



Snapshot

Waco Regional Office Reaches out to Native American Veterans



After attending an American Indian conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Carl Lowe, Waco, Texas, VA Regional Office (VARO) Director, asked "what could VA do" to reach American Indian veterans. VA staff developed a plan to approach a local Native American tribe to determine the best way to gain access to Native American veterans on their reservations. After meeting with leaders of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo (Tigua) Tribe, approval was obtained to conduct outreach on the Tigua Reservation near El Paso, Texas. The VARO staff discovered that there were 91 veterans who were members of the Tigua Tribe and only two were receiving VA benefits at that time. Today, more than 60 Tigua veterans receive VA benefits. In recognition of the initiative, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) presented the Waco VARO with a Native American Warrior Certificate of Recognition, citing employees of the Waco VARO for working together with the Tigua Tribe to form one of the most effective American Indian outreach relationships in the Nation.



Snapshot

Dr. Paula Schnurr Wins the "Health Breakthrough Award"



Dr. Paula Schnurr, deputy executive director for VA's National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), received the 3rd annual Ladies Home Journal "Health Breakthrough Award" for her work with PTSD and women veterans.

"Dr. Schnurr's contribution to veterans is an exceptional example of the Department's commitment to healing those who have borne the battle," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Her research was recognized for finding the best therapy among current treatment approaches for PTSD in women."

The study led by Schnurr for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was the largest clinical trial of individual psychotherapy for PTSD ever conducted. The findings led to VA supporting a national training program in "prolonged-exposure therapy," which had not previously been widely used. VA is a world leader in the research, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD, providing specialized PTSD programs at its medical centers and clinics. More about the National Center for PTSD can be found at [Web www.ncptsd.va.gov](http://www.ncptsd.va.gov)