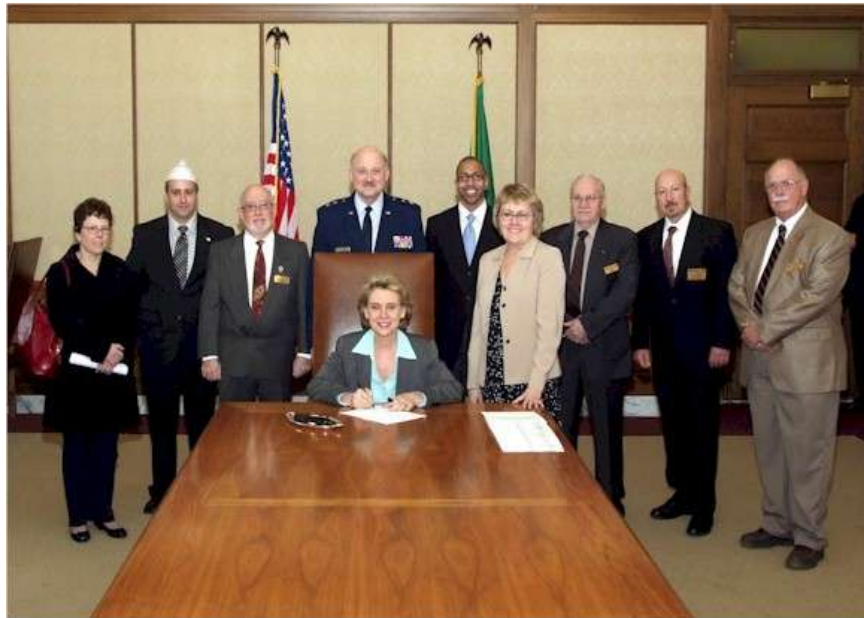




VMFP-Washington

has been involved and instrumental in several events in the last few months. Bob Rudolph, VMFP-Wa President is a member of the Washington State Veterans Legislative Coalition (VLC), representing VMFP. He was asked if he would like to be considered for a vacancy on the VLC board. Bob will, accept the position if voted in. The VLC is made up of a myriad of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) including, but not limited to the VFW, American Legion, Purple Heart Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America etc, list of participating organizations is attached. We also work closely with the Washington State Director of Veterans Affairs. It's a great place to network with other veterans groups and to gain visibility for VMFP with those organizations as well as the Washington State Legislators and the Governor. Those of us on the VLC worked very hard last year to get twenty two veterans bills passed and even this year with the huge budget cuts, The Governor still signed many bills that we advocated so hard for. (Photo with Governor Gregoire)



HB 1034

2009-04-09L_3752

VMFP-Wa teamed up with “Soldiers Angels” <http://www.soldiersangels.org/> in support of the Fisher House at the Fort Lewis Army Post. We put on a Mother’s Day Tea for those spouses and families of soldiers in Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC) for illness or wounds received in the two ongoing wars. It was a great event and brought a bit of a respite and pleasure, albeit just for a few hours, for those families.

VMFP-Wa is well known within the halls of the Washington State Legislature. One of our VMFP members is Senator Lisa Brown (D) who is the Majority Leader of the Washington State Senate. We also work very close with many of the other state representatives and senators on military and veterans issues. We also have had discussions with US Senator Patty Murray and US Representative Adam Smith and others.

Each summer VMFP-Wa participates in the Lacey Washington Military Family Support Day where we along with the other participants have raised up to thirty and forty thousand dollars for military families whose spouses are deployed. We have our VMFP banner in place on our booth and usually get a lot of questions from both active duty military and veterans. We have helped a lot of people at these events. We always have our handouts and business cards on display and available. At last September's event we had a visit from Governor Gregoire's husband Mike Gregoire who is a Viet Nam Veteran. (See photo below) He is a good friend to veterans. Pictured are Jerry Simmons, Bob Rudolph, and Debbie Patton, Mike Gregoire (L-R).



Bob and Pat Rudolph supported an effort for the US Army Family Readiness Group at several bases to get bed linens for soldiers returning from Afghanistan who live in the barracks. Previously we used to be issued bed linens, now the military, as it seems like with everything else, contracts that job out to a civilian firm. For the most part bed linens are no longer military issue. We had many in VMFP and VMFP supporters donate enough bed linens to support one whole company of soldiers who live in the barracks returning home. Pat and Bob received an award from Commanders at Fort Bragg, North Carolina for their efforts in obtaining the bed linens for their soldiers.