



"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

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WDVA Hot Jobs:

[Director of Nursing Services Orting](#)

[Licensed Nursing Home Administrator/
Superintendent Orting](#)

[Attending Physician/Medical Director Orting](#)

[Nursing Assistant Residential Living \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 2 \(WWWVH\)](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 Resident Care Manager WWWVH](#)

[Registered Nurse 3 MDS Coordinator Non-
permanent Orting](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

Serving Those Who Served Conference: Veterans Resource Providers Conference

-Establish a greater collaboration within the Veteran Service Community on both sides of WA State

Your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting the second "Serving Those Who Served Conference" at the Wenatchee Convention Center on July 26 and July 27.

The purpose of the conference is to enhance collaboration and connection of all those who work with veterans and their families.

"Participants are able to attend a wide variety of workshops taught by professionals in a number of fields, and as a result they return to their place of work with an even greater capacity to serve veterans and their families," said Schmidt.

Professional development will be provided in areas that impact the lives of our veterans and their families: Benefits, Education, Employment, Financial, Housing and Mental Health with two additional topics on Military Culture and Justice-Involved Veterans.

The conference will promote the opportunity to make new and unique connections, and collaboration with others from across the state.

Forging new connections and creating opportunities for future collaborations is a theme for the upcoming conference for good reason.

"These connections to each other strengthen the fabric of support and resources that are available," said Schmidt.

Information is power and the more empowered we become the more empowered our veterans become through the services provided to them.

Register Now at:

<https://servingthosewhoserved.eventbrite.com>

"Serving Those Who Served"

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



Update on Veterans Housing Programs at the Soldiers Home

We all agree that one homeless veteran, or working veteran who is unable to achieve housing security, is one too many. That is why WDVA is working with service providers like the Puget Sound Veterans Hope Center and WestCare to increase the availability of supportive housing programs for veterans at the Soldiers Home.

The Soldiers Home was established in 1891 to provide housing for homeless Civil War Veterans. Since that time, we have continued to serve veterans on our campus through the Federal VA's Domiciliary Program that provides funding for programs that serve homeless or economically disadvantaged veterans. Currently this program operates in Roosevelt Barracks.

With the scarcity of affordable independent housing or supportive transitional housing, we've explored options for putting our vacant rooms and buildings to use to serve our veterans. However, the lack of funding available at the federal or state level for either capital investments or operational dollars for new programs kept us from moving forward.

In 2014, we entered into a lease with the WestCare Foundation to renovate Betsy Ross Hall and then operate a housing program for women veterans. This building has been transformed into a beautiful home for women veterans! In March, we learned of the Pierce County Executive's plan to provide \$250,000 in operational dollars to fund the program and I am excited to see this project move forward.

In addition to the WestCare Betsy Ross project, the Puget Sound Veterans Hope Center has been working on a dream that is becoming reality for a Veterans Village on several acres in the area behind the picnic structure by the Betsy Ross building. The Veterans Village would include 30 tiny homes along with a community building. The homes will include a living/sleeping area, toilet and sink. Kitchen and shower facilities would be located in the community building and provide that sense of camaraderie and community for veterans living in the houses.

Please know that any provider operating a program to serve veterans on the Soldiers Home Campus will be required to follow the same background check procedures we use for our own programs. In addition, the campus



will remain a drug and alcohol free campus regardless of what entity operates the programs.

If you have questions about the WestCare Betsy Ross Program, please contact Ray Switzer at ray.switzer@westcare.com. If you have questions about the Puget Sound Veterans Hope Center Veterans Village please contact Maryellen Hill at 253-472-6626.

As plans move forward, we will continue to provide you with updates and information.



100 years later, Washington still feels impact from World War I



(Olympian) About 4.7 million U.S. soldiers — including about 65,000 soldiers from Washington — served in the war, also known as the Great War. The war changed the state's economy and workforce because of the demand for raw materials, such as lumber and agricultural products.

The war led to the founding of what is now Joint Base Lewis-McChord, in 1917. More than 60,000 soldiers came through the base during the war, said State Sen. Steve Conway, D-Tacoma, who spoke of the war's impact in Washington at a program Tuesday in the Legislative Building. The event was

organized by the Washington State Historical Society, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Order of the World Wars and the Office of Secretary of State.

"The modern version of America was born in World War I," said Conway, noting how the war prompted the government to take responsibility for injured soldiers through programs such as disability insurance.

Tuesday's program also featured speaker and historian Lorraine McConaghy, who described a Washington that was transformed by radical organized labor and the mobilization of factories, lumber mills, forests and farms.

About one in four Washington residents were foreign-born when the war broke out, and there was already a strong isolationist sentiment in both the state and country. McConaghy also noted a pervasive fear of immigrants, who were arriving in droves during these years.

Women were involved in every aspect of the war, she said, from filling critical roles such as military nurses to staffing ammunition factories. Government propaganda campaigns urged women to cook without meat or wheat to conserve food supplies.

McConaghy said World War I also was pivotal in the way people viewed war, causing people to question why we fight and what we need to defend.

"World War I allowed us to address these things," she said, noting that "at one time, it was just called the World War, not World War I."

Alfie Alvarado, the first female director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, urged attendees to remember the legacy of World War I veterans — especially through the Winged Victory Monument on the Capitol Campus.



"It is more than a gathering place," she said. "It teaches future generations that freedom is not free."

Full Article: <http://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article146759244.html#storylink=cpy> (Photos are from WDVA)



Sign Restoration: Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Volunteer Arlene Murray, Gold Star Wife and American Legion Auxiliary member, restored a beautiful hand-painted Washington Soldiers' Home sign. This sign is located at the back entrance to the WA Soldiers' Home. Call it a labor of love! She painstakingly scraped off loose old paint, sanded and repainted the surface of the wood sign with her own painting supplies. Now passersby see a fully restored sign with rich, bold colors and unique symbols and scenes, which are a captivating symbol of the WA Soldiers' Home. Arlene plans to restore other WA Soldiers' Home signs and is working with the Facilities staff.

Arlene Murray also volunteers in the Clothing Room and has donated supplies and has procured donations to enhance accessibility and organization for the residents. She also currently is working on card making with the women residents.

Thank you Arlene Murray, who started volunteering in 1999, for your continued dedication to the residents at the WA Soldiers' Home!



New Reflective Art Group: Washington Veterans Home in Retsil

Social Services and the Recreation Therapy department at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil have cooperatively implemented reflective art group for our residents.



The goal of the program is to move beyond arts and crafts by providing art activities that provoke thoughts and emotions.

The first of these projects was held in late March to encourage our Veterans to think about things they are thankful for. This is a 2 session class and the finished artwork will be a creative reminder of the things our residents are thankful for.



Veterans Legislative Coalition Presented with Special Award



During the AUSA DuPont-Steilacoom Subchapter of the Captain Meriwether Lewis Chapter event held at LeMay - America's Car Museum, the Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC) was presented with the Special Award for Public Service. VLC Chairman Heinz Haskins accepted the award on behalf of the VLC.

Also during the event, your WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, received the Sergeant Major of the Army William G. Bainbridge Award for Excellence.



YesVets Team Receives Award for Group Services to Vets



Washington Department of Veterans Affairs & Employer Security Department recently received an International Association of Wellness Professionals (IAWP) Award for Group Services to Veterans through the YesVets Program.

The IAWP awards program acknowledges efforts in membership recruitment and retention as well as recognizes individuals and groups for outstanding achievement and contributions to IAWP and workforce programs.

Because the IAWP awards program may be the only venue in a state to recognize outstanding workforce professionals, it is a great benefit to members and their employers.

Individual and Group Awards

Because the IAWP awards program may be the only venue in a state to recognize outstanding workforce professionals, it is a great benefit to members and their employers.

YesVets is a Veteran Hiring Campaign that recognizes Washington State employers with a YesVets decal once they sign up and hire a veteran. **Learn more at www.YesVets.org**

NEW ADDRESS: Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Military retirees and annuitants corresponding with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will use a new address beginning May 1. The old addresses in London, Ky., have been used for years but are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis to help speed up receipt and customer service.

The new mailing addresses (beginning May 1) will be:

Retired Pay correspondence:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay correspondence:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Current phone and fax numbers are not changing.**

The DFAS website <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> provides information and links to any additional paperwork that might need to be submitted.

Military retirees and annuitants can use the mailing address to submit any of the following information:

- Written requests for 1099R Forms (Retiree tax statement)
- Change Survivor benefit Plan information / Correct a 1099R
- Establish a Retired Pay account
- Manage Arrears of Pay (AOP) Beneficiary designation
- Manage allotments / Report a retiree's death
- Report a Survivor Benefit Plan beneficiary's death
- Submit a retiree or annuitant change of address
- Start/change Direct Deposit / Start international Direct Deposit

The DFAS website <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html> provides information and links to any additional paperwork that might need to be submitted or by phone (1-800-321-1080).

**Please email your upcoming Memorial Day Events for us
to share at communications@dva.wa.gov**

**2017 Memorial Day Events & Observances for Washington State
Monday, May 29, 2017**

www.dva.wa.gov

Washington Veterans Home, Retsil	10:00am , May 29 1141 Beach Dr—Chapel Retsil WA Tami Reuter TamiR@dva.wa.gov
Washington Soldiers Home, Orting	2:00pm, May 29 Chilson Hall, 1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy Orting, WA 98360 360-893-4511
Spokane Veterans Home Memorial Day Program	10:00am, Saturday, May 27 222 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 Jeanette Sour , 509-344-5788 JeanetteS@dva.wa.gov
Washington State Veterans Cemetery Medical Lake	10:30am, May 29 21702 West Espanola RD Medical Lake, WA ADA Arrangements: 509-299-6280 cemetery@dva.wa.gov
Tahoma National Cemetery	1:00pm, May 29 18600 Southeast 240th Street Kent, WA 98042 Thomas.yokes@va.gov or 425-413-9614
Thurston County Veterans Coalition Annual Memorial Day Ceremony	10:30am—Music, May 29 11:00am—Ceremony State Capitol Rotunda Bill Doucette, 360-701-3242
Harner/Chambers Program VFW Post 2455 (Montesano)	11:00am, May 29 Montesano, WA Ken Estes rangervet@comcast.net
Waterside Service Tribute to all Veterans Who Perished at Sea	1:00pm, May 28 Percival Landing Pavilion Gary Walker, 360-867-1839

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



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to share at communications@dva.wa.gov*

2017 Memorial Day Events and Observances for Washington State

Monday, May 29, 2017

www.dva.wa.gov

<p>Tacoma Historical Society and American Legion (Korean & Vietnam War Memorials Acknowledgement Event)</p>	<p>11:00am, May 29 Tacoma's War Memorial Park POC: Lee Hently 253-381-9072 or leehently@comcast.net</p>
<p>Washington Female Veterans of Wenatchee</p>	<p>Peshatin-10am Leavenworth-12pm(Mt View Cemetery) DeeAnne kizmitjean@aol.com</p>
<p>Bethany Cemetery Memorial Day Program</p>	<p>10:30am, May 29 26418 Mountain Highway (SR 7) Spanaway, WA 98387-9404 253-531-6701 Doug Kotrba kotrba@comcast.net</p>
<p>Evergreen Washelli</p>	<p>1:30pm concert, 2:00pm Service of Remembrance 1111 Aurora Ave North Seattle, WA 98133 206-362-5200 or Bmccoy@washelli.com</p>
<p>Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council and Mountain View Memorial Day Ceremony</p>	<p>2:00pm, May 29 4100 Steilacoom Blvd SW Lakewood, WA 98499 253-584-0252 or josuek@nsmg.com</p>
<p>Celebration of Life Candle Light Ceremony—Veterans Memorial Museum</p>	<p>2:00pm, May 29 100 SW Veterans Way Chehalis, WA 98532 vmm@compprime.com</p>
<p>Washington Memorial Cemetery Memorial Day Service Honoring 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War</p>	<p>3:00pm, May 29 Washington Memorial Cemetery 165th and Pacific Hwy S, Seatac, WA Kim Uyematsu 206-387-7280 kuyematsu@bonneywatson.com</p>

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



Korean War Wreathlaying Ceremony

You are cordially invited to the
Annual Wreathlaying Ceremony
as we Commemorate the
**Korean War Armistice
64th Anniversary**

**July 22, 2017
11:00am**

**Korean War Veterans Memorial
Capitol Campus, Olympia, WA**

The public is encouraged to attend as we Honor Washington State's Korean War Veterans and their families.

**Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle will Present
the Ambassador for Peace Medal to Barbara Nichols
(Nichols Served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam)**

Barbara Nichols, Sacajawea Chapter NSDAR, Army Veteran Retired WWII, Korea, Vietnam 1945-1969

Background: Lt. Col. US Army, retired – Army Nurse - Nichols enrolled in the Cadet Nurse Corps in 1945. She was called for active duty assignments in 1948. Nichols was assigned to the 3rd Field Hospital during the Korean War and saw Active Duty service during the 1960's Vietnam years. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in the 1960's. She has had several assignments at Walter Reed, Madigan and even in Wurtzburg, Germany. Barbara quickly rose through the ranks and she retired from the Army Nurse Corps in 1969 as a Lt. Colonel.

For additional information contact the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-562-0132 opt. 1 or communications@dva.wa.gov



"Serving Those Who Served"

Nominate VetCorps Members for Annual Awards

It is nearing the end of the year for 2016-2017 Vet Corps year. For the last 9 months each of the 50 Vet Corps member has served on college campuses across Washington State supporting veterans and their families on Higher Education campuses, and in our Communities.

Have you seen a Vet Corps member go above and beyond? Have you seen a Vet Corps member excel in their service to our states veterans.

Please use the below link to submit an award nomination for a Vet Corps member. Awards will be announced at the open event End of Year Graduation Friday, June 23rd, at the Orting Veterans Farm.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VetCorpsAwards>

Nominate Vet Corps members for any one of the following Awards by May 31st 2017

Veteran of Vet Corps: This award is for all Vet Corps members that have served a third year or more with the program. For the highest level of dedication any Vet Corps member can demonstrate and achieve, this award acknowledges selflessness, fidelity, service longevity and unwavering loyalty to helping the veteran population.

Innovation, Invention, & Institution Award: This award is given to a member who has generated novel and valuable ideas and used these ideas to develop new or improved processes, methods, systems, programs or services. Given to a member that seeks to reach an entirely new community of veterans. This award is granted to truly dedicated and industrious individuals that work to build relationships, pool resources, assess a new site and or provide outreach to a new population of veterans.

Diversity leadership Award: This award goes to a champion of diversity and minority support. This awardee honors the diverse population of the veterans and family member world. This Vet Corps Member promotes the appreciation and wisdom of many cultures. Building diplomatic relationships, this person instills values that promote tolerance and understanding across boundaries of language, gender, land, and time.

Collaboration Award: This award is presented to the Vet Corps member that has demonstrated collaboration that positively affect the development of programs, improvements to college systems and policies that affects students. Demonstrating ceaseless etiquette and the utmost respect throughout the year. Given for outstanding communication, dispute resolution, cooperation, compromise and foresight. This person must demonstrate a dedication to group cohesion and team harmony.

S.T.A.R. Award (Service, Teamwork, Attitude & Reliability): This award is given to members that consistently excel in their position; has made outstanding contributions in the area of service and dedication; has promoted teamwork and collaboration; has worked tirelessly to improve their surrounding veteran community; and who has consistently done so with a positive and forward-thinking attitude.

Vet Corps Member of the Year: Honoring the qualities of leadership, service, integrity and commitment, this member carried out his or her volunteer responsibilities the entire year with unwavering diligence and compassion. This award goes to the Vet Corps member that served the veteran population Vet Corps, and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs throughout the year as an outstanding servant leader, ambassador, colleague, mentor, and team member.

POC: JasonA@dva.wa.gov and <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VetCorpsAwards>

Purchase Your Armed Forces Plate Today



In Fiscal Year 2016, Armed Forces License Plates provided \$477,429 for State Veterans Cemetery Operations.

The Washington Department of Licensing issues license plates to eligible veterans/military/family members** with six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of the armed forces to include Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and WA National Guard.

Purchasers also receive a decal indicating their military status, to include:

- Veteran
- Retired
- Active Duty
- Disabled Veteran
- Army Guard/Air Guard/Reserves
- Army/Air Retired (for Army & Air National Guard Retirees)
- Fallen Hero (Decal would be available for an eligible family member of a military member killed in action)
- Family
- Gold Star

Number of Armed Forces Plates On the Road as of 5/1/17	
Air Force	3,097
Army	6,077
Coast Guard	870
Marines	3,947
National Guard	396
Navy	3,813
Total:	18,200

The special license plates may be used in place of regular or personalized license plates for motor vehicles, including motorcycles, required to display one and two motor vehicle license plates.

The original cost to purchase an Armed Forces plate(s) is \$72.75 for a car or truck, \$54.75 for a motorcycle, or \$60.75 for a trailer, plus any applicable licensing fees. When the vehicle registration becomes due, you will need to pay an additional \$30.00 to keep the Armed Forces plate(s) on your vehicle, even if you have not had the plate(s) for a full year. \$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate will be directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible.

The Veterans Stewardship Account will be used for activities that benefit veterans, such as maintaining the state veteran's cemetery in eastern Washington and providing programs and services for homeless veterans.

You are eligible to purchase a plate at any Vehicle Licensing Office if you:

- Served at any time in the U.S. Military
 - Are currently on Active Duty
 - Served in the Guard or Reserves
 - Currently in the Guard or Reserves
 - Are a Family Member of those listed above.
- *Motorcycle and trailer plates are also available.

Download an application today at
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/program/armed-forces-license-plates>

Purchase a Tile and Honor a Vietnam Vet

HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Purchase a Tile with their Name at the Auburn Vietnam War Memorial

-Order a 3" x 6" engraved black granite tile for your loved one or organization to display on the "Wall of Honor" at the Vietnam War Memorial in Auburn's Les Gove park in Auburn, WA.



\$100 for Honor Tile

*Name featured on
Alliance Website*

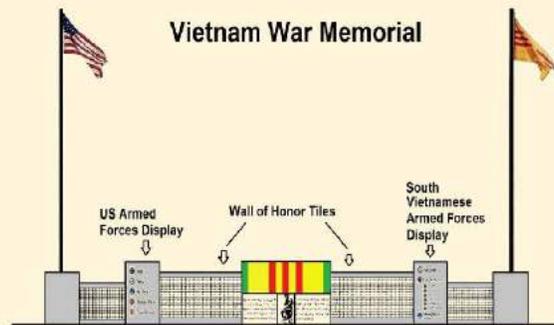
\$250 for Hero Tile

*Top Row & Story Featured on
Alliance Website*

**\$250 for Organizational
Supporter Tile**

*Organization Name Featured
on Alliance Website*

Wall of Honor – The Wall of Honor will display 1,000 engraved granite tiles honoring American, South Vietnamese, and Allied soldiers of the Vietnam War, living and dead.



Contact:

Tile order forms can be downloaded from: <http://honorvietnamvets.org/honor-tiles.html>.

Send e-mail questions or comments to: contact@honorvietnamvets.org
or (360) 357-7684

YesVets Recognition Ceremony

Flag Day—June 14

June 14, 2017

Beginning at 11 a.m.

Columbia Room, State Capitol Building
Olympia, WA

Help us honor those who say “Yes” to hiring veterans.

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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PO Box 41150
1102 Quince Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-1150
1-800-562-0132 opt. 1
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View previous editions here:
<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/brochures-and-newsletters>

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