



April 6, 2009

AGENCY BUDGET UPDATE

Now that both the House and Senate budgets are written, we have a better idea of what the compromise budget may look like. Both budgets reduce the amount of State General Fund dollars that WDVA will receive; however, both also increase our expectations for earning Federal and Local money. WDVA's financial staff is analyzing both versions of the budget to determine specifically what the impact would be on our bottom line.

My purpose for this message is to keep you informed and involved in the process. In November, February and March, we outlined the way the legislative process works for writing the budget and provided updates on the changes made to current operating budget. The next step in the process will be the House, Senate and Governor coming together to work out a compromise budget for 2009-2011.

We have already implemented many budget saving measures and that has put us in a better place to deal with whatever the final budget outcome is.

I will continue to keep you up to date on where we stand in the budget process and invite you keep asking questions.

KING COUNTY FUNDS ADDITIONAL OUTREACH

Thanks to King County Veterans Services, beginning on April 6 a new outreach program is beginning to ensure veterans are connected with their VA Benefits.

WDVA and King County Veterans Services have been successfully partnering to serve Veterans and Families in King County for over a decade. In February, WDVA received a \$120,333 one-year grant from King County Housing and Community Development to identify resources to provide employment and housing services to veterans and their families residing in Redmond, Bellevue, Issaquah, Renton, Auburn, Federal Way and Enumclaw. You can read more in the [April/May Veteran Voices](#).

Clients will receive benefits planning and case management and can contact Kathy Nylén at kathyn@dva.wa.gov or (206) 473-1078 for more information.

YOU ARE INVITED!

May 25 is the [Ceremonial Groundbreaking](#) for the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, WA! The ceremony will take place at 1:00pm on the grounds of

the Cemetery. If you need any additional information, please contact Rich Cesler at: richardc@dva.wa.gov.

Lead contractor JGM is working now to have the construction bid documents out next month to allow bids to be received in June.

VETERAN BUSINESS OWNERS

You could be paying less interest on your business loans. Did you know the [Veterans Linked Deposit Program](#) provides a 2% interest rate reduction on your new or existing loans with a qualified lender?

You can find out more by calling us at 1-800-562-0132 and pressing option '1'.

PLANNING A SUMMER PROJECT?

Be sure to Shop Vets First! Check the list of over five hundred [Veteran & Servicemember Owned Businesses](#) before you look in the phone book to find a veteran or servicemember who can provide the product or service you need!

CONGRATULATIONS VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS STUDENTS

On March 26, Veterans Conservation Corps Students Doug Gannon and Taryn Woolworth were named All-Washington Academic Team Scholars. Gannon was also named as a Trustee Scholar, one of two students in the state to receive this award, and to the All-USA Coca-Cola Gold Scholar Team which honors the nation's top 70 community college students.

We can be proud of these two veterans and the work they are doing through the Veterans Conservation Corps. Read more about these outstanding students in the April/May edition of the [Veteran Voices](#).

THANK YOU BATTLE GROUND SCHOOL DISTRICT

On March 9 the Battle Ground School District honored twelve Korean and Vietnam War Veterans by providing them with their High School Diplomas. Each of these veterans volunteered to serve their country and by doing so missed their regular graduation date.

The Washington State Legislature provided high schools with the ability to honor veterans with their long overdue diplomas. I was able to attend the March ceremony and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Battle Ground School District not only for providing the diplomas, but also for hosting such a distinguished ceremony for these war veterans. It was truly an honor to be there.