



## WDVA Veteran Voices

February 2024

# A Message From the Director

## Greetings from Your WDVA Director - David Puente

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) recently had the privilege of attending the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians veterans committee meeting. This gathering provided an opportunity for me to introduce myself and share my experience as a veteran and with the agency. I also discussed WDVA's updated strategic plan including our efforts to expand the number of veteran service officers in our network, including tribal veteran service officers, and the agency's commitment to supporting Native American veterans and their families.



As we strive to meet our goals, strategies, and objectives around Saving & Transforming Lives, and Being the Leading State in Veteran Service Delivery & Outcomes, we know more Native American Veterans will be connected with the benefits they earned by serving in the military.

[Read More](#)

## WDVA News and Current Events



### Your WDVA and Washington State Arts Commission partnering to continue serving those who served!

ArtsWA's Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM) program renewed its 2023 funding partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The partnership started in 2023 to distribute \$250,000 in grants for arts-based programming at the four State Veterans Homes and the Transitional Housing Program. WAM and DVA will continue the partnership at \$150,000 for FY24.

Learn more about Wellness, Arts, and the Military (WAM): <https://www.arts.wa.gov/wam/>

## Events & Observances Calendar



[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

[Submit an Event](#)

## Check out what's happening at our Veterans Homes

Veterans who are rated at 70% to 100% Service-Connected disabled, are eligible for nursing home care at no cost. Veterans with a service-connected disability, if the service-connected disability is the reason they need care, may also have their nursing home care provided at no cost.

To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;
- Received an honorable discharge;
- Reside in Washington State;
- Be the spouse of a resident or widow of an eligible veteran;
- Or be a Gold Star Parent who lost a child while serving in the armed forces.



[Learn More](#)

[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, to register click [HERE](#)

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



## Program Highlight

### Washington State Veterans Cemetery



As a final gesture of respect for a veteran's honorable military service, Public Law 106-65 permits full military honors for qualifying veterans. All military branches, Honor Guard teams, and Veterans Service Organizations collaborate with the [Washington State Veterans Cemetery](#) to provide military honors upon request.

[Learn More](#)

## More Resources and Information

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Honoring our Vietnam Veterans and Welcoming them Home

March 30, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. at the Vietnam Memorial on Capitol Campus

Commemorative pins will be provided to Vietnam veterans and spouses, if you have received a pin previously, please wear it!

To learn more visit [\(9\) Facebook](#)



## Washington State Patriotic Day

The Military Order presents Washington State Patriotic Day

March 9, 2024

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Pioneer Middle School, Dupont, WA

No Entry Fee.



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