

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF

**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



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*"Serving Those Who Served"*

# VETERAN VOICES

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## WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead](#)

[Employment Track Program Specialist 5  
\(0003\)](#)

[Physician 3 \(Part-time or Full-time\) \(3052\)](#)

[REGISTERED NURSE 2 - NIGHT SHIFT](#)

[Medical Director \(0074\)](#)

[Medical Director \(3052\)](#)

More Info: [recruiters@dva.wa.gov](mailto:recruiters@dva.wa.gov)

*You are cordially invited to attend the*  
**YesVets Recognition Ceremony**

June 14, 2016

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Winged Victory Monument, Capitol Campus

**Help us honor those who say "Yes" to hiring veterans.**

Washington state employers are being recognized with a  
YesVets decal when they sign up and hire a veteran.  
Learn more and sign up today at [www.YesVets.org](http://www.YesVets.org)

Businesses, agencies and organizations that have hired veterans through  
YesVets will be recognized during the ceremony. If you are a business  
owner or representative who will be attending, please RSVP to  
[HeidiA@DVA.wa.gov](mailto:HeidiA@DVA.wa.gov)

*Learn more about this new initiative and join the #YesVets family!*



How to participate in the YesVets program at  
[www.YesVets.org](http://www.YesVets.org)

If you are an employer who has hired a veteran on or after  
February 1, 2016, select the [I want to participate](#) button to  
provide some basic details about your company.

*"Serving Those Who Served"*

## A Message from the Director Lourdes "Alfie" E. Alvarado-Ramos [Alfie@dva.wa.gov](mailto:Alfie@dva.wa.gov)



The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee or VAAC, has transformed the way it holds meetings in order to reach out to more rural veterans each year. The idea was to split the 17 member body into teams of 3 or 4 who run Town Hall meetings around the state. Issues brought to the committee are acted upon quickly so that veterans get results. The entire VAAC then convenes twice a year to discuss common themes in order to formulate strategic goals for the following year.

Most recently, the VAAC held a Town Hall meeting in Mason County. I was excited to see so many veterans attend to hear about the community resources available to them. At each of the Town Halls, we invite community leaders and service providers to speak so that veterans and their families can see exactly who in their community can help with a particular situation. At the Mason County meeting, the subject of PTSD Counseling was brought up several times and led to several veterans meeting the counselor in their community and learning about the [WDVA PTSD Counseling](#) program for the first time.

Often, awareness and access are the two biggest obstacles veterans and families face when attempting to solve a problem. Our hope is that these community forums help veterans overcome these obstacles!

*Here's where the VAAC will be throughout the rest of 2016 – I hope to see you at a meeting soon!*

*Moses Lake - May 19*

*Chelan - July 21*

*Wapato - August 11*

*Bellingham - October 20*

*Kelso November - 18*

*Olympia TBD*

You can find out more about the VAAC on our website at: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/veterans-affairs-advisory-committee>



## Washington State Military Transition Council Meeting



The Washington Military Transition Council met in Tumwater on May 17th with numerous state, community, and military leaders joining I Corps Commander, LTG Lanza and WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos for an update on transitional goals and strategies for the coming months.

Along with continuing to forge collaborations and partnerships, the WSMTC team ensures that veterans can transition seamlessly between their military and civilian lives.

## Medical Lake Cemetery Volunteers Get Involved

The State Veterans Cemetery at Medical Lake recently received assistance from several compassionate community volunteers to help ensure the Cemetery is looking its best prior to the annual Memorial Day Ceremony.



In addition to our regular cadre of volunteers who meticulously maintain the Scattering Garden year-round, volunteers from Northwest Farm Credit Services planted annuals and helped clean up the beds, including moving several plants to more suitable locations. Each of the plants chosen for the Scattering Garden is considered to be deer resistant, an important consideration on the 100 acre site!



On behalf of WDVA and the State Veterans Cemetery – thank you for your collective efforts!



# Memorial Day Events & Observances

More Memorial Day events are listed at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/memorial-day-events-statewide-list>. Feel free to contact us at [communications@dva.wa.gov](mailto:communications@dva.wa.gov) to list your event.

## 2016 Memorial Day Events & Observances for Washington State

Monday, May 30, 2016

[www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)

Washington Veterans Home, Retsil	10:00am 1141 Beach Dr—Chapel Retsil WA Tami Reuter <a href="mailto:TamiR@dva.wa.gov">TamiR@dva.wa.gov</a>
Washington Soldiers Home, Orting	2:00pm Chilson Hall, 1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy Orting, WA 98360 360-893-4511
Spokane Veterans Home Memorial Day Program	10:00am, Saturday, May 28 222 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 Shane Price, 509-344-5788 <a href="mailto:ShaneP@dva.wa.gov">ShaneP@dva.wa.gov</a>
Washington State Veterans Cemetery Medical Lake	11:00am 21702 West Espanola RD Medical Lake, WA ADA Arrangements: 509-299-6280 <a href="mailto:cemetery@dva.wa.gov">cemetery@dva.wa.gov</a>
Tahoma National Cemetery	1:00pm 18600 Southeast 240th Street Kent, WA 98042 <a href="mailto:Thomas.yokes@va.gov">Thomas.yokes@va.gov</a> or 425-413-9614
Thurston County Veterans Coalition Annual Memorial Day Ceremony	10:30am—Music 11:00am—Ceremony State Capitol Rotunda Arlene Murray, 253-720-1766
Wenatchee City Cemetery— VFW Post 3617	9:00am East Wenatchee, WA 509-884-3617
Veterans Memorial Run Vietnam Vets/Legacy Vets	12:00pm Vietnam War Memorial Olympia, WA

Information has been provided to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by sponsors of events. [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)  
[facebook.com/WSVDVA](https://www.facebook.com/WSVDVA) or [twitter.com/WDVA](https://twitter.com/WDVA)



# Veteran Farmers at Work



WDVA VetCorps members joined Governor Inslee and staff for a Garden Planting Event at the Capitol Garden on April 27, 2016.



Hard work was done in early May on the Veterans Farm at Orting. Veteran volunteers assisted with sheet mulching during a two-day volunteer event at the farm.

The Veterans Farm focuses on teaching veterans interested in agricultural industries how to thrive and "break bread" with one another. There will be several plots available for transitioning veterans to explore farming as a future.

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers helping out!

Find out more at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/program/veterans-farm-orting>

## Recent Events at Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

### BOWLING AT ORTING

It wasn't Thanksgiving, but our Washington Soldiers Home residents were still hunting turkeys!

Residents from our Washington Soldiers Home in Orting travel to [Daffodil Bowl](#) in [#Puyallup](#) once a month to have fun and let the good times roll. Looks like they had a blast!

### 2016 WSH FISHING DERBY

The poles were cast and fish were jumping at the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting for the 2016 Fishing Derby.

The award for the "Biggest Fish" came in at 18 ½ inches. Residents also enjoyed a delicious fresh fish fry with all the breakfast sides imaginable, prepared by Orting Kitchen Staff and the [Tacoma Washington Chapter of H.O.G.](#)

We would like to thank the Resident Council, the Tacoma HOGS Harley Davidson Group, independent volunteers, staff, families and local businesses for this very exciting event!



## USO Provides Girl Scout Cookies to Vet Residents

*Veterans Benefits Program Specialist, Venus Bailey, sorts through hundreds of Girl Scout Cookies donated by USO Northwest for our Veterans Home Residents & Veterans Outreach. Thank you USO!!!*



## Walla Walla State Veterans Home Construction



Absher Construction Co prepared a community ceremony to celebrate the final steel beam being placed at YOUR Walla Walla State Veterans Home on May 09, 2016.

Watch the progress at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/veteran-homes/walla-walla-veterans-home>



Absher Construction Co prepared a wonderful BBQ lunch to celebrate the topping off of the Walla Walla Veterans Home.



Rep Terry Nealey and Cathy Schaeffer from Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers Office touring the WVVH construction site.



# Retsil Home Depot Beautification Project



We would like to thank the Team Depot & Home Depot team members who assisted with the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil Beautification Project. Along with placing new mulch and plants around the facility, the team also built steps leading to the laundry building to reduce slips and falls during the winter months. This project is one of many conducted by the Home/Team Depot teams throughout the year for our facilities.

**THANK YOU!!!**



# World War II Uniforms/Memorabilia Visit Spokane



These photos are from Pete Joplin's visit to the Spokane Veterans Home. He also brought his grandfather's WWII uniforms and other memorabilia to share. Thank you for stopping by Pete, our residents really enjoyed your visit.

## Tacoma Dome Resource Fair is a Success!



Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists and Veterans were able to take advantage of this annual event with dozens of resources available such as:

***Community Services, Legal/Veterans Benefits Services, Reintegration, Health, Homeless Services, Financial Education & Resources, Female Veterans, Housing and Home-ownership, Education, Jobs, Apprenticeship, Training & Vocational Opportunities***

Overall this event was a success with more than 1,000 veterans and their families passing through the doors of the Tacoma Dome. WDVA was honored to be part of this impactful event. See you next year!

# Don't Miss Out on Veteran Events

**DON'T MISS OUT ON VETERAN/MILITARY EVENTS IN THE STATE!**  
**Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Events Calendar**

Subscribe to our WDVA Events Tab by clicking **Subscribe**

[www.facebook.com/WSOVA](http://www.facebook.com/WSOVA)  
<https://www.facebook.com/wsdva/events>



Events	108 Subscribers	Subscribe
THIS WEEK		
<b>MAY 4</b> Job Fair Success Workshop Tomorrow 9 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	ERP Bldg 551 Barnes Blvd...	★ Interested
<b>MAY 5</b> Interview Ready Thu 9 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	Employment Readiness Res...	Get Tickets ★ Interested
<b>MAY 5</b> Military Job Fair Thu 10 AM - by JBLM Opportunities Unlimited	American Lake Conference Ctr Tacoma	★ Interested

**Don't have Facebook...No Problem!**

Join our Listserv and/or visit our WDVA Website Calendar

Listserv: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=WDVA&A=1>

WDVA Web Calendar: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/calendar>



## HIRING OUR HEROES

# Wednesday, May 25, 2016

## Safeco Field— Seattle

10:00am – 1:00pm

Join us for a one-of-a-kind event featuring a hiring fair, networking opportunities and workshops tailored for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses. All registered veterans and military spouses are eligible to receive up to two (2) free tickets for them and their families to attend that evening's game between the Coyotes and Sharks. [Register here!](#)

employers & military job seekers register at

# [hiringourheroes.org](http://hiringourheroes.org)

# Serving Those Who Served:

## A Conference For All Who Provide Services to Our Veterans

-Establish greater connection & collaboration between the  
Veteran Service Community on both sides of WA state.

Register: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1813238>

Yakima Convention Center

Wednesday, May 25, 2016 9:00 AM -  
Thursday, May 26, 2016 12:00 PM

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](mailto:communications@dva.wa.gov)

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and all interested in news affecting  
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View previous editions here:

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