



The Association of Washington Generals

September 15, 2015

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Peggy LaPorte of Federal Way to receive “Washingtonian of the Year” award

A Federal Way woman who founded a non-profit organization to help the homeless will receive the Association of Washington Generals’ “Washingtonian of the Year” award at an Oct. 10 banquet beginning at 4 p.m. at the Federal Way Community Center.

Peggy LaPorte, president of Friends United to Shelter the Indigent, Oppressed and Needy (FUSION), is being honored for her work in helping the homeless find a safe, transitional housing as they work toward self-sufficiency. The all-volunteer organization is supported by dozens of volunteers and by businesses, churches, non-profits and service organizations. [FUSION](#) maintains furnished homes and condominiums throughout Federal Way and Northeast Tacoma where families in transition can live as they work toward finding permanent housing and employment.

The Washingtonian of the Year award is presented annually by the [Association of Washington Generals](#) (AWG) to persons who have demonstrated leadership, selflessness, generosity and compassion in their service to others. LaPorte was nominated by Federal Way businessman Roger Flygare, who is commanding general of the AWG. Her nomination was supported by letters from King County Councilman Pete von Reichbauer, State Senator Mark Miloscia, state representatives Carol Gregory and Linda Kochmar and Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell.

The AWG will also recognize Leslie Mayne of Gig Harbor as its recipient of the AWG Community Service Award. Mayne was selected for her work through The Permission To Start Dreaming Foundation (PTSD) and [Race for a Soldier](#), which organizes fun runs and other events to help soldiers affected by post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries.

Music for the banquet will be provided by a guitarist from the Federal Way Symphony, with catering by the East India Grill in Federal Way. Tickets to the banquet are \$75 and are available at [Brown Paper Tickets.com](#)

THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON GENERALS is a service organization initiated in 1970 by a group of Seattle area business people in alliance with Lt. Governor John Cherberg. Patterned after similar associations in other states, the founding purpose of the AWG was to provide a way to recognize outstanding service of individuals in the state of Washington, and to bring them together into a service organization. The AWG was formally established by legislation in 2005, the only service organization to be so authorized. Ex-officio members include the Washington governor, the lieutenant governor and the secretary of state.

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