



## *Celebrating our Veterans*

*In this issue:*

[\*\*A Message from the Congresswoman: The importance of honoring our Veterans\*\*](#)

[\*\*Veterans Day Events in Eastern Washington\*\*](#)

[\*\*Thank you Fairchild: Recognizing our Local Troops\*\*](#)

[\*\*Eight Normandy Veterans Receive the Jubilee of Liberty Medal\*\*](#)

[\*\*McMorris Applauds Employer Efforts on Behalf of Veterans\*\*](#)

[\*\*Strengthening College Opportunities for Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces\*\*](#)

*This Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Veterans Day. For over 50 years, this day has provided Americans with the opportunity to pay tribute to the lives and sacrifices of our country's veterans. We honor and cherish the generations of Americans who have fought for our nation and for peace all through our world.*

*Here in Washington State, we have over a half-million veterans who have served to ensure our freedom and uphold the peace and security of our nation. In our communities, our veterans continue to make significant contributions to advance the growth of civic leadership and participation. Many veterans continue to be of service to all Americans as members of community groups, clubs and organizations that help other veterans.*

*Let us remember each day of every year the priceless contributions our veterans have made to our nation and the world. I am proud of our veterans for their unending gifts of service beyond their military years. They serve as an inspiration for all Americans in generations to come.*

*- Cathy McMorris*

## **Veterans' Day Events in Eastern Washington**

Join Congresswoman McMorris at the following events on the November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor our veterans:

### **Washington State University Veterans' Day Celebration**

WSU Veterans Memorial on WSU campus

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Pullman, Washington

### **Spokane VA Medical Center**

**Ribbon cutting ceremony for new Urgent Care Unit**

2:00 -3:00 pm

### **Honoring Veterans with Flags**

Fairmount Memorial Cemetery

4:00 – 4:30 pm

## **Thank you Fairchild: Recognizing our local troops**

Fairchild Air Force Base is home to 20 units representing the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and the US Joint Forces Command. Fairchild plays a vital role in fighting terrorism by providing air-refueling to the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps during joint operations. Fairchild houses the only active duty air-refueling wing on the West Coast; and since the attacks in September 2001, Fairchild's tanker mission has expanded to meet an important aspect on the Global War on Terror.

This year's Veterans Day celebration is especially significant as our country remains committed to fighting the War on Terror and as men and women in our Armed forces bravely and patriotically defend our homeland. We all must continue to support our troops who are fighting to keep the world safe from terrorist threats.



McMorris and staff participate in an Air Refueling Mission with the 141<sup>st</sup> Air National Guard

## **Eight Normandy Veterans Receive the Jubilee of Liberty Medal**



It has been over 60 years since the invasion of Normandy, yet the battle remains a constant reminder to all Americans of the value we place on our freedom. McMorris awarded eight D-Day veterans with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal for their part in the Normandy invasion.

McMorris welcomes these brave World War II veterans and their families, and expressed her gratitude for their service to our nation and the world. This Allied invasion, given the name Operation Overlord, was the largest air, land and sea invasion ever. The battle proved to be a critical turning point in World War II and was costly to American lives.

In her remarks, McMorris said, “I have the opportunity to award these brave men for their service to our country and for helping to restore peace to our world at a difficult time.”

The Jubilee of Liberty Medal was created by the Regional Council of Lower Normandy and the Governor of Normandy to honor veterans of Operation Overlord. The medals were originally awarded at a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Normandy in 1994. Many Washington State veterans were unable to receive their medal at that time. McMorris is working to ensure these veterans receive the recognition they deserve.

Any Washington State veteran who was a part of the Normandy Invasion, is invited by McMorris to fill-out and submit an application along with a copy of their Discharge Documents. For more details contact the Spokane District office at (509) 353-2374.

## **McMorris Applauds Employer Efforts on Behalf of Veterans**

As Veterans' Day approaches, McMorris backed a congressional resolution (H. Res. 302) approved by the House of Representatives to recognize the ongoing commitments of those who employ members of the National Guard and other reserve components mobilized in service to the nation.

Passage of the resolution comes nearly one year after the U.S. Department of Labor strengthened rules to protect the employment rights and benefits available to these service men and women. The rights are guaranteed under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), the federal law that protects the jobs of mobilized service members and allows them to return to work with the same seniority status and benefits enjoyed prior to mobilization.

## **Strengthening College Opportunities for Members and Veterans of the Armed Forces**

Congress recently highlighted new educational opportunities and additional benefits and services that members and veterans of America's Armed Forces would receive under a college access bill approved by the Committee in July. The *College Access & Opportunity Act* (H.R. 609) includes additional benefits and flexibility to help military personnel pursue postsecondary education and recognizes the unique circumstances many men and women in uniform face as they transfer in and out of college during a time of war.

To support members and veterans of the military, the *College Access & Opportunity Act*:

- Treats active duty members of the military as independent students for the purposes of need analysis, providing additional flexibility and financial aid options;

- Permits student loan borrowers who are out of school to receive deferments while on active duty, which would allow interest payments on Subsidized Stafford student loans to be waived for active duty military personnel;
- Ensures veterans are able to participate in all TRIO college access programs;
- Provides greater cancellation opportunities in the Perkins Loan program for members of the Armed Services

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