

WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

JULY 2022



A Message from the Director



Vet Corps Members Make a Difference in the Community

Vet Corps is a program that uses peer-to-peer connections to assist in bridging the gap between veterans and their families and the resources or benefits that they have earned. Vet Corps members are trained to assist on college campuses or in community settings and support these organizations as they create welcoming, inclusive spaces that help veterans navigate higher education, get better connected to their local veterans community, and get connected to their earned benefits.

"Being a Vet Corps member was a truly transformative experience. I wasn't just able to help other veterans navigate through their experience in the civilian world, I was able to work through and heal from my own experiences"

July Events & Observances List



Here is a current list of upcoming events that your WDVA is tracking.

Please email us your events at communications@dva.wa.gov so we can get them added.

July 08 - Military Sexual Trauma Training - [Military Sexual Trauma: Treatment Options Based on Context \(3 CEU's\) | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

July 12 - Support Group for Women Veterans - [Engage & Thrive: A Support Group for Women Veterans | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

July 28 - Veterans Employment Resource Group Meeting - [VERG General Meeting | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

July - Veterans Training Support Center - [VTSC Events | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

August 10 - Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall - [VAAC Town Hall in Yelm | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Aug 24/25 - Serving Those Who Served Conference - Wenatchee - [Save the Date! 5th Annual Serving Those Who Served | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Veterans Counseling Program

The Washington State
Department of Veterans

from serving." - Vet Corps Alum

Vet Corps members are unique in their role because they are not limited to how they can best support those they serve. Vet Corps members take a holistic, or one-stop-shop, approach when serving their communities. They address anything from personal issues such as accessing benefits or signing up for healthcare, to academic success, and even to career planning.

Becoming a Vet Corps transformative, healing, and a way to continue to give back to our community.

Help inspire someone's 'Second Mission' and help serve your community and your campus!



VET CORPS

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED:

- Veterans, spouses and dependents are eligible for positions
- Position starts 09/01 and ends 6/30
- Mandatory Training Aug 24-26, 2022
- Full time 40-hours per week (with flexibility) for a total of 1,700 hours of national service at the end of 10 months
- Volunteer monthly living stipend
- \$6,495 education benefit awarded upon completion

APPLY AT:
my.amicorps.gov
Search for
Vet Corps Listing ID 111798

LEARN MORE:
www.dva.wa.gov/vetcorps



[Read More](#)


Affairs maintains a one-of-a-kind, state-funded outreach/counseling program designed to provide confidential counseling services to Washington State veterans and family members.



- [WDVA PTSD Program * PTSD Program Counselors in Washington](#) -
- [Federal VA Vet Centers in Washington](#)
- [Readjustment Counseling](#)
- [Bereavement Counseling](#)
- [Military Sexual Trauma Counseling](#)
- [Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center \(DVBIC\)](#)
- [Veterans Crisis Line, Suicide Prevention Resources](#)
- [SAMHSA - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)
- [ParkRx](#)

[Watch Video](#)

WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



\$3,000
incentive payment
for current and new NAC staff!

Full-time NACs and NAC Leads who have been permanent employees for one year are eligible for an immediate payment of **\$3000**.

New hires are eligible for a payment of **\$1,500** on the date of their hire. These new staff members may also be eligible for an additional **\$1,500** after their six-month probationary period and any required training.

Any current staff who recommend hires that lead to a permanent, full-time staffer can receive a **\$200** payment.

For more information, go to
www.dva.wa.gov/nursing-assistant-recruitment-and-retention-incentive



WE'RE HIRING

RNs
LPNs
CNAs
& More

Drivers
Chefs
& More

Make and Impact and join a career
in Serving Those Who Served!

APPLY NOW!
Recruiters@
DVA.WA.GOV

[WDVA Grounds & Nursery Specialist 3, Full Time - Permanent, WDVA Cemetery](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified, On-Call, Washington Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Truck Driver, CRS Program, Orting](#)

[WDVA Registered Nurse 2, On-Call, Walla Walla](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified, NOC Shift, Spokane](#)

[WDVA Cook 1, On-Call, Washington Soldiers Home](#)

[WDVA Pharmacist 2, On-Call, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Dietician 1, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Recreation and Athletics Specialist 1, Spokane Veterans Home](#)

[State of Washington Job Opportunities |](#)

Armed Forces License Plates

The Washington Department of Licensing issues license plates to eligible veterans/military/family members.

There are six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WA National Guard.



Learn More: [Armed Forces License Plates | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Walla Walla Veterans Home

Walla Walla Veterans Home celebrated the holiday with an Independence Day Celebration for honored residents and staff.



Live music, family and friends, cake, ice cream and beverages were enjoyed by all during this holiday event.

We would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and family members who helped make this event a success.
#TheseAreOurHeroes

Photos:
[\(7\) Facebook](#)

Other Positions Available at our Walla Walla, Spokane, Orting & Port Orchard Veterans Home.
Recruiters@dva.wa.g

[View More](#)

Port Orchard Veterans Home



The Navy Band Northwest, the U.S. Navy's premier musical organization in the Pacific Northwest region, played a concert at the Washington Veterans Home for honored residents and staff on Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

They performed classic hits that had residents singing and clapping along, and even got a few up on their feet!

We would like to thank the Navy Band Northwest for bringing good spirits and music to our veterans homes.
#WeLoveOurCommunity



[More Photos](#)

You can help recognize Washington as a **Purple Heart State**...Donate Today!

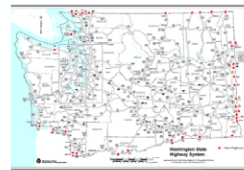
Recognizing and Honoring Washington State Purple Heart Veterans – Washington Highway Sign Campaign

Every donation counts towards the goal of placing Purple Heart Highway Signs at all 34 state entrances into Washington!

Purple Heart Medals are presented to Armed Forces members who are killed or wounded in combat.

Learn more: [Purple Heart Donation](#)

Mail Donations To:
WDVA Purple Heart Sign Campaign
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504



Total Sign Costs
\$1,100 Larger Signs
\$1,000 Smaller Signs
All Donations Welcome



Your donation helps place signs at all WA highway entrances!

To Donate or For More Info:
communications@dva.wa.gov



Spokane Veterans Home



Spokane Veterans Home recently had the Special Forces Association Chapter XXV Spokane, 92 Security Forces Sq., Scope Offices in Spokane, and Retired FAFB members donate items.

Our honored residents received two truck loads including a small popcorn machine, stamps, snacks, books, 11 updated televisions and headphones and many other wonderful items.

Thank you to all the wonderful support we receive here at the Spokane Veterans Home. We couldn't do our job with out the wonderful support from our community.

[#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)



72nd Korean War Commemorative Ceremony

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

The Lewis County Jeepers showed their love for the WA Soldiers Home with a Drive-Through of 25 jeeps, a monetary donation, as well as a Lewis County Jeepers flag! The founders of Lewis County Jeepers are family members of a former WSH resident.



Thank you Lewis County Jeepers for your support for the WA Soldiers Home residents!



Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards - Nominate Now



[Washington State Outstanding Award For Service to](#)



The Korean American Association of Tacoma hosted the 72nd Korean War Commemorative Ceremony at the Korean War Memorial on the state Capitol campus Saturday morning. WDVA Director Alfie Alvarado-Ramos and Deputy Director David Puente joined more than 100 others to remember the service and sacrifice of the thousands who lost their lives during the conflict, more than 500 of whom hailed from Washington State. The ceremony included presentations from Veterans and public officials, as well as a reading of Governor Inslee's proclamation.

For more photos: flic.kr/s/aHBqjzW68a

[Read More](#)

From Homelessness to Good Jobs: Our Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program is Changing Lives



"During a recent trip to the Washington State Department of Veterans' Affairs (a recipient of an HVRP grant), VETS Assistant Secretary James D. Rodriguez was able to see the

effects of this important program in action: [He learned about Arly Bosh, a former infantry soldier with multiple combat tours who struggled when he got out of the Army.](#) Though Bosh faced many challenges that kept him from obtaining employment, he received assistance through the

[Veterans \(google.com\)](#)

You know who they are, volunteers, service officers, community members or others who day in and day out go above and beyond the call of duty making sure veterans and their family members are cared for. Whether they submit claims for benefits, arrange funeral honors for grieving families, coordinate events or donate countless hours in veterans hospitals or nursing homes, here is your chance to nominate them for one of seven Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards.

This awards program is sponsored by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and award winners are invited to participate in the Auburn Veteran's Day Parade, followed by recognition at a special luncheon.

You can nominate individuals for Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards in the following categories:

- Superior Award - This award is the Committee's highest honor and is given to recognize clearly superior accomplishments, achievements, and outstanding performance.
- Distinguished Service Award - This award is used to recognize significant accomplishments and special contributions.
- Team Award - This award is designed to recognize significant accomplishments of a team or group of individuals. This may be for their contributions on a special project, special contribution and outstanding performance.

Nominations may be submitted by any person, organization, or institution and must be received by September 30, 2022.

Sign Up for Available Veterans Conservation Corps Internships:

Washington state VA that helped him overcome those barriers.

Bosh credits Jon Matthews, a WDVA Homeless Veterans' Reintegration case manager for giving him "a hand up, not a handout" and for providing him with the support and confidence he needed to start working again, which led Bosh to land a job as the general manager at a Best Western in Lakewood, Washington." via US Department of Labor

[From Homelessness to Good Jobs: Our Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program is Changing Lives | U.S. Department of Labor Blog \(dol.gov\)](#)

Help us welcome your first, of many, WDVA Military Spouse Fellow, Courtney Distelrath!

WDVA is thrilled to welcome our first Military Spouse Fellow to our team.

The position is part of Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Fellowship program, a six-week paid work experience.

The Military Spouse Fellow will be focused on outreach, administration, and projects serving Washington State's military spouses. Courtney Distelrath is originating the role with outreach focused at JBLM.

Our hope is that future WDVA Military Spouse Fellows will be located at and focus outreach efforts at military installations across Washington State.

Veterans Conservation Corps Internships

Ecostudies Institute (Olympia)

- Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship

Farmer Frog Farm (Woodinville)

- Farm & Livestock Internship

Skokomish Valley Farms (Shelton)

- Regenerative Farming Internship

Grays Harbor Conservation District (Montesano)

- Habitat Restoration Internship

Lewis Conservation District (Chehalis)

- Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship

Spokane Conservation District (Spokane)

- Vets on the Farm Internship

Thurston Conservation District (Tumwater)

- Habitat Restoration Crew Internship
- Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship

For detailed information about each VCC internship opportunity and how to apply, please visit:
www.dva.wa.gov/internships

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

"*Serving Those Who Served*"

The Veterans Conservation Corps was created in 2005 in an effort to help veterans find healing and purpose through the restoration and cultivation of Washington's natural resources.

This WDVA program links veterans to internships and volunteer opportunities around the state.

[Internships | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

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

WASHINGTON STATE MILITARY SPOUSE ALLIANCE

2022 FELLOWSHIP HOST COMPANY
HIRING OUR HEROES
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

HIRING OUR HEROES #HOHFELLOWS

WELCOME, COURTNEY!
WDVA MILITARY SPOUSE FELLOW

Register Now: [Serving Those Who Served | 5th Annual Conference | 2022 \(eventsquid.com\)](https://www.eventsquid.com)

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

5th Annual
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED
STATE-WIDE CONFERENCE
'TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW'

★★★ **AUGUST 25 & 26 | 2022** ★★★

IN-PERSON | NO-COST CEUs | LOCATION: WENATCHEE, WA

REGISTER AT
[DVA.WA.GOV/STWS](https://dva.wa.gov/stws)

Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2022 at Serving Those Who Served.

Your feedback is instrumental in the continued improvement of your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDVA2022>

Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
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Communications@dva.wa.gov

