



BULLETIN

**April
2009**

STATE OF IDAHO

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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To be connected with a VA suicide prevention and mental health professional,
call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention hotline and indicate you are a veteran.
(800) 273-8255

ALL EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED IN A NONDISCRIMINATORY
MANNER IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE EEO AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS



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**If you would like to receive the bulletin via email,
just email Jennel Binsky at
jennel.binsky@veterans.idaho.gov**

SENATORS INTRODUCE WOMAN VETERANS LEGISLATION

News Release, March 16, 2009

U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) joined Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) in announcing bipartisan legislation to prepare the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the influx of women veterans who will access care there in the coming years. The Women Veterans Health Improvement Act of 2009 will address many of the unique needs of female veterans, particularly those women who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“With over 10,000 women veterans in Maine, and almost two million across the United States each are patriots that have answered our nation's call, and it is essential the nation be there for them when they return to the home front and their families,” Senator Snowe said. “I am honored to join with my colleagues to introduce this bill today that rightfully recognizes and addresses issues with which many of these veterans and their families are managing today.”

“Women have stepped up to serve at unprecedented levels,” said Senator Murray. “Which means the VA is now faced with unprecedented challenges in caring for them as they return home. This bill addresses the unique challenges women face by providing specialized care for the visible and invisible wounds of war. As more women begin to transition home, and step back into lives as mothers, wives, and citizens, the VA must be there for them.”

“Women serving in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and performing dangerous missions throughout the world make up an important and growing segment of our veteran population. The number of women veterans receiving care through the VA is expected to double in less than five years,” said Senator Hutchison. “Our bill will help improve access to quality health care services for women who have bravely served in our armed forces.”

“Generations of women have served honorably in all of this country's major conflicts. These women have earned the right to expect the same high quality health care services and benefits as their male counterparts,” said Dave Gorman, Executive Director of Disabled American Veterans (DAV). “While significant progress has been made in recent years to remove institutional barriers that often discourage women veterans from seeking assistance at VA facilities, more needs to be done. The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act will help ensure these women have equal access to VA benefits and services. DAV is proud to have worked on this legislation with Senator Murray, who has proven herself time and again to be a steadfast and effective champion for all of America's veterans.”

Among other things, the legislation introduced will:

- ❖ Require the VA to implement a program to train, educate, and certify VA mental health professionals to care for women with sexual trauma.
- ❖ Require the VA Secretary to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the barriers women are facing in accessing care at the VA.
- ❖ Authorize a report to Congress on the effects the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had on the physical, mental, and reproductive health of women who have served there.
- ❖ Require the VA to begin a pilot program that provides child care to women veterans that seek mental health care services at the VA.
- ❖ Require the VA to begin a pilot program that provides readjustment counseling to women veterans in group retreat settings.

In addition to Senators Murray, Hutchison, and Snowe, the legislation was co-sponsored by Senators Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Lisa Murkowski (D-AK), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

IDAHO WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services is inviting female veterans from Idaho to attend the Idaho Women Veterans Conference free of charge. Women veterans from Idaho will be converging on the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho on August 29, 2009.

A variety of workshops concerning veterans' benefits and entitlements, women's health issues, and employment and job seeking tips will be offered. Lunch will be served free of charge. The Outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran Award will also be presented. Women veterans are greatly encouraged to come learn about the veteran benefits they have earned from their service in the U.S. Armed Forces. If you know of a women veteran, please pass this information on.

We have negotiated a room rate of \$86 at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel. For room reservations, please call 343-1871 and let them know you are with the Idaho Women Veterans Conference.

The flyer, registration, and nomination form for the Outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran Award are located on the next three pages. Registration is required. For more information about the conference or registration, please email gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov or call (208) 246-8761.

Idaho Women Veterans Conference 2009



SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

What: Conference for Women Veterans

When: August 29, 2009

Who: ALL WOMEN WHO SERVED
IN THE MILITARY

Where: Doubletree Riverside Hotel
Boise, Idaho

Details: No Cost for Participation

Registration is required

******FREE LUNCH******

Informative workshops on VA benefits and healthcare, and employment assistance.

Keynote speakers will be Bob Welch,
author of "American Nightingale; The Story of Francis Slanger, Forgotten Heroine of Normandy"
and
Betty Moseley Brown,
Associate Director of VA Center for Women Veterans

Comments from the 2008 Tri-state conference participants:

*"This was very fun and informative."
"A sense of belonging that I haven't felt in years."*

Outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran Award to be presented.

If you know of an outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran in your community, please nominate her.
Nominations are due by 6/30/2009

For more information,
email gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov
or call (208) 246-8761

2009 IDAHO WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE
AUGUST 29, 2009



DOUBLETREE RIVERSIDE HOTEL
BOISE, IDAHO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Dates of Service: _____

**There is no charge for this conference, just a serious commitment to attend.
Lunch will be served no charge.**

Please list any special needs (such as wheelchair accommodations of a vegetarian lunch):

*For room reservations at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel,
Please call 343-1871
Let them know you are with the Idaho Women Veterans Conference*



Please return this registration form **NO LATER THAN** July 15, 2009, to:
Gina Stamper
320 Collins Road, Boise, ID 83702

*Remember to complete and return your nomination form for the
Outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran.*

For more information,
email gina.stamper@veterans.idaho.gov
or call (208) 246-8761



Outstanding Idaho Woman Veteran Nominee Form

Name of Woman Veteran Nominated for Award: _____

Nominee's Dates and Branch of Service: _____

Nominee's Address/phone/email contact information: _____

In nominating an individual as an Outstanding Woman Veteran, the following criteria will be considered:

- Provide a brief military history of the nominee.
- Explain the woman veteran's contributions to the community.
- Describe adversities the nominee has overcome, if any.
- Describe any volunteer work on behalf of veterans or other organizations.
- Describe the nominee's involvement in reaching out to assist fellow veterans or other women in need.
- Any other outstanding attributes related to the betterment of veterans issues.
- Any awards, recognition, commendations, accomplishments, news articles or note worthy information.
- Any additional information pertinent to nomination.

This Award is submitted by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach all documentation in support of your nomination to this form and submit to:

Gina Stamper
Idaho Women Veterans Coordinator
Idaho Division of Veterans Services
320 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 246-8761
Fax: (208) 246-8790

NOMINATION FORMS ARE DUE BY JUNE 30, 2009

NEW INDEPENDENT BUDGET URGES ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS TO INVEST \$54.6 BILLION

News Release, February 6, 2009

Four of the Nation's leading veterans service organizations are urging the new Administration and Congress to invest \$54.6 billion, an increase of \$3.6 billion over last year, to adequately meet veterans' healthcare and benefits needs. The recommendation is contained in The Independent Budget (IB) - www.independentbudget.org - a full picture of veterans' needs and funding recommendations, by veterans for veterans.

"We urge President Obama to adopt The Independent Budget's recommendations when his first budget is released later this year. We need sufficient, timely, and predictable funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical and benefits system to ensure that those who have served and sacrificed get all the services they have earned and deserve," said Randy L. Pleva, Sr., National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America. "It's good for veterans. It's good for the economy. It's good for America."

The Independent Budget - an annual comprehensive budget and policy document co-authored by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) - includes recommendations of \$46.6 billion for health care, \$575 million for prosthetic research, \$1.6 billion for benefits processing, and nearly \$2 billion for major and minor construction. To deliver sufficient, timely, and predictable resources in the future, the IB recommends Congress convert veterans' healthcare funding to an advance appropriations process. This will ensure the VA will always have access to its funding on time.

As our Nation faces the worst economy in over 70 years, the IB recommends Congress appropriate ample funding to address the significant backlog of infrastructure needs facing the VA medical system. This investment not only secures the future of VA health care and benefits delivery, it also provides new job opportunities for people and companies hit hard by the economic downturn.

One of the IB's principal concerns is that the VA is backing away from a capital infrastructure blueprint by leasing inpatient services around the country. "Leasing facilities may help with outpatient care, but we want Congress to ensure the VA's new program does not lead to a widespread leasing program that replaces critical inpatient capacity," said VFW National Commander Glen M. Gardner, Jr., a Vietnam veteran from Round Rock, Texas. "Forcing disabled veterans to travel great distances because their local VA medical center dropped inpatient care is not the proper way to care for America's veterans."

The IB also highlights the importance of dealing with the backlog of veterans' benefits claims, with the equivalent of the entire population of Delaware waiting for their claims to be completed. Recommended improvements include better use of electronic information systems to speed up claims processing. Given the significant difficulties facing many veterans and their families as a result of the current economy, rapid approval of their benefits will provide much-needed help to deal with the hardships associated with unemployment and loss of health insurance. "The VA must commit to improving the accuracy and timeliness of the benefits delivery system. Adequate staffing levels, along with proper training and greater accountability for claims workers and better use of technology are essential," said DAV National Commander Raymond E. Dempsey. "It is unacceptable that America's veterans have to wait months - or years, in some cases - to receive the benefits they've earned."

For the past 23 years, the IB has been a blueprint for the resource requirements for the VA. According to last year's IB, President George W. Bush's 2009 budget was short by \$3 billion in key areas such as healthcare, prosthetics research, benefits processing, and the construction of new hospitals and clinics. And the 110th Congress, after testimony from the co-authors of the IB, closed this gap. "For more than two decades, The Independent Budget has served as a voice of advocacy for American veterans by providing the White House and Congress with a roadmap for funding the Department of Veterans Affairs. At no time in our history has the need of the returning veteran been so great, the service of the VA so critical, and the recommendations of The Independent Budget so relevant as they are today. The full implementation of The Independent Budget recommendations will ensure the sufficient, timely, and predictable funding so crucial to delivering the health care and other benefits our veterans have earned. The honorable and selfless service of our American heroes deserves no less," said AMVETS National Commander John C. Hapner.

FIELD OF HEROES

A TRIBUTE TO EACH OF OUR CASUALTIES
IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Memorial Day Weekend

OPEN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING MAY 22-23-24-25, 2009
DAILY CEREMONY at 7:00 pm

CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD
7801 Diamondback Dr, Pocatello, Idaho

ONLY
MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE
OF ITS KIND
IN THE NATION



YELLOW RIBBON CAMPAIGN of IDAHO

AMERICAN LEGION, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE,
POW/MIA AWARENESS RALLY, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, DISABLED AMERICAN
VETERANS, CITIZENS OF IDAHO

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

LEGISLATION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS AS OF MARCH 16, 2009
H-22	Amends existing law relating to state veterans homes to remove administrators in charge of from the Department of Health and Welfare Director's powers and duties.	Signed by the Governor effective July 1, 2009
S-1009	Amends existing law relating to Veterans Services to provide the Administrator of the Division of Veterans Services additional power and authority to administer the veterans education programs in the state (SAA).	Signed by the Governor effective July 1, 2009
H-24	Adds to and amends existing law relating to special motor vehicle plates to provide for Gold Star License Plates and to provide for crediting certain monies to the Veterans Support Fund and to revise the use of fund monies.	
S-1008	Amends existing law relating to fish and game to provide that specified military veterans shall not be required to procure certain licenses and tags and provide for the free issuance of permits and tags to specified military veterans.	
RULES	DESCRIPTION	STATUS AS OF MARCH 16, 2009
21-0101-0801	The Division has been involved in increasingly complicated appeals. The revisions align the appeals process with the Administrative Procedure Act and provide changes designed to accommodate more complicated appeals. The Division has also noted gaps in its rules concerning notices to applicants and residents. The revisions provide provisions to address these gaps. The revisions establish provisions addressing notices of transfer and notices of discharge for bases not previously addressed. They allow the Administrator to designate a hearing officer other than the Veterans Affairs Commission where the issues are legally complex or where the Commission does not have sufficient time to handle the matter. The proposed rule also revise the procedures relating to appeals to provide a more efficient process that aligns the procedures with the Administrative Procedure Act.	If approved by the Legislature, effective at the end of the 2009 session
21-0104-0802	The public has assembled on the upper level of the veterans cemetery by the flag pole to watch fireworks displays throughout the valley, bringing with them beverage coolers, blankets, BBQ equipment, etc. and having an outing prior to the evening fireworks. Although a very advantageous spot to watch the fireworks, the veterans cemetery is not an appropriate place for such activities. The rule change is necessary to provide that the veterans cemetery will be closed at 6:00 p.m. when fireworks displays are planned on the Order of the Division Administrator.	If approved by the Legislature, effective at the end of the 2009 session
21-0105-0801	The expense for operating a transportation service has escalated recently. This rule change increases the reimbursement to transportation providers for transporting disabled veterans to medical appointments.	If approved by the Legislature, effective at the end of the 2009 session
21-0104-0901	38 C.F.R. Section 39.5(d) mandates that states receiving a grant for a veterans cemetery must deny interment to individuals convicted of certain capital crimes or who have avoided conviction due to flight. The rule change is necessary to impose the requirements of 38 C.F.R. Section 39.5(d) on applicants for interment in the veterans cemetery.	Adopted as temporary rule effective November 14, 2008. Rule not before Legislature for review, but will promulgate proposed rule after session ends
21-0104-0801	Defining the fees for interment, disinterment and reinterment as the amount of reimbursement paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs maintains the ability of applicants to determine the fee quickly while allowing the Division to recoup the full amount of federal funds available for its services. rule change clarifies the fees for interment, disinterment and reinterment as the amount of reimbursement paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.	If approved by the Legislature, effective at the end of the 2009 session

SHINSEKI SWORN IN, VOWS 21ST CENTURY SERVICE TO VETERANS

News Release, January 21, 2009

Retired Army General Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office on January 21st as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following confirmation by the Senate.

"The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st century organization focused on the Nation's Veterans as its clients," Shinseki said.

Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days that realizes the vision of President Obama to transform the VA into an organization that is people-centric, results-driven, and forward-looking. Key issues on his agenda include smooth activation of an enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible veterans can begin using next fall, streamlining the disability claims system, leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services, and opening the VA's health care system to veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff, takes the reins of a 284,000-employee organization delivering health care and financial benefits to millions of veterans and survivors under a \$98 billion budget authorized this year through networks of regional benefits offices and health care facilities from coast to coast.

Born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1965. He served two combat tours and was wounded in action in Vietnam. He served with distinction in Europe, the Pacific, and stateside, eventually becoming the Army's senior leader from June 1999 to June 2003. Retired from military service in August 2003, Shinseki's military decorations include three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. Shinseki succeeds Dr. James B. Peake as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

STATEMENT FROM PRESS SECRETARY ROBIN GIBBS

News Release, March 18, 2009

Press Secretary Robin Gibbs made the following statement on President Obama's strong commitment to America's veterans.

"The President has consistently stated that he is committed to working with veterans on the details of the 2010 VA Budget Proposal. The President demonstrated his deep commitment to veterans by proposing the largest increase in the VA budget in 30 years and calling VSO and MSO leaders into the White House for an unprecedented meeting to discuss various aspects of the budget proposal. In considering the third party billing issue, the administration was seeking to maximize the resources available for veterans; however, the President listened to concerns raised by the VSOs that this might, under certain circumstances, affect veterans and their families' ability to access health care. Therefore, the President has instructed that its consideration be dropped. The President wants to continue a constructive partnership with the VSOs and MSOs and is grateful to those VSOs and MSOs who have worked in good faith with him on the budget proposal."

NEW VHA DIRECTIVE TO PROVIDE GLASSES AND HEARING AIDS

This new directive allows the VA to provide glasses and hearing aids to those who are not service-connected for those conditions (Priority Groups 6-8). In the past these were available only to those service-connected for the condition. These services are now considered part of the preventative care package for all veterans enrolled in the VA who meet certain criteria. Veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system are eligible for battery replacement and repair of hearing aids even though those aids were purchased from a private source.

Even though glasses and hearing aids may be provided at no charge, there may be a co-pay required for those in group 6-8. Audiology is a specialty clinic with a \$50 dollar co-pay for some services. There is no co-pay for the devices or the batteries. There are no charges for visits for the purpose of adjusting, repairing or modifying hearing aids.

The following link outlines the requirements for obtaining eye glasses and hearing aids.
www1.va.gov/vhpublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1789.

EDWARDS APPLAUDS PROPOSED \$4.9 BILLION INCREASE IN VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET

News Release, February 26, 2009

Representative Chet Edwards applauded the funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget outline released by the White House on February 26th. "I want to salute President Obama for honoring our nation's veterans with the largest VA budget increase ever requested by any President. The President is keeping his promise to those who have kept their promise to defend our nation," said Edwards, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

"This is the first time any President, Republican or Democrat, has proposed a VA budget that matches the Independent Budget compiled by national veterans organizations, including AMVETS, the Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and is supported by 62 other veterans, military, and health care organizations," Edwards said. "This budget will mean the doors of our VA hospitals will be re-opened to hundreds of thousands of middle-income veterans who honorably served their country but were denied VA care. For the 5.8 million veterans already using VA health care, it will mean more doctors, shorter waiting times, and better care," said Edwards.

The Administration is requesting \$52.5 billion – an increase of \$4.9 billion over last year. The veterans' Independent Budget sought \$52.1 billion. The Budget Summary also includes the following:

- Increases funding by \$25 billion above baseline over the next five years.
- Expands eligibility for veterans health care to over 500,000 veterans by 2013.
- Provides greater benefits to veterans who are medically retired from service.

Full details of the budget request are expected to be released in April. Edwards is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and is a member of the House Budget Committee.

AKAKA PRAISES OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FOR DROPPING PROPOSAL TO CHARGE VETERANS' INSURERS FOR COMBAT INJURIES

News Release, March 18, 2009

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, called Secretary Eric Shinseki and issued the following statement praising President Barack Obama for dropping a proposal to shift the responsibility to pay for care for service-connected injuries from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the private insurers of wounded veterans:

"I thanked Secretary Shinseki for listening to the concerns the veterans service organizations, my colleagues and I had over this proposal to charge veterans' insurers for combat injuries. President Obama made the right decision not to move forward. Veterans' care and benefits are a cost of war and treatment for conditions directly related to service is the responsibility of the government alone. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration to enact the President's funding increases and targeted programs to help VA adapt to the changing needs of veterans and their families," said Akaka.

REGISTER WITH THE CAMP LEJEUNE HISTORIC DRINKING WATER REGISTRY

Did you live or work at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune 1987 or before? If so, please register with the Marine Corps by visiting www.marines.mil/clsurvey or by calling the Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at (877) 261-9782, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.

In the early 1980's, two solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), both unregulated at the time, were found in two water systems serving the Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point areas. Certain drinking water wells were identified as the source of the chemicals and were taken out of service in 1984 and 1985.

The Department of the Navy is funding two independent research initiatives. The Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is conducting a health study to see if there is an association between exposure to the water and certain adverse health effects. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is conducting a comprehensive review of scientific literature and potential health risks related to exposures at Camp Lejeune. Upon completion of the research, the Marine Corps will directly notify those on the registry through direct mail and email.

Camp Lejeune water meets or exceeds all environmental standards today. Drinking water wells at Camp Lejeune are tested four times a year for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in addition to monthly drinking water sampling. The base is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations to ensure safe drinking water.

WHEELERS FOR THE WOUNDED EVENT IN BOISE

The Wheelers for the Wounded is a program to provide a weekend of off-roading for our country's wounded military members. It is an opportunity to experience a much deserved adventure of fun and excitement as these veterans traverse the rugged Idaho desert in some of the most capable vehicles built.

This event will occur July 10, 2009, in the greater Boise area. Wounded servicemen and women will get to experience the beautiful country they unselfishly gave up so much for. Members of the Hillbilly Rock Krew will host the event and accompany them on the trails. After the run, veterans will be treated to a terrific meal, and an enjoyable time will be had by all involved!

All wounded servicemen and women interested in attending the event, are asked to contact rcksqrl@hillbillyrockkrew.com, so they can sign you up and accommodate any special needs you have. As the event is further arranged, more information will be posted on their website, hillbillyrockkrew.com.

The Hillbilly Rock Krew will be hosting many different charity events leading up to the event on July 9th, so there will be NO fees for the wounded veterans and their immediate family members for the event, food, and festivities.

VA CLINIC TO BE CREATED IN MOUNTAIN HOME

By: Robert J. Taylor, The Mountain Home News

January 21, 2009

Allen Jamison retired from the Air Force in November 2007. Since then, he said he's made three trips to the Boise VA Medical Center. "It would be a whole lot nicer if we had something closer," he said, adding he doesn't go to Boise very often because he doesn't like to drive in the city. Although he also visits the hospital at Mountain Home Air Force Base, he said he would probably utilize a clinic in Mountain Home more than the hospital in Boise or on base. With that idea in mind, the Boise VA Medical Center sought, and got, approval to open an out-patient clinic in Mountain Home.

The clinic is expected to be open within the next year, said Grant Ragsdale, Associate Director of the Boise VA Medical Center. Ragsdale said the VA will put together a planning team to determine the clinic's location and other details, though he said they will look to lease an existing building. The hours will most likely be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center will be used for scheduled appointments and not emergency services, Ragsdale said. "It's part of our effort to improve access to our patients so they can get care closer to their homes without having to come to Boise," Ragsdale said.

The additional clinic in Mountain Home is part of an ongoing process to improve that access, Ragsdale said, pointing to clinics in Twin Falls, Caldwell, and Salmon as part of that effort. Ragsdale said Mountain Home was the next logical place to expand the VA services because of the high concentration of veterans that live in the area.

SAVE PAPER AND MAILING COSTS BY RECEIVING THE BULLETIN VIA EMAIL

In our continual effort to reduce costs and lessen our "ecological footprint," the Office of Veterans Advocacy is again asking for your help. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, as well as the amount of paper used, we are asking you to volunteer to receive the bulletin via email.

The bulletin will arrive in your in-box every quarter as a Word document, which will allow you to forward or print and disseminate as many copies as you like. In addition to receiving the quarterly bulletin, you will also receive our annual Veterans Resource Directory via email.

If you have not already done so and can help us with our goal of reducing costs and the saving paper, please email Jennel Binsky at jennel.binsky@veterans.idaho.gov. Thanks for your help with this most worthwhile endeavor! And don't forget you can always view and print the Bulletin and Resource Directory by visiting our website at www.veterans.idaho.gov.

DAV VAN SCHEDULES TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE AND WALLA WALLA VAMC'S

Wednesdays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Genesee, Moscow, Viola, Potlatch, Tensed, Plummer, and Worley. Arrives Spokane at 9:30 a.m.

Fridays: Spokane VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Uniontown, Colton, Pullman, Colfax, Steptoe, Rosalia, and Spangle, WA. Arrives Spokane at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

Thursdays: Walla Walla VA Medical Center. 6:00 a.m. departure from the State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue.

Picks up in Clarkston, Pomeroy, Dayton, Waitsburg, and Dixie, WA. Arrives at Walla Walla at 8:30 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Walla Walla VA Medical Center (888) 687-8863 ext. 22529

*****If you are interested in being a volunteer driver, please call Voluntary Services at (509) 434-7503*****

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 6:00 a.m. departure from Libby, MT.

Picks up in Troy MT, Bonner's Ferry, Sandpoint, Priest River, and Newport WA. Arrives at Spokane VA Medical Center at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Daily: Door to door pick up and return, times variable.

All appointments for rides must be made 48 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

SANDPOINT & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays:

Picks up in Noxon, Clark Fork, Hope, Sandpoint, Laclede, Priest River, Newport, Diamond Lake, Chattaroy. Arrives at Walla Walla at 9:00 a.m.

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940 ext. 7019.

SALT LAKE CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER

April 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 27, 29

May 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 27, 29

June 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30

All appointments for rides should be made 24 hours in advance.

Call Heidi Hopper at the DAV Transportation Office (208) 221-0362 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003.



MOBILE CLINIC

APRIL - 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>On Station</i>	2 <i>On Station</i>	3	4
5	6 <i>On Station</i>	7 Moses Lake	8 Moses Lake	9 Moses Lake	10	11
12	13	14 Kettle Falls	15 Republic	16 Okanogan	17 Okanogan	18
19	20	21 Libby	22 Libby	23 Libby	24 Bonners Ferry	25
26	27 Moscow	28 Osburn	29 Osburn	30 <i>On Station</i>		

MAY - 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>On Station</i>	5 Moses Lake	6 Moses Lake	7 Moses Lake	8	9
10	11	12 Kettle Falls	13 Republic	14 Okanogan	15 Okanogan	16
17	18	19 Libby	20 Libby	21 Libby	22 Bonners Ferry	23
24	25	26 Moscow	27 Osburn	28 Osburn	29	30
31						

JUNE - 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>On Station</i>	2 Moses Lake	3 Moses Lake	4 Moses Lake	5	6
7	8	9 Kettle Falls	10 Republic	11 Okanogan	12 Okanogan	13
14	15	16 Libby	17 Libby	18 Libby	19 Bonners Ferry	20
21	22 Moscow	23 Osburn	24 Osburn	25 <i>On Station</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>On Station</i>	30 <i>On Station</i>				