Commemorate
Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

VA Central Office (VACO) will commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month on Thursday, May 10, 2018, in the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, room 230, at noon (ET).

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Public Service Recognition Week
Thank You for Your Service!

From May 6 to 12, VA will participate in Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW). PSRW is an annual celebration held the first full week of May to honor the country’s federal, state, county and local government employees for their contributions to public service.

VA will celebrate PSRW by acknowledging all employees in the organization for their dedication to serving Veterans and their families. VA recognizes its greatest strength lies in its workforce – the men and women of VA exemplifying the Core Values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence. We appreciate our high-performing, dedicated employees, who work hard every day to deliver excellent customer service to improve the Veteran experience.

This year, the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) has graciously offered to serve as our partner and sponsor a VA Wide PSRW Cake Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, May 10, 2018. During the week-long celebration, VA leaders plan to meet and greet employees, distribute I CARE certificates, do a little physical activity, eat a bit of cake and show our Civil Servant Pride! PSRW events will be held at VA facilities around the country, as well as national PSRW events in Washington, DC.

VA encourages employees to take time during PSRW to recognize colleagues for their dedication to public service and the organization. A great way for employees to recognize colleagues is by giving out I CARE Recognition Certificates available at https://www.va.gov/ICARE/ICare_certificates.asp. These certificates may be given by any employee to another as a direct and meaningful acknowledgment of exceptional service.

For details regarding PSRW activities and events, please contact your regional VA public affairs officers, who will have information on national events as well as VA-sponsored activities. Additional information on the history and national celebration of PSRW is available at the Public Service Recognition Week website at http://publicservicerecognitionweek.org.

The committed work that VA employees do every day is the foundation of VA and is what makes the organization’s mission possible. VA thanks you for your service! For questions regarding VA’s observance of PSRW, contact Edith Perry, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at Edith.Perry@va.gov.

Diversity and Inclusion Learning Products Now Available On Demand
ODI and the Office of Information and Technology Collaborate to Provide Diversity and Inclusion Training

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) is collaborating with Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) Information Technology Workforce Development (ITWD) to design, develop, and deliver diversity and inclusion (D&I) live broadcasts as well as on-demand learning content for all OI&T employees.

The live broadcast will enable OI&T employees to participate in virtual instructor-led employee education events, and the on-demand products will enable OI&T employees to access D&I learning content at their convenience. The goal of this partnership is to provide OI&T employees access to D&I topics of interest such as cultural competence, diversity, implicit bias, and inclusion.

Currently two topics are available to all VA employees via VA IT Virtual Campus: Enhancing Workforce Diversity & Workplace Inclusion (https://www.vaitcampus.com/classroom/ondemand/8436) and Managing Implicit Bias In VA (https://www.vaitcampus.com/classroom/ondemand/8504).

Upcoming Topics will include:
- Applying Cultural Competence in a Multicultural VA
- Introduction to Combatting Incivility in the Workplace
- Managing Reasonable Accommodation in VA
- Managing Generational Differences in VA
- Managing Gender Differences in VA
Commemorate

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This year’s theme is “Unite Our Vision by Working Together.” Peter J. Shelby, VA Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, will serve as this year’s senior host. Jessie Retan (Marine Corps.), Board of Veterans Appeals; Tino Dinh (Air Force), Consultant/Technology Officer at Care 24/7 LLC.; Thomas Kisino (Army), Space Management Specialist for Finance and Business Operations, Veterans Health Administration; James A. Imanian (Navy), Cybersecurity and Privacy Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; and Mark A. Unpingco (Coast Guard), Staff Assistant, Secretary’s Center for Strategic Partnerships, will take part in a panel discussion representing the Armed Services.

From the 2017 Office of Personnel Management Director’s Blog (https://www.opm.gov/blogs/Director/2017/5/4/Asian-American-and-Pacific-Islander-Heritage-Month): “AAPI Heritage Month is an opportunity to commemorate the achievements and contributions of those Americans who can trace their ancestry to a multitude of countries in Asia, Hawaii, and the Pacific Island territories, and for VA to celebrate those who contribute in so many ways to the success of our Nation...This special observance originated in June 1977, when Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California called upon the President to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. In October 1978, President Jimmy Carter expanded the observance as an annual celebration, and 12 years later President George H.W. Bush extended the week-long celebration to a month. The official designation of May as Asian American and Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law in 1992. The month of May was chosen to observe Asian and Pacific Americans for a number of reasons, including to commemorate the first Japanese who came to the country in May of 1843, and to mark the May 1869 completion of the Transcontinental Railroad which involved the labor of many Chinese immigrants. The AAPI community is made up of culturally and linguistically diverse people, representing populations from many countries and islands...Throughout the history of our country, our citizens from the AAPI community have made significant contributions exemplifying American values of hard work and perseverance. Members of the AAPI community have excelled in so many patriotic and leading ways, including as artists; authors; athletes; teachers; scientists; doctors; engineers; lawyers; government leaders; and brave members of our Armed Forces...AAPI Heritage Month reminds us we can best solve the complex and historic challenges of our time by solving them together; when we join our individual strengths, we unify and magnify our Nation’s effectiveness.”

For more information on VA’s National AAPI Employment Program or the VACO observance, contact Ms. Tynnetta Lee, VA’s National AAPI Employment Program Manager, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, at Tynnetta.Lee@va.gov or visit VA’s AAPI Employment Program Web page at https://www.diversity.va.gov/programs/aapi.aspx.

Section 508 Training

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act is a Federal Law That Applies to You

Everyone has a responsibility to create information that meets the Federal Section 508 standards. For training options or to learn more, e-mail the VA Section 508 Office at section508support@va.gov.