



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Washington  
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Bulletin February 2024

## **February's spotlight is on VA Voluntary Service and WDVA Volunteers**

Although February is known to be full of paper hearts and chocolate, it has a few things going for it.

February has *National Salute to Veteran Patients*, *National Donor Day*, *National Do a Grouch a Favor Day* and interesting weather and seasons.

In the Northern Hemisphere the third month of winter is usually the snowiest month of the year and in the Southern Hemisphere the last month of summer is wrapping up.

*National Donor Day* is observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. Its purpose is to increase awareness about organ donation and the lives it saves. In the United States, more than 120,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ donation. Many Veterans are in need of organs. Sharing information about the need for more donors can be a conversation that you can have at a Unit or District meeting. Organ donation is a selfless act that can transform the lives of others.

The favor you do on *National Do a Grouch a Favor Day* can be simple or elaborate. Doing a favor to a "grouch" is going to feel right for you! Think of all the Veterans that are hospitalized, or on hospices who may be "grouchy" due to their health. During this time of the year Units can send Valentines or various greeting cards to let our Veterans know that we appreciate them. Junior members are a great asset, involve them and you will be surprised as to what they can do!

Being a VA Volunteer or WDVA Veterans Home volunteer is the "heart" of the *Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation* program. It fulfills the mission "to enhance the lives of veterans, military, and their families," ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

The purpose of *National Salute to Veteran Patients February 11-17, 2024* is to pay tribute to Veterans, increase community awareness "of the role of the VA medical center," to encourage visits to hospitalized Veterans, and to encourage volunteerism with the VA.

This observation is meant for some nine million Veterans getting care in VA medical centers, VA outpatient clinics, those receiving VA domiciliary care and Veterans in nursing homes.

The needs are enormous at VA medical facilities and Veterans Homes and YOU are wanted.

Please visit the following websites to find out how you may volunteer:

<https://www.va.gov/puget-sound-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate/>

<https://www.dva.wa.gov/veterans-service-members-and-their-families/veterans-homes/volunteers>

Also see the *Department of Washington Constitution and Bylaws - Standing Rules Art. VI, Dept. Chairs, Section 12 VA & R*: <https://walegion-aux.org/dept%2Fnational-documents>

Service Not Self

Diana Hagen

2023-2024 Dept. of WA VA & R Chair