



# Director's Message

*A Monthly Report from the Washington  
State Department of Veterans Affairs*



Director John Lee

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## **WDVA CENTRAL OFFICE BEGINS A 4 – 10 WORKWEEK**

Beginning Monday, October 6, all services offered in the WDVA Central Office located at 1102 Quince Street SE in Olympia will be available for the extended hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and closed on Fridays.

All other WDVA locations will operate under the current scheduled hours of operation. More information, including a list of frequently asked questions, is available at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov).

### **VETERANS IN PIPING TRAINING PROGRAM**

You are invited to join Governor Christine Gregoire and William P. Hite, General President of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry (UA), in a tribute to the first UA Veterans in Piping Training Program on October 21, 2008. More information on the event is available at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov).

I am very excited about the UA Training Program because of the steps it takes to prepare our returning veterans for apprenticeships. For many returnees seeking apprenticeships, there is a gap between the certifications achieved while in the military and the certifications necessary to be hired as an apprentice.

This United Association has stepped up to fill that gap by paying for an 18-week welding certification course. UA is also creating opportunities for potential employers to meet the students prior to their graduation in December. The ultimate goal is to provide employment with opportunities for advancement to returning veterans.

Please RSVP your attendance to the October 21 event to: [rsvpVIP@uanet.org](mailto:rsvpVIP@uanet.org)

### **WINGED VICTORY REDEDICATION**

Preserving the legacy of veterans who have gone before us is one purpose for the many memorials and monuments throughout our state.

World War I Veterans are honored by the Winged Victory monument located on the State Capitol Campus. On October 14, 2008, the memorial will be rededicated following extensive repairs and removal of the gold paint which had been covering the bronze sculpture.

I hope to see you on the Capitol Campus at 3:30pm for this historic event.

### **VETERANS TRANSPORTATION SYMPOSIUM**

On October 17, I will participate in a first in the nation Veterans Transportation Symposium.

The symposium is being held on the American Lake campus of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Building 9 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on October 17, 2008.

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is requesting \$2 million in federal funding for demonstration programs aimed at improving transportation services for veterans and their families. Since the early 1990s CTAA has received funding from the Federal Transit Administration and the Department of Labor in order to improve the delivery of employment transportation services to workers in cities and neighborhoods throughout the country. A \$2 million federal appropriation would allow CTAA to build on successful models in order to provide coordinated, targeted transportation services to veterans and their families over a two-year period.