

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**VETERANS  
AFFAIRS**



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*"Serving Those Who Served"*

# VETERAN VOICES

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**Nominations Open for 2016 Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards** *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 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)



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

## WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead](#)

[Maintenance Mechanic 1 - Spokane Veterans Home \(\\$1017\)](#)

[Nursing Assistant Certified - Spokane Veterans Home \(\\$1045\)](#)

[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)



### WDVA Joins Cascadia Rising Exercise

Are you and your family prepared for a Disaster?

It's a question we should all ask ourselves. Can we survive for several days or even a week without any outside assistance? Do we know who in our communities will need help from friends and neighbors?

Washington State recently conducted the largest earthquake exercise in state history, simulating a 9.0 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami along the Washington and Oregon coast.

Thousands of people, including military personnel and your very own WDVA Communications Team, participated to test a joint response to one of the most complex disaster scenarios facing the Pacific Northwest. From federal government officials to our Washington National Guard and local amateur (HAM) radio operators, our state caught a glimpse of the challenges we will face should the big one hit! As a result, each of the participants has a better understanding of how our infrastructure and partnerships need to be updated and, in some cases, further developed.



If you don't have a disaster kit for you and your family, now is the time to start! If you're a business owner and don't have a plan, here's your chance to make one!

Your Washington Military Department has resources and ideas for families, businesses and community organizations. Check out their "[Prepare in a Year Booklets](#)" which include step-by-step instructions for what to purchase each month for your family disaster kit. You may also want to invite your neighbors to a Map Your Neighborhood meeting, so your community will know who may need additional support in the event of a disaster. More information is available at: <http://mil.wa.gov/preparedness>

We never know when a disaster will strike, so it's important to invest time now to get prepared!



*Pictured Here: The Cascadia Rising Exercise takes place for various state agencies across Camp Murray during the week of June 07-10, 2016. WDVA staff assisted with External Affairs.*

## Laptops Make a Difference for Veteran Service Organizations



WDVA was proud to provide 28 laptops to five of our partner organizations. Each of the Veterans Service Organizations is accredited by the Federal VA and actively taking claims in Washington State, and the non-profit helps veterans connect with employment. The majority of the laptops will be used by VSO Service Officers to provide claims services to veterans and their families across Washington State, the laptops support this incredibly important work.

WDVA recently replaced its agency laptops and wanted to be sure the older models could still be put into service by helping veterans connect to their earned benefits. Information Services staff took time to clean each computer completely, and install an operating system that will help local service officers perform their work efficiently.

**Pictured Above:** American Legion members John Armezzani, Department Service Officer (left) and Dale Davis, Department Adjutant (right) receive donated laptops from our WDVA Veteran Services Division Administrator, Steve Gill.



### Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts Place Flags at Medical Lake

Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts Brownies and Cub Scouts youth members took a very special field trip today to your Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake to salute and thank fallen veterans for their service as they placed each flag on the headstones. #AlwaysRememberedNeverForgotten

# Memorial Day



**RETSIL:** The Memorial Day Program at the Washington Veterans Home included many opportunities to honor our Veterans. The program was opened by a welcome from our Superintendent Ron Bergstrom. South Kitsap Navy Jr. ROTC, presented the flags, while Ed and Evelyn Panfili, long-time volunteers, lead the National Anthem.

Our guest speaker, Col. (Retired) Mary J. Forbes, gave the Memorial Day address, taking time to remember our residents and recognize their families. Every service member can share a story of soldiers who are no longer here and have left a footprint on their heart. Mary

shared the story of someone close to her.



The music for the event included beautiful renditions of Amazing grace and God Bless America.

Our Memorial Day program focuses on our Veterans from Retstil who have passed away, each resident is recognized through a roll call of names. As their names are read, a flower is placed in remembrance for each of them. Family members are then invited to share with all about their loved one.



**MEDICAL LAKE:** ([KHQ](#)) On Monday (Memorial Day), people across the Inland Northwest honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice by going to Memorial Day ceremonies. One military couple from Spokane pays a constant tribute. "Both of us being veterans, it's very important to us," said Wendy Jarchow.

Both Wendy and her husband Dennis have a military background. They went to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake to visit their loved ones. Part of Wendy's family is there. Wendy's

brother-in-law served in Vietnam and passed away in 2013. Buried with him is Wendy's sister. "It's been such a short time ago. It's still kind of raw at times but I am happy that they are here," said Wendy.

Wendy and Dennis already have plans for their future as well, "We are going to be buried here too," said Wendy.

They both say they'll keep going back each year for the Memorial Day Service. "I'm 75 now and I'm going to keep on coming until I go," said Dennis.



Photos courtesy of Ian Field

## YesVets Recognition Event at the Capitol Honors Employers



Students from the Olympia High School Choir perform the National Anthem to kick-off the YesVets Recognition Event.



The #YesVets Flag Day Employer Recognition Event took place on Flag Day, June 14, 2016, at the State Reception Room at the Capitol in Olympia. More than 120 veterans have been hired since the YesVets campaign started in February of this year. Employers that have already hired a veteran, and/or signed up for YesVets were recognized and thanked for their support during the event.

Employment Security Department, in partnership with [Washington Department of Veterans Affairs](http://www.dva.wa.gov), [Department of Commerce](http://www.wa.gov), [Washington State Military Transition Council](http://www.wa.gov), and local chambers of commerce across the state, have partnered to create a statewide campaign to hire veterans.

If interested in signing up for the YesVets program, please visit [www.YesVets.org](http://www.YesVets.org)

# Memorial Day



## Memorial Day 2016 at the Washington Soldiers' Home

The Washington Soldiers' Home 2016 Memorial Day Program was a time for reflection, inspiration and remembrance.

The home's Superintendent, Willie Slusarski, emceed the program, led the Pledge of Allegiance and presented the Memorial Day letter from Senator Patty Murray. The Puyallup Valley Community Band gave a stellar performance throughout the program. The Carbon Glacier Young Marines Color Guard posted and retired the colors.

Resident John Underwood, Resident Council Hospitality Representative, U.S. Army, Vietnam presented Governor Inslee's Proclamation of Memorial Day. Guest speaker, Margaret Ramsdell, COL (Ret) Army Nurse Corps, 6250th USAH delivered an inspiring speech with historical information regarding women in the military. Harold Moore, Resident Council Chairman, US Army, Vietnam, American Legion presented Roll Call. Chaplain Ric Fritz delivered the Invocation and Benediction. The Girl Scouts of America, the 47th Combat Support Hospital at JBLM and individual volunteers served the delicious refreshments.

Thank you to all of the Veterans Service Organizations, military personnel, the City of Orting, community groups, local businesses, schools, and churches, as well as the many individuals who participated in and supported the 2016 Memorial Day Program at the WA Soldiers' Home. #MemorialDay

## Jermaine Kearsé Treats Building 9 Residents to Mariners Game



*We would like to thank Jermaine Kearsé and his 15 to 1 Jermaine Kearsé Foundation for donating tickets for our Building 9: Transitional Housing Program residents to enjoy a night out at the ballpark.*

*This was the first baseball game attended by more than half of the group of the veteran residents. They had a ball!!!*



## Vietnam Vet Bikes Visits Spokane



Our Spokane Veterans Home Residents had an amazing time when the Vietnam Vet Bikes organization stopped by in early June and allowed all the residents to check out their latest "hogs".

Thank you for stopping by and for thinking of our veterans!



## CDR Spinelli's Name Unveiled at Vietnam Veterans Memorial



The name of CDR Domenick Anthony Spinelli was unveiled at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the State Capitol Campus in Olympia during the May 30, Memorial Day Ceremony.

Spinelli's name was inscribed twenty-nine years after the Memorial's original dedication in 1987, and brings the total number of Washington State residents listed on the Memorial to 1,124.

Domenick "Spike" Anthony Spinelli remains unaccounted for, and on the Memorial his name is followed by a "+" symbol, which indicates his remains have not been recovered.

CDR Spinelli's name was unveiled following the Vietnam Vets / Legacy Vets motorcycle run to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day.

## Seahawks #12Tour Visits Spokane Veterans Home



**"The joy of knowing them and to have them here today it was just great," says 95-year-old Allan Wood. "The Seahawks are my team because they're from Seattle and I'm from Tacoma. They're really a tremendous asset to our area."**



**Our veteran residents are still beaming with excitement after the Seahawks #12Tour visit to the Spokane Veterans Home on June 25, 2016.**

**During the visit, our veteran residents and family members were visited by Seagals, the Blue Thunder Drumline, Taima the Hawk, Blitz the Seahawks Mascot and Seahawks rookies, Rees Odhiambo and Germaine Ifedi.**

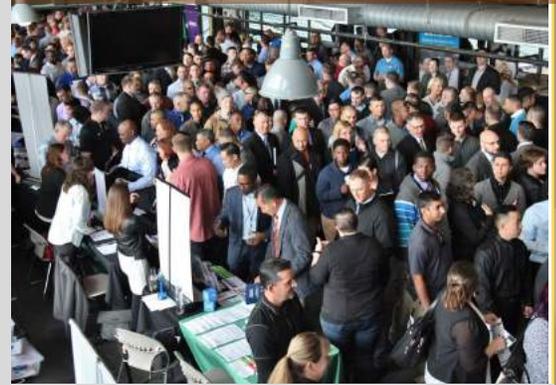
**We would like to extend our thanks to Safeway for providing a plethora of pastas, snacks, hamburgers, drinks and desserts for the event. The leftover food from the event was donated to a local food bank.**

**There were plenty of games, autographs, photos and food available for the residents, staff and their families to enjoy throughout the day.**

**This will truly be an event that our residents will never forget!**

## Successful Tacoma Dome Boots2Work & Safeco Career Fairs

The Safeco Career Fair was held on May 25, 2016.



The Boots2Work Tacoma Dome Military Career Fair was held on June 21, 2016.



Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists and Veterans were able to take advantage of these annual event with dozens of resources available such as:

Community Services, Legal/Veterans Benefits Services, Reintegration, Health, Homeless Services, Financial Education & Resources, Female Veterans, Housing and Home-ownership, Education, Jobs, Apprenticeship, Training & Vocational Opportunities

Along with WDVA resources available for veterans, our YesVets team was also on hand to assist with signing employers up to the YesVets program, that urges employers to hire veterans.

Overall these events were a success with more than 1,300 veterans and their families passing through the doors of the Tacoma Dome & Safeco. WDVA was honored to be part of these impactful events!

# Upcoming Veteran Events



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

Wednesday, Aug 10  
10 am to 2 pm

Washington State Convention  
Center -Seattle

Amazon, Starbucks, Comcast,  
VA, King Co, City of Seattle,  
WSP, UPS, Tukwila PD, Hilton,  
BECU, Swedish Medical,  
Marcel Inc., Boeing and Many  
More!!!!

Free Bus Service, or validated  
parking and a box lunch for job  
seekers

For more information:

[Richard.garmong@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Richard.garmong@kingcounty.gov)



Pre-register and see the list of employers at:

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

First Student

## You are cordially invited to the Annual Wreathlaying Ceremony

as we Commemorate the  
Korean War Armistice  
63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

POC: [HeidiA@dva.wa.gov](mailto:HeidiA@dva.wa.gov)

July 23, 2016

11:00am

Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Capitol Campus, Olympia, WA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13 | 11AM - 2PM

## VETERAN NETWORKING & HIRING EVENT

**NEW LOCATION!** AMERICAN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER  
LEWIS NORTH JBLM

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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View previous editions here:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters>

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