



July / August 2009

Jim Willis, Director

www.oregon.gov/odva

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT HONORS OREGON FALLEN FROM OEF-OIF

Before a crowd of nearly 300 people, four more names of Oregon military members killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom were added to the memorial on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) during a ceremony on May 30.

With more than 30 Patriot Guard Riders each carrying American flags on poles, family members and friends of the fallen gathered around the memorial's pool and statue and observed the honors paid to the fallen.

ODVA Director Jim Willis welcomed the crowd and spoke briefly of the bravery and sacrifice of those killed.

All 113 names on the memorial's granite face were read aloud, including the four new names of Private First Class Cody J. Eggleston, Lance Corporal Robert L. Johnson, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua M. Tillery and Private First Class Richard A. DeWater.

Willis said the memorial will always be a place of reflection for those recalling our servicemen and women who have died in battle, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Each of these fallen heroes volunteered to serve and protect the nation they loved," he said. "We are grateful for their gallant service, and are reminded of that when reading the plaque near the memorial which says, 'All Gave Some, Some Gave All.'"

With the playing of Taps, the ceremony concluded. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski also attended, choosing to blend into the crowd rather than be up front. The Governor met briefly with the families and once again expressed his concern and condolences.

Photo and Story by Mike Allegre

Master Sgt. John Skelton served as bugler during the Memorial Day event at the Afghan/Iraqi Freedom Memorial.

NEW STATE ESGR CHAIR SOUGHT

The Oregon Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is seeking nominations of qualified volunteers to become the organization's new state chairperson. The former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Bill Doctor, will be stepping down in October 2010 after completing two three-year terms as the state's ESGR chair.

The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of federal law, and resolving conflicts through mediation. Educating both employers and employees about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994 helps to guarantee that returning

military members are not discriminated against, disadvantaged and are promptly reemployed in their civilian jobs upon their return from duty.

Doctor has led the volunteer organization with Executive Director Col. (ret.) Bob Elliott since Oct. 2004. He stressed that ESGR's mission has dramatically changed since its beginning in 1972.

"The involvement of the Guard and Reserve has increased more than 60 times since before 9-11, which means that more than any time in history, employers are feeling this overwhelming impact of their employees being away from work to serve in the military," Doctor said.

SEE ESGR ON PAGE 5

IN THIS ISSUE

- Director's Message Page 2
- Vets' Home Receives Donation Page 3
- New Training Facility Page 5
- Uniforms on Display at Capitol Pages 6
- Friends of the Home Page 8
- WWII Pilot's Wings Presented Page 9
- Veterans Service Officers Page 11



Director's Message

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

THE LATEST "GREATEST GENERATION"

Recently while talking with a WW II veteran, he observed that the young men and women who have volunteered to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) should be considered the "latest" greatest generation.

With both apologies and appreciation to author Tom Brokaw, I tend to agree with the WW II veteran when he says that the latest generation to attain greatness is the one currently serving in OIF and OEF.

The recognition and respect paid to these young people is due in part to another generation of American warriors. They are the more than 2.7 million that served in uniform in Vietnam.

There is no need to recount how these great veterans were treated when they came home, Except to say that they were and are determined as a generation of veterans that it will not happen again.

All across our nation at airports, community events and highway escorts, these new veterans are honored for the service and sacrifice they are making for their fellow Americans.

Even as we reach out to thank them, we must also remember those who served with equal honor in places like Korea, Grenada, Panama, the Gulf War and Middle Europe, in both the Cold War and hot wars, and conflicts around the globe.

As we honor this latest generation of American veterans, we recognize also that they are only the most current generation of men and women who were willing to step up when called and who served with commitment and honor.

We are blessed as a state and nation to have this caliber of service members. As long as they continue to serve, our nation will be preserved and the freedoms we cherish defended.

My thanks and appreciation goes out to all who have worn the uniform.

Jim Willis, Director

TROOP / VETERAN APPRECIATION DAY

Operation Home Front and Soldiers Angels will sponsor the 7th Annual Troop and Veterans' Appreciation Day September 12 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the McMinnville Armory, 333 Armory way McMinnville.

National Guard, Reserves, active duty and veterans will be honored during this annual event that will include music, food, military displays and troop resources. The Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association will hold a charity ride as well.

For more information about the Annual Troop and Veterans' Appreciation Day, contact Dawn Bevill at 503-857-0948 (dksings@comcast.net) or Jan and Mike Mullaney at 503-662-3399 (dynaroadking@gmail.com). For more information about the charity motorcycle ride, contact Tom and Mary Hall at 503-560-4023.

OREGON VETERANS' TRIBUTE 2009

The Linn County Veterans' Memorial Association is sponsoring Oregon's Veterans' Tribute 2009 July 14-20, which will feature the Traveling Vietnam Wall. Events will include the Wall, the Field of Honor of 1,000 United States flags, the Oregon Service Medal ceremonies and more.

There will be a motor escort for the Traveling Vietnam Wall on July 14 beginning in Richfield, WA at the Clark County Fairgrounds at 10 a.m. and ending at the Linn County Veteran's Memorial in Albany.

For more information regarding daily events, please contact Tanya Kramer at 541-926-0027.

DON'T FORGET, IT'S FAIR TIME!

Veterans get in free to the Oregon State Fair.

Cut out the ticket below and take it to the main gate to enjoy two days of fun activities at the 2009 Oregon State Fair on August 28 and 29 during Veterans' Appreciation Days.



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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 August 1, 2009.)

MOH RECIPIENT'S WIDOW LEAVES VETERANS' HOME DONATION

THE DALLES – Like most who have visited the Oregon Veterans' Home, Jean Adams had a special place in her heart for the people who cared for her late husband, Medal of Honor recipient Stan Adams. When Stan passed away in 2000, Jean donated his Medal of Honor to the Home to be displayed proudly in the entryway.

Jean Adams passed away in August 2008, but was not done giving. According to her son, Greg Smith, Jean wanted the Home to have a generous donation, as well as more memorabilia belonging to Stan. Mr. Smith and his wife, Clare, came to the Home on May 29 to represent his mother, honoring her memory by carrying out her wishes.

"Jean was a true friend of the Home and we very much appreciate her gracious gift," said Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Deputy Director Paula Brown. "We will use her donation to help other veterans and carry on the legacy of Jean and Stan Adams."

Along with the financial donation, Jean left several other items, including a photograph of Stan with his Medal of Honor, his citation, his flag and other family heirlooms. "We will create a display at the Home with these items to honor this family," Brown confirmed.

Sergeant First Class Stanley T. Adams earned his Medal of Honor during the Korean war when on Feb. 4, 1951 Adams led a bayonet charge against a daunting enemy force, engaging in hand-to-hand combat for more than an hour. The enemy, beaten and confused, retreated from Adams and his men, securing the area for the Americans. Adams' Medal of Honor remains on display at the Home in The Dalles.



Jean Adams, widow of Medal of Honor recipient and former Oregon Veterans' Home resident Stan Adams, recently passed away and donated several items to the Home. Above, are Mr. Adams' Medal of Honor certificate, flag and photos. Jean Adams' son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Clare Smith, presented the items to the Home in May.

BILL ALLOWS GUARD SPOUSES LEAVE PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENTS

SALEM –Military husbands and wives will be allowed to take time off from work when their spouses are home from or preparing for service abroad as a result of legislation passed by the Oregon Legislature. House Bill 2744 will give spouses of members of the Armed Forces, National Guard or Military Reserve up to 14 days of unpaid leave if a spouse works for an employer with more than 25 employees.



"Oregon's National Guard just went through the largest troop deployment since World War II," said Sen. Alan Bates, who carried the bill on the floor. "There are a lot of families out there who just had to say goodbye to their loved ones. We hope this bill will give those families a little more time when their husband or wife comes home on leave."

Between 300 and 500 members of the Oregon National Guard return on a monthly basis from service in Iraq or Afghanistan. Estimates are that the majority of them are married. Oregon law does not currently provide for leave from employment for military spouses to allow them to spend time with their serving spouse.

"Our military and their families sacrifice so much for their service to our country," said Sen. Martha Schrader, a member of the Governor's Task Force for Veterans' Affairs. "In this small way we can help ease the heartache of deployment on service members and their families by making it easier to take time off work."

The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature.



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

WOMEN VETERANS AT HIGH RISK FOR SUICIDE

SAN FRANCISCO— Two studies conducted by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), report that women veterans are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than non-veteran women. Young female veterans are also more likely to use firearms to commit suicide compared with their civilian counterparts, who tend to choose other methods — commonly drug overdose.

Two APA studies show that suicide risk is high among this growing veteran population.

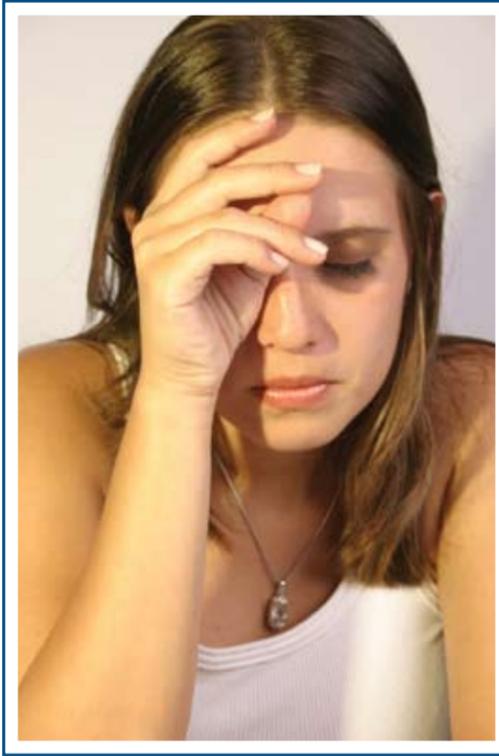
“The relative risk, especially in the longitudinal study, was quite high — three-fold is a very high relative risk in epidemiology, and that finding was surprising to many of us,” said Dr. Bentson McFarland from Oregon Health and Science University. A study investigator, McFarland said the number of women in the United States active duty military is nearly 2 million which is more than 15 percent of all service members.

While male veterans had a two-fold increased risk for suicide compared with non-veteran males, the study revealed that women had a more than three-three-fold increased risk compared with non-military women.

He noted that a study by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2001 revealed that the vast majority of veterans (76.6) receive all of their healthcare services outside of the VA system.

Young Women at Greatest Risk

For the second study, the researchers used data from the Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention National Violent Death Reporting System. This database was started in 2003 and aggregates information from death certificates and coroner/medical-examiner data from 17 participating states.

The information provided also includes a direct question about whether individuals have ever served in the military, as well as substantial information about the decedents, including cause of death.

The study results revealed that from 2003 to 2006 there were 171 female veteran suicide cases vs 5174 nonveteran female suicides. A total of 75 (44 percent) women veterans shot

themselves, and 96 (56 percent) died by other methods. In contrast, 33% of nonveteran women died by firearms. The odds ratio for suicide for female veterans vs other women was 1.79.

In addition, suicide among nonveteran women was greatest between the ages of 35 and 64 years. In contrast, the peak age for suicide among military women was much younger — between 18 and 34 years.

“Women veterans are at about 79 percent greater risk of suicide than nonveteran women, and this risk varies markedly by age. The bottom line for clinicians is that even if you are outside the Veterans Affairs system, you will be seeing veterans in your practice, and some of them will be women who may well be at elevated risk of suicide,” said Dr. McFarland.

“Clinicians should ask their female patients about military service and also inquire about low mood and difficulty with sleep or appetite, as well as problems with substance abuse, thoughts about suicide, and access to firearms,” he added.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Suicide Hotline at 800-273-TALK (8255). Veterans, press 1. Family and friends also are encouraged to call.

The study was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Distinguished Investigator Award.

WU CO-SPONSORS WOMEN VETERANS' VA HEALTH CARE ACCESS BILL

In April, Congressman David Wu (D-Ore.) co-sponsored legislation aimed at improving access and care for women veterans at VA medical facilities. H.R. 1211, is known as the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act.

“We must keep our promise to our nation’s veterans, including the thousands of women who have risked their lives for our country,” Wu said. “Our female veterans deserve health care and services that are tailored to their specific needs. I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation to expand and improve the services they receive.”

The bill addresses six areas of need and focuses on women veterans who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom:

- Mandates the Veterans Health Administration study the VA health care system and determine barriers women veterans face to receiving VA care;
- Mandates a comprehensive assessment of women’s health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Provides for medical care for newborn children of women veterans receiving maternity care;
- Mandates training and certification for mental health care providers of the Department



of Veterans Affairs on care for veterans suffering from sexual trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder;

- Creates a pilot program for provisions of child care assistance to veterans receiving certain types of health care services from the VA;
- Adds recently separated women and minority veterans to serve on advisory committees.

“On behalf of Oregon’s veterans, especially our women veterans, I want to thank Congressman Wu for addressing this vital issue,” said Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Jim Willis. “Our female veterans need appropriate care that they currently may not find in a male-centric VA system. H.R. 1211 will help identify what needs to be done to provide our women warriors the right care in the right way.”

As of late-June, H.R. 1211 had been referred back to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for consideration. It focuses on many of the same issues outlined by the Governor’s Task Force on Veterans’ Services, which identified gaps in VA health care for women veterans, military sexual trauma and issues of child care for women veterans seeking treatment.

“H.R. 1211 will pick up where the Task Force left off,” said Paul Evans, chairman of the Governor’s Task Force and veterans issue policy advisor to Gov. Ted Kulongoski. “This is the needed next step to ensure that the nearly 200,000 women, who have served in the most recent combat zones, receive appropriate and adequate health care.”

For information regarding H.R. 1211, contact Congressman Wu’s office at: 503-326-2901 or 800-422-4003 (Toll free in the 1st Congressional District).

GROUND BROKEN ON NEW GUARD-RESERVE TRAINING FACILITY AT CAMP WITHYCOMBE

CLACKAMAS -- Dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the famed 41st Infantry Division, the Oregon National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve broke ground on a new project to construct a 250,000 square foot facility at Camp Withycombe on May 29.

The 41st Armed Forces Reserve Center will eventually be home to train more than 1,300 Oregon Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers.

At a cost of more than \$74 million, it will be the largest facility ever built by the Oregon National Guard. It will be completed in August 2011 with a dedication planned for later.

During the pre-ground breaking ceremony, Gov. Ted Kulongoski gave high praise to Oregon's famed 41st Division for its sacrifice and service during World War II while fighting in the south Pacific in New Guinea, Biak and other locations.

"We owe the men of the 41st Division eternal gratitude and respect for their bravery in battle. As veterans we also honor these soldiers who went before us and sacrificed," Kulongoski said.

The Governor added that this facility will represent the strong, long-term partnership between the Guard and the Army Reserve - a team "that is committed to having the best trained soldiers in the U.S."

Oregon's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Fred Rees said, "the facility will be a fitting monument to all of the soldiers of the 41st Brigade and the original Sunset Division."



Breaking ground on the new Guard-Reserve Training Facility at Camp Withycombe, near Clackamas, is (L-R) Clackamas County Commissioner Lynn Peterson, Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Oregon Adjutant General, Maj Gen. Fred Rees, Sen. Ron Wyden, and Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Frank Cipolla. (Photo and story by Mike Allegre)

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden praised the National Guard and Reserve for always being ready to defend freedom. And as more than 2,600 Oregon soldiers are about to deploy to Iraq, Wyden implored everyone to fully support these Guard members and their families.

"And when they return in 2010, our priority is to ensure they have a softer landing."

Rees escorted Wyden, Kulongoski and more than 15 others and each grabbed a shovel to dig the first dirt to signify the start of the project.

One soldier shoveling dirt was Col. (ret) Ned Lewis. Now 88, Lewis was one of the original 41st Division 'Jungleers' who fought in the fierce battles in the Pacific theatre between 1942 and 1945.

"Like a lot of the other 41st Division fellas, I'm proud to have served and been part of history as part of the war effort," Lewis said. "I would've never thought there'd be a facility like this to honor our guys."



ESGR FROM PAGE 1

"ESGR's outreach has also increased dramatically from focusing primarily on Guard and Reserve members to additionally increasing our focus on their employers," he said. "After 2010, I foresee that the new operational Guard and Reserve will be called in increasing numbers."

Doctor said the ideal candidate to become Oregon's ESGR chair could be a former CEO with experience in the private sector and have some knowledge of the military. Military veterans with private sector backgrounds are also a bonus to serve in this volunteer leadership position.

This chair will continue developing a volunteer team and will supervise three paid professional contracted employees who assist in obtaining goals set by national ESGR office. They will report to the ESGR's national chair and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Nominations or questions can be directed to Doctor by calling 503-584-2841.

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

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!


800-692-9666

MILITARY UNIFORMS DISPLAYED AT CAPITOL

Military uniforms of every branch and era were on display in the first-floor galleria of the Capitol during the month of June.

The display, which includes memorabilia from previous and current wars, was sponsored by the Greater Salem Area Veterans Organizations.

In addition to the collection of uniforms, medals, and general items from America's past and present wars, several Legislators' uniforms were part of the display.

Among the notable uniforms on display were: Army Sgt. Don Malarkey of Salem, whose unit, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division was made famous in Stephen Ambrose's book, "Band of Brothers," which also was made into an HBO series.

The uniform of Army Air Force Cpl. Jacob DeShazer, who flew on the 1942 raid on Tokyo led by Lt. Col. James Doolittle, was also on display.

DeShazer, who died in Salem last year at age 95, was a prisoner of war after the raid, but returned to Japan as a missionary after World War II and lived there for 25 years.



At left: Kerry Wymetalek, President of the Greater Salem Area Veterans Organizations (GSAVO) points to the uniform of "Doolittle Raider" and Ex-POW, Cpl. Jacob DeShazer.



OREGON SOLDIERS SUE KBR FOR EXPOSURE TO CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICAL IN IRAQ

Reprinted with permission.

by Julie Sullivan, *The Oregonian*

Five current and former Oregon Army National Guard soldiers filed suit in June against a war contractor that they say knowingly exposed them to a cancer-causing chemical in Iraq.

The suit alleges that managers from Kellogg, Brown & Root, or KBR, of Houston knew before the Oregon Guard arrived at the Qarmat Ali water treatment plant in May 2003 that the site was contaminated by hexavalent chromium, a highly toxic and long-identified carcinogen.

The plaintiffs allege the company either failed to do the required testing a month before the Guard arrived or destroyed the records to conceal the contamination. KBR also discounted soldiers' and civilians' bloody noses and other symptoms of exposure as sand allergies.

The Oregon Guard had been assigned to protect civilian employees working at the treatment plant, a key component of Iraqi oil production.

In a written statement, KBR director of communications Heather L. Browne said the company appropriately notified the Army Corps of Engineers, which oversaw the contractor's work.

"KBR has provided the results of environmental testing and assessments to the U.S. Military and will continue to fully cooperate

with the government on this issue," she wrote. "KBR did not knowingly harm troops."

According to the suit filed in U.S. District Court in Portland, KBR's health safety manager in southern Iraq knew in May 2003 the plant was contaminated with sodium dichromate, a corrosion fighter that is almost pure hexavalent chromium. (The military believes Saddam loyalists opened and scattered bags of it as they fled the plant.) Plaintiffs allege that KBR managers repeatedly told U.S. and British soldiers there was no danger, even after blood tests on civilian workers later confirmed elevated chromium levels.

The suit says the five plaintiffs developed symptoms of hexavalent chromium poisoning and continue to suffer breathing problems, stomach and esophageal ulcers and headaches, and face a greater risk of cancer and impact on their offspring. The Oregon troops served with the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Division that rotated through duties guarding civilians at Qarmat Ali from April to June 2003.

Four of the plaintiffs -- Larry Roberta, of Aumsville, Scott Ashby of Lake Oswego, Rocky Bixby of Hillsboro and Matthew Hadley of Aloha -- completed their Guard obligation and are civilians. Capt. Charles Ellis of Junction City remains with the Guard and is deploying to Iraq with the 41st Infantry Brigade in July.

Last month, Roberta and Ashby testified before the Oregon Legislature, which is considering a bill to set up a small fund to help exposed soldiers who develop cancer.

Attorneys for the soldiers, David Sugerman of Portland and Michael Doyle of Houston, said they expect several West Virginia National Guard members who served at the Iraqi water plant to file a similar suit. Last year, 16 Indiana National Guard members who replaced the Oregon troops at Qarmat Ali and 10 civilian contractors who worked at the facility also sued KBR. Under federal rules, civilians working on military bases are limited in their ability to sue employers, and that case has been in a confidential arbitration.

Since news coverage by *The Oregonian* in January, more than two dozen Oregon veterans have asked to be placed on a registry and more than a dozen have reported health issues to the National Guard or VA, mostly breathing problems.

The Oregon Army National Guard is still asking soldiers who may have served with the 1-162 to contact the Guard at 503-584-2285 or the Portland Veterans Administration at 800-949-1004, ext. 52852, for more information on registering their exposure.

-- Julie Sullivan; juliesullivan@news.oregonian.com

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Magazine Subscription Program, veterans residing at the Oregon Veterans' Home enjoy reading current magazines. The individuals listed below have recently joined dozens of previous donors to this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by our veteran residents.

John C. Warden
Dr. Albert Mozejko
John Pratt
Douglas Edmunds
Dawn Jurado
Primary Purpose Group
Waves National Webfoot #46
Norma Bright
Edward M. Kelly
Richard Murphy
Susan Briggs
Ron & Donna Lake
Sgt. Dick Wiley
Marjorie Christianson
Otto A. Ewaldsen
Clifford Maxwell
Joe & Roseann Libonati

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

PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS TO VISIT OREGON VETS HOME



Residents of Oregon Veterans' Home will be visited by a group of caring patriotic people from around the state on Saturday, Jul. 18, when upwards of 100 Patriot Guard Riders will arrive at the Home in The Dalles to say hello.

The Riders will be at the Home from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are calling their trip a combination of a visitation, a gathering and a salute to all veterans.

Patriot Guard Riders member Rod Runyon from The Dalles said there are a lot of people that have never visited or seen the Home. He sees the visit as a meet and greet event that is open to everyone whether or not they ride a motorcycle.

"It'll be an amazing gathering of respect to these residents. We hope that the Vets' Home will be totally surrounded by a motorcycle

cordon of pride," Runyon said. "Plus, for most people, motorcycles are entertaining to see."

Runyon is an area ride captain and said last year nearly 100 riders attended. "We had people come from as far away as 200 miles. We're hoping for more this year and hope they'll make this stop part of their weekend ride."

The Rider's motto is "Standing for all who stood for us." Their primary mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. With American flags in hand, they show respect for the fallen while helping to shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions. Members do not need to be a veteran or own a motorcycle to take part.

For more information about the visit, call Runyon at 541-993-6413, or visit their website: www.patriotguard.org.

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.



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 12, and make a tax-deductible donation today. Those who contributed during the months of April and May, 2009 are listed below:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Access Computer Products | Billy Gentry | Phil Prince |
| American Ex-Prisoners of War | Vonna and Robert Gifford | Kenneth and Arliss Rolph |
| —Oregon Department | E.J. Gorman | J. Donald Ross |
| American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136, | Stephen R. Gracon | Joann Schliep |
| —District 2 | LeRoy Jacob Gugel | Serenity Lane — Eugene |
| American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 | Thomas and Virginia Hake | Silverton Elks Lodge #2210 |
| American Legion Honor Guard Post 45 | Terri Hansen | Myrle Smith |
| American Legion Lone Auxiliary | Dean and Ardith Heinrichs | Cora Smith |
| American Legion Pioneer Post 149 | Heppner Elks Lodge #358 | Harold V. Smith |
| American Legion Post 116 | Hood River Elks Lodge #1507 | Alexandra Stewart |
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| American Legion Umpqua Post 16 | Gretchen G. Johnson | Merlena Swindlehurit |
| American Legion Washington Post 2 | Larry and Sarah Keil | The Regence Employee Giving Campaign |
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| Bill Cross | Mary Newman | Clyde and Helen Wilson |
| Patricia N. Czernik | Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America | Helen Wilson |
| DAV Yamhill County Auxiliary #5 | Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association | Ronnie Witzke |
| Otto and Carol Ehlers | Mel and Norma Peterson | Hugh Womack |
| Estate of Lucile E. Goreham | Janet Peterson | Virginia Wood |
| Otto Ewaldsen | Albert G. Powell | |
| Lawrence R. Fulker | Sharon Preuitt | |

GARNISHMENT PROTECTION BILL GOES TO GOVERNOR

SALEM – The Oregon Legislature has passed Senate Bill 731B and sent to Governor Ted Kulongoski legislation that would protect vulnerable Oregonians from inappropriate garnishment of exempt funds.

“When a financial institution takes money out of a beneficiary’s account in response to a creditor’s garnishment, it becomes much more difficult for a vulnerable person to take care of things like rent, medication and other vital needs,” said the Bill’s sponsor Rep. Paul Holvey.

The purpose of these benefits is to allow seniors, people with disabilities, the unemployed and veterans to be able to meet basic needs in challenging economic times.

Current Oregon law undermines that purpose. SB 731B would ensure that social security, veterans’ benefits, unemployment insurance and other exempt state or federal benefits remain safe from garnishment, attachment and freezes when placed in a bank account.

“Despite clear state and federal law prohibiting collection of these funds, they are frequently and inappropriately diverted from their intended recipients by creditors who garnish their accounts,” said Rep. Greg Matthews. “Under current Oregon law, this is entirely legal. This bill changes that.”

The bill will now go to the Governor for his signature. For more information on veteran legislation, go to www.oregon.gov/ODVA/docs/LegislativeBills/VetsLeg.pdf.

2009 REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Blinded Veterans will hold their convention Aug. 17-22, at the Double Tree Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232, 503-281-6111. For information: Frank Armstrong, 541-265-9087.

Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association is having its 31st national reunion Sept. 9-12, in Portland, OR. NCVA is composed of and welcomes active and retired members of the IWO and CT community, including Net Warfare Command and the former Naval Security Group. For information: 360-256-5788 or 541-689-0721. Email: 2009portland@usncva.org. Website: www.usncva.org.

Nike Veterans is having its national reunion Sept. 11-13, in Anchorage, AK at the Sheraton Anchorage. For information: Greg Durocher, 907-786-7009 or 907-337-2553. Email: gfdurocher@usgs.gov.

USMC Motor Transport Association is having its 13th reunion Sept. 13-16, in Indianapolis, IN. For information: Terry Hightower, PO Box 1372, Jacksonville, NC 28541. Call: 910-324-7281. Email: secretary@usmcmta.org.

Society of the Third Infantry Division is having its 90th reunion Sept. 16-20, at the Clarion Hotel in Springfield, MO. For information: Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521. Email: info@thereunionbrat.com.

Oregon Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its State Convention Sept. 25-27, at the Red Lion Inn, 200 N Riverside Ave., Medford, OR. For information: Merv McConnell, or by email at mervmc@west-point.org.

USS Begor APD-127 is having its reunion Sept. 29-Oct. 3, in Portland, OR. For reservations: Red Lion Hotel Jantzen Beach, 503-283-4466. Email: theredlionjantzenbeach.com. For information: Rich Parady, 315 W. Evans Creek Road #50, Rogue River, OR 97537. Call: 541-582-1761. Email: rogv@q.com. Website: www.ussbegor.org.

Navy Net Tender/Layer is having its reunion Oct. 5-19, at Gatherings Plus in Branson, MO. For information: Harlan Roth, 11820 SW Belmont Terrace, Beaverton, OR 97008. Call: 503-643-1424.

Fighting 69th Infantry Division is having its reunion Oct. 18-25, in Nashville, TN. For information: Robert Heisler, 503-463-9524.

Veterans of the Battle of The Bulge is having their 64th reunion of the 84th Infantry division, Oct. 6-9, in Colorado Springs, CO. For information: Bruce Morrell, 2825 Brogans Bluff Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Call: 719-592-1523.

WW II PILOT'S WINGS PRESENTED

During World War II, George "Jack" Bass served as a U.S. Navy pilot in the south Pacific. He flew more than 30 missions in Dauntless Dive bombers and served eight years before hanging up his wings and returning to southern California.

Now a resident at the Oceanview Retirement Center in Coos Bay, Bass recently discovered that his gold naval aviators wings had been stolen. Jenny Fenn, a family friend, heard of the loss and requested help from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Within weeks, Director Jim Willis had located a new set of wings and dispatched ODVA's Salem Counseling Manager and retired Navy Master Chief Mitch Sparks to present them to Bass.

Joining Sparks for the presentation was Kevin Owen, a member of the Governor's Veteran's Affairs Advisory Committee and Bill Smith from the VA Roseburg volunteer services. Lt. Geoff Johansson, a helicopter pilot assigned to Coast Guard Air Station North Bend, had the honor of pinning the wings on Bass.



Joining World War II aviator Jack Bass (center) are (clockwise from top left) Kevin Owen, Jenny Fenn, Lt. Geoff Johansson and Mitch Sparks.

"It was quite a deal for me," Bass said later. "I lost all of my military items, so this is pretty nice to have a new set of wings pinned on me."

Bass will be 89 on July 4th.

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.



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 at 1-888-673-8387 or by email at orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO RURAL MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Continuing efforts to make sure all of Oregon's veterans have access to the quality medical care they deserve, U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have announced that the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center will receive \$1.9 million to improve mental health treatment for veterans in rural Oregon.

"As more and more of our veterans confront the sometimes severe mental health effects of serving in a very dangerous environment, we must commit to providing the best possible treatment to get these men and women back on their feet," Wyden said. "This funding will provide resources to better reach veterans in rural Oregon, get them the mental health care they deserve, and create much needed support structures within rural communities."

"It is our responsibility to help our service men and women address the challenges facing them when they return from overseas," Merkley said. "Some of them are far from the services provided on major bases and big cities. We cannot leave our rural veterans behind. This funding for mental health services and support groups is one of the most important ways we can support our veterans."

Operating as part of the Office of Rural Health Funds Distribution Program, the Oregon Rural Mental Health Implementation program will provide a three-pronged system for improving access for Oregon veterans to mental healthcare treatment. Building off of the expertise of the Portland VA Medical Center, the program will extend the existing Nurse Care Manager models to reach more veterans in rural areas suffering from mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, substance misuse, and anxiety.

Wyden and Merkley have frequently called for better access to mental health services for rural Oregon. The program will also fund outreach within Bend, North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast, The Dalles, Eugene, Grants Pass and Klamath Falls to assist veterans in the treatment process.

Also included in the program are improvements to the tested group tele-video treatment for PTSD patients including Exposure Based Treatments, and Acceptance and Commitment Therapies. These programs use tele-video technology to treat patients who have experienced extreme levels of trauma.

This funding comes on top of the \$13 million the Pacific Northwest is expected to receive as part of the \$250 million package of rural health initiatives the Department of Veterans Affairs announced last week. Those health initiatives will include expansion of outreach clinics, home-based primary care, and access to telemedicine technology.

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

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Salem OR 97301-1285

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

TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM

Research shows that Military Veterans are among the most highly valued of employees in a particularly important profession: teaching. According to a national survey conducted by Old Dominion University College of Education in 2005, public school principals rated veterans higher overall than their civilian counterparts for their professional achievements, both in and out of the classroom. Qualities cited of highest value to principals included teamwork, management skills, and application of content knowledge - skills honed during military careers.

Veterans also are uniquely qualified to put traditional academic subjects into vivid perspective for their students, enlivening social studies, history, and foreign language studies with tales of real-world experience.

Subjects such as math and science also are beefed up with applications of that knowledge to regular job tasks such as fixing engines or loading a C-130. Military personnel have been there and done that, making them natural role models to their students who may otherwise struggle with sometimes-abstract subjects.

However, the road to becoming a teacher isn't always easy or straightforward. That's where Troops to Teachers (TTT) comes in. TTT is a national organization that helps military personnel transition to careers as public school teachers and was conceived in 1994 as a response to the military drawdown. The idea was to help those impacted by the drawdown to continue their service by using their skills in the public school system.

Initially a brainchild of the Department of Defense, TTT was folded into the No Child Left Behind act of 2001 in order to continue this valuable service as the drawdown waned. Now, TTT is operated by DANTES and funded by the Department of Education. TTT has offices serving every state in the nation. Since its inception, TTT has helped place more than 11,000 veteran, retired, guard, and reserve personnel in classrooms, helping alleviate the nation-wide teacher shortage and fulfilling the career goals of personnel who want to continue their service by shaping the next generation of leaders.

Troops to Teachers provides free advising services to prospective teachers, including expert advice on education programs and the certification process, and help matching clients with teaching vacancies.

Oregon is served by the Lewis & Clark Region of Troops to Teachers, headquartered in Bozeman, Montana. Ed Brands is the Oregon Area Representative.

Interested parties must meet minimum eligibility requirements. For more information, contact the Lewis & Clark TTT office toll free at (866) 478-3224 or northernnttt@gmail.com. Visit the national Troops to Teachers website at www.proudtoserveagain.com.

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	Patrick Scranton
Jackson	541-774-8214	Marty Kimmel
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 Pereaault
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	Renee Beaudoin
Wasco	888-804-1817	Patrick Scranton
Washington	503-846-3060	Doug McEllven
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	Jay E. Woodbury
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	Gus Bedwell Leah Rickert Mitch Sparks Gina Thomas Jerry Wilson Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777	Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Ed Van Dyke

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

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WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY



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Jim Willis, Director

July / August 2009

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...

WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY



VETS NEWS

www.oregon.gov/odva

July / August 2009
Jim Willis, Director

MEMORIAL DAY EVENT HONORS OREGON FALLEN FROM OEF-OIF

Before a crowd of nearly 300 people, four more names of Oregon military members killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom were added to the memorial on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) during a ceremony on May 30.

With more than 30 Patriot Guard Riders each carrying American flags on poles, family members and friends of the fallen gathered around the memorial's pool and statue and observed the honors paid to the fallen.

ODVA Director Jim Willis welcomed the crowd and spoke briefly of the bravery and sacrifice of those killed.

All 113 names on the memorial's granite face were read aloud, including the four new names of Pfc. Cody J. Eggleston, Lance Cpl. Robert L. Johnson, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua M. Tillery and Pfc. Richard A. DeWater.

Willis said the memorial will always be a place of reflection for those recalling our servicemen and women who have died in battle, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Each of these fallen heroes volunteered to serve and protect the nation they loved," he said. "We are grateful for their gallant service, and are reminded of that when reading the plaque near the memorial which says, 'All Gave Some, Some Gave All.'"

With the playing of Taps, the ceremony concluded. Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski also attended, choosing to blend into the crowd rather than be up front. The governor met briefly with the families and once again expressed his concern and condolences.

Photo and Story by Mike Allegre

NEW STATE ESGR CHAIR SOUGHT

The Oregon Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is seeking nominations of qualified volunteers to become the organization's new state chairman. The former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Bill Doctor, will be stepping down in October 2010 after completing two three-year terms as the state's ESGR chair.

The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of federal law, and resolving conflicts through mediation. Educating both employers and employees about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994 helps to guarantee that returning

military members are not discriminated against, disadvantaged and are promptly reemployed in their civilian jobs upon their return from duty.

Doctor has led the volunteer organization with executive director Col. (ret.) Bob Elliott since Oct. 2004. He stressed that ESGR's mission has dramatically changed since its beginning in 1972.

"The involvement of the Guard and Reserve has increased more than 60 times since before 9-11, which means that more than any time in history, employers are feeling this overwhelming impact of their employees being away from work to serve in the military," Doctor said.

Master Sgt. John Skelton served as bugler during the Memorial Day event at the Afghan/Iraqi Freedom Memorial.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Director's Message Page 2
- Vets Home Receives Donation Page 3
- New Training Facility Page 5
- Uniforms on Display at Capitol Pages 6
- Friends of the Home Page 8
- WWII Pilot's Wings Presented Page 9
- Veterans Service Officers Page 11

SEE ESGR ON PAGE 10