

Memorial Day

Honoring the sacrifices of American service
members and their families



VETERANS HELP NET:

Helping veterans find hope and help

Veterans Help Net is a volunteer veteran support organization that started in the Northwest to serve veterans in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. It was conceived by a small group who believe that a lot of veterans out there that are not aware of the benefits and help available to them. The group came up with an awareness marketing idea that centered around two focused messages.

“Did You Know?” –

Informational briefs sharing details about little-known or forgotten benefits that are available to veterans or their families.

Veteran Stories –

Articles about veterans who have received help or care through a benefit for themselves or family members. These stories celebrate the successes of veterans while also increasing awareness about the opportunities and resources available.

With these two focused messages we intend to give hope and help to many veterans that have earned the benefits but did not know where or how to find the help.

We currently publish Veterans Chronicle on the first Friday every month in The Spokesman-Review. This monthly 6-page section highlights the success stories of local veterans, resources and organizations that support veterans, and other relevant stories and events for veterans and their families.

Previously published stories and articles are available to read online at www.VeteransHelpNet.com and www.spokesman.com/special-sections.

What’s Next?

In the future, we plan to produce a series of “Hey, Veterans! Did You Know?” video clips to spread the message of hope and help online and on television.

We are always looking for more veteran stories, “Did You Know?” facts and other information for veterans. If you have a story to share or know of a resource that benefits veterans, please visit VeteransHelpNet.com or contact Don Walker at info@VeteransHelpNet.com or 1-509-655-9266.



Edward Jones Salutes

the courage and loyalty of our troops, both now and in the past.
Thank you.

SPOKANE - VALLEY

											
Gordon Jones AAMS® Financial Advisor 11707 E. Sprague Ave., Suite 103 509-927-8033	Catherine Dixon Financial Advisor 11707 E. Sprague Ave., Suite 103 509-917-8033	Carla E. Brooks AAMS® Financial Advisor 2901 N. Argonne Suite 1-B 509-924-0581	Roger Morgan Financial Advisor 2901 N. Argonne Suite 1-B 509-924-0581	Joshua Simmons Financial Advisor 18114 E. Indiana Ave. Suite 110 509-926-5723	Eric Conway Financial Advisor 13221 E. 32nd St. Suite 4 509-928-2175	Morgan Hyslop Financial Advisor 15404 E. Springfield Ave. Suite L100 509-927-1180	Dennis Tomlinson Financial Advisor 505 N. Argonne Rd. Suite A104 509-926-5378	Scott Brockway Financial Advisor 708 N. Argonne Suite 3 509-926-9807	David Lambo Financial Advisor 12623 E. Sprague Ave. Suite 1 509-927-1655	Scott Murock CFP®, ChFC®, CLU® Financial Advisor 12121 E. Broadway, Bldg 6, Suite 101 509-921-0985	Casey Getty AAMS® Financial Advisor 112 N. University Suite 100 A 509-922-6047

IDAHO

	
Jesse Applehans AAMS® Financial Advisor 1875 N. Lakewood Dr. Ste 202 Coeur D'Alene, ID 208-676-9450	Carolyn S. Hicklin Financial Advisor 212 Rodeo Dr. Ste 810 – Moscow, ID 208-883-4460

SPOKANE - NORTH

					
Steve Wright Financial Advisor 4407 N. Division St. Suite 502, 509-413-2514	Stacie Duenich AAMS® Financial Advisor 5515 N. Alberta 509-326-5740	Abbie Lee Financial Advisor 5515 N. Alberta 509-326-5740	Tom Hunt AAMS® Financial Advisor 12310 N. ST. RT 395 Suite 103A 509-467-2454	Tim Zacharias AAMS® Financial Advisor 7407 N. Division St., Suite E 509-468-5290	Kevin Lake AAMS® Financial Advisor 9708 N. Nevada St. Ste 003 509-468-2150

DOWNTOWN

			
Chris Bernardi AAMS® Financial Advisor 111 W. North River Dr. Suite 201 509-279-2574	Cooper Helm Financial Advisor 201 W. North River Dr. Suite 440 509-455-3004	Josh Clements-Sampson CFP®, AAMS® Financial Advisor 1212 N. Washington, Ste 130 509-325-6376	Curtis Spores Financial Advisor 1212 N. Washington, Ste 130 509-325-6376

SOUTH HILL

			
Casey Clabby Financial Advisor 2020 E. 29th Ave. Suite 105 509-624-6067	Steve Wilkins Financial Advisor 3022 E. 57th Ave. Suite 15 509-535-4501	Dave Bingham AAMS® Financial Advisor 5915 S. Regal St., Suite 207 509-241-3164	Matthew DeRiccio Financial Advisor 2922 S. Grand Blvd 509-838-2408

SPOKANE - NORTH

				
Jessica Ekstrom AAMS® Financial Advisor 2603 W. Wellesley Ave 509-328-2115	Kenneth Faust Financial Advisor 2603 W. Wellesley Ave 509-328-2115	Joel Mitchell CFP®, AAMS® Financial Advisor 624 W. Hastings Rd, Suite 13 509-466-0239	Jon Shroyer AAMS® Financial Advisor 9029 N. Indian Trail 509-468-3737	Michelle Courson Financial Advisor 9525 N. Nevada St., Suite 202 509-290-6257

OUTLYING AREAS

							
Sue Poe, CFP® Financial Advisor 126 S. Main St. Colville, WA 509-684-6649	Zachary Hull Financial Advisor 126 S. Main St. Colville, WA 509-684-6649	Ryan Moore Financial Advisor 830 S. Main, Suite A Deer Park 509-276-2974	Tyrone Barbary Financial Advisor 12611 W. Sunset Hwy., Suite A, Airway Heights 509-244-9737	Justin Ashley CFP®, AAMS® Financial Advisor 321 S. Beech St. Ste I Moses Lake, WA 509-765-2566	James Shank Financial Advisor 2219 W. Broadway, Suite C Moses Lake, WA 509-765-4464	Greg Bloom Financial Advisor 1260 SE Bishop Blvd. Suite C Pullman, WA 509-332-1564	Chris Grover AAMS® Financial Advisor 1835 First St., Cheney, WA 509-235-4920

Call, visit or check out our website today.

www.edwardjones.com

Financial Advisors of Eastern Washington & Northern Idaho

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC



PROUD LOCAL PARTNER OF THE SPOKANE INDIANS BASEBALL CLUB

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

Salute To Service Benefit Concert

Sunday, May 26, 4:30-8 p.m.
Greenwood Memorial Terrace
211 N .Government Way, Spokane
Featuring Dragonfly Band, Gents Car Club Car
Show, beer garden and free hot dogs
Suggested \$5 donation; all proceeds benefit
Second Harvest Food Bank

Heroes' Pancake Breakfast

Monday, May 27, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Heritage Funeral Home
508 N. Government Way, Spokane
Featuring Pancakes, sausage, juice
and coffee
Free for veterans and service personnel; \$3
per person; proceeds benefit
Second Harvest Food Bank

Memorial Day Vitalant Blood Drive

Monday, May 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Heritage Funeral Home
508 N. Government Way, Spokane

Greater Spokane Elks #228

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 27, 10 a.m.
Spokane Memorial Gardens
5909 S. Cheney-Spokane Road

American Legion Post #241 Flag Disposal Presentation

Monday, May 27, 11 a.m.
Pines Cemetery
1402 S. Pines Road, Spokane Valley

Melvin M. Smith Detachment of the Marine Corps League

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 27, 11 a.m.
Fairmount Memorial Park
5200 W. Wellesley Ave., Spokane

Fairchild Air Force Base Wing Commander and Honor Guard Presentation

Monday, May 27, 1 p.m.
Heritage Funeral Home
508 N. Government Way, Spokane

Purple Heart Cities proclaim gratitude

By Bryan Bledsoe

The Purple Heart Medal is a U.S. military decoration awarded to those wounded or killed while serving. Based on the Badge of Military Merit established by George Washington in 1782, the tradition was reintroduced as the Purple Heart following World War I.

Many cities across the country have issued proclamations designating their city as a Purple Heart City to honor the sacrifices made by service members for their country during their time in the military. In Eastern Washington and North Idaho, Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Kellogg, Post Falls, Rathdrum and Wallace have proclaimed Purple Heart City status.

To learn more about applying to be a Purple Heart City or County, contact the Military Order of the Purple Heart at (703) 642-5360, ext. 119 or visit www.purpleheart.org.

Purple Heart recipients are also invited to join the organization to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.



**Work in our Store,
Delivery & Pickups*,
Restoring & Cleaning
Donated Equipment**

We are 100% volunteer run and really enjoy helping people –you might too!

Nearly all of our mobility and medical equipment in our store has been donated, so we are able to offer it at very, very reasonable prices. So everyone wins!

**Vehicle Supplied, Need Clean DL & Clean Record*

3203 N Market Street, Spokane • (509) 487-4119

www.mshhdonorclosetspokane.org

Hours: Wed & Fri 10am-3pm. Thurs 3pm-6pm. Saturday by Appointment.



girl scouts
of eastern washington
and northern idaho

thank you

for supporting the #1 Girl-led business in the world by purchasing a **record number** of Girl Scout cookies!



Your generous donations also **doubled** our contribution to Operation Troop-to-Troop, with **24,000** cookie boxes donated to our Military men and women stationed around the globe, and to Veterans at home.



HEY, VETERANS DID YOU KNOW You may be eligible for VA disability?

Contact a Veteran Service Officers (See “How Can I Get Help?” on page 21) to determine if you may be eligible for disability compensation for an illness or injury that was caused by, or got worse because of, your active military service. Compensation may include financial payment or other benefits, like health care.

WHY I VOLUNTEER

at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery

By Carol Nettles

First, I do it for my grandparents. My father and his siblings grew up in Metaline Falls, Wash. His two younger brothers were both drafted into the Army in World War II. Lyman was sent to Africa, and then Italy before making it back home at the end of the war. His youngest brother Gordon was sent to the Marianne islands, then Okinawa.

Gordon was killed on Okinawa by sniper fire. A telegram from his commanding officer advised that "Private Gordon M. West died on the 1st of May 1945 in a field hospital as a result of wounds received in the vicinity of Kaishi Hill, Okinawa Shima on the 29th of April 1945. Gordon, with is comrades, was preparing a defensive position for the night. During the process, he was seriously wounded by enemy sniper fire. Gordon was given immediate first aid and shortly thereafter evacuated to a field hospital. Because of the nature and seriousness of his wounds, he died three days later, on the 1st of May, 1945. The most skilled medical aid and care were used in an effort to save his life."

Gordon had just celebrated his 22 birthday in April. He was a husband and the father of two small sons.

Gordon's wife received a letter dated September 20, 1946, with the information regarding Gordon's burial location. Gordon was buried in the 96th Infantry Division Temporary Cemetery Plot Number 1, Okinawa Shima, Row Number 24, Grave Number 807.



General T.B. Larkin advised, "You may be assured that the identification and interment have been accomplished with fitting dignity and solemnity." He further advised that the cemetery was "under the constant care and supervision of United State military personnel."

The letter went on to state that at a future date the government would comply with her wishes as to the final interment of her husband, either in Okinawa or elsewhere.

In a letter dated January 12, 1948, the family was advised that Congress had "authorized the

disinterment and final burial of the heroic dead." The family wanted his body brought home to rest. They understood the great significance of being buried with his comrades and asked that he be buried in the closest National Cemetery. At the time, it was Golden Gate in San Bruno, Calif.

On April 11, 1949, the family received a telegram that Gordon's remains were en route to the United States aboard the United Sates Transport Sinnet and would be taken to Golden Gate National Cemetery.

Another telegram arrived advising that the burial services for Gordon M. West had been scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 1949, at 1:30 p.m. A letter from the superintendent of Golden Gate National Cemetery advised that the burial services were held as scheduled. A Protestant Army chaplain attached to the Sixth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., officiated at the service. Military honors were rendered by a detail of Army personnel. The flag that was used to drape Gordon's casket was also sent.

It was a comfort to know that Gordon was home, even though that

home was far away from Metaline Falls. My grandparents were not able to attend his service or ever visit his grave. I am not certain that they ever saw a photo of his headstone. But they had the knowledge that he was back on U.S. soil and resting in the company of men and women who understood his sacrifice, and to be cared by for generations of people who would respect that sacrifice. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be a witness and say a private thank you to each veteran and spouse for their service.

THE SECOND REASON I VOLUNTEER

is for my husband. We met as pen pals when I was in college and he was in Vietnam.

I saw how our Vietnam veterans were treated when they returned from war, many of them broken in various ways. I never wanted my husband to feel that way again. He was in Vietnam because his country sent him there.

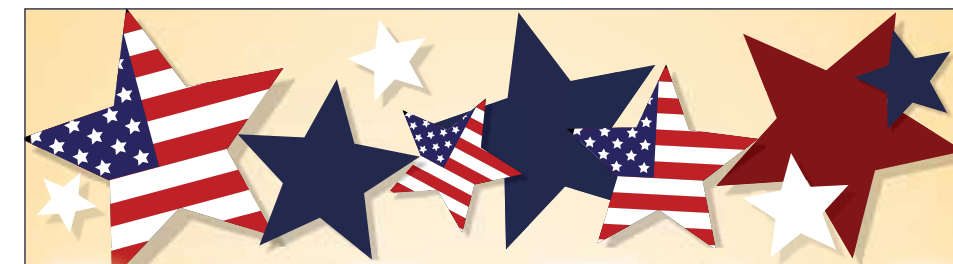
At a veterans cemetery, like Washington State Veterans Cemetery, there is respect and gratitude for the sacrificed our veterans and their families have made in serving our country.



SONNENBERG'S MARKET

Oldest Meat Market in Town • Serving Spokane Since 1981

1528 E. Sprague • Spokane • 535-4932



"Serving Those Who Served"



Spokane County Regional Veterans Services is a Regional Strategic Partnership with Spokane County, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Westcare Foundation, leading innovation in Rural Veterans Services by providing comprehensive veterans services in the inland northwest in a state of the art veteran-centric facility supported by web based case conferencing and referral services through WA Serves, Unite Us. We are located at 1117 N. Evergreen Rd., Suite 2, Spokane Valley, WA 99216. We look forward to serving you!

<https://www.spokanecounty.org/VeteranServices>



Our new service center has over 7000 square feet to expand our services in Eastern WA

HEY, VETERANS DID YOU KNOW?



Tinnitus is one of the most common disabilities among veterans?

If you have ringing in your ears (tinnitus) and/or hearing loss that developed due to military service, you may be eligible for VA health care benefits and a monthly disability check? Contact a Veterans Service officer for more information. This is a free service and you do not need to belong to a specific organization to receive help.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can pay for your education?

Approved training includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational or technical training, on-the-job training, flight training and much more. All training must be approved for GI Bill benefits.

To learn more, contact your Veteran Service officer. In North Idaho, contact Department of Labor Veteran Representative Robert Shoeman at (208) 457-8789. In Eastern Washington, contact WorkSource Spokane at (509) 532-3101.

Benefits are available for Vietnam veterans with Parkinson's disease or prostate cancer?

Due to presumed exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam,

these are two of 14 currently listed presumptive diseases that automatically qualify veterans to receive VA health care benefits and a monthly disability check.

For more information, contact the Spokane County Regional Veterans Services at (509) 477-3690 or the North Idaho Veteran Services and Benefits at (208) 446-1092.

Special assistance is available to OIF and OEF veterans?

Veterans who are Washington residents and served in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for a one time emergency assistance award from Washington Department of Veteran Affairs.

Learn more at the Services for Veterans workshop at WorkSource Spokane on the first and third Thursday of every month, 9:30 a.m. at 130 S. Arthur St. Call (509) 532-3120 or visit www.worksourcespokane.com.

In Idaho, contact Department of Labor Veteran Services Representatives at 600 N Thornton St., Post Falls or (208) 457-8789.

Medical and dental care are available?

Anyone who served on active duty in the military can apply for medical benefits by simply

taking their DD214 to the 7th floor of the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center. There is also a dental insurance program for enrolled veterans. Learn more at WorkSource Spokane on the first and third Thursday of every month, 9:30 a.m. at 130 S. Arthur St. Call (509) 532-3120 or visit www.worksourcespokane.com. In Idaho, contact Department of Labor Veteran Services Representatives at 600 N Thornton St., Post Falls or (208) 457-8789.

You can start your VA Home Loan application right now?

Instead of waiting for the VA to mail a physical copy of your VA Home Loan Certificate of Eligibility application, you can begin your application immediately with eBenefits (ebenefits.va.gov).

Learn more about options for veterans at WorkSource Spokane on the first and third Thursday of every month, 9:30 a.m. at 130 S. Arthur St. Call (509) 532-3120 or visit www.worksourcespokane.com.

In Idaho, contact Department of Labor Veteran Services Representatives at 600 N Thornton St., Post Falls or (208) 457-8789.

You can qualify for tax breaks by hiring veterans?

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax incentive for businesses that hire candidates from certain target groups, including qualified veterans. Your company can reduce federal business taxes from \$2,400 to \$9,600 per eligible employee.

Apply online through a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account. All applications must be submitted within 28 days of the employee's start date. If you don't have a SAW account, register through WorkSourceWA.com.

Type II diabetes may qualify you for VA benefits?

If you develop Diabetes Mellitus (Type II), you are eligible for VA health care benefits and a monthly disability check. Due to presumed exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam, there are currently 14 listed diseases that automatically qualify you to receive compensation. Conditions secondary to diabetes are also covered, including neuropathy, chronic kidney failure and heart disease. Contact your Veterans Service officer (VSO) for more information or for assistance in filing a claim. This is a free service.

HEY, VETERANS DID YOU KNOW?

You can get paid while you go to school?

Any veteran using a VA education benefit is eligible for a VA Work Study, which pays state minimum wage tax free.

Learn about your valuable education benefits at the Services for Veterans workshop at WorkSource Spokane on the first and third Thursday of every month, 9:30 a.m. at 130 S. Arthur St. Call (509) 532-3120 or visit www.worksourcespokane.com.

In Idaho, contact Department of Labor Veteran Services Representatives at 600 N Thornton St., Post Falls or (208) 457-8789.



WE HONOR VETERANS

ON THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE,
HOSPICE OF SPOKANE BOARD, STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS JOIN WITH OUR
COMMUNITY IN REMEMBERING AND
HONORING OUR LOVED ONES.

509-456-0438
Toll Free: 888-459-0438
www.hospiceofspokane.org



Northeast Washington's only nonprofit hospice since 1977,
serving Spokane, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.



Lifelong friends take a journey of “honor”

By Don Walker with Bryan Bledsoe VeteransHelpNet.com



Bryan Bledsoe and Don Walker

Over 250 people gathered at 6 a.m. Monday, April 29, at the Spokane International Airport for the first Honor Flight of 2019. The Inland Northwest Honor Flight was scheduled to depart on a chartered jet with 100 war veterans to visit the memorials built in their honor in Washington, D.C. This amazing 41 hour adventure cost them absolutely nothing, as all of their costs were covered by the INWHF.

The veterans in the group were two of World War II; three of WWII and Korea; 11 of Korea, three of Korea and Vietnam; 80 of Vietnam; and one of Vietnam and Grenada.

Approximately 60 folks at the airport that morning comprised a group called “guardians” who would accompany and assist the veterans throughout the journey (they are responsible for their own expenses).

Also in attendance were approximately 50 INWHF volunteers to help organize the departure and check-in. Plus, there were about a dozen media folks with their cameras and notepads to capture the story, as well as over 50 folks just there to give the veterans a send off. The scene was incredibly organized chaos, and electric.

We were headed to the nation’s capitol to visit the memorials with the pomp and circumstance and emotions that go with exposing some old soldiers, flyboys, swabbies, and jarheads to their warrior pasts.

It’s called “Honor Flight” and honor is what it is about, from the beginning to the incredibly moving and emotional homecoming 41 hours later.

Now that I have seen it, I can tell you that the Honor Flight is truly all about the journey and not the destination.

I was a guardian on this flight. And it was an honor to accompany one of my oldest and best friends, Bryan Bledsoe, who is a Vietnam combat veteran. I also assigned to assist two other veterans, and I quickly made two new friends in less than 41 hours.

We flew on a chartered jet and rode on chartered deluxe tour buses. We had police escort on every leg of the trip. We visited six memorials in Washington, D.C. and Arlington National Cemetery. All these places had meaning to most and it was important to allow the feelings to happen as we visited the memorials, but the real meaning – the real “honor” of Honor Flight – occurred at other parts of the journey.

First, the greetings and welcomes from the volunteers were awesome. At every location, people walking in the streets or visiting the memorials

stopped and clapped or shook our hands. “Welcome home” was what we heard the most, and always a “Thank you.”

Goosebumps and tears were not planned from these warriors, but they happened time after time. It was amazing and unforgettable.

Second, we talked and they talked. Slow and guarded at first but, then open and deeper.

My two new friends that had met only hours before talked until 2 a.m., knowing they had to get up only three hours later. Amazing. This was a safe place for them, a place they could show real feeling with people that shared their experiences. It helped. It helped to remember. It helped to forget.

One hundred veterans spent 41 hours with hundreds of volunteers



and hundreds of Americans. They visited many special and sacred places. But, the real “honor” of Honor Flight came from the journey.

We were grateful for this opportunity. Thank you for allowing us to take this journey.

Don Walker and Bryan Bledsoe are lifelong friends and the founders of Veterans Help Net, a local organization that provides articles and information to help veterans find hope and help. Veterans Help Net publishes Veteran Chronicle on the first Friday of the month in The Spokesman-Review, and provided the information found throughout this section. For more information, visit VeteransHelpNet.com



Patrick Payne at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Below, left to right: Korean War Veterans Memorial, World War II Memorial and “The Three Servicemen”



Military Funeral Honors: “HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED”

By Rudy Lopez

The sharp clicking of heels and soft rustle of Old Glory waving softly at half-staff in the breeze breaks the silent reverence of the moment. Members of the military honor guard move with silent precision as they remove the burial flag draped over a veteran's casket. The flag is snapped open with meticulousness that only an honor guard team can provide.

The rifle team is called to attention, faces and in unison fires off a rifle volley, then another, then a third. The shots echo in the silence then the team is commanded to “present arms” in

honor of the departed.

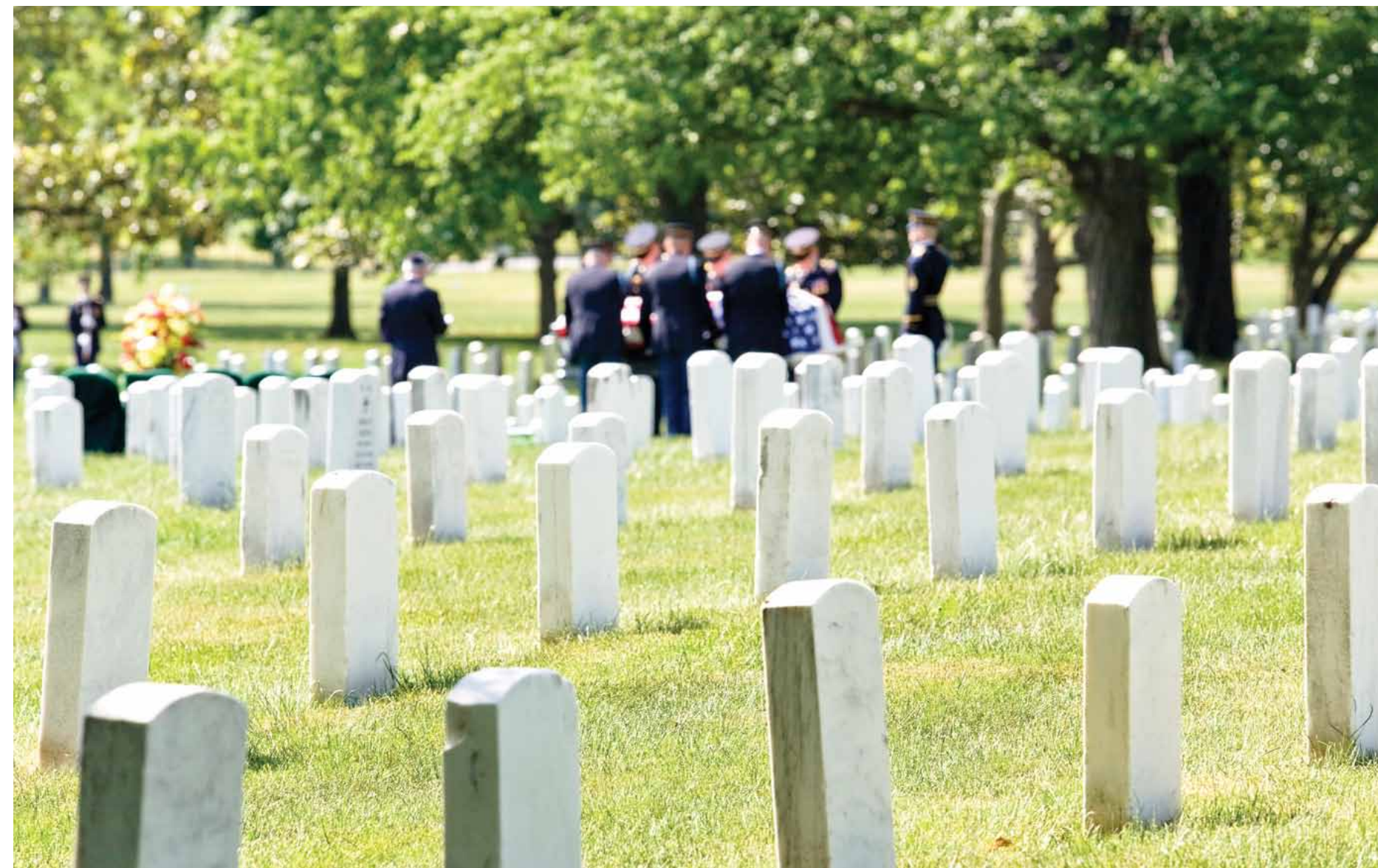
A lone bugler's sound pierces the silence with 24 distinct notes known as “Taps,” then instinctively returns to the position of attention and renders a salute in honor.

The surviving spouse brushes back tears and softly weeps, as the team leader approaches her with the tightly folded symbol of our nation with only stars and the field of blue exposed. He stoops, kneeling to the point of reaching eye level, and with a white gloved hand underneath and the left hand securely holding the flag from

above, extends the flag placing it in the widow's care. He speaks softly, offering the flag as a gift on behalf of a grateful nation for her loved one's faithful and honorable service.

He eases back up to the position of attention, and renders a slow and methodical final salute. With a final facing movement he departs and all that is heard are the fading clicking of heels striking the pavement as he marches away.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. "Honoring Those Who Served" is the



title of the DOD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended our nation.

Upon the family's request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of “Taps.” The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran's parent service of the armed forces.

The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the Veterans' family. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff can also assist with arranging military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries. Veteran organizations may assist in providing military funeral honors as well.

When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home. The

Washington State Veterans Cemetery staff make all military funeral honors arrangements for services at the State's Veterans Cemetery.

The Department of Defense began the implementation plan for providing military funeral honors for eligible Veterans as enacted in Section 578 of Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000 on Jan. 1, 2000.

For more information about Military Funeral Honors, visit www.cem.va.gov/cem/military_funeral_honors.asp.

REFLECTIONS of HISTORY on the VIETNAM WALL

Submitted by Mark Lantz



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall originally listed 57,939 names in 1982. There are 58,320 names as of May 2018.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe that 63 years have passed since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was

Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr. of North Weymouth, Mass. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

There are 39,996 on the Wall were

no older than 22; 8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group on the Wall – 33,103 – were 18 years old.

Twelve names on the Wall were 17 years old.

Five names on the Wall were 16 years old.

One service member, PFC Dan Bullock, was 15 years old.

Nine hundred ninety seven service

members lost their lives on their first day in Vietnam; 1,448 were killed on their last day stationed in Vietnam.

There are 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

Fifty four service members on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia, Penn. Why were there so many from one school?

There are eight women are on the

Wall; most of them were nurses.

The Medal of Honor was awarded to 244 service members during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio (pop. 475) lost six of her sons in Vietnam.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation with 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci: Nine graduates of Morenci High School enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. They had led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little copper town in Arizona had ever known. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail and hunted deer in the Apache National Forest. Their service began on Independence Day in 1966. Only three returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale: LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez and Tom Gonzales were childhood friends that lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah. They played baseball together at a nearby sandlot field. They all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three were killed.

The most casualty deaths in a single day – 245 casualties – occurred on January 31, 1968.

The most casualty deaths in a single month – 2,415 casualties – occurred in May 1968.

For most Americans who read this, they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those who survived the war and to the families of those who did not – we see the faces and we feel the pain that these numbers caused until we too pass away, haunted by these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

*God Bless our
Military and Veterans*

Sign up at

[paintingwithatwist.com/
spokane-valley](http://paintingwithatwist.com/spokane-valley)

to paint one of these
images during Memorial
Day week. Step-by-step
guidance & stencil
are provided.



Pine Plank
Wood Board

509-413-9892

**PHASE II
SKYWALK ADDITION
NOW OPEN & LEASING**

10 New Modern Floor Plans

39 NEW SUITES & 12 NEW COTTAGE HOMES

**INDEPENDENT LIVING
LIGHT ASSISTED LIVING
COTTAGE HOMES**

**\$1,000 FREE
move in service**

**PLUS \$1,000.00
Signing Bonus**

Evergreen Fountains

SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

509.922.3100

EVERGREENFOUNTAINS.COM

1201 N. EVERGREEN RD., SPOKANE VALLEY

WHAT DEATH BENEFITS DO VETERANS RECEIVE?

By Kellie Richardson

Navigating VA benefits can be very confusing and overwhelming. There is a lot of information to learn and things frequently change. Misinformation and misunderstandings can have serious financial ramifications for veterans and their families.

One of the most misunderstood veteran benefits is VA death benefits. Scores of people believe “VA takes care of everything” after a veteran dies. This is not the case.

Basically, the only thing that is free of charge is burial or inurnment at a state or national veterans cemetery (spouses are \$300). This is a wonderful benefit; however, not all veterans qualify. Also, veterans must be cremated or in a casket prior to arriving at the cemetery, and the VA pays for neither.

The VA does not pay for caskets, embalming, cremation, urns, or memorial or funeral services, including expenses like flowers, folders, register books, clergy, music, slide shows, etc.

All funeral and memorial services must be planned and paid for by the veterans’ family, estate, or other non-VA funding sources.

For veterans who qualify for VA death benefits, there is a partial reimbursement after the fact. In most cases, this is merely a fraction of total funeral costs.

And, remember that not all veterans qualify for these benefits. Generally, the veteran must die from service connection, at a VA hospital or VA contracted facility, or be collecting a disability pension. These benefits are not based on branch, rank, retirement status, or combat experience.



Social Security pays a onetime death benefit (\$255 since 1961) only to surviving dependent spouses and children. It cannot be collected for other family members, or collected by funeral homes or debt collectors. There is no death benefit or assistance through Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security disability.

The best plan of action is to pre-plan – not only for your death, but for other legal, financial, and family issues. It’s important to have your estate properly planned and documented in advance. It is also wise to plan for becoming incapacitated or memory impaired.

For area veterans, there is help available. A “Final Arrangements 101” seminar is available to help educate veterans and their family on how to get their affairs in order, long before the need arises (a similar seminar is available to non-veterans as well).

The information in this seminar will debunk myths and misconceptions, explain how the death certification process works, help you decide how to choose the right funeral home or cremation service, how to donate your body to science, and many other relevant issues.

Participants will leave with a wealth of information, contact information to other resources, and a plan of action to begin getting their affairs in order, update previous affairs, ensure that their wishes are honored, and leave their survivors with a legacy instead of a mess.

This free seminar is available to individual families, veteran groups and organizations, guardians, caregivers, powers of attorney, social workers, hospice and anyone who works with veterans and their families. (The seminar is not affiliated with and does not endorse any funeral home or cemetery).

For more information, contact:
Kellie Richardson
KellieR91@yahoo.com
(509) 714-7482
facebook.com/Final-Arrangemen
ts-101-1795874004076127/

Kellie Richardson is a US Army Desert Storm veteran. She used her VA education benefits to earn a degree in Mortuary Science in 1999 and has worked at eight funeral homes. She is active in several area veteran organizations, and is a licensed Funeral Director and Life Insurance Agent. She created this seminar after working with thousands of veterans’ families over the years.

Find where you belong.

We know how much it means to feel at home. That’s why our local experts are dedicated to helping you find the VA home loan that’s right for you. You can count on us with VA loans that may provide unique financing benefits to help you realize your American Dream, with features like:

Purchase with no down payment | Minimal closing costs | Low interest rates & more*

Let’s create tomorrow, together.
bannerbank.com

*Contact our local Mortgage team for details!



Chad Kubik
 NMLS# 609985
 Residential Loan Officer
509-227-5449



Marcy Bennett
 NMLS# 507122
 Residential Loan Officer
509-227-5461



Ken Hunt
 NMLS# 506480
 Residential Loan Officer
509-462-5805



Deidre Arnold
 NMLS# 643782
 Residential Loan Officer
509-227-5497



Lisa Knight
 NMLS# 785378
 Residential Loan Officer
509-462-5809



Mike Coffey
 NMLS# 699335
 Residential Loan Officer
509-227-5465



Laura Lund
 NMLS# 507140
 Residential Loan Officer
509-227-5492

Member FDIC






1002 E. Wellesley,
Spokane
(Corner of Nevada
& Wellesley)



1 FREE
CRISPY TACO WITH
ANY PURCHASE FOR VETERANS
(one per coupon)
Expires June 30, 2019

Bring coupon inside with Military ID and get a FREE Taco.

Must mention coupon at time of order. Not valid with other offers.
Coupon required. Only at participating Taco John's. 509.487-6093

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.




Annual Memorial Day Outside Mass with Bishop Thomas Daly

**Holy Cross Cemetery • 7200 N. Wall
Monday, May 27 at 10 a.m.**

Join us as we pray for our veterans and
celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

Please bring own seating.



HOLY CROSS

FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES

HOLY CROSS
FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES
7200 N Wall Street
Spokane, WA 99208

ST. JOSEPH
FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES
17825 E Trent Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

QUEEN OF PEACE
FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES
6910 S Ben Burr Road
Spokane, WA 99224

Call (509) 467-5496

holycrossofspokane.org • 7200 N. Wall, Spokane

***Whether need arises from the passing of
a loved one or you are planning ahead,
our compassionate pricing with
superior service is here for all.***

Benefits of Advanced Planning:

- Ensure your wishes are met
- No interest on payment plans
- Avoid costly decisions later
- Peace of mind for you, your spouse
& family

**MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL:
FUNERAL | CREMATION | CEMETERY | FAMILY ESTATES**



A NON-PROFIT MINISTRY OF THE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
SPOKANE