

SMART

GVERNMENT



Fall 2008

Simple Idea Paying Off For DOT

How one suggestion is saving the agency over a million dollars

License Plates For Vets

Department of Veterans Affairs finds new way to help those who served

Also Inside...

Coordinator Spotlight

Other ideas across the country



DID YOU KNOW?

The Secretary of State published Washington's first voter pamphlet in 1914.

**State Government
Calendar of Events**

**Nov. 4
ELECTION DAY**

**Nov. 7
PRODUCTIVITY BOARD
MEETING**

Secretary of State

**Nov. 11
VETERANS DAY**

**Nov. 13
WOMEN'S VETERANS
RECOGNITION DAY**

Department of Veterans Affairs

**Nov. 14
WA. STATE MILITARY
KIDS & FAMILY SUMMIT**

Department of Veterans Affairs

**Nov. 18
PUBLIC MEETING:
REDUCING TOXIC
THREATS**

Department of Ecology

Lacey Headquarters

8:30am-Noon

**Nov. 27
THANKSGIVING DAY**



Truck Shift Light Suggestion Saves DOT Millions

It was an idea as simple as shifting gears when you're supposed to.

That was the suggestion that Department of Transportation Fleet Administrator Greg Hansen submitted to the Productivity Board after discovering that when shifting within the appropriate torque range, the 525 trucks that currently use manual transmission within the agency would increase fuel mileage, which would result in significant savings for the organization.

Hansen proposed that each of these vehicles be fitted with a light that would indicate to the driver when it was time to shift.



This simple change will net the Department of Transportation \$1,801,800 in first-year savings, and also help conserve emissions on our state's highways.

Hansen wouldn't take full credit for the idea. He also attributed the suggestion's success to the rest of his staff.

"It was a team effort," he said upon receiving his recognition award from Secretary of State Sam Reed. "We all came together to make this solution happen."

The Productivity Board is committed to excellence in public service by demonstrating leadership. The Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Program encourage public employees to create, innovate and apply first-rate ideas.

Look who's saving Washington money!

Joel Freedman and Gary Soderberg were able to save the Department of Health \$38,400 by suggesting a more cost-effective way for the agency to inventory, order stock room supplies.



Suggestions Across the U.S.

These are just a few examples of what other states are doing, and how their employees are taking advantage of their Suggestion Programs.

Oregon



Stephanie Stevens of the Employment Department suggested that the agency stop mass mailings of their training software for new employees and instead post it online. Her suggestion saved the State of Oregon \$22,119.

North Carolina



An employee of the Department of General Administration suggested that the agency rebuild its vehicles in place of purchasing them new. He was awarded \$100,000 for his innovative idea.

Virginia



An employee with the Department of Transportation suggested that the Commonwealth Transportation Board monthly meeting minutes be placed online, reducing printing costs for the agency.



DVA rolls out new license plates for Vets

With Veterans Day just around the corner, the Department of Veterans Affairs is now offering its new Armed Forces license plates.

Since 2006, the agency has issued license plates to those eligible with six separate designs, each containing a symbol representing a different branch of armed service to include Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Washington National Guard.

The majority of the proceeds from the \$40 license plates will help support the agency's service for homeless veterans, and maintenance of future state veterans' cemeteries in Eastern Washington.

If you have served any time in the United States military, are currently active duty or serving in the Guard or Reserve, or are a family member of any veteran, you are eligible to purchase a plate at any Vehicle Licensing Office.

It's the perfect way to honor our veterans.

For additional information, including personalizing your plates, go to www.dva.wa.gov, or call 1-800-562-0132 opt. 1.

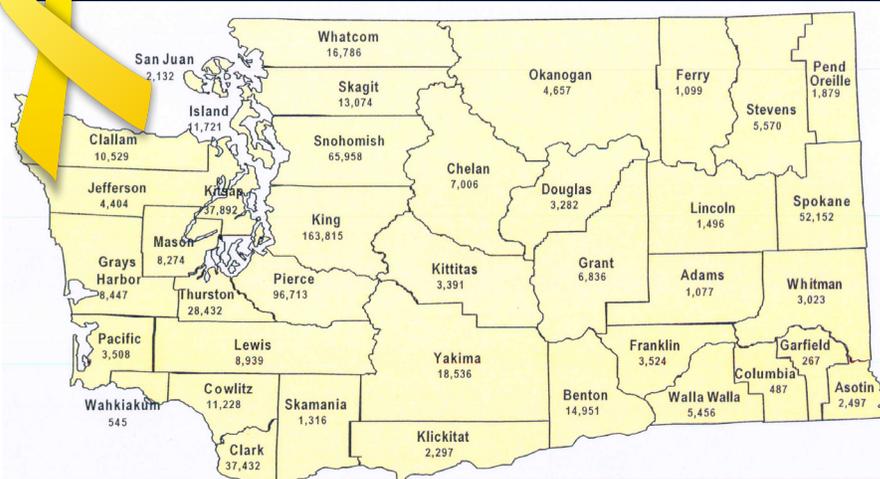
Employee saves ESD valuable time with suggestion

Jim Little, an adjudicator with the Employment Security Department, thought he could eliminate redundancy for adjudicators at the King County Telecenter. The system the agency had been working with forced it to have to open multiple programs and input the same Social Security number into each program, wasting valuable time.

Little submitted an Employee Suggestion to the Productivity Board, proposing that an IT programmer develop a macro command to open all the programs needed to work on a claimant's case. After inputting the Social Security number, one key stroke could place all the programs in cascade fashion on the PC screen.

The idea was a success, and Jim Little will receive an award of \$200 by the Employment Security Department.

WASHINGTON VETERAN POPULATION BY COUNTY





AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



Washington State Department of
Veterans Affairs

“Serving those who served”

The Department of Veterans Affairs was created in 1976 to help all of the brave men and women in our great state who have served their country with honor. The agency is entrusted to serve as the advocate for all VA entitlements, help heal the seen and unseen wounds of war, give help to our homeless veterans, provide quality care in our many Veterans Homes, and honor those who served in their final resting place.

AGENCY DIRECTOR

John E. Lee is a Vietnam War veteran and a retired Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army. He was appointed as the director DVA on November 1, 2005. Under his leadership, he has fostered a workplace where people are respected and honored for their commitment to our state’s veterans.



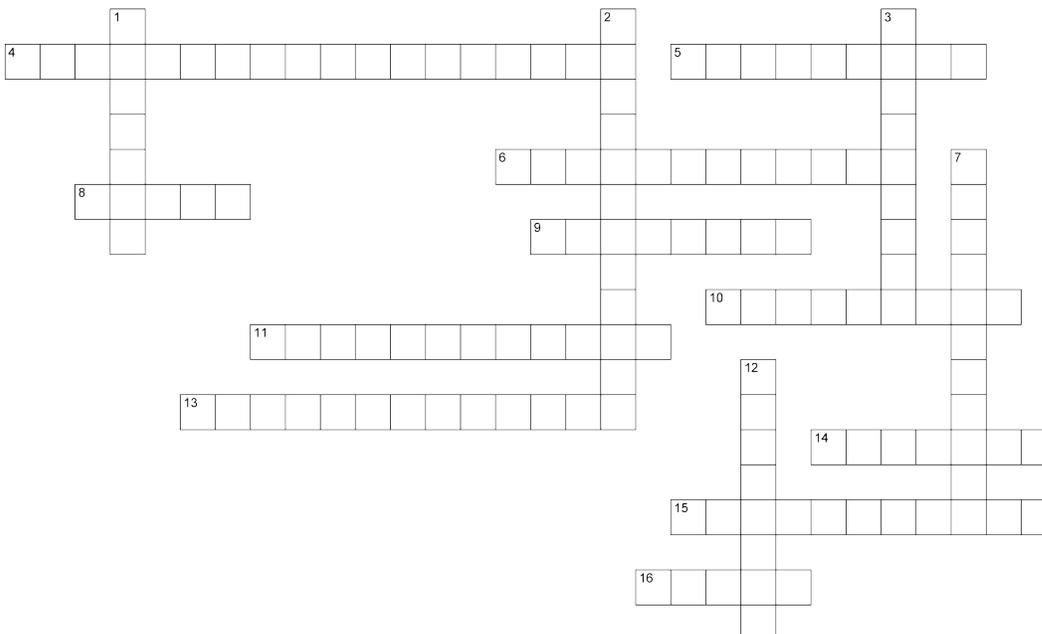
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- Governor Christine Gregoire - Ex-Officio
- Secretary of State Sam Reed - Chair
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VETERAN'S DAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Our National Anthem
- The most recent war fought by America
- The document that holds our fundamental laws and principles
- The name of the flower closely associated with Veterans
- Number of times the American flag is folded
- Life, liberty, and the pursuit of...
- Our Nation's Capital
- First and last name of our current Vice President
- Army, Navy, Air Force...
- Group that keeps vigil day and night over the Tomb of Unknowns
- Number of years we have officially celebrated Veterans Day

DOWN

- Liberty of a person from slavery, detention or oppression
- What Veterans Day used to be called
- Cemetery where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is located
- The name and avenue on which the White House is located
- The date of Veterans Day