

WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



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

www.dva.wa.gov

www.facebook.com/WSDVA

www.twitter.com/WDVA

"Serving Those Who Served"

VETERAN VOICES

NOVEMBER 2020

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Greetings from the Director



A Message from the Director WDVA Veterans Day Message

By WDVA Director, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos

In the month of November, we celebrate Veterans Day, the national holiday when our country expresses its gratitude to our Veterans for their service and sacrifices. November was also declared Military Family Month in 1996. This has also been a time to acknowledge the tremendous contributions our military and veterans' families make to our communities.

As we reach the 9th month of this pandemic (COVID-19) and its effects, our WDVA Team members continue to lead the way in ensuring that those who served and their amazing families, continue to connect to their earned benefits. Those in WDVA residential services receive the best care because of our Team's passion and skills, and our veterans who join the Everlasting Post have a dignified final resting place in our state cemetery.

We are seeing the physical, emotional, and financial effects of this pandemic and other issues on our veterans and their families. Your WDVA Team will ensure that our services and resources continue being deployed to our communities so we can fight this enemy. We ask you to check on your family members, friends and neighbors as we work our way into fall and winter. This is a critical period and we need your assistance in reaching out and making referrals of veterans and family members who need help. This is the most meaningful way to say "Thank you for your service."

To our veterans, thank YOU for your service then...and now. We know that many veterans continue to serve on their second mission and there is no more noble cause than "Serving Those Who Served". To our veteran allies, spouses and friends, thank you for your support and for working shoulder to shoulder with, and for our veterans. This is what makes us strong and capable of achieving great outcomes.

On behalf of your WDVA, I wish you a great Veterans Month! Stay safe, and please protect

yourselves, your families and friends by wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing. We are all in this together!

Official Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs 2020 Veterans Day 'Honoring Those Who Served' Video: <https://youtu.be/rmv7iqka1eo>

Yours in service,

Alfie



More on how the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs Can Serve YOU:

While it's common tradition to thank veterans on Veterans Day, it's important to remember that their service, sacrifice, and dedication doesn't just happen one day out of the year. At our agency, every day is Veterans Day and our dedicated team stands ready to connect veterans and their families to the benefits earned through their military service.

Here are just a few of the ways we can serve you:

- Our benefits specialists can help prepare claims to the Federal VA for disability compensation or pension.
- Five counseling and wellness programs provide support through mental health counseling, traumatic brain injury services, veterans conservation corps activities, internships, and a Veterans Peer Corps.
- Our transitional housing program serves Veterans Experiencing Homelessness with supportive housing, helping them move back into their communities.
- Four State Veterans Homes serve the long-term or rehabilitative care needs of veterans and their widows. Homes are located in Orting, Port Orchard, Spokane and Walla Walla.
- The State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake honors veterans and eligible family members in their final resting place.

Learn more on how Your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs can serve YOU and your family by visiting: www.dva.wa.gov



WASHINGTON SOLDIERS HOME
VETERANS DAY PARADE
2020





SPOKANE VETERANS HOME

VETERANS DAY PARADE

2020



**REGISTER NOW: King County Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Veteran Listening Sessions - November 17**



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

VETERAN LISTENING SESSIONS

Join us on ZOOM for a conversation on diversity, equity and inclusion, and dismantling systemic bias in Veteran services.



Multiple Sessions Available:

- Wednesday, October 7 | 1:30pm - 3:00pm
- Friday, October 16 | 9:30am - 11:00am
- Tuesday, October 27 | 10:30am - Noon
- Tuesday, November 17 | 12:30pm - 2:00pm

To register please click on the Eventbrite button below.

Registration
Link

<https://waveteranlisteningsessions.eventbrite.com>



King County

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
**VETERANS
AFFAIRS**



WALLA WALLA VETERANS HOME

PUMPKIN PAINTING

2020





QUILT DONATION FROM VFW POST 1949

Thank You to Cindy &
Jake with the Combat
Infantrymen's
Association for
delivering

#WeLoveOurCommunity

Washington State Outstanding Service to Veterans Awardees Honored at Virtual Auburn Veterans Day Event

Six Washington residents and two teams were honored on Sunday, November 9 with Outstanding Service to Veterans Awards for their contributions to Washington State's veterans and their families during the past year.

The awards, co-sponsored each year by the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC) and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, recognize individuals who devote time and energy to improving the lives of Washington's veterans and their families.

The awards are typically presented at a special luncheon in Auburn, following the awardees participation in the City's annual Veterans Day Parade.

The 2020 Outstanding Service to Veterans are:

- State Representative Jacquelin Maycumber, Legislator of the Year Award
- State Senator Emily Randall, Legislator of the Year Award
- Angel Williams, Superior Award (Thurston)
- Tom Hove, Superior Award (King County)
- Gary Walderman, Distinguished Award (Snohomish County)
- Donna Buck, Distinguished Award (Pierce County)
- Lacey Veterans Services Hub, Team Award (Thurston County)
- Liberty Disaster Relief Services – A Hero's Promise, Team Award (Thurston/Pierce)

You can view the virtual awards ceremony video on the WDVA YouTube website at: <https://youtu.be/7N0SrWqYwFE>

WDVA Receives \$10,000 Contribution and Laptops from Comcast to Support Veterans Transitional Housing Programs

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) today announced that it has received a \$10,000 contribution and 15 donated laptops from [Comcast](#) as a part of the company's [Internet Essentials](#) program.

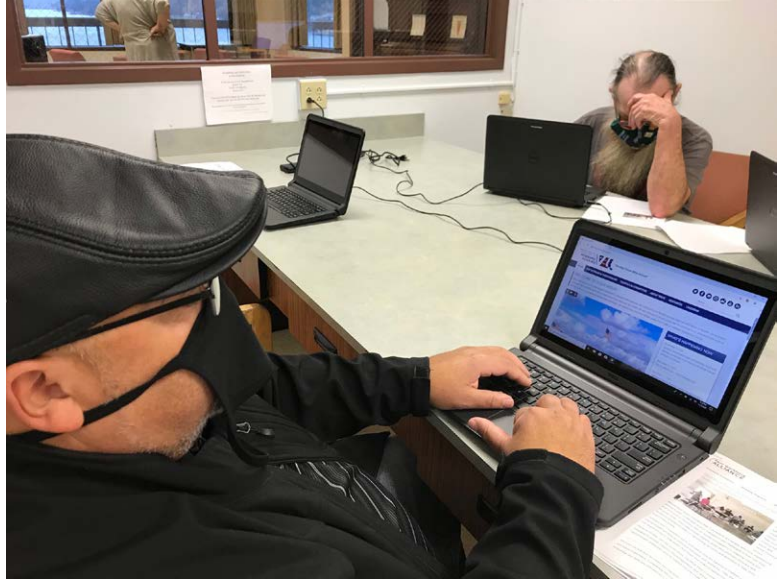
The contributions will support the department's [Veterans Transitional Housing Programs](#) in Orting and Port Orchard, Washington. Veterans enrolled in the transitional housing programs are surrounded with supportive staff and wrap-around services designed to lead to their successful completion of the program and a successful return to the community.

Comcast's contribution will help keep transitional housing program participants connected to online resources, such as earned veterans' benefits, and medical and mental health services. This donation will also help veterans apply for jobs and connect to employment opportunities online as they transition back into the workforce. In addition, case managers will use the donated laptops in the field as they identify and work with local veterans who may benefit from WDVA's transitional housing program.

"Connecting veterans to their earned benefits is only possible if the tools to make those connections are in place," said Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. "We are incredibly grateful to Comcast for their commitment to veterans across the state, but particularly for those in our Transitional Housing Program. This donation will help veterans connect to tele-health appointments, employment, education and eventually it will help them with their search for housing as they move back into the community."

The Veterans Transitional Housing Program focuses on increasing residential stability of participants, providing greater self-determination of participants and elevating the skill level and income potential of participants. Veterans in the program work in collaboration with case managers to create individualized case plans. Accountability, progress in achieving case plan goals, and abiding by program rules are cornerstones to continuation and successful completion of the program.

READ MORE: <https://dva.wa.gov/news/2020/wdva-receives-10000-contribution-and-laptops-comcast-support-veterans-transitional-housing-programs>



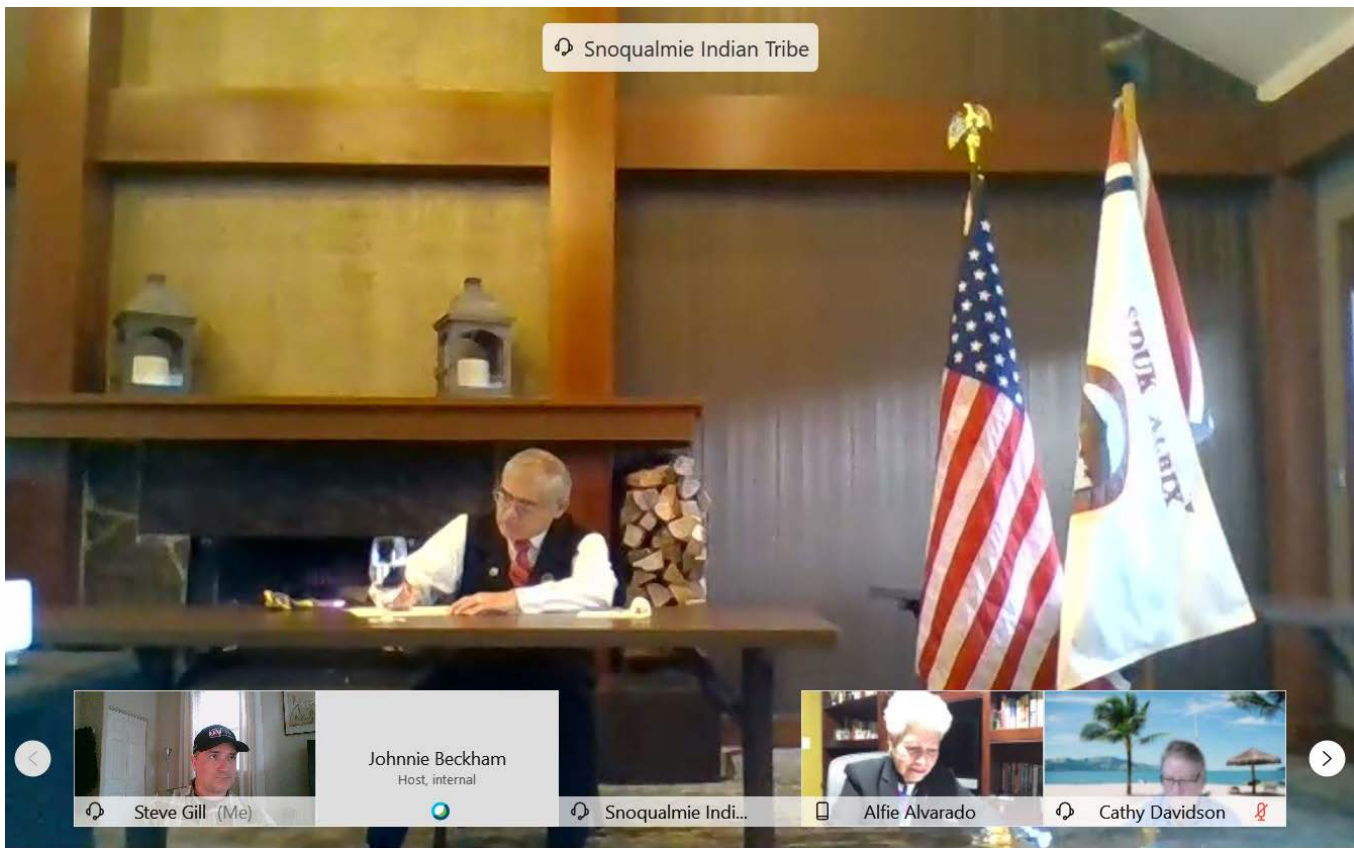


WDVA Signs Memorandum of Agreement with Snoqualmie Indian Tribe

On November 4, 2020 your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs signed a memorandum of agreement with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe which allows WDVA and the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe to partner on providing veterans' benefits and disability claims assistance to veterans and their family members.

Under this agreement WDVA will extend its Veteran Service Officer training, accreditation, and technical assistance to the Tribal Veterans Representative for the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe in order to improve access to these benefits.

WDVA is committed to serving all veterans and their families in a culturally appropriate manner including the approximately 5,000 American Indian and Alaska Native veterans in Washington.



(Pictured above from virtual signing that took place among the tribe and WDVA.
Photo taken on November 04, 2020)

REGISTER NOW: November 18 YesVets Hire-A-Vet Washington Statewide Virtual Job Fair

Hire-A-Vet Washington! is a statewide virtual job fair for **Veterans and Military Families** in recognition of Veterans' Day and to announce the winners of the Washington State Hire-A-Vet Employer of the Year. These are employers committed to hiring veterans like you and making a difference in the Veterans' Community.

- **Virtually explore job opportunities across the state and engage with over 100 companies and government agencies committed to hiring veterans**
- **"Talk" with recruiters via live, text, video or audio-based chat**
- **Participate by logging in from any computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone**
- **There is no cost to attend the virtual hiring event**
- **More employers being added daily!**

Pre-registration is required

[Click here to check out participating employers AND to register for the hiring event.](#)

Hire-A-Vet Washington!

A statewide virtual job fair for Veterans and Military Families

Featuring
Washington State YesVets Employers

Wednesday November 18, 2020

10:00am - 2:00pm



WDVA Military & Veteran Community Resources & WDVA's Podcast

No one said Staying Home and Staying Healthy would be easy!

Your WDVA has put together some resources to help you and your family cope with the incredibly unexpected changes that we're all experiencing. I hope you'll find some time to explore these and take advantage of the amazing work the Counseling & Wellness Team has

done. If you have any resources that aren't listed, please let us know and if you are interested in being a guest to discuss your WDVA program or another veteran resource, let us know and we will add you to the schedule.

[Resources List - Military and Veteran Community Resources in Response to COVID-19](#)

This guide lists resources specific to our Military and Veteran community that may help us to get through the COVID-19 crisis. This may be helpful not only to you and your family, but may also provide resources to help you better serve veterans in the Veterans Homes and Programs.

Subscribe to the [WDVA Podcast!](#) Now Available on Apple iTunes



WDVA's own Dan Overton joins the latest episode of the WDVA Podcast for a discussion on Traumatic Brain Injury. Use the link, or download wherever you get your podcasts from.

www.podbean.com/ew/pb-hwfp-f1239a

Questions for the show? Contact Bryan @ vpc@dva.wa.gov

<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-bgvii-e4c040>

Veterans Innovations Program

Did you deploy in support of the Global War on Terror? Have you earned an Iraq Campaign, Afghanistan Campaign, or Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and have a honorable discharge? Are you experiencing a financial hardship?

We are here to help.

Supportive Services include housing, utilities, or other needs related payments necessary to enable an individual to resolve crisis situations, enter education or employment, and/or retain employment.

For an application or for more information:

Contact: Kristan Johnson, VIP Program Specialist

Email: wdvavip@dva.wa.gov

Call: 1-800-562-2308 or (360) 628-1022

Saluting the Seattle Police Department for preventing two women veterans' lives being lost to suicide earlier this year!

#WeLoveOurCommunity



Veterans License Plates

WASHINGTON STATE VETERANS LICENSE PLATES



HOW ARMED FORCES LICENSE PLATE FUNDS ARE USED

Proceeds from the sale of Armed Forces License Plates support ongoing maintenance of the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake.

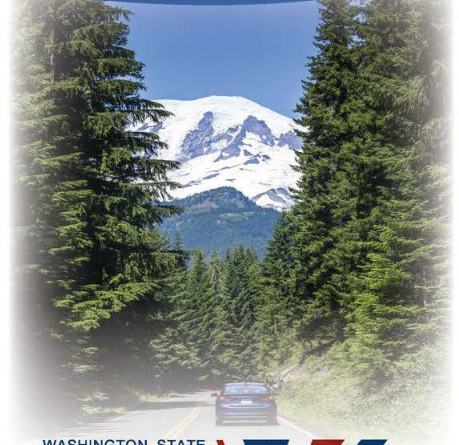
\$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate is directed to the Veterans Stewardship Account and is tax deductible. The Veterans Stewardship Account is used for activities that benefit veterans, such as maintaining the state veteran's cemetery in eastern Washington and providing programs and services for veterans without homes.

Veterans, active duty, guard, reserve and their family members are eligible to purchase plates at any vehicle licensing office.

Find out more at: www.dva.wa.gov
or call 800-562-2308



To learn more visit:
[www.dva.wa.gov/program/
license-plates](http://www.dva.wa.gov/program/license-plates)



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FREE DISABLED VETERAN LICENSE PLATE

Available to veterans who:

- (a) Have lost the use of both hands or one foot;
- (b) Have become blind in both eyes as the result of military service; or
- (c) Are rated by the veterans administration or the military service from which the veteran was discharged and receiving service-connected compensation at the one hundred percent rate that is expected to exist for more than one year.

Application: www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420500.pdf

VETERAN/MILITARY SERVICE AWARD EMBLEMS

Available to the legal or registered owner of the vehicle.

Take your application, proof of eligibility (such as DD214) and fee to a vehicle licensing office:

- Veteran/Military Service Award Emblem Application
www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420075.pdf
- \$15 cash or a check/ money order payable to Department of Licensing

OTHER SPECIAL MILITARY PLATES

- PURPLE HEART
- FORMER POW
- MEDAL OF HONOR
- PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR
- MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM

GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES

Gold Star Parents, Spouses, Children, and Siblings may qualify for a Gold Star License Plate under RCW 46.18.245. These plates honor families of military men and women who lost their lives in service to our Country.

To qualify for Gold Star license plates, you must be certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs as being one of the following to a United States Armed Forces member who died while in the service, or as a result of their service:

- Widow or widower (If the servicemember died as a result of their service)
- Birth mother or birth father
- Stepmother or stepfather
- Mother or father through adoption
- Adult who fulfilled the parental role, such as foster parent, kinship care provider, or caretaker relative.
- Biological child
- Adopted child
- Sibling

FEES

Widows(ers) do not pay any registration or plate fees for one Gold Star License Plate or regular license plate.

For all other individuals eligible for Gold Star License Plates, there is no additional fee for the Gold Star background design, but you must still pay all required vehicle registration and tab renewal fees.

Application: www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420500.pdf

ARMED FORCES PLATES

MILITARY, VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS!

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.

Visit <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/spmilitary.html> for information on initial and renewal plate fees. \$28 from the purchase and renewal of each plate is used to operate the State Veterans Cemetery and serve veterans without homes.

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.

Application: www.dol.wa.gov/forms/420500.pdf



WWW.DOL.WA.GOV/VEHICLEREGISTRATION/SPECIALDESIGN.HTML#MILITARY

Now Hiring at Four Veterans Homes Across the State

Are you a CNA, RN or LPN looking for a career that allows you to give back to your community and provide compassionate care to Veterans?

Contact Recruiters@dva.wa.gov for more information or visit: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/?keywords=wdva



WDVA Hot Jobs - APPLY NOW

More Info: Please visit [Employment](#) to see the opportunities that we have!
You can also contact a recruiter at Recruiters@dva.wa.gov

King County Housing Stabilization Assistance for Veterans and Family Members affected by COVID-19 and the Eviction Moratorium (Expiring on March 01, 2021)

King County Housing Stabilization Assistance Available

- King County Veterans Program (KCVP) has funding for housing stabilization services, in response to the crisis of COVID-19
- Housing stabilization allows for both rent and mortgage
- **Funds available are based on documented amounts owed, and maximum award is \$1,500**
- Veterans who have received rental or mortgage assistance in the past through KCVP or WDVA, but for reasons OTHER than COVID may be eligible for these funds as well

Eligibility for Assistance

- Veterans, service members, and their families
- Already live in King County, Washington
- Are behind in rent or mortgage
- Are economically impacted by COVID
- Monthly gross household income (generally) at or below 60% of Area Median Income

HHold Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
60% AMI	\$4,180	\$4,780	\$5,375	\$5,970	\$6,450	\$6,930	\$7,405	\$7,885

Required Documentation

- Photo ID AND Evidence of U.S. Military Service (see documentation guidelines for KCVP services at website: www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/veterans/programs-services.aspx)
- Copy of signed lease, which must also include evidence the residence is in King County
- Evidence that the household is behind in rent or mortgage
- Evidence that the cause for being behind is due to COVID-19 -- documented by furlough notice, reduction in hours reflected in paycheck, application for unemployment assistance or other government benefit, notice of business/employer closure, etc.
- Income verification through paystubs, award letters, stimulus funds, or other

To Access COVID-19 King County Housing Stabilization Assistance Contact Us: WDVA King County Offices 206-454-2799

Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs Outreach to Military Families
Cathi Geisler | cathi.geisler@dva.wa.gov | 206-641-6865

Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs Outreach to Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
Kelsey McGarry | kelsey.mcgarry@dva.wa.gov | 206-900-4785

This program, and a portion of this housing stabilization assistance, is funded through the King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy.

For veterans needing assistance in Counties other than King County, please reach out to your County Veterans Assistance Program to determine whether assistance is available. Contact information is available at: <https://www.dva.wa.gov/resources/county-map>



Hired a Veteran? Sign Up Today at www.YesVets.org

After you've notified us that you've hired a veteran, we will contact you to arrange delivery of your YesVets decals, to be prominently and proudly displayed at your place of business.

Thank you for your support of those who served!
Visit www.YesVets.org for more information and to signup!



Every veteran makes a difference!

OVER 5,000 VETERANS HIRED SINCE 2016

Let your customers know that you support hiring veterans.

YES VETS YesVets.org

YESVETS 2020

Upcoming Events

View our WDVA Calendar to stay updated with upcoming events to attend

WDVA 2020 EVENTS

[TO VIEW OUR WDVA CALENDAR, CLICK HERE](#)

WDVA Web Calendar: www.dva.wa.gov/calendar

WDVA Facebook Calendar: www.facebook.com/WSDVA/Events

Please take a few moments and provide us with feedback to make us better in 2020 at Serving Those Who Served.

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

To complete the survey, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020WebSM>



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