Greetings and welcome to our special combined September/October (early autumn) edition of the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations newsletter. The past couple of months have been a whirlwind for the tribal government relations team. Here in D.C., VA Secretary Bob McDonald offered plenary remarks to attendees of the National Indian Health Board’s Annual Consumer Conference. Secretary McDonald expressed disappointment that his schedule did not permit him to attend in person the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention. However, he was able to offer taped remarks that were aired during the convention. We’re currently busy compiling comments for the Veteran’s Health Administration regarding whether the Indian Health Service and/or Tribal Health Programs would consider being part of VA’s core care in the community provider network. VA is now required to submit a plan detailing how the agency would combine its care in the community programs and the ongoing partnerships with the Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Program sites have proved to be a very important relationship for VA. The Veteran’s Health Administration leadership will take input from tribes into consideration and will initiate an additional tribal consultation in the days ahead once the proposed plan has been drafted. If you have any questions about this transformational process, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov. If we can’t answer your questions, we’ll put you in touch with someone who can be of assistance.

During the past couple of months, our tribal government relations specialists (Peter Vicaire, Terry Bentley, Homana Pawiki, Mary Culley) have met with tribal leaders, Veterans and Veteran service providers in the following locations and venues (forgive me if I’ve missed anyone – again, it’s been a whirlwind): Calais, Maine (Veterans Benefits Fair); Rapid City, South Dakota (West River Veteran Advisory Committee Meeting); Clinton, Oklahoma (Inter-Tribal Veterans Stand Down); Belcourt, North Dakota (Veterans listening session hosted by Senator Heidi Heitkamp); San Diego, California (during the recent National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention, where the Mobile Vet Center was on site and VA leadership and subject matter experts were on hand to offer support); and Salem, Oregon (Tribal Veteran Representative Training co-hosted by the Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs). The purpose of these trips has been to provide technical assistance, training, updates and briefings, listen to issues raised by the tribes and respond by proactively working to resolve and link up tribes with the support and resources requested.

We were pleased by the recent official announcement of the HUD-VASH (Department of Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supported Housing) voucher program, a pilot program that will provide vouchers and case management services to Veterans struggling with homelessness on tribal lands. HUD-VASH isn’t a new program, but this launch is new to Indian Country as authorization was just granted last year. We are also happy to report that the Veteran’s Health Administration ended Fiscal Year 2015 with approximately 85 Reimbursement Agreements between the VA and Tribal Health Programs and reimbursed just under $30 million dollars to Indian Health Service and Tribal Health Programs since the launch of the partnership just over two years ago. Plans for the coming year include increasing communications with tribal leaders and Veterans from across Indian Country, and asking questions about what the top policy priorities are for tribes when it comes to serving Veterans living within tribal communities. This dialogue will inform VA’s efforts and
activities in the coming years. We are also looking forward to launching a monthly blog series which will chronicle VA’s outreach efforts and capture the stories and experiences of our Veterans, their families, and those who serve Veterans. The purpose of the series will be to share specific examples of the positive impact that results when VA partners with tribal governments to reach and serve Veterans in an informed, respectful and culturally competent manner.

Next week, there will be a Veteran’s Training Summit held on the Warm Springs reservation in Oregon and the following week, VA will have an outreach booth and will offer presenters who will participate in the Consortia for Administrators of Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR) conference that will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information regarding these events, please check out our website: www.va.gov/tribalgovernment.

November is upon us next week and the White House Tribal Nations Conference will be held at that time here in D.C. I want to personally extend an invitation to those who will be either attending the conference or in the area next week including tribal leaders, Veterans, Veteran service providers, to feel free to stop by the office located here at 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. (202-461-7400). We want you to feel like our “home” (office) is your “home” – because it is - so remember, whenever you are in D.C., please come see us. November is Native American Heritage Month, which means many of us will be participating in events that emphasize the richness and diversity of Native peoples and cultures. Further, November 11 is Veterans Day, a special day of recognition and honor for our warriors. As such, at this time of year, I encourage us all to take the time to pay tribute to the Veterans in our lives and community in your own personal way. To our Veteran readers, thank you for your service and legacy of service to our country. I am (along with my VA colleagues) honored and fortunate to serve you through the work we do here every day at VA.

I hope you find this edition both informative and interesting. Happy Reading,

Stephanie
HUD AND VA Launch New Demonstration to Provide Permanent Homes for Native American Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

WASHINGTON – For the first time ever, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are launching a demonstration program to offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native American Veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (Tribal HUD-VASH) Program will combine $4 million in rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA to serve approximately 600 Native American Veterans.

HUD Secretary Julián Castro announced this new demonstration program during a speech to the 72nd Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians in San Diego. “Today, we open a new door of opportunity for our Native American Veterans who have worn our nation’s uniform but who need our help,” said Castro. “The evidence is clear that by offering permanent housing solutions, combined with needed services and case management, we can end homelessness.”

HUD is inviting 30 eligible tribes to seek Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers to help house and serve an estimated 600 Native American Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness or at extreme risk of becoming homeless. Read HUD’s notice published today. Since 2008, more than 79,000 vouchers have been awarded and approximately 90,000 homeless Veterans have been served through the broader HUD-VASH program. Rental assistance and supportive services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's Veterans. This year, Congress authorized funding for a demonstration program in order to expand the HUD-VASH program into Indian Country and directed HUD to coordinate with Indian tribes, tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs), and other appropriate tribal organizations on the design of this program, and to ensure the effective delivery of housing assistance and supportive services to eligible Native American Veterans.

The Tribal HUD-VASH Program will provide rental assistance and supportive services to Native American Veterans that are Homeless or at risk of Homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas. HUD is making available $4 million in grant funding to Indian tribes and TDHEs to fund this rental assistance and associated administrative fees. Indian tribes and TDHEs participating in this program must partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide healthcare assistance to eligible Native American Veterans.

Here’s a press release from HUD released on October 21, 2015. Click HERE to go to the HUD website for more information on the pilot project and HERE for the Federal Register Notice.
October 23, 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am happy to announce that, on October 21, 2015, the Federal Register published a notice announcing the implementation of the Tribal HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) demonstration program. (80 FR 63822).

This innovative program combines the efforts of both HUD and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bring comprehensive health and housing services to Native American veterans who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and who live on or near an Indian reservation or Indian area. For the first time, housing providers in Indian Country will have access to a program that provides a kind of rental assistance that is similar to HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. This new program has been customized to work for tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) that administer Indian Housing Block Grants and other federal assistance programs.

Participation in Tribal HUD-VASH will be limited to 30 tribes. Tribes will be selected based on the greatest need. Those tribes with the highest number of Native American veterans, based on data from the VA and Census, will be invited to apply to the program. Within the next two weeks, selected tribes from each geographical region of the country will receive a letter from HUD, inviting them to apply for this funding. Awardees will be announced by HUD by the end of December 2015.

The Department is hopeful that a successful demonstration program this year will lead to an expansion of the program in future years. The Obama Administration is determined to end veterans’ homelessness, including for those Native American vets who live on reservations or in other Indian areas. The Tribal HUD-VASH program will be another way to provide not only housing, but holistic case management services to this underserved population.

You will be kept informed of this important program’s status as it is implemented during its demonstration phase. Thank you for your continued support of and participation with HUD’s Office of Native American Programs to bring housing assistance to low-income tribal members.

Sincerely,

Randy Akers
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Native American Programs
VA and IHS Move Forward with Data Exchange

Here’s a story written by Heather Landi and which ran in Healthcare Informatics on October 15, 2015.

VA and IHS are the first federal agencies to receive accreditation by DirectTrust, enabling the two agencies to use the health data exchange platform. Both agencies recently received accreditation from DirectTrust and the Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation Commission (EHNAC) and this accreditation sets them up to communicate directly and securely with thousands of hospitals, medical practices and healthcare professionals in the private sector regardless of the EHR systems used, David Kibbe, M.D., DirectTrust president and CEO, said in a press release.

DirectTrust is a healthcare industry alliance created by and for participants in the Direct exchange network used for secure, interoperable exchange of personal health information. “Bringing secure, identity-validated, Direct health information exchange to these federal agencies is a major milestone in this country’s journey toward full national interoperability of our health IT systems,” said Dr. Kibbe. “The DirectTrust network is strengthening our security and identity requirements in order to match those of the federal agencies. This is good for the federal partners, and it is wonderful for millions of veterans and the Native American people served by the IHS, as it will allow care coordination to be greatly improved.”

Lee Stevens, director, Office of State Policy, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), said, "ONC congratulates the Department of Veterans Affairs and Indian Health Service on this important milestone. It represents another step toward widespread, trusted, and secure health information exchange among federal agencies and the private sector. As a long-time partner, we also congratulate Direct Trust on its continued progress to expand interoperable exchange services across the U.S. ONC would also like to recognize the Federal Health Architecture (FHA) and its participating agencies who were instrumental in shaping the federal use of Direct.”

“Given the explosive growth in EHNAC-DirectTrust accredited members and substantial benefits of electronic health information exchange via Direct, we anticipate that the Department of Defense, Medicare/CMS, and other state and federal agencies will shortly follow the path of the VA and Indian Health Services,” Dr. Kibbe stated. Commenting on the accreditation, the Department of Veterans Affairs stated, “DTAAP [Direct Trusted Agent Accreditation Program] elevates VA Direct Messaging as a trusted partner with the nationwide Direct community. For Veterans, Direct improves the coordination of patient care by making it faster and easier for VA and non-VA health care providers to share veteran health information. Information can be shared in a secure Direct message instead of faxing, hand-carrying, and mailing. With VA and non-VA partners sharing veterans’ health data, they are less likely to repeat tests and procedures, thereby reducing duplication of services.”
Tribal Veteran Cemetery Grant Helps Vets Find Final Resting Place Close to Home

Here’s an article written by Kristi Eaton on September 16, 2015 and which ran in Indian Country Today Media Network.

Edmond Andrew Harjo, a World War II code talker who passed away in March 2014, had always wanted to be buried close to his roots. A new tribal veteran cemetery at the Seminole Nation helped make that happen. A grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs helped to build the cemetery on tribal land.

Galen Greenwalt, director of the Veterans Affairs Department at the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, said it’s gratifying that Harjo is the first veteran interred at the Seminole Nation and Veterans Memorial Cemetery because it has great symbolism. “First, it honors one of our own, in the sense of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. There is a certain amount of pride in that context,” he said. Harjo’s work is a reminder that everyone can do something to be apart in the nation’s battles, Greenwalt said.

Harjo was a member of the 195th Field Artillery Battalion. A captain heard Harjo and another soldier using the Creek language and put them to work as code talkers. In 2013, Harjo took part in a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring the work of American Indian code talkers. "Not everyone will be on the front lines or will fly over the enemy, but we can all contribute to the efforts towards victory in some part whether large or small," Greenwalt said.

The Seminole Nation and Veterans Memorial Cemetery is one of five such cemeteries across the country. The others are located in South Dakota, Arizona and California, according to Veterans Cemetery Grants Program Director George Eisenbach. Four additional tribal cemeteries are under construction, including one in Oklahoma for the Ponca Tribe. There are 131 national cemeteries and the grant program complements them, Eisenbach said. "The states or tribes will come to us and say, ‘we’d like to put in a cemetery here,’” he said.

In Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation and Veterans Memorial Cemetery is accompanying two national cemeteries: Fort Sill National Cemetery, near Lawton, and Fort Gibson National Cemetery, near Muskogee. The Seminole Nation dedicated the cemetery on November 21, 2014. It is located on Highway 59 in Seminole, near the Mekusukey Mission area, Greenwalt said. “It is important for tribes to have their own cemeteries to have a place to honor the Warrior spirit of tribal veterans, a place that is unique to their geographical location and culture,” Greenwalt said. “There is something significant about having a final resting place for those who have served honorably in the military.”

Costs for construction reached a little more than 3 million, according to Tammy Norris, the tribe’s procurement officer who worked on the contract work. “For the tribes
themselves, there’s no place close to be buried,” Norris said. “They (tribal members) want to be buried here. It’s wonderful to be able to do that for them.” Norris noted that before the construction and dedication of the cemetery, the closest national cemetery was 111 miles away.

Among those in attendance for the dedication were Seminole Nation Principal Chief Leonard Harjo; Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson; Mary Culley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Eisenbach. Five acres have been set aside for the cemetery, Norris said. Eisenbach, who retired after 23 years in the military, said he himself didn’t even know there were other national cemeteries outside of Arlington National Cemetery. “I never knew anything about state cemeteries or tribal cemeteries,” he said, noting that outreach is an important part of his job and the grant program.

“Every chance I get to talk to tribal council, tribal government, leadership, tribal members, you name it, I’m going out throughout the country and speaking with them about the program because I find that a lot of folks really don’t know that the program is there for them,” he said.

Veterans Cemetery Grants Program partners with states and tribes to honor Veterans

Here’s an article written by Chris Erbe which ran in VAntage Point – VA’s official blog – and which can be accessed online HERE.

VA’s Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) wrapped up another year partnering with states and tribes to bring burial benefits to deserving Veterans, spouses and family members. VA awarded 15 grants totaling more than $47 million to establish, expand and improve state and tribal Veterans cemeteries in fiscal year (FY) 2015.

“FY 2015 was a robust year and I look forward to the challenges ahead as we care for our Veterans and their eligible family members,” said VCGP Director George Eisenbach. As part of VA’s National Cemetery Administration (NCA), the grants program funds the establishment of Veterans’ cemeteries and then transfers them to the states and tribes to administer. VCGP’s mission also includes funding the expansion, improvement and maintenance of state and tribal cemeteries using a priority system to determine the greatest need. VCGP funded the establishment of five new Veterans cemeteries this year, including two state cemeteries: Fort Stanton Veterans Cemetery in New Mexico and the North Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery. VA funded three tribal cemeteries, including the White Eagle Cemetery for the Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; the Apsaalooke Veterans Cemetery for the Crow Tribe of Indians in Montana and the Big Sandy Rancheria Veterans Cemetery for the Big Sandy Rancheria Band of Western Mono Indians in California.

This year, Eisenbach noted increased interest in tribal Veterans’ cemetery grants,
attributing the growing awareness to word of mouth and VA’s own outreach efforts. “Every chance I get to talk to tribal councils, tribal governments, tribal members—you name it—I speak with them about the program. I find that a lot of folks really don’t know that the program is there for them,” he said.

In addition to establishing new cemeteries, VCGP provided grants for expansion projects at nine state facilities. Cemeteries eventually reach capacity, which can lead to Veterans in the cemetery service area losing access to their burial benefit. To prevent this, VA extends the service life of cemeteries by developing previously undeveloped land or by adding columbaria.

VCGP funded expansion projects at the Maui Veterans Cemetery in Hawaii; the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery; the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort; the Northern Maine Veterans’ Cemetery; the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery; the Vermont Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery; the West Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery; the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery in Maryland and the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.

Eisenbach said that, in the future, he believes expansion projects will be the focal point of the program. “I think there will come a time when we won’t be establishing as many new cemeteries because most areas in the country will be covered,” he said. “Expansions are already our number one priority.” Additionally, VCGP funded one operations and maintenance (O&M) project at the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Glennville. O&M grants pay for raising, realigning and cleaning headstones and markers; leveling gravesites; and refurbishing turf. These projects help state and tribal Veterans’ cemeteries reach the same shrine standards of appearance as the national cemeteries.

From the program’s inception in 1978 through 2015, NCA has awarded more than $617 million through VCGS to establish, expand or improve 95 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states or territories. State and tribal Veterans cemeteries continue to be true partners with NCA, conducting more than 32,000 interments in FY 2014.
9th Annual Gathering of America Indian Veterans

Here’s an article written by Charles Spillar, which ran in the Healing Arizona Veterans blog on October 23, regarding a September 26th event.

On September 26 at the Tohono O’Odum’s Desert Diamond Casino the 9th annual gathering of Arizona’s American Indian veterans took place with the partnership of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care system. I was so impressed with this event I wanted to share it with everyone. If all of America had the respect for our Veterans as witnessed at this event we would not have near the problems we have today with Veteran’s suicides and homelessness. We would have compassion and support for the sacrifices these men and women have made to preserve our freedom. A huge number of veterans and their families and friends attended as well as an array of vendors with native art work and organizations dedicated to veterans health & welfare.

The organization and program scheduling of this event was exceptional. From the opening address and throughout the day guests were entertained by traditional native dancers, music, and a delicious meal for lunch. The health related vendors were available to answer questions from the veterans attending throughout the day’s event. This year the gathering was expanded to include the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the Lopez-Hernandez American Legion Post #95 in Solomon, AZ. Next year they will include the San Carlos Apache Tribe, and are reaching out to the Quechan and Cocopah Tribes of Yuma.
In the afternoon I witnessed one of the most impressive displays of appreciation of veterans I have ever seen with a ceremony titled Honoring and Presentation of Coins. Literally, every veteran that attended this event got visual and verbal recognition for their service to our nation. If the rest of America would honor our veterans in this manner it would do a great deal to help heal them from the sacrifices so many had made for our freedom. I am still in awe after witnessing this love and compassion. I have never witnessed such respect for our veterans.

America could learn a lot from our Native American's tradition.
10 Things to Know About the Choice Program

The Veterans Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that allows eligible Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

1: Am I eligible for the Choice Program? You must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat Veteran. You must also meet at least one of the following criteria: You are told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days for an appointment from the date clinically determined by your physician, or, if not such date is provided, our preferred date. Your residence is more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility. You need to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility closest to your home. You face an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a medical condition. Staff at your local VA medical facility will work with you to determine if you are eligible for any of these reasons. You reside in a State or a United States Territory without a full-service VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency services and surgical care, and reside more than 20 miles from such a VA medical facility. Note: This criterion applies to Veterans residing in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also note that some Veterans in New Hampshire reside within 20 miles of White River Junction VAMC.

2: What do I do if I think I am eligible? Call the Choice Program Call Center at 866-606-8198 to verify your eligibility and set up an appointment.

3: Can I call my non-VA doctor to make an appointment? No, please call the Choice Program call center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.

4: How is the 40 mile calculation made? This calculation is based on the driving distance from your permanent residence (or an active temporary address) to the closest VA facility, including Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and VA Medical Centers.

5: If I am eligible for the Choice Program, can I receive Beneficiary Travel for travel to appointments with a Choice provider? Yes, the Choice Act does provide the ability to pay for travel to the Choice preferred provider for Veterans who are eligible for Beneficiary Travel. However, the Choice Act did not provide
any new Beneficiary Travel eligibility.

6: I didn’t get my Choice Card, what do I do? You do not need your Choice Card to access the Choice Program. If you didn’t receive a Choice Card, simply call 866-606-8198 to find out if you are eligible and to make an appointment.

7: How do I get my prescription filled if I use the Choice Program? The Choice Program non-VA Provider will issue a prescription with up to a 14 day supply of a National Formulary drug. You may have the 14 day supply prescription filled at any non-VA pharmacy of your choosing and may submit a request for reimbursement to VA. For prescriptions needed past 14 days, please follow standard procedures to fill a prescription at the VA pharmacy.

8: If I use the Choice Program, does that affect my VA health care? No, not at all. You do not have to choose between the two—the Choice Program is here to make it easier to access the care you need, close to home.

9: Am I responsible for Medicare, Medicaid or TRICARE cost-shares? No, these plans are not considered Other Health Insurance for purposes of the Choice Program. You will not be billed for any of the cost-shares associated with these plans.

10: What about VA copayments? Will they be collected by the community provider? VA copays will be billed by VA after the appointment. If you currently pay VA copayments you will be subject to the same copayment requirements under the Choice Program. Your VA copay will be determined by VA after the care is provided. Video Discussion of the Choice Program On June 25, 2015 VA hosted a Google+ Hangout to provide Veterans with information about the Veterans Choice Program which allows eligible Veterans to get health care in the community from non-VA doctors. You can watch a 20-minute recording of the event here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHzHCPZ4SE4 At the eight-minute mark, hear an explanation of the “40-mile rule.” You can click here to get answers to all your questions about the Choice Program, like: What if I live in Alaska or Hawaii or New Hampshire? If I don’t qualify for the Choice Program, are there other options? My non-VA doctor is not part of the Choice Program, can he/she join? Am I responsible for my private insurance deductible if I get care through the Choice Program? Since the Choice Program went into effect in November of 2014, more than 45,000 medical appointments have been scheduled. - See more at: http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2015/July/10-Things-to-Know-About-Choice-Program.asp#sthash.YDnJXmE5.dpuf
Veterans Treatment Courts: A Second Chance for Vets Who Have Lost Their Way

Here’s a useful webinar on veterans courts from the National Institute of Corrections. You can also order a DVD from the NIC Information Center by using their HelpDesk feature or calling 1-800-877-1461. Notably, in Indian Country, the Hopi Tribe Tribal Court recently received veteran court training from Justice For Vets’ Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative and anticipate starting their veteran court early next year.

This program on justice-involved veterans, highlights the lifesaving role being played by veterans treatment courts (VTCs) across the country.

From WWII through the continuing global war on terror, there are approximately 21.5 million veterans in the U.S. today. So many of these men, and increasingly women, return home damaged mentally and physically from their time in service. These wounds often contribute to their involvement in the criminal justice system. As a result, veterans are overrepresented in our jails and prisons. For these justice-involved vets, Veterans Treatment Courts are providing a pathway to recovery so that they can be restored to functioning and contributing members of society.

Veterans Treatment Courts, or VTCs, provide hope, restore families and save lives. The first VTC, founded in 2008 in Buffalo, New York, has inspired the creation of more than 220 courts of similar nature in jurisdictions, both large and small, across the country. Hundreds more are in various stages of planning and implementation.

These courts have the support of the communities they serve, as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and local service providing agencies. Critical to the success of VTCs are veterans who volunteer to be trained and serve as mentors to justice-involved veterans.

This training program will: Introduce Veterans Treatment Courts as an effective intervention and an alternative to incarceration for justice-involved veterans; Identify the unique issues which contribute to veterans’ involvement in the criminal justice system at the local, state and federal levels; Highlight the inception of Veterans Treatment Courts and the role they play in improving public safety, reducing recidivism, saving taxpayer dollars and, most importantly, restoring the lives of those who have served our country; Showcase model Veterans Treatment Court Programs, including Veterans Peer Mentor Programs; Demonstrate how to implement and sustain an effective VTC, including the vital role of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Peer Mentors; and Provide resources and next steps for jurisdictions interested in implementing a Veterans Treatment Court or looking to improve an existing program.
Here's a story written by Dustin Askim and which ran on KULR8.com on September 1, 2015. There is also a [video](#) [1:16] 

A vision more than a decade in the works has been realized in Crow Agency. A ceremony Tuesday [Sept. 1, 2015] officially opened the Apsáalooke Warrior Apartment Complex, and more homeless Crow veterans now have a place to call home.

"A historic day for the crow nation," said Darrin Old Coyote, Crow Tribe Chairman.

The Apsáalooke Complex will host fifteen homeless veterans. "Today we're giving back to those veterans, honoring them and thanking them for their service," Old Coyote added. Old Coyote says the late Crow Chairman Carl Venne had the vision to construct a building for homeless Crow veterans in 2004. "He used himself as an example," Old Coyote said. "(Venne) said when he returned from Vietnam, he had to hitchhike back from Billings, and with that he never wanted his veterans to go without."

Paul Littlelight, Crow Tribe Veterans Affairs Director, says tax credits from the state of Montana entirely funded the building. He says 430 Crow tribal members are veterans, and ten percent are homeless. "Now they'll have a home, rather than place to stay or a couch to sleep on," he said. Littlelight says veterans can stay as long as long as they'd like. Montana Attorney General Tim Fox and Hardin native Tim Fox spoke at the ceremony. He says the infrastructure in the area is now in place, and he says he hopes this is just the beginning.

"There is much more land here," he said. "Fill it. Provide for your veterans. Provide for your families, provide for your people." "We hope to do more things, create more veteran family housing in the future," Littlelight added. Five veterans are living in the complex as of Tuesday, and they hope to have the building full very shortly. Littlelight says the cost to a veteran is 30-percent of his/her monthly income, but if they cannot afford the payments, the Crow VA will work with veterans.
I met Mr. Jack Flowers during the 11th Celebration of Honor event in Lincoln City, Oregon during September 2014. It is an annual event to honor active duty personnel and military Veterans hosted by the Chinook Winds Casino Resort and the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians. VA OTGR was asked to give a keynote address at this annual event and provide an update related to regional and national VA activities.

Jack, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, contacted me in hopes that I could assist him in his healthcare at the Roseburg VA Medical Center. He served in the Army during 1967-1970 and was in Vietnam from 1968-1969. His position was Transportation Core. He said he had been receiving his healthcare from the VA since January 2005. Jack is a 50% service connected Veteran. He is currently the Treasurer of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter for the Umpqua Valley. He retired from Las Vegas area and moved to Roseburg during 2005.

Jack believes he contracted Hepatitis C during his military service in Vietnam. Jack stated that “during basic training they gave you immunizations with air guns, you just walked down an isle while they gave you shots and never wiped off your blood from anyone else’s.” He said he also touched body parts during his tour in Vietnam, he calmly tells me that “who knows if I had cuts on my hands when I touched those body parts.” He said often people assume you were a drug user to contract Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C is the most common chronic blood-borne infection in the United States. The Hepatitis C disease burden is even greater among Veterans, whose risk of infection is double that of the general public. FDA approved two sets of Hepatitis C drug treatments within the last 12 months (4 new drugs). There are approximately 180,000 Veterans diagnosed with Hepatitis C.
Jack's family served in the military and said they drank a lot. He drank a lot too and became sober during April of 1995. It wasn't until June 1995 that he found out he had Hepatitis C. He said it was like receiving a “death sentence at the time.” He initially received interferon treatments and his wife told him, “it was like living with a stranger,” he was extremely sick from the treatments.

Jack had heard about a new drug treatment for Hepatitis C called “Sovaldi” and was having trouble obtaining this new costly medication. I was able to connect Mr. Flowers to the Hepatitis C Pharmacist at the VA Roseburg and also the Infectious Disease doctor at VA Roseburg to assist him with his care. Jack told me that taking this new drug “changed his life.” He started taking Sovaldi in January 2015 and within five weeks he was viral free. The drug had limited side effects, other than some insomnia. Jack came by my office after he had received the treatment one day with tears in his eyes and thanked me for making this connection, which he said “you saved my life.”

Jack is “ecstatic about VA’s care” he has received at the Roseburg VA. He encourages other Veterans facing similar circumstances to seek care with VA and specifically the newer Hepatitis C treatment options. He indicated that Veterans should have realistic expectations and take responsibility for their healthcare. VA caregivers do everything they can to help the Veteran. He stated “VA staff has been good to me.”

**VA Reimburses over $29 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
Veterans Day Discounts and Services

Here are a few lists of Veterans Day discounts and services for November 11, 2015.

http://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html
http://www.military.com/veterans-day/travel-veterans-day-military-discounts.html
http://www.military.com/veterans-day/retailers-veterans-day-military-discounts.html
http://www.military.com/veterans-day/events
http://www.military.com/veterans-day/giving-back

Keep in mind that most businesses require proof of military service, which can include a VA Universal Access Card, Military I.D., DD-214 (Discharge Papers), Veterans Service Organization Card (VSO’s include groups like the VFW, DAV, AmVets, MOAA, FRA, and the American Legion), or in some cases businesses will accept a picture of the veteran in uniform.

Note: Not all franchise locations participate in their national chain's Veterans Day programs -- be sure contact your nearest establishment to make sure they are participating.

Veterans Health Administration: Agent Orange

VA has recently updated the list of ships that operated in Vietnam to add 22 new ships. The list can help Vietnam-era Veterans find out if they qualify for presumption of Agent Orange exposure when seeking disability compensation for certain related diseases.


Launch of the Native-One Stop Portal

Benefits.gov, the official benefits website of the United States, launched a portal of resources for Native American, Alaskan Native, and tribal populations. The portal, Native One-Stop, provides information about the services that are available through the Federal government. Native One-Stop conveniently houses any service that these populations may need with topics ranging from assistance for populations with severe disabilities to congressional internships for Native Americans.

http://www.benefits.gov/nativeonestop
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)  
Annual 72nd Convention ~ October 19-22, 2015 – San Diego, CA

Meeting Purpose: NCAI, founded in 1944, is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities. OTGR worked closely with NCAI staff to develop the Veterans Committee agenda with subject matter experts for speakers regarding various current topics impacting Indian Country. Our office also presented and participated in each Veterans Committee session throughout NCAI. OTGR sponsored a booth at the event to distribute VA materials on benefits and services. It was actively manned by VA San Diego Healthcare System, VBA San Diego Regional Office and NCA Ft. Rosecrans/Miramar National Cemetery staff. We engaged the participation of the Senior Leaders within VA from: Director, VBA San Diego Regional Office; Director, VHA San Diego Healthcare System; Assistant Director, NCA Ft. Rosecrans/Miramar National Cemetery; Team Leader San Diego Vet Center; Chief Medical Officer, California Area IHS Office; Director, PTSD Consultation Program for San Diego Centers for PTSD Research, and the Director of OTGR. Our office also coordinated the local Mobile Vet Center to be present for two full days of the convention.

During the 4-day event, we had **100 visitors** stop by the **OTGR booth**. During the 2-days the Mobile Vet Center was on site, we had **35-meaningful engagements** from Vietnam Veterans to recent conflicts and even a couple of the hotel staff who found out they were qualified Veterans for benefits and services. There were **1,500 attendees** who attended the annual convention of NCAI.

![Image of OTGR booth at NCAI convention]
VA’s Office of Rural Health Seeking Nominations for the Centers for Veterans’ Rural Health Advisory Committee

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Office of Rural Health (ORH) actively seeks nominations throughout the year for new members to serve on its Veterans’ Rural Health Advisory Committee (VRHAC). ORH seeks the expertise and experience of men and women from diverse backgrounds and Veterans who understand the challenges of delivering Veterans’ services and benefits in rural America.

The Committee serves as an advisory body to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters pertaining to Veterans residing in rural and highly rural areas. The Committee examines ways to improve and enhance services and benefits for rural Veterans by evaluating the current environment and identifying policy changes to improve Veterans’ access to benefits and services. The Committee submits reports to describe its activities, deliberations and findings, and its recommendations to the Secretary are designed to enhance or improve benefits and services for rural Veterans.

**Who Serves on the Committee?**
The Committee is composed of 12 voting members appointed by the Secretary to serve as objective advisors, not as representatives of any organization in which they may be otherwise be serving and nominees should: understand how policy affects rural Veterans, their families, and the rural communities where they live; be familiar with services provision and benefits issues as they pertain to rural Veterans; have experience working on Veterans’ policy issues at the local, state and regional level; and have a thorough understanding of how the rural national policy arena operates.

**Time Commitment**
The Committee currently meets in person twice a year and may meet at other times by teleconference as needed. Members serve an initial three-year term and the Secretary may reappoint members for additional terms of service. During the course of their terms, Committee members are expected to attend all meetings and to contribute their time and expertise to Committee projects.

**Applying for Committee Membership**
Nominations of qualified candidates are submitted to VHA ORH and must include the following: (1) Letter of interest; (2) letter(s) of recommendation; (3) biographical sketch suitable for use in a post-selection announcement highlighting experience relevant to the qualifications described above.

Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the nominee has been contacted and is willing to serve.
Conflicts of Interest
It is the potential candidate’s responsibility to identify possible conflict(s) of interest that might affect their objectivity and recommendations submitted to the Secretary. If a potential conflict is identified, detailed information about the possible conflict such as employment, research grants and/or contracts must be provided to permit evaluation of possible conflicts of interest.

Please send nominations to: Via email to VRHAC@va.gov or via United States Postal Services to: Elmer Clark, Committee Manager, Office of Rural Health, Mail Code 10P1R, 810 Vermont Ave, Washington, DC 20420

Additional Information about the Committee can be found by visiting our website at www.ruralhealth.va.gov/VRHAC/index.asp or by contacting the Office of Rural Health (202) 632-8615.

Dr. Joe Medicine Crow, the Last Living Plains Indian War Chief, Celebrates 102nd birthday

Here's an article from KPAX.Com which ran online on October 28, 2015. There is also a video [:40] with that link.

Dr. Joe Medicine Crow, the last living Plains Indian war chief, turned 102 years old on Tuesday. Medicine Crow was born on October 27, 1913, near Lodge Grass. The decorated WWII veteran and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom attended the University of Southern California where he earned a degree in anthropology in 1939. He is the first member of the Crow tribe to obtain a master's degree.

Earlier this year, Billings school officials named the new middle school in the Heights "Medicine Crow Middle School," which is currently under construction on the corner of Bench Boulevard and Barret Road. Crow is a frequent guest speaker at Little Big Horn College and Little Big Horn Battlefield Museum, and has appeared in several documentaries about the battle.
He is also a historian and author of several books, and is best known for his writings and lectures concerning the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The National Park Service has more information about Medicine Crow, including this overview: Born October 27, 1913 near Lodge Grass, Montana, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow is the last living person with a direct oral history from a participant of the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. His grandfather, White Man Runs Him was a scout with General Custer and died in 1925 when Medicine Crow was 11 years old. Dr. Medicine Crow's grandparents lived before the United States Government sent Indians to a reservation in 1884. His father was a boyhood friend of Chief Plenty Coups and had advised Plenty Coups to go to the nation's capital to present the Indians cases for preserving their ancestral land.

Indian Country Today Media Network provides this information about his earning the title of "war chief": Prior to WWII, Medicine Crow – who was the first of his tribe to graduate from college – was studying for an advanced degree in anthropology before volunteering for the Army and being sent to Europe. It was on the European battlefields Medicine Crow completed all of the four tasks needed to become a Crow War Chief. As a scout he led several successful war parties deep behind enemy lines; he stole German horses; he disarmed an enemy; and he touched an enemy (counted coup) without killing him.

VA and Tribal Stand-Down Shows Improvements Despite Underfunding

Here's an article written by Brian Daffron which ran online in Indian Country Today Media Network on October 29, 2015.

The sounds of the late Kenneth Anquoe’s song echoed through the Cheyenne-Arapaho Community Center in Clinton, Oklahoma, on October 16. Standing out of respect, the assembled Native American veterans, VA and tribal officials watched the flags of the United States and the flags of Southwest Oklahoma’s sovereign nations being moved to the front of the crowd. The members of the Oklahoma Inter-Tribal Veterans Association Buddy Bond Chapter, the Kiowa Black Leggings Society, and American Legion Post 41 stood at attention as Redstone Singers continued to sing a Flag Song. With good feelings and a singular purpose, 208 veterans from all over western Oklahoma found their way around the main hall, speaking to VA and other officials about information and services. At least 25 tribal nations were represented, including approximately 19 non-Native veterans.

With vendors grouped by category – such as legal, housing, and behavioral health – the tables of tribal officials stood alongside VA offices and other Native organizations. The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes—the host of the day’s event—was well represented. One of the newer tribal programs was for the Employment and Training Administration, who
currently have five veterans in their first year of existence, said director Erwin Pahmahmie Jr.

Another Cheyenne-Arapaho tribal program that is open to all Native Americans with a CDIB is the Meth and Suicide Prevention program. With a six-year history, the program serves a wide range of demographics, from children to veterans. According to the program’s behavior specialist, Kateri Fletcher, over 1,000 people have been helped, with in-patient services and culturally relevant practices available.

Mary Culley, Seminole/Creek, retired from the U.S. Air Force as a technical sergeant. Now serving as a program specialist with the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations' Southern Plains and Eastern Regions, she said the stand-downs help tribes establish a trust with the VA, and the VA learns how Native people value their communities and their warriors. “Family, community and the Warrior Societies are all placed highly in how our tribal nations provide services to not just their Veteran population, but their entire tribal communities,” she said. “An Inter-Tribal and/or Tribal Stand-Down showcases their warrior societies by asking them to post colors, to bring their Princess royalty in to do the Lord’s Prayer in sign language. That prayer and/or a blessing before events is a very important component for ‘good’ healing.”

While veteran males are the largest service demographic of the VA, the Office of Tribal Government Relations works to increase its numbers toward Native female veterans and widows of veterans. Culley said that some female veterans may not feel worthy of services, or that widows may feel that veterans’ benefits are more associated with their husband than them. However, this year’s numbers among female veterans exceeded last year’s. This year’s stand-down included 47 female veterans, with 12 being widows of veterans. From Culley’s experience, one of the major issues affecting veterans and their ability to get initial services is transportation. “Rural and Tribal locations face the most difficult issues related to finding transportation for the Veterans in their rural locations to and from medical facilities,” she said, “whether locally or to the larger facilities in the metropolitan areas.”

Although the VA continues to make improvements, there is a long memory among veterans about the VA, with a general feeling that it still has a long way to go. One of the veterans in attendance was Albert Lujan Greyeagle (Brule Lakota/Cheyenne/Taos Pueblo) from Oklahoma City. Greyeagle came to the stand-down with his niece with the hopes of finding uniform items for his color guard duties. He also told Indian Country Today Media Network that his eyeglasses appointment through VA was three months away. Although the clothes closet at the stand-down was for homeless veterans only, he said he received a lot of valuable information. “There’s a lot of resources I didn’t know existed with the VA health care system,” he said. “It’s like pulling teeth to find out what’s available to you. There’s [VA services] combined with other Indian services, where they have agreements with them to get health care. That’s something I didn’t know.”

Randy Palmer, Kiowa, attended the stand-down as part of the Kiowa Black Leggings Society's color guard. The Kiowa veterans' organization recently concluded its annual
Palmer, who was stationed in Germany during his military service, expressed a sentiment that is common among many American service personnel, regardless of race or nationality. “The VA is overstretched and underfunded,” he said. “There’s been complaints about non-treatment—not taking care of veterans,” Palmer said. “As far as that goes, we’re basically in the same situation as other veterans. The government really isn’t taking care of the veterans. It’s an ongoing problem.” Blas Preciado, Kiowa and Vice-Commander of the Kiowa Black Leggings Society, felt there was a discrepancy in the knowledge of VA services between those who served prior to and during the Vietnam era, and those who may have served during the Global War on Terrorism.

“I think when you talk about services to our Indian veterans, it’s sort of divided,” Preciado said. “You have older veterans and newer veterans. Your older veterans who are living—World War II, Korea, ’Nam—those eras. Now you have the younger veterans. Laws were enacted to provide better services to the newer veterans. They’re more attuned to the services that are available. Once they get out of the service, they’re more aware of what’s available. The older ones aren’t.”

Preciado also added that one of the demographics receiving the least amount of service were the Native veterans serving time in prisons. “One of the things I would like to see more of regarding our Indian men who are incarcerated, especially our veterans,” Preciado said. “I think there needs to be more work toward [helping] non-violent offenders.”

Cree Code Talkers: Documentary Explores Role of Canada's Unsung WWII Heroes

Here’s an article written by ICTMN Staff which ran online in Indian Country Today Media Network on August 15, 2015.

Code talkers in the United States have been storied, honored and lauded for their military contributions. But much less known, and barely recognized for their service by the Canadian government, were Cree code talkers from Canada who assisted the Allies in World War II.

A documentary is in the works that would tell their story and explore the power of language through the lens of one such warrior, Charles “Checker” Tomkins, a Cree soldier from Grouard, Alberta, Canada. He enlisted to escape the Great Depression but ended up with a career in the military, serving 25 years with the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment, the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, according to the South Peace News.
During World War II, the Métis soldier was stationed in Britain and was one of hundreds called upon to use his Cree language—he grew up hearing it from his grandparents on the Pine Acres Reserve in Saskatchewan, according to the South Peace News—to befuddle the Germans. He was successful; the South Peace News, quoting an interview that Tomkins gave in May 2003 in Calgary, Canada to curators of the Smithsonian Institution's American Indian Code Talkers Traveling Exhibition, said he received six medals. But none of them were for his work as a code talker.

Charles “Checker” Tomkins

In Canada, the code talkers were never officially recognized or commended, partly because their work was considered so covert that they were sworn to secrecy even long after the war was over. The program was not declassified until 1963, according to the Edmonton Journal, but even then most did not speak of their work. And now they have entirely died out. Tomkins died in August 2003 at age 85, but not before beginning to talk a little about his experiences with family members. And that led one of them, a documentary filmmaker, to make a 10-minute film about Tomkins’s life and service, Cree Code Talker.

"This kind of sacrifice and this kind of use of our language, I thought that more people need to know about this," documentary producer Alex Lazarowich, Tomkins's niece, told CBC News. "Everyone knows the Navajo story, but we had our own guys in our own backyard who were doing this. Cree from Alberta and Cree from Saskatchewan."

The National Screen Institute of Canada (NSI) is funding the documentary, which Lazarowich and director Cowboy Smithx plan to release in 2016. The project was given a boost in April, when it won first place at the 2015 Hot Docs BravoFactual Short Film Pitch competition, which came with $30,000. The documentary will air on the NSI site and the Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN).

“I think it’s important to highlight the Cree language and the role it played in winning the war,” Lazarowich told the Edmonton Journal. “I’m Cree myself, and I think that [the documentary] will be a great way to inspire youth to learn more about their heritage and language, and be proud of it.”
OTGR Western Region
(AK; CA; ID; NV; OR; WA)

Tickets for Troops

Working with sports teams, event venues and season ticket holders, Operation: Care and Comfort (OCC) has distributed tens of thousands donated tickets to military families and veterans in the San Francisco Bay area and Northern California, free of charge. Since 2004, Operation: Care and Comfort has worked with professional and college sports teams, entertainment venues, and promoters to send thousands of troops, reservists, veterans and their immediate families to events—free! OCC also partners with northern California sports teams to hold military appreciation/Support Our Troops games. We charge no services charges, no mailing costs— the tickets are absolutely FREE!

If you are military active duty, reservist, veteran, military retiree or a Gold Star Family located in California, you may sign up to be included on our list for complimentary tickets to local sporting and entertainment events. Donated tickets are often last minute or on game day, so please give us the best phone numbers to reach you! We currently announce new tickets on our Facebook page OCC.USA. Check daily then follow the instructions posted to request tickets.

New and last minute ticket announcements are often posted on our Facebook page OCC.USA, so please join. Follow us on Twitter, too! (OperationCandC). If you are a season ticket holder of any of the bay area sports teams (college sports, as well) or a subscriber to the opera, musical theatre, etc. you may donate tickets to the OCC’s Ticket for Troops program, and we will give them to local military personnel, veterans and their immediate families. Ticket donations are tax deductible, and you will receive a receipt for your donation. Tickets may be emailed (preferred), or mailed (contact information below.)

Even if your desire to help occurs at the last minute, please call and we will do our best to honor your donation—even hours before a game! Your organization or company may also show their support of our troops by donating funds, which will be used to purchase tickets for local military families. This is a great way to support families for the advertised Support Our Troops games, and remember, your gift is tax deductible.

Please note that we ask you for your work or home email; do not use your military email, as tickets as attachments are sometimes stripped. Please limit ticket number request to your dependents only. Tickets are limited, and must never be sold or bartered.

For more information or to be placed on a ticket list please go to https://www.occ-usa.org/tickets-for-troops/
VETERAN’S Resource Day
Friday, November 6, 2015

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

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

Location: Veteran’s Memorial Hall
810 “H” Street, Crescent City, CA 95531

Hours: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Call: (707) 464-2154 for more information
http://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountyVeteransServices
Del Norte County
Veteran’s Resource Day
Organization Registration Form

Organization Name: ________________________________________________________________

Business Address: _______________________________________________________________

Contact Name(s): ________________________________________________________________

Contact Phone #: ___________________  Alternate Phone#: __________________________

Email: _______________________________________________________________________

Please list Attendee’s Names: ______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

How many tables and chairs do you require? Tables: __________  Chairs: __________

Please list services that your organization can provide: ________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Comments: _____________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your support of our event and for honoring our community’s Veterans

Veteran’s Resource Day is November 6th, 2015

from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Set up begins at 9:00am / Take down begins at 4:00pm

Please send completed Registration Form to:
Veteran’s Memorial Hall, 810 “H” Street, Crescent City, CA 95531

Or fax to: (707) 465-0409

Questions? Please contact Del Norte County Veteran’s Services at (707) 464-2154

Also visit us on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountyVeteransServices
VETERANS SUMMIT 2015
Warm Springs, Oregon

Free Event

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2015
9 am to 4 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
- W.S.H.W.C Mobile Unit
- CHAMPVA
- Bend Vet Center
- DOL / SAMSHA / SSA / CMS

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

RESERVATIONS—CALL
1-(800) 554-4786

Contact: Mitchell Devaney at Mitchell.Devaney@lhs.gov; PH: (541) 533-1196 Ext. 4491 or Terry Bentley at terry.bentley@va.gov; PH (541) 440-1271
## Veterans Summit 2015
**November 6-7, 2015 — Warm Springs Community Center, Warm Springs, OR**

### AGENDA

**Friday, November 6, 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
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| 9:00am – 9:15am | Opening Ceremonies  
Welcome Address/Moderator: Mitch Devaney / Terry Bentley  
Post Colors – Warm Springs Color Guard  
Invocation – Dallas Winushut  
Welcome Host Tribe: Efred Smith, Wasco Tribal Chief |
| 9:15am – 9:30am | OTGR Regional/National Update – Terry Bentley, VA OTGR Western Region |
| 9:30am – 12:00pm | VA Services to Veterans & Other State, Federal, Community Partners  
Enrollment and Eligibility in VA Healthcare  
CHAMP VA – Veteran spouse benefits  
Suicide Prevention Program  
Warm Springs Mobile Unit – primary care services – see medical provider  
Community Services – mental health, substance abuse  
VA Portland Regional Office – status of claims, claims assistance  
Veteran Service Officer – claims assistance and other benefits assistance  
Bend Mobile Vet Center – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Readjustment  
Counseling, Mental Health Services  
Department of Labor – Resume building, job placement opportunities, job training, employee rights  
VETS – Employment & Training Services  
Native Procurement Technical Assistance Center – small business opportunities, federal contracts, grants  
VA Portland Regional Office – Status of claims, other benefits related services  
Willamette National Cemetery – memorial affairs benefits to Veterans and family members  
Social Security Administration – assistance with benefits and services  
Healing touch – an energy therapy in which practitioners consciously use their hands in a heart-centered and intentional way |
| 12:00pm – 1:30pm | Lunch – Provided by Civil Corps and Warm Springs Tribal Casino  
Tracyle Davis, Deputy Director, VA Portland Healthcare System  
Will Streettberger, Acting Director, VA Portland Regional office (invited)  
Department of Veterans Affairs – Updates and Highlights |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm | SAMHSA and Tribal Behavioral Health – David Dickinson, Regional Administrator |
| 2:30pm – 4:00pm | Resume VA Services to Veterans |
| 4:00pm           | Adjourn for Day                                                                   |
# Veterans Summit 2015
**November 7, 2015 – Warm Springs Community Center, Warm Springs, OR**

## AGENDA

**Saturday, November 7, 2015**

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<td>VA Services to Veterans &amp; Other State, Federal, Community Partners</td>
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<td>Enrollment and Eligibility in VA Healthcare</td>
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<td>Warm Springs Mobile Unit – primary care services – see medical provider</td>
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<td>1:00pm – 2:00pm</td>
<td>Resume VA Services to Veterans</td>
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<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony / Retire Flags</td>
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<td>Adjourn for Day / Safe Travels Home</td>
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Native American Art Vendors
Native American Food
Community Feed
Veteran's Fair

VETERAN'S Pow-Wow & BIG TIME

Nov. 7th Grand entry 1pm & 7pm Gourd Dancing 1:30pm & 6pm
CA Dancers 5pm to 6pm Community Feed 6:30pm

Arikara Dancers

Nov. 8th Grand entry 1pm Gourd Dancing 1:30pm only
No Alcohol or Drugs Admission is Free

DQ-U

Nov. 7th & 8th

M.C.- Tom Phillips- Kiowa
A.D.- Earl Necozie- Kiowa
Head Woman- Alejandra Ramirez- Hupe, Yurok, Aziec, Maidu, Patwir
Head Man- Michael Singh
Head Teen Girl- Wiconi Horse
Head Teen Boy- Tatanka Horse

Vendor Information: Ira Housden: Wallahiko@comcast.net 916-947-3704
Southern Drum- Southern Express Northern Drum- TBD

Head Junior Girl- Jazelle Duran
Head Junior Boy- Martelino Mora

OTGR Southwest Region
(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

SAVE THE DATE
VETERANS BANQUET
NOVEMBER 10, 2015—6:00 P.M.

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE AND PARADE
NOVEMBER 11, 2015—9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

HOPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
KYKOTS MOVI, ARIZONA
AZ HIGHWAY 264 MILE POST 375

SCHOOL AND TRIBAL ROYALTY
AND
MILITARY & VETERAN COLOR GUARDS WELCOME!

VETERANS, MILITARY AND THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO COME JOIN US AT THIS YEAR’S EVENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES PLEASE CONTACT THE HOPI VETERANS SERVICES AT (928) 734-3461 OR 3462. E-MAIL: ETalas@hopi.nsn.us.
Indian Health Service,
NM VA Health Care System & Pueblo of Isleta
Presents:

17th Annual
Native American Veterans
Health and Wellness Symposium

Friday, November 6, 2015
Isleta Resort and Casino
11000 Broadway Blvd SE, ABQ, NM

The event is free in honor of Veterans
7:30-8:15 AM Military Cadence Run/Walk > Meet in Hotel Lobby
8:30 AM Opening Session>> Grand Ballroom A & B
Pre-register by Friday, October 23 to Grace or Emilia by mail, email, fax, or phone!

Indian Health Service
Attn: Grace Baca
5300 Homestead Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Telephone No: 505.248.4600 or 4714
Fax No: 505.248.4265
Email: grace.baca@ihs.gov OR emilia.lovato@ihs.gov

Isleta Resort Hotel Room Reservation
Hotel Code: “IHS1115”
$89/night Thursday & Friday
November 5 & 6, 2015
Please make your room reservations by October 16th, 2015
(special rate is limited)
Phone: 505.724.3800
September 24, 2015

Dear All (serving AI/AN Veterans and their families),

We are having an **Indian Health Service (I.H.S.) and Veterans Administration 17th annual Native American Veterans Health and Wellness Symposium scheduled for Friday, Nov 6th at Isleta Resort and Casino from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.**

The Native American Veterans Symposium (NAVS) planning committee is requesting your services to display a health and wellness educational booth and/or health screenings focusing on the Native American Veterans and their families. We are seeking booths/exhibits on health and wellness information such as Blood pressure checks, BMI, Immunizations, Blood Glucose checks, Behavioral Health services, exercise, healthy eating, Prostate Health, Vision, Dental, Audiology information, plus all the other great information you share in communities and clinics focusing on health and wellness that can be offered with set up starting at 7:00 AM and going until 4:30 PM for over 600 veterans and their families. Please have tables set up and ready by 8:30 AM as veterans arrive early. Last year we had 636 veterans and their families.

The event is free and lunch will be provided for those who register in advance. We plan to communicate any last minute details via email to those registered for the exhibits/booths so please stay tuned for more information.

We are also seeking photos of Native Veterans, the years they served, and the Branch of Service to be used as a slide show during the VA Symposium event. Please send .jpg photos to Grace Baca at grace.baca@ihs.gov.

A limited block of hotel rooms are being held at Isleta Resort and Casino. Please make your room reservations by Oct 16, 2015. The hotel code is “IHS1115” at the rate of $83 for Thursday and Friday night November 5 & 6, 2015. Please call 505.724.3800 to make your hotel room reservations if needed.

Please let me know if you or your staff can staff a booth and honor the Native American Veterans to provide your great services and information at this upcoming event by sending in the attached fillable form to Samantha Coeoyate at samantha.coeoyate@ihs.gov or fax (505) 248-4257.

Thank you very much!

Theresa Clay, MS
I.H.S. ABQ Area
Health Promotion Disease Prevention

Samantha Coeoyate
I.H.S. ABQ Area
Pathways Intern DCQ
Saturday, 10/3/15 - 10 a.m.
Native American Recognition
Day Opening Ceremony
MetraCenter Mall-Dillard's Court
9617 N. Metro Parkway W., Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 279-5262 ext. 3111

Saturday, 10/3/15 - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
NATIVE HEALTH Native American Children's Pageant
MetraCenter Mall-Dillard's Court
9617 N. Metro Parkway W., Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 279-5262 ext. 3111

Saturday, 10/3/15 - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday, 10/4/15 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Chandler Indian Art Market
AJ Chandler Park
3 S. Arizona Avenue - Chandler, AZ
Free admission (480) 262-2214

Saturday, 10/3/15 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Native American Connections
Parade
3rd St. & Oak to Steele Indian School Park - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 237-3247

Saturday, 10/3/15 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
NATIVE HEALTH Open House
NATIVE HEALTH
4041 N. Central Ave., Building C
Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 279-5262

Saturday, 10/10/15 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Native American Indian School's Music Building
Steele Indian School Park
300 E. Indian School Rd. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 284-3247

Saturday, 10/10/15 - 9:30 a.m. to 18:30 p.m.
Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program
Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N. Arizona Ave. - Chandler, AZ
Admission: $17 Adult; $9 Children
(480) 766-2663

Sunday, 10/11/15 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Native PFLAG presents "The Beauty of Coming Out"
Story Telling Session
Native American Connections
Uptown Living on 2nd Avenue
360 N. 2nd Ave. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (480) 766-3908

Wednesday, 10/14/15 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Phoenix Indian Medical Center
Indian Market
212 N. 3rd St. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 253-1870

Monday, 10/19/15 - 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Navajo Nation Law 2015 CLE Conference
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law - Indian Legal Program
200 S. Main St. - Tempe, AZ
Admission: $250 Parking: $10
(480) 959-2992

Friday, 10/23/15 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
32nd Annual Roy Track Memorial Mesa Pow-Wow
Parker Park
502 E. Main St. - Mesa, AZ
Free admission (602) 788-2100

Sunday, 10/25/15 - 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
AIDS Walk Arizona & 5K Run
CityScape Phoenix
1 East Washington Street - Phoenix, AZ
Walk: $5 Run: $10 (602) 994-4001

Wednesday, 10/28/15 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
17th Annual Navajo and Zuni Women's Expo
Phoenix Indian Medical Center
212 N. 3rd St. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 253-2300 ext. 1886

Saturday, 11/07/15 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
10th Annual Navajo Rug and Art Auction
Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington St. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (480) 495-8900

Saturday, 11/07/15 - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Veteran's Day Pow Wow<br>ASU West
4710 W. Thunderbird Rd. - Glendale, AZ
Free admission (602) 543-5300

Monday, 11/10/15 - 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
American Indian Veterans' Sunset Tribute<br> Heard Museum
200 N. Central Ave. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 252-8800

Tuesday, 11/10/15 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
"We Still Live Here: As Natiyeean"<br> Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law - Indian Legal Program<br> Armstrong Hall/First Hall<br> 1100 S. Main Street - Tempe, AZ
Free admission Winter: $10<br> (480) 959-2992

Monday, 11/17/15 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
NATIVE HEALTH Wellness<br> Warriors Bike Ride<br> NATIVE HEALTH<br> 4041 N. Central Avenue, Building C<br> Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 279-5262 ext. 3111

Thursday, 11/19/15 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Great American Smoke Out<br> Phoenix Indian Medical Center<br> 4233 N. 16th St. - Phoenix, AZ
Free admission (602) 248-4195

Thursday, 11/19/15 - 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Arizona Indian Excellence in Leadership Awards<br> The Scottsdale Plaza Resort<br> 7690 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602) 264-0708
49TH ANNUAL SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE

VETERANS 2015 FAIR & RODEO

NOVEMBER 5 – 8, 2015 - SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA

"HONORING ALL AMERICAN FEMALE VETERANS"

ALL INDIAN RODEO  VETERANS PARADE  VETERANS BANQUET

FRAZIER SHOWS OF AMERICA CARNIVAL - APACHE GOLD CASINO

BIG RICH

MISS SAN CARLOS APACHE - WOMEN'S RODEO - JUNIOR RODEO - BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT - RODEO PAGEANT - BK RUN & 1 MILE WALK - BULL BASH - MUSIC FEST

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS - #11 TRAILER ROPING - TODDLER/PEEWEE RODEO - YOUTH PAGEANTS

SATURDAY – NOVEMBER 7
SAN CARLOS EVENTS CENTER

TICKETS ON SALE AUG. 20
WWW.APACHE-GOLD-CASINO.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JAMES REEDE (928) 812-1568  / SHERRILL TALGO (928) 812-0024

THE SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE ON THE SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING LOSS OF PROPERTY.
OTGR Central Region
(IA; MI; MN; MT; ND; NE; SD; WI; WY)

SAVE THE DATE
Honoring Native American Veterans Dinner
November 18, 2015
Minneapolis American Indian Center
4:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Dinner will be served
Details to follow

Lyle H. Iron Moccasin
Veterans Employment Representative
Lyle.iron.moccasin@state.mn.us
952-703-3104/DEED

Todd Dionne
Senior Claims Representative
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs
Todd.dionne@state.mn.us
612-970-5765

Amanda Linden/ Fond du Lac Band -612-871-1574 -amandalinden@fdlrez.com
Barbara Benjamin-Robertson/ Mille Lacs Band – 612-872-1424
Barb.Benjamin-Roberston@millelacsband.com
Carl Fransen/ White Earth Tribal Council 612-872-8388 -carlf@whiteearth.com
Jacque Wilson/ Bois Forte 612-871-6618 -Urbanoffice@boisforte-nsn.gov
Roberta Boyd/ Red Lake Nation 612-874-9588 x101 -riboyd47@aol.com
Johnny Smith/ Red Lake Nation 612-874-9588 x102
chiefjohnnysmith@yahoo.com
Michigan State University's Native American Institute

is hosting
the following events to honor our
American Indian Veterans and Tribal Leaders

THE AMERICAN INDIAN VETERAN’S
DINNER & LISTENING SESSION

The Native American Institute
&
Dr. Herman J. Viola

will host an evening devoted to the stories and experiences of American Indian Veterans

Thursday November 19th, 2015
at
Michigan State University's Kellogg Center
Red Cedar Room
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing MI 48824

6:00 PM: Opening ceremony & remarks
6:30 PM: Buffet dinner & listening session

We are providing our American Indian warriors the opportunity to share their experiences and recommendations with fellow veterans in an unencumbered listening session.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences and suggest what may be needed in programs that assist with transition to non-military life.

Please R.S.V.P. to The Native American Institute, 517-353-6632

THANK YOU - We look forward to your participation
Recognizing Our American Indian Veterans & Tribal Leaders

In a second event, we will further honor our veterans as well as American Indian leaders past and present by presenting two lectures based on Dr. Herman J. Viola's

Historical works on The American Indian Veteran:

Warriors In Uniform, The Legacy of American Indian Heroism & The McKenney & Hall Lithographs of Charles Bird King's Portraits of American Indians: The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King

Friday November 20th, 2015

Lecture 1: 6:20 PM – 7:00 PM
Warriors in Uniform: The legacy of American Indian Heroism A remarkable record of patriotism and selflessness

Lecture 2: 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM
The Indian Legacy of Charles Bird King Recognizing past and present leaders

The Fort de Buade Museum is providing a selection of original and replica lithographs of Great Lakes leaders from the historic McKenney and Hall collection.

Original and replica works will be on display for attendees to view before and after lectures.

Please join us at
The Wharton Center for Performing Arts 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing MI 48824

Hors d'Oeuvres served at 5:00 PM Opening ceremony & remarks 6:00 PM

Lectures are open to the public at no charge
NOVEMBER 2015 – NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Native American Population Specific Educational Opportunities for Employees

Thursday, November 12, 2015  noon - 1:30 pm  3rd floor auditorium

“WE ARE ALL RELATED”

- We were all created in the Spirit
- Traditional stories
- Societies suppressed our Spirit & broke the family circle
- Finding our Traditional Spirit through Ceremonies
  Sweat, Pipe, Talking Circles, Drum
- Releasing our Spirit to the universe in Death

Presentation by: Fargo VA’s Native American Spiritual Advisor Willard Yellow Bird

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Thursday, November 19, 2015  2pm - 3:30 pm  3rd floor auditorium

“WE ARE ALL RELATED” - repeat

- We were all created in the Spirit
- Traditional stories
- Societies suppressed our Spirit & broke the family circle
- Finding our Traditional Spirit through Ceremonies
  Sweat, Pipe, Talking Circles, Drum
- Releasing our Spirit to the universe in Death

Presentation by: Fargo VA’s Native American Spiritual Advisor Willard Yellow Bird

VA Health Care System is located at 2101 North Elm Street, Fargo.
The 3rd Floor Auditorium is in the north end of the hospital.
Please register by emailing Harold Lindsay at Harold.Lindsay@va.gov
Registration due by Monday, November 9, 2015

VAHCS is an approved provider of C.E.U’s through the ND Board of Social Work Examiners
A certificate of attendance will be provided.
These education classes will be offered through V-TEL to the CBOC’s for employees
OTGR Southern Plains Region
(KS; OK; TX)

OKC VA NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN'S ELDERS COUNCIL
OKC VAHCS WARRIORS GROUP AND IN COLLABORATION WITH OKC VA AMERICAN INDIAN COUNCIL

Presents
16th ANNUAL VETERANS HONOR DANCE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015
12:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

VA Medical Center, 921 NE 13th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(Northwest corner of NE 13th and Kelley)

HEAD STAFF
Honored Guest Speaker Maj. Gen Rita Aragon
Master of Ceremonies Tim Talichief
Head Singer Willard Poncho Walker
Head Lady Dancer Eleanor McDaniel
Head Gourd Dancer Randy Frazier
Arena Director Graham Primeaux

***Honored Guests***
Marshal Gover TBA
Pershing Yeahquo

***HONOR GUARD***
Sac and Fox Veterans Honor Guard

Presentation: Changing Winds Cultural Society

Opening Ceremony and Grand Entry.............12:00 pm
Gourd Dancing...........................12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Dinner........................................2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Resume Gourd Dancing........................3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

All Veterans and Princesses invited.

Vendors Welcome

For more information contact:
Candy Fish Klump 405-456-8808 or
Tempie Nichols-Rood 405-456-1129

Head staff please be available by 11:00 a.m.
Vendors welcome with limited booth space available. Contributions accepted.
SAVE THE DATE – November 6th!

Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center’s
NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE FAIR

“Honoring Our Warrior Women”

Where: Hospital Auditorium, 2nd Floor
When: 9 am – 12:30 pm

- Arts & Crafts
- Dancers
- Tribal Choir
- Traditional Food
- Basket Weaving
- Guest Speakers

Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center
1011 Honor Heights Drive
Muskogee, Oklahoma
VETERAN’S HONOR DANCE
ALL GOURD DANCE

NOVEMBER 7, 2015
SAC AND FOX NATION COMMUNITY BUILDING
5.5 MILES S. OF STROUD OK, ON HWY. 99

SCHEDULE
2PM GOURD DANCE
5PM SUPPER BREAK
7PM GOURD DANCE

HEAD STAFF
MC: DENNIS HOPKINS/U.S. ARMY
CO/MC: JEFFREY WILSON
HEAD SINGER: FORREST “KESKO” WALKER
HEAD GOURD DANCER: WILLARD “PONCHO” WALKER/U.S. ARMY
ARENA DIRECTOR: RUEBAN ALLEN/U.S. ARMY
WATER BOYS: L.J. MCKISSICK/ANTHONY CALDERON
HONORED VETERAN: JOE FISH/WWII/MCLOUD OK
HONORED VETERAN: RAY MURDOCK/NAVY/MCLOUD OK

SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT TO “WILLIAM FORD/CAPTAIN/U.S. ARMY” AND THE SHAWNEE MILL.

SAC AND FOX NATION VETERANS HONOR GUARD AND/OR SAC AND FOX NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS, THEFT OR LOSS...
Veterans Appreciation Day

NOVEMBER 11, 2015
Cheyenne & Arapaho Veterans Memorial Wall
Concho, OK

HONORING AND REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS

Welcome All Veterans, Families of Veterans, Widows, Active Duty, Service Members, Elders, Native Americans and General Public

AGENDA

8:00 – 10:00AM Breakfast at Lucky Star

11:00 Prayer at the Memorial Wall
M.C. Alex Warden
Flag Song, Memorial Song, Veteran Song

1:00 pm Lunch at the Tribal Complex

Guest Speakers
Representative Seneca Scott, Oklahoma State Legislature
Harvey Pratt, Retired Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation

Special Guests
American Legion, VFW, Native Veterans

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LESLIE HEREDIA AT (405) 422-7734
VETERANS DAY 2015

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Veterans Day Ceremony

Veterans Day Holiday
November 11, 2015
9 a.m.
Seminole Nation Veterans Cemetery
35419 Hwy 59 * Seminole, OK 74868

GUESTS INCLUDE:
2015 Seminole Nation Princesses
and
2015 Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma

Veterans and Friends of Veterans * Everyone Invited

Department of Veterans Affairs
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:
K. Galen Greenwall, Director of Veterans Affairs
Office (405) 234-5242 Cell (961) 533-1407
19th ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN MARINE CORPS GOURD DANCE
CELEBRATING THE MARINE CORPS 240TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

All Veterans, Service Organizations & Princesses Invited

Date: Sunday, November 8, 2015
Location: Woogie Watchetaker Hall
The Comanche Tribal Complex
584 NW Bingo Rd.
Lawton, Oklahoma

U.S.M.C. Honorees
Galen W. Marcus
Luke Yeahquio Sr.

Honor Guard
Native American Marine Corps Honor Guard

Honor Flag
Julius Bowen

Schedule of Events

Time:
Flag Raising: 12:00 p.m.
Cake Cutting: 1:00 p.m.
Gourd Dance: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Supper: 5:00 p.m.
Resume Dancing: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00

Master of Ceremonies: Gary Kodaseet; and Sammy Tonekei White
Head Singers: Parker Emhoolah – Jim Anquoe – Ernest Toppah
Head Lady Dancer: Courtney Reeder
Arena Director: Ross Bointy
Sponsor: Kiowa Casino

Vendor Contact Information: Fran Cady 405-246-5901
For more information: 405-329-1049