978.00 Annually	12/5/2016 11:59pm PST
Administrative Assistant 5	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$3,541.00 - \$4,644.00 Monthly	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST
Plant Manager 2	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$3,541.00 - \$4,644.00 Monthly	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST
Nursing Assistant- Residential Living	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$2,431.00 - \$3,140.00 Monthly	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST
Dietary Manager	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$41,940.00 - \$85,560.00 Annually	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST
Registered Nurse 3-Staff Development	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$4,606.00 - \$6,043.00 Monthly	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST
Registered Nurse 3 Resident Care Manager	Walla Walla County - Walla Walla, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$4,606.00 - \$6,043.00 Monthly	11/21/2016 11:59 PM PST

Walla Walla Hiring Event at Walla Walla WorkSource

Dec 12/13, 1530 Stevens St, Walla Walla, WA 99362

Email SolomonG@dva.wa.gov for an interview and/or more details

Veterans Day at our Veterans Home



The Veterans Day celebrations at the Washington Veterans Home touched the hearts of many. There were many ways our Veterans were celebrated through commitment of our community, through music and importantly through the kind words of guest speaker Michalle Miller.

The program began with the South Kitsap JR Navy ROTC presenting the colors and the National Anthem performed by Evelyn Panfilli, a long-time volunteer. This was followed by the welcome address by Superintendent Ron Bergstrom. The Governors proclamation was read by BJ Moffatt, the Resident Council Chairman and all Branch of services were honored as Evelyn lead medley of the service songs.

These all lead up to the introduction of our guest speaker, First Class (Ret.) J. Michalle Miller. There were 2 major themes shared with those who attended the program, first was to dispel the idea when people are asked, "what is your connection to the Military" They often respond with, "I'm just a" the dots might be just did my 4 years and got out, or it could be "I'm just a spouse" Any statement made to fill in the dots means so much more than Just a.....

Michalle as a veteran is often thanked for her service, her response always is, "Thank you for your support." The second point of her address was to thank everyone who supports our Veterans, especially all of the staff in every department at Retsil for their contributions to serving our veterans here. The sincere gratitude Michalle showed throughout her presentation impacted all who were fortunate enough to be there to celebrate our veterans this veterans day.

This was followed by beautiful performance of Battle Hymn of the Republic by Totally Soprano.



Veterans at the Soldiers Home in Orting and Spokane Veterans Home were Honored at their 2016 Veterans Day Programs

The Orting event was a time of celebration, patriotism and gratitude for all those who have served our country. Willie Slusarski, (Lt., USN, Ret.), Superintendent emceed the program.



COL Robert D. Forsten, Commander of the 62nd Medical Brigade was the guest speaker.

The Puyallup Valley Community Band performed throughout the program. Ric Fritz, (Msgt, USAF, Ret.), WSH Chaplain delivered the Invocation and Benediction. Bethel High School JROTC posted and retired The Colors. Resident Harold Moore, (US Army, Vietnam), Resident Council Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. John Underwood, (US Army, Vietnam), Resident Council Hospitality Rep presented Governor Inslee's Proclamation.

Matthew Mauer, Director King County Veterans Affairs, Office of Senator Patty Murray delivered Senator Murray's Proclamation. The 25th Anniversary Liberation of Kuwait Book was presented to WA Soldiers' Home residents who served during the Gulf War.



Thank you to all the veterans service organizations, community groups and individuals for your contributions and participation in the WA Soldiers' Home 2016 Veterans Day Program!



2016 Seattle Stand Down

8am-2:00pm, Thursday/Friday, December 1/2

www.TheSeattleStandDown.com

South Seattle College

6737 Corson Ave S, Seattle WA 98108

Keep informed about upcoming Veteran events by checking our Calendar/Public Events Page often
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/calendar>

Have an event of interest to Veterans you want others to know about?

Send fliers and information to
communications@dva.wa.gov

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Veterans Voices is published every other month for Washington Veterans and all interested in news affecting veterans and their families.

View previous editions here:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters>

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