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Jim Willis, Director

## Governor Kulongoski Attends Prineville's Veterans Day Parade

Governor Ted Kulongoski attended the Prineville/Crook County Veterans Day Parade riding in a blue Military Department Humvee decorated with red and white stripes. The Governor was accompanied by Paula Brown, Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and General Raymond Byrne, the Military Department's Acting Adjutant General. Hundreds of onlookers lined the streets of Prineville, waving miniature American flags.

The Governor was welcomed to Prineville by Mayor-elect Mike Wendel, City Manager Robb Corbett and numerous others.

"I think Prineville truly believes in Veterans Day. They have a spot in their heart

for all veterans, of all wars. Veterans are a large part of the community," Wendel said.

After the parade, Governor Kulongoski made some brief remarks at the MIA/POW ceremonial area located in Ochoco Creek Park. The Crook County High School National Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Drill Team, the "Patriotic Performers," also gave a drill performance.

"As we all know, freedom does not come free," the Governor said to the crowd. "There is a price we pay for our freedom. We are gathered here today to pay tribute to the millions of brave Americans who have

answered the call of duty, who have stepped up and paid that price."

Governor Kulongoski said that one way Oregonians can show their thanks to veterans is with a handshake and a thank you. He added that he had signed a proclamation making November "Hire a Veteran Month," and urged all employers to give servicemembers, who honorably served, a chance for job opportunities after their return to civilian life.

"This is the second way we can thank those veterans who have interrupted their lives and often suffered physical or emotional injury in defense of our freedom—we can see to it that when they return home, they are welcomed, they are respected, and they are employed."

The Governor said he encouraged all employers around the state to hire veterans not only in November, but to continue hiring as many veterans as possible throughout the year.

Later that day, the Governor attended a community reception at the local Veterans Hall, where families of active duty military personnel and Prineville community leaders were invited to attend.

"I think it was great to have the Governor of Oregon come to Prineville. The community of Prineville enjoyed having him here," said Sid Carter, Crook County Veterans' Service Officer. "They appreciated it very much."



**Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski rode in Prineville's Veterans Day parade in a Military Humvee. Kulongoski, a former Marine, honored all veterans.**

## Message from the Director

As active duty servicemembers return home, they will find a number of programs and services waiting to assist them with their transition back to civilian life. Some of these are long-standing programs such as those offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), and the Oregon Employment Department (OED). Others are programs devised by private industry, or scholarships offered by colleges and universities.

This issue of *VETS NEWS* highlights several great new programs for returning veterans. As a service to our newest veterans, we will continue to search out such programs and report on them in future issues as well.

But veterans should not overlook the long-standing programs established for them, either.

Veterans are entitled to a wide array of benefits from the federal government, through the auspices of the federal VA. Here in Oregon, there is a statewide network of trained, experienced veterans' benefits experts available to provide information, help, and when necessary, advocacy for veterans submitting claims to the federal VA. Check the list of county veterans' service officers (CVSO) appearing on page 11. For Marion and Polk Counties, veterans' services are provided by ODVA veterans' benefits consultants, located in the Oregon Veterans' Building at 700 Summer Street NE in Salem.

Employment assistance to veterans is provided by OED, through their local Veterans Employment Representative

*Continued on page 6*



## High School Students Honor Veterans

Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) addressed a gymnasium full of students, staff and veterans during McNary High School's 3rd Annual Living History Day celebration held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. McNary High School, located just north of Salem in the city of Keizer, enlists the help of veterans, staff volunteers and students to coordinate and organize their annual living history event.

Jason Heimerdinger, Instructor and Activities Director for McNary High School, was one of the staff volunteers who helped oversee the planning of the event and who asked ODVA Director Willis to participate.

"It is a wonderful thing to see these veterans and students interact in this way. The impact that these types of activities have on veterans and students alike is powerful. I was very pleased to be able to participate and commend McNary for the fine job they are doing in hosting this annual event," commented Director Willis.

Local veterans Chuck Ponder and Bob Wickman recruited other veterans in the area to share their military service experiences with students. At an honor assembly coordinated by McNary's Student Body President Aubrey Cowan and Vice-President Tyler McCan, veterans were honored as the school's Concert Choir performed the anthems for each branch of service. Students



**ODVA Director Jim Willis with McNary High School Activities Director, Jason Heimerdinger. Heimerdinger coordinated Living History Day for the High School students at McNary.**

at the assembly also viewed a video presentation which included images of McNary High School staff and faculty members who served in the Armed Forces.

"It was neat because they got to tell us about history, rather than just us reading about it in textbooks," said McNary student Skyler Meeks.

## Merchant Marine Veterans Honored

World War II (WWII) veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine were honored on Wednesday, November 10, 2004 in the lobby of the Oregon Veterans' Building in Salem. Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, joined friends and family members of Merchant Marines from five Oregon chapters of the Merchant Marine Veterans of America, and Department staff, in acknowledging the contributions of the Merchant Marine Veterans during WWII.



**Members of five Oregon chapters of Merchant Marine Veterans of America present WWII memorabilia to ODVA Director Jim Willis.**

"They were hard working servicemembers during World War II and suffered tremendous casualties, yet they handled their service with bravery and dignity," said Willis. "I am so privileged to be able to call attention to their efforts today."

Willis noted that as a group, the Merchant Marine for many years, went unrecognized for their service during WWII. Despite delivering an average of 8,500 tons of goods per hour to U.S and Allied Forces throughout the War, and experiencing the highest loss of life per capita of any of the services engaged in the War, it wasn't until 1988 that Congress bestowed veteran status upon these servicemembers.

Willis was presented with memorabilia including pictures and books documenting the

service of the Merchant Marine during WWII. As the items were presented, a display was created in the lobby for viewing by all visitors to the Oregon Veterans' Building. Merchant Marine uniforms have also been placed on display.

"This display serves as a reminder of the incredible sacrifice the Merchant Marine made in behalf of our country," said Willis. "We will never forget their service."

Following the ceremony, Nelson Cauble, a Merchant Marine

veteran from Sutherlin, shared stories about his service.

"We've been treated like stepchildren for many years. It means a lot to be recognized as veterans," said Cauble. "There is still a long ways to go. We had ships sunk and men lost before the war even started and after. I've talked to men who lost as many as three ships in one day."

Cauble served in World War II from 1944-1945 and after the war throughout the 1950's. Of the 215,000 Merchant Mariners who served during World War II, about 8,651 perished at sea or on enemy shores.

For more information about the Merchant Marine Association contact Nelson and Shirley Nelson at 541-459-7982.

"I'm lucky I had the chance to hear the stories about WWII. We won't have the opportunity to hear those stories from the people that were really there for much longer," said McNary student Andrew Trachsel.

"The leadership class deserves a 'well done' for their guidance throughout the day and the courtesies they extended to the veterans," said veteran Bob Wickman.

Several high schools in Oregon annually hold events in November to honor veterans and pay tribute to their sacrifices for our nation. In addition to McNary, these included Pendleton, Forest Grove, Bend, Tigard, Rex Putnam (Portland), and Milwaukie High School, which held its ninth Annual Living History Day this year.



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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 February 4, 2005.





A float carrying veterans and the children of deployed servicemembers makes its way down Second Street in the annual Albany Veterans Day Parade.



ODVA Director Jim Willis and Nick Urhausen at the Eugene Veterans Day Parade, where Willis served as Grand Marshal.

## Veterans Day Celebrated

Communities across Oregon celebrated Veterans Day 2004 with dozens of parades, ceremonies and special events honoring Oregon's veteran population of about 376,000 and the more than 1,700 members of the Oregon National Guard on active duty, mostly in the Middle East.

While events were too numerous to mention them all, below is a snapshot of a few events held to honor veterans. The festivities began in Eugene on Sunday, November 7, where ODVA Director

Jim Willis, a Vietnam veteran, served as Grand Marshal for the Veterans Day Parade. Later that week Willis was in his hometown of Albany, where he and other veterans, including John Flaska - a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam - were honored as grand marshals for the Veterans Day Parade.

The Albany parade, the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi River, drew an estimated 30,000 spectators and featured about 200 entries, which included active-duty military personnel and their families as well as veterans from previous wars.

Governor Ted Kulongoski and ODVA Deputy Director Paula Brown participated in Prineville's annual Veterans Day Parade

the Oregon Veterans' Home. Deputy Director Paula Brown, who regularly attends the Salem towne Veterans Day event, accepted the donation of behalf of the veterans at the Home.

Elsewhere around the state, communities honored veterans in a variety of ways. La Grande, held a Veterans Day Parade. In Beaverton the American Legion Veterans Day ceremonies included unveiling a Medal of Honor Memorial before a crowd of hundreds. In Bend, a parade was followed by an open house and chili cook-off at the VFW post. Klamath Falls held a parade followed by ceremonies at Veterans Memorial Park. The American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps League all sponsored special activities as well. Ontario, on Oregon's eastern border, held a parade followed by special ceremonies. In the mid-Willamette Valley, Monroe joined in the festivities with a special veterans display at the community museum.

"Amazing. Truly amazing," commented Director Willis. "It is a wonderful thing to see our veterans publicly honored for their service and sacrifice, and that same spirit of honor and support is extended by Oregonians, I am sure, to our men and women currently on active duty, standing in harm's way in trouble spots all around the globe."



A Medal of Honor Memorial is unveiled at Memorial Park in Beaverton.

(see story on page 1).

In Salem, residents of the Salem towne Active Retirement Community joined forces to prepare a community-wide celebration which has become a tradition at the complex in the last four years. Along with honoring the more than 100 veterans residing at Salem towne, members of the community collected \$300 to donate to



ODVA Deputy Director Paula Brown (second from right) attended annual Veterans Day ceremonies at Salem towne Active Retirement Community. Pictured are, from left to right, Marine Sergeant Gorman, Roger Campbell, Deputy Director Brown, and event organizer and Salem towne resident Lew Crites.



Vehicles of all shapes and sizes and many decorated with patriotic symbols converged in a Vancouver parking lot prior to the Veterans Convoy. The convoy traveled south on Veterans' Memorial Highway (I-205) to Wilsonville.

This photo courtesy of Tom Weiss.



A float from the Bend Veterans Parade shows the faces of local area servicemembers currently deployed while some of their family members ride along.





## Friends of the Home

Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund continue to be received. We are deeply appreciative of the thoughtfulness and generosity of an ever-growing number of Friends of the Home. Those who contributed during the months of October and November 2004 are listed below:

Marilyn Winebarger  
 John S. Stenerodden  
 Herb Franke  
 Fred M. Liddell  
 Ed and Shirley Rognle  
 Maurice and Margaret Hillyer  
 John E. Kalmbach  
 James and Judith Key  
 Bob Ricketts  
 Kenneth and Geraldine Morod  
 Adele Lieberfarb  
 George Cranswick  
 Louis A. and Janet R. Roumagoux  
 Clair and Elaine Couturier  
 Gary L. and Carol E. Zwicker  
 Kenneth L. and Deborah Salisbury  
 Edward and Mary Warmoth  
 Mabel R. Russell  
 Sid and Burnice Smith  
 Robert and Billie Ann Shaw  
 DAV Fernridge Auxiliary #24  
 Russell and Beverly Hackleman  
 American Legion Umpqua Post #16  
 Kenneth H. Mantel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rolph  
 Steve and Sharon Crabb  
 ExxonMobil Foundation, Mobil Retiree  
 Matching Gift Programs  
 VFW Post #4617  
 American Legion Post #45  
 Military Officers Association of America—  
 Central Oregon Chapter  
 John H. Schmidt  
 Lorris A. Hollinger, Jr.  
 George and Virginia Wood  
 DAV Willamette Chapter #17  
 Margaret and Dale Tilden  
 Ron and Joann Meisner  
 Duane Van Cleave  
 Lee H. Andrews  
 James B. Trent, Jr.  
 Thomas and Virginia Hake  
 Bonnie Jeanne Dove  
 Ernest and Margaret Warns  
 James and June Bilderbeck  
 Gervaise F. Jarmer  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Blake  
 William H. and Sara E. Johnson  
 Andrew and Winifred Mitchell  
 Dale and Elaine Thurman  
 American Legion St. Johns Post #98  
 Bernhard and Mary Baer  
 John and JoAnn Andrews  
 George and Ina Penney

Jack T. Magnuson  
 Ida Stewart  
 Mr. and Mrs. William D. Riddell  
 William Wright  
 Donald R. and Betty Workman  
 Martin and Dorothy Jurgenson  
 Jack Daugherty  
 Harold Busby  
 Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #271  
 Julia P. Warren  
 Paul E. Burger  
 Mel and Norma Peterson  
 Larry Quiring  
 Florence and John E. McCulley  
 Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America  
 Clarinne Nasan  
 Jeff B. and Susan Ford  
 Military Order of the Purple Heart Ladies  
 Auxiliary #72  
 Lawrence and Lois Hughes  
 George L. Nace  
 Wayne E. Schwartz  
 Allan R. and Elizabeth I. Jones  
 Dorothy Heater  
 Gretchen Johnson  
 Military Order of the Cootie  
 Rimrock Pup Tent #8  
 DAV Auxiliary #1  
 DAV Yamhill County Auxiliary #5  
 Colin Ackerson  
 Howard and Diane Boyte  
 Nedry V. Burris  
 Salemtowne Active Retirement Community  
 Lew Crites  
 Arthur E. and D. Maxine Mahan  
 Paul Arnott  
 NCOA Chapter #1285  
 Richard and Beverly I. Christman  
 DAV Auxiliary #17  
 Jacqueline Rees  
 Jan M. Lyda  
 Clifford and Martin, Inc.  
 Kenneth Haddock Plaza Retirement Community  
 VFW Auxiliary #922  
 Anonymous  
 KWVA Iron Triangle Chapter  
 Don and Erma Nesheim  
 Donald and Edith McDaniel  
 VFW Post #3452  
 VETERAN License Plates  
 Charitable Checkoff Donations  
 Gale Sickler  
 Dennis Brown  
 Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association—High  
 Desert Eagles Chapter

## ODVA Presents Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America With Director's Commendation Award

On December 10, 2004, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis presented the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) with a Director's Commendation Award. The award signifies all of the hard work OPVA has done on behalf of Oregon veterans and specifically the Oregon Veterans' Home.

OPVA has been a committed supporter of the Oregon Veterans' Home since its opening in 1997. Most recently, Director Jim Willis accepted a donation of \$2,500 for the Oregon Veterans' Home at a holiday dinner for residents of the Home put together by OPVA. In the year 2004 alone, OPVA donated more than \$6,000 to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

Donations from OPVA have provided recreational activities for residents, physical therapy equipment for rehabilitation, off-site excursions, benches for outside recreation and relaxation, planter boxes for gardening enjoyment, and numerous other quality of life enhancements for residents.

Contributions to the Home create funding for recreation, cost of care, facility and ground maintenance, and medical needs of the residents.

Located in The Dalles, the Oregon Veterans' Home provides long-term care for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses. The 151-bed facility provides both nursing home care and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The Home has space available and is both Medicare and Medicaid certified.

Donations for the Oregon Veterans' Home can be made by sending a check payable to the Oregon Veterans' Home c/o The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1285.



### MOPH Makes Donation

Robert Haltiner, Department Commander of the Oregon Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), presents a \$2,000 check to ODVA Deputy Director Paula Brown for the Oregon Veterans' Home.

# Make Your Tax Refund Count

Tax season is upon us, meaning that Oregonians once again have the opportunity to direct a portion of their state tax refund to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

The Home is Oregon's only state veterans' home and was built to serve veterans who require extended nursing home care.

This will be third year Oregonians have had the option of sharing some or all of their Oregon tax refund with the Oregon Veterans' Home when they file their return, using the Charitable Checkoff portion of their Oregon income tax return form.

"Last year, generous Oregonians donated \$13,010 to the Home using this method," said Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, which oversees operation of the Home. "That number exceeded the 2002 donation amount

by \$3,728. I'm hoping they are even more generous this year."

Charitable Checkoff donations are sent directly to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund by the Oregon Department of Revenue.

"The Trust Fund is a tremendous benefit for the residents at the Home," Willis said. "It helps maintain a high quality of life for the residents, paying for everything from special food treats to emergency repairs. It's especially important because the Home has received no tax dollars from the State General Fund."

Tax-deductible contributions to the Oregon Veterans' Home are fast and simple to do. For those filing Oregon Form 40S (the short form):

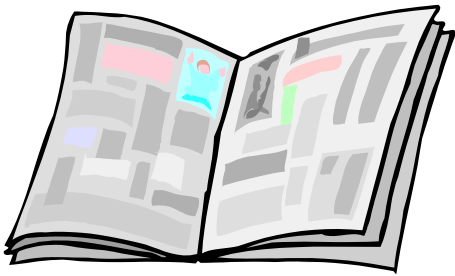
- Locate Line 30 on the form.
- Enter number "12" where it reads "Enter Code".

- Choose an amount or enter an amount of your choice.

For those filing Oregon Form 40 (the long form):

- Locate line 61 on the form.
- Enter the number "12" on the line where it reads "Enter Code".
- Choose an amount or enter an amount of your choice.

If using the services of a tax professional, inform the preparer that you want all or a designated portion of the refund to the Oregon Veterans' Home, Code #12.



## Magazine Subscription Program

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

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

Joe Libonati  
James Arendt  
Bob Ricketts

For information concerning the Magazine Subscription Program, please contact Roxane Kuehl by calling 1-800-846-8460 or 541-296-7151 or by e-mail at [kuehlr@odva.state.or.us](mailto:kuehlr@odva.state.or.us).

### Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form

"Give to those who have already given of themselves"

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

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

Here is my gift in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer not to receive an emblem

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

Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I am making my donation to the Oregon Veterans' Home

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

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Send acknowledgements to: Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift qualifies for a charitable contribution tax deduction.

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

Please clip this form and mail with your donation to:

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



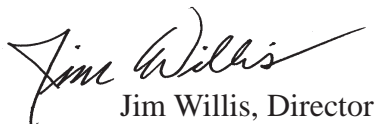
## Director

*Continued from page 1*

(LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff. These experts are found at most state employment offices, and they specialize in helping veterans find employment. There is a list of these offices in this issue on page 10.

Veterans who are ready to make the commitment to homeownership will be heartened to learn that ODVA recently sold bonds, making about \$5 million available to Oregon veterans through our home loan program. ODVA home loans offer low interest rates, and veterans may make application directly with ODVA, or through one of many mortgage lenders or brokers around the state that are approved to originate ODVA home loans. ODVA services your loan for the life of the loan. Our borrowers mortgages are not sold. We hold all of our veterans' home loans and administer them ourselves. We are with our veteran home buyers until the loan is retired.

For those veterans who find themselves in need of long-term skilled nursing care or rehabilitative care, the Oregon Veterans' Home is ready. Veterans will find a comfortable, home-like atmosphere staffed with skilled medical professionals. Veterans will also find that the Home is likely their most affordable option for this care. The Home admits eligible veterans, regardless of their state of residency, and also accepts spouses and surviving spouses of veterans. For those who need this care, there are immediate openings. The Home is Medicaid and Medicare certified. I'm proud to live in a state that honors its veterans as greatly as does Oregon, and I'm honored to serve as the leader of the Department whose mission it is to be advocates for veterans, their families, and survivors. If we can help, please contact us at 1-800-828-8801 or 503-373-2085.

  
Jim Willis, Director

## Oregon Veterans' Home

**"The place where honor lives."**

Beds are available for quality skilled nursing and rehabilitative care at an affordable price for veterans and their spouses.  
Now Medicaid certified.

For more information, contact the Oregon Veterans' Home

**541-296-7190**  
OR  
**1-800-846-8460**

## Veterans' Home Loan Limit Increases

The maximum eligibility amount for veterans' home loans through the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has been increased to \$359,650, following an announcement from the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight. The increase took effect January 3, 2005.

In addition, ODVA completed a bond sale on December 2, 2004, resulting in the availability of about five million dollars for veterans' home loans. The funds can be loaned to qualified Oregon veterans, including veterans discharged after 1976.

"This is great news, especially for younger veterans who have been discharged from the military in the post-Vietnam era, including veterans returning from the Middle East," said ODVA Director Jim Willis. "We look forward to helping these veterans with the purchase of their homes."

For more than 50 years, ODVA has made home loans to veterans at favorable interest rates. To date, over 333,000 home loans have been made to Oregon veterans. The program helps honorably discharged veterans purchase a single family home in Oregon, including manufactured homes on land. Eligibility for the program expires 30 years after the veteran's discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces.

Veterans can apply for a home loan directly with ODVA or through one of many mortgage lenders or brokers located around the state that are approved to originate an ODVA State Home Loan. For more information, contact ODVA at 503-373-2005, or toll free in Oregon at 1-800-828-8801 Ext. 2005.

## VA Offers Chiropractic Care

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is now offering chiropractic care at 26 different facilities around the country.

While facilities are located in Washington and California, none are located in Oregon.

According to the VA, eligible veterans in Oregon will be able to obtain chiropractic care through VA's outpatient fee-basis program after a referral by their primary care provider and prior authorization by the VA.

For further information, veterans should contact their county veterans' service office, or call the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 503-373-2085 or toll free in Oregon 1-800-828-8801.

## Veterans Muster

A Veterans' Muster has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on February 9, 2005, on the front steps of the Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE in Salem.

Veterans from around the state will gather at the Capitol that morning to as a show of support for veterans and their interests. The muster is sponsored by the United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO).

"We need as many veterans as possible in attendance to show support of veterans," said Robert Haltiner, Secretary/Treasurer of the UVGO.

Haltiner stressed that veterans should wear covers, vests and jackets representing their veterans' organization, and should plan to bring a fellow veteran along with them.

"Don't show up alone," Haltiner said. "Invite some of your veteran buddies."

## VA to Fund Research on Gulf War Illnesses



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced up to \$15 million for additional research funding for Gulf War illnesses.

"We still don't have a definitive cause for Gulf War illnesses," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi said. "There has to be a reason why some of our veterans came home healthy, while others serving alongside them did not."

A special advisory committee to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently submitted a report on the problem, following a two and a half-year study. Although the VA is still examining the committee's detailed, 143-page report, Principi said he is convinced there is sufficient justification for further scientific research.

The funding commitment represents the department's single largest set-aside of research funding for a specific area of investigation and could constitute up to nearly 20 percent of VA's new research grant awards for FY 2005. Over the past decade, VA has spent more than \$50 million for research into Gulf War illnesses, and much of that work is still ongoing.

The 11-member committee, formally known as the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses, was appointed by Principi in January 2002.



## MIA's Returned for Burial

The remains of six servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam War have been located, identified and returned to the United States for burial.

The six, all from the U.S. Air Force, are: Col. Theodore E. Kryszak of Buffalo, New York; Col. Harding E. Smith of Los Gatos, California; Lt. Col. Russell D. Martin of Bloomfield, Iowa; Chief Master Sgt. Luther L. Rose of Howe, Texas, Chief Master Sgt. Harold Mullins of Denver, Colorado; and Chief Master Sgt. Ervin Warren of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They were buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on November 4, 2004.

The men were the crew of an AC-47 "Spooky" gunship that was shot down during

a nighttime reconnaissance mission over southern Laos in 1966.

In other developments, U.S. and North Korean officials reached agreement for missions in 2005 to recover the remains of American servicemen who are missing from the Korean War. The missions will be focused in the Pyongyang area and near the Chosin Reservoir. More than 2,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines are believed to be missing in these two areas, according to the Department of Defense.

Joint recovery operations in North Korea since 1996 have recovered remains believed to be those of more than 200 soldiers, according to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

## Honorary High School Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans

David Branham left Milwaukie High School at the age of 17 to join the U.S. Army and fight in the Vietnam War. More than 30 years later on November 8, 2004, Branham received an honorary high school diploma in a special ceremony at Milwaukie High School. He is the first Vietnam veteran to receive an honorary high school diploma in Oregon.

"It was exciting enough to where actually for the first time in my life I really felt welcomed home," said Branham. "It was my own high school and they gave me a standing ovation - the experience was bigger than I could have ever expected."

Branham received his honorary high school diploma through a program called Operation Recognition that was originally designed to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans.

Legislation passed in 2003 made veterans of WWI, WWII and the Korean War eligible for regular diplomas if they left high school to serve in the Armed Services. As a result of the program, more than 200 Oregon veterans have received their high school diplomas.

Under the new program, Vietnam Veterans are eligible for an honorary high school diploma if they left high school in order to serve in Vietnam and meet the following requirements:

- Attended high school between 1958 and 1964 and served "in country" before August 5, 1964, or
- Attended high school between 1958 and 1975 and served between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975; and
- Have an honorable discharge.

Eligible veterans must submit an application form along with a copy of their Report of Separation, Certificate of Release, or Discharge from Active Duty from the Armed Forces of the United States in order to receive an honorary diploma.

Nearly 20 percent of Vietnam veterans left high school to serve in the Vietnam War. For Vietnam veterans like Branham, receiving an honorary high school diploma fulfills a lifelong dream.

"I was crying, the students were crying, and even the principal was crying," said Branham. "It was an emotional ordeal and I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

For more information or to request an application form, contact Karyn Chambers at the Oregon Department of Education, 503-378-3600 Ext. 2215 or email her at [karyn.chambers@state.or.us](mailto:karyn.chambers@state.or.us). Applications are also available from county veterans' service officers (see the list on page 11), and from the Oregon Department of

Veterans' Affairs, at 503-373-2085 or, toll free in Oregon, 1-800-828-8801 Ext. 2085.



*Vietnam Veteran David Branham, stands with his wife Anita as he is presented with an Honorary High School Diploma by Milwaukie High School Principal Aeylin Summers.*

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE

### Veteran's Property Tax Exemption Deadline is April 1

If you are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a veteran, you may be entitled to exempt \$10,460 or \$13,930 of your homestead property's assessed value from property taxes. For each assessment year after January 1, 1998, the exempt amount increases by three percent. The exemption is first applied to your home and then to your taxable personal property. If you are a qualifying veteran or a qualifying veteran's surviving spouse and live in your home, you may apply for the exemption.

#### How to apply:

The veteran's exemption is not automatic. You **MUST** apply to receive it. The deadline is April 1, 2005. The veteran's property tax exemption is not allowed unless you file an application by the deadline. Application forms may be obtained at county assessor's offices.

- If you did not file for an exemption for last year, you must file an application for the exemption on or before April 1, 2005.
- If you filed a claim last year, you must file a new claim by April 1, 2005 to avoid a late fee. (If not filed by April 1, the county assessor will notify you and for a \$10 fee, you can file until May 1, 2005. The May 1 deadline only applies to those who filed a claim and received the exemption the previous year.)
- **Surviving Spouse:** The surviving spouse can file a claim at any time during the current tax year if the war veteran died anytime during the previous tax year, or if the homestead property was acquired after March 1 but prior to July 1, and the veteran died within 30 days of the date property was acquired.

#### Questions:

For more information about the program contact your county assessor's office, or call the Oregon Department of Revenue at 503-378-4988 or toll free within Oregon at 1-800-356-4222. More information is also available on the Oregon Department of Revenue's website at [www.Oregon.gov/dor](http://www.Oregon.gov/dor).



## News Briefs

### Veterans Benefits Increased by 2.7 Percent

Veterans and survivors will receive a 2.7 percent increase in their military or federal retired pay, including VA disability compensation, SBP survivor annuities, and Social Security programs. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase will appear in the benefits payable in the January 2005 payment.

### New ID Cards Battle Identity Theft

With identity theft as the major fraud reported by Americans in 2003, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed a new identity card for veterans that will safeguard confidential information.

The card, formally known as the Veterans Identification Card, will have the veteran's photo on the front and identify them as an enrollee in the VA's health care system. The card will include the words "service connected" under the photo if the veteran has a service-connected disability.

Veterans should request the new card at their local medical center. Processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. Existing cards will remain valid until veterans receive their new cards.

### Overdue CRSC Toll-Free Number

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) officials have announced that DFAS has completed processing the backlog of more than 9,000 Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) retroactive payments that had been approved for more than 60 days. CRSC applications will normally be paid within 60 days of military service approval. Military retirees whose applications have been approved but who have not been paid for more than 60 days since the approval may call 1-800-472-7098 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard

Time. Officials emphasize that this number should be used only by those retired members whose eligibility has been verified and whose payments are overdue.

### Concurrent Receipt Phase-in Changed

Concurrent Receipt (now officially named "Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay" or CRDP) means that qualified military retirees now get paid both their full military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. The recently passed National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 phases out (over 9 years) the VA disability offset, which means that military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a 50 percent or higher VA rated disability will no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation.

The Act eliminated the 9-year phase-in for full CRDP payments to eligible retirees rated as 100 percent disabled by the VA, as of January 1, 2005. However, the 9-year phase-in schedule is still in effect for retirees with disabilities rated at 50 percent to 90 percent and retirees that are deemed "Unemployable" by the VA.

For further information contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 503-373-2085 or toll free in Oregon 1-800-828-8801 Ext. 2085, or contact your local county veterans' service office (see listing on page 11).

### Nicholson Nominated To Replace Principi as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

President Bush announced on December 8, 2004 that Jim Nicholson, former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican has been chosen to serve as the next secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

If confirmed, Nicholson will replace Anthony Principi, who submitted his resignation on December 7.

Nicholson is a decorated Vietnam veteran who grew up in rural Iowa and attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

## VetFran Helps Vets Buy Franchises

Owning a franchise business is now more affordable for veterans. The Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative, commonly known as "VetFran," allows veterans to acquire a franchise with a down payment of 10 percent or less for franchises costing up to \$150,000. Franchising companies absorb the difference.

"It is because the community of franchising wishes to honor those who have so bravely served our country that a special program called VetFran was created," said Dina Dwyer-Owens, Chair of the VetFran Committee.

More than 130 participating member companies have agreed to help qualified veterans acquire franchise businesses by providing financial incentives not otherwise available to investors. Currently, VetFran is limited to franchises with initial investments up to \$150,000, the maximum loan amount on which the Small Business Administration offers 85 percent loan guarantees. To date, more than 70 franchises have been acquired through the program.

VetFran is supported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Veterans Corporation said Dwyer-Owens.

Additional information is available on the VetFran website at [www.vetbiz.gov/](http://www.vetbiz.gov/) or by contacting the Center for Veterans Enterprise toll free at 1-866-584-2344.

## VVOMF Seeks Donations for Memorial Maintenance

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Oregon honors the approximately 800 Oregonians who are listed as killed or missing in action as a direct result of the Vietnam War. This "Living Memorial" encircles a manicured lawn, located next to the Oregon Zoo and World Forestry Center in Portland's Washington Park. The Memorial is also dedicated to the 57,000 Oregonians who served during the Vietnam era.

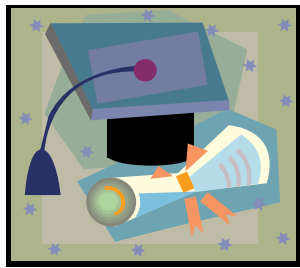
The Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial Fund (VVOMF), a non-profit organization, is asking for donations to help with the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial - each dollar donated goes to fulfill those needs. All contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and can be made to: VVOMF Inc, 1750 SW Skyline Blvd., Suite 15, Portland, Oregon 97221.



## Oregon Colleges Offer Veterans Tuition Aid

On Veterans Day 2004, Eastern Oregon University's (EOU) President announced a new "Service to Country" scholarship available to veterans or active duty military personnel. The program will cover any remaining tuition balance not paid by state, federal or private assistance, according to an EOU news release. Any eligible veteran who already has complete tuition coverage will receive up to \$1,000 a year to help pay their spouse's tuition.

The four-year scholarship will be available beginning with the 2005 Winter Term and will immediately benefit about 40 students currently attending EOU, located in La Grande. Any honorably discharged veteran can qualify for the scholarship. Eligible students must maintain a 2.5 GPA and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Veterans using the GI Bill to cover education costs are eligible for 100 percent tuition coverage.



"The scholarship honors those who have answered the call to serve our country in the U.S. Armed Forces," said EOU President Khosrow Fatemi. "After all the work they have done for us, we feel it is important to recognize their contributions to our nation."

For more information, contact the EOU Financial Aid Office at 541-962-3121.

Veterans from Klamath County who have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001 and have served during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring

Freedom may soon have the full-tuition assistance they need to complete college. Separate but similar scholarships are being created at Klamath Community College (KCC) and Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) for servicemembers who have served on active military duty in Iraq or Afghanistan for 30 days or more.

The presidents of both colleges are working to finalize the details of the program, with plans to make the scholarships available as early as Spring Term, beginning March 28, said Tracy Lehman, Director of Financial Aid.

KCC plans to name its scholarship the "Lance Corp. Bryan P. Kelly Service to Country Scholarship." Kelly, a 2002 graduate of a Klamath Falls high school, died July 16, 2004 while serving in Iraq. OIT's scholarship is named the "OIT Service to Country Scholarship."

The scholarships will be applied after all other state and federal veterans benefits are utilized. Qualified veteran students from Klamath County may receive scholarship benefits to cover any outstanding tuition, fees or book fees.

Veterans will be eligible for similar scholarships at each school; those with less than 60 credit hours will be eligible to apply for the scholarship at KCC and then transfer to OIT to complete their four-year degree.

For more information, contact the Klamath Falls Community College Financial Aid Office at 541-882-3521 or the OIT Financial Aid Office at 541-885-1280.

## Employment Program Helps Marines Find Jobs

When returning from active duty, one of the most important goals for any servicemember is finding a secure job. A Marine Corps program is helping active duty Marines make a smooth transition into civilian life, by offering assistance in their job search.

The Marine For Life program helps connect Marines just coming off active duty with prospective employers. About 160 businesses in Oregon have signed on with the Marine For Life Program, resulting in hundreds of jobs for Oregon Marine veterans.

"It's rewarding to see Marines getting placed in jobs," said Lt. Col. Mark White who is in charge of the program in Portland. "Many people have said they wish this

program was going on when they came off active duty."

White says many veterans have qualities for which that employers are looking, like leadership and accountability. The key is finding a good fit for both the Marine and the employer.

To register with the Marine For Life Program, log onto the website at [www.M4L.usmc.mil](http://www.M4L.usmc.mil) or contact the Marine For Life Program Office at 1-703-784-9140. After filling out a questionnaire on the website, applicants will be contacted by a representative who will help connect them with prospective employers.

Eligibility for the program is limited to Marines that are currently on active duty or have recently come off active duty.

## Helmets to Hardhats – Construction Jobs for Veterans



There's good news for Oregon veterans looking for work – businesses in the construction trades are looking for workers, and they are interested in veterans.

"I've got a set of employers highly interested in finding people to go to work," said Jim Booker, State Veterans' Programs Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Employment. "They're actually coming to us and saying 'We want veterans'. Veterans are of special interest to construction businesses in Oregon for several reasons," Booker said.

Some Oregon National Guard units are composed of construction battalions, which means many veterans already have some construction skills. In addition, Booker said that veterans in general are of interest to these employers because they are more mature, disciplined, and will finish a job.

"They are looking for people interested in a career in construction, as opposed to a short-term job," Booker said.

Veterans may gain entry into a construction career through two different gateways, according to Booker. Veterans with advanced construction skills can enter the industry at a high level, with full credit for their experience. Others, including veterans with no previous construction experience, may be considered for an apprenticeship program in one of several construction trades. Apprentice programs may offer pay and benefits while the veteran is learning. In addition, with many apprenticeship programs, veterans can utilize the Montgomery G.I. Bill or various state, National Guard or Reserve educational funding sources.

"Construction jobs offer great pay and benefits, and the industry needs a steady influx of new career workers to replace aging baby boomers who are retiring now," Booker said.

Veterans should contact a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) or Disabled Veterans Outreach Program representative (DVOP) at the nearest state employment office, or find more information online at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org).

"I encourage Oregon veterans to contact their LVER or DVOP for help," Booker said. "They have a wealth of information about the employment prospects in their local area."

A current list of LVERs and DVOPs around the state is available on page 10 of this publication.

## Free Help Preparing Tax Returns Available

AARP is offering free assistance in the preparation of 2004 income tax returns to veterans, deployed servicemembers, and their family members.

According to AARP officials there are no special qualifications veterans must meet in order to qualify for this service.

“Our focus on military personnel this year is because of the number of Oregonians serving in combat zones,” said Fran Greenfield, local AARP Tax-Aide Representative.

“Some military families have taken a cut in pay to serve, and if we can help with their taxes, that’s the least we can do.”

Greenfield will help prepare tax returns for eligible participants on the third floor of the Oregon Veterans’ Building at 700 Summer Street NE in Salem. She will be available one day a week beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Hours have yet to be determined.

Free tax help sessions will be offered in other parts of the state as well, according to Greenfield. Beginning February 1, 2005, interested persons may call 1-888-227-7669 or visit the AARP website at [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide) to find locations in Oregon.



## Flag Fund Needs Donations

In 2003, the state revived a program in which flags are sent to active duty servicemembers from Oregon. Since that time, more than 126 flags have been sent at the request of family or friends. A letter of commendation from the Secretary of State accompanies each flag.

The program is in need of donations to continue. Each flag costs about \$40.00 and the program receives no state funding.

More information is available online at [www.sos.state.or.us](http://www.sos.state.or.us).

Checks should be made out to the Secretary of State Flag Fund. Checks or money orders may be mailed to:

Secretary of State Flag Fund  
Business Services Division  
255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 180  
Salem, OR 97310

## Seeking Employment Assistance?

Listed below are the Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives from the Oregon Employment Department, who help veterans seeking employment. While referenced in the article on page 9 as contacts for veterans looking for a career in the construction industry, these specialists can help veterans looking for work in virtually any field of endeavor. Also listed are the Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Representatives, who specialize in providing employment assistance to disabled veterans.

### Oregon Employment Department Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives

City	Telephone Number	LVER
Albany	541-967-2171 Ext. 240	Paul Porter
Astoria	503-325-4821 Ext. 239	Diana Rapp
Astoria	503-325-4821 Ext. 227	Patrick Preston
Baker City	541-523-6331 Ext. 24	Roy Morris
Beaverton	503-526-2748	John Conception
Bend	541-388-6079 Ext. 240	Dick Gorby
Eugene	541-686-7684	Rob Bassett
Grants Pass	541-474-3161 Ext. 238	Russ McBride
Gresham	503-669-7112 Ext. 355	Greg Hendrickson
Hermiston	541-564-5688	Bob Dedlow
Hillsboro	503-681-0211	Kurt Carlsen
La Grande	541-963-7111 Ext. 25	Brian Papineau
Medford	541-776-6060 Ext. 273	Kempton Pollock
North Bend	541-751-8518	Keith Powers
Ontario	541-889-5394	Miguel Arredondo
Oregon City	503-657-2197	Rich Bishop
Pendleton	541-276-9050 Ext. 235	Jack Lenihan
Portland Downtown	503-731-8345 Ext. 264	Jeff Edwards
Portland North	503-280-6046 Ext. 251	Stan Stanley
Roseburg	541-440-3344 Ext. 232	Tom Rapant
Salem	503-378-4846 Ext. 292	Kevin Crapser
The Dalles	541-296-5435 Ext. 227	Mike Roth
Tillamook	503-842-4488 Ext. 28	Terry Blair

### Oregon Employment Department Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Representatives

City	Telephone Number	DVOP
Albany	541-967-2171 Ext. 238	Cliff Springstead
Beaverton	503-526-2739	John Desilets
Bend	541-388-6455	Byron Ames
Eugene	541-686-7753	Mike Gilligan
Eugene	541-686-7701 Ext. 7322	Robert Ryker
Gresham	503-669-7112 Ext. 264	Curtis Chapman
Hillsboro	503-581-0218	Ken Androes
Klamath Falls	541-883-5643 Ext. 234	Ken Taylor
McMinnville	503-434-7578	Dennis Carmony
Medford	541-776-6060 Ext. 260	Ron Sohnrey
Newport	Vacant	
North Bend	541-751-8510	Frank Carpenter
Oregon City	503-657-2183	Tony Walton
Oregon City	503-657-2179	B.G. ‘Buddy’ Reed
Portland Downtown	503-731-8378	René Garcia
Portland North	503-280-6046 Ext. 249	Clarence ‘C.J.’ Banks
Roseburg	541-440-3344 Ext. 216	Russ Broyles
Salem	503-378-4846 Ext. 246	Terry Rich
Salem	503-378-4846 Ext. 246	David Williamson

**Employment Department  
State Veterans Program Representative  
Salem Central Office, Jim Booker,  
503-947-1845**



# Reunions

The **Americal Division Veterans Association** will hold their 2005 national reunion June 15 – 19, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, contact Dave Hammond, Reunion Chairman at 503-319-2421 or email [pacwesthi@aol.com](mailto:pacwesthi@aol.com). Visit their website at [www.americal.org](http://www.americal.org).

**Note:** The 2006 national reunion will be held in Portland, Oregon.

## **FINAL P-47 REUNION**

**P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association** will be held at the SouthCenter Doubletree Suites Hotel, Seattle, Washington, May 5-8, 2005. For information contact Staryl Austin, 503-363-2508, 236 Kevin Way SE, Salem, Oregon 97306 or see the Association website at [P47pilots.com](http://P47pilots.com).

**Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima** from all branches of service, their families and friends are invited to return to Iwo Jima March 7 –14 to observe the battle's 60th anniversary. For more information, contact Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima at 703-212-0695, fax 703-212-8567 or email [CombatVetIwo@miltours.com](mailto:CombatVetIwo@miltours.com). Visit [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com).

**USS Tarawa Veterans Association** will hold its 16th annual reunion April 28-May 1, 2005. For more information, contact Frank Grosey, 976 Holly Street, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442, or email [groseyjr@frontiernet.net](mailto:groseyjr@frontiernet.net).

**AC&W Squadrons** who served in Iceland at one of four radar sites; 667th, 932nd, 933rd, and the 934th, from 1953 to the present are invited to a reunion planned for May 12 - 15, 2005, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. For more information, contact William Chick at 803-932-9656 or email [littlechick@msn.com](mailto:littlechick@msn.com).

## Send Reunion Information

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs continues to invite all veterans, veterans' groups and veterans' organizations to submit their reunion information to:

*VETS NEWS*  
Oregon Dept of Veterans' Affairs  
700 Summer Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1285

Please note the deadline for receiving information for the next issue of *VETS NEWS* is February 2, 2004. Please include your name and a phone number where you can be reached if further information should be needed. Reunions are included in the *VETS NEWS* on a space-available basis.

## COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker .....	541-523-8223	Arda Johnson
Benton .....	541-758-1595	Don Johnson
Clackamas .....	503-794-5631	Janice Raisl
Clatsop .....	503-325-2429	Kenneth H. Rislow
Columbia .....	503-397-2268	Jeff Hill
Coos .....	541-396-3121 Ext. 362	Mary Ann Sackett
Crook .....	541-447-5304	Sid Carter
Curry .....	541-247-3205 Ext. 205	Mike McGuiness
Deschutes .....	541-385-3214	Patricia Ross
Douglas .....	541-440-4219	Mary Newman
Gilliam .....	1-888-804-1817	Linda Adams
Grant .....	541-575-1631	William G. Wynne
Harney .....	541-573-6024	Theresa Williams
Hood River .....	541-386-1080	Linda Adams
Jackson .....	541-774-7837	Marty Kimmel
Jefferson .....	541-475-5228	Bob Carroll
Josephine .....	541-474-1316	Rusty Kidder
Klamath .....	541-883-4274	Isabel Rodriguez
Lake .....	541-947-6043	Julian Garcia
Lane .....	541-682-4191	Joseph Reiley
Lincoln .....	541-574-6955	Beckie Hernandez
Linn .....	541-967-3882	Pat Brillon
Malheur .....	541-889-6649	Bill Thomson
Marion .....	(See below)	(None)
Morrow .....	541-676-5667	Juanita Cox
Multnomah .....	503-988-3620 Ext. 26123	Dave Raby
Polk .....	(See below)	(None)
Sherman .....	541-442-5248	Daryl V. Melzer
Tillamook .....	503-377-0294	Steve Weld
Umatilla .....	541-278-5482	Peggy Raines
Union .....	541-962-8802	Timothy H. Jederberg
Wallowa .....	541-426-3155 Ext.241	Timothy H. Jederberg
Wasco .....	541-506-2502	Linda Adams
Washington .....	503-640-3489	Jeff Hill
Wheeler .....	1-888-804-1817	Linda Adams
Yamhill .....	503-434-7503	Diane Cilenti

Services for veterans residing in Marion and Polk counties are provided at ODVA's Salem Counseling Office, 700 Summer Street NE.

**Salem Counseling Office--- toll-free 1-800-692-9666**  
**in Salem 503-373-2085**  
**TDD 503-373-2217**  
**Portland Claims Office --- 503-326-2611**

## Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Veterans' Home Loans**  
**Veterans' Benefits**  
**Conservatorship**  
**Oregon Veterans' Home (skilled nursing care)**  
**503-373-2000**  
**1-800-828-8801**  
**ODVA Website: [www.oregon.gov/odva](http://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.**

# It's tax time again.

**Donate a portion of your Oregon income tax refund to the Oregon Veterans' Home.  
It's easy!**

**(See article on page 5)**

On Form 40, look for line 61. **Enter code 12**

On Form 40S, look for line 30. **Enter code 12**

Then, enter your donation amount!

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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156 W Killdeer  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470  
541-440-8445

Staryl C. Austin, Jr.  
236 Kevin Way SE  
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503-678-5592

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Robert Haltiner  
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503-657-7085

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Tino E. Ornelas  
228 SW Meadow Drive  
Beaverton, Oregon 97006  
503-844-9000

Charles E. Schmidt  
PO Box 1394  
Hines, Oregon 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.

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## 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](mailto:stecklr@odva.state.or.us)

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs  
700 Summer Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1285