

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

VETERANS
AFFAIRS



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"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

Table of Contents

Message from the Director	Page 2
Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall/Veterans Day Events	Page 3/4
Veterans Day Events/Time of Remembrance	Page 5/6
WA Goes to the Dogs: Service Dog Conference / Veterans Farm in Orting Work & Rural Veterans Coordination Program Event	Page 7/8
Help Design the Walla Walla Veterans Home Logo/Walla Walla Veterans Home Informational Session	Page 9/10
Walla Walla Veterans Home Offers Home and Work/ Contact Us	Page 11/12

WDVA Hot JOBS:

- Human Resource Consultant 3 (Recruiter- Non-Permanent)
- Human Resource Consultant 4 (3052)
- On Call Cook 1 (0178)
- Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead
- Director of Nursing Services (W003)
- Food Service Worker (Pool)
- Licensed Practical Nurse 2 (WSH Pool)
- Medical Director (3052)



Those are some of the ways women military veterans see themselves, according to those who gathered Saturday in Tacoma for the 2016 Women Veterans Summit.



The event, sponsored by the state Women Veterans Advisory Committee, the state Department of Veterans Affairs and others, drew women from around the state. They came to learn about [veterans' benefits](#), staying healthy -- physically and mentally -- and more.

But many said they came to connect to the unique sense of family that binds military women of all ages.

"We come from different branches of the military, but we all have the same goal," said Louretha Glasl, an [Army](#) veteran from Yelm who was wearing a red T-shirt that identified her as part of the "sisterhood of proud women veterans."

Glasl, who grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, joined the Army six months after graduating from high school. She spent 14 years in the Army working several jobs, including refueling combat vehicles and aircraft during Desert Storm in the 1990s. She's spent an equal number of years as a civilian and now works for the state Veterans Department.

Asked what she wants people to know about women veterans, she replied: "We are strong, capable, intelligent -- and we can lead."
[\(c\)2016 The News Tribune \(Tacoma, Wash.\)](#)



"Serving Those Who Served"

October 2016

Women Veterans Summit (Debbie Caffazo/The News Tribune)

Strong, resilient, capable -- and sometimes invisible.

Those are

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[\(c\)2016 The News Tribune \(Tacoma, Wash.\)](#)

A Message from the Director Lourdes "Alfie" E. Alvarado-Ramos Alfie@dva.wa.gov



Each year, a Centennial Accord meeting is held to discuss how Federally recognized Indian tribes and the State of Washington can work together to achieve our mutual goals. This year WDVA had the honor to share some exciting news about our partnerships with the Tribal Veterans Representatives. Alongside LaVada Anderson, Tribal Veterans Representative from the Suquamish Tribe, Steve Gill, our Tribal Liaison and I expressed our support for a proposed Federal VA rule change that would:

- 1) Allow Federally recognized tribes to apply for direct VA accreditation as tribal veteran organizations and accredit their Tribal Veterans Representatives or Tribal Veterans Service Officers directly; and
- 2) Allow tribes to partner with VA accredited state veterans agencies, like WDVA, so that we can extend VA accreditation to Tribal Veterans Representatives or Tribal Veterans Service Officers through government-to-government agreements.

If the Federal rule changes occur, we will begin working with tribes in Washington State to develop a pilot program allowing WDVA to extend VA accreditation to partnering Tribal Veterans Representatives or Tribal Veterans Service Officers so that they may do more to serve veterans in their own communities.



Native American veterans have access to all the same veterans' benefits as other veterans but they also have access to some unique Federal benefits that are meant to address the needs of veterans living on Indian reservations. These benefits include the VA Native American Direct Home Loan Program (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp>) and Indian Health Service/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreements Program (<http://www.va.gov/PURCHASEDCARE/programs/veterans/nonvacare/ihc/index.asp>).



WDVA holds an annual summit for Tribal Veterans Representatives in Washington State in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations, to provide professional development on veterans benefits and programs to Native veterans and communities. We also have two tribal members in our Women Veterans Advisory Committee to address the issues of women warriors.



You can watch video of our testimony at: <https://www.facebook.com/wsdva/videos> and find out more about the Centennial Accord at: www.goia.wa.gov

Pictured Here: WDVA leaders, Alfie Alvarado and WDVA Tribal Liaison, Steve Gill, brief Governor Inslee and dozens of tribal groups during the Centennial Accord on September 28, 2016 at Lucky Eagle Casino. This was WDVA's first year as part of the Centennial Accord agenda.

Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC)

What is the VAAC?

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) is a seventeen member committee appointed by the Governor. Each member is appointed to a term of four years. Veterans are recommended for appointment to the VAAC by the leadership of nationally recognized Veteran Service Organizations active in Washington State, and two members are appointed as veterans at large.

The VAAC serves in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the Director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Members divide into small groups and plan Town Hall meetings in locations across the state.

Town Hall meetings serve two purposes:

- 1) To provide a forum for veterans and their families to learn about the services and resources available in their own communities.
- 2) To educate VAAC members on issues that are important to veterans and their families across the state so that the VAAC can share this information with the WDVA Director and the Governor.

If you'd like to learn more about the VAAC, contact Lizan@dva.wa.gov or visit <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/veterans-affairs-advisory-committee> to find out where the next Town Hall meeting is!

Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) Town Hall



Calling All Washington Veterans and Their Families!

Join us October 20, 2016

10am - Noon

**American Legion Post #7
1688 W. Bakerview Road, Bellingham, WA**

We want to hear from **YOU** about veteran's issues important to you and our family!

Meet area leaders, providers and non-profits to learn about local veteran's services and benefits, and hear about veterans bills passed in the Washington State Legislature.

- Receive information on employment, education and housing benefits.
- Learn about the wide range of benefits available including compensation and pension and military funeral honors.
- Find out about counseling, financial assistance and support for you and your family.
- Learn how to enroll in VA Healthcare and apply for state and federal benefits.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

**www.dva.wa.gov /
1-800-562-0132 option 1**



SPOKANE VETERANS HOME CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

Since 2001, YOUR Spokane Veterans Home has been here to serve!



Submit Veterans Day Events to WDVA: Communications@dva.wa.gov

2016 VETERANS DAY

2016 Events & Observances for Washington State

November 5 - November 11, 2016 www.dva.wa.gov

Washington Soldiers Home, Orting (November 11)	2:00pm Chilson Hall, Orting Veterans Home TerryN@dva.wa.gov
Washington Veterans Home, Retsil (November 11)	10:00am 1141 Beach Dr—Chapel Retsil WA TamiR@dva.wa.gov
Spokane Veterans Home (November 11)	10:00am, Saturday, May 28 222 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 Shane Price, 509-344-5788 ShaneP@dva.wa.gov
Thurston County Veterans Council (NOVEMBER 11)	10:30am—Music 11:00am Capitol Rotunda, Olympia, WA TCVCChairman@yahoo.com
Auburn Veterans Day Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 5)	11:00am, Saturday, Nov 05 Downtown Auburn Kristy Pachciarz, 253-931-3052 kpachciarz@auburnwa.gov
Fort Vancouver National Site Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 5)	10:00am Ceremony/11:00am Parade Fort Vancouver National Site Natalie Hantho, 360-992-1804 events@fortvan.org
West Richland Parade *REGIONAL SITE (November 5)	9:30am Downtown West Richland (Van Giesen St.) May Hayes, 509-967-0521 mayhayes@westrichlandchamber.org

Information has been provided to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by sponsors of events. www.dva.wa.gov
facebook.com/WSDVA or twitter.com/WDVA



2016 Veterans Day Events & Observances

2016 VETERANS DAY

2016 Events & Observances for Washington State

November 5 - November 11, 2016 www.dva.wa.gov

Tahoma National Cemetery "Saluting World War II Veterans" (November 11)	11:00am 18600 Southeast 240th Street Kent, WA 98042 Thomas.yokes@va.gov or 425-413-9614
White Pass High School Veterans Resource Fair (November 10)	11:00am White Pass High School mprophit@tri.org
Boulevard of Remembrance Naming Ceremony-LAKWOOD (NOVEMBER 11)	2:00pm Lakewood City Hall, Lakewood 253-244-7892

**Share Your Veterans Day Event with us at
communications@dva.wa.gov**

**Follow Along on Social Media with
#VeteransDayWA**

This list was updated on October 03, 2016

Information has been provided to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by sponsors of events. www.dva.wa.gov facebook.com/WSDVA or twitter.com/WDVA



Time of Remembrance Event Honors the Fallen



Always Remembered Never Forgotten at the 10th Annual Time of Remembrance

September 24th marked the 10th annual gathering of Time of Remembrance - Washington State. This event honors the surviving families in the Northwest region who've lost loved ones in service.

The first ever Gold Star and Surviving Families Parade moved down Jadwin Avenue Saturday morning as part of Time of Remembrance. Time of Remembrance is a weekend to help families and survivors who lost a soldier in recent wars come together during times of tragedy.

We would like to thank everyone that assisted with this year's event.

Learn more at www.timeofremembrance.org/



Oct. 1 is the new start date to apply for financial aid in the 2017-18 school year!

Oct. 1 is the new start date to apply for financial aid in the 2017-18 school year. This is a full three months earlier than in years past. The new start date is one of two changes to the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The second change lets people import their 2015 tax returns to answer income questions.

U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens can file the FAFSA. People who are unable to file the FAFSA due to immigration status, can file the WASFA. The WASFA is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid.

Find Your Home at a State Veterans Home

Welcome Home!

Our State Veterans Homes are here to Serve You

Call our admission team at 1-877-838-7787 and arrange a tour today!

*Medicare & Medicaid Certified

*24-Hour Nursing Care, Including Medicare Rehabilitative Care

*Medical Care & Pharmacy Services

WASHINGTON STATE
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VETERANS
AFFAIRS



"Serving Those Who Served"

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

VETERANS HOME

Washington Veterans Home in Retsil

Spokane Veterans Home

Walla Walla Veterans Home **Opening in 2017**

Register for WDVA Service Dog Conference

**Service for Service:
Washington Goes to the Dogs**



Service Dog Conference

9am-3pm, November 3, 2016

Emerald Queen Casino

Register Now: JessicaW@dva.wa.gov

**Sessions on Emotional Support Dogs
and Service Dogs**

www.dva.wa.gov/program/service-service-washington-goes-dogs



This conference will provide participants an opportunity to explore whether a service, therapy or emotional support animal is best for them.

Service, therapy or emotional support animals can greatly improve the quality of life for veterans living with the invisible wounds of Posttraumatic Stress, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma.

This event is free, lunch is provided and registration is open to anyone!

Veterans Farm in Orting: Volunteer Work



The Veterans Farm in Orting received significant assistance from Expedia Cares and The Mission Continues volunteer workers on September 9, 2016.

WDVA Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) in conjunction with [Expedia.com](#) and [The Mission Continues Puget Sound](#), continued their work on the Veterans Farm at Orting.

During the Expedia Cares Day at the farm, volunteers helped to develop rain gardens, remove invasive species and install infrastructure.

The overall goal of the farm is to provide Washington State veterans and their families with additional locations to take advantage of Ecotherapy, as well as to reduce the symptoms of invisible wounds such as PTSD, TBI, anxiety, and depression to improve their quality of life.

PHOTO ALBUM LINK: <https://www.flickr.com/.../98326753@.../albums/72157672771092251>

VETERANS FARM AT ORTING: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/program/veterans-farm-orting>



Home Depot Foundation and Team Depot Volunteers partner with WestCare and WDVA to make significant upgrades to a Shelton area veteran's home!

From landscaping to installing new flooring, to installing a new bathroom and new kitchen appliances, to new paint and texture throughout the house, this project will completely change the way a local veteran is able to live!

The best part though is the new flag pole in the front yard!

Thank you Home Depot Foundation and your Team Depot volunteers!

KOMO News Coverage: <http://komonews.com/news/local/army-of-volunteers-give-huge->



Veterans Service Officer Training and Information Session



Dozens of Veteran Service Officers gathered for a one day information session in Fife on September 22, 2016.

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Pension Center partnered to conduct this one-day training and information session.

Sessions included VA Pension Management Center, VA Education benefits, Behavioral Health and TBI.

Take a look at our WDVA website link to federal, state, county and Veterans Service Organizations at <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/links-federal-state-county-and-veterans-service-organizations>

The Walla Walla Veterans Home Needs a New Logo! And YOU Can Help Design It!



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Washington Veterans Home in Retsil



Spokane Veterans Home

Email
communications@dva.wa.gov
for a downloadable template

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
NOVEMBER 10, 2016**

**WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED:
DECEMBER 15th**

**SEND LOGOS TO:
COMMUNICATIONS@DVA.WA.GOV**

**WALLA WALLA
VETERANS HOME**

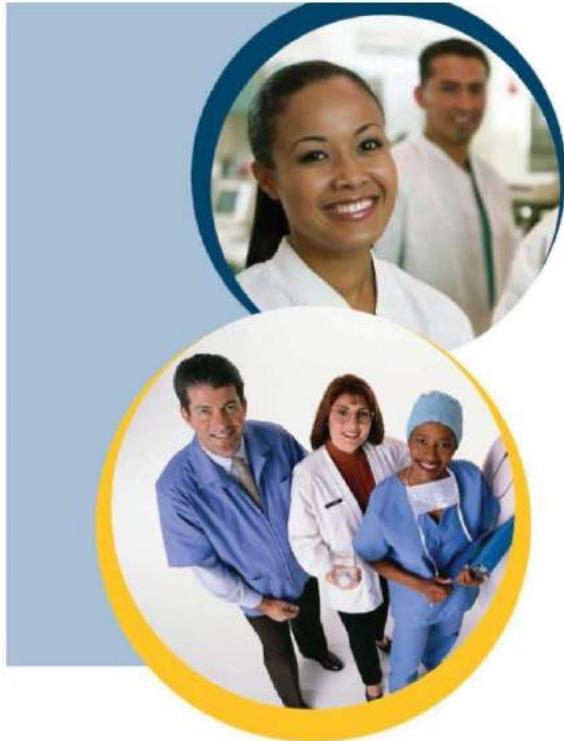
WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**

"Serving Those Who Served"

Walla Walla Veterans Home Employment Information Event on October 24 (Kennewick) & October 25 (Walla Walla)



Walla Walla Veterans Home Employment Informational Event



**October 24
1 to 4:30 p.m.**

WorkSource Columbia Basin
815 N. Kellogg, Ste. D, Kennewick

WorkSource is hosting an information event for Walla Walla Veterans Home employment.

Recruitment will open soon for the following WA State positions:

- ❖ Nursing Assistant- Residential Living
CNA certified
- ❖ Registered Nurse
- ❖ Dietary Manager
- ❖ Social Worker
- ❖ Administrative Assistant
- ❖ Activities Director
- ❖ Purchasing
- ❖ Plant Manager
- ❖ Custodian



A partner of the [americanjobcenter](#) network

Government Jobs' Online Employment Application computer lab and assistance will be available during event

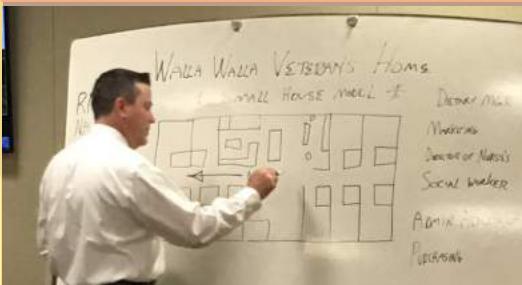
Job seekers are encouraged to create an account on WorkSourceWA.com prior to the event

Walla Walla Informational Event in Walla Walla

1pm-4:30pm, Tuesday, October 25

1530 Stevens St, Walla Walla, WA 99362

-Walla Walla Veterans Home in the News- VA Nursing Facility Project Offers Home & Work



Sheila Hagar - If your resume includes mopping a floor and taking a blood pressure, you might be a likely candidate for a new kind of job soon to come to Walla Walla.

Washington state's Department of Veterans Affairs is ready to begin hiring for its skilled nursing facility, set to open on the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus in about six months or so.

On Sept. 22, a recruiting fair took place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at WorkSource Walla Walla, 1530 Stevens St.

State VA officials are looking for the right candidates to be trained as what is being loosely termed "universal workers," employees who will do all-around care for aging and disabled veterans.

"It's a combination of nursing assistant and residential living staff worker, and it's specific to Walla Walla," said Solomon Gilbert, employment recruiter for Washington's VA. "As well, the veterans home is in need of a nursing director."



The project is expected to open early in 2017, said Lael Hepworth, the newly-hired supervisor of the facility. Hepworth previously served as Superintendent of the Washington Soldiers Home in Orting, Wash., and the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

He served a decade in the U.S. Army National Guard as a field artillery cannoneer and as motor pool sergeant for a medical unit.

"I've experienced all different levels of long-term care, and this model feels like home," Hepworth said of the Walla Walla project. Eight houses, five bedroom in each, will equal four "neighborhoods" that house 80 veterans and in some cases their spouses. A community building centers the landscape that overlooks the Blue Mountains.

The building, just beginning to be covered in dark brick and sporting metal girders that will hold glass walls in place, will host a number of amenities. Besides offering a large community-event space, the space will include provider offices, a therapy gym, physical therapy and a chapel.

Even a barber shop will be in-house, Hepworth said, pointing out a corner spot beginning to take shape.

The four buildings flanking the community center hold two homes each, designed duplex-style. Each wing is parted by a space that will contain laundry, spa and mechanical-room areas. In the home areas, construction workers were seaming concrete, installing electrical wires and starting work on spacious kitchens this week.

Individual bedrooms measure about 15-by-15 feet, with adjoining bathroom at about half that size. Communal living rooms are filled with natural light.

Generous patios offer mountain and meadow views.

While every component of the project's design, from fireplaces to family rooms, may be state-of-the-art, it's all intended to spell "home" to the veterans who will live here, Hepworth noted while leading a tour of the facility. Future residents will continue living life much as they would in their own homes, including doing some cooking, gardening, playing board games and more as they wish to. It's a recipe for improving quality of life in nursing homes, he said.

The next recruiting event will take place Oct. 24-25. ([Union-Bulletin](#))



2016 Retiree Appreciation Day

9am-3:30pm, Friday, October 14

www.fairchild.af.mil/About-Us/Retiree-Activities-Office

Red Morgan Event Center

10 W Ent St., Building 2452, Fairchild AFB

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

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Veterans Voices is published every other month for Washington Veterans and all interested in news affecting veterans and their families.
View previous editions here:
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters>

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