
Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ April 2015

Note from the Director

Greetings and welcome to the April edition of the VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations newsletter. We are pleased, as always, to share with our audience newsworthy items and updates about VA's recent engagements with Indian Country along with upcoming announcements you might want to be aware of as we plan for the late spring/summer season that lies before us.

During the month of April, in the Western Region, Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Terry Bentley, along with VA leadership and colleagues working in partnership with the Swinomish Tribe and the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, wrapped up a successful 2015 Veterans Summit. Over 150 Veteran encounters were made during the two-day event, which included a diverse range of services from enrollment in VA healthcare to assistance from Veterans Service officers offering claims and other benefits assistance; the Tacoma Mobile Vet Center was on site to offer information about readjustment counseling, mental health services and PTSD counseling; representatives from the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration were also on hand meeting with Veterans on site. We want to thank all of the federal, tribal, state, non-profit and other partners who came together to make this a robust and informative event for our Veterans. It was truly an "all hands on deck" collaboration to serve those who have served us.

Terry also accompanied VA's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans during their site visit to Seattle which focused on how VA entities in Seattle (VA Puget Sound Healthcare System, VA Seattle Regional Office, Seattle Vet Center and Tahoma National Cemetery) focus on diversity when serving Veterans. This week, she is in Reno, Nevada, supporting VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, Dr. Linda Schwartz, who is offering plenary remarks during the 2015 Tribal Self-Governance Consultation Conference. During the conference, Dr. Schwartz, along with other VA leadership, IHS and Tribal colleagues will be serving on a panel entitled "Improving Access to Health Care for Our Veterans." We look forward to hearing the feedback from the conference sessions once Dr. Schwartz returns to Washington, D.C.

In the Southwest, we were pleased that the VA and Mescalero Apache Tribe, located in Southern New Mexico, signed an MOU for the Native American Direct Loan (NADL). To learn more about the event and the NADL program, click on the link below: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/19257/mescalero-apache-tribes-agreement-with-the-va-opens-doors>. The text of that article can also read below in this newsletter.

Meanwhile, over in Arizona, on the Hopi Reservation, George Eisenbach, Director of VA's National Cemetery Grant Program offered plenary remarks during the Annual Hopi Code Talker's Recognition Day. The event drew hundreds of attendees and participants ranging from tribal leadership to American Legion Post 80, Lori Piestewa Post, local school children and gracious families of the Hopi Code Talkers. The event was broadcast on KUYI across the Hopi reservation which also reached Navajo land. Director Eisenbach, accompanied by VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Homana Pawiki, was warmly received during the honoring event. It is important to note that Director Eisenbach's dedication to honoring and serving Veterans is a true calling; he is always available to meet with tribal leadership, either here in Washington, D.C. or across Indian Country, and learn more about how VA should be informed and aware of how to effectively collaborate with tribal governments in order to ensure Veterans have access to services and benefits they've earned. I would like to also give special recognition to the Director of Hopi Veterans Services, Eugene "Geno" Talas for his leadership and dedication in organizing this ever-

growing annual event. What a remarkable way to honor the Hopi Code Talkers. Thank you Geno for all you do every day for Veterans.

Over in the Southern Plains Region, VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Mary Culley, kept very busy with intergovernmental meetings (meeting with the Oklahoma Secretary of State/Secretary of Indian Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Oklahoma State Legislature – Native American Caucus), and supporting technical assistance communications with tribal health programs (and health boards) related to the Reimbursement Agreements VA has with tribal and Indian Health Service (IHS) programs. Mary also traveled to Dallas, Texas to address service officer trainees attending the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). The group was very engaged and asked Mary many questions about engagement with tribal communities. We were pleased Mary was able to address this VSO which serves a special population of Veterans.

On the horizon for me, I'm looking forward to offering remarks and participating, along with Peter Vicaire, at the Second Annual Lac Courte Oreilles Veterans Fair in Hayward, Wisconsin on June 4, 2015. For more information about the fair, please contact Peter at Peter.Vicaire@va.gov.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations team has been very active in identifying and confirming VA presenters to provide information on VA services and programs during the regional Health and Human Services Centers for Medicaid/Medicare (CMS) IHS, Tribal, Urban (ITU) trainings for health care managers and providers working in Indian Country. This is an important collaborative effort between VA and CMS, serves as technical assistance and fosters relationship building and networking. Our colleagues at CMS and tribal partners do an outstanding job of organizing and hosting these events each year.

As always, if you have suggestions for content or improvements to our newsletter, don't hesitate to let us know. Each member of our office sends the newsletter out to their respective mailing lists and it is also posted each month on the OTGR website: www.va.gov/tribalgovernment.

I look forward to catching up with you during my travels. Until then...

Happy Reading,



Stephanie





Mescalero Apache Tribe's Agreement With VA Opens Doors

Here's an article by OTGR's very own Stephanie Birdwell and which ran in VA's official blog VAntage Point. It can be accessed online [HERE](#).



Pictured in the feature image above: Michael J. Frueh, front left, Director of the Loan Guaranty Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), signs a Memorandum of Understanding between VA and the Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. President Danny H. Breuninger, Jr., front right, signed on behalf of the Tribe. The Memorandum allows VA to make loans directly to Veterans of this tribe living on tribal trust lands. The ceremony took place at Mescalero, New Mexico on April 14. Mescalero Apache Tribe Vice-President, Robert Gabe Aguilar, back left, and Kelton Starr, back right, Education and Veterans Director, watch as the signing takes place. Mr. Aguilar and Mr. Starr are both Veterans.

“Home is a broad term evoking a variety of very personal and at times emotional responses. Our Veterans have defended our “home” through their service. Missing home makes us “home sick.” The thought of “home” can make us reflect on a range of settings, whether it be our country, state, town or tribe. Home is also the dwelling where we “hang our hat” at the end of the day (as the saying goes), it’s where we eat, rest, laugh, cry, raise our families and create memories. Home as a dwelling is often purchased with a mortgage product. For some, that home, has been just out of reach.

Mescalero Apache tribal members have a rich and courageous legacy of service in the armed forces. Veterans from Mescalero live all across the United States, but many Mescalero Apache warriors return home to the 463,000 acre



Mescalero Apache Reservation nestled in the mountains of south central New Mexico, approximately 40 miles from Holloman Air Force Base and 120 miles from Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas.



Veterans living away from their tribal home community of Mescalero who wish to achieve the dream of home ownership may be eligible for the conventional VA loan. However, what are the mortgage options available to Veterans who choose to return home to Mescalero, where the land is held in trust by the United States government, and individual Veterans don't hold title to the land? The answer to this question has been years in the making.

"... there was a Resolution set in place 10-01 for the late Dr. Carleton Naiche-Palmer administration, passed 8-0 for the VA Home Loans to be here on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. With the thought and feeling that this would mean more homes for Veterans here in Mescalero. It was passed and sent off to the [VA]."

On April 14, 2015, tribal and VA officials came together to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Mescalero Apache Tribe, which opens doors for VA to make home loans directly to Veterans living on trust lands located in Mescalero. The [Native American Direct Loan \(NADL\) Program](#) provides direct home loans from VA to eligible Native American Veterans to finance the purchase, construction or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land, or to refinance a prior NADL loan to reduce the interest rate.



The MOUs between the tribal government and the VA are a critical first step towards making VA NADL mortgages available to Veterans living in Indian Country. We are pleased with recent progress in establishing new NADL MOUs; most recently, MOUs between the VA and the Northern Ute Tribe (located in Utah) and the Prairie Band Potawatomi (located in Kansas) were signed last month, and plans are in the works to establish many more in the days ahead.



Among those on hand for the MOU signing were tribal leaders, including Mescalero Apache Tribal President Danny H. Breuninger and Vice President Robert Gabe Aguilar; federal officials Mike Frueh, director of the Veterans Benefits Administration Loan Guaranty Service and Andrew Welch, Director of New Mexico VA Health Care System; and state officials, including Secretary Jack R. Fox, New Mexico Department of Veterans Services.



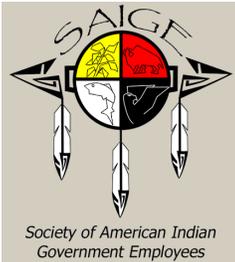
In addition to the ceremony, those on hand met with Veterans in the local community. Enrollment information about Veterans health care was provided and questions about a range of Veterans benefits were answered and addressed. Mescalero Apache Education and Veterans Director Kelton Starr took special care to ensure all Veterans (native and non-native) were encouraged and invited to participate in the outreach event. Nearly 9,000 Veterans live in Otero County, where the majority of the Mescalero Apache Tribe is located.

Veterans have earned access to a diverse set of benefits through their service and it is critical that awareness of these benefits as well as access to them is achieved through collaborative efforts. VA benefits and services reaching those Veterans brought in over \$54 million to Otero County, which includes the tribal government as well as neighboring municipalities. Further, an ever-increasing number of tribal governments are establishing tribal Departments of Veterans Affairs, which is proving to be both a positive and proactive step forward for Veterans throughout Indian Country.

There are many, many ways we can honor our Veterans. Intergovernmental engagement between tribal, federal and state partners encourages communicating and collaborating on agreements, as well as providing training and outreach events which can lead to improved Veteran quality of life and ultimately, benefit the entire community. These proactive and positive efforts are clearly paying off for Veterans living on the Mescalero Reservation and in neighboring communities.” Click on the image below to watch VA’s Native American Direct Home Loan Youtube video [1:35].



Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) ~ Veterans Program



The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Federal, Tribal, State, and local government employees. SAIGE will hold its **12th Annual National Training Program (NTP) on June 15–18, 2015, at the Treasure Island Resort and Casino in Welch, Minnesota**. The SAIGE NTP qualifies as training in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Chapter 41 and is open to all Federal employees.

The SAIGE NTP offers workshops for professional and personal development where attendees will learn about current issues, opportunities, and challenges facing AI/AN individuals. SAIGE will host a youth program to encourage college students to consider careers in Federal government. **On June 18, there will be a no-cost Veterans' Track program designed to help Veterans navigate the Federal benefits and employment systems.**

ODI will host a VA Forum on June 15, from 9 am to noon, designed to provide VA employees with information on professional development, VA's AI/AN workforce demographics, and ODI workforce initiatives. Employees in the local commuting area are encouraged to attend the VA Forum, with supervisory approval. Attendees must follow appropriate conference attendance approval procedures established for their respective organizations. Register for the VA Forum through VA's Talent Management System at **https://www.tms.va.gov/learning/user/deeplink_redirect.jsp?linkId=SCHEMULED_OFFERING_DETAILS&scheduleID=2687405**. Funding associated with attending the VA Forum and/or the SAIGE NTP must be authorized by each employee's organization. Employees who plan to attend the VA Forum and/or the SAIGE NTP must also pre-register through VA Attendance and Cost Estimation System.

For the intranet link address or more information, contact Ms. Aurelia Waters, Diversity Specialist, ODI, at **Aurelia.Waters@va.gov** or (202) 461-4124. Additional conference information including registration costs, course descriptions, and schedules is available at **<http://www.saige.org>**.



VA Awards \$456,850 Grant for Big Sandy Rancheria Tribal Veteran Cemetery



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is awarding a grant in the amount of \$456,850 for 100 percent of allowable costs associated with the establishment of the Big Sandy Rancheria Veterans Cemetery in Auberry, California (FAI: CA-12-08). The Big Sandy Band of Western Mono Indians submitted a formal Application for Federal Assistance for the project on February 13, 2015.

This grant will fund the construction of a maintenance storage building, an assembly area, 20 preplaced crypts, landscaping, and supporting infrastructure. The project will develop approximately 0.5 acres.

The grant will help the Tribe provide enhanced services for 20 Veterans and their families in California. The closest national cemetery is VA's San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, California, which is approximately 98 miles away. The closest State cemetery is Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo, California, which is approximately 353 miles away.

The Memorandum of Agreement is being sent to the Chairperson of the Big Sandy Rancheria Tribe, Ms. Elizabeth Kipp, the official representative of the Big Sandy Band of Western Mono Indians for this federally-assisted project. A similar letter is also being sent to the House and Senate leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committees and the Appropriations Subcommittees.

The Memorandum of Agreement is being sent to you under a separate cover.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Walters
Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs



VA Awards Crow Nation Over \$1.2 Million Grant for Veterans Cemetery

Here's an article by Aja Goare which ran on KTVQ's website and can be found [HERE](#).



CROW AGENCY - The internment ceremony for Native American veterans from the Crow Indian Reservation will no longer include a 75-mile stretch of highway. The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded Montana's Crow Tribe more than \$1.2 million earlier this month to establish the Apsaalooke Veterans Cemetery in Crow Agency. Currently, the closest veteran's cemetery is in Laurel. One goal of the National Cemetery Administration is to provide a burial option with 75 miles of all veterans, and administration officials said this new site will do that.

The VA estimates that over the next 10 years, over 240 Crow Tribe veterans will die. That's about two dozen burials a year. By developing a cemetery on the reservation, the internment ceremony will enable the practice of tribal customs and ceremonies, according to the Crow Veterans Affairs Office.

"Native Americans serve in our nation's military at a higher rate than any other group, and we must continue to honor their sacrifice even after they're gone," U.S. Sen. Jon Tester of Montana said in a press release. "This cemetery will be a monument to courageous men and women and their families, and the role they played in preserving our freedom and protecting the land we call home." The tribal council has set aside 40 acres of land west of Crow Agency near BIA Highway 1 for the construction site. The grant will pay for development of three acres of land and will include over 200 burial spots for Crow veterans and their families.

This U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs program can provide qualifying tribes with 100% development costs in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. Grants may be used to establish, expand or improve Veterans cemeteries. Tribes must put 10% of the amount of the grant they are seeking, which is then fully reimbursed upon awarding of the grant. Operating and maintaining the cemetery will be solely done by the tribes' funds. Over the last three years, VA has granted over \$20 million to six tribes in South Dakota, California, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Next year, four additional grant proposals may exceed \$5 million more for tribes in Montana, Oklahoma, California, and South Dakota. For more information, here's the [Grants.gov webpage](#) and here is the [VA Veterans Cemetery Grant Program page](#)



Native American Veterans Internship Opportunity



United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Internship Opportunity

Facilitated by The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars

Paid Position

Located in Washington, DC

Full-Time Work Experience

Housing Provided

Transportation Stipend Provided

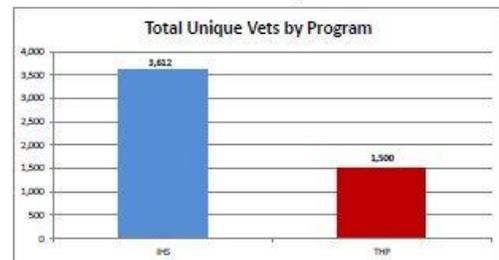
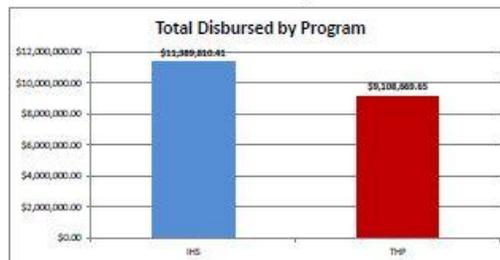
The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars encourages any interested Native American Veterans to apply for this scholarship. Qualified applicants should contact Brenda Tobin at Brenda.Tobin@twc.edu or 202-238-7712 for further information.



VA/Tribal Health/IHS Reimbursement Program Reimburses \$20.5 Million

Tribal health clinics interested in entering into a Reimbursement Agreement with VA for serving veterans should send an initial note of interest to:
tribal.agreements@va.gov

National Data			
Total Disbursement for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD	Total Disbursement by Program - Agmt Date to FYTD		Total Unique Veterans for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD
\$20,498,480.06	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets
	IHS	\$11,389,810.41	3,612
	THP	\$9,108,669.65	1,500
Total Disbursement - Out of System Ret repayments (only)	Total Disbursement of Out of System Ret repayments (only) - payments are included in above totals		Total Unique Veterans - Out of System Ret repayments (only)
\$7,535.00	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets
	IHS	\$3,228.00	175
	THP	\$4,307.00	83



National Gathering of American Indian Veterans



National Gathering of American Indian Veterans

American Indian Veterans Celebration
Saturday, August 29, 2015
11 am to 10 pm

Breakfast and Conference
Sunday, August 30, 2015
9 am to 12 noon

to be held at
Cantigny Park
15151 Winfield Road | Wheaton, IL 60189

Visit trickstergallery.com/native-veterans for further info.
Contact UntoldStory2015@TricksterGallery.com
for Native Veteran interview scheduling.



The Robert R. McCormick Foundation and Cantigny Park welcome the Trickster Art Gallery to the First Division Museum and are proud to support Native American veterans.

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION
CANTIGNY PARK
THE ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING COMMUNITIES OF EDUCATED, INFORMED AND ENGAGED CITIZENS.



*The Robert R. McCormick Foundation,
Cantigny Park, & Trickster Art Gallery
request the honor of your presence at the
National Gathering of American Indian Veterans:
The Untold Story
to be held at
Cantigny Park
1S151 WINFIELD ROAD | WHEATON, IL 60189*

*American Indian
Veterans Celebration
Saturday
the twenty-ninth of August
two thousand fifteen
11 am to 10 pm
~ Veteran Grand Entrance ~
~ Welcoming Presentation ~
~ Entertainment ~
~ Live Art ~
~ Food and Drink ~
~ and more! ~*

*Breakfast and Conference
Sunday
the thirtieth of August
two thousand fifteen
9 am to noon
~ Veteran Voices ~*

RSVP TO JOE PODLASEK AT JOEP@TRICKSTERGALLERY.COM OR
847-301-2090 BY AUGUST 1, 2015.

Visit trickstergallery.com/native-veterans or
mccormickfoundation.org for further information.

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation and Cantigny Park welcome the Trickster Art Gallery to the First Division Museum and are proud to support Native American veterans.



Trickster Art Gallery, the only Native American Owned and Operated Art Institution in Illinois, is a registered 501(c)(3).

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3).

THE ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING COMMUNITIES OF EDUCATED, INFORMED AND ENGAGED CITIZENS.



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:
Travis Holt Hamilton
travis@holthamilton.com
602.769.7681
www.HoltHamilton.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Native American sci-fi/thriller opens in Roseburg

Cast includes some top Native actors

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – *Legends from the Sky*, a new film by Holt Hamilton Films and featuring an all-star cast, opens Friday April 24th at Roseburg Cinemas, in Roseburg.

Legends from the Sky follows the saga of Lyle, a Native American veteran (played by Navajo actor Edsel Pete). Burdened by survivor's guilt after a disastrous military tour, Lyle is forced to search for his missing grandfather (played by Thomas H. Begay, a Navajo Code Talker), who disappears when an Unknown Federal Organization takes over his ancestral homeland.

The film was predominantly shot in Tsaile, Ariz., on the Navajo Nation, with additional filming on the Maka Reservation in Neah Bay, Wash. It captures stunning vistas in two states and explores the often complex relationships between Native culture and science fiction.

Legends from the Sky showcases an array of talent with a cast roster that includes Mia Sable (Choctaw), Ernest Tsosie III (Navajo), James Bilgaody (Navajo), Wayne Charles Baker (Squamish), Jon Gonzalez (Chiricahua Apache), Chris Robinson (*General Hospital*), Derek Solorsano (*2 Guns, Kingdom*) and Cale Epps.

The film is the first sci-fi/thriller produced by Holt Hamilton. Writer/Director Travis Holt Hamilton hopes it opens the door for future science fiction films with Native themes, a genre not yet well established. "I've had the idea to make a science fiction Native thriller for quite some time," Hamilton said. "This story gave me the opportunity to get in and work with a different style of filmmaking."



Legends from the Sky will open 24 April at:

Roseburg Cinemas
1750 NW Hughwood,
Roseburg, OR 97471
541.672.7272

About Holt Hamilton Films:

Holt Hamilton Films, based in Flagstaff, Ariz., specializes in contemporary Native American films that feature a mixture of veteran actors and up-and-coming Native talent. *Legends from the Sky* is the company's fifth feature film and first science fiction/thriller. Other films include *Turquoise Rose* (2007), *Blue Gap Boy's* (2008), *Pete & Cleo* (2010) and *More Than Frybread* (2012). For more information, visit www.HoltHamilton.com



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

MICHIGAN CLINICAL LAW FELLOW OPENING: VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

The University of Michigan Law *Clinical Fellows Program* seeks applicants for a fellowship in its new "full-service" Veterans Legal Clinic. This is a two year appointment with a contemplated extension for a third year.

The *Clinical Fellows Program* is designed to allow attorneys to explore the possibility of a career in clinical teaching and fully support them in that endeavor. Michigan Clinical Fellows gain valuable experience and mentoring in clinical pedagogy and in their substantive area of practice. Their duties include clinical teaching and student supervision in conjunction with a clinic director, and participation in the operation and development of the clinic in which they teach. Support is provided for professional development and scholarship.

The Veterans Legal Clinic will handle legal matters for veterans and, in some instances, their immediate families. The Clinic was designed and funded based on a holistic approach to veterans' legal and social needs. Students will represent veterans in a wide array of civil matters in addition to the more service related ones (e.g., disability benefits and discharge status challenges). In the inaugural fall 2015 semester we will focus on crafting the curriculum, strengthening relationships with other veterans service organizations, growing our referral base, and providing representation to clients.

The successful applicant will have a minimum of 3 years experience in civil litigation, a strong interest in clinical teaching, a demonstrated commitment to public interest lawyering, and potential for scholarship and success as a clinical teacher. Experience with the veterans community and/or issues is a plus. Candidates must hold a J.D. degree and be eligible for licensure in Michigan. Michigan's Clinical Fellows salaries and benefits are very competitive. The fellowship begins on a date to be determined sometime mid to late summer 2015.

Questions can be directed to Associate Dean David Santacroce at dasanta@umich.edu or [734-763-4319](tel:734-763-4319). We will begin reviewing applications on April 24th and will accept them until the position is filled. Applicants should send a letter of interest and résumé to:

John W. Lemmer
Experiential Education Business Administrator
The University of Michigan Law School
701 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215
jwlemmer@umich.edu

The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity employer.



OTGR Western Region

(AK; CA; ID; NV; OR; WA)

NATIVE VETERANS SUMMIT
3rd Annual Gathering of Warriors
July 10 - 11, 2015

"Honoring Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans"
Connecting Veterans with services
All Veterans Welcome

Hosted by

Office of Tribal Government Relations

In Grand Ronde, OR @ Uyxat Powwow Grounds
9390 Highway 22
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Kid and Family Activities!

FREE EVENT!

NATIVE VETERANS SUMMIT 3rd Annual Gathering of Warriors

followed by the
Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow July 10-12

Lodging
Spirit Mountain Casino Resort
27100 SW Salmon River Hwy
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Phone: 503-879-2350
Toll-Free: 800-760-7977
www.spiritmountain.com



July 9 from 1-4 Gathering of Tribal Leaders/Health Directors for listening session on Veterans Health Care, Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

All meals will be provided.
Please help us recruit Veterans by sharing this brochure with them, and by providing transportation or other assistance to attend. If you or your program are interested in sponsoring the gathering financially, please contact NWI

For more information and to register online visit our website at www.NativeWellness.com or email us at info@nativewellness.com. Contact Dave Fullerton 503-879-2036 or dave.fullerton@grandronde.org



VETERAN'S Resource Day

Friday, May 15, 2015

Veterans and families are welcome to attend
Meet with local Veterans Organizations
Discover Community Resources and Services

Free Lunch

**Benefits * Counselling * Education * Employment
Housing * Health * Transportation and more**

Location: Veteran's Memorial Hall
810 "H" Street, Crescent City, CA 95531

Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Call: (707) 464-2154 for more information

<http://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountyVeteransServices>



OTGR Southwest Region

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)



GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

3300 W Camelback Rd Bldg 19
Friday, May 1st, 2015

<i>Registration-B'fast</i> 0700 - 0900	<i>Program</i> 0900 - 1700	<i>Networking & One-on-One</i> 1700 - 1900
--	--------------------------------------	--



**Military Transition Assistance Program:
The Six Phases of the Transition Process**

"Hometown TAP" Phoenix



FREE Seminar

FOR **VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY,
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS,
RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES**

Only 100 Seats Available - Register Now!!

- * - Registration Closes April 30, 2015
- * - eTickets Required for Admission

 www.hometowntap.org

Host or Sponsor a Hometown TAP near you? Please Email: info@hometowntap.org





ATTENTION VETERANS SAVE THE DATE



3rd Annual
High Country STAND DOWN
Flagstaff Armory, 320 N Thorpe Rd

Friday • May 15, 2015 • 10am – 3pm

PARTICIPATE AS A BUSINESS/NON-PROFIT/GOVERNMENT ENTITY
Alison Longoria, 928-526-9188 or Alison.longoria@gimi.org

VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT
Erin Kruse, 928-523-6585 or Erin.Kruse@nau.edu

INFORMATION FOR VETERANS' COURT
Maia Rodriguez, 928-679-7675 or mrodriguez@coconino.az.gov

*Connecting Homeless and At-Risk Veterans
and their families with the services they need.*

- Hot meals
- Hygiene kits
- Clothing & Survival gear
- Haircuts
- Pet food & Pet care
- Legal assistance
- Veterans' Court
- Notary
- Dental, Vision, & Medical Care
- And Much More!





April 1, 2015

We would appreciate you adding this event to your upcoming events for veterans:

While serving our country in Vietnam, the men and women who served with pride were exposed to a deadly chemical called AGENT ORANGE, of which Dioxin was the main ingredient. It killed the foliage in Vietnam and continues to kill the veterans and their families to this day.

On May 2, 2015 West Valley Chapter 1043 Vietnam Veterans of America and American Legion Post 94 are holding an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting.

WHO: West Valley Chapter 1043 VVA and American Legion Post 94

WHAT: AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING

WHEN: MAY 2, 2015 STARTING @ 9 am

WHERE: GRAND CANYON ROOM
SUN CITY WEST FOUNDATION
14465 RH JOHNSON BLVD
SUN CITY WEST, AZ

WHY: To share information about the effects of Agent Orange to the veterans of the Vietnam War; their children and grandchildren

Why after so many years are the veterans who served in Vietnam concerned about exposure to Agent Orange? The dioxin changed the make up of our veterans' DNA, which has been passed on to our children and grandchildren. We need to spread the word to both men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Thank you in advance.

From: Billee Culin, President WV Chapter 1043 Vietnam Veterans of America
Gerry Berger, Commander American Legion Post 94



O'ODHAM VETERANS CELEBRATION SAVE THE DATE

August 15, 2015

Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community
Salt River Community Building
1880 N. Longmore Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85256
Contact Pacer at 480-362-7490 or pacer.reina@srpmic-nsn.gov

August 29, 2015

White Mountain Apache
312 N Chief Avenue
Whiteriver, AZ 85941
Contact Dennis at 928-338-6090 / denisfaden@wmat.us

September 12, 2015

Gila River Indian Community
Blackwater District 1/ Multi-Purpose Bldg.
15747 N. Shegoi Road, Coolidge AZ 85128
Contact Doug at 602-327-5973 / djuan-vsv@gmail.com

September 26, 2015

Tohono Odham Nation
Desert Diamond Casino
1100 W Pima Mine Rd, Sahuarita, AZ
Contact Ron at 520-383-1900/ronald.homewytewa@tonation-nsn.gov

October 10, 2015

Solomon, AZ
Lopez—Hernandez American Legion Post #95
2256 S. 3rd Ave Solomon, AZ 85551
Contact Hal at 928-235-1980/halherbert8@gmail.com
Ray at 928-965-0785/reajpac@hotmail.com

Battle of Midway Remembrance Day

Friday, June 5, 2015

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Historic Senate Chamber

Third floor of the Arizona Capitol Museum,
1700 W. Washington Street in Phoenix



Join in this exciting commemoration of the epic naval battle that was the turning point in the Pacific during World War II.

Master of Ceremonies: Marshall Trimble, noted American author, singer, professor and Arizona's official state historian.

Program includes a historical retrospective on the battle

Special appearance by Rear Admiral Hugh Dennis Wisely (U. S. Navy, ret.), noted Naval Aviator, decorated Vietnam veteran, Blue Angels Air Boss and former Captain of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. John F. Kennedy

**Special recognition for those who fought and sacrificed in the battle;
Coinciding with the Navy's designation of the anniversary of the Battle of Midway as an annual day of observance.**

No admission. Seating is limited.

Call 602-885-7038 for more information.

Annual Memorial Event

Honoring U S Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez
and our fallen heroes

Saturday, May 2, 2015 - 11:00 a.m. (10:00 AZ)

*Memorial In Honor of Our Fallen And
All Who Are Serving and Have Served*

ALWAYS REMEMBER - WE ARE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE!!



10:00 a.m. DST (9:00 AZ) Leupp Chapter House

Directions to Leupp - I-40 exit 245/AZ99/Leupp Corner - AZ99 north then R15 west
behind gas station - AZ99 and R15 junction (sw area)

10:30 a.m. DST (9:30 AZ) KU - Motorcycle Escort to Bird Springs

11:00 a.m. DST (10:00 AZ) Memorial Program

Bird Springs Chapter House - Navajo Nation

Directions to Bird Springs -I-40 exit 245/AZ99/LeuppCorner - AZ99 north then R15 east

U.S.Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez, 26, of Bird Springs, AZ, assigned to 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Ft. Stewart, GA, killed May 14, 2007, in Salman Pak, Iraq. Christopher was a wonderful, loving and caring husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandson, cousin, relative, and friend. He was brave, courageous and without fear, doing the task that was set before him. He is our Hero and never will be forgotten and will be forever in our hearts. Christopher was

a Native of Arizona and was proud to serve and fight for his country, making the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. They are the heroes that will always be a symbol of American courage. May we always remember the fallen as we walk the path of freedom for they are why we continue to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. As we continue to celebrate their lives, we offer love and thanks to the families for their contribution to this Country. May 14 is eight years the family departed with their beloved.

The Family requests your presence (Gold Star and Blue Star Families, veterans, family, friends) at this annual gathering to honor those who have nobly given of themselves for our Nation. Thank you for your generosity and support and God bless you. We hope to see you there.

Judy Nez, Proud Mother
RSVP - - - 928-224-6652

Many Thanks to the Veterans' Groups of Leupp and Bird Springs!!

The American Flag is a symbol of everything our military have dedicated their lives to. When the flag is flown, it is in memory of the thousands of fallen Heroes who sacrificed their lives in service to this Nation. Anyone who is in service to this Country view the flag as more than just cloth - it is the reason for existence and ultimate sacrifice.



During an honoring segment of the program, our Veterans will perform the Refolding Flag ceremony where the flag of the departed will be allowed to breathe, will be blessed and will be refolded to honorably be returned to the family. As the flag is folded and returned, we realize that the ceremony and the flag itself have come to symbolize something beyond just remembrance. It signifies the greatness of all who have sacrificed their lives. It is about paying respect to those that came before, especially those that paid the ultimate price. Please feel free to bring the flag of your loved one to be included in this ceremony.



Winslow Hotels - I-40 exits 252&253
ChoiceHotels.com
\$33.15 **** Rodeway Inn, 1916 W. 3rd St. 928-289-4606
\$44.00 **** Econo Lodge, 2035 W. 3rd St. 928-289-1010
\$72.25 **** Quality Inn, 1701 N. Park Dr. 928-289-4638
Motel6.com
\$58.00 **** Motel 6, 520 Desmond St. 928-289-9581



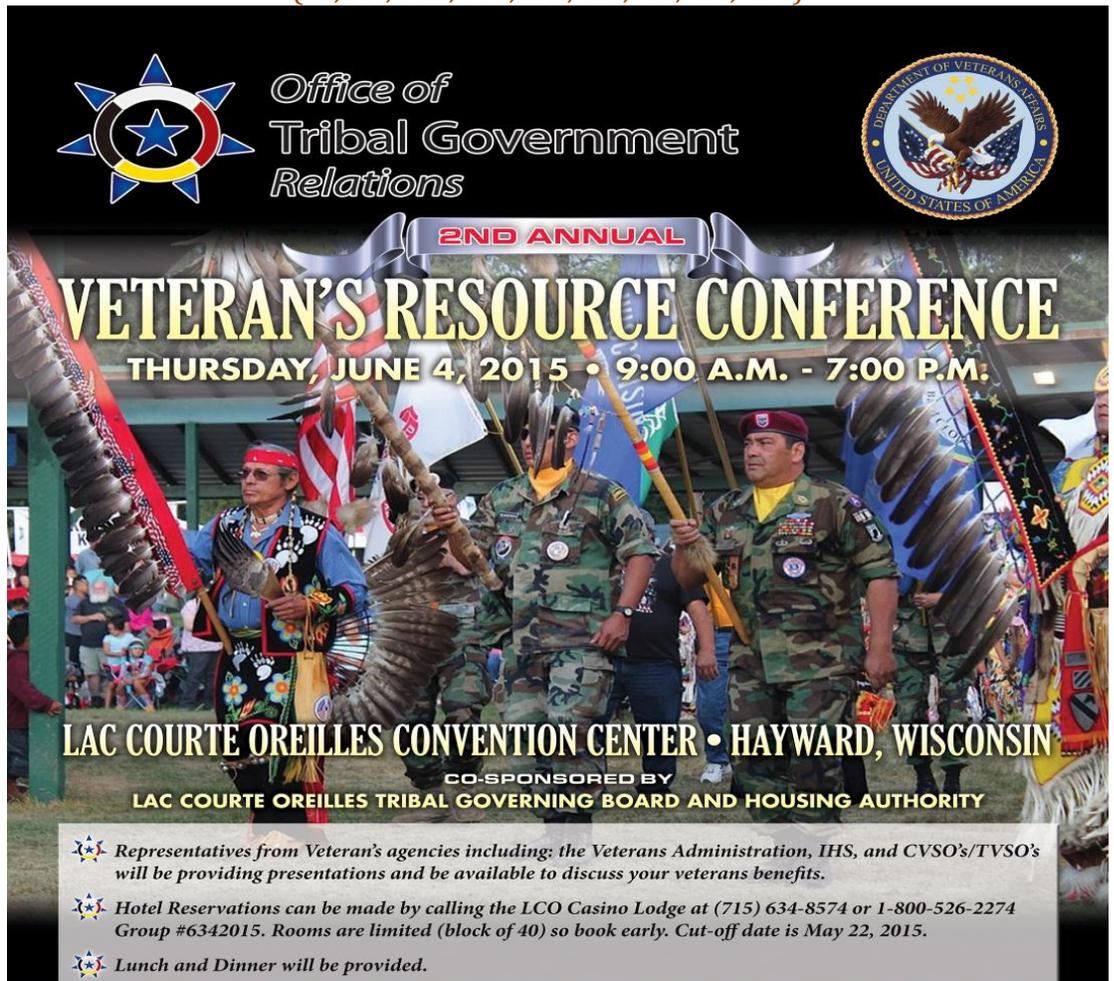
SPECIAL EVENT

http://navajohopihonorriders.com/Annual_Run_Memorials.html
Tuesday, May 12 - 5:00-6:30a. Lupton Chapter (Registration & Staging); 8:00a. Ganado (Shondee, Joyce); 12:30p. Hopi Cultural Center; 3:30p. Birdsprings (Gonzales); 5:00p. Flagstaff (Piestewa)
Wednesday, May 13 - 6:30a. Flagstaff; 8:00a. Tuba City (Moon); 12:30p. Page (Keith); 4:30p. Monument Valley (Davis)
Thursday, May 14 - Monument Valley; Blanding UT (Keith); 1:00p. Beclabeto (Tom, Yazzie); 3:00p. 4Corners; 4:30p. Towaoc Casino
Friday, May 15 - 7:00a. Towaoc Casino; 8:00a. Shiprock (Cambridge, Lamebear, Thode, Westbrook, Yazzie); 12:00p. Red Valley; 2:00p. Lukachukai (Todacheene); 5:30p. Window Rock



OTGR Central Region

(IA; MI; MN; MT; ND; NE; SD; WI; WY)



 Office of
Tribal Government
Relations



2ND ANNUAL

VETERAN'S RESOURCE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015 • 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

LAC COURTE OREILLES CONVENTION CENTER • HAYWARD, WISCONSIN

CO-SPONSORED BY
LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL GOVERNING BOARD AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

- ★☆☆ Representatives from Veteran's agencies including: the Veterans Administration, IHS, and CVSO's/TVSO's will be providing presentations and be available to discuss your veterans benefits.
- ★☆☆ Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the LCO Casino Lodge at (715) 634-8574 or 1-800-526-2274 Group #6342015. Rooms are limited (block of 40) so book early. Cut-off date is May 22, 2015.
- ★☆☆ Lunch and Dinner will be provided.



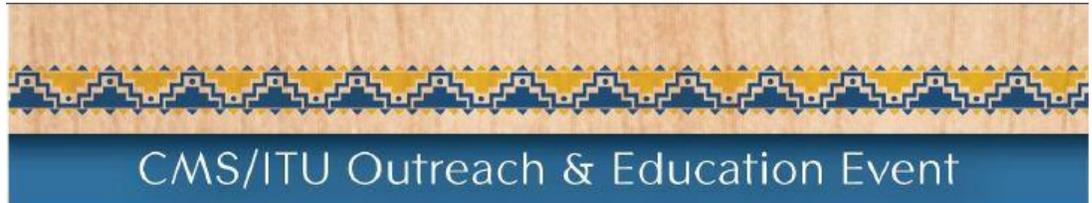
Featured Guest Speaker:
Mr. Jim Northrup is an award-winning author, journalist, poet and playwright.
Jim Northrup, a Marine combat infantryman, served in Vietnam.

Keynote Speaker:
Stephanie E. Birdwell, M.S.W.,
Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations

Ms. Birdwell has twenty years experience working in Indian Affairs, at both the federal and tribal government levels. She is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

For more information contact:
★☆☆ Peter Scott Vicaire, Tribal Government Relations Specialist, US Department of Veterans Affairs,
651-405-5676—Peter.Vicaire@va.gov
★☆☆ Lac Courte Oreilles Housing Authority, 715-634-2147





SAVE-THE-DATE

*CMS Region V Outreach & Education Training Event for
Indian Health Service / Tribes & Tribal Organizations / Urban Indian Health Programs (I/T/U)*

May 18-19, 2015

Holiday Inn & Suites Lakeville
Kenrick Avenue South
Lakeville, MN 55044

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Region V and the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service (IHS) invite you to the 2015 CMS Region V Outreach & Education Event. The event will be held in Lakeville, MN from Monday, May 18 through Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to helping the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal Health Programs, and Urban Indian Programs to maximize their ability to access third party resources. To meet this objective, CMS, in partnership with the States, the Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration, and the IHS, provides training to patient benefits advocates on the programs and benefits available through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Target Audience:

- Business Office staff
- Benefits Coordinators
- Patient Registration staff
- Medical Records staff
- Contract Health Services staff

Topics at a Glance:

- CMS Tribal Affairs Updates
- Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and the Health Insurance Marketplace
- State-Administered Programs (Medicaid, etc.)
- Social Security, Veterans Affairs, and much more....

Registration:

The link to register can be accessed at www.cmsitustrainings.net

Lodging:

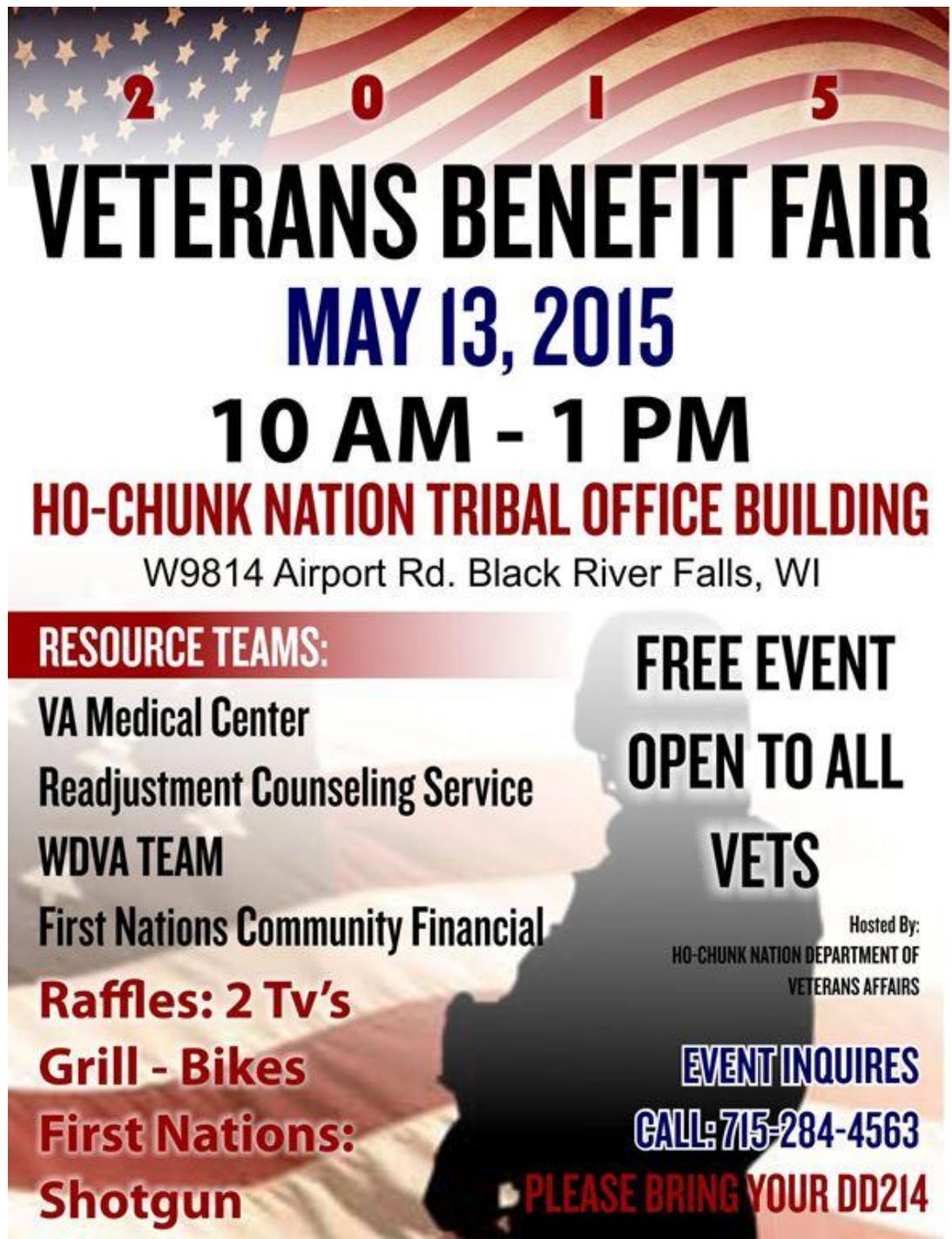
Reservations at the Holiday Inn & Suites Lakeville are on your own and subject to hotel availability and pricing. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Government Rate of \$89 per night. Please visit the meeting registration website for additional details.

Contact Information:

Program: Pamela Carson - Pamela.Carson@cms.hhs.gov
Beverly Lofton - Beverly.Lofton@cms.hhs.gov

Registration: Paul Brown - pbrown@seamoncorporation.com





2 0 1 5

VETERANS BENEFIT FAIR

MAY 13, 2015

10 AM - 1 PM

HO-CHUNK NATION TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING

W9814 Airport Rd. Black River Falls, WI

RESOURCE TEAMS:

- VA Medical Center
- Readjustment Counseling Service
- WDVA TEAM
- First Nations Community Financial

Raffles: 2 Tv's

Grill - Bikes

First Nations:

Shotgun

FREE EVENT

OPEN TO ALL

VETS

Hosted By:
HO-CHUNK NATION DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

EVENT INQUIRES

CALL: 715-284-4563

PLEASE BRING YOUR DD214



Wisconsin Indian Veterans Association – Oneida Chapter

Presents

HONORING THOSE THAT SERVED

**KILLED IN ACTION AND THOSE WHO SERVED IN COUNTRY AND HAVE
PASSED ON**

MEMORIAL DAY EVENING

MAY 25, 2015 ONEIDA RADISSON HOTEL

5:30 – 6:30PM SOCIAL HOUR

6:30 – 7:00PM TRADITIONAL OPENING

7:00 – 8:00PM DINNER

8:00 – 10:00 PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

KIA – PAUL CHRISTJOHN – MERLIN CORNELIUS

CERTIFICATE OF REMEMBRANCE PRESENTED TO SPOUSES

THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON – Kenneth Elm, Robert (Little Man) Webster,
Emroy (Close Enough) Stevens, Leon V. White Sr, Finley Peters, Leroy Cornelius,

Samson Keahna, Gus Dalton

MC's TBA

Tickets \$20 per person, Limited seating get tickets early

For more information contact and to purchase tickets

920-328-8287 or 639-2910



**Michigan REBOOT
Workshops**
April 27 - May 15, 2015
June 1 - 19, 2015

Class locations
April 27-May 15
Michigan National Guard
3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing
June 1-19
Kent County Human Services Building
121 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Making the transition back to civilian life from the war front to the home front can be a difficult challenge, especially for the newer and younger generation of servicemen and women who were deployed several times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs agency is hosting two REBOOT Workshops™ - April 27-May 15 in Lansing and June 1-19 in Grand Rapids.

REBOOT Workshops™ are a series of hands-on educational seminars developed by the National Veterans Transition Services, Inc., that promote a successful social transition from military service to civilian life.

- WEEK 1**
Personal Transition
Addresses personal effectiveness and well-being. Spans 13 multi-media modules and uses video and audio sessions, written materials, exercises, practice interviews and self-assessment.
- WEEK 2**
Lifestyle Transition
Addresses living situation and community-life functioning. Exercises and discussion enable participants to identify values, talents and personal plans and strategies to achieve specific, meaningful goals.
- WEEK 3**
Career Transition
Addresses the Transition Domains of employment, career and education. Features in-depth assistance with job preparation, resume writing, interviewing techniques, job searching and career planning.

Designed to meet the unique needs of veterans as they transition from military to civilian life, the REBOOT Workshop™ provides veterans with the tools they need to succeed.

The workshops are free and class size is limited to 25 participants. Registration is available at MichiganVeterans.com/MIREBOOT.

The goal of the workshop is to assist veterans:

- ReLearn** Change the way they think.
- ReBuild** Find their passion!
- ReBrand** Prepare for their next career.

For more information, call 1-800-MICH-VET.

Sign-up Online!
MichiganVeterans.com/MIREBOOT





OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX)

SAVE THE DATE

SMVF Resource Speed Sharing

(Service Members, Veterans & Families)

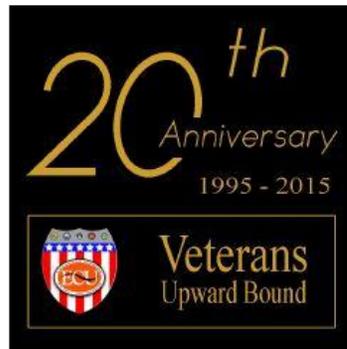
Thursday, May 21, 2015
Great Plains Technology Center
4500 W. Lee Blvd. Lawton, OK 73505
Building 100 Room 118
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

A half-day event inviting resources across Oklahoma to participate and share information about their organization specific to assistance for Oklahoma Service Members, Veterans, and Families offered at NO COST!

- Interested participants will be given 3 minutes to share what their organization has to offer SMVF.
- All registrants will also be provided a resource table for networking following the sharing.
- A resource list with contact information of all in attendance will be distributed.

Hosted by the Veteran Peer Mentor State Network (VPMSN) as partnered agencies, & the Great Plains Technology Center.

For information contact Kerry.Mucker@odmhsas.org (405) 365-7549



Veterans and
Military Appreciation Day
May 14, 2015
Celebrating 20 Years of VUB

You are invited to join us on May 14, 2015, for Veterans and Military Appreciation Day as we celebrate 20 years of Veterans Upward Bound at East Central University! This celebration will take place on the ECU Campus in the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center, 830 E Main, Ada, OK 74820

Tables of Information from 9 am until 1 pm

Various programs, organizations, and employers who provide services to and for veterans, military service members, and their families will have information available. VA representatives will be here.

Appreciation Day Program begins at 10 am

Special speakers and presentations to celebrate 20 years of Veterans Upward Bound at East Central University. This will include student testimonials, as well as recognition and remembrance of Bret D. Isenhower.

Isenhower:

Lunch will be provided following the program. Door prize drawing at 12:30 pm.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact: Mary Meeks, Veterans Upward Bound Director, 580.559.5541 or mmeeks@ecok.edu



A Weekend of Peace at the Forest of Peace

This weekend provides a safe and peaceful environment for families/loved ones to tell their stories of how "war comes home" with others who understand.

Sharing brings the reassurance that we are not alone. This weekend also offers alternative healing experiences (yoga, aromatherapy, healing touch and a labyrinth) to gently assist in managing stress.

DATE: Friday, May 29 (6:00 pm) to
Sunday, May 31 (1:00 pm)

PLACE: Osage Forest of Peace
Sand Springs, Oklahoma
www.forestofpeace.org

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Adult family members/loved ones of veterans
from any conflict (parents, siblings, wives, etc.)

COST: None (Transportation stipend is limited to \$25 each way)

Space is limited, so please fill out the registration form and return it to clarkcounsel@cox.net. You will receive a confirmation upon your registration.

For more information, contact clarkcounsel@cox.net

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED. In order for us to provide this opportunity at no charge to adult family members of veterans, any donation is welcome. Please go to <http://veteransfamiliesunited.org/donate/> to support this effort!

Queen for a Day



Join us for a day of

Education
Encouragement
Inspiration
Pampering

Joyful child care
provided!

WHO: An active duty single mom, grandmother,
adoptive mom or a wife or caregiver of an
active duty member who is deployed or TDY.

WHAT: A day of Education, Encouragement,
Inspiration and Pampering to Empower
and honor Military Single Mothers &
Grandmothers

WHEN: May 16, 2015 (Armed Forces Day)

WHERE: Metro Technology Centers
1900 Springlake Dr, OKC OK 73111

**Nominate and sponsor a
deserving Military mom today!**
**Let us help you empower,
honor and encourage them
on the journey to successfully
raise their children.**

Keynote Presenter:



Marti D. Ribeiro
Strategic Communication
Air Force Sustainment Center

For more information on sponsoring and nominating you can
email us at info@supportforsingleparents.com or log on to
www.supportforsingleparents.org/queenforaday


WARRIORS
FOR FREEDOM


SINGLE
Parent
SUPPORT NETWORK
Encourage. Inspire. Empower.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN WARRIORS Come Join Us!

See if you qualify for VA Benefits ~ Explore your current VA Benefits!

Native American Veterans Enrollment Event

Little Axe Health Center
Wed. April 22, 2015
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Shawnee Clinic
Wed. May 20, 2015
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VHA Health & VBA Benefits Specialists will be available to assist with the following U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs programs:

- ◆ Vet Center Mobile Unit
- ◆ DAV - Disabled American Vet Rep
- ◆ Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- ◆ Women's Health Program
- ◆ Survivor's Benefits
- ◆ Housing & Education Benefits
- ◆ Employment Opportunities
- ◆ Homeless Program



Contact: Connie Bottaro/Melinda Ferrell/Lela Culley, Patient Benefit Advocate
Little Axe Health Center ~ 15951 Little Axe Drive, Norman, OK, 73026 ~ 405.447.0300
Shawnee Clinic ~ 2029 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801 ~ 405.878.5850
Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System ~ www.asthealth.org





OTGR Eastern Region

(AL; CT; FL; LA; MA; ME; MI; NC; NY; RI; SC;)

VA Health Team to Provide Information at Lumbee Spring Pow Wow

Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs will be at the Lumbee Spring Pow Wow this weekend to connect with veterans to the health care system and services available to them. The Fayetteville VA Medical Center Rural Health Outreach team will be at the Dance of the Spring Moon Lumbee Pow Wow to provide information on diabetes management, controlling hypertension and cholesterol levels, women's health care, mental health services and other specialized programs available to veterans. Participants will also be able to talk with an eligibility and enrollment specialist. Anyone who served in the military is invited to attend. Veterans are encouraged to bring a copy of their DD Form 214 and last year's financial information to expedite enrollment. The Spring Pow Wow will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Southeastern North Carolina Agricultural Center, 1027 U.S. 74 West in Lumberton. For information about the Pow Wow, call 522-2134. For information about the Rural Health Outreach team, contact Sonja Oxendine at 488-2120, ext. 5630