



March | April 2009

Jim Willis, Director

www.oregon.gov/odva

# ODVA AND TASK FORCE SUBMIT NEW LEGISLATION

By Tom Mann

**SALEM** – The Oregon Legislature has convened for the 2009 Regular Session and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has submitted 16 bills on behalf of the agency and the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services.

“Our bill package contains simple housekeeping bills for the agency and broad policy bills from the Task Force,” ODVA Director Jim Willis explained. “None of our bills are controversial, and all of them have wide support from veterans, veterans organizations, and legislators.”

The main Task Force bill being proposed is House Bill 2178, which will place veterans service officers on university and community college campuses. “With the implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, we need to be sure we have veterans service officers available to student veterans to be sure they are receiving all their benefits, including this new GI Bill,” Willis said. “We want to maximize the number of veterans attending Oregon universities and colleges by doing everything we can to encourage Post 9/11 veterans to use this new GI Bill benefit,” he said.

The Task Force is presenting bills that affect Oregon, such as HB 2178, and memorials to Congress asking the federal government to make changes at the federal Veterans Administration. “Most veterans' benefits are federal so we need Congress to make a number

SEE BILLS ON PAGE 11

# VA TO OFFER HEALTH CARE TO PREVIOUSLY INELIGIBLE VETERANS

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced plans to re-open enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to about 265,000 veterans whose incomes exceed current limits.

“We're pleased to be able to offer what has been called 'the best care anywhere' to many more new veterans,” said Dr. James B. Peake, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “We'll be able to provide these newly enrolled veterans with the kind of timely, high quality health care veterans who already use our system are accustomed to.”

The change affects veterans whose incomes exceed the current VA means test

and geographic means test income thresholds by 10 percent or less. Congress provided funds in VA's fiscal year 2009 budget to support the new enrollment.

In 1996, Congress established a priority-based enrollment system for VA and a uniform package of medical benefits for all enrollees. The legislation opened enrollment in VA's health care system to all eligible veterans and required that each year the Secretary of Veterans Affairs assess veterans' demand for services and determine if the necessary resources are available to provide timely, quality care to all

SEE BENEFITS ON PAGE 6

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Director's Message ..... Page 2
- Amputee Returns To War ..... Page 3
- 19 Awarded Silver Stars ..... Page 4
- New Law: Feel Free to Salute ..... Page 5
- Reunions and Events ..... Page 7
- Memorial Day Info Sought ..... Page 9
- VA's Data Theft Settlement ..... Page 10



## Director's Message

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

# COVERING THE BASES

Representatives and for the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program. Congressmen Schrader and DeFazio have agreed to champion this effort.

**HJM 4:** Urges Congress to fund a 90-day soft landing for returning National Guard personnel. Senator Ron Wyden has agreed to write a bill in support of this effort.

**SJM 1:** Urges Congress to eliminate date of discharge restrictions on the State Veterans Home Loan program. Congressman Earl Blumenauer has agreed to take on this important effort.

**SJM 2:** Urges Congress to develop and fund a statewide veterans transportation program to include wheelchair bound veterans. Congressman Peter DeFazio will lead this effort.

**SJM 3:** Urges Congress to fully fund the VA Health Care program for all veterans in Categories 1 through 8. Congressman Greg Walden and his staff have agreed to work on this effort.

In addition to these examples, a number of issues dealing with women veterans were made a part of the Task Force report and Congressman David Wu has agreed to look at legislation that may assist these women with the challenges they face as a result of their service to our nation.

Another effort underway in our state is targeted toward the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Efforts are underway to place Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) on university and community college campuses throughout the state to aid veterans in applying for these benefits, which become available in August of this year. In addition, these VSOs will also be able to work with

the Montgomery GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve and the Reserve Education Assistance Program.

In addition, to these benefits, tuition waivers can be obtained for children and spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are 100 percent service-connected disabled or who were killed in action in Iraqi or Afghanistan or during other service during the War on Terrorism. All Oregon public universities grant these waivers. Portland Community College also grants the waiver voluntarily and Chemeketa Community College voluntarily grants a reduced tuition.

**To best determine your benefits at any college or university you should contact their financial aid office and they will assist you with the benefits to which you are entitled.**

My staff and I look forward to a successful outcome during this challenging session of the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. When times are tough economically or otherwise, it is a time for new thinking and more effective and efficient ways of meeting our challenges. I think we can meet these challenges and continue to serve those who have served our nation with honor and distinction. My thanks to all of you who have served and all of you who have supported their service.



Jim Willis, Director

As a result of the report completed by the Governor's Task Force on Veterans Services, a series of House and Senate Joint Memorials have been introduced in the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the Oregon Legislature.

These Memorials are designed to seek action on the part of the U.S. Congress and unfortunately often result in nothing more than a "feel good" document that doesn't accomplish very much.

I believe that these Memorials are different in several respects. First, the Task Force members believe strongly in the need to strengthen the benefits and services allocated for our veterans and their families. Second, the State House and Senate committees dealing with veterans issues have put these Memorials on a fast track and have given strong support for their passage, and Third, Oregon's Congressional delegation has stepped up to see that the necessary bills are written to present to the Congress on behalf of our veterans.

Here is an example of the actions that are being taken:

**HJM 2:** Urges Congress to increase funding for Local Veteran Employment

## NO PURPLE HEART FOR PTSD SERVICEMEMBERS

**WASHINGTON** – The Purple Heart medal, awarded to service members who have been physically wounded in combat, will not be given for a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a Pentagon statement said.

The decision, which was made in early November but just made public recently, came after months of deliberations sparked by a question on the topic posed to Defense Secretary Robert Gates during a Pentagon briefing in May.

"[It's] clearly something that needs to be looked at," Gates said in response to the query. His answer prompted a review by the Defense Department's Awards Advisory Group, made up of "award experts" in the Pentagon.

After the review, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David Chu examined the advisory group's findings and determined that service members with PTSD alone would not be eligible for the award, according to Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez. Gates agreed with the decision, Lainez added.

Thousands of service members are at risk for or have been diagnosed with PTSD after serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Pentagon statistics. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that up to 11 percent of Iraq veterans and 20 percent of Afghanistan veterans have PTSD.



"The Purple Heart recognizes those individuals wounded to a degree that requires treatment by a medical officer, in action with the enemy or as the result of enemy action where the intended effect of a specific enemy action is to kill or injure the service member," according to a statement released by the Pentagon.

"PTSD is an anxiety disorder caused by witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event; it is not a wound intentionally caused by the enemy from an 'outside force or agent' but is a secondary effect caused by witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event," the statement continued.

The Defense Department statement noted that historically, Purple Heart designations are awarded for bodily injuries from "an outside force or agent," which is considered an objective standard. It also cited other Purple Heart award criteria and 76 years of precedent as other factors in deciding when to bestow the honor. The medal has never been awarded for psychological conditions, it said.

Currently, the department explained, PTSD is not diagnosed "as objectively or routinely" as would be required for the award.

The Pentagon did leave the door open to awarding the medal to those with combat-related PTSD in the future, saying, "Advancements in medical science may support future re-evaluation."

# OREGON MARINE AMPUTEE RETURNS TO WAR

By Kelly Lanigan

Cpl. Garrett Jones and Gunnery Sgt. William “Spanky” Gibson both sustained wounds in Iraq that led to leg amputations. Yet today, they’re both deployed again to war zones.

On July 23, 2007, Cpl. Jones, from Newberg, Ore., was on a foot patrol near Fallujah when an IED went off and changed the course of his service in the Marines. His many wounds include scars and burns on his right leg and partial hearing loss in one ear. His left leg was amputated mid-thigh. At 21, he underwent months of rehabilitation.

By that December—less than six months later—Jones had re-learned how to snowboard. He plans to compete in freestyle snowboarding in the 2010 Paralympics.

“He’s amazing—he can do anything,” Cpl. Paul Savage, who worked with Jones at the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in August, told the Los Angeles Times. “There are no limitations with this guy.”

Then when Jones learned that his unit would be sent to Afghanistan, he wanted to do his part. The Oregon Marine had to prove that he was medically capable of returning to a war zone, but he wanted to show other amputees what they can do.

“I want to be someone an injured Marine can talk to,” Jones told the Los Angeles Times. “And I can tell them: ‘Times will be rough and not always easy as an amputee, but you can still make great things out of an unfortunate situation.’ That’s what I want to do.”

Jones deployed with several prosthetic legs and five mechanical knee replacements. He sets aside time each day to care for the special equipment.

To accommodate his situation, Jones changed his military specialty from infantryman to intelligence analyst. Now he assembles and analyzes intelligence reports at a computer. His

reasons for going back, he says, are the other Marines in his unit.

“If they weren’t going back, I wouldn’t be interested in deploying,” Jones told the San Diego Union-Tribune. “It is the least I can do—to be there with my buddies.”

## ‘Well, It Ain’t Growing Back’

A sniper bullet in Ramadi in May 2006 shattered the left kneecap of 37-year-old Gunnery Sgt. William “Spanky” Gibson, destroying his knee socket and severing the femoral artery. He would lose the leg above the knee.

“The first thing that went through my mind was, get my weapon out and function,” he told FOX News. “I knew there was something seriously wrong with me—the round luckily enough severed the nerve, so there was no pain... Problem was, I could not get up and stand on my feet because of the destruction the round [did].”

After five months of rehabilitation, he was skiing, ice-climbing, biking and completing triathlons with a prosthetic leg.

“I realized, well, it ain’t growing back so let’s start recovering,” he told FOX News. “Initially, I didn’t allow it to affect me to the point of despair ... Now I roll over and look at my wife and say, ‘This kind of sucks.’ But you get over it quickly.”

Gibson keeps his spirits up, and deployed back to Iraq in January with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in operations command, coordinating weapons for troops.

“As soon as a person says he’s disabled and they think they’re disabled, they might as well keep their butt in a chair and not do anything for the rest of their life,” Gibson told NBC Nightly News.

With his new computerized leg, Gibson is able to fulfill the obligation he feels to stay in



Cpl. Garrett Jones deployed back to Afghanistan.

the Marines. Even after all he’s been through, he continues to serve.

“When Americans like Spanky Gibson serve on our side, the enemy in Iraq doesn’t have a chance,” President Bush said during an address at the Pentagon in March.

*Reprinted with permission from the December 2008 issue of VFW magazine.*



## 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

# OREGONIANS AMONG 19 SOLDIERS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

In the largest ceremony of its kind since the Vietnam War, two Oregonians were among a group of soldiers who were awarded the Silver Star on Dec. 12, 2008 at Fort Bragg, N.C. for heroic actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Captain Kent G. Solheim, from Oregon City and Sgt. Gabriel A. Reynolds, Lake Oswego, received the nation's third highest award for combat valor. They were among 19 soldiers from Fort Bragg's 3rd Special Forces Group who received medals for actions in seven separate engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The objective of a Special Forces unit of which Solheim's troops were a part, was to capture a senior leader of the infamous Shiite militia in the city of Karbala, Iraq. On July 27, 2007, Solheim's team "fast-roped" from hovering helicopters and set up their position near the building they had targeted. His team took enemy fire from three sides with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and AK-47s throughout the 40-minute mission.

At one point, Solheim charged an insurgent armed with an RPG and killed him. Later he



**Captain Kent G. Solheim, one of 19 soldiers who earned the Silver Star medal in combat.**

fatally shot an armed Maddhi Army fighter, but as the terrorist fell, he fired a burst from his AK-47 and wounded Solheim in the legs and back.

Recently promoted, Maj. Solheim continues to recover from his wounds, but will have his

right leg amputated in March. Currently, he serves as a company commander at the Special Warfare Training Group at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg.

It was on Nov. 10, 2007 that Reynolds' Special Forces detachment came under intense enemy machine gunfire from Afghan Insurgents while conducting operations in the Khas Oruzgan District. During three very intense firefights with the Insurgents, Reynolds is credited with continually engaging the enemy in the "kill zone" with suppressing gunfire that had trapped American soldiers during the ambush. This would eventually allow the U.S. troops to escape.

Reynolds would later destroy a machine gun emplacement and rocket propelled grenade positions. Soon afterwards, he dismounted his disabled vehicle while under immense gunfire, set up a mortar tube and fired at the enemy positions.

Reynolds is now a student in the Special Forces Qualification Course at Fort Bragg.

## COW CREEK FOUNDATION AWARDS WOMEN VETERANS PROJECT

**MEDFORD** – Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm has received a \$5,000 grant from the Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation to launch a series of Sanctuary Weekends for veterans and military family members.

The first Sanctuary Weekend retreat for Women Veterans is scheduled for April 10-12. The community-based retreat will be one of the first in the nation to focus exclusively on the needs of women veterans. Women veterans are the second-fastest growing demographic in the veteran population.

Facilitators are women veterans and female therapists who are also family members of veterans. The weekend includes outdoor activities at the 55-acre Double Oak Farm in the Applegate Valley; lodging at the Applegate River House; tools for stress management; a chance to meet and connect with other women veterans; and more.

Applications will be accepted until March 15, and scholarships are available, including travel reimbursement for Oregon residents. More information is available at [www.sanctuaryone.org](http://www.sanctuaryone.org).

## SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS: CALLING ALL HANDS

By Christopher Dauterman

America's Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's) have long been first responders to needs of veterans and families of the U.S. Armed Forces. One of the largest and longest standing organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) dates back to 1899. Service organizations, such as VFW and their members are involved as civic leaders in the communities in which they serve.

Veterans are neither too young nor old to become an active member of a VSO. Membership provides an opportunity to serve the community as a civic leader. A full guide of congressionally chartered and non-chartered service organizations can be found online at [www.va.gov/vso](http://www.va.gov/vso). The list below contains some of the common service organizations, year of establishment, and websites that you may visit for more information.

*Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – 1899, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)*  
*Navy League – 1902, [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)*  
*The American Legion – 1919, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)*  
*Disabled American Veterans (DAV) – 1920, [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)*  
*Marine Corps League (MCL) – 1923, [www.mcleague.org](http://www.mcleague.org)*  
*Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) – 1932, [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)*  
*American Veterans (AMVETS) – 1944, [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)*  
*Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) – 1962, [www.afsahq.org](http://www.afsahq.org)*  
*Non-Commissioned Officers Association – 1960, [www.ncoausa.org](http://www.ncoausa.org)*  
*Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) – 1978, [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)*  
*Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) – 2004, [www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org)*  
*Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) – 2008, [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)*

## COMMISSARY SALE AT ARMORY

Active duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members and their dependants are invited to a Commissary sale at the Jackson National Guard Armory in Portland, March 27-29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This Commissary sale will be open to active and retired military, and dependants with a valid military ID card. VA disability cards will not be accepted.

The sale items will include savings on fresh produce and meat, case goods, and other grocery items. There will be case lot pricing, but

individual items will also be on sale below the already low Commissary prices.

Manufacturers coupons will be honored and other coupons will be available for further savings. Customers should bring coolers for perishable items. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted, but not debit cards.

The armory is located at 6225 N.E. Cornfoot Road, adjacent to the Portland Air National Guard Base. For more information, call Mary Bell, 503-335-4193.

# NEW LAW AUTHORIZES VETERANS' SALUTE DURING PLAYING OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

WASHINGTON – Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect recently.

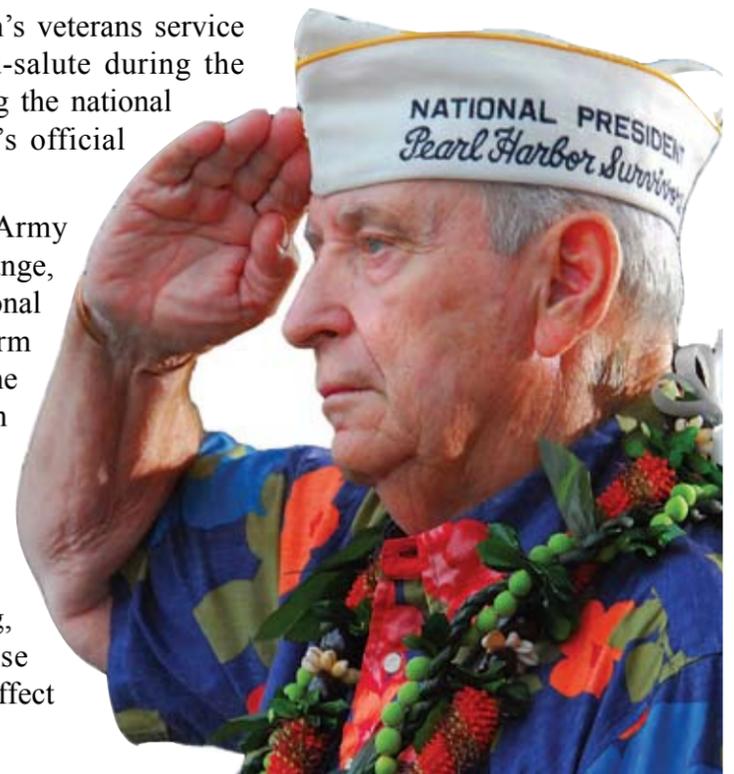
“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation’s armed forces,” said then-Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation’s flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year’s provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation’s veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization’s official head-gear.

Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran, sponsored the most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect January, 2008.



## PVAMC TO RECEIVE \$1 MILLION FOR RURAL VETS

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has provided \$21.7 million to its regional health care systems to improve services specifically designed for veterans in rural areas.

“This special allocation is the latest down payment on VA’s commitment to meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas,” said former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “VA will take to our rural veterans the health care services they have earned.”

Within the last year, VA has launched a major rural health initiative. The Department has already created a 13-member committee to advise the VA secretary on issues affecting rural veterans, opened three rural health resource centers to better understand rural health issues, rolled out four new mobile health clinics to serve 24 predominately rural counties, announced the opening of 10 new rural outreach clinics in 2009 and launched a fleet of 50 new mobile counseling centers.

The extra funding is part of a two-year VA program to improve the access and quality of health care for veterans in geographically isolated areas. The program focuses on several areas, including access to health care, providing world-class care, the use of the latest technology, recruiting and retaining a highly educated workforce and collaborating with other organizations.

More specifically, the new funds will be used to increase the number of mobile clinics, establish new outpatient clinics, expand fee-based care, explore collaborations with federal and community partners, accelerate the use of telemedicine deployment, and fund innovative pilot programs.

The new funds will be distributed according to the proportion of veterans living in rural areas within each VA regional health care system, called VISNs, for “Veterans Integrated Service Networks.” The VISN in Portland will receive \$1 million.

Those with population of rural veterans between 3 percent and 6 percent will receive \$1 million each. VISNs with more than 6 percent of their rural veterans population will receive \$1.5 million.

## VA OFFICIALS TO ASSIST STRUGGLING VETERANS WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS

WASHINGTON – For veterans struggling financially because of a job loss or decreased income, Department of Veterans Affairs officials offer an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year’s income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds. The fall must be caused by a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback.

Veterans determined eligible because of hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

“With the downturn in the economy, VA

recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned.”

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year “clock” begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide

veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA’s Health Benefits Service Center at 877-222-VETS, (8387), or visit the VA health eligibility web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).





## VETERANS' MUSTER

*The United Veterans' Groups of Oregon will hold its annual Veterans' Muster on the steps of the State Capitol in Salem on Wednesday March 11 at 11:30 a.m. Speakers will review veterans' legislative goals.*

### BENEFITS FROM PAGE 1

enrollees.

Enrollment for the lowest priority of the eight groups--veterans who are not being compensated for a military-related disability and who have incomes above a set threshold--was suspended on January 18, 2003, although veterans in that priority group who were already enrolled for care were permitted to remain enrolled.

VA originally suspended enrollment for Priority 8 veterans because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care due to a tremendous growth in the number of veterans then seeking enrollment. VA now plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising the Department's ability to provide high quality health care services to all enrolled veterans who are eligible for care.

VA's computer systems are being modified to accommodate the changes, and the Department is preparing communication and education materials to ensure that Congress, veterans service organizations, and the public are aware of the coming changes.

"The rule will take effect by June 30, 2009, if the regulatory process proceeds smoothly," Peake said. "We look forward to welcoming these newly eligible veterans into the VA system. VA will continue to monitor wait times to ensure the quality of care is not adversely affected."

# WOMEN VETERANS' WRITING GROUP SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

Women veterans who are interested in writing about their military service now have an outlet to do so. The Women Veterans' Writing Group located in Salem is offering a no-cost opportunity in the mid-Willamette valley.

The group's facilitator, Marilyn Johnston, said while this is not a writing class, it is an opportunity to go through guided writing exercises, and to write and to share in a group of women veteran writers, especially those without any previous writing experience.

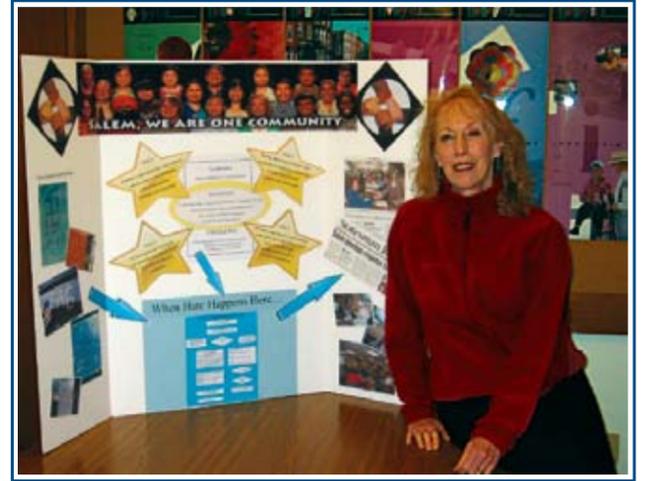
"Writing helps to express thoughts and feelings many people can't verbalize," Johnston said. "Writing can be therapeutic and promote healing and understanding, especially around experiences as military women, and upon returning home."

Johnston has composed poems and has written a book entitled *Red Dust Rising*. Many of her poems detail her husband's experiences while he served in Vietnam. As a U.S. Army soldier, Carroll Johnston was in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive (1967-68).

Johnston said by writing down her observations, she is better able to understand her husband's story "from the periphery of his feelings and thoughts.

"As his wife, I had to find out how to understand his PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and figure out a way to help him deal with his personal war, his associated guilt for all he had seen. So, I became his ghostwriter," she said.

In 2002, the Johnston family, including their daughters, traveled to the Vietnam village of



**Marilyn Johnston, facilitator of the Women Veterans' Writing Group, is seeking women who want to write about their military experiences.**

Duc Pho, south of Da Nang, where her husband had been stationed. They reconnected with some of the people who still lived there who had worked on the base as teenagers.

"It was an amazing experience for us all. As a family, we saw the places he had been first hand. It brought a searing clarity. I wrote more as he opened up. It was like a wound starting to heal."

Johnston said the writing group also is appropriate for those women veterans wishing to write across a variety of writing styles including poetry, non-fiction, short stories, or a personal more reflective style.

The group meets in the Salem Vet Center. To obtain more information, email Johnston at: [RedDustRising@att.net](mailto:RedDustRising@att.net), Rosy Macias at 503-362-9911 or, [Rosa.Macias@va.gov](mailto:Rosa.Macias@va.gov).



## Lending A Helping Hand

**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**

# ODVA WANTS YOUR MILITARY SERVICE STORIES



Leland Henry, 82, a World War II Navy veteran, donated two scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings to the Josephine County museum that depict a chronological history of that war. This photo shows three pages from one of the books.

SALEM – As part of Oregon's 150th birthday celebration, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) will be producing a book containing the history of Oregon veterans and we need your help.

The ODVA is collecting pictures, stories, articles, letters and histories of Oregon veterans from all eras, from the Civil War through the present day. The Department is very interested in your pictures and information as part of this project.

If you are interested in helping ODVA with this project, please consider sending us copies of your photographs and other memorabilia. We would be very interested in your written military histories.

For more information as to how you can contribute to this project, please contact either Mike Allegre, 503-373-2389, or Robin Steckley at 503-373-2085 or via email at [mike.allegre@state.or.us](mailto:mike.allegre@state.or.us) or [robin.steckley@state.or.us](mailto:robin.steckley@state.or.us).

## 2009 SCHEDULED REUNIONS AND EVENTS

**Naval Mobil Construction Battalion Fifty-Eight (NMCB-58)** is having their annual reunion April 1-5, in Biloxi, MS. For information: Carl Roberts, 541-430-3410; John Gallen, 610-344-9555; Ron Rathert, 618-826-2813. Email: [info@nmcb58.org](mailto:info@nmcb58.org).

**Air Force Sergeants Association** will hold their annual conference April 23-26, at the Monarch Hotel in Portland, OR. For reservations: 1-800-492-8700 and mention AFSA to receive the group discount. For information: Steve Wollenburg, 503-631-7868.

**Disabled American Veterans** will hold their state convention May 12-16, at the Holiday Inn, Ontario, OR. Reservations: 541-889-8621. A Hells Canyon Boat Trip will be available on May 11, before the convention. For information: Mike Ward, 541-389-0664. Email: [mikewa@co.dechutes.or.us](mailto:mikewa@co.dechutes.or.us).

**Merchant Marine and Armed Guard** will hold their 23rd annual convention May 14-17, in Tampa, FL. Coordinating with The American Victory, a historic cruise will be offered May 16. For progress updates: 352-397-1540. Email: [morrisharvey27@yahoo.com](mailto:morrisharvey27@yahoo.com). For more information on The American Victory, visit the website, [www.americanvictory.com](http://www.americanvictory.com)

**American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor** will hold their 69th annual convention May 26-30, in San Antonio, TX. For reservations: The Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade; 1-800-THE-OMNI/ 1-800-843-6664; website, [www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com). Reservations must be made by May 8.

**American Ex Prisoners of War** will hold their State Convention April 22, from 9:00AM - 5:00PM at The Phoenix Inn, 1590 Weston Ct NE Salem, Oregon. For information call Helen Davidson, 541-424-3023.

**Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association** is having their 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](mailto:2009portland@usncva.org). Website: [www.usncva.org](http://www.usncva.org).

**USS Begor APD-127** is having their reunion Sept. 29-Oct. 3, in Portland, OR. For reservations: Red Lion Hotel Jantzen Beach, 503-283-4466. Email: [theredlionjantzenbeach.com](mailto:theredlionjantzenbeach.com). For information: Rich Parady, 315 W. Evans Creek Road #50, Rogue River, OR 97537; 541-582-1761. Email: [rogriv@q.com](mailto:rogriv@q.com). Website: [www.ussebegor.org](http://www.ussebegor.org).

Submit Reunion Information to: Public Information/Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, 700 Summer St NE, Salem, OR 97301; Email: [shaffes@odva.state.or.us](mailto:shaffes@odva.state.or.us); Fax: 503-373-2362

**Nike Veterans** is having their 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](mailto:gfdurocher@usgs.gov).

**American Veterans** will hold their state convention May 15-17, at the Eagles Lodge, 568 2nd St., Coos Bay, OR. For information: Gene Martin, 541-290-4222. Email: [oldfossil137@yahoo.com](mailto:oldfossil137@yahoo.com).

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

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

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

#### 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](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.



# 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 11, and make a tax-deductible donation today. Those who contributed during the months of December 2008 and January 2009 are listed below:*

Ida Farra  
American Legion Umpqua Post 16  
Mel and Norma Peterson  
Access Computer Products  
Kenneth and Arliss Rolph  
Stephen R. Gracon  
Oregon AFSCME Council 75 Local 697  
Lillian Granby  
Jack and Carol Magnuson  
Shannon Sappingfield  
Edith P. Hickam  
Helen L. Wilson  
Donna L. Arnold  
Darrell and Winifred Mitchell  
John Gutzwiller  
Joan Lagerberg  
Ed and Harriet Kelly  
Spencer, Libby and Powell  
Claudia Leash—Sigman's Flowers  
Michael Leash—Columbia Gorge Mortgage  
Mildred Hannah  
Bob Lovgren  
Heppner Family Foods  
Heppner Elks Lodge #358  
Glenn Ward  
Dan Petroff  
Murray's Drug  
Sherman County Children's Foundation  
Harold and Lucile Stephens  
Dave and Georgia Moore  
Tualatin Valley Quilters Guild  
Steve Besse  
Gary Van Orman  
Dennis and Kathleen Kucera  
Leigh Hunt, Jr.  
Darlene Hardie  
Janet Boyles  
Edith Leslie  
VFW Dallas Post 3203  
American Legion Auxiliary 25  
American Legion Post 136  
Carrol Donahue  
Fred R. Fax  
Gresham Ford  
Janice and Joel Bramwell  
Robert and Karen Welch  
Christopher and Patti Moore  
Gordon Halsten  
WAVES Cascade Seafarers Unit 138  
Women of the Moose—The Dalles Chapter 1494  
Jeff and Susan Ford  
Roy Striley  
PGE  
Robert M. Lee  
Mary McDonald  
Veterans Motorcycle Club  
Twyla Choate  
Betty Ehleringer  
Ruth McNamara  
Bernard Wright  
Jack and Janice Shorb  
VFW Hermiston Post 4750  
Donna Albee  
American Legion Washington Post 2  
Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club  
Jaque Metz and Steve Cooney  
Kathleen Blome  
Neil and Linda Umphress  
Laurence and Elizabeth Beck  
Alan Wenner

Vietnam Veterans of America—Chapter 757  
Silverton Elks Lodge #2210  
S.A.L. Squad #1  
Lucile Peck  
Donald L. Moore  
Corvallis Professional Firefighters Local 2240  
Richard Herstine  
Anonymous  
American Legion Auxiliary 37  
Robert and Rose Marie Kuenzli  
Arlene Miller  
VFW Kilchis-Sunset Post 2848 and Auxiliary  
Donald J. Hernandez  
William Patterson  
Lee Lugibihl  
Roy and Barbara Haymes  
Korean War Veterans Association, Oregon Trail Chapter  
American Legion Post 67  
American Legion The Dalles Auxiliary  
David and Georgia Moore  
Denis A. and Mary Lee Brown  
Albert Ratzlaff  
Eugene and Cynthia Biboux  
Craig Nowland  
Steven and Vicki Seymour  
John and Patricia Clausen  
Bill and Barbara Hammel  
Wayne and Camille Ryan  
Benjamin Veatch  
Richard and Brook Remington  
Larry and Karen Smith  
Mary Ann Enyeart  
Janice J. King Cole  
Gerald and Betsy Tanquist  
Gretchen G. Johnson  
Dorothy McKee  
Mary Ann Elquezabal  
Paul E. Burger  
Roy and Sheryll Chambers  
Claire Madison  
Phillip and Mary Ann Kaser  
Robert and Maria Bornheimer  
American War Mothers  
Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Shop  
Jack C. Means  
Frank Hotchkiss  
Billie Morris  
Marvin S. Prestwood  
Robert Shaw  
Bob Ballenger  
Mary Watts  
Ken Turner  
Karen L. Miyawaki  
Dean and Mary Ann Packard  
Darrel A. Palmer  
Vietnam Veterans of America—Chapter 271  
VFW Blue Mountain Post 4567  
Louis and Virginia Wampler  
John McCulley  
James and Marion Crews  
American Legion Capital Post 9  
Estate of Mary Winifred Buell  
Walmart—Hood River  
Mark Sullivan  
Celilo NSDAR  
DAV Auxiliary 17  
Eugene Melvin  
Tillamook Naval and Air Station and Museum  
Loretta M. Asa

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Gary L. Miller  
Nita Lucht and Family  
Vic Hefferin  
DAV Auxiliary Yamhill County Unit 5  
Mike and Bev Hopkins  
Thomas and Virginia Hake  
Gary and Iva Champlain  
Donald and Patricia Emmons  
Fern Hitch  
John Warden  
American Legion Auxiliary 136 District 2  
Al Mozejko  
Pete MacNab  
Margaret Liebert  
Primary Purpose Group  
Doug Edmunds  
John Pratt  
Saint Helens Elks Lodge #1999  
Armed Forces E-9 Association, Oregon Ruptured Ducks  
George M. DeRaeve  
June J. Casanova  
Melvin Holst  
Helen L. Wilson  
Wadean Holcomb  
Pat and Lori Beers  
Jack Gallagher  
American Legion Lester C. Rees Post 57  
KWVA—Department of Oregon  
Larry E. and Sarah E. Keil  
Paul M. Holloway  
Denise K. Hansberger  
Virginia Wood  
Hood River Elks Lodge #1507  
Ed and Jan Howard  
Anita Hasegawa  
L.M. Dinsmoor  
Mary Hoffman  
Bonnie Cease  
Michael and Betty Lusk  
Robert and Carol Ungren  
Beverly Bryant  
Leonard Hay Family  
Nate and Bernice Arthur  
John and Laura Miller  
Charles and Nona Moore  
Janet L. May  
Alvin and Mary Duvall  
American Legion Post 20  
U.S. Air Force Band  
Holiday Rambler—Oregon Chapter 208  
Edward M. Kelly  
American Legion Heppner Post 87  
Veterans of Foreign Wars—Department of Oregon  
Myrle Smith  
MOAA—Central Oregon Chapter  
Knights of Columbus  
Trout Lake Quilters  
Monte Irving  
William Fox  
VFW Auxiliary #2471  
Dennis and Bonnie Betts  
Edland A. Clement  
Knights of Columbus, Archbishop of Ireland Assembly  
Donald and Edith McDaniel  
Oregon City Elks Lodge #1189  
Nadyne and Julie Reynolds  
Coos Bay Elks Lodge #1160  
Eldon Rollins

## 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.

### Cascade Seafarers 138

**Carrol Donahue**

**Douglas Edmunds**

**Gordon Halsten**

**Dawn Jurado**

**Edward Kelly**

**Margaret Liebert**

**Dr. Albert Mozejko**

**Craig Nowland**

**John Pratt**

**Primary Purpose Group**

**John C. Warden**

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

## DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES OPENING OF PSYCHIATRIC-ENABLED HEALTH CENTER

**WASHINGTON** - Defense Department officials have announced the opening of a new outreach center that will provide servicemembers, veterans and their families a new resource for psychological health problems and traumatic brain injuries.

The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury is operating the 24-hour center, which will be open 365 days a year and is staffed by behavioral health consultants and nurses, including some former military psychologists.

"We're providing 24/7 support to assist callers with questions regarding psychological health and traumatic brain injury," said Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Loree K. Sutton, director of the Centers of Excellence. "Getting the best possible information and tools, hassle-free, will empower and strengthen warriors and their families to successfully manage what can be confusing and disturbing circumstances."

The center promotes resilience, recovery, and reintegration of servicemembers facing psychological health and traumatic brain injury issues while working to advance research, education, diagnosis, and treatment of these

conditions, Sutton said. Its staff is equipped to handle not only routine requests for information, but also questions about symptoms a caller may be experiencing. Its staff also can help a caller find appropriate health care resources within the Defense Department or with other federal agencies, she added.

"What we want to make sure is that we provide the accurate information to allow folks to understand what's really true," Sutton said. "If we need to research a question, we'll do the legwork and quickly reconnect with the caller."

The outreach center will always be there for members, leaders, and health care providers of all service branches, the reserve components and veterans, Sutton said. Family members of servicemembers and veterans can call or e-mail the outreach center staff with questions pertaining to psychological health or traumatic brain injury.

The 24-hour service center can be reached by calling 866-966-1020, or by emailing [resources@dcoeoutreach.org](mailto:resources@dcoeoutreach.org).

## VETS NEWS IS SEEKING YOUR MEMORIAL DAY EVENT INFORMATION

If your community or organization is planning Memorial Day events and you would like them listed in the May-June edition of Vets News, please mail or email that information to the Vets News staff no later than April 3.

The required information to be listed on the calendar should be brief and include: The city or location of the event, date(s),

time(s), a description of the event, a contact person, and their phone number. Send your Memorial Day event information to Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, Public Information Section, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285, or email to [vetsnews@odva.state.or.us](mailto:vetsnews@odva.state.or.us).



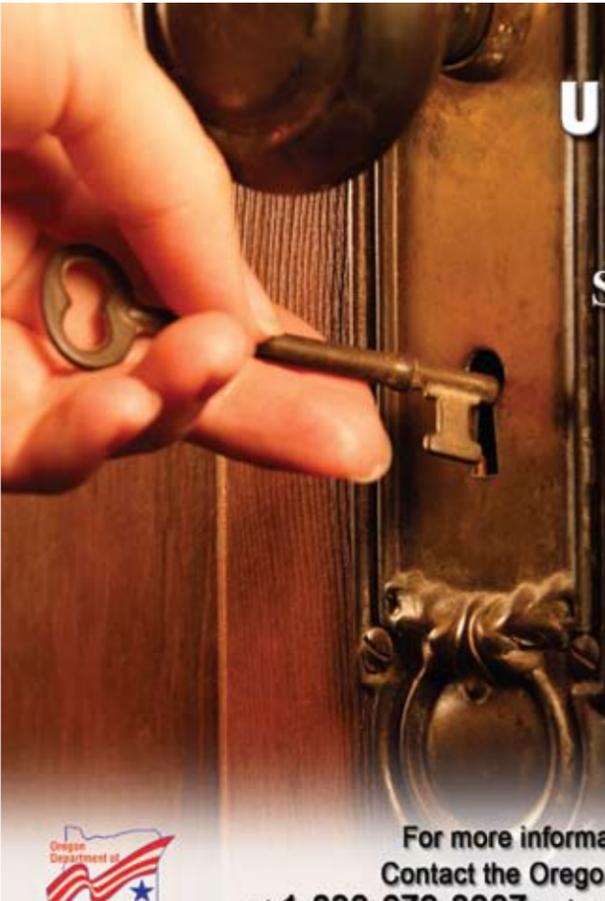
**VETS NEWS**  
700 Summer St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301-1285  
Phone: 503-373-2386  
Fax: 503-373-2362  
[www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva)  
[VETSNEWS@ODVA.state.or.us](mailto:VETSNEWS@ODVA.state.or.us)

**Tom Mann**, Editor  
**Mike Allegre**, Staff Writer  
**Christopher Dauterman**, Staff Writer  
**Dan Long**, Staff Writer/Layout and Design  
**Sue Shaffer**, Staff Writer  
**Robin Steckley**, Staff Writer

Published every other month for Oregon veterans and others interested in news affecting veterans and their dependents.

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 April 1, 2009.)



## Unlock Your Future

### ORVET State Home Loan Program

- \* Interest Rates Generally Below Market.
- \* No Discount Points Are Charged.
- \* Limited Closing Costs.
- \* Your Loan Will Not Be Sold.
- ODVA Holds Loans Through Life of Loan.
- \* No Tax Service Fee.
- \* 15-30 Year Terms.

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



# VA AGREES TO SETTLE: \$20 MILLION FOR VETERAN DATA THEFT

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Veterans Affairs Department has agreed to pay \$20 million to veterans for exposing them to possible identity theft in 2006 by losing their sensitive personal information.

In court filings, lawyers for the VA and the veterans said they had reached agreement to settle a class-action lawsuit originally filed by five veterans groups alleging invasion of privacy. The money, which will come from the U.S. Treasury, will be used to pay veterans who can show they suffered actual harm, such as physical symptoms of emotional distress or expenses incurred for credit monitoring.

U.S. District Judge James Robertson in Washington must approve the terms of the settlement before it becomes final.

“This settlement means the VA is finally accepting full responsibility for a huge problem that continues to worry millions of veterans, retirees, service members and families,” said Joe Davis, spokesman for Veterans of Foreign Wars, which was not involved in the lawsuit.

According to the proposed settlement, veterans who show harm from the data theft will be able to receive payments ranging from \$75 to \$1,500. If any of the \$20 million is left over after making payments, the remainder would be donated to veterans’ charities agreed to by the parties, such as the Fisher House Foundation Inc. and The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

VA spokesman Phil Budahn said: “We want to assure veterans there is no evidence that the information involved in this incident was used to harm a single veteran.”

The lawsuit came after a VA data analyst in 2006 admitted that he had lost a laptop and external drive containing the names, birth dates and Social Security numbers of up to 26.5 million veterans and active-duty troops. The analyst promptly notified his superiors, but due to a series of delays, veterans were not told of the theft until nearly three weeks later, on May 22. They had lost the information when his suburban Maryland home was burglarized on May 3, 2006, after taking the data home without permission.

The laptop was later recovered intact, but a blistering report by the VA inspector general faulted both the data analyst and his supervisors for putting veterans at unreasonable risk.

Five veterans groups filed a class-action lawsuit in June 2006 in U.S. District Court in Washington on behalf of all veterans, seeking \$1,000 in damages for every veteran whose information was compromised in the computer theft.

## GOT YOURS YET?

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

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

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



### Oregon Veterans’ Home Gift Form “ Give to those who have already given of themselves ”

Please designate my donation: In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift amount:  \$35-\$64 (1 Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pin)  
 \$65-\$99 (2 Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pins)  
 \$100 or more (2 Oregon Veterans' Home Remembrance Pins and listing on the Wall of Gratitude)

Please send my “Oregon Veterans’ Home Remembrance Pin(s)” to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is:  Personal Check (Please make checks payable to the “Oregon Veterans’ Home”)

Credit Card Information

VISA  MasterCard Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

of changes on behalf of Oregon veterans,” Willis said. “These changes will not only be good for Oregon veterans, but will be good for all veterans.”

The Task Force has submitted the following pieces of legislation:

HB 2178 – Places Veteran Service Officers on University and College Campuses

HJM 2 – Urges Congress to fund the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program and Local Veteran Employment Representatives at appropriate levels

HJM 3 – Urges Congress to provide more funding for VA Health Administration’s Fee Basis system, as well as simplify the Fee Basis rules

HJM 4 – Urges Congress to provide funding so that returning National Guard soldiers have 90-120 days after combat for debriefings and decompression

HJR 3 – Amends the Oregon Constitution to eliminate the 30-year restriction on the use of the ORVET home loan, as well as redefines veteran as defined in ORS 408.225

SB 98 – Establishes Veterans’ Transportation Task Force

SJM 1 – Urges Congress to amend IRS tax code to allow state home loan programs to be lifetime benefit

SJM 2 – Urges Congress to create and fund Oregon veterans transportation system

SJM 3 – Urges Congress to fully fund all categories of VA health care (1-8)

ODVA has submitted the following housekeeping bills:

HB2176–Amends the eligibility requirements for Advisory Committee membership

HB 2177 – Allows ODVA Director to dispose of non-monetary gifts directly to individual veteran

SB 94 – Allows ODVA to conduct criminal background checks on employees

SB 95 – Allows veterans receiving federal educational aid to receive state educational aid at the same time

SB 96 – Consolidates the definition on veteran in statute to that of ORS 408.225

SB 97 – Transfers responsibility of purchasing Loan Cancellation Life Insurance from Department of Administrative Services to ODVA

If you would like more information about these or other veteran bills, please visit the Oregon Legislature website at [www.leg.state.or.us/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/) where you will be able to review each bill and track its progress through the legislature.

## 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 .....	503-846-3054	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 Rita Gill Mitch Sparks Gina Thomas Jerry Wilson Doug Yerke
Portland .....	503-412-4777	Deanna Barnes DeJay Hartman Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Gordon Padgett Ed Van Dyke

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Evelyn F. Anderson 156 W Killdeer Roseburg, OR 97470 541-440-8445	Eugene J. LaBonte 8825 Hebo Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347 503-879-5342	Joseph R. Howell 1780 NW Valley View Drive Albany, OR 97321 541-990-4176
Kevin J. Owens 2249 Commercial North Bend, OR 97459 541-756-2390	Gerard F. Lorang 3914 SW Hewett Boulevard Portland, OR 97221-3103 (971) 404-5154	David Fairclo 20751 Amber Way Bend, OR 97701-8510 541-382-8281
Irv Fletcher, <b>Chair</b> 1272 Mayanna Drive Woodburn, OR 97071 503-981-4356	Tino E. Ornelas 22504 SW Riggs Road Beaverton, OR 97007-8467 503-844-9000	Charles E. Schmidt PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

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

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



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

PRSRRT STD  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 22  
Salem, OR

## Address Changes / New Subscriptions

### ADDRESS AS IT APPEARS NOW:

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

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

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

**NEW ADDRESS:**

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

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

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

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