
Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ October 2014

Greetings and welcome to the October edition of the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. As I write this, Veterans Day is just days away, and the new VA Secretary, Bob McDonald has been on the “Road to Veterans Day” visiting with Veterans across the country, talking with both leadership and staff at VA Medical Centers, clinics, Regional Offices and meeting with important governmental partners. This past month, Secretary McDonald hosted a White House sponsored conference call with tribal leaders. The call provided an important opportunity for tribal leaders and honored guests to engage directly in dialogue with the Secretary and to inform him of the questions, concerns and priorities Indian Country has regarding VA and services to Veterans living in Indian Country. We understand that not everyone had the opportunity to speak during the course of the call and encourage you to please email the tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov mailbox with your comments, which will be shared with the Secretary. The week following the call, he offered plenary remarks to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) General Assembly, followed by a Town Hall meeting with the NCAI Veteran’s Committee. NCAI President Brian Cladoosby (Swinomish) offered opening remarks for the Town Hall. The event was facilitated by NCAI Veteran’s Committee co-chairs Larry Townsend (Lumbree) and Dan King (Oneida). Mr. Townsend and Mr. King did a really nice job managing the session which included robust dialogue and some very well-informed, specific questions and requests. Notes were taken during the session and we assure attendees that follow up will be conducted on issues that were raised during the session.

Transitioning over to updates back here in DC, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the new VA Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA), Ms. Maura Sullivan. Assistant Secretary Sullivan is a former U.S. Marine Corps Captain and Iraq War veteran. As a Marine Corps officer, Ms. Sullivan deployed to Fallujah, Iraq in 2005 with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, participated in joint military exercises throughout Southeast Asia with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing based in Okinawa Japan, and was the Deputy Officer-in-Charge of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group team that authored and implemented the reorganization of the Corps’ combat logistics operations. Before entering the Reserves in 2006, Ms. Sullivan earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with a Gold Star. In 2010 President Obama appointed Ms. Sullivan to The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) where with her fellow commissioners she was responsible for America’s overseas military cemeteries and memorials. Assistant Secretary Sullivan says she plans to do a lot of listening in the days ahead and we look forward to supporting her future engagements with Indian Country’s leaders in the very near future.



Assistant Secretary
Maura C. Sullivan

In the meantime, out in the field, our tribal government relations specialists were busy this month putting the finishing touches on planning for 2015 (you'll hear more about plans for the year in the next newsletter), but have a number of noteworthy activities from the past month to share with our readers. Peter Vicaire (Central Region) traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma and made presentations to the National American Indian Court Judges Association (NAICJA). Peter's presentation to tribal judges and leaders focused on the benefits of implementing a Veterans court within tribal courts; the importance of utilizing VA Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists (VJOs); and the amount of services VA can provide to those justice-involved Veterans who may not have access to or knowledge of the specific services otherwise. Peter has also been busy preparing for the VA Tribal Consultation, scheduled to be held in Pine Ridge, South Dakota on November 19, 2014. For more information about the consultation, just send Peter a note at peter.vicaire@va.gov.

Over in the Western Region, Terry Bentley traveled with VISN 20 Rural Health Consultant Jodie Waters to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board meeting in Worley, Idaho where they presented to tribal health directors and tribal representatives on the VA/IHS/Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement program and access to care and benefits updates. In the south, Mary Culley, (Southern Plains and Eastern (Southeast) Regions) was very busy working to help support the November 7, 2014 "Anadarko Inter-Tribal Stand Down" which will be held in Anadarko, Oklahoma. This event is a collaborative effort supporting Veterans that is planned and organized by tribes located in the area and the local VA in partnership with other state, federal and community services and resources. If you're in the area, please plan to stop by the stand down and if you have any questions about the upcoming event, don't hesitate to send Mary an email mary.culley@va.gov. In the Southwest Region, Homana has been keeping busy providing technical assistance to the tribes within the region and we look forward to hearing more updates from Homana during our next publication.

I would like to wish all of our Veterans a very Happy Veterans Day and I'd like to also invite our readers who would like to share examples (stories, pictures, news clippings) of how your tribal community or how you individually like honor Veterans on this day. Submissions can be sent to myself stephanie.birdwell@va.gov or to peter.vicaire@va.gov. We would very much enjoy, with your permission, sharing this with our readers and we think our Veterans would appreciate knowing more about the diverse and special ways they are appreciated and honored as well.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter edition and we look forward to meeting with and hearing from you in the days ahead. Happy Reading – Stephanie



Stephanie E. Birdwell



"Honoring First American Veterans" Campaign

The flyer below had to be inserted sideways in order to see the small print.



ABOUT THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

THE EDUCATION CENTER EXPERIENCE
The millions of people who will visit each year will learn about the values of Courage, Loyalty, Service, Integrity and Honor that are not unique to the Vietnam warriors, but permeate the lives of those who have served. There are four main exhibit areas of the Education Center at The Wall and one temporary exhibit space.

THE LEGACY OF SERVICE
This exhibit places the Vietnam War and those who fought it in the context of America's other wars, from The Revolutionary War to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

THE COLLECTION
The Collection contains a portion of the almost 400,000 objects left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during the past 30 years.

THE WALL OF FACES
A multimedia exhibit that will show the faces of those who served and sacrificed.

THE TIMELINE
A multimedia timeline will explore the history of the Vietnam War and illuminate the events that happened during the era.

Become a maker of history, ensure the success of the "Honoring First American Veterans" Campaign!

Make the Education Center at The Wall a reality and reserve a hallowed home for the tribute to Native American Veterans in Washington, D.C.

Support the "Honoring First American Veterans" Campaign.

"Honoring First American Veterans" Campaign
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 104
Washington, DC 20037

"HONORING FIRST AMERICAN VETERANS" CAMPAIGN

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

THOMAS A GOWERS

"Honoring First American Veterans" Campaign

The flyer below had to be inserted sideways in order to see the small print.



Photo: The Wall



Private Gabriel L.
Two Eagle



Native American artifact left
at The Wall



Photo: The Wall

THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

For many, the Vietnam War exists in America's distant past. Nearly half of the 4.4 million people who visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial each year were born after the Wall was dedicated in 1982. For them, the names etched in granite are faceless and lacking historical context. That is why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the American people we must work together to complete the mission.

The Education Center at The Wall will give context to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by placing those who served in Vietnam within the long tradition of American military service. Across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial, the Education Center will be a technologically innovative space where visitors will come face to face with those who gave their lives in service to this country.

The Education Center is an exciting opportunity for an "Honoring First American Veterans" exhibit that would focus on the service of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders. The Education Center at The Wall will be a rallying point for generations to come.

"HONORING FIRST AMERICAN VETERANS" CAMPAIGN

The "Honoring First American Veterans" campaign is a major element of the capital campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall. The initiative is under the leadership of campaign leader David Stephen Bowers of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

This special effort recognizes that American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders have been unwavering in their devotion, self-sacrifice, and service to the nation since its earliest days through today. VVMF wants to ensure the respectful and befitting recognition of these Americans.

Below are the goals of the "Honoring First American Veterans" campaign.

Objective 1:

Praise at least \$10 million to build the Education Center at The Wall, pledged at the earliest possible opportunity and paid through the end of the campaign on December 30, 2018.

As the result of this effort, VVMF will set aside an exhibit space inside the Education Center for a dedicated exhibit to their service and sacrifice.

Objective 2:

Collect the missing 67 photographs of First Americans who fell in the Vietnam War.

Objective 3:

Collect photographs and remembrances of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders who served in America's wars from the Revolutionary War through today's conflicts.



Stephen D. Bowers
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
6300 STIRLING ROAD
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33024
PH: (954) 968-6300 EXT: 11480
CELL: (954) 908-0536
FAX: (954) 967-3540
EMAIL: sbowers@semitrba.com

227 NATIVE AMERICANS SACRIFICED THEIR FUTURES IN VIETNAM

As President Obama observed on Memorial Day at The Wall in 2012, the Education Center will take up the challenge to tell the stories of those who served, those who sacrificed, and those still missing:

"Let us tell the story of a generation of service members -- every color, every creed, rich, poor, officer and enlisted -- who served with just as much patriotism and honor as any before you. Let's never forget that most of those who served in Vietnam did so by choice. So many of you volunteered. Your country was at war, and you said, 'Send me.' That includes our women in Vietnam -- every one of you a volunteer. Those who were drafted, they, too, went and carried their burden -- you served; you did your duty."

During the Vietnam War 227 American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. These young men hailed from thirty different states and served in all branches of the armed forces. They deserve proper recognition and honor on the National Wall through the Honoring First American Veterans campaign.





Tribal Veteran Court Training

Planning a Veterans Treatment Court? This is the Training You Need!
[REGISTER TODAY](#) – Deadline: November 7, 2014

Justice For Vets is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted to attend the world's only comprehensive **Veterans Treatment Court** training for new or planning jurisdictions. This incredible three-day training has launched over 100 successful Veterans Treatment Courts. It provides everything you need to know to implement an evidence-based and successful program.

- 90% of the communities that attend the training end up launching a program.
- Justice For Vets staff and a cadre of treatment court practitioners work with selected teams to implement evidence-based practices, develop policy and procedure manuals, and build team unity.

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice and coordinated by Justice For Vets, the Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative is **FREE** to communities that qualify. [Click here](#) to apply online. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to get your Veterans Treatment Court up and running!

Space is limited- apply today! Questions about the Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative: Joyce Barrow, *Program Coordinator*, Justice For Vets jbarrow@JusticeForVets.org or Scott Swaim, *Program Coordinator*, Justice For Vets sswaim@JusticeforVets.org



Supportive Services For Veterans Families (SSVF) GRANT MONEY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for funding for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. The NOFA will make approximately \$93 million available over a 3-year period for non-renewable grants to eligible entities proposing services for one of the 28 high-need Continuums of Care (CoCs) listed in the NOFA. The 28 locations were selected based on factors that include levels of Veteran homelessness and current unmet service needs.

Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 5, 2014. Awards made for supportive services grants will fund operations beginning approximately March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2018. Application and training materials [were] posted on www.va.gov/homeless.ssvf.asp on October 10, 2014.

Native Veteran/Counseling Psychology Student Seeks Assistance in PTSD Research

See below for a letter from Greg Urquhart, Cherokee veteran and graduate student in Counseling Psychology.

“Dear Tribal Representative,

I am a Cherokee Veteran of Iraq and current graduate student (Counseling Psychology Program), who is carrying out a survey on Native American veterans, and their perceptions of and attitudes towards Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This survey has met exemption criteria from Washington State University’s Institutional Review Board. It is my belief that if we as Native people speak as a group through this survey, places that provide veteran services for PTSD like the V.A. and I.H.S. will listen and will add our suggestions and preferences for treatment/healing to programs intended to help Native Veterans. I am asking for your assistance in spreading the word about our survey among the veterans in your tribe.

The survey is open to anyone who is Native American and who has served in the military. They do not need to have been deployed or to have PTSD to participate in the survey. Below is a letter with more information about the survey and a link to the online version of the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nativeveterans>). If you have additional forms you would like us to fill out such as tribal institutional review board paperwork, please let us know and we will be happy to do so. Also, if you would like us to send paper and pencil versions of our survey with self-addressed return envelopes to you, we will be happy to do that as well. Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Greg Urquhart - greg.urquhart@wsu.edu”

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS



Federal Benefits for Veterans
Dependents and Survivors



2014 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

Here’s a link to the 2014 *Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors*:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp



Fry Scholarship ~ Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”)

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“Choice Act”) was recently signed into law. Most of the Act pertains to Veterans health care but it also included two provisions affecting GI Bill® benefits.

The Fry Scholarship was created to honor Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry, 28, of Lorena, Texas. Sergeant Fry had one week left in his tour in Iraq in 2006, when he volunteered to continue working for seven more hours disarming explosive devices, despite having already sustained an injury to his hand. He made the ultimate sacrifice on March 8, 2006, in Anbar province, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated. He left behind a widow and three children. I recently had the honor of meeting Malia Fry at a Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivor (TAPS) event. We have created Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreements with both TAPS and the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation with the sole purpose to encourage cooperation and collaboration between VA and both of these important organizations, to promote the Fry Scholarships to eligible individuals.

Section 701 of the Choice Act expands the Fry Scholarship to include the surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Prior to this law, only children of those who died in the line of duty were eligible for this benefit. We have had the honor to have served 1,279 children under the Fry Scholarship in FY 2013 and we look forward to now honoring the surviving spouses.

The law states eligible spouses are entitled to receive: (1) 36 months of full benefits, equal to 100% level of the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. this includes tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies; (2) Training must start on or after January 1, 2015. Training prior to January 1, 2015, is not eligible to receive benefits under Section 701; (3) A spouse has 15 years from the date of the Service Member’s death to utilize benefits. If a spouse remarries, benefits end the date of the remarriage.

Some spouses currently eligible for, or already receiving, benefits under the Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA) program may now be eligible for the Fry Scholarship. DEA is an educational program offering up to 45 months of education benefits to eligible dependents of Veterans who died while on active duty, as well as dependents of Veterans who died as a result of a service-connected condition or are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition. Surviving spouses of Servicemembers who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, will have to make a one-time irrevocable election to receive either the Fry Scholarship or DEA.

To learn more about this important new benefit, please review our Fact Sheet at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts_forms.asp. To either apply or make an election, one can complete and send an application (Form VA-Form 22-5490). You can download the form at <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-5490-ARE.pdf> and send a copy via the GI Bill website (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>) using the “Ask a Question” button. You may also mail the completed form to your nearest Regional Processing Office, or request a paper application by calling 1-888-GI BILL-1 (888-442-4551).



VA/Tribal Health/IHS Reimbursement Program Reimburses More Than \$13 Million

Tribal health clinics interested in entering into a Reimbursement Agreement with VA should send an email: tribal.agreements@va.gov

CR0 Purchased Care, Program Oversight and Informatics
Department of Informatics (10N38)

Indian Health / Tribal Health Program

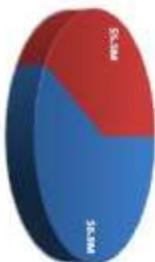
Transaction through: 4/30/14
Last updated: 10/23/2014
Created by: ANW/LCE

Purpose of Report
The purpose of the report is to capture the total amount disbursed, total unique Veterans, total billed charges, total VA amount Paid, and total number of claims using the Central Fee File for the Indian Health & Tribal Health Program
For VISN specific data relating to the total reimbursement click link below: VISN LEVEL DISBURSEMENTS
For VBA specific data relating to the total number of CLAIMS click below: VBA LEVEL CLAIM TOTALS

National Central Fee Data Roll-Up

Total Disbursement - Agent Data to FYTD		Total Disbursement by Program - Agent Data to FYTD		Total Veterans - Agent Data to FYTD	
	\$13,060,043.85				3,871
		Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	
		IHS	\$7,600,782.08	3,010	
		THP	\$5,459,261.77	873	
		Total Disbursement of Out of System Reimbursements - agreements not included in above totals		Total Unique Vets	
				IHS	175
				THP	83
				Total Veterans - Out of System Reimbursements	258
	\$7,535.00				

Total Disbursed by Program



Total Disbursed by Transmitted Fiscal Year



Total Unique Veterans by Program



VA Tribal Consultation ~ Hot Springs, SD Campus



Tribal Consultation Regarding VA Hot Springs Facility

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – Billy Mills Hall, Pine Ridge, SD

8:00am-10:00am: Tribal consultation on the potential realigning of the delivery of services out of the VA Hot Springs Facility. These issues may include but are not limited to: (1) concerns surrounding access, timeliness, and quality of medical care and (2) any effect on other Veteran benefits and services. Representatives from VA should include:

1. David Montoya, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of Public/Intergovernmental Affairs
2. Stephanie Birdwell, Director of the Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR)
3. Steve DiStasio, Director of the Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS)
4. Luke Epperson, Staff Assistant to Mr. DiStasio
5. Connie Moffitt, VISN 23 Lead Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVPC)

10:00am-12:00pm: Tribal consultation on “Section 106”/National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to hear questions and comments related to the VA Hot Springs facility itself. Representatives will be in attendance from Labat Environmental, Inc. and/or SWCA Environmental Consultants.

For those tribal leaders or representatives unable to attend in person, they can still submit written comments (until December 19) to: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov – in order to have them included in the official record.

Questions should be directed to Peter Vicaire at 651-405-5676 or Peter.Vicaire@va.gov

Peter Scott Vicaire
Tribal Government Relations Specialist
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VA Processes 1.3 Million Veteran Claims in Fiscal Year 2014 – Highest in VA’s History

VA Processes More than 1.3 Million Veterans’ Claims in FY14

150,000 more Veterans received faster, more accurate decisions than FY13

WASHINGTON – More than 1.3 million Veterans received decisions on their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation and pension claims in fiscal year (FY) 2014 – the highest number in VA’s history, surpassing last year’s record-breaking production by more than 150,000 claims.

This second year of record-breaking production comes as VA continues to transform the way it provides benefits and services, to deliver faster and higher quality decisions, to Veterans, their families and survivors. At the end of the year, the disability claims backlog (defined as any disability claim pending longer than 125 days) was reduced by 60-percent from the peak backlog in March 2013 and is at its lowest number in nearly 4 years. Veterans waited, on average, 119 fewer days for a decision on their claim than Veterans did in FY 2013. VA is on target to hit its 2015 goal.

These improvements were not made at the expense of quality. The accuracy of VA’s decisions continues to rise from an 83-percent accuracy level in 2011 to a 90-percent accuracy level today. When focusing specifically at the medical issue level, accuracy is at 96 percent.

“I am so proud of our employees – more than half of whom are Veterans themselves – who continue to work tirelessly to deliver the benefits our Veterans have earned through their service to our Nation,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. “But we all also recognize there is still much more work to do to better serve Veterans.”

VA’s move to a web-based electronic claims processing system has enabled a quicker, more accurate and integrated benefits delivery. VA once processed 5,000 tons of paper annually – today it processes 93 percent of Veterans’ disability claims electronically. One in seven Veterans who submit a claim to change the status of a family member now does so online and more than half of those are paid in one to two days. VA’s progress would not have been possible without the support of its strong partners. Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) and State and County Veterans Service Officers embraced the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program, which enables VA to make faster claim decisions when Veterans submit their claims with all available evidence and certify they have no more evidence to submit. Now, 37 percent of the claims received from VSOs are FDCs.

In FY 2014, more than 4.5 million Veterans and survivors received more than \$72.7 billion in VA compensation and pension benefits. For more information on VA’s Transformation, benefits and programs visit: www.benefits.va.gov/, www.ebenefits.va.gov and www.benefits.va.gov/fdc.



VA Telehealth Services Served 690,000+ Veterans

VA Telehealth Services Served Over 690,000 Veterans In Fiscal Year 2014

More than 2 Million Virtual Visits Scheduled During Fiscal Year 2014

WASHINGTON –The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that its national telehealth programs served more than 690,000 Veterans during fiscal year 2014. That total represents approximately 12 percent of the overall Veteran population enrolled for VA healthcare, and accounted for more than 2 million telehealth visits. Of that number, approximately 55 percent were Veterans living in rural areas with limited access to VA healthcare. With more Veterans seeking health care, telehealth is rapidly becoming an attractive option, especially for those Veterans who don't have a VA health care facility close to home.

"We have to adapt to meet Veterans wherever their needs are," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "A brick-and-mortar facility is not the only option for health care. We are exploring how we can more efficiently and effectively deliver health care services to better serve our Veterans and improve their lives. Telehealth is one of those areas we have identified for growth."

Currently, there are more than 44 clinical specialties offered to Veterans through VA's telehealth programs. One program at the Miami VA schedules close to 90 clinic connections every week for dermatology, eye exams, the women Veterans program, podiatry, mental health and other clinical specialties.

One tangible example of the success of VA's telehealth program is its burgeoning TeleAudiology program because of large population of Veterans living with hearing loss. The TeleAudiology program has grown from 1,016 Veterans in fiscal year 2011 to more than 10,589 in fiscal year 2014.

For more information about VA's telehealth program, visit www.telehealth.va.gov/.

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Social Security Administration “Serving Veterans on Veterans Day and Always”

SERVING VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY AND ALWAYS

By Yolanda York

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in San Diego, Ca

Every day—but particularly on Veterans Day—Social Security salutes those who have put their lives on the line for our freedom.

Members of the United States armed forces receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability applications. The expedited process is available for any military service member who alleges he or she became disabled during active duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurred—at home or in the line of duty. Expedited processing is also available to veterans who have a compensation rating of 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disability, regardless of when the disability occurred. Some dependent children and spouses of military personnel may also be eligible to receive benefits.

Visit our website designed specifically for our wounded veterans, www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors, where you will find answers to a number of commonly asked questions, as well as other useful information about disability benefits available under the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Our website includes a fact sheet on the subject: *Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors*.

You'll also find a webinar, “Social Security for Wounded Warriors,” that explains the expedited disability process available to wounded warriors. The one-hour video is an introduction to disability benefits for veterans and active duty military personnel. If you would like more detailed information about the disability process, you can watch our seven-part video series “Social Security Disability Claims Process” at www.socialsecurity.gov/socialmedia/webinars.

On the Wounded Warriors webpage, you'll find links to the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense websites. Please keep in mind that the requirements for disability benefits available through Social Security are **different** from those of the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

Military service members are covered for the same Social Security survivors, disability, and retirement benefits as everyone else. Although the expedited service is relatively new, military personnel have been covered under Social Security since 1957, and people who were in the service prior to that may be able to get special credit for some of their service.

Read our publication, *Military Service And Social Security*, to learn more. It's available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs. Also, navigate to www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

Thank you to our nation's brave veterans. We salute you on Veterans Day and every day.

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Social Security Administration Changes in Certain Service

Important Information: Changes In Certain Services



To meet the increasing demands for our service, we need to make changes to how we provide some services to our customers. To protect the integrity of the Social Security number and prevent fraud, we will discontinue providing Social Security number printouts effective August 1, 2014. If you need proof of your Social Security number and you do not have your Social Security card, you will need to request a replacement Social Security card by completing the *Application for a Social Security Card* (Form SS-5) and providing the required documentation.

Also, in January 2013, we made benefit verifications available online. Now you can save a trip to a field office by getting an instant letter online with a personal **my Social Security** account, or you may continue to call us toll-free to request a letter by mail.

See steps below for requesting a replacement Social Security card or obtaining your benefit verification letter. We also encourage you to visit www.socialsecurity.gov to learn about the many convenient online services available to you.

How to get replacement Social Security cards

Your Social Security card is your legal proof of your Social Security number. If you need proof of your number, and you can't find your card, you will need a replacement card. To get a replacement card, you must complete an *Application for a Social Security Card* (Form SS-5), which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. You also will need documents proving your identity, age and citizenship or lawful immigration status.

In most cases, you can take, or mail, your completed application and original documents to any Social Security office. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/locator to find the Social Security office or Social Security Card Center that serves your area. After processing, we will return your documents to you.

How to get benefit verification letters

If you need proof of your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefits, you can get a benefit verification letter online instantly through a **my Social Security** account. To create an account, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. With **my Social Security**, you can easily view, print or save an official letter that includes proof of your:

- Benefit amount and type;
- Medicare start date and withholding amount (if applicable); and
- Age.

If you are unable to go online, you can call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to request your letter be mailed to you. You also can use your annual cost-of-living adjustment notice or SSA Form 1099 as proof of income from Social Security.

For more information

A wealth of information and online service options are available on our website at www.socialsecurity.gov. Or you can call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), and ask for helpful publications, such as:

- *How To Create An Online Account* (Publication No. 05-10540);
- *Your Social Security Number And Card* (Publication No. 05-10002); and
- *What You Can Do Online* (Publication No. 05-10121).

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Vietnam War Commemoration

The United States of America

Vietnam War Commemoration

“A Nation’s Thanks and Honor”

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, Public Law 110-181 SEC. 598, states that the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Local Ceremonies and events will provide the greatest possible outreach to Vietnam veterans, their families, and the public at large to achieve one or more of the following congressionally-mandated program objectives:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the Allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To achieve these objectives, the Commemoration is recruiting Commemorative Partners to help thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families where they live. To date, more than 6600 Commemorative Partners have committed to thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families across this great Nation.

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration supports national, regional, and local events organized by Federal, state and local organizations, veterans’ service organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations in this endeavor.

Thus far, the Commemoration has supported more than 900 events nationwide. During 2015 through 2017, Commemorative Partners will plan and conduct at least two events or activities that will “thank and honor” our Vietnam veterans and their families.

For more information about The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration and how to apply to become a Commemorative Partner, please visit <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>.

More than 42,000 Native Americans fought in Vietnam. Ninety percent of them were volunteers!



El Tour de Tucson Cycling Event Veteran Scholarship

El Tour de Tucson Cycling Event VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP

Saturday, November 22, 2014
Tucson, Arizona



El Tour is a fun adventure ride attracting over 9,000 cyclists of all ages and abilities from throughout the United States and worldwide, consisting of novice, intermediate, advanced, and professional riders.

Through an adaptive sports grant gifted by the Department of Defense, Arizona Disabled Sports (AzDS) would like to provide a scholarship to Veterans or Active-Duty Service Members with a physical disability. AzDS will award scholarships to a maximum of 10 Arizona residents and 10 out-of-state participants. First come, first serve!

The scholarship provided will include air travel or gas mileage reimbursement, hotel accommodations, meals and event registration. Arizona Disabled Sports will also provide a support rider if necessary.

Arizona Disabled Sports, Lane Gram
480.835.6273
Lane@arizonadisabledsports.com

*El Tour de
Tucson
scholarship
options include
40-mile or 12-
mile rides.*





El Tour de Tucson Cycling Event Veteran Scholarship



El Tour de Tucson – Adaptive Cycling Veteran Scholarship Application

Name: _____
Gender: M F DOB: ____ / ____ / ____ Age: ____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: ____ Zip Code: _____
Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Disability (if applicable):
 Amputation Spinal Cord Injury Traumatic Brain Injury
 Visual Impairment PTSD Other _____

Date of Injury: ____ / ____ / ____ Level of SCI: _____

Event Detail:
Please select a distance 40 Mile Ride 12 Mile Ride
Type of Cycle Recumbent Tadpole Hand-cycle Tandem Standard
Will you require a support rider during the competition? Yes No
If yes, will you provide your own support rider? Yes No

Status:
 Veteran Active Duty Non-military participant
Military Branch:
 Air Force Army Coast Guard Marines Navy
Please list your military rank _____

Travel Details:
 Flying Driving Live in Area
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
Departure Airport: _____ Frequent Flier Number: _____
Seat Preference: Aisle Middle Window

Please return application form to:
Lane@arizonadisabledsports.com or Fax – 480.610.2257

The event is limited to ten scholarships for Arizona residents and 10 out-of-state Veterans which will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. After approval, the applicant will receive an email confirmation with further instructions.

OTGR Central Region

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



Michigan Reboot Workshop in Detroit

Registration is now open for a three-week session designed to help prepare members of the armed services for life after the military. The Michigan REBOOT Workshop, scheduled for **Oct. 20-Nov. 7 at Piquette Square in Detroit**, is being offered through MVAA. Developed by the National Veterans Transition Services, Inc., each workshop provides extensive personalized transition training, addressing personal, social and professional aspects of the transition from military to civilian life – all at no cost to the veterans who participate.

Participants are only responsible for transportation and lunch each day. Class size is limited to 25 participants and registration is available at: MichiganVeterans.com/MIREBOOT. Piquette Square is located at 6221 Brush St., Detroit, 48202. While the workshops are geared primarily for Post-9/11 veterans, they are open to all veterans regardless of service era or discharge status.

MVAA will host three additional Michigan REBOOT Workshops in 2015 and [online registration is also open for these sessions](#): March 16-April 3, 2015 (Women veterans only) – Southeast Michigan (location TBD); April 27-May 15, 2015 – Lansing (location TBD); June 1-19, 2015 - Grand Rapids (location TBD)

Detroit Veteran Expo - Nov. 7-8 - Cobo Center



More than 2,000 veterans and their families learned about education and employment opportunities, met with accredited benefit counselors and received health screenings at two Veteran Expos hosted by MVAA in August and September.

Veterans initiated or scheduled more than 100 new claims for VA benefits and approximately 150 veterans were able to sign up for VA health care - all on-site at the Expos hosted in Marquette and Grand Rapids. MVAA is hosting a third **Veteran Expo at Cobo Center in Detroit Nov. 7-8**. Event hours are **11 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday**. Online registration is available at MichiganVeterans.com/expo or attendees can register on-site.

Hiring our Heroes will bring employers from throughout the state for a Saturday-only job fair. Veterans are urged to bring their resumes and dress for success as jobs can be offered on-site during the job fair. Employment specialists will be available to help with resumes and interviewing skills to ensure veterans are making the most of their military skills in the job market. Representatives from Michigan colleges and universities will also be available to discuss opportunities to get college credit for service, on-campus veterans' programs and other questions about returning to school.

Michigan Veteran Driver's Licenses



More than 19,000 Michigan veterans have signed up for a special designation on their driver's license or state ID displaying their veteran status, since its launch in May.

[The license](#), which has the word "Veteran" in bold red lettering on the front of the card, is available to all honorably discharged Michigan veterans. It's a way to verify veteran status and take advantage of retailer discounts without having to carry around a DD-214.

Veterans will be required to provide proof of their honorable discharge to get the veteran designation. There is no additional fee for the designation for veterans who are renewing their license or ID card or applying for one for the first time. For veterans who want the new designation before it's time to renew, [correction fees will apply](#). The Michigan Retailers Association has compiled a list of its members' [discounts for veterans](#). The MVAA also has compiled a list of [additional veteran discounts](#).



Sisseton Veterans Pow Wow ~ November 7-9

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

Veterans Pow Wow

November 7, 8, & 9, 2014
Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Agency Village, SD
Hosted by SWO United Veterans Association

<p>Master of Ceremonies: Jerry Dearly, St. Paul, MN TBA</p> <p>Host Drum Old Agency Singers, Agency Village Elk Soldier, Yankton, SD</p> <p>Arena Directors: Roland Heminger, Sisseton, SD Dewayne Boyd, Sisseton, SD</p> <p>Singing Judge Mike Greeley, Wilmot, SD Gabe Desrosiers, Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Vendor Space Available Danielle DeCoteau (605) 268-1765</p> <p>Flag Registration John Feather (605) 885-8817</p> <p>ALL VETERAN GROUPS WELCOME!</p> <p>Moccasin Contest \$1,000, 800, 600, 400 Felix Renville (605) 290-5075 Registration Saturday 10-12 noon</p>	<p>Grand Entry Friday 7pm, Saturday 1 & 7pm, Sunday 1pm</p> <p>Dancer Registration Opens at 9am Fri & Closes @ 11am Sat</p> <p>Golden Age - Ages 50 and over \$800, \$700, \$600, \$500, \$400</p> <p>Adults - Ages 18-49 \$800, \$700, \$600, \$500, \$400</p> <p>Teens - Ages 13-17 \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50</p> <p>Jrs - Ages 8-12 \$200, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25</p> <p>Tiny Tots - Ages 0-7, Day Money, Must be in full regalia</p> <p>Chicken Dance - Ages 16 - Over \$800, \$700, \$600, \$500, \$400</p> <p>Drum Split - must be registered For all non-contest drums</p> <p>Singing Contest \$3,000, \$2,000, \$1,000, \$800, \$600</p>
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No Drugs or Alcohol Allowed. Not Responsible for lost or stolen items, divorce or lack of funds.



Michigan National Guard Family Programs ~Thanks-For-Giving~

Michigan National Guard Family Programs Thanks-For-Giving



Please join the Michigan National Guard Family Programs Team in connecting our military families in need with sponsors in support of the Thanksgiving Holiday

The 2014 Thanks-For-Giving Campaign is currently accepting applications from the following:

- Service Members in Need
- Sponsors

Applications must be received by the State Family Programs Office no later than 14 November 2014

Submit completed application to:
Michigan National Guard Family Programs Office
ATTN: Thanks-For-Giving Program
3423 North Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing Michigan 48906

Or

Email application to: ng.mi.miarng.mbx.family-programs@mail.mil
Subject line: Thanks-For-Giving Program

Or

Fax application to: 517-481-9886



OTGR Southwest Plains

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

16th ANNUAL **VETERANS SYMPOSIUM**

“INTEGRATING HEALTHY VETERAN
PARTNERSHIPS IN NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES”

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH, 2014

Location: Route 66 Casino & Hotel
14500 Central Ave SW, I-40 Exit 140, Albuquerque, NM 87121

This event is to recognize and honor the military service of Native Americans; and to orient veterans and their families on benefits and programs available from the Indian Health Service and the NMVA Healthcare System.

Come enjoy the interaction and socializing in an environment specific for veterans.

Sponsors for the event are the Albuquerque Area Office of the Indian Health Service, the New Mexico Veterans Administration Healthcare System and hosted by the Pueblo of Laguna.

For registration please contact Grace Baca at 505.248.4600 grace.baca@ihs.gov





16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

Route 66 Casino/Hotel

November 7, 2014 0800 – 1630

SPONSORED BY THE ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE & THE NEW MEXICO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
HOSTED BY PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

THEME: *"Integrating Healthy Veteran Partnerships in Native American Communities"*

OBJECTIVE: To Recognize and Honor Military Service and to Educate, Promote and Access Health Care Services to Veterans and their Families.

SALUTE TO ALL VETERANS ~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

0600 - 0700	Military Cadence Run/Walk 1.5 Miles; Meet at Route 66 Casino Hotel Lobby
0730- 0930	Registration – Legends Theater
0800 – 0815	Opening Session – Legends Theater: Master of Ceremonies, Marvin Trujillo, Laguna Pueblo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Posting of Colors - Taos Pueblo Color Guard - Invocation – Gilbert Suazo, Taos Pueblo - Honor Song – "For Active Duty Currently in Harm's Way" - Taos Pueblo Drum Group
0815 – 0845	Welcome and Purpose – Ken Tiller, 2 nd Lt Governor, Pueblo of Laguna Introduction of Guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RADM Richie Grinnell, Director Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service - Dr. Skye McDougall, – Acting Director, NM VA Healthcare System - Eagle Dance Group, Laguna Pueblo
0900-1000	Keynotes: "Combat and Military Experience that supported my Tribal Leadership Roles" Governor Joseph Suina, Cochiti Pueblo "Combat and Military Experience that supported my Veteran and Community Leadership Role" Yevgeniy Zhupikov "Z", Counselor Vet Center "Affordable Care Act, IHS Impact", Amber Carillo, Albuquerque Area IHS
1000 - 1015	Break – Veterans Expo – Hallway to Ballrooms
1015 – 1100	BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 1 Series (see page 2 for sessions and locations)
1100- 1115	Break – Veterans Expo – Hallway to Ballrooms
1115 – 1200	BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 2 Series (see page 2 for sessions and locations)
1200 – 1330	Lunch Buffett at Route 66 Buffet
1330 – 1415	Honoring and Recognizing Ceremony – Legends Theater; comments by Timothy Hale, Cabinet Secretary, NM Department of Veterans Affairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition Ceremony – Presenting: Dr. Skye McDougall – Acting Director, NM VA Healthcare System; Admiral Richie Grinnell, Director Albuquerque Area IHS; Mr. Chris Norton, Director VA Regional Office; Mr. James Sanders, Director National Cemetery Administration; Melodie Cruz, Miss Indian, University of New Mexico - Recognizing Native American Code Talkers; Michael Chinana, Wawatowa Veterans Association - Memorial Song for the Fallen – Taps, Mike Lucero; Honor song by Taos Drum Group
1400 – 1415	Break - Veterans Expo – Hallway to Ballrooms
1430 – 1515	BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 3 series (See page 2 for sessions and locations)
1515 – 1530	Break - Veterans Expo – Hallway to Ballrooms; Veterans Report to Legends Theater for Closing Ceremonies
1530 - 1600	Closing Session – Legends Theater



16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 - 1015 TO 1100

LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
Laguna Ballroom	Partnerships in Health – VA/IHS/Tribal	Jennifer DeWinne, NMVAHCS Dr. Leonard Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, ABQ, IHS
Paguate Ballroom	Burial and Memorial Benefits	James Sanders, Dir. Santa Fe VA National Cemetery Administration
Paraje Ballroom	Recognizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorders	Dr. Chris Chee, NMVAHCS
Mesita Ballroom	Application for VA Benefits and Assistance	VHA Enrollment, VBA, Vet Center Staff and Veteran Service Officers
Encinal Ballroom	Women Veterans Health Services	Catherine (Catin) Brown, Albq. Vet Center
Envy	Health Screening	Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 - 1115 TO 1200

LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
Laguna Ballroom	Health Benefits / Insurance Assistance	Bob Gurney, Beneficiary Counseling & Assistance Coordinator, 377 th Medical Group
Paguate Ballroom	Injury Prevention/Safety Tips	Jerry Lee, IHS Injury Prevention Specialist
Paraje Ballroom	Application for VA Benefits and Assistance	VHA Enrollment, VBA, Vet Center Staff and Veteran Service Officers
Mesita Ballroom	Patient Advocacy and Customer Service	Betty Vallejos, Patient Advocate, NMVAHCS
Encinal Ballroom	Home Based Primary Care / Long Term Care Services	Janet Nichols, Melaine Porter-Kunz, NMVAHCS
Envy	Health Screening	Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 - 1430 TO 1515

LOCATION	TOPIC	PRESENTER
Laguna Ballroom	Social Security and Medicare	LeRoy R. Aragon, National Committee to Preserve Benefits
Paguate Ballroom	Suicide Prevention	Cynthia Enrico, NMVAHCS
Paraje Ballroom	HUD-VASH/Homeless Services	Shantel Mitchell-Cooley, VA CBOC Stephanie Saldivar, NMVAHCS
Mesita Ballroom	Legacy Corps Program – Services for Senior Veterans	Reyes A. Jiron, Senior Companion Outreach Coordinator, Isleta Pueblo
Encinal Ballroom	Veterans Access to Health Care at IHS	Dr. Leonard Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, ABQ IHS Connie Loretto, IHS, Taos Service Unit
Envy	Health Screening	Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



The Pearl Harbor Day Observance Committee proudly presents:

The 2014 State of Arizona Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

WESLEY BOLIN MEMORIAL PLAZA
1700 W. WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PROCEEDINGS START AT 10:40 AM

ADMISSION IS FREE!

FEATURING

Special Commemorative Wreath Laying
Ceremony

Posting of the Colors by the POW/MIA/KIA
Honor Guard

Music by the Arizona Veteran's Band

Special City of Phoenix Pearl Harbor Day Walk

Military Vehicles Displays

Access to the State Capitol Museum

Special raffle to benefit the Arizona Capitol
Museum [see reverse side for details]



Marshall Trimble
Master of Ceremonies

American author, singer, community college professor, and Arizona's official state historian. In addition to his position as director of Southwest studies at Scottsdale Community College, he is a popular speaker and True West Magazine's question-and-answer man.



Rear Admiral James A. Symonds, USN, ret.
Keynote Speaker

Former Commander, Navy Region Northwest, based in Silverdale, Washington, and the former Commanding Officer of the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76)



10:55 AM Flyover by the historic B-17 Flying Fortress "Sentimental Journey" operated by CAF Airbase Arizona at Falcon Field, Mesa





Healing of Memories Veteran Workshop

Healing of Memories

Workshop for Veterans

December 5-7, 2014



Featuring IHOM
Facilitators:

Sheila Laughton

Retired Officer, Military Wife & Mom
Veterans Spiritual Director &
IHOM Facilitator for 5 years

Margaret Fell

IHOM Facilitator for 7 years
Founding member of the
Warrior to Citizen Campaign
Episcopal Priest and 32 years of
service to the Federal Government.



Workshop is for Veterans and is FREE
to ALL Veterans of any age.

Includes TWO nights lodging, meals
and program. Begins with dinner at
6pm Friday, ends at 2pm Sunday.

To Register for this Workshop or to help
financially sponsor a veteran, call Cyndy
at Spirit in the Desert or visit the website

(480) 488-5218

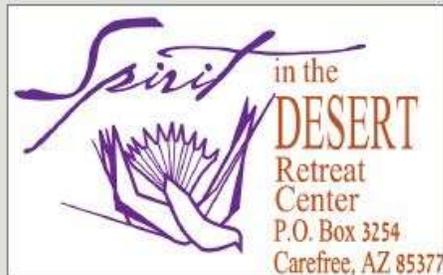
www.spiritinthedesert.org

For more information about this workshop, its leaders,
goals, concepts, plus other questions, contact veteran:

Mike Wold

PO Box 1463 - Carefree, AZ 85377
(651) 687-9767 michael_w_wold@msn.com

Mike is a Navy Vietnam veteran from Minnesota who now
resides in Carefree, AZ. He is active in supporting military
personnel, their families & veterans. Mike is using his
Minnesota experience to help Arizona vets through the
Healing of Memories Workshops for Veterans.



Homeowners
FINANCIAL GROUP 

Financial Underwriting Partner for Healing of Memories
Veterans Workshop, Carefree, AZ, December 5-7, 2014.
HFG has a long history of assisting veterans in their
mortgage needs and is known for their strong support
of community programs. www.homeownersfg.com



Healing of Memories Veteran Workshop

**Healing of Memories
Arizona Workshop
for Veterans Only
December 5-7, 2014
Registration Form**

*Workshop is Free to all Veterans
Includes 2 nights lodging, program and meals.
Begins with dinner at 6p Friday and ends at 2pm Sunday.*

There are 3 ways to Register for this Workshop:

1. Complete required info on this form & send to the address listed below.
2. Call Cyndy at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, 8am - 3pm week days: (480) 488-5218
3. Register online at: www.spiritinthedesert.org

Space is limited -- register early!

Confirmation of your registration will be generated by email or sent USPS if you do not use email.

*Required Information: *Please Print...thank you!*

*Name	
*Address	
*City/ST/Zip	
*Preferred Phone#	
*Email	
*Need Transportation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Mail Completed form to:

**Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center
ATT: Veterans October 2013 Workshop
PO Box 3254
Carefree, AZ 85377**

Our Partners

Homeowners FINANCIAL GROUP

Financial Underwriting Partner for Healing of Memories Veterans Workshop, Carefree, AZ, December 5-7, 2014. HFG has a long history of assisting veterans in their mortgage needs and is known for their strong support of community programs. www.homeownersfg.com
PLUS...hundreds of individuals and small businesses!



*A holy place where people experience hospitality
and renew their callings in the world*
(480) 488-5218
www.spiritinthedesert.org

Spirit in the Desert is a ministry in the Southwest where all people are welcomed into a unique desert experience that stimulates a life of faith. As we center our lives in the love of God, we value...

- Offering gracious hospitality
- Celebrating God's creation
- Inspiring spiritual growth
- Nurturing living faith
- Welcoming diversity

We are also a center for people in their 3rd Chapter of Life, helping them renew their callings from God...and empowering them to live a life of meaning and purpose in their 3rd Chapter of Life.

Nestled in the mountains 45 minutes north of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, elevation, 2690' - it's cooler up here with clean air and starry night skies!

Healing of Memories Workshop For Veterans



**December 5-7, 2014
Spirit in the Desert
Retreat Center,
Carefree, AZ**

Workshop is for Veterans and is FREE to ALL Veterans of any age. Includes TWO nights lodging, meals and program. Begins with dinner at 6pm Friday, ends at 2pm Sunday.



Phoenix Indian School Legacy Project Open House & Warrior Society Gourd Dance



Learn how you can get involved in the *Phoenix Indian School Legacy Project* with Native American Connections and the Phoenix Indian Center. The partners are renovating the former band building at Phoenix Indian School. Public tours available. Architectural drawings will be on display.

Gourd Dance by First Nations Warrior Society.

*Sponsored in partnership with the VA Medical Center's Native American Programs

Band Building Open House & Gourd Dance

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014

10:00am - 2:00pm

@ Steele Indian School Park

"Bring your own food and have a picnic in the park"

*Use the entrance off of Central Avenue, just north of Indian School Road, to park. (The 3rd St. entrance will be closed to traffic.)

*Bring your own chairs

*Shaded areas will be provided for elders

* Free water



More information call: 602-254-3247



16th Annual Veterans Day Gourd Dance Pueblo Grande Museum

Contact:	Laura Andrew, Visitor Services Supervisor Pueblo Grande Museum	David Urbinato, Public Information Officer
Phone:	602-495-0901	Office: 602-262-4994; Cell: 602-350-1506
Fax:	602-495-5645	602-495-2432
E-mail:	Laura.Andrew@phoenix.gov	David.Urbinato@phoenix.gov

For Immediate Release



16th Annual Veterans Day Gourd Dance at Pueblo Grande Museum

Phoenix, AZ, October 4, 2014 – Join Pueblo Grande Museum for the 16th Annual Veterans Day Gourd Dance on November 11, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This annual event held at the Museum, honors the memory of all the men and women who have served our nation. Gourd Dancing starts at 11:30 a.m. and is conducted by the Arizona Territorial Gourd Society. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share during the break between dances. Come to the museum and join us in celebrating our veterans.

This event is free and open to the public. Museum admission is also free in honor of the Veteran’s Day holiday. For more information visit our website at pueblogrande.com or call the Museum at 602-495-0901.





Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
602-495-0901
www.pueblogrande.com

The Museum is located on the Southeast corner of 44th St. and Washington
Follow Pueblo Grande Museum on Facebook and on Twitter @PuebloGrande

###

Photographs available upon request

###

Hours: October through April – Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Sunday 1 to 4:45 p.m. CLOSED Sunday and Monday May through September and most major holidays

Admission: Adults \$6, Seniors (55+) \$5, Children (6-17) \$3, under 6 are Free and Children 17 and under are free on Sundays

Explore the Ancient Heart of Phoenix

Pueblo Grande Museum is located on a 1,000 year old archaeological site left by the Hohokam culture located just minutes from downtown Phoenix next to Sky Harbor International Airport. This National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride has been a part of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department since 1929, and is the largest preserved archaeological site within Phoenix. Easily accessible by the Sky Train and the Light Rail, the museum is open 7 days a week October through April, and closed Sundays and Mondays, May through September.

A fully accessible 2/3 mile trail takes you through a prehistoric Hohokam archaeological village site with a partially excavated platform mound, ballcourt, and replicated prehistoric houses. There are three galleries to visit while at the Museum. The main gallery displays artifacts of the Hohokam and discusses the Pueblo Grande village site. The children's hands-on gallery has activities to help kids learn about the science of archaeology. And the changing gallery features exhibits on various topics from archaeology, southwest cultures, and Arizona history. For authentic Native American gifts, art, and jewelry, the Museum Store has something for all tastes and budgets.

Throughout the year, Pueblo Grande Museum has programming for adults, children, and families, which include archaeology classes for kids, arts and crafts workshops, hikes, and lectures. The Museum also holds annual events, such as the Indian Market, children's summer programs, a Native Art & Rug Auction, Ancient Technology Day and more to please all ages and interests!

###

2014 Patriot All-America Golf Tournament



ABOUT THE PATRIOT

The Arizona Golf Association (AGA), JDM Partners and the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) in partnership with the Folds of Honor Foundation, have created the Patriot All-America Invitational, which is hosted annually at the Wigwam Arizona Golf Resort in Litchfield Park. Now, in its fourth year, the tournament attracts 84 nationally-recognized players with the PING All-America honor from all NCAA Divisions, as well as NAIA, NJCAA and AJGA rankings.

The 54-hole amateur event is the first of its kind creating a bowl-like experience, which has garnered national media coverage from ESPN and the Golf Channel to local news affiliates and collegiate news outlets. In a few short years, the Patriot All-America is already recognized as a top 10 world-wide amateur event and continues to attract the top golfers that are soon to become the next generation of PGA TOUR players.

In cooperation with Folds of Honor, participants in The Patriot All-America follow an annual tradition to represent a fallen service member. Every golfer receives a golf bag at the Opening Ceremony with the name and branch of service of a fallen military member whom they represent. At the conclusion of the tournament, the golf bags are auctioned with all proceeds benefitting the Folds of Honor Foundation, which provides educational scholarships for children and spouses of military service men and women killed or disabled while in active service.

The Patriot All-America honors the collegiate golfers for their excellence and gives back to the military, creating a memorable event that is destined to be a mainstay in the world of golf.



GET TO THE HOLE!



JDM
PARTNERS



GCAA



FOLDS OF HONOR

2014 Veterans Banquet



The American Legion

Lori Piestewa Post #80



Hosting

2014 Veterans Banquet

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014
HOPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
KYKOTSMOVI, AZ
AZ HIGHWAY 264, MILE POST 375

Sequence of events:

5:30 p.m.	Social/Photo Hour
6:30 p.m.	Official Ceremony
7:00 p.m.	Dinner
8:00 p.m.	Entertainment

**THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED
AT THE 2014 ANNUAL VETERANS BANQUET**

Please RSVP by November 7, 2014 by contacting
Vaughn Sieweumptewa @ (928)-814-0563 or
Geno Talas @ (928)-734-3461 for planning purpose.



Veterans Day Celebration – Parker, AZ



**BLUEWATER RESORT & CASINO
BINGO HALL**

ALL VETERANS WELCOME

**VETERAN'S DAY CAKE CONTEST
BRING CAKES TO BINGO HALL
NOON ON THE 8TH
FOR JUDGING
CASH PRIZE FOR
1ST , 2ND & 3RD PLACE**



FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON ANY EVENT CONTACT:
KEITH MOSES
928-575-7162



**VETERAN'S DAY PARADE
DOWNTOWN PARKER
JOSHUA AVENUE
9:30AM PRE SHOW
10:00 AM PARADE**

Veterans Day Celebration – Parker, AZ



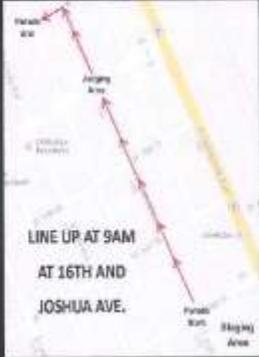
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

PARKER COMMUNITY VETERAN'S DAY PARADE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014 10 AM

9:30 National Anthem,
Presentation of Colors by the
VFW POST #7061 at
Arizona Ave & Joshua Ave.

Parade Announcers:
Bill Risen & Barbra Cuadras

You can pick up applications at: Bluewater Cinemas, Parker Chamber of Commerce, & CRIT Tribal Offices
For more info call Keith Moses at 928-669-5737 or 928-575-7162



LINE UP AT 9AM
AT 16TH AND
JOSHUA AVE.



OTGR Eastern Region

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

Passamaquoddy Veterans Documentary: “Protecting the Homeland”

Check out the links [HERE](#) (Part I – 17:04) and [HERE](#) (Part II – 15:17) for a two-part documentary, “Protecting the Homeland” focused on veterans from the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Maine. This was sent by Donald Soctomah, Tribal Historic Preservation Office



OTGR Western Region

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

Northwest Indian Veterans Association (Abridged) Calendar

NOVEMBER:

5th (Wednesday)
(ALL NIVA MEMBERS)

MONTHLY NIVA MEETING

Columbia Room

3rd Floor

Bldg 11

Vancouver, Division, PVAMC

1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd

Vancouver, WA 98661

7:00 PM, Meeting Starts

(We meet the First Wednesday of each Month)

AFTER OUR OCTOBER ELECTIONS, THESE MEMBERS BECAME NIVA 2015 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Eugene Sanchez
VICE-PRESIDENT: Alvey Seeyouma
SECRETARY: Julie Eddings
TREASURER: Dave Hancock

Let's wish them the best and help them lead us to another successful NIVA Year
TONIGHT, Let's Plan for our Christmas Party/Dinner and our several November

Veteran's Day activities.

7th (Friday) CLARK COLLEGE ANNUAL EDUCATING FOR THE
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) 7TH GENERATION POW WOW
4:00 PM, Info Table Set Up
5:00 PM, Free Indian Tacos and NIVA CG Practice
6:00 PM, Grand Entry
10:00 PM, NIVA CG Retire Colors

8th (Saturday) VETERANS DAY PARADE
(F.Y.I.) Evergreen Blvd along Officer's Row
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

9th (Sunday) ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CONVOY
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver, WA
10:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice
11:00 AM, NIVA CG Post Colors, Say Blessing and
Ceremony Begins
12:00 PM, Convoy to Mile Post 282 just North
of Wilsonville, OR
2:00 PM, Medal Ceremony Begins
(THERE WILL BE NO SALMON DINNER THIS YEAR)

If you wish to receive an Oregon Honorable Service Medal, bring proof of your Veteran Status and present it at the Vancouver Convoy site before the 11:00 AM Ceremony begins, then you will receive the Medal at the Medal Ceremony at Mile Post 282. (All Veterans are eligible for the Medal, not just Oregon Veterans)

11th (Tuesday) NIVA VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) Oregon Vietnam Memorial Wall (By Zoo)
10:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice
11:00 AM, NIVA CG Post Colors
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, NIVA Ceremony Smudging, Prayer and
Flute Playing - After the Ceremony, let's all go to Appleby's for our free Veterans
Day Meal



5th Annual American Indian Veteran Advisory Committee Memorial & Honoring Ceremony

VAMC Welcomes American Indian Veterans

September 2014, by Bret Bowers, PAO

Veterans from Native American Tribes and communities throughout the Pacific Northwest proudly shared their heritage, military service, Warrior Drums, prayers and respect for their fellow Veterans during the 5th Annual American Indian Veterans Advisory Committee's Memorial & Honoring Ceremony September 13.

More than 150 Veterans and guests attended the outdoor event on the picnic grounds behind the hospital. Veterans who served during World War II, with special emphasis on Korean War Veterans, to the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, all joined to honor each other and their heritage.

Every Veteran personally greeted the guests and shared their own meaningful memories and insight on what drove them to defend freedom, democracy and the American way of life.

But one Veteran in particular, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe brought the entire audience to the brink of emotion. He declared that elders, parents and grandparents, even total strangers in the great history of this land, "... didn't grow up for me. They didn't join the military for me. They didn't die on the battlefield for me. They didn't come home the way they are now... for me. They (Veterans) did it... for all of us."

Calvin Nomee of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe pleaded for society and cultures throughout the land to not forget the hardships and lessons learned by the generations who came before us. "You can use the strength and wisdom of our old people. We should also remember the little people among us. Otherwise, how are they going to learn," he asked.

Dave BrownEagle, a Spokane Tribal member and Veteran served as Master of Ceremonies. He recognized American Indian Veterans like Fred Gabourie, a WW II Veteran, elder and member of the Seneca Tribe, when BrownEagle and Volunteer Esther Westlake placed a hand-made warming quilt over the nearly 90-year old Veteran's shoulders. BrownEagle also called upon Vietnam Veteran Len Friedlander, who, in full regalia, led the Grand Entry of Tribal Veterans, placing their Tribal colors and honors for all to see.

Other American Indian Nations also presented their heritage and stories of their ancestors who even today, remain among the smallest populations of Americans in the country, but per-capita, the largest of contributors to America's military might among all races of people.





One Veteran honored at the ceremony has become known around the world. John Smith, Colville Tribe and US Army Veteran stood at the podium and called upon all listeners to hear the story of a "true American Hero, a Native American Indian Veteran named Earl Ervin McClung of Inchelium, WA who passed away just after Veterans Day last year at the age of 90." Smith, a life-long friend and former co-worker of McClung as a biologist for Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, told of McClung's life of survival after parachuting into enemy (German) territory on the night before D-Day, 1944.

"Earl was drafted into the Army and he went proudly. When he saw the Army was paying an extra \$50 a month to be a paratrooper, he opted for the 101st Airborne Division's elite 506 Parachute Regiment," said Smith.

McClung's heroism and service helped create the inspiration for the best-selling book and movie titled, *"Band of Brothers"*. "In addition to their specialized missions, the story of Native American warriors became legendary because of their ability to hunt, survive the brutal elements, walk quietly in the woods and evade capture," explained Smith from a Veterans Day 2013 feature by *"The Tribal Tribune"*.

McClung survived WW II, bringing home two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart for his service. Later in life, he was honored to speak to Veterans groups and Congress in Washington, D.C. about the challenges of war.

On this day, it was clear McClung could not have asked for a better friend in John Smith. A member of the Confederated Tribe of Colville Indians Honor Guard, Smith wore the colors of his family, and publicly acknowledged his Wife Claudine for his custom-made "ribbon shirt," in which many wives honor their Warrior husbands in Native American tradition. This was the families' first time attending the annual event. Many came, including McClung's 94 year old sister, two brothers, nieces and nephews, some from as far away as Oregon. A niece, Joanne (Marchand) Spearson, was happy to hear Smith speak on her family's behalf because he and Earl were so close.

With Native American tradition, the day included prayer, Warrior Drums and children. The culture is also displayed through a generous meal, with meats, salads and dessert, complimented by fresh and smoked salmon donated by the Colville and Coeur d'Alene Tribes, respectively.





Other first time guests sat in amazement and awe, including the young children who proudly wore their tribal colors, leading the audience in the *Pledge of Allegiance* or native song. Others simply came to learn and pay their respects during this event.

Former WW II Prisoners of War, Bud Kirchhoff and Herm Littman received special warming blankets, while Spokane Mayor David Condon (US Army Veteran) brought his children along with him to salute the Native American Tribes, Veterans, and the Mann-Grandstaff families which the VA Medical Center is now named. Tami Grandstaff-Chamberlain was in attendance too. The daughter of Bruce A. Grandstaff (Medal of Honor, US Army Vietnam) smiled the entire time as she visited and spoke with many. A mother of two who lost her own Father when she was just seven years old, Grandstaff has dedicated herself towards advocating for society's understanding of war's impact on children, families and communities.

The day was also befitting of the Patriot Guard Riders, standing at attention, welcoming everyone as "Old Glory" snapped in the wind. Even those still *Missing In Action* were remembered... with "a table for one" tribute for America's "MIA's". Every Veteran who attended the event was also presented a commemorative shirt honoring this annual tradition to recognize Veterans, honor the Native American culture and our fallen heroes.

Members of the American Indian Veterans Advisory Committee (AIVAC) meet monthly through the Minority Veterans Program at the Mann-Grandstaff VAMC in Spokane, WA.

Points of contact are:
Tammie Maple or Kristine Kovac who can be reached at (509) 434-7504.



Story and photos by Bret Bowers,
PAO Mann-Grandstaff VAMC, Spokane, WA



DQ University Big Time Powwow Veterans

DQ UNIVERSITY VETERANS BIG TIME POW-WOW & VETERANS STAND DOWN

MC: Val Shadowhawk

Saturday Nov. 8, 2014

Campus Address: 33250 Co. Rd. 31 Davis, CA 95617

All
Dancers
Drums
Families
Welcome
California
Dancers
PowWow
Dancers
Azteca
Dancers
Jewelry,
Art, Crafts,
Wares,
& Cuisine



Itinerary:

Friday
Volunteer Day
Open Mic: 6-11

Saturday
Gourd: 11am
Entry: Noon
Dinner: 5pm
Gourd: 6pm
Entry: 7pm
Close: 11pm

**Welcome All
VETERANS**

VA Enrollment
Process Claims
Benefits
Housing
Medical
Jobs
Dependents
Vet Center
Services & Care
Bring DD-214

www.d-q-u.org

 D-Q University

Veteran Service Participation, Information,
Vending, Donatinos, Dance/Drum Groups Please Contact:
Sky Road Webb, 904-254-4770 skyroadwebb@gmail.com



Nez Perce Veterans Program Awarded Grant

PRESS RELEASE



Contact Helen Goodteacher
Telephone 208-843-7324
Cell 208-305-1638
Email heleng@nezperce.org
Website www.nezperce.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2014

NEZ PERCE TRIBE VETERANS PROGRAM AWARDED \$154,356.00 FOR JOB-TRAINING TO HOMELESS

Tribe Awarded Funding for Veterans

Lapwai, Idaho, October 21, 2014-The Nez Perce Tribe Veterans Program was awarded \$154,356.00 under the US Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, administered by the Veterans' Employment and Training Services. The grants announced \$9,094,355 in funding to 37 new grantees. The Nez Perce Tribe is the only tribal grantee to receive this award. All awarded grantees demonstrated they can administer effective programs and are familiar with the area and population to be served. This program is open to all homeless veterans or veterans at risk of becoming homeless in the area who are seeking employment or wanting to return to the workforce.

The project will serve veterans through providing job-driven training developed through employer partnerships in the identifying of skills needed for in-demand jobs and careers. Job placement, career counseling, life skills, money management and housing referrals are some of the services provided to veterans.

The Nez Perce Tribe Veterans Program would like to recruit interested veterans seeking assistance with employment and potential employers to contact the Nez Perce Tribe Veterans Program. The Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grant can provide reimbursement to the employer of up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the participant for on the job training to include cost of training and additional supervision. On-the Job training is an agreement with the employer to hire the trainee upon successful completion of the training.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kylie St. Paul, Veteran's Benefits Specialist Office at 208-843-2253 ext. 4738 or kyliep@nezperce.org.



OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX)

ANADARKO AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS STAND DOWN

Event for Veterans that are homeless or in overcrowded situations.

Friday November 7th, 2014 10am-3pm

Lunch will be served @ 11:30am

Location: Iscani Gym / 101 E. Coronado St. / Anadarko, OK

PARTICIPATING TRIBES

Delaware Nation / Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma / Wichita
Tribe / Comanche Nation / Apache Tribe of Oklahoma / Ft.
Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

SERVICES:

- Help with accessing VA benefits & services
- Housing assistance for homeless or overcrowded Veterans
- Counseling & substance abuse referrals
- Emergency shelter & other social services
- Legal Services
- Health screening
- Employment services
- Haircuts

GIVEAWAY ITEMS:

- Personal care products
- Clothing closet
- Surplus items, blankets, boots, etc.
- Breakfast and lunch
- Pick-up locations available

Please bring ID
(VA card or
DD214) if
available.



SAVE THE DATE!
**14TH ANNUAL VETERANS HONOR
DANCE**

NOVEMBER 14, 2014
OKLAHOMA CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SPONSORED BY
OKLAHOMA CITY VA WARRIORS AND ELDERS COUNCIL

HEAD STAFF TO BE ANNOUNCED



CONTACT: CANDY FISH KLUMPP
NATIVE AMERICAN NURSE NAVIGATOR
OKLAHOMA CITY VAMC
405-456-3808
CANDY.KLUMP@VA.GOV

OR

TEMPIE NICHOLS-ROOD, LCSW
405-456-1129