



November / December 2009

Jim Willis, Director

www.oregon.gov/odva

COMBAT-WOUNDED OIF VETERAN PENS BOOK ON CHRONIC PAIN

By Tom Mann

His life changed in a flash – literally.

It was November 2004 and the Marines were in the early stages of the second battle of Fallujah, Iraq. Insurgents had re-established themselves in the city and the Marines were once again sent to root them out.

Navy Corpsman Derek McGinnis was with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion manning an ambulance that was simply a non-armored Humvee equipped to carry four litters. With an M-16 in one hand and a radio in the other, the call crackled over the radio that there were wounded. “Okay, let’s go guys, we’ve got casualties,” McGinnis told his team and they raced into the battle.

Another call came quickly that a light armored vehicle (LAV) also had been hit with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). As McGinnis tells it, “I had just turned to tell my driver to speed up when - BOOM – we got blown up.”

Nobody in his Humvee saw the Mercedes laden with explosive coming at them. The Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) rammed its target and McGinnis’ life would never be the same.

According to the Corpsman, he has no memory of the next six weeks. He would awake to learn he lost his left leg, amputated above the knee; he had a traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as damage to his right eye and shrapnel wounds throughout his body. Torn up by steel and fire, the 11-year Navy veteran would begin a journey of pain and recovery that would test his courage and spirit.

SEE MCGINNIS ON PAGE 9

VA WARNS VETERANS OF NEW TELEPHONE PRESCRIPTION SCAM

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

“America’s veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them,” said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone.”

Veteran Service Organizations have brought to VA’s attention that callers are

misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the veteran’s credit card number.

“VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines,” Cross said. “Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation’s veterans.”

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

PHOTO BY DAN LONG

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Director's Message

*Jim Willis,
Director,
Oregon
Department
of Veterans'
Affairs*

REINTEGRATION

Caring for Oregon's Warriors and Their Families

On October 15, 2009 Oregon held its 9th Reintegration Summit on Post-Deployment. While some additional work remains to be done, much progress has been made since the first Summit.

More than 200 people attended the Summit to include elected officials, congressional staffers, federal, state and county employees, military personnel, veterans and many volunteers.

Areas addressed included veterans issues impacted by the actions of the 2009 legislative session, mid-deployment family issues, a live video teleconference from Iraq with Col. Dan Hokanson, Commander of Oregon's 41st BCT and his staff, a report on caring for women veterans and a review of the workgroup dealing with veterans in the Criminal Justice and Mental Health systems.

After these presentations, breakout groups dealt with family, health, employment, education and legal issues. Following the breakouts, the group leaders reported on the actions and challenges faced by each of the work groups. A number of these groups will meet prior to the next Summit that is scheduled for March 18, 2010 in Salem. I would like to thank everyone who has given of their time and talent during our reintegration summits.

In a related matter, the Transportation, Women Veterans' Health Care and Reintegration Task Forces have been

appointed and began their work in October with organizational meetings and the setting of priorities associated with the outcomes that each of them plan to achieve. There will be more information on the progress of these Task Forces in later issues of the *VETS NEWS*.

With his retirement from the Portland VA Medical Center scheduled for December, Reintegration Summit Co-Chair Jack Heims was honored by the National Guard for his service to the military community and veterans. Brigadier General Mike Caldwell presented Jack with the Oregon Commendation Medal for his service, pinning him in front of the crowd of 200. Thanks, Jack, for all you have done and all you will continue to do for veterans.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home. These donations contribute greatly to the quality of life for our most senior veterans and are much appreciated.

I want to wish all of our veterans and their families a safe and happy Veterans Day. Many events are scheduled throughout our state and are contained in this issue of the *VETS NEWS*.

In closing let me urge every veteran and family members to contact an accredited Veteran Service Office if you have any questions about your benefits. A listing of these Service Officers is also contained in this issue.

Jim Willis, Director

MAGAZINE RANKS OREGON COLLEGES AS MILITARY FRIENDLY

GI Jobs Magazine has named Clackamas Community College and Eastern Oregon University as "Military Friendly Schools for 2010." Both schools are well known in Oregon for their proactive outreach to veterans and their families.

Surveying more than 7,000 schools nationwide, GI Jobs Magazine awards the military friendly moniker for schools that actively recruit and retain veteran students, as well as schools that provide on-campus veteran programs, such as credit for military service, spouse programs, student veteran support groups and more.

Clackamas Community College recently received \$100,000 from the American Council on Education and a \$381,000 congressional award to increase efforts to serve veterans, focusing on those veterans reintegrating after overseas deployment.

Eastern Oregon University is working hard to recruit veterans through its on-campus and distance learning programs. EOU also administers a "Service to Country" scholarship for eligible veterans and has a campus veterans service officer available to help veterans with the education and other federal and state benefits.

To view the complete GI Jobs 2010 Military Friendly School list, visit www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/mfspr.

VA EXTENDS "AGENT ORANGE" BENEFITS TO MORE VETERANS

WASHINGTON - Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability

that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).



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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 Public Information, 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 1, 2009.)**

NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF OIF AND OEF VETERANS SUFFER MENTAL ILLNESS

WASHINGTON DC – A new United States Department of Veterans Affairs study shows that 37 percent of servicemembers who have served in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or depression, a significant increase than previously believed.

Of 289,328 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans entering the VA health care system between 2002-2008, 62,929 have been diagnosed with PTSD while 50,432 have been diagnosed with depression, according to the study.

Further, the study revealed that National Guard and reserve servicemembers suffer these wars differently than their active duty counterparts. The research suggests that being activated from established careers, family and communities makes older citizen-soldiers less prepared for combat and less able to reintegrate when they return than younger active duty servicemembers.

“These wars have taken a psychological toll on our veterans that must be addressed,” said Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Jim Willis. “I know some are surprised by these numbers, but I’m not. I believe that these numbers represent the true psychological impact of not just Afghanistan and Iraq, but of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and our other conflicts as well. The difference is veterans of previous eras did not seek treatment in as large a number as they are doing today,” he said. “We are committed to getting all our veterans the help they need and the benefits they have earned.”

In an effort to educate veterans regarding PTSD, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs in conjunction with the Oregon Military Department, the American Legion,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOD

Research suggests that being activated from established careers, family and communities makes older citizen-soldiers less prepared for combat and less able to reintegrate when they return than younger active duty servicemembers.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart have engaged in a public awareness campaign. “Our goal is to reach out to veterans and their loved ones and guide them to benefits and services that can help them with their post-war recovery,” Willis said. “Given that nearly 40 percent of our returning veterans are suffering from PTSD or depression, we all need to work extremely hard to reach these veterans and offer them help,” he said.

Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can include, anger and irritability,

depression or apathy, hypervigilance, guilt, poor judgment, sleep disturbances, lack of feelings, self medication with drugs or alcohol, and in severe cases thoughts of suicide or hurting others.

“If you or someone you know is suffering with PTSD or depression, you need to call the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and ask to see a veterans service officer,” Willis said. “Veterans need to know that their fellow veterans care about them and are here to help.”



**You Showed Courage
On The Battlefield**

If you’re struggling with thoughts of suicide, please show courage again by calling for help

1-800-273-TALK

1-800-273-8255

(press 1)

You’re not alone - your fellow veterans care about you!

Make the call!

Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs

OREGON RESERVIST AMONG TOP AIRMEN

MCCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, WASH. – An Oregon Air Force Reservist assigned to the 446th Maintenance Squadron, received the U.S. Air Force’s Outstanding Airman of the Year award.

Staff Sgt. Channel Bolton-Scholl, a crew chief on C-17 cargo aircraft, was chosen as one of the Air Force’s 12 Outstanding Airmen in 2008 by an Air Force selection board at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. The board selected the Airmen from the active duty Air Force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve for recognition based on superior leadership, job performance and personal achievements.

A Eugene native and Willamette University student, Bolton-Scholl embodies all the traits Air Force Reserve Command is looking for in their Airman of the Year, according to her supervisor, Master Sgt. Keith Chase.

Bolton-Scholl’s actions were even recognized by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who wrote her a letter acknowledging importance of her accomplishment.

“She excels at her job and the task at hand,” said Sgt. Chase. “She is a very hard worker. I never have to tell her to get anything done after she is shown the job tasks for the day.”

Bolton-Scholl is currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is her second deployment to U.S. Central Command’s area of operations.



PHOTO COURTESY OF US AIR FORCE RESERVE

Staff Sgt. Channel Bolton-Scholl accepts the U.S. Air Force's Outstanding Airman of the Year award after being named one of the USAF's 12 top Airmen.

STOP-LOSS PAYMENTS TO BE MADE RETROACTIVE

Affected Servicemembers May Be Eligible for an Extra \$500 Per Month for Extra Duty

WASHINGTON – More than 185,000 servicemembers affected by the military’s “Stop-Loss” program will soon be able to apply for the congressionally authorized \$500 a month retroactive payments to compensate them for their added duty.

After 9/11, the military routinely used its stop-loss policy to keep servicemembers on active duty past their contracted time to ensure manpower levels to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress recently voted that those servicemembers held over past their rightful discharge dates should be compensated \$500 per month for each month they were held over in stop-loss.

While there still is some debate among Congress and the Pentagon as to who actually is eligible for the stop-loss payment, the Army

reports that 136,778 soldiers may be eligible; the Marine Corps states 9,660 Marines may be eligible; the Air Force has 39,199 potential eligible airmen; and the Navy reports about 250 eligible members. Each service is responsible for its own retroactive payment program.

The Army intends to have a web-based application process up and running by November 1, while the Marines are in the process of establishing an office to administer and manage the program that should be available soon.

If you or someone you know was affected by stop-loss between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009 please contact your branch of service to determine how you can apply for your retroactive stop-loss payment.



NATIONAL GUARD RETIREMENT GUIDE PUBLISHED

The U.S. Army has published the first Retirement Guide for National Guard Soldiers and Families. The 56-page Army National Guard Information Guide on Non-Regular Retirement was written for anyone with an interest in how a member of the Army National Guard can earn retirement points credit, qualify for retired pay for non-regular service and apply for retired pay.

It is the result of a collaboration between the Army G-1 Retirement Services Division, part of

the G-1’s Human Resources Policy Directorate, and the Army National Guard. The rules, links, and references covered therein are not the definitive answer on any subject. All are subject to changes in laws, directives, regulations and the determinations of the offices and agencies responsible for the information assembled and presented here.

For matters concerning individual Retirement Points Accounting, contact the RPAM Administrator (Retirement Points

Accounting Management Administrator) for the state in which the Soldier is a member or held membership.

For specific determinations of retirement eligibility, the RPAM Administrator can refer questions to Human Resources Command - St Louis (HRC-St Louis).

The guide can be viewed at www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/docs/ARReserveRetirementGuide.doc.

SUICIDE AWARENESS EXPANDS TO ONLINE ACCESS

WASHINGTON – The Suicide Prevention campaign of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its outreach to all veterans by piloting an online, one-to-one “chat service” for veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet.

Called “Veterans Chat,” the new service enables veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If a “chatter” is determined to be in a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

“This online feature is intended to reach out to all veterans who may or may not be enrolled in the VA health care system and provide them with online access to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline,” said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Acting Under Secretary for Health. “It is meant to provide veterans with an anonymous way to access VA’s suicide prevention services.”

Veterans, family members or friends can access Veterans Chat through the suicide prevention website (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org). There is a *Veterans* tab on the left-hand side of the website that will take them directly to veteran resource information. On this page, they can see the Hotline number (1-800-273-TALK), and click on the Veterans Chat tab on the right side of the web page to enter.

Veterans retain anonymity by entering whatever names they choose once they enter the one-on-one chat. They are then joined by a counselor who is trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller.

If the counselor decides the caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, where a trained suicide prevention counselor will determine whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

The pilot program, which has been in operation since July 3, has already had positive results. In one instance, the online counselor determined that a veteran in the chat required immediate assistance. The counselor convinced the veteran to provide the counselor with a home telephone number and then remained in the chat room with the veteran while the hotline staff called the number and talked to the veteran’s mother. The hotline counselor worked with the veteran’s mother to convince the veteran

to be admitted to a medical facility for further treatment.

“The chat line is not intended to be a crisis response line,” said Dr. Janet Kemp, VA’s National Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the VA medical center in Canandaigua, N.Y., where VA’s trained counselors staff the chat line 24 hours a day, seven days a week. VA’s suicide prevention hotline is also staffed continuously.

“Chat responders are trained in an intervention method specifically developed for the chat line to assist people with emotional distress and concerns,” Kemp said. “We have procedures they can use to transfer chatters in crisis to the hotline for more immediate assistance.”

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.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Bill and Betty Greig

Robert Galatz

Peter Labre’

Cascade Seafarers 138

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

See The Possibilities.

Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Claims and Counseling

- Service-Connected Disability
- VA Health Care Enrollment
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- GI Bill Pension
- Dependent and Survivor Benefits

800-692-9666

Whether you’re just back from a combat zone or have been home for 60 years, you may be eligible for federal VA benefits. Give the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs a call so we can direct you to the Veteran Service Officer nearest you!

Albany

Nov. 11 –

6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Optimists Pancake Breakfast, West Albany High School Cafeteria.

6:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 10, Breakfast. VFW Post 584, Continental Breakfast.

8 a.m. – Memorial service at the Linn County Veterans Memorial located at Timber-Linn Park, 900 Price Road, S.E. A wreath will be laid in honor of past, present, and future military veterans.

9 a.m. – Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast, Eagles Lodge 2255, 127 N. Broadalbin St.

11 a.m. – 89th annual Veterans Day Parade.

2 p.m. – Awards Ceremony on the Linn County Courthouse steps.

Contact: [Patty Louisiana 541-961-1466](mailto:Patty.Louisiana@albanymilitary.com)

Astoria

Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. – American Legion Post 12, 1132 Exchange St., will serve free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to veterans and their spouses (12 p.m. lunch, 5 p.m. Ham dinner). Donations are welcome. Ceremonial program will begin at 1 p.m.

Contact: [Mike Newton at 503-440-6308](mailto:Mike.Newton@astoriaveterans.com)

Beaverton

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – A ceremony at Memorial Park, between Watson and Hall Streets. Southridge High School's choir will sing. American Legion Post 124's Honor Guard will post the Colors.

Contact: [Marv Doty, 503-644-0350](mailto:Marv.Doty@beavertonveterans.com)

Bend

Nov. 8 - 9 a.m. – Veterans Day/Marine Corps Birthday – 5K run/1 mile walk – next to City Hall, 710 N.W. Wall St. This race is a fundraiser for the Disabled American Veterans Portland shuttle van. Register online: www.vetsdayrun.homestead.com.

Contact: [Eric Chandler, 541-383-8061](mailto:Eric.Chandler@bendveterans.com)

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Bend Parade of Flags, installed by American Legion Post 4, will display 250 American Flags downtown and Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Contact: [Dick Tobiason, 541-388-5591](mailto:Dick.Tobiason@bendveterans.com)

11 a.m. – Parade will be held downtown on Bond and Wall Streets. A fly-over has been requested.

1 to 5 p.m. – Open House at VFW Post 1643, 1503 N.E. 4th St. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Bob Cusick, 541-389-0775](mailto:Bob.Cusick@bendveterans.com)

1:30 p.m. – Dedication of Bend Heroes Memorial at Brooks Park, at the west end of Veterans Memorial Bridge, on the corner of Newport Ave. and Drake Road.

Contact: [Dick Tobiason, 541-388-5591](mailto:Dick.Tobiason@bendveterans.com)

5:30 p.m. – Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Bend Golf and Country Club, 61045 Country Club Drive. Social hour: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. A "Caring for the Troops" raffle will raise money for mailing gifts overseas.

Contact: [Suzie Wirges, 541-388-2604](mailto:Suzie.Wirges@bendveterans.com)

Burns

Nov. 6 - 6:30 p.m. – The Elks Lodge, 118 N. Broadway, will host a dinner, co-sponsored by American Legion Post 63. All veterans and families are invited. Cost: Free for veterans.

Contact: [Francis Estep, 541-573-7683](mailto:Francis.Estep@burnsveterans.com)

Canyonville

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Remembrance Ceremony at City Hall. Guest speakers: County Commissioner Susan Morgan and Sue Shaffer, Chairperson, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Bob Garcia, 541-839-9957](mailto:Bob.Garcia@canyonvilleveterans.com)

Cave Junction

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. – Ceremony at City Hall, on Lester Street, by American Legion Post 70.

Contact: [Dan Wardin, 541-597-2979](mailto:Dan.Wardin@cavejunctionveterans.com)

Central Point

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – The Oregon Fallen War Heroes Memorial, at Vilas Road, off Exit 33 from I-5, will honor all Oregon veterans.

Contact: [Marty Terell, 541-664-0191](mailto:Marty.Terell@centralpointveterans.com)

Condon

Nov. 11 - 6 p.m. – Tri-County Veterans Services will be sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Dinner (turkey and all the trimmings) for Gilliam County veterans and their families at the Veterans Memorial Hall.

Contact: [Paul Conway, 541-384-6712](mailto:Paul.Conway@condonveterans.com)

Coos Bay

Nov. 11 - 6:30 p.m. – Eagles Lodge, 568 S. 2nd St., will provide a free dinner for all veterans and their spouses. Guest speaker: Paula Brown, Deputy Director, Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

Contact: [Paul Treuax, 541-297-3236](mailto:Paul.Treuax@coosbayveterans.com)

Corvallis

Nov. 13 - 11 a.m. – Oregon State University AFROTC Det. 685 presents a ceremony, a 12-hour POW/MIA flag walk, a 24-hour POW/MIA vigil at Memorial Union outdoor quad, 26th and Jefferson Way. Speaker: World War II veteran Don Malarkey. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Edward Sheehan, 971-241-7572](mailto:Edward.Sheehan@corvallisveterans.com)

Dallas

Nov. 6 - 10 a.m. – Students at Faith Christian School, 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., will be honoring veterans in a special program. Veterans are invited to stay for a free lunch and visit with the students. All veterans and spouses are welcome.

Contact: [Jacque Allen, Teacher, 503-623-6632](mailto:Jacque.Allen@dallasveterans.com)

Elkton

Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. – Elkton High School will honor veterans with a special assembly in the gymnasium. Veterans who, because of their military service, were unable to complete high school (and who previously qualified) will be receiving official high school diplomas.

Contact: [Melissa Whitley, 541-584-2228, ext. 2](mailto:Melissa.Whitley@elktonveterans.com)

Estacada

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. – First Annual 'Proud to be an American' motorcycle ride from Gladstone to Estacada for the Veterans Day Parade. Starts at Latus Motors and rides to Estacada High School.

11 a.m. – 'Proud to be an American' 2009 parade will begin at the high school, 355 N.E. 6th Ave.

12 p.m. – An all-American lunch of hot dogs, chips, apple pie and a soda will be served.

1 p.m. – A rally and ceremony will take place on 2nd Street, near the Estacada Veterans Memorial. Guest speakers, patriotic music, and readings will be featured. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Becky Ginsbach, 503-209-6800](mailto:Becky.Ginsbach@estacadaveterans.com)

Eugene

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. – West Lawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 225 South Danebo Ave., will be hosting an open house. Oregon National Guard equipment will be displayed. Hot dogs and other refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Dustin Schroeder, 541-343-1684](mailto:Dustin.Schroeder@eugeneveterans.com)

10 a.m. – Lane Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home, 5300 W. 11th Ave., is hosting an open house. Hot dogs, refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Mark Musgrove, 541-342-8281](mailto:Mark.Musgrove@eugeneveterans.com)

Florence

Nov. 7 - 1 p.m. – The 4th annual parade travels on 6th St. and Hwy. 101 to Bay St. and to Veterans Memorial Park. Service branch flags will be sold. Website: www.florenceveteransdayparade.com/

Contact: [Megan Gerber, 541-999-8216](mailto:Megan.Gerber@florenceveterans.com)

Forest Grove

Nov. 8 - 11:30 a.m. – American Legion Post 2 and Elks Lodge 2440, 2810 Pacific Ave., will co-host ceremonies, entertainment and a free dinner for veterans, current active duty military personnel, and their families. Dinner: 1 p.m.

Contact: [Jim Craig, 503-357-3660, 503-357-2440](mailto:Jim.Craig@forestgroveveterans.com)

Fossil

Nov. 11 - 8 to 10 a.m. – Tri-County Veterans Services is sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast for Wheeler County veterans and their families at the Family Services Building.

Contact: [Paul Conway, 1-800-982-1172](mailto:Paul.Conway@fossilveterans.com)

Glide

Nov. 10 - Glide High School is honoring veterans by having a 'Bring a Veteran to School Day'.

Contact: [Mary Newman, 541-440-4219](mailto:Mary.Newman@glideveterans.com)

Hillsboro

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – VFW Post 2666 will host a program at Fir Lawn Cemetery, 1070 S.W. Main St. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: [George Anderson, 971-404-7905](mailto:George.Anderson@hillsboroveterans.com)

Hood River

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremony at the Oregon National Guard Armory on Belmont Road at 12th St. The local National Guard unit that will be deploying next year, will be honored.

Contact: [RaeLynn Ricarte, 503-750-4181](mailto:RaeLynn.Ricarte@hoodriverveterans.com)

Klamath Falls

Nov. 7-11 – VFW Post 1383 will present an Avenue of Flags at the Veterans Cemetery, at the intersection of the south side by-pass and Green Springs Drive.

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Parade downtown will conclude at Veterans Memorial Park at Main St. and Klamath Ave. Ceremony includes placing wreaths for each military era and guest speaker. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Joe Collins, 541-884-0074](mailto:Joe.Collins@klamathfalls.org)

La Grande

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 43 Veterans Parade along Adams Ave. Spaghetti feed will follow at the Legion Hall, 301 Fir St.

Contact: [John Marsh, 541-910-0123](mailto:John.Marsh@la-grande.org)

La Pine

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremony at La Pine Community Cemetery. Afterwards, American Legion Post 45, 52532 Drafter Road, will host an open house with hamburgers and hot dogs.

Contact: [Pat Cotton, 541-536-1402](mailto:Pat.Cotton@lapine.org)

Lebanon

Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. – Veteran of the Year Banquet recognizes veterans nominated by various organizations. The public is welcome to a prime rib and chicken dinner at American Legion Post 51. Cost: \$25 each. By reservation only: 541-990-6538. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Contact: [Patty Louisiana, 541-961-1466](mailto:Patty.Louisiana@lebanon.org)

Medford

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Parade will take place on Main St. from Hawthorne St. to Oakdale.

2 p.m. – Medford Veterans Memorial Park Ceremony, sponsored by Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Rogue Valley Chapter 1260.

Contact: [Herbert Robb, 541-535-1899](mailto:Herbert.Robb@medford.org)

Milton-Freewater

Nov. 11 - 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. – Breakfast at the American Legion Post, N.E. 8th Ave.

11 a.m. – Parade begins at 8th Ave. and Main St.

Noon – Chili Feed at the Elks Lodge on Main St. Free for veterans and a small charge for others.

2 p.m. – Ceremony at the American Legion Hall flag pole, N.E. 8th Ave.

Contact: [Alice Thomsen, 541-938-0590](mailto:Alice.Thomsen@milton-freewater.org)

Milwaukie

Nov. 3 - 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Milwaukie High School, 11300 S.E. 23rd Ave., will host their 14th Annual Living History Days—Remembering America's Heroes. American military veterans will be sharing their stories with students in classrooms. Purple Heart recipients will be recognized. All veterans are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

Contact: [Katy Spinks, 503-659-5157](mailto:Katy.Spinks@milwaukie.org)

Nov. 11 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Open House at American Legion Post 180, 2146 S.E. Monroe St. Hot dogs, chili will be served by Post 180 and Auxiliary.

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Live patriotic music provided by Portland American Legion Post 185 musicians. All veterans and their families are welcome.

Contact: [Nina Nelson, 503-659-5646](mailto:Nina.Nelson@milwaukie.org)

North Bend

Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Bay Area Post 34, 1421 Airport Way, will host the annual breakfast. Cost: \$5; children under 12, \$2.50. An 11 a.m. remembrance ceremony will celebrate the history of Veterans Day.

Contact: [Rebecca Rice, 541-756-1160](mailto:Rebecca.Rice@northbend.org)

Ontario

Nov. 7 - 1 p.m. (MST) – The 8th Annual American Legion Post 67 Veterans Day Parade will form up on Alameda and S.W. 4th Ave., and conclude at the train depot.

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. (MST) – Post 67 will host a memorial ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery at the American Legion Memorial, 1155 S. Park Blvd.

Contact: [Steve Farrow, 541-881-1389](mailto:Steve.Farrow@ontario.org), or [Bill Thomson, 541-889-6649](mailto:Bill.Thomson@ontario.org)

Oregon City

Nov. 10 - 8 a.m. – Oregon City High School, 19761 S. Beaver Creek Road, will honor veterans at an assembly. Area veterans are invited to come. Coffee and refreshments will be available in the Hospitality Room prior to the assembly.

Contact: [Angie Smith, 503-785-8545](mailto:Angie.Smith@oregoncity.org)

Pendleton

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. – Veterans Memorial ceremony at the Pioneer Chapel, 2nd and Byers St.

11 a.m. – Avenue of Flags at Olney Cemetery, 865 Tutawilla Road.

Contact: [Gary Ward, 541-276-0308](mailto:Gary.Ward@pendleton.org)

Portland

Nov. 8 - 8 a.m. – Veterans Convoy on I-205N. Convoy forms at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Vancouver, Wash. Gates open: 7 a.m. Grand Marshals: Gold Star families of Iraq and Afghanistan, families of deployed veterans, and veterans who have returned. Entry applications on-line: www.veteransoforegon.com

Contact: [Veterans of Oregon, 503-622-6084](mailto:Veterans.of.Oregon@portland.org)

Nov. 9 - 7:30 p.m. – 'A Tribute to Veterans' at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway, will be a musical journey from the Revolutionary War to the present. Tickets: www.pcpa.com or call 503-248-4335.

Nov. 11 - 9:45 a.m. – 35th Annual Hollywood District Veterans Day Parade from N.E. 40th to 48th Ave. and Sandy Blvd. Parade includes veterans, community groups, military service organizations, and a local high school band. Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Flag Pole, N.E. 48th and Sandy Blvd. Covered seating will be available for seniors and those with disabilities.

Contact: [Sara Van Houten, 503-422-7141](mailto:Sara.VanHouten@portland.org)

Prineville

Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. – Crook County High School, 1100 S.E. Lynn Blvd., will host 20 performing groups to honor Veterans, family and friends.

Contact: [Danny Jackson, 541-416-6900, ext. 3135](mailto:Danny.Jackson@prineville.org)

Redmond

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – The annual parade will be downtown. The public is invited to a chili feed following the parade at VFW Post 4108, 1636 S.W. Veterans Way. The event is co-sponsored by Post 4108, American Legion Post 44, and the Redmond Chamber of Commerce.

Contact: [Jeff Casserly, 541-550-6656](mailto:Jeff.Casserly@redmond.org)

Rogue River

Nov. 11 - Noon to 5 p.m. – The VFW Post will be hosting an open house at 410 E. Main St., with hot dogs and refreshments, and a toast to veterans.

Contact: [Katy Savage, 541-582-0689](mailto:Katy.Savage@roguevalley.org)

Roseburg

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Pancake breakfast at American Legion Post 45, 406 S.E. Oak Ave.

11 a.m. – Douglas County Parade. Theme: "Service and Sacrifice, Not Only in Uniform."

Contact: [Mary Newman, 541-440-4219](mailto:Mary.Newman@roseburg.org)

Salem

Nov. 7 - 7 p.m. and Nov. 8 - 3 p.m. – Willamette Master Chorus and an orchestra will perform two weekend events titled: *Honoring our Veterans*, in the Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center, Willamette University. General admission: Adults \$15; students, seniors, \$12; veterans and active military personnel, \$8. More information, or tickets, visit www.WillametteMasterChorus.org.

Contact: [Weathers Music, 503-362-8708](mailto:Weathers.Music@salem.org)

Nov. 11 - 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – American Legion Capitol Post 9 will host a free breakfast for veterans and their families at the Eagles Lodge, 2771 Pence Loop S.E. Priority service will be given to on-duty law enforcement officers, emergency medical crews and firefighters.

Contact: [Earl Pepper, 503-364-0261](mailto:Earl.Pepper@salem.org)

3 p.m. – A ceremony will be held at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial, on the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs grounds, 700 Summer St. N.E. Names of Oregonians killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom will be unveiled.

Contact: [Robin Steckley, 503-373-2390](mailto:Robin.Steckley@salem.org)

7 p.m. – Salem Towne Community will honor all veterans at their 8th Annual Veterans Day Celebration in the Towne Hall building, 2900 Oakcrest Drive N.W., off of Wallace Road. The public is invited. Guest speaker: Tom Mann, Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

Contact: [Bob Herzog, 503-581-3055](mailto:Bob.Herzog@salem.org)

Sandy

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremonial tribute with patriotic music hosted by VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary at the Veterans Memorial Statue, intersection of Highways 26 and 211. Guest speaker: Dennis Guthrie, VFW Surgeon General.

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

Contact: [Bert Key, 503-668-8418](mailto:Bert.Key@sandy.org)

**SEE MORE VETERANS DAY
EVENTS ON PAGE 10**



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 10, and make a tax-deductible donation today. Those who contributed during the months of August and September, 2009 are listed below:

Access Computer Products
 Air Force Association of Oregon
 Nancy Albert
 American Legion Ipne Auxiliary
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 Oregon Veterans Home Gift Shop
 Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association
 Pacific NW Defense Coalition
 Palm Abrasive and Tools, Inc.
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Jacque M. Robertson
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 Linda R. Skendzel
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 Myrle Smith
 St. Helens Elks Lodge
 Mark and Cheryl Storms
 Mark Sullivan
 Robert and Sharon Sullivan
 Ray and Barbara Swank
 The Regence Employee Giving Campaign
 Linda L. Umphress
 Gary VanOrman
 Adelia Veristain
 VETERAN License Plates
 VFW Layne Clifton Post #4070
 VFW Peninsula Pep Post #1325
 VFW Willamina Post and Auxiliary #4211
 Harry and Helen Walters
 Zelta Wasson
 Penelope A. White
 Clyde and Helen Wilson
 Wilsonville Recruiting
 Virginia Wood
 William Wright
 Linda J. Zellner

Note: In the September/October issue of the Vets News, we inadvertently left out an "e" in Mr. Oleson's last name. The correct spelling is **William (Bill) Oleson**. We apologize for the error.

Attention All Veterans!

Did you experience any unwanted sexual attention, uninvited sexual advances, or forced sex while in the military? Does this experience continue to affect your life today?

Both women and men can experience sexual harassment or sexual assault during their military service. VA refers to these experiences as military sexual trauma, or MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively affect a person's mental and physical health, even many years later.

Some problems associated with MST include:

- Disturbing memories or nightmares
- Difficulty feeling safe
- Feelings of depression or numbness
- Problems with alcohol or other drugs
- Feeling isolated from other people
- Problems with anger or irritability
- Problems with sleep
- Physical health problems

If you have experienced military sexual trauma, seek help by calling the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at **800-692-9666**, and ask to speak to a counselor.

Medically retired from the Navy, Derek McGinnis survived his ordeal and today is the Amputee Outreach Advocate for the American Pain Foundation. It was in this capacity that McGinnis was in Salem the last week of September to talk about pain management and the book he penned titled *Exit Wounds, A Survival Guide to Pain Management for Returning Veterans and Their Families*. McGinnis and the American Pain Foundation are giving 5,000 copies of the book free of charge to Oregon veterans to get the word out about pain management.

Speaking before the Oregon House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management and the Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, McGinnis told his story and the importance of educating people regarding the various means of pain management. McGinnis' visit coincided with Gov. Ted Kulongoski's proclamation of September as Pain Management Month in Oregon.

McGinnis also addressed a group of about 70 veterans, Blue Star families and others at the Iraqi-Afghanistan Freedom Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. After his presentation, dozens lined up to meet the author and have him sign their copy of his book.

"*Exit Wounds* is about raising awareness of battlefield injuries and their impact on families, coping with pain and obtaining the tools to carry on," McGinnis said. "On the battlefield, the 'pain is not an option' attitude is an essential survival skill. Back home, not only is it normal to admit you are in pain, it is healthy to do so. Pain is not a weakness," he said. According to McGinnis, he wrote his book because, "There was no guide, no map, no mentor to steer me through this minefield I was navigating."

Exit Wounds is a compelling book told through the eyes of McGinnis, his wife and his parents. While the first chapters relive Derek's personal story, the thrust of the book is understanding pain and how to manage it. One of the most salient points the author makes is that it is unrealistic to expect to live a pain-free life after a traumatic injury. Instead, the goal should be to live with a manageable amount of pain, using a variety of techniques McGinnis describes in his book.

Oregon was particularly interested in McGinnis' story, because it is the only state in the union that has convened a Pain Management Commission and has a Pain Management Program within the Department of Human Services to help all citizens – military and civilian – with pain issues.

McGinnis' employer, The American Pain Foundation, recently launched the Military/Veterans Pain Initiative, which provides free educational materials, peer-to-peer support and resources to injured servicemembers and veterans. The Foundation's goal is to "Empower those living with pain to seek appropriate pain care for themselves and other comrades to achieve a better quality of life."

McGinnis will continue to tell his harrowing story of combat and survival around the nation and is encouraging all injured veterans to read his book or visit his website (www.exitwoundsforveterans.org). "For wounded veterans, overcoming pain

is the final battle; hand-to-hand combat with an adversary we were never trained to fight," McGinnis said. "Think of this book – and the companion website – as a survival guide. Use it however it serves you best – for inspiration, for information, for advice about how to navigate the healthcare systems available to you."

For more information about pain management, contact the Department of Human Services Pain Coordinator at 503-945-7009. The American Pain Foundation can be contacted at 1-888-615-7246 or visit their website at www.painfoundation.org.

AVIATION AND SPACE MUSEUM INDUCTS 6 INTO HALL OF HONOR



PHOTO BY DAN LONG

An F-15 Eagle, as flown by Capt. Michael King Smith, stands on a pedestal at his memorial at Evergreen Aviation. Smith is one of the 2009 inductees of the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum's Hall of Honor.

MCMINNVILLE -- The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum honored six of Oregon's finest leaders in aviation during their seventh annual Hall of Honor celebration on Oct. 18.

The inductees are considered men and women who have made important and significant contributions to Oregon aviation and airpower in all fields. The inductees have joined 33 others who have been enshrined and were recognized by the museum since 2003.

The 2009 recipients are from Portland, Salem, and McMinnville, Ore. and include: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam pilot, Lt. Col. Russell Barney; World War II veteran and the Oregon Air National Guard's first commander, Brig. Gen. G. Robert Dodson; World War II fighter pilot, Col. Kenneth Reusser; former Congressman and Vietnam fighter pilot Dennis A. Smith; Oregon Air National Guard pilot, Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum co-founder, Capt. Michael King Smith; and aviation writer, Gerald "Gerry" Roswell Weaver.



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For more information on Veterans' Home Loans,
 Contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
 at 1-888-673-8387 or by email at orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us.

VETERANS DAY EVENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Springfield

Nov. 10 - 10 a.m. – Monument dedication ceremony at the 162nd Infantry Regiment Readiness Center, 3106 Pierce Parkway.

Contact: [Jeff Musgrove, 541-686-2818](#)

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Springfield Memorial Gardens and Funeral Home, 7305 Main St., will be hosting an Open House. Hot dogs and other refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Gene Drake, 541-746-5311](#)

Selma

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. – Dedication of veterans memorial by American Legion Post 70 Auxiliary at Deer Creek Cemetery on Lakeshore Drive.

Contact: [Dan Wardin, 541-597-2979](#)

The Dalles

Nov. 11 - 12 a.m. – Mid-Columbia Veterans Day Parade begins at the National Guard Armory, 713 Webber St., will proceed downtown and return to the Armory.

1 p.m. – VFW Post 2471 Auxiliary will host a potluck dinner and patriotic program at the National Guard Armory. The public is invited.

Contacts: [Les Cochenour, 541-298-5692](#), or [Gary Pratt, 509-767-1461](#)

Tigard

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

Contact: [Mark Pedersen, 503-624-2332](#)

Tillamook

Nov. 7 - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Tillamook Air Museum volunteers will serve a traditional S.O.S. Breakfast at the museum's Air Base Cafe, on Hwy. 101, south of Tillamook.

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. – The museum and local VFW Posts, will host the 12th annual Veterans Appreciation Day and Open House. A fly-over has been requested. Veterans will be admitted free.

Contact: [Tillamook Air Museum, 503-842-1130](#)

White City

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. – Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics, 8495 Crater Lake Hwy., will host a ceremony in the theater. The public is invited. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Rhonda Haney, 541-830-7585](#)

Wilsonville

Nov. 10-11 - 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](#)

GOT YOURS YET?

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has worked with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles and the Oregon Legislature to bring you new graphic designed veteran license plates for your vehicle. Now you can show your loyalty to your branch of service or show that special medal you earned.

Just visit your local DMV office and ask how you can get one of the new veteran license plates for your automobile.

As an added bonus, a percentage of the money raised on the license plates is returned to the Oregon Veterans' Home. So you are helping others as you adorn your vehicle with new graphic plates.



Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form "Give to those who have already given of themselves"

Please designate my donation: In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Gift amount: \$35-\$64 (1 Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pin)
 \$65-\$99 (2 Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pins)
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Please send my "Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pin(s)" to:

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Credit Card Information

VISA MasterCard Amount \$ _____

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name (Please Print): _____ Phone #: _____

Signature: _____

Please print this form and mail it with your donation to: Oregon Veterans' Home
c/o ODVA
700 Summer St NE
Salem OR 97301-1285

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

FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY INCREASED

SALEM - The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced that food stamp benefits have increased for veterans in need of additional assistance.

As of February 1, the Federal Poverty Level Standard for single adults with a total gross monthly income below \$1,670, or a couple with a total gross monthly income below \$2,247 was changed. These adults and families with three or more persons may be also eligible for food stamp benefits depending upon their income.

An additional benefit for seniors is the Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP). Individuals and couples, who are eligible for food stamp benefits and have a landline telephone, may receive a \$13.50 credit on their monthly telephone bill.

For more information and to locate each county's office, check online at http://www.oregonsafenet.org/food_stamps.html or, call 800-723-3638.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BENEFITS CHECK UP

If you served in the United States Armed Forces, you may be entitled to state and federal veterans benefits. It's time for your benefits check up.

Due to the complexities of veterans law (38 USCS and 38 CFR), it always is prudent to talk with a federally accredited veterans service officer about your earned benefits. You can find your local veterans service officer on the list to the right of this article.

The benefits to which you are entitled are earned by your service to our country, but some of these benefits can expire. To ensure you are able to take advantage of these earned benefits, please contact your accredited veterans service officer as soon as possible. And, please encourage your fellow vets to do the same.

VETERANS EAT FOR FREE AT APPLEBEE'S

In recognition of service to our country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants on Veterans Day, November 11.

Applebee's launched a pilot program last year on Veterans Day offering free entrees to military service personnel and veterans. Applebee's is extending the invitation throughout the country this year.

All U.S. veterans and active duty military with proof of current or former military service can eat free at all Applebee's nationwide on November 11 in celebration of Veterans Day.

Proof of service includes: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, photograph in uniform or wearing uniform.

For details, visit: www.applebees.com/vetsday

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker	541-523-8223	Jane Chandler
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	Angela Gilley
Curry	866-298-0404	Frank Van Meter
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	Anne Lessar
Hood River	541-386-1080	Mike Benedict
Jackson	541-774-8214	Renee Burgdorf
Jefferson	541-475-5228	Tom Weiss
Josephine.....	541-474-5454	Lisa Shipley
Klamath	541-883-4274	Kathy Pierce
Lake	541-947-6043	G. Don Boone
Lane	541-682-4191	Joseph Reiley
Lincoln	541-574-6955	John Reed
Linn	800-319-3882	Kim Grooms
Malheur	541-889-6649	Bill Thomson
Marion.....	503-373-2085	ODVA
Morrow	877-999-8387	Juanita Cox
Multnomah	503-988-3620, Ext. 26123	Katie Pereault
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	Linda McIntyre
Wasco	888-804-1817	Mike Benedict
Washington	503-846-3060	Doug MacEllven
Wheeler.....	800-982-1172	Paul Conway
Yamhill	503-434-7503	Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771	Greg Demarais
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087	Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	Vacant
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	Jennifer Burt
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	Jessica Garcelon Leah Rickert Mitch Sparks Gina Thomas Jerry Wilson Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777	Deanna Erhardt Linda McMillan Ed Van Dyke

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nanci L. Visser 13934 NW Meadowridge Dr. Portland, OR 97229 503-614-8463	Eugene J. LaBonte, Chair 8825 Hebo Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347 503-879-5342	Joseph R. Howell 1780 NW Valley View Drive Albany, OR 97321 541-990-4176
Kevin J. Owens 2249 Commercial North Bend, OR 97459 541-756-2390	Gerard F. Lorang 3914 SW Hewett Boulevard Portland, OR 97221-3103 971-404-5154	David Fairclo 20751 Amber Way Bend, OR 97701-8510 541-382-8281
Irv Fletcher 1272 Mayanna Drive Woodburn, OR 97071 503-981-4356	Tino E. Ornelas 22504 SW Riggs Road Beaverton, OR 97007-8467 503-844-9000	Charles E. Schmidt PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

Quarterly 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.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
700 Summer Street NE
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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...

WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY



VETS NEWS

www.oregon.gov/odva

Jim Willis, Director

November / December 2009

Address Changes / New Subscriptions

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City/ State/ Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/ State /Zip: _____

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

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...

WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY



VETS NEWS

www.oregon.gov/odva

November / December 2009
Jim Willis, Director

COMBAT-WOUNDED OIF VETERAN PENS BOOK ON CHRONIC PAIN

By Tom Mann

His life changed in a flash – literally.

It was November 2004 and the Marines were in the early stages of the second battle of Fallujah, Iraq. Insurgents had re-established themselves in the city and the Marines were once again sent to root them out.

Navy Corpsman Derek McGinnis was with the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance (LAR) Battalion manning an ambulance that was simply a non-armored Humvee equipped to carry four litters. With an M-16 in one hand and a radio in the other, the call crackled over the radio that there were wounded. "Okay, let's go guys, we've got casualties," McGinnis told his team and they raced into the battle.

Another call came quickly that a light armored vehicle (LAV) also had been hit with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). As McGinnis tells it, "I had just turned to tell my driver to speed up when - BOOM – we got blown up."

Nobody in his Humvee saw the Mercedes laden with explosive coming at them. The Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) rammed its target and McGinnis' life would never be the same.

According to the Corpsman, he has no memory of the next six weeks. He would awake to learn he lost his left leg, amputated above the knee; he had a traumatic brain injury (TBI), as well as damage to his right eye and shrapnel wounds throughout his body. Torn up by steel and fire, the 11-year Navy veteran would begin a journey of pain and recovery that would test his courage and spirit.

SEE **McGINNIS** ON PAGE 9

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Stop Loss Retro Pay Page 4
- Veterans Day Events Pages 6/7
- Friends of the Home Page 8
- Military Reunions and Events Page 10
- Veterans' Service Officers Page 11

VA WARNS VETERANS OF NEW TELEPHONE PRESCRIPTION SCAM



WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

"America's Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone."

Veteran Service Organizations have brought to VA's attention that callers are

misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veteran's credit card number.

"VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines," Cross said. "Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation's Veterans."

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA medical center or call, toll-free, 1-877-222-8387.

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