BEYOND JUST ONE DAY
WSUV, Clark College make sure veterans get all the assistance they need

Often the exhortation is delivered with a blended sense of passion and urgency: "Americans should honor military veterans every day, not just on Veterans Day."

That's why we were encouraged by a ceremony that occurred at Washington State University Vancouver on Tuesday. To be sure, it wasn't Veterans Day; that was about three weeks ago. But by announcing WSVU had been recognized by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs as a "veteran-friendly" institution, local university showed every day can be Veterans Day.

What happened on the Salmon Creek campus would not qualify as blockbuster news. Indeed, WSVU already has a Veterans Affairs office (go to http://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsuv.edu/ and click on veterans' affairs). Diane Binder is the veterans representative at WSVU, and she's getting great help from many people in the community.

One of those helpers is Christian Latham, a Navy veteran who is majoring in biology and is president of the school's Veterans Education Interest Group. Another is Nick Ortiz, an education student who has three tours in Iraq under his belt and still serves as a sergeant in the Washington Army National Guard. Ortiz is campus representative for Veterans Corps, a service program similar to AmeriCorps.

Those three people on Tuesday welcomed two keynote visitors to the campus to announce the "veteran-friendly" designation and showcase WSVU's partnership with the state Department of Veterans Affairs: Mike Gregoire, husband of Gov. Chris Gregoire, served as a platoon leader during the Vietnam War, and John Lee, a 22-year Army veteran, is director of the state VA. The collective purpose of these five people was to make sure veterans and veterans' allies—on that matter, the entire public—know about the financial and other assistance available on campus. Beyond that, the university will help veterans who are students connect with state and national assistance groups.

As we noted, Tuesday's event, more than breaking news, was a reminder, a statement that veterans will not be forgotten. How necessary is that reminder? There are 170 veterans on campus, and you'd be surprised at the number who don't know what benefits are available," Ortiz said in a Wednesday Columbian story by Tom Vogt. Often veterans are simply too busy living their post-military lives to keep up with benefits programs that are available. Latham explained: "Compared to the average student, they are less likely to be involved on campus socially and academically, and more likely to be juggling family, jobs and school."

And because those lives are so busy, it's great to have Veterans Affairs departments working so hard with outreach programs on higher-education campuses. Clark College also is working admirably to help veterans (http://clark.edu/admissions/fin aid/ and click on veterans affairs).

Local and area veterans can rest assured that Clark College and WSVU stand ready to help in many ways. First, of course, is the pursuit of higher education. That assistance is codified in the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Provisions of the law include up to 100 percent funding of a public four-year undergraduate education to any veteran who has served three years on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. This new GI Bill also helps veterans who have served 10 years transfer those benefits to spouses or children.

These benefits are life-changing. They should be, because they properly reward freedom-preserving service that benefits all Americans. Southwest Washingtonians should be proud of the assistance provided by WSUV and Clark College are building with military veterans.

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WikiLeaks worries

Before high tech got really high, before it became stratospheric tech, it would have taken a bevy of spies and a long stretch of time to steal 250,000 documents from the U.S. government, a truck or two to transport them, and here is something else. You wouldn't have needed a Web site waiting with open arms to provide the world with the details.

In the latest WikiLeaks episode, almost surely damaging U.S. interests, it with uncertain magnitude, that organization's blog might not have been crucial. It is nevertheless important enough in the minds of some that there has been a monster, virus-happy cyber onslaught to disable it, and some may soon be adding WikiLeaks to their list of how the Internet in some ways threatens us, debases us, weakens us. I am here to argue the Internet worries are mostly bogus. It's true, of course, that virtually any technology can be both blessing and peril. But many of the Internet complaints strike me as baseless or nearly baseless, grounded in only the merest trace of reality.

Especially active in Internet hand-wringing has been The Atlantic, a generally solid magazine to which I happen to subscribe. While the writers have conceded the most obvious objections to their concerns, they have conceded them just barely as they have told us how Google is making dunes of us all, how the new medium is killing off our intelligence and misinformation is trumping real information on major scale.

The stupidity thesis supposes that the easy way to encrypt and steal our work is to read several of the Internet to one of which I belong.

Library in

It's just not true that hours of reading want to read during any_breaking news_writing_english, can find stickers of the great papers, as well. We are updated to the likelihood of finding them on almost any trip you have a place to go. If you're home, you have not a library and a mortars, but your business. A life measured by good deeds

The death of Mary Granger is an inexcusable loss to our city and state. Having observed her contributions in the past several decades, I don't hesitate to say that she was the bay. There was also rockfish, sea perch, and greenling fishing, and a 6-pound cutthroat caught on my Zebco trout pole behind a rowboat — spectator. The Wyckoff Co.'s creosote plant (an eventual Superfund

Our readers' views

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