THE VOICE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
NOVEMBER2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we close out another quarter, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and productive season for the National Guard Association of Washington.

We recently completed our annual Industry Day, and I am proud to say it was an incredible success. We had an amazing turnout from our industry partners, along with guests and leaders from across the Army and Air National Guard.

Industry Day gives our Guard members an opportunity to connect directly with our partners, learn about the products and services available to them, and build relationships that strengthen our ability to support the men and women of the Washington National Guard. I want to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success. Your participation and continued support of NGAW are greatly appreciated.

As we approach the holiday season, I also want to remind everyone to take a moment to look to your left and look to your right. Do a personal body check on the people around you. Make sure your friends, family, loved ones, fellow service members, and extended Guard family are doing OK. The holiday season is a wonderful time of year, but it also can be a difficult time for many people. A simple phone call, text message, or conversation can mean more than you realize. Take the time to check in. Let people know you are there. Sometimes, knowing someone cares is exactly what a person needs.

On behalf of the National Guard Association of Washington, I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. Thank you for everything you do to support our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our two departing staff members, Missy Wessman and Brian Golonka, for their time, dedication, and service to NGAW. Missy and Brian have both given their time and talents to help move this organization forward and support our members. Their contributions have made a difference, and I am personally grateful for everything they have done for NGAW.

Please join me in thanking Missy and Brian for their service to our association and wishing them both the very best in their future endeavors. Thank you for your continued support of NGAW and, most importantly, thank you for continuing to stand beside the men and women who serve our state and our nation.

Fernando Garcia
President
National Guard Association of Washington

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NOVEMBER 2026

FALL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Fore! The 2026 NGAW Fall Golf Scramble hit the links on Fri. Sept. 18 at Capitol City Golf Club, and the result was a hole in one. We had 66 golfers spread between 17 teams. For the first time in a couple of years, we kicked things off with a Mega Putting game, and we had not one but TWO winners! The biggest win was that we raised over $6,000 for our NGAW Foundation Scholarships! Thank you to all our golfers and sponsors!



















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NOVEMBER 2026

2026 CAPITOL SUMMIT

Written by NGAW Member 1Lt Kristian Brown





Attending the NGAUS Capitol Summit on October 19 and 20, 2026, was a tremendous opportunity to deepen my understanding of the legislative process and network with company grade officers from across the 54 states and territories. We interacted with and learned from NGAUS staff, senior military leaders, and congressional staffers. NGAUS staff briefings and panels gave us insight into the national organization's pivotal role in advocating for Guardsmen and the importance of active participation in the legislative process.



The event culminated with all attendees accompanying a member of the NGAUS staff to Capitol Hill to advocate for the passage of the Duty Status Reform Act (H.R. 6976/S. 4801). This bipartisan bill will overhaul and simplify the U.S. Reserve Component and National Guard service system. In detail, the bill will consolidate more than 30 duty statuses into four broad categories to simplify pay and benefits. The expected result is the certainty that Guardsmen will receive the same pay and benefits as active-duty members when performing the same missions.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend and actively participate in Capitol Summit. My understanding of the legislative process and how it directly impacts the lives of Guardsmen worldwide has grown significantly, and it has motivated me to be more active in our state and national NGAUS organizations. I cannot recommend Capitol Summit enough for any officers hoping to gain similar knowledge and network with professionals from around the country.

NGAUS hosts Capitol Summit events each Fall and Spring. Contact our office if you're interested in attending.

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NOVEMBER 2026

2026 INDUSTRY DAY

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall 2026 NGAW Industry Day on Nov. 4. Each year, this fantastic vendor exhibition allows us to showcase several of our Corporate Partners and Guard-owned businesses. The event is an opportunity for our Soldiers, Airmen, and state decision makers to meet with the organizations that work with and support the Washington National Guard.









For a full list attendees, as well as links to their sites for more information, check out our **Fall 2026 Industry Day** booklet at: https://ngaw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2026/11/Fall-2026-Industry-Day-Booklet.pdf

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JSS HOLIDAY EVENTS

The Joint Services Support - Washington is the official one-stop support center for all WA National Guard, Reserve, Veterans and Family needs. They offer a variety of services, including: mental/psychological health assistance, financial guidance, child & youth services, employer/employee support relationship services, and a resiliency care team.

This time of year, they have special events to help ease the burden of holiday strain. ***Registration is required.***

To register for the Nov. 18 **Turkey Drop**, click HERE.

To register for Dec. 9 **Holiday Magic**, visit: HERE



JSS is also hosting a fun family movie night on Camp Murray on Friday, Nov. 20. Make sure to bring your own chair or blanket to sit on.





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DO YOU HAVE A LIFETIME MEMEBRSHIP?

Is remembering to renew your NGAW membership each year a struggle? Do you wish there was a set-it-and-forget-it option? There is! NGAW has affordable lifetime membership options for both Enlisted and Officers.

These memberships are offered to both those currently serving in the WA National Guard, as well as retirees, and installment payment options are available. For more information contact ngaw@ngaw.org or visit: **ngaw. org/membership-account/membershiplevels/**.

Lifetime Member Benefits Include:

- Dedicated advocates in Olympia and on Capitol Hill fighting for your benefits
- Access to exclusive professional development, networking and educational opportunities
- Eligibility for member and dependent scholarships
- Insurance supplements designed for members of the National Guard
- The opportunity to serve on association committees and task forces that help drive the future of Guard advocacy
- **A super cool commemorative NGAW insulated mug!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 18 JSS Turkey Drop
Nov. 20 JSS Movie Night
Dec. 9 JSS Holiday Magic
Jan 15-18 EANGUS Area 6 /7 Midwinter Conference in Spokane
May TBD NGAW State Conference

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WE NEED YOUR CIVILIAN EMAIL ADDRESS!

Please update your membership account with a **civilian email address** so that you can better view our messages.

THANK YOU CORPORATE PARTNERS