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

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

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

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

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

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

American Indian Veterans Commemoration

The flyer below had to be inserted sideways in order to see the small print.
Tribal Veteran Court Training

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

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

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

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

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

Supportive Services For Veterans Families (SSVF) GRANT MONEY

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

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

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

"Dear Tribal Representative,

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

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

2014 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about this important new benefit, please review our Fact Sheet at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts_forms.asp. To either apply or make an election, one can complete and send an application (Form VA-Form 22-5490). You can download the form at http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-5490-ARE.pdf and send a copy via the GI Bill website (http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill) using the “Ask a Question” button. You may also mail the completed form to your nearest Regional Processing Office, or request a paper application by calling 1-888-GI BILL-1 (888-442-4551).
VA/Tribal Health/IHS Reimbursement Program
Reimburses More Than $13 Million

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Scott Vicaire
Tribal Government Relations Specialist
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR)
Work: 651-405-5676
Mobile: 612-538-7744
Email: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov
VA Processes 1.3 Million Veteran Claims in Fiscal Year 2014 – Highest in VA’s History

VA Processes More than 1.3 Million Veterans’ Claims in FY14

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

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

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

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

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

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

In FY 2014, more than 4.5 million Veterans and survivors received more than $72.7 billion in VA compensation and pension benefits. For more information on VA’s Transformation, benefits and programs visit: www.benefits.va.gov, www.ebenefits.va.gov and www.benefits.va.gov/fdc.
VA Telehealth Services Served 690,000+ Veterans

VA Telehealth Services Served Over 690,000 Veterans In Fiscal Year 2014
More than 2 Million Virtual Visits Scheduled During Fiscal Year 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Veterans on Veterans Day and Always
By Yolanda York
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in San Diego, Ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**How to get replacement Social Security cards**

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

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

**How to get benefit verification letters**

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

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

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

**For more information**

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

- **How To Create An Online Account** [Publication No. 05-10540];
- **Your Social Security Number And Card** [Publication No. 05-10002]; and
- **What You Can Do Online** [Publication No. 05-10121].
Vietnam War Commemoration

"A Nation's Thanks and Honor"

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

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

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

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

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

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

To achieve these objectives, the Commemoration is recruiting Commemorative Partners to help thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families where they live. To date, more than 6,400 Commemorative Partners have committed to thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families across this great Nation.

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner.

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

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

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

More than 42,000 Native Americans fought in Vietnam. Ninety percent of them were volunteers!
El Tour de Tucson Cycling Event
VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP
Saturday, November 22, 2014
Tucson, Arizona

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

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

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

Arizona Disabled Sports, Lane Gram
480.835.6273
Lane@arizonadisabledsports.com
El Tour de Tucson Cycling Event
Veteran Scholarship

El Tour de Tucson – Adaptive Cycling
Veteran Scholarship Application

Name: ____________________________
Gender: □ M □ F DOB ___ / ___ / ____ Age: ____
Address: __________________________
City: _______________ State: _____ Zip Code: ________
Cell Phone: _______________________ Email Address: ______________________

Disability (if applicable):
□ Amputation □ Spinal Cord Injury □ Traumatic Brain Injury
□ Visual Impairment □ PTSD □ Other __________________________
Date of Injury: ___ / ___ / ____ Level of SCI: ______

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

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

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

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

The event is limited to ten scholarships for Arizona residents and 10 out-of-state Veterans which will be selected on a first come, first serve basis. After approval, the applicant will receive an email confirmation with further instructions.
OTGR Central Region
(IA; MI; MN; MT; ND; NE; SD; WI; WY)

Michigan Reboot Workshop in Detroit

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans will be required to provide proof of their honorable discharge to get the veteran designation. There is no additional fee for the designation for veterans who are renewing their license or ID card or applying for one for the first time. For veterans who want the new designation before it’s time to renew, correction fees will apply. The Michigan Retailers Association has compiled a list of its members’ discounts for veterans. The MVAA also has compiled a list of additional veteran discounts.
Sisseton Veterans Pow Wow ~ November 7-9

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

Master of Ceremonies:
Jerry Dearly, St. Paul, MN
TBA

Host Drum
Old Agency Singers, Agency Village
Elk Soldier, Yankton, SD

Arena Directors:
Roland Heminger, Sisseton, SD
Dewayne Boyd, Sisseton, SD
Singing Judge
Mike Greeley, Wilmot, SD
Gabe Desrosiers, Ontario, Canada

Vendor Space Available
Danielle DeCoteau (605) 268-1765
Flag Registration
John Feather (605) 885-8817

ALL VETERAN GROUPS WELCOME!
Moccasin Contest
$1,000, 800, 600, 400
Felix Renville (605) 290-5075
Registration Saturday 10-12 noon

No Drugs or Alcohol Allowed. Not responsible for lost or stolen items, divorce or lack of funds.

Grand Entry
Friday 7pm, Saturday 1 & 7pm, Sunday 1pm

Dancer Registration
Opens at 9am Fri & Closes @ 11am Sat

Golden Age - Ages 90 and over
$800, $700, $600, $500, $400

Adults - Ages 18-49
$800, $700, $600, $500, $400

Teens - Ages 13-17
$400, $300, $200, $100, $50

Jrs - Ages 8-12
$200, $100, $75, $50, $25

Tiny Tots - Ages 0-7, Day Money,
Must be in full regalia

Chicken Dance - Ages 16 - Over
$800, $700, $600, $500, $400

Drum Split - must be registered
For all non-contest drums

Singing Contest
$3,000, $2,000, $1,000, $800, $600
Michigan National Guard Family Programs
~Thanks-For-Giving~

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

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

- Service Members in Need
- Sponsors

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

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

Or

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

Or

Fax application to: 517-481-9886
OTGR Southwest Plains
(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

16th ANNUAL
VETERANS
SYMPHOSIUM

“INTEGRATING HEALTHY VETERAN
PARTNERSHIPS IN NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES”

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH, 2014
Location: Route 66 Casino & Hotel
14500 Central Ave SW, I-40 Exit 140, Albuquerque, NM 87121

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

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

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

For registration please contact Grace Baca at 505.248.4600 grace.baca@ihs.gov
# 16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

**Route 66 Casino/Hotel**

**November 7, 2014**  0800 – 1630

**SPONSORED BY THE ALBUQUERQUE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE & THE NEW MEXICO VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**HOSTED BY PUEBLO OF LAGUNA**

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

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

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**SALUTE TO ALL VETERANS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0700</td>
<td>Welcome – Zen Photo, Laguna Pueblo</td>
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<tr>
<td>0730</td>
<td>Opening Session – Legends Theater: Mayor of Commonwealth, Manitou Tree, Laguna Pueblo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Posting of Colors - Taos Pueblo Color Guard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Invocation - Gilbert Suzzo, Taos Pueblo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Honor Song - &quot;For Active Duty Currently at Heaven’s Way&quot; - Taos Pueblo Drum Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0815</td>
<td>Welcome and Purpose - Ken Tiller, 21st Governor, Pueblo of Laguna</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Introduction of Guests:</em></td>
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<td>- RADM Michelle Ginnell, Director, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Dr. Steve McDougall, Acting Director, NM VA Healthcare System</td>
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<td>- Eagle Dance Group, Laguna Pueblo</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900</td>
<td>Keynotes:</td>
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<td>- &quot;Combat and Military Experiences that supported my Tribal Leadership Role&quot; - Governor Joseph Suina, Cochiti Pueblo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- &quot;Combat and Military Experiences that supported my Veterans Care Leadership Role&quot; - Yevgeny Zhirnov, &quot;Z&quot;, Commanding Officer, NM VA Healthcare System</td>
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<td>- &quot;Veterans Care Act, #55 Inspector,&quot; Amber Cortillo, Albuquerque Area IHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Break – Veterans Expo – Holiday to Ballrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1015</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 1 Series (see page 2 for sessions and locations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Break – Veterans Expo – Holiday to Ballrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1115</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 2 Series (see page 2 for sessions and locations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Lunch Buffet at Route 66 Buffet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1330</td>
<td>Honoring and Recognizing Ceremony – Legends Theater, comments by Timothy Hake, Cabinet Secretary, NM Department of Veterans Affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Recognition Ceremony – Presenting: Dr. Steve McDougall, Acting Director, NM VA Healthcare System, Admiral Richelle Ginnell, Director, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service, Mr. Chris Nelson, Director VA Regional Office, Mr. James Schellenberg, Director NM Department of VA Healthcare Administration, Melinda Cruz, Miss Indian, University of New Mexico</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Recognizing Native American Code Talkers: Michael Philman, Wounded Veterans Association</td>
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<td>- Memorial Song for the Fallen – Tapa Mike Lucas, Honor song by Taos Drum Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400</td>
<td>Break – Veterans Expo – Holiday to Ballrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1430</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSION NUMBER 3 Series (See page 2 for sessions and locations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1515</td>
<td>Break – Veterans Expo – Holiday to Ballrooms; Veterans Report to Legends Theater for Closing Ceremonies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530</td>
<td>Closing Session – Legends Theater</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Page 1**
# 16th Annual Native American Veterans Symposium

**Breakout Session 1 - 1015 to 1100**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Ballroom</td>
<td>Partnerships in Health – VA/IHS/Tribal</td>
<td>Jennifer DeWitt, NMVAHCS&lt;br&gt;Dr. Leonard Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, ABQ, IHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paguate Ballroom</td>
<td>Burial and Memorial Benefits</td>
<td>James Sanders, Dir. Santa Fe VA National Cemetery Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge Ballroom</td>
<td>Recognizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorders</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Chee, NMVAHCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa Ballroom</td>
<td>Application for VA Benefits and Assistance</td>
<td>VHA Enrollment, VBA, Vet Center Staff and Veteran Service Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoma Ballroom</td>
<td>Women Veterans Health Services</td>
<td>Catherine (Catlin) Brown, Albuq, Vet Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envir</td>
<td>Health Screening</td>
<td>Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Breakout Session 2 - 1115 to 1200**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Ballroom</td>
<td>Health Benefits / Insurance Assistance</td>
<td>Bob Gurney, Beneficiary Counseling &amp; Assistance Coordinator, SFPP Medical Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paguate Ballroom</td>
<td>Injury Prevention/Safety Tips</td>
<td>Jerry Lee, IHS Injury Prevention Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge Ballroom</td>
<td>Application for VA Benefits and Assistance</td>
<td>VHA Enrollment, VBA, Vet Center Staff and Veteran Service Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa Ballroom</td>
<td>Patient Advocacy and Customer Service</td>
<td>Betty Valdejos, Patient Advocate, NMVAHCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoma Ballroom</td>
<td>Home Based Primary Care / Long Term Care Services</td>
<td>Janet Nichols, Melanie Porter-Kuntz, NMVAHCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envir</td>
<td>Health Screening</td>
<td>Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Breakout Session 3 - 1430 to 1515**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laguna Ballroom</td>
<td>Social Security and Medicare</td>
<td>LeRoy R. Aragon, National Committee to Preserve Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paguate Ballroom</td>
<td>Suicide Prevention</td>
<td>Cynthia Enlico, NMVAHCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forge Ballroom</td>
<td>HUD-VASH/Homeless Services</td>
<td>Shantel Mitchell-Cooker, VA CDGHC&lt;br&gt;Stephanie Baldar, NMVAHCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesa Ballroom</td>
<td>Legacy Corps Program – Services for Senior Veterans</td>
<td>Reyes A. Jiménez, Senior Companion Outreach Coordinator, Isleta Pueblo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoma Ballroom</td>
<td>Veterans Access to Health Care at IHS</td>
<td>Dr. Leonard Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, ABQ IHS&lt;br&gt;Connie Loretto, IHS, Taos Service Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envir</td>
<td>Health Screening</td>
<td>Indian Health Services / Tribal CHR Staff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

The Pearl Harbor Day Observance Committee proudly presents:

The 2014 State of Arizona
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

WESLEY BOLIN MEMORIAL PLAZA
1700 W. WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PROCEEDINGS START AT 10:40 AM

ADMISSION IS FREE!

FEATURING

Special Commemorative Wreath Laying Ceremony
Posting of the Colors by the POW/MIA/KIA Honor Guard
Music by the Arizona Veteran's Band
Special City of Phoenix Pearl Harbor Day Walk
Military Vehicles Displays
Access to the State Capitol Museum
Special raffle to benefit the Arizona Capitol Museum [see reverse side for details]

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

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

Rear Admiral James A. Symonds, USN, Ret.
Keynote Speaker
Former commander, Navy Region Northwes, based in Silverdale, Washington, and the former Commanding Officer of the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76)
Healing of Memories Veteran Workshop

Healing of Memories
Workshop for Veterans
December 5-7, 2014

Featuring IHOM Facilitators
Sheila Laughton
Retired Officer, Military Wife & Mom
Veterans Spiritual Director & IHOM Facilitator for 5 years &
Margaret Fell
IHOM Facilitator for 7 years
Founding member of the Warrior to Citizen Campaign
Episcopal Priest and 32 years of service to the Federal Government.

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

For more information about this workshop, its leaders, goals, outcomes, plus other questions, contact veterans:

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

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

To Register for this Workshop or to help financially sponsor a veteran, call Cyndy at Spirit in the Desert or visit the website
(480) 488-5218
www.spiritinthedesert.org

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center
P.O. Box 3254
Carefree, AZ 85377

Homeowners Financial Group

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

## Arizona Workshop for Veterans Only

**December 5-7, 2014**

**Registration Form**

Workshop is Free to all Veterans includes 2 nights lodging, program and meals.

Begin with dinner at 6pm Friday and end at 6pm Sunday.

1. Complete required info on this form & send to the address listed below.
2. Call Cindy at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, 8am - 5pm week days: (480) 488-5218
3. Register online at: [www.spiritinthedesert.org](http://www.spiritinthedesert.org)

Space is limited — register early!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Information: Please Print...Thank you!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
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<td><strong>City/State/Zip</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Preferred Phone</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Need Transportation?</strong> Yes __ No ___</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Mail Completed form to:

**Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**

ATT: Veterans October 2013 Workshop

PO Box 3254

Carefree, AZ 85377

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### Our Partners

**Homeowners Financial Group**

Financial Underwriting Partner for Healing of Memories Veteran Workshop, Carefree, AZ, December 5-7, 2014.

HIG has a long history of assisting veterans in their mortgage needs and is known for their strong support of community programs. [www.homeownersj.com](http://www.homeownersj.com)

PLUS...hundreds of individuals and small businesses!

**Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**

PO Box 3254

Carefree, AZ 85377

(480) 488-5218

[www.spiritinthedesert.org](http://www.spiritinthedesert.org)

A holy place where people experience hospitality and renew their callings in the world.

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

Nestled in the mountains 45 minutes north of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, elevation, 2650'. It's cooler up here with clear air and starry night skies.

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

Includes TWO nights lodging, meals and programs. Begins with dinner at 6pm Friday, ends at 6pm Sunday.
Phoenix Indian School Legacy Project
Open House & Warrior Society Gourd Dance

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

Gourd Dance by First Nations Warrior Society.

Band Building Open House & Gourd Dance
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014
10:00am - 2:00pm
@ Steele Indian School Park

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

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

*Use the entrance off of Central Avenue, just north of Indian School Road, to park. (The 3rd St. entrance will be closed to traffic.)
*Bring your own chairs
*Shaded areas will be provided for elders
*Free water

More information call: 602-254-3247
For Immediate Release

16th Annual Veterans Day Gourd Dance at Pueblo Grande Museum

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

This event is free and open to the public. Museum admission is also free in honor of the Veteran’s Day holiday. For more information visit our website at pueblogrande.com or call the Museum at 602-495-0901.
Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
602-495-0901
www.pueblogannde.com

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

###

Photographs available upon request.

###

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

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

Explore the Ancient Heart of Phoenix

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

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

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

###
2014 Patriot All-America Golf Tournament

ABOUT THE PATRIOT

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

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

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

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

2014 VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE
"Celebrating Veterans Day: Veterans Protecting Our Harmony"

DATE:
NOVEMBER 11, 2014

WHERE:
HOPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
KYKOTSOMI, AZ
0 MILE SOUTH OF AZ STATE HIGHWAY 269

TIME:
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (MST)

VETERANS PARADE @ 9:00 AM
VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE @ 10:30 AM
REGISTRATION AND LINE-UP @ 7:00 AM
ADOT YARD OFF AZ HIGHWAY 264, MILEPOST 376

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS AND ACTIVE DUTY ARMED FORCES MEMBERS.

ALL COLOR GUARDS ARE INVITED!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS OF SIDE DISHES, DESSERTS AND YEAST BREAD ARE APPRECIATED. (Volunteers please bring your Food Handlers Card)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GENO TALAS, HOPI VETERANS SERVICES AT (928) 734-3464 OR 3462.

FOR VETERANS PARADE INFORMATION, CONTACT CAREY ONSAE AT (928) 350-2189.

Hosted by the 2014 Veterans Day Committee, Hopi Veterans Services, VA Outreach Office (Boteville), Miss Hopi Committee and Loni Piestewa Post #80.

*Personal loss of property or injury is not the responsibility of the Veterans Day Committee, Hopi Veterans Services or Hopi Veterans Memorial Center.
2014 Veterans Banquet

The American Legion
Lori Piestewa Post #80

Hosting

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

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

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

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

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION
NOVEMBER 8, 2014
1PM
BLUEWATER RESORT & CASINO
BINGO HALL
ALL VETERANS WELCOME

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

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

VETERAN’S DAY PARADE
DOWNTOWN PARKER
JOSHUA AVENUE
9:30AM PRE SHOW
10:00 AM PARADE
Veterans Day Celebration – Parker, AZ

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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

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

Parade Announcers:       Bill Risen & Barbra Cuadras

You can pick up applications at: Bluewater Cinemas, Parker Chamber of Commerce, & ORIF Tribal Offices

For more info call Keith Moses at 928-669-5737 or 928-575-7162
OTGR Eastern Region
(AL; CT; FL; LA; MA; ME; MI; NC; NY; RI; SC; )

Passamaquoddy Veterans Documentary:
“Protecting the Homeland”

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

OTGR Western Region
(AK; CA; ID; NV; OR; WA)

Northwest Indian Veterans Association
(Abridged) Calendar

NOVEMBER:
5th (Wednesday) MONTHLY NIVA MEETING (ALL NIVA MEMBERS)
Columbia Room
3rd Floor
Bldg 11
Vancouver, Division, PVAMC
1601 East Fourth Plain Blvd
Vancouver, WA 98661
7:00 PM, Meeting Starts
(We meet the First Wednesday of each Month)

AFTER OUR OCTOBER ELECTIONS, THESE MEMBERS BECAME NIVA 2015 OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

9th (Sunday)  ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CONVOY
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver, WA
   10:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice
   11:00 AM, NIVA CG Post Colors, Say Blessing and
   Ceremony Begins
   12:00 PM, Convoy to Mile Post 282 just North
   of Wilsonville, OR
   2:00 PM, Medal Ceremony Begins
   (THERE WILL BE NO SALMON DINNER THIS YEAR)
   If you wish to receive an Oregon Honorable Service Medal, bring proof of your
   Veteran Status and present it at the Vancouver Convoy site before the 11:00 AM
   Ceremony begins, then you will receive the Medal at the Medal Ceremony at
   Mile Post 282. (All Veterans are eligible for the Medal, not just Oregon Veterans)

11th (Tuesday)  NIVA VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE
(NIVA COLOR GUARD) Oregon Vietnam Memorial Wall (By Zoo)
   10:00 AM, NIVA CG Practice
   11:00 AM, NIVA CG Post Colors
   11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, NIVA Ceremony Smudging, Prayer and
   Flute Playing - After the Ceremony, let’s all go to Appleby's for our free Veterans
   Day Meal
The Office of Tribal Government Relations is proud to announce the 5th Annual American Indian Veteran Advisory Committee Memorial & Honoring Ceremony. This event is a testament to the respect and honor that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays to Native American Veterans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

September 2014, by Bret Bowers, PAO
One Veteran honored at the ceremony has become known around the world. John Smith, Colville Tribe and US Army Veteran stood at the podium and called upon all listeners to hear the story of a "true American Hero, a Native American Indian Veteran named Earl Ervin McClung of Inchelium, WA who passed away just after Veterans Day last year at the age of 90." Smith, a life-long friend and former co-worker of McClung as a biologist for Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, told of McClung's life of survival after parachuting into enemy (German) territory on the night before D-Day, 1944.

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

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

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

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

With Native American tradition, the day included prayer, Warrior Drums and children. The culture is also displayed through a generous meal, with meats, salads and dessert, complimented by fresh and smoked salmon donated by the Colville and Coeur d'Alene Tribes, respectively.
Other first time guests sat in amazement and awe, including the young children who proudly wore their tribal colors, leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance or native song. Others simply came to learn and pay their respects during this event.

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

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

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

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

Story and photos by Bret Bowers, PAO Mann-Grandstaff VAMC, Spokane, WA.
DQ University Big Time Powwow Veterans

DQ UNIVERSITY VETERANS
BIG TIME POW-WOW
& VETERANS STAND DOWN
MC: Val Shadowhawk
Saturday Nov. 8, 2014
Campus Address: 33250 Co. Rd. 31 Davis, CA 95617

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

Itenerary:
Friday
Volunteer Day
Open Mic: 6-11
Saturday
Gourd: 11am
Entry: Noon
Dinner: 5pm
Gourd: 6pm
Entry: 7pm
Close: 11pm

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

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

www.d-q-u.org
D-Q University
Nez Perce Veterans Program Awarded Grant

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2014

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

Tribe Awarded Funding for Veterans

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

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

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

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kylie St. Paul, Veteran’s Benefits Specialist Office at 208-843-2253 ext. 4738 or kylie@nezperce.org.
OTGR Southern Plains Region
(KS; OK; TX)

ANADARKO AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS STAND DOWN

Event for Veterans that are homeless or in overcrowded situations.
Friday November 7th, 2014  10am-3pm
Lunch will be served @ 11:30am
Location: Iscani Gym / 101 E. Coronado St. / Anadarko, OK

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

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

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

Please bring ID (VA card or DD214) if available.
SAVE THE DATE!
14TH ANNUAL VETERANS HONOR DANCE
NOVEMBER 14, 2014
OKLAHOMA CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SPONSORED BY
OKLAHOMA CITY VA WARRIORS AND ELDERS COUNCIL

HEAD STAFF TO BE ANNOUNCED

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

OR
TEMPIE NICHOLS-ROOD, LCSW
405-456-1129