



**OREGON DEPARTMENT**  
*of* **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

# ODVA Outreach and Advocacy Update

Senate Interim Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs Committee | December 10, 2024



PRESENTED BY  
Dr. Nakeia Daniels, Director



# THE MISSION CONTINUES

SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS IN OREGON SINCE 1945



## MISSION

To honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation.



## VISION

All veterans and their families thrive in Oregon.



## VALUES

Stewardship  
Excellence  
Respect  
Vision  
Inclusivity  
Commitment  
Equity



## DIVERSE OREGON VETERAN LANDSCAPE



Estimated **266,690** veterans in Oregon having served across 5 major war eras

**75%** served during a wartime era

More than **50%** of veterans are age 65 and older

**13.8%** are veterans of color

**9.8%** of veterans are women



# \$3.99 BILLION

TOTAL FY 23 VA EXPENDITURES IN OREGON



**\$1.83 Billion**

Health Care Expenditures

Serving **96,430** Oregon Veterans



**\$1.98 Billion**

Disability Compensation and Pension Payments

Serving **84,493** Oregon Veterans



**\$128 Million**

Education Payments

Serving **6,970** Oregon Veterans



# VETERAN CLAIMS ADVOCACY



## COUNTY AND TRIBAL VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

- Access to earned benefits is the core of ODVA's advocacy efforts.
- VSOs in all 36 counties and 4 Tribal lands receive pass-through funds administered by ODVA

## CLAIMS AND APPEALS FY24 OUTCOMES

- Conducted 226 federal VA appeals on behalf of veterans and their families.
- Retroactive awards for individuals represented by ODVA exceeded \$53 million.
- 9,491 new veteran claimants represented by ODVA's Powers of Attorney





OREGON CITY  
DONALD DEAN BRUBAKER SSG  
HERB DOBY LTCOL  
JOEL LYNN GABRIEL CPL  
DWAYNE HAYES SGT  
GARY LYLE KESTLER LCPL  
DALE ALLEN PERKINS 2LT  
CHARLES LEROY ROBERTS PFC  
TERRY ALLAN SUNDEEN PFC  
RICHARD EARL WESTFALL PFC  
PATRICK LEONARD WOODS 1LT

OTIS  
GERALD DEVER POCHEL RD3



# SPECIAL ADVOCACY & OUTREACH TO VETERANS





# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for AGING VETERANS



## AGING VETERANS OUTREACH FY24 OUTCOMES

- \$256,266 in retroactive benefits payments
- \$29,490 in new monthly benefits to veterans
- \$629,145 in privately paid nursing home expenses returned to veterans
- 85 ODVA veteran volunteers volunteered a total of 982 hours providing outreach to more than 4,400 aging veterans and their families



# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for HOUSELESS VETERANS



## HOUSELESS VETERAN OUTREACH FY24 OUTCOMES

- Assisted 75 houseless veterans
- Made 25 medical and behavioral health referrals
- Assisted 5 veterans in obtaining ODVA's Veteran Emergency Financial Assistance Grant that helped support stable housing.
- Conducted 15 partner trainings, attended 38 partner network events and 15 stand downs and outreach





# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for INCARCERATED VETERANS

**~5%  
ADULTS IN  
CUSTODY ARE  
VETERANS**

## INCARCERATED VETERAN PROGRAM FY24 OUTCOMES

- Program Coordinators were able to make over 990 contacts with incarcerated veterans in FY 24
- Contacted 400 veterans during group meetings in prisons across the state
- Assisted in filing 162 veteran claims



# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for LGBTQ+ VETERANS



Join ODVA and other agencies at the LGBTQ+ Veterans Village during 2024 Pride Celebrations throughout Oregon!

#### BEND

Drake Park  
11-5 p.m. June 1  
[bendpride.com](http://bendpride.com)

#### PORTLAND

Tom McCall Waterfront Park  
12-8 p.m. July 20  
11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. July 21  
[portlandpride.org](http://portlandpride.org)

#### EUGENE

Alton Baker Park  
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Aug. 10  
[eugenepride.org](http://eugenepride.org)

Each LGBTQ+ Veterans Village hosts dozens of state and local agencies. Visit during Pride events for help accessing health care, education resources, veteran benefits, housing services, employment and vocational services and much more! All services are free and confidential.



800-692-9666

[ODVA\\_LGBTQvets@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:ODVA_LGBTQvets@odva.oregon.gov)



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Scan the QR code or visit [oregon.gov/odva](http://oregon.gov/odva) to connect with the Oregon LGBTQ+ Veterans Coordinator office or other participating agencies in the LGBTQ+ Veterans Village and learn more about earned benefits and resources for LGBTQ+ Veterans and their families.

## LGBTQ+ VETERAN PROGRAM FY24 OUTCOMES

- Assisted 13 veterans to upgrade discharge statuses that were related to LGBTQ+ identity
- Managed 82 cases, filed disability claims for 48 LGBTQ+ veterans, housed 4 veterans, updated military records of 5 transgender veterans
- Outreach and engagement at 59 Pride events



# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for WOMEN VETERANS



## WOMEN VETERAN PROGRAM FY24 OUTCOMES

- Engaged 422 new women veterans
- Provided casework for 51 women veterans
- Biennial Women Veteran Conference





# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for TRIBAL VETERANS

**VETERAN SUMMIT & RESOURCE FAIR**  
 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
 Friday, July 12, 2024

Keynote speaker Ninja Warrior Abriam Benally.

Come try the Ninja Warrior Obstacle course.

Join us for a day of gawking, healing and connection.

Learn about various benefits and resources.

Enjoy lunch and connect with others!

All veterans welcome.

Uyxat Powwow Grounds  
 8400 S.W. Hebo Road,  
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**JUNE 25-26 REGISTER NOW**

**ANNUAL TRIBAL VETERAN ADVOCATE CONFERENCE**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN (CLICK HERE)

**FEDERAL AND STATE VETERAN BENEFIT TRAINING & RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR TRIBAL VETERAN ADVOCATES**

**Seven Feathers Casino Resort**  
 146 Chief Mwakita Ln  
 Canyonville, OR

Call (888) 677-7771 (before 6/17/2024)  
 Ask for "ODVA Tribal Veteran Advocate Conference Hotel Rate"

**More information:**  
 ODVA Tribal Veteran Coordinator  
[TribalVeterans@odva.oregon.gov](mailto:TribalVeterans@odva.oregon.gov)

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations invites all Tribal Veteran Advocates to the Annual Tribal Veteran Advocate Conference being held June 25-26, 2024 in Canyonville.

This year's conference provides training and valuable resource information for those who work with Tribal veterans to assist in accessing earned state and federal veterans' benefits and resources.

Also, please join us on the afternoon of June 25th to recognize and celebrate the distinguished career of Terry Benally from the Office of Tribal Government Relations, as she retires after 38 years of service to Native American veterans and their families.

PRESENTED BY

## TRIBAL VETERAN PROGRAM FY24 OUTCOMES

- Tribal Veterans Coordinator, hired in April 2024, has connected with each of Oregon's nine federally recognized
- Supports Federal VA's Office of General Counsel with accreditation of Oregon's tribal veterans
- Hosts annual Tribal Veteran Advocate Conference



# SPECIAL ADVOCACY for STUDENT VETERANS



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS FY 2024 OUTCOMES

- Campus Veteran Coordinator
- Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant
- Suicide prevention and awareness
- Veterans Education Bridge Grant program



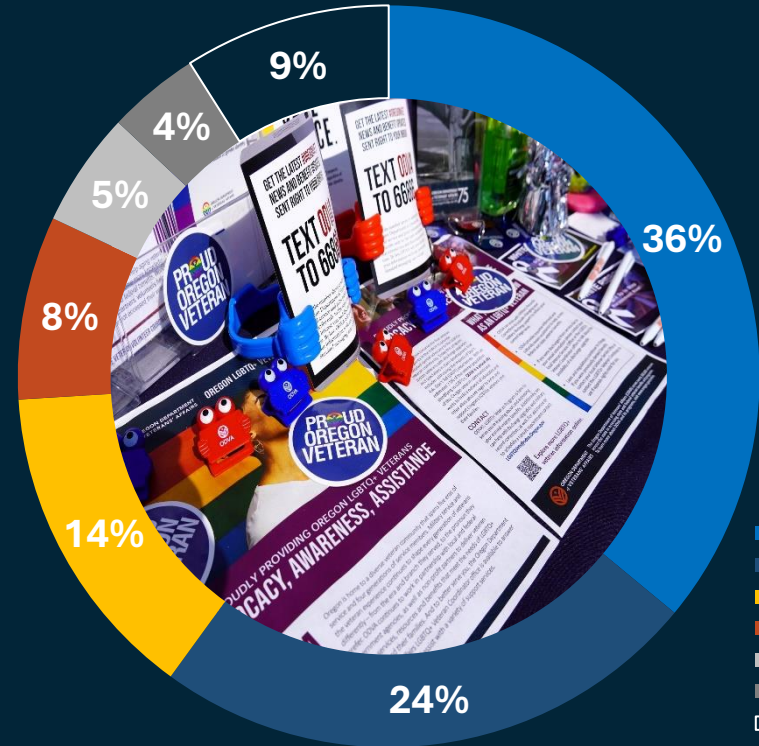


# SPECIAL ADVOCACY OUTREACH TO VETERANS



## 19,000 VETERANS REACHED THROUGH 121 ENGAGEMENTS IN 2024

### OUTREACH ENGAGEMENTS BY REGIONS



- Willamette Valley
- Portland Region
- Southern
- Coastal
- Eastern
- Central
- Statewide/Virtual





# VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

## BEYOND THE MILITARY UNIFORM

Connect with resources and opportunities to build community with fellow veterans in Oregon. Together, we can navigate the challenges of life after service.

If you are interested by phone or in need of our help, **DIAL 988 THEN PRESS 1**

**BUILDING COMMUNITY**

Whether you want to build community through activities like mountain biking, fishing, or golfing, or volunteering for charitable initiatives, you have resources to help you connect and thrive. Join us and discover ways to engage, support, and be a part of a vibrant veterans community.

**OUTDOOR & INDOOR ACTIVITIES**

Discover the joys of recreation through outdoor and indoor activities that were active. Whether your working schedule is always building or built on weekends, these activities provide the perfect opportunity to bond and create a sense of community. Explore the list of activities below and find the ones that resonate with you. We'll make sure you're ready for the journey together.

**WINTER ACTIVITIES**

- Skiing and Snowboarding on Mt. Hood
- Ski and Snowboard on Mt. Bachelor

**ROCK CLIMBING**

- Indoor & Outdoor Rock Climbing
- Rock Climbing With Local Veterans

**FISHING**

- Deep Sea Fishing for Peacock Willemoes
- Boating Veterans as Members and Local City Youth Together on the Waterfront of Astoria

**SHOOTING**

- A Gun for Everyone Veterans

**DOWNLOAD A PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT**

This is a free guide to help you understand your military life, the self-preparation and readiness resources of help you need and the support being offered. You can use this guide to help you understand your military life.

- **EMBRACE YOUR NEXT CHAPTER**
- **DISCOVER RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY AFTER SERVICE**
- **NAVIGATE LIFE AFTER MILITARY SERVICE AT BEYONDTHEMILITARYUNIFORM.COM**
- **EMBRACE YOUR NEXT CHAPTER**

**VA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

Community mental health resources are available to provide the comprehensive and accessible support you need. Whether you're looking for support, resources, or information, we have what you need. Our community mental health resources provide the support of veterans who have been through similar experiences. You can find the support you need at [www.va.gov/mentalhealth](https://www.va.gov/mentalhealth).

**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

Community mental health resources are available to provide the comprehensive and accessible support you need. Whether you're looking for support, resources, or information, we have what you need. Our community mental health resources provide the support of veterans who have been through similar experiences. You can find the support you need at [www.va.gov/mentalhealth](https://www.va.gov/mentalhealth).

## 7. KNOW WHERE TO FIND PROFESSIONAL HELP

Identify and compile a list of mental health resources available to you. We know how difficult it can be to find the right resources, so we've compiled a list of resources for you.

## 5. BE OF SERVICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Engage in acts of kindness and support within your community. Volunteering and service not only benefit the community, but it can also be a great way to connect with others.

## 2. CREATING A BUDDY SUPPORT SYSTEM

Create a reliable support network to turn to when you are struggling. It's not easy to reach out and ask for help, but having a support system can make a big difference.

**EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT FOR VETERANS**

NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH WITH SELF-GUIDED STRATEGIES

Welcome to the Empowerment Toolkit for Veterans. This self-guided resource is crafted specifically for military veterans facing mental health challenges such as stress, PTSD, depression, anxiety, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other related conditions. Our mission is to provide you with practical, self-guided strategies that can help you manage your mental health effectively and enhance your overall well-being.

## Downloadable Toolkit

## STATEWIDE AND DIGITAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN



## Billboards

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

When faced with adversity, your resilience counts. See more

EMBRACE YOUR NEXT CHAPTER

Struggling with life after the military? FIND CAMARADERIE AND RESOURCES AT [BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com](https://www.beyondthemilitaryuniform.com)

Discover Resources and Community After Service

Navigate Life After Military Service at [BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com](https://www.beyondthemilitaryuniform.com)

Resources to Help You Thrive

133 likes, 1 comment, 24 shares

## Social Media and Digital Ads

Madras Human Bean raises \$6,754 for breast cancer research

Museum at Warm Springs begins annual tribal member and youth exhibit

Post office delivery changes departure time for Madras

Wednesday Nights at Jordan Community Church 6:00-7:30pm

Grados K-8th

AWANA

DISCOVER RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY AFTER SERVICE

Navigate Life After Military Service at [BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com](https://www.beyondthemilitaryuniform.com)

## Print Ads and Radio

BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com

Social Media and Digital Ads

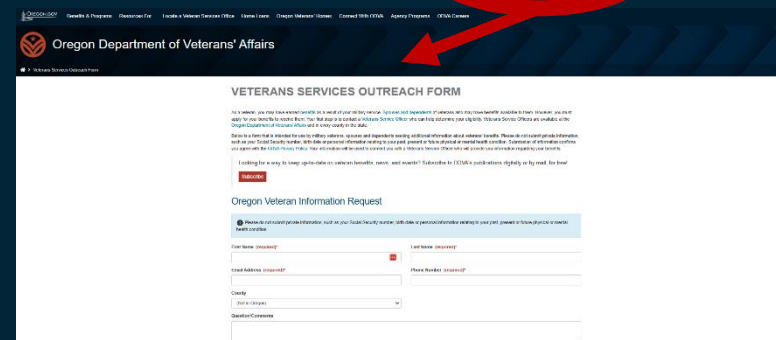
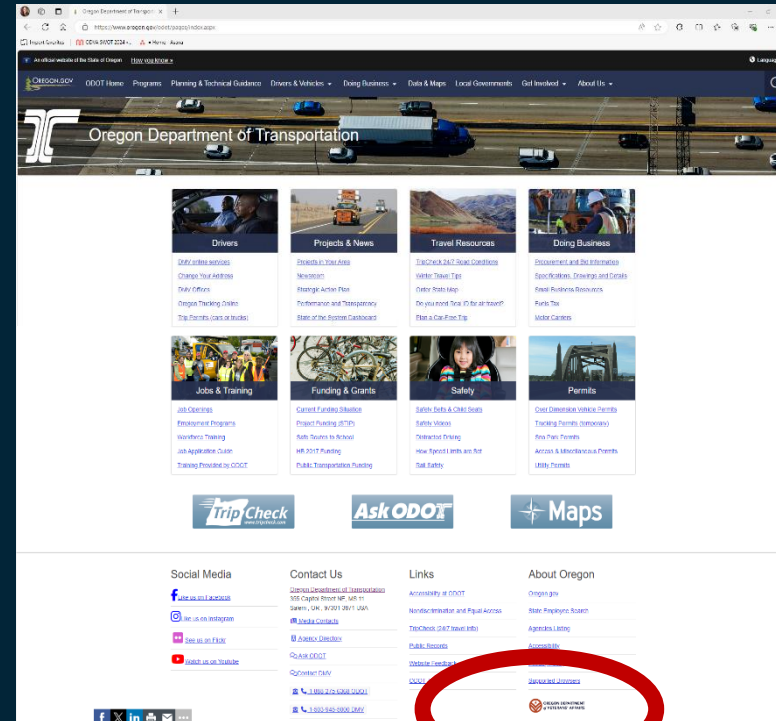
Print Ads and Radio



# AGENCY OUTREACH TO VETERANS



Veteran Benefits Magazine



Veterans Services Outreach Form



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**Thank you for your time. Questions?**

