



November / December 2007

www.oregon.gov/odva

Jim Willis, Director

BRIGADIER GENERAL AUSTIN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF HONOR

The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum honored five of Oregon's finest aviators in a Hall of Honor ceremony on October 21st. The museum has established an Oregon Aviation Hall of Honor to recognize outstanding men and women who have made contributions to aviation and airpower in all fields including but not limited to, military, civilian, engineering, business, education and government.

Mike Burrill, Sr., Chairman of the State Aviation Board is also Chairman of the Hall of Honor Committee and serves alongside committee members Lt. Col Russell Barney, Capt. Colin Armstrong and Jack Loacker.

"It is our pleasure to publicly recognize the significant contributions to aviation these Oregonians have made," stated Burrill.

Among the five 2007 inductees was Brigadier General Staryl C. Austin, Jr. of Salem. Mr. Austin served as Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs from January 1981 to December 1984 and is currently serving the second half of a four-year term on the Governor's Advisory Committee to the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The other four inductees were Colonel Lawrence E. Campbell, Jr., Colonel James Church, Major General Chester E. McCarty and Nevilles E. "Jim" Walker.

A native Oregonian Austin attended public schools in Bend and Albany and graduated from Salem High School in 1938. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps Civilian Patrol (CPT) in September of 1942. Austin has served in many leadership capacities in both the Army Air Force and Air National Guard since 1943. As a first lieutenant, Austin flew in the European Theatre of Operations and



Brigadier General Staryl C. Austin, Jr. receives congratulations from ODVA Director Jim Willis. A model of the Wright Flyer was presented to Austin as a personal memento marking his induction into the Evergreen Aviation Museum's Hall of Honor.

completed 58 combat missions flying a P-47 Thunderbolt.

Austin joined the Air National Guard in 1953 and ultimately served as Commander of the 142nd Fighter Group, Chief of the Administrative Division at the Oregon Military Department and served 17 years as the Assistant Adjutant General until his retirement in 1981. During his service in the military Austin earned the Air Force's Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters and the European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with four battle stars.

In 2006, Governor Ted Kulongoski presented a special Governor's Commendation Award to Austin in

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APPRECIATION EVENT IN McMINNVILLE

Oregon is home to many proud patriots of all generations. An event that was held on September 22nd, rendered a salute to some of these patriots and recognized all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending this country's freedom and their families. Also acknowledged were those supporting the troops overseas and assisting families of deployed servicemembers. Held at the McMinnville Armory, the 2007 Troop and Veterans' Appreciation Day treated hundreds of attendees with entertainment, food, and more.

Director Jim Willis of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), guest speaker at the event, spoke of the meaning of service. Willis, who served in Vietnam, discussed the debt of gratitude and support offered by the citizens of Oregon and underscored what that means to the men and women currently in uniform. Performing the service flag ceremony with the 2-218th Color Guard and a quintet from the 234th Army Band, Willis honored the Colors of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Keynote speaker, Brigadier General Charles Yriarte, reported on integral improvements occurring on the ground in

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Director's Message



VETERANS' COMMISSION REPORT RELEASED

After two and one-half years of work, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) released its long awaited 562-page report on October 3 in Washington D.C.

The thirteen-member commission chaired by James Terry Scott, Lieutenant General, USA (RET) was established by Public Law 108-136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004. Between May 2005 and October 2007, the Commission conducted an in-depth analysis of the benefits and services available to veterans, servicemembers, their survivors and their families to compensate and provide assistance for the effects of disabilities and deaths attributable to military service.

Serving from Oregon on the Commission was Colonel Larry G. Brown, USA (RET) who was of great assistance to ODVA in the preparation of this report on the Commissions' work.

The full report may be viewed by going to www.vetscommission.org/pdf/eReport_prepub_9-27.pdf.

The Commission makes 113 recommendations. All are important and should receive attention from Congress, The Department of Defense (DoD), and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Commission suggested that the following 14 recommendations receive immediate consideration.

Priority Recommendations (These are summaries of the recommendations)

Recommendation 4.23 - Chpt 4, Sect. 1.5

VA should immediately begin to update the current Rating Schedule, beginning with those body systems addressing the evaluation and rating of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental disorders and of traumatic brain injury.

Recommendation 5.28 - Chpt. 5, Sect. 111.3

VA should develop and implement new criteria specific to post-traumatic stress disorder in the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities. VA should base those criteria on the *Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental Disorders* and should consider a

multidimensional framework for characterizing disability due to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Recommendation 5.30 - Chpt. 5, Sect. 111.3

VA should establish a holistic approach that couples post-traumatic stress disorder treatment, compensation, and vocation assessment. Reevaluation should occur every 2-3 years to gauge treatment effectiveness and encourage wellness.

Recommendation 6.14 - Chpt. 6, Sect. 1V.2

Congress should eliminate the ban on concurrent receipt for all military retirees and for all servicemembers who separated from the military due to service-connected disabilities. In the future, priority should be given to veterans who separated or retired from the military under chapter 61 with:

- ◆ Fewer than 20 years of service and a service-connected disability rating greater than 50 percent, or
- ◆ Disability as a result of combat.

Recommendation 7.5 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 11.3

Eligibility for Individual Unemployability should be consistently based on the impact of an individual's service-connected disabilities, in combination with education, employment history, and medical effects of an individual's age or potential employability.

Recommendation 7.6 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 11.3

Recognizing that Individual Unemployability is an attempt to accommodate individuals with multiple lesser ratings but who remain unable to work, the Commission recommends that as the *VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities* is revised, every effort should be made to accommodate such individuals fairly and with the basic rating system without the need for an Individual Unemployability rating.

Recommendation 7.7 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 111.2

Congress should increase the compensation rates up to 25 percent as an interim and baseline future benefit for loss of quality of life, pending development and implementation of quality of life measure in the Rating Schedule. In particular, the measure should take into account the quality of life and other non-work related effects of severe disabilities on veterans and family members.

Recommendation 7.9 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 111.2

Congress should consider increasing special monthly compensation, where appropriate, to address the more profound impact on quality of life by the disabilities subject to special monthly compensation and review ancillary benefits to determine where additional benefits could improve disabled veterans' quality of life.

Recommendation 7.10 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 111.2

Congress should enact legislation that would bring the ancillary and special purpose benefits to the levels originally intended considering cost of living and provide for automatic annual adjustments to keep pace with cost of living.

Recommendation 7.14 - Chpt. 7, Sect. 111.3

VA and DoD should realign the disability evaluation process so that the Services determine fitness for duty, and servicemembers who are found unfit are referred to VA for disability rating. All conditions that are identified as part of a single, comprehensive medical examination should be rated and compensated.

Recommendation 8.2 - Chpt. 8, Sect. 111.1.B

Congress should eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset for survivors of retirees and in-service deaths.

Recommendation 9.1 - Chpt. 9, Sect. 11.5.A.b

Improve claims cycle time by:

- ◆ Establishing a simplified and expedited process for well documented claims, using best business practices and maximum feasible use of information technology; and
- ◆ Implementing an expedited process by which the claimant can state the claim information is complete and waive the time period (60 days) allowed for further development.

Congress should mandate and provide appropriate resources to reduce the VA claims backlog by 50 percent within 2 years.

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WWII ERA PT BOAT RESTORED, DOCKED

Recommendation 10.11 - Chpt. 10, Sect. V11

VA and DoD should expedite development and implementation of compatible information systems including a detailed project management plan that includes specific milestones and lead agency assignment.

Recommendation 11.1 - Chapter 11

Congress should establish an executive oversight group to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Commission recommendations. This group should be co-chaired by VA and DoD and consist of senior representatives from appropriate departments and agencies. It is further recommended that the Veterans' Affairs Committees hold hearings and require annual reports to measure and assess progress.

Early reviews of the Commission's report by the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, (VFW) were congratulatory in nature and urged the VA, DoD and the Congress to "get on" with implementing the recommendations.

In closing, let me wish a belated Happy 232nd Birthday to the U.S. Navy on October 13, 2007. It is also time to say a Happy 232nd Birthday to the United States Marine Corps effective November 10th, 2007. Semper Fi Marines! I would also like to thank all of you who continue to support the Oregon Veterans' Home and our troops in the field around the world.



Jim Willis
Jim Willis, Director

Following 15 years of restoration, a World War II Patrol Torpedo (PT) Boat has been moored at Portland's Swan Island Naval Operational Support Center on May 3rd. Reportedly the only operational PT boat left in the world, PT 658 is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers, mostly prior military and PT Boat veterans and docked near the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Portland.



PHOTO BY TSGT. NICK CHOY, OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

The 62 year-old boat never saw combat action, but has been restored to near original condition.

Retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Dale Billups is part of PT 658's crew. The wooden hull craft became better known in the 1960's when the heroic actions of then - Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, skipper of PT 109, were made into a movie.

"This PT boat is a living memorial to the thousands of U.S. sailors who manned these tiny warships in nearly every World War II Theater of operations," Billups said.

Today, PT 658 has all of its original armament. An 1,800 horsepower Packard V-12 engine can propel the 78-foot craft at nearly 50 m.p.h.

Some of PT 658's restoration crew includes (from left): Ron Moran (with hat), Bob Herbst, Wally Boerger, Jerry Gilmartin (back).

Billups said that local members of the Machinist's union donated their time to overhaul the steering gear, rudders and propellers. The project received generous assistance from: the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, the Oregon and Washington National Guard, the Oregon Military Museum, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Peter Tare (the National Organization of World War II PT Boat officers), and numerous corporate and individual contributors."

Billups may be contacted at 503 347-5082, or call Swan Island at 503-286-3083.



"AUSTIN," FROM PAGE 1

recognition of more than 60 years of military and public service. Governor Kulongoski said, "...We recognize a man who has dedicated a lifetime to this state and to this nation. On behalf of all Oregonians, thank you for all that you have done."

Family members present at the induction ceremony were his wife Jacqueline, his son Andy and daughter-in-law Kathy, grandson Treyvor and Austin's sister Rosemary. Some other friends and colleagues who attended the ceremony were former governor Victor Atiyeh, Chief Justice Wallace Carson, former Congressman Denny Smith, Colonel (Ret) Gary Lockwood, and former ODVA Director, Jon Mangis.

ODVA Director Jim Willis and the Deputy Director Paula Brown both attended the event honoring Austin.

"General Austin's entire public service career has created a legacy and a standard for anyone who follows in his footsteps in the Armed Forces or in public service," stated Director Willis. "Myself, the entire staff at Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs along with our Advisory Committee members, extend our congratulations and best wishes to General Austin and his family on the occasion of this great honor."



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 hundreds of previous donors in supporting this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by veteran home residents.

- Ron and Joann Meisner**
- Richard Chambers**
- Penelope White**
- Edward M. Kelly**

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.



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

When credit is given to the source, VETS NEWS articles may be reprinted. However, please call the editor to assure accuracy and timeliness of the articles. Reunions printed upon space availability. Input for the next issue should be received by December 3, 2007.



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 August and September 2007 are listed below:

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
 James and Marion Crews
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 Albert E. Rogers
 Patricia Veer
 Oregon Veterans' Motorcycle Association
 Sally L. Bump
 Mel and Norma Peterson
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 Arthur and Mary Vanveldhuizen
 American Legion Post 45 Honor Guard
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 Dave Moore
 Military Order of the Cootie
 Mark Sullivan
 Daughters of Union Veterans
 (DUV) of the Civil War
 DAV Auxiliary Unit 8
 Thomas Van Lehn
 Howard E. Kronish



VETS' HOME BARBEQUE

The Oregon Veterans' Home hosted a barbeque/watermelon feed recently sponsored by the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans Association (OPVA) and Veterans from Foreign Wars (VFW), Hermiston Chapter.

Professional kite flyers from Portland flew kites at the event. Generous sponsors included: Reser's Fine Foods, OPVA, Welchi Farms and Hermiston VFW.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Deputy Director, Paula Brown, and Oregon Veterans Home Admissions and Liaison Officer, Linda Adams, enjoyed the event with residents.



STATE FAIR CELEBRATES THE SERVICE OF OREGON'S VETERANS

With three free days of admission for all veterans, a hosted lunch event and other special activities, the number of veterans and their families attending the 2007 Oregon State Fair, August 23 - September 3, increased dramatically over 2006.

Oregon veterans were honored with Veterans' Appreciation Days during the first three days of the Fair and were treated to special events including a veterans' parade and a USO style show. Mo's Restaurants—Home of Mo's World Famous Clam Chowder—also provided a free lunch for veterans and their families.

Peggy Preisz, the general manager of Mo's, said they served more than 2,000 lunches and gave out 1,500 vouchers for a free cup of chowder at certain Mo's restaurants. "It was a wonderful experience for us to be part of that event," Preisz said. "They were so appreciative and it humbled us to be able to serve them."



The 'Two Sisters Trio' performed during the USO-style show that honored veterans at the 2007 Oregon State Fair.

The parade made its way through the fairgrounds and included Color Guards, a column of vintage military vehicles, veterans dressed in military uniforms from different eras and other patriotic participants.

State Fair official Desa Swaim said attendance by veterans had increased from 2006 by approximately 5,000. "We estimated that about 8,000 veterans were admitted this year, which is a sizable increase in attendance."

The free admission for veterans also meant more visitors at ODVA's booth, according to Val Conley, the Veterans Services Administrator. Volunteers from veterans' service organizations worked with ODVA employees in the booth. "We're grateful to all of the volunteers who helped reach out to veterans at our state fair booth this year," said Conley.



ENHANCEMENT DAYS SERVE AS CAREER SPRINGBOARD

With career enhancement and job searches on their minds, more than 700 military members, including Oregon National Guard soldiers and active duty personnel, participated in the Soldier Enhancement Day at Medford's National Guard Armory, on September 22.

Army Guard members assigned to four companies within the 1-186 Infantry Battalion in southern Oregon cities volunteered in June 2006 to augment Oregon's 41st Brigade Combat Team who were deployed to Afghanistan. About 850 Guard members served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Organized by the Oregon National Guard's Reintegration Team, the event brought 25 employers as well as college and university representatives together to meet with military members. The Team Manager, Sgt. First Class Vinni Jacques said the event is designed to help soldiers and their families.

"It's an opportunity for these soldiers to see what kinds of careers and resources are

available to them and their families," he said. "Our goal is to help servicemembers and families. Our October outreach at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls drew over 300 people including many Vietnam vets."

The Reintegration Team was created in 2004 to help military members with everything from employment to counseling referrals with resources to assist them after returning from combat tours.

Jacques said two career enhancement day events will be hosted in coming months. Employers and other representatives will meet at Clackamas Community College on November 3 for a daylong outreach and another event is being planned in early - 2008 in the Albany-Lebanon-Corvallis area.

To learn more about the career enhancement day events, call Jacques at 503-932-2360 or 584-2390.



Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form

"Give to those who have already given of themselves"

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

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

Here is my gift in the amount of: _____

I prefer not to receive a Remembrance Pin.

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

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

Account #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

I am making my donation to the Oregon Veterans' Home

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Send acknowledgements to: Name & Address: _____

Your gift qualifies for a charitable contribution tax deduction.

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

Please clip this form and mail with your donation to:

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

Albany

Nov. 10 - 10 a.m. – 88th annual Veterans Day Parade. Theme: *Veterans Give Us Freedom*. The Patriot Guard Riders from across the state will lead the parade. Military flyovers have been requested.

Contact: Pat Moritz, 503-348-6095

10 a.m. - Memorial Service at Eleanor Hackleman Park located at 654 Pine Street.

7 p.m. - Veterans of the Year Banquet recognizes veterans who have been nominated by various organizations. The public is welcome, by reservation only, to a Prime Rib dinner at the Linn-Benton Community College Center Commons Room. Cost: \$20 each. Guest speaker: TBA. To make a reservation call 541-981-2390.

Astoria

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. – American Legion Post 12 will serve a free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to veterans and their spouses. Donations are welcome. There will be multiple raffles during the day and live music beginning at 7 p.m. Post 12 is located at 1132 Exchange Street.

1 p.m. - Awards Program.

Contact: Betsy at Post 12, 503-325-5771

Beaverton

Nov. 12 - 11 a.m. – A ceremony will be held at Memorial Park, between the southwest corner of Watson and Hall Streets. Guest speakers: Col. Steve Gregg and Col. (Ret.) Bob Elliott. The Southridge High School Choir will perform.

Contact: Marvin Doty,

American Legion Post 124, 503-644-0350

Bend

Nov. 10 - 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. – Bend Parade of Flags Group will display 170 American Flags that were flown over the U.S. Capitol, along the parade route downtown. Installed by the Central Oregon Chapter, Military Officers Association of America and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 25. Army veteran Dick Tobiason, Chairman of the Bend Parade of Flags program and Bend Heroes Memorial Committee is the master of ceremonies for the dedication ceremony and will be assisted by WWII veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Robert D. Maxwell.

Contact: Dick Tobiason, 541-388-5591

9 a.m. - Veterans Day/Marine Corps Birthday Run - 5K run/1 mile walk in downtown Bend. The race fee will be \$20 with shirt, \$12, no shirt. After Nov. 1, prices increase to \$21 and \$15 respectively. There will also be raffle prizes. Money goes to purchasing a DAV shuttle van.

Contact Eric Chandler, 541-383-8061 or chandler@bendbroadband.com.

11 a.m. - The Bend Veterans Day parade (A flyover of F-15s has been requested) has become one of the largest in Oregon and honors Persian Gulf War Veterans this year. The theme of the parade is "V for Victory". Following the parade a ceremony will be held to dedicate the new Veterans Memorial Bridge, Randy Lee Newman Memorial Walkway, and expanded Bend Parade of Flags display on the Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Contact: Mike Ward, 541-330-4677, or Bill Dolf, 541-389-8487

noon - 3 p.m. - VFW Post 1643 Open House. VA Medical Center personnel from Portland will be available to enroll veterans in the My-health-e-Vet plan and possibly general medical enrollment in the VA HEALTH PLAN.

5:30 p.m. - Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Bend Golf and Country Club 5:30 p.m. social hour, 6:30 p.m. dinner. Located at 61045 Country Club Drive.

Contact: Suzie at Bend Golf and Country Club, 541-388-2604

7 p.m. - 1940s USO Show, -"Until Everyone Comes Home!" will be presented as a benefit for the Central Oregon Veterans Outreach at the Tower Theater, downtown. Tickets: \$50 and \$25 each.

Contact: 541-317-0700 or

www.towertheater.org

November 17 - Veterans' annual chili cook-off challenge VFW Post 1643, 1503 NE Fourth.

Contact: (541) 382-1948

Canyonville

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans' Remembrance Ceremony at City Hall. Guest speakers: State Rep. Susan Morgan and Sue Shaffer, Chairperson of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians, and Bill Markham. Colors to be presented by the Sea Cadets Jacksonville, refreshments by Seven Feathers Resort and Casino.

Contact: Chuck Spindel, Mayor, 541-839-4258

Corbett

Nov. 10 - 8-11 a.m. – Veterans Recognition/Appreciation Breakfast. Corbett High School, 35800 E. Historic Columbia River Highway. Sponsored by the Columbia River Gorge Kiwanis Club. Veterans eat free, others are \$5.00 each. Veterans have a chance to share their experiences.

Contact: Byron S. Willis, byronsci@aol.com

Corvallis

Nov. 9 - 2 p.m. – On the Oregon State University campus, at the Memorial Union steps, the names of Oregon servicemembers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan will be read. A 24-hour candlelight vigil begins at 12 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Contact: Shelly Houghtaling, 541-737-0724

Nov. 11 - 3-5 p.m. – Community Veterans Day Program, Corvallis High School Auditorium, 1400 NW Buchanan St. No charge for the event.

Contact: Brice Cloyd, cloyd@onid.orst.edu

Eagle Point

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. – The Eagle Point Veterans Day Parade is sponsored by the Jackson County Veterans Allied Council. Entries will include Color Guards, floats, marching units, Eagle Point High School Band, youth groups, horse groups and military colors.

Nov. 17 - 2 p.m. – A Memorial service for Dale Albee will be held in the Medford Veterans Park at Pacific Hwy and Stewart Street next to the National Guard Armory. A memorial is to be dedicated in his honor. Dale was a dedicated veteran's advocate, a former member of the Governor's Advisory Committee and served on the Jackson County Veterans Allied Council.

Elkton

Nov. 7 - 1 p.m. – Elkton High School will honor veterans in the school gymnasium.

Contact: 541-584-2115 ext. 303

Florence

Nov. 11 - 1 p.m. – Florence Veterans Parade. Staging at noon in the Port of Siuslaw parking lot. Parade will exit Port and travel on Oak, 2nd, Laurel and Bay Streets before terminating back at the Port. Branch of service flags will be offered for sale for those who wish to display them during the parade.

Contact: Cal Applebee, 541-997-8417

Forest Grove

Nov. 9 - 10:30 a.m. – An annual commemorative assembly will be held at Forest Grove High School's gymnasium to honor local area veterans. All veterans and their families are invited.

Contact: Bob Wismer, Forest Grove High School, 503-359-8137, ext. 329

Vete 2007

Nov. 11 - 11:45 a.m. – American Legion Post 2 and Elks Lodge 2440, located at 2610 Pacific Avenue, will co-host ceremonies, entertainment and a free dinner for veterans, current armed forces personnel and their families. The dinner begins at 1 p.m.

Contact: American Legion Post 2, 503-357-3660 or Elks Lodge 2440, 503-357-2440

Grants Pass

Nov. 9 - 1 p.m. – A student assembly, *Celebrating Veterans in our Country*, will feature patriotic music and presentations at the Riverside Elementary School gymnasium located at 1200 S.E. Harvey Drive. All veterans will be honored with student-read poems, essays, and a special choral presentation by 4th and 5th graders. Posting of the Colors by the Boys Scouts of America. *Taps* will be played as well as a National Anthem soloist. A moment of silence will also be observed. Veterans are encouraged to stay for refreshments and to view a memorabilia display. Honorary seating for veterans will be available. Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms and/or awards and ribbons.

Contact: Marianne, 541-474-5780, ext. 137

Nov. 12 - 11 a.m. - The Merlin Community Park Board and the VFW will host a Veterans Day event at the Josephine County Veterans Walk of Honor located in Merlin Community Park. There will be a reading of names, laying of wreaths and a flag retirement ceremony by a Boy Scout troop.

Contact: Dick Smith, 541-471-9446

Hillsboro

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - VFW Post 2666 will hold a Veterans Day program at Fir Lawn Cemetery located at 1070 S.W. Main Street. Eric Russell, a U.S. Marine who has recently returned from Iraq will be the guest speaker. Refreshments will be offered.

Contact: George Anderson, 971-404-7905

Hood River

Nov. 11 - 8-11 a.m. - American Legion Post 22 and Auxiliary will sponsor a breakfast at the Elks Lodge, located at 304 Cascade Avenue.

11 a.m. – Ceremony at Oregon National Guard Armory on 12th Street.

Contact: Patrick Scranton, 541-386-1080

Klamath Falls

Nov. 10-11 – VFW Post 1383 will present an Avenue of Flags at Klamath Veterans Memorial Park, at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 97 South.

11 a.m. – Veterans Day Parade at Main and Spring Streets, ending at Veterans Memorial Park with a ceremony to follow. Ceremony includes dedication of a new veterans memorial in the park, placing of wreaths for each military era and a military flyover by the Air

rans Day

National Guard. The ceremony will be followed by the activities listed below (on next page):

– Stew Lunch at American Legion Post 8, 228 N. 8th Street, 541-882-0475

– Marine Corps League Spaghetti Feed, 1019 Main Street, 541-882-1775

– VFW Chili Feed, 515 Klamath Avenue, 541-882-0057

Contact: Joe Collins, 541-884-0074

La Grande

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 43 Veterans Parade along Adams Avenue. A spaghetti feed will be held following the parade at the Post 43 Legion Hall, located at 301 Fir Street. Cost: Free to Post members and \$3.50 for non-members.

Contact: John Marsh, 541-963-5141

La Pine

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony at the La Pine Community Cemetery. Following the ceremony, there will be an open house at the American Legion Post 45, located at 52532 Drafter Road.

Contact: Pat Cotton, 541-536-1402

Lebanon

Nov. 8 - 6 p.m. – A special program to showcase and honor our local heroes, *Heroes of America*, honors all veterans from the past, present, and future. The program will be held in the cafeteria of Pioneer School at 500 N. 5th St., and is expected to last until approximately 7:30 p.m. All local veterans and their families are invited to attend. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Contact: Mrs. Cairo at 541-451-8487 ext. 1217.

Lincoln City

Nov. 11 - 6:30 to 9 p.m. – The public is invited to a free Veterans Day concert in the showroom at the Chinook Winds Casino. Guest speaker: TBA. A Color Guard will post the Colors. A band will perform and the event will close with the playing of *Taps*. The Casino is located at 1777 N.W. 44th Street.

Contact: Heather Hatton, 1-888-244-6665

McMinnville

The Evergreen Aviation Museum, located at 500 N.E. Captain Michael King Smith Way, will be providing these events:

November 6-13 - Military uniform display spanning 50 years of American military history.

Nov. 10 - 11a.m. - 2 p.m. – Booksigning Event: Tom Wiggins, author of “100 Days in The Ghan”—Airborne Army Ranger experiences in Afghanistan.

1-4 p.m. – Veteran’s Legacy Preservation Project—near the bookstore.

1 p.m. – Screening of “American Legacy” (WWI)—EASM Theater—free with Museum admission

3 p.m. – Screening of “Silent Wings” (WWII) 112 minutes—Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum (EASM) Theater—free with Museum admission.

7 p.m. – Screening of Gary Mortensen’s documentary “Iraq: This is War” in the IMAX Theater. Special pricing of \$5.00 per person (parental discretion advised).

Nov. 11 – 11-2 p.m. – Booksigning Event: Tom Wiggins, author of “100 Days in The Ghan”—Airborne Army Ranger experiences in Afghanistan at the Evergreen Aviation Museum bookstore.

11 a.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony - inside museum.

1 p.m. – Screening of “American Legacy” (WWI)—EASM Theater—free with museum admission

3 p.m. – Screening of “Silent Wings” (WWII) 112 minutes—EASM Theater—free with museum admission.

6 p.m. – Screening of Gary Mortensen’s documentary “Iraq: This is War” in the IMAX Theater. Special price of \$5 per person.

Contact: Nicole Wahlberg, 503-434-4006;

Website: www.sprucegoose.org

Medford

Nov. 12 - 11 a.m. – Medford Veterans Memorial Park Ceremony and Parade, sponsored by Jackson County Veterans Allied Council. The event will take place on Main Street from Hawthorne to Oakdale with staging at 10 a.m. along Hawthorne Street. Come and participate or watch and honor those who have served our fine nation!

Contact: Tim Garr,

541-326-5033, or at MedfordVeterans@yahoo.com

www.leaguelineup.com/medfordveterans

Milwaukie

Nov. 5 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Milwaukie High School will host their 12th Annual Living History Days. American military veterans will be sharing their stories with students in classrooms. All veterans from any era are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided and followed by a recreated USO Show to honor all veterans. The school is located at 11300 S.E. 23rd Avenue. Vietnam-era veterans will be recognized during the event.

Nov. 11 - 12 p.m. – Open House at American Legion Post 180, located at 2146 S.E. Monroe Street.

All day - Free potluck for all veterans and their families will be hosted at Post 180 with food provided by the post and auxiliary.

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Live music provided by Portland American Legion Post 185. All veterans and their families are welcome.

Contact: Dee Sharpes, 503-557-7125

North Bend

Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Bay Area Post 34, located at 1421 Airport Way, will host the annual breakfast. Cost: \$5 and \$2.50 for children. The ceremony will commemorate the history of Veterans Day and will begin at 11 a.m. A military guest speaker will be announced. There will be a free dinner for all veterans and their spouses put on by the local Eagles Lodge. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m..

Contact: John Martin, 541-756-5314

Ontario

Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. (MST) – 6th Annual American Legion Post 67 Veterans Day Parade. The parade forms on Alameda and 4th Street and concludes at the train depot. Governor Kulongoski will be in the parade as well as a featured speaker immediately following the parade at the depot’s 100 year dedication.

11 a.m. (MST) – Veterans Day services at Evergreen Cemetery at the American Legion Memorial.

Contact: Steve Furrow, 541-881-1389,

or Bill Thomson, 541-889-6649

Portland

Nov. 11 – 9:45 a.m. – 33rd Annual Veterans Day Parade. Hollywood District between NE 40th and 48th Ave. and Sandy Blvd. The parade includes veterans groups, community groups, representatives from all military service organizations and local high school bands. The parade will conclude with a ceremony at Ross Hollywood Chapel Veterans Memorial Flag Pole. War memorabilia will be available for viewing. Covered seating for seniors and those with disabilities will be available.

Contact: Lynn Spreeman, 503-281-1800

Prineville

Nov. 9 – 1 p.m. – Veterans are asked to attend and speak with students in their classrooms at Crook County High School, located at 1100 S.E. Lynn Blvd.

Nov. 9 – 7 p.m. - *A Salute to Veterans* presentation in the high school Commons during school hours. A public ceremony will include Oregon Army National Guard static displays, information booths, brief comments from local officials and a rifle light show from the Crook County Navy Junior ROTC.

Nov. 10 - 11 a.m. – Veterans Day Parade sponsored by VFW Post 1412 will start behind the Crook County Courthouse, 300 N.E. 3rd Street, and continue to the POW/MIA Memorial in Ochoco Creek Park.

Nov. 11 - 2 to 4 p.m. – The American Legion and Auxiliary will prepare and serve a traditional ham dinner to all veterans and their families at the Veterans’ Club, 405 N. Main Street. No charge for the dinner; donations will be accepted.

Contacts: Donny,

donny.jackson@crookcounty.k12.or.us

Redmond

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans Day Parade in downtown Redmond. A Chili Feed will follow the parade at the VFW Post, located at 1636 S.W. Veterans’ Way. The event is co-sponsored by VFW Post 4108, American Legion Post 44, and the Redmond Chamber of Commerce. All veterans and their families are invited.

Contact: Lon Parker, VFW Post 4108, 541-548-1553

Roseburg

Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. – Douglas High School Music Program presenting “Americana,” a musical tribute to Douglas County veterans at Umpqua Community College, Jacoby Auditorium.

Tickets: \$5 per person advanced / \$7 at the door.

Nov. 12 - 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. – A pancake breakfast will be served at American Legion Post 45, located at 406 S.E. Oak Avenue.

11 a.m. – Douglas County Veterans Day Parade—one of the largest in Oregon—This year’s theme: “Honor, Respect, Remember”. Grand Marshals for this year’s parade are women veterans.

Contact: Mary Newman or Michele Nelson,
541-440-4219

**SEE THE REST OF THE VETERANS
DAY EVENTS ON PAGE 8 UNDER
THE HEADING “EVENTS.”**

**“EVENTS,” CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 7**

Salem

Nov. 8 - 10:30 a.m. – Salem Senior Center joins with the Coalition of Troop Support in creating care packages to send to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Military memorabilia will be displayed all week. The community is encouraged to donate comfort items.

*Contact: Holli Crown, Salem Senior Center,
503-588-6303*

Nov. 9 - 11:30 a.m. – The Salem Senior Center, located at the corner of Capitol and Erixon St. N.E., will host a veterans ceremony. Guest speaker: TBA. The Greater Salem Area Veterans organization (GSAVO) will post the Colors. A live band will perform music from various eras. A noon meal is provided: \$5 per person.

*Contact: Holli Crown, Salem Senior Center,
503-588-6303*

7:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Post 9 is hosting a free breakfast for veterans and their families, at the Eagles Lodge, 2771 Pence Loop SE. (Priority service will be given to on-duty law enforcement officers, emergency medical crews and firefighters.)

Contact: Earl Pepper, 503-364-0261

2 p.m. – Salem Towne Community will honor all current and past members of the armed forces, especially those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The Center is located at 2900 Oakcrest Drive, N.W., off Wallace Road.

Contact: Sgt. Major Howard Palmer, 503-581-1256

Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. also on Nov. 11 - 3 p.m. – The Willamette Master Chorus is pleased to announce two Veterans Day weekend events titled: *Music For Americans By Americans*. Special guest will be the legendary composer/arranger Alice Parker. Where: Hudson Hall in the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center at Willamette University in Salem. Tickets may also be purchased at the door if available. General admission is \$15 for Adults and \$12 for Students & Seniors. All veterans and active military personnel will be admitted for a reduced ticket price of \$8. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.WillametteMasterChorus.org, or contact Weathers Music 2825 Commercial Street SE Salem, 503-362-8708.

Nov. 11 - 2 p.m. – A Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial located on the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs grounds at 700 Summer Street N.E.

Contact: Robin Steckley, 503-373-2386

Sandy

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremonial tribute hosted by VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary at the Sandy Veterans Memorial Statue located at Highway 26 and State Highway 211. Patriotic music will be played. The Post 4273 Color Guard and Rifle Team will participate.

12 p.m. – Community potluck at VFW Post 4273, located at 38452 Proctor Blvd.

Contact: Bert Key, 503-668-8418

Scappoose

Nov. 11 - 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. – VFW Post 4362 is sponsoring a Veterans Day service at the VFW Memorial located in Heritage Park. Keynote speaker TBA. A flyover has been requested.

Contact: Ron Urban, 503-543-7482

Stayton

Nov. 6 - 7 p.m. - Stayton High School will hold its Veterans Day Celebration in the main gymnasium.

The Dalles

Nov. 10 - 11 a.m. – Mid-Columbia Veterans Day Parade begins at the National Guard Armory, located at 713 Webber Street, and will proceed downtown, and return to the armory.

1 p.m. - VFW Auxiliary will host a potluck dinner and program at the National Guard Armory. Public is invited to attend.

Contacts:

Olivia Hall, Pres., Post 2471 Auxiliary, 541-298-5670, Lester D. Cochenour, 541-298-5692

Tigard

Nov. 11 - 12 p.m. – Annual Hobo Stew luncheon for American Legion Post members and guests will be held at American Legion Post 158, 8635 S.W. Scoffins Street in Tigard.

Contact: 503-624-2332 or 1-877-895-6277

Tillamook

Nov. 11 - 8 to 11 a.m. – The Air Museum along with local VFW Posts will host the 11th annual Veterans Appreciation Day to honor and thank our local Veterans with an Open House for the Tillamook community.

8 a.m. - Volunteers at the Tillamook Air Museum will serve a traditional S.O.S. Breakfast in the Air Base Cafe.

9:45 a.m. to Noon – Ceremony participants include: Flyover by the Oregon National Guard, between 11:00 a.m. and noon; Color Guard (U.S. Coast Guard and local VFW); Speakers; Singers; USAF Civil Air Patrol; Tillamook Community Band; and the Clan Macleay Pipe Band. The public is invited with free admission for all veterans.

Contact: Tillamook Air Museum, 503-842-1130

White City

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. – Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics, located at 8495 Crater Lake Highway, will host a ceremony in the theater. Guest speaker: Colonel David G. Dotterer, USMC (Ret). Patriotic Tribute by USAF Golden West Travis Band Quintet. Colors will be presented and retired by the Young Marines of Camp White. TAPS will be presented by Echo Taps volunteer, Kyle Roe.

Contact: Rhonda Haney, (541) 830-7585

Wilsonville

Nov. 11 and 12 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Korean War Veterans Association Oregon Trail Chapter will be on site, at the Korean War Memorial, to answer questions and be of service during daylight hours. The Memorial is located off Interstate 5 at exit 283, about 10 miles south of Portland, follow the signs to Town Center Park.

Contact: James Arling, 503-285-8118

“McMINNVILLE” FROM PAGE 1

Iraq. The combat leader and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veteran, listed by the numbers, progress in schools, hospitals, water treatment, and inoculations.

A special tribute was given for Corporal Michelle Ring of McMinnville whose parents and family were in attendance.

Ring was Oregon’s first daughter to die on the battlefield in the Global War on Terror (GWOT). Christopher Dauterman of ODVA, as emcee of the event, read the U.S. Army Creed in her honor and added “Corporal Ring died wearing the uniform of the greatest country on the face of the earth.” Later, the playing of Echo Taps followed a 21-cannon salute in honor of all Americans who have died while serving their country.

Three veterans shared stories of their military experience. Delivering their accounts were Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veteran, First Lieutenant Oscar Quijano, OIF/OEF combat-wounded Army veteran, Tom Wiggins and OIF combat-wounded Army veteran, Jereme Coker. Each of their personal stories were followed with a standing ovation.

During the event, recognition was given to those in attendance who were World War II veterans, Gold Star Families, POW/MIAs and veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. The Young Marines performed a reenactment of the flag-raising on Iwo-Jima and the U.S. Army provided a climbing wall. A variety of organizations staffed display booths at the event including ODVA, providing valuable information and outreach.

Proceeds from this annual event go to the Coalition of Troop Support organization. President Linda Christy wrapped up the day with a thank you to the event coordinators Jan and Mike Mulaney. She also thanked all those who contributed to making the event a success and a sincere celebration of sacrifice, freedom and liberty.

A DVD of the event is available through McMinnville Community Media at 503-434-1234. To learn more about how to support Oregon soldiers, go to www.cotsupport.org, or contact Linda Christy at 503-997-3152.



Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs

**Veterans’ Home Loans - Veterans’ Benefits - Conservatorship
Oregon Veterans’ Home (skilled nursing & rehabilitative care)**

503-373-2000 or 1-800-828-8801

ODVA Website: www.oregon.gov/odva

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

HIPAA Statement

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

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

NEW VETERAN RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES

The Motor Vehicle Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), as a result of the passage of House Bill 3161 in the 2007 Oregon legislative session, will have the new veteran recognition license plates available beginning January 1, 2008. The new plates feature a patriotic red, white and blue design including an American flag and the word 'Veteran'.

Veteran recognition plates may be issued to qualifying veterans with proof of military service in the form of a DD-214 or DD-215. Veterans will be able to choose according to their qualifying service, which designation to appear on their set of veteran plates. Some of the available designations include service related campaign medals, branch of service

seals or if eligible a Service Cross, Bronze Star or Silver Star.

DMV has developed a new one-page application form to help make the ordering process more efficient. Listed here are costs for the new veteran plates considering some variables. (See chart below)

NEW PLATE Q & A

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have worked closely together in instituting the new Veteran Recognition Plate Program in Oregon. Many veterans' organizations were instrumental in aiding the passage of this legislation during the 2007 session.

Here are some key questions and answers regarding the new Veteran Recognition Plate Program.

ODVA: When will the new veterans license plates be available?

ODOT: DMV will start issuing the new veteran plates the first week of January. Veterans may submit their applications the last two weeks of December.

ODVA: Who is eligible to purchase a set of veteran plates?

ODOT: Veteran recognition plates are only issued to qualifying veterans. There are no qualifications needed to apply for the Vietnam Veterans of America, or Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA).

ODVA: What existing military/veteran plate designations are not available under the new veteran plate program?

ODOT: Oregon Paralyzed Veterans are the only existing group that will continue to be issued on the tree background until their existing supply stock is depleted. All other veteran groups will be ordered on the new veteran plate background.

ODVA: What about the Ex-POW, Disabled Veteran and National Guard plates, are there any changes to those plates?

ODOT: No. Those plates are not veteran group plates and are issued under separate Oregon statutory authority.

ODVA: Are individuals who currently have one of the existing veteran group plates on their vehicle required to purchase a set of the new veterans plates?

ODOT: Vehicle owners are not required to replace their existing tree veteran group plate with the new veteran plate. The tree plates will still be valid until ownership of the vehicle changes or the owner *chooses* to replace the existing plates with the new veteran plates.

	Plate Fee	Replacement Fee	Group Surcharge	Registration Fee	Total Registration
New Vehicle (subject to 4-yr registration)	\$5	0	\$20	\$108	\$133 ††
New to Oregon (from out-of-state)	\$5	0	\$10	\$54	\$69 ††
Changing to Veterans' Group at renewal (90 days or less remaining on current registration)	\$5	\$5	\$10	\$54	\$74
Changing to Veterans' Group or changing from one type of group to another between renewals (more than 90 days remaining on current reg)	\$5	\$10	\$10 †	0	\$25 ‡
Replacement plate with the same type of group plate between renewal	\$5	\$10	No surcharge if lost, stolen or mutilated	0	\$15

† \$20 if in a 4-yr reg period
 †† Title fees not included
 ‡ \$35 if in a 4-yr reg period

ODVA: Is the registration period for the new veteran plates still two years?

ODOT: Yes. Registration periods remain two years. The exception is for brand new vehicles; they are subject to initial registration of four years. Once that first 4-year period is up, they return to a 2-year registration cycle.

ODVA: Can a veteran order the new veteran plates and choose not to have any emblem or designation appear on the plates?

ODOT: Yes. A plain veteran plate will be available.

ODVA: Under the new veteran plate program there is a Gold Star Family plate. Are the requirements or eligibility different for that plate?

ODOT: Yes. The requirement for a Gold Star Family plate is different and customers applying for this plate will need to complete a different form, a Veteran Group Plate Eligibility Form.

ODVA: Does a veteran need to provide proof of military service?

ODOT: Yes, the application states –

GENERAL INFORMATION

Veteran Recognition plates may only be issued to qualifying veterans. Veteran Recognition plates may be issued with an insignia or service related medal, or with that area blank.

To apply for Veteran Recognition plates:

1. You must complete and sign this form.

You must provide proof of military service and/or proof of award of a military related medal. This proof must be provided in the form of a DD214 or DD215. The DD214 or DD215 must indicate the medal awarded or a letter indicating the award can accompany the DD214 or DD215.

ODVA: Can a veteran have more than one set of veteran plates?

ODOT: Yes, a veteran can have multiple sets of veterans' group plates. However, the Disabled Veteran plates and Ex-POW plates are not classified as group plates and are restricted to 1 set per veteran.

ODVA: What type of vehicles can the veteran group plates be used for?

ODOT: Group plates (of any type including all veteran group plates) are only issued for passenger vehicles.

ODVA: Can a veteran select a different designation for each plate of the set, for example a branch of service seal on one plate and a campaign medal on the other?

ODOT: No. All plates are sold in pairs with matching front and back plates.

ODVA: Can the plates be ordered by mail?

ODOT: Yes. The veteran can download the forms from the DMV website at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/forms. or pick them up at any DMV field office. Once completed the form should be returned along with either an Application for title and Registration (form 735-226) or an Application for Registration, Renewal, Replacement or Transfer of Plates and /or Stickers (form 735-268) and the required fees to DMV Headquarters, 1905 Lana Avenue, Salem, Oregon 97314.

If you need assistance in obtaining a copy of your form DD-214 or DD-215 please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085. If you have any further questions concerning the fees or other DMV related questions, contact the DMV Customer Assistance Unit at 503-945-5000.



Pearl Harbor 1941- 42... *A Personal Recount*

In tribute to Pearl Harbor Day, and in memory of the servicemembers who lost their lives that day, as well as those who survived the event, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is honored to reprint this first-hand account as the events of December 7, 1941 and the days immediately following unfolded.

We will never forget that fateful day, nor those who fought so bravely in the midst of chaos and suffering for America and their fellow Americans.

Reprinted with permission.
By Mrs. Betty Freeland Allyn Daubin.

Makalapa Heights

Pearl Harbor, T.H.

Monday December 8, 1941

Dear Family,

I feel that I must try to put on paper the events I have witnessed, as they occurred during the last 32 hours. I don't even know that I will be allowed to send this – but someday, perhaps, you will read it.

Yesterday morning, December 7, I awoke at 7 a.m. I was very annoyed with myself for waking so early as, on Sunday mornings, we don't have breakfast until 9:30. In order to pass the time, I sat in my bedroom working a crossword puzzle.

At about 7:40 I heard the sound of a terrific explosion. However, as crews have been blasting nearby (for underground oil storage facilities) every single day since we moved here in September, I didn't pay much attention. Then in a few minutes, when I heard a second and third explosion, I went to the window for a look – and was alarmed to see a huge fire with billows of thick, black smoke.

*To me, the fire appeared to be on Ford Island or in the Navy Yard proper. I rushed to awaken dad, and pulling on some clothes, he came on the double. At first we thought the smoke might be from the burning of a sugar cane field – a common agricultural practice here. At just that moment, some planes flew right over our house, very low and close enough to see that they were not our planes – they immediately dive-bombed the **OKLAHOMA** and several other ships while we stared from the window in stunned silence.*

I heard dad say, "My God, we are being attacked!" and watched numbly as he grabbed his uniform jacket and raced out the front door in time to jump into Admiral Kimmel's car as it came speeding by.

Well, as I have said, that was a lifetime ago. Not wanting to be alone, I dressed hastily and went across the street to Mrs. Earle's house, where we were soon joined by Mrs. Mayfield. The three of us, seeking comfort in numbers, stood on the Earle's lawn and

watched as our beautiful fleet was destroyed before our eyes.

We were so close to this entire battle, mind you, that we could see the men and officers on the ships that were being bombed and torpedoed. I don't suppose anyone has seen such a sight before, and I trust they never will again.



*The **OKLAHOMA** was the first to go down. She just turned right over on her side and, the water there being shallow, her bottom is exposed for about ten feet or more. There are men working on her now, trying to cut through the steel hull to rescue those who are still alive inside. They have communicated with them and have given them air – don't ask me how they do it.*

*When the **ARIZONA** got her fatal blow, she was a mass of flames instantly. Not having any facts, and only my own observations to draw from – I judge they must have hit her oil tanks or powder magazine. We stood there and watched the **CALIFORNIA**'s bow hit bottom, but otherwise she's up. Then there are*



*three other battleships right together that are a mass of tangled superstructures. I have heard they are the **WEST VIRGINIA**, the **TENNESSEE** and the **MARYLAND**. The **PENNSYLVANIA** was also damaged. She had been in dry dock, but managed to get out when the bombing began.*

*The **UGLALA** was sunk at her dock by an aerial torpedo. Two destroyers were demolished in dry dock with all on board feared lost. I believe several other destroyers were lost as we stood there watching – but the scene was so filled with smoke and flames and noise and so much was happening at once that I can't be sure.*

*We saw the **NEVADA** make a desperate effort to escape the harbor. She pulled herself away from the other ships and headed out the channel for the open sea. When she was almost out, she received a crippling blow and went on the beach.*

*The **RALEIGH**, which was tied up on the far side of Ford Island (our Navy Air Base), was hit twice, but is still afloat. I have probably left out some – but what matter. Can you imagine our feelings as we stood there helplessly watching our fleet crumple and go down before our eyes as if the ships were made of papier-mâché? – not able to lift a finger in their own defense during the entire first attack!*

Those Japanese devils came down so low it was easy for us to see the round red sun on the bottom of their wings. Oh, they did a good job!

When they (the Japs) came back the second or third time – I forget which – our antiaircraft were put to work and you cannot imagine such concentrated firing. When shrapnel began falling all around us, we took shelter inside as our homes were in the direct line of fire. With the enemy's path of attack just overhead, every gun on top of buildings in the Sub Base and Navy Yard – as well as those of the fleet still above the water – were aimed in our direction. We didn't know at what moment one of those bomb-laden Jap planes would land on the house.

Shell fragments and bullets rattled down on the roof like hailstones – and I have to admit that I experienced abject, stark naked terror. These houses, like most tropical houses, are very flimsy and have no cellars so – when things got very bad – we crawled under the dining room table. We could see hundreds of men swimming through that oil-laden water. It was not a pretty picture.

As the Jap's planes were bombing our fleet, they also bombed Ford Island and Hickam Field, the Army Air Base. Gigs, motorboats and launches were plying back and forth from ship to ship all the time the bombings were going on. I should say the raids started about 7:45 a.m. and continued until about 2:30 p.m.

Dad came home for a few minutes last night and there was one alarm while he was here. From every direction, our antiaircraft

SEE "PEARL HARBOR," ON PG. 11

weapons went into action. It was the most magnificent (?) sight to witness (if you like fireworks). They were using tracer bullets and every seventh one was a flaming streak – weaving the heavens all about with tangled tapestries of fire.

When dad left, which was immediately, Mary Lou (our maid) and I went over to the Earle's again. We felt if all the women stayed together, it would help keep up morale. There were five of us altogether, and the night started off kind of peaceful. Of course, with a total blackout in effect, it was frightening at best. Toward morning however, so many alarming messages began coming over the Honolulu radio station that the suspense became terrific.

This is a sample of what we heard: "O.P. 12 – N.W. 1500 ft. – enemy – many – heading towards Pearl Harbor. O.P. 2 N.E. 2000 ft. – enemy – many – heading towards Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor" etc. One right after another – and on and on [sic].

Around noon today we heard that this broadcast was not authorized and how or why it was done I'll never know – nor why it was allowed to go on for so long and terrorize the population. But it was and did! By the way, we

have been ordered to keep our radios tuned to KGU day and night and all radio stations have been taken over by the Army.

We have also been told such things as not to drink a drop of water, boiled or otherwise, as they are examining it for evidence of pollution. We were told to keep off the streets and highways and to purchase limited supplies of groceries from the store at which we are known and of course, ordered to blackout.

I haven't had but two hours of rest[full] sleep since I awoke yesterday morning. I hope to be able to sleep tonight. I don't know whether dad will get home at all tonight, but I hope so, as he has had less sleep than I. I have made all available beds, and can take care of five people beside ourselves – several more if they don't mind sofa beds.

As far as casualties are concerned, I have no idea how many there are. I do know that very few, if any, were saved from the ARIZONA. She is still burning – and practically finished. I hope never to see such a sight again as that ship ablaze from stem to stern and burned to the water's edge. Can you believe her flag still flies and waves in the breeze, untouched? Captain Van Valkenburgh was in command, and both he and Admiral Kidd, whose flagship she was, were lost with her. Also lost was Captain Bennion of TENNESSEE and, I've heard, Captain Bode of

the OKLAHOMA – but I'm hoping that rumor is false.

Betty is the only one of you who can visualize this scene, as she knows the layout. Do you know that an enemy submarine got all the way into the harbor past the Navy Yard? Fortunately it was rammed and sunk by a destroyer. I understand that there is also an enemy sub ashore off Diamond Head.

We have not had any news of the outside world excepting that Wake, Midway, Guam and Manila were also hit. I almost forgot to tell you that yesterday when I came home after that six-hour attack, I found that a shell had gone through the living room window, screen, glass and Venetian blind and all – then hit the door frame across the room – went clean through the door and buried itself in the heavy entrance door in the front hall. A nice little souvenir!

While writing this, I hear the crack of rifle fire every few minutes and know that someone, who has no business there, has gone a little too close to the oil storage tanks – or done one of the various other things for which the marines are ordered to shoot on sight.

Oh yes, I have a seat on the bald-head row!

Love and kisses to each and all of you.

Mother



COW CREEK BAND TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians honored veterans by hosting the 8th Annual Tribute to Veterans Banquet in July. Over 700 veterans and their families attended the event held at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino. U.S. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon was a special guest.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of medals by Senator Wyden accompanied by Douglas County veterans service officer Mary Newman. WWII veteran Jack Lewis, USMC (Ret), from Azalea, Oregon was presented a Combat Action Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three stars for battles at Tinian, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. Carol Hunt of Roseburg is the widow of Milton Hunt, a

veteran who served in the USMC during WWII and in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. She was presented the Purple Heart Medal her husband had earned but never received. William Simmons of Winston, Oregon who served in the U.S. Army, was presented the Army Commendation Medal for combat in Vietnam.

Senator Wyden called all veterans patriots. Sue Shaffer, Tribal Chair of the Cow Creek said, "Veterans have earned our ongoing respect for their efforts. The Fourth of July is their party."

Door prizes were drawn throughout the evening and the Glendale High School choir provided music from the 1940's and 50's.

By Evelyn Anderson, Secretary,
ODVA Advisory Committee



PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is regularly contacted by individuals searching for a way to honor and pay tribute to veterans who served this great nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. Those who left the security of their homes and families, forfeited opportunities and offered their service without regard for themselves. Those brave individuals who stepped into harm's way and served as a buffer between freedom and threats to its stability.

A donation to the Oregon Veterans' Home is a special way to directly impact and pay tribute to those who served in the U.S. military. You can be assured that 100% of

your donation goes directly to enhancing the lives of veterans residing at the Home located in The Dalles.

To make your tax-deductible contribution, simply use the gift form located on page 5. Donations can be made in honor or in memory of a veteran. All donations are greatly appreciated and receive recognition by the Director. As a state-owned facility (which has to date received no state tax dollars for operations or maintenance), the Oregon Veterans' Home belongs to Oregonians.

This Veterans Day please honor veterans and make a donation to your Oregon Veterans' Home.



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WOMEN VETERANS CONFERENCE

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, in partnership with its counterparts in Washington and Idaho, will be hosting the inaugural Tri-State Women Veterans' Conference at the new Pendleton Convention Center in Pendleton, Oregon April 18-19, 2008. Women veterans are invited to attend. There is no charge to attend the Conference but pre-registration is required. To register visit www.oregon.gov/ODVA and scroll down to 'Women Veterans' in the left column and click. You can also register at 1-800-828-8801 Ext. 2264 or 503-373-2264.

A variety of workshops on veterans' benefits, womens' health issues and employment will take place on both days of the Conference. Bob Welch, author of *American Nightingale – the Story of Frances Slanger, Forgotten Heroine of Normandy*, is scheduled to be one of the keynote speakers.

Organizations with products or information appropriate for this audience, are encouraged to register for free display space (1 - 3'x6' table) for this event by going to www.oregon.gov/ODVA or call 1-800-828-8801 Ext. 2264 or 503-373-2264. Deadline for vendor registration is March 7, 2008. Contact us at the numbers above if you have any questions or visit www.ORwomenvets@ODVA.state.or.us.



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	..... Richard Lewis
Deschutes	541-385-3214	..... Keith Macnamara
Douglas	541-440-4219	..... Mary Newman
Gilliam	541-384-6712	..... Paul Conway
Grant	541-575-1631	..... Bruce B. Makela
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	..... Katie Harris
Polk	503-373-2085	..... ODVA
Sherman	541-565-3408	..... Paul Conway
Tillamook	503-842-4358	..... Steve Weld
Umatilla	541-278-5482	..... Peggy Raines
Union	541-962-8802	..... Timothy H. Jederberg
Wallowa	541-426-3155 Ext. 241	..... Rene Beaudoin
Wasco	541-506-2502	..... Patrick Scranton
Washington	503-640-3489	..... Doug McEllven
Wheeler	541-763-3032	..... Paul Conway
Yamhill	503-434-7503	..... Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771	..... Andrew Rowe
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

State Offices-ODVA	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Salem	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	Gus Bedwell Ron Jarchow Tom Mann Rita Nickleberry Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777	..... Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Frank Van Meter

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 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, Chair 228 SW Meadow Drive Beaverton, OR 97006 503-844-9000	Charles E. Schmidt PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

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

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

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Old Address _____

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City/ State/ Zip _____

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City/ State /Zip _____

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