

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



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*"Serving Those Who Served"*

# VETERAN VOICES

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**Unclaimed Cremains Interment:** The Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake will receive the cremated remains of 50 unclaimed veterans on August 18, 2016.



Cemetery staff partners with the Washington State Missing in America Project coordinators, Patriot Guard and Combat Vet Riders throughout the state and across the panhandle of Idaho to locate, positively identify, and inter eligible veterans and spouses through this initiative. These organizations work tirelessly throughout the year, contacting county coroners, medical examiners and funeral homes to locate unclaimed decedents eligible for burial in a veterans cemetery. Once identified, the logistics of claiming and coordinating a ride to the state's Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake begins.

Veteran riders from across the states will converge in Ritzville, WA on August 18 to make the final 50 mile trek in unison. The ride is expected to arrive at the Cemetery at 2pm where the cremains will be turned over to WDVA for interment. These individuals will be placed in their final resting place with full military honors in a community interment service on Tuesday, September 13th at 1pm. This service is open to the media and the public.

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery is open to the public seven days a week, from 8am to sunset. Interments are held Monday through Friday and are scheduled by contacting the cemetery staff. For additional information regarding the ride and the interment service please contact the cemetery at 509-299-6280 or visit [www.dva.wa.gov/Cemetery](http://www.dva.wa.gov/Cemetery).

## WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead](#)

[Maintenance Mechanic 1 - Spokane Veterans Home \(S1017\)](#)

[Nursing Assistant Certified - Spokane Veterans Home \(S1045\)](#)

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

[Truck Driver 2 \(Non-Permanent\)](#)

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

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

*"Serving Those Who Served"*

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



### Great news! The Walla Walla Veterans Home is starting to look like Home!

In just a few months, we will begin caring for veterans and eligible family members in our state's new Veterans Home.

For the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, this new care model is a significant departure from our more traditional Veterans Homes. Veterans will live in one of eight, ten bedroom houses with separate kitchen and living areas. Each house will be staffed with Nursing Assistants – Residential Living who will perform duties such as assisting residents with dressing and bathing, providing medications, meal preparation and light housekeeping. Two houses are joined together by a corridor of shared facilities including a bathing room, laundry facility and central storage. A community building will house the Superintendent and administrative functions as well as activities, salon and therapy. The service building includes the maintenance department, central supply and dietary supply warehouses. There is no program in the country's veterans home inventory like Walla Walla!

I am also pleased to share that the Walla Walla Veterans Home's First Superintendent has been hired. Lael Hepworth re-joined the WDVA team on July 25. You may remember his name from the Washington Soldiers Home at Orting, where he served as Superintendent several years ago. Over the next few weeks, Lael will bring on additional team members such as the Director of Nursing Services and a Human Resources Consultant, so that we will be ready to open our doors on February 2017.

You can find out more about the Walla Walla Veterans Home including updated construction coverage in our website at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov).

More good news! We will be conducting a feasibility study for the placement of a Veterans Cemetery in the southern region of Eastern Washington. The Governor and legislature approved funding last year. We will have more information in future newsletter editions...stay tuned!



*Pictured Here: The Walla Walla Veterans Home is almost completed.  
The Walla Walla Veterans Home is set to open in early 2017.*

# NOW HIRING: Walla Walla Veterans Home

*Come and work at the NEW Walla Walla Veterans Home*

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



*"Serving Those Who Served"*

**WORK**Source

## *Walla Walla Veterans Home Recruiting Event*

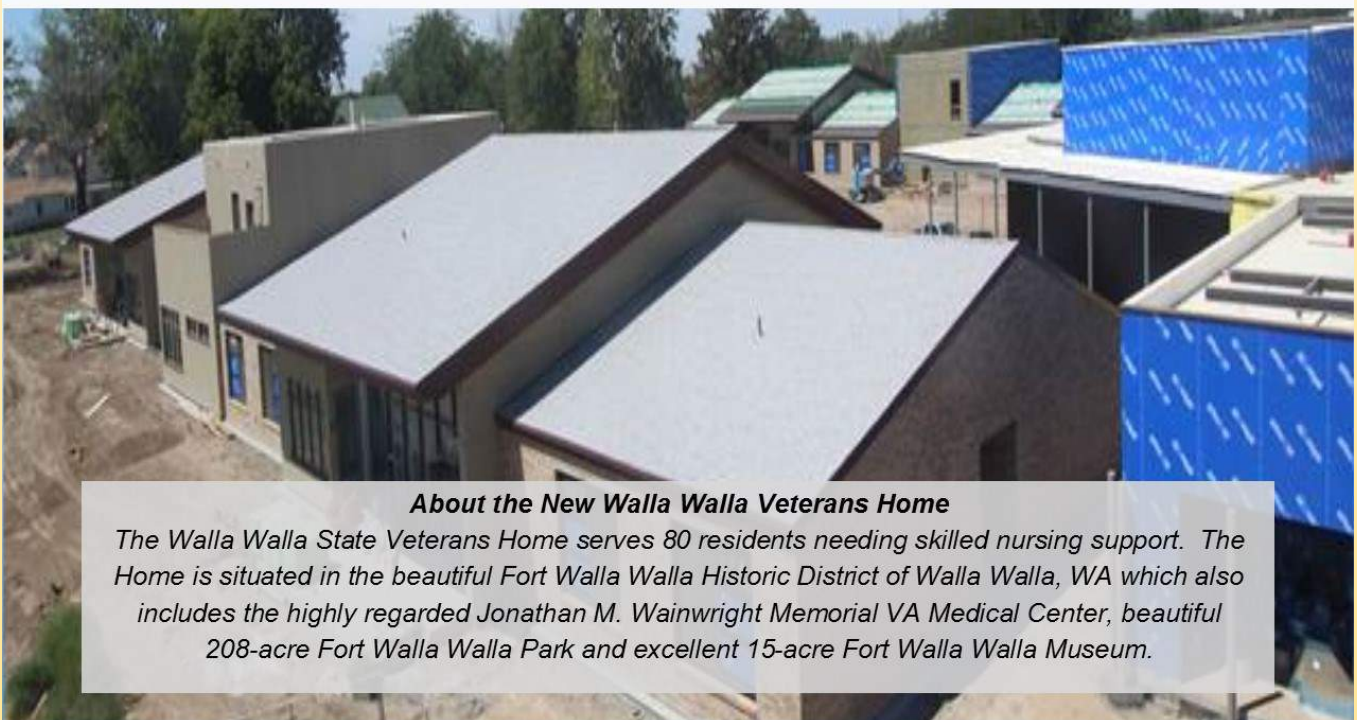
**WHO:** All Are Invited

**WHEN:** 10am-2pm, Thursday, September 22, 2016

**WHERE:** WorkSource Bldg. 1530, Stevens St., Walla Walla, WA 99362 (Main Lobby)

**WHY:** Be one of the **FIRST** to apply for a position at this state-of-the-art facility  
and be the **FIRST** to be hired for the new job class -NAC-Residential!

**RSVP:** [recruiters@dva.wa.gov](mailto:recruiters@dva.wa.gov) or 360-725-2204 or 509-527-4393 (WorkSource)



### **About the New Walla Walla Veterans Home**

*The Walla Walla State Veterans Home serves 80 residents needing skilled nursing support. The Home is situated in the beautiful Fort Walla Walla Historic District of Walla Walla, WA which also includes the highly regarded Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, beautiful 208-acre Fort Walla Walla Park and excellent 15-acre Fort Walla Walla Museum.*

## Korean War Wreathlaying Event



Veterans of the Korean War joined together at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, located on the Capitol Campus in Olympia for a Wreathlaying Event on Saturday, July 23.

The public was encouraged to attend and pay tribute as we honored Washington State's Korean War Veterans and their families and recognized the 63rd Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

Organizations and individuals were invited to lay wreaths during the ceremony. The state wreath was laid by Deputy Consul General Kim, Colonel Omar Jones, Deputy Commander for Operations, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, WDVA Director Alfie Alvarado and Chosin Few Veterans Al Rasmussen and Jack Coleman.

*The American Legion, Korean War Veterans Association and Daughters of the American Revolution also laid wreaths in honor of Washington's Korean War Veterans.*

The National Anthem and TAPS were performed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps Army Band and the event's invocation was provided by Reverend Dr. Francis Jeffery.

The Korean War, known as the "Forgotten War," took place from June 1950 to July 1953. According to most estimates, more than 36,000 Americans died during the war, 103,000 were wounded, and 8,177 were listed as missing in action. More than five million Americans served in the war.

Of the 2.5 million Americans who served in Korea, 122,000 were from Washington State. The names of 528 state residents listed as killed in action during the war are permanently engraved on the memorial.



## What's On Your Mind? VAAC Wants to Hear From You



Veteran community members joined together on July 21, 2016 for the Chelan VAAC Town Hall.



**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?** We want to hear from YOU about veteran's issues important to you and your family! Join us at the next Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall.

Meet area leaders and providers to learn about local veteran's services and benefits, and hear about veterans bills passed in the Washington State Legislature.

- ◆ Receive information on employment, education and housing benefits.
- ◆ Learn about the wide range of benefits available including compensation, pension and military funeral honors.
- ◆ Find out about counseling, financial assistance and support for you and your family.
- ◆ Learn how to enroll in VA Healthcare and how to apply for state and federal benefits.

**Next VAAC Town Hall: WAPATO VAAC TOWN HALL—SEPTEMBER 15—WAPATO WA**  
**POC: [LisaN@DVA.WA.GOV](mailto:LisaN@DVA.WA.GOV)**

**Million Veteran Program** — MVP is a national, **voluntary** research program funded entirely by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development. The goal of MVP is to partner with veterans receiving their care in the VA Healthcare System to study how genes affect health. To do this, MVP will build one of the world's largest medical databases by safely collecting blood samples and health information from one million veteran volunteers.

In Washington State, the enrollment centers are in Seattle and American Lake. You can find out more by visiting <http://www.research.va.gov/MVP/default.cfm> or calling 206-659-2772.

### Million Veteran Program: A Partnership with Veterans

DISCOVERY — INNOVATION — ADVANCEMENT

**MVP IS NOW ENROLLING**

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a national, voluntary research program designed to better understand how genes affect health and illness.

# Veterans Affairs Eliminates Paper Signature Requirements for Veterans Enrolling in VA Health Care

The [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](http://www.dva.wa.gov) (VA) announced in July it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care.

Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature. This action also accelerates VA's effort to enroll all Combat Veterans with pending enrollments as part of its ongoing Veterans Enrollment Rework Project (VERP).

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll under 38 CFR 17.36(d) (1). This option provides Veterans a convenient third enrollment option in addition to the paper VA Form 10-10 EZ and the online health care application.

**To apply, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.**

## Welcome to the NEW Community Provider Toolkit

Community providers play an essential role in ensuring America's Veterans receive the support they have earned. The purpose of this toolkit is to link community providers with information and resources that are relevant to veteran's health and well-being.

This toolkit supports the behavioral health and wellness of veterans receiving services outside the VA health care system. Resources available in this toolkit include information on screening for military service, handouts and trainings to increase knowledge about military culture and mini-clinics focused on relevant aspects of behavioral health and wellness.

Sign up for the Community Provider Toolkit's email list and you'll be the first to know about new resources and topics for mini-clinics, important content updates, relevant VA news, announcements and more.

WEBSITE: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/index.asp#sthash.r0w2p6ON.dpbs>



**COMMUNITY PROVIDER TOOLKIT**  
SERVING VETERANS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



Google™ Custom Search

Search



Screening for  
Military Service ▾

Military Culture ▾

Behavioral Health  
& Wellness ▾

Connecting with  
VA ▾

Interagency  
Resources ▾

About the Toolkit ▾

## Spokane Veterans Home Donates Food to Homeless Shelter



On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Spokane Veterans Home was fortunate enough to be the recipients of the Seattle Seahawks 12 Tour Visit. This was a fun filled day with the Sea Gals, Blitz the Mascot, Taima the Hawk, the Blue Thunder Drumline and two current players visiting the residents at the home.

Part of the 12 Tour was a barbeque consisting of a plethora of food items and drinks generously donated by Safeway. In keeping with the community spirit, the Spokane Veterans Home passed on the good will by donating the perishable items to the House of Charity, a local homeless shelter in Spokane.

In all, approximately 1,200 pounds of perishable food and drinks were donated. This goes a long way in feeding the Spokane homeless population, many of whom are veterans.

Needless to say, the House of Charity staff were very appreciative and immediately used the donated food to feed over a 100 homeless people.

We would like to thank the Seahawks and Safeway for their kindness!



## Fourth of July at Washington Soldiers Home



Washington Soldiers Home residents enjoyed a traditional barbecue meal at the Annual 4th of July Picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs, BBQ ribs and tasty side dishes.

Residents mingled while dining and listening to lively music by Mark Stern. Melon-E the Clown put smiles on residents' faces with her antics, balloon hats and patriotic stickers.

We would like to send a very special thank you to Washington Soldiers Home Dietary Staff for preparing a delicious meal and the many volunteers, guests and other staff members for making this a very special July 4th Picnic!



## Nominations Open for 2016 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards



Eliseo "Joe" Dumleo receives his 2015 Distinguished Service Award during last year's Auburn Veterans Parade.

**The Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee is accepting nominations for the 2016 Washington State Outstanding Awards for Service to Veterans.**

These awards presented by the Governors Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee, are open to all who serve veterans in Washington State and nominations may be submitted by any person, organization or institution.

Nominations are due by September 16, 2016 and the winners will be honored in the 51st Auburn Veterans Day Parade, being held on November 5, followed by a special luncheon after the parade.

**There are three Nomination Categories to choose from:**

**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.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yx\\_rJRD34E5TgUCIR6FhHsFSF8ald\\_ybVKNvC9CAZ\\_k/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yx_rJRD34E5TgUCIR6FhHsFSF8ald_ybVKNvC9CAZ_k/viewform)

**For additional information, contact Liza**

**Narcizo at 360-725-2157 or**

[lisan@dva.wa.gov](mailto:lisan@dva.wa.gov)





## Dream Foundation Donates Daybed to Veteran In-Need



A truly inspiring and emotional moment for your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs took place in July when a veteran with cancer received his 'wish', a daybed which will allow him to stay with a family member.

Our WDVA Director and Deputy Director presented the brand new daybed and other gift items to the Tacoma-area veteran. The Dream Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit, was able to fulfill this veteran's final dream, which was to be able to stay with his niece and receive the additional support and family care

he needs.

Dream Foundation's Dreams for Veterans program serves our nation's terminally-ill military veterans and their families by bringing their final Dream to life. Their goal is to provide those who served our nation, their families and care-givers inspiration, comfort and closure that focuses on improving quality of life for veterans and their families.

We would like to spend special thanks to the Dream Foundation and Walmart for this donation, and for allowing WDVA to be a part of it.



### 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**

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<https://www.facebook.com/wsdva/events>



Event Date	Event Name	Location	Action
MAY 4	Job Fair Success Workshop	ERP Bldg 551 Barnes Blvd...	★ Interested
MAY 5	Interview Ready	Employment Readiness Res...	Get Tickets ★ Interested
MAY 5	Military Job Fair	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>



## VETERANS: Register for 2016 Washington Small Business Fair

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ONE PLACE**  
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TO RUN A BUSINESS



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**2016  
WASHINGTON SMALL  
BUSINESS FAIR**

**Saturday  
September 24  
8:00 am to 3:30 pm**

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IT'S PRICELESS AND FREE**

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**SAVE VALUABLE TIME**

Visit the Resource Center to get the information and help you need from federal, state and local government agencies, and business and trade associations.

# VA to Launch New Online Health Care Application

VA | [Vets.gov](http://Vets.gov)

The Federal VA will soon launch a new online health care application on [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov). Previously, veterans could apply for health care online, but the user experience was often frustrating for many.

Beginning June 30, 2016, veterans applying for health care will be directed to the health care application on [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov).

Veterans and other stakeholders will still have access to VA Form 10-10EZ, which was originally available through the Veterans On-line Application; however, going forward, those applying for health care eligibility will use the online application or call 877-222-VETS (8387).

Please take a moment to review the new online form, and, as of June 30, 2016, begin referring veterans interested in applying for health care eligibility to the new site.

Providing health care to our Nation's Veterans is a vital service of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one that we must persistently improve. Through the MyVA transformation, VA is rebuilding trust with veterans and the American people; modernizing service delivery; and setting the course for long-term, VA excellence, all while continuing to expand access to high-quality care. Through our improvement efforts, we reviewed many of the steps veterans must take to receive health care and found that enhancements were necessary in the initial application to better the veteran experience by removing barriers that hinder access.

*To learn more about applying for health benefits, please visit VA's Health Benefits webpage.*

## Washington Veterans Home in Retsil Receives Their YesVets Decal


Ms. Jill Decianne, the Administrative Assistant to Ron Bergstrom the Superintendent to the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil, was presented with a [#YesVets](https://www.facebook.com/YesVets) decal by their Local Veterans Employment Representative, Jose Ortiz with [Washington Employment Security Department](http://WashingtonEmploymentSecurityDepartment.com).

### **YesVets STATISTICS SINCE FEBRUARY**

**Registered Employers: 262**

**Veterans Hired: 267**

*If you are an employer interested in joining the YesVets initiative, please visit*




**Jose presents a YesVets decal to Jill Decianne from the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil for her agency's recent hire of a veteran.**

If you're an employer who hired a veteran on or after Feb. 7, 2016, we would like to connect with you to publicly recognize your commitment to those who served. Please visit [YesVets.org](http://YesVets.org) to sign up for the YesVets program.

**YES VETS**  
YesVets.org

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t [@YesVets](https://twitter.com/YesVets)

BE A PROUD EMPLOYER OF U.S. VETERANS 



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Working With Our Troops Career EXPO

Wednesday, Aug 10 Washington State Convention  
Center -Seattle  
10 am to 2 pm

Register: [www.workingwithourtroops.eventbrite.com](http://www.workingwithourtroops.eventbrite.com)

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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