

Government-to-Government Relationships Annual Report January-December 2007

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) strives to foster cooperative relationships with the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon as it continues to fulfill its mission: Advocating for Oregon veterans, their families, and their survivors. As such, this annual report identifies activities that ODVA participated in during the 2007 calendar year.

Continued efforts to strengthen relationships with the Native American tribes of Oregon are mutually beneficial for Government-to-Government effectiveness. This report identifies ODVA's activities during the 2007 calendar year in regard to the Government-to-Government relationships with the Native American tribes of Oregon. We continually work to help Oregon's veterans, their families and their survivors.

Tribal Activities and Interactions during 2007

- Many ODVA administrators and staff attended the Tribal Information Day at the Oregon State Capitol. (May)
- On Memorial Day, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard posted the colors at a ceremony to add names of Oregon's fallen at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial located on the ODVA grounds. Deputy Director Paula Brown was a Memorial Day event guest speaker at the West Valley Veterans Memorial at Grande Ronde. (May)
- The ODVA newsletter *VETS NEWS* included an article centered on the trek made by Grand Ronde tribal member Steve Rife as he walked along 'Oregon's Trail of Tears'. An extension of the 2,200-mile Trail of Tears that begins in South Carolina—a route Native American tribes used during their forced relocation in the 1830s and 1840s. (June)
- Director Jim Willis, Veterans' Services Administrator Val Conley and several other ODVA staff attended the 15th Annual Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Veterans' Pow-Wow. ODVA Veterans' Service Officers partnered with Grand Ronde and Yamhill County to provide information and assist veterans and their families with benefits. (July)
- Governor's Advisory Committee member Evelyn Anderson represented the Department at the annual Tribute to Veterans hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians. (July)
- The Department participated in the United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO) quarterly meetings along with the Northwest Indian Veterans Association (NIVA), one of the UVGO's newest members. (July, October)

- The NIVA presented residents of the Oregon Veterans Home with the Warriors Medal of Valor during a special visit. The Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association provided assistance. (September)
- Deputy Director Paula Brown attended the presentation of Honorable Service Medals at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City. She also attended and participated in that city's Celebration of Honor that recognized the contributions of all veterans. (September)
- ODVA invited tribes to have a representative participate in County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) training conference in Yachats. (October)
- Deputy Director Brown attended the State and Tribal Government-to-Government Summit in Warm Springs. (November)
- There is a standing invitation to the members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to attend the Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee meetings. NIVA attended all meetings in 2007. (Quarterly)

Planned Tribal Activities and Interactions for 2008

- ODVA will continue the practice of inviting members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to attend the quarterly Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee meetings.
- Work continues on a publication of veterans' memorials. This publication will also contain tribal veterans' memorials. ODVA will seek their assistance in gathering information.
- The Director, Deputy Director, and other appropriate staff will continue to attend meetings and events held by tribes or pertaining to tribal veterans affairs.
- The ODVA office will continue including the nine federally recognized tribes and tribal Veterans Service Officers in the Veterans' Service Officers Directory.
- ODVA and the Public Information staff will continue to promote and report on tribal veteran issues and events both online at www.Oregon.gov/ODVA and in the bi-monthly *VETS NEWS* publication.
- ODVA Veterans' Services section will continue to invite the Tribal Veterans' Service Officers to annual CVSO training.

Key Contacts:

Jim Willis
Director
503-373-2388

Paula Brown
Deputy Director
503-373-2387

Val Conley
VSD Administrator
503-373-2249

Written correspondence should be sent to: 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285