



VETS NEWS

July/August 2005

www.oregon.gov/odva

JIM WILLIS, DIRECTOR

Spring Training Conference

One of the high points of this year's Spring County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) Conference—a training conference sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs



Crook County Veterans Service Officer Sid Carter is presented with the Warrior's Medal of Valor by a member of Northwest Indian Veterans Association.

regardless of cultural background. Tall Eagle noted that while not all service officers have military service, the medals were awarded to acknowledge the gratitude and respect service officers deserve for their service to veterans.

(ODVA)—was a ceremony honoring CVSOs and ODVA's benefits counselors. As a part of the ceremony, Marshall Tall Eagle, a Vietnam veteran and member of the Apache Nation, accompanied by an Honor Guard of Native American veterans, presented a "Warrior's Medal of Valor" from the "Native American Nations of the United States of America" to each veterans service officer and benefits counselor. This medal for "valorous service to a grateful nation" is the first medal ever minted for the Native Americans Nations to honor all military personnel, active duty, reservist, National Guard and veterans,



Northwest Indian Veterans Association (NIVA) Color Guard presented the Colors to kick-off the ODVA Spring Training Conference.

A Message From the Director

On August 15, 2005 we will observe the 60th Anniversary of VJ Day or Victory over the Imperial Japanese Empire. It was and is a signature event in the history of the United States. Just three months earlier, the allied forces had celebrated VE Day or Victory in Europe, but everyone serving and everyone back at home knew that the job was only half done. All hope for the future hinged on victory in the Pacific and with renewed energy, America and her allies focused on finishing the job.

It was Emperor Hirohito who on August 15, 1945 announced Japan's surrender to the Japanese people. The formal surrender took place on board the battleship U.S.S. Missouri on September 2, 1945. With the signing of the formal instrument of surrender, World War II was over.

It is estimated that there are some 3,600,000 American veterans of World War II still living as this issue of the *VETS NEWS* goes into publication. It is not too late to find a veteran or someone who served in shipbuilding, an aircraft plant or a munitions plant and say a simple thank you for their service and sacrifice in the name of our freedom.

It is notable that not only did this greatest generation win World War II, but also they had the presence of mind not to enter into a peace that featured punishment of the civilian populations of the defeated nations. Rather, they set about rebuilding Germany, Italy and Japan. While we would go on to endure the years of the Korean War and the many years of the Cold War, we did so in a country that was itself recovering from the time lost from 1941 to 1945.

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Director

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Yes, it seems to me that the 60th Anniversary of VJ Day will give us time to reflect, to express our appreciation to the World War II generation and at the same time support those who are in the “new” World War, the Global War on Terrorism. Our goal remains as it always has, to raise our families in safety, conduct our business using a free enterprise model and enjoy our individual liberties in a country governed by law in an environment of personal freedom.

May we always remember those who secured our freedoms, the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. We owe them a debt we will never be able to repay, but we will always remember their service and the example they have set for future generations to follow.



Director

In Memoriam



Hal Jordan, Korean War veteran and member of the Governor’s Advisory Committee to the Director of Veterans’ Affairs, passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2005. Jordan served in the United States Army with the 9th Infantry Division.

In addition to serving on the Governor’s Advisory Committee, Jordan served as National Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs National Security Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He held numerous offices in the VFW and received several awards including the “Recruiter of the Year.”

A dedicated family man, Hal Jordan will be remembered as a compassionate, kind man with a great sense of humor. An outstanding individual and tireless advocate for veterans and their families, he will be greatly missed by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Southern Oregon Stand Down 2005

-Continuing to serve our nation’s homeless and disadvantaged veterans -

Friday, Saturday and Sunday – September 16, 17 & 18, 2005

Veterans Memorial Stadium
VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinic (SORCC)
(formerly known as the White City Domiciliary),
White City, Oregon

Friday and Saturday: All services available, including overnight sleeping and respite.

Sunday: A day of camaraderie, fellowship and renewal. No overnight.

Some of the services provided:

VA Benefits Counseling – Health Screening
Housing and Employment Information – Legal Services
Substance Abuse Counseling – Clothing – Haircuts – Showers

For transportation call:

Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network

Portland VAMC 1-800-949-1004 ext. 56957

Roseburg VAMC 1-800-549-8387 ext. 44358

White City SORCC 1-800-809-8725 ext. 3619

For information or to volunteer your assistance:

Grants Pass Vet Center – 541- 479- 6912

Southern Oregon Stand Down is a non-profit organization.

Donations gratefully accepted.

P.O. Box 8396, Medford OR 97501

New State Veterans’ Home Loan Product Coming in 2006

With the Oregon Legislature’s passage and Governor Kulongoski’s signature on Senate Bill 223, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) is authorized to offer 100% loan-to-value home loans beginning in 2006. The principal feature of the new loan product will be that qualifying veteran homebuyers will not be required to ante up the dollars for a down payment. While closing costs will still be required, veterans may be able to reduce closing costs if sellers are willing to pay all or a portion of the closing costs.

Underwriting details of the new veterans’ home loan product are still being formulated. Watch future issues of the *VETS NEWS* for developments.

For information about current State veterans’ home loan products (not associated or the same as a federal VA home loan guarantee), contact ODVA at 1-800-828-8801. ODVA approved mortgage brokers are located throughout Oregon for your convenience in obtaining a State veterans’ home loan.



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If you wish to receive the *VETS NEWS* regularly, send your name and address to the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Attention Communications Unit, 700 Summer Street, NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1285. If you are a veteran, please include your era of military service.

When credit is given to the source, *VETS NEWS* articles may be reprinted. However, please call the editor to assure accuracy and timeliness of the articles. Reunions printed upon space availability. Input for the next issue should be received by August 1, 2005.

Navy Sailors Aboard Merchant Ships



When thinking of Navy Service in World War II, many immediately think of the sailors who manned the aircraft carriers in the Pacific, destroyer crews fighting the U-Boat menace in the Atlantic, or valiant aviators, guarding the skies.

What is little known is the fact that from the outbreak of World War II, over 144,900 Navy sailors served as "Armed Guards" aboard the merchant ships of the United States and those of her allies. These sailors served in all theaters of war and shared the perils of running vital supplies to both United States (U.S.) troops and U.S. allies with their counterparts of the Merchant Marine. The danger of this undertaking is reflected in the 2,085 Armed Guards who perished and 1,127 wounded during the course of the war.

From convoy duty in the North Atlantic transports of troops to landing zones, and the grueling Murmansk run, these sailors protected the ships that carried them from, at times, impossible odds. Not only did the Armed Guards aboard merchant ships man guns and provide damage control assistance, they also trained members of the Merchant Marine in the use and maintenance of the guns aboard the ships on which they served.

Without the service of these sailors, many more ships would likely have fallen prey to enemy surface ships, submarines and aerial attack. Their sacrifice, tenacity and valor will never be forgotten.



"U.S. Merchant Mariners receiving gunnery training from U.S. Navy Armed Guards"

National Registry for Veterans With ALS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing a nationwide registry for veterans who have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The purpose of the registry is to help the VA understand the patterns of ALS among veterans and provide valuable data for future studies. Those participating in the study will also be informed of research studies in which they may enroll.

ALS is a chronic and progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks the brain cells that control muscle movement. As the cells die, the affected muscles weaken and then shrink, leading to progressive paralysis. Presently, there is no cure for the disease. ALS is a non-contagious disease that is rare among individuals under the age of 45 years old.

The VA encourages veterans who have been diagnosed with ALS, or their friends and family members, to call for more information or visit the ALS registry website. Qualified veterans will be asked to complete a brief telephone interview including basic questions about their disease and military history. Follow-up interviews with registry enrollees will be conducted on a biannual basis to assess health status of veterans participating in the study.

To enroll in the study contact VA study coordinators at 1-877-DIAL-ALS (1-877-342-5257), or contact Barbara Norman, Study Coordinator by e-mail at ALS@med.va.gov. More information about the ALS study is available online at www.va.gov/durham/alsregistry.asp.

A VA-conducted study, which began in March of 2002, showed that veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War are nearly two times more likely to be diagnosed with ALS than veterans who did not serve in the Persian Gulf.

Oregonian Selected to Merchant Marine National Position

Nelson Cauble, a Sutherlin resident, was recently elected National Secretary for the American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV). Cauble accepted his new position at the AMMV National Convention in May. In his new post, Cauble will be responsible for public relations and communications for the organization. He will also play an integral part in the Merchant Marine participation in the WWII Commemoration event (see related article on this page) that will take place in Vancouver, Washington this summer.

Commemoration Celebrations in Vancouver

World War II (WWII) 60th Anniversary observances in the United States began in February of this year. In early 2004, the Department of the Army established the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary WWII Commemoration Committee. Six cities were selected to host regional celebrations.

The events will commemorate the outstanding service and sacrifice of WWII veterans. Vancouver, Washington has been selected to host the northwest region celebrations. The northwest region consists of several states including Oregon.

The celebrations in Vancouver are set for August 26-28, 2005 and will be held at the scenic Vancouver National Historic Reserve - home of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver Barracks, which has a military history dating back to 1849.

The City of Vancouver, the National Park Service and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust are co-hosts of the event, which will culminate on Sunday with the official Department of Defense 60th Anniversary WWII Commemoration.

The celebration in Vancouver titled, "America's Celebrate Freedom Salute," has been expanded to three days to provide a variety of activities to include military displays, musical entertainment, vintage aircraft fly-ins, historical displays, fireworks and much, much more. WWII Memorial prints, pins, brochures and Registry information will also be available and the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project will be on-site to document and record veterans' personal stories from all wars.

The coordinators of the event have indicated that military and veterans groups or organizations, as well as individuals interested in being a part of the celebration may contact event organizers at 360-992-1825 for information and to inquire if you or your group can provide a display, serve as a volunteer, or if you have equipment or memorabilia from WWII to provide.

For information about events, accommodations, directions and area attractions, visit www.AmericasSalute.org on the Internet or call 360-992-1825.

The Vancouver regional event precludes the WWII 60th Anniversary celebration that will be held in Washington, D.C. on the weekend of September 2nd. Information about the WWII 60th Anniversary Committee and other scheduled events is available on the Internet at www.60wwii.mil or by telephone at 1-877-868-2058 (toll free).



Friends of the Home

Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund continue to be received. We are deeply appreciative of the thoughtfulness and generosity of an ever-growing number of Friends of the Home. Those who contributed during the months of April and May 2005 are listed below:

Dennis Brown
Paul Arnott
Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
James Mullett
Leroy Churchill
Jon and Patricia Straumfjord
Melvin and Norma Peterson
Military Order of the Cootie,
Rimrock Pup Tent #8
Colin Ackerson
Jack T. Magnuson
American Legion Umpqua Post #16
American Legion Post #7
Thomas Steffen
Gretchen Johnson
David and Peggy Childs
Gary and Gayle McElheran
James and Marcia Underhill
Pioneer Potlatch, Inc.
Robert and Marjorie Stevenson
Joseph Burgett
Wayne and Camille Ryan
Leigh Hunt
Employees of the Oregon Department
of Veterans' Affairs
Pauline Scott
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Robert Bauer
Ladies of Keizer Elks
Ronnie and Sue Archer
Robert and Davinne Ellis
Louis and Arlene Rucker
Carleton and Pam Clausen
Marjorie Christianson
Helena Gundersen
Combined Federal Campaign
Wah Chang Gov. Quality Assurance Group
Gwenith Filbin
Mr. And Mrs. Donald Potter and Cindy Potter
Deon and Mary Deswert
Wanda and Ralph Favorit
William and Roseanna Hulse
Harold and Lucile Stephens
Gerald Baker
James and Lucile Torgerson
Marcia Robinson
Clifford Baker
Everett and Betty Marvel
Douglas and Pauline Walden
Lucille Underhill
Hollis and Anna Bolton

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VFW Willard Anderson Post #2471
American Legion Ione Auxiliary #95
Bob Ricketts
Dale Albee
American Legion Capitol Post #9
National Order of Trench Rats,
Salem Dugout #394
Walter Crews
Stanton Rickey
E. Stanley Trogen
Col. And Mrs Ralph K. Watts
Jan Lyda
John Adair
James Trent
Rogue Valley Detachment,
Marine Corps League
John Y. Lansing
Tom Manning
VFW Post #4015
Tom and Virginia Hake
Robert G. Norton
Douglas Gregory
Lester Hubinsky
Johnny and Myrna Alexander
Bonnie Larson
Kenneth Haddock
Mary Doody
Mary Hill
Clair Couturier
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Cecil and Judith Angel
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Robert Ward
Harold Davidson
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George Wood
Donald and Edith McDaniel
Wesley Coyner
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VFW Nehalem Bay Post #10644
Alvin Anderson
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Alice Crane
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William Merritt
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Bend Chapter #820
Kelly Taylor
D. M. Higgins
Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Shop
Kenneth Wenzel
American Legion Auxiliary #37
Clifford & Martin, Inc.
Dorothy De Priest
Joan Coles
Vada Demoss
Frances Morris
Donna Burns
R.D. Wiley
Robert and Willetta Reindl
Don Braun
Columbia Gorge Doughnut Company
Tom Cox
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Veterans Motorcycle Club
Linda Alexander

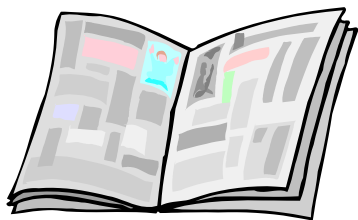
Become a Friend of the Oregon Veterans' Home this 4th of July

Become a friend of the Oregon Veterans' Home, "The Place Where Honor Lives", this 4th of July by making a tax-deductible contribution.

Contributions to the Oregon Veterans' Home improve the quality of life for veterans residing at the Home. Donations have allowed for the purchase of physical therapy equipment, recreational materials and other needed items. One hundred percent of your donation goes to the Home.

In order to make a donation, simply use the Veterans' Home Gift Form on this page and mail it to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 700 Summer Street N.E., Salem, Oregon 97301-1285.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Magazine Subscription Program

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Magazine Subscription Program, veterans residing at the Oregon Veterans' Home enjoy reading current magazines.

The individuals listed below have recently joined dozens of previous donors to this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by our veteran residents.

Bob Ricketts
 Marjorie Christianson
 Helena L. Gundersen
 Dale S. Albee
 Ted Schroeder
 Mike and Dorothy Ryan
 William E. Merrit

For information concerning the Magazine Subscription Program, please contact Roxane Kuehl at the Oregon Veterans' Home by calling 1-800-846-8460 or 541-296-7152 or by e-mail at kuehlr@odva.state.or.us.

WWII Veteran Honored at Memorial Day Event

Erskine Arbeiter will remember May 30, 2005 as the culmination of a 60-year quest for the Purple Heart for combat injuries incurred in 1945 during his military service in World War II (WWII). With family and friends in attendance, Arbeiter was presented with his WWII Purple Heart at the Benton County Veterans Memorial Seventh Annual Memorial Day celebration. Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Director Jim Willis assisted with the presentation.

After numerous attempts over the years to secure his medal, Arbeiter contacted the ODVA for assistance.



WWII veteran, Erskine Arbeiter receives his Purple Heart, 60-years after-the-fact, during a Memorial Day celebration held at the Benton County Veterans Memorial.

Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form

"Give to those who have already given of themselves"

Charitable donations made to the Oregon Veterans' Home in any monetary amount are welcome and greatly appreciated. All donors receive a special letter of thanks from the Director of Veterans' Affairs and have their name included in the donor registry located in the lobby of the Home. If your gift to the Oregon Veterans' Home is:

- \$35 - \$64, you will receive one Oregon Veterans' Home remembrance pin. Remembrance pins are designed especially for our valued donors. The distinctive emblems can be worn on a lapel, vest, jacket, blouse, hat or tie.
- \$65 - \$99, you will receive two remembrance pins.
- \$100 or more, you will receive two remembrance pins and for one year your name will appear on the "Wall of Gratitude", the Home's donor recognition display, which is prominently located in the lobby area of the Home (updated annually).

Here is my gift in the amount of: _____

I prefer not to receive an emblem

Check is enclosed (Please make checks payable to the "Oregon Veterans' Home".)

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

Account #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

I am making my donation to the Oregon Veterans' Home

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please send my "Remembrance Emblem(s)" to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Send acknowledgements to: Name & Address: _____

Your gift qualifies for a charitable contribution tax deduction.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE OREGON VETERANS' HOME
 The Place Where Honor Lives!

Please clip this form and mail with your donation to:

Oregon Veterans' Home, c/o ODVA, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285

Anniversary of First Atomic Bomb

In the predawn hours of July 16, 1945, the incredible event that took place in a remote area of New Mexico, forever changed the world. The impressive and destructive powers of the atom were unleashed and suddenly what had been proven only in theory became reality.

The test of the first atomic bomb was the culmination of three years of planning and development within the top secret Manhattan Project formed in 1942 and headed by General Leslie R. Groves. An isolated corner of the Alamogordo Bombing and Gunnery Range located 230 miles south of Los Alamos, New Mexico, was selected for the test that was given the code-name "Trinity". Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer directed the team, comprised of some of the greatest scientific minds of the time, headquartered at Los Alamos.

A steel tower was built in preparation for the test, which would suspend the bomb one hundred feet above the ground. Many were apprehensive as to whether the bomb would be a dud and others were concerned that the test might launch a catastrophic chain of events in the earth's atmosphere, and still others feared the possible consequences of radioactive fallout.

The bomb designed to test at Trinity Site actually involved two explosions. First there was the conventional TNT explosion followed by the nuclear explosion a fraction of a second later.

Three observation points were established at 10,000 yards from ground zero. These were shelters made of wood and protected by concrete and earth. The automatic firing device was triggered from the south bunker observatory, which served as the control center.

Massing of the Colors

The clouds parted just in time for a beautiful Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance ceremony at the Oregon State Capitol on June 14, 2005, National Flag Day. The 70-year tradition offers a unique, patriotic opportunity to honor veterans of the Armed Forces, those living and deceased who have served our nation. The ceremony was an emotional one, especially for the many families of Oregon servicemembers who have died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many were on hand for the event, which was dedicated to their loved ones.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director, Jim Willis spoke to the importance of honoring our flag and the men and women in uniform.

"Whenever Americans see the American Flag anywhere in the world, in most cases they can be sure there are fellow Americans close by who understand freedom, who know what it is to enjoy our individual liberties, and who understand the price paid to preserve our way of life," said Director Willis.

Eight area color guards participated including the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association, the American Legion, and the Oregon Chapter of the American Merchant Marines, and the Young Marines.

The Pledge of Allegiance ended with a flyover by two F-15 Fighter Jets. Later, the crowd enjoyed hearing the young women of the American Legion Girls State sing, "America the Beautiful." Finally, family members looked on as all of the names of the Oregon Servicemembers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan and Iraq were read.

It was a day of patriotism and special tribute to all of the men and women who continue to serve our nation.

Originally, the test was scheduled to take place at 4 a.m. on July 16, but due to rain and lightning it was postponed until the clouds cleared and winds died down. A short time later the weather cleared up and the test was given the go ahead. At 5:10 a.m. the countdown began and at 5:29:45 the atomic device successfully exploded.

It was the birth of a new age – The Age of Atomic Energy.

An Additional Note:

Members of the United States Armed Forces were exposed to ionizing radiation from atomic and nuclear weapons testing during the period beginning with the Trinity Blast of July 16, 1945 at Alamogordo, New Mexico; continuing through the U.S. clean-up of Nagasaki / Hiroshima; during the 235 atmospheric atomic and nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific and Nevada test sites; until the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

The National Association of Atomic Veterans recognizes that civilians as well as military personnel were exposed to harmful nuclear material radiation and have accordingly opened the membership to all civilians and their families. The National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), a non-profit, tax exempt, veterans organization, was founded in August, 1979 by the late Orville E. Kelly, and his wife, Wanda, of Burlington, Iowa.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information about the National Atomic Veterans Association, you can contact Fredrick Schafer at 541-258-7453 or e-mail derf@treschafer.com.

Department Presented with Liberty Ship

On April 26, 2005, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) was presented with a made-to-scale replica of a Liberty Ship, the U.S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien.

Members of the Emerald Sea Chapter of the U.S. Merchant Marine Association from Eugene made the presentation to Val Conley, Veterans' Services Administrator who accepted the gift on behalf of ODVA. On hand at the presentation was the Chapter President Joe Johnson, along with members and guests Pauline Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Edgar Lingenfield, Marian Sorensen, Sheri Sorensen, Ben Montoya, Karen Montoya, Ben Masengil, and Clark Smith.

In November 2004, ODVA held a ceremony to pay tribute and honor Merchant Marine veterans. The Department also designated a display case to house WWII Merchant Marine memorabilia. The display case is located in the lobby of the Oregon Veterans' Building at 700 Summer Street N.E., Salem, and is intended to serve as a reminder that we should never forget the exceptional sacrifice that the Merchant Marine made for our country. The display holds many items that have been presented to the Department from Merchant Marine Association members.

Marian Sorensen presented ODVA with the Liberty Ship replica that was made by her late husband Andy Sorensen, who was a Merchant Seaman in World War II.

The Merchant Marine display in the Oregon Veterans' Building will alternate the displaying of this latest Liberty Ship addition with that of a made-to-scale replica of a Victory Ship, also made by Sorensen. The lobby of the Oregon Veterans' Building is open to the Public on regular business days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Marian Sorensen stands in front of the Merchant Marine display case holding the Liberty Ship replica built by her late husband, Andy Sorensen.

National Recreation and Parks Month

It is summertime and July is the perfect time to plan a trip with the family to some of the Nations scenic parks and recreational areas. Below are some holidays of interest for the months of July, August and September.

JULY

- July 4** – Independence Day (1776)
This year our Nation celebrates its 229th Birthday.
- July 9** – Distinguished Service Medal Created (1918)
- July 10** – Anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Sicily (1943)
- July 16** – 60th Anniversary First Testing of the Atomic Bomb (1945)
On July 16, 1945 the world changed with the explosion of the first atomic bomb. The explosion took place at Trinity Site, which is on what is now White Sands Missile Range. Trinity Site is a national historic landmark that is open to the public twice a year. (See related article on Page 6.)
- July 21** – U. S. Veterans Administration was established (1930)
- July 26** – U.S. Department of Defense established (1947)
- July 27** – Korean War Armistice Day (1953)
An armistice ending the fighting in the three-year Korean War was signed by Communist and United Nations delegates in Panmunjom on July 27, 1953.
- July 28** – World War I Began (1914)

August

- August 4** – Coast Guard Day (1790)
On August 4, 1790, Congress authorized the building of a fleet of ten cutters, whose responsibility would be enforcement of the first tariff laws enacted under the Constitution. The name Coast Guard didn't come about until 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service –forebear to today's Coast Guard- was merged with the Lifesaving Service.
- August 6** – Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima (1945)
- August 7** – The Purple Heart was instituted (1782)
Awarded for bravery in action the first military decoration was instituted by General George Washington in 1782. The records show that only three men received it during the American Revolutionary War and two of those coveted badges still exist.
- August 9** – Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki (1945)
- August 14** – V-J Day (1945) - Marks Japan's surrender to Allied Forces, bringing an end to the fighting in the Pacific during World War II.
- August 16** – National Airborne Day (1942) – Anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump over North Africa.
- August 25** – Paris Liberated (1945)

September

- September 5** – Labor Day
- September 11** – Patriot Day
Patriot Day was signed into law on December 18th, 2001 as a day to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorists attacks on September 11, 2001.
- September 14** – The Star Spangled Banner Written (1814)
- September 15** – U.S. Troops entered Germany (1944)
- September 16** – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
This date is set aside as a time to honor the commitment and the sacrifices made by this nation's Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action, as well as their families.
- September 17** – Citizenship Day
Citizenship Day was signed into law by President Harry Truman on February 29, 1952.
- September 18** – U.S. Air Force Established (1947)
- September 25** – Gold Star Mother's Day
- September 25** – Disabled American Veterans Established (1920)
- September 29** – Veterans of Foreign Wars Established (1899)

Federal Legislation Introduced

In February of 2005, legislation was introduced in the U.S. Congress that would provide free medical care to military retirees; a promise many veterans say was made when they enlisted. H.R. 602 is called the "Keep our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act." If passed, the legislation would provide Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) coverage to eligible beneficiaries.

To qualify for the benefits, the veteran must meet the following criteria: (1) a member or former member entitled to military retired or retainer pay; (2) an unremarried former spouse who was married to a member for at least 20 years, during which such member performed at least 20 years of retirement-creditable military service; (3) a dependent of a deceased qualifying member or former member; (4) a dependent of a living member or former member; and (5) a family member.

The legislation would reimburse any expenses under the FEHB program that would not have been incurred under Tricare, as well as improve pharmacy benefits.

At time of print, this legislation was still pending.

Statement by Governor Kulongoski on BRAC Recommendations

Note: Below is Governor Ted Kulongoski's official response to the proposed military base closures. This press release is available on the Governor's website at <http://governor.oregon.gov/>.

(Salem, OR) – The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations today not only have a direct impact on Oregon's economy, but also risk compromising our homeland security efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

The 142nd is the premier F-15 fighter wing in our national air defense system and the only unit responsible for carrying out the homeland air defense mission in the Pacific Northwest. The BRAC makes no recommendation for how that critical mission will be filled.

The recommendations today will also strip the Portland Air Base of all aircraft including the 939th Air Refueling Wing, which had made substantial infrastructure improvements to the base and

served as the replacement unit following the transfer of aircraft from the 939th Rescue Wing in April 2003.

I will continue to work closely with the congressional delegation and communicate directly with the Chair of the BRAC commission and the Secretary of Defense regarding our concerns. To that end I will be joining our congressional delegation in inviting the commission members to come to Portland and see the Portland Airbase firsthand.

Media Contacts:

Holly Armstrong, 503-378-6169
Anna Richter Taylor, 503-378-6496

Evergreen Aviation Museum

The Evergreen Aviation Museum is a unique treasure located in our own backyard. Located just outside of McMinnville, Oregon it is the home of the famous 'Spruce Goose' and is within easy driving distance for many who live in the Willamette Valley and Northern Coast area.

The event coordinators at the Evergreen Aviation Museum are in the planning process for a veteran ceremony in honor of the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day to be held August 15th and a ceremony in honor of the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, that will be held September 2nd, so all area veterans, and veteran supporters should mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Event organizers are seeking a speaker - a veteran who served on the USS Missouri and was aboard the ship on September 2, 1945. If you meet these criteria and would like more information about speaking to assist the Museum, please contact the Director of Special Events, Lynda Wiegand at 503-434-4402.

In addition to a variety of extraordinary aircraft and artifacts, special feature events and displays, such as the Northwest Antique Airplane Club Fly-in, coming up August 19-21, 2005 where some 500 vintage planes will be on-site.

Details regarding hours of operation, upcoming events, admission costs and tours can be found on their website www.sprucegoose.com or by calling 503-434-4180.

You Can Apply For A Discharge Upgrade

Veterans (their surviving spouses, next of kin, or legal representative" if the veteran is deceased or legally incompetent) may apply to have their discharges corrected or upgraded. Title 10, United States Code, Section 1553, is the law governing military discharges.

Pursuant to the law, application for discharge upgrades must be made within 15 years of discharge to the appropriate service's Discharge Review Board. The Army, Air Force and Coast Guard have separate boards. The Navy operates the board for both Navy and Marine Corps personnel. For discharges older than 15 years, application must be made apply for a change to military records

For more information or for assistance with a discharge correction or upgrade, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 503-373-2085 or toll free within Oregon at 800-692-9666 or contact a veterans' service officer (see list on page 11).

Memorial Garden Bricks Available

The Vietnam War Memorial Garden located on the Campus of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Vancouver, was dedicated in November of 2002. The purpose of the Garden is to honor all Vietnam Era veterans from the United States and notably the Pacific Northwest. The Garden creates a symbolic journey; with varied landscapes the journey along the path starts in native Pacific Northwest foliage and transitions to plantings set to resemble Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

Further along the path, a 360 degree observatory offers a view of areas just visited and is intended as a place for reflective thought, remembrance and healing. Finally, the pathway leads to a brick plaza called the "Honor Plaza" which contains a reflective dish designed to extend appreciation and remembrance to all Vietnam veterans.

Bricks are available for purchase and can be inscribed with a dedication or memorial. The proceeds from the sale of the bricks go to maintain and improve the Memorial Garden. For information about the Garden or about what other tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Garden, contact the VA Medical Center, Community Resource Development at 503-220-8262 ext. 55701 or 360-696-4061 ext.55701.

Co-Pay for Smoking Cessation Counseling Eliminated

Effective May 2, 2005, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) designated smoking cessation counseling, both individual and group sessions, as being exempt from co-payments. According to the VA, removing the financial barrier of co-payments is intended to increase the number of individuals who participate in smoking cessation counseling.

Medical literature cites smoking cessation as the most cost-effective medical intervention, next to immunizing children for disease.

For assistance with obtaining smoking cessation counseling or other medical care from the VA, contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs or a veterans' service officer (see list on page 11).

Looking For Recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross

It's a mission Mike Scorcio will never forget. As a navigator on a B-17 flying over targets in Czechoslovakia during World War II, Scorcio received the scare of his life when his bomber was hit by enemy fire and lost two engines. Scorcio helped navigate the aircraft over 600 miles to reach a base in Italy before landing safely. For his actions on that fateful day, Scorcio was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), a medal awarded to service members of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguish themselves in combat by "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight." The DFC is this nation's second highest military award, preceded only by the Medal of Honor.

More than 60 years later, Scorcio is looking for other Oregonians who have been awarded the DFC to join an Oregon Chapter, which Scorcio helped establish. The Lewis and Clark Chapter, the 17th chapter in the nation, currently has more than 40 members. Scorcio and his fellow Chapter members hope to increase their membership significantly. The Chapter's goal is to have the stories of DFC recipients become permanent records at the Oregon Historical Society.

If you are interested in joining the Distinguished Flying Cross Recipients Lewis & Clark Chapter, please contact Mike Scorcio at 503-786-3459.



OPVA Grant Will Educate First Responders

The Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) has been awarded an \$18,500 grant by the National Paralyzed Veterans of America. The grant will fund an educational program for Emergency Rooms and Emergency Medical Technicians throughout Oregon about Autonomic Dysreflexia, an often mis diagnosed condition that can be life threatening for individuals with spinal cord injuries.

Autonomic Dysreflexia is a condition where the individual's blood pressure increases drastically in response to an unknown irritation to the system. Although it may be something as simple as a full bladder or clothing that is too tight, Autonomic Dysreflexia can become fatal as blood pressure rises to 220/160 or more. Proper, rapid diagnosis and treatment are vital to preventing stroke, heart failure, or death.

OPVA members will provide in-service presentations on the topic of Autonomic Dysreflexia, including how to recognize signs and symptoms and how they should be treated. A CD and booklet with information on this life threatening condition will be given to each Emergency Room, Fire Department EMT Team, and Ambulance company statewide to educate the personnel on various aspects of this often misdiagnosed condition.

"This two-year program to help educate first responders is vital to the entire spinal cord injured community," said OPVA President Jerry Ryan.

Two New Campaign Medals - Afghanistan and Iraq

The Department of Defense has announced the creation of two new campaign medals for service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Previously, service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan were awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. But now, those who served in Iraq and meet qualifications will be awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal and those who served in Afghanistan and meet qualifications will be awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

In order to receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal service members must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom on or after October 24, 2001 to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense or the cessation of the operation. The area of eligibility encompasses all land areas of the country of Afghanistan and all air spaces above the land.

Those authorized for the Iraq Campaign Medal must have served in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on or after March 19, 2003, to a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense or the cessation of the operation. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the country of Iraq, and the contiguous water area out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land area of Iraq and above the contiguous water area out to 12 nautical miles. Service members must have been

assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in these areas of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or for 60 non-consecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility; or
- While participating in an operation or on official duties, is wounded or injured and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility; or
- While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within or over the area of eligibility in direct support of the military operations; each day of operations counts as one day of eligibility.

Service members qualified for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal by reasons of service between October 24, 2001, and April 30, 2005, in an area for which the Afghanistan Campaign Medal was subsequently authorized and between March 19, 2003 and February 28, 2005, in an area for which the Iraq Campaign Medal was subsequently authorized, shall remain qualified for the medal.

Information about the Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals is available on the Department of Defense website at www.defenselink.mil.

Groundbreaking for Afghan-Iraq Freedom War Memorial

More than three hundred people gathered on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs on June 14, 2005 for the groundbreaking of the Afghan-Iraq Freedom War Memorial. The day was a dream come true for Clay and M.J. Kesterson who lost their son Erik – a Blackhawk Helicopter Pilot – in the conflict in Iraq in November 2003. Since his death they have dedicated much of their time to establishing a Memorial to honor Oregon Servicemembers who have given their lives serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many of the families who lost loved ones in the ongoing conflict were on hand for the groundbreaking. Governor Ted Kulongoski, who attended most of their funerals, highlighted the significance of the day. "We set aside and consecrate this small patch of land to allow for quiet

contemplation and reflection, for those who are home or coming home,...and for the loved ones of those who did not – or will



The Kestersons provided a display at the Groundbreaking ceremony that held a framed poster with the photo and name of all Oregon servicemembers who have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, a photograph of their son, Chief Warrant Officer, Erik C. Kesterson, along with an artist rendition of what the proposed Memorial will look like.

not. In setting aside this land, we say thank you to all of the men and women from Oregon who have walked into harms way in Afghanistan and Iraq. Their service has been brave, noble and selfless," said the Governor.

Luke Wilson, a veteran who lost his leg in Iraq spoke to the importance of establishing a permanent Memorial for his fellow servicemembers who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"Every time I take my leg off in the morning and at night, it reminds me of all of them. I will think of them everyday and every night for as long as I live," said Wilson.

Fundraising for the Memorial continues, and the final approval for the location of the Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is pending. A date for the dedication has not yet been set.

Military Education Display at the Oregon State Fair



The Greater Salem Area Veterans' Organizations will be hosting a military education display at the Oregon State Fair. The display offers a unique look at military uniforms through the years. The theme for this year's display is the Vietnam War with a special uniform display on Iraq and Afghanistan

The Oregon State Fair begins on Friday, August 26 and will run through Labor Day, September 5, 2005. The military display will be up for the duration of the State Fair. If you are interested in donating items for the display, please call Mac Macdonald at 503-364-4299 or Jim Hardie at 503-463-4277.

Veterans Day Event Info Needed

It is our pleasure to be able to include information about Veterans Day events in the Nov/Dec issue of the *VETS NEWS*. To have your event considered for inclusion in the *VETS NEWS*, please submit in writing the following information:

- Organization holding the event
- Location of event
- Date of event
- Name of contact person
- Phone number of contact person
- Short description of the event

Either - mail to: *VETS NEWS*, 700 Summer Street N.E., Salem, Oregon 97301-1285, or fax to ATTN: *VETS NEWS* at 503-373-2362 or you can e-mail the information to stecklr@odva.state.or.us.

If the event is a parade, please indicate the start and finish location of the parade and/or the parade route. For luncheons, barbecues, etc., please indicate if there is a charge to attend.

For questions, contact Robin Steckley at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs toll free 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2385 or 503-373-2385.

Looking For ...

Mr. Z.S. 'Goldy' Goldenberg is looking for his former Medical Company, 160 Infantry Regiment, 40th Division, Platoon Commander, Captain Fred Hahn. If anyone has information that may assist him in his search, he can be contacted by mail at Z.S. Goldenberg, 89 Lakeview Drive, Daly City, California 94015-1050.

Elva Shorack would like to hear from members of the Gold Star Wives who lost their husbands during the Vietnam War, especially if you live in the Eugene, Oregon area. She can be reached at 541-343-2152.



NGWRC to Start Oregon Chapter

The National Gulf War Resource Center, Inc. (NGWRC), founded in 1995, is a non-profit organization that provides advocacy for veterans of the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq. Thousands of Gulf War veterans suffer from a variety of illnesses that may be a direct result of their service in the military.

Morris Blakey of Klamath Falls, Oregon is working with NGWRC President Julie Mock to gather information about interest in forming a Chapter in Oregon. Blakey, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, served in the Gulf War with the 2nd Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines.

Those interested in forming an Oregon Chapter of NGRWRC please contact:

Julie Mock
President, NGWRC
juliemock@ngwrc.org
Website: www.ngwrc.org

Or

Morris Blakey
3165 Paramount Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
541-273-1541
cree3022@yahoo.com

Reunions

U.S.S. Thetis Bay CVE – 90, CVHA – 1, LPH – 6 is holding a reunion September 7–11, 2005, in Wakefield, Missouri. For information, contact J.M. "Duke" Ditrich at 503-632-7273.

17th Photo Recon. Squadron is holding its annual reunion in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 8–10, 2005. For more information, contact Al Bailey, 6705 SE Ash Place, Portland, Oregon 97215, telephone 503-232-8051, e-mail baileyalp38@aol.com.

100th Infantry Division WWII reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 8-11, 2005. Contact Hank Williams for more information, telephone 808-438-2647 or e-mail hbw2@bellsouth.net.

"C" Company of the 72nd TK Battalion will hold their annual reunion September 13-15, 2005, in Branson, Missouri. For additional information, contact Leon Dussault at 256-883-2512 or Quinten Fadness at 503-663-5985.

U.S.S. Ranger (CV4) will hold its 40th annual reunion in San Diego, California, September 14-18, 2005. For information, contact Tom Osmunson, 314 Ridge Street, Honesdale, Pennsylvania 18431-1625, or telephone 570-253-4806.

U.S.S. Charles Carroll APA28 is holding its 20th reunion September 15-18, 2005, at the Holiday Inn National Airport located at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Please contact Mildred Smith, 11171 Coit Road, Dallas, Texas 75251, or telephone 972-385-0525, or e-mail mildredsmith972@sbcglobal.net.

U.S.S. Bayfield APA 33 will be holding its annual ships reunion at the Cobblestone Inn in Branson, Missouri from September 22-26, 2005. All former USCG, Marine, USN personnel are invited to attend. For more information, contact Larry Ferguson at 530-435-2562 or e-mail usardi@snowcrest.net.

U.S. Naval Construction Battalion No. 3 will hold a reunion September 23-25, 2005, at the Boardwalk Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information, contact Dwight Hintz at 503-667-3761 or e-mail pweatherwax@aol.com.

90th Bomb Squadron (LNI, Korea) is holding a reunion at the Embassy Suites, Vienna, Virginia, September 29-October 2, 2005. Contact Richard Larsen for more information, at telephone 717-352-2900, or e-mail larsengl@innernet.net.

Reunions *Continued*

76th Infantry Division Association will hold their 58th annual reunion at the Holiday Inn Downtown-Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 13-16, 2005. For information, contact Bob Donahoe, 160 Sea Gull Lane, Eastham, Maine 02642, or telephone 503-240-1201, or e-mail rdonahoe1@comcast.com.

483rd Bombardment Group (H)

Association is having their annual reunion October 10-15, 2005, in Galveston, Texas. Contact Claude Jackson for more information at 1758 Pasadena Boulevard, Pasadena, Texas 77502-2420, telephone 713-472-1572, or e-mail claude483@sbcglobal.net.

Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans will hold its annual reunion at the Ramada Express Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada, October 16-21, 2005. For more information, contact Gordon W. Morgan at 503-254-6848 or e-mail usmcg27@aol.com.

“HAM” Radio Club at the Oregon Veterans’ Home

A group of veterans at the Oregon Veterans’ Home has formed a HAM Radio club. The “HAM” veterans meet regularly at the Home and have an area dedicated to equipment for their operation including computer, amplifier, antenna tuner, antenna and indicator box. HAM veterans at the Home have made contact with individuals as far away as Europe and Japan.

Amateur radio is a community of people that use radio transmitters and receivers to communicate with other Amateur radio operators. Amateur radio operators are often called hand radio operators or simply “hams.”

One thing is for sure, the veterans at the Veterans’ Home take pride in their HAM Radio Club. Their sense of accomplishment is well deserved.

Veterans Coffee Club

The Wings of Freedom Veterans Coffee Club meets the 1st Friday of each month at The Bomber Restaurant from 10 a.m. to noon. Veterans of all wars and veteran supporters are welcome. The Bomber is located at 13515 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon. If you have any questions, contact Terry Scott at 503-654-6491 or visit their website at www.thebomber.com/Events.asp.

VETERANS’ SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker	541-523-8223	Arda Johnson
Benton	541-758-1595	Don Johnson
Clackamas	503-650-5631	Janice Raisl
Clatsop	503-325-2429	Kenneth H. Rislow
Columbia	503-397-2268	Jeff Hill
Coos	541-396-3121 Ext. 362	Mary Ann Sackett
Crook	541-447-5304	Sid Carter
Curry	541-247-3205 Ext. 205	Mike McGuinness
Deschutes	541-385-3214	Patricia Ross
Douglas	541-440-4219	Mary Newman
Gilliam	1-888-804-1817	Linda Adams
Grant	541-575-1631	William G. Wynne
Harney	541-573-6024	Theresa Williams
Hood River	541-386-1080	Linda Adams
Jackson	541-774-7837	Marty Kimmel
Jefferson	541-475-5228	Bob Carroll
Josephine	541-474-1316	Rusty Kidder
Klamath	541-883-4274	Isabel Rodriguez
Lake	541-947-6043	Julian Garcia
Lane	541-682-4191	Joseph Reiley
Lincoln	541-574-6955	Beckie Hernandez
Linn	541-967-3882	Pat Brillon
Malheur	541-889-6649	Bill Thomson
Marion	503-373-2085	ODVA
Morrow	541-676-5667	Juanita Cox
Multnomah	503-988-3620 Ext. 26123	Dave Raby
Polk	503-373-2085	ODVA
Sherman	541-442-5248	Daryl V. Melzer
Tillamook	503-377-0294	Steve Weld
Umatilla	541-278-5482	Peggy Raines
Union	541-962-8802	Timothy H. Jederberg
Wallowa	541-426-3155 Ext.241	Timothy H. Jederberg
Wasco	541-506-2502	Linda Adams
Washington	503-640-3489	Jeff Hill
Wheeler	1-888-804-1817	Linda Adams
Yamhill	503-434-7503	Diane Cilenti

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
The American Legion	503-326-2616	Jerry Schleining
Veterans of Foreign Wars	503-326-2614	Jack Zule
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-326-3617	Ken Fink
American Veterans (AMVETS)	503-326-5542	James Chubinsky
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-326-2486	David Saylor
Disabled American Veterans	503-326-2620	Jay E. Woodbury

State Offices	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Salem	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	Kelly Breshears Ron Jarchow Bruce Pease Don Wolf
Portland	503-326-2611	Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Renee’ Pace Doug Yerke

Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Veterans’ Home Loans - Veterans’ Benefits - Conservatorship
Oregon Veterans’ Home (skilled nursing & rehabilitative care)
503-373-2000 or 1-800-828-8801
ODVA Website: www.oregon.gov/odva

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