
WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

OCTOBER 2022



A Message from the Director

Vital for Success - Veteran Service Organizations

Relationships, partnerships, and friendships are vital to the success of our statewide network, who every day are out there meeting the needs of Veterans and their Families. That is why we take time to get to know and understand the goals of newly elected Commanders of Veterans Service Organizations with who we contract.

This year as the new leaders took office, our Deputy Director David Puente and I, along with key staff members like Mary Forbes, Assistant Director for Veterans Services and Counseling and Wellness, and Steve Gill, Veterans Services Administrator, spent time visiting with the new VSO Commanders. These meetings help us understand the mission and vision of the new leaders, and also discuss how the VSOs goals align with WDVA's mission of *Serving Those Who Served*. They also allow us to talk about how we, as partners, use our strengths to make a difference and close gaps in services.

Your WDVA has contracts with the African American PTSD Association, American Legion, American Veterans, National Association for Black Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans of America. These performance-based contracts enhance the claims preparation services provided by the VSO and spread the availability of trained, accredited service officers far and wide into Washington State.



Read More

Have a Veterans Day Event that you want to share with your community?

Share it with us at www.dva.wa.gov/calendar and send to us at communications@dva.wa.gov to get the event added to your WDVA Social Media platforms.



October Events & Observances List

A screenshot of a calendar interface showing a grid of dates. Several dates have colored boxes indicating events, with some text visible within the boxes, though it is small and difficult to read.

Here is a current list of upcoming events that your WDVA is tracking.

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

October - Veterans Training Support Center - [VTSC Events | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

October 06 - [ASPIRE: Demystifying Entrepreneurship for Military Spouses | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

October 06 - [Port Angeles Stand Down | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#).

October 15 - [Spokane Stand Down | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#).

October 22 - [Yakima Stand Down and Veterans Benefit Fair 2022 | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#).

Submit your event at www.dva.wa.gov/calendar

Port Orchard Veterans Home



Honored residents at the Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard recently benefitted from a grant through the Civic Money Penalties (CMP) award.

The Edmonds Art Commission Applied for a grant and were awarded funding to provide a total of three complimentary Windows to the Arts Concerts held specially for your honored residents this September. The next concerts will take place during their summer series in in July 2023 and July 2024!

We are incredibly excited to be partnering with the

Edmonds Art Commission to provide music for our veterans!

The day was filled with so much fun and the entertainment was top notch! After the entertainment took place, a music therapy workshop took place for memory care residents, with the music therapist! The residents will be looking forward to the future events! [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)



Spokane Veterans Home



Under Construction: New Walkway & Sitting Area at Spokane Veterans Home

Your Spokane Veterans Home is currently renovating the front area of our facility to add a new walkway for our honored veterans to enjoy. The brand new areas will be completely fenced in and safe & accessible to all of our residents.

The walkway will also include sitting areas for our veterans to go relax, enjoy the elements, visit with family & friends, and to just enjoy more outside time!

Washington VA to fund Veteran Service Officer positions in Island & Walla Walla Counties

Your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has announced new grant funding for Island County and Walla Walla County to hire Veteran Service Officers.

The counties submitted applications describing how a County Veteran Service Officer would serve the veterans in their area and their families. WDVA reviewed these applications and awarded the counties \$220,000 for the position. The funding can be used through June 30, 2023.

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Vietnam Veterans & Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club Donate to Suicide Prevention

We would like to send a very special [#ThankYou](#) to the Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club for their continues generosity in serving veterans.

They recently visited our Olympia Central Office to donate a check to go towards Suicide Prevention efforts. [#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)



Honored for our Vet Corps program in receiving a federal grant to support AmeriCorps members!

Your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs' Vet Corps program is awarded \$636,600 to engage 50 AmeriCorps members statewide in service to connect veterans to services and programs on college campuses.

WDVA Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



Available Opportunities:

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Multiple Positions, Spokane](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Multiple Positions, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Walla Walla Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Certified \(CNA\), Orting](#)

[WDVA Veterans Benefit Specialist 2, Seattle](#)

[WDVA Director of Counseling & Wellness, Olympia](#)

[WDVA Cook 1, Full Time, Non-Permanent, Washington Soldiers Home](#)

[WDVA Food Service Worker, Full Time - Permanent, Washington Soldiers Home](#)

[WDVA Fiscal Analyst 4, Olympia](#)

[WDVA Human Resource Manager \(WMS 1\), Full Time - Permanent, Washington Veterans Home](#)

[WDVA Senior Compliance Auditor, Management Analyst 5, Full Time - Permanent](#)

[WDVA Pharmacist Lead, WA Veterans Home](#)

[State of Washington Job Opportunities |](#)

Other Positions Available at our Walla Walla, Spokane, Orting & Port Orchard Veterans Home.

Recruiters@dva.wa.gov

[View More](#)

WDVA Receives a significant Federal Grant aimed at combatting Veteran Suicides

In September, your WDVA received notification from the Federal VA that we will receive a grant from the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). The SSG Fox SPGP is a pilot, community-based grant program that provides financial assistance to organizations for suicide prevention services to eligible Veterans and their families. The award is a one-year grant, renewable up to three years.

WDVA's program will focus on connecting benefits enrollment to early suicide-risk identification, with emphasis on rural communities to bolster Veteran's connection to resources. "We are excited to be working upstream with Veterans and their families to help them thrive and live their fullest lives. Working with Veterans during their benefits enrollment to identify and provide support for early symptoms of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation will help us intervene before Veterans reach a point of crisis." Said Mary Forbes, WDVA Assistant Director for Veteran Services and Counseling and Wellness.

[Read More](#)

Vet Corps Program - Making a Difference at Educational Institutions



The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) Vet Corps program is funded by AmeriCorps. Started in 2005, the program stations individuals, referred as Vet Corps members (VCM's), at colleges, universities, and community organizations throughout Washington state.

The program is specifically designed to help veterans and their family members navigate their journey as they transition from military to civilian/collegiate life.

Learn More: [Vet Corps | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Walla Walla Veterans Home



WWII Veterans from the Walla Walla Veterans Home joined with Veterans from conflict eras spanning the decades to participate in the Walla Walla Rodeo's Patriot Program 2022! It was a powerful and memorable tribute to each of them individually, and collectively.

As Veterans were loading onto the 'Patriot Trailer' for the program, it was heartwarming to watch our distinguished WWII Vets (who are less independently mobile than they once were) being respectfully assisted by other Veterans who were so attentive and willing to lend a hand. The trust displayed by our older, less-mobile Veterans as they graciously received help from younger fellow Veterans gave a profound pause for reflection.



[More Photos](#)

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Olympia, WA 98504

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Purple Heart State



You can help recognize Washington as a Purple Heart State...Donate Today!

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Every donation counts towards the goal of placing Purple Heart Highway Signs at all 34 state entrances into Washington!



Purple Heart Medals are presented to Armed Forces members who are killed or wounded in combat.

Learn more: [Purple Heart Donation](#)

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting Hosts their End of Summer Water Games

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting honored residents ended the 2022 summer season with a big splash during the water games event. Residents soaked up the warm sun while getting wet with water guns and water balloons.

Targets included cups, a bin, and staff! Residents enjoyed each other's company while being served frosty ice cream. Thank you to the individual and VFW Aux. 2224 volunteer support during this refreshing event!

[#TheseAreOurHeroes](#)



Suicide Prevention Awareness - Share Your "Stories of Hope"

This year for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month your Washington State Department of Veterans

Affairs started the "Stories of Hope" initiative to hear from the community, in efforts to share hope.

"Early this year I found myself struggling with hopelessness, fighting addiction and making some pretty bad choices. I fought through several toxic boyfriends, abusive, always hitting me and treating me poorly. I later wanted to just end it all, I thought about how easy it would have been and I just kept getting closer and closer to it. Finally it was A young lady , a veteran at the VA who stepped in and saved my life, she told me that if I stayed and was willing to listen that she could help. She later got me connected with her friends at a local housing and employment organization for vets in Fife. She has kept in contact with me for the last six months on and off and she was right, I feel better, I have a job and I work with people who actually care about me. I want to thank you and I appreciate all you did for me. Sincerely, -Thankful & Free"

Did you have a friend support you during a difficult time? Or perhaps you helped someone in need? Please share with us your story of hope to promote solidarity and maybe help someone else in need!

SHARE YOUR HOPE: lnkd.in/dfbjsBth

Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2022 at Serving Those Who Served.

Your feedback is instrumental in the continued improvement of your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDVA2022>

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