

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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Wreaths Across America at State Veterans Cemetery

Remember. Honor. Teach.

On December 17, 2016, volunteers, family members and community leaders placed wreaths on veteran gravestones at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America® recognizes the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children and others about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. This annual ceremony honored more than 3,500 veterans and family members interred at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery. Cemetery staff collaborates with members of the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, for both planning of this event and solicitation of wreath donations. The service was open to the community, after which guests were invited to assist with placing wreaths on individual gravesites.



Please visit the www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org website to find more information on future events taking place and how to "Donate" or "Volunteer" at a location of your choosing. We appreciate all of your support with this year's campaign!



WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Registered Nurse 3 Quality, Infection Control, Restorative \(WWVH\)](#)

[Psychiatric Social Worker 3 WWVH](#)

[Registered Nurse 3-Staff Development](#)

[\(W007\)Nursing Assistant Residential Living \(WWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 2 \(WWVH\)](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

"Serving Those Who Served"

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



Walla Walla Veterans Home Logo Unveiled and Upcoming Grand Opening

Great News! It is with great pleasure that we virtually unveil the newly designed logo for the Walla Walla Veterans Home!



This design was submitted by Michael Page at Esprit Graphic Communications, a Kennewick area Veteran Owned Business. Esprit, owned by retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Skip Novakovich and his wife Shannon, has a long history of giving back to their community. We are grateful for the time that Michael took to help us capture the spirit of Walla Walla in his design that is now the symbol for the Walla Walla Veterans Home.

In all, fourteen logos were submitted as part of the design contest. Members of the WDVA Walla Walla Planning Committee reviewed each design and made a nearly unanimous selection. Our thanks goes to Michael of Esprit and everyone who submitted a logo design!

YOUR newest home is another Eastern Washington investment that continues our focus on the proportionate distribution of our agency resources. Governor Inslee is supporting the funding we need so we can continue growing our services and facilities to benefit our Eastern Washington brothers, sisters and their families. The home brings about 100 new WDVA team members to serve with dignity and respect our veterans who need 24/7 short term and long term care. We would like to invite the general public and especially those who devoted their time and effort to submitting a Walla Walla Veterans Home logo for the contest, to join us at the Grand Opening of this incredible facility! It will be held on **Saturday, February 18th at 1pm**. For more information or to RSVP, email us at communications@dva.wa.gov or call 1-800-562-0132 option '1'.



Walla Walla Veterans Home Grand Opening—February 18

Walla Walla Veterans Home at a Glance

- The Walla Walla Veterans Home is a nursing care facility operated by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
- This new facility will serve 80 Veterans, Spouses, Widows and Gold Star Parents in 8 small houses creating a home-like environment.
- Veterans with disability ratings between 70% and 100% Service-Connected may receive nursing care paid by the Federal VA.
- The Walla Walla Veterans Home provides Medicare Rehabilitative Care, and accepts Medicaid, long-term care insurance, and private pay.
- For information on Admissions and Eligibility and to find out more about the Washington State Veterans Homes visit www.dva.wa.gov

Your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

cordially invites you to the

Grand Opening Of the Walla Walla Veterans Home

On Saturday, February 18, 2017
at One p.m.

es

92 Wainwright Drive – Walla Walla, WA
(Co-located on the grounds of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center)

Please RSVP by 2/6/2017

Communications@dva.wa.gov
1-800-562-2308

Parking will be available in the locations below, please email Communications@dva.wa.gov or call 1-800-562-2308 Option #1 to make arrangements for ADA parking.



Submit Resident Admission Applications ASAP

Walla Walla Veterans Home

NOW ACCEPTING RESIDENT ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

OPENS FEBRUARY 2017

Contact Walla Walla Admissions at (509) 540-0312

JBLM Behavioral Health & Wellness Panel

For Community Mental Health Providers, Veteran Service Officers (VSOs), Behavioral Health Providers, State & Federal VAs and community support organizations

Joint Base Lewis-McChord "From Military Service to Thriving Veteran" Behavioral Health & Wellness Panel Discussion

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m., January 18, 2017 at
French Theater, JBLM Lewis-Main

Join us as we educate the community about existing resources to assist military members with behavioral health issues.

- Demographics of Homeless Veterans
- Potential Risk Factors Resulting in Homelessness
- Barriers to Transitioning and Successfully Establishing VA Services
- Coordination of Resources Available/Recommendations

GUEST SPEAKERS: I Corps Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. Mark Stammer, WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos and Veteran Conservation Corps, Jeremy Grisham



For more Information,
contact:

PaulC@dva.wa.gov



"Serving Those Who Served"

Cemetery Expansion Project



State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake is currently undergoing construction as part of a \$2.18 million federal grant. With the site's available 120 acres, the cemetery anticipates being able to support active burials for well over 65 years. In order to do so, WDVA worked through a collaborative agreement with the federal VA to secure capital funds for ongoing site development. This agreement also

sets forth the requirements for maintaining national burial standards similar to those found at all of our national cemeteries.

The facility will undergo periodic construction as part of a master plan that capitalizes on available federal funds dedicated solely for state veterans cemetery site development. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2017 and will increase site security, provide additional burial capacity, and improve existing infrastructure in order to continue to meet the end of life needs of eastern Washington and northern Idaho's veterans and their families. Specific elements of the grant include the addition of four Columbarium Walls with a total of 3,680 niches to serve as the final resting place for cremated veterans and their family.



The state's 75% cremation rate, second only to Nevada, has created a high demand on this interment option and the need for this expansion project 3-years ahead of original projections. In addition to the columbarium walls the grant will fund two Memorial Walls in the scatter garden. A security fence will be erected that encircles the entire property to both protect assets and preserve burial grounds as a national shrine for America's war heroes and their families. Finally, modifications to the existing drainage system will be incorporated to improve the facility's infrastructure. The general contractor expects to complete some of the sub-surface work before winter sets in, at which point construction will be paused until spring 2017 when ground conditions improve.



We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this construction may cause. Please feel free to contact the cemetery director at 509-299-6280 for any concerns.

Information on State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake

The State Veterans Cemetery is located 3 miles west of Fairchild Air Force Base. Interments can be scheduled Monday – Friday between 9am and 3pm. A committal shelter is available for services and funeral honors are coordinated by the Cemetery Office.

A number of interment options for veterans, their spouses and dependent children:

- In-ground casket burial
- In-ground cremation inurnment
- Columbarium niches
- Scattering garden

Many volunteer opportunities are available such as honor guard rifle team, bugler, minister, Ladies and Gentleman of the Cemetery, cortege leaders, avenue of flags and memorials and benches. Call (509) 299-6280 for more information.

Learn More About YOUR State Veterans Home

The Top 5 Things You *Didn't Know* about State Veterans Homes!

Our State Veterans Homes have been around since the 1890's, but there may be a few things that you don't know about them.

- 1) **Veterans with service connected disability ratings of 70% - 100% receive their nursing care at no cost.** The Federal VA will pay the full cost of nursing home care, meaning veterans may keep all of their VA, military, and personal retirement income. The same is true for veterans whose service connected disability is the primary reason they require nursing home care, regardless of disability percentage.
- 2) **If you have a qualifying hospital stay, your rehabilitative care is covered by Medicare in a State Veterans Home.** Our contracted rehab staff are highly trained and work to make sure you gain back as much independence as possible before returning home.
- 3) **There is no limit on the number of Medicaid beds in a State Veterans Home.** Many facilities limit the number of Medicaid beds available, making it challenging to find an open bed if Medicaid is your primary source of medical payment. At a State Veterans Home, all of our beds are certified for both Medicaid and Medicare.
- 4) **Your medications and medical supply needs are included in your cost of care at a State Veterans Home.** In many facilities, families must separately purchase medications and medical supplies. We have our own pharmacy and order your medications directly from the Federal VA for you!
- 5) **On-staff physicians provide quality care** and when appropriate, veterans are referred and transported to VA Medical Center specialty care facilities.

- ⇒ The State Veterans Homes also offer **many patriotic and recreational events** to capture your interest and provide you with entertainment and activities.
- ⇒ Our team of caring professionals makes **meeting your needs their number one priority**, making a State Veterans Home a great place for *you* to call Home!
- ⇒ **Veterans Homes are located in Orting, Retsil (near Port Orchard), Spokane and opening in February 2017 is the Walla Walla Veterans Home.**

Want to learn more about how a State Veterans Home could serve you or your loved one? Give our Admissions Team a call at 877-838-7787.



"Serving Those Who Served"

Register Now for VetBOSS

ALLIANCE NORTHWEST

Where government and business connect

Registration: https://fs26.formsite.com/Thurston_EDC/form1/index.html?1483488483549

*Veterans & Veteran Owned Small Businesses, please use discount code: **VETBOSS** to enjoy half off* of your attendee registration. We reserve the right to verify veteran business status in state and federal directories.*

ALLIANCE NORTHWEST || MARCH 9, 2017 PUYALLUP, WA

Any business interested in succeeding in the government marketplace should have Alliance Northwest on their calendar.



The event attracts over 950 attendees including the who's-who of federal contracting. Alliance NW is the premier government contracting event in the region, bringing together prime contractors, government agencies and small businesses for a full day of relationship building.

For those firms who are experienced government contractors, Alliance NW is the place to strengthen established relationships, explore other government contracting opportunities and teaming opportunities, and hear the

marketplace's latest news and trends from the expert workshop speakers.

If you're new to government contracting, you'll have an opportunity to meet government agency representatives, explore sub-contracting opportunities with prime contractors and attend high-quality training workshops.

QUICK PRICING INFORMATION

Attendees:

\$85 per attendee until January 31,
\$115 per attendee from February 1 – March 7,
price at the door increases to \$135

Veterans: Get 50% off with promo code: VETBOSS

Exhibitors: \$500 includes two attendee tickets

Sponsors: Packages starting at \$850

Advertising: Starting at \$199

Do you have questions about Alliance Northwest 2017?

Contact Tiffany Scroggs for more details:

360-464-6041 | info@washingtonptac.org



WDVA Welcomes New Program Managers in King County and Building 9

WDVA welcomed several team members into new positions in December. Dennis Brown will serve as the Program Manager for the Building 9 Transitional Housing Program in Port Orchard. Dennis previously served as the manager for the King County Veterans Program and has been working with homeless veterans for over 18 years. He replaces Ray Switzer who recently retired from state government. Our thanks goes to Ray for his years of service to veterans in Washington State, and for his dedication to the Building 9 Program!

Replacing Dennis in King County is Tracy Jones. Tracy has more than ten years of extensive experience working with a variety of homeless and veterans programs and has been a member of the King County team since ??.

The WDVA King County Veterans Program is co-located with King County's Veterans Program and our two teams work together to ensure veterans in King County are connected to the programs and services they need.

Services provided at the King County Veterans Services Office include:

- Call center: Ensuring veterans are connected with the right providers in their community.
- Homeless services.
- Financial and housing support services
- Military family outreach
- Veterans Treatment Court: Funded by King County, the Veterans Treatment Court focuses on treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarcerations for low-level, non-violent offenders.
- Training and Support Center: Funded by King County, this center provides education training opportunities focusing on PTSD, TBI and a range of veteran transition issues. If your King County organization or business is in need of this type of training, visit: <http://www.veteranstrainingsupportcenter.org/index.php>

Building 9 Transitional Housing Program:

- 1141 Beach Drive East Retsil, WA 98378
- 60 beds
- Serves men and women homeless veterans.
- Clean and sober program.
- Supportive services lead to program completion and successful return to the community.
- Call (253) 583-2825 to request a referral.

Building 9 for Veterans Transitional Housing Program

1141 Beach Drive East, Building 9 Retsil, WA 98378

360-895-4371



King County Veterans Service Office

2106 Second Ave, 1st Floor, Seattle WA



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

"Serving Those Who Served"

1-800-562-2308
www.dva.wa.gov

King County

Phone: 1-877-904-VETS
Mon-Fri: 0830am-430pm

Spokane Veterans Home Christmas Party



Spokane Veterans Home residents enjoyed a very special Christmas this year due to the tremendous efforts of many organizations and volunteers.

The 141st Air Refueling Wing (Fairchild A.F.B.) adopted every resident at the home and provided them with gifts. Air Force service member elves were also sent to the home to assist with each Christmas Party and to hand out gifts.

The American Legion Auxillary also held their annual Gift Shop, which provided a gift for every Veteran, as well as presents for the Veteran to give to their immediate family.

Lastly, Santa Claus also made the trip all the way from the North Pole to help deliver the many well-deserved presents.



VA National Cemeteries Now Offering Pre-Need Eligibility Determinations

VA announced today that it now provides eligibility determinations for interment in a VA national cemetery prior to the time of need. Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, upon request, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery.

Interested individuals may submit [VA Form 40-10007](#), Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

Eligible individuals are entitled to burial in any open VA national cemetery, opening/closing of the grave, a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, and a government-furnished headstone or marker or niche cover, all at no cost to the family. Veterans are also eligible for a burial flag and may be eligible for a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the Internet at www.cem.va.gov, or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any open VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.



Direct2Apprenticeship Event—Network with Multiple Industries

Direct2Apprenticeship Event

9AM-12PM, February 02, 2017

America's Credit Union, 1495 Wilmington Dr, DuPont, WA 98327

Meet and Network with Representatives from Multiple Industries:

Construction
IT
Maritime
Technical Colleges
Utilities and More...

POC: Rachel Roberts at RachelR@dva.wa.gov



Interested in Pursuing an Apprenticeship?

Learn and Network with Apprenticeship Opportunities throughout Washington State!

Direct2Apprenticeship will connect you with training directors, employers and apprenticeship coordinators from multiple industries in Washington State. Hear from a multitude of panelists and organizations looking to hire veterans. Don't miss out on this opportunity to network with organizations one-on-one to see if they are the right match for you. Learn more on how the GI Bill works during an apprenticeship and more about Washington's growing economy and how you gain assistance during the transition into living wage careers.

Come Join Us and Open Up the Doors to Employment Opportunities!

Now Hiring RNs, LPNs and CNAs at our Four Washington State Veterans Homes.



Contact a WDVA Recruiter at Recruiters@dva.wa.gov or call 360-725-2183

We offer a competitive salary, medical, retirement and vacation benefits!

Holidays at our Veterans Homes—Retsil & Orting

Washington Veterans Home in Retsil Activity Staff celebrated with residents at their Annual Christmas Party. Staff worked hard to ensure that all residents have gifts purchased just for them.



The Associate Superintendents Project Association (ASPA) from Naval Station Puget Sound coordinates the annual giving program for the Resident's Christmas gifts are abundant.

Volunteers from the ASPA join the residents at the Christmas party with their families and help throughout the party. Santa also joins the festivities and celebrates with our veterans and volunteers.



Veterans at the Soldiers Home in Orting enjoyed additional holiday cheer during the Washington Soldiers Home Christmas & Holiday Party

Veteran residents at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting enjoyed an early Christmas party with holiday punch, cookies and a surprise visit with Santa to receive gifts for each and every resident.

WDVA would like to thank 47th CSH, 62nd MED BDE (JBLM), Knights of Columbus, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club and the dozens of individual volunteers and families that volunteered their time and baking to provide holiday cheer for the veterans at the Old Soldiers Home.



2017 WA State Patriotic Day (Massing of the Colors)

2pm-3pm, Saturday, February 25

CarrollDickson@comcast.net

Stadium High School Gymnasium

111 NE St., Tacoma, WA 98403

**Monetary Rewards for Best Spectator Attendance*

**Patriotic Inspirational Music by I Corps Army Band*

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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