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## VA ~ Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ October 2016

### Note from the Director

Greetings and welcome to the early fall edition of the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) newsletter. This is a very special super combined edition that chronicles stories and events that occurred as the summer was winding down and as we moved into the brisk days of the new season.

I would like to begin by sharing the sad news of the passing of three prominent Veteran advocates who informed, inspired and offered words of wisdom to VA leadership and our team over the years. Jim Northrup, (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) a Marine Corps Veteran was a well-respected author and humorist who wrote of his experiences in Vietnam and life “on the rez,” Richard “Mokey” George (Yakama Nation) was an Army Veteran who served several terms on the Yakama Nation Tribal Council and served for many years on the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Veterans Committee and Jacob Littledave (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians) was a Marine Corps Veteran who also served on the UKB Tribal Council and worked for many years as a Tribal Veteran Representative. We offer their families and friends our sincere condolences. We are grateful for their service to our country and thankful that they continued to offer their considerable gifts and talents in service to our Veterans throughout their lives. They were always engaged in current issues affecting or involving our Veterans in tribal communities and we will continue to be motivated to do and be our best through the example of their leadership.

On the tribal consultation front, VHA presented to tribal leaders four questions regarding how VHA is purchasing care in the community from tribal health programs and is seeking input regarding what, if any, effect there may be if VHA initiates changes to the way it purchases care from the IHS and tribal health programs. The comment period is open until November 5, 2016. An in-person tribal consultation was held on September 28, 2016 in Washington D.C. at the National Museum of the American Indian. Approximately 60 tribal leaders, tribal health organization representatives, congressional staff, tribal government advocates and representatives from the Indian Health Service (IHS) were in attendance. Information on where to submit comments is contained here in the newsletter, but if you'd like to email me any questions directly, you may do so at: [StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov](mailto:StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov).

On the travel and training forecast front, Ms. Mary Culley, our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for parts of the VA Continental and Southeast Districts will be joined by Clay Ward (our DC-based OTGR Program Analyst) to participate in the upcoming United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Annual Conference to be held the week of October 23, 2016 in Cherokee, North Carolina. Mary and Clay also plan to meet with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians tribal leadership and schedule site visits while they're in the area. Mary is also very busy working with 13 tribes in Oklahoma to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-tribal Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Cox Convention Center in down town Oklahoma City on Friday November 4. This annual event serves many Veterans in need and is a great collaboration between the tribes, VA and IHS. For more information about the event, contact [Mary.Culley@va.gov](mailto:Mary.Culley@va.gov).

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In the meantime, way out west, Ms. Terry Bentley, our Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the Pacific and parts of the Continental District is participating in the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board meeting this week, offering VA updates to tribal health directors and towards the latter part of the month, she will present to the Portland Area IHS clinical directors during their quarterly meeting. On November 4, Terry (joined by senior officials and representatives from across VA and the state) will be supporting the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Veterans Summit to be held in Warm Springs, OR.

In the Midwest, this week Peter Vicaire travels to Palm Springs, CA to participate in the National American Indian Court Judges Association meeting. Peter will be sharing information about resources available to tribal judges working with justice-involved Veterans. Later this month, he travels to Manistee, MI to offer VA updates to the United Tribes of Michigan, a coalition of tribal leaders from all 12 tribes in the state. On November 11, I'll be joining Peter for a Veterans Listening Session hosted by North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp in New Town, North Dakota, headquarters of the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Over in the Southwest, Homana Pawiki just finished supporting the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Convention held in Phoenix, AZ and the National Indian Health Board Annual Consumer Conference, held in Scottsdale, AZ and is gearing up to assist with additional events coming up later this fall.

These are "hot" items that our readers should be aware of that are coming up in the near term, but I would be remiss if I didn't also mention some recent highlights including: ensuring IHS and tribal health partners are involved in the annual mental health summits each VA Medical Center convenes during the summer months; the Congressional staff delegation site visit to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota that Peter Vicaire and other VA colleagues supported during the latter part of August; participation in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Veterans Benefits fair and the Chickasaw Nation 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Conference; a series of planning meetings focused on coordinating a Veterans Summit at Navajo Nation; a Recognition of Tribal Organizations for the Representation of VA Claimants webinar with VA's Office of General Counsel; convening of Camp Chaparral Veterans at Yakama Nation; the National Gathering of American Indian Veterans in Wheaton, IL...the list goes on.

Speaking of Camp Chaparral Veterans Camp, I had the honor of attending and participating in Camp this year. What a remarkable, powerful and innovative partnership this is between the VA (VISN 20), Yakama Nation, Tribal Veterans Representatives and tribal leaders from the Pacific Northwest. The facilitators were outstanding and to see the level of bonding, respect and cross-cultural understanding that takes place over the course of a week participating in facilitator-led family groups discussing themes of PTSD, trauma, grief was a very humbling and affirming experience. To hear about the sacrifice and healing our Veterans and their families work to achieve on a daily basis is wonderful. I'm grateful to my family, leaders, Frank Cordero, Robert Jefferson, and Dottie Chamblin for the patience, compassion, wisdom and kindness extended to us during the course of the week. I'm also thankful to our colleague, Terry Bentley, for the technical support and leadership she's given to Camp all of these years; and of course to the Yakama Nation Veterans Office and the Yakama Nation for hosting Camp. I'm also thankful

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for the Tribal Veterans Representatives who initiated and ultimately implemented the concept which has benefitted so many Veterans and providers along the way. Camp Chaparral Veterans Camp has been ongoing for over 20 years, but it is also very exciting to see other tribes, particularly during the past 5 years, move forward with establishing Tribal Departments of Veterans Affairs, expand partnerships with the VA in an effort to increase access to care and benefits for Veterans living in or near tribal communities, and to see more tribal governments strategically plan for the needs of their Veteran population - defining the top priorities for meeting the needs of Veterans as well as their families. I look forward to seeing and facilitating support for more of this growth and emphasis on Veterans issues across tribal communities in the coming months and years.

I'll go ahead and close off here so you can start to "dig in" to the newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or email us at [tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov](mailto:tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov).

Happy Reading,



**Stephanie Birdwell**

## VA OTGR Executive Summary Report 2015: *Engaging Indian Country, Serving Our Warriors*

VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) has released its *2015 Executive Summary Report*. It is 40 pages long and can be read in its entirety at: <http://www.va.gov/tribalgovernment/> You can also request a copy (via email) from [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)



Engaging Indian Country, Serving Our Warriors

# 2015 Executive Summary Report

from the Department of Veterans Affairs

## Tribal Consultation ~ Care in the Community

Here's a notice in the Federal Register regarding a VA Tribal Consultation concerning "Care in the Community." Deadline for comments is **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



67060

Federal Register / Vol. 81, No. 189 / Thursday, September 29, 2016 / Notices

of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

**Request for Comments:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: September 21, 2016.

**Tuawana Pinkston,**

*IRS Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2016-23591 Filed 9-28-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4830-01-P**

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Tribal Health Programs—Community Care Consolidation

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice of Tribal Consultation.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will facilitate a Tribal Consultation on the VHA's effort to improve continuity of care and health care access for Veterans by consolidating multiple community care programs, previously known as non-VA care, into one standard program with

standard rates. In October 2015, VA submitted to Congress the *Plan to Consolidate Programs of Department of Veterans Affairs to Improve Access to Care*, [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/VA\\_Community\\_Care\\_Report\\_11\\_03\\_2015.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/VA_Community_Care_Report_11_03_2015.pdf), which lays out the vision for a consolidated community care program that is easy to understand, simple to administer, and meets the needs of Veterans, community providers, and VA staff. As VA continues to move forward with implementing the vision of the *Plan*, we again seek tribal input to assist VA in developing the network of providers in a manner that would build on VA's existing relationships with tribal health programs and facilitate future collaboration to improve health care services provided to all eligible, VA-enrolled Veterans, regardless of whether they are eligible for Indian Health Service-funded health care or not. We are seeking tribal consultation regarding the tribal health programs' participation in the core provider network, as outlined in the *Plan*, and potentially transitioning from the current reimbursement agreement structure to a model under which tribal health programs deliver care to all eligible, VA enrolled Veterans using a standard reimbursement rate based on Medicare rates.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by VA on or before November 5, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted by email at [Tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov](mailto:Tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov), by fax at 202-273-5716, or by mail at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Suite 915L, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Majed Ibrahim, VA Office of Community Care, VHA at (562) 400-3134 (this is not a toll-free number), or by email at [majed.ibrahim@va.gov](mailto:majed.ibrahim@va.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** VA is seeking consultation and comments on the following questions:

(1) What would be the impact of transitioning from the existing

reimbursement agreement structure, which requires each tribe to enter into an individual reimbursement agreement with VA, to a standard arrangement for reimbursement of direct care services provided to eligible Veterans managed by a third party administrator for VA?

(2) Would tribal health programs be interested in expanding direct care services under this new structure to include reimbursements for care provided to all Veterans enrolled in VA health care, regardless of whether they are eligible for IHS-funded health care or not?

(3) Would tribal health programs be interested in receiving standard reimbursement rates based on Medicare rates plus a feasible percentage of those rates to minimize improper payments and comply with industry standards?

(4) Would tribal health programs be interested in extending existing reimbursement agreements between VA and tribal health programs through December 2018 and ensuring any new reimbursement agreements between VA and tribal health programs extend through December 2018, as VA works in collaboration with tribes and other VA stakeholders on implementing a consolidated community care program?

Tribal leaders and/or their designated representatives and other interested parties are invited to attend and provide comments during the in-person consultation and/or submit written comments.

**Signing Authority:** The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Approved: September 23, 2016.

**Jeffrey M. Martin**

*Program Manager, Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2016-23483 Filed 9-28-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**



## National Gathering of American Indian Veterans

“Trickster Art Gallery, in partnership with the Colonel Robert McCormick Cantigny Park (Wheaton, IL), hosted the Second Annual National Gathering of American Indian Veterans to: 1) Honor American Indian and other veterans for their service; 2) Educate people of the significant contributions American Indians have made and continue to make to the US military through service; 3) Inform public and private entities of ways in which they can support the health and well-being of American Indian veterans; and 4) To plan for the 2020 National Gathering of American Indian Veterans to take place in D.C. during the unveiling of the Native Veterans Monument.

The event reviewed and addressed data from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs' 2014 report which stated that American Indian/Alaskan Native Veterans (AI/AN), though the smallest racial group in U.S. demographics, at 17%, AI/ANs is the third largest minority group of veterans. Though they have served our country with great pride and honor, American Indian veterans trail behind their veteran peers in health, social and economic status as demonstrated by:

- Highest poverty rate of any other minority veteran group
- Lowest labor force participation rate than any other minority veteran group
- Highest percentage of veterans accessing public aid for food
- Highest rate of veterans without healthcare coverage
- Highest percent of veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Less likely to own their own home

The three-day event (August 19, 20 and 21, 2016) was a tremendous success with a total of over 1,300 people in attendance (90% were veterans and their families), including 98 American Indian veterans representing over 42 tribes and 18 Eagle Staffs carriers (this nation's first flag), 465 non-Native veterans, as well as other friends, family members, and supporters of all ages. There were 521 male veterans, and 42 female veterans (38 of whom were Native Women veterans). Other Native Veteran guests of honor included Dan King (NCAI Veterans Committee Co-chair), Saginaw Grant (Korean war vet / Hollywood actor), Charles Norman Shay (WWII D-day survivor), and First Nation Women Warriors. Speakers and presenters included Lt. Col. Jon Sowards (Soldiers for Life), Peter Vicaire (VA Tribal Government Relations Specialist), Rear Admiral Steven C. Evans, Juanita Mullen (AI/AN Veterans Liaison), three VA hospitals, and 17 veteran service organizations. Master Sargent Leondra Felder, Deputy Chief of Veterans War Commemoration, came in from Washington D.C. to personally pin each Vietnam Veteran and to offer a welcome home. Workshops and discussions covered topics such as culturally competent services, challenges and issues Native Veterans in particular face in accessing federal services and benefits. Participants had a rare opportunity to provide valuable feedback to federal and local health and benefit providers for improved outreach and services to Native Veterans.

The Trickster Art Gallery strengthened connections with organizations such as the White House Civil Rights Commission, Pentagon Department of Defense, Smithsonian and the Veterans' Administration in addition to individuals such as Tribal Chairs and Leaders. The event brought forth challenges and issues that will provoke lasting change in the way that American Indian veterans are honored and assisted by the military and this nation's government.

Though the event was a success, it warrants an annual meeting and progress check on proposed strategies; So save-the-date for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Gathering of American Indian Veterans: July 21 - 21, 2017 at Colonel Robert McCormick Cantigny Park. For more information, [pictures](#), videos and general veteran resources, please visit [www.trickstergallery.com](http://www.trickstergallery.com)”



## Arizona Passes Legislation Returning State-Taxed Wages to Native American Veterans

The Arizona House of Representatives passed a bill, [H.B. 2323](#), which creates a (\$2,000,000) fund to compensate Native American veterans who were domiciled on tribal lands and had state income taxes improperly withheld while on active military service. The bill also establishes a process whereby Native American veterans in Arizona can recover those state income taxes that were withheld.

You can read the 2013 [NCAI Resolution here](#), which urges Congress to return these lost wages to those Native American veterans who were wrongly taxed. This taxation happened for 24 years, from 1977 through 2001. The State of New Mexico adopted similar legislation in 2008 but there are still 24 states remaining who have not returned these monies: Alabama; California; Colorado; Connecticut; Idaho; Iowa; Kansas; Louisiana; Maine; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Mississippi; Montana; Nebraska; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina; North Dakota; Oklahoma; Oregon; Rhode Island; South Carolina; Utah and Wisconsin. For more information on this issue, please contact [Peter.Vicaire@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov)

## Jim Northrup Passes Away

Here an article that ran in [Indian Country Today](#) on August 2, 2016.  
*Beloved Ojibwe Author, Poet, Marine Veteran Jim Northrup Walks On*



Indian Country  
TODAY MEDIA NETWORK

“Beloved Fond du Lac author Jim Northrup, who publicly revealed a terminal cancer diagnosis earlier this year, has walked on. The Ojibwe author, poet, linguist, U.S. Marine and Vietnam War veteran worked hard to uphold Anishinaabe tradition throughout his 73 years. His books and newspaper columns captured life on the rez as he took readers through various adventures both otherworldly and mundane.

In his syndicated newspaper column, the Fond du Lac Follies, he would regale readers with tales from the life of fictional Luke Warmwater. Mentored by the likes of well-known Anishinaabe writers Gerald Vizenor and Louise Erdrich, Northrup produced books including *Walking the Rez Road*, *Rez Road Follies*, *Anishinaabe Syndicated: A View from the Rez*, *Dirty Copper* and *Rez Salute: the Real Healer Dealer*.

Northrup spoke to the *Duluth News Tribune* earlier this year in bravely revealing that he was in the last stages of kidney cancer—which he suspected had stemmed from exposure to Agent Orange during his tour in Vietnam—and recounted a vision he had had on a previous occasion when he thought he was “circling the drain.” Paddling in a canoe, he heard voices, laughter and song from the other shore and went toward them—but was turned back. Not his turn. However, it left him with a sense of acceptance. “I’ll tell you what I think,” he told the newspaper. “I am going to have a great time over there.” As we mourn his passing, we can only hope he is indeed having a blast.”



## Honoring the Fallen and Healing Through a Traveling Museum

War Veteran's Calling: Honoring the Fallen and Healing Through a Traveling Museum.

By Bret Bowers, PAO, Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center – July 2016

Vietnam War Combat Veteran Arnie Holt's respect for others is easy to see. He has a vision, a personal mission, and he remains dedicated to them both. He's compelled to honor all Veterans during Honor Guard tributes at military funerals, where Holt formally presents a "roll call" depicting each Veteran's service, military awards, duty stations and special assignments – as a compliment to the traditional grave-side service. Quite often, he and his Brothers in Arms will travel and perform multiple services in a single day. But that's only part of the honor he offers his fellow Veterans and their families.



The other mission is his profound and powerful traveling museum that he started about 10-years ago, and continues to grow. Holt has acquired hundreds of items that immediately spark memories of a time this country wasn't so proud of. But he still is.

His memorabilia from the Vietnam War immediately elicits strong emotions for some. "I see the tears in their eyes," he said. "Sometimes they'll simply shake my hand, make a donation, or thank me. But I've also watched people begin to look, only to walk out because of the pain it reminds them of." Holt's living and traveling museum is priceless. He has war memories for all to see, feel, and hear, complimented by music that captivated tens of thousands at Woodstock and sounds of Hollywood movie scenes depicting America's cultural indifference towards the Vietnam War and the political unrest that dominated the 1960's and early 1970's.

From 1968-'69 Arnie Holt at 19-years old (seen at right), served in the jungles of Vietnam as a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Many know now that his generation of Veterans didn't receive a hero's welcome home. After he received an Honorable Discharge and returned stateside, he recalls walking 12-miles along a highway, in uniform, and nobody stopped to offer him a ride home.



From 1968-'69 Arnie Holt at 19-years old (seen at right), served in the jungles of Vietnam as a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Many know now that his generation of Veterans didn't receive a hero's welcome home. After he received an Honorable Discharge and returned stateside, he recalls walking 12-miles along a highway, in uniform, and nobody stopped to offer him a ride home.





He wanted to put the war behind him and didn't want any of his own military memories, until one day, when he simply flipped the lid open on a zippo lighter and the vivid memories of Vietnam began rushing their way back into his conscience.

His own mother had saved his medals, uniforms and artifacts, as if she knew that one day, they would serve a valuable purpose again. She was right. Arnie, once a high school drop-out turned school counselor and mentor, found his purpose to no longer allow the pain of Vietnam define him, the military, or his country. He even chose to put the uniform on again with the U.S. Navy, where once again, he served with distinction. Today, he serves Veterans and their families as the founder and curator of the Nativeveteran museum, a traveling museum and tribute to all Veterans, but especially those who served in Vietnam.

"Nativeveteran museum is intended to start the healing process among Veterans suffering with PTSD and educate the public and youth about Veterans," Holt says. "I'm displaying history – as real as it gets and I can't let history die. Yes, sometimes I do feel guilty about surviving when so many others didn't, or they came home and are still suffering from their own scars and the pain of war."

He spends hours meticulously unpacking, displaying, and re-packing the artifacts. Yet, he doesn't blink an eye when Veterans will pick-up and hold a weapon, try on a helmet, or simply read poems and clippings with tears streaming down their face. He's traveled to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. and traced the names of fallen friends who gave the ultimate sacrifice and are forever enshrined on the Wall.

(more)





Whether the memorabilia is on display in a school, convention center, or within a jungle green military tent at an event, the view is unique, because most of it is not behind glass and untouchable. Arnie encourages visitors to spend time admiring the tools used in war, the people who fought, and those who did, but didn't come home.

The items, including an M-60 machine gun and other weapons, monuments for the fallen, medals, newspaper clippings, uniforms, bayonets, ammo boxes, goes on and on. There are hundreds of artifacts, many given to him by Veterans and their families entrusting Holt with their treasures. They know that Arnie is already succeeding with his compassionate mission. The Nativeteran museum has been on display during many events throughout the Pacific Northwest, in Omak, WA, Portland, Spokane, Coulee Dam, Vancouver, WA and many schools in between.

Eventually Holt wants to find a permanent location and making it a destination that Veterans, families and vacationers will see as a "must see" along their journey.

Meantime, he and his fellow members of the Colville Tribe's Honor Guard continue to honor Veterans. Each were formally recognized in front of dozens of Veterans and agency representatives attending a July 2016 Tribal Veterans Summit in Omak, WA, sponsored by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations, and supported by the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane.

Holt keeps a sign-in book for Veterans and guests who see and appreciate his Nativeteran museum. He also has countless comment cards from all those who admire his display and Honor Guard duties during military funerals. Without hesitation, Holt honors all Veterans as "Warriors" whether they're of American Indian heritage or not.

Back in 2012, after staging his traveling museum during the annual American Indian Veteran Advisory Council's Memorial & Honoring Ceremony for all Veterans (held on the second Saturday of September at the VA Medical Center in Spokane, WA), one mayor in Washington State, Ms. Cindy Gagne wrote, "thank you for inviting me. It was a beautiful ceremony and it was my pleasure to be in attendance!"





Another admirer from witnessing the Honor Guard service, Sandra Partridge writes, "On behalf of my family, please accept our deepest thanks for all you did to honor the memory of my father, Herman Jensen. The ceremony, especially the roll-call, moved me to tears and gave me at least a glimpse into the brotherhood of fellow warriors. I know now what an Honor Guard really means. Bless you for taking the time to do this, especially on Father's Day weekend."

Holt himself watched his own son, John L. Holt enlist in the Marine Corps and eventually deploy to Iraq. Thankfully he too made it back and will likely one day, end up overseeing the Nativeteran museum which has become his Father's legacy. "I thank God for his safe return after walking the warrior's path," Arnie smiled. "I still pray for our troops who are currently serving our country."

Holt now resides at Coulee Dam, WA and is retired from the Colville Confederated Tribe's Veteran's Program where he made so many friends as Program Manager over the years. Arnie Holt also recently became an honorary member of the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division. His Nativeteran.com project is a state licensed non-profit organization.

"It's an honor and a privilege for me to help other warriors begin their healing journey. Our Veterans deserve a place of honor that tells their story and the battles they fought."



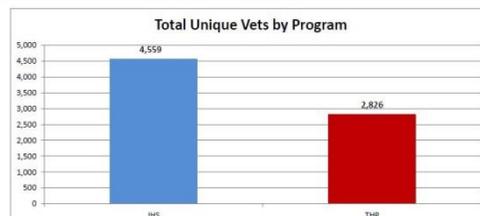
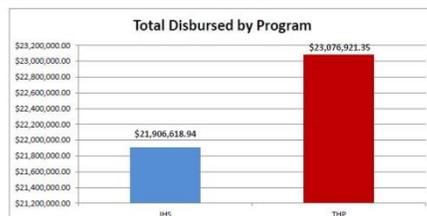
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## VA Reimburses \$45 Million to IHS and Tribal Health Programs

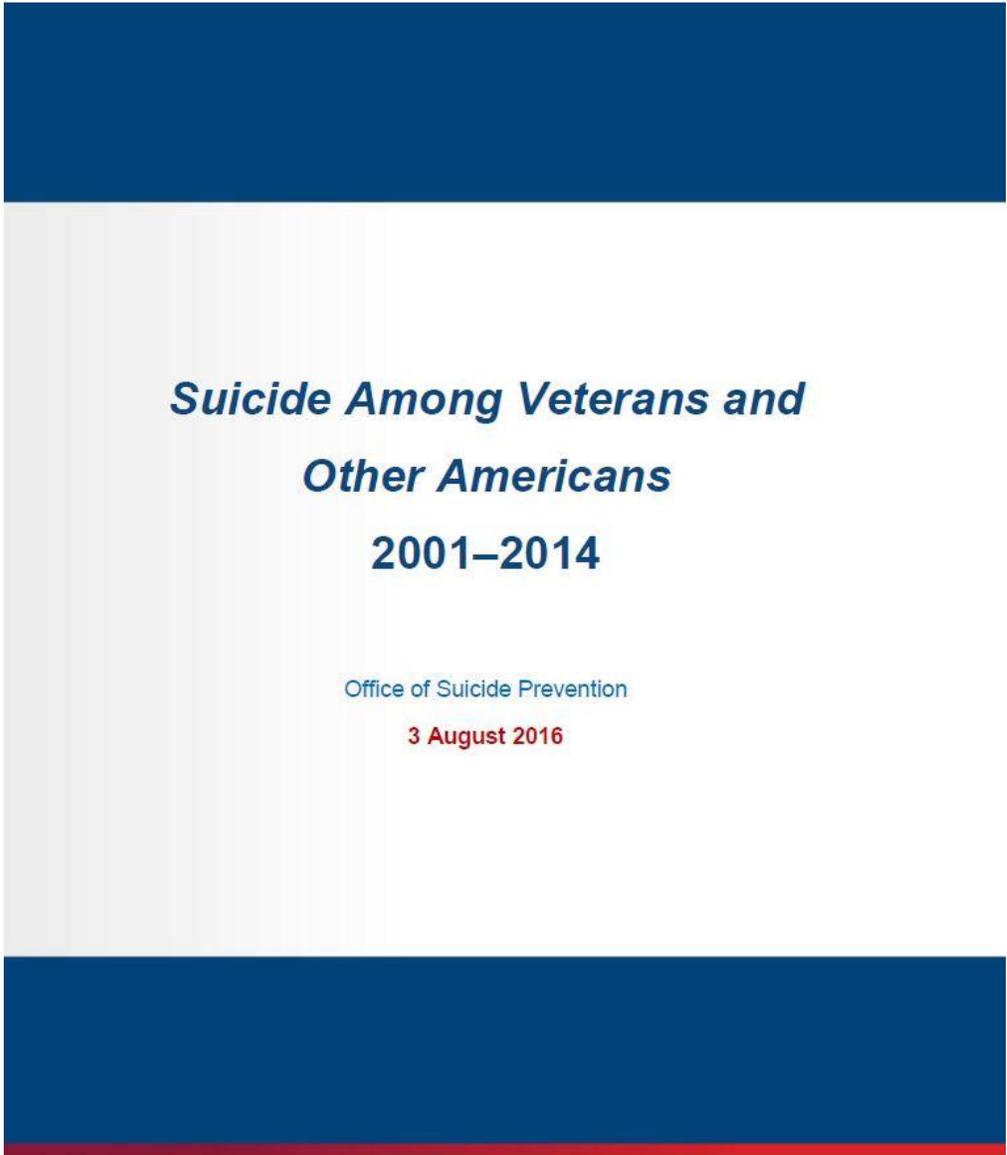
Tribal health clinics interested in entering into a reimbursement agreement with VA for serving veterans should send an initial note of interest to: [tribal.agreements@va.gov](mailto:tribal.agreements@va.gov)

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
\$44,987,847.29	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets
	IHS	\$21,906,618.94	4,559
	THP	\$23,076,921.35	2,826
Total Disbursement - Out of System Ret repayments (only)	Total Disbursement of Out of System Ret repayments (only) - are included in above totals		Total Unique Veterans - Out of System Ret repayments (only)
\$19,795.23	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets
	IHS	\$15,488.23	638
	THP	\$0.00	0



## VA Report ~ Suicide Among Veterans

VA's Office of Suicide Prevention recently released a report: *Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans: 2001-2014*. It is 46 pages long and can be read in its entirety at: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/2016suicidedatareport.pdf>.



### *Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans* 2001–2014

Office of Suicide Prevention

3 August 2016



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## Telemedicine Use in Rural Native American Communities in the Era of the ACA

Here's an article which was published in the *Journal of Medical Systems*, J Med Syst (2016) 40:145. It is 9 pages long and can be accessed in its entirety [HERE](#).

J Med Syst (2016) 40:145  
DOI 10.1007/s10916-016-0503-8



PATIENT FACING SYSTEMS

### Telemedicine Use in Rural Native American Communities in the Era of the ACA: a Systematic Literature Review

Clemens Scott Kruse<sup>1</sup> · Shelby Bouffard<sup>1</sup> · Michael Dougherty<sup>1</sup> · Jenna Stewart Parro<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract** Native American communities face serious health disparities and, living in rural areas, often lack regular access to healthcare services as compared to other Americans. Since the early 1970's, telecommunication technology has been explored as a means to address the cost and quality of, as well as access to, healthcare on rural reservations. This systematic review seeks to explore the use of telemedicine in rural Native American communities using the framework of cost, quality, and access as promulgated by the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and urge additional legislation to increase its use in this vulnerable population. As a systematic literature review, this study analyzes 15 peer-reviewed articles from four databases using the themes of cost, quality, and access. The theme of access was referenced most frequently in the reviewed literature, indicating that access to healthcare may be the biggest obstacle facing widespread adoption of telemedicine programs on rural Native American reservations. The use of telemedicine mitigates the costs of healthcare, which impede access to high-quality care delivery and, in some cases, deters prospective patients from accessing healthcare at all. Telemedicine offers rural Native American communities a means of accessing healthcare without incurring high costs. With attention to reimbursement policies, educational services, technological infrastructure, and culturally competent care, telemedicine has the potential to decrease costs, increase quality, and increase access to healthcare for rural Native American patients. While

challenges facing the implementation of telemedicine programs exist, there is great potential for it to improve healthcare delivery in rural Native American communities. Public policy that increases funding for programs that help to expand access to healthcare for Native Americans will improve outcomes because of the increase in access.

**Keywords** Native Americans (Indians, North American) · Telemedicine · Telehealth · Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act · Rural population

#### Introduction

Innovations in technology improve healthcare for disparate groups of people in the United States. One such innovation, telemedicine, promises access to care for those even in the remotest areas. Telemedicine has been considered a potential method of healthcare delivery for both Native American and Alaskan Inuit reservations through the Indian Health System (IHS) since the early 1970s [1]. The populations served by the IHS demonstrate the highest prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the world, fight cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of mortality, demonstrate the highest rate of substance abuse and dependence in the nation, and possess the greatest mortality rates from alcoholism, tuberculosis, accidents, homicide, and suicide than all other Americans [2]. The IHS is a nationwide network of hospitals and clinics that services 1.9 million American Indians and Alaskan Natives who belong to some 564 tribes across 35 states with only \$4.4 billion [3]. The IHS must spread its resources much more thin than the private delivery system that exists in the rest of the US. Some services are not provided from within its own system. Because the IHS does not keep pediatricians on staff in the state of Montana, it contracts with other health organizations such as St. Vincent

This article is part of the Topical Collection on *Patient Facing Systems*.

✉ Clemens Scott Kruse  
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Published online: 27 April 2016





### Free Veterans Treatment Court Training

[Apply Today](#)

**Deadline: October 31, 2016**

NADCP's [Justice For Vets](#) is pleased to announce applications are now being accepted to attend the only [comprehensive Veterans Treatment Court training](#) for new or planning jurisdictions.

This three-day training is FREE, and has launched over 150 successful Veterans Treatment Courts. It provides everything you need to know to implement an evidence-based and successful program.

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

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

Deadline to Apply is October 31, 2016. Space is limited – [apply today](#).  
Questions about the Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative:

Scott Swaim, Director, Justice For Vets, [sswaim@justiceforvets.org](mailto:sswaim@justiceforvets.org)

David Pelletier, Project Director, Justice For Vets, [dpelletier@justiceforvets.org](mailto:dpelletier@justiceforvets.org)



## VA Resource Information

As of 5/25/2016



To help a Veteran in crisis, call the 24 hour Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 option 1

### “HOW CAN I HELP YOU?”

#### VA Facility Locator

<b>VA Facility Locator</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VA facilities including additional state and local resources</li> </ul>	<b>Information available at:</b> <a href="http://www.va.gov/landing2_locations.htm">www.va.gov/landing2_locations.htm</a>
<b>Transition and Veteran Employment Services</b>		
<b>Veterans Employment Services Office (VESO)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helps Veterans and transitioning Military Service Members find federal careers</li> <li>Military Skills Translator, Resume Builder and Federal Job Search functions</li> </ul> <p>Note: Visit <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a> to learn about other employment resources provided by VA.</p>	<b>Information available at:</b> <a href="http://www.vaforvets.va.gov">www.vaforvets.va.gov</a> 1-855-824-8387  <a href="http://explore.va.gov/employment-services">http://explore.va.gov/employment-services</a>
<b>Transition Assistance Program (TAP)</b>	<p>TAP may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition from Service briefings and assistance</li> </ul>	<b>Information available at:</b> <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/TAP/">www.benefits.va.gov/TAP/</a>

#### Veterans Health Administration

<b>Health Care Benefits or Application Questions</b>	<p>VHA provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary care</li> <li>Mental health care (including Veteran-specific treatment for PTSD, TBI care, etc.)</li> <li>Preventative care</li> <li>A wide variety of specialty care</li> <li>Inpatient and outpatient pharmacy</li> <li>Geriatric care</li> <li>Long term care and support</li> </ul> <p>Note: For basic information and an easy to understand eligibility quiz with digital resource links go to: <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a>.</p>	<p><b>Program Information:</b>  <a href="http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/">www.va.gov/healthbenefits/</a>            1-877-222-VETS (8387)</p> <p><b>Eligibility Information:</b>  <a href="http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp">www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp</a></p> <p><b>How to Apply:</b>  <a href="http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov">www.1010ez.med.va.gov</a></p> <p><b>Application and General Information available at:</b>  <a href="http://explore.va.gov/health-care">http://explore.va.gov/health-care</a> provides basic information to Veterans and their families and directs them to the latest online information and application sites. The site's video gallery holds Veteran testimonial videos about health care.</p>
<b>Access to Patient Medical Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My HealtheVet is VA's online personal health record system designed to help VA patients manage their healthcare records and notes from medical providers</li> <li>Blue Button allows you to share info between VA and non VA providers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information for both resources available at:</b>  <a href="http://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html">www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html</a>            1-877-327-0022</p>
<b>Women Veteran Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Women Veterans Health Program addresses health care needs of women Veterans to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services are available and provided</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information available at:</b>  <a href="http://www.womenshealth.va.gov">www.womenshealth.va.gov</a>  <b>Women Veterans Call Center:</b>            1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)</p>
<b>Rural Veteran Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The VA Office of Rural Health helps rural Veterans access medical care through VA facilities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information available at:</b>  <a href="http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov">www.ruralhealth.va.gov</a></p>
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authoritative mental health information and resources for Veterans and their families.</li> <li>Self-help toolbox</li> <li>Where to get help</li> <li>Comprehensive guide to VA Mental Health Services</li> <li>Veterans Crisis Line website has a live chat function</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information available at:</b>  <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov">www.mentalhealth.va.gov</a>  <a href="http://maketheconnection.net/">http://maketheconnection.net/</a>  <a href="https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/">https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/</a></p> <p><b>Guide to VA Mental Health Services for Veterans and Families:</b>  <a href="http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/MHO_English.pdf">www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/MHO_English.pdf</a></p>
<b>Veteran (Vet) Center Information</b>	<p>Vet Centers provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual and group counseling</li> <li>Discharge upgrade information</li> <li>Community, social service and medical referrals</li> <li>Employee assistance referrals</li> <li>VA Benefits assistance referrals</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information available at:</b>            1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)</p> <p><b>Locate a Vet Center near you at:</b>  <a href="http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp">www.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp</a></p>

#### National Cemetery Administration

<b>Burial and Memorial Benefits Information</b>	<p>VA offers Veterans and their dependents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Burial and honoring services, including gravesites and grave liners</li> <li>Maintenance of national cemeteries</li> <li>Headstones, markers, and presidential memorial certificates</li> </ul> <p>Note: VBA manages additional memorial benefits</p>	<p><b>Information available at:</b>  <a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>            1-800-827-1000</p> <p>Application and benefit information about both VBA and NCA managed memorial benefits available at: <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a>.</p>
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For information about VA Health Care, call the VHA Helpline:

1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday-Friday 8am-8pm EST\*

\*Call back service may be available after hours



As of 05/25/2016



To help a Veteran in crisis, call the 24 hour Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 option 1

## “HOW CAN I HELP YOU?”

### Veterans Benefits Administration

Benefits Information & Eligibility Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic information about programs, eligibility, links to online application sites, testimonial videos, and an easy to understand eligibility quiz with digital resource links are available on <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a></li> <li>A hardcopy and online handbook is available for benefits and qualifications information</li> <li>Further benefits and eligibility information is available at <a href="http://ebenefits.va.gov">ebenefits.va.gov</a></li> </ul>	<p>Information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/">www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/</a> 1-800-827-1000</p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a></p> <p>Benefits Handbook: <a href="http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp">www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp</a></p>
Benefits Applications & Claim Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information, forms, and phone numbers are available online for Veterans and their dependents</li> <li>Links to online application sites and other online resources where Veterans can get answers are on <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>All forms and applications available at: <a href="http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/">www.ebenefits.va.gov/</a></p> <p>Videos that explain how to fill out select forms: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/videos.asp">www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/videos.asp</a></p>
Home Loan Guaranty Program Questions or Payment on a VA-Provided Home Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VA guarantees loans made by private lenders. The VA provides Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grants for severely disabled Veterans</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> VHA provides HISA grants to eligible Veterans for use in modifying a home. These are smaller grants.</p>	<p>All forms and information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp">www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp</a> 1-877-827-3702</p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/home-loans-and-housing">http://explore.va.gov/home-loans-and-housing</a></p>
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Information	<p>The VR&amp;E program provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance in finding employment with programs such as vocational assessments, counseling, education tuition/scholarships related to employment and employment planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Links to VR&amp;E as well as other employment resources can be found on <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a></p>	<p>Information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab">www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab</a></p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/employment-services">http://explore.va.gov/employment-services</a></p>
Education and Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The post-9/11 GI Bill pays higher education tuition, housing, and stipends for Veterans, service members or their dependents</li> <li>Eligibility - served at least 90 days on active duty after 9/10/2001</li> <li>An important starting point - GI Bill Comparison Tool</li> </ul>	<p>Information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/">www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</a> 1-888-GIBILL-1 (442-4551)</p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/education-training">http://explore.va.gov/education-training</a> <a href="https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool">https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool</a></p>
Pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pension benefits descriptions, eligibility, and application forms are available online.</li> <li>Basic info, forms and links to resources for Veterans Pensions, Survivors Pension and Special Monthly Pension for Veterans on <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>Information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/">www.benefits.va.gov/pension/</a></p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/pension">http://explore.va.gov/pension</a></p>
Fiduciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program for Veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease, or due to age, are unable to manage their financial affairs</li> <li>Apply for benefit or to become a fiduciary for a Veteran</li> </ul>	<p>Information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/fiduciary">http://www.benefits.va.gov/fiduciary</a></p>
Insurance and TSGLI/SGLI Questions	<p>Veterans are eligible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and/or Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI), SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI), Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Disability Extension (SGIL-DE), Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI),</li> </ul>	<p>All forms and information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance">www.benefits.va.gov/insurance</a> 1-800-419-1473</p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/life-insurance">http://explore.va.gov/life-insurance</a></p>
Disability Compensation Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to eligible Veterans</li> <li>Eligibility is determined by injuries/diseases from/aggravated by service</li> </ul>	<p>All forms and information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-disability.asp">www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-disability.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/disability-compensation">http://explore.va.gov/disability-compensation</a></p>
Dependency & Indemnity Compensation for Veteran's Dependents	<p>Dependents may be awarded tax-free benefits for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death during military service or post-service related to a service-connected disability</li> <li>Death after extended period of 100 percent disability</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Links and information to VA benefits and services available to dependents, survivors and spouses are available on <a href="http://explore.va.gov/">http://explore.va.gov/</a>. DIC is just one of many benefits available to this group</p>	<p>All forms and information available at: <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-dependency_and_indemnity.asp">www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-dependency_and_indemnity.asp</a></p> <p><a href="http://explore.va.gov/spouses-dependents-survivors">http://explore.va.gov/spouses-dependents-survivors</a></p>



For information about benefits, call the VBA Hotline:  
1-800-827-1000 Monday-Friday 8am-9pm EST\*  
\*Call back service may be available after hours

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## 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](mailto:Peter.Vicaire@va.gov) to get a copy emailed.

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

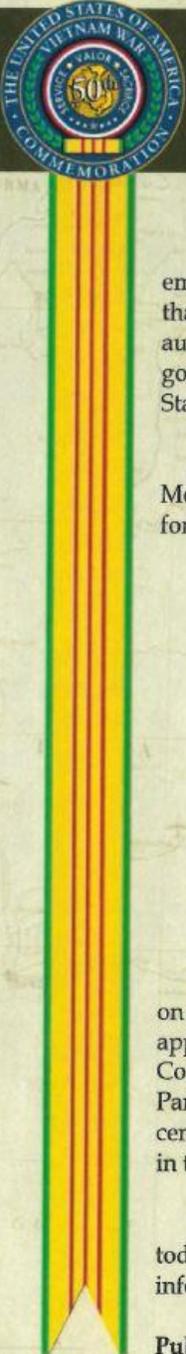
#### Ending Veteran Homelessness on Tribal Lands: A Tribal HUD-VASH Grants Guide

Download at [www.va.gov/homeless/docs/Tribal\\_HUD-VASH\\_Grants\\_Guide.pdf](http://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](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com), where visitors can find more information and enjoy photos, videos and compelling Commemoration stories.

Published: December 2015 [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com)



# 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](http://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](http://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)

### IBM Provides Free i2 Software Training and Job Placement Assistance to Veterans!



IBM's Veterans Employment Initiative has launched, and includes software training and job placement assistance. Funded by an IBM grant program, the initiative connects IBM expert software trainers with qualified participants for five days of instruction on IBM i2® Analyst's Notebook.® At the conclusion of the instructional session, participants may take the exam for certification as an advanced data analyst. Employers are expected to fill nearly 200,000 jobs over the next few years with those holding credentials like those provided by this new program.

Nonprofit and veteran's groups – including our lead partners Corporate America Supports You (CASYS) and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network (MSCCN) – joined IBM to develop the project in collaboration with i2 clients including Citi and JP Morgan Chase. These enterprises rely on i2, and recognize the critical need for new hires with advanced data analyst skills. In tandem with IBM Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs and Human Resources, our i2 clients will seek to align certified trainees with open positions, and provide special assistance with navigating the hiring process.

#### MN workshop details:

- Date: October 24-28, 2016
- Place: Burnsville Workforce Center, Burnsville, MN
- Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Cost: Free; seats are limited

For more information and to begin the application process visit: <http://casy.us/Training/i2Training.html>

In partnership with



### IBM Provides Free i2 Software Training and Job Placement Assistance to Veterans!



IBM's Veterans Employment Initiative has launched, and includes software training and job placement assistance. Funded by an IBM grant program, the initiative connects IBM expert software trainers with qualified participants for five days of instruction on IBM i2® Analyst's Notebook.® At the conclusion of the instructional session, participants may take the exam for certification as an advanced data analyst. Employers are expected to fill nearly 200,000 jobs over the next few years with those holding credentials like those provided by this new program.

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In partnership with



## Lakota Guardsman Saluted For Service

Here an article that ran in the [Rapid City Journal](#) on July 31, 2016.  
*Lakota Guardsman Saluted for Service*

“Four core values of the Lakota oyati (people) are wisdom, respect, bravery and generosity. South Dakota National Guard comrades say Master Sergeant James Bad Wound of Rapid City displayed those principles in spearheading many projects to help build relationships between the Guard and Native American communities in South Dakota.

Most recently, MSgt Bad Wound, a member of Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Rapid, served as chairman of the Guard’s Diversity Council subcommittee in charge of programs celebrating the contributions and legacy of Native American military code talkers. Lakota soldiers were among Native American speaking their native language to foil enemy radio monitors during World War I and WWII. Their contributions gained congressional honors.

Bad Wound’s committee focused on making sure the Lakota chapter of the code talkers’ story was told again and again across South Dakota. The ceremonies enlisted the help of family members who spoke of their akicita (defender-warrior) relative. “He led the committee as it formed, created and put on four ceremonies honoring code talker veterans from the nine Native American tribes located in South Dakota,” said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, the state Guard’s equal employment manager. “He devoted his personal time and many hours to ensuring the celebrations depicted the history of the code talker legacy and honored veterans.”

For his contributions dedicated to honoring the historic culture, which blends with the Guard’s mission and Department of Defense standards, Bad Wound recently won the Military Meritorious Service Award from the Society of American Indian Government Employees. “It has been an honor to serve in the South Dakota National Guard for the past 29 years,” said Bad Wound, who retired on April 30. “I have had many proud moments. The South Dakota National Guard helped me succeed in being able to serve my country and my family. I look forward to assisting Native American youth in joining the South Dakota National Guard and furthering their education.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 William White and Master Sergeant Edith Clemmons were finalists for the SAIGE Military Meritorious Service Award. “These three individuals worked countless hours to personally ensure the veterans, tribes and code talker legacy was honored in a manner that was respectful and highlighted the duty, honor and selfless service of the code talker legacy, heritage and language,” Jerzak said. “Their dedication to their heritage and families was evident in the respectful manner they displayed towards all personnel whom attended and they are to be commended for bringing forth awareness of this heroic and important part of heritage, not just for Native American people, but for all Americans.”



## OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX )



## Upcoming Events for Service Members

Date	Event	Contact
September 14th, 2016 11:00 AM Golden Corral 71st & Mingo	8th Air Force Luncheon All Vets Invited	
September 17th, 2016 Claremore City Lake	Heroes on the Water	Like and Follow <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter">https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter</a>
September 21st, 2016 3:00 PM—5:00 PM 2800 Southwest Blvd	Tulsa Works Training Open House	<a href="http://www.tulsaworks.org">www.tulsaworks.org</a>
September 26th, 2016 9:30 AM—1:30 PM Coffee Bunker	Free Haircuts	<a href="http://www.coffeebunker.org">www.coffeebunker.org</a>
September 28-30th, 2016 Cox Business Center	Ready for Zero (Focus on Mental Health and Homeless)	<a href="http://www.zarrowsymposium.org">www.zarrowsymposium.org</a>
October 1st, 2016 9:00 AM Claremore Veterans Center	Rolling Thunder Oklahoma Annual Car & Bike & Tractor Show	918-486-7770
October 7th, 2016 Norman, OK	45 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Race 5K and 1 Mile Fun	<a href="mailto:Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org">Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org</a>
October 13th, 2016 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Tulsa Eastgate Workforce Center	Fall Job Fair 1st Hour Reserved for Veterans	Stephen Sullivan 918-796-1220 <a href="mailto:stephen.sullivan@oesc.state.ok.us">stephen.sullivan@oesc.state.ok.us</a>
October 21st-22nd, 2016 Wyndham Hotel & Resorts 10918 E 41st St	Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day	<a href="http://okwvo.org/">http://okwvo.org/</a> 918-627-5000
October 22nd, 2016 Greenleaf State Park	Heroes on the Water	Like and Follow <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter">https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter</a>
October 28th—30th, 2016 Coweta Mission 161st St	9th Annual Coweta Mission Civil War Weekend	918-357-2590 <a href="http://www.okmhc.org">www.okmhc.org</a>

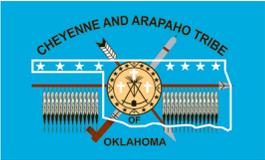


# Upcoming Events for Service Members

Date	Event	Contact
October 29th, 2016 Tulsa, OK	Team RWB 15K Run	<a href="mailto:Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org">Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org</a>
November 3rd, 4th, 2016 Norman, OK	Prevention + Recovery Mental Health Conference	Andrea Marler 405-522-1663 <a href="mailto:andrea.marler@odmhsas.org">andrea.marler@odmhsas.org</a>
November 5th, 2016 Grant's Farm	Heroes on the Water	Like and Follow <a href="https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter">https://www.facebook.com/NortheasternOklahomaChapter</a>
November 5th, 2016 Guthrie Green	DAV 5K	<a href="mailto:dav5k@dav.org">dav5k@dav.org</a>
November 12th, 2016 Tulsa	241st Marine Corps Birthday	
November 13th, 2016 Oklahoma City	Team RWB Run for the Fallen 5K	<a href="mailto:Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org">Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org</a>
November 16th–18th, 2016 Reed Conference Center Midwest City, OK	27th Annual Joint Service Officers Training Symposium	<a href="http://odva.ok.gov/">http://odva.ok.gov/</a>
November 20th, 2016 Tulsa, OK	Team RWB Rt 66 Marathon	<a href="mailto:Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org">Shannon.schneider@teamrwb.org</a>

## Disclaimer

Links to non-Federal and Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. These links do not constitute an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. The Community Service Council is not responsible for the content of the individual organization Web pages found at these links nor the information provided on these events by organizations or individuals.



**2016 INTERTRIBAL VETERAN'S  
STAND DOWN**

**SAVE THE DATE**

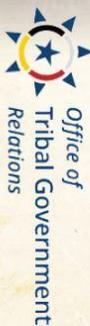
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 2016  
10:00 TO 17:00  
COX CONVENTION CENTER, OKC**

ON-SITE VA REPRESENTATION, WELLNESS CHECKUPS TO INCLUDE DENTAL/PODIATRY/AUDILOGY, CAREER SERVICES, FREE HAIRCUTS FOR VETERANS AND WIDOWS, AND MUCH MORE.

FOR MORE INFO (THAT INCLUDES: BOOTH SPACE, TRIBAL PARTICIPATION, LEADERS, PROGRAMS AND HONOR GUARDS) PLEASE CALL:

CARESSA JAMES  
CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
405.422.7734  
CJAMES@C-A-TRIBES.ORG



 Office of  
Tribal Government  
Relations

 CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO  
TRIBES

 VA

 U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



WOUNDED VETERANS  
of OKLAHOMA

**JUKEZOO**  
Watch LIVE Music

**November 4th & 5th**

Live Streamed to Troops  
in Iraq, Afghanistan, and  
the Pentagon!

 **WOUNDED VETERANS**  
of **OKLAHOMA**

Food Trucks, Vendors,  
Silent Auction,  
Inflatable Obstacle  
Course, Kids  
Activities, and more!

**GREEN COUNTRY  
PATRIOT FESTIVAL**

**Benefit Concert for Wounded Veterans of Oklahoma**

**November 4th & 5th**  
The DIRT FLOOR ARENA  
12600 S Garnett Rd, Broken Arrow, OK 74011

Friday: 6pm-11pm Veterans and VIP / Sponsors only  
Saturday: 11am-11pm All Access

**Tickets Available at the gate!**

Veterans get in free with proper I.D. on the 4th

All tickets are \$20, Camping Fee is \$10 (no fires or electric hookups)

Kids 12 and under are **FREE**

Artists: **James Robert Webb, Exit 34, Jimmy Blythe, and more!**

Family friendly outdoor two day music festival, food trucks, camping, and silent auction

Bring your lawn chairs and a blanket, no outside food or drink, no glass



## OKLAHOMA WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY 2016

### “Honoring Our Unsung Heroes”

(Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, Past and Present)

Celebrating our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Recognition Day

Recognition Day – Sat 22 Oct @ 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Registration & Social Hour – 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Program – 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Women Veterans are free, all others cost - \$20

**Wyndham Hotel & Resorts of Tulsa**

10918 E 41<sup>st</sup> Street

Tulsa, OK 74146

For Hotel Reservations: 918-627-5000

*The 32nd Annual Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day is coming to Tulsa Saturday, October 22. This is a time for women veterans to renew old friendships and create new ones. Ladies, dig out your pearls & dog tags and let's share our stories of why we are both Oklahoma and America's "Unsung Heroes".*

## VENDOR INFORMATION

**WHO:** This program is open to all women veterans - currently serving, past and present, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and their guests.

**WHEN:** October 21-22, 2016

**WHERE:** Wyndham Hotel & Resorts of Tulsa, 10918 E 41st Street, Tulsa, OK, 74146, 918-627-5000

**SET-UP TIMES:** Saturday morning 0700-0830

- Door Prize for drawing is requested in lieu of Vendor fee. Please have wrapped or gift bagged.
- 1 - 6' Table and 2 Chairs per Vendor. Space is limited-register **early**.

**CONTACT:** Please contact Tina Smith @ [christinas258@gmail.com](mailto:christinas258@gmail.com) or 918-810-6703 for a Vendor's packet. Early reply as the vendor spaces fill up quickly.

Thank you for your interest as a vendor. You will certainly enjoy your time at the Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day (OKWVRD) which includes networking and the opportunity to hear great guest speakers. You will have the opportunity to visit with veterans who have served in combat, in peacetime, and in various duties. This is what makes the annual event so exciting! Sign up today to have a vendor spot at **Oklahoma Women Veterans Recognition Day** in Tulsa!



## OTGR Southwest Region

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

### Hopi Veterans Services Receives New Ford Explorer from Wounded Warriors Family Support organization By Geno Talas, Manager, HVS

Veterans helping Veterans. On February 19, 2016, I received a telephone call from John D. Folsom, Founder and Director, of the Wounded Warriors Family Support (*WWFS*) organization, initially to obtain information on the recent Hopi Code Talkers Recognition Day ceremony our office was planning. After providing Mr. Folsom information on the Code Talker event, our conversation extended to sharing and discussing our respective programs, *WWFS* and Hopi Veterans Services (HVS), scope of operations. Mr. Folsom learned our program provided Hopi Veterans transportation to their VA medical appointments and surprisingly, he asked me if our program would like a new vehicle. Just as quickly, I reacted and said yes. However, I did explain to him there were certain tribal finance protocols we would have to follow to accept the vehicle.

Shortly after the telephone call with Mr. Folsom, I met with my staff and informed them on the potential of obtaining a new vehicle to replace our aging van. We brainstormed and discussed as a group what type of vehicle would suit the needs for our Veterans, considered the rural road conditions and distances to various VA medical facilities. Since *WWFS* source of vehicle vendors was limited to Ford vehicles, we conducted site visits to local Ford dealers to help us decide on several choices. We selected a Ford Explorer 4 x 4 vehicle; able to fit six people, operate in our rural locations and perform during our seasonal weather conditions.

Using the vehicle information collected, the process to obtain the donated vehicle began with a formal letter from *WWFS* on March 15, 2016, to the Hopi Treasurer's office indicating the vehicle donation to the Hopi Tribe on behalf of HVS. On March 25, 2016, Mr. Robert Sumatzkuku, Hopi Tribal Treasurer, formally accepted the donation from *WWFS* and initiated internal finance actions to process additional costs and delivery of donated vehicle. On June 13, 2016, our program finally received a brand new 2016 Ford Explorer, saving the Hopi Tribe \$34,000.00. The vehicle since it's delivery has been operational in transporting our local Hopi Veterans to their VA medical appointments.

HVS sincerely thanks the *WWFS* organization for their generous donation to our program on behalf of our local Veterans and their Family Members. I want to recognize the following individuals for their team efforts and technical expertise in obtaining the vehicle: Mr. Robert Sumatzkuku, Tribal Treasurer; Ms. Cheryl Tootsie, Procurement Supervisor; Ms. Kathy Swimmer, Procurement Technician; Mr. Edgar Shupla, Director, Tribal Facilities & Risk Management; and Ms. Shirley Wesaw, Finance Director. Most importantly, kudos to my dedicated and superb staff, Ms. Hanna Polewytewa, Secretary II, and Mr. Cedric Dawavendewa, Client Transporter, in serving and honoring our Hopi Veterans daily.

The *WWFS* 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. Rated a four-star nonprofit by Charity Navigator, *WWFS* aids veterans and their families in healing the wounds that medicine cannot. Mr. Folsom is a retired Colonel, who served 29 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, both in active duty and reserve units. For more information on the many services *WWFS* provides or to learn more about the organization, you can go on the internet to [www.wwfs.org](http://www.wwfs.org). Lastly I want to acknowledge and thank Mr. Martin Duarte, Outreach Director, *WWFS*, for traveling to the Hopi Reservation to accept a thank-you plaque on behalf of the Hopi Tribe during Hopi Tribal Council session on August 2, 2016.

With our new vehicle, HVS office stands ready to continue our transports for our Hopi Veterans to their VA appointments. Contact our office at (928) 734-3461 or 3462 to enroll with our veterans transport program or to learn about other veteran-related services you may qualify for as a Veteran. So as we say "Relax and Let Us Do The Driving".



HVS staff left to right: Cedric Dawavendewa, Client Transporter; Hanna Polewytewa, Secretary II; Eugene "Geno" Talas, Manager.



HVS staff with Chairman Herman Honanie, Martin Duarte, Outreach Director, *WWFS*, Vice Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr., following presentation before Hopi Tribal Council members.

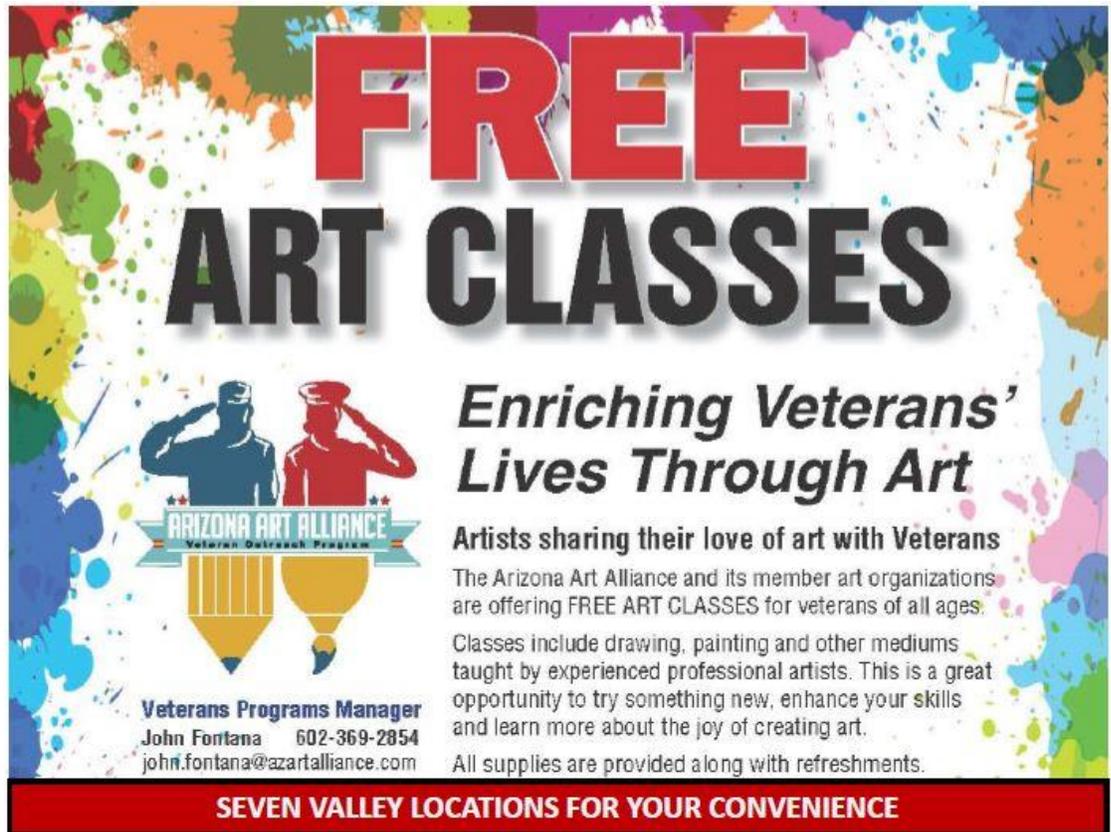
**WALATOWA VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

**1st Annual Walatowa Veterans Benefits Fair**  
**October 21st, 2016**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**Pueblo of Jemez Youth Center**  
**145 Bear Head Canyon**

**VA Benefits \* State Benefits \* Health Care**  
**For more information contact :**  
**Gail Romero @ (575) 834-0122**

**NAVY MARINES ARMY COAST GUARD AIR FORCE**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico | UnitedHealthcare | Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Veterans Integration Centers | FIVE SANDOVAL INDIAN PUEBLOS, INC. | Office of Tribal Government Relations  
 New Mexico Workforce Connection Central Region | Goodwill

# FREE ART CLASSES

## Enriching Veterans' Lives Through Art

Artists sharing their love of art with Veterans

The Arizona Art Alliance and its member art organizations are offering FREE ART CLASSES for veterans of all ages. Classes include drawing, painting and other mediums taught by experienced professional artists. This is a great opportunity to try something new, enhance your skills and learn more about the joy of creating art. All supplies are provided along with refreshments.

**Veterans Programs Manager**  
John Fontana 602-369-2854  
[john.fontana@azartalliance.com](mailto:john.fontana@azartalliance.com)

**SEVEN VALLEY LOCATIONS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE**

**TEMPE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month

Pyle Adult Recreation Center  
655 E. Southern Avenue  
[ritagoldner@msn.com](mailto:ritagoldner@msn.com), 480 948-6547

**NORTH PHOENIX** - 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month

Arizona Artists Guild Building  
18411 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85023  
[davibradly@gmail.com](mailto:davibradly@gmail.com), 602 828-4713

**SURPRISE** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month

WHAM Art Association Building  
16560 N. Dysart Rd., Surprise, AZ 85378  
Connie Whitlock, Program Coordinator  
[WHAMart@aol.com](mailto:WHAMart@aol.com), 623 584-8311

**MESA** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

MESA ART LEAGUE CLASSROOM  
247 N. MacDonald St. Mesa, AZ 85201  
[loralee.MAL@cox.net](mailto:loralee.MAL@cox.net) 480 223-3641

**CAVE CREEK** - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Sonoran Arts League  
ARTREACH Community Studio, 33401 N. 56<sup>th</sup> St, Bldg 200  
[pat@sonoranartsleague.org](mailto:pat@sonoranartsleague.org), 480-575-6624

**DOWNTOWN PHOENIX** - 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, 5:00 - 7:00 pm and  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Sonoran Arts League  
Unexpected Art Gallery, 734 W. Polk Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[pat@sonoranartsleague.org](mailto:pat@sonoranartsleague.org), 480-575-6624

**APACHE JUNCTION** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. each Month, 10am to 2pm

Apache Junction Veteran's Center, ARTISTS OF THE SUPERSTITIONS  
462 N Palo Verde, Apache Junction, AZ 85120  
[Jy7mm@aol.com](mailto:Jy7mm@aol.com) 480 620-8281



*The Arizona Art Alliance is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization. We consist of 20 separate visual arts groups representing 2,000 + Arizona artists. Our volunteer artists are committed to giving back to our Veterans by providing supplies and FREE fine art instruction in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The Arizona Art Alliance has a 15 year history of giving back to the community.*

## OTGR Western Region

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



# Veterans Summit 2016

*Warm Springs, Oregon*

**( Free  
Event )**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2016**

**9 am to 5 pm**

**Warm Springs Community Center**

**2200 Hollywood Blvd.**

**Warm Springs, OR 97761**



**RESOURCE TEAMS:**

- ★ VA Portland Medical Center
- ★ VA Portland Regional Ofc
- ★ Native Wellness Institute
- ★ Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs
- ★ Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- ★ Oregon Veteran Home Lebanon/The Dalles
- ★ V.E.T.S. Employment & Training Services
- ★ Elizabeth Esterbrook-PDX VA/ Women's DIV
- ★ CHAMPVA
- ★ Bend Vet Center
- ★ DOL / SAMSHA / SSA / CMS
- ★ Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention Program

Staff will be available to assist Veterans and family members with Paperwork, Questions & Information.



**PLEASE BRING:**

- ★ DD214
- ★ Service Medical Records
- ★ Personal Medical Records

★ **VENDOR SET-UP @ 8 AM**

★ **LUNCHES PROVIDED by INDIAN HEAD CASINO**

★ **LODGING AVAILABLE @ KAH-NEE-TA RESORT & SPA**

**RESERVATIONS- CALL 1-(800) 554-4786**



Contact: Mitchell Devaney at [mitchell.devaney@ihs.gov](mailto:mitchell.devaney@ihs.gov); PH: (541) 553-1196 Ext. 2120 or

[Terry Bentley](mailto:Terry.Bentley@va.gov) at [terry.bentley@va.gov](mailto:terry.bentley@va.gov); PH (541) 440-1271

**D-Q UNIVERSITY VETERANS  
Big Time Pow-wow  
& VETERANS SERVICE FAIR**

**Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016**  
Gourd: 11:00 & 6pm  
Grand Entry: Noon & 7pm

**MC: Val Shadowhawk**  
Family Pow-wow  
All Dancers, Families  
Drums Welcome

**5th Annual  
Veteran's Service Fair**  
11am - 7pm

VA Enrollment  
VA Health  
Process Claims  
Benefits  
Housing  
Medical  
Dependents  
Vet Center  
Cemetery  
Social Security Adm  
Bring DD-214

**D-Q UNIVERSITY**

**Campus: 33250 Co. Road 31  
Davis, California 95617**

Vendors, Veteran Benefits and Service Providers  
contact: Sky Road Webb (904)254-4770  
skyroadwebb@gmail.com

**HOME OF  
THE STRUGGLE**

*Vendor & Donation Application*

**D-Q University  
Veterans Big Time Pow-wow  
Saturday  
November 12, 2016**



Name of Vendor \_\_\_\_\_

Product or Service \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

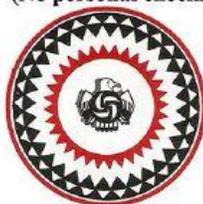
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Booths/Canopy Sizes**  
10x10 (\$75/weekend) 10x20 (\$125)  
**Food vendors (\$200)**  
**Information Only (Raffle Donation)**  
**Veteran Service and Benefits Providers: (Free)**

**D-Q University is a 501 c(3) Non-profit**  
**Please make Donations or Payments to:**  
**D-Q University**  
PO Box 409  
Davis, CA 95617

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(No personal checks)

For Information Contact Sky Road Webb  
email: [skyroadwebb@gmail.com](mailto:skyroadwebb@gmail.com)



DQU Phone: 530-750-1820  
Campus Address: 33250 Co. Rd. 31, Davis CA 95616