



Washington National Guard Family Programs

Weekly Update

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Yakima

John (509) 469-4638

Wing Family Program Coordinators

141st ARW - Spokane

Mary (509) 247-7009

194th RSW - Camp Murray

Angela (253) 512-3397

ATTN: ARMY TEENS*

You've Got... algebra homework
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 scholarship essay
 biology lab report
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*For children of: Active, Wounded, Reserve Component, National Guard and Army civilians (Including Survivors).
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Program opened to more jobless Training Benefits offers longer unemployment while in approved school

BY LIBBY TUCKER
COLUMBIAN STAFF WRITER

A Washington job training program is being expanded to include more of the unemployed under a new law that goes into effect on Labor Day.

Disabled or low-income workers or recently discharged veterans, including members of the Washington National Guard, that sign up for unemployment benefits will become eligible on Monday for the Washington Employment Security Department's Training Benefits Program.

Qualified workers receive unemployment benefits for up to 52 weeks, rather than the standard maximum of 26 weeks, if they enroll in training for a new occupation through an approved school. Unlike other workers on the unemployment rolls, training-benefits participants don't have to look for a new job while they're enrolled in training.

The program doesn't cover tuition costs, but instead helps workers pay their bills for up to a year while they re-train for a new career. The idea is to retrain workers from shrinking industries such as construction and manufacturing for jobs in growing fields.

"This is for dislocated workers who really need an extra hand getting into the job market and moving up the ladder," said Sheryl Hutchison, a spokeswoman for the Employment Security Department.

Participants in the program won't necessarily land a job once training is complete, however.

"This doesn't impact the economy in the sense that things will get better; it doesn't create more jobs," said Scott Bailey, Southwest Washington regional economist with Employment Security. "It creates more qualified applicants and in the long-term it's a good thing."

Who qualifies?

The extended benefits are good news for National Guard troops in the 81st Brigade Combat Team who returned in August from a one-year deployment to Iraq, says Tom Riggs, Washington National Guard J-9 transition chief. Of the 2,600 soldiers returning, almost half requested assistance with employment and 971 will apply to receive the extended unemployment benefits to enroll in training programs, Riggs said.

In the past, members of the military were eligible for limited training benefits after a complicated approval process, said Riggs. Now the program is available to unemployed workers who were honorably discharged from the military in the past 12 months, as well as Washington National Guard members who need help finding work locally.

"This program will directly benefit them," Riggs said. "This gives us the time to properly train them" for new jobs.

Workers disabled by an injury or illness, along with low-income workers that earned less than \$11.11 an hour — 130 percent of the state's minimum wage — who need training to get a higher-paying job are also newly eligible for the program.

Sign up

The state sets aside \$20 million each year for the training benefits program and has \$80 million total in the program's trust fund. The program has served 657 unemployed workers over the past 13 months, but the a new budget allows for many more participants, Hutchison said.

More information about the training benefits program is available by phone at 800-318-6022 or online at: www.esd.wa.gov/uibenefits/specialservices/training/training-benefits.php.

Free Admission to the Puyallup Fair

Admission is FREE for active, retired and reserve military and National Guard and their dependents, plus disabled veterans with a valid military ID on Sept. 14 & 21.

Shortcut to: <http://www.thefair.com/puyallup-fair/>



Website Allows Deployed Parents to Connect with Children

[MyChildMyMilitary.com](http://mychildmymilitary.com) is an interactive website designed to provide military families with a real-time platform to share books and activities with their children. MyChildMyMilitary.com's activities are geared towards children of all ages, interests and educational levels, with books for pre-readers, advanced readers and struggling readers on a broad range of topics.

Thanks to grant funding, the website's service is currently offered free to military families.

<http://mychildmymilitary.com/##1>

DEAR COMRADES

We would like to express our deepest sympathy for the loss of your brothers and sisters-in-arms during these times of the Global War on Terrorism. This is a gathering of people with a common sorrow. We would be honored if you could join us for "Time of Remembrance" gathering on Sept. 26th and 27th, 2009.

Throughout our history the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States have placed the security of our Nation before their own safety. America will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifice. On September 26th and 27th, 2009, we will honor those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Time of Remembrance is for the purpose of recognizing and honoring these FALLEN HEROES. It is to acknowledge the anguish and suffering experienced by those surviving our fallen warriors, including family members and fellow military unit personnel. It is a soothing and healing atmosphere.

Time of Remembrance wishes to extend their gratitude to the families who stood by our service men and women in these times of Global War on Terrorism. Each of the Fallen has left behind loved ones who carry a burden of grief. A gathering such as this demonstrates that they need not suffer their grief alone.

We look forward to seeing you at the gathering. [We are Family](#)

Most Sincerely,

Time of Remembrance

Planning Committee, 2009

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF "TIME OF REMEMBRANCE"?

The purpose of our tribute on September 26th and 27th, 2009, is to gather the families of the Fallen Heroes from the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Hawaii, during the time of the Global War on Terrorism and to acknowledge your sacrifice. This tribute, being held in different locations of the Tri-Cities Washington, honors those who have died for their country, and the families they left behind. The focus is on the fallen and those who grieve their loss.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MAKE THIS TRIBUTE SUCCESSFUL?

We have learned that our fallen soldiers not only left behind their families from civilian life, but many brothers/sisters-in-arms that are feeling the same pain of loss.

We were strangers in the beginning, unsure of what was ahead, hesitant to speak and afraid of the dead, unable to talk about the pain that was buried deep in our souls. The frozen feeling in our throats soon melted and, through conversation, we cleansed our hearts of that cold emptiness and quickly fill that place with feelings for our new found kin. We all have stories of our own and of the lost that need to be told. These are folks who understand them and long to share. What a comfort to have validation and true understanding.

This is a chance to bring our Fallen Warriors' families together, to draw a full circle of closeness and understanding. Not to be afraid of one another. Each family needing the assurance that we are there together for the same reason. To heal and to grow forward, together.

WHAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE DURING THE WEEKEND?

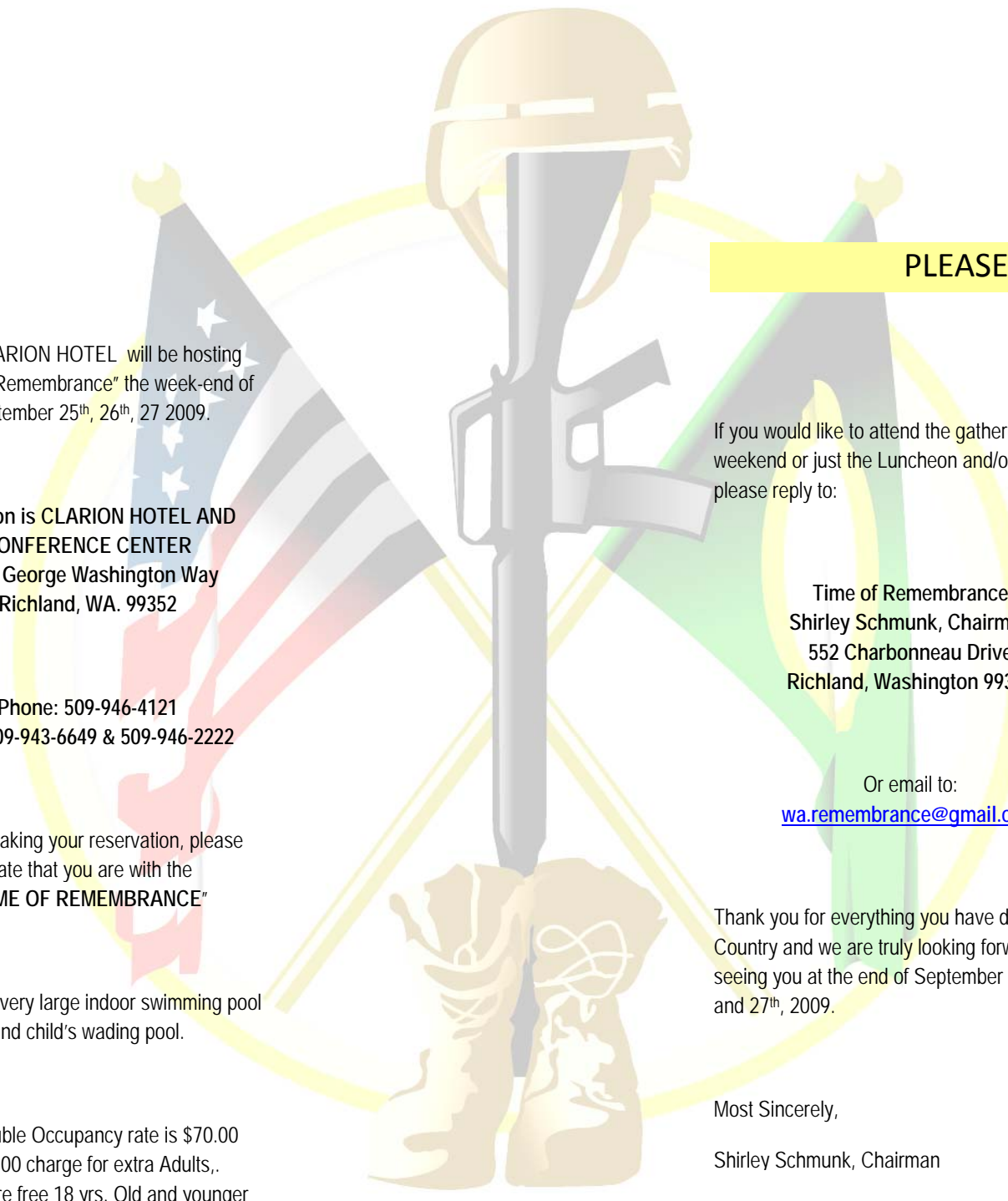
You are cordially invited to join the families of our lost soldiers that you served with on the home front and/or in the battle zone. We welcome your presence.

We will start the weekend on Friday night with a Public Concert featuring Linda Lanier. Linda is a National & International Nashville recording artist with songs charting the globe. We will be at FLAT TOP PARK, WEST RICHLAND on Bombing Range Road & Van Giessen. The concert will begin at 7:00pm. Donations will be accepted at the gate. BYOC (or bring your own chair).

Opening ceremonies will begin Saturday morning at the Clarion Hotel at 9:00 am. There will be several workshops throughout the day. Michael Ogle from Veterans Outreach Center in Spokane is hosting Battle Buddies. 11:30 am Ambassador Ryan Crocker will receive families and military personnel for lunch. Ambassador will speak to the audience, also agreeing to questions and answers.

A private Dinner for Families and Military will start at 5:00 pm. At 6:45 pm the guests will be taken to the Regional VA Memorial at Columbia Park in Kennewick for a beautiful Candlelight Vigil to gather for a moment of reflection and healing. The vigil is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm. The public is welcomed to attend.

Sunday, September 27th, 2009, the public will also be welcome to attend, a very special tribute given to our fallen servicemen and servicewomen by General James R. Mattis, USMC, current Commander, US Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation for NATO.



PLEASE RSVP

The CLARION HOTEL will be hosting
"Time of Remembrance" the week-end of
September 25th, 26th, 27 2009.

Location is CLARION HOTEL AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
1515 George Washington Way
Richland, WA. 99352

Phone: 509-946-4121
Fax: 509-943-6649 & 509-946-2222

When making your reservation, please
state that you are with the
"TIME OF REMEMBRANCE"

There is a very large indoor swimming pool
and child's wading pool.

Single/Double Occupancy rate is \$70.00
with a \$10.00 charge for extra Adults.,
Children are free 18 yrs. Old and younger

If you would like to attend the gathering for the
weekend or just the Luncheon and/or Dinner,
please reply to:

Time of Remembrance
Shirley Schmunk, Chairman
552 Charbonneau Drive
Richland, Washington 99352

Or email to:
wa.remembrance@gmail.com

Thank you for everything you have done for our
Country and we are truly looking forward to
seeing you at the end of September 25th, 26th,
and 27th, 2009.

Most Sincerely,

Shirley Schmunk, Chairman

A TIME OF REMEMBRANCE



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Websites

State Web-site

familyprograms.washingtonguard.org

National Web-site

www.guardfamily.org

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