

**KIT 1280 – Washington’s Lottery interview on The Morning News with Lance and Dave**  
*September 2, 2011*

**Lance:** But first, how can we help, oh boy, those who need help the most here in our state, Dave?

**Dave:** Our hometown heroes, is that what you’re asking?

**Lance:** Yeah baby, and we got a lot of them.

**Dave:** We can find out. Arlan Harris is on the phone. Good morning Arlan, how are you doing?

**Arlen Harris:** Good morning guys, thanks for having me on this morning.

**Dave:** Yeah. So the lottery’s kicking in, way to go!

**Arlen Harris:** Yeah, so this is really exciting, this is something really good that came out of this last legislative session. The legislature created this program called the Veteran’s Innovation Program. It provides crisis and emergency relief and education and training and employment assistance for returning Washington veterans. They created this program in 2006 but the funding was going to dry up so they thought hey, how about have this raffle at the lottery, and we’re really excited about it. The raffle kicks off this Monday—tickets go on sale, they are \$10 tickets, we have 3000 prizes including 24 top prizes of \$50,000. And we’re going to draw the raffle on Veteran’s Day, which is pretty appropriate, considering what the money is going to.

**Dave:** So basically this isn’t the kind of lottery game where you scratch it and you win right then and there. You buy these tickets, sit on them until the big drawing on Veteran’s Day, and you find out if you’ve won and at what level, right?

**Arlen Harris:** Exactly, yeah.

**Dave:** And the money raised through the ticket sales goes to?

**Arlen Harris:** It goes to the Veteran’s Innovation Program which is administered by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. Two things to check out: check out [walottery.com](http://walottery.com), and we have a micro-site there that talks about the Hometown Heroes raffle, and then the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, check out their website, its [dva.wa.gov](http://dva.wa.gov). It talks about the Veterans Innovation Program, who’s eligible, how it helps men and women returning from current conflicts.

**Dave:** So there you were, sitting in the big spacious conference room at the Lottery, probably having a microbrew, feet up on the desk, thinking “how are we going to come up with some money,” and BAM Arlen says...

**Arlen Harris:** Buy a raffle ticket!

**Dave:** Let’s do a raffle ticket!

**Arlen Harris:** And you know, my friends at the Department of Veterans Affairs, they say that they get calls all the time asking, you know people saying “how we can we help our veterans?” And this is a fun way, you play the lottery game, you might win a prize, but more important, you’re helping men and women as they return from the conflicts overseas.

**Dave:** If we sell every ticket that we hope to sell, how much can we put back into this program?

**Arlen Harris:** If we sell through, we’re going to raise over \$430,000 to the Veterans Innovation Program. This is going to be the first year; the legislature set this up to be an annual raffle, so we’re going to do this every year for our veterans between Labor Day and Veterans Day.

**Dave:** We think it’s an awesome idea. We support the veterans big time around here and when we heard that you guys were about the business of this, we wanted to make sure that you had a chance to come on, and invite all the folks in the Yakima Valley to participate. So we can go to our regular lottery outlets?

**Arlen Harris:** Yeah, go to any lottery outlet, any retailer. Safeway, the mini mart, wherever you’re going, your gas station, that’s where the raffle tickets will be on sale. Starting on Monday.

**Dave:** Outstanding. Arlen Harris, thank you very much for your time this morning, we hope that you sell every ticket, and that the program’s a big success, and we continue to provide the training and the re-acclamation and everything that our hometown heroes need as they come back to us.

**Arlen Harris:** You know they do so much for us, and this is something that we can do for them. Thank you guys, for having me on.

**Dave:** Thank you, Arlen. Appreciate it.

###