

WDVA Veteran Voices
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WDVA Veteran Voices

MAY 2022



A Message from the Director



2022 Legislative Session Update on Military & Veteran-Related Bills

The 2022 Legislative Session started and ended with a flurry of activity! While this year was a short (60 day) session, the amount of work accomplished on behalf of veterans and their families was remarkable! [\(A full bill summary is available here.\)](#)

There were bills passed that add Washington State to the Psychology and Occupational Therapy Licensure Compacts. These compacts are important for everyone transitioning to Washington State with licenses in other compact states; however, they are significant for our veterans and military spouses who transition to our state after their service or have a military move that brings them to Washington. Measures such as this make the process of gaining

May Events & Observances List

May 30 - Various Memorial Day Events & Observances - [Memorial Day Events & Observances | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)



Here is a current list of upcoming events that your WDVA is tracking.

Please email us your events at communications@dva.wa.gov so we can get them added.

May 19 - Work for Washington - Virtual Career Fair - [Work for Washington State - Virtual Job Fair | WDVA](#)

May 20 - Redefining Your Future Symposium - [Redefining Your Future - Redefining Your Foundation Symposium | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

May 21 - Armed Forces Day - JBLM - [View Event :: Armed Forces Day :: Joint Base Lewis-McChord :: US Army MWR](#)

Jun 08 - Sequim Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Town Hall - [VAAC Townhall Meeting at American Legion Post #62 | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Aug 24/25 - Serving Those Who Served Conference - Wenatchee - [Save the Date! 5th Annual Serving Those Who Served | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

Looking for a Memorial Day Resources, Proclamations, and Tribute Videos to share with your community... [Memorial Day Events & Observances | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

a Washington State license easier and allows these individuals to gain employment more quickly.

In addition, a bill addressing Veterans, Military and Family Member Suicides was also passed. This bill has several components that will impact WDVA as well as other state agencies, higher education institutions, and nonprofit partners

[Read More](#)



[Purchase an Armed Forces License Plate](#)

License Plate PSA: [\(1\) Armed Forces License Plate - Washington Veterans Cemetery Video - Extended - Veterans License Plates - YouTube](#)

Veterans Farm in Orting - Earth Day Update

Your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Farm Manager, Carrie Little, provides an update on the Veterans Farm while hosting an Earth Day Pot Luck on April 22, 2022.



[Watch Video](#)

WDVA Hot Jobs

\$3,000

incentive payment

for current and new NAC staff!

Full-time NACs and NAC Leads who have been permanent employees for one year are eligible for an immediate payment of **\$3000**.

New hires are eligible for a payment of **\$1,500** on the date of their hire. These new staff members may also be eligible for an additional **\$1,500** after their six-month probationary period and any required training.

Any current staff who recommend hires that lead to a permanent, full-time staffer can receive a **\$200** payment.

For more information, go to www.dva.wa.gov/nursing-assistant-recruitment-and-retention-incentive

WE'RE HIRING

RNs
LPNs
CNAs

Drivers
Chefs
& More

Make an Impact and join a career in Serving Those Who Served!

APPLY NOW!
Recruiters@DVA.WA.GOV

[WDVA Construction Project Coordinator 3, Olympia](#)

[WDVA Bus Driver \(Truck Driver 1\), On-Call, Walla Walla](#)

[WDVA Registered Nurse 2, On-Call, Walla Walla](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant Registered, NAC-In Training, Spokane Veterans Home](#)

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



During Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we honor the perseverance, and we celebrate the

[WDVA Nursing Assistant
Certified \(CNA\), Multiple
Positions, Port Orchard](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant
Certified \(CNA\), Walla
Walla](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant
Certified \(CNA\), Orting](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant
Certified \(CNA\), Multiple
Positions, Spokane](#)

[WDVA Nursing Assistant
Certified \(CNA\), In-Training,
Walla Walla](#)

**Other Positions
Available at our Walla
Walla, Spokane,
Orting & Port Orchard
Veterans Home.**
[**Recruiters@dva.wa.gov**](mailto:Recruiters@dva.wa.gov)

[View More](#)

meaningful impact the AAPI community has made on our nation.

Today there are more than 300,000 living Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander American veterans.

Learn More: [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month 2022 \(asianpacificheritage.gov\)](https://asianpacificheritage.gov)

Walla Walla Veterans Home

**Walla Walla Veterans
Home Attends Walla
Walla Valley Job Fair**

If you're looking for available positions at the Walla Walla Veterans Home, please contact our recruiters at Recruiters@dva.wa.gov for more information.



[View Open Positions](#)

More From WWVH:

[Indie Folk Group Calico Bones performs at the Walla Walla Veterans Home](#)

Spokane Veterans Home



**Veterans Home
Pharmacy Booster
Clinic**

We were absolutely honored to have Washington State University Nursing Students reporting for duty at your Spokane Veterans Home to conduct a COVID-19 immunization booster clinic on Thursday, April 21.

The nursing students learned how vaccines



Thank you to Military Order of the Purple Heart for their recent sign purchase!

**You can help recognize Washington as a
Purple Heart State...Donate Today!**

Recognizing and Honoring Washington State Purple Heart Veterans – Washington Highway Sign

induce immunity, how to handle and prepare vaccines, the administration of vaccines, and post-vaccine administration protocols, including emergency procedures.

The clinic provided hands-on experience for the nursing students and helped to provide vaccines for approximately 80 residents, staff, and volunteers at the clinic.
[#WeLoveOurCommunity](#)

[Read More](#)

More from Spokane Veterans Home:
[Check out Egg-Decorating and the Easter Bunny's visit to the Spokane Veterans Home](#)

Washington State Veterans Cemetery



Forgotten Heroes Interment

The services and lives of 48 unclaimed veterans were honored on April 12 during a Forgotten Heroes Interment at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery outside of Medical Lake.

The Forgotten Heroes initiative is the collaborative efforts of the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Veterans Cemetery, and other national entities

Campaign

Every donation counts towards the goal of placing Purple Heart Highway Signs at all 34 state entrances into Washington!

Purple Heart Medals are presented to Armed Forces members who are killed or wounded in combat.

Learn more: [Purple Heart Donation](#)

Mail Donations To:
WDVA Purple Heart Sign Campaign
PO Box 41150
Olympia, WA 98504



Total Sign Costs
\$1,100 Larger Signs
\$1,000 Smaller Signs
All Donations Welcome



Your donation helps place signs at all WA highway entrances!

To Donate or For More Info:
communications@dva.wa.gov



Washington Veterans Home in Port Orchard

This week the honored residents & staff welcomed Washington State VFW Auxiliary President, Barbara L. Heston-Moore.

It was terrific to thank and honor the VFW leadership that has supported our veterans continually through Covid-19.

Barbara was joined by Hardy Nettles, Commander and Lori Nettles, President Grand of Washington Military



that locate, identify, and help transport unclaimed veterans' remains to place them in an appropriate final resting place. [via Cheney Free Press](#)

[Read More](#)

[For the full photo album, click here.](#)

May is Military Spouse Appreciation Month

Military spouses impress us all the time with their ability to conquer challenges and power through demanding circumstances.

Military Spouse Resources from Military One Source: [Celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Month • Military OneSource](#)

Military Spouse Employment Initiative - Highlighting WDVA Programs: [\(1\) Military Spouse Employment Initiative - Highlighting WDVA Programs - YouTube](#)

Show your appreciation for military spouses *via* [Veteran.com](#)

- Give your military spouse a day off
- Do something he or she hates doing
- Give a token of appreciation e.g. care package, gift card, flowers or anything they love
- Say "Thank You" but be creative in expressing thanks
- Have a day of pampering together
- Make dinner or surprise your spouse with breakfast
- Watch a movie or show you'd rather not watch but that they love
- Do something to solve one of their problems
- Create a coupon book for them
- Give your military spouse a list of reasons why you appreciate them
- For deployed troops, send a video message or ecard showing your appreciation

Order Of the Cootie (MOC/MOCA).

New WVH Administrator, Pam Cokash, was able to see first-hand the ongoing generosity and support of our veterans and staff.

The donations will be used toward new video games for our adaptive Xbox system and an upcoming steak cookout for our honored residents.

Washington Soldiers Home in Orting

A Soldiers Home Scenic Drive

The Washington Soldiers Home Scenic Drive was full of exciting surprises for our honored residents. They recently went on a beautiful scenic drive where they could relax, take in majestic views and enjoy milkshakes!

The weather had its own surprise with a sudden hailstorm, but seeing all of the elements was even more exciting! 🌞🌨️🌧️

We would like to thank all of the amazing staff who made this trip possible for the residents!

[#TheseAreOurHeroes](#)



More From WSH:

[We would also like to thank the Tacoma Harley Group for their Parade and Donations!](#)

Sign Up for Available Veterans Conservation Corps Internships:



Veterans Conservation Corps Internships

- Ecostudies Institute (Olympia)
 - **Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship**
- Farmer Frog Farm (Woodinville)
 - **Farm & Livestock Internship**
- Skokomish Valley Farms (Shelton)
 - **Regenerative Farming Internship**
- Grays Harbor Conservation District (Montesano)
 - **Habitat Restoration Internship**
- Lewis Conservation District (Chehalis)
 - **Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship**
- Spokane Conservation District (Spokane)
 - **Vets on the Farm Internship**
- Thurston Conservation District (Tumwater)
 - **Habitat Restoration Crew Internship**
 - **Prairie Habitat Restoration Internship**

For detailed information about each VCC internship opportunity and how to apply, please visit:
www.dva.wa.gov/internships

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**
"Serving Those Who Served"



The Veterans Conservation Corps was created in 2005 in an effort to help veterans find healing and purpose through the restoration and cultivation of Washington's natural resources.

This WDVA program links veterans to internships and volunteer opportunities around the state.

[Internships | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)



ALL TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS

About to Separate or Retire from Service?

*Contact Us Now to Get Started on Your
Pre-Discharge VA Disability Claim.*



VA Accredited Claims Assistance:

*Disability Claims, Federal & State Veterans Benefits,
Earned Benefits and More!*



Have YOU Filed Yet???
Time is Ticking...



***You MUST File Your Pre-Discharge Claim
between 90-180 days before Separation**

CONTACT US TODAY
SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED



SHAWN PRESCHER: 253.281.8311
SHAWN.PRESCHER@DVA.WA.GOV

MALCOLM LEACH: 253.548.6018
MALCOLM.LEACH@DVA.WA.GOV

Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2022 at Serving Those Who Served.

Your feedback is instrumental in the continued improvement of your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDVA2022>

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