
VA ~ Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ May/June 2016

Note from the Director

Hello and welcome to our May/June 2016 edition of VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. Summer is definitely upon us and the OTGR team has been busy organizing/implementing events and travelling out to Indian Country to meet with Tribal Leaders and Veterans.

Last week, VA Deputy Assistant Secretary James Albino, joined by VA leadership, IHS Acting Deputy Director Chris Mandregan and Washington State Director of Veterans Affairs facilitated a tribal consultation session on June 29th which coincided with the NCAI Mid-Year Conference in Spokane, Washington. This consultation (comment period still open) is being done in order to identify the top 3-5 priorities that tribes have for serving Veterans and engaging Veterans in Indian Country. A second in-person consultation session will take place later this year at a date and location to be determined. We will provide more logistical details on that as soon as we can. Written comments are certainly welcome and can be submitted until October 7, 2016. Please send your comments by that date to: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

Summer is a busy travel season for our Tribal Government Relations Specialists and this one is no exception. In OTGR's Southern Plains Region, Tribal Government Relations Specialist Mary Culley has been putting in a lot of windshield time. Some of the highlights of her travels include: supporting the CMS ITU Training in Dallas, TX; briefing the Oklahoma State Legislature's Native American Caucus; participated in a groundbreaking Ceremony at Chickasaw Nation Veterans Lodge (and supporting the Chickasaw Nation Veterans Training Conference); attended the Oklahoma Health Care Authority Tribal Consultation and Board Meeting with Oklahoma Tribal Nations. She also assisted with organizing the Veterans track for the Society of American Indians Government Employees (SAIGE) Conference, which was held in Tulsa, OK on June 6-9. Additionally, Mary helped implement the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Governors Veterans.

In the meantime, over in the Southwest, Homana Pawiki hosted several planning meetings for the Veteran training summit taking place today and tomorrow (July 6-7) at the Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She also attended an O'odham Veterans Committee meeting with Veterans from Gila River Indian Community, Salt River PMIC, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and other areas in the Phoenix metro area in attendance.

In the Central Region, Peter Vicaire has been out west to meet with tribal leaders from the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming as well as the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribes in Montana. While in Montana, he met with congressional staff interested in crafting a legislative resolution of the issue of alleged illegal state taxation of Native servicemembers domiciled on the reservation while they served in the military. He also provided a quick presentation on this same issue to the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leadership Council in Billings, MT. Moving back to the Midwest, he supported the CMS/ITU trainings held in Green Bay, Wisconsin (as a presenter) as well as in

Sioux City, IA. Shifting directions (geographically speaking) he attended the Justice for Vets conference in Anaheim, CA and presented information on tribal courts with the aim to increase the amount of Veteran courts in Indian Country. He also assisted with the visit of the (then) Veterans Benefits Administration's Acting Undersecretary for Benefits, Danny Pummill (who retired in June), to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in Flandreau, SD. Most recently he helped organize and attended a Veteran event with the Passamaquoddy Tribe (Indian Township) in Maine to celebrate "Native American Veterans Day" (June 21) recognized by the state. Looking forward, Peter has just begun planning a 2-day Veterans training summit with the Seneca Nation, being held in Buffalo, New York in mid-September. More details on that will follow next month.

In OTGR's Western Region, Terry Bentley supported a site visit to Alaska with Dr. Baligh Yehia, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (Care in the Community). She then attended Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR) Training hosted by Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and co-sponsored by the Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs. In early June, she went on another site visit with VA's Secretary McDonald to the IHS Western Oregon Service Unit, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Colville Indian Reservation. You can see a few photos of those meetings in the newsletter below. Later this week, (July 7-9) she will be coordinating the Grand Ronde Veterans Summit – hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Native Wellness Institute. Next week, (July 13-14) she will be implementing another TVR Training – hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Colville Indian Reservation at the 12 Tribes Casino Resort in Omak, WA.

Looking forward, it looks like things will slow down a bit and move into planning mode but they should ramp up again as we wrap up July and move into the latter months of summer and early fall. We look forward to staying in touch and working collaboratively to serve Veterans across Indian Country.

If you have questions, suggestions or would like to be added to our newsletter listserv, don't hesitate to contact our newsletter editor: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov or email us at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov.

Happy Reading,



Stephanie Birdwell

VA Tribal Consultation ~ Identify Tribal Priorities




U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Office of
Tribal Government
Relations

What are your priorities for Veterans across Indian Country?

May 2016

VA wants to know the top 3–5 priorities that tribes have for serving and engaging Veterans. We are gathering input on your priorities for Veterans to help create an **Indian Country Veterans Affairs policy agenda**, which will inform tribal governments, VA, members of Congress, and other Veteran-serving partners in coming years.

This list shows the issues and priorities VA has worked to address in recent years.

What are your priorities for serving Veterans in your community? Use the list below to identify your top 3–5 priorities, or add new issues of your own.



Access to medical care

In Indian Country and for other rural areas, VA is using telehealth to expand access to care: <http://www.telehealth.va.gov/>



Suicide prevention

VA and IHS are continuing outreach to share resources and information about preventing suicide among Native Veterans.



VA and tribal or IHS facilities working together

The 2010 VA-IHS memorandum of understanding defined many ways VA and IHS can cooperate. VA has reimbursed almost \$40 million to IHS and tribal health facilities for direct care to Veterans.



VA supporting traditional providers and treatments

Some VA medical centers have added traditional treatments, like sweat lodges, for Veterans.



Treatment for PTSD and mental health

VA is using telemental health care to reach Native Veterans with PTSD and other mental health care needs:
<http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/native/programs/telemental-services.asp>



Transportation

VA's Beneficiary Travel program reimburses mileage for travel to VA health care:
http://www.va.gov/HealthBenefits/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp



Housing

VA's Native American Direct Loan program helps Native Veterans get low-cost home loans: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp>



Understanding benefits

VA holds training summits, benefit fairs, and other events in Indian Country to help spread the word about benefits for Native Veterans.



Homelessness

VA implemented HUD-VASH, a housing voucher program, on tribal lands: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>



Benefits for families

Some benefits are available for spouses, children, and survivors of Veterans: <http://explore.va.gov/spouses-dependents-survivors>.



Employment/vocational rehab

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program grants are available to tribes: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp>



Tribal consultation, listening sessions, town hall meetings

VA consults with tribes before any action that significantly affects tribal resources, rights, or lands. VA uses listening sessions and other meetings to supplement formal consultations



Tribal Veterans Representatives

Tribal Veterans Representatives (TVRs) help connect Native Veterans with VA and other community organizations: <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/native/programs/tribal-veterans.asp>

VA wants to hear from you. What do you think are the most important issues for Veterans living in Indian Country? Choose from the issues above, or add new priorities of your own.

My Priorities for Veterans

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Complete this form and email it back to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov or send it to:

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

At a consultation, you can give it directly to any VA representatives.

Learn More About VA

Learn more about any of these programs at va.gov/tribalgovernment or www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/

Email the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

Find the Office of Tribal Government Relations regional specialist for your state at va.gov/tribalgovernment/locations.asp

May 19, 2016

Dear Tribal Leader:

How the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) delivers benefits and services for Veterans is growing and changing rapidly. In this environment of change, VA is more committed than ever to fulfilling its tribal consultation policy, which includes strengthening VA's relationship with tribes and consulting with tribal governments on all VA policies and actions that may impact tribes and Veterans across Indian Country.

VA wants to ensure that the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans and the priorities of tribal governments are part of these changes, now and in the future. To that end, VA is seeking input from tribal leaders **on the top 3 to 5 priorities that tribes have for serving Veterans in Indian Country**. Once identified, these priorities may be used to assist with the collaborative development of **an Indian Country Veterans Affairs policy agenda**, which will inform tribal governments, VA, members of Congress, and other Veteran-serving partners in coming years.

To gather this input, VA plans to hold two tribal consultation sessions in 2016.

The first consultation will take place **Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 5:15 p.m.** at the Spokane Convention Center, at 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201. This session is held **in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference**, taking place June 27–30, 2016, in Spokane, WA.

The second consultation will be scheduled later this year. VA will send a second letter to confirm this session when the date and time are finalized.

VA also invites written comments on the consultation topics, particularly for tribal leaders and representatives who may be unable to attend the consultation meetings in person. Written comments may be submitted as follows:

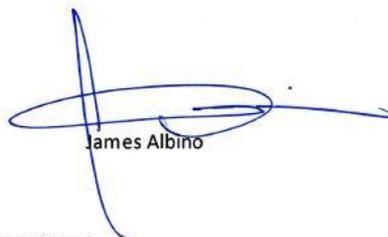
Email: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

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

Written comments should be submitted **no later than October 7, 2016**. For questions, please contact VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations at 202-461-7400 or at the email address above.

VA will compile all 2016 testimony received into a tribal consultation report to be disseminated in 2017. VA wishes to thank tribal leaders for their continued support, input, and engagement as we continue our work to honor and serve American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans.

Sincerely,



James Albino

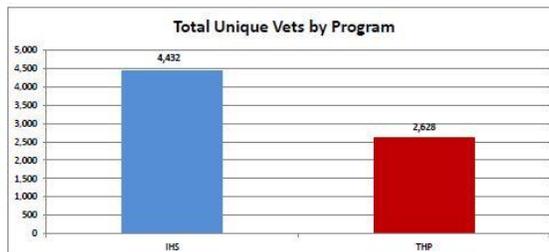
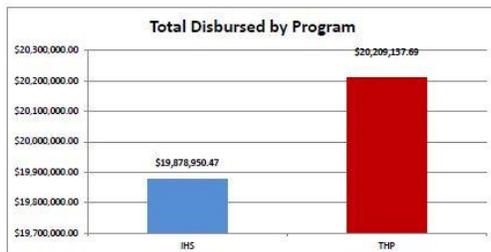
Enclosures: Priorities for Veterans fact sheet (1 pg.)

VA Reimburses \$40+ 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
\$40,092,395.16	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	6,970
	IHS	\$19,878,950.47	4,432	
	THP	\$20,209,137.69	2,628	
Total Disbursement - Out of System Ret repayments (only)	Total Disbursement of Out of System Ret repayments (only) - <i>payments are included in above totals</i>			Total Unique Veterans - Out of System Ret repayments (only)
\$19,795.23	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	721
	IHS	\$15,488.23	638	
	THP	\$0.00	0	





News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 5, 2016

Statement by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald on the Commission on Care Report

WASHINGTON – Today, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald released the following statement on the Commission on Care final report. The report is available [here](#).

“On behalf of the Nation’s 22 million Veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs, I thank the members of the Commission on Care for their hard work over the past year. The Commission has produced a wide-ranging set of recommendations on reforming the Veterans Health Administration, and VA looks forward to reviewing and considering these recommendations as we ensure that we remain true to our mission to serve and honor the men and women who are America’s Veterans.

“While we will examine the report closely over the coming weeks and respond in a more detailed fashion, I am pleased to see that many of their recommendations are in line with our MyVA efforts to transform the VA into a Veteran-centric organization. Necessary transformational progress has been under way for the past two years, increasing access to health care and improving the Veteran experience of VA. This past March, VA set a new record for completed appointments: 5.3 million inside VA, 730,000 more than in March 2014. We also issued twice as many authorizations for care in the community than in March 2014. Clinical workload is up 11 percent in the past two years. Nearly 97 percent of appointments are now completed within 30 days of the Veteran’s preferred date; 22 percent are same-day appointments; average wait times are five days for primary care, six days for specialty care, and two days for mental health care. Nearly 90 percent of Veterans surveyed say they are “satisfied or completely satisfied” with the timeliness of their appointments.

“However, until all Veterans say they are satisfied, I won’t be satisfied. Nobody at VA will be satisfied. But our progress so far proves that VA’s current leadership, direction, and momentum can produce the necessary transformation, as VA has already demonstrated in reducing the backlog of disability compensation claims by 90 percent since 2013.

“We know we can’t complete the job without help from our partners. For that reason, I look forward to continuing to work with Congress, Veteran advocates, and Veterans themselves to identify further ways to improve VA.

“There are some things that can be done right now to help us continue our progress. Congress must act on our proposals to consolidate our Community Care programs, modernize and reform the claims appeals process, and pass the bi-partisan Veterans First Act. The window of opportunity is closing fast, but if Congress acts before leaving town this month, 2016 will be the year the nation turned the corner for Veterans.

“In the meantime, as we review the recommendations of the Commission, we will continue to look for other ways to build on the progress we’ve made to date and ensure we are doing everything possible to faithfully serve those who have served this country.”

###

Last Surviving WWII Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talker Awarded Congressional Silver Medal



Here's an article by W.T. Eckert which ran in the Watertown Daily Times on June 2, 2016. It can be accessed [HERE](#) – and has a video [1:44] and 14 pictures.

Watertown Daily Times
Serving the communities of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties, New York

AKWESASNE — Long have the military contributions of the Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talkers gone unrecognized, but that ended Saturday in roaring applause, tears and embraces, when 94-year-old Louis Levi Oakes, the last surviving World War II Code Talker, was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for his service.

The Travis Solomon Memorial Lacrosse Box in Generations Park had a standing-room-only crowd before the Congressional Medal presentation by U.S. Rep. Elise M. Stefanik, R-Willsboro, began. Ms. Stefanik presented the silver medal not only to Mr. Oakes, but to the family members of 16 other confirmed code talkers as well as awarding the bronze Congressional Medal to the family members of seven unconfirmed Akwesasne Mohawk Code Talkers who served in both WWII and the Korean War.

More than 550 people attended the ceremony, which included remarks from Saint Regis Tribal members and leaders, American Legion Post 1479 Commander Michael R. Cook and Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell, D-Theresa. And although Mr. Oakes is the lone surviving code talker, Tribal Communications Director Brendan White said the spirit of those other 23 men were there with them.

“I would like to say they are here today; we may not be able to see them, but they are right here in the front row,” Mr. White told the crowd. “So when each of you come up today, to get your medal, they are standing right next to you.” Over the weeks leading up to the ceremony, Mr. White said families and friends of the men who never received recognition for their service had been visiting his office, sharing honorable discharge papers, commendations and citations, for the men. But with those documents came the untold stories.

“Stories that the code talker could have written themselves and shared with their family members,” Mr. White said. “Stories that were shared with their commanding officers, and I have to tell you, they are more than just code talkers, they are heroes.” Many may have heard of the military’s use of Navajo code talkers from films and television. But the U.S. armed forces used about 10 different American Indian languages, including Mohawk, to communicate in code.

In 2008, the U.S. Congress passed the Code Talker Recognition Act to acknowledge and commemorate the achievements of American Indian Code Talkers during both world wars. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is one of 33 American Indian tribes being recognized for using their Native language to send coded messages that could not be deciphered by the enemy. On Nov. 20, 2013, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Sub-Chief Michael Connors accepted a certificate



Watertown Daily Times
Serving the communities of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties, New York

on behalf of the tribe at a ceremony held in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, D.C., honoring Native American Code Talkers for service to the United States Armed Forces during both world wars.

On Saturday, Ms. Stefanik reminded those gathered that the Congressional Medal is the highest civilian award that can be awarded to an individual by the U.S. Congress. “For too long this selfless sacrifice went unrecognized by our nation, and sadly, these heroes were instructed not to speak of their important roles in these military campaigns,” Ms. Stefanik said. “For many, that meant that the families and friends of these code talkers were unaware of the contributions these patriots made to this country.” Mr. Oakes’s daughter, Dora Oakes, was one of those family members.

Sitting in the front row, next to her father, Ms. Oakes watched as people tried to work her father for insight about his time overseas as a code talker but said he was always silent on the subject. “‘I was in the Army,’ that was all he would tell us,” Dora said. “‘Confidential information,’ he said. ‘They’ll kill me if I tell ya,’” Dora said laughing. Mr. Oakes was swarmed by people looking to both pay homage for his service and seek insight into his time in the service. And though he said it was a surprise and an honor to be recognized, for a code talker, he didn’t talk much.

A technician with the 4th Grade, Company B, 442nd Signal Battalion, U.S. Army, Mr. Oakes said he enlisted at the age of 18 specifically to be a code talker. He served about 2½ years in the Asiatic Pacific until his honorable discharge on Feb. 15, 1946.

There were only three or four other code talkers in Company B, Mr. Oakes said. He said the idea of becoming a code talker came from listening to Native Americans speaking their native tongue in the field. The Mohawk soldiers attended schools to learn the art of code talking. They learned sets of code in their language so the enemy would not understand their radio communications. But Mr. Oakes laughed when he was asked if he could remember how many secret messages he relayed in the Mohawk tongue.

“If I can’t talk it out I’ll give them a smoke signal,” Mr. Oakes said. “We talked about field wires in the jungles. They would give you a piece of paper to read on telling you what you were to say.” “And you did it OK?” someone yelled to him over the sound of the crowd. “Oh yeah, I’m still here,” Mr. Oakes said with a grin. But unlike Mr. Oakes, Albert A. Tarbell was filled with stories, according to his son, Mitchell “Mike” Tarbell.

Albert Tarbell was the first Mohawk in the 82nd Airborne Division during WWII, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He died in 2009, a day after his 86th birthday, Mike Tarbell said. Mr. Tarbell accepted the medal for his father and as he sat waiting, he recalled the years he spent growing up in his mother’s kitchen, listening to his father talk about his time as a code taker in Europe. “He went right through North Africa to Anzio Beachhead, then, to prepare for the Normandy invasion, Operation Market Garden, jumped into Holland,” Mr. Tarbell said. “He went all the way through (the war) right up to the Battle of the Bulge, to the Elbe River to meet the Russians and then he became a Berlin Honor Guard. So that was the end of the war and they were basically making it safe.”



Watertown Daily Times
Serving the communities of Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis counties, New York

Mr. Tarbell said that, because his father was in communications, his job included taking care of communications wiring on the battlefield. There was one story about a job his father had, during the Battle of the Bulge, that stayed with him most.

“He had volunteered to go out and take care of some bad wiring because they couldn’t get the field lines working and where he had to go was between the Germans and the Americans, my dad’s own guys,” Mr. Tarbell said, a smile growing on his face from the memory. “What he found out was that as he was following the lead line, he was going by these houses and so he kept following out and he prepared the wire and he came back by this house.”

Nearly 50 years later, during a reunion for the battle, he said his father was retelling the story when a former German officer let him know just how much danger he was in. The German told him he was hiding in one of those houses with his squad and was deciding whether he was going to shoot him.

“He said, ‘if we had shot you that would have given away our position and our counterattack wouldn’t have worked,’ so my dad had a chance,” Mr. Tarbell said. “And there are a lot of stories like that.” And as Ms. Stefanik took the stage to present Mr. Oakes, Mr. Tarbell and the other family members with their medals she said each medal represents an important story that must be taught to the generations that follow.

The design of the medal features a WWII code talker, a snipe, and the principal clans of the Mohawk Tribe — a bear, a wolf, and a snapping turtle. It is inscribed with “AKWESASNE MOHAWK CODE TALKERS.” The medal’s reverse design features a profiled figure, a Mohawk kustowa headdress, a bear claw necklace, a war club, and a Mohawk Wolf Belt. Inscriptions are “WORLD WAR I,” “WORLD WAR II,” and “ACT OF CONGRESS 2008.”

Following the ceremony, Ms. Stefanik said it was particularly meaningful for her to be able to present the awards. “It was just very emotional, especially because when the family members were coming up to receive it, you could see the emotion in their eyes. Some of them were crying,” Ms. Stefanik said.

Even Ms. Stefanik had tears in her eyes and became choked up as she called upon “our hero” Levi Oakes. “Well, Levi was,” Ms. Stefanik paused. “In my vantage point, when I was doing the presentation, you can tell that he was excited about the anticipation of the recognition and the fact that he just celebrated his 94th birthday, he is the only surviving Mohawk code talker, it’s pretty emotional and he deserves all the recognition and more.” And it was about time that the code talkers got the recognition they deserved, Ms. Stefanik said.

“It is long overdue and it is about time,” Ms. Stefanik said. “I think that the families here today, it was so meaningful for them to be able to recognize their fathers’ service in WWII. The role that the code talkers played, we could be a very different nation today; we could be a different world if it wasn’t for the code talkers’ service.”

VA Secretary McDonald Visits Tribes



Dates: June 1-2, 2016

Location: Salem, OR; Grand Ronde, OR; Spokane, WA and Inchelium, WA

Event: The Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs visit to the Northwest

Meeting Purpose: To accompany the SECVA on his site visit to meet with IHS, tribal leaders and Veterans in Oregon and Washington. SECVA specifically visited the IHS Western Oregon Service Unit in Salem, OR; The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde, OR; and The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation, Inchelium, WA. The focus of the Secretary's visit to the Northwest (Oregon/Washington) was engagement with rural areas and specifically tribal governments challenges in those rural areas with access to services and benefits. Specifically, the Secretary met with senior leaders at IHS – Director of the Portland Area IHS Office (which covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska) and CEO of the Western Oregon Service Unit. He met with key tribal leaders from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, including the Tribal Chairman and the entire Tribal Council. During the Washington State visit with the Colville Tribe, he met with several Tribal Council Members of the tribe and key healthcare officials for the tribe. During both tribal visits, he held listening sessions with Veterans to specifically hear concerns and challenges those Veterans face in these rural areas.

Photo's taken by: Grand Ronde Tribal Newspaper staff: "Michelle Alaimo/Smoke Signals Photographer"





Navajo Nation and Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Sign Memorandum of Understanding



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
3839 N THIRD STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85012
Tel 602.255.3373 • Fax 602.255.1038
www.azdvs.gov



WANDA A. WRIGHT
DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE
Friday, June 24, 2016
Contact: Dave Hampton
Office: (602) 234.8413
Cell: (602) 402.1282
dhampton@azdvs.gov

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES WORKS WITH NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO BETTER REACH OUT TO NAVAJO VETERANS

FLAGSTAFF – In an effort to reach more Arizona veterans living on the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) Director Col. Wanda Wright today signed a historic memorandum of understanding under which ADVS will train members of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration to represent Navajo veterans in filing benefits claims with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under the agreement, four Veteran Benefits Counselors working for the Navajo Nation will undergo ADVS specialized training and certification to become accredited with the federal VA.

“Our main mission is ensuring that all Arizona’s veterans have access to the best representation in filing claims for the benefits they have earned by their service. The process of filing a claim with the VA can be a very detailed process and a single mistake can delay a veteran in receiving their benefits”, said Director Wright.

In February, Navajo President Begaye signed legislation which created a new Navajo Nation Veterans Administration to better serve the thousands of veterans living on the Nation. ADVS has been working closely with the Navajo Veterans Administration since then and looks forward to a long relationship to serve all Arizona veterans.

The Rural Connection • Winter 2016



VA Reaches Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Programs with Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training Program

By B. Josea Kramer, PhD, Director, VA Geriatric Scholars Program and Associate Director for Education and Evaluation, Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC); and Judith L. Howe, PhD, Deputy Director and Associate Director for Education and Evaluation, Veterans Integrated Service Network 3 GRECC at James J. Peters VA Medical Center



The VA Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training (RITT) Program is geared to strengthen team-based care for aging Veterans at rural outpatient clinics. Recently, RITT expanded its training outside of VA to include the Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Programs. Photo credit: Judith L. Howe, PhD, RITT Program Director

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs continues to build expertise in geriatrics and gerontology through its network of Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC). Now, VA expanded its related training to include the Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal Health Programs through the Geriatric Scholars Program and its Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training (RITT) program.

The Geriatric Scholars Program is a collaboration of 10 GRECCs to integrate geriatrics into primary care practices. The RITT component includes the entire primary care and administrative support team to promote collaborative, team-based care to address the complex needs of older patients and their families.

Recently, the S'Klallam Tribal Health Program invited the RITT team to its facility in Port Gamble, Washington. One provider noted that the training highlighted "the importance of humility when interacting with the elderly." Another staff member commented that the training was an "excellent use of teaching methods and aids [with] excellent role playing to drive the point home." The RITT training, in addition to bringing geriatrics knowledge and skills to the clinic staff, also "brought [clinic] departments together."

The IHS elder health consultant commented, "The VA RITT training offers IHS and tribal programs a highly efficient, effective way to improve the quality of care they provide to the elders they serve. The training focuses on building specific capabilities to meet needs identified by the facility and community and it does that by training the whole care team. This approach is perfectly designed for our smaller, rural facilities."

Dr. Josea Kramer, Geriatric Scholars Program Director, noted that the opportunity to share educational experiences is an important outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding between VA and IHS that emphasizes active sharing of resources.

This year, the Geriatric Scholars Program plans to offer up to 10 programs to IHS and Tribal Health Program clinics, as well as 20 VA rural Community Based Outpatient Clinics. For more information about the RITT program for IHS and Tribal Health Programs, please contact Annette Atanous, Program Coordinator, at Annette.Atanous@va.gov.

The VA Employee Education System accredited the RITT for Continuing Medication Education and Continuing Education Units for non-physicians; and the VA Office of Rural Health provided funding for RITT faculty travel and educational materials. ♦

PRESS RELEASE

May 18, 2016

Submitted by K. Galen Greenwalt, Director Veterans Affairs Dept., Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Office (405) 234-5242 * Cell (951) 533-1407



Rolling Thunder and Welcome Home Rally

On Friday and Saturday, May 13-14, 2016, the Veterans Affairs Department of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma hosted two very special events. The first day was the Rolling Thunder "Flame of Freedom" ceremony. The second day was the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans," preceded by the Missing Man Ceremony. The first riders to arrive were members of Rolling Thunder chapters from Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and various parts of Oklahoma, arriving on Thursday, May 12, to be on hand for the weekend ceremonies.



On both Friday and Saturday afternoons, several organizations set up tables and booths to assist veterans and their families. Among those who came were the US Department of Veterans Affairs Mobile Vet Center, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, the Upward Bound Education Program of East Central University, the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, the VA Native American Nurse Navigator Office, and the Job Placement and Training Office of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Free lunch and dinner was provided both days for all who came.





Fiday's event was the "Flame of Freedom" Ceremony led by the Rolling Thunder members who were present. The flaming torch represented the light that continues to bring hope for POWs and MIAs, that one day they will come home. As the torch was passed among those who gathered for this ceremony, names were spoken aloud to remember those who served and have passed on. As a part of the program, a POW/MIA flag was presented to the Seminole Nation Honor Guard.



On Saturday evening, the Missing Man Ceremony was presented by the Rolling Thunder Oklahoma Chapter of riders. The Empty Chair and Table had chairs that represented all five branches of the military, with names read of Oklahoma servicemen still missing. The Dog Tag Ceremony was a visible symbol using military dog tags on a POW bamboo cage for those POWs who have not come home.





The "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" ceremony was the main focus of the Saturday evening program, as the Seminole Nation has partnered with the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration national organization to highlight those veterans who served at that time. Because many Vietnam veterans did not receive recognition and respect for their duty and courage, many events are being held this year to give a time of celebration and honor to those who served in the Vietnam era. On hand for the Welcome Home rally was Leonard Harjo, Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. The guest speaker for the occasion was Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Executive Director and Secretary of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. At the close of the Welcome Home, all veterans present were recognized. Then, as a special tribute, each Vietnam Era veteran walked down through the audience as applause was given. These veterans were given a special gift bag of pins, tokens and memorabilia in recognition of their service. The event was coordinated and presented by the Veterans Affairs Department of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Galen Greenwalt, Director of Veterans Services.



END



All Veterans Welcome
History in the Making

SAVE THE DATES

August 19:

Welcome dinner for Native Veterans
and special guests

August 20 & 21:

Come dance for & with our Veterans
General public Welcome



2016

*National Gathering of
American Indian Veterans*

to be held at
Cantigny Park

18151 Winfield Road | Wheaton, IL 60189

Visit www.trickskergallery.com for further info.

NATIVE VETERAN ARTISTS
WITH RSVP RECEIVE A
FREE 10 X 10 VENDING SPACE
OTHER VENDORS CALL FOR CONTRACT
847-301-2090

HILTON LISTENAPERVILLE
3003 CORPORATE WEST DRIVE
Lisle, IL 60532 | USA
HOTEL: 630 508 0900





Tribal HUD-VASH Guide

Here is the cover page for a 29-page guide that was recently released regarding the HUD-VASH on Tribal Lands Pilot Program. It can be accessed [HERE](#) or you can contact Peter.Vicaire@va.gov to get a copy emailed.



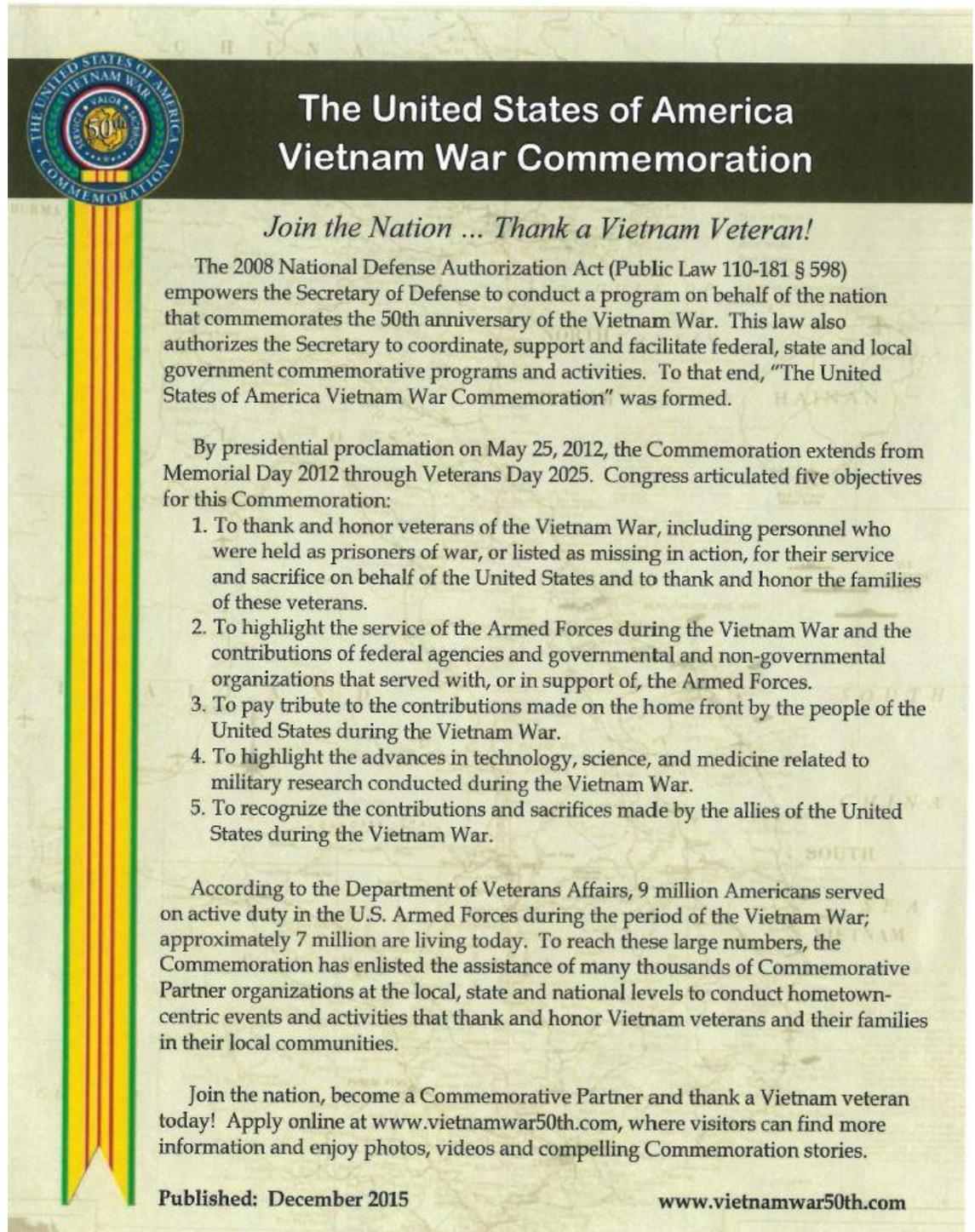
Tribal Housing and Urban Development- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) Program

Ending Veteran Homelessness on Tribal Lands: A Tribal HUD-VASH Grants Guide

Download at www.va.gov/homeless/docs/Tribal_HUD-VASH_Grants_Guide.pdf.

April 2016

Vietnam War Commemoration



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Join the Nation ... Thank a Vietnam Veteran!

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181 § 598) empowers the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" was formed.

By presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

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 non-governmental 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.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9 million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately 7 million are living today. To reach these large numbers, the Commemoration has enlisted the assistance of many thousands of Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct hometown-centric events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their local communities.

Join the nation, become a Commemorative Partner and thank a Vietnam veteran today! Apply online at www.vietnamwar50th.com, where visitors can find more information and enjoy photos, videos and compelling Commemoration stories.

Published: December 2015 www.vietnamwar50th.com



VA Secretary Grants Relief for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has granted equitable relief to more than 24,000 Veterans following a national review of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) disability compensation examinations conducted between 2007 and 2015.

Equitable relief is a unique legal remedy that allows the Secretary to correct an injustice to a claimant, where VA is not otherwise authorized to do so within the scope of the law.

Since 2007, medicine around TBI has been a rapidly evolving science. VA instituted a policy requiring one of four specialists – a psychiatrist, physiatrist, neurosurgeon, or neurologist – to complete initial TBI exams when VA does not already have a diagnosis. VA selected these specialists because they have the most experience with the symptoms and effects of TBI.

As more research became available, VA issued a series of guidance documents that created confusion regarding the policy. The nationwide review revealed that more than 24,000 Veterans did not receive an exam by one of the specifically designated specialists. Of the Veterans identified, more than 13,000 are already service connected for TBI at a 10 percent disability evaluation or higher.

Corrective Actions Taken by VA

To minimize burden and ensure no financial harm to affected Veterans, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs granted equitable relief to all of the more than 24,000 identified Veterans on May 3, 2016. The relief authorizes VA to offer new TBI exams, conducted by an appropriate specialist, to all identified Veterans.

- Further, this equitable relief:
 - Enables VA to take action on any new examinations without requiring Veterans to submit new claims.
 - Allows VA to award an effective date as early as the date of original TBI claim and provide any retroactive benefits due.
- VA will contact affected Veterans to notify them of the opportunity to receive new examinations and have their claims reprocessed. Affected Veterans will have one year in which to request new examinations.

VA understands the importance of an accurate exam to support Veterans' disability claims. VA is committed to improving the medical exam experience and has identified it as one of the Department's 12 MyVA Breakthrough Priorities.



VA DIRECT HOME LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICANS LIVING ON TRUST LAND

Helping You Use the Benefits You've Earned



How to Apply for a Loan

- Check whether your tribal organization has a Memorandum of Understanding with VA to participate in the program.
- Log on to www.eBenefits.va.gov to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility or submit a paper application (VA Form 26-1880) to the Atlanta Eligibility Center.
- Contact your local VA Regional Loan Center to learn more.
- Find a home and sign a purchase agreement or contract with a homebuilder.

NADL Program Benefits

- No downpayment
- No private mortgage insurance
- Low fixed interest rate
- Low closing costs
- Up to \$417,000 in most areas, more in high-cost areas such as Alaska and Hawaii
- Reusable benefit

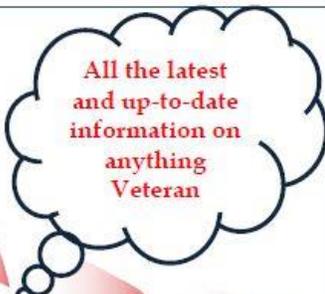


For more information, visit
www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp
or call 1-877-827-3702.

OTGR Central Region

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





All the latest
and up-to-date
information on
anything
Veteran



Monthly Native American Veterans Coffee & Treats



Join us monthly from 8:30-10:30am at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E. Franklin Ave, MPLS, MN 55404 on March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 8 and August 5.

Sponsored by your HNAV committee:

- Amanda Linden, Fond du Lac Band
- Barbara Benjamin-Robertson, Mille Lacs Band
- Jacque Wilson, Bois Forte Band
- Johnny Smith, Red Lake Nation
- Nancy Davis-Ortiz, Retired U.S. Army LTC
- Todd Dionne, MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Roberta Boyd, Red Lake Nation
- Carl Fransen, White Earth
- Valerie A. Larsen, Leech Lake
- Lyle H. Iron Moccasin, Veterans Employment Rep

Questions - 952-703-3104





Veterans Outreach & Recovery Program

As the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs continues to look at more opportunities to assist veterans with mental health issues, one program that continues to grow and continues to be a success is the Veterans Outreach & Recovery Program (VORP).

In the fall of 2014, the department partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and received a \$1.2 million three year SAMHSA Grant to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment to homeless, chronic homeless or at risk of homeless veterans. An additional \$1.2 million was received in order to expand services for a second and third year.

This funding allowed the department to set up services in seven regions of the state consisting of 49 counties. A total of nine staff was hired with six staff providing direct case management services to veterans, one staff member providing assistance for veterans to sign up for Social Security disability, one administrative staff member and one DHS staff serving as a clinical coordinator who provides diagnosis for enrolled veterans.

Program staff work to locate veterans who may be homeless or at risk. If after assessment the veteran has mental health and/or substance abuse issues, then the program provides funding to connect the veteran to mental health professionals and other related resources. Staff will then address all of the veterans needs and when appropriate connect them with other resources – housing, employment, benefits, etc.

Program eligibility is very simple – the veteran must be homeless or at risk of homelessness, have a need for mental health and/or substance abuse services, and have served in the military, regardless of discharge status.

The program is fully staffed as of December 2015 and by May 31st of this year, the staff have made contact with 524 different organizations, met and assisted 532 veterans resulting in 93 currently enrolled veterans in the VORP Program.

We are proud of all we do to serve America's best when they return home. Our veterans deserve the opportunity to achieve their post-military aspirations and we are here to assist them.

Please contact us with any questions at 1-800-WIS-VETS or WisVets.com.



Wisconsin Department
of Veterans Affairs



Gerald Sieren,
serving the Ho-Chunk Nation.



Sarah Thorsberg,
serving the Lac du Flambeau and Sokaogon
Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County
Potawatomi Tribe, Menominee Nation
and Stockbridge Munsee Band of the Mohicans.



Rose Elliott,
serving the Red Cliff, St. Croix, Lac Courte Orielles,
and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa.



Calvin Stammer,
serving the Oneida Nation.



2 0 1 6



Minnesota Veterans Career Fair

Wednesday, July 13th, 2016
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Earle Brown Heritage Center
6155 Earle Brown Drive
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Map and Directions:
www.earlebrown.com

Resume review available throughout the day

The Minnesota Veterans Employment Service invites all job-seeking veterans to this **“Veteran Friendly”** employer event. Job opportunities and educational information will be available. Service providers with expert knowledge of Veterans services will also be present.

Hope to see you there!

For more information:
mn.gov/deed/veterans

This event is a collaboration between:



Individuals needing accommodations to attend this event should contact Christine Pribbernow (651-259-7179) at least five days prior to the event.



*2016 Cheyenne VA Medical Center Mental Health Summit
Save the Date*

*Friday Aug. 26, 2016
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

*Timberline Church
2908 Timberline Rd.
Ft. Collins, Colo.*

Sponsored by:



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Cheyenne Veterans Affairs
Medical Center and Clinics

*For questions about the Summit, please contact
Christopher Aguilar at 307-286-1333 or Email at
Christopher.Aguilar@va.gov.*

OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX)

THUMMIM (TRUTH)

HISTORICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NATIVE COMBAT VETERANS

Friday, July 15, 2016

Huey Long Community Center 4505 S.E. 15th St., Del City, OK 73115

10:00am – 1:00pm Seminars 1:00pm - 2:00pm Meal 2:00pm – 7pm Gourd Dance

Seminar Speakers:

Lanny Asepermy, Sergeant Major (Retired)

Grayson Noley, PhD

Cheyenne & Arapahoe Lt. Governor Cornell Sankey

Myles Deering-Executive Director,OKDVA

Mary Culley Office of Tribal Government Relations

Meals Served: Brunch 10:00 am Lunch 1:00 pm Evening 5:00 pm



Gourd Dance Ceremony

2:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Ray Trent Park-exit 155 A, I-40

Adjacent to Huey Long Community Center Del City, OK I-40 -- Exit 155A

Master of Ceremonies
Head Singer
Head Gourd Dancer
Head Lady Dancer
Arena Directors

Tom Morgan, Pawnee
Inter-Tribal Singers
Harold Marris, Choctaw
Renora Corriveau, Kiowa
Randy Frazier

Honor Guards: Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society

Honored Guest: American War Mothers - Kiowa Chapter 18

Info – Pershing Yeahquo 405-274-2426 Candy Klump 405 – 623-2019
Not Responsible for Accidents or Thefts



OKLAHOMA MILITARY CONNECTION

HIRING EVENT



21 July 2016

9:30am to 2:30pm

Muskogee Civic Center, Muskogee

425 Boston Street, Muskogee OK, 74401

If you are a military member or spouse of a military member, Guard or Reserve, separating from active duty or a veteran seeking employment, please register for this hiring event. Pre-registration will ensure your exposure to registered employers. Walk-ins are welcome. Bring your updated resume. Dress for Success!

For more information, visit
www.okmilitaryconnection.com
or contact:

*Ryan Davis, Local Veterans Employment Representative Oklahoma Works - Muskogee
918-682-3364 x233 - ryan.davis@oesc.state.ok.us*

Don Nichols, Military Order of the Purple Heart, nicholsdon@sbcglobal.net

Workshops for job seekers will be held prior to the event to help prepare. You will receive information upon registration. Workshops will include sessions on resume tips, interview techniques and Dress for Success information.

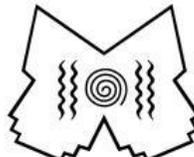


OTGR Southwest Region

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

July 6-7, 2016 | Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder | Santa Fe, NM





PUEBLO of POJOAQUE PUEBLO of POJOAQUE

U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs

SOUTHWEST REGION

VETERANS TRAINING SUMMIT



Office of
Tribal Government
Relations

Day 1: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (MST)
Day 2: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (MST)

LOCATION Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder Conf Center, 20 Buffalo Thunder Trail, Santa Fe NM, 87506

SUMMIT REGISTRATION Contact Lorae Pawiki 928-776-5306 or lorae.pawiki@va.gov;

EXHIBIT TABLE REGISTRATION Contact Gail Madalena, Walatowa Veterans Coordinator 505-228-7540 cell, 575-834-0122 office, Gail.Madalena@jemezueblo-wva.org

WEBSITE <http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/>

HOTEL RESERVATIONS Hilton Buffalo Thunder Hotel Booking ID "SUMMIT" Call 1-800-HILTONS (445-8667) or Make reservation online www.HiltonBuffaloThunder.com, enter Booking ID "SUMMIT" for Double Queen \$99 Room Tax 14.3% by June 6, 2016

PARTNERS





Susana Martinez
Governor

Jack R. Fox
Cabinet Secretary
Ray Seva
Public Information Officer
(505) 362-6089 cell
www.dvs.state.nm.us

For Immediate Release
March 24, 2016

**NM Dept. of Veterans' Services to Dedicate Opening of Gallup Field Office;
Will Also Host Veterans Cemetery Town Hall Mtg.**

Wednesday, April 6 (10am & 11am)

Gallup, NM (Ford Canyon Senior Center/908 E. Buena Vista Ave.)

(GALLUP, NM)-- The public is invited to join New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) Secretary Jack Fox and local leaders for a 10am grand opening ceremony for the new NMDVS Gallup field office. NMDVS Veterans' Service Officer Tyrra Saavedra will be available to help veterans and their families from 8:30am-4:30pm on the following days:

- March 22-24
- April 5-7, 26-28
- May 10-12, 24-26
- June 7-9, 21-23
- July 12-14, 26-28
- August 9-11, 23-25
- September 13-15, 27-29
- October 11-13, 25-27
- November 8-10, 21-23, 28-30
- December 13-15, 27-29

When: Wednesday April 6, 2016 (10 am/11 am)

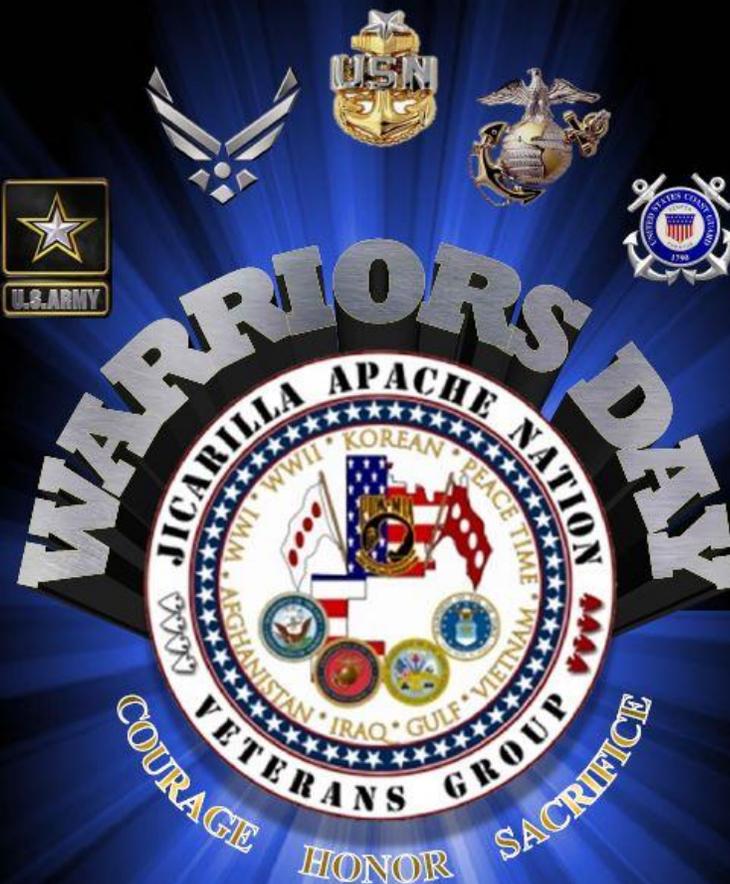
Where: Ford Canyon Senior Center
908 E. Buena Vista Ave. Rm. 1A
Gallup, NM 87301

Cemetery Town Hall Meeting

After the ceremony, the public is invited to stay for a special 11am cemetery town hall meeting hosted NMDVS Secretary Fox, NMDVS State Cemetery Program Director Tom Wagner and other state officials to give an update on the progress of the proposed Gallup State Veterans' Cemetery.



WILD HORSE CASINO EVENT CENTER



07.15.2016
1 PM

DULCE, N.M.

JICARILLAVETERANS@GMAIL.COM

(760)681-9631



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR



WANDA WRIGHT
DIRECTOR

STATE OF ARIZONA

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
3839 NORTH THIRD STREET, SUITE 200
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012
PHONE (602) 255-3373 FAX (602) 255-1038

NEWS ADVISORY

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Contact: Dave Hampton

Office: (602) 234.8413

Cell: (602) 402.1282

dhampton@azdvs.gov

ARIZONA REMEMBERS ITS FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL DAY WITH THE ARIZONA GOLD STAR MILITARY MEDAL

PHOENIX – Since Arizona statehood, 3,029 of her sons and daughters in uniform have given their lives in defense of this nation. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2016, their sacrifices will be especially recognized by the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal.

Created by the Arizona State Legislature, the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal may be awarded by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services on behalf of the people of this state to a member of the Arizona National Guard, United States Military Reserves, or Regular Armed Forces of the United States who was a legal resident of Arizona at the time the member was killed in action or died in the line of duty while deployed in support of combat operations since February 14, 1912, the day Arizona became a state.

Beginning on Monday, May 30, 2016 —Memorial Day — next of kin of eligible service members will be able to learn more about the medal and apply for presentation of the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal at <http://azdvs.gov/arizona-gold-star-military-medal> or they may write to:

Arizona Gold Star Military Medal
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
3839 N. 3rd Street, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Two photographs of the Arizona Gold Star Military Medal have been sent with this advisory.





Free Legal Advice

and

Will Preparation

For U.S. Veterans and Their Spouses



Sponsored By: Arizona Disabled American Veterans
Arizona Disabled Veteran Foundation
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



We Will Provide Help In The Following Legal Areas

- Divorce / Custody / Child Support
- Debt Counseling / Bankruptcy
- Employment
- Landlord / Tenant Issues
- Taxes
- Estate Planning - Simple Wills, General / Medical POAs Will Be Provided On-Site.

All At No Cost To You

Saturday, August 27th, 2016
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Flagstaff American Legion
204 W. Birch AVE
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

For more information, visit <http://www.azdav.com/legal-clinics.html>

Appointments will have priority over walk-in clients and are highly recommended

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

John Tokarz Legal Clinic Director

480.363.6880 or vetslegalclinic@gmail.com

<http://www.azvetscivillaw.org/>

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

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



2016

OPERATION VETERANS WELLNESS

Benefits Fair and Recruitment Drive

Rio West Mall ,Gallup NM

**SATURDAY
JULY 30, 2016
10AM TO 2PM**

***Honoring Our Veterans
Gourd Dance***

1PM TO 4PM

Please bring your own Canopies


















For more information contact: Davina Segay 505-722-9470 Davina.Segay@nndoh.org
 Or Robertson Yazzie Jr. 505-252-5987 Robertson.Yazzie@state.nm.us

****A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT****

****SPONSORS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, ACCIDENTS, INJURIES, etc...****



The Phoenix VA Health Care System **Town Hall Meeting** with Veterans and Our Community

WHO: Veterans, their families and the community

WHAT: Town Hall Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, July 19 at 5 p.m.

WHERE: Messinger Payson Funeral Home
901 S. Westerly Rd.
Payson, AZ 85541

WHY: To share information, hear feedback
and answer your questions



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

OTGR Western Region

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



MARCELLUS NORWEST MEMORIAL VETERANS POWWOW

July 8-10

Save the Date

Men's Grass Dance & Women's Jingle Dance Specials

Big Raffle and Prizes!!!

MC - Nick Sixkiller
Arena Director - Carlos Calica
Host Drum - Bad Soul
Head Man/Head Woman: Deitz & Rose Peters

Grand Entries:
 7 p.m. on Friday, July 8
 1 p.m. and 7p.m. on Saturday, July 9
 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 10

In Grand Ronde, OR @ Uyxat Powwow Grounds
 9600 Highway 22
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Tribal vendors contact:
 Reina Nelson 503-879-2313 or reina.nelson@grandronde.org
 for application and more information



NATIVE VETERANS SUMMIT

4th Annual Gathering of Warriors

July 7 - 9, 2016

Connecting Veterans with Services

All Veterans Welcome

Hosted by





In Grand Ronde, OR @ Uyxat Powwow Grounds
 9600 Highway 22
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347

For more information and to register online visit our website at
www.NativeWellness.com or email us at info@nativewellness.com.
 Contact Rhonda Leno 503-879-2034 or rhonda.leno@grandronde.org

Family Friendly Activities!

FREE EVENT!





Women Veterans Summit September 24, 2016

EFFECTIVE 4-5-16:
Summit has been rescheduled
from 9-17-16 at the Clearwater
Resort to the Hotel Murano in
Tacoma on 9-24-16

Hotel Murano
1320 Broadway
Tacoma, WA 98402

Register:

www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-women-veterans-summit-tickets-22233910224



For more information:
www.dva.wa.gov/women/women-veterans-summit

Flyer updated: April 5, 2016

