

April 25, 2011

Island County Veterans Services Program  
Coupeville, WA

For immediate release:

**Veterans Services Program a Safety Net in Island County.** Indigent veterans in rural areas face unique challenges with transportation, health care and housing. Island County Veterans Services (ICVS) is here to assist struggling veterans and their families address those needs. ICVS offers safety net support such as emergency financial assistance, case management to indigent veterans and their dependents. Financial assistance may consist of paying for overdue rent or utility bills, to prevent eviction. The office provides vouchers for food, fuel, work specific clothing and/or school clothing and supplies for dependent children. This office also provides assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims for compensation, pension, healthcare and all other VA claims. "We are here to help connect people with the services they need," explained Jerry Pfannenstiel, coordinator for the program. Pfannenstiel is a veteran himself, so he understands the needs and complexities faced by this growing segment of our community. "We are here to support those who have sacrificed for our country."

**Island County and U. S. Navy Partnership** Pfannenstiel also works closely with the Navy Fleet and Family Support Center, Naval Hospital Oak Harbor (NHOH) and Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) to support local active duty military personnel and their families. Some services provided are mental health client referral to Community Connections, counseling and intervention through our School Counselors, risk assessment, referral and discharge planning, and in-home visiting nurse for home bound veterans and active duty members through NHOH and NMCRS.

**In recognition of National County Government Month's theme of 'Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families'**, veterans who work for Island County will be honored during an upcoming Board of County Commissioners' meeting on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 10am in Coupeville, WA.

For more information about Veterans' Services in Island County, please visit the website <http://www.islandcounty.net/humanservices/veterans.asp> , or call Gerald Pfannenstiel at 360-678-7805.

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