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March/April 2014

## Washington State Medal of Honor Recipients Honored at Capitol

*The names of three Washington state Medal of Honor recipients were unveiled on April 2, 2014 in front of the Capitol building in Olympia on the MOH Monument.*

By Gary Lott

Reprinted with permission from *The Ranger/Northwestmilitary.com*

Many natives of Washington State are already familiar with the names Petry, Swenson and Carter.



SFC. LEROY A. PETRY USA  
SSG. TY M. CARTER USA  
CPT. WILLIAM D. SWENSON USA

Those are the names of Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry (Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment), Staff Sgt. Ty Michael Carter (JBLM's 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), and Capt. William D. Swenson, whom all have received the highest military honor in the nation for going beyond the call of duty and risking their lives in the Afghanistan War.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 was a day to honor their service and sacrifices for this nation and for the State of Washington.

The [Washington Department of Veterans Affairs \(WDVA\)](#) held an unveiling and recognition ceremony for the three Washington Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients onto the Capitol MOH Monument, which honors recipients of Washington State.

"It was a tremendous turnout, I didn't expect all these people here," said MOH recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry.

"To have a majority of them be Veterans made it that much more special to me, as well as having the Active Duty and National Guard & Reserve, and all the other branches present to show their support."

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# *A Note from the Director*

*Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos (Alfie)*

[alfie@dva.wa.gov](mailto:alfie@dva.wa.gov)

On Tuesday, March 25, the White House honored ten veteran industry leaders as “Women Veteran Leader Champions of Change,” and highlighted their incredible contributions to our nation’s Business, Public and Private Sectors.

Washington State and YOUR Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to have Mary Forbes, our Assistant Director For Veterans Services, as one of those selected for this prestigious honor. She was one of the ten women selected from over 400 nominations.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/champions/women-veteran-leaders/mary-johanna-forbes>

Mary graduated from the US Military Academy in 1983, the US Army War College in 2006 and served on active duty with the US Army and the Washington Army National Guard for over 26 years. In her current position with WDVA she champions the federal and state initiatives to end veteran homelessness. Her efforts are resulting in communities greatly expanding their capacity to serve homeless veterans and significantly reducing the number of homeless veterans in the state over the last 4 years. To prepare for reductions in military forces, Mary spearheaded an effort at Joint Base Lewis McChord to help transitioning veterans identify employment and education options for life after military service. Forbes’ guiding principles of building partnerships, fostering productive relationships and providing world class customer service at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs has proven to be a success for the veterans and their families in Washington State.

Mary has an incredible team and community partners doing the day to day work that makes our state one of the most veteran friendly in the country. This award is a reflection on all of us at YOUR WDVA and a source pride and humility at the same time as our work is never done!



Please help me congratulate Mary for a job very well done and for all that is ahead to continue serving Washington Veterans and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Alvarado-Ramos'.

Director, WDVA



2014 Legislative Session Veteran / Military Bills Signed into Law		
Bill #	Title and Summary	Sponsor
<b>HB 2130</b> C179 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Veterans innovations program –</b> The Defender's Fund and the Competitive Grant Program are combined and referred to as the VIP.	MacEwen
<b>SHB 2171</b> C65 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Veterans, military personnel –</b> Amends the Washington Service Members' Civil Relief Act (WSCRA) to authorize a private right of action, or an action by the Washington Attorney General, to enforce the provisions of the WSCRA. Provides that the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act applies in proper cases in Washington courts, and a violation of the federal act is a violation of the WSCRA.	Orwall
<b>ESHB 2315</b> C71 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Suicide prevention –</b> Requires certain professions to complete one-time training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Requires the model list of training programs in suicide assessment, treatment, and management to be updated periodically and, when practicable, to contain content specific to veterans. Requires the development of a plan to create a pilot program for psychiatric consultation. Requires the development of the Washington Plan for Suicide Prevention.	Orwall
<b>SHB 2363</b> C180 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Military member dependents –</b> Allows dependents of military service members to retain eligibility for developmental disability services while living out of state due to military assignment.	Muri
<b>EHB 2397</b> C181 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Medal of Honor license plate –</b> Allows registered owners who have been awarded the Medal of Honor to apply for Medal of Honor special license plates for use on up to three motor vehicles registered to the MOH recipient. Medal of Honor Recipients may elect to use the fee exemptions associated with Medal of Honor License Plates for regular issue license plates instead. Removes "Congressional" in reference to the title of the medal. Defines "Medal of Honor" as the military decoration awarded by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress.	Seaquist
<b>HB 2744</b> C182 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Veteran-owned businesses –</b> A qualifying veteran-owned business must be an enterprise incorporated in Washington as a domestic corporation or an enterprise with its principal place of business located in the state.	Hunt, G
<b>SB 5318</b> C183 L14 Effective date 6/12/2014	<b>Military/resident tuition –</b> The definition of resident student is revised to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a student who is on active military duty or a member of the National Guard who entered service as a Washington resident and has maintained Washington as their domicile but is not stationed in the state;</li> <li>• a student who is a spouse or a dependent of a person who is on active military duty or a member of the National Guard entered service as a Washington resident and has maintained Washington as their domicile but is not stationed in the state;</li> <li>• a student who has separated from the military under honorable conditions after at least two years of service, enters an institution of higher education in Washington within one year of the date of separation, and meets one or more criteria regarding a connection or intended connection to Washington;</li> <li>• a student who is the spouse or a dependent of an individual who has separated from the military under honorable conditions after at least two years of service, and meets certain criteria regarding a connection or intended connections to Washington.</li> </ul>	Bailey

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<b><u>SSB 5691</u></b>	<b>Veterans' homes –</b>	Hewitt
C184 L14	The Walla Walla Veterans' home is established and maintained as a branch of the state soldiers' home, and any veterans, veterans' spouses, or parents of children who died while serving in the armed forces may apply for admission. The requirement that a veteran or a veteran's spouse or domestic partner be indigent to apply for admission to a state veterans' home is removed. Parents of any child who died while serving in the armed forces may be admitted as residents to a state veterans' home. The requirement that state veterans' homes provide both domiciliary and nursing care is removed.	
Effective date 6/12/2014		
<b><u>SB 5775</u></b>	<b>Veterans/drivers' licenses –</b>	Benton
C185 L14	A person may apply to DOL to obtain a veteran designation on a driver's license or identification card. The person must provide the Department of Defense discharge document, DD Form 214, that shows a discharge status of honorable or general under honorable conditions, and establishes the person's service in the armed forces.	
Effective date August 30, 2017		
<b><u>SSB 5969</u></b>	<b>Academic credit/military –</b>	O'Ban
C186 L14	Requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy to award academic credit for military training courses or programs before December 31, 2015, and submit the policy to the Prior Learning Assessment workgroup for evaluation. Requires each public institution of higher education to provide a copy of their policy to award academic credit for military training to enrolled students who have listed prior or present military service in their application.	
Effective date 6/12/2014		
<b><u>SB 6208</u></b>	<b>Veterans' benefits/services –</b>	Hill
C67 L14	Prohibits a person from certain acts and practices related to assistance in the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a veterans' benefits claim. Requires advertisements for events regarding veterans' benefits to include a disclaimer. Makes certain prohibited acts and practices a violation of the Consumer Protection Act.	
Effective date 6/12/2014		



*The 2014 Regular Session adjourned Sine Die on March 13, 2014.*

For additional information please contact Heidi Audette at [heidia@dva.wa.gov](mailto:heidia@dva.wa.gov) or 360-725-2154.

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Along with the WDVA; the Washington Military Department, I Corps Honor Guard, 56<sup>th</sup> I Corps Army Band, Joint Services Support Directorate-Washington National Guard, Department of Enterprise Services, American Legion Post 3 and Inter-Tribal Warrior Society all assisted with the production of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Ceremony to honor these three brave service members.

“It’s good to see the state representatives come out and recognize what service members do,” said MOH recipient Capt. William D. Swenson. “It’s part of the social contract, that we provide the security and when we come home it’s always good to know that we have a team back here, and I think that’s what we’re seeing here today.”

Among the many officials present at the ceremony, the commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Terry Farrell, the commander of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Col. David Kumashiro and the Deputy Commanding General of I Corps, Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dahl were all in attendance, along with Governor Jay Inslee.

Even the 91 year “young” Washington State MOH recipient (Vietnam), Col. Joe Jackson was on hand to honor the three and was graceful enough to give an interview to remember.

“I’m always glad to see these young guys coming up and getting recognized for what they’ve done for the country, so I’m very pleased to be here.”

When asked what he hopes to pass on to the three MOH recipients, Joe responded.

“I hope to give them a lot more responsibility in society because most of us are getting to be old, these are young guys coming up and they’ve got potential too,” Joe said. “I’d like to see them advanced in our organization too.”

Joe even added how differently the Medal of Honor ceremonies were in his day.

“We used to just get together. In my day, we’d pay our own way to where we were going, get together, drink beers and just tell lies.”

He ended with an emphasis on what the [Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation](#) is all about.

“Since I’ve been in, we have changed our focus and now we are trying to develop the character of the young people in the United States. With our character development program, we are promoting patriotism and character in our schools, and we are even working on building an on-land museum for the MOH.

The event was a great opportunity for the State of Washington to come together and honor those that have not only dedicated and sacrificed their lives for this nation, but did so on a level above and beyond the call of duty and will historically & now physically be etched into Washington state history.

Washington Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry took a look at his name now on the Capitol MOH Monument and immediately the focus was on the names above his.

“I wasn’t really looking at my name, I was looking at the names above mine,” said Petry. That’s what makes it special, those were my heroes growing up and they’re still my heroes today and to have Joe Jackson there to unveil it and call him a friend now is a tremendous honor.”

Swenson had a similar answer when looking at his name to end the ceremony.

“It’s never easy to reconcile this, I see an individual’s name but I know that the actions represent the entire team I worked with and I know those actions represent everything that service members do,” said Swenson. “The honor of serving is a privilege unlike none other.”

To see photo galleries of the April 2 ceremony and learn more about the Washington state Medal of Honor Monument and MOH recipients, visit:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/moh.html>





## Save the Date - May 10, 2014

1:00 - 4:30PM

1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA

Nisei Veteran Committee (NVC) Memorial Hall

### *The Faces of Agent Orange: The Children and Grandchildren*

Be there if you or your parent or grandparent served in Vietnam or served in the military where defoliant chemicals such as Agent Orange were transported or stored. Veterans, their children and grandchildren who served in Korea may also have health issues from the Agent Orange contaminate, dioxin. The Veterans Health and Benefit Administrations currently presume that some diseases resulted from exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange.

There will be presentations, hand out materials, and a Q&A panel discussion with audience participation. There will also be Veteran service officers present.

The Washington State Council (WASC) of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in cooperation with the Seattle chapter of the NVC, Chapter 2 of the Disabled American Veterans of Shoreline, WA, other donors and many volunteers are collaborating to bring this first in a series of town hall meetings to Washington residents. Additional town hall meetings across the state are being planned. Sponsors will be needed

**Additional information can be found at:**

<http://www.wavva.org/faces-of-agent-orange.html>

**Email:** [facesofagentorange@wavva.org](mailto:facesofagentorange@wavva.org)

**SAVE THE DATE**  
September 20, 2014

**Women Veterans Summit**  
"Dare to Dream - A Celebration of the Warrior Within"

Spokane Convention Center  
334 West Spokane Falls Blvd  
Spokane, WA 99201

Painting by: Pam Evenson

The Summit is for Women Veterans of all ages, National Guard and Reserve, and Transitioning Military

★ Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities available ★

For more information about Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities, please contact Jurene Mason at [NWVeteranResources@gmail.com](mailto:NWVeteranResources@gmail.com) or 509-768-5130

Please check our website in the coming months for updates on Workshops, Speakers, and Registration: [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) or contact Barb Logan at [barb@dva.wa.gov](mailto:barb@dva.wa.gov) or 360-725-2227

#### Spokane Vets Court Mentors Needed

The veterans court and forum in Spokane are in serious need of veteran mentors. This program helps veterans that do not have any serious violent or sexual criminal histories.

The forum is now not only providing mentors to the Spokane County Veterans court, *but to any court that orders a veteran to attend the forum!* Spokane currently has 60 participants and many of the mentors are working with 2-3 vets at one time.

In terms of comparing recidivism with our court and others, Spokane sets the bar, mainly due to program mentors and the support the forum offers.

We will reach a milestone of 100 graduate veterans this year, with only 4 having reoffended.

Interested "future mentors" can contact Tim Sigler at [TSI-GLER@Spokanecounty.org](mailto:TSI-GLER@Spokanecounty.org) or go to the forum website [www.spokaneveteransforum.org](http://www.spokaneveteransforum.org). Mentors will receive necessary training from the forum staff.

Please help us ensure we "leave no vet behind".

1st Annual

# Kitsap Day of Gathering and Giving

Saturday May 10, 2014

9am - 3pm

A VET CORPS community project  
Veterans, Family, and the community are needed  
to assist a local farmer to help prepare  
her farm for the 2014 Season

## 3 Main Projects

Construction of a Hoop House  
Restoration of a wetland pond  
Field Prep: Tilling, weeding, planting, and plowing

Come out with your tools, gloves, power saws, and  
weed eaters, and brush cutters to help!

Lunch + Drinks Provided

Support a local farmer

Learn about NorthWest Farming

Join your community in help of one another

For More Info Contact:

Teri Fisher: 360.271.4955 & [tfisher.vetcorps@gmail.com](mailto:tfisher.vetcorps@gmail.com)

# Pheasant Fields Farm

Silverdale, Washington  A Family Farm Since 1905

13274 Clear Creek Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383  
Phone: 360.697.6224 Email: [info@pheasantfields.com](mailto:info@pheasantfields.com)



## Ladies and Gentlemen of Washington State Veterans Cemetery

The mission of the Ladies and Gentlemen is to provide representation and extend sympathy on behalf of the Governor, Department of Veterans Affairs and the military family, to the Next of Kin at the committal services for those men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces and their spouses when they are buried in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.



**It is an honor and a privilege to be a Lady and Gentleman**



The vital part of this program is to have dependable volunteers for each weekday of the month. We are asking volunteers to commit to one day each month. Services will be held between 9 AM to 3 PM.

### Dress Code: clothing suitable to weather conditions

#### Ladies

Dress or Suit, dark colors only  
Modest blouse or sweater. No red  
A hat may be worn

#### Gentleman

Dark Suit or Blazer  
Conservative tie. No red  
A hat may not be worn



**Volunteer training** sessions are held at a time and place to be determined.

The sessions will include the standard operating procedures, dress, By-Laws, and answer questions. Every volunteer will attend one session and shadow/train with a Lady and Gentleman.

Candidate Information forms must be filled out and turned in by every volunteer candidate.

If you would like to volunteer go to [www.spokanemoaa.org](http://www.spokanemoaa.org), click on Ladies and Gentlemen of WSVC or go to [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) find the cemetery information and download the form.

Mail your form to Ladies and Gentlemen, PO Box 1562, Airway Heights WA 99001

The Ladies and Gentlemen of Washington State Veterans Cemetery is a non-profit 501.c.3 Association.

We receive no financial support from the State of Washington or Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Ladies and Gentlemen of WSVC and mailed to:  
PO Box 1562, Airway Heights WA 99001



### New Vests for the Ladies and Gentlemen

The Ladies and Gentlemen can be seen in their dark funeral attire at committal services and special ceremonies at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake, Washington. The group, which was formed in 2009 and patterned after the Arlington Ladies, has as its mission to provide representation from the Governor, the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the Military Family to the next of kin at committal services at the cemetery.

While funeral attire is appropriate at the cemetery, the group decided they needed a new look for outreach opportunities in the community. Two of the Ladies, Mary Morrison and Shizuko O'Connor took the idea and turned it into the new vests pictured here at a recent dinner meeting. We want to be visible in the community and also recognized as proud members of the Ladies and

Gentlemen of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery.

If you are interested in being part of this worthwhile program, contact Carol Nettles, at [sfpd911@aol.com](mailto:sfpd911@aol.com) or Cemetery Director, Rudy Lopez at [RudyL@dva.wa.gov](mailto:RudyL@dva.wa.gov).



Painting by: Pam Evenson

## SAVE THE DATE

September 20, 2014

### Women Veterans Summit

*"Dare to Dream - A Celebration of the Warrior Within"*

Spokane Convention Center

334 West Spokane Falls Blvd

Spokane, WA 99201

*The Summit is for Women Veterans of all ages, National Guard and Reserve, and Transitioning Military*

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For more information about Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities, please contact Jurene Mason at [NWVeteranResources@gmail.com](mailto:NWVeteranResources@gmail.com) or 509-768-5130



Please check our website in the coming months for updates on Workshops, Speakers, and Registration: [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov) or contact Barb Logan at [barb@dva.wa.gov](mailto:barb@dva.wa.gov) or 360-725-2227



## Washington Veterans Home Volunteers Celebrated as “The 12th Man for Veterans”



April 16 was the annual volunteer recognition event at Washington Veterans Home. Our volunteers were celebrated as “The 12th man for Veterans” with tailgate foods and frosty beer mugs filled with root beer floats.

As guests arrived they were greeted by blue grass and country music by Hank Blumenthal and the aroma of steamed hot dogs with BBQ wings. The music played while the volunteers helped themselves to dinner creating a festive party with lively conversations throughout the room.

After the meal and entertainment the real tribute to the amazing commitment made by our volunteers each year was highlighted. Volunteer Coordinator, Tami Reuter read the Presidential Proclamation for National volunteer week which included references to Washington State and Veterans in our Nation.

Each individual and group of volunteers was then recognized by Interim Superintendent Dax Dowling for their amazing contributions to the successful completion of record hours of service in the last year.

The results are in!

Individual volunteers logged in 2298 hours of service to our veterans, an increase of 1261 above last year’s numbers. Group volunteers logged in 3552 hours which is an increase of 799 above last year’s numbers. All of this brings the total hours of service to veterans at Washington Veterans Home in the last year to 5850 hours.

Thank you all for your dedication!



### Reno Day at Washington Soldiers Home

The cheers of the crowd were heard along with the shuffling of cards, rolling of dice, clanking of chips, popping of balloons and carnival style shooting games during the gaming excitement of Reno Day! Residents enjoyed the great gaming experience, along with a large assortment of delicious refreshments and an overflowing prize table. Thank you to the Tacoma HOGS Harley Davidson Group, VFW Aux., D & Gs Kitchen, Resident Council, individual volunteers and all of the staff who made Reno Day 2014 a rousing day of gaming for our residents!



### WSH Residents are Senior Crime Stoppers!

The WA Soldiers Home is a proud member of the Senior Crime Stoppers Program, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Armed Forces Bank.

In addition to a 24/7 call center and cash rewards; personal lock boxes are issued to residents. Additional benefits include an annual check that is issued to the Soldiers Home for granting residents' wishes.



### Opening Day at the WSH Fishing Pond

Ah, what a beautiful day at the Washington Soldiers Home Fish pond for the annual opening day derby! The sun was warm, the fish were biting and the cooks were cooking!

The grounds were shaking and rumbling when The Tacoma HOGS (Harley Operators Group) came riding in on their bikes announcing their arrival. The



camaraderie between the Harley Volunteers and the Residents at the Soldiers Home is very heartwarming. This group has been participating in this event for just about 25 years and has developed a wonderful relationship with Residents of the Soldiers Home.

Recreation staff got the derby and residents organized in time for the morning cast, plant staff helped with preparation of the grounds and measuring fish, and the dining room sent some of their finest chefs and their assistants to prepare the catch.

All in all it was a fantastic day for everyone involved!



## CHECK OUT THESE VCC INTERNSHIPS!



The Veterans Conservation Corps provides meaningful training and volunteer opportunities for veterans while helping restore and protect Washington State's natural resources.

- Veteran Conservation Corps Crew
- Prairie Science Specialist
- Prairie Restoration
- Prescribed Fire
- Invasive Weed Control
- Nursery Technician
- Avian Field
- Vessel Registration Compliance
- Summer Crew Positions - Base to Basecamp
- Summer Crew Positions - Seattle and WA Nat'l Parks

For more information contact [vcc@dva.wa.gov](mailto:vcc@dva.wa.gov)

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/internships.html>

Keep informed about upcoming Veteran events by checking our Public Events Page on a regular basis: [http://www.dva.wa.gov/public\\_events.html](http://www.dva.wa.gov/public_events.html)

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)

WDVA Veteran Voices  
PO Box 41150  
1102 Quince Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98504-1150

1-800-562-0132 opt. 1  
[communications@dva.wa.gov](mailto: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/publications.html>

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