



## A Message From the Director

### Greetings from Your WDVA Director - David Puente

As we welcome the new year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to every one of you. Your unwavering dedication, support, and commitment to our mission of serving those who served is truly commendable. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and made a significant impact on the lives of veterans and their families. Throughout the year, our Homes, Cemetery, Veterans Services and Counseling & Wellness, and Administrative Divisions have consistently demonstrated exceptional skill and professionalism in every aspect of their work. Their collective efforts have not only improved the quality of life for our veterans but have also set a standard of excellence for others to follow.



To provide you with a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments, I invite you to click on the following link: [WDVA 2023 Year in Review | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#). This 2023 Year in Review document highlights our major achievements and serves as a testament to the incredible work we have done together. However, it is important to note that this is just a glimpse of the multitude of successes we have achieved throughout the year.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and hope. Our ongoing efforts to transform our workplace culture, embrace change management, and identify process improvements are already yielding positive results. It is truly inspiring to witness our team actively engaging in learning opportunities that propel us towards our goals, objectives, and strategies.

As we celebrate our achievements, let us also set our sights on a prosperous 2024. Together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. I have no doubt that with our collective dedication and unwavering commitment, we will overcome any challenges that come our way.

Thank you once again for your outstanding contributions. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

## WDVA News and Current Events



### Veterans Training Support Center Update Where have all the workshops gone?

VTSC has been provided the opportunity to grow into a statewide program. With this growth comes the need to develop strategic plans to ensure we provide the best quality of service to all we reach. Our release of workshops will be delayed during this time. We are committed to continuing to offer workshops that support our behavioral health professionals in meeting licensure requirements, such as workshops on law & ethics and suicide prevention.

As we continue, we will provide updates to our participant base. We greatly appreciate your patience during this exciting time of GROWTH!

## 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

Our residents and staff at our Washington Veterans Home enjoyed their Holiday party.

There's nothing like seeing good holiday cheer, sharing laughs and enjoying good company.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

## Walla Walla Veterans Home

More Holiday festivities at our Walla Walla Veterans Home! It's great to see residents, friends and family come together to celebrate!

We even had members of the WDVA leadership team present to enjoy the party!

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



## Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

The Washington Soldier's Home and the Washington Veterans Home Cemeteries partnered with Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and remembering veterans by placing wreaths on their graves during the holiday season.

The collaboration between the cemeteries and Wreaths Across America Volunteers, who dedicated countless hours coordinating wreath donations and ceremonies, also paid tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country and ensured that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

## Spokane Veterans Home

Our residents and staff at our Spokane Veterans Home enjoyed their holiday party.

They had visitors from the Air Force pass out gifts to residents and welcomed other community partners who spent time helping residents and staff.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



## Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



Click the link below for available opportunities with WDVA!

## [WDVA Job Opportunities](#)

### Women Veterans

#### Save the Date!

Feb 28, 2024, Your WDVA Women Veterans Advisory Committee will host a virtual Lunch and Learn.

June 8, 2024, Washington State Women Veterans Conference

Information and Flyers coming soon!

To learn more about the Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC) click [HERE](#).



## Program Highlight

### Brain Injury and Recovery Program



The WDVA Brain Injury & Recovery-TBI Program supports and represents every veteran in Washington State who has incurred a Brain Injury or is experiencing symptoms of Brain Injury.

That means that we:

- Provide one on one support
- Provide answers, resources, and referrals
- Support the groups and agencies that are out there

doing great things for our veterans

- Provide training and advice to any agency, group, summit, conference, etc. that wants to know more about how to help veterans living with Brain Injury or experiencing symptoms related to Brain Injury.

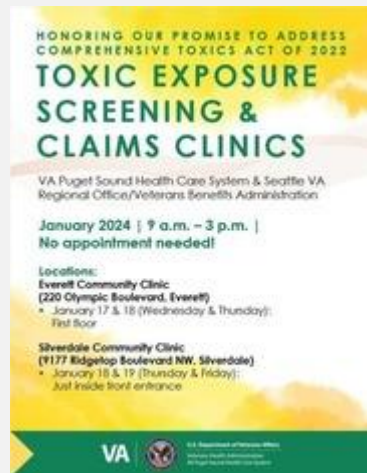
[Learn More](#)

## More Resources and Information

### Have you started planning for your future?

Learn how to use your GI Bill and education benefits.

To learn more visit [Post- 9/11 Gi Bill \(Chapter 33\)](#)



### Have questions about the PACT Act? Want to file a claim?

VA Puget Sound is hosting its fifth round of Claims and Toxic Exposure Screening Clinics in January.

January 2024 | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | No appointment needed!

#### Dates and Locations:

- January 17-18: Everett Community Clinic

(220 Olympic Boulevard, Everett)

- January 18-19: Silverdale Community Clinic (9177 Ridgetop Boulevard NW, Silverdale)

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