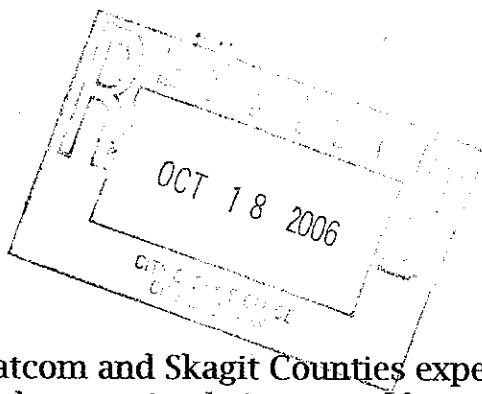


October 16, 2006

Dear Editor,



When can veterans in Whatcom and Skagit Counties expect a satellite health care clinic? This is the question being raised by some 31,000 veterans in both counties. Satellite clinics exist in Federal Way, Bremerton and Wenatchee. We feel the size of our veteran population in Whatcom and Skagit Counties warrant serious consideration for establishing a health care clinic in our region.

The VFW sends a bus to Bellingham ~~once a month~~ ^{WEEKLY} for those veterans with appointments at the VA Hospital in Seattle. Due a long day trip, many qualified (non-handicapped) veterans choose to go without basic eye, dental, hearing, or medical care. Unfortunately, Skagit County veterans must travel to Bellingham for this transportation.

Informational meetings have been held with VA Representatives, The Veterans Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., as well as District Representatives from both sides of the aisle. As a result, an application from the Seattle VA office requesting a North Puget Sound Clinic has been sent to Washington D.C. The request now rests in the hands of the Congress.

→ We ask for community support. Write to your Congressman and lobby for favorable endorsement to establish a Satellite Health Care Center in North Puget Sound.

"Thank-a-Veteran" for the sacrifices he has made to keep our country free. Support his long-term health issues! It is the least any of us can do.

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But our work is far from done.

The state of Washington has the third largest number of veterans in the United States, but we're ranked 48th in the amount of money we receive from the government to care for our brothers and sisters in arms.