

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



Call **1-800-562-2308** for Statewide Assistance

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"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

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The **2016 Legislative Session** is in full swing, and WDVA is monitoring a number of bills that could impact veterans and their families or members of the military, National Guard or Reserve. Below are a few of those bills. You can find a full list, including upcoming hearing dates is available at: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/legislative-updates>

Bill #	Brief Description	Sponsor
SHB 1213 and SB 5171	Concerning the definition of veteran for the purposes of the county veterans assistance fund.	Rep. Orwall and Sen. Bailey
HB 2534	Creating a community care and supportive services program for veterans.	Rep. Kilduff
HB 2710	Concerning eligibility for lifetime veteran's disability passes.	Rep. McCabe
HB 2718	Providing consumer protections for military members on active duty.	Rep. Kilduff
HB 2795	Concerning tax relief for the construction of adapted housing for disabled veterans.	Rep. Kirby
SSB 5410	Modifying qualifications for disabled veterans to receive fee exempt license plates.	Sen. Roach
SSB 5561 and HB 1644	Concerning veteran survivor tuition waiver eligibility.	Sen. Bailey and Rep. Gregory
SB 6202 and HB 2390	Concerning the enforcement of employment rights arising from state active duty service by a member of the national guard.	Sen. Hobbs and Rep. Klippert
SB 6254	Authorizing the issuance of Purple Heart license plates for more than one motor vehicle.	Sen. Sheldon
SB 6300 and HB 2496	Concerning pro bono legal services for military service members, veterans, and their families.	Sen. O'Ban and Rep. Kilduff
SB 6405	Addressing the civilian health and medical program for the veterans affairs administration.	Sen. Benton

WDVA Hot JOBS:

[Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Lead](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurse 2 \(pool\)](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurse 4 \(LPN4\) \(0058\)](#)

[Medical Director \(0074\)](#)

[Medical Director \(3052\)](#)

More Info: recruiters@dva.wa.gov

"Serving Those That Served"

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



Little is known or written about women veterans who served in the Vietnam War, particularly women who were not nurses. Recently, one of our Women Veterans Advisory Committee Members compiled a book, *Women Vietnam Veterans: Our Untold Stories*, to tell the story of women from the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy who served from 1962 until 1973.



Donna Lowery's collection of stories is taken from individual women who served and I was honored that she presented me with a copy. I even had the chance to share a copy with Governor Inslee at a recent meeting and am proud to help share these stories of women in Vietnam.

I served during the Vietnam War in support of each and every service member who was sent overseas and it is important that we continue to share stories of all veterans, women and men, who sacrificed so much to ensure our way of life today. To all veterans, if you haven't recorded your stories with your family or through the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/vets), please do so today. It is so important that future generations learn about how veterans secured our freedoms.



Massing of the Colors—February 21, Stadium High School

Massing of the Colors is a patriotic ceremony honoring those who have served for the United States of America. This event will also honor the youth of today who still carry on the patriotic tradition.

If interested in the full application packet, please email carrolldickson@comcast.net



Deadline to Turn-In 2016 Massing the Colors Application is **FEBRUARY 12, 2016**

2016 Massing of the Colors Ceremony

Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3pm at Stadium High School in Tacoma, WA

ORGANIZATIONAL ATTENDANCE REWARDS for each category:
1st place \$500, 2nd place \$250, 3rd place \$100

Please Request & Return Completed Application to COL Carroll Dickson at 1053 Buena Vista Ave., Fircrest, WA 98466 or carrolldickson@comcast.net



Becoming More Efficient - WDVA Pharmacy Strategic Planning



The Washington State DVA Pharmacy team & other members of our WDVA staff met in December at the Washington Veterans Home in Retsil to celebrate the upcoming kick-off of the Pharmacy Team's 2016-2018 Strategic Plan. The Pharmacy Team members developed the plan over two half-day sessions led by Joey Worcester (insert title here). Pharmacy team members were excited to announce, "We have a plan!"



WDVA Pharmacy is responsible for providing all of the pharmacy services for the state's three veterans homes including monthly medication regimen reviews, clinical pharmacy services, and handling pharmaceutical waste, while at the same time filling on average over 1000 prescriptions per week. The pharmacy team is ready for the upcoming opening of the Walla Walla Veterans Home with their plan!

To watch the strategic planning visit our WDVA YouTube page or click on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kk_7h4RevZA



Welcome the New WDVA Behavioral Health Program Director



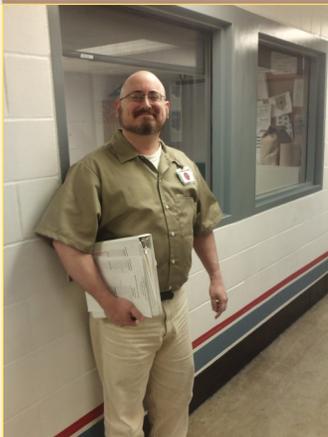
The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to announce the appointment of Peter Schmidt to the position of Behavioral Health Program Director.

Schmidt has worked in the community and technical college system as a counselor, psychology instructor, director of counseling, and dean. As an Air Force Veteran who served on active duty as well as in the Washington National Guard, Schmidt brings expertise in the area of veteran and military cultural competency to help better serve Washington's veterans and their families.

"We are excited to have Peter on the team to lead our Behavioral Health Program and continue our tradition of providing exceptional services to veterans and their families," said Mary Forbes Assistant Director for Veterans Services and Behavioral Health. "Peter has the experience and background that will allow the WDVA Behavioral Health Program to continue expanding to meet the needs of our state's newest veterans, particularly in areas such as the Veterans Conservation Corps, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Service Dog Programs."

For additional information on the WDVA Behavioral Health Program, visit www.dva.wa.gov or call (360) 725-2220.

Veteran Pod Inmate Serving as Clinic Coordinator



A Not so Typical Veterans Services Clinic

by WDVA Program Manager, Donald Lachman

Imagine a group of veterans seated in a comfortable waiting area, it's a common sight occurring daily in clinics and service centers across our country. What's different about this particular clinic is that it's in a state prison. The veterans services clinic is a collaboration between the WestCare Foundation, Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Corrections (DOC), and its goal is to ensure veterans get connected with their earned benefits, especially as they are closer to their release dates.

Professionals representing multiple disciplines attend sessions in the veterans services clinic and provide resources such as civil legal aid, behavioral health, and information on how to stop monthly VA disability compensation payments to ensure the veteran doesn't end up with an overpayment of benefits. (Veterans incarcerated for 61 or more days are eligible for only 10% of their disability compensation, so they must request a stop to their payments, or a court ordered apportionment to provide some funds to their dependents.)

This veterans services clinic has another unique element essential to its successful operation and customer service focus, Edwin, a Vet Pod inmate and Marine who serves as the inaugural volunteer coordinator. Edwin understood some of the challenges to providing professional services in a prison setting and determined it would take a Marine to help put things right! He recognized that to earn the confidence of inmates, appointments had to be coordinated with individual schedules as well as security requirements.

Edwin worked closely with the Vet Pod Unit Supervisor and other DOC staff to develop operational protocols to support the clinic's mission and commitment to providing consistent high quality customer services. Benefits of the changes were felt as soon as improvements were implemented. The monthly services clinic now runs efficiently, a direct result of inmates taking increased ownership for the programs offered in the Vet Pod Unit, and thanks to Edwin who noticed that this situation needed improvements to achieve its mission and then stepped up and applied the same skills and competencies that make him a proud Marine.

For more information on incarcerated veterans programs, visit: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/benefits/incarcerated-veterans-vet-court>

HIRING OUR HEROES[®] MILITARY SPOUSE PROGRAM

Join Us for 2 Days of Career Development

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

February 9th | 7:00-9:00 PM Networking Reception
February 10th | 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Hiring Fair

McChord Field Club | 700 Barnes Blvd, McChord Air Force Base, WA 98438

Please join us for a special catered Networking Reception on February 9th and Hiring Fair February 10th for all military spouses, military members, employers, and service organizations. These events are free of cost.

- Network with vetted employers, community leaders, senior military spouses, and other job seekers
- Gain valuable insight on career planning and how to stand out as a candidate
 - Discover flexible jobs from a wide array of industries and skill levels
 - Resume help and free professional head shots

REGISTER ONLINE:
HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG

The event is open to all military spouses, including Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, Veteran, and Gold Star Spouses. Veterans and Service Members are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact: eobrien@uschamber.com



hiringourheroes.org

Find us online: [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#) [Tumblr](#)

Veterans Farm in Orting - Permaculture Photos



Permaculture Design Courses train participants in comprehensive ecological systems design, agricultural production, sustainable energy and green technologies. Increasing the yield of the small the acreage farm or garden while reducing the impact to the local community and environment. Systems design and permaculture classes at the Veterans Farm in Orting have integrated specific classes around PTSD, Eco-Therapy, WDVA services and Traumatic Brain injury. Veterans are not only learning techniques and systems to be successful farmer/gardeners, but also valuable trainings on transitional issues services and the how WDVA can support them.



President Memorial Certificate Request Change

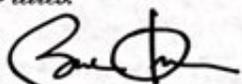


The United States of America

honors the memory of

Joan Q. Service

This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States.


Barack Obama
President of the United States

The Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, enacted on January 10, 2013 amends Title 38 U.S.C. § 2411 to prohibit VA from providing burial or memorialization benefits to Tier III sex-offenders who were sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment and who's conviction is final. It also prohibits VA from providing burial or memorialization benefits to individuals who committed a State or Federal Capital Crime.

This law also impacts how we can process a PMC application. Where we used to accept older versions of our application form, **because of changes in the law we can now only accept the June 2013 and August 2014 versions of our VA Form 40-0247** with each request. I've attached a copy of the 2014 form for your convenience and use.

The newly revised form requires the applicant to certify that **"to the best of your knowledge, that the decedent has never committed a Capital Crime or was never convicted of a sexual offense for which he or she was sentenced to a minimum of life imprisonment."** Using and signing the new application form will ensure that your request is

processed in a timely manner and also that we are in compliance with existing law. Submitting your request using an older or outdated form will delay the processing of your request until the new form is submitted.

Last but not least, I'd like to take this brief opportunity to share my thanks with each and every one of you for your continued support and partnership in providing these wonderful certificates to the family's and loved ones of our honorably discharged & deceased veterans. I'd also like to encourage all of you to continue to visit our web page at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp> where you will always find the latest copies of our request form. Please always remember to sign the form, provide supporting military documents showing Active Duty service and to use our 800-455-7143 fax service for the best service.

For information on VA burial benefits, visit www.cem.va.gov or call (800) 827-1000. Please look for our future e-mails on memorial benefits available for eligible Veterans and spouses. Also, please encourage your friends and colleagues to sign-up for notifications, future e-mail updates and information regarding VA memorial benefits through GovDelivery at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usvanca/subscriber/new>.

Upcoming WDVA Events

Calling All Washington Veterans and Their Families!

Join us February 18, 2016

10am - Noon
VFW Post #7392

3037 N. Goldie Road
Oak Harbor, WA 98277



We want to hear from **YOU** about Veterans Issues important to you and your family!

Meet area leaders and providers to learn about local veterans services and benefits, and hear about veterans issues being debated in the Washington State Legislature.

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



WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

- 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.

Visit us at www.dva.wa.gov / 1-800-562-0132 option 1

Locating Medical Records

Do you know how to locate a copy of your military service records? What about your medical & health records or military awards records?

Did you know you can visit our WDVA webpage to request copies of these? www.dva.wa.gov/program/veterans-records

Veterans Memorial Tribute Program

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 1:30pm

Committal Service Shelter

Washington State Veterans Cemetery

21702 West Espanola Road, Medical Lake, Washington 99022

The Veterans memorial Tribute Program is a time to gather and honor veterans from our community who did not previously receive military funeral honors. The names of those we are honoring will be read and military funeral honors will be rendered by the Army National Guard and Fairchild Air Force Base Joint Branch Honor Guard. The community is invited to attend to honor these veterans who have sacrificed to provide the freedoms that we enjoy.

For more information please contact the cemetery office.

Phone: 509-299-6280 E-mail: cemetery@dva.wa.gov

Join the WDVA Family

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To apply: www.careers.wa.gov

www.dva.wa.gov

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recruiters@dva.wa.gov

"Serving Those Who Served"

WDVA "Hot Jobs"

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2016

JOB TITLE	LOCATION (S)	EMP. TYPE	SALARY	CLOSING DATE
Medical Director (0074)	Pierce County – Orting, Washington	Full Time - Permanent	\$119,220.00 - \$201,720.00 Annually	Continuous
RN3-Evening Shift Supervisor	Pierce County – Orting, Washington	Full Time - Permanent	\$4,525.00 - \$7,233.00 Monthly	Continuous
Employment Track Program Specialist 5	Thurston County – Olympia, WA	Full Time - Non- Permanent	\$4,452.00 - \$5,838.00 Monthly	Continuous
Advanced Regis- tered Nurse Prac- titioner Lead	Pierce County – Orting, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$5,249.00 - \$8,392.00 Monthly	Continuous
Fiscal Analyst 2	Kitsap County – Retsil, WA	Full Time - Permanent	\$3,008.00 - \$3,934.00 Monthly	1/25/2016 11:59 PM Pacific
LAUNDRY WORKER 1	Kitsap County – Retsil, WA	Part Time - Permanent	\$11.16 - \$14.36 Hourly	1/18/2016 11:59 PM Pacific
FOOD SERVICE WORKER (Pool)	Pierce County – Orting, Washington	Various Job Types	\$11.16 - \$14.36 Hourly	Continuous
FOOD SERVICE WORKER (Pool)	Kitsap County – Retsil, Washington	Various Job Types	\$11.16 - \$14.36 Hourly	Continuous

Upcoming Veterans Farm Course

Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) Presents:



UPCOMING PERMACULTURE CLASSES

VETS_CAFE

VETERANS ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING AND STUDY
IN
CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND ECOLOGY



All Classes to be held at Veterans Farm at Orting (1301 Orting Kapowsin Hwy E, Orting, WA 98360)

29 January- Forest Garden #3: Farm Hands Without Hands: Animals in the Orchards. Small and Large Animals in Designed Systems.

12 February- Natural Building: Cob, strawbale, timberframe, layed stone, and recycled materials.

16 February- Hoop house/high tunnel construction

26 February- Access to Land: Building Partnerships and securing Funding, Grants, 'Wish List' and Advancement Strategies.

March 5th- Chainsaw Maintenance and Safety Training + Log Milling: with the Granberg chainsaw mill. Milling logs which fell on the grounds of the Soldiers Home during a storm last fall.

March 19th- Building a 'tensegrity bridge' in the wetlands: This tensegrity bridge will be capable of holding several tons with 4x6 and 6x10 lumber milled from onsite logs. A great trail building and landscape design skill! (conservation forestry and natural building)

March 26th- Building Bee Hives; setting bird and bat habitat out, etc. (forest gardening, integrated pest management, and natural building)

April 9th- Hugelculture and Swale Construction (earthworks, soil, forest gardening)

April 23rd- Cob oven build

April 30th- Hydroponics: Aquaponics and Aquaculture (earthworks, soil, water and conservation)

POC: Matthew West at MatthewWE@dva.wa.gov

*Open to all Veterans, Service Members & their families

www.dva.wa.gov/benefits/veterans-conservation-corps-program

[#TheVeteransFarm](#)

2016 National Creative Arts Competition

2016 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 22

The VA Art Competition and Show provides Veterans with an opportunity to be acknowledged for their artistic talents and skills. Participants must be active out patients or inpatients of VA Puget Sound Health Care System before entering the competition.

[Find out more and how you can participate,](#) or for more information contact Sarah Punshon at 206-277-6161 or sarah.punshon@va.gov or Jeanne Hopkins at 253-583-2905 or jeanne.hopkins@va.gov



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Call 1-360-725-2204 for more information:
www.dva.wa.gov
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www.twitter.com/WDVA

Nursing Recruiting Event

Work at the Spokane Veterans Home!!!

Who: All Are Invited!!!

When: 9am-2pm, Thursday, March 31, 2016

Where: 222 E 5th Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 (Main Lobby)

Why: Fill Nursing Positions at Veterans Home

RSVP: recruiters@dva.wa.gov or 360-725-2204

**Light Refreshments will be available*

What to Do:

-Have a Loving, Caring Energy

-Bring Resume

-Dress in Professional Attire



King County Veterans Office-NOW OPEN

King County Veterans Program and
Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Service Office

NOW OPEN

We would love for our community partners to come and see our new space and how our continued partnership will better serve King County's Veterans and their families.



We would love for our community partners to come and check out our new Veterans Service Office in King County and how our continued partnership will better serve King County's Veterans and their families.

**King County Veterans Office
2106 Second Ave, Seattle WA**

Veterans Homes Across the State Show Off Their 12s



Washington Soldiers Home in Orting



Spokane Veterans Home



State Benefits

- Free Recording of Discharges
- Employment Preference/Assistance
- Educational Benefits/Assistance
- Reemployment & Layoff Rights
- Military Retirement Credit
- Special Veteran License Plates
- Reduced Fishing/Hunting License Fees
- State & National Park Passes
- Reduced Public Transportation Fees
- Medical Benefits for Dependents & Survivors
- Burial Benefits
- Death Pension
- Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Home Loan Guarantees*
- Veterans Assistance Fund

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WDVA Contracted VSO's

- African-American PTSD Group
- American Legion
- American Veterans
- Military Order of Purple Heart
- Nat'l Assoc. for Black Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

State Programs

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Counseling
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project
- Veterans Estate Management Program
- State Veterans Homes (1-877-838-7787)

Call Toll Free: 1-800-562-2308 www.dva.wa.gov

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

WDVA Veteran Voices

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Olympia, WA 98504-1150

1-800-562-0132 opt. 1

communications@dva.wa.gov

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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