



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006

www.oregon.gov/odva

Jim Willis, Director

Gold Stars Light Up Oregon at 2006 National Convention

Portland, Oregon was recently host to the 2006 National Convention for the Gold Star Wives of America. The non-profit organization is comprised of members, who have lost a spouse while on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or who have died as a result of their service-connected disabilities. The membership of the organization has been active since December of 1945 when the organization was incorporated. A Federal Charter was granted by Congress in December of 1980.

Several activities involved the leadership at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). On Friday afternoon, ODVA Director Jim Willis was presented with a

\$1,000 donation from the Gold Star Wives for the Oregon Veterans' Home. The leadership of the Gold Star Wives is aware that the Oregon

Veterans' Home receives no state General Fund tax dollars for operation or maintenance.

A Saturday morning memorial service at the Willamette National Cemetery was held to honor the men and women who have paid the



Gold Star Gathering - Delegates from the 2006 Gold Star Wives National Convention gather for a photo opportunity at Willamette National Cemetery.

ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States. Willis stated, "The Gold Star Wives of America continue to support and counsel our

newest war widows with a compassion based on personal knowledge of loss and with confidence of a brighter future based on the accomplishments of the entire membership."

Willis led a unique presentation during the posting of the six service banners, which honored the fallen servicemembers. As each service anthem was played, Gold Star Wives were asked to stand in honor of their loved ones branch of service. Willis read each of the service flag creeds, including that of the Merchant Marines, which he authored. Willis also shared a poem that he had written entitled "When a Soldier Dies".

Saturday night was filled with more Gold Stars as the evening banquet once again honored the ultimate price of freedom. Participants were honored to hear U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson as the keynote speaker who paid tribute to the fallen. Veterans Affairs and Gold Star Wives leaders from national, regional, state, and local organizations were recognized with awards. Newly-elected national officers were also installed.



Remember POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 15, 2006 (observed each year on the third Friday of September) is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

The sacrifices of Americans still missing and unaccounted for from all our Nation's wars and their families are deserving of national recognition and support for continued priority efforts to determine the fate of those missing Americans.

This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifice made by this nation's Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action, as well as their families.



More than 88,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. The United States leads the world in the humanitarian effort to account for its missing.

By federal law the POW/MIA flag is required to be flown six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day, at major federal installations. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs flies the POW/MIA flag every day.



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Director's Message



Birthdays and Benefits

Birthdays

On September 18, 2006, the United States Air Force will celebrate its 59th birthday. In what began as part of the United States Army, the Air Force became a separate branch of the Armed Forces on September 18, 1947 by an act of Congress and is most recently a member of our nation's joint and total force. This highly-trained and technically-proficient group of professionals deserves our praise as we extend a very Happy Birthday to the men and women of the United States Air Force.

In October, we will celebrate the birthday of a far more senior service. It was on October 13, 1775 when the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, voted to "fit out two sailing vessels, armed with ten carriage guns, as well as swivel guns, and manned by crews of eighty officers and men."

It was this original legislation that constituted the birth certificate of our Navy. From these humble beginnings, our Navy has grown to the finest naval force in the world. As they celebrate their 231st birthday, we say "Hooray for the United States Navy."

Benefits

One of the saddest duties a veteran advocate can have is to tell a veteran that they no longer qualify for a specific benefit because the time the veteran had in which to apply for the benefit has expired.

In an effort to avoid that disappointment for qualified veterans in the future, I would like to review just a few, but not all of the state and federal benefits that can expire. Please share this information with other veterans. No one wants any veteran to lose access to a benefit due to an expiration date.

Federal Benefits:

Combat Veterans: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will provide combat veterans free health care for any illness possibly associated with service against a hostile force in a war since the Gulf War or during a period of hostility after November 11, 1998. **Time limit to apply: Two years from release from active duty.**

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment: VA helps veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Some of the services offered are: job search, vocational evaluation, career exploration, vocational training, education, and rehabilitation service. **Time limit: Generally 12 years from VA notice to veteran of at least a 10 percent disability rating.**

Dental: Veterans may receive one-time dental treatment if they were not provided treatment within 90 days before separation from active duty. **Time limit: Must apply within 90 days from separation** (The time limit does not apply to

veterans with dental conditions resulting from service-connected wounds or injuries).

Education and Training:

Montgomery GI Bill- Active Duty (Chapter 30) **Time limit: 10 years from release from last period of active duty. Limited extensions available.**

Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606) **Time limit: 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or until released from the Selected Reserve or National Guard, which ever occurs first. Some extensions available if activated.**

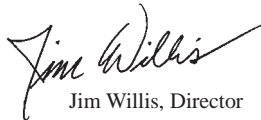
State Benefits:

State Veterans Home Loan Program: Oregon is one of only five states that offer a low interest Veterans Home Loan. This loan is currently offered at 5.65 percent. **Time limit: 30 years from date of separation.**

Veterans Preference Points for Public Employment: **Time limit: 15 years from date of separation.**

Disabled Veterans Preference Point for Public Employment: **No expiration.**

More examples of veterans benefits will be a part of the next Director's message. If you have any questions about your veterans' benefits, please contact any County Veterans' Service Officer, State Veterans' Service Officer or National Service Officer. Their locations and phone numbers are contained on page 12 of this edition of the *VETS NEWS*.


Jim Willis, Director



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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, OR 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 October 1, 2006.

Massing of the Colors in Portland

The Portland Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) will present the 42nd Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance on October 29th at 2 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Oregon National Guard's Kliever Armory located at 10000 NE 33rd Drive in Portland.

The ceremony will honor all veterans, living and deceased, and will also pay tribute to all U.S. military members who are currently serving.

The MOWW is inviting all veterans' organizations to participate in the ceremony by providing a color guard or honor guard.

For further information and to register, please contact Col. Kathy Page at 503-502-9072.



A Memorial Bench for Eugene Ernster

The Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial Fund Inc. (VVOMF) is currently seeking contributions in an effort to establish a memorial bench in tribute to Eugene Julian Ernster. The bench would be located at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial in the Hoyt Arboretum in Portland.

Ernster, a Purple Heart recipient, served three tours of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT). He went on to own a backflow testing business in the Portland metro area. In 1986, he helped build the fountain at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial and continued to maintain the fountain until his death in December 2005.

If you are interested in making a contribution for the memorial bench, donations can be made to the VVOMF, 1750 SW Skyline Blvd. Suite 15, Portland, OR 97221. Donations should be specified for the Ernster Memorial Bench. For more information, contact Jerry Pero at 503-266-1686.



Eligibility Expanded for Global War on Terrorism Medals

President George W. Bush established the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) medals On March 12, 2003.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is presented to service-members who serve or have served in military expeditions to combat terrorism, as defined by such regulations, on or after September 11, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal is presented to service-members who serve or have served in military operations to combat



terrorism, as defined by such regulations, on or after September 11, 2001, and before a terminal date to be prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

Recent changes to the Expeditionary Medal have expanded eligibility to designated geographical locations. Those locations include: Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chad, Georgia, Hungary, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Turkey, Uganda, Mediterranean Sea (when conducting boarding and searching vessel operations), Colombia, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



and specified GWOT Kosovo operations not associated with those qualifying for the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Veterans are entitled to one set of medals and awards. The issuance or replacement of service medals should be directed towards the veteran's branch of military service.

Veterans and family members should use Standard Form SF-180 to submit a Request Pertaining to Military Records. Assistance obtaining medals is available from Veterans' Service Officers. See list on page 12 or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs website at www.oregon.gov/odva.



World War II Museum Proclaimed by Congress

Over 60 years later... it's a reality. It took some time for the United States to have an official museum representing the lives and times of World War II, but that has all changed due to a recent action by Congress.

Congress has proclaimed that the National D-Day Museum, formerly a museum designated to bringing attention and understanding of the events of that fateful day, as the official World War II Museum. The expanded role is one that those involved with the museum welcome.

"Being named by Congress as the National World War II Museum is a tremendous honor. It recognizes what our museum has accomplished in our first six years, and gives us our marching orders for the future," said Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller, museum president.



Upgraded Role: An architectural model of the proposed expansion of the current National D-Day Museum, now designated to be the National World War II Museum.

The museum has already begun to collect historical artifacts and oral histories that will help meet the facility's \$282 million expansion.

It is becoming increasingly important to secure the history and memories of World War II. It is estimated that more than 1,000 World War II veterans pass away every day. Establishing a national museum that will provide present and future generations the opportunity to reflect on, and honor the courage and sacrifices of thousands of men and women who served our country during that tumultuous time is paramount.

The National World War II Museum is located at 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. The museum suffered some damage during Hurricane Katrina, but has reopened and is operating daily (except Mondays). Additional information about the museum is available by visiting its website at www.nationalww2museum.org or by calling 504 527-6012.



Annual Troop and Veterans Appreciation Day to be Held

Active duty military members and prior-service veterans will be honored at the fourth annual Troop and Veterans Appreciation Day in McMinnville, September 23rd.

Sponsored by the Coalition of Troop Support (COTS), the event will be held at the National Guard Armory located at 333 Armory Way, between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. Veterans and their families will be recognized and treated to food and music, a traveling military museum and several military displays. The Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association will also be sponsoring a Poker Run with 100 percent of the proceeds going to COTS.

The four-year old volunteer organization, founded by Sue Robertson, began gathering items to create "Comfort Kits" that have been

prepared and sent to thousands of Oregon and Washington military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Terri Eckrode, a COTS assistant coordinator, said it's the little things that we forget about that are requested most by those serving in the hot desert environment.

"Items such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste and other personal toiletries for men and women are popular," she said. "They also need other items like candies, gum, snack foods, powdered drink mixes, batteries, paperback books, eye drops and lip balm."

These donated items may be dropped off at the McMinnville Armory, the McMinnville American Legion Post at 126 Atlantic Street, or by calling COTS for pickup. For more information about the annual event, the Poker

Run or to donate Comfort Kit items, call Mike or Jan Mullaney at 503-662-3399.



Filling the Uniform

The Greater Salem Area Veterans Organizations (GSAVO) is inviting veterans to submit photos of themselves along with a short description of their military service.

The goal is to connect photographs and stories with uniforms that have been donated. The uniform exhibit travels to various locations and serves as a living reminder of the service and sacrifice of our freedom. Call Mac MacDonald at 503-364-4299 to share your story and submit a photograph.

OVH Welcomes a New Admissions & Liaison Officer

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is pleased to announce the hiring of Linda Adams as the new Admissions and Liaison Officer for the Oregon Veterans' Home, located in The Dalles.

Prior to coming on board with the Oregon Veterans' Home, Adams worked for Hood River County as a County Veterans' Service Officer serving Hood River, Gilliam, Wheeler and Wasco Counties. Adams has a long-standing history of commitment to the mid-Columbia region of the state and to Oregon's veteran community. She was recognized by her colleagues across the state as the Oregon Veterans' Service Officer of the Year for 2004, and has contributed informational columns on veteran issues to several newspapers under the heading *Voice for Vets*, including papers in The Dalles, Hood River and Condon.



Linda Adams, former CVSO for Hood River, Gilliam, Wasco and Wheeler Counties, recently named new OVH Admissions and Liaison Officer

In her new role with the Home, Adams will act as an on-site official for the State of Oregon, Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Admissions and Liaison Officer, among other duties, monitors and ensures compliance with nursing home-related standards and regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the State of Oregon;

researches and evaluates information on standards and practices relating to nursing home operations and service delivery; recommends program development and the development of standards of operation and approaches to service delivery and monitors and administers the operational contract of the on-site management company.

Adams will fill the vacancy left by Roxane Kuehl, who has served at the Home since it opened in 1997 and has a reputation of exemplary service. Her dedication to veterans and their families is recognized by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, staff at The Home, veterans' organizations and veterans who have resided at the Home and their families.



Friends of the Home



Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund continue to be received. We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of an ever-growing number of Friends of the Home. To become a friend of the home, use the gift form on page 5, and make a donation today. Those who contributed during the months of June and July 2006 are listed below:

John Olson
Mel and Norma Peterson
James A. Gunder
Florence McCulley
Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jenks
American Legion Post 124
Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
Pauline Scott
American Legion Post 16
Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Assoc.,
North Valley Chapter
Combined Federal Campaign
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crews
Access Computer Products
VFW Post #3452
DAV, Department of Oregon
Military Order of the Purple Heart,
South Coast Chapter #1942
David Fairclo
MOAA, Portland Chapter
Gretchen Johnson
Helena Gunderson
William E. Merritt
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Leo Peltier
Marty Conlin
Howard Abbe
Knights of Columbus #898
Dale Albee
S.W. Elliott
Charitable Checkoff Donations
Military Order of the Cooties,
Rimrock Pup Tent #8
Robert L. Weiss
Paulen Kaseberg
Bob Ricketts
Robert Wakehouse
Ernest Wakehouse
Willis Gholston

Kathy Jamison,
Metro Area Community Commission
Oregon Chapter of the Chosin Few
Waves National Unit #138
DAV Yamhill County Auxiliary #5
Gary Van Orman
Alan E. Russell
VFW Auxiliary #1479
Col. Donald Miller
Herb Gedney
Mel and Millie Barnard
Mark Sullivan
Donald McDaniel
Jerry Coleman
David R. Spinks
Daniel and Patty Wambaugh
VETERAN License Plates
Jim H. Gregory
Mary Campana
Lewis D. Kanthack
G. Hollis and Clara Ottaway
Thomas and Virginia Hake
Bert and Lois Shoemaker
Oregon County Veterans'
Service Officers Association
John and Norma Brown
Donald Laubach
James Trent
Wilford Dunster
Steven and Sharon Crabb
Helen Wilson
Helen MacNab
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Draper
Alma Sarpola
Klea and Clay Espy
Gresham Ford on behalf of Robert Galatz
Wright Land Co.
Jerry Willis
Laurie Kemhus

Jack Magnuson
Lois and Larry Hughes
American Legion Post 152
Arnold Ebert
Herman and Elaine Smith
W.E. Jones
Ila Rae Winslow
Sarita Martin Stewart
Cork and Linda Walker
Bernhard Baer, Jr.
Darreld and Linda Kerlin
B.F. Croucher
Ken and Arliss Rolph
Tom Van Lehn
Ken Waren
Maxine Kelbel
Millard Roberts
C. Goss
Stadium High School
Larry Kaufman
Mary Ann Spear
Frances Gray
Evelyn Hall-Krantz
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
George and Virginia Wood
Larry and Gudrun Fry
Janice Kraack
Tom and Peggy Cox
Charles and Loye Ann May
Jack and Mary Wallace
Dennis and Carole Rice
Claudette and Kathleen McLoughlin
Mr. and Mrs. George MacNab
James and Charlotte Potter
VFW Post #4211
Military Order of the Cooties
VFW Auxiliary #4108
Bend Senior Center

Americal Veterans Visit Oregon and Award Scholarships

The Americal Division Veterans' Association (ADVA) recently held the organization's National Reunion in Oregon. Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Director Jim Willis was guest speaker at the banquet. Americal veterans and families from across the nation were in attendance, including Medal of Honor Recipient Nick Bacon, who served thirteen years as the Director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hammond of Beaverton planned the reunion event that included a riverboat ride on the Willamette, a golf tournament, an evening picnic at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, and much more.

ODVA produced an audio/visual presentation for the banquet activities. More than four hundred veterans and family members were able to view the actual State of Oregon flag which was carried in battle during the Vietnam war. Veterans who wish to view the battle-worn encased flag can visit ODVA at 700 Summer St. NE in Salem, where the flag is on permanent display in the foyer. Banquet attendees also were treated with a

special video presentation tuned up with the everlasting and patriotic *Proud to be an American* by Lee Greenwood. Veterans wishing to view the video along with event photographs can visit the organization's website, www.americal.org.

A highlight of the banquet was the awarding of college scholarships with a total of \$25,000 in scholarships being awarded. University of Oregon student Joel Reynolds was the first place \$3,000 scholarship award winner. The 2006 ceremony marks the third straight year that an Oregon student was awarded an Americal scholarship. Reynolds who has ambitions of a double major and a master's degree, was sponsored by his grandfather Jack Morton. Morton served in the 182nd Infantry Regiment during World War II.

"The reunion of the soldiers of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal) brought together those who had served in World War II as well as during the war in Vietnam. To these soldiers, the words "Duty, Honor and Country" are more than just words. They represent what they believe in, and for many

of their brothers and sisters, what they died for. It was Oregon's honor to be their host," said Willis.

The Americal Division dates back to May of 1942 on the island of New Caledonia where three regiments were sent after attacks on Pearl Harbor. The division was deactivated and reactivated throughout various wars. The deep Oregon connection is with TASK FORCE OREGON following the reactivation of the division during the Vietnam War in 1967. Operations carried out by TASK FORCE OREGON during the Vietnam War were named for many Oregon counties. Veterans interested in Vietnam War history can learn more about the Oregon connection online at www.americal.org/oregon.shtml.



Health Screenings at Salem Celebration

The Salem Vet Center, will be hosting a celebration in recognition and honor of Veterans Day by offering free medical screening in cooperation with the Oregon Lions Mobile Screening Unit. The celebration and screenings are scheduled for Thursday, November 9, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The Oregon Lions Mobile Screening Unit will be parked at the Salem Vet Center, located at 617 Chemeketa Street NE, Suite 100. Screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, hearing, visual acuity, and glaucoma will be provided. A three-hour fasting period is required prior to diabetes screening. Also the Salem Community Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC) will be providing flu shots free of charge. The health screenings and flu shots are available to veterans only.

All veterans, their families and the public are invited to come and join the festivities and meet representatives from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Oregon Employment Department (OED), the Enrollment Department, Portland VA Medical Center, several veterans' organizations including the Marine Corps League, Gold Star Wives, and Oregon Veterans' Motorcycle Association (OVMA). Refreshments will also be available.

If you have questions, please call Rosy Macias of the Salem Vet Center at 503-362-9911.



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 a Remembrance Pin.

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 Pin(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

Ex-POW Recalls Horrors of the Death March and Imprisonment

In 1942, PFC Andrew Aquila was a clerk in Company B, 192nd Tank Battalion stationed in the Philippines. He was one of four brothers who had joined the Army to serve their country. Andrew had enlisted in 1941 before Pearl Harbor was attacked.

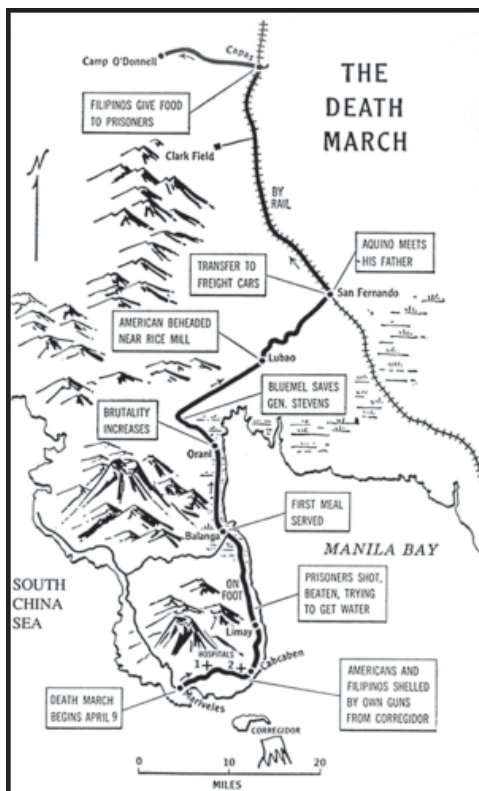
While defending the strategic Bataan Peninsula against the attacks and advances by the Japanese Army on April 9, 1942, Aquila's world changed forever. The enemy had overrun the military forces, and at age 24, Aquila had become a prisoner of war.

Today at age 88, the spry Aquila still vividly recalls the horrors of the Bataan Death March, some near-death experiences, and the brutally horrendous treatment by his captors.

"The march was as bad as anyone has ever written about," Aquila said from his home in Merlin, Oregon. "We marched together to support each other and we weren't allowed to have water, but during a rest break, a buddy and I went to get water for another buddy who had malaria. Instead of all of us being shot for the chance we took, our sick friend was shot and killed. I'll never forget that."

In the Philippines, the conditions were harsh as POWs rebuilt bridges destroyed by the advancing enemy. Thanks to caring Philipinos who were allowed to feed and give water to ailing POWs, Aquila and others would survive the deadly effects of Beriberi and Malaria.

After 18 months, the 600 multi-national POWs in Aquila's group were forced into the hold of a "Hell Ship" only large enough to



accommodate 300. Living on cooked barley and water twice a day, most of the POWs lived through the three-week journey.

Aquila's biggest scare of the war occurred when American submarines, unaware of the

human cargo, tried to sink the ships. "Our Chaplain, Father Purran, told us it was out of our control and to just pray. We were obviously spared," Aquila said. "I know someone was watching out for us again."

In Japan, POWs worked in hot conditions while shoveling iron ore into ovens at a steel mill. Aquila recalled that prisoners were also forced to clean out the ovens, even when they were still hot inside. "We jumped from one foot to the other while cleaning out those ovens and our captors would stand at the door and laugh."

As the war and his captivity continued, Aquila credits his faith and the chaplain's outreach to his 2,000 fellow prisoners with maintaining his will to survive and return home. After three and-one-half years in Japan, the captives were set free on September 2, 1945—exactly one month after the first atomic bomb destroyed Hiroshima. "We learned later that we were scheduled to be shot if American forces had approached the camp. Through it all, only about half of my unit survived the ordeal."

Like many POW's, Aquila is proud to have served and happy to have survived. He won't tell his story that often, but when he gathers annually with the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor group he belongs to, he notes that the survivors all share stories and can manage to laugh about their captivity.

"I can talk about it now most of the time, but not in front of a crowd. I get too choked up sometimes when I remember what happened."



Oregon's Relocated "Merci Train" Boxcar is Dedicated

Oregon's Merci Train boxcar has been on display at Fort Stevens State Park near Warrenton, Oregon for more than 35 years. The symbol of France's gratitude to America now has a new home at the Coos County Historical and Maritime Museum, located in North Bend.

A ceremony to dedicate the boxcar was held at the museum on Saturday, July 15. Nearly 200 attended the ceremony including veterans and their families, community leaders, members from across the state from the Forty and Eight veterans' organization and local citizens. The dedication was part of the festivities of the annual North Bend Jubilee.

Boxcars from the French "Merci Train" were given as gifts from the people of France to thank America for its help during and immediately following World War II. The cars were called 40 and 8 because in World War I they could carry either 40 men or eight horses to the war front.

In conjunction with a National Guard training program, the Oregon Army Guard's 1249th Engineer Battalion transported the historic boxcar from its Fort Stevens location to the museum in North Bend.

The boxcar's history began in 1948 while France was still in ruins after World War II. Americans gathered relief goods to send to the



A Gift From France: ODVA Director, Jim Willis and SFC Stacy Heathcock, ORNG, beside the Merci Train at the dedication ceremony in North Bend.

French—enough to fill more than 700 American boxcars. Soon afterward, the French responded with a Merci ("Gratitude") Train—49 railroad boxcars filled with approximately 52,000 gifts that were sent to Americans in appreciation of their post-war generosity. Today only 39 of the 40 and 8 boxcars are still on display nationwide.

Guest speakers at the dedication ceremony held in North Bend included Jim Willis, Director of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs; Hershel Fullerton, Le Grand Chef De Gare du Oregon with the Forty and Eight and Rick Witherell, Mayor of the City of North Bend.

"I am indebted to the Mayor, Council and

Staff of the City of North Bend and my fellow members of the Society of the 40 & 8 for preserving the boxcar as a part of American military history. I'm sure that many visitors will benefit from the history surrounding this boxcar," said ODVA Director Jim Willis.

Attending the dedication were two veterans who both had experienced long and cold trips aboard 40 and 8 boxcars while serving in France during WWII. Frank Deal and Robert McHaney, both of Bend, shared some of their memories of the three-day trips crowded into the boxcars in the middle of winter as they were being sent to a new assignment and location. According to McHaney, the men would remain standing the entire trip and huddle together in a mass to try and withstand the brutal cold.

Many hours of hard work and dedication went into the relocating, restoring and constructing of the new structure that surrounds the boxcar. Numerous state and local organizations and individuals volunteered their time and resources to this project.

The boxcar and the museum are located at 1220 Sherman Avenue in North Bend. For more information call 541-756-6320.



Afghan-Iraqi Freedom War Memorial Update

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) will soon have a new memorial honoring troops from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The new memorial will be on the ODVA grounds amongst other war memorials.

Clay and MJ Kesterson are the founders of the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom War Memorial Fund. Numerous donations from around the



state have been received to build the memorial. In addition, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2795 earmarking \$100,000 to the project. Governor Kulongoski signed the bill on September 2nd

2005. The Kesterson's son Erik lost his life in service to his state and nation.

U.S. Army Warrant Officer Erik Kesterson served two tours with the United States Marine Corps. While serving in the Marines,

Kesterson was awarded the Marine Corps Medal of Heroism for pulling seven comrades from a helicopter crash. After the attacks on



Breaking Ground - Above: MJ Kesterson (right) talks with contractor Rob Chisholm on the first day of groundbreaking for the new memorial. **At left:** A geologist prepares to take samples while surveying the digging site.

9/11, he was inspired to become a Blackhawk helicopter pilot with the United States Army.

On November 15, 2003, Erik's life was cut short as two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters

collided near Mosul, Iraq. The crash claimed the lives of 17 soldiers, including Kesterson. More than 65 Oregon servicemembers have lost their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Kestersons and other families who have lost loved ones have formed special bonds as they have worked together to honor all of the fallen Oregon servicemembers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The memorial is centered on a life-size bronzed statue of a kneeling soldier. An artistic rendering of the memorial can be viewed at the foundation's website at www.freedomisntfreeoregon.org.

Construction of the project began in August with a target completion date in early November.

Donations are still needed to see the memorial through to completion.

Donations can be sent to:
Afghan-Iraqi Freedom War Memorial Fund
763 Cessna Street Independence, OR 97351



Oregon Agencies Funded to Assist Veterans

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has recently learned that over \$1 million in federal grants have been made available to two Oregon agencies for services to veterans. The grant money is available to veterans needing assistance in employment and reintegration. Central City Concern in Portland is the recipient of \$298,440 to fund the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). Community Solutions for Clackamas County (CSCC) headquartered in Oregon City was awarded \$750,000 for the Veterans' Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) grant.

The Central City Concern is funded to assist homeless veterans with reintegration through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) serviced by West Portland One Stop (WPOS). Services can be found through two convenient locations on Northwest 2nd Avenue and downtown at the Oregon Employment Department, 1433 SW 6th Avenue. The HVRP program places focus on chronically homeless veterans facing multiple barriers to the pathway of normalcy.

HVRP is successful due in large part to the implementation of a braided approach for expending resource dollars which include local, state, and federal and non-profit dollars. Accomplishing the mission comes at a steep price; an example of this braiding includes a grant from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in Cold Spring, Kentucky which pays for vision and dental care. Without this program, many veterans would be left without access to these services provided by Pacific University College of Optometry and Downtown Tender Care Dental.

The program offers 112 housing units of which 50 are dedicated to HVRP. Terry Leckron the Director of Central City Concern West Portland One-Stop states that HVRP dollars enrolled 280 veterans for 2005-2006 which met 97 percent of program capacity. 86 percent of those veterans received training and 151 veterans were placed into employment.

Nancy O'Brien of the DAV states that "This helps them to regain employment and normal day to day living" and that the DAV is proud to enhance services for homeless veterans.

Community Solutions for Clackamas County (CSCC) works closely with Worksource Oregon Employment Department in providing services to veterans. Located at 112 11th Street in Oregon City, the agency looks to connect and streamline veteran issues. Jim Booker of the Oregon Employment Department states "The Hire Oregon Veterans grant will combine a marketing outreach to veterans with increased

service provider coordination and new tools to help Oregon's veterans find and retain employment." Booker serves the State of Oregon as the State Veterans Program Coordinator and can be reached at 503-947-1845.

The Oregon Employment Department is home to Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP) that provide direct assistance to veterans in applying for federal, state and local government employment. A statewide directory of Oregon state employment representatives can be found on the Veterans' Employment page on the ODVA website. The Central City Concern, West Portland One-Stop can be found online at www.1stop.org/wpos or by calling 503-226-7387. More information about Clackamas Solutions for Clackamas County can be found online at www.co.clackamas.or.us/cscoc or by calling 503-655-8840.



Operation Camp Purple: MSG William Dunn from the Oregon State University ROTC program, is pictured with Mathew Evans-Spates, 11. Between July 16-22, 104 children of Oregon and Washington military members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan were hosted at a free camp at the 4-H Center in Salem. "Operation Purple" is sponsored by a Dell Corporation grant and the National Military Association. It allowed the children to enjoy a carefree week away from home. The camp experience included food, games and a nightly campfire. Trained camp counselors and TRICARE mental health counselors teamed up to provide children with coping skills and peer support networks. Another camp is being planned for next summer. For more information, Contact: Joan Engeldinger, 503-260-4053

Stolen VA Laptop Turned In

The stolen VA laptop computer containing the personal information of more than 26 million veterans was turned in to the FBI on June 28.

The FBI has made a preliminary determination that the data contained on the computer was not accessed, and no cases of identity theft or other criminal activity related to the stolen computer have been reported.

Scams Relating to Stolen Laptop

There are currently scams being circulated over the phone and through email, which seek to take advantage of veterans and their concerns about the possibility of being a victim of ID theft. The aggressive emails and phone calls claim that the veteran has had information stolen and directs them to an official looking website that may look like a government site. These sites ask for personal information, which then can be stolen. Veterans are urged to be wary of any calls or emails stating their information has been stolen.

The VA has also received information that some veterans have received email that asks them to check an account by clicking on a link provided in the email. This email is a "phishing scam," an attempt to gain access to personal information by sending out fake emails and requesting confirmation of personal information.

To learn more about the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft website, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

E-Mail Scheme - Don't be fooled by Fraudulent FirstGov E-mail

The VA has recently been alerted to a fraudulent e-mail scheme where the sender is "spoofing" a firstgov email address, using the subject *Money Access Service at fraud@firsgov.com*.

These e-mails did not come from FirstGov.gov. Recipients of this or similar solicitations should know that VA never sends unsolicited e-mails to the public and never uses a ".com" email address. If you receive an unsolicited e-mail from a firstgov.gov e-mail address requesting personal or financial information, delete it immediately.

You should always be cautious with unsolicited e-mail messages. If you receive an unsolicited e-mail, you should not open any attachments or follow any links. Opening e-mail attachments from an unknown sender is risky.

For more information about phishing scams, and how to protect yourself online,

visit www.onguardonline.gov, where you'll find U.S. government's advice on how to protect yourself against Internet fraud.

VA Proposes Major Rebuilding at White City Facility

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary James Nicholson has proposed expanding the Southern Oregon drug and alcohol treatment facility located in White City, formerly known as "The Dom." Nicholson noted that veterans, in large numbers, are among the retirees and others moving to the Southern Oregon region.

Plans for the expansion include a new residential rehabilitation building and demolition of some older buildings on the 145-acre campus. The facility currently has about 400 patients and serves approximately 11,000 to 12,000 individuals as outpatients, and also serves many homeless and mentally ill veterans.

ADA Celebrates 16th Anniversary

July 26 marked the 16th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.

The ADA protects people with disabilities from employment discrimination and requires accommodations as they relate to public transportation, buildings and telecommunications.

DeployMed ResearchLINK Makes Debut

DeployMed ResearchLINK, a website containing valuable information about what is happening in research within the Department of Defense, VA and Health & Human Services made its online debut on April 3, 2006.

The site features government-funded scientific studies of medical issues experienced by military members during their deployments.

Users can click on the geographic area of the site's world map, and see major deployments to that area and medical research topics associated with those deployments as well as reports and publications resulting from the research.

For more information, visit the website at www.deploymentlink.osd.mil/deploymed.

VA Working to Improve Communications

Testimony by VA officials to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, suggests that they are working to better inform veterans of potential

pension benefits and boost the accuracy of the helplines that veterans call for assistance.

In a VA mystery caller program, investigators pretending to be veterans called to ask questions. It was found that up to 50 percent of the information provided was wrong and that some callers were treated poorly.

VA told the Committee that it is working to improve communications between its benefits and health system programs. They are expanding training for, and oversight of, the people who answer questions from veterans.

VA Under Secretary for Health Departing for Private Sector

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, James Nicholson, has announced that Dr. Jonathan Perlin, VA's Under Secretary for Health resigned effective August 11, to take a position in the private sector.

Perlin, who held several positions with VA since 1999, accepted a position as chief medical officer and senior vice president for quality at Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), a Nashville-based health care provider.

VA Services to Continue at Walla Walla

Veterans in the Walla Walla, Washington area will be receiving a new, state-of-the-art outpatient facility for primary care, specialty care and mental health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), according to VA Secretary James Nicholson.

The new facility will be located on the Walla Walla campus, which first opened in 1929 – 10 years after the end of World War I and 12 years before the start of World War II. No major improvements have been made on the campus in 50 years.

Research in VA Geriatrics Centers of Excellence

The aging of the veteran population is a major challenge confronting the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Today, 9.2 million veterans are age 65 or older, representing 38 percent of the total veteran population. By 2033, the proportion of older veterans is expected to increase to 45 percent of the total.

Anticipating the impact of older veterans on its health care system, VA has been at the forefront of research on aging. In 1975, the VA established the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) program to increase basic knowledge of the aging process and improve the overall quality of care for elderly veterans.



Freedom and Heritage Embodied through Oregon Tribal Celebrations

The veterans' community of Oregon is bolstered by the rich heritage of Native Americans that have served in the United States Armed Forces. The heritage and pride runs deep and is difficult to describe, yet the culture comes alive in celebration. Tribal members not only desire to share their culture and history in celebration, they are much like veterans of other backgrounds, in that, they enjoy sharing stories about their service and the importance of freedom.



ODVA Director Jim Willis presents the Warrior's Medal of Valor to Ron James.

Tribe of Indians took place in July. A wide array of activities, entertainment, as well as craft and bead booths were available. Additionally, the Warriors Medal of Valor was presented to veterans attending the POW-WOW, regardless of cultural background.

In a special presentation on Friday, August 4th, Director Jim Willis presented the Warriors Medal of Valor to Ron James. James retired from the United States Navy and is the son of late-Navy Chief Warrant Officer Leland James, a Pearl Harbor survivor, who served onboard the *USS Rail* during the

Two summertime POW-WOW celebrations involving the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua

attacks. James is a member of The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians from southwest Oregon.



Atomic Veterans Hold Celebration Ceremony

The first anniversary of the date appointed by Oregon's Legislature in 2005 to be recognized annually as Atomic Veterans Day, was celebrated with a special ceremony on July 16, in Albany. Testing of the first atomic bomb was in Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945.

Members of Oregon's Atomic Veterans organization hosted the event that drew several new faces of fellow atomic veterans and their spouses as well as providing the opportunity for many to finally be able to share their military experiences and incidents of exposure to radiation.

The celebration was held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center and featured guest speakers that included Jim Willis, Director of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, State Representative Jeff Kropf and Senator Ted Ferrioli.

"I am proud of our state for recognizing the service and sacrifice of these Atomic Veterans. Many of them served at a time when little was known about the effects of atomic radiation but nonetheless, they did their duty in spite of the dangers and served with skill and honor," Willis said.

One of the purposes of this celebration was to reach out to fellow atomic veterans as well as to inform the general public of the issues faced by these veterans as a result of their exposure to radiation during their military service. It was only in 1996 that atomic veterans were released from their military oaths of secrecy.

If you would like more information about atomic veterans or would like to join Oregon's Atomic Veterans organization contact Fred Schafer at 541-258-7453 or Frank Farmer at 541-259-1559.



Request for Veterans Day Events

November 11th may seem like a long way off right now, but in the world of bi-monthly newsletter publications, it is just around the corner. That's why we are now seeking input about Veterans Day events that are planned for the area where you live.

Each year, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) strives to publish a comprehensive list of as many Veterans' Day activities as possible in the November / December issue of *VETS NEWS*.

If you, your group or organization is planning a Veterans Day activity, we would like to know. Please submit in writing the following information:

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

To send us the information, email to: stecklr@odva.state.or.us. You can also mail it to: *VETS NEWS*, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285, or fax to Attn: *VETS NEWS* at 503-373-2362. Please send the information by October 1.

For questions, contact Robin Steckley at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) toll free at 1-800-828-8801 extension 2386, or 503-373-2386.



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 in supporting this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by our veteran residents.

American Legion Aux. Unit 11
Marjorie Christianson
Helena Gunderson
Donald McDaniel
William E. Merritt
Bob Ricketts

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

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

ODVA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides that no qualified person with a disability shall be kept from participation in, or be denied a benefit of the services, programs, or activities of ODVA because of that disability. This publication is available in alternate formats. For this service, or concerns regarding ADA, contact the ADA Coordinator at 503-373-2380.

HIPAA Statement

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA. You may obtain a copy of the ODVA Notice of Privacy Practices anytime by way of the following:

- * Access ODVA's website at www.oregon.gov/odva
- * Call ODVA at 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2141 or 503-373-2141
- * Write to ODVA's Privacy Officer to have a copy mailed to you; or
- * Ask for a copy the next time you visit ODVA.

Disabled Veterans' Benefits Bill Becomes Law

Previously, a severely disabled veteran had to be the homeowner of a property in order to receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist with housing adaptations. This has changed due to a new bill signed into law by President Bush on June 15th called the Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006 (S. 1235).

Under the new law, severely disabled veterans are authorized under one provision to make certain housing adaptations to a family member's home in which the veteran temporarily resides. These grants range in amount from \$2,000 to \$14,000.

The act also will allow servicemembers legally diagnosed as being totally disabled at the time of their discharge to have up to two years from their separation date to apply for premium-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage, or convert their existing coverage to Veterans Group Life Insurance or an individual plan or policy.

For more information, contact your local County Veterans Service Officer (see listing on page 12) or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) at 1-800-692-9666.



Southern Oregon Stand Down 2006

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

September 15, 16 & 17, 2006

Veterans Memorial Stadium

VA Southern Oregon

Rehabilitation Center and Clinic

(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.

For More Information:

Call (541) 665-4001 or

1 (800) 664-1805 or

on the web at:

www.southernoregonstanddown.org

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

US Air Force Memorial to be Dedicated

The United States Air Force (USAF) is the only branch of service that is not represented in the Washington, D.C. area with a memorial to commemorate the service of its members to this nation. That will soon change. Final touches on the new memorial are scheduled to be complete by mid-September and an onsite dedication ceremony is to be held on Saturday, October 14.

The memorial sits atop a bluff in Arlington, Virginia from which the Pentagon and several of the memorials located on the Capital Mall, Washington D.C can be seen. When completed, the tallest of three stainless steel spires that soar skyward will rise 270 feet above the ground.

The United States Air Force Memorial honors the millions of patriotic men and women who have served in the Air Force and its predecessor organizations including the Aeronautical Division, U. S. Signal Corps; The Army Air Service; the U.S. Army Air Corps; and the U.S. Army Air Forces. The Air

Force was officially recognized as a separate service branch on September 18, 1947.

Besides the three spires, other key elements of the memorial include a bronze Honor Guard statue, a 'Runway to Glory' at the site entrance, two granite inscription walls located at either end of the central lawn and a glass 'Missing Man' Contemplation Wall that honors fallen airmen. The areas surrounding the memorial will be landscaped to create a memorial park and parade ground.

More than 140,000 individual donors have contributed to the Air Force Memorial Foundation to help construct the memorial. Several corporate sponsors have also made significant contributions to the project.

The memorial will officially open to the public at noon on Sunday, October 15.

For more information about the U.S. Air Force Memorial, the Air Force Memorial Foundation and to view images of the design and construction visit their website online at www.airforcememorial.org.



Architectural model of new memorial

Veterans Educating the Future of Freedom

The 11th Annual Living History Days at Milwaukie High School will take place on Monday November 6th. The event will honor and recognize veterans with an interactive format. Korean War veterans will take center stage this year, but event coordinators invite all veterans to attend. Ken Buckles of Remembering America's Heroes, the organization sponsoring the event, requests

pictures of the veteran as well as oral histories. Buckles is seeking younger veterans to tell their stories and experiences, especially Oregon National Guard members and other troops returning from service in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. You can contact Buckles or his staff at 503-659-5157 to make arrangements to attend or visit www.rahusa.us.



WAVES National Convention Upcoming

The national WAVES is one of the largest women's associations in the country. Waves National, which has been primarily for women who served in the seafaring services, now also admits members from other branches of the service.

Each odd-numbered year, a state convention is held followed by a national convention each even-numbered year. This year's National Convention in September will be a Caribbean Cruise out of Galveston, Texas. All women who served in any branch of the military in time of war and/or peace are invited to attend.

The four Oregon units are The Columbia River Ripples, which covers the Portland area; Oregon Lighthouse in North Bend serves the members of the coastal area; Cascade Seafarers meets in the Willamette Valley; Webfoot is in the Grants Pass, Medford area. The Portland group meets on Thursdays, with the three other units meeting each Saturday.

The current main support of WAVES is for the women serving in the Middle East.

For information on the convention or to locate a group closest to you, please contact Margaret Thorngate at 541-997-9011 or Betty Miller, 541-747-3424.



Upcoming 2006 Military Reunions

95th Bomber Group (H) is holding its 2006 Reunion at the Downtown Marriot Hotel in Portland, Oregon, August 29-September 2. For more information contact Marilyn Gallagher at 503-649-6080 or email MLG2@att.net.

84th Infantry Division (WWII) will hold its 61st annual reunion in Nashville, Tennessee, September 2-5. Contact Tessa Swinehart, 126 Nathan Forest Drive, Hendersonville, Tennessee 37075, telephone 615-824-0348.

483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association is having a reunion in Arlington, Virginia, September 3-10. For more information, contact George Stovall, 825 NE Lawndale Place, Corvallis, Oregon 97330, telephone 541-758-0009 or email gstovall@peak.org.

13th Airborne Division (WWII) will be holding its 25th reunion at the Hilton Garden Inn in Columbus, Georgia, September 6-9. For information, please contact John R. Scott, 5440 Briar Street, Roeland Park, Kansas 66205-2213, telephone, 913-722-1143.

USS O'Brien DD-725 is having a reunion in Portland, Oregon, September 6-9. Contact Ron Santoro at 503-297-8741 or email RSANT26659@aol.com for more information.

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division will hold their 87th reunion at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, September 6-10. For additional information, contact John Shirely at 925-447-2256 or email jbs hirely@comcast.net or Linda Irvine at 360-663-2521 or email info@TheReunionBRAT.com.

USS Thetis Bay CVE 90, CVH a-1, LPH-6 is scheduled to hold a reunion in San Diego, California, September 7-10. For more reunion information, contact Duke Ditrich at 503-632-7273.

USAF 28th Bomb Wing is holding their 2006 reunion at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 7-11. For information, contact Paul Hellwege at 541-688-0349 or email 1hellwege@msn.com or Donald Strachan at 605-341-6090 or email finerx@enetis.net.

Farragut Naval Training Station will hold its 20th reunion at Farragut State Park in Athol, Idaho, September 8-10. Everyone who worked or trained at FNTS during WWII and their descendents are invited. Contact Gene and Lorraine Cooper, 1248 SW Crossway Court, Port Orchard, Washington 98367, telephone, 360-876-4470 for more information.

40th Division 223rd Infantry Regiment Association annual reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, September 13-16. More information can be obtained from Joe Alvarez at 210-490-3202 or email jalvarez09@netzero.net.

AFROTC Detachment 700, Willamette University reunion will happen in conjunction with Willamette's Homecoming weekend of September 5-17. For information contact Dennis Drew by email at drewdennis@aol.com or contact the Willamette University Alumni Relations Office at 503-375-5304.

249th Coast Artillery, ORNG will be celebrating the 66th Anniversary of mobilization (September 16, 1940) on Saturday, September 16. For more information contact Russ Sprague, 35241 Riverside Drive, Albany, Oregon 97321 or phone 541-967-9551.

USMC Motor Transport Association will be having their 10th annual reunion September 17-20, in San Antonio, Texas. Further details can be obtained by calling Terry Hightower at 910-450-1841 or email usmcmta@charterinternet.com.

USS Floyd B. Parks DD-884 is having their 2006 reunion at the Radisson Hotel Riverfront in Covington, Kentucky, September 18-25. Contact James Robbins, PO Box 61, Twain, California 95984, telephone, 530-283-2165 or visit their website at www.ussfloydbparks.org.

The USS Ranger CV4 – WWII will hold its annual reunion September 20-24, in Manchester N.H. at the Best Western Exec. Court Inn and Conference Center, phone 1-603-627-2525. For more information, contact Thomas Osmunson at 70-253-4806.

11th Armored Calvary of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) will hold its 21st national reunion September 21-24, in Kansas City, Missouri. For further information visit their website at www.11thcavnam.com or call Adrian Vaaler at 541-344-2113 or email adrianvaaler@gmail.com.

USNR Midshipmen's School New York, NY (Columbia University and the Prairie State), or Northwestern, reunion will be September 28 - October 1 in Chicago, Illinois. For more information, contact Ken Boyd at 405-330-4707, ken@clickworld.net.

USS Appalachian reunion will be held September 30 – October 3 at the Guesthouse International Inn & Suites in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, contact the Guesthouse International Inn & Suites Sales Office at 1-800-777-4904.

464th Bomb Group is holding their reunion in Flagstaff, Arizona, October 4-7. Call 1-800-333-3333 for further details.

USS Bayfield APA-33 will hold its annual reunion October 5-8, in Nashville, Tennessee. All former Merchant Marine, Coast Guard, USMC, Fibron 7 and Navy personnel are invited to attend. For more information, contact Larry Ferguson, PO Box 196, Gazelle, California 96034, or email usardi@snocrest.net.

13th Engineer Combat Battalion is holding its 2006 reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the St. Louis Airport, October 5-8, in St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Edward Larkin at 502-231-3552 or email eflarkin@earthlink.net for more information.

USS Constant MSO-427 will be having a reunion at the Grand Oaks Hotel in Branson, Missouri, October 6-8. For information, contact Charles Eaton, 760 N Tegner #21, Wickenburg, Arizona 85390, telephone 928-684-2186 or email cceatonky@aol.com.

USS Yorktown CV-10, CVA-10, CVS-10 will hold its annual reunion October 12-14, aboard the USS Yorktown in Charleston, South Carolina. For more information, contact Irene Sharkey, Ship Board of Director's office at 843-849-1928 or email youtkwn@aol.com. You can also contact Bob Wallace at 503-399-7166 or email Byorktown@msn.com.

The USS Constellation CVA/CV-64 Association is holding its 2006 Reunion, October 24-29, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Join Your Shipmates as they attend a memorial service and tour the USS North Carolina. More information can be obtained online at www.usconstellation.org or by contacting Association President Ross F. Leonard at 28 Royal Oaks Blvd., Lake Dallas, Texas 75065, phone (214) 773-6521, email cva64ross@aol.com.

98th Bomb Group will be holding their reunion on October 31 - November 6. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn & Resort in Orlando, Florida. For more information, contact Kenneth Laninga at 269-751-8231.

NAAV Meeting

The National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV) will be holding a meeting at the Tigar Legion Hall located at 8635 S.W. Scoffins Rd., on October 16th from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you plan to attend please contact Duane Gaddis at 503-618-8793.

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	503-366-6580	..... Joseph Pyle
Coos	541-396-3121 Ext. 362	..... Mary Ann Sackett
Crook	541-447-5304	..... Sid Carter
Curry	541-247-3205 Ext. 205	..... Frank Van Meter
Deschutes	541-385-3214	..... Keith Macnamara
Douglas	541-440-4219	..... Mary Newman
Gilliam	1-888-804-1817	..... Vacant
Grant	541-575-1631	..... Bruce B. Makela
Harney	541-573-6024	..... Selina Westlake
Hood River	541-386-1080	..... Vacant
Jackson	541-774-7837	..... Marty Kimmel
Jefferson	541-475-5228	..... Tom Weiss
Josephine	541-474-1316	..... Lisa Shipley
Klamath	541-883-4274	..... Isabel Rodriguez
Lake	541-947-6043	..... G. Don Boone
Lane	541-682-4191	..... Joseph Reiley
Lincoln	541-574-6955	..... John Reed
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	..... Frank Freyer
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	..... Vacant
Washington	503-640-3489	..... Doug McEllven
Wheeler	1-888-804-1817	..... Vacant
Yamhill	503-434-7503	..... Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
The American Legion	503-412-4771	..... Vacant
Veterans of Foreign Wars	503-412-4757	..... Jack Zule
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4762	..... Ken Fink
American Veterans (AMVETS)	503-412-4767	..... James Chubinsky
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	..... David Saylor
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	..... Jay E. Woodbury

State Offices-ODVA	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Salem	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	..... Kelly Breshears Ron Jarchow Lacey Carter Gus Bedwell
Portland	503-412-4777	..... Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Laura Henrichs

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Evelyn F. Anderson 156 W Killdeer Roseburg, OR 97470 541-440-8445	Staryl C. Austin, Jr. 236 Kevin Way SE Salem, OR 97306 503-363-2508	Furlton M. Burns 8300 SW Brookridge Street Portland, OR 97225 503-236-7700
Walter R. Crews 11561 Blue Heron Ln NE Aurora, OR 97002 503-678-5592	Irv Fletcher 1272 Mayanna Drive Woodburn, OR 97071 503-981-4356	David Fairclo, Chair 20751 Amber Way Bend, OR 97701-8510 541-382-8281
Robert Haltiner 19138 Bedford Drive Oregon City, OR 97045 503-657-7085	Tino E. Ornelas 228 SW Meadow Drive Beaverton, OR 97006 503-844-9000	Charles E. Schmidt PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

Meetings of the Advisory Committee are held in the Director's Conference Room, Oregon Veterans' Building, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon.

Special needs will be met for those who have a disability. For arrangements and meeting dates, please call 503-373-2383.

Has Your Address Changed - Please Tell Us

Name _____

Old Address _____

Street _____

City/ State/ Zip _____

New Address _____

Street _____

City/ State /Zip _____

Please clip and mail to ODVA, 700 Summer St NE, Salem OR 97301-1285.
Changes can also be e-mailed to: stecklr@odva.state.or.us

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