



Tribal Veterans Service Officer Corner

Greetings Veterans & Family Members!

Thank you for reading the inaugural Tribal Veterans Service Office quarterly newsletter. The goal of this newsletter is to provide a comprehensive source of information for Veterans and their families.

Even though there was a pandemic over the past two years, 2021 was very busy! We had four behavioral health trainings; two cultural classes; seven outreach events; we sent five outreach boxes to Tribal Veterans and we held a Virtual Veteran Mental Health Awareness Walk.

In addition to that, the TVSO became accredited and has been successfully processing disability claims for Veterans.

Veterans who are granted service-connection, now have an additional source of income (not taxed); their conditions are deemed service-

connected per Veterans Affairs; and depending on the percentage, they qualify for various State and Veterans Affairs benefits (see list on page 3).

Statistics show that roughly 1/3 of veterans are receiving benefits. That means that 2/3 of Veterans are **not** accessing the benefits they may be eligible for.

This year, my focus is on reaching out and assisting Tribal Veterans with the service-connected disability application process. (I explain the process more in-depth on page 2).

VA can deny your claim, sure—but, they may approve it too. We will never know if we don't ask. That is where I can help you navigate the process and understand the steps. Let's get started!

~ Ramona, TVSO (Accredited)

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TVSO Events & Upcoming Events

2022 VETERANS WELLNESS, MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE AWARENESS VIRTUAL WALK

Veterans, family members of Veterans, and supporters are invited to participate in our 2022 virtual awareness walk!

Walk or run 2.2 miles anytime during the year to bring awareness to veteran mental health and veteran suicide. Each participant who signs up will receive a kit with some goodies to get started.

To receive your t-shirt once you complete the 2.2 miles, email your photo to the TVSO at CTGR TribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org and include your t-shirt size, branch you are walking for, and if you are a Veteran, family, or supporter.

You can also post your t-shirt photo on our FB page as well: @CTGR TVSO Use hashtags: #ctgrmentalhealthwalk, #iamaveteran, and/or #ctgrhonorsveterans

www.grandronde.org/services/social_services/veterans_services | www.facebook.com/CTGRVSO

In collaboration with the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Behavioral Health Department, the Tribal Veterans Service Office will be offering a Fishing Class to Veterans in April.

Details to come!

TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



Tribal Veterans Service Officer



IT2(SW) ~ United States Navy



Filing A Successful Claim for VA Benefits

To file a **successful** claim, you need **three things**:

1. A current, diagnosed disability,
2. An in-service event, injury, or illness; and
3. A medical nexus between the current disability and the in-service event, injury, or illness (a link between 1 and 2).

To prove your claim you need to provide (if you have them):

- 1) Your medical diagnosis, information, and records
- 2) Your military medical records if you have them
- 3) Any and all documentation that could help support your claim

Every claim is unique and will have different factors for Veterans Affairs to consider.

Claim appointments are by appointment only at this time.

Please contact the TVSO to schedule your appointment.

If approved for service-connection over 30%

You will also need:

- ◇ Your marriage certificate to add your spouse as a dependent.
- ◇ Birth certificates for any of your children you will add as dependents

(If applicable per VA guidelines)

Documents Needed to File a New Claim

- ⇒ DD-214 (or, discharge documents)
- ⇒ List of current diagnoses/reoccurring diagnoses
- ⇒ List of current, non-VA medical doctors (their name, address, phone number, and when treatment began and ended (if ended).
- ⇒ Your VA Facility and provider names
- ⇒ Any military medical records or records documenting injuries in the service or, related medical care to support your claim.
- ⇒ Bank name, routing number, and account

number (VA benefits applications ask for this information for direct deposit)

Appointments with the TVSO are usually an hour long.

- 1) You will sign a HIPAA form and a POA form that allows me to assist with filing your claim.
- 2) I will do an Intake interview and based on what you decide, we will file a claim.
- 3) Contact me today for an appointment as soon as possible!



Blue Water Navy—Presumptive Claims

Are you a Vietnam veteran (all branches) who **served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1957?**

Did you serve aboard a vessel operating **not more than 12 nautical miles seaward** from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia?

Do you have one or more of these Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- Type II Diabetes
- Prostate Cancer
- Bladder Cancer
- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Multiple Myeloma

(Contact TVSO for full list of conditions)

If you meet these criteria, or want to find out more, contact the TVSO as soon as possible to file a claim for service-connection.

AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE?

The list of conditions presumed to be caused by Agent Orange exposure has recently expanded.

Whether you were on land, air or sea, you may be entitled to compensation from the VA.

Service-Connected Veterans Corner

Have you accessed yours benefits?

0% service-connected

- VA Health Priority Group 5-8
- America the Beautiful Pass
- Burial & Plot Allowance
- Travel Allowance
- Use of Commissaries, exchanges, and MWR facilities
- Waiver of VA funding fee for VA Home Loan

10-20% service-connected

- All of the benefits above, and
- VA Health Priority Group 3
- VR&E (with serious/employment handicap)

30-40% service-connected

- All of the benefits above, and
- VA Health Priority Group 2
- Additional disability compensation for

eligible dependents.

50% service-connected

- All of the benefits above, and
- VA Health Priority Group 1 (no cost healthcare and prescription drugs)
- Concurrent receipt of military retired pay

60% service-connected

- All of the benefits above, and
- Individual Employability (must be unemployable due to S/C disabilities)
- DEA (if permanent and total)
- CHAMPVA (unemployable condition must be considered permanent)
- VA Dental Care (if rated unemployable)

100% service-connected

- All of the benefits above, and
- No cost dental care

ODVA Webpage Links



Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), has many benefits accessible to Oregon Veterans. Please click the links below to find out more.

[ODVA Main Website](#)

[Disability Compensation Website](#)

[Emergency Assistance](#)

[Home Loans Website](#)

[Veteran Recreation](#)

[Taxes](#)

[Burial](#)

[Oregon Veterans Homes](#)

[Special Advocacy](#)

Oregon State Benefits by %

0% Service-Connected

- Oregon State Parks Pass
- Oregon Disabled License Plate
- PDX Disabled Vet Free Parking (economy lot, up to 14 days)

10-20% Service-Connected

- Portland TRI-MET Honored Citizens Pass

30-40% Service-Connected

- Oregon Disabled Hunting & Fishing License
- Oregon Property Tax Exemption

50% Service-Connected

- Oregon Wounded Warrior Parking Placard

70% Service-Connected

- Oregon Disabled Hunting & Fishing Parking Permit

100% Service-Connected

- Oregon Public University Dependent Tuition Waiver



County Resources

Polk County

Gale's Lodge

(503) 623-9188 or
vso@co.polk.or.us

Leven's St. Housing

(503) 837-1233

Easter Seals Oregon

(971) 304-7140

Yamhill County

YCAP

(503) 687-1484 X1484

Sheridan Apartments

(971) 312-2739

Marion County

Easter Seals Oregon

(971) 304-7140

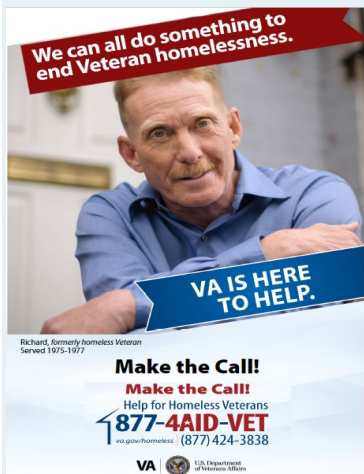
Veterans Affairs

[Supportive Services for
Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#)

[https://www.va.gov/
homeless/ssvf/index.html](https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.html)

[Homeless Veterans](#)

(877) 424-3838



Women Veterans

Today's women Veterans are shaping the future. There are more than 2 million women Veterans living in the U.S. today.

Women have been historically underrepresented in utilizing the benefits provided for them, and have often been more reticent in claiming their veteran status.

Contact me to make an appointment to discuss your benefits and/or file a claim for

service-connected benefits or, let me know if you are already service-connected.

Check out the [Center for Women Veterans](#) website or the ["She Wears the Boots"](#) podcast.

Women Veterans Health Care seeks to provide high quality, gender-specific health care in a safe and sensitive environment at VA health facilities nationwide.

Women Veterans Call Center: 855-VA-WOMEN



she wore these.
It's our job to give her the best care anywhere.



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans



Are you returning from Iraq or Afghanistan? Did you serve in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield (ODS), New Dawn (OND), Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF)? Were you exposed to burn pits?

If you served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and were discharged on or after January 28, 2003, you have special eligibility to enroll in the VA health care system for 5 years from your date of discharge or release. You can receive cost-free medical care for any condition related to your service in theater and access to VA's full Medical Benefits Package.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

Tribal Resources

[Tribal Sponsorship Website](#)

[Tribal Sponsorship Application](#)

Tribal Sponsorship Program

The Tribal Sponsorship Program is offered to aid Tribal members in accessing reimbursement funding to address the following needs: Emergency Preparedness and Energy Generation, Health and Fitness, Healthy Foods, and Technology. Tribal Sponsorship can be used on items like emergency meal kits, portable power stations, generators, batteries, emergency survival backpacks, water filtration systems, solar equipment, etc. Applicants will need to provide copies of receipts with the application verifying the purchase you will be requesting reimbursement for. This program is a limited duration program and will end once the funding has been exhausted.

If you owe a debt from any of the COVID-19 programs offered in 2021 you are **NOT** eligible to apply.

Reimbursable Categories (household is defined as one per physical address)

- Emergency Preparedness and Energy Generation - \$300 **per household**, CTGR member applicant must be 18 or older.
- Healthy Foods - \$300 **per household**, CTGR member applicant must be 18 or older.
- Health and Fitness - \$300 **per CTGR member**.
- Technology - is a **one-time** allowance. If you have received previously received the technology funding you are **NOT** eligible to receive it again.
 - \$500 CTGR Elder
 - \$500 CTGR member student
 - \$200 CTGR member non elder and non-student

You are honored. You are remembered. Thank you for your service.

Interesting Article

[*American Indian Veterans Have Highest Record of Military Service*](#)

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Events

Tentative Events (plans can be changed at any time and no event is guaranteed at this early date).

May 2022

May 30

Memorial Day - West Valley Memorial Name Ceremony

July 2022

Date TBD ~ Veterans Summit

July 2022

July 8, 9, & 10th ~ Veterans Powwow

August 2022

August 19, 20, & 21st ~ Contest Powwow



Veterans Day Drive Through Event, 2021

VET SEB Board Car Show Flyer

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE VETERANS
SPECIAL EVENT BOARD AND SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO PRESENT:
(All proceeds go to help Veterans during the holiday season)

ROLL the DICE CAR SHOW

RODS, CUSTOMS AND RATS!

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022

Gates open at 7am • Show begins at 9am

Pre-registration is strongly suggested - includes a dash plaque, \$5 discount and premier parking. Register before June 5, 2022 for \$15 and a can of food. **See reverse for registration form.**
After June 5, 2022 the registration fee will be collected on-site for \$20 and a can of food.
Registration Deadline: 11am, **no exceptions** • **Judging:** 9am-1:30pm • **Presentation:** 3pm

Trophies broken down by decades, and special awards in the following categories:
Best Original • Best RAT • Best Paint • Best Interior • Best Engine • Best Under-Construction
Best Tuner • Best of Show • Steve Bobb "Wild in the Streets" Special Award — Best Flames

Located in Spirit Mountain Casino's parking lot.
Featuring the local band **Old Crow**.

For more information, contact Steve Bobb:
503-876-3118 or
stevebs@embarqmail.com

The 2019 Best of Show "1941 Willys Coupe"

Visit SpiritMountain.com for full event details.



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Social Services Department

Phone: (503) 879-1484

E-mail:

CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

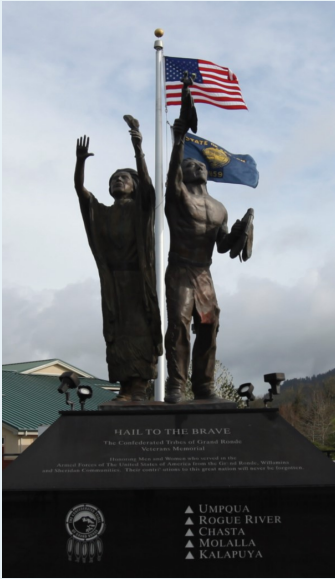
Facebook Page:

@CTGRTVSO

[Veterans Services Website:](#)

<https://www.grandronde.org/services/social-services/veterans-services/>

West Valley Memorial



VA Claims ~ Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the claim process and what should I expect?

A. You file your application with the TVSO or by yourself. VA will send you notification that they received it and reach out to you via phone or mail to schedule your compensation and pension exams . It is very important to attend those exams in order for your claim to move forward.

Q. How long does a claim take to process? **A.** 3 to 4 months

Q. What happens after my tests are done and they finished everything?

A. After VA processes your test results, reviews your medical records, and any other information they need to, they will make a decision to approve your claim or deny your claim. VA will send a letter of notification for approvals and denials.

Q. If approved, what do I need to do? **A.** Set up an appointment with the TVSO to go over your approval, your percentage, and to find out more about your payments, and benefits.

Q. What if my claim was denied? **A.** Set an appointment with the TVSO to go over your denial letter which explains why the claim was denied.

Q. What if I don't agree with the denial? **A.** We can file a supplemental claim based on new and relevant evidence!

So, make an appointment with the TVSO to file for your service-connected disabilities.



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Social Services Department

Attn: TVSO

9615 Grand Ronde Rd.

Grand Ronde, OR 97347

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE