
Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ December-January 2015/2016

Note from the Director

Happy 2016 and welcome to our special combined edition December/January of VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and that the New Year is off to a good and productive start. The OTGR team's activities and efforts in recent weeks are setting the ground work for where we'll be focusing our time and attention in the days ahead. We were very pleased by the Tribal HUD VASH (Housing and Urban Development Veterans Assisted Supportive Housing) announcement made by HUD Secretary Julian Castro and VA Secretary Bob McDonald during the Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal General Session held in Oklahoma. Twenty-six tribes nationwide were invited to participate in the newly launched program that will offer housing assistance to Veterans struggling with homelessness in Indian Country. We're looking forward to supporting communications and collaborative activities between HUD, the Veteran's Health Administration and tribal governments as the program sites move into the implementation phase.

The team has been on the road in recent weeks. Terry Bentley, our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the MyVA Pacific District participated in the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, providing updates on the VA-Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreements and VA OTGR national activities and efforts. Meeting attendees toured the Lummi Nation Tribal Health Program and the Veterans Program located on the Lummi Nation Reservation. While in the Northwest, Terry also visited with officials from Northwest Indian College located in Bellingham, Washington and found out more about the experiences of school's student Veteran population.

Our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for portions of the Continental and Southeast District, Mary Culley, traveled to Durant, Oklahoma to attend the National Museum of American Indian's (NMAI) first Tribal Consultation session on the National Native American Veteran Memorial Project. Officials from NMAI along with leadership from the Project's Advisory Committee will be conducting an extensive consultation and outreach effort focused on obtaining the recommendations and guidance on the Project from tribal leaders and Veterans across Indian Country. More information about the project can be found here: <http://www.nmai.si.edu/support/nativeveteransmemorial/>. We're very excited to see the effort move forward.

Over in the Southwest, Homana Pawiki, our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the Pacific/Continental Districts (the team covers different states within the specific districts) participated in the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Public Benefits Outreach Training which also included representatives from the Phoenix VA Health Care System, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. Homana is also busy convening the planning committees for benefits fairs and training summits that will be held in the Southwest, stay tuned for specific dates and location information which will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Peter Vicaire, our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the Midwest and North Atlantic District provided an update to Tribal Leaders at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. He has also been assisting an organization called Wounded Warriors Family Support (this is not the Wounded Warriors Project). Wounded Warriors Family Support (WWFS) has generously provided, at no cost, new Ford vehicles to tribal communities to use for the needs and benefit of local Veterans. So far, six vehicles have been paid for while two have already been transferred to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota and the Three Affiliated Tribes of North Dakota. WWFS is looking to make more vehicles available to interested tribes.

Meanwhile, back here in DC, we participated in a National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) sponsored roundtable discussion focused on economic opportunities for Native American Veterans. The session and discussion included officials from the Department of Labor, Small Business Administration and VA. The discussion was very productive and we anticipate follow up efforts with specific deliverables (demographic information with recommendations would be very helpful for planning purposes) to be identified and shared in the very near future. Related to the session at NCAI, VA is making plans to initiate Tribal Consultation this year which will be asking tribal leaders to identify the top 3-5 priorities for Veterans living in Indian Country.

I also had the opportunity, along with Adam Bluth from VHA's Office of Rural Health and our OTGR DC-based Program Analyst, Clay Ward, to brief the National Indian Health Board's Board meeting held here in DC. We shared updates regarding Tribal HUD VASH, the VA-IHS-Tribal Reimbursement Agreements Program (we distributed the listing of participating IHS and Tribal Health Programs with the total number of reimbursements to date by site) and other activities underway pursuant to the VA/IHS MOU. We received a lot of good questions about Tribal HUD VASH program (the program will have a case management component whereby VA may provide a case manager or contract with tribes to provide the service).

Looking ahead, we are scheduled to provide updates to the United and Southeastern Tribes' (USET) Veterans Committee during their upcoming annual meeting here in the DC area. We always enjoy meeting with USET leadership and representatives. We are also busy putting the finishing touches on the 2015 VA Executive Summary Report: "Engaging Indian Country, Serving our Warriors" which will provide a comprehensive snap shot of VA's activities and efforts with tribes during the past year.

Well, since this is a special "combination issue" you'll have a lot to read and review so I won't keep you any longer. As always, we welcome your suggestions, requests and feedback on this newsletter, the VA OTGR sponsored training and outreach activities which we have scheduled in the coming year. Send us an email: tribalconsultation@va.gov, check out our website: www.va.gov/tribalgovernment and please stay in touch. I look forward to visiting with our Tribal Leaders, Veterans, families and service providers either here in DC or during my travels throughout the year.

Warm Regards and Happy Reading,



Stephanie





HUD AND VA AWARD \$5.9 MILLION TO 26 TRIBES TO PROVIDE PERMANENT HOMES FOR HOMELESS NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

Here's a HUD press release from January 8, 2016



WASHINGTON - For the first time, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today awarded \$5.9 million in grants to 26 Tribes to offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The [Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(Tribal HUD-VASH\) Program](#) is a demonstration program that will combine \$5.9 million in rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA to serve 500 Native American Veterans. *See chart below.*

HUD Secretary Julián Castro announced the winners in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the winter meeting of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes. "By targeting resources directly to Tribes, we can better honor the service and sacrifice of Native American Veterans who now need a roof over their heads," said Castro. "These heroes deserve hope for a brighter future, and by offering permanent housing solutions, combined with needed services and case management, we can work with Tribes to end veteran homelessness."

HUD [invited](#) 30 eligible Tribes to seek Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers to help house and serve hundreds of Native American Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness or at extreme risk of becoming homeless. Twenty-six Tribes, from Alaska to New Mexico, will deliver and manage the housing vouchers among their members who need them, on tribal lands. "Targeting HUD-VASH vouchers to Veterans living on tribal lands opens new opportunities for helping Native American Veterans exit homelessness as quickly as possible" said Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert McDonald. "We are pleased that recent statutory changes to the HUD-VASH Program made it possible to award these vouchers for use within Indian Country, where Native American Veterans have existing support systems that can be aided by those provided under the HUD-VASH Program to help the Veterans remain stably housed."

Since 2008, more than 79,000 vouchers have been awarded and approximately 103,000 homeless Veterans have been served through the broader HUD-VASH program. Rental assistance and supportive services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's Veterans. In FY2015, Congress authorized funding for a demonstration program in order to expand the HUD-VASH program into Indian Country and directed HUD to coordinate with Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), and other appropriate tribal organizations on the design of this program, and to ensure the effective delivery of housing assistance and supportive services to eligible Native American Veterans.



State	Tribe	City	Amount	# of Veterans to be Housed
Alaska	Cook Inlet Housing Authority	Anchorage	\$313,058	20
	Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority	Juneau	\$324,749	20
	The Association of Village Council Presidents Regional Housing Authority	Bethel	\$391,740	20
Arizona	Navajo Housing Authority	Window Rock	\$268,835	20
	Hopi Housing Authority	Polacca	\$210,432	15
	San Carlos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation, Arizona	San Carlos	\$233,100	15
	Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona	Sells	\$302,936	20
Minnesota	Leech Lake Housing Authority	Cass Lake	\$159,022	20
	White Earth Reservation Housing Authority	White Earth	\$142,980	20
Montana	Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana	Browning	\$229,171	20
New Mexico	Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico	Zuni	\$123,288	10
North Carolina	Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Pembroke	\$185,604	20
North Dakota	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians	Belcourt	\$173,942	20
	Standing Rock Housing Authority	Fort Yates	\$234,178	20
Oklahoma	Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma	Tahlequah	\$194,405	20
	Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes	Concho	\$272,016	20
	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Hugo	\$246,992	20
	Osage Nation of Oklahoma	Pawhuska	\$265,438	20
	Muscogee(Creek) Nation, Oklahoma	Okmulgee	\$216,566	20
Oregon	Warm Springs Housing Authority	Warm Springs	\$240,237	20
South Dakota	Ogala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota	Pine Ridge	\$190,898	20
	Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi (Rosebud)	Rosebud	\$183,011	20
Washington	Yakama Nation Housing Authority	Wapato	\$145,283	20
	Spokane Indian Housing Authority	Spokane	\$245,809	20
	Colville Indian Housing Authority	Nespelem	\$179,892	20
Wisconsin	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin	Oneida	\$204,934	20
		TOTAL:	\$5,878,516	500

The *Tribal HUD-VASH Program* will provide rental assistance and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas. HUD is making available \$5.9 million in grant funding to Indian Tribes and TDHEs to fund rental assistance and associated administrative fees. Indian Tribes and TDHEs participating in this program will partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide healthcare assistance to eligible Native American Veterans.



WEBINAR: An Overview of PTSD and Treatment Perspectives among Native American Veterans

Here's an interesting [IHS webinar](#) that took place on December 14th, 2015

“Native Americans have a higher rate of enlisting in the military than other populations. Some Native American Veterans have experienced homelessness. This training may be particularly important for engagement and in providing services in a culturally sensitive manner to these Veterans. Many Native American and Alaska Native Veterans do not feel welcome or comfortable seeking assistance because of the cultural barriers, so understanding the culture will help in overcoming those barriers to providing assistance to this population.”

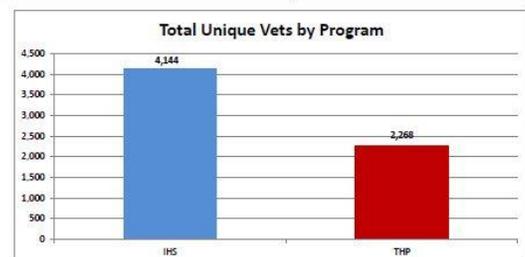
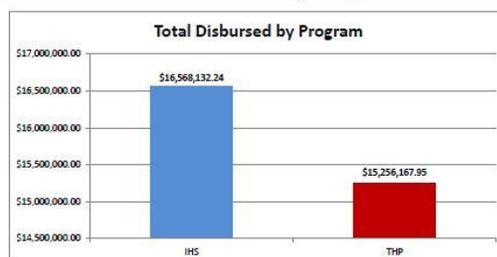
This webinar, “An Overview of PTSD and Treatment Perspectives Among Native American Veterans” [aired on] December 14, 2015. The Indian Health Service (IHS) co-chair is Mr. Joe Law. The webinar facilitator is Native Scholar and Tribal Veteran Greg Urquhart. These webinars are also recorded, archived and can be retrieved at: <https://ihs.adobeconnect.com/a1137116237/p70320ift9y/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>



VA Reimburses over \$31.8+ Million to IHS and Tribal Health Programs

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

National Data				
Total Disbursement for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD	Total Disbursement by Program - Agmt Date to FYTD			Total Unique Veterans for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD
	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	
\$31,828,607.19	IHS	\$16,568,132.24	4,144	6,341
	THP	\$15,256,167.95	2,268	
Total Disbursement - Out of System Retropayments (only)	Total Disbursement of Out of System Retropayments (only) - payments are included in above totals			Total Unique Veterans - Out of System Retropayments (only)
	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	
\$19,795.23	IHS	\$15,488.23	638	721
	THP	\$0.00	0	





Tribally-Owned and Operated Nursing Home Enters Into Reimbursement Agreement With VA

The Anna John Resident Centered Care Community (AJRCCC) is a nursing home facility wholly owned and operated by the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and which recently received certification from the VA to be reimbursed for taking care of eligible Veterans. According to Debbie Danforth, Operations Division Director, there had been huge support from the Veterans in their community and there is a large number of Vets in their area, especially within the immediate Oneida community.



The Anna John Resident Centered Care Community – Oneida, WI

The program currently houses twelve veterans, several of which, she says, would qualify for VA reimbursement. Further, both Native and non-Native veterans are eligible. When the concept of the AJRCCC was initially developed several years ago, getting VA certification was part of their plan once they moved into the new facility. Ms. Danforth states that they are very excited with their certification and look forward to having their Veterans have the ability to reside in their home.



Applications now open for Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court Program

Tribal courts interested in finding ways to help veterans should consider the program below. There is also the [Veteran Treatment Court Planning Initiative](#) as well as the [Veteran Justice Outreach Program](#).

There is no better way to learn how a Veterans Treatment Court operates than by observing it in person. That's why [Justice For Vets](#), in collaboration with the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, created the Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court Program. If your application is approved, Justice For Vets will fund up to three members of your Veterans Treatment Court team to visit an approved mentor court. Costs covered include transportation, lodging and meal per diem. Requests for visits are reviewed based on the needs of the applying jurisdiction.

Mentor courts serve as model programs for court teams interested in starting a Veterans Treatment Court or established courts interested in learning innovative practices. **Space is limited! Submit your applications by March 15.** You can learn more about the Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Court Program, including how to apply, at justiceforvets.org/veteran-mentor-courts.

Code Talker passes at age 92

Here's an article which ran online in the Navajo Times on January 14, 2016 and can be accessed [HERE](#).

Ernest Yazhe, a Navajo Code Talker who served in both the Guam and Okinawa campaigns, died Tuesday in Salt Lake City. He was 92. He was born in Naschitti and graduated from the Albuquerque Indian School. He is the son of the late Taneezahni Yazhi and Nannebah Belle Yazhi. Shortly after graduating, in September of 1942, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and found himself in New Caledonia being trained as a Code Talker along with 30 other Navajos. In 2013, he was in a video now on YouTube in which he talked about the Guam and Okinawa campaigns. The video was done by the Utah National Guard which honored him in 2013 for his service to the country as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II.

After getting an honorable discharge in February 1946, he went to work for the Intermountain Indian School in Brigham City, Utah. It was there that he met his wife, Katie, who died in 2007. They had four daughters and three sons together. After a year at the school, they went back to the reservation for a brief period, living in Nageezi.



Ernest Yazhe

In 1948, he traveled to Salt Lake City where he went to work for the Kennecott Mining Corporation, where he worked for the next 38 years in various positions. After he retired, he settled down in Sandy, Utah. Family members said that while he was proud to have been a Navajo Code Talker, he did not participate very much in Code Talker activities. He did, however, participate in the ceremonies in 2002 in which members of the Code Talkers received Congressional medals honoring their service to their country. "He was a great, kind and loving father," said his daughter, Lisa Yazhe.



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 26, 2016

Communication Office
Office of the President and Vice President
The Navajo Nation
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NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE FIRST NATIVE VETERANS ACT INTO LAW



OPVP Veterans Liaison Jamescita Peshlakai (left) stands next to Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, who sponsored the legislation, and Edsel Pete from the Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs along with a gathering of veterans who attended Tuesday's Council session to support the passing of the Navajo Veterans Act.

WINDOW ROCK – Today, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved the Navajo Veterans Act, which will serve to establish the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Advisory Council.

"The Begaye-Nez Administration has committed the efforts of pertinent departments and resources to pushing this legislation forward and having it approved by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council," President Russell Begaye said. "By communicating directly with commanders at the agency and local level, hand-in-hand with our veterans, we were able to accomplish what no other administration before has been able to do."

Up until this point, the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) had set forth in presenting the Veterans Act through public outreach meetings held in communities across the Navajo Nation under the lead of OPVP Veteran's Liaison Jamescita Peshlakai.

The schedule of public hearings provided veterans the opportunity to comment and make critical suggestions toward creating a veterans administration that would be most beneficial to them.



“President Begaye and I promised the veterans that we would get the Veterans Act approved and we made good on our word,” Vice President Nez said. “We committed to creating a Veteran’s Liaison position within OPVP, which we did with Jamescita Peshlakai. We commend her for her coordination of the public outreach meetings. To see the passing of the Veteran’s Act is a credit to both her efforts and the involvement of Navajo Veterans.”

Peshlakai said the passing of the legislation is truly significant for all indigenous people as they have been protectors of their traditional homelands for centuries.

“This Act provides our veterans the opportunity to mold services and benefits with our culture, our traditions, and our language for the purpose of taking care of our warriors who have returned from service.”

Peshlakai added that the Act is inclusive of all returning warriors: men, women, disabled or challenged.

“It creates a family community that our suffering warriors can return to and be embraced in,” she said.

The legislation establishes a Veterans Administration which serves to enhance outreach to Navajo veterans, as well as services and benefits. It also establishes a Veterans Advisory Council that encourages veteran participation in policy matters.

Edsel Pete, Department Manager for the Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs, said the Act provides an opportunity for the veterans to come to the table to help shape policy that affects their services and benefits.

“It’s an opportunity to instill hope in veterans across the Navajo Nation. It’s also an opportunity to create an interface of resources for veterans and services,” he said. “We would like to thank the veterans for their involvement and support. The support of OPVP was crucial as well.”

The Navajo Veterans Act establishes the Veterans Administration under the Office of the President and Vice President with an advisory council consisting of eleven members from each Navajo Agency.

Director of the Department of Behavioral Health Service, Theresa Galvin said beyond enhancing veterans services, the Veterans Administration will build toward meeting the critical demand of services for veterans which have gone unfulfilled until now.

“We are going to mark this monumental occasion with a celebratory signing because it’s what our veterans deserve,” President Begaye said. “This is just the beginning of our administration’s commitment to fulfilling the objectives of our pillars. The top pillar being to serve our Navajo Veterans.”

The Navajo Veterans Act, Legislation No. 0006-16, was sponsored by Council Delegate Jonathan Hale and co-sponsored by Delegate Edmund Yazzie. The Act passed unanimously with a vote of 20-0.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WWFS Announces New Program to Benefit Native American Veterans

OMAHA, Nebraska, Feb. 1, 2016 – *Wounded Warriors Family Support* has launched a new program to support Native American veterans who need transportation and transition assistance on their reservations.

Wounded Warriors Family Support has teamed with the Office of Tribal Government Relations at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on the new Native American Veterans Support, Transition and Resources (NAVSTaR) program. This program will ensure that Native American veterans, especially those who are combat wounded, are helped in a meaningful way.

"As a youngster growing up in New Mexico, I learned first-hand about the Navajo Code Talkers and their contribution to Marines during the brutal island hopping campaign in the South Pacific during World War II," said Col. John Folsom, USMCR (Ret.), founder and president of *Wounded Warriors Family Support*. "I have had the honor to serve with Native Americans during my 30 years of service. We have a firm commitment to support our Native American veterans, especially tribes that are the most isolated and poor."

So far, *Wounded Warriors Family Support* has provided Ford vehicles to the Blackfeet Nation, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Oglala Lakota Nation, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Three Affiliated Tribes.

Last November, *Wounded Warriors Family Support* donated a 2016 Ford Transit Connect to the Oglala Lakota Nation in an effort to provide safe and dependable transportation to VA facilities. The donation was in memory of Lance Cpl. Brett Lundstrom, who was killed Jan. 7, 2006, while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment in Iraq.

"Brett was returned to Pine Ridge and honored with a warrior's funeral," Folsom said. "I appreciate his life and service, especially given the backdrop of the crushing poverty of the Pine Ridge reservation."

About Wounded Warriors Family Support

Wounded Warriors Family Support is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support to the families of those who have been wounded, injured or killed during combat operations. This organization is run by combat veterans for combat veterans. Rated a four-star nonprofit by Charity Navigator, *Wounded Warriors Family Support* aids veterans and their families in healing the wounds that medicine cannot. For more information about *Wounded Warriors Family Support*, visit www.wwfs.org.

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Fort Hall named Purple Heart Reservation

Here's an article which ran online in the Idaho State Journal and December 28, 2015 can be accessed [HERE](#).

FORT HALL — The Fort Hall Indian Reservation is the first in the United States to be deemed a Purple Heart Reservation. A special presentation [took place on December, 30] to commemorate and pay tribute to Shoshone-Bannock tribal members who were wounded or killed in service to the country. “This is a very big deal,” said organizer Miguel Dominic. “We have Purple Heart cities and states, but this is the only reservation.”

Indian Country News reported that in 2010, 22,569 enlisted service members and 1,297 officers on active duty were American Indians. Native people have the highest per-capita involvement of any population to serve in the U.S. military.



The history of Native American participation in conflicts between the United States and other countries dates back to before the U.S. gained independence from Great Britain, according to the 2012 Indian Country report. Created by Gen. George Washington in 1782 and known as the Badge of Military Merit, it was first awarded to three soldiers in Newburgh, New York. The current Purple Heart was developed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1932 and designed by Elizabeth Will, a specialist with the Office of the Quartermaster General.

The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces who are wounded by enemy hands and posthumously awarded to the next of kin of servicemen who are killed in action. The event [on December 30 was] hosted by the Military Affairs Committee with the Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce and the Military



Order of the Purple Heart.



Miguel Dominic (CMDR for Chap 630), 2015-2016 Miss Bannock Sequoia Dance, Wade Pierce (Vice CMDR for Chap 630)

The Fort Hall Business Council and a Fort Hall veterans' organization will make the proclamation during the ceremony, which starts at 10 a.m. The ceremony will be held in the Tribal Chambers at the Fort Hall Business Center on Pima Drive, where 200 American flags will be posted along the road.

Dominic said the honor is part of the Purple Heart Trail, a symbolic system of roads, highways and other monuments that pay tribute to the men and women who have earned Purple Hearts. According to the Indian Country report, for American Indians, military service has always been about volunteering. When President Woodrow Wilson declared a draft in 1914 at the start of World War I, American Indians were not eligible because they were not considered citizens of the United States. However, 12,000 volunteered for military service in that war.

Signs and markers are erected along the Purple Heart Trail to remind users of the road system about the high price soldiers have paid for the freedom to travel and live in a free society. Currently, there are designated sections of roadway in 45 states, as well as in Guam. Dominic said a marker proclaiming that Fort Hall is a Purple Heart Reservation will be placed at the Fort Hall exit on Interstate 15.



VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

Here's a press release from VA released on December 17, 2015

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for Veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

“The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate Veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water.”

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions. Based upon VA's review of current medical science and ATSDR's findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

- Kidney Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary's proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in



appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of “Veteran.”

This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA.

VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit: <http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp-lejeune-water.asp>.

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp>.

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/, downloading it at www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).

VA is reimbursing certain veterans’ family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at: <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>



YOUR SPOUSE MAY BE COVERED BY SOCIAL SECURITY

By Kirk Larson
Social Security Washington Public Affairs Specialist

If you have a spouse who does not earn an income or who earns less than you do, your spouse **(including a same-sex spouse)** or a divorced spouse may be entitled to Social Security spouses' benefits based on your record.

Social Security can be an important financial asset for married couples when the time comes to apply for retirement benefits. In many cases, one spouse may have earned significantly more than the other, or may have worked longer. On the other hand, it could be that one spouse stayed home to do the work of raising the children, caring for elderly family members, or managing the household while the other focused on a career.

Whatever your situation, Social Security will look at all possibilities to make sure both spouses receive the maximum Social Security benefits possible, whether based on each spouse's earnings record or the higher wage earner's record.

Your spouse can apply for benefits the same way that you apply for benefits on your own record. He or she can apply for reduced benefits as early as age 62, or for 100 percent of the full retirement benefits at "full retirement age." Not sure what the full retirement ages are? To learn your and your spouse's full retirement ages, based on birth year, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm.

The benefit amount your spouse can receive at full retirement age can be as much as one-half of your full benefit. If your spouse opts for early retirement, the benefit may be as little as a third of your full benefit amount. Note that benefits paid to your spouse do not decrease your benefit amount.

People can also apply for spouse benefits based on the earnings record of an ex-spouse or deceased ex-spouse if married for at least 10 years, as long as they are not currently married to someone else. Spouses can consider a number of options and variables. We make it easier to navigate them. A good place to start is by visiting our benefits planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners. Take note of the "Benefits As A Spouse" section.

If you are ready to apply for benefits, the fastest, easiest, and most convenient way is to apply online! You can do so at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline and complete your application in as little as 15 minutes.

Due to a Supreme Court decision, we now are able to pay benefits to some same-sex couples. We encourage people who think they may be eligible to apply now. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sexcouples.

Whether you receive benefits on a spouse's record or your own, rest assured we will make sure you get the highest benefit for which you qualify. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov.



Your Social Security benefits may be taxable

By Kirk Larson
Social Security Washington Public Affairs Specialist

It's that time of year again: time to start preparing to file your taxes. If you receive Social Security benefits, one of the documents you will need when filing your federal income tax return is your Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099).

Your Social Security benefits may be taxable. This includes monthly retirement, survivor, and disability benefits. About one-third of people receiving Social Security benefits must pay taxes on some of these benefits, depending on the amount of their taxable income. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income — such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends, and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return — in addition to your Social Security benefits. You will never have to pay taxes on more than 85 percent of your Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules.

To find out if you must pay taxes on your benefits, you will need your Social Security Benefit Statement (Form SSA-1099). You should automatically receive your 1099 form each January. You must pay taxes on your benefits if you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your "combined income" exceeds \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have "combined income" of more than \$32,000. If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits.

Whether you file your taxes early or wait until the deadline, Social Security makes it easy to obtain a replacement 1099 form if you didn't receive one or misplaced yours. You can get an instant replacement quickly and easily by using your secure online *my Social Security* account. If you don't already have an account, you can create one in minutes. Follow the link to the *my Social Security* page, and go to "Sign In" or "Create an Account." Once you are logged in, select the "Replacement Documents" tab to obtain your replacement 1099 form. If you create a *my Social Security* account, you can also use it to keep track of your earnings each year, manage your benefits, and more.

With a *my Social Security* account, gathering your Social Security information for tax season has never been easier. Open your own personal *my Social Security* account today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. To see if you need to pay taxes go to <https://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.html>.



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid: Military Members, Veterans, and their Families

While military service often fosters resilience in individuals and families, some service members may experience mental health or substance use challenges. Thirty percent of active duty and reserve military personnel deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan have a mental health condition requiring treatment – approximately 730,000 men and women, with many experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and major depression. Sadly, less than 50 percent of returning veterans in need receive any mental health treatment. The Veterans Administration reports that approximately 22 veterans die by suicide every day.

Mental Health First Aid is a valuable resource that can make a difference in the lives of the more than 22 million veterans, their families, and the communities they live in.

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid USA is a live training program — like regular First Aid or CPR — designed to give people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of specific illnesses.

Mental Health First Aid teaches participants a five-step action plan, ALGEE, to support someone developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in an emotional crisis:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies

Since 2008, More than 150,000 people have been trained in Mental Health First Aid through a network of more than 3,700 certified instructors.

Those trained include family members of persons with mental health challenges, healthcare professionals, first responders, law enforcement officials, public service employees, school and college staff, clergy and caring citizens.

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid helps people know that mental illnesses are real, common, and treatable and that it's OK to seek help. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of this program to improve knowledge of mental disorders and substance use, remove fear and misunderstanding, and enable those trained to offer concrete assistance.

The program is listed in SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidenced Based Programs and Practices. Mental Health First Aid is a low-cost, high-impact program that generates tremendous community awareness and support.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR VETERANS

Family members and personnel working with military and families are often not aware of how to engage veterans with mental illnesses and addictions. In addition to the impact of military service on the veteran, each has a circle of family (significant other, children, parents, siblings, etc.) and friends who are also impacted by their military service.

Mental Health First Aid for Veterans, available April 2014, focuses on the unique experiences and needs of the military, veteran and family population.





MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID



Individuals trained in Mental Health First Aid can help to:

- Break down the stigma associated with mental illness like anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and substance use disorders
- Reach out to those who suffer in silence, reluctant to seek help
- Let veterans know that support is available in their community
- Provide community resource information
- Make mental healthcare and treatment accessible to thousands in need

Key components of Mental Health First Aid for Veterans include:



- A discussion of military culture and its relevance to the topic of mental health
- A discussion of the specific risk factors faced by many service members and their families such as trauma, both mental and physical, stress, separation, etc.
- Applying the ALGEE action plan in a number of scenarios designed specifically for service members, their families and those that support them
- A review of common mental health resources for service members, their families and those who support them

Nearly 100 Mental Health First Aid courses have been provided to organizations that serve the military, veterans, and their families, including:

- Army One Source, *National webinar*
- Veterans Affairs and Veteran's Restoration Quarters in Buncombe County and the Asheville Buncombe Community Mission, *North Carolina*
- Delaware County Veteran Affairs, *Iowa*
- Ft. Leonard Wood, *Missouri*
- Army National Guard and Air National Guard, *Orange County, California*
- The University of Texas Pan American (UTPA), *Texas*
- Wounded Warriors, *Texas*
- California Army Guard & Reserve and US Air Force personnel at Beale Air Force Base, *California*
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, *Minnesota*
- Family Life Chaplains Training Center at Fort Hood, *Texas*
- Spokane VA Medical Center, *Washington*
- Salt Lake City VA, *Utah*
- Veterans Administration, *Albuquerque, New Mexico*
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, *Maryland*
- Hutchinson & Kansas City National Guard Armory, *Kansas*
- California State University Veterans Group, *Pomona, California*
- Veteran's Affairs Hospital, *Phoenix, AZ*
- The National Veterans Center, *Washington, DC*

The service members, veterans, and their families who have taken the course have a positive response to the training:

"The information is fantastically succinct; I really like the military addition."

"[Military-Veteran Mental Health First Aid] is definitely a class that I would recommend to anyone in a situation to respond to military members crisis. I feel better equipped to assist in mental health incidents since attending."



For more information, visit <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/veterans-military/>



OTGR Central Region

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



FREE TICKETS FOR VETS
REGISTER NOW!

HIRING OUR HEROES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
XCEL ENERGY CENTER – SAINT PAUL
11:00AM – 2:00PM

Join us for a one-of-a-kind event featuring a hiring fair, networking opportunities and workshops tailored for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses. All registered veterans and military spouses are eligible to receive up to two (2) free tickets for them and their families to attend that evening's game between the Wild and Stars.

EMPLOYERS & MILITARY JOB SEEKERS REGISTER AT

HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG





AGENDA

9:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION OPENS

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

11:00 A.M.

OPENING CEREMONY

11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

HIRING FAIR

7:00 P.M.

WILD v. STARS





- - DUTY - HONOR - COUNTRY - -

Cultural ties to the Sunka Wakana Oyate (Horse Nation) have been reduced to the point where our relative is viewed as an animal, not the brother/sister who contributed significantly to our traditional lifestyles as well as our existence on Mother Earth. Activities to reinvigorate that traditional relationship with our relative will be available at Warrior Lodge along with participation in Equine activities throughout the Standing Rock Reservation.

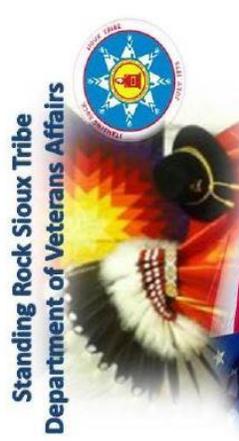
ADMISSIONS
Veterans applying for participation in the Warrior Lodge Residential Program will be housed in the facility pending positive responses to the admissions criteria. Emergency admission will be authorized according to policy.

EMERGENCY ADMISSION
Emergency admissions will be determined by the Tribal Veterans Service Officer or designee and the program initiating the request.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
The following criteria will be followed to determine eligibility for admission to the Warrior Lodge - Veteran Residential Program.

- a. Greater than dishonorable military discharge.
- b. Ambulatory and NOT requiring hospital or nursing home care.
- c. Abstinence from drugs and alcohol will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- d. Able to pass breath screening.
- e. Must sign VA and IHS Medical Release of Information
- f. No convictions or current register for sex-related crimes or current history of violence or aggressive behavior.
- g. Agreement to Resident Program Rules.

LENGTH OF STAY
Consistent with the primary goals of the Warriors Lodge-Veterans Residential Program and to assist in the improvement of the health, wellness, and quality of life



**Standing Rock Tribe
Department of Veterans Affairs**

For further information contact:
Manaja Unjinca Hill
Veterans Service Officer
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Administrative Service Center
Bldg. 1 North Standing Rock Avenue
PO Box D
Ft. Yates, ND 58538
Phone: 701/854-8527 Fax: 701/854-8596
mhill@standingrock.org

***** CARING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED *****

**STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
&
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
BLACK HILLS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
GRANT PER DIEM PROGRAM**



**WARRIOR LODGE
VETERANS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM**

The Warrior Lodge Veterans Residential Program is a ten (10) bed transitional housing program for eligible Veterans. This facility is located in the Bear Soldier District on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. Beginning in 1996, this program, a partnership between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been available to eligible veterans. Administration of this program is under the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Department of Veterans Affairs.





"AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM"
- John F. Kennedy, President of the United States-

GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the Warriors Lodge-Veterans Residential Program is to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of participating veterans. This multifaceted approach will assist Resident Veterans (Veterans) in learning to recognize, learn, and adjust to the requirements of living in a positive manner. To meet this goal the following objectives have been developed.

- OBJECTIVES:**
- Provide training and assistance to Veterans in developing healthy and drug free lifestyles-that emphasize sobriety,
 - Provide training and assistance to Veterans in obtaining meaningful employment,
 - Provide training and assistance to Veterans in securing adequate housing, and
 - Provide encouragement to Veterans to participate in the community in which they will be residing.

As Veterans we face many challenges in returning to our homes with expectations of living healthy lifestyles. Our experiences in the military, at times, create and contribute to a series of obstacles in our pursuit of a meaningful and healthy life.



As Native Veterans we face many unique issues, barriers, and obstacles in learning to live a healthy lifestyle. We must also learn the mainstream requirements of living in today's society as a result we must learn to live in two worlds.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Classroom presentations to meet the objectives of the Warrior Lodge will be consistent with the community life of the Warrior Lodge. Veterans desiring group sessions, individual sessions, etc. will be made available after consultation with the appropriate agency and/or organization providing this service.



Monthly program schedule of individual class topics will be determined and posted at the Warrior Lodge and at Veterans Industries. Monday classes will be held at the Compensated Work Therapy classroom located at Veterans Industries. Presenters will be from various tribal programs, community agencies, and the Veterans Administration. Veterans will be required to participate in the above referenced educational curriculum.



COMMUNITY LIFE

The Community Life of the Warrior Lodge-Veteran Residential Program will include various approaches to assist participating veterans in their pursuit of a healthy and productive lifestyle. Through utilizing various methods and resources and supports available in the community, the collaboration of various individuals, agencies, and organizations, will provide a holistic approach to the learning environment of the Veteran.

During their stay at the Warrior Lodge participating Veterans will develop and work on an Individual Plan of Care with responsible individuals, agencies, and organizations. The avenues to development or

enhancement of positive living traits will be presented in the following areas:

- Case Management -
- Medical Treatment -
- Employment Training -
- Housing Assistance -
- Healthy Lifestyles -



CULTURE and TRADITIONS

Traditional/Cultural Ceremonies and outings will be offered during your stay at Warrior Lodge. Veterans are encouraged but not required to attend and participate in these activities and events. Activities will include Oniikagapi (Cleansing Ceremony) which will be held on a weekly basis at a minimum or as often as is requested by Veterans. Equine Assisted Learning and/or Equine Therapy are an important part of the Veteran's stay at Warrior Lodge. A schedule of local community celebrations will be available for Veterans to attend. Community Spiritual Leaders will periodically hold special ceremony in which Veterans may attend.

Lakota tradition tells us that the Warriors who prepared for battle physically also prepared in a Spiritual sense. Upon return from battle the Warrior was cleansed from his activities during this period of battle. Special ceremonies were held to "wash away" the negative aspects that one encountered during the battle. The intent of the ceremony was to offer guidance and direction to the Warrior on his journey to a positive communal lifestyle. These ceremonies will be offered to Veterans at the Warrior Lodge.

OYÁTE YANIPI KTA ČHA LÉCHAMUN - "I DO THIS SO THE PEOPLE MAY LIVE"

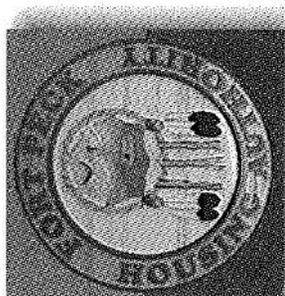


Veterans Serving Veterans

▶ **Fort Peck
Warriors Center**

Aohomni Hdustanpi

Tel: 406-766-3777



The Fort Peck Warriors Center is a joint project of the Fort Peck Housing Authority and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Fort Peck Warriors Center

305 C Street East
Poplar, Montana 59255

Phone: 406-766-3777
Fac: 406-766-5489
E-mail: FPwarriorscenter@mail.com

Our Program

The FORT PECK WARRIORS CENTER is not a homeless shelter; we are a Native American transitional housing and treatment-support program located in Poplar, Montana, on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Our focus is on support and guidance for Tribal veterans working to return to community, with respect for *Wakantanka* (the Great Spirit) in all our lives.

FPWC offers the *Aohomni Hdustanpi* (Completing the Circle) structured-living program, a non-12-step support opportunity for veterans seeking a sober-living environment and a pathway back to stable housing and *oyate* (our family, community and relations).



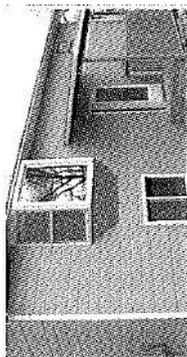
If you would like to volunteer, donate goods or donate funds to support the Fort Peck Warriors Center and the veterans it serves, please contact Imogene Lilley at 406-480-4886

Pidamayaye!



Fort Peck Warriors Center

The Fort Peck Warriors Center is a residential services and treatment support program for homeless and at-risk individuals with PTSD, life-skills issues, and substance abuse problems. Participating veterans receive an in-depth needs, strengths and life skills assessment at admission, and receive individual and group case management, access to substance abuse supports and out-patient interventions, as well as group educational and discussion sessions to support relapse prevention.



Meal House

Some of the group services and practices include, strengths-based individualized case management, access to local and VA healthcare, Anger Management groups, Conflict Resolution education and support, Loneliness and Grief Groups, PTSD supports, and housing in a safe and stable sober-living environment.

Regular attendance at all FPWC groups and any outside physical or mental health and substance abuse groups is mandatory.

Partnership Services

Through our community partners, FPWC can offer educational and technical training at Fort Peck Community College, substance abuse supports through Spotted Bull Recovery & Treatment Center, and mental health services through the VA and satellite offices of the Eastern Montana Mental Health Center. The FPWC can assist with access to VA healthcare services in Miles City, Billings and Helena, and for tribally-enrolled members, additional local health services through Indian Health Services in Poplar. Additional activities and groups may be provided based individual veteran needs and available local partnerships.

Who We Serve

The Fort Peck Warriors Center is a three-building group living campus, designed to serve men and women homeless and at-risk veterans, in a Native American sober-living, ADA-accessible group home environment.

FPWC prioritizes Fort Peck veterans, and Native American veterans, but our services are available to all eligible veterans.

FPWC is the only veterans program in the State of Montana with a reserved house specifically to serve women veterans.

Residential Stay

Program length at FPWC is based on individual needs and the attainment of the treatment and life goals established by the staffing team, the Veteran's Case Manager and the veteran.



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Additional services provided by the FORT PECK

WARRIORS CENTER include meals and transportation to medical, work, court, probation and other critical appointments and recreational activities during program participation. FPWC has clothing available for those who need some.

Fort Peck Warriors Center

Poplar, Montana 59255

Phone: 406-768-3777

Fax: 406-768-5489

E-mail: FPwarriorscenter@gmail.com

Join us for the 8th Annual



"An Evening of Vintage Glam"

Ladies come dressed in your best vintage attire and enjoy great cuisine, good conversation, wine and beer tasting, raffles, live and silent auctions and the opportunity to win great prizes!

Thursday, February 11th
5:00pm - 9:00pm
Mt. Iron Community Center

\$40/person or
\$25/person for veterans and service members
Limited Tickets Available - Reserve Yours Today!

Call: 218-254-3329

MENU

Melon Ball with prosciutto, salami, red and green grapes
Caprese Skewers with fresh mozzarella, basil and cherry tomatoes drizzled in an olive oil & vinegar reduction
Greek Dolmades stuffed with arborio rice, fresh herbs brushed with extra virgin olive oil and served with tzatziki sauce
Bruschetta Bites topped with diced tomatoes, roasted red peppers and fresh basil topped with shaved parmesan cheese
Cucumber Cups stuffed with herbed cream cheese topped with fresh dill
Mediterranean Lettuce Wraps filled with crumbled feta cheese, avocado, diced cucumber, cherry tomatoes, kalamata olives and marinated chicken
Wild Mushroom Ravioli with a sage and brown butter sauce
Three Cheese Stuffed Tortellini tossed with sautéed shrimp in a chardonnay alfredo sauce
Old Fashioned Candy Bar
Wine/Beer Tasting and Cash Bar



All proceeds benefit United Way of Northeastern MN's Smiles Across MN dental program providing uninsured and underinsured children oral health care via a mobile dental unit in our area schools.

OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX)



Society of American Indian
Government Employees

13th Annual National Training Program
Hard Rock Hotel, Catoosa, OK

Save the Date
June 6 - 9, 2016

Qualified Training in the areas of

- Professional Development
- Cultural Awareness
- Federal Indian Law & Trust Responsibility
- Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity and Inclusion
- Indigenous Natural Resources
- Special programs for Veterans, Youth and Tribal Government Employees

Please join us at this beautiful newly renovated tribal facility owned and operated by the Cherokee Nation.
www.visitchokeenation.com



Watch for updates at www.saige.org

OTGR Southwest Region

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)



SAVE THE DATE

HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY

APRIL 23, 2016

HOPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

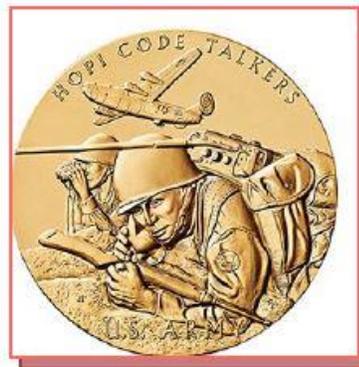
KYKOTSMOVI, AZ

**TENATIVE TIME: 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
(MST)**

PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND EVENT

CONTACT: (928) 734-3461

E-MAIL: ETalas@hopi.nsn.us





2016 HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY THEME CONTEST

Submit your theme to celebrate Hopi Code Talkers (HCTs) Recognition Day on April 23, 2016. Here is the criteria:

1. Keep your wording, total of both English and Hopi, between 10 to 12 words.
2. Your suggested theme can center on:
 - HCTs use of Hopi language during World War II.
 - HCTs exploits celebrated, remembered and honored.
 - HCTs legacy inspires our Hopi youth today.
 - Speaking our native language is important.
3. Submit your theme by January 29, 2016 to Hopi Veterans Services. Or you can e-mail your theme to ETalas@hopi.nsn.us. The office is located in the H.O.P.I. Cancer Support Services Office, at Kykotsmovi, AZ.
4. The Planning Committee will select this year's theme for event and poster. As prize, the selected winner will receive a small replica of the Congressional Hopi Code Talker Gold Medal.

GOOD LUCK!

For more information on theme contest or the 2016 Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day, please contact us at (928) 734-3461.





VA TRANSPORTATION



ATTENTION HOPI/TEWA VETERANS!

**HOPI VETERANS SERVICES CONDUCTS
TRANSPORT FOR HOPI/TEWA VETERANS
TO VA MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ON & OFF
THE HOPI RESERVATION.**

To enroll and apply for this transport service, stop by the Hopi Veterans Services, located in the H.O.P.I. Cancer Support Services building at Kykotsmovi, AZ.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, excluding Hopi Tribal declared holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (MST).

Call us for specific details on transportation services or if you are interested in applying for VA Health Care Services.

Telephone contact: (928) 734-3461 or 3462.

RELAX AND LET US DO THE DRIVING!

APACHE JUNCTION COMMUNITY VETERANS CENTER

ALL INVITED

“GRAND OPENING“

ALL INVITED

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 12, 2016

FROM 2:00 TILL 5:00 PM



**PINAL COUNTY MOBILE
VETERAN OUTREACH BUS
“EAGLE ONE” WILL BE ON
SITE.**

**ALONG WITH INFORMATION AREA RESOURCE BOOTHS –
ART ALLIANCE FREE ART CLASSES FOR VETERANS WITH PTSD
– TBI – DES VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REP - MILITARY ORDER
OF THE PURPLE HEART - VFW – AMVETS – EMPOWERMENT
SYSTEMS – AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS # 27 - VISIT YOUR AJ
VETERANS CENTER – AND MUCH MORE.**

**LOCATION: 462 N. PALO VERDE – APACHE JUNCTION
602-478-7636 – NORTH OUT BUILDING DESERT CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH**



★ **FREE EVENT** ★

Military/Veteran Women's Expo 2016

For women who have served or
are still serving in the military

Outstanding Keynote Speaker • Informative Educational Workshops
Legal & Financial Services Onsite • Networking Opportunities
Career Resources • Salon Services
FREE: Breakfast • Lunch • Parking • Childcare Available



Saturday, April 9, 2016, 9am-3pm
Arizona State University - Memorial Union
301 Orange Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281

Please Register Online at: azdvs.gov/womenvetexpo2016
For more information, email: wvhkf@azdvs.gov





20 TOHONO O'ODHAM VETERANS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW HUD FUNDING

January 8, 2015

SELLS, Ariz.

Today the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced its first ever funding to provide permanent homes and supportive services to Native American Veterans at risk of experiencing homelessness.

As part of this National effort, the Tohono O'odham Nation is receiving a grant of \$302,936 in the form of 20 vouchers for the Nation's Veterans. The Nation is one of only four Arizona tribes to receive this funding. Nationally, HUD awarded \$5.9 million to serve 500 Native American Veterans.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward Manuel said *"Our O'odham Veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to serve the United States and they deserve to live in quality, safe homes. I want to thank HUD for providing this important funding to fulfill a previously unmet need in Indian Country."*

"Housing our Veterans is a priority for the Tohono O'odham Ki:Ki Association and these resources will enable us to improve the lives of 20 Veterans in the most meaningful way." said Pete Delgado, Tohono O'odham Ki:Ki Association Executive Director.

About Tohono O'odham Ki:Ki Association

The Tohono O'odham Ki:Ki Association (TOKA) is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Tohono O'odham Nation. TOKA develops and maintains quality, affordable housing for tribal members. In addition, they work to establish homeownership opportunities and promote partnerships with communities and the private sector to maximize housing opportunities for Tohono O'odham members.

To learn more about this grant, please contact:

Julie Rees
602.625.0400
julie@triadvocates.com

###



SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY!!

All veterans and their families are cordially invited to the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

WestWorld, North Scottsdale
16601 North Pima Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

All veterans & their families get in free.
Show ID card or DD 214 or be in uniform and get in free.

There will be a special presentation in the South Hall at 2:00 pm with Desert Storm veteran County Attorney Bill Montgomery and distribution of Commemoration of the Vietnam War pins to Vietnam and era veterans.

Representatives of the Veterans Heritage Project (conduct interviews of veterans for publication) will also be on site.



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AT WESTWORLD SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

9:00am	Behind the Scenes Barn Tour - Military Personnel & Families - Barn Tour Office - North Hall
10:30-11:30am	Meet an Arabian Horse - South Hall
12:00noon	Four Natural Aids for Training-Robert Leary - South Hall
1:00pm	Dressage Freestyle/Demonstration with SSG Katie Ferencik of the U.S. Army Sponsored by Markel - Arena 6
2:00pm	Military Appreciation Presentation, Color Guard & Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney - South Hall
3:00pm	Military Dog Demonstration - Neal Mestas, Dog Training - Elite AZ - South Hall

For more information visit:
www.scottsdaleshow.com



SACATON - 71st Anniversary of Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post 84 on the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, AZ, is host to commemoration of the [71st Anniversary of Iwo Jima Flag Raising](#) and pay honor to all brothers and sisters who sacrifice life and limb; who have a sense of honor, who bring honor on themselves and their Country.

19Feb - 1730 - Dinner TBA - Location TBD - **RSVP** - limited seating

POC [520-562-8484](tel:520-562-8484) ihpost84@gilanet.net or ihunit84@gilanet.net

20Feb - 0700 - Staging for parade

20Feb - 0700-0845 - check-in @ 168 S. Skill Center Rd. (VHM School parking lot)

ENTER ONLY FROM SEED FARM ROAD - View [map](#) (parking) / [directions](#) to event - Shuttle may be available

20Feb - 0830 - Military Flyover

20Feb - 0845 - Parade w/ceremonies to follow at Mathew B. Juan/Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park

[Parade/waiver form](#) has fill-in capability. Save as document and complete...

click "Sign"...click "add text"...click appropriate blank area.

If space is limited, type at the bottom or add attachment.

SUBMIT FORM - email ihpost84@gilanet.net or ihunit84@gilanet.net or fax [520-562-3297](tel:520-562-3297)

OR mail to IHH American Legion Post 84, P. O. Box 186, Sacaton, AZ 85147

POC Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84 [520-562-8484](tel:520-562-8484) or Tony McDaniel [520-610-0777](tel:520-610-0777)

Ira Hayes Veterans Gourd Dance & Social Powwow

All Eagle Staff & Color Guards Welcome

Location: Sacaton Fairgrounds, North Bluebird Road

19Feb - 1700 - Veterans Gourd Dance

19Feb - 1900 - Veterans Grand Entry / Social Powwow

20Feb - 1300 - Veterans Gourd Dance

20Feb - 1800 - Veterans Grand Entry / Social Powwow

POC Marcus [sekayouma nezperce46@yahoo.com](mailto:sekayouma_nezperce46@yahoo.com) [520-610-9411](tel:520-610-9411)

or Michael Smith dineland@yahoo.com [623-383-3903](tel:623-383-3903) [520-510-4980](tel:520-510-4980)

First Nations Warrior Society" is host to this Veterans Gourd Dance & Social Powwow event and [have](#) a budget to meet in order to make this event possible. Financial assistance is requested in meeting that budget and hope that you are able to assist.



OTGR Western Region

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



VETERAN'S Resource Day

Friday, April 15, 2016

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

Free Lunch

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

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

Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Call: (707) 464-2154 for more information

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



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21th, 2016

Roseburg VA Medical Center
913 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

Eugene VA Healthcare Center Grand Opening

Roseburg VA Medical Center Announces the Grand Opening of the New Eugene VA Healthcare Center

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Roseburg VA Medical Center will host a Grand Opening for the new Eugene VA Healthcare Center in Eugene, Oregon. On Monday, January 25th, 2016, VA staff and local leaders along with Veterans' groups will mark the occasion with a short ceremony and an open house. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m., with tours of the new center following the ceremony. The public is welcome and all Veterans are encouraged to come see the facility. The new Eugene Healthcare Center is located at Chad Drive and Old Coburg Road, across from Costco at 3355 Chad Drive. No registration is required and media are welcome to attend.

The new Eugene VA Healthcare Center replaces the Eugene Community Based Outpatient Clinic on River Avenue. The new 120,000-square-foot facility will provide primary care, mental health, women's health, audiology, optometry, radiology, and will have an onsite dispensing pharmacy. Further and expanded services planned for this center include:

- Ambulatory Surgery
- Laboratory
- Imaging
- Speech Pathology
- Ophthalmology
- Prosthetics
- Cardiopulmonary
- Orthopedics
- Urology
- Dental
- Podiatry
- Gastroenterology

