



May / June 2007

www.oregon.gov/odva

Jim Willis, Director

## In Memoriam: Howard Ramsey Nation's Last WWI Combat Veteran Passes Away

His life spanned three centuries and nineteen presidents. When Howard Ramsey was born, there were just 45 stars on the American flag, and the United States was preparing to declare war on Spain.

Truly an icon of an era nearly forgotten, Ramsey saw many things throughout his life. Henry Ford's first car was built a mere two years before Ramsey was born. The advent of the motorized vehicle would play a key role in his life.

Born in Rico, Colorado, he graduated from Washington High School in Portland, Oregon in 1916. While in high school, he joined the Naval Militia and served on the naval ship, *USS Marblehead*. After high school, Ramsey wanted to go into the Army with a friend, but he was too young to be drafted, so he waited and enlisted in 1916.

After enlisting, Ramsey traveled to France in September of 1918 to join General John

"BlackJack" Pershing's American Expeditionary Force. Being one of the few men who could drive a motor vehicle, he didn't have to serve on the front lines. He drove cars, trucks and motorcycles, driving trucks to the lines where soldiers had been killed to help transport their bodies back. Ramsey also chauffeured officers, drove ambulances and taught men how to drive automobiles.

He came back to Portland in 1920 and went to work for Hudson-Essex. In 1922 he was employed by Western Electric (later AT&T) as an Engineer. Ramsey met his wife Hilda in Portland, where she worked as a telephone operator. They were married in 1923 in California after being transferred there by the phone company.

Ramsey retired in 1963 at the age of 65. He and Hilda headed south to Arizona becoming "snow birds" during the cold Oregon winters.

It was in Mesa, Arizona that Hilda passed away in 1982.

One of his fondest memories of France was while waiting for an officer on driving duty, a little French girl came by and sat in his car and asked him for a souvenir. He said he didn't have anything, but looked around and gave her an American penny. In exchange, she gave him a little gift wrapped in tissue. As she left, he looked in the tissue and found a lock of her curly hair. He kept that lock of hair his whole life, and he ultimately was buried with it when he passed away on February 22, at 108 years of age.

Howard Verne Ramsey was the last surviving World War I combat veteran in the United States. His story was told in a 2005 speech by Vice President Dick Cheney

See **WORLD WAR I**, on page 4

## Students Artwork Says Thank You to Veterans

Some time ago, school teacher Diane Ebner-Schelske conceived the idea of a Veterans Day service project for her students. She wanted to educate students about veterans by using poetry and art to show appreciation for the sacrifices they made to protect the freedoms we enjoy in this country. According to Schelske, far too many students did not know who veterans were, and by working on this project they gained a new respect for these heroes.



**Diane Ebner-Schelske of Sky View Middle School in Bend.**

For the last fifteen years, the program has generated boxes of student artwork, poems,

and cards that are frequently on display at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), VAMC Portland and the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles. Each year, Mrs. Schelske encourages other teachers to join her in recognizing veterans.

Last winter, ODVA selected a poster made by one of Schelske's students to use as the Department's holiday greeting card, which proved to be very popular.

Diane began her career working with students in the Salem-Keizer School District at Hayesville Elementary and Adam Stephens Middle School.

She currently teaches sixth grade at Sky View Middle School in Bend for the Bend/LaPine School District.

Oregonians can be proud to have a teacher who instills in her students respect and compassion for our veterans and the men and women still serving to defend our freedoms.



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## Director's Message

In this message, I want to pay tribute to some of the great people here in Oregon who are assisting our veterans and our troops in the field. The Central Oregon Veterans Outreach program or COVO is an example of veterans working for veterans at the local level. COVO members had a vision of creating transitional housing for homeless veterans. As a result of their hard work and determination, they have opened the "Home of the Brave" and are operating the five-bed facility with hopes to expand to ten beds in the very near future. Their work led to a merit award from the Oregon

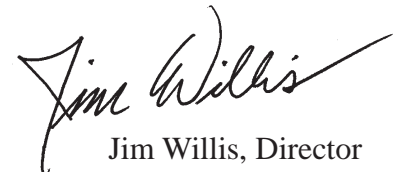
# COVO Program Wins Awards

Coalition for Housing and Homelessness and a commendation award from ODVA. On May 4, 2007, the Southern Oregon Veterans Outreach program or SOVO will open their new office in Coos Bay. I know that their members have already assisted a number of veterans with plans to do much more. I salute all of these groups of veterans for what they have done and for what they will do in the future.

In paying tribute to any of the great groups of veterans, families and other volunteers, you always run the risk of missing someone. Having said that, let me just say a few words

about some of those who are taking care of our veterans of tomorrow both deployed and when they need help here at home. Groups such as the Coalition of Troop Support (COTS), Operation Oregon Treats (OOT), the Marine Corps League, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Operation Love Boxes, and our own employees here at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

It seems there are unlimited opportunities to volunteer to help our veterans and our troops. Check with veterans organizations in your area or contact ODVA and we will be glad to give you the name of some organizations that could really use your help. I also want to thank the volunteers who continue to serve our senior veterans and spouses at the Oregon Veterans' Home. Your help and commitment is truly appreciated. On behalf of all of Oregon's veterans I want to thank all of you for what you have done and continue to do for our veterans, their families, survivors and of course, our troops and their families.



Jim Willis, Director



*From L to R are Jim Gunn, Chief of Outreach; Kerry Gunn, Volunteer; Jim Willis, ODVA; Rob Bryce, Treasurer and Founding President holding ODVA Commendation Award; Stu Steinberg, Director of Operations and President Anne Philiben holding the Oregon Coalition of Housing and Homelessness Award of Merit.*

## Oregon State Fair to Honor Veterans

Organizers of the 2007 Oregon State Fair have set aside three days to recognize the service and sacrifice of Oregon veterans. Veterans' Appreciation Days are set for the first weekend of the State Fair, August 24-26. The 2007 Veterans' Voucher will provide veterans with free Fair admission on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

On behalf of Oregon veterans, Director Jim Willis

extended gratitude for the upcoming events. "I want to thank Director Tim Wood of the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation and State Fair Director Dave Koellermeier for honoring Oregon's veterans as a part of the State Fair. Our State Fair is really a community gathering of all of Oregon and to use this great event to honor our veterans says a lot about how Oregonians feel about their sacrifice and service to our state and nation."

In addition to the Fair's traditional offerings, numerous special activities have

been planned for the weekend. On Saturday at 11 a.m. there will be a parade followed by a USO style show on the Comcast Center Stage at Noon. Mo's Restaurants, home of Mo's World Famous Clam Chowder, will generously be providing lunch for veterans and their families on Saturday. More details for the lunch will follow in the next issue.

Military displays will be set up in the Jackman-Long building and will feature military memorabilia, artifacts, photos and uniforms. The Remembering America's Heroes organization will also provide a display titled 'Faces of the Fallen'. ODVA will

once again have an outreach booth staffed by department employees for the entire 10-day duration of the State Fair.

Koellermeier extends his vision of quality for involving veterans at the State Fair by saying, "The State Fair should

be a recognition of the best of the state. Our veterans certainly qualify as some of our best citizens. They deserve the recognition and deserve the forum to remind other Oregonians of their service."

The 2007 Veterans' Voucher and specific details about the Veterans' Appreciation Days at the Oregon State Fair will be available in early July. They will be printed in the July-August edition of *VETS NEWS* and will be posted - as soon as the final plans have been confirmed, on the ODVA website at [www.oregon.gov/ODVA](http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA).



*Christopher Dauterman, Staff Writer - ODVA*





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# Golf Lessons for Disabled Veterans

The “First Swing” seminar is coming to Wilsonville this summer. First Swing is a program provided by the National Amputee Golf Association (NAGA). Sponsors of the program include the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA).

Langdon Farms Golf Club will host the summertime event on Monday and Tuesday, June 4 and 5. The two-day clinic will bring together disabled veterans, veteran advocates, PGA professionals, physical and recreational therapists to teach, learn and enjoy the game of golf.

NAGA President Bob Wilson has extended a free one-year membership to the Golf Association for any veteran of the Global War on Terror who is an amputee. Although the focus of the golf clinic is on amputee injuries, all disabled veterans are invited to attend and learn how to golf.

Golf clubs will be available for use during the event, including special adaptive equipment for disabled veterans. W.C. Fields and Bob Tipton with the National Amputee Golf Association will be the instructors for the event.

Patty Brescia, the Senior Service Manager with the City of Wilsonville, encourages veteran advocates and disabled veterans to become involved with the event. Brescia who is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, says “W.C. and Bob are incredible role models, setting the example for everyone to follow, that they are golfers who just happen to be amputees.”


Activities for June 4 are dedicated to teaching golf professionals, therapists and

veteran advocates how to use the adaptive equipment. Tuesday is dedicated to teaching disabled veterans. The Tuesday adaptive golf clinic for disabled veterans has a \$10 fee to cover lunch at the country club and a T-shirt.



Brescia states that scholarships are available for anyone if finances are an issue.

The NAGA program was pioneered in Cleveland, Ohio by World War II veteran Dale Bourisseau who received a below knee amputation. He sought out comrades with similar injuries and encouraged them to try golf — as a means of recreation and to reinforce pride. NAGA currently has over 2,000 members in the United States and some 200 players from 17 other countries.

Langdon Farms Golf Club is located at 24377 NE Airport Rd. in Aurora. Call 503-678-GOLF for driving directions. Pre-registration is required and interested veterans should contact Brescia at the Wilsonville Community Center at 503-570-1525 or email [brescia@ci.wilsonville.or.us](mailto:brescia@ci.wilsonville.or.us). 

*Christopher Dauterman, Staff Writer - ODVA*

# VR&E Job Labs

Disabled veterans seeking employment now have a complete resource center to help them find and apply for work. The Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Job Lab is in place to help job-ready veterans with their job search.

The VR&E offers Internet access, a small library and counselors to guide veterans toward suitable employment. Veterans can research job leads, fax resumes or post them to various private and government web sites, and speak to a counselor about formatting a resume and how to write an effective cover letter.

There are four regional job labs: the Portland Regional Office, 503-412-4577, the VR&E Offices at the Vancouver, Washington VAMC 360-759-1606, the Eugene Outpatient Clinic 541-465-6860, and the White City office at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) 541-826-4540.

# Summer Military Gala Slated

The Marine Corps Family Foundation is planning Oregon’s 1st All-Military Gala to honor veterans from all military branches of the armed forces, including active, inactive, reserve, and retired. The honorary guest list includes Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from across our nation, along with Oregon Gold Star wives and parents. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, June 16th at the Salem Conference Center.

Janet Taylor, the Mayor of Salem, will be honoring the day by issuing a special proclamation for the event. Spirit Mountain Casino, Presenting Sponsor has been joined by other Oregon businesses and the Salem community to sponsor this special event.

Gala Committee volunteers, headed by Connie Riecke from the Marine Corps Family Foundation, envision the event as an annual celebration of honor and support for Oregon’s military heroes. “This event will bring our military community together for an evening of celebration and recognition of the service and sacrifice provided by Oregon’s military community.”

Riecke anticipates that hundreds of military and non-military guests from many Oregon communities will be in attendance.

Proceeds from the Gala will be donated to troop support projects and to assist in funding the Gala as an annual event in Oregon.

Tickets for the gala are \$65 each which includes a formal dinner and gala entertainment. Tables of eight can be purchased at a reduced price. Call Judy Wilcox at 503-362-4288 to purchase your tickets. Or use paypal at [www.marinecorpsfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.marinecorpsfamilyfoundation.org).

For event information, Contact Riecke at 503-409-5905 or [riecke@marinecorpsmoms.com](mailto:riecke@marinecorpsmoms.com).

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# Moving Wall Comes to Florence

The Moving Wall, the original traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, will be in Florence at Miller Park from May 17 – 21 during Armed Forces Week and the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Rhododendron Festival.

Visiting the Moving Wall is an opportunity for Oregonians to see and experience the Washington D.C. memorial without traveling 3,000 miles.

Businesses and individuals who would like to donate funds to help bring The Moving Wall to the Central Oregon Coast can send donations to Siuslaw Valley Veterans, P.O. Box 212, Florence, Oregon 97439. A return letter will recognize all donations received.

# Historic Military Uniforms

Pictures and posters from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm, plus vintage uniforms from all service branches will be on display at the State Capitol from May 21 through June 1. The Greater Salem Area Veterans Organizations (GSAVO) will host the display in the Capitol Galleria.

Ten display cases will hold items and artifacts from World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam and from veterans’ service organizations. Some displays will include original military medals and patches worn by military members.

Additionally, GSAVO is looking for opportunities to improve their display through donations from veterans. For more information, call Mac MacDonald at 503-364-4299.



# Philomath Teen Volunteer Models Patriotism

John Mayer is not your typical teenager. A junior at Philomath High School, Mayer is an avid volunteer at veterans events and has been characterized as a sincere advocate of veterans. Veterans' service leaders say that at age 17, Mayer is setting a standard for his generation and others to follow.

For years, Mayer has been volunteering to assist at patriotic events. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day he places flags on veterans' graves and assists with other activities in Philomath. He is also well versed in military history and heritage and is recognized by many as an articulate Eagle Scout candidate. Mayer even makes time to research records to help veterans obtain military decorations to which they are entitled.

"He is a remarkable young man with inspiring goals," said Dave Post, a U.S. Navy veteran from Albany. "His knowledge of our country's military heritage, service branches

and their leaders would be that of a college graduate level, yet he hasn't even graduated from high school."



**John Mayer places flags on veterans' graves in Philomath.**

Mayer's Eagle Scout project is installing a Veterans Memorial flagpole at the Scout Lodge that is now under construction in Philomath. Mayer feels it is the right thing to do. "Even at his age, John is a patriot for all

of us who can inspire a new generation of Americans," Post said.

"My family members have been in the military which is something I've grown up around," Mayer said. "My parents are also very involved with local volunteer work so I enjoy it, too. As a Boy Scout, we volunteer for special events especially those that honor veterans. Hopefully, my peers will be encouraged by what we're doing."

Mayer is a straight-A student with several college goals including applying for acceptance into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a career in the military. He admits that many young people his age oppose military service and many more dislike war, but Mayer believes "service in the military will help strengthen our nation's defense and deter wars and military conflicts."

Post feels there will always be people who don't know or understand the importance of service, patriotism and respecting both our veterans and America's flag as previous generations have.

Mike Allegre, Staff Writer - ODVA



## WORLD WAR I, from page 1

commemorating the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

He was awarded the Oregon Medal, the World War Service Medal from the State of Oregon, the 75th Anniversary of World War I Medal, and two Republic Française medals (awarded to U.S. citizens by France).

Ramsey's memorial service was highly attended. A military squad fired a salute; bagpipers played "Amazing Grace" and a bugler played Taps. Tributes came from Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs; Brig. Gen. Ray Byrne Jr. of

the Oregon National Guard; and Col. Don Holden, a World War II veteran, who recited the poem, "In Flanders Fields."

"If we are going to end an era, I can think of no better way than to do it with a person who is a model representation of the kind of soldiers who served this country in World War I, and someone who would be an example to any combat soldier serving up to, and including, those who serve in Afghanistan and Iraq today. All veterans



France to transport fallen soldiers from temporary graves to cemeteries. His uniform, hat, personal artifacts and recorded interviews as well as the Liberty Truck are housed at the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe, 10101 SE Clackamas Road, Clackamas, (503) 557-5359.



**Above right: Ramsey helps celebrate the initiation of a WWI truck like the one he once drove, into the Oregon Military Museum. Above: Another view of Ramsey at the Museum. Right: Charlotte Winters, the last known American female veteran of World War I who also recently passed away.**



**Related stories:** Within 35 days of Ramsey's death, America lost two other World War I veterans. Charlotte Winters, the last surviving American female World War I veteran died on March 27, in Boonsboro, Maryland at the age of 109 and Lloyd Brown, the last known U.S. Navy veteran died on March 29 at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall, Maryland. He was 105.

Dan Long, Staff Writer - ODVA





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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 June 4, 2007.



# Honoring Past, Present and Future

Redmond served as the host city for a Veterans Appreciation Day and Expo. The one-day event featured a formal luncheon and medal presentations. Over 1,000 servicemembers, veterans, families and friends attended the free event on March 23.

The event was held at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center with an M-1 Bradley tank rolling through the gates to kick off the opening ceremony. Uniformed members of the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program raised the colors and a 21-gun salute paid tribute to those in uniform.

County veterans' service officers (CVSOs) Keith Macnamara and Thomas Weiss planned and executed the event to pay tribute to Central Oregon veterans. From start to finish, the event honored servicemembers of all ages.

In a service flag ceremony, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) Director Jim Willis honored all current servicemembers, veterans, and their families for each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The ODVA outreach booth was fully staffed and greeted attendees with information about state and federal veterans' benefits.

Brigadier General Charles Yriarte, the commander of the 82nd Brigade, of the

## U.S. Flag Ceremonies

Each year members of the American Legion and the VFW dispose of torn and frayed American Flags in ceremonies that honor the flag as a national symbol. The ceremonies that include military rites are scheduled whenever enough flags have been gathered, usually two or three times a year. For more information contact your local American Legion or VFW Post.

The American Legion Santiam Post 51 of Lebanon accepts casket flags in good condition to be hung for an Avenue of Flags at the International Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery near Lebanon. On Memorial Day May 28, 2007, Legion members display more than 300 casket flags that have been donated by families of veterans for the event. Each pole has a brass plaque bearing the name of the veteran whose casket the flag honored. Each flag is displayed in the same location each year.

Post 51 also has new flags and poles available for purchase. You may call 541-451-1351 for more information.

A Flag Day disposal ceremony will take place on June 14, conducted by American Legion Post 9, VFW Post 661, and Elks Lodge # 336, at the Salem Elks Lodge located at 2336 Turner Road SE in Salem. For more information call 503-364-6839.

Sue Shaffer, Staff Writer - ODVA

Oregon National Guard (ORNG) spoke and treated attendees to a 2006 Year in Review video presentation.

The keynote speaker for the event was Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young. Young and his co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Williams, crashed an Apache Longbow helicopter in Kabala, Iraq. Both were taken prisoner and held on an Iraqi military base during the initial invasions of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Ron Young, former POW from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Marines rescued Young, Williams and five other POWs approximately a month after their capture. Inspirational messages mixed with the youthful humor of Young brought a long, standing ovation from the crowd.

Retired British Colonel David Eddleston served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Following the luncheon John Neuman of Veterans of Oregon and Members of the Community (VOAMC) presented Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medals to servicemembers, veterans and some of the families whose loved one was not able to attend.

"The day was fantastic. Everything just came together so great," stated Keith Macnamara, Deschutes County veterans' service officer and co-planner of the event. "A lot of work and time went into planning it, but it was all well worth it."

For more information about the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medals or Veterans of Oregon and Members of the Community, contact John Neuman at 503-622-6084 or email [john\\_newman@verizon.net](mailto:john_newman@verizon.net).



Christopher Dauterman, Staff Writer - ODVA

### Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard

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In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# 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 February and March 2007 are listed below:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| William Lieder                                      | David M. Jones                               | Jack and Doris Groves                  |
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| Mel and Norma Peterson                              | DAV Auxiliary 17                             | H.P. Glidden                           |
| John R. Gallagher                                   | KWVA, Iron Triangle Chapter                  | Morning TOPS #721, Molalla             |
| Fred M. Liddell                                     | Louis Kingman                                | Elizabeth Rillver                      |
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| Coy Scroggins                                       | Steve and Lynn Harrel                        | David Pidcock                          |
| Clair and Elaine Couturier                          | VFW Nehalem Bay Post #10644                  | Marcine Vanderhoff                     |
| Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America                | Lois Hughes                                  | Timothy and Laura McGlothlin           |
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| Donna Brotherton                                    | Helena Gundersen                             | Alton Bullard                          |
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| Raymond Alexander                                   | Don and Edith McDaniel                       | Geraldine Lukos                        |
| Norma Conier  | James Audritsh                               | Steve Reed                             |
| Carolyn Skaines                                     | Salem Emblem Club 543                        | Polk County 4-H                        |
| Jerry Willis  | Thomas and Lila Tamblyn                      | Mel and Millie Barnard                 |
| Margaret Wilcox                                     | Military Order of Devil Dogs, Pack of Oregon | Jerry Hurley                           |
| American Legion Auxiliary 73                        | Wayne and Bunny Owen                         | Francis Rowan                          |
| Martha Williams                                     | Edward A. Owen                               | Carol Hilton                           |
| Harold B. Gigstad                                   | Thomas and Virginia Hake                     | Mark and Linda Gray                    |
| Gubser Elementary School                            | Audrey O'Hare Patterson                      | Masao Ogawa                            |
| VFW Lincoln County Auxiliary 2624                   | Elmer Brown                                  | Oregon Chapter of The Chosin Few       |
| Lorraine Johnson                                    | Access Computer Products                     | Frederick and Joann VonLubken          |
| American Legion Auxiliary 110                       | Richard H. Boyle                             | Donald L. Moore                        |
| Heppner Elks Lodge                                  | John Nybakke                                 | Mamoru and Michiko Kiyokawa            |
|   | Daniel Morley                                | Leo and Betty Carrithers               |
|   |  | Ben T. Sato                            |



# Tuskegee Airmen Speak at Milwaukie High School Event

Determined to prove their detractors wrong, nearly 1,000 Black pilots volunteered in 1942 and were trained as fighter pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They would become known as Tuskegee Airmen—a group whose exploits in battle have become legendary. Three combat tested Tuskegee aviators visited Milwaukie High School on March 17.

For several hours, Alexander Jefferson, Richard Macon and Bill Terry told their stories and answered questions about their service as

The Red Tails—so-named because of the red paint on their tail assemblies—lost 66 pilots in aerial combat. Of the 994 Black aviators who were trained at Tuskegee beginning in 1942, fewer than 380 are still living. Macon and Jefferson are the only two surviving Black prisoners of war from World War II. Both were shot down while attacking enemy positions over France, and both survived harrowing experiences in German concentration camps.

A B-25 bomber pilot, Terry had been a former UCLA basketball player and college roommate of baseball great Jackie Robinson. Despite an exemplary military record, he

Photo by Shanda Tice.



**Above: Tuskegee Airman Bill Terry (left) and Richard Macon flank Alexander Jefferson as he tells about their service as America's first African American pilots. Right: President Bush awards the Congressional Gold Medal—to the surviving Tuskegee Airmen.**

members of the Air Corps' segregated 332<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group. The three former 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants, now in their 80s, reminded those in attendance that no standards were ever lowered for Tuskegee pilots who trained in numerous officer fields. That also included nearly 19,000 enlisted members and support staff from mechanics to radio repairmen and nurses to control tower operators.

"We were determined to prove all doubters wrong," Macon said. "I was going to learn to fly and fight for my country. Our government was wrong and guilty of prejudice. They didn't think Blacks could learn to fly."

And fly they did. After their flight training at Tuskegee, Alabama, the men saw action from 1943-45 in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. By the end of the war, more than 450 pilots from the four pursuit squadrons within the 332<sup>nd</sup> FG (the 99<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 301<sup>st</sup> and 302<sup>nd</sup>), completed 1,578 missions, 15,553 combat sorties and destroyed 261 enemy aircraft. It has long been reported the pilots never lost an American aircraft to enemy fire in more than 200 combat missions—a record unmatched by any other fighter group. While this has come under some questioning, more research is needed before it could ever be disputed.

Jefferson said their commander, Col. Benjamin O. Davis, ordered his men in every briefing to stay with the bombers. "If just one bomber had been shot down, the military would've killed our unit. We'd have been grounded," he said.

and 102 African-American pilots later faced a military court martial in 1945 when they defied a direct order to not enter an officers' club at a base at Freeman Field, Indiana. Terry was the only officer convicted. Congress later overturned his conviction in 1996.

"I thought being in jail then wasn't worth it, but the guys stuck with me," Terry said, "and later we went on to help desegregate the military."

A former B-24 bomber crewmember thanked and saluted the former pilots for escorting his unit on many safe trips to Berlin. Also, Brigadier Gen. Garry Dean, the Oregon National Guard's first Black general officer, thanked the trio and said, "You've opened many doors for African Americans—doors that I walked through which allowed me to earn the success I enjoy today."

In Washington D.C., on March 29, President George W. Bush presented the highest civilian award conferred by Congress—the Congressional Gold Medal—to the surviving Tuskegee Airmen to honor their service. "The Tuskegee Airmen," Bush said, "helped win a war, and you helped change our nation for the better. Yours is the story of the human spirit, and it ends like all great stories do—with wisdom and lessons and hope for tomorrow."



Mike Allegre - Staff Writer - ODVA

## To Learn More

Here are some websites if you would like to learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. at [www.tuskegeeairmen.org/Home.php](http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org/Home.php). Tuskegee University (Tuskegee Airmen Facts) at [www.tuskegee.edu/Global/story.asp?S=1127695](http://www.tuskegee.edu/Global/story.asp?S=1127695). Air Force Link at [www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123016224](http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123016224). National Parks Service Tuskegee exhibit at [www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/airoverview.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/airoverview.htm).

## Troop & Veterans Appreciation Day

Planning has begun for the fifth annual Troop & Veterans Appreciation Day and volunteers are needed for tasks large and small. The event will take place September 22nd in McMinnville.

This event, sponsored by the Coalition of Troop Support (COTS) continues to grow each year. If you can volunteer or would like more information, please contact Jan or Mike Mullaney at 503-662-3399.

## 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 residents.

Elizabeth Myers  
Dallas Rotary Club  
Don and Edith McDaniel  
Salem Emblem Club 543  
Gerard Perrone  
William E. Merritt  
Helena Gundersen  
Thomas and Lila Tamblyn  
Tiny and Mary Bellamy  
Jerry Hurley  
Carol Hilton

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](mailto:adamsl@odva.state.or.us).



# 2007 Memorial Day

## Beaverton

May 28 – 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 124 will host a ceremony at Beaverton Memorial Park on Watson Street. The Post 124 band will play. A flyover by the Oregon Air National Guard has been requested.  
**Contact: Mary Doty, 503-644-0350**

## Coos Bay

May 26 – 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 34 will host an “Always Vigilant” parade to begin downtown. The parade will honor Pearl Harbor Survivors who will serve as the Grand Marshals. The will parade include marching bands, veterans groups, and many community organizations.

May 26 – 1 p.m. – A rededication ceremony will take place at the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery located at 10th and Ingersoll.  
**Contact: Fred Clausen, 541-759-2291**

## Corvallis

May 28 – 10 a.m. – American Legion Post 11 and VFW Post 640 and will host a ceremony at Crystal Lake Cemetery on Crystal Lake Drive.  
**Contact: Nicky Jones, 541-753-4149**

May 28 – 1:30 p.m. – The Corvallis Benton County Veterans Memorial Inc. located at 1100 N.W. Kings Blvd. will have a celebration. Major Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, will be the keynote speaker. The Oregon State University NROTC Honor Guard with special tribute to be paid to the parents of Jason Evey, who was killed-in-action in Iraq. Evey’s name will be added to the “Wall of Honor”, joining 118 names of those from Benton County who have been killed-in-action from World War I to the present. Four sequential Taps will be played honoring all fallen soldiers. The Daughters of the American Revolution will provide cake and punch in the National Guard Armory.  
**Contact: Les Whittle, 541-752-3222**

## Eagle Point

May 28 – 11 a.m. – At Eagle Point National Cemetery, veterans will lay wreaths at gravesites. A 21-gun salute will be fired. A flyover by the Oregon Air National Guard has been requested. The cemetery is located 14 miles northeast of Medford and one mile east of Eagle Point at 2763 Riley Road.  
**Contact: Herb Robb, 541-535-1899**

## Eugene

May 28 – 1:30 p.m. – The Springfield Memorial Gardens and West Lawn Memorial Park in conjunction with the Lane County Memorial Day Association, will be hosting a “Tribute to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.” This event is dedicated to the veterans of the Korean War. Join the “Salute to Veterans” at 7305 Main Street.  
**Contact: Gene Drake, 541-746-5311**

## Forest Grove

May 28 – 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 2 and the Oregon Army National Guard, 2-218 Field Artillery, HQ Battery will host a ceremony at the Forest View Cemetery, located at 1161 Pacific Ave. An Army National Guard keynote speaker will be announced. An Oregon Air National Guard flyover has been requested.  
**Contact: Jim Craigg, 503-357-3660**

## Grand Ronde

May 28 – 8 a.m. – VFW Post 4211, Northwest Indian Veterans’ Association, AMVETS Post 2000, and American Legion Post 75 will perform Memorial Day services at the Grand Ronde Cemetery on Grand Ronde Road.

May 28 – 10 a.m. – AMVETS Post 2000, VFW Post 4211, NIVA, and American Legion Post 75 will perform services at the Grand Ronde Cemetery located on Buck Hollow Road.

May 28 – 2 p.m. (approx) – A ceremony will be held at the Grand Ronde Veterans Memorial located at 9615 Grand Ronde Road. VFW Post 4211, Northwest Indian Veterans’ Association, AMVETS Post 2000, and American Legion Post 75 will perform the services. Names of local war veterans will be added to the memorial.  
**Contact: Carl Lambert 503-879-4222**

## Grants Pass

May 28 – 11 a.m. – The Marine Corps League will host an all veterans service including a parade of flags and laying of wreaths. The event will include guest speakers and will be held at Hillcrest Memorial Park, 945 N.E. Hillcrest Drive.  
**Contact: John Woods, 541-479-2707**

## Hillsboro

May 28 – 11 a.m. – VFW Post 2666 will provide a Color Guard during a ceremony at Fir Lawn Memorial Park, located at 1070 W. Main Street. Oregon Army National Guard to post service branch flags. Bag piper will play Amazing Grace. Taps will also be played.  
**Contact: George Anderson, 971-404-7905, or Cindy Hinton, 503-648-1732**

1 p.m. – Valley Memorial Park, at 3809 S.E. Tualatin Highway will host a ceremony. Cub Scout Pack 195 will present and retire the colors. Clan Maclay Pipe Band will play music. Guest speakers will include State Sen. Bruce Starr and World War II veteran Ralph Hess. An Oregon Air National Guard flyover has been requested.  
**Contact: Dean Markasky, 503-648-5444**

## Hood River

May 28 – 9:45 a.m. – A parade will proceed through Idlewild Cemetery, located one mile south of uptown Hood River on Tucker Road. Guest speaker will be County Commissioner Ron Rivers. A local choir will sing, and band music will be provided by Hood River Valley High School.  
**Contact: Patrick Scranton, 541-386-1080**

## Lebanon

May 28 – American Legion Post 51 will display more than 300 casket flags that have been donated by families of veterans for the all-day event at the IOOF Cemetery, located at Hwy. 20 and Cemetery Road. Each pole has a brass plaque bearing the same name of the veteran whom the flag honored. Each flag is displayed in the same location annually.  
**Contact: Fred Schaefer, 541-258-7453**

## McMinnville

May 28 – American Legion Post 21, VFW Post 10626, and DAV Chapter 5 will work with the Boy Scouts to place flags at veteran’s gravesites at the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.  
**Contact: Mike Morris, 503-435-2218**

12 p.m. – The Evergreen Aviation Museum will host a special veteran aircraft presentation. The museum is located at 500 N.E. Captain Michael King Smith Way, on Highway 18.

**Contact: Nicole Wahlberg, 503-434-4180**

## Milwaukie

May 28 – 8:30 a.m. – Milwaukie Pioneer Cemetery Association and Boy Scout Troop 143 will conduct flag raising and retirement ceremonies (4:30 p.m.) at the cemetery, located half-block north of Waverly Drive on S.E. 17th Ave. Volunteers will assist visitors in finding gravesites all weekend. Check their web site for more information: <http://www.milwpioneerccem.org>  
**Contact: Mark Neubauer, 503-997-9495, or email [info@milwpioneerccem.org](mailto:info@milwpioneerccem.org)**

## Mt. Angel

May 25 – 7 p.m. – American Legionnaires and Boy Scouts will decorate veterans’ graves at Calvary Cemetery, one-quarter mile north of town on Highway 214, and at eight other area cemeteries.

May 28 – 9:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 89 will host a service in Calvary Cemetery. A memorial wreath will be placed. The Marion County Citizens Band will play patriotic music. St. Mary’s parish choir will sing and Mass will be celebrated. Oregon Army National Guard Honor Guard will fire a gun salute. An Oregon Air National Guard fly-over has been requested. If there is inclement weather, services will take place in St. Mary Parish Church, 575 E. College Street.  
**Contact: Jerry Lauzon, 503-845-6882**

## Newberg

May 28 – 11 a.m. – VFW Post 4015 and American Legion Post 57 will host a ceremony and special remembrances at Newberg Memorial Park located on 4<sup>th</sup> and Howard Street. The guest speaker will be Major James Lyda, Oregon Army National Guard. The Newberg Police Department Honor Guard will present the flag, read the Roll Call of service members who have died in conflicts, and render a ‘Salute to the Dead’. The Newberg High School singers and musicians will sing and play the National Anthem and Taps. Newberg School students will recite Flanders Field Recitation and Response. Sergeant Tim Weaver will read the Gettysburg Address. Jem 100 will sponsor a BBQ immediately following the ceremony and all donations go to a troop and family relief fund.  
**Contact: Don Miller 503-538-6108**

## Nyssa

May 28 – 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 79 will conduct a memorial service at the Hilltop Cemetery.

11:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 79 will host a service at the city park boat ramp on the Snake River. During a brief service a wreath will be placed on the water to honor all military members who have lost their lives at sea.  
**Contact: Bill Thomson, 541-889-6344**

## Ontario

May 28 – 9:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 67, the VFW Post 5452, and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18 will combine their organizations to put on memorial services beginning at Evergreen Cemetery located on S. Park Boulevard.

10 a.m. – Services will be held at Sunset Cemetery located on Sunset Drive, two blocks south of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



# Events

10:30 a.m. – Services will be held at Meadowbrook Assisted Living Facility located at 1372 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Contact: Bill Thomson, 541-889-6344**

## Prineville

May 28 – 10:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 29, VFW Post 1412 and their Auxiliaries are co-sponsoring a parade, which will begin at the Crook County Courthouse and proceed to Ochoco Creek Park and the POW/MIA Monument. Following a short program and wreath laying, the parade will re-form and depart from the Juniper Haven Cemetery, and go to the Veterans Ceremonial Area for other Memorial Day ceremonies. Afterwards, there will be an Open House at the Vet's Club, 405 N. Main Street.

**Contact: Sid Carter, 541-447-5304**

## Portland

May 26 – 10 a.m. – Skyline Memorial Gardens and Nursing Home will host flag presentations and placement of memorial wreaths. The Oregon Military Museum will have a display and the Fort Vancouver Pipe and Brass bands will play. Guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte of the Oregon Army National Guard. An Army Guard Blackhawk helicopter flyover has been requested. The Army Guard's 2-218th Field Artillery unit will fire a 21-gun salute. The Veterans of Oregon Field of Honor 1,000 Flag Display will be presented.

**Contact: Richard McIntire or Colleen Combs, 503-292-6611**

May 28 – 10 a.m. – Major Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, will speak at the Willamette National Cemetery for the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. An Oregon Air National Guard flyover has been requested. The program includes music by the Fort Vancouver Pipe Band. A joint military Color Guard will present honors and provide a rifle salute.

**Contact: George Allen, 503-273-5250**

10 a.m. – The names of 801 Oregon Vietnam veterans who were killed during the war will be read at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

11 a.m. – During the annual ceremony at the Memorial, veterans groups will post the colors and present wreaths. Guest speakers will be announced. The Portland Police Highland Guard will play Amazing Grace. The Oregon Army National Guard will retire Colors. An Oregon Air National Guard flyover has been requested. The Memorial is located in Washington Park across from the Metro Park Zoo at 400 S.W. Canyon Road.

**Contact: Jerry Pero, 503-266-1686**

## Rogue River

May 28 – 11 a.m. – VFW Post 4116 will host a ceremony at the Woodville Cemetery on Ward Road.

**Contact: Tom LaZette, 541-889-0490**

## Salem

May 28 – 11 a.m. – The Greater Salem Area Veterans' Organizations (GSAVO) will sponsor the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day program at the City View Cemetery, located at 390 Hoyt Street S. The keynote speaker will be World War II U.S. Army nurse, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. (Ret.) Jane Wiles. A flyover from the Oregon Air National Guard has been requested. A potluck luncheon will be held afterwards at VFW Post 661 located at 630 Hood Street N.E. Parking is limited.

**Contact: Bea Harlan, 503-362-5530**

1 p.m. – A ceremony will honor Oregonians who have died while serving in support of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The memorial is located on the ODVA grounds at 700 Summer Street N.E.

**Contact: Robin Steckley, 503-373-2386**

## Sheridan

May 28 – 11 a.m. – VFW Post 4211, Northwest Indian Veterans' Association, AMVETS Post 2000, and American Legion Post 75 will perform services at the cemetery located near Highway 18.

**Contact: Carl Lambert, 503-879-4222**

## Sisters

May 28 – 10:30 a.m. – A ceremony will be presented by VFW Post 8138 and American Legion Post 8 at the Village Green Parks, located across the street from the Sisters Camp Sherman Dining Hall. The guest speaker will be U.S. Navy Senior Chief (Ret.) Phillip Gale. The Crook County Naval Junior ROTC, under the direction of U.S. Navy Master Chief (Ret.) Donnie Jackson, will present the Colors and rifle drill. There will be a flyover by a restored pre-World War II bi-plane flown by Ron Ochs.

**Contact: Frank Jackson, 541-389-6966**

## Springfield

May 28 – 10:15 a.m. – The Springfield Memorial Gardens and West Lawn Memorial Park in conjunction with the Lane County Memorial Day Association, will be hosting an annual "Tribute to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice". The event is dedicated to the veterans of the Korean War. Join the "Salute to Veterans" at 7305 Main Street.

**Contact: Gene Drake, 541-746-5311**

## The Dalles

May 28 – 2 p.m. – VFW Post 2471 will conduct a ceremony that includes posting the colors, a moment of silence and the playing of Taps, at the Oregon Veterans' Home, located at 700 Veterans' Drive.

**Contact: Howard Thill, 541-296-9633**

## Vale

May 28 – 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 96 will be conducting memorial services at the Valley View Cemetery located at 1699 Valley View Road.

**Contact: Bill Thomson; 541-889-6344**

## Vernonia

May 28 – 11 a.m. – The Aloha American Legion Post 104 Honor Guard will present the Colors and fire at 21-gun salute during a ceremony at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery located at 2080 Bridge Street. The keynote speaker will be announced. A bugler will play Taps.

**Contact: Dave Yeo, 503-640-4941**

## Willamina

May 28 – 9 a.m. – VFW Post 4211, Northwest Indian Veterans' Association, AMVETS Post 2000, and American Legion Post 75 will perform services at the cemetery downtown on the Highway 18 Business Route.

**Contact: Carl Lambert 503-879-4222**

## Motorcyclists, Patriot Guard Riders to Rally for Memorial Day Event

In partnership with the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group, riders from various areas in Oregon are invited to participate in a Memorial Day rally on May 28. Riders will depart from five cities and meet at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial in Salem.

There will be seven rally point locations with riders leaving at different times so as to arrive at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) prior to the 1 p.m. ceremony at the Memorial. The names of Oregon military members that have been killed in action while serving in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, since November 11, will be added to the Memorial.

Motorcycle rider rally points include locations in Bend, Lincoln City, Oregon City, Salem, Silverton, Springfield and Tualatin. Riders will depart at various times and will arrive at the Memorial at 12:30 p.m. The Memorial is located on the ODVA grounds at 700 Summer Street N.E.

For more information about times and exact rally point locations, call Bill McMichael at 503-931-2135 or check the Patriot Guard Riders website: [www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org).



## Union to Offer Free Training to Veterans

The Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, Local 290, is now offering free training, apprenticeship programs and job placement to veterans looking to make a career change. No experience is needed to receive the free training.

"These schools always cost a lot of money," said Bill McMichael, a member of Local 290 and proponent of the free schooling offer. "We want veterans to receive this free training to help them begin a new, good paying career, and we'll help them find work."

McMichael added that when veterans complete their training, 18 months will be removed from a typical 4 to 5 year apprenticeship program. Upon completion of their training, new apprentices can choose to become a plumber or a pipe fitter.

For more information about the free training program, call Local 290 at 800-452-2912 or McMichael at 503-931-2135.





## Free Folding Canes Available


A program was announced recently that provides free folding canes with interchangeable handles to World War II veterans. Can-Am Care, LLC, is the maker of high quality mobility assistance devices, including the *HUGO Folding Cane*.

Can-Am Care originally offered the free folding canes to the parents and relatives of its employees who served in World War II and the Korean War in the hope of giving back in some small way to those who graciously gave so much to America.

The *HUGO Folding Cane* is adjustable to different heights, and fits most people between 5' and 6'5" and can support up to 550 pounds. It also features a shock-absorbing tip with all weather and all terrain traction grip for extra stability.



Phil Willis, Principal of Can-Am Care, said, "The parents and relatives of those that work at our company who served in World War II and in the Korean War helped to secure the prosperity that Americans now enjoy".

Can-Am Care intends to provide *HUGO Folding Canes* with Interchangeable Handles while supplies last, at no charge to World War II veterans who may be in need of mobility assistance. Can-Am Care can be contacted toll free at 1-888-412-4992 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST or online at [www.HUGOSalutes.com](http://www.HUGOSalutes.com). Proof of service may be required. 

## Generous Donations Come to OVH



**Lynn Hughes (second from left), Recreational Director at the Oregon Veterans' Home, receives one of two checks from Andy Crown (far left), Chairman of the Hood River Elks Lodge 1507 Veterans Committee, Bill Wotton, Executor of the estate of Erwin Sweighoefer, and Bill's wife, Norma.**

Recently, Lynne Hughes Recreation Director at the Oregon Veterans' Home was pleased to represent the Home in accepting two generous donations.

Bill Wotton, executor of the estate of Erwin Sweighoefer, presented a check for \$60,000 to the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles.

Mr. Wotton stated, "It was Mr. Sweighoefer's intent that the monies be used for a very worthy cause and I consider the Veterans' Home an excellent recipient. It is the intent of the estate that this money be divided equally between the need for a new transportation van and the Recreation Fund."

Also, on the same day, Elks Lodge #1507 in Hood River presented a check for \$2,000 to

OVH Recreation Director Lynne Hughes. Elks Lodge #1507 specified that they would like these funds to go towards custom built entertainment centers for A, B and C Wings. Generous donations to the Veterans' Home positively affect residents' quality of life. All donations are greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made using the gift form on page 5 or by sending a check to:

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

Donors may also wish to include the Veterans' Home in their estate planning.

Linda Adams - Oregon Veterans' Home 


## Korean War Veterans Association

The Korean War Veterans Association is seeking members who served in any U.S. military branch of service in Korea prior to, during or after the Korean War.

To be eligible for membership, a veteran must have served honorably:

- In Korea, including the territorial waters and airspace, between September 3, 1945 to June 25, 1950
- Within or outside of Korea from June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955

- In Korea from February 1, 1955 until the present time.
- Non-military members, Associate or Honorary Memberships are also available.

Additional information and clarification of a Korean-era veteran's status and eligibility for membership is available by calling Howard Myers at 503-684-2846 or email: [lualen1@excite.com](mailto:lualen1@excite.com). 

## 2007 Veterans' Organizations State Conventions

### American Legion

Date: June 28 – 30  
Location: High School Auditorium  
1001 West Marine Drive, Astoria  
Contact: Barry Snyder, 503-685-5006

### American Ex-Prisoners of War

Date: May 26 at 8 a.m.  
Location: Phoenix Inn, Albany  
Contact: Richard Crow, 541-336-3635

### AMVETS

Date: May 18 and 19  
Location: Veterans' Club, Sweet Home  
Contact: Gary Carver, 503-777-6677

### Disabled American Veterans

Date: May 10 – 12  
Location: Wittenberg Inn  
5188 Wittenberg Lane N, Keizer  
Contact: Bruce Young, 971-645-3387

### Korean War Veterans Association

No State Convention planned at this time.

### Marine Corps League

Date: June 23  
Location: Shilo Inn, Springfield  
Contact: John Woods, 541-479-2707

### Military Officers Association

Date: October 19 - 21  
Location: Cottage Grove  
Contact: 541-683-5083 or 541-334-1763

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

Date: June 1 – 3  
Location: Phoenix Inn Suites  
3410 Spicer Road, Albany  
Contact: Dale Albee, 541-560-3556

### Military Order of the World Wars

Date: June 8 – 10  
Location: Liberty Inn, DuPont, Washington  
Contact: Larry Kaufman, 503-540-0505

### Oregon Reserve Officers Association

Date: May 11 and 12  
Location: Camp Rilea

### Vietnam Veterans of America

No State Convention this Year.

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

Date: June 21 – 23  
Location: Valley River Inn, Eugene  
Contact: Wade Woolard, 541-726-5883



# Social Security Clarification

In the March-April edition of *VETS NEWS* an article appeared titled "Social Security Update – Are You Getting All You Should?"


The article created a bit of a stir as numerous veterans contacted the Social Security Administration and received varied responses to their inquiries. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) received approximately 50-60 calls from veterans regarding their experiences and frustrations.

The primary reason that the article was originally printed is because of the fact that the information was recently updated by the Social Security Administration in January and it was information we deemed of interest to veterans.

The employees at ODVA are here to serve and assist veterans, their families and survivors and was in no way put out by the calls received as a result of this article. In order to better serve veterans it is important that these situations are brought to our attention.

The original article was based on information that came directly from the Social Security Administration's website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). An electronic fact sheet can still be printed from that same site (go to: <http://ssa.gov/pubs/10017.html>). ODVA has been working with the Social Security Northwest Regional Office in Seattle in an attempt to better understand the process and get further clarification.

What we have learned as a result is that normally whenever a social security benefit is applied for and a benefit amount is computed, a person's lifetime earnings or 30 highest years of earnings are used. Sometimes the military earnings are not a high year. If military service is used as a high year of earnings, then the veteran would be asked to submit a DD-214. Also, if the veteran receives a civilian federal benefit, such as Civil Service Annuity, and the military service was used to compute the civilian benefit, the Social Security cannot use the same dates of service to compute the Social Security benefits.

As stated earlier, ODVA has been notified of many veterans who followed up with the Social Security Administration and were turned away, told that the information was incorrect and so on. However we are pleased to share that we were also notified of two veterans who contacted the Social Security Administration and their records were checked and Social Security did find that their computation for benefits did not have proper credit for their military service. They have both received an increase to their monthly benefit amount. These veterans were assisted in the Social Security Office in Medford. 

# Military and Veteran Reunions

**USS Maryland BB-46** WWII crewmembers will hold their 33<sup>rd</sup> and final reunion May 31-June 4, 2007 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For more information, contact R.W. Beaman at 471 Vivienne Dr., Watsonville, California 95076-3652, or call 831-722-4966. Email [pdgdick@aol.com](mailto:pdgdick@aol.com)

**Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans** will hold their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion August 5-10, 2007 at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The GCV is a 501(c)-19 non-profit which membership consists of members of the USA, USAAF, USN, USMC and USCG whose service was from August 7, 1942 to February 9, 1943 in and around Guadalcanal. For more information, contact Gordon W. Morgan at [Gcvets@aol.com](mailto:Gcvets@aol.com) or call 503-254-6848.

**The 63rd Infantry Division Association** will hold their 59<sup>th</sup> reunion August 7-11, 2007 at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel in Tacoma, Washington. For more information, contact Marsh Allen, 7714 Chinook Ave., Gig Harbor, Washington 98335, or call 253-851-3843. Email [mallen2321@juno.com](mailto:mallen2321@juno.com).

**The USS Ranger CVA/CV-61 Reunion Association** will hold their national reunion from August 15-19, 2007 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon to show support for moving the retired aircraft carrier to Portland. Anyone who served on Ranger or any attached unit is cordially invited to attend. For more information, contact George Meoli at 203-453-4279 or check the website at [www.ussranger.org/Reunion.htm](http://www.ussranger.org/Reunion.htm). Registration deadline is June 1, 2007.

**The USMC Motor Transport Association** will hold their 11<sup>th</sup> reunion September 16-19, 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, contact Terry Hightower, P.O. Box 1372, Jacksonville, North Carolina 28541-1372, or call 910-450-1841. Email [usmcmta@charterinternet.com](mailto:usmcmta@charterinternet.com).

**Headquarters 10<sup>th</sup> Corps and Attached Service Support Units 1950-53** will hold their reunion September 20-23, 2007 in College Station, Texas. For more information, contact Gordon R. Kennedy at 979-778-2563.

**The USNR Midshipmen's School** New York, New York (Columbia University and the Prairie State), and Northwestern will hold their reunion October 1-3, 2007 in Palm Springs, California. For more information contact Ken Boyd, at 16608 La Paloma Ln., Edmond, Oklahoma or call 405-330-4707. Email [kb@clickworld.net](mailto:kb@clickworld.net).

**USS Tarawa Veterans Association** is looking for mates and announcing their 18<sup>th</sup> annual reunion in Dayton, Ohio. For more information, contact Frank Grosey, 976 Holly St., Bullhead City, Arizona 86442, or call 928-763-8242. Email [groseyjr@frontiernet.net](mailto:groseyjr@frontiernet.net). Or contact Walter Tothoro, 1009 Lane Ave., Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, or call 765-362-6937, email [walsue@wico.net](mailto:walsue@wico.net).

**Fifth Army Veterans of WWII Italian Campaign** annual reunion for veterans, their families and friends is planned for various locations in Italy and Europe. For more information, contact Sy Canton at 5221 B. Nesting Way, Delray Beach, Florida 33484, or call 561-865-8495.

**Korean War Reunion** will hold their 13<sup>th</sup> annual reunion for all veterans who served during the Korean War October 1-4, 2007 at the Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino, 1650 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin, Nevada, call 1-800-227-3849 for reservations and mention this code "C/Korea."

**USS Boston** shipmates and crewmembers are planning a reunion in Memphis, Tennessee for July 2007. If interested, the contact address is P.O. Box 816, Amherst, New Hampshire 03031-0816, or call 603-672-8772. There is also information available at their website [www.ussboston.org](http://www.ussboston.org).

**36th Annual Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.** National Convention will be held August 21-25 in Dallas, Texas at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center. For more information, contact Jennifer Myers at 609-781-0361 or visit their website at [www.tuskegeeairmen.org/TAI\\_Convention.html](http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org/TAI_Convention.html).

## Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Benefits - Veterans' Home Loans - Conservatorship Oregon Veterans' Home (skilled nursing & rehabilitative care)

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- \* Access ODVA's website at [www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva)
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- \* Write to ODVA's Privacy Officer to have a copy mailed to you; or
- \* Ask for a copy the next time you visit ODVA.



# 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 Harlan-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
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Harney .....	541-573-6024	..... Selina Westlake
Hood River .....	541-386-1080	..... Patrick Scranton
Jackson .....	541-774-7837	..... Marty Kimmel
Jefferson .....	541-475-5228	..... Tom Weiss
Josephine .....	541-474-1316	..... Lisa Shipley
Klamath .....	541-883-4274	..... Kathy Pierce (Asst.)
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 .....	541-565-3408	..... Paul Conway
Tillamook .....	503-842-4358	..... Steve Weld
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Wallowa .....	541-426-3155 Ext. 241	..... Rene Beaudoin
Wasco .....	541-506-2502	..... Patrick Scranton
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Wheeler .....	541-763-3032	..... Paul Conway
Yamhill .....	503-434-7503	..... Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
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American Veterans (AMVETS)	503-412-4767	..... James Chubinsky
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087	..... Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	..... Jay E. Woodbury
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	..... David Saylor
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4762	..... Ken Fink
Veterans of Foreign Wars .....	503-412-4757	..... Jack Zule

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Salem .....	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	..... Kelly Breshears Ron Jarchow Lacey Carter Tom Mann Gus Bedwell Doug Yerke
Portland .....	503-412-4777	..... Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Laura Henrichs

## ODVA 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, <b>Chair</b> 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

Members are war veterans appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms. 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.

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City/ State /Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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