



WDVA Veteran Voices

July 2024

A Message from the Director

Greetings from your WDVA Director - David Puente



Governors Challenge

Recently, your WDVA Suicide Prevention Team had the privilege of hosting the second in-person Governor's Challenge meeting. I am thrilled to inform you that the Cowlitz Indian Tribe partnered with us to make this event a success. Their collaboration and dedication have been invaluable.

Our mission is not only to reduce Service Member, Veteran, and Family Member suicide rates but also to empower individuals and communities with the necessary tools and resources to prevent suicide altogether. To achieve this, we have brought together government agencies, non-profit and professional organizations, medical and mental health professionals, and tribal members. Together, we are implementing the SMVF Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan, with a roster of 69 passionate leaders on Washington's Governor's Challenge.

VFW State Convention

I recently had the privilege of speaking at the VFW State Convention and would like to extend my appreciation to State Commander Craig Dougherty and State Sr. Vice Commander Perry Taylor for their kind invitation.

During my speech, I emphasized the remarkable work being done by organizations like VFW which continues to serve those who served like your WDVA. The VFW offers a wide range of programs and initiatives, such as POW/MIA, youth essays, adopt a unit, Heroes in the Ballpark, VFW Riders, and the Scouting Program, to name just a few.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible efforts taking place in our state to support Veterans and their families.

While each organization takes pride in their work and innovative approaches, it is the collaborative relationships and partnerships that truly set our state apart. Together, we can achieve so much more.

Thank you for the work you do and for the partnership.

Retsil Free Family Fun Fest - Washington Veterans Home (Retsil)

Our Washington Veterans Home hosted the Retsil Free Family Fun Fest on June 22. It was a resounding success, bringing together families, residents, and WDVA staff from all over the community for a day of excitement and entertainment.

From thrilling games, fun bounce houses, booths, petting zoo, hotdogs and popcorn to delightful music. The event had something for everyone. Thank you to all community partners for your ongoing support.

The community's support and presence were key to the success of the Retsil Free Family Fun Fest. Your WDVA would like to express sincere gratitude to everyone who attended the event and helped to make it a day to remember for everyone.

For more photos visit: [Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs's albums | Flickr](#)

To learn more about our Veterans Homes visit: [Veterans Homes | WDVA \(wa.gov\)](#)

WDVA News and Current Events

Abuoh Neufville Joins WDVA as Assistant Director of Veteran Services Counseling & Wellness

Abuoh Neufville, a highly accomplished veteran with over 25 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army, is set to join the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) as the new Assistant Director of Veteran Services Counseling & Wellness. His first day in this pivotal role will be on July 16, 2024.



Abuoh's extensive experience in organizational change management, strategic alignment, and human-centered leadership makes him an invaluable addition to the WDVA team. As a decorated veteran, he is deeply committed to the agency's mission of serving Washington's veterans and their families. Abuoh's academic background, which includes an MS in Organizational Management and a BS in Public Administration, further enhances his ability to make a positive impact in his new position.

Known for his dedication to continuous learning and personal growth, Abuoh's passion for empowering and supporting others is evident in his voracious reading habits. He devours historical nonfiction and self-development books at an impressive rate of 1-2 books per week.

Expressing his enthusiasm for this new opportunity, Abuoh stated, "I am honored to join the WDVA and to have the opportunity to contribute to an organization that is so dedicated to supporting those who have served our country. I am excited to leverage my experience and knowledge to make a meaningful impact on the lives of Washington's veterans and their families."

Beyond his professional achievements, Abuoh takes pride in being a devoted father to three adult children and a caring owner of two Cane Corso Mastiffs.

The WDVA invites everyone to join them in extending a warm welcome to Abuoh Neufville as he embarks on this important role. His expertise and dedication will undoubtedly enhance the agency's ability to provide exceptional services to the veterans of Washington.

2024 Serving Those Who Served Conference

Get ready for this year's 7th Annual Serving Those Who Served Conference! This year we're partnering with [Washington Employment Security Department](#) and [Washington State Arts Commission](#).

This two-day conference is designed to enhance collaboration among professionals who support veterans and their families. It serves as a hub for sharing knowledge and resources, with a focus on practical solutions and impactful discussions.



Conference Highlights:

Statewide Networking: Connect with peers and experts in veteran services.

Expert Insights: Gain valuable knowledge on a variety of veteran-related issues.

Interactive Sessions: Participate in discussions on topics that are focused on veteran benefits, employment best practices, behavioral health, and veterans engaging with art.

The conference is open to all professionals in the field at no cost.

Click the button below to register.

[REGISTER](#)



Join the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs for six amazing nights at Avista Stadium.

Grab your Upper Box or Bench Seats and enjoy some family-fun while supporting a great cause - \$1 from every ticket sold will be donated to the WDVA Suicide Prevention Program.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to enjoy baseball with the Spokane Indians while making a difference! Get your tickets now!

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

Veteran Training Support Center (VTSC)

Check out the list of upcoming VTSC Workshops.

Click [HERE](#) to visit our Workshop Calendar.



Events & Observances Calendar



[Click Here to View Upcoming Events](#)

[Submit an Event](#)

Check out what's happening at our Veterans Homes



Washington Veterans Home

The Retsil Free Family Fun Fest, held on June 22, was a resounding success, bringing together families, residents, and WDVA staff from all over the community for a day of excitement and entertainment. From thrilling games, fun bounce houses, booths, petting zoo, hotdogs and popcorn to delightful music. The event had something for everyone.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

Washington Soldier's Home

We are thrilled to announce that our recent Nursing Assistant Cohort has graduated!

These dedicated individuals have completed their training and are ready to provide exceptional care to all patients. Join us in congratulating the newest members of your WDVA Nursing Assistant team!



Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



Walla Walla Veterans Home

Leapin' Louie had a blast with the amazing residents at WWVH! The show was filled with laughter, hilarious antics, and non-stop fun. It was a one-of-a-kind experience that left everyone smiling from ear to ear. Can't wait for the next visit!

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

Spokane Veterans Home

The residents at Spokane Veterans Home had a great time on the lake.

From Lake Coeur d'Alene, they took the Spokane River Cruise and had a great time on the three-hour trip.

They enjoyed the scenery and meeting new people. It was also fun for the men's group to get together and play pool, laugh, and hang out.

Click [HERE](#) for more photos.



Hot Jobs - Incentives Available



Click the link below for available opportunities with WDVA!

[WDVA Job Opportunities](#)

Women Veterans

Women Veterans Conference (Yakima)

Your WDVA Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WVAC) wrapped up an AMAZING Women Veterans Conference in Yakima!

It was such an inspiring and empowering event, filled with networking, resources, and support for our incredible women veterans. We can't wait for the next one!



Click [HERE](#) for more photos

Program Highlight



Veterans Transitional Housing Program

Transitional housing facilities in Port Orchard and Orting help those in need with stable housing, vocational rehabilitation, and employment.

Veterans are surrounded with staff and wrap-around services that lead to successful program completion and return to the community.

[Learn More](#)

More Resources and Information

VA Claims Path to Care 2024 Sessions

Hear from State and Veteran Subject Matter Experts (SME's) experienced at answering your questions.

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP), American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and your Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) are offering in-person information sessions.

HAWK CAREER CENTER

11577 41st Division Dr.

JBLM Lewis- North

Don't miss out on resource and information!



National Hire-A-Vet-Day Job and Resource Fair

Every day, hundreds of our military personnel leave the service in search of civilian employment.

National Hire a Veteran Day reminds employers to consider veterans to fill their open positions. As highly trained, qualified individuals, they're ideal for numerous positions and trades.

This event will also feature employment services like resume assistance, resume printing, mock interviews and more

Click [HERE](#) to register.



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