



WDVA Veteran Voices

December 2023

A Message From the Director

Greetings from Your WDVA Director - David Puente

The holiday season is here, and while many consider it the most wonderful time of the year, some find it difficult and struggle. If you are feeling overwhelmed, depressed, or don't know where to turn for help, please remember that *your* WDVA is here.

With resources such as our suicide prevention peer specialists, Staff Sergeant Fox Grant Program, WDVA Counseling Program, and many other resources, you don't have to go through it alone. If you know someone who is struggling, please reach out and find the help and support that could make a difference this season.



Sometimes just that feeling of belonging or purpose can make the difference in someone's life and there are many opportunities for peer support within our Veterans Community! Whether it's having coffee with other Veterans at a local post or chapter, gathering gifts for a toy drive, serving a holiday meal, or even volunteering at one of our State Veterans Homes, these opportunities provide a level of connection that can serve you as much as they serve others! Check out our [WDVA Calendar](#) for events and activities (you can submit your events here as well for posting!) or contact the Veterans Home nearest to you to become a Volunteer!

To learn more about our Counseling Services and Wellness Programs, including contact information for our counselors, suicide prevention peer specialists and SSG Fox Grant team visit [Counseling Services and Wellness Programs | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#).

For volunteer opportunities please visit our website [Volunteers | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Stay safe and Happy Holidays to all of you!

WDVA News and Current Events

WDVA King County Field Office Closing Permanently on December 31

The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) King County Field office at 2106 2nd Ave, Suite 100, Seattle, WA, will close permanently on December 31, 2023.

Over the last several years, WDVA contracted with King County to provide veterans services to King County residents. Recently, King County notified WDVA that several contracts will end on December 31, 2023.

Other King County vendors have also been notified that their contracts will end. Please visit [Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy](#) for more details.

The WDVA programs listed below will sunset on 12/31/2023:

- Leverage Government Benefits, Financial Stability
- Navigate Homeless Veterans to Housing
- Veterans and Military Families, Pathfinding Families
- Persons Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
- Veterans Reentry Case Management program: King County will absorb this work in-house.

WDVA programs that will continue for a modified period:

- War Trauma – PTSD Counseling and Military Family Counseling
- Vet Corps
- Veterans Training Support Center

If you need veteran resources from the King County Veterans Program (KCVP) they can be reached at (206) 263-8387. They have two locations to assist veterans, one in Northgate and the other in Tukwila/Southcenter, and both locations can be reached at the phone number provided.

If you need veteran resources from WDVA, contact our statewide service center at (800) 562-2308 or www.dva.wa.gov.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve King County's veterans. Moreover, we highly value the partnerships we have built over the years. We thank our community and partners for their kindness and support as we implement the necessary measures to phase out our programs.





Share Your Holiday Events with Us!

Are you hosting an event for veterans this holiday season?

If so, please share your special veterans events with us, and we'll add them to our calendar!

Submit your event for consideration by visiting [Create Meetings & Events | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

December Events & Observances Calendar



[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

[Submit an Event](#)

Check out what's happening at our Veterans Homes



Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard

The Washington Veterans Home recently set up its annual American Legion Gift shop.

The American Legion's incredible volunteers help our veterans send brand-new presents they have personally selected for their loved ones. Each resident veteran can send up to three gifts, and the volunteers help with the wrapping and shipping and cover the postage cost!

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

Walla Walla Veterans Home

WA-HI JROTC cadets spent the entire morning with Veterans here at the Walla Walla Veterans Home. They performed a flag raising and Veterans presentation outdoors followed by a reception in the main multi-purpose room.

One cadet read a poem written by her uncle who is a Vietnam Veteran. The group sang the Army song, and also participated in presenting 7 Quilts of Honor.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

WA Soldiers Home residents were delighted to have the Orting High School Leadership Class over for lunch to commemorate Veterans Day.

Residents and students had a great time getting to know one another or becoming reacquainted with students who had visited before. There were great connections through sharing stories and laughs over lunch!

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

Spokane Veterans Home

Our residents and staff at our Spokane Veterans Home enjoyed watching Medical Lake High School perform at our Veterans Day Program. Wes Anderson was our guest speaker.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



Hot Jobs - Incentives Available

**WE ARE
HIRING!**

EXPLORE EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AND JOIN
THE WDVA TEAM!



Click the link below for available opportunities with WDVA!

[WDVA Job Opportunities](#)

Program Highlight

Veteran Owned Businesses



Certify Your Business as a Washington Veteran Owned Business!

Washington State has a certification for Veterans and Servicemembers. Certification is free and requires only basic veteran discharge status and business information to complete.

WDVA and WEBS (Washington's Electronic Business Solution) have teamed up to streamline the registration and certification process for vendors who want to do business with Washington State agencies or municipalities.

To learn more about the VOB Program and to apply click the button below or contact Shamekia Moultrie at vob@dva.wa.gov or 360-791-1788.

[Learn More](#)

More Resources and Information

Your VA claim status tells you where your claim is in the decision review or appeal process.

Learn more about what to expect throughout each step of the process. Click the button below to learn more.

Do you have a question about your status? Contact 1-800-827-1000.



[Learn More](#)



No one carries this burden alone. Find the #Strength2Rise this holiday season.

[Learn More](#)



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