

2023 July Veteran Voices Newsletter - WA Dept of Veterans Affairs

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WDVA Veteran Voices

July 2023

A Message From the Director

Greetings from Your WDVA Director - David Puente



Your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Digital Navigator Program recently wrapped up the Department of Commerce grant cycle and surpassed expectations.

We are incredibly proud of our team's commitment and effort. The success of the program reflects their dedication to *Serving Those Who Served*.

Veterans can now easily connect to their earned benefits and pursue personal or professional goals. We are thankful for the opportunity this Department of Commerce grant provided which has already had a positive impact on the lives of veterans and their families.



[Read More](#)

WDVA News and Current Events

New Spokane Veterans Home Administrator Announcement - Mark Michaels

Spokane — The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is proud to announce the appointment of Mark Michaels as the Administrator of the Spokane Veterans Home.



Mark assumed responsibility of the Veterans Home on June 14. Mark completed his Administrator in Training in 2004 and maintains an active Certified Nursing Assistant license.

Mark's professional background in healthcare spans 30 years, including facility and regional capacities.

Mark worked in western Washington as a skilled nursing home administrator for the last seven years and recently moved back to the area.

[Read More](#)

Register Now for the Annual WDVA Serving Those Who Served Conference!



This two-day, veterans resource providers' conference is not only aimed at establishing better collaboration and connection for all those who work with veterans and their families, but it will also provide a wealth of knowledge from industry experts in areas that impact the lives of our veterans and their families.

This conference provides collaboration with professionals from across the state, all while learning new veteran-related information, all at no cost to the participant.

This two-day conference will include breakout sessions on Justice Involved Veterans, WDVA Programs, VA Healthcare/VA Choice, PACT Act Updates, Suicide Prevention/Suicide Safety, Rural Engagement, Cemetery & Burial Benefits, PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury, County Specific Topics - Best Practices/Creating Regional Strategic Partnerships, Helping Vets Succeed in the Workplace and YesVets, Service Animals, Veteran Homelessness & Housing Programs and more.

To learn more about this conference and/or how you can get involved visit [Serving Those Who Served Conference](#) or email vtsc@dva.wa.gov.

July Events & Observances Calendar



[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

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



Walla Walla Veterans Home

A team of talented songwriters from Nashville's [Operation Song](#) came to the [Walla Walla Veterans Home](#) to individually interview three of our WWVH Veterans and their spouses to learn about their life journeys, experiences, thoughts and dreams,

and turned them into songs that were performed the same day in front of residents, staff, and families. It was a moving experience for everyone involved.

It was Operation Song's first trip to the West Coast, and a memorable one residents, staff and families will remember.

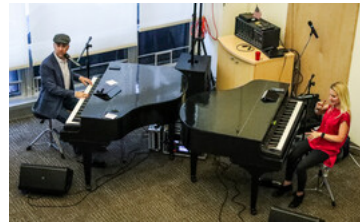
We appreciate the 2023 grant funding from the [Washington State Arts Commission](#) for making this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity possible!



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

Going to Seattle's Museum of Flight sparked a lot of excitement among the residents. All the thrilling aviation and aerospace exhibitions were enjoyed by them as well as the volunteers and staff that were with them. There was a ton to discover and see!

We appreciate the assistance provided by the staff and volunteers to the residents during this eagerly awaited and breathtaking visit to the Museum of Flight!



Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard

[Dueling Pianos: Jeff and Rhiannon](#) recently visited our Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard to perform several music favorites that put smiles on the audience's faces.

This incredible performance was the grand finale of all the great programs our home could do, thanks to [Washington State Arts Commission](#) Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM) Grant.

We appreciate the wonderful music performance and hope Jeff and Rhiannon will return soon!



Spokane Veterans Home

Your WDVA Director, and Deputy Director Solomon Gilbert recently visited the Spokane Veterans Home (SVH) to attend a Resident Council meeting. We

Residents shared lots of positive feedback about the quality of care and their appreciation of WDVA SVH staff.

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Click the link below for available opportunities with WDVA!
[State of Washington Job Opportunities](#)

