



May | June 2011

Jim Willis, Director

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# VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVE LONG OVERDUE "WELCOME HOME"

SALEM – Long before yellow ribbons and the now-common “Thank you for your service,” a whole generation of courageous and honorable American veterans endured jeers and ridicule for serving their country. Nearly 40 years later, the State of Oregon is giving those veterans the welcome home they never received, but so deeply deserve.

Surrounded by 50 Vietnam veterans, state legislators and Capitol staff, Governor John A. Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 74 into law, designating March 30 of each year as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.”

Acknowledging the wrong done to Vietnam veterans, the Governor noted, “(The bill) is an effort – small, but significant – to rectify that.”

Creating a day to welcome home Vietnam veterans was first proposed in the California State Assembly. After its passage, the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Roger Brautigan, asked his fellow directors across the nation to pass similar legislation. Oregon was one of the first states to draft and pass its own bill. The plan to welcome home Vietnam veterans has been so popular even the United States Senate passed a resolution mirroring those passed by the states.

“Warriors don’t go to war for memorials,” said Vietnam veteran Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “You go to war for the man on your left, the man on your right, the one behind you,” he said.

On March 30, 1973, all United States troops withdrew from Vietnam as per the Treaty of Paris. Saigon fell to the Communist North Vietnamese in April 1975 ending decades of fighting in that country.

Each March 30 will be known as Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day in Oregon – a day when every Oregonian can tell a Vietnam veteran, “Welcome Home and thank you for your service.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICH MCVEY

# OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

PORTLAND—Celebrating its 70th Anniversary, the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) hosted more than 400 people, including seven members of its 1941 original 123rd Observation Squadron (OS), to renew acquaintances and reminisce about times gone by.

Held at the Portland Air Base on April 15, Major Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, and the Oregon Air Guard’s Commander, Brig. Gen. Steve Gregg were among many senior leaders present at the event. Rees praised the original unit members in his remarks.

“You are our heroes. We truly appreciate you, your service and those who have served since 1941. You’re in our hearts forever,” Rees said.

“We’d like to think that we single-handedly won the war,” said Fred Parish, one of the first volunteer members of the 123rd OS who attended the celebration. After a short pause, Parish added, “Well, maybe.”

The squadron’s original members recalled their wartime duty seven decades ago. “We were a bunch of rookies and the powers that be scattered us all

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## Director's Message

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

# ODVA AND STATE LEGISLATURE WORKING TOGETHER TO RECOGNIZE OREGON'S VETERANS

**A**s this edition of the VETS NEWS goes to print, there are approximately 60 days left in the 2011 Oregon Legislative session. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has been monitoring and/or testifying on some 54 bills, memorials or resolutions that affect veterans and their families.

While we are dealing with issues concerning veterans' health, transportation, housing and employment, this session has also dealt with the recognition of the wartime service of our veterans from WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

As you will see in the cover story of this edition, the Governor has signed Senate Bill 74, which created the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" to be celebrated every March 30<sup>th</sup> throughout Oregon. This long overdue tribute to these brave men and women was strongly supported by ODVA and a host of our fellow veterans and organizations.

Also supported by ODVA is Senate Bill 951, which creates the "Korean War Veterans Honor Day" to be celebrated every June 25<sup>th</sup>. Often called the "Forgotten War," the Korean War was also fought by our brave men and women and has resulted in South Korea being one of the strongest democracies and economies in the world.

Additionally, ODVA is supporting House Bill 3416 that establishes the WW II Memorial Task



*Proposed WW II Memorial Rendering*

Force. This bill allows the Task Force to solicit private funding and arrange for the development, design and construction of a memorial to honor Oregon's World War II veterans and those who supported them here at home. To date, the Task Force has been formed, a design has been proposed and work on fund raising has begun. While this memorial is also long overdue, the memorial



on the grounds of the State Capitol will be a fitting tribute to the "Greatest Generation" and all that they did in preserving our freedom and the democratic republic known as the United States of America.

In light of Oregon's economic challenges, I have been impressed with the Legislature's willingness to fund programs important to our veterans and their families. They clearly understand the continuing service by our armed forces personnel and our veterans in maintaining the safety and security of our nation.

As always, my thanks and appreciation goes out to all of you who continue to support our senior veterans at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dallas. The Stan and Jean Adams Community Center at the Home is moving toward completion and I hope many of you will be able to attend the dedication ceremony that we will be announced in the near future.

*Jim Willis*  
Jim Willis, Director

**UYXAT POWWOW GROUNDS**  
**VETERANS POWWOW**  
**JULY 8-10 IN GRAND RONDE**

Tribal leaders invite all veterans, dancers, and the public to be part of this yearly Native American tribute to veterans. Arts, crafts, and food vendors are also welcome.

Free parking and camping is available. No drugs, alcohol or pets are permitted in the arena.

**For more info contact Chris Tinney at**  
**503-883-3610**

*Women Veterans*

**Save the dates!**  
**March 30-31, 2012**

**Oregon Women Veterans Conference 2012**  
Salem Conference Center | Reserve beginning January

**Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs**

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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 June 1, 2011.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles that is intended to show the effects of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the home life of service members and their families here in Oregon.

If you know of a someone whose story should be profiled, please contact ODVA at 503-373-2389 or by email to [vetsnews@odva.state.or.us](mailto:vetsnews@odva.state.or.us).

## ODVA EMPLOYEE'S SON WOUNDED IN COMBAT

By Nicole Hoeft

She was in a daze as she stepped off the plane in Washington D.C. It was a typically humid day in late August in the beltway and all she could think about was that she had to get to her son. She promised him she would be there—that she was coming.

Less than 24 hours before, Mae Wasson was at work at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs when she got a call from her son, Hank. These calls were not at all unusual; Hank practically grew up at the department where Mae has worked for more than 30 years.

U.S. Army Sgt. Hank Wasson was serving in Afghanistan at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Joyce with 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, and from half way around the world, the best place to catch his mom was at work.

Mae knew as soon as she heard his voice something was wrong. It just got worse when Hank asked her to call his dad. In a morphine-induced haze, Hank told his parents that he was hurt and that he was probably going to lose his left leg. He asked his mom to call his wife, Brooke, and then said the words that put a lump in Mae's throat and sent her racing across the country.

"Mom, are you going to be there with me?"

Hank's truck was the lead vehicle in a convoy on a night mission in the Kunar Province of eastern Afghanistan when two Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG) slammed through the driver's side door, blasted through the center console and exited the passenger side door. The second round nearly severed both the driver's and Hank's left legs and the concussion from the blast knocked the crew unconscious. The truck swerved several hundred meters off the road into a cornfield, completely concealing it.

When Hank gained consciousness, the truck was on its side and the doors were jammed. The driver, Private First Class William Boyd, was in pain and Hank knew he needed to get Boyd medical attention. Hank was able to get first himself and then Boyd out of the vehicle, remove his gear, and do an initial assessment of Boyd's injuries. Boyd was in bad shape. Hank placed a tourniquet on the private's leg and applied pressure to try to stop the bleeding, but he had not yet realized the severity of his own injury.

Because his disabled vehicle was out of radio contact, Hank turned on his personal radio and called his platoon sergeant, requesting a medic and to have another squad dismount and establish security. Deep in the cornfield, Hank crawled to the road to mark their location with an infrared strobe light. When Hank saw his platoon approaching, he tried to stand and was nearly run over.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAE WASSON

**Sgt. Hank Wasson stands next to Annette Bergaron, a Physical Therapist at MATC (Military Advanced Training Center) at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. "Dr. Bo" as she is called by her patients, served as Hank's physical therapist for his recovery.**

It was then the 2000 graduate of North Salem High School realized that he, too, was hurt. For some reason, he couldn't stand.

The two casualty assistance officers met Mae and Brooke at the airport in Washington. The officers took them directly to Walter Reed Army Hospital to visit Hank and reassured the women that they would wait for as long as needed. Once their visit was complete, the officers would drive Mae and Brooke to their hotel.

For Mae, this was a gift. In the midst of chaos, there were people to help, and that help didn't stop the entire time Hank was recovering.

"You're out of your element. These organizations, from Soldier's Angels, to Wounded Warriors, to the Yellow Ribbon Program, and even the Warriors Transition Program liaison officers, they were truly angels," Mae said of the help she and her family received from the very beginning their stay.

"It was such a comfort to have them to assist you, to know that you have somewhere to go – someone to talk to."

A whole battalion of unseen volunteers continued to support Hank during his stay. Mae recalls that small but important things would quietly appear in Hank's room during the next six months; a duffel bag with socks and t-shirts, shaving kits, shorts and underwear. After his surgery in Afghanistan, Hank had been flown to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany where doctors amputated his leg. Later, he was flown to Washington, arriving with nothing but the gown on his back. These donated items, although small, were lifelines to people who knew exactly what Hank needed.

"It seemed like they were always one step ahead of you and always knew exactly what you needed," Mae said. "If one organization had already provided something, then another would fill in the gaps. These volunteers were there day and night, and I mean day and night, and they were always asking, 'Do you need anything? Is there anything that we can do for you?'"

"I don't think there was anything that we could have asked for that they would not have attempted to get for us," she added.

Volunteers would take the family to the store to pick up snacks and food for Hank's two young sons and plan outings for families and soldiers so they could meet others also going through this life-altering experience. For Mae, her husband Frank, Brooke, Hank and the boys these volunteers made the rocky road of recovery much smoother.

Hank Wasson received the Bronze Star Medal with V for Valor on Dec. 5, 2010 for his actions on August 18. President Barack Obama personally visited Hank and his family at Walter Reed spending more than 30 minutes with the young soldier and presented him with a presidential coin.

With two years remaining on his hitch in the Army, Hank has been transferred to Brooke Army Medical in San Antonio, Texas to complete his recovery. He will decide in the next two years if he will continue with a military career.

The circumstances were trying, but Mae is eternally grateful for the experience. She saw first hand that there are good people who make bad situations tolerable; who give silently to others they will never know. And that other mother, wives, and others who may find themselves in her position will be cared for.

"It was a wonderful experience, one that I would not wish on anyone. But since these people were there, we were not totally lost in the shuffle. It was a comfort that we could ask... someone... for help," Mae said. "Most importantly, I want to thank all the staff at ODVA for their support and prayers during this time."

If you would like to help organizations that are helping America's heroes and their families in their greatest time of need, visit Soldier's Angels at [www.soldiersangel.org](http://www.soldiersangel.org), the Wounded Warrior Project at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) and the Yellow Ribbon Program at [www.yellowribbon.mil](http://www.yellowribbon.mil).

# MILITARY CONVENTIONS, REUNIONS AND EVENTS

**American Veterans** will hold their Annual State Convention May 7, at Cascade Timber Building, Sweet Home, OR. Ladies Auxiliary will meet at Sweet Home VFW building. Dinner is available after the meeting.

*For information: Harvey James, 503-868-9051.*

**Disabled American Veterans Department of Oregon** will hold their 89th Annual State Convention May 11-14, at the Liberty Inn and Chinook Winds Casino, Lincoln City, OR.

*For information: Sarah Royce, 541-861-9820, saraheagle51@yahoo.com.*

**American Legion Post 104** will hold a Parking Lot Sale May 13-15, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., at their post, 20325 SW Alexander St., Aloha, OR.

*For information: Post 104, 503-531-9039.*

**Military Order of The Purple Heart and Auxiliary** will hold their 66th Annual Convention June 3-5, at the Holiday Inn, Springfield, OR.

*For information: Gary Hunley, 503-632-1874.*

**American Legion** will hold their 93rd Annual State Convention June 21-25, at Seven Feathers Resort Convention Center, Canyonville, OR.

*For information: Jerry Lorang, 503-685-5006.*

**Veteran of Foreign Wars** will hold their 90th Annual Convention June 23-26, at the Shilo Inn, Newport, OR.

*For information: Wade Woolard, 541-726-5883, www.vfworegon.org.*

**Patriotic Weekend at Volcanoes Stadium** salutes all men and women of the armed forces July 1-3. Fifty-five veterans will be honored on the field, with 45 veterans groups represented.

*For information: Jerry Howard 503-428-5246, j.howard@volcanoesbasball.com.*

**FORE Our Troops** will hold 9th Annual Golf Scramble July 12, at Chehalem Glenn Golf Course, Newberg, OR. For information: Verl Miller, 503-576-0811.

*To register: [www.chelhalemglen.com/fore2011](http://www.chelhalemglen.com/fore2011).*

**196th Light Infantry Brigade** will hold their reunion July 28-30, at the Hilton Bellevue, Bellevue WA.

*For information: Bob Lee, 541-374-8675, [www.196th.org](http://www.196th.org).*

**USS Boston CA-69/CAG-1 and SSN-703** is having a reunion of all Officers, Crew, USMC, and Flag Personnel, July 14-17, in Chicago.

*For information: Arthur Hebert, PO Box 816, Amherst, NH; 603-672-8772; [www.ussboston.org](http://www.ussboston.org)*

**The Wall:** American Veterans Traveling Tribute will be on display July 27-31, in Sutherlin, OR, in Central Park. AVTT is a traveling memorial to honor, respect, and remember those who served, and those who gave their lives in defense of freedom, including Law Enforcement, and Firefighters.

*For information: [www.sutherlintributewall.com](http://www.sutherlintributewall.com).*

**Marine Corp League** will hold their 88th National Convention July 31- Aug. 6, at the Riverside Double Tree Hotel, Boise, ID.

*For information: Art Kilton, 208-440-4057, [www.mcleague.com](http://www.mcleague.com).*

**Disabled American Veterans** will hold their National Convention Aug. 6-9, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA.

*For information: 504-561-0500.*

**Jewish War Veterans** will hold their 116th Annual National Convention Aug. 7-14, at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel, Jacksonville, FL.

*For information: 904-355-6664.*

**The Big Red One** will hold their 93rd reunion at the Adam's Mark Buffalo-Niagara Hotel, New York, NY.

*For information: Society of the 1st Infantry Division, 215-661-1969, [www.1stid.org](http://www.1stid.org).*

**Tribute to Fallen Soldiers** 2nd Annual Motorcycle Ride will be held Aug. 20-21, in Roseburg, OR.

*For information: Warren Williamson, 541-466-3533.*

**USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA 31** will hold their 26th reunion Aug. 25-27, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 919 Kruse Way, Springfield, OR.

*For information: Jim Kosinski, 805-650-9134.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **MORE REUNIONS ON PAGE 8**

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# FORMER WORLD WAR II POW, ODVA DEPUTY DIRECTOR CLINT GRUBER PASSES AWAY

By Mike Allegre

PORTLAND – Former Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Deputy Director Clint Gruber passed away March 12 in Portland. He was 90 years old. Gruber is survived by his wife, Doris of Beaverton; and son, Dwight of Portland.

Born January 17, 1921, Gruber was raised in Silver Lake, a tiny ranching community in the Oregon high desert. While attending Pacific University in 1938, Gruber also enrolled in the Civil Pilot Training Program at the Hillsboro Airport. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor plunged America into World War II, Gruber enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet.

As the co-pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber, Gruber joined the 93rd Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force in England. On November 1, 1943, Gruber's B-24 approached a target near Solingen, Germany when German fighters attacked, knocking out two of the plane's four engines. The surviving crew members bailed out at 18,000. Gruber avoided capture for two days, but was eventually caught and sent to Luft Stalag 1 as a Prisoner of War.

After the war, Gruber returned to Oregon and Pacific University to complete his bachelor's degree. He went on to become a well-known announcer at both Oregon Public Broadcasting and KOIN radio for many years. Gruber also worked as the Executive Director of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, as well as Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. All the while, Gruber remained in the Oregon Air National Guard, retiring in 1972 at the rank of Lt. Col.

Before his death, Gruber penned his autobiography for ODVA's 150 Years of Oregon Veterans book. What follows is an excerpt from that story.

"I was 20 years old and in my junior year at Pacific University in Forest Grove when the war began and I vividly remember hearing the news on a dormitory radio in late morning of that Sunday. The fact that the war had begun was not unexpected. Rumors and suppositions in the press had been going like crazy for some time. But, the Japanese attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor was a surprise.

"Naturally, the news created a vast stirring among the students in the dorm. Many actually went to enlist the next day. I was as eager as any to serve. I was in the middle of the Civilian Pilot Training program (CPT) and I wanted to be an Air Corps pilot. The best way to do that was to finish the CPT program and then enlist as an Aviation Cadet.

"In February I began processing to enlist in the US Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet. I passed all the physical and written tests and on March 13, 1942, I raised my right hand and was sworn in.

"Pre-Flight training at Santa Ana in California lasted 10 weeks and was extremely intensive. This was a time of great stress because everyone wanted to be a pilot. Classification less than that, to many, was tantamount to failure. Finally, the great day came when we graduated from Primary and were ready to move on to Basic School. My mother came all the way from Portland to Roswell by train to attend the graduation ceremony and, as tradition demanded, she pinned on my silver wings. It was a great day—March 10, 1943. I was now 2nd Lt. Clinton A. Gruber, Pilot, U.S. Army Air Corps."

Gruber soon was assigned to a nine-member B-24 Liberator crew. In mid-June Gruber's unit was ordered to report to the 329th Squadron, 93rd Bomb Group, at Hardwick, which is about 65 miles



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GRUBER FAMILY.

**After the war, Gruber went on to become a well-known announcer at both Oregon Public Broadcasting and KOIN radio for many years. Gruber also worked as Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Inset: Gruber as a German prisoner of war in 1943.**

northeast of London, the home for the 93rd-- 'Ted's Traveling Circus.' It was the first B-24 outfit to fly combat missions in the 8th Air Force out of England.

"The morning of the scheduled mission to Solingen, the CQ (Charge of Quarters) came into our hut to roust us at 3 a.m. He opened the door, turned on the light and called, "Up and at 'em! Out of the sack and into the flak! Breakfast at four, briefing at five!"

It was Dec. 1, and this would be the second run at the same target by the 93rd in two days. Their destination, Solingen in the Ruhr Valley. It was the most heavily defended target in Europe.

On the bomb run, Gruber's B-24 came under heavy enemy fire and the surviving crew was forced to bail out. Gruber landed in a snowy field, injuring his leg. After hiding and attempting to find an escape route to locate the French Underground, he spent the very cold night leaning against a tree.

"The next morning I climbed up over the ridge, through dense undergrowth, and emerged into an open field...almost into the arms of my captor—an old man wearing a white walrus mustache. He was as surprised to see me as I was to see him. He pointed the shotgun at me and shouted an order, which I took to mean 'hands up.'

"On the 16th of December 1943, I arrived at Stalag Luft 1, near the small town of Barth on the Baltic Sea, south of Sweden. Snow covered the ground. When we stepped down from the cars we were met by Tommy gun-carrying guards, each with a guard dog on a leash.

"We were each issued two blankets and a pillow, a cup, a fork and spoon and, for each 10 men, a large metal pitcher. With the skimpy German rations, we managed to keep body and soul together for at least the first few months. We were hungry most of the time, but not starving.

"The daily routine in Stalag Luft 1 varied little in the year and a half I was there. Each day at about 8 a.m., no matter the season, the guards opened the shutters and came stomping through the barracks shouting "Roll Call! Roll Call! Raus! Raus!"

"In late winter 1944, the pace of the Allied advances slowed and morale dipped. It hit its lowest point during the Christmas season when the Battle of the Bulge took place. After that, the news got better, but our living conditions became much worse. We began to get new and larger shipments of POW's into our camp.

"In January of 1945 the delivery of Red Cross food parcels almost ceased, and we were reduced to living on German rations alone. For the next four months our diet consisted of black bread, potatoes, rutabagas, carrots, and bits of food from the rare delivery of a food parcel.

"By the first of April, we could begin to hear, faintly but definitely, artillery fire to the east. The Russians were pushing on in their final drive to Berlin. The Senior Allied Officer had received information that Hitler had ordered that all Allied prisoners were to be executed rather than let them fall into Russian or Allied hands. So, a plan had been developed, and a force of infantry-trained POW's organized, to resist any such attempt.

"Apparently, Allied Headquarters was also aware of the threat, because a couple of times British Mosquitoes had flown over the camp at night and dropped leaflets warning the Germans that they would be held accountable for any mistreatment of prisoners.

"On the evening of April 30, the German guards came around at dusk to shutter the windows and lock the doors, just as they always had. Everything was normal. However, sometime during the night, very quietly, all the Germans evacuated the camp and fled west. When we awoke in the morning everyone streamed out of their barracks and gathered in the compounds whooping, hollering, singing, and generally delirious.



2nd. Lt. Gruber

## Beaverton

May 30

**10 a.m.** - 52 piece Northwest American Legion Band playing military music

**11 a.m.** - Main Memorial Program Honor Guard Flag Presentation, POW/MIA ceremony, Southridge High School Choir, V.I.P. speakers

**12:15 p.m.** - The SubVets hold special tolling of the lost submarines event at our USS Albacore Monument located in Beaverton's Veterans Memorial Park.

Located at 7th & Watson St. in Beaverton.

Contact: [Marv Doty, 503-644-0350, marvdoty@comcast.net](mailto:MarvDoty@comcast.net)

## Canyonville

May 30

**11 a.m.** - Annual Veterans Remembrance Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in front of City Hall. An F-15 flyover has been requested.

Contact: [Chuck Spindel, 541-839-4645](mailto:ChuckSpindel@541-839-4645)

## Coos Bay

May 28

**11 a.m.** - The 26th annual Memorial Day parade in downtown Coos Bay is getting bigger and better each year. We have the parade rain or shine everyone is welcome.

Located at 4th and Golden and throughout downtown Coos Bay.

Contact: [Bill Kehler, 541-888-6556, oldfossil137@yahoo.com](mailto:BillKehler@541-888-6556)

May 30

**7 a.m.** - Amvets Post 10 places flag's Sunset Memorial Cemetery at 7 a.m. and Ocean View Memorial Cemetery at 8 a.m. to honor veterans that have served this country and have gone on before us.

**4 p.m.** - A Memorial at Ocean View Cemetery to honor veterans.

Contact: [Gene Melton, 541-290-4222](mailto:GeneMelton@541-290-4222)

## Corvallis

May 30

**2 p.m.** - Memorial Day Program to be held at the Benton County Veterans Memorial on the south lawn of the National Guard Armory. This program will be paying tribute to those who have passed on. Families and friends take part and the event is open to the public. A flyover has been requested. There will be speeches, music and time for reflections. Cake and punch served following the program. In case of inclement weather the program will move inside the Armory.

Located at 1100 NW 11th, Corvallis.

Contact: [Les Whittle, 541-752-3222](mailto:LesWhittle@541-752-3222)

## Dallas

May 30

**11 a.m.** - A display of over 500 full size American Flags, each with a deceased veteran's name. A patriotic program featuring music by the Dallas High School choir and echo taps. Dallas area Boy and Girl Scouts will also participate. Special speaker will be CW4 (Ret.) Jerry W. Carlson. Carlson served with the Corps of Engineers in Kabul, Afghanistan. Seating is outdoors at the Dallas Cemetery.

Located at Dallas Cemetery, 2065 SW Fairview, Dallas.

Contact: [Dewayne Thiessen, 503-623-4380](mailto:DewayneThiessen@503-623-4380) or [Al Ratzlaff, 503-623-2591](mailto:AlRatzlaff@503-623-2591)



# Memorial Day

## Depoe Bay

May 30

**11 a.m.** - A brief ceremony at the bay front, those in attendance board the flower-bedecked vessels of the local fishing fleet. The boats pass under the Depoe Bay Bridge to the open ocean where the flowers from all the boats are cast upon the water in memory of those who have lost their lives at sea and of the valiant men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their lives in the service of freedom. Hundreds of people line the bridge and the town seawall to watch.

Located at Depoe Bay Harbor Front - foot of Coast Guard Avenue.

Contact: [Phil Taunton, 541-765-2261](mailto:PhilTaunton@541-765-2261)

## Eugene

May 30

**9 a.m.** - Mt. Calvary Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, at 300 Mary Lane.

**12 p.m.** - Lane Memorial Gardens Memorial Day Ceremony, at 5300 West 11th Ave.

**2 p.m.** - West Lawn Memorial Park & Funeral Home Memorial Day Ceremony, at 225 S. Danebo Ave.

Contact: [Dee Harbison, 541-686-2818](mailto:DeeHarbison@541-686-2818)

**11 a.m.** - Memorial Day Ceremonies at Pioneer Cemetery at 18th & University Ave., hosted by American Legion Post 3.

Contact: [Bob Potter, 541-338-4074](mailto:BobPotter@541-338-4074)

## Forest Grove

May 30

**11 a.m.** - Avenue of Flags (100+ burial flags), Guest speaker is Ed Landauer Capt. US Navy (Ret.). Color Guard from the Oregon Army National Guard, 218<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. A flyover has been requested.

Located at Forest View Cemetery, 1161 Pacific Ave.

Contact: [Jim Craig, 503-357-3660](mailto:JimCraig@503-357-3660)

## Hillsboro

May 30

**11 a.m.** - Hillsboro American Legion will hold their annual ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery.

Contact: [Robert Liebenow, 503-649-9250](mailto:RobertLiebenow@503-649-9250)

## Independence

May 30

**8 a.m.** - Honoring our veterans and their service to our country.

Located at Veteran's Memorial at Riverfront Park.

Contact: [Douglas Birge, 503-510-6637](mailto:DouglasBirge@503-510-6637)

## Klamath Falls

May 30

**6:30 a.m.** - Sunrise Service at Klamath Memorial Cemetery, Memorial Drive.

**10 a.m.** - Annual parade sponsored by American Legion Post 8, Main Street to Veterans Park.

**11 a.m.** - Memorial Day Ceremony sponsored by VFW Post 1383 at Veterans Park.

**12 p.m.** - Open house at the VFW post located at 515 Klamath Ave.

Contact: [Michael Reynolds, 541-891-5749](mailto:MichaelReynolds@541-891-5749), e-mail-adam\_3@q.com

## Lebanon

May 30

**7 a.m.** - More than 470 burial flags on display at the Lebanon IOOF Cemetery, north end of Lebanon on the east side of Highway 20.

Contact: [Fred Schafer, 541-258-7453](mailto:FredSchafer@541-258-7453)

**10 a.m.** - Memorial Day Program at Lebanon IOOF Cemetery. 1,300 small U.S. flags and crosses are placed on every veterans grave, wreaths are put on the Memorial walls. Guest speaker and 21-Gun Salute.

Contact: [Ray Johnson, 541-451-1351](mailto:RayJohnson@541-451-1351)

## Malin

May 30

**7 a.m.** - Annual Malin Memorial Day breakfast; pancakes, sausage and eggs.

\$7.50 per person or \$20 per family. Breakfast is followed by a Post everlasting ceremony to honor all our deceased veterans. Proceeds go to American Legion Post 84 to support various veteran and community needs.

Located at Malin Community Hall.

Contact: [Dennis Chabot, 541-723-2110](mailto:DennisChabot@541-723-2110)

## Molalla

May 30

**10 a.m.** - Annual Ceremony at Adams Cemetery, 32840 S. Adams Cemetery Rd., hosted by VFW Post 3973.

Contact: [Ron Jagodnik, 503-824-3973](mailto:RonJagodnik@503-824-3973)

## Pendleton

May 30

**9 a.m.** - A service to honor all vets - specifically those KIA in the major wars from this area. This service will feature a men's choir singing patriotic songs and a medley of military songs. The auxiliary will place floral tributes for each of the wars.

Located at Veterans Memorial Garden, 131 SE Byers Ave.

Contact: [Tom Tangney, 541-276-0464](mailto:TomTangney@541-276-0464)

# Day Events 2011



## Portland

**May 27 - May 30**

**1:30 p.m.** - In only its third year, the Portland Rose Festival Memorial Day Weekend is growing into one of Oregon's largest celebrations honoring veterans and those who still serve. The Rose Festival's City Fair admission is free to all veterans, reservists, active military and their legal dependents with valid Military ID.

Portland Rose Festival Memorial Day attractions and activities include:

**May 27 - May 30** - Visit the Danner Tribute Wall to post pictures and notes to honor all veterans, living or fallen, and all service personnel currently serving.

**May 30 - 1:30 p.m.** - Danner Memorial Day March down Naito Parkway from the Burnside Bridge south to Salmon Springs Fountain.

**May 30 - 2:15 p.m.** - Commemoration Ceremony on the Main Stage in the RoZone (located in Tom McCall Waterfront Park next to Salmon Springs Fountain) includes tributes to all branches of service.

**May 30 - 3 p.m.** - Recognized by the White House as an official National Moment of Remembrance, a moment of silence followed by a military jet flyover and 21-cannon salute.

Located at Downtown Portland - Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

Contact: [Laura Mears, 503-227-2681, LauraM@RoseFestival.org](mailto:LauraM@RoseFestival.org),  
Web: [www.rosefestival.org/events/memorialday](http://www.rosefestival.org/events/memorialday)

**May 30**

**10 a.m.** - Reading of the names of 803 Oregon servicemen who died as a direct result of combat in Vietnam and are listed on the Oregon's Living Vietnam Memorial's granite walls.

**11:15 a.m.** - Annual ceremony recognizing and honoring the service of more than 57,000 servicemembers in Vietnam. Guest speakers Col. (Ret.) Larry Brown and Col. (Ret.) Carol Brown.

Located at 4022 SW Canyon Rd., Portland.

Contact: [Ron Cannon, 503-819-4228](mailto:RonCannon@PortlandRoseFestival.org)

## Reedsport

**May 27 - 30**

**12 p.m.** - Memorial Day parade on Monday featuring United States Marine Band from Southern California. The Marine Band gives concerts in various locations throughout the 3-day celebration.

Located at Bedrock Cafe, 1265 Winchester Ave., Reedsport.

Contact: [Ken Deacon, 541-271-3727](mailto:KenDeacon@Reedsport.com)

## Roseburg

**May 30**

**11 a.m.** - The Memorial Day Tribute will begin with presentation of the colors by Roseburg High School JROTC. The National Anthem will be sung by Maddie Bright, daughter of PFC Dean Bright, who was KIA in Iraq and lays at rest at the Roseburg National Cemetery. Local veteran service organizations will present their service flags and a wreath. Gun salute by VFW District #12 Honor Guard.

Located at Roseburg National Cemetery, 1779 W. Harvard Ave.

A barbeque will follow at the Stewart Park Pavilion.

Contact: [Dodie Blessing, 541 459-1512](mailto:DodieBlessing@Roseburg.com) or [Rick Sciapiti, 541-670-1057](mailto:RickSciapiti@Roseburg.com)

## Salem

**May 30**

**11 a.m.** - The First Annual Commemorative Ceremony "Oregon Remembers." The event will honor those who have given their lives for freedom. The event is family friendly and children are welcome.

Located at 201 Oak Grove Road NW, Salem.

Contact: [Glenn, 503-585-1373](mailto:Glenn@OregonRemembers.org) or email: [glenn@oregonremembers.org](mailto:glenn@oregonremembers.org)

**May 30**

**2 p.m.** - Annual Ceremony at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial. Speaker will be Val Conley, Acting Deputy Director of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Names of Oregon KIA's of these two wars are inscribed into the Memorial's wall and will be read during the ceremony.

Located on the ODVA grounds, 700 Summer Street NE.

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

## Scappoose

**May 30**

**10:30 a.m.** - There will be a guest speaker from the Department of Oregon VFW. A rifle salute by B. Co., 1/186 Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard unit from St. Helens and a flyover have been requested. Located at 52469 SE 2nd Street, Scappoose.

Contact: [Ronald A. Urban, 503-543-7482](mailto:RonaldA.Urban@Scappoose.com)

## Sisters

**May 30**

**11 a.m.** - The ceremony's featured speaker will be Tina Thissen from The Netherlands, and will speak about citizens who have cared for the U.S. graves at the Netherlands American Cemetery in the village of Margraten.

The ceremony will be followed by a BBQ and drawing of the winning raffle ticket for a Flanders Field quilt. Located at Village Green Park in Sisters.

Contact: [Gene Hellickson, 541-480-8638](mailto:GeneHellickson@Sisters.com)

## Springfield

**May 30**

**10 a.m.** - Memorial Day ceremony at Springfield Memorial Gardens & Funeral Home, 7305 Main Street.

Contact: [Gene Drake, 541-746-5311](mailto:GeneDrake@SpringfieldMemorial.com)

## The Dalles

**May 30**

The following events will be taking place.

**8:30 a.m.** - Wreath Laying, Boat Basin Rd.

**9:30 a.m.** - Ceremony at Three Mile Cemetery, 2565 Three Mile Rd.

**10:15 a.m.** - Ceremony at Pioneer Cemetery, Scenic Dr.

**11 a.m.** - Ceremony at Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1100 W. 18th

**11:45 a.m.** - Ceremony at Kelly View Point, Sorosis Park

**2 p.m.** - Ceremony held at the Oregon Veterans' Home in which Congressmen Greg Walden will be speaking.

Located at 700 Veterans Drive, The Dalles.

Contact: [Vandee Mauser, 541-993-4300](mailto:VandeeMauser@TheDalles.com)

## Tualatin

**May 30**

**11 a.m.** - Flags will be placed on all veteran's graves. Event to include patriotic speeches, bugler, honor guard and a flyover has been requested.

Located on Tualatin Road, west of Tualatin Country Club.

Contact: [Dale Potts, 503 692-1832](mailto:DalePotts@Tualatin.com)

## Vernonia

**May 30**

**11 a.m.** - The ceremony will begin with a prayer by the Chaplain and the Master of ceremonies will talk about the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance. There will be several songs followed by a flag raising. The Honor Guard will provide a three round gun salute, followed by Taps.

Located at 2080 Bridge Street, Vernonia.

Contact: [Synda Allen, 503-708-8093](mailto:SyndaAllen@Vernonia.com) or [Bill Shields, 503-649-5099](mailto:BillShields@Vernonia.com)

## Wasco

**May 30**

**10 a.m.** - A Memorial Ceremony begins at the Historic Train Depot with the annual parade to follow, starting at Clark and Fulton Streets. After the parade, food vendors and seating areas will be available.

Contact: [Geneva Sutton, 541-442-8559](mailto:GenevaSutton@Wasco.com)

## Woodburn

**May 30**

**10 a.m.** - Annual Memorial Day services will take place at Belle Passi Cemetery, 997 Belle Passi Cemetery Rd.

Contact: [Dan Evers, 503-981-1470](mailto:DanEvers@Woodburn.com)



# THANK YOU!

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 Mary Louise Kelley  
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 Sally Krahmer  
 Jim Kyles  
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 Phillip and Debra McClaughry  
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 Port of Hood River  
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 Marilyn Sarsfield  
 Kelly F. Scott  
 Patricia Shumway  
 Herman and Elaine Smith  
 Myrle Smith  
 St. Helens Elks Lodge #1999  
 Les and Cheri Sweeney  
 Ken and Inge Thomas  
 Everett and Mary Trevor  
 Tualatin Valley Quilt Guild  
 U.S. Army Reserve Officers Assn.  
 —Marion Chapter  
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 VETERAN License Plates  
 Veterans Care Centers of Oregon  
 VFW Ladies Auxiliary  
 —Santiam Canyon #5638  
 VFW Post #1643  
 VFW Post #661 Ladies Auxiliary  
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 Elizabeth Myers  
 West Coast Airborne Assn.  
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 Women of the Moose  
 —Chapter 1494  
 Virginia Wood  
 William Wright  
 Barbara Wright

**USNR Midshipmen's School** will hold their reunion Sept. 25-30, in Los Angeles, CA.

*For information: Ken Boyd, 405-570-6421, yn-  
 nek7301@gmail.com.*

**Oregon State Military Officers Association** will hold their bi-annual convention Oct. 8, at the Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR.

*For information: John Stensland, 503-362-8715.*

**USS Clinton APA-144** will hold their 18th annual reunion Oct. 10-14, in Orlando, FL.

*For information: Duncan Atkinson, 409-945-6148.*

**Oregon Women Veterans** meet the 1st Thursday monthly, 6:00 p.m. for a potluck gathering, all women veterans welcome at the Heeran Center Building, 2222 Coburg Rd., Eugene, OR.

*For information: Sonja Fry, 541-607-7428.*

**American Legion Post 75** meet the 1st Saturday monthly for a Fundraiser Breakfast, 7:00- 12:00, at Post 75, 125 N. Bridge St., Sheridan, OR.

*For information: Jim Gordon, 503-843-3773.*

**Veterans of Underage Military Service** meet the 1st Friday monthly, at Farmhouse Restaurant, 3612 SE 82nd Av., Portland, OR. at 10:30 a.m.

*For information: Willie Paradise, 503-665-1739.*

**Vietnam Veteran 25th Infantry Division & 1st Air CAV** veterans meet the 2nd Tuesday monthly, at Superking Buffet, 5105 SE 82nd Ave., Portland. All veterans are welcome to meet for lunch and conversation.

*For information: Gary Hartt, 503-632-6955.*

Submit reunion information to:  
 ODVA c/o Public Information  
 700 Summer St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301-1285  
 Online form: [www.oregon.gov/odva/info/events](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/info/events)  
 Email: Sue Shaffer, [shaffes@odva.state.or.us](mailto:shaffes@odva.state.or.us)  
 Fax: 503-373-2362

*Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund are deeply appreciated. The generosity of the ever-growing number of Friends of the Home continue to provide life enriching experiences to the veterans who call the Veterans' Home home. To become a Friend of the Home, use the gift form below. Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you again to those who contributed during the months of February and March 2011.*



## OREGON VETERANS' HOME GIFT FORM

When you gift \$35-\$64 receive an Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pin.

Gift \$65-\$99 and receive two pins.

Gift \$100 or more and receive a listing on the Wall of Gratitude and two pins.

Please make checks payable to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

Send donations to:  
 Oregon Veterans' Home  
 c/o ODVA  
 700 Summer St. NE  
 Salem, OR 97301

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Oregon Veterans' Home

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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*Thank you for supporting the place where honor lives!*

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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.

**Stacey Monroe**

**Robert Zafran**

**Barbara Wright**

**Gerald Perrone**

**Don and Edith McDaniel**

**Elizabeth Myers**

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



## SMALL GESTURE OFFERS BIG RETURNS Take a Soldier Fishing Day To Be Held June 4 at Haag Lake

It's a small gesture, but sometimes small gestures have big returns, which is the goal of the Combat Warrior Crisis Network which will host its second annual Take a Soldier Fishing Day on Saturday, June 4 at Henry Haag Lake near Forest Grove.

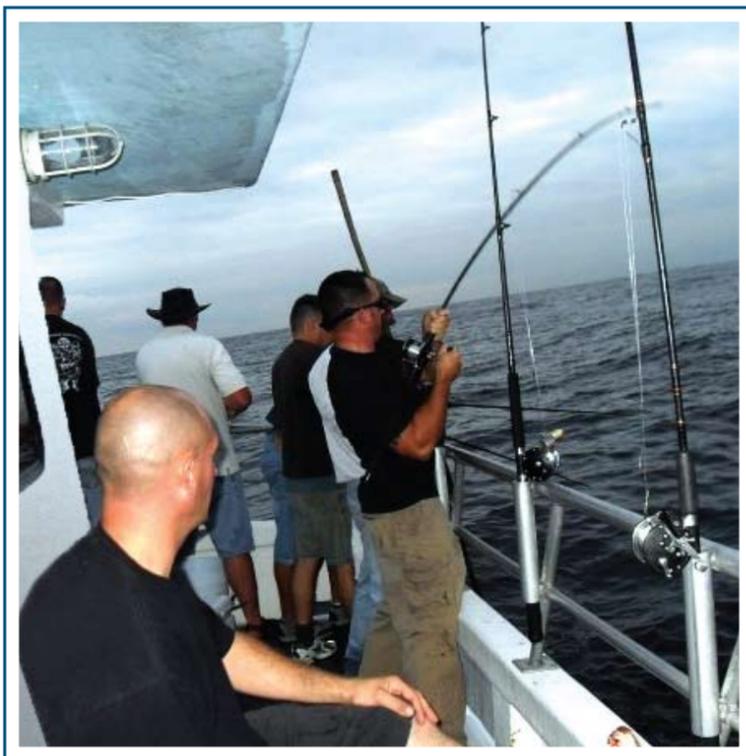
"We assist communities at large, by offering them the ability to show their support for the troops by sponsoring our Take A Soldier Fishing program," according to the Network. "This allows service members to see just how much they are appreciated. For those that serve to support our fishing program, it gives the individual the ability to see how their support makes a profound difference in a service member or veterans life by providing a safe and positive outdoor experience."

Volunteers will be launching their boats with soldiers aboard for a couple hours of trolling for trout or casting for bass and pan fish. Fishing from the shore is also a great way to spend the day.

The event will be available to more than 80 participants, which includes family members. A valid Military ID card or DD214 must be presented upon arrival.

The Network is raising funds to offset the cost of the event. If unable to raise funds, there may be an entry fee, as well as a one-day angling license fee for participants 14 years old or older.

Coordinator Jack Morby said they also need volunteers to help with set-up, check-in, provide



*The Take A Soldier Fishing program makes a profound difference in a service member or veterans life by providing a safe and positive outdoor experience.*

information to participants, serve lunch, and clean-up.

To register for the event, please visit their website at: [www.takeasoldierfishing.org](http://www.takeasoldierfishing.org)

The lake is located in Scoggins Park, 50250 S.W. Scoggins Valley Road. To volunteer, donate or for registration assistance, please contact Morby at 503-704-1842, or email: [morby517@aol.com](mailto:morby517@aol.com).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEMORIAL CLEAN-UP

The Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial Fund, Inc. is seeking volunteers for its annual Memorial Day clean-up day on Sat., May 21, at 8 a.m. to dusk.

Individual and service organization volunteers are needed to help with beautification of the grounds in preparation of Memorial Day. The Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 30 starting at 10 a.m. with the reading of the names.

The Memorial is located next to the World Forestry Center and across the street from the Portland Metro Zoo in Washington Park. Volunteers should bring a pair of work gloves and hand tools. Food will be provided. For more information call Jerry Pero at 503-266-1686 or 503-866-3990.

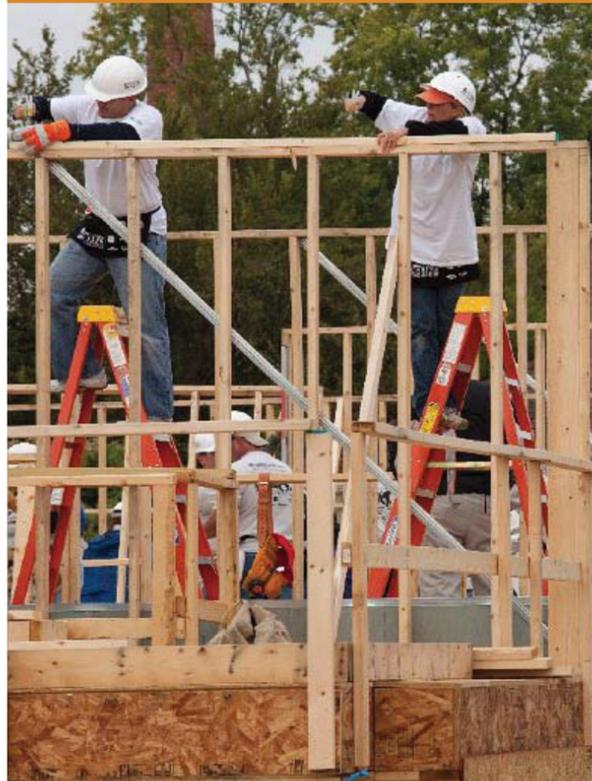
**HIPAA Statement**

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.

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:

- \* ODVA's website at [www.oregon.gov/odva](http://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.

# Mid-Willamette Valley Build for veterans



## Nominate a veteran family today!

Habitat for Humanity prides itself on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. And that includes veterans.

The Willamette Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity is seeking veterans to apply for a special home build in the Salem-Keizer area planned for August 2011.

"There is a need in the veteran community and we have not seen them in the application pool," said Susan Marthaller, Director of Resource Development and Communications for Habitat. "Just helping people to get a roof and a door isn't enough. The home is a starting place, a building block for the family to change situations in their lives," she explained.

Habitat needs nominations of veteran families that may need a hand up as well as volunteers to help in rolls ranging from construction to the year long mentoring program that each recipient family receives as a part of their new home package.

To find out more about this build and the qualifications for a home, contact Habitat at the number below.



Nominate a family, volunteer or donate.  
**503-364-6642**

# BLUMENAUER: TREAT MST AND PTSD EQUALLY

WASHINGTON DC – Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer has joined 22 of his congressional colleagues in a letter to United States Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki asking that evidentiary standards be relaxed for proving Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for victims of Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

In July 2010, Shinseki implemented new PTSD rules for veterans serving in combat zones, making it easier for veterans to win disability claims. Blumenauer praised the Secretary for this action. “Your decision to relax evidentiary standards for veterans who suffer from combat-related PTSD and file claims for disability benefits is but one example of your commitment to your fellow veterans.”

Blumenauer and his colleagues are asking the Secretary to do the same for victims of MST. “As you are aware, many victims of Military Sexual Trauma have a very difficult time finding documentation confirming the traumatic events for a variety of reasons,” the letter notes. “We respectfully request you change VA regulations to ensure the victims of Military Sexual Trauma who suffer from PTSD have the same eligibility requirements in order to receive the disability benefits we owe them.”

Should the Secretary standardize the evidentiary requirements for PTSD in combat veterans and MST victims, those suffering from PTSD would be awarded disability compensation if a VA psychiatrist diagnosed the PTSD and connected it to the veterans traumatic experience. Previously, veterans would have to provide evidence that their diagnosis of PTSD had a nexus to specific traumatic events that could be documented.

“We have a responsibility to ensure that the wounds from a veteran’s service are taken care of,” the letter concludes. Congressman Blumenauer also is a sponsor of House Resolution 930, which amends title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder or mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

## PTSD SMART PHONE APP

WASHINGTON – Veterans dealing with symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can turn to their smart phones for help anytime with the PTSD Coach application created by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense.

“This is about giving Veterans and Servicemembers the help they earned when and where they need it,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We hope they, their families and friends, download this free app. Understanding PTSD and those who live with it is too important to ignore.”

PTSD Coach lets users track their PTSD symptoms, links them with local sources of support, provides accurate information about PTSD, and teaches helpful individualized strategies for managing PTSD symptoms at any moment. The free PTSD Coach app is now available for download from the iTunes store and will be available for Android devices by the end of the spring.

# DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAULA BROWN RETIRES FROM ODVA

She had a special place in her heart for the Merchant Marines, Ex-POWs, World War II veterans and all who served their country. For 13 years, Paula Brown was dedicated to serving these veterans in both big and small ways.

Surrounded by more than 40 current and former colleagues, the former Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs was honored for that commitment during her retirement party on March 31.

Brown, an Army veteran, began her career at ODVA as a front desk receptionist in the Salem claims and counseling office. During the next five years, she was promoted to the Public Information Section first as a Public Affairs Specialist and then as the Public Information Manager. Director Jim Willis promoted her to Deputy Director in 2003, a position she continued to hold until her retirement.

“I am very proud of the work we do and I appreciate you for making that possible,” she told the overflow crowd. “My family and I have exciting things planned for the future and will always be grateful for the opportunity to have served Oregon veterans and their families. It has truly been an honor,” Brown said.

Director Willis thanked Brown for her years of hard work, loyal and professional service to the agency and her deep concern for Oregon veterans. “There is no stronger relationship in an agency than that of the Director and his Deputy,” he said.



**Director Jim Willis presents former Deputy, Paula Brown with the Director’s Commendation award at her retirement ceremony on March 31 at ODVA.**

Veterans Services Division Administration Val Conley has been selected by Willis as the Acting Deputy Director until he announces his permanent selection in June.

## I Got Mine!

**Military service graphic license plates are available for your vehicle.**

A Technical Analyst at ODVA, Brent Koester (US Navy), has worked in service to veterans since 2001.

*“I chose to use a Veterans plate because I have pride in my nation and my time in service. Serving in the military was one of the best experiences of my life and led to many more experiences.*”

*I still have friends from my time in service that I keep in touch with on a regular basis and they will be close friends for the rest of my life. I chose the license plate displaying the South West Asia medal as this is the Medal for Desert Storm which is the war I served in.”*

The new graphic plates also support the Oregon Veterans’ Home. Just visit your local DMV office and ask how you can get one of the new veteran license plates for your automobile.

Contact ODVA for more information: 1-800-828-8801

[www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva)

# SENATOR WYDEN CHALLENGES DOD POLICY

PORTLAND – Believing the Department of Defense is misapplying the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) law for Oregon National Guard soldier and airmen, United States Senator Ron Wyden has written a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates asking him to review the law and implement it correctly.

TAMP provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits via TRICARE to help certain uniformed services members and their families transition to civilian life. TAMP benefits begin when the service member leaves active duty.

However, Wyden has learned that the Department of Defense is starting the 180 TAMP period for Oregon National Guard service members while they still are on active duty, recovering from injuries incurred during their deployments at Warrior Transition Units (WTU).

“Because the clock on their TAMP benefits is running while they are still on active duty, if a soldier stays in the WTU more than 180 days, the soldier goes home with no TAMP benefit,” Wyden writes. “I believe this is contrary to the law, and is certainly contrary to Congress’ intent in passing the law.”

The letter insists that DoD revise regulations to properly reflect that TAMP benefits begin when a servicemember is released from active duty and not from a particular active duty deployment, so that TAMP benefits do not run concurrent with recovery at a WTU.

“It is inexcusable that these servicemembers are being denied the benefits they have earned through their sacrifice,” Wyden tells Gates, indicating he is looking for a “swift” response to the matter.

## ORANG FROM PAGE 1

over the world,” Parish said. He was a medical specialist and flight surgeon’s assistant who spent most of his time overseas in Calcutta, India.

Another original member at the event, Fred Hill joined the unit after it was formed. After World War II began, “I was assigned as a still photographer in a B-25 photo reconnaissance outfit in the South Pacific.”

It wasn’t flying that drew Ben Olbrich to the ORANG he recalled during the celebration. He wound up in The Philippines. “I was interested in mechanics. I was going to get drafted, and wanted to go with my buddy,” he said. “I became a crew chief for P-38 fighters.”

Oregon’s Air National Guard was created with a short, official request from former Jantzen Swimwear Executive and Washington reservist Maj. G. Robert Dodson. “We’ve got people, we’ve got a place, and we’re ready!” Dodson wrote to the National Guard Bureau. This launched the 123rd Observation Squadron with its initial 117 men.

That unit would become the first to conduct aerial surveillance of America’s coastline following the attacks on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The reconnaissance aircraft unit was federally activated under different unit designations and served in the China-Burma theatre. Others would serve in Europe and stateside. After the war, the unit regrouped as the 123rd Fighter Squadron.

By 1946, the ever-expanding squadron was redesignated as the 142nd Fighter Group and, in 1951, was mobilized in support of the Korean War. In 1953 the 142nd developed and ever-increasing air defense mission through the intervening Cold War years, eventually becoming a fighter wing in 1995.

Today, the ORANG has more than 2,200 members who comprise the 142nd Fighter Wing and Combat Operations Group based in Portland, the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, and a headquarters unit in Salem.

## 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
.....	503-650-5768	Rick Rutherford
Clatsop .....	866-325-2429	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	Bryan Hunt
Grant .....	541-575-1631	Bob Muenchausen
Harney.....	541-573-1342	Guy McKay
Hood River .....	541-386-1080	Lester Logsdon
Jackson .....	541-774-8214	Renee Burgdorf
Jefferson .....	541-475-5228	Patricia White
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	Connie Tanaka
Marion.....	503-373-2085	ODVA
Morrow .....	877-999-8387	Linda Skendzel
Multnomah .....	503-988-3620, Ext. 25005	Katie Pereault
Polk .....	503-373-2085	ODVA
Sherman .....	541-565-3408	Bryan Hunt
Tillamook .....	503-842-4358	Steve Weld
Umatilla .....	541-278-5482	Peggy Raines
Union .....	541-962-8802	Byron Whipple
Wallowa .....	541-426-3155, Ext. 241	Linda McIntyre
Wasco .....	888-804-1817	Lester Logsdon
Washington .....	503-846-3051	Eric Belt
Wheeler.....	800-982-1172	Bryan Hunt
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	Robert Lougee
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 Donna Hunt Linda McMillan Russell Snow Ed Van Dyke

Campus Service Officers	Telephone Number	Service Officer
.....	503-373-2186	Dave Cooley (Manager)
Portland State University .....	503-559-3247	Bill Seaton
Oregon State University .....	503-559-3284	Gus Bedwell
University of Oregon .....	503-559-3423	Jim Fitzpatrick
Southern Oregon University .....	503-559-1386	Marty Kimmel
Eastern Oregon University .....	503-559-3460	Martin Ornelas

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Quarterly meetings of the Advisory Committee are held in the 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  
Salem, OR 97301-1285

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**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...**

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**Jim Willis, Director**

**March | April 2011**

## Address Changes / New Subscriptions

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

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

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**NEW ADDRESS:**

ADDRESS AS IT APPEARS NOW:

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

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## VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVE LONG OVERDUE "WELCOME HOME"

**May | June 2011**  
**Jim Willis, Director**

SALEM – Long before yellow ribbons and the now-common “Thank you for your service,” a whole generation of courageous and honorable American veterans endured jeers and ridicule for serving their country. Nearly 40 years later, the State of Oregon is giving those veterans the welcome home they never received, but so deeply deserve.

Surrounded by 50 Vietnam veterans, state legislators and Capitol staff, Governor John A. Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 74 into law, designating March 30 of each year as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.”

Acknowledging the wrong done to Vietnam veterans, the Governor noted, “(The bill) is an effort – small, but significant – to rectify that.”

Creating a day to welcome home Vietnam veterans was first proposed in the California State Assembly. After its passage, the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Roger Brautigam, asked his fellow directors across the nation to pass similar legislation. Oregon was one of the first states to draft and pass its own bill. The plan to welcome home Vietnam veterans has been so popular even the United States Senate passed a resolution mirroring those passed by the states.

“Warriors don’t go to war for memorials,” said Vietnam veteran Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “You go to war for the man on your left, the man on your right, the one behind you,” he said.

On March 30, 1973, all United States troops withdrew from Vietnam as per the Treaty of Paris. Saigon fell to the Communist North Vietnamese in April 1975 ending decades of fighting in that country.

Each March 30 will be known as Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day in Oregon – a day when every Oregonian can tell a Vietnam veteran, “Welcome Home and thank you for your service.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICH MUEY

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“You are our heroes. We truly appreciate you, your service and those who have served since 1941. You’re in our hearts forever,” Rees said.

“We’d like to think that we single-handedly won the war,” said Fred Parish, one of the first volunteer members of the 123rd OS who attended the celebration. After a short pause, Parish added, “Well, maybe.”

The squadron’s original members recalled their wartime duty seven decades ago. “We were a bunch of rookies and the powers that be scattered us all

PORTLAND – Celebrating its 70th Anniversary, the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) hosted more than 400 people, including seven members of its 1941 original 123rd Observation Squadron (OS), to renew acquaintances and reminisce about times gone by.

Held at the Portland Air Base on April 15, Major Gen. Raymond E. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, and the Oregon Air Guard’s Commander, Brig. Gen. Steve Gregg were among many senior leaders present at the event. Rees praised the original unit members in his remarks.

SEE ORANG ON PAGE 11

## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD CELEBRATES 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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