

---

## Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ June/July 2014

Greetings and welcome to the special summer double edition (June/July) of the Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. As we go to print, we welcome the new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert McDonald and look forward to his leadership in the days ahead. We will make recommendations for Mr. McDonald to meet with tribal leaders and to visit Indian Country in the very near future and we also encourage our readers to offer suggestions for venues, tribal leaders and communities he should visit and meet with as well. Access to care and benefits is critical for all of our Veterans and the opportunity to see firsthand how tribal communities are working with federal, state and private partners to achieve this goal is incredibly important as we work to build bridges and ensure access is achieved for our Veterans.

Each one of our specialists has been on the road this summer, facilitating training and informational sessions between tribal leaders, Veteran service providers and Veterans. During the month of June, I participated in Senator Heidi Heitkamp's Native American Veterans Summit held on the campus of United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota. Senior officials from the Indian Health Service (IHS Director Dr. Yvette Roubideaux) and the VA (Ms. Lavonne Liversage, Director, Fargo VA Medical Center and Jim Brubaker, Director of the Sioux Falls Regional Office among others) were on hand to listen to the concerns, priorities and challenges experienced by Veterans living in Indian Country. The session was very productive and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell made an appearance and offered remarks towards the end of the day-long session.

In July, I had the opportunity to visit the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in Wisconsin. Topics of discussion included innovative approaches to Veteran housing, the role of service officers, creating connections between tribal vocational rehabilitation programs and the VA and also discussions regarding the VA/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement process. Meanwhile, up in Alaska, the Veteran's Health Administration, Office of Rural Health (ORH) Director, Gina Capra and Veteran's Benefits Administration Loan Guaranty Director Mike Frueh (accompanied by Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program officer Ivonne Perez) are traveling this week to Alaska, home to 229 federally recognized tribal entities, visiting with tribal officials and Veterans living in remote communities in order to gain a better understanding of the cultural strengths and partnership opportunities that have arisen as a result of developing creative ways to serve Veterans living in remote Alaska.

The Office of Rural Health has supported a number of projects in Alaska in recent years, so this visit provides an opportunity for Ms. Capra to witness the good efforts first hand. Mr. Frueh is looking forward to signing the first NADL Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Metlakatla, and working to establish many more NADL MOUs across the state. The NADL MOU opens doors for Native Veterans living in tribal communities to achieve the dream of home ownership. Mr. Frueh's visit this week has its origins in the 2012 VA Tribal Consultation focused on NADL that was facilitated with support from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Alaska Native Health Board. Prior to the tribal consultation, there was a lack of awareness that this opportunity was available in Alaska, so this visit is an important positive effort in honoring this commitment to ensuring access to all of the services and benefits our nation's heroes have earned through their service as well as advancing the goal of economic sustainability for all Veterans.

On the *training and briefing* front, OTGR Western Region specialist, Terry Bentley participated and presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Summit: Gathering of Warriors, hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and sponsored by the Native Wellness Institute in Grand Ronde, Oregon. Topics included healthcare, healing, briefings on benefits available from federal, state and non-profit entities as well as important opportunities for networking

---

among attendees. Over 200 Veterans and their family members attended and made important connections with the VA Portland Medical Center, VA Portland Regional Office, Salem (Oregon) Vet Center and Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs.

Looking ahead to August, Terry plans attend Camp Chaparral, which is held on the sacred ground of the Yakama Indian Nation in Washington. Each year Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 sends 60 VA staff to attend Camp Chaparral which is an experiential sensitivity training hosted by the Yakama Nation. She is also busy with planning the Western Region Veterans Training Summit hosted by the Smith River Rancheria in Smith River, California September 18-19.

Over in the Southern Plains and Southwest Regions, OTGR specialist Mary Culley and Homana Pawiki participated in the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conference Veterans track during the month of June. Mary spent the summer planning the Veterans Training Summit to be held in Durant, Oklahoma (co-sponsored by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) at the end of August. She also stayed busy in the tribal relations arena by working the phones with VA colleagues and tribes throughout the Southern Plains region, discussing diverse topics such as how to coordinate tribally sponsored Stand Downs for homeless Veterans, coordinating Veteran enrollment fairs with tribal health programs and discussions focused on housing needs for Veterans.

Homana presented to and participated in tribal Veteran representative training hosted by the State of New Mexico Department of Veterans Affairs and has also stayed very busy working with the local planning committee for the upcoming Veterans Training Summit that will be held in Towaoc, Colorado August 20-21.

In the Central Region, Peter Vicaire has been planning the upcoming Veterans Training Summit to be held August 7 and 8 on the Spirit Lake Reservation in Ft. Totten, North Dakota. Earlier this month, Peter provided a briefing to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council during their meeting on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation.

A quick note about the Veterans Training Summits, our specialists and planning committees are doing an outstanding job of coordinating exceptional agendas for each summit. If you or someone know (tribal leaders, Veterans, Health directors, service providers, family members) is interested in attending, these summits provide an unique opportunity to receive training and information that really can inform tribes and tribal communities with how to develop and advance plans for serving Veterans in Indian Country. Training topics and agendas are developed through a collaborative process, so please, engage in these events, and plan to share your experiences with the group or individually with the VA leadership, service providers and other federal, state and service organizations present.

We also ask our readers to keep the upcoming National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference scheduled for the week of September 8, 2014 on the radar. VA, accompanied by leadership from IHS, will be facilitating tribal consultation focused on the VA/IHS MOU. A Dear Tribal Leader Letter is forthcoming and the Federal Register notice has been posted. Two Veteran specific workshops are also scheduled to be included in the conference workshop offerings, more information will be available on the [www.va.gov/tribalgovernment](http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment) website soon. We hope you find this edition informative and look forward to having the chance to meet with you during our travels in the days ahead. Happy Reading – Stephanie





*Terry Bentley and Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald with Karuk Elder Shirlee Lincoln at the Gatherin of Warriors Summit, Grande Ronde, OR*



*VBA Director of Loan Guaranty Mike Frueh shakes hands with Mr. Raymond Theodore of the Board of Knik Tribal Council (Alaska) upon signing a Letter of Intent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the VBA for the Native American Direct Home Loan (NADL) mortgage program.*



## Notice of VA Tribal Consultation



44090

Federal Register / Vol. 79, No. 145 / Tuesday, July 29, 2014 / Notices

the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be considered and also included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

### Description of Collection

**Title:** End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook.

**OMB Control Number:** 2140-XXXX.

**STB Form Number:** None.

**Type of Review:** Existing collection in use without an OMB control number.

**Respondents:** The Class I rail carriers and carriers that are members of ASLRRRA.

**Number of Respondents:** An average of 9 carriers respond to this request to voluntarily provide this information.<sup>1</sup>

**Frequency:** Once per year.

**Total Burden Hours** (annually including all respondents): We estimate a total of 273 hours for all responding carriers (30.3 hours per response × 9 respondents).

**Total "Non-hour Burden" Cost:** Because respondents email their response letters to the Board, there are no non-hour costs to respondents.

**Needs and Uses:** The shipping community and our economy as a whole depend on reliable and efficient freight rail service. The Board and rail shippers need to understand how carriers plan to meet the increased demand for rail service during the fall peak demand season, including capital plans for relieving bottlenecks. For several years, the Board has asked Class I railroads, along with the ASLRRRA member railroads, to provide a forward-looking assessment of their ability to meet end-of-year business demands for rail service, which typically increase during the fall shipping season. The Board uses this information to monitor efforts by U.S. rail carriers to meet the increased fall peak demand for rail service.

**DATES:** Comments on this information collection should be submitted by August 28, 2014.

<sup>1</sup> In the 60-day notice, the Board indicated that there were approximately 11 respondents. Although no comments were filed, we are adjusting our estimate of the number of respondents to nine. This adjustment to the Board's estimate is based on our updated calculation of the 5-year average number of actual filings by respondents.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be identified as "Paperwork Reduction Act Comments, Surface Transportation Board, End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook." These comments should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Patrick Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board Desk Officer, by email at [OIRA.SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV](mailto:OIRA.SUBMISSION@OMB.EOP.GOV); by fax at (202) 395-6974; or by mail to Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information regarding the "End-of-Year Railroad Service Outlook," contact Chris Oehrle at (202) 245-0271 or [oehrlec@stb.dot.gov](mailto:oehrlec@stb.dot.gov). [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] This collection, as well as instructions for the collection, are available on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov/PeakLetters1.nsf/2012?OpenPage>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA, a federal agency conducting or sponsoring a collection of information must display a currently valid OMB control number. A collection of information, which is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c), includes agency requirements or requests that persons submit reports, keep records, or provide information to the agency, third parties, or the public. Section 3507(b) of the PRA requires, concurrent with an agency's submitting a collection to OMB for approval, a 30-day notice and comment period through publication in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information.

Dated: July 24, 2014.

Jeffrey Herzig,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2014-17741 Filed 7-28-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Notice of Tribal Consultation

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of Tribal Consultation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) will host a Tribal Consultation on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VA and the Indian Health Service (IHS) and how the MOU has

affected health care for Veterans. The consultation session will be held on September 8, 2014, at Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, 330 Tijeras NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted to VA no later than Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning the consultation may be submitted as follows:

**Email:** [tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov](mailto:tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov).

**Mail:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (075F), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Suite 915G, Washington, DC 20420.

This deadline does not preclude anyone from providing testimony at the session and we will, to the extent that times allows, hear your testimony. For any Tribe unable to present testimony, please be aware that VA will keep the testimony record open for 30 days after the date of the consultation. All 2014 consultation testimony, as well as official responses from VA, will be shared with tribal governments through a VA tribal consultation report to be disseminated in 2015.

Registration for the consultation is not required, but if you wish to register, please submit your name, title, Tribe or organization, phone, and email address to [tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov](mailto:tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Terry Bentley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist/Western Region, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations at (541) 440-1271, or by email at [Terry.Bentley@va.gov](mailto:Terry.Bentley@va.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In October 2010, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish coordination, collaboration, and resource-sharing between the two organizations. The goal of the MOU is to bring together the strengths and expertise of each agency to actively improve the care and services provided by both of them.

The MOU sets forth five mutual goals for VA and IHS:

1. Increase access to and improve quality of health care services.
2. Promote patient-centered collaboration and facilitate communication among VA, IHS, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans, Tribal facilities and Urban Indian Clinics.



3. In consultation with tribes at the regional and local levels, establish effective partnerships and sharing agreements.

4. Ensure that appropriate resources are identified and available to support programs for American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

5. Improve health-promotion and disease-prevention services to American Indians and Alaska Natives to address community-based wellness.

The purpose of the consultation is to assess the level of awareness tribes have about the MOU and its impact on Veteran care, as well as, the MOU's role in supporting access to care for Veterans living in Indian Country. The agency is seeking input from tribal leaders on the questions listed below:

1. What do you know about the 2010 Veterans Affairs/Indian Health Service Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

2. How did your community learn about the 2010 Veterans Affairs/Indian Health Service MOU?

3. What is the status of access to health care for Native Veterans in your community since the VA/IHS MOU was signed in 2010?

- Has it improved?
- Has it gotten worse?
- No change?
- Can you provide examples?

4. Specifically, is health care for Native Veterans in your community more accessible? Which aspects of the VA/IHS MOU are most critical to improving Native American access to health care?

5. Specifically, is there more coordination between your local health care facility and VA for the Veterans in your community?

6. Are there other aspects to quality of life in your community that have been impacted by the VA/IHS MOU?

7. How are the Reimbursement Agreements (under which VA reimburses the IHS or a Tribal Health Program for direct health care services provided to eligible American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans in those facilities) helping Veterans in Indian Country?

8. What can VA and IHS do to better educate the community on the VA/IHS MOU?

Dated: July 24, 2014.

**Robert C. McFetridge,**

Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2014-17797 Filed 7-29-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

## The Native American Veteran

Click [HERE](#) to read a three-part (soon to be four-part) story focusing specifically on Native Veterans. The first is entitled: "Finding my place here: Native American veterans are the highest-serving minority group yet are among the least-served." The second is titled: "The code for farewell: Saying goodbye to the last Seminole code talker" and the third is "The family left behind: a Native American veteran's battle with PTSD still haunts those he lived." A fourth segment, titled "Dancing to Heal" is forthcoming. The website is: <http://projects.aljazeera.com/2014/native-veterans/finding-my-place/>

## Fully-Developed Claims for Rural and Native Veterans

As Veterans, you may be hearing a lot about VA's Fully Developed Claims (FDC) Program and electronic claims, also known as eClaims. You may wonder why they're important and what they mean for you. If you're a Veteran that needs to file a disability compensation claim for the first time or you need to submit a new claim for a previous service-related condition, the FDC Program offers a faster, easier way to get a claim decision. Want to receive the fastest decision possible? Make sure you file an FDC electronically as an eClaim. It's up to two times faster than the traditional claims process. Here's what you need to know about FDCs and eClaims:





To file an FDC, gather all the required documents needed to support your claim, submit them at the same time as your application, and verify that you have no other evidence to submit. It's that simple. Filing an FDC online is also easier than ever using the VA/DoD eBenefits web portal. When you file your FDC electronically using eBenefits, it reduces the amount of paper and development time associated with the traditional claims process, allowing your claim to be processed faster.

Electronic FDCs are definitely the way to go, but if you're a Veteran who lives in a rural or remote place far away from a VA Regional Office, or you lack computer and internet access, you may wonder how you can take advantage of the benefits of the FDC Program and electronic filing.

VA recommends that you appoint and work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative to help file your claim. Accredited VSOs can be found across the country and offer free, expert assistance throughout the claims process. You can work with them in person or by phone. VSOs can access important forms, upload documents to your application, and ultimately submit claims on your behalf. They can even help you file a paper FDC for disability compensation or pension, and make sure your claim is complete before you submit it. Accredited VSOs are the best way for all Veterans to receive the claim help they need. To view a list of accredited VSOs near you, visit [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov), [www.va.gov/vso](http://www.va.gov/vso) or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you don't have access to a VSO or a computer, consider visiting your local library or community center. They often have computers and free internet access that you can use to file your claim. Once you sign up for a free Premium eBenefits Account, you can begin filing a claim online from any computer using your unique username and password. Just remember to log out of all public computers completely when you're finished.

Don't feel like you have to miss out on the FDC Program and its benefits. Contact an accredited VSO for help filing an eClaim or electronic FDC, or visit [www.eBenefits.va.gov](http://www.eBenefits.va.gov) and follow the guided step-by-step process to start your electronic claim application. Agents at VA's toll-free number 1-800-827-1000 can also answer any questions you may have. Take control of your claim and file an electronic FDC today!



## Arizona Lawmaker Wants to Designate Highways to Honor Native Vets

Click [HERE](#) to read the original story, which was published in Powwows.com and click [HERE](#) for a longer article from the Tucson Sentinel

Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, D-Cameron, a member of the Navajo Nation and an Army veteran herself, wants to honor Native Americans who have served their country. She proposes that portions of highways that pass through Navajo and Hopi land would adopt new names honoring Native American veterans. [Tucson Sentinel](#) reports that Peshlakai introduced four memorials this year that would urge the Arizona Department of Transportation to make these changes: for U.S. 89, Native American Veterans Highway; for U.S. 160, Native American Women Veterans Highway; for State Route 264, Native American Code Talker Highway; and for I-40, Navajo Code Talker Trail.



## He Was Their Last Original Voice, Code Talker Chester Nez Walks On

Click [HERE](#) to read the original Indian Country Today story. Also, go to this link to see a 2012 [documentary](#) [22:07] on Mr. Nez

World War II has been over for more than 65 years, and the outcome of that war has largely been credited to the work of the original 29 Navajo code talkers. Today, [June 4, 2014] the last survivor, Chester Nez walked on according to family members speaking to KOAT.com. He was 93. For more than a decade the Navajo veteran had been devoted to educating people about the work that the code talkers did. Even into his 90s, Nez, who signed his name Cpl. Chester Nez, could be seen wearing his code talker uniform at public appearances while sharing the proud history with youth at colleges and schools across the country. His devotion to sharing the story of how 29 men developed a code in their Native language that stymied Japanese forces ultimately helping the U.S. military win the war in the Pacific was unmatched. The code talkers mission was so secretive they could not talk about it until 23 years after the war ended, and 55 years later the men were honored properly for their services.

The Navajo citizen was recruited for the code talker program after enlisting in the Marines shortly after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941



according to an ICTMN story from 2011. The 29 men spent several months developing the code before being dispatched to the South Pacific. Nez was always “proud to serve as a Marine, and proud that his language – which he had been forbidden to speak while in boarding school – helped win the war in the Pacific,” the ICTMN story stated. In 2011 Nez released *Code Talker*, the only memoir by one of the original Navajo code talkers.



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

June 16, 2014

Mr. Ben Shelly  
President  
The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President  
P.O. Box 7880  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear President Shelly:

On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, I offer the Navajo Nation our deepest condolences over the loss of our last original Navajo Code Talker, Corporal Chester Nez.

As we mourn the loss of the last of this group—great Americans and courageous warriors, we remain encouraged and inspired by their monumental contributions to our Nation’s security during World War II through use of their native languages. These heroes served to secure and preserve our freedoms and way of life with the very words many native people were prohibited to speak under oppressive circumstances.

We are eternally grateful to the Navajo Code Talkers for their honorable service. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Navajo Nation and the family of Corporal Nez at this time of loss and reflection on his great legacy.

Sincerely,

  
Sloan D. Gibson  
Acting Secretary



## How to Establish Reimbursement Agreements Between the VA and Tribal Health Programs

See below for a recently made video [58:13] explaining the process for Tribal Health Programs (THPs) to enter into a reimbursement agreement with VA for treating Veterans. <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/va-channel-2>. As of June 27, 2014, there has been over \$8.5 million reimbursed by VA to IHS and THPs. To begin the process to be reimbursed by VA for serving American Indian Veterans, send an initial inquiry to: [tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov).



## ASIA Washburn Announces New Initiative to Hire More American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans to Work in Indian Affairs



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
U.S. Department  
of the Interior

[www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)

### News Release

#### Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 14, 2014

Contact: Nedra Darling  
(202) 219-4152

#### **Assistant Secretary Washburn Announces New Initiative to Hire More American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans to Work for Indian Affairs**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On the heels of President Obama’s historic visit yesterday to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced the implementation of a new initiative to hire more American Indian and Alaska Native veterans to work for Indian Affairs.

“In building a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, we recognize the importance of attracting and retaining veterans in this organization,” said Assistant Secretary Washburn. “Individuals who have served in the Armed Forces have a proven track record for integrity, discipline and leadership, and are highly qualified candidates in a variety of occupations throughout Indian Affairs.”

To achieve the goal of hiring more American Indian and Alaska Native veterans throughout Indian Affairs offices and bureaus, Washburn announced plans to increase the number of Indian veterans hired from the current rate of 9 percent to 12.5 percent.

Indian Affairs bureaus, regional offices and agencies provide a wide range of direct services to American Indian and Alaska Natives and already utilize an Indian Preference policy in hiring. Nearly 100 percent of the positions in the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education are staffed with American Indian and Alaska Native employees through Indian Preference. Indian Affairs officials are interested in hiring veterans prior to their discharge from the Armed Forces and are actively seeking members of the National Guard and reserves who are looking for careers that serve Indian Country.

-Continued-



## Page 2 – Veterans Initiative

Steps that will be taken to achieve the new initiative include:

1. Increasing participation in job fairs targeting veterans;
2. Establishing a presence on the Fedshirevets.gov website to highlight success stories of veterans already working in Indian Affairs;
3. Utilizing social media such as Facebook and Twitter to promote accomplishments of veterans in Indian Affairs and alert prospects of the availability of open positions;
4. Leveraging resources with other DOI agencies that have been successful in recruiting veterans to develop new strategies for attracting veterans to employment opportunities within Indian Affairs;
5. Working with local veterans groups, especially Native American veterans groups, in the field to publish employment opportunities with Indian Affairs;
6. Using the USAJobs.gov website to highlight positions of interest to veterans that will utilize their skills gained in military service; and
7. Developing a Senior Executive Service (SES) performance element targeting increases in veteran hires in positions within Indian Affairs offices and bureaus.

For more information about the DOI Indian Affairs' hire the American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Initiative, please visit our website at <http://www.bia.gov/jobs/Veterans/> or call Nancy Nelson, Human Resources Specialist, Indian Affairs Office of Human Capital Management, at (202) 208-6175.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs assists and supports the Secretary of the Interior in fulfilling the United States' trust responsibility to the federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, villages and individual trust beneficiaries. The Office of Human Capital Management (OHCM) oversees human resources management, policy and operations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education and the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs. The Office of Human Capital Management reports to the Deputy Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs – Management within the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs.

####

## Akwasne Mohawk Veteran Signs First On-Territory VA Housing Loan



Akwasne, NY – Mr. Dennis Phillips, a Marine Corps veteran, became the first Native American veteran in Akwasne to sign for a home loan through the US Department of Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at the Akwasne Housing Authority administration building. Mr. Phillips remarked, "It feels pretty good", as he penned his signature on the home loan agreement that will begin the process of financing the construction of his single family home. He will build his home on his family's property within the territory of Akwasne as soon as his agreement is submitted back to the VA.



This loan, made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the US Department of Veterans Affairs, was signed on December 7, 2013 at an official signing ceremony held at the American Legion Post 1479. Personnel from the VA, the Akwesasne Housing Authority, Legionnaire Officers, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, with several community members, came together to celebrate the signing and invited veterans to apply for a housing loan through their NADL Program. A follow-up informational session was held to bring specific NADL program information to interested Mohawk veterans. Retha Herne, Executive Director of the AHA stated, "Since the MOU signing, the AHA has received several inquiries and assisted tribal veterans with their applications, and will continue to encourage Mohawk veterans to seek this specialized housing financing."

Mr. Phillips began his loan application with the VA after having begun a loan application through HUD's Section 184 Home Guarantee Loan Program, but thought he may receive a more competitive interest rate with the VA. Indeed, he qualified, and the rate he received saved him 1.5%, plus there is no down payment requirement. With the AHA's assistance, Mr. Phillips submitted his paperwork to the VA's Tribal Affairs office in Cleveland, Ohio. Within six months, he received his final approval, and is well on his way to securing his modular home purchase with Plattsburgh Housing, and will hire the firm to complete the setting of his home on his property. Closing is slated for early Fall.

When asked if he was at all concerned that this program may not fit the housing needs of his family, Dennis replied, "No, because I believe in the benefits I am entitled to as part of my service [in the military]." Dennis also expressed that the process was not difficult "as long as you follow the step-by-step procedures". Dennis stated that the hardest thing about applying for this loan was to track down his DD214, but he received assistance through the Franklin County Office of Veterans Affairs, Ms. Bonnie Stewart, who helped him receive his complete DD214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge) and his COE (Certificate of Eligibility), which are absolute requirements by the VA to apply for a direct loan. His advice to other would-be applicants for the NADL Program was to ask questions to those who can help. He worked closely with Mr. Mark Jamison, from the Regional VA Office in Cleveland, who was available to him any time he called.

Mr. Dennis Phillips and family will move into their new home in early Fall. After the signing of his agreement, he received many handshakes and a loud round of applause. The AHA is thrilled to have assisted Mr. Phillips with his VA loan. Congratulations to him and his family!

Other Akwesasne Veterans can make inquiries to the AHA to start the process and receive assistance in applying for their loan. Retha Herne stated, "We are hopeful that more Akwesasne Veterans take advantage of this program that is finally available here in Akwesasne". Akwesasne Veterans wishing to look into the program can check out the website of the Veterans Affairs: [www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov). Copies of the SRMT/VA MOU are also available, and AHA can assist most Akwesasne Veterans with this process. Contact AHA staff at 518-358-9020.



Photo Caption: Left to right: Ms. Retha M. Herne (AHA Executive Director), Ms. Barbara Lazore (AHA Commissioner), Mr. Norman Tarbell (AHA Commissioner), Mr. Arnold Gray (Post 1479 Legionnaire), Mr. Mike Cook (Commander, Legion Post 1479), Mr. Dennis Phillips (USMC/seated), Mr. Jeff Johnson (Post 1479 Legionnaire), Judge Peter J. Herne (USMC/Chief Judge SRMT), Ms. Sheila Loran (AHA Commissioner), Mr. Ronald P. Cook (AHA Chairman), and Mrs. Loveday McDonald (AHA Commissioner).



## 4 Tribes in Kansas Pass Resolution Urging Congress to Restore Illegally Withheld State Taxes



For 24 years (1977-2001) American Indians in the armed forces, though domiciled on the reservation, were improperly taxed by the states in which their reservations are located. In 2004, New Mexico (then) Representative Tom Udall introduced to the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, Bill H.R. 5275 (*American Indian Veterans Pay Restoration Act* - attached) which was intended to reimburse those lost wages. The bill was co-sponsored by Rep. George Miller [CA-7]; Rep. Nick Rahall, II [WV-3]; and Dale Kildee [MI-5]. On October 7, 2004, it was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services but nothing came of it and it has since been abandoned. In 2008, the state of New Mexico began returning to Native veterans these improperly held wages. So far, it is the only state to do so.



Kansas  
Kickapoo  
Tribe



In June of last year, the [National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\)](#) passed a [resolution](#) urging Congress to restore these lost wages. The Four Tribes in Kansas also recently passed a resolution urging Congress to restore these lost wages. For more information on this issue, or to request documents for further reading, please contact Peter Vicaire at [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov) or 651-405-5676.



**RESOLUTION OF THE FOUR TRIBES IN KANSAS**  
**Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska**  
**Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas**  
**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**  
**Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska**  
**RESOLUTION No. 2014- #116**

**Request Congress Restore Illegally Taxed Military Wages of Native American Veterans and Service Members**



- Whereas:** Each of the four above named Indian Tribes in Kansas (the "Four Tribes") are federally-recognized and sovereign Indian Tribes and maintain a government to government relationship with the United States.
- Whereas:** The Four Tribes are each organized under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) as amended by the Act of June 15, 1935 (49 Stat. 378).
- Whereas:** Historically, Native Americans serve the U.S. Military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. Ensuring the welfare of tribal military veterans has been a sacred tradition since the founding of the United States and a cause for which they have put their lives at risk.
- Whereas:** Since 1977 the United States military withheld state income tax from the paychecks of Native American service members who were domiciled on Indian land. Under federal statutory law and federal legal principles related to state income taxation of Native American individuals, Native American military service members domiciled on Indian land are exempt from state income tax on their military pay.
- Whereas:** In 2001, the Department of Defense ended withholding state income tax from such Native American service members' pay in response to a memorandum opinion issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinion stated that federal law and federal legal principles regarding the taxation of Native American individuals preempted the withholding of state income tax from the military pay of Native service members domiciled on Indian land.
- Whereas:** The U.S. Department of Defense currently provides Form 2058-2 enabling Native American Veterans who are domiciled on Indian land to prevent state income tax withholding from their military pay, however, this practice does nothing for the Veterans who were improperly taxed prior to 2001.
- Whereas:** The Four Tribes of Kansas have many tribal members who have served the United States through their military service and many of these Veterans were victims of this illegal taxation. The Four Tribes of Kansas greatly respect their tribal Veterans and the services they provided to the United States and thus, the Four Tribes support restoring improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members.
- Whereas:** The Four Tribes of Kansas urge the U.S. Congress to take action to restore the improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members. The Four Tribes of Kansas stand with the National Congress of American Indians in support of restoring pay improperly withheld as state income tax by the U.S. Military to eligible Native service members and veterans.



**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** Four Tribes in Kansas do hereby request that the U.S. Congress take immediate action to restore the improperly withheld pay to the eligible Native American Veterans and service members.

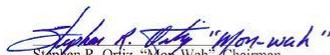
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Four Tribes Resolution was considered at their meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2014, at which all of them were present, and it has been duly approved by each of the Tribes.

**Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska**

  
 Tim Rhodd, Chairman  
 Attest: 

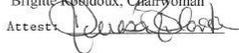
**Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**

  
 Stephen R. Ortiz, "Mor-Wah", Chairman  
 Attest: 

**Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas**

  
 Steve Cadue, Chairman  
 Attest:   
 Steve Cadue

**Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska**

  
 Brigitte Robidoux, Chairwoman  
 Attest: 



## 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 Alexandra Gavis at [Alexandra.Gavis@twc.edu](mailto:Alexandra.Gavis@twc.edu) or 202-238-7953 for further information.



## VA Grants Will Expand Transportation in Highly Rural Areas - *Veterans to Have Easier Access to Health Care*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the White House Rural Council today [July 11, 2014] announced the award of eight grants, totaling \$815,051.50, which will improve access to health care for Veterans living in highly rural areas. The grants will assist over 11,000 Veterans in 7 states and 56 counties by providing up to \$50,000 per highly rural area to fund transportation services for Veterans to and from VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. The grants are part of a program authorized by Congress to help state Veterans Service Agencies (SVSAs) and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care.

In July 2013, VA began accepting applications for grants to help state Veterans Service Agencies and VSOs operate or contract for transportation services to transport Veterans to VA medical centers and other facilities that provide VA care. A new regulation establishes the program that will administer these grants. Transportation will be provided at no cost to Veterans.

“VA is committed to ensuring that all Veterans, including those who live in rural and remote areas, have access to the health care they have earned through service to our country,” said Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan D. Gibson. “These grants will play a critical role in expanding access to VA healthcare for Veterans.”

### **Organizations awarded the grants include:**

- Virginia Department of Veteran Services (\$8,825.00 for one county in VA.) approximately benefiting over 89 Veterans;
  - American Legion Post 20 (\$49,764.00 for one county in S.D.) approximately benefiting 1,507 Veterans;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8988 (\$80,000.00 for two counties in CA.) approximately benefiting 849 Veterans;
- Nevada Department of Veteran Affairs (\$46,850.00 for one county in Nevada) approximately benefiting 1,285 Veterans;
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7202 (\$150,000.00 for 13 counties in far west Texas) approximately benefiting 1,579 Veterans;
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (\$100,000.00 for two counties) approximately benefiting 1,756 Veterans; and
- North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (\$379,612.50 for 36 counties in N.D.) approximately benefiting 5,477 Veterans.



## Solicitation of Project Proposals for Bus and Bus Facilities Program, Ladders of Opportunity Initiative

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of approximately \$100 million from recoveries from the Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Program authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59 and prior authorizations. Additional recoveries or other unallocated program funding may result in additional funding for proposals submitted under this notice. Synopses and full announcement are posted on Grants.gov site as opportunity FTA-2014-004-TPM. **Proposals must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov website by midnight Eastern Time on August 4, 2014.** [http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077\\_16008.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13077_16008.html)

**Summary:** This Ladders of Opportunity Initiative makes funds available to public transportation providers to finance capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, including programs of bus and bus-related projects for assistance to subrecipients that are public agencies, private companies engaged in public transportation, or private non-profit organizations. Projects may include costs incidental to the acquisition of buses or to the construction of facilities, such as the costs of related workforce development and training activities, and project development.

**Eligible Applicants:** Eligible Applicants include “Direct Recipients” within the meaning of FTA’s Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program, States, or Indian Tribes are eligible to submit proposals for this initiative. Except for projects proposed by Indian Tribes, proposals for funding eligible projects in rural (nonurbanized) areas must be submitted as part of a consolidated State proposal. States and Direct Recipients may also submit consolidated proposals for projects in urbanized areas. Proposals shall contain projects to be implemented by the Recipient or its subrecipients. Eligible subrecipients include public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and private providers engaged in public transportation. The proposal must include a detailed statement regarding the role of any public transportation provider who is a project partner but may not be the lead applicant in the implementation of the project.



## Honor Flight Program Seeking Native Veterans

**Mission Statement:** Transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. **Goal:** Helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit THEIR memorial. **Priority:** Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes — survivors of World War II and any veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit THEIR memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam War and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis. **Eligibility:** All men and women serving stateside or overseas **Philosophy:** Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to the service and the ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, the Honor Flight Network believes it's equally important that they actually get to visit and experience THEIR memorial. More information can be found at: <http://www.honorflight.org>

FOR HONOR FLIGHT USE ONLY: LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Veteran Application



Honor Flight Network recognizes American Veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by having you to Washington DC to see YOUR memorial at no cost. Top priority is given to WWII and terminally ill veterans from all wars. Honor Flight Network will be expanding to include Korean and Vietnam Veterans. For Honor Flight Network to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the Veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping Veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience. For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at Honor Flight Network. For further information, please contact us at 937.521.2400 or visit us at <http://www.honorflight.org>.

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **NICK NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please List Your First, Middle & Last Name as it appears on your driver's license or government ID.) (If Applicable)

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **GENDER:**  M  F

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **TEE SHIRT SIZE:** (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

**PREFERRED DEPARTING AIRPORT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATE CONTACT** (son, daughter, etc): **NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELATIONSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION** (someone available the day you travel):

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SERVICE HISTORY:** **BRANCH OF SERVICE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME TOWN** (from which city and state did you enter the service?): \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY DURING WWII:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL:** INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL NOT DISQUALIFY YOU. IT PERMITS US TO ASSESS THE SUPPORT WE NEED DURING THE TRIP. INFO IS FOR HONOR FLIGHT AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.

Do you use mobility equipment? YES NO. If YES, please circle device: CANE WALKER WHEELCHAIR

SCOOTER

MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?	MEDICATION	TAKEN HOW OFTEN?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

PLEASE COMPLETE BACK PAGE



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 18, 2014

FCC ONAP ANNOUNCES TRIBAL NATION TRAINING AND CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON  
THE YUOK INDIAN RESERVATION, AUGUST 26-28, 2014

FCC Tribal Broadband, Telecom, and Broadcast Training and Consultation Workshop to be held on  
August 26-28, 2014, at the Headquarters Facilities of the Yurok Tribe in Klamath, California

Hosted by the FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy and held in coordination with the Yurok Tribe

REGISTER NOW -- COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IS NOW OPEN

The FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP), Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, announces the date of the next in a series of regional workshops and consultation sessions aimed at training and assisting Tribal Nations in developing more robust broadband, telecommunications, and broadcast infrastructure to serve those living on Tribal lands. It will be conducted at the Yurok Tribal Government headquarters facilities on August 26-28, 2014. Rooms in the "FCC" block code are available at a special rate at the Redwood Hotel Casino by calling 707-482-1777 or 855-729-5138; or via the web at [www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/klamath/ceccr/hoteldetail](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/klamath/ceccr/hoteldetail). A draft agenda will be made available soon on the web at [www.fcc.gov/native](http://www.fcc.gov/native). Along with regional consultation workshops on July 22-24 at the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho, and September 9-11 on the Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota, additional events are being planned in Oklahoma and the Eastern region of the United States.

In addition to a two-day program of important information on opportunities and policy information involving Tribal communications and infrastructure issues, on August 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, we also announce the launch of an afternoon issue and subject matter "Communications 101" orientation session from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. on August 26, 2014. This informal workshop is ideally suited for Tribal officials, governmental managers, and enterprise specialists who are new to the subject of telecommunications, broadband, and broadcast media. This orientation session will cover issues and questions such as:

- What is broadband? What can it do for my Tribal Nation and communities?
- What key words and concepts should I know to help my Tribal Nation improve its telephone, broadband, and broadcast infrastructures? What key information should I know?
- How can my Tribal Nation start up a radio station to broadcast to our own communities?
- How can Tribal Nations develop infrastructure to create better services on Tribal lands? How can Tribal Nations work with the FCC and the communications industries to deploy these services?
- What are the key federal government programs and subsidy mechanisms that support the deployment, sustainability, and affordability of communications services on Tribal lands?
- What is wireless spectrum, and why is it important to my Tribal Nation? What is a megahertz?
- How are telephone and broadband signals sent in underground cables and over the air on mobile phones? What does a wireless network look like? A wireline or fiber network?
- What is the FCC's role in helping Tribal Nations create better infrastructure? How can I participate in the regulatory process and consult on a nation-to-nation basis with the FCC?
- How can I meet and work with other Tribal Nations or communications providers to get started?

Registration is now open and free of charge – simply email your name, title, and contact information as a Tribal government representative or official to [native@fcc.gov](mailto:native@fcc.gov) or call 202-418-2930. Inquiries for additional information should be sent via email to [native@fcc.gov](mailto:native@fcc.gov) or by calling Lyle Ishida, Policy Advisor, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy, at (202) 418-8240.



### Monetary Burial Benefits Regulation Change

VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations, effective today, 7 July 2014, will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.

- Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis, which requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.
- The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, burial and plot or interment allowances thereby enabling VA to automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.
- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

These changes will help survivors of Veterans bear the cost of funerals by changing regulations to get them the benefits they deserve more quickly.

The monetary burial benefits regulations will do the following:

- Restructure, consolidate, and clarify VA's current monetary burial benefits regulations to make them easier for Veterans, their survivors, and other stakeholders to understand,
- Clearly establish VA's priority of payments and enable automated payment to most eligible surviving spouses,
- Remove the requirement for most *eligible* surviving spouses to file a claim for basic burial allowances and simplify the burial claims process for all beneficiaries,
- Establish in regulations a presumption that VA will pay the service-connected burial allowance for certain Veterans who were rated totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the date of death, and
- Implement portions of Public Law 112-260, authorizing monetary burial benefits for Veterans without wartime service whose remains are unclaimed.



## SBA Announces Boots to Business: Reboot An Entrepreneurship Training Course for Veterans

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will host an entrepreneurship training course for Veterans in 12 U.S. cities beginning July 11. Each two-day “Boots to Business: Reboot” event will be led by representatives from SBA’s resource partners and industry experts from Syracuse University’s Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF).

The two-day “Introduction to Entrepreneurship Class” will teach veterans the fundamentals of business ownership. Participants will learn how to evaluate business concepts, and effective strategies for developing a business plan.

“We have a special obligation to serve those who served us so well: our veterans,” said SBA Administrator Maria Contreras Sweet. “Our armed forces have a track record of producing outstanding leaders. Veterans own nearly 1 in 10 businesses that generate more than \$1 trillion in sales a year. “SBA’s Boots to Business program has been very popular with our troops and cost-effective, so we’ve decided to adapt the Boots to Business curriculum for veterans. This summer, in 12 cities across America, we will be hosting a series of events for veterans who’ve already made the transition to civilian life.”

“Boots to Business: Reboot” will adapt the curriculum from SBA’s Boots to Business: From Service to Startup program. A training track within the Department of Defense’s “Transition, Goals, Plans, Success” (Transition GPS) program, Boots to Business is a three-step program developed to introduce transitioning service members to small business ownership. In addition to connecting with local resource networks, participants also have an opportunity to take advantage of the counseling and training offered by SBA’s resource partner network, which include [Veteran Business Outreach Centers](#), [Women’s Business Centers](#), [Small Business Development Centers](#) and SCORE. The Boots to Business program is supported through SBA’s partnership with Syracuse University’s IVMF. The “Boots to Business: Reboot” events will kick off at the White House on July 11, and will conclude on August 25-26 during the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Below are the cities and dates for “Boots to Business: Reboot”:

**CITIES AND DATES:** July 11 – 12: Washington, D.C.; July 24 – 25: Dallas- Fort Worth, Texas; July 29 – 30: Miami, Fla.; July 31 – August 1: Chicago, Ill.; August 1 – 2: Philadelphia, Pa.; August 5 – 6: Boston, Mass.; August 6 – 7: Albuquerque, N.M.; August 8 – 9: Kansas City, Mo.; August 13 – 14: Detroit, Mich.; August 15 – 16: Los Angeles, Calif.; August 20 – 21: Seattle, Wash.; August 25 – 26: Charlotte, N.C.

For more information about “Boots to Business:Reboot”, visit the Boots to Business website at [www.boots2businessreboot.org](http://www.boots2businessreboot.org). Each year SBA helps more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans and reservists start and grow their small businesses. To learn more about opportunities for veterans available through the SBA, visit [www.sba.gov/vets](http://www.sba.gov/vets).



## The Veteran Job Hunt Process

The following article was written by Camella, a veteran, and VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) intern, which provides some personal insight into the job search process

I am Camella, who happens to be a veteran, a military spouse, and a recent graduate student, who has been unemployed for the past year. This summer I accepted my second internship with the Department of Veterans Affairs to gain further government experience to add to my resume in order to, hopefully, gain employment. Following are the various avenues of networking and searching I have been exploiting.

At my internship site I have gained knowledge of VESO (Veteran Employment Services Office), a partner organization for VA for Vets. This site provides some good resources for the job hunter, offering assessment tools to highlight one's skills, military job translation tool, and resource guides. For the employers the VEC (Veteran Employment Center) portion is beneficial too. They can be connected directly to veterans who have registered via the site by uploading their resume and completing the various sections offering an overview to employers of their skill set. However, for the veteran the job search entails also having an account through USAJobs.gov, as this is where one is taken when selecting a job for which to apply. I have had a USAJobs account for years, updating it regularly, applying for jobs, and of course updating the various extra pieces of supplement forms that need to be submitted. Hopefully in the future the two sites will merge together offering a transparent experience. Can employers not search through USAJobs.gov for veterans? If not, why not offer this as an avenue.

Maybe the above resource works for certain locations throughout the U.S. but I have had no such luck. There are other resources available to veterans if you know where to look and are actively networking. During graduate school I became connected to Veteran Recruiting because as a veteran we are enrolled into the Student Veterans Center. This translated into having a separate advisor that could assist veterans with any of their needs during their college experience. The Veteran Recruiting is a LinkedIn group in which I receive bi-weekly emails about openings and upcoming virtual career fairs. The group also offers a free professional account for which LinkedIn veterans can apply. By "attending" some of these virtual career fairs I discovered the Veteran Mentor Network, a forum filled with discussions, job postings across the U.S., and veterans asking questions, seeking advice, or asking for a mentor in a sought field. For me these avenues have offered information and advice on local areas, being as I recently relocated again and must start the job hunt anew.

Now that I am living in a new area, the job hunt I find takes a different approach. The Department of Labor has Veteran Employment Representatives (VER), through which I was connected with an individual in my local area to help with the job hunt process. This is the service offered through CareerSource, the one stop shop for veterans seeking employment. This site offers much of the same resources that can be found on



the VESO site. Many businesses that are looking specifically for veterans are connected to this site. A benefit received is one can have face-to-face assistance in their local area. Veterans are offered resume assistance, networking opportunities, invites to veteran career fairs, employment counseling, and enrollment into a local Professional Network group. To begin the search for employment one registers through a local site, in this case employflorida.com. If a veteran happens to not know about the service above, once they register through the site they are contacted and enrolled into the program once they select in the registration process that they are in fact a veteran. In my opinion, this has been a much more seamless process than the aforementioned VESO website, offering opportunities, and a local contact and office I can visit. Further, upon registering and connecting with my local VER I received three job offers within a month. On a similar note one may want to find and register with a local staffing agency. The one I am part of deals in predominantly professional employment, offers development classes, resume services, interview seminars, and has veteran status options.

With all these avenues veterans have options, the silver lining comes in finding these avenues. Jobs can be found, it is finding a career opportunity that is difficult. To the veterans out there I say be diligent, share your experiences, and get involved with the local veteran community.



## Senator Heitkamp (North Dakota) Creates Native Veterans Website

“One of my key goals as your U.S. Senator is to make sure all veterans have access to the support and benefits they earned. And an important part of this mission is making sure services and benefits are reaching Native American veterans, who serve in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group.

In June, I held my first Native American Veterans Summit in Bismarck, where more than 140 Native veterans and advocates participated. We had a frank discussion about the challenges Native American veterans face in accessing health care and applying for benefits, and it was clear we need to do a better job connecting Native American veterans with helpful information. In response to such challenges, I pledged to create a one-stop-shop resource on my website to help answer Native veterans’ questions. This webpage provides links to information about health care, disability, and education benefits, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. It also provides helpful contact information for local, regional, and national VA facilities. In coming months, a schedule of upcoming events for Native American veterans will be added, as well as other information.”

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/native-american-veterans>



## SSA and VA Disability Benefits: Tips for Veterans



### SSA AND VA DISABILITY BENEFITS: TIPS FOR VETERANS



Connecting Veterans with Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits is a critical step to increasing income stability for Veterans and their families, as well as providing health insurance for those who may not qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. Veterans may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), in conjunction with, or as an alternative to VA disability compensation. They may also use the Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services.

The definition of disability and application process is different for SSA and VA disability benefits, and Veterans may begin receiving SSA benefits while they are waiting on a VA benefit decision.



#### DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

##### *VA Benefits*

For disability benefits through the VA, also known as service-connected disability, the applicant must show that they have a disabling condition that was “incurred or aggravated by their military service.”<sup>1</sup> The compensation rates are paid on a graduated scale, based on the degree of a Veteran’s disability, ranging from 10 to 100 percent, in 10 percent increments.

##### *SSA Benefits*

Alternatively, the definition of disability for SSI/SSDI does not require the Veteran’s disability to be linked to their military service, does not take into account a Veteran’s discharge status, and does not pay on a graduated scale. For SSI/SSDI, the Veteran needs to show:

1. Evidence of a physical or mental health condition, which results in functional impairments that limit their ability to work at a substantial gainful level (quantified as \$1070/month in 2014).
2. That the disabling condition has lasted, or is expected to last, for 12 months or end in death.

#### SSA EXPEDITED PROCESSING FOR VETERANS

Veterans may qualify for programs from SSA that expedite disability decisions:

##### *1. 100% Permanent and Total Veterans Initiative*

In March 2014, SSA introduced a new initiative to expedite the processing of applications from Veterans who have a 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disability rating from the VA. To receive expedited processing, Veterans should identify themselves as a “Veteran rated 100% P&T” when initiating the SSI/SSDI application, and should provide the VA rating notification letter to SSA.

##### *2. Wounded Warriors*

Veterans who received disabling mental or physical health injuries while on active duty on or after October 1, 2001 are eligible for expedited SSI/SSDI application processing, regardless if the injury occurred in the U.S. or in combat. When initiating the SSI/SSDI application, Veterans should inform SSA that their injury occurred while on active duty.

More information about these expedited processes can be found at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/veterans).

<sup>1</sup> “Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors,” U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2013 Edition.



## OTGR Southern Plains Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health Awareness Fair and Veterans Enrollment Event

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System  
*Presents*  
**Health Awareness Fair**  
*for All Generations*  
**Little Axe Health Center**  
**Friday, August 1, 2014**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**

**FREE PUBLIC EVENT**

**\*Back to School Physical Exams**

**VETERANS ENROLLMENT EVENT**  
Explore Your Eligibility for Veterans Benefits!

**\*Parental Consent Required**

- Dental Screenings
- Health Screenings
- Free Hair Cuts - Paul Mitchell
- Wound Care & Foot Exams
- Injury Prevention
- Child Safety Seat Install/Inspection
- Veterans Enrollment Information
- Social Security Disability Assistance
- Health Insurance Enrollment
- Medication Management
- DUI Prevention and Simulations
- \$5 Free Play - Thunderbird Casino

**Feel Cool. Give Blood.**  
Each Donor Receives:

- A Feel Cool T-Shirt
- Two OKC Zoo Admission Tickets

Photo ID Required

**Oklahoma Blood Institute**

**SONIC** America's Drive-In  
**Cleveland County Health Department**  
**oklahoma health care authority**  
**Thunderbird CASINO**  
**Oklahoma City** Caring for AMERICA'S HEROES  
**Community Hair SERVICES**  
**McRANDALL INSURANCE**

**DOLLAR GENERAL**  
**imagine PAUL MITCHELL PARTNER SCHOOL**  
**LITTLE AXE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Health System, Little Axe Health Center 405.447.0300  
www.asthealth.org www.astribe.com



## American Indian Veterans Golf Classic Limbs for Life Blaze 5k and VA Hero Homecoming

*Limbs for Life combines 5K Blaze with VA Medical Center's annual Hero Homecoming Celebration*



Oklahoma City – Limbs for Life Foundation will partner with the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center to host the *Blaze 5K Run* along with the *VA Hero Homecoming* for the second year. What were once separate celebrations are now a combined event with a common admiration and support for one another. The events will bring together runners, service members, veterans and their families, and military and non-military amputees on Saturday, August 16th. The Oklahoma City VA Medical Center is encouraging Veterans of **ALL eras** to attend the Hero Homecoming this year. We also ask that all Oklahomans join us to thank these brave men & women who have so bravely served our country!

A new element for the 2014 event is **“Run This Town”**, a 3-race series of 5K runs held on consecutive Saturdays in August. The Blaze 5K, benefitting Limbs for Life, is the second in the series. Runners can register for The Blaze at [www.signmeup.com/100648](http://www.signmeup.com/100648) or for all three races at <http://downtownokc.com/runthistown>

All races will start at 8:00 p.m. at different venues in relation to the nonprofit involved. Runners participating in all three events will receive a special **“Run This Town”** jacket in addition to the individual race t-shirts. Veterans participating in The Blaze will receive a discount on the race fee for that event. The Blaze and Hero Homecoming event is open to anyone to participate in the festivities by running, walking, or simply showing support for the service members. Booths, activities, and day of event registration will open at 6:30 p.m. A special flag ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m. Hero Homecoming will include various VA services and veteran benefit resources plus, numerous businesses, non-profit organizations, and family-friendly activities, music, food trucks, and inflatables!

Proceeds from the Blaze 5K and one-mile fun run will benefit Limbs for Life Foundation, which provides prosthetic assistance for amputees without other resources. The race will start at the Chesapeake Boathouse and follow the River Trails out and back. Awards will be given to the top overall male and female runners and top three male and female runners in each age category. The race is officially timed and sanctioned. Participants may register for the Blaze 5K online at [www.signmeup.com/100648](http://www.signmeup.com/100648) or by calling (405) 605-5462. Race registration is \$35 in advance and includes the Blaze/Hero Homecoming performance t-shirt. Registration day of race is \$40. Discounts are available for military members and groups. For more information about Limbs for Life, visit [www.limbsforlife.org](http://www.limbsforlife.org) or follow at [www.facebook.com/limbsforlife](https://www.facebook.com/limbsforlife) and [www.twitter.com/limbsforlife](https://www.twitter.com/limbsforlife). For further information about OKC VA Medical Center, visit <http://www.oklahoma.va.gov/> or follow at [www.facebook.com/OklahomaCityVAMC](https://www.facebook.com/OklahomaCityVAMC)



## Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault



### Training by Request

An OVC Program

*Strengthening Military-Civilian  
Community Partnerships To Respond  
to Sexual Assault*



*Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships To Respond to Sexual Assault* is an interactive training that helps participants establish partnerships with local military installations in order to effectively respond to the needs of sexual assault victims in the military. Throughout this training, participants will build knowledge about military systems, protocols, and culture to improve service provision to military sexual assault victims and to develop an appreciation of the perspectives of their future collaborative partners.

Training Event Details (Lawton, OK):  
August 21-22, 2014  
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Fort Sill Conference Center  
6045 Sheridan Road  
Fort Sill, OK 73503

To register for the training event, please  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8TP7X89>  
(This training is provided at no cost to  
participants.)

Questions? Please contact Jennifer  
McLaughlin, [jennifer@ocadvsa.org](mailto:jennifer@ocadvsa.org)  
at the OK Coalition Against Domestic  
Violence & Sexual Assault

### Training participants will gain information and skills related to:

- ▶ On-installation resources, including the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), the military's single point of contact for matters related to sexual assault prevention and response and the military victim advocate.
- ▶ Building successful collaborations, including the importance of writing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between their community-based program and local military installations to define roles, formalize agreements, and guarantee the longevity and continuity of such agreements.

With the knowledge gained through this training process, in combination with their existing expertise in responding to sexual assault, participants will be able to serve as knowledgeable resources to military installations throughout the United States.

OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides training to support professional development, enhance services to the community, and expand outreach to underserved victims of crime.



**OVC TTAC**

## VA Office of Tribal Government Relations Southern Plains Training Summit



### SAVE THE DATE

U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – 8 am – 5 pm

Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> – 8 am – 1 pm



Southern Plains Region Veterans  
Training Summit

### SAVE THE DATE

Location: To be Announced at a  
later Date

- Native American Direct Loan (Housing)
- Veterans Justice Outreach Programs
- Veterans Benefits Administration
- Indian Health Service & Tribal Health Collaborations
- Social Security Disability Determination
- VA Healthcare: Reimbursement Agreements
- Office of Rural Health
- Small Business Administration
- U.S. Department of Labor: Veterans Employment Services
- Just to name a few – other agencies will also be on hand providing information booths

For Information Call  
(405)456-3876

or

To Register contact  
Mary.Culley@va.gov



If you work with American Indian Veterans, this is your opportunity to give back to those who have served. We will share best practices. Network with a myriad of federal agency professionals who serve Veterans in Indian Country.



## Service Members, Veterans, and Families Speed Sharing – Networking

SAVE THE **NEW** DATE

3rd Annual

SMVF Resource Speed Sharing  
(Service Members, Veterans & Families)

Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Crossings Community Center (not the church location)  
2208 W Hefner Road, Oklahoma City  
9:00-12:00pm

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.

Registration form is provided for those who want to secure a slot early!

Hosted by Veterans' Families United, Oklahoma Military Behavioral Health Alliance, & Crossings Community Center.



## Oklahoma City VAMC & Community Mental Health Summit ~ August 29, 2014

### OKLAHOMA VA & COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT AUGUST 29, 2014, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER

The Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center invites you to a mental health summit. The focus of the summit is to sustain collaboration between the OKC VAMC and the community in providing mental health services for the Oklahoma veterans of our Armed Services. We are asking you to take time from your busy schedule to join us for an opportunity for education, networking, and dialog between the community and the Department of Veterans Affairs. There is no registration fee for the summit. Please RSVP as soon as possible due to limited space.

Please provide the information below:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select two of the break-out sessions below that you are interested in participating in.

- Veterans Families                       Veteran Employment Programs  
 Military Sexual Trauma                 Veterans in the Justice System

Community participants are invited to learn more about Military Cultural Competence by accessing [www.deploymentpsyc.org/military-culture](http://www.deploymentpsyc.org/military-culture). VA participants can access the course at <http://www.tms.va.gov>. Additionally, the course can be accessed at <http://www.health.mil/Training-Center>. Participants can take the courses for continued education unit (CEU) credits for physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses.

We have a limited amount of space for agencies to display pamphlets about their agency/services provided. If you are interested in bringing pamphlets about your agency/services please check here to let us know.  \_\_\_\_\_

Keynote Speaker for the MH Summit will be ODMHSAS Commissioner Teri White. General Rita Aragon will present on Military Cultural Competency.

Please submit your completed registration form by email to [gretchen.rogers@va.gov](mailto:gretchen.rogers@va.gov). You may also submit your registration by fax by faxing your completed registration form to (405) 456-1538 attention Gretchen Rogers.

Lunch: on your own.      RSVP deadline: Noon August 15, 2014      We hope to see you there!

Location: Oklahoma History Center  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
405-522-0765  
[okhc@okhistory.org](mailto:okhc@okhistory.org)

The Oklahoma History Center is conveniently located on the Northeast corner of N.E. 23<sup>rd</sup> & Lincoln Boulevard, across the street from the Oklahoma Capitol. For details [view a Google map](#) of our location.



## OTGR Southwest Region

**Free Legal Advice for Veterans – Flagstaff, AZ**

# Free Legal Advice

## For U.S. Veterans and Their Spouses

*You Need Not Be Disabled  
To Obtain Legal Advice*



**FLAGSTAFF**

*Sponsored by*

*Arizona Disabled American Veterans and Arizona Disabled Veteran Foundation*

### **We Will Provide Help In The Following Legal Areas**

**Divorce/Custody/Child Support  
Debt Counseling /Bankruptcy  
Real Estate/Housing Issues**

**Basic Estate Planning Documents  
Will Be Provided On-site.  
(Simple Wills,  
Medical Powers of Attorney,  
Financial Powers of Attorney)**

**Saturday, August 16, 2014**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

American Legion  
204 W. Birch Ave  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001



**A financial need requirement applies. However, most veterans will qualify.**

**To schedule an appointment and receive forms needed for clinic contact:**

*Appointments will have priority over walk-in clients.*

**Norman Fulton III** Legal Clinic Director  
480.363.6880 or nsfultoniii@gmail.com

**DISCLAIMER:** VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.



## Veterans and Family Members Stories Performed

### TELLING ALBUQUERQUE

South Broadway Cultural Center  
September 11, 13, 14&19, 20, 21 2014

We need **VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO PERFORM THEIR STORIES ON STAGE**. Men and women, 18 years of age and older, are invited to interview with our director, Max Rayneard, who will help you turn your story into a performance during the rehearsal process. If you wish to perform, email [info@thetellingproject.org](mailto:info@thetellingproject.org) ASAP. Videotaped interviews will be July 18-21. Rehearsals Sept 6-10. Performance dates above.

**THE TELLING PROJECT ALBUQUERQUE** is a testimonial theatrical performance that brings together all generations of veterans, military family members, artists, community partners, and volunteers to increase the understanding between military and civilian community members.



Please contact Caroline LeBlanc with any questions:

[wildernessspalding@msn.com](mailto:wildernessspalding@msn.com)  
505-350-6964

PARTNERS:



THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY FAMILY (MAMF), Albuquerque



The TELLING PROJECT, Texas

&





## Veterans Health Summit – Flagstaff – August 15



### 2nd Annual Northern Arizona VA Health Care System COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

*STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT  
OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 - 8:30 - 3:30

*(Please see agenda on next page)*

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY - FLAGSTAFF, AZ**

School of Hotel and Restaurant Management

910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112

Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

*(Parking is \$10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location.  
Parking in a government vehicle is free.)*

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS), Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families are pleased to invite key stakeholders from military, tribal, government and community organizations to participate in a Community Mental Health Summit focused on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and care for Service Members, Veterans and their Families.

**Who should attend?:** Summit participation is by invitation and space is limited. Invited organizations can send 1-2 representatives. Representatives should be individuals who have an organizational role focused on outreach, community engagement and collaboration and who can work to strengthen services provided to the military, Veteran and family population internally and externally.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP online no later than Wed, Aug 6th.

<http://2014VASummit.eventbrite.com>

**Questions?** Please email [events@arizonacoalition.org](mailto:events@arizonacoalition.org) or call 602-753-8802

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY





# veterans Command Center

Sponsor by the V.A. & American Legion



is

hosting a VA Benefit Services Aug. 13:

Time: 9am-4pm

The event will be fully staffed with VA health-care and benefits representatives, benefits claims experts, counselors and others to help veterans get the assistance they require.

at

John J. Morris Post 62  
9847 W. Desert Cove, Peoria  
99th Ave, North of Peoria Ave

Phillip Walls  
V.A. Public Relationship,  
Outreach Partner

Angel Juarez  
American Legion  
State Adjutant



## Pueblo of Jemez Honored its WWII Veterans With Honorary Diplomas



Pueblo of Jemez Honored its WWII Veterans with Honorary Diplomas.

The Pueblo of Jemez is a federally recognized American Indian Tribe located in northwestern New Mexico. Jemez is the only tribe in New Mexico to have chartered two schools located within tribal lands and works collaboratively with its Walatowa Head Start, K-6 BIE operated Jemez Day School and the Jemez Valley Public Schools.

Native Americans comprise the largest sector of U.S. Military by race on a per capita basis and are very patriotic. Members of the Pueblo of Jemez are no different. During World War II, 2 female veterans and 53 male veterans were called to duty and thus, some were unable to complete their education. Because of the value that Jemez Pueblo places on education, the Pueblo honored their few remaining WWII veterans by presenting them with honorary high school diplomas. This special recognition to honor five of these deserving veterans took place on Saturday, June 14, 2014. Ten veterans also received their diplomas posthumously and their surviving relatives were honored.

Pueblo of Jemez Governor Joshua Madalena, spoke to the community and guests, stating, "The Pueblo of Jemez community members are grateful to our World War II veterans for their courage and service to our Country and the freedom we have today."

Air Force Brigadier General Judy M. Griego, Director of the Jt. Staff National Guard, spoke to the graduates and stated, "I was deeply humbled to be part of this ceremony and mark it as one of the best ceremonies and tributes I ever had the pleasure to be a part of. These World War II veterans will always be remembered as making a difference in our community and in our lives. They paved the way for the new generation of young men and women serving in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard of today. God Bless each and every one of them for their service and sincerest congratulations."



Certificates of Recognition to the WWII Veterans were sent from Susana Martinez, Governor of New Mexico. Army Colonel William Dofflemyer, 47<sup>th</sup> NM Regt. Honor Guard Commanding Officer and Brigadier General Griego presented these Certificates. Colonel Dofflemyer had previously presented long over due metals to Veterans PFC Napoleon Loretto and Sgt. Barnaby Romero.

Although each veteran went through intense and heroic moments in their service; at this special event, veterans Cpl. Geronimo Fragua, 27<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and PFC Napoleon Loretto, 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry were honored by the reading of a Proclamation and given a pin from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. They each had an active part in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

The keynote speaker, former Navy Lt. Dr. Allen Whitt represented the Veterans History Project through the Museum of the American Military Family. Dr. Whitt interviewed several WWII veterans in the Pueblo along with other staff members from the Veterans History Project (VHP). He praised the WWII veterans for their historic role in America's defense and celebrated their continuing tradition of Native American service to our country going back to the American Revolution. He noted that in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, eight Native Americans have received the nation's highest military honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The interviews are now a part of the Library of Congress and will be preserved for all time. The VHP seeks veterans from all eras to record their stories.

Walatowa High Charter School Principal Arrow Wilkinson presented the Honorary Diplomas to the World War II veterans. In the audience were representatives of up to four generations who cheered the graduates as they walked across the stage to receive their long awaited honorary high school diplomas. The graduates honored were:

Army, Napoleon Loretto  
Army, Geromino Fragua  
Air Force, Richard Tafoya

Army, Jerome Gachupin  
Army, Frank Madalena

Deceased: Army, Jose G. Chosa  
Army, Felix Waquie  
Army, Joe Pecos  
Army, Pablo Fragua  
Army, Nicholas Toledo

Army, Jose R. Magdalena  
Army, Joe Coloque  
Army, Felix Fragua  
Army, Alejondro Fragua  
Army, Christino Yepa

This was a momentous and historic event for the Pueblo of Jemez.

Walatowa Veterans Association - 575/834-0122

\*\*\*\*\*

The gentlemen in the above photo are (sitting l to r) Mr. Frank Madalena, Mr. Jerome Gachupin, Mr. Geromino Fragua, Mr. Richard Tafoya, & Mr. Napoleon Loretto. The three gentlemen to the far right are the Pueblo of Jemez Governors, (l to r), Mr. Isaac Romero, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Governor; Mr. Kevin R. Shendo, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Governor and Governor Joshua Madalena (red tie). Back row standing (l to r) Tribal Cacique Stuart Gachupin, Air Force Brigadier General Judy M. Griego, Army Colonel William Dofflemyer, Navy Lt., Dr. Allen Witt & Interim Education Director, Odessa Waquie, Pueblo of Jemez.



## Southwest Native American Veterans Association and the Pueblo of Isleta Veteran's Association

**2014 Southwest Regional Veteran's Conference**

# SAVE THE DATE



SOUTHWEST NATIVE AMERICAN  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Empowering Native American Veterans to  
Speak with One Voice to Shape Policy:  
Veterans Rising for Healing

**September 22-24, 2014**  
**Isleta Resort & Casino**  
**Pueblo of Isleta**

For more information, contact:

**Ramus Suina:**  
(505) 920-5047 | [rsuina47@gmail.com](mailto:rsuina47@gmail.com)

**Fred Lujan:**  
(505) 573-3733 | [fredluj@aol.com](mailto:fredluj@aol.com)

**Carlene Aragon:**  
(505) 552-5752 | [caragon@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov](mailto:caragon@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov)

Provided in partnership between  
Southwest Native American Veterans Association &  
the Pueblo of Isleta Veteran's Association



## Northern Arizona VA Community Mental Health Pre-Summit

*STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT OF  
NATIVE AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES*



**August 14—1:00—5:00 p.m.**

*(Please see agenda on next page)*

**Northern Arizona University—Flagstaff, AZ**

School of Hotel and Restaurant Management

910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112

Flagstaff, AZ 86011

*(Parking is \$10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location. Parking in a government vehicle is free.)*

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families are pleased to invite key stakeholders from tribal, military, government and community organizations to participate in a Community Mental Health Summit focused on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and care for service member, veterans, and their families.

**Who should attend?** Summit participation is by invitation and space is limited. Invited organization can send 1—2 representatives. Representatives should be individuals who have an organizational role focused on outreach, community engagement and collaboration and who can work to strengthen services provided to the military, veteran and family population internally and externally.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP online no later than Wednesday, August 6th by clicking the link below.

<http://vacommunitymentalhealthsummit.eventbrite.com>

**Questions:** Please email [Holly.Figueroa@narbha.org](mailto:Holly.Figueroa@narbha.org) or call (928) 214.2169.



NARBHA is the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Apache, Coconino, Mohave, Navajo, and Yavapai counties. Funds for services are provided through a contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services and AHCCCS.



## 2nd Annual Northern Arizona VA Health Care System COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

*STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND CARE IN SUPPORT  
OF SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES*

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2014 - 8:30 - 3:30**

*(Please see agenda on next page)*

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY - FLAGSTAFF, AZ**

School of Hotel and Restaurant Management

910 S. Beaver Street, Room 112

Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

*(Parking is \$10 per day in the San Francisco Street Garage, just south of the training location.*

*Parking in a government vehicle is free.)*

The Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS), Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families are pleased to invite key stakeholders from military, tribal, government and community organizations to participate in a Community Mental Health Summit focused on strengthening cross-sector collaboration and care for Service Members, Veterans and their Families.

**Who should attend?:** Summit participation is by invitation and space is limited. Invited organizations can send 1-2 representatives. Representatives should be individuals who have an organizational role focused on outreach, community engagement and collaboration and who can work to strengthen services provided to the military, Veteran and family population internally and externally.

**RSVP:** Please RSVP online no later than Wed, Aug 6th.

<http://2014VASummit.eventbrite.com>

**Questions?** Please email [events@arizonacoalition.org](mailto:events@arizonacoalition.org) or call 602-753-8802

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY





# POW-WOW 2014

**AUGUST - 22nd-24th**  
**\$32,000**  
**DANCE**  
**\$7500**  
**DRUM**  
**\$10,000**  
**HANDGAME**  
**CONTEST**

Pow-Wow Information  
800-258-8007  
Ext. 6116, 1003  
Vending - Ext. 6128

RESERVATIONS ON-SITE:  
Ute Mountain Casino Hotel  
888-564-8837  
Sleeping Ute RV Park  
800-889-5072

**UTE MOUNTAIN**  
CASINO • HOTEL • RESORT  
TOWAOC, COLORADO

## OTGR Western Region

### OTGR Training Summit



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



Office of  
Tribal Government  
Relations

#### WESTERN REGION VETERANS TRAINING SUMMIT



**HOST TRIBE: SMITH RIVER RANCHERIA, SMITH RIVER, CA**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

(Free Conference Registration)

**September 18-19, 2014**

LUCKY 7 CASINO HOTEL | 350 NORTH INDIAN ROAD, SMITH RIVER, CA

**Dee-ni' Event Center (ToLOWa Event Center)**

Name:	
Title:	
Facility/Agency	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Tribal Affiliation:	
Veteran (Yes/No)	

Please return this form to Terry Bentley on or before **September 8, 2014** either email or FAX

eMail: [terry.bentley@va.gov](mailto:terry.bentley@va.gov)

Fax: 541-677-3030

**Hotel Reservations** can be made by calling 1-855-487-3777, Lucky 7 Casino Hotel (Summit Rate: \$83 per night)



# Mid-Willamette Valley Veterans Stand-Down



Presented By



This year's Stand-Down will be held at: **Grace Baptist Church**  
4197 State Street NE Salem Or. 97301 Friday September 19, 2014  
from 10am to 4pm

Guest Speakers:

**Fritz Graham, Field Representative to Senator Ron Wyden and  
J.D Baucom, District Aide to Congressman Kurt Schrader**

**FREE** Services Provided for Our Veterans and their Families Includes:

Medical and Dental Services - Military Surplus - Free Lunch -  
Benefits Registration and More!



For More Information Contact:

Rosy Macias - Logistic/Donations 503-362-9911

Nancy Ibarra - Service Providers/Volunteers  
503-585-6232

Todd Londin - General Information 503-363-4457





Grace Baptist Church  
4197 State Street NE  
Salem Or. 97301

September 19, 2014  
Friday 10am to 4pm



## WILLAMETTE VALLEY VETERANS STAND DOWN

### SERVICE PROVIDER REGISTRATION

The STAND DOWN is designed to offer rest, recuperation and resource connections to the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Please join us as we reach out, offer support and honor veterans and their families. Fill out this form detailing the services you will provide and **fax form to: Nancy Ibarra at (503) 375-7580**. If you have questions contact Wayne Crowder (503) 363-4238

Name of Individual or Organization			
Contact Name		Email:	
Address		Phone:	Cell:
City/State/Zip		Fax:	

Please check the boxes below that best fit the services your agency is willing to provide.

Complete a separate form for each service. **(Please only check one box)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits                | <input type="checkbox"/> Women/Children/Family Services                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Services (for veterans only)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment              | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Services (Haircuts, Foot bath, Faith, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical, Dental, Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Café   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Services            | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Services                              |

Please describe in detail what services you will be providing. Also, list any items you will be making available to the participants. (Example: Supplies that relate to your service).

---



---



---

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing the above I agree to participate from 10am to 4pm (unless other arrangements have been made) in the Veterans Stand Down, September 19, 2014*

Monetary donations can be made payable to *Serving Our Veterans At Home*. Send all donations to SOVAH P.O.BOX 13054 Salem, OR 97309

**REGISTRATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 1ST**



## California Proclaims June 24<sup>th</sup> as “Native American Day”

Click [HERE](#) to read the original story published in Indian Country Today

Native American Day has consistently been a proclamation for the state of California, recognizing the fourth Friday of September for the celebration. But on June 24, that proclamation became an official state holiday.

Assembly member Roger Hernández (D-West Covina) announced the unanimous bi-partisan vote passing Assembly Bill 1973 by the Senate Governmental Organization Committee making the switch official. California has more than 100 federally recognized tribes, with many others state recognized.

“It is an honor for this bill to move one step closer in recognizing Native Americans in California,” Hernández said in a press release. “As with any recognized holiday, Californians will be able to share, celebrate and honor the contributions of Native Americans across this state. This measure recognizes the significant role of California's Native peoples by establishing an official, unpaid state holiday.”

According to the release, the state established American Indian Day in 1968 to recognize the contributions of Native Americans. Thirty years later, the California Legislature passed AB 1953 changing the name to Native American Day while authorizing “public schools to incorporate the contributions of Native American peoples in school curriculum.”

The newest passing gives the day the same status as Lincoln’s Birthday and Columbus Day – a day often ignored in Indian country for many reasons – as unpaid holidays.

Some cities throughout the state – Berkeley, Nevada City, Santa Cruz, and Sebastopol – recognize Indigenous People Day, recognizing the cultural contributions of Natives.

“The contributions of the Native American people demonstrate our rich history and add to the diverse ethnic fabric of our great state. This holiday has been long overdue, it is time to honor those individuals who played a major part in our history,” Hernández said.



## Free Census Data Workshop for Grant Proposals

*The U.S. Census Bureau  
Los Angeles Regional Office Presents:*

### **Census Data For Grant Writers Workshop**

**Workshops  
Provided at  
NO Cost**

U.S. Census Bureau  
Los Angeles Regional Office  
15350 Sherman Way, Suite 400  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

818-267-1725 Phone  
1-888-806-6389 Toll Free  
818-267-1715 Fax

[www.census.gov/regions/los\\_angeles](http://www.census.gov/regions/los_angeles)



The Census Data for Grantwriters Workshop is geared toward grant writing professionals and individuals interested in learning the basics of using census data in grant proposal writing. Workshop participants will learn where to locate census demographics to help build an effective case for project funding.

Major Workshop Topics Include:

- Finding the most current and relevant data
- Accessing data on over 40 topics, including Age, Sex, Race/Hispanic Origin, Income, Poverty, Education and Language Spoken at Home
- Understanding Census Data Products
- Presenting Census Data in a Grant Proposal

To host a workshop for your organization in the states of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Washington:

*Send an email request to  
[larpds.list@census.gov](mailto:larpds.list@census.gov)  
or call our toll free number 888-806-6389*

*Summer Dates Available!*



## OTGR Central Region Upcoming Michigan Veterans Expos



# 2014 VETERAN EXPOS

THE "ONE-STOP" SHOP FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS:  
OFFERING JOBS, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS AND MORE!

### MARQUETTE

August 8 & 9

**Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - August 9**

Superior Dome - Northern Michigan University  
1401 Presque Isle Ave. | Marquette, MI 49855

### GRAND RAPIDS

September 5 & 6

**Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - September 6**

DeltaPlex Arena & Conference Center  
2500 Turner Ave. NW | Grand Rapids, MI 49544

### DETROIT

November 7 & 8

**Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - November 8**

Cobo Center  
1 Washington Blvd | Detroit, MI 48226

Expo Hours: Friday 11am - 8pm & Saturday 9am - 3pm

To Register, Please Contact: 517-324-8330 or Visit [www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo](http://www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo)



For more information about the Michigan  
Veterans Affairs Agency, please visit  
[www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)  
or call 1-800-MICHVET (1-800-642-4838)



## OTGR Training Summit – Spirit Lake, ND August 7-8, 2014



### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### WORKING WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TO SERVE INDIAN COUNTRY'S VETERANS SPIRIT LAKE CASINO & RESORT

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2014

#### Friday, August 8, 2014

0800~0830 ~ Opening Remarks/Welcoming/  
Keynote Address

0830-0900 ~ VA Healthcare 101: Eligibility,  
Enrollment, and Billing

0900-0930 ~ VA Telehealth in Indian Country

0930-1000 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration I:  
Compensation & Pension

1000~1030 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration II:  
Vocational Rehabilitation

1030~1100 ~ Women Veterans

1100-1130 ~ Veterans PTSD

#### LUNCH

1230-1300 ~ Veterans Suicide Prevention

1300-1330 ~ Nagi Kikcho Pi: "Calling One's Spirit"

1330-1400 ~ Housing for Vets in Indian Country I:  
Native American Direct Home Loan

1400-1430 ~ Housing for Veterans in Indian  
Country II: HUD

1430-1500 ~ Veterans State Legislation in ND

1500-1600 ~ Listening Session

0800-0830 ~ Housing for Veterans in Indian  
Country III: USDA

0830-0930 ~ Veterans Benefits Administration III:  
Education

0930-1000 ~ Veterans Educational Training:  
University of North Dakota

1000-1030 ~ Veterans Employment & Training  
Services (VETS): Department of Labor

1030-1100 ~ Job Service North Dakota

1100-1130 ~ VA/Tribal Health Programs/IHS  
Reimbursement Agreements

1130~1200 ~ VA Homeless Programs I: North  
Dakota Homeless Programs

1200-1230 ~ VA Homeless Programs II:  
Supportive Services for Veterans  
Families (SSVF) Grant

**Registration is free ~ contact Peter Vicaire  
at [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)  
or (651) 405-5676**

Hotel accommodations can be made  
at: SPIRIT LAKE CASINO & RESORT  
7889 Highway 57 - St. Michael, ND  
1-701-766-4888

## OTGR Training Summit – Spirit Lake, ND August 7-8, 2014



### “Working For Veterans in Indian Country”

Spirit Lake Casino & Resort, 7889 Highway 57 -St. Michael, ND  
To register (free), contact Peter Vicaire at [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov) or  
call 1-651-405-5676. Book lodging (\$75 room-\$125 suite/night) at  
1-701-766-4888 (Group reservation #207903)

#### Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

0800-0830	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> <i>Stephanie Birdwell, Director, OTGR</i> <b>Welcoming:</b> <i>Richard Marcellais, ND State Senator</i> ~ <b>Keynote Address:</b> <i>Spirit Lake Chairman Leander McDonald</i>
0830-0900	<b>VA Healthcare “101”: Eligibility, Enrollment, Billing</b> <i>David Garland, Business Office Manager, VA Fargo</i>
0900-0930	<b>VA Telehealth in Indian Country</b> <i>Mary Walker, VISN 23 Telehealth Program Manager</i>
0930-1000	<b>Veterans Benefits Administration I: Compensation &amp; Pension</b> <i>Ken Buatuala, Fargo Veterans Benefits Administration</i>
1000-1030	<b>Veterans Benefits Administration II: Vocational Rehabilitation</b> <i>Ken Buatuala, Fargo Veterans Benefits Administration</i>
1030-1100	<b>Women Veterans</b> <i>Glenda Trochmann, Women Veterans Program Manager, Fargo VAMC</i>
1100-1130	<b>Veterans PTSD and Evidence Based Therapy</b> <i>Dr. Jessica Gustin, Psychologist, VA Fargo</i>
1130-1230	Lunch ~ on your own ~
1230-1300	<b>Suicide Prevention for Veterans</b> <i>Tammy Monsebroten, Social Worker Fargo VAMC</i>
1300-1330	<b>Nagi Kikcho Pi: “Calling One’s Spirit”</b> <i>Raymond Grey Bear, Bush Foundation Grant Awardee</i>
1330-1400	<b>Housing for Veterans in Indian Country I: Native American Direct Home Loan (NADL)</b> <i>VA St. Paul NADL Office – Dan Anderson</i>
1400-1430	<b>Housing For Veterans in Indian Country II: HUD</b> <i>Joel Manske, North Dakota HUD Field Office Director</i>
1430-1500	<b>Veterans Legislation in North Dakota</b> <i>North Dakota Senator Richard Marcellais</i>
1500-1600	<b>Listening Session</b> <i>Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations</i> <i>Julie Bruhn, Associate Director for Patient Care, Fargo VAMC</i> <i>Richard Marcellais, ND State Senator</i> <i>Brenda Bergsrud, ND Department of Veterans Affairs</i>



## OTGR Training Summit – Spirit Lake, ND August 7-8, 2014



### “Working For Veterans in Indian Country”

Spirit Lake Casino & Resort, 7889 Highway 57 -St. Michael, ND  
To register (free), contact Peter Vicaire at [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov) or  
call 1-651-405-5676. Book lodging (\$75 room-\$125 suite/night) at  
1-701-766-4888 (Group reservation #207903)

#### Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

0800	<b>Opening Remarks</b>
0800-0830	<b>Housing for Veterans in Indian Country III: US Dept. of Agriculture</b> <i>Bill Schafer, USDA Area Director</i>
0830-0930	<b>Veterans Benefits Administration III: Education</b> <i>Christina Hanks and Rhonda Schauer, ND State Approving Agency</i>
0930-1000	<b>Veterans Educational Training</b> <i>James Becks, University of North Dakota, Site Coordinator</i>
1000-1030	<b>Dept. of Labor: Veterans Employment &amp; Training Services (VETS)</b> <i>Gerald Meske, Director, VETS</i>
1030-1100	<b>Job Service North Dakota</b> <i>Drew Nathan, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist</i>
1100-1130	<b>VA/Tribal Health Programs/IHS Reimbursement Agreements</b> <i>Majed Ibrahim/VA Chief Business Office (CBO)</i>
1130-1200	<b>VA Homeless Programs I: ND VA Homeless Programs</b> <i>Janet Nelson, Social Worker, VA Grand Forks</i>
1200-1230	<b>VA Homeless Programs II: Supportive Services for Veterans Families</b> <i>Laureen Seely, Project Coordinator, State of ND and Michael Carbone, Executive Director of ND Coalition of Homeless People</i>
	<b>Closing Comments ~ Senator Marcellais and Peter Vicaire</b>