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## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **VA Puget Sound to announce permanent Northwest Washington CBOC site**

*MOUNT VERNON, Wash. (June 25, 2008) – VA Puget Sound Health Care System director Stan Johnson, Senator Patty Murray and Representative Rick Larsen are scheduled to hold a 1 p.m. press conference July 2, 2008 at the Mount Vernon Medical Building near Skagit Valley Hospital to formally announce the location of the permanent Northwest Washington VA Puget Sound Community Based Outpatient Clinic.*

The new clinic, located near Skagit Valley Hospital at 307 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Mount Vernon, will expand VA Puget Sound's coverage to Skagit, North Snohomish, Whatcom, Island, San Juan and surrounding counties, allowing veterans who live in the region the opportunity to stay close home and not travel to Seattle for routine medical appointments.

In addition to primary care services, the clinic will support mental health, social work, pharmacy, eye, ear, x-ray and dental services. VA Puget Sound hopes the permanent clinic site will eventually serve more than 6,500 veterans.

When the clinic opens in the late spring-early summer of 2009, they will begin seeing currently enrolled veterans. Staff will be on hand to assist all

veterans with enrolling with the VA Healthcare system. Patients who are currently enrolled for care at the interim site in Sedro-Woolley will be notified via mail that their care will be transferred to the Mount Vernon site when it opens in 2009.

Enrolled patients interested in transferring their care, may do so by contacting VA Puget Sound Primary Care at (206) 764-2547 for additional information. Veterans who are not currently enrolled in the VA system can call 1-800-329-8387, extension #76542 or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to enroll and then request consideration for care at Mount Vernon when openings become available. All media inquiries should be directed to: VA Puget Sound Office of Public Affairs at (206) 764-2435.

“This permanent clinic gives us the ability to actively reach out to the veteran community and bring them in to the VA family of care,” said VA Puget Sound Health Care System Director Stan Johnson “We are bringing VA care closer to our veterans and this clinic is just one example of VA Puget Sound’s commitment to making healthcare more accessible to our veterans.”

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