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Project Site: [www.usaflegacytonasket.org](http://www.usaflegacytonasket.org)  
 Newsletter: [www.veteranlegacyproject.org](http://www.veteranlegacyproject.org)  
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## Legacy E-News

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### Legacy Auction Raises over \$4300.00

Thanks to all the folks who made the March 8th auction such a success!!

If you missed the article and pictures in the Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune please [click here](#)

A copy of the article and pictures is also available in the Photo & Archive section.

### Auction Action



KP - Kitchen Patrol



These 3 fast talkers raised some fast money!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Legacy Newsletter. As you can probably tell, the format and style of the site has changed. Hopefully, you will find it easier to use and read. I want to thank everyone for their feedback and will look forward to receiving more of your ideas! This is for all members and supporters of the Legacy so be sure and tell me what you like (or don't like) and any items of interest that you'd like to see on the site. Thank you,

Pete Maycumber

### Support is Growing !!

We now have over 80 members and over 140 of the plaques honoring Veterans have been purchased.

### Next Meeting is on April 2nd

6:00 PM (1800 Hours)  
 In the meeting room at Whistlers Restuarant  
 Please attend if you can.

### Legacy Project Site Updated

Many thanks to Chuck Gallup for updating the Legacy site. We now have revised forms available for plaques and membership along with a direct link to this newsletter.

### At Ease: Cartoon Time



### VA to Open 14 New Clinics in Seven States

WASHINGTON -- Veterans in seven additional states will have easier access to world-class health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan to open 14 new outpatient clinics in 2008. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake today announced that VA will establish new clinics in Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Washington.

"VA is dedicated to providing the best in health care to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform," Peake said. "These new clinics will bring that care closer to veterans who have earned it through their service."

Locations for the new clinics are:

- Arkansas – Phillips County
- Illinois – Coles County

Indiana – Scott County

Kentucky – Carroll County, Christian County and Graves County

Oklahoma – Stillwater

Tennessee – Bolivar, Campbell County, Dyer County, Roane County, Sevier County and Warren County

Washington – Lewis County

The new clinics are scheduled to activate in 2008. The exact locations of the new facilities, along with their opening dates and the health care services they will provide, have to be determined. VA has previously approved 50 additional clinics that will begin providing services in 2008 for a total of 64 new clinics throughout the country this year.

With 153 hospitals and more than 700 community-based clinics, VA has the nation's largest integrated health care system. The Department's health care budget of over \$36 billion this year will provide care to about 5.5 million veterans.

"Community-based medicine is better medicine," said Dr. Michael Kussman, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It makes preventive care easier for patients, helps doctors have closer relationships with their patients and permits easier follow-up for patients with chronic health problems."

Many of the new clinics were designated as priorities under VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan. CARES, completed in 2004, was intended to ensure that VA uses its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible.

## Honoring Commitment to Newest Combat Veterans

WASHINGTON – Military veterans who served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

"By their service and their sacrifice, America's newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military -- even decades later -- for medical care for service-connected health problems.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on Jan. 28, 2008, applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits -- previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans -- to 180 days.

Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who never took advantage of VA's health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care.

The five-year window is also open to activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay copayments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Copayments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year.

## Number of Homeless Vets Drops 21 Percent

WASHINGTON (March 6, 2008) - The number of veterans homeless on a typical night has declined 21 percent in the past year, thanks to the services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its partners in community- and faith-based organizations, plus changing demographics and improvements in survey techniques.

The reduction of homeless veterans from more than 195,000 to about 154,000 was announced as Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake was elected to chair the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Peake's election to head the council coordinating the federal response to homelessness came as VA released the fourteenth annual Community Homeless Assessment, Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG) report on homeless veterans.

"We are seeing significant progress in the fight against homelessness," said Peake. "This success should encourage all those concerned about homeless veterans, for it shows we can make a difference in the lives of these veterans through our services and with our community partners."

The decline in veterans' homelessness was attributed, in part, to VA's success in providing more services for homeless veterans and improved coordination of federal, state and local efforts.

VA provides health care to about 100,000 homeless veterans, and compensation and pensions to nearly 40,000 annually. The Department offers homeless veterans employment assistance and help obtaining foreclosed homes and excess federal property,

including clothes, footwear, blankets and other items.

The Department has already approved funding for more than 12,000 beds in transitional housing programs, and provides about 5,000 veterans each year with residential services in VA hospital-based programs.

Other factors in the decline of homeless veterans include the substantial reduction in the number of poor veterans -- from 3 million in 1990 to 1.8 million in 2000 -- and improvements in counting homeless people.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness is the coordinating entity within the federal government composed of 20 cabinet secretaries and agency heads that creates partnerships at every level of government and the private sector to end homelessness.

**Ready to Help? - [Click Here](#)**

