

PRESS RELEASE

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WHITMAN COUNTY HIRES CODY YEARTON AS COUNTY'S FIRST VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

The Whitman County Commissioners today hired Mr. Cody Yearnton of Pullman, as the County's first Veterans Service Officer (VSO). With this hire the Commissioners are fulfilling their goal of making sure our Veterans get the services and supports they are due after having served our Country.

Mr. Yearnton, a Veteran, was deemed the most qualified candidate among 12 applicants by a five-member interview panel consisting of Dorothy Sharp and Penny Martinez from the County's Veterans Advisory Board, County Auditor Sandy Jamison, Spokane Veterans Services office Director Cathreen Nichols and Commissioner Art Swannack.

Mr. Yearnton has started online and in person training to quickly become an accredited Veterans Service Officer. He is concurrently training with the Spokane County Veterans Services Office to learn the day to day work of a VSO in an active setting. Spokane County's Veterans Services Office recently earned a National Association of Counties 2022 Achievement award for their work assisting Veterans. We thank Spokane County for assisting us with training our first VSO. Cody should be fully trained in two months.

An accredited Veteran Service Officer is permitted to read confidential military personnel files and medical records in order to better assist Veterans, their family members and survivors with benefits, claims, appeals and other assistance they earned through their service to our Country.

Commissioner Swannack said, "I'm really glad we've been able to create and hire a Veterans Service Officer position for Whitman County and to find someone as energetic as Cody. Our Veterans deserve to receive all the benefits they were promised. We expect the VSO program to be up and running in two months." For more information, contact Art Swannack: 509-397-5247 or ArtS@whitmancounty.net. Mr. Yearnton can be reached at his email: VSO@Whitmancounty.net.