



VETS NEWS

November | December 2010

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Jim Willis, Director

SAILOR RECOUNTS 50's NUKE TEST FALLOUT

By Mike Allegre

Today no one would knowingly go or send a person out into a downpour of radioactive fallout. Certainly a person would not allow themselves to run through a shower of gamma radiation wearing just their skivvies.

In 1956, long before anyone knew the exact effects of radioactivity, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Lowell Gunselman made the decision to do just that. He did it to potentially save the lives of sailors on three ships and trusting that a decontamination team would save him.

Gunselman was stationed aboard the USS *Curtiss* (AV-4), a converted seaplane tender that had earned seven battle stars from World War II and Korean service. It would be the first sea duty for the electronics technician from Kansas. The 22 year-old would never have guessed he would soon be a key participant during the upcoming historic nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Specifically, the highly classified Operation Redwing.

He entered the Navy in March 1954 and trained through the end of that year. He was assigned to the *Curtiss* in January 1955 and was soon briefed on the ship's upcoming mission. He was sent to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Treasure Island for highly specialized training. In April 1956, the *Curtiss* transported nuclear components to Bikini Atoll for Operation Redwing.

This operation is notable for having demonstrated the first U.S. airdrop of a

SEE GUNSELMAN ON PAGE 3

VA "PRESUMPTIVE" ILLNESSES REG FOR GULF WAR, OEF, OIF VETS PUBLISHED

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register that makes it easier for veterans to obtain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in Southwest Asia.

The final regulation establishes new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia beginning on or after the start of the first Gulf War on

Aug. 2, 1990, through the conflict in Iraq and on or after Sept. 19, 2001, in Afghanistan.

"This is part of historic changes in how VA considers Gulf War Veterans' illnesses," said Secretary Shinseki. "By setting up scientifically-based presumptions of service connection, we give these deserving veterans a simple way to obtain the medical and compensation benefits they earned in service to our country."

The final regulation reflects a determination of a positive association between service in

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Director's Message

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

CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINE CORPS!

November 11, 2010 marks the 56th Anniversary of the modern celebration of Veterans Day. Originally known as Armistice Day, the Veterans Day we now celebrate was created to honor all veterans instead of just those who fought in World War I, as was the case with Armistice Day.

Interestingly enough, the idea was the brainchild of Alfred King of Emporia, Kan. who had been actively involved with the American War Dads during World War II. Mr. King's campaign to lobby the Congress was successful and resulted in President Dwight Eisenhower signing the bill into law on May 26, 1954.

Sadly, our country celebrates this Veterans Day while we are still at war. On the grounds of ODVA at a ceremony on Veterans Day at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial we will add the names of four more Oregonians who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Our memorial was the first of its kind in the United States when it was dedicated in 2006.

As some of you may know, we add these names on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. All of us look forward to the day when there will be no new names to add to this beautiful and dignified memorial.

On November 10th, the United States Marine Corps will mark its 235th Birthday. Happy Birthday Marines! May you continue to serve our nation in the tradition of your motto, "Semper Fidelis."

As we enter the Holiday Season, I hope it will be a time of continuing recovery from the devastating recession that has so negatively impacted our state and nation. It is a time to continue in our efforts to serve the veterans who have kept our country free.

My hope is that our elected officials at all levels of government will continue to support our veterans and their families as a matter of public policy and out of respect for all that they have done and continue to do.

I would like to thank all of you who continue to volunteer your time and efforts to comfort



An attendee at a previous Veterans Day event creates a rubbing of the name of a loved one at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial.

and support our veterans of all eras. You have and will continue to make a difference in their quality of life and respect for their accomplishments.

Jim Willis
Jim Willis, Director

VETERANS' EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SAVES THE STATE OF OREGON MONEY

SALEM – It's not often a state program actually saves the state money. However, that is exactly what the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program has done by helping hundreds of veterans overcome short-term crises.

One of the most unique programs in the state, by giving veterans one-time emergency grants, this bridge financing has kept these veterans from having to use other state programs, such as unemployment insurance, the Oregon Health Plan, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and more.

"If a veteran needs \$800 to keep his car running, it's much more effective to provide that \$800 than to suffer the consequences of

not helping the veteran," ODVA Director Jim Willis explained.

"If we don't help fix the car, the veteran cannot get to work. If he can't get to work, he can't pay his rent or buy food, and if he can't pay rent and buy food, he and his family will end up homeless and on state programs until he can get back on his feet, which will cost exponentially more than \$800," he said. "An investment of \$800 can save the state thousands of dollars in other programs."

Initiated in 2005, the Oregon Legislature allocated \$250,000 for the first two years. Seeing the great need and obvious benefit of the program, the Legislature increased the allocation

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

Tom Mann, Managing Editor
Mike Allegre, Associate Editor / Staff Writer
Dan Long, Production / Staff Writer
Nicole Hoeft, Staff Writer
Sue Shaffer, Staff Writer
Robin Steckley, Staff Writer

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deliverable hydrogen bomb. The test, known as “Cherokee,” was the second in a series of 17 U.S. nuclear test detonations, from May 5 to July 22, within Operation Redwing. The tests were conducted at the Bikini and Eniwetok atolls in the Marshall Islands. The explosions ranged from a small “fizzler” of 190 tons to a 5 megaton blast.

The Keizer resident’s job was to operate the new telemetry equipment that would be key to gathering needed technical data during the upcoming nuclear tests. The data included water and air temperature, audio levels, brightness from the blasts, the motion and radiation levels at all monitoring stations.

“On Cherokee test we had 27 of these telemetry units secured to weapons, locations on shore, on buoys and barges that were designed to gather and transmit the information to the equipment I operated,” he recalled. “And we had 184 different antennas attached to the ship’s modified yardarms that picked up these transmissions.”

The *Curtiss* also provided and operated special communications and other electronic equipment, initiated voice-time broadcasts for the entire task force and coordinated special communications requirements. The ship served as a control firing station for Bikini tests while operating as a scientific command ship and staff headquarters.

That meant Rear Admiral J.E. Wellings was aboard ship to oversee the operation. “He and Capt. B.L. Bailey were in and out of my little control room a lot. We had a good working relationship and mutual respect.”

Gunselman was present for all 17 nuclear tests. None were routine. The ships were rocked about the seas following detonations. Downpours of fallout could last for hours as the trillions of gallons of ocean water sucked up by the blasts returned to earth. The ships and most all of the islands were covered by these showers filled with nuclear fallout.

“This (nuclear information) was still new back then. The military planned based upon as much theory as fact, and maybe more theory. We were briefed on what should and might happen, but the actual events could vary,” Gunselman said.

Unfortunately, years later it was found that the military had categorized these tests as Human Radiation Experiments (HREX).

“After taking a vow of silence about those operations, under the threat of prosecution for treason, I learned about 50 years later that we were nothing but guinea pigs. All of us,” Gunselman said.

With each test, huge amounts of data were gathered by the lone sailor busily working in the communications room adjacent to the ship’s bridge. Gunselman’s nuclear data training

became vital after Cherokee was exploded above the ocean on May 20, 1956 near Bikini Atoll. He said Cherokee was to have been dropped above two big barges that had searchlights installed by the Navy to light up like Manhattan Island.

“We knew where the barges were, but the bomb exploded about 13 miles closer to us than was planned. That was about 37 miles away, which was too close. The Air Force screwed up.”



Seaman Lowell Gunselman

The task force commander had ordered all U.S. ships on radar silence, but Gunselman turned on his ship’s radar. “I wasn’t supposed to, but we needed to locate the B-52 dropping the bomb. Then we saw 13 other radar signals. We weren’t the only country with radar. Soviet submarines were observing our tests.”

Moments after the detonation at 0551, the task force ships, sealed-up against the deadly radiation, were shoved around the ocean. The *Curtiss* listed almost 30 degrees and soon took the brunt of the blast from under the sea—a concussion that ricocheted from another angle.

Within two hours, with his data readings collected and sent to LLNL, Gunselman informed the admiral and captain that protocol deemed they must immediately learn the position of the gamma cloud created from the explosion. They could not sail into it or the ship could become super-heated and sink or be severely damaged.

The shock waves had already caused the ship’s boiler to nearly shutdown, so emergency power was being used, and the radar wasn’t responding. It was reported later that nearby ships, USS *Estes* (AGC-12) and USS *Mt. McKinley* (AGC-7), had little or no power and may be in danger.

Gunselman said he volunteered to repair the radar. The captain refused, saying he didn’t want to be responsible for him. He signed a waiver and the captain relented.

“I was one of 373 sailors aboard that ship. There were over 300 on each of the other two ships. We had a decontamination team aboard, so I’d be okay,” Gunselman recalled.

He removed all of his clothing but his skivvies, and ran about 65 feet across the ship’s deck to the radar deckhouse. The radar’s four power tubes had been shattered. Gunselman replaced them with the new tubes stored in the deckhouse, turned on the radar, heard and saw it become fully operational, and ran back to the bridge. It took 32 minutes. Gunselman then saw the radar repeater was operating and noticed the *Mt. McKinley* was headed toward the cloud. “I told the Captain, but decided to grab the ship’s radio microphone that I could reach from outside the bridge and radioed, ‘this is the USS *Curtiss. McKinley*, reverse your engines. You’re headed into the gamma cloud.’”

After hurrying down six deck ladders to the Decontamination Center, Gunselman was scanned. The detection meter pegged at 50,000 milliroentgens. He had received a severe dose of gamma radiation. At that time, 500 milliroentgens was considered deadly.

Following two hours of being scrubbed by the decon team with two 3-pound cans of “salt water soap,” new radiation readings showed a 40 percent decrease. After a four-hour workout in the ship’s gym, the radiation levels had dropped again, which proved that profuse perspiration would force radiation from one’s pores.

The captain later hand-carried a steak dinner to Gunselman and told him he “was going to make it. I told you that was suicide.” Then Bailey thanked Gunselman for his bravery.

Gunselman continued to carry out his duties through every test that followed. “I worked out in the gym every day too, for the remainder of Redwing and on the trip back to San Diego until the radiation levels were very weak.”

Gunselman took 30 days of leave as he left the *Curtiss* in December 1956 to report to his new assignment, the famed USS *Missouri* docked in Bremerton, Wash. He served on the “Mighty Mo” until President Eisenhower downsized the military.

Petty Officer 2nd Class (ET2) Gunselman was transferred to the Naval Reserve on Dec. 13, 1957 for completion of his eight-year obligation. By then he had met and married his future wife, Mary Ann. They will be married 53 years on Nov. 9, and have since raised five healthy children, one an Air Force Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. They have eight grandchildren.

Many servicemen involved in nuclear tests in the Pacific in the 1950s didn’t survive. Some survivors were unable to father children or some of their offspring had birth defects. Gunselman’s personal research shows that 25 years after



Navy ships in the blast zone.

the tests, about half of the *Curtiss*’s crew was dead and that the 35 onboard decontamination crewmen had died.

Today, Gunselman, 76, believes he suffers hearing loss, vertigo and other maladies that are directly attributable to the effects from serving in Operation Redwing.

MCMINNVILLE STUDENTS CREATE BOOK HIGHLIGHTING COUNTY'S MILITARY HISTORY

MCMINNVILLE – Bringing history to the classroom. That was the goal of McMinnville High School history teacher Francesca Morrison in 2009.

To meet that goal, she and her students embarked on an ambitious project to research and interview local veterans whose stories could be preserved in a book highlighting Yamhill County's military history.

With help from an educational grant procured by the Yamhill County Historical Society and publishing assistance from Evergreen Aviation Museum, *An Interview with History* was printed in late September. It is a unique collection of military wartime and home front experiences as told to the students by a variety of veterans.

The book's subjects were mostly residents from the nearby Hillside Retirement Center, but also included teachers from MHS and other community members.

"These students really took ownership of this project from the start," Morrison told the crowd gathered for the book's release. "I saw many changes in them personally. They took pride in what they were doing and wanted to perfect their work. Many of them empathized with what they were being told."

Morrison said for all concerned, it was an honor and a growing experience to take part in this ground breaking project. "We're sending



McMinnville High School student writers and their teacher, Ms. Francesca Morrison (center), meet ODVA Director Jim Willis (center right) after the book the students had written and published was released on September 24.

books to every high school library statewide, and we hope they will too, do this kind of project."

The book release's keynote speaker, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis, commended Morrison and her students for serving veterans with their hard work and diligence in completing the project.

"What you've done here will live on long after you're out of school. This is part of you and we thank you for this permanent recording of the history of these proud Americans in your hometown," Willis said.

Willis then presented Morrison with the ODVA Director's Commendation Award to recognize the superior work she and her students gave to the community and the state.

"You honor these men and women by chronicling their stories and you serve as a guidepost for students elsewhere to continue to carry on what you've accomplished here in their schools."

A former Navy seaman in World War II, Bruce Huffman attended the event and then found himself very busy after the ceremony when the books were handed out.

"I like this part; signing autographs," Huffman chuckled. "This was a

wonderful project for everyone involved and the kids did great work."

Student writer Josh Nice said the book and interviews changed his general perspective about life.

"High school students need to learn more about great Americans who actually served or helped in the war. You can only learn so much about American history from books, but if you listen to these amazing people, it's much better," Nice said.

OREGON SAILOR EARNS AWARD FOR HEROIC ACT

LAS VEGAS – The Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) awarded its 2010 Navy Vanguard Award to Oregonian Hospital Corpsman Second Class Andrew P. Glemser of Creswell for his heroic actions while serving in Iraq during its 50th national convention on July 22.

The NCOA annually recognizes and pays tribute to a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) from each uniformed service that has performed a particularly heroic act that resulted in the saving of a life during the presentation.

On April 30, 2009, then PO3 Glemser, was assisting his team as they prosecuted an improvised explosive device when the device detonated, killing two Marines, one Sailor and at the same time wounding PO3 Glemser and two others.

His commendation reads as follows: "With total disregard for his own injuries, Petty Officer Glemser immediately began to treat the two wounded team members, despite secondary explosions occurring from the unexploded



NCOA's Navy Vanguard Award recipient HM2 Andrew P. Glemser is accompanied during the awards ceremony by (L-R) NCOA President Gene Overstreet, Glemser's mom Dawn Syring, Command Master Chief U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Christopher Angstead, NCOA Board Member Terry Haines, U.S. Navy MCPO (Ret), Medford, Ore.

ordinance in a nearby burning trailer. He continued to ignore his own wounds until his injured teammates had been evacuated. It would be later determined that Petty Officer Glemser's calm demeanor and quick reactions no doubt saved the life of his team leader.

"Once the wounded team members were safely away, he then returned to the site of the detonation and ensured the deceased Marines and Sailor were properly taken care of. Still forgoing his own medical treatment, he waited on scene to brief the responding back-up EOD team on the situation.

"Only after ensuring that the new team was fully aware of the dangers at hand, was he transported back to Camp Baharia and treated for his wounds, some seven hours after the initial explosion.

"Hospital Corpsman Third Class Glemser's noteworthy accomplishments, perseverance and devotion to duty reflected credit upon himself, and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Gov. Ted Kulongoski sent Glemser a letter of appreciation and extended his sincere gratitude for the sailor's "heroic service to his country."

for the program to \$500,000 for the 2007 and 2009 biennia. Even with this increase, demand routinely outpaces supply.

“We allocate these funds quarterly and by the end of the first 30 days of each quarter, we have exhausted the funding for that period,” Willis said. “What is so amazing is that we actually turn down 75 percent of the requests that are made and we still can’t meet demand.”

To qualify for an emergency grant, an eligible veteran must prove there is a demonstrable financial crisis. Further, the veteran must prove that the one-time grant will bridge the crisis and the veteran will be able to successfully move forward after receiving the grant.

“If a veteran will be in the same financial crisis next month that he finds himself in this month with no plan for success, the grant would be ineffective – it would just be a band aid and not truly help the veteran move forward,” Willis explained.

Since 2005, ODVA has provided grants to veterans with each grant averaging \$1,200. The following are just some of the examples of how the emergency grant has helped Oregon veterans:

A homeless veteran found employment; however, could not take care of himself in such a way to be presentable at work while homeless. The veteran asked ODVA’s help in providing first and last months rent and deposit for an apartment so the veteran could keep the newfound job. ODVA granted his application and the veteran successfully transitioned from homelessness to an apartment and a full-time job.

A World War II veteran had severe dental issues. He was unable to eat and was too embarrassed to go into public or seek help. Another veteran suggested ODVA to provide help. The agency found a willing partner in a local dentist who provided all the dental work and dentures for \$900. The veteran was not only grateful, but was able to eat and sustain himself and no longer was ashamed to be seen in public.

When flooding hit Vernonia and other areas of the state in 2007, ODVA sent veteran service officers to staff locations along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide emergency aid to the stricken, including Fred Meyer gift cards for food and clothing.

A self-employed veteran fell off a ladder and severely broke his leg, resulting in him not being able to work while he recovered. Being self-employed, the veteran did not have insurance to cover his bills while he was off work. ODVA granted his application for emergency financial assistance to bridge the gap while he was off work.

The program has helped veterans with utility shutoffs, evictions, food, gas, work clothing and other needs that when met ensured the veteran’s future success.

“I look at this program as an investment in the state by giving veterans a hand up so they don’t need a hand out,” Willis said.

“Our goal as an agency is to keep this program in place so that it can continue to help veterans and save the state money.”

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All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Oregon Veterans’ Home.

Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and nine diseases and includes information about the long-term health effects potentially associated with the following diseases: Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella Burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral leishmaniasis and West Nile virus.

With the final rule, a veteran will only have to show service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and that he or she had one of the nine diseases within a certain time after service and has a current disability as a result of that disease, subject to certain time limits for seven of the diseases. Most of these diseases would be diagnosed within one year of return from service, though some conditions may manifest at a later time.

For non-presumptive conditions, a veteran is required to provide medical evidence to establish an actual connection between military service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and a specific disease.

The decision to add these presumptives was made after reviewing the 2006 report of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (NASIOM), titled, "Gulf War and Health Volume 5: Infectious Diseases."

The 2006 report differed from the four prior reports by looking at the long-term health effects of certain diseases determined to be pertinent to Gulf War Veterans. Secretary Shinseki decided to include Afghanistan Veterans in these presumptions because NASIOM found that the nine diseases are also prevalent in that country.



The 1998 Persian Gulf War Veterans Act requires the Secretary to review NAS reports that study scientific information and possible associations between illnesses and exposure to toxic agents by Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War.

While the decision to add the nine new presumptives predates VA's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force (GWVI-TF), the overarching responsibility of the GWVI-TF is to regain Gulf War Veterans' confidence in VA's health care, benefits, and services and reconfirm VA is 100 percent committed to Veterans of all eras.

The GWVI-TF began in Fall 2009 and is not a static, one-time initiative but will continue to build on its work with annual reports issued every August. The group's focus centers on unanswered Gulf War veterans' health issues, improving access to benefits, ensuring cutting edge research into treatments, and to make sure veterans' concerns are heard and addressed. This includes continuing to solicit veterans, experts, advocates and stakeholders to share their views to better inform the important work of the GWVI-TF. The GWVI-TF Report can be found at www.VA.gov.

SHINSEKI DEFENDS NEW AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki says providing Agent Orange-related disability benefits to Vietnam veterans who have heart disease — even though there are many other reasons they might have the ailment — is a decision that errs on the side of veterans, because that is the right and legal thing to do.

The decision also has wide-ranging implications for current veterans because it is a sign that VA will act to provide benefits years after a conflict is over, Shinseki said in written testimony on Sept. 24 to the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

VA published final rules in August to add ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's disease and B-Cell leukemias to the list of ailments presumed to be the result of military service in Vietnam and exposure to defoliants, such as Agent Orange. As a result, beginning as early as October up to 250,000 Vietnam veterans will become eligible for veterans disability compensation and medical care.

Heart disease is the presumptive illness gaining the most attention, because it is a common ailment among the elderly who have had no exposure to Agent Orange. However, Shinseki defends its inclusion, noting that nine scientific or medical studies showed a link between the exposure of the herbicide widely used in Vietnam and ischemic heart disease. A 1991 law — the Agent Orange Act — requires VA to presume an ailment is caused by military service when there is such evidence.

"Veterans and their families have waited decades while the science has incrementally revealed more about the impact of Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans," Shinseki said. "Not only did our actions follow the statute, but I believe our actions on Agent Orange will be viewed as an indicator of our seriousness and commitment in addressing veterans needs — not only for Vietnam veterans, but for veterans of every generation," the retired Army general and a Vietnam veteran said.

Wounded in Vietnam himself, Shinseki said six of nine rigorous studies reviewed by the agency showed strong associations between the herbicide and heart disease. The evidence "more than satisfies" the law's requirements," he said.

Past studies on the link have been inconclusive, and the National Academy of Sciences says there is only a "modest" association, with no way to control for other risk factors. The VA acknowledges that the lack of data about soldiers' exposure to the defoliant makes it impossible to determine what role it may play in specific cases.

That has led some to question the proposal to add the disease — along with Parkinson's disease and certain types of leukemia — to a growing list of ailments qualifying for a program that Congress initiated in 1991.

The agency estimates that the additions could cost up to \$67 billion in the next decade. The average veteran getting benefits for heart disease would receive about \$1,000 per month, with many also getting new health care benefits.

Most lawmakers say they will support the plan. But several raised concerns about covering common diseases and suggested the law be revisited. Sen. Scott Brown, R-Mass., said Congress has a "moral obligation" to veterans "while also taking into consideration the financial obligations of these decisions."

The Associated Press reported last month that some 270,000 Vietnam veterans — more than one-quarter of the one million receiving disability checks — are getting compensation for



A cargo plane sprays Agent Orange over a forest in North Vietnam. Agent Orange was a blend of herbicides used to defoliate forests where Viet Cong forces were based.

type 2 diabetes, making it the most frequently compensated disability among Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

Presumptions of veterans' disabilities being related to military service, even when there could be other causes, is an "important part of the veterans benefits system for the foreseeable future," Shinseki said. "They are powerful tools for promoting efficiency, fairness and justice" and "particularly significant for the efforts of VA and Congress to ensure the fair and expeditious adjudication of benefits claims at a time when claims are increasing in number, in scope and in complexity."

The Agent Orange saga also holds a lesson for handling current benefits, Shinseki said. "The most important lesson I have learned from this process is that we must track the exposures of our service members to toxic chemicals and the environment earlier," he said. "Such tracking does not get easier or less complicated as time passes."



Veterans Day 2010

Special Pull-out Section

Veterans Day November 11, 2010

ODVA Veterans Day Event!
November 11, 3 p.m.
Afghan-Iraqi Freedom
Memorial

VETERANS DAY 2010: CELEBRATING OUR HEROES

Veteran 20

Albany

Nov. 10 - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. – Annual veteran of the Year Banquet at the Albany Eagles #2255, F.O.E., 127 Broadalbin Street N.W.

Nov. 11 - 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Optimists Pancake Breakfast, West Albany High School Cafeteria, 1130 Queen Ave. S.W.

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

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

11 a.m. – Grande Parade, “Their Service – Our Freedom”. Pacific Blvd./Lyons St./2nd Ave./Ferry St./5th Ave.

2 p.m. – Awards Ceremonies on Courthouse steps (approx. 20 minutes following parade).

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

Astoria

Nov. 13 - 8 a.m. – American Legion Post 12 will serve free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to veterans and their spouses (12 p.m. lunch, 5 p.m. ham dinner). Donations are welcome.

6 p.m. – USO Dance and displays. Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms and bring photos. Post 12 is located at 1132 Exchange St.

Contact: [Mike Phillips at 503-791-4591](mailto:Mike.Phillips@astoriaveterans.com)

Beaverton

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – A ceremony will be held at Memorial Park, between Watson and Hall Streets. American Legion Post 124’s Honor Guard will post the Colors.

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

Bend

Nov. 10 - 5 p.m. – Marine Corps Ball, Elks Lodge on Butler Market Rd. Reservations required.

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

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – A parade honoring women veterans and 1-82 CAV, 41st Inf. Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army Guard, begins at N.W. Newport Ave. and concludes at Galveston and Harmon. A flyover has been requested.

Contact: [Rabbine Harpell, 541-480-4516](mailto:Rabbine.Harpell@bendveterans.com)

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

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

Nov. 13 - 9 a.m. – Veterans Day/Marine Corps Birthday Run – 5K run/1 mile walk – in downtown next to City Hall, 710 N.W. Wall Street. This event will raise money for the Disabled American Veterans Portland shuttle van. Register online: www.vetsdayrun.homestead.com.

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

Nov. 13 - 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. – Veterans Annual Chili Cook-Off Challenge at VFW Post 1643, 1503 N.E. 4th Street. The public is invited to attend. Food, drinks and music, proceeds benefit local veterans organizations.

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

Burns

Nov. 14 - 10:30 a.m. – A special program at the Desert Historical Theater will feature Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell. The theater is located at 68 N. Broadway.

Contact: [Guy McKay, 541-573-1342](mailto:Guy.McKay@burnsveterans.com)

Canyonville

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans’ Remembrance Ceremony at City Hall. Guest speakers: County Commissioner Susan Morgan and Sue Shaffer, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians and former State Rep. Bill Markham.

Contact: [Chuck Spindel, 541-863-1602](mailto:Chuck.Spindel@canyonvilleveterans.com)

Central Point

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – The Oregon Fallen War Heroes Memorial will honor all military personnel killed in action since Oregon’s statehood in 1859. The Memorial is located on Hamrick Road as it becomes Vilas Road, next to the LaClinica Central Point Medical Clinic. Take Exit 33 from I-5.

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

Coos Bay

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Post 34 will host a breakfast, 1421 Airport Way.

6 p.m. – Coos Bay Eagles Lodge, and American Legion Post 34 will sponsor a dinner at the Eagles Lodge, 568 S. 2nd St. Free for veterans and spouses. No-host social hour, 5-6 p.m.

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

Corvallis

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Oregon State University Veterans Affairs and Veterans and Family Association are co-hosting a social at the Memorial Union Veterans’ Lounge.

Nov. 12 - 11 a.m. – OSU AFROTC Detachment 658 will hold a ceremony at the Memorial Union outdoor quad, 26th and Jefferson Way.

Contact: [Kyle Hatch, Director of Veterans’ Affairs at OSU, 541-737-6366](mailto:Kyle.Hatch@corvallisveterans.com)

Dallas

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans’ Memorial Bridge dedication ceremony, located at S.W. Levens St. and S.W. Walnut.

Contact: [Emily Gagner, 503-623-6632 or emily.gagner@ci.dallas.or.us](mailto:Emily.Gagner@dallasveterans.com)

Elkton

Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. – Elkton High School will honor veterans with a special Assembly in the school’s gymnasium. This year veterans who because of their service in the military were not able to complete high school (and who previously qualified) will be receiving official high school diplomas.

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

Estacada

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – The ‘Proud to be an American’ 2010 Veterans Day parade will begin at Estacada High School, 355 N.E. 6th Ave.

12 p.m. – An affordable all-American lunch of hot dogs, chips, apple pie and a soda will be offered following the parade.

1 p.m. – Veterans Day ceremony at the Estacada High School football field. A reception for Gold Star Families will follow at 500 N.E. Main St.

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

Florence

Nov. 6 - 1 p.m. – The 5th Annual Parade will travel on 6th St. and Hwy. 101 to Bay St. and then onto Veterans Memorial Park. Service branch flags will be sold. www.florenceveteransdayparade.com/

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

Forest Grove

Nov. 14 - 12 p.m. – American Legion Post 2 and Elks Lodge 2440 will co-host a ceremony, followed by speakers, entertainment and a free lunch for veterans, current active-duty military personnel and their families. Lunch begins at 1 p.m. The lodge is located at 2810 Pacific Ave.

Contact: [Jim Craig, American Legion Post 2, 503-357-3660, or Elks Lodge at 503-357-2440](mailto:Jim.Craig@forestgroveveterans.com)

Hood River

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans ceremony at the Anderson’s Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Dr.

Contact: [Jack Trumball, 541-386-1000, or Bob Huskey, 541-386-2599](mailto:Jack.Trumball@hoodriverveterans.com)

Klamath Falls

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Parade in downtown will begin on Spring St. and conclude at Veterans Memorial Park at Main and Klamath Ave. A ceremony following will include placing wreaths for each military era. Guest speaker: Col. Jim Miller, Commander, 173rd Fighter Wing. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Ron Ballard, 541-891-1004](mailto:Ron.Ballard@klamathfalls.com)

La Grande

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 43 Veterans Parade along Adams Ave. VFW Post 4060 will lead the parade. A spaghetti feed will be held afterwards at the Post 43 Legion Hall, 301 Fir St. Cost: Free to Legion members; \$3.50 for non-members.

Contact: [John Marsh, 541-910-0123](mailto:John.Marsh@largrande.com)

La Pine

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

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

Lebanon

Nov. 6 - 5:30 p.m. – (doors open at 5) American Legion Post 51 will hold a prime rib dinner at 480 S. Main St. Cost: \$13. A USO-style show and dance with a 13-piece swing band will follow at 7 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Contact: [Vikki Richards, 541-451-1351](mailto:Vikki.Richards@lebanon.com)

*These events are those available as of press time. More events may be added to the list on our website at: www.oregon.gov/odva/VeteransDay.shtml



McMinnville

Nov. 11 - 7 p.m. – A concert, “Honoring All Who Served”, will be at the McMinnville Community Center, 600 Evans St. It is free and open to the public, but donations for the 218th Field Artillery Family Support Program will be accepted.

Contact: John Hunt, 503-472-9785

Medford

Nov. 11 - 2 p.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony at Medford Veterans Memorial Park, on Pacific Highway, sponsored by Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Rogue Valley Chapter 1260.

Contact: Herbert Robb, 541-535-1899

Milton-Freewater

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Breakfast at the American Legion on N.E. 8th Ave.

11 a.m. - Parade begins at N.E. 8th Ave. and Main St.

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

3 p.m. - Ceremony at the American Legion Hall Flag pole, N.E. 8th Ave.

Contact: Alice Thomsen, 541-938-0590

Milwaukie

Nov. 9 - 10:30 a.m. – Milwaukie High School, 11300 S.E. 23rd Ave., will hold their annual Gold Star Assembly featuring Tuskegee Airman and author Alex Jefferson.

Contact: Ken Buckles, 503-659-5157

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

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

Contact: Nina Nelson, 503-659-5646

North Bend

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Bay Area Post 34, 1421 Airport Way, will host their annual breakfast. Cost: \$5; children under 12, \$2.50. An 11 a.m. remembrance ceremony will celebrate the history of Veterans Day.

Contact: Mike Button, 541-294-0611

Ontario

Nov. 6 - 1 p.m. (MST) – The 9th Annual American Legion Post 67 parade will form on Alameda and S.W. 4th Ave., and conclude at the train depot.

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

Contact: Steve Farrow, 541-881-1389, or Bill Thomson, 541-889-6649

Oregon City

Nov. 10 - 8 a.m. – Oregon City High School will honor veterans at an assembly. Area veterans are invited to attend. The high school is located at 19761 S. Beaver Creek Rd.

Contact: Angie Smith, 503-785-8545

Pendleton

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

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

Contact: Gary Ward, 541-276-0308

Portland

Nov. 8 - 12:00 p.m. – Veterans Convoy will travel on I-205 to honor all veterans along the highway named in their honor. The convoy forms at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Vancouver, Wash. Gates open at 8 a.m. New toy donations for children of deployed veterans accepted. Entry applications on-line: www.veteransoforegon.com

Contact: Veterans of Oregon, 503-622-6084

Nov. 7 - 3 p.m. – A special ceremony, “Tribute to Veterans,” will be held in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Veterans’ Memorial Coliseum. Sponsoring the event are Remembering America’s Heroes, Dark Wing Productions, City of Portland and the Portland Trailblazers.

Contact: Ken Buckles, Remembering America’s Heroes, 503-659-5157

Nov. 11 - 9:45 a.m. – 36th Annual Hollywood District Veterans Day Parade will travel between N.E. 40th and 48th Ave. and Sandy Blvd. The parade concludes with a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Flag Pole, N.E. 48th and Sandy Blvd. Covered seating will be available for seniors and those with disabilities.

Contact: Sara Van Houten, 503-422-7141

Redmond

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

Contact: Jeff Casserly, VFW Post 4108, 541-550-6656

Roseburg

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Douglas County Veterans Day Parade, downtown. The parade theme: “Conserving the Lifeblood of our Warriors.”

Contact: Rick Sciapiti, 541-440-4219

Salem

Nov. 11 - 3 p.m. – A ceremony will be held at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial, on the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs grounds, 700 Summer St. N.E. Names of Oregonians recently killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom will be unveiled.

Contact: Robin Steckley, 503-373-2390

Nov. 11 - 11:30 a.m. – Veterans Day celebration program will begin and lunch will immediately follow.

Contact: Salem Senior Center, 503-588-6303

Nov. 13- 7 p.m. and Nov. 14 - 3 p.m. – The Willamette Master Chorus will perform two Veterans Day weekend events titled: *Veterans’ Concert: Music from the 60’s*. An orchestra and chorus will perform patriotic songs and service hymns. The concerts will be held in the Smith Auditorium at Willamette University. General admission: Adults \$15; \$12 for seniors. All veterans and active military personnel, \$8. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.WillametteMasterChorus.org.

Contact: Weathers Music, 503-362-8708.

Sandy

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremonial tribute with Patriotic music hosted by VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary at the Sandy Veterans Memorial Statue, intersection of Highways 26 and 211.

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

Contact: Bert Key, 503-668-8418

The Dalles

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

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

Contacts: Les Cochenour, 541-298-5692, or Gary Pratt, 509-767-1461

Tigard

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

Contact: Mark Pedersen, 503-624-2332

Tillamook

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

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. – The Museum and local VFW Posts, will host the 13th annual Veterans Appreciation Day and Open House to honor and thank veterans. A flyover has been requested. Free admission for all veterans.

11:30 – Presentations of the Oregon’s Honorable Service Medal to veterans.

Contact: Michelle, Tillamook Air Museum, 503-842-1130

White City

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

Contact: Tom Marshall, 541-830-7468

Wilsonville

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Korean War Veterans Association Oregon Trail Chapter will be on site, at the Korean War Memorial, to answer questions and be of service during daylight hours. A flag ceremony and playing of Taps will be played at 11 a.m. The Memorial is located off Interstate 5 at exit 283, about 10 miles south of Portland. Follow the signs to Town Center Park.

Contact: James Arling, 503-285-8118



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 14, and make a tax-deductible donation today. Those who contributed during the months of August and September, 2010 are listed below:

Access Computer Products
 Air Force Sergeants Association #1451
 John L. Alford
 American Ex-Prisoners of War
 —Oregon Department
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit #37
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 Bryce Barret
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 Larry and Sarah Keil
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 Oregon City Elks Lodge
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Oregon Veterans Home Fund Auxiliaries
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 Gary Van Orman
 VETERAN License Plates
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 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1325
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4617
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post
 — and Auxiliary #661
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Dalles
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 —Oregon State Council
 Debbie Wedtz
 Dave and Bonnie Welch
 Ila R. Winslow
 Rony Witzke
 Virginia Wood
 Linda Zellner



"Fear, paranoia, procrastination, self destruction, isolation, depression.

I can go on and on with adjectives and descriptions. The feelings are so familiar to so many of us. The disease is insidious. We think the feelings go away, just to find out after days of feeling good, they come right back and kick our [butt]. For many of us, we might even think we have been cured – months if not years had passed and none of the symptoms had surfaced. Then out of the clear blue – an assault we were not prepared for. An assault against our will, our brain even against our physical being. **PTSD is here to stay."**

Chuck Palazzo
Da Nang, Vietnam
As written on www.veteranstoday.com

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
Suicide.
Traumatic Brain Injury.
Military Sexual Trauma.**

**Questions? Please call ODVA at
800-692-9666**

to schedule an appointment with a Veteran Service Officer.

If you are in suicidal crisis or emotional distress please
Talk to someone. 800-273-TALK. Vets press 1.

Anger. Irritability. Depression. Apathy. Hypervigilance. Guilt. Poor judgement. Sleep disturbances. Lack of feelings. Self medication with drugs and alcohol.

RESERVE CENTER BEING BUILT IN K. FALLS

A Design-Build construction contract has been awarded to begin Phase I of the Klamath Falls Armed Forces Reserve Center (KFAFRC). The \$5.59 million project includes the design and construction of a 14,000 square foot facility for the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Security Forces Squadron (SFS) at Kingsley Field.

Located near the base's recently constructed main entrance, it will be used to adequately house more than 80 SFS personnel including their mobility gear and equipment. The project also includes parking lots, utilities, site work, and the demolition of multiple outdated, energy inefficient facilities.

S&B James Construction of Medford will build the facility. The 173d Civil Engineer Squadron at Kingsley Field and the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office of Oregon will oversee project management for this facility. Design efforts will begin this winter with ground breaking and construction activity beginning Spring 2011. The project is scheduled to be completed within 18 months.

The 173rd SFS regularly deploys worldwide in support of the Global War on Terror, and most recently deployed a 32-person team to Kyrgyzstan.

The future plans include constructing Phase II of the joint-use facility to accommodate Troop C, 1-82 Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard, which consists of more than 85 soldiers and their equipment. This unit just returned home from a one-year deployment in Iraq and is currently housed in a separate location on base that is not adequately designed for their mission needs.

Remembering America's Heroes'
A Tribute to Veterans
Sunday, November 7, 2010
3:00pm-5:00pm
Memorial Coliseum
Free Admission

Join us in honoring and thanking our country's heroes, our Veterans and current military personnel.

Take a patriotic musical journey from the Revolutionary War to the present.

Help us celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Memorial Coliseum !

Presented by: 

PORTLAND VA OPENS CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS' HEALTH

PORTLAND-- The Portland VA Medical Center officially opened the doors to its new VA Center for Women Veterans Health on Friday, Sept. 10, in building 104 on the Portland VA Medical Center Campus.

The new state of the art facility will provide primary care and mental health services to enrolled Women Veterans living in the Portland VAMC catchment area.

"We are really very excited about providing a one-stop shop approach of care for our Women Veterans," said Nancy Sloan, Portland VA Medical Center, Center for Women Veterans Health Program Manager. "We encourage all women who served in the military to enroll in the Portland VAMC Women Veterans Health Program and take advantage of the best health care anywhere."

Keynote speakers at the event included VA Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Joan M. Evans and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden.



From Left: Senator Ron Wyden assists in the ribbon cutting of the new Portland VA Women's Health Center alongside Thelma Stelzenmueller, WWII veteran; Joan Evans, Assistant Secretary of the VA; and Nancy Sloan, Portland VAMC Women Veterans' Coordinator.

The Portland VAMC is committed to providing quality health care to more than 70,000 veterans in Oregon and Southwest Washington. In addition to the main campus located on Marquam Hill, the Portland VA Medical Center operates the Vancouver campus and clinics located in east Portland, Hillsboro, Salem, Warrenton, Bend, The Dalles, and Newport.

HOFFMAN APPOINTED AS NEW OREGON ESGR CHAIR

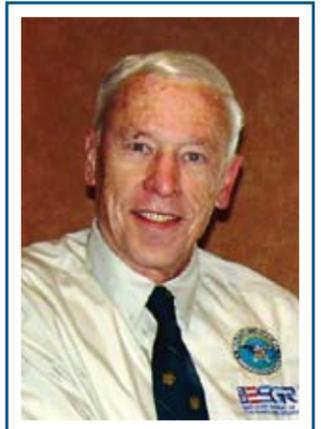
The Oregon Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee has a new chairman. On Oct. 1, retired Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Norm Hoffman was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense to succeed Brig. Gen. (ret.) Bill Doctor.

Hoffman has a long history of community service and involvement and recently served as vice chair of the Oregon ESGR Committee. He has been a career correctional manager, and has served as a school administrator. Hoffman completed a 31-year career in the Oregon Army National Guard in 1997 and rose through the ranks from private to general officer. He last served as Oregon's Assistant Adjutant General, Army.

"Under Bill Doctor's direction, the staff has done an exemplary job in carrying out the Employer Support missions and has met every challenge. Our goal is to work seamlessly with "Yellow Ribbon," family support, employment, and reintegration programs to provide an entire array of services to Reservists, National Guard members, families, and employers," Hoffman said.

The former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Doctor had chaired Oregon's ESGR committee for the past six years and has served ESGR for 25 years.

Oregon's committee has more than 75 volunteers statewide and only three full-time employees. ESGR volunteers are trained to be liaisons to promote both public and private understanding of the National Guard and Reserve to gain Oregon employer and community support through programs, and personnel policies and practices that will encourage employee and citizen participation.



Norm Hoffman

Also, they recognize outstanding support, increase awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members.

"Our program's success is based on the efforts of our volunteers, and 2011 will be the "Year of the Volunteer. More volunteers will help us to do an even better job," Hoffman added.

For more information, call Oregon's ESGR office at 503-584-2842.

SALEM NURSE RETURNS TO OMAHA BEACH

By Capi Lynn
(Reprinted with permission from the
Salem Statesman Journal)

Jane Wiles had stood on the 4-mile-long, crescent-shaped beach many times before but never with her granddaughter. That is what made this visit so special - for her and for 10-year-old Anna.

They were among the thousands of people at Omaha Beach on Sunday, June 6, 2004, commemorating the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

Wiles, a first lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II working in France and Belgium, had shared some of her experiences with her granddaughter. But this gave the Salem woman the opportunity to share even more.

"It's going to be kind of cool having grandma and granddaughter standing on the beach, with grandma telling World War II stories," Jim Wiles said before the family departed. He is Jane's son and Anna's father.

Jane waded onto Omaha Beach just a few months after D-Day, the echo of gunfire and the roar of aircraft still lingering, and worked at U.S. Army hospitals in France and later Belgium. She downplays her two years of service and talks about it only at the urging of her family.

"I have friends who've gone through worse than I did," she said. "It was sobering, but I was real young."

Wiles will tell you that she never was on the front lines and that she always felt safe. But as a surgical assistant, she saw firsthand some of the grim realities of the war.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Wiles graduated from nursing school in 1944 and shortly thereafter joined the Army Nurse Corps. Nurses were in high demand at the time, and the Army was recruiting heavily, using colorful posters to galvanize the emotions of Americans.

"Everybody was patriotic," Wiles said. "It was the thing to do."

She has one of those posters framed and hung on the wall of her South Salem home. The bold headline "You Are Needed Now" enticed her to sign up.

"I looked at that and said, 'Yep, I'm going to join the Army Nurse Corps.'"

Wiles and the many other nurses who

volunteered were given a crash course regarding the military. She went through basic training in Medford.

"We had to crawl under fences. We had sergeants that yelled at us," she said.

But none of the training prepared them for what awaited them overseas.

WADING ASHORE

Packed aboard a Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) boat, Wiles arrived at Omaha Beach in early October 1944. When the ramp was lowered, she marched into the waist-deep water with a pack on her back and waded ashore. She was among hundreds of nurses who hiked on the bluffs that day. They stayed in tents until receiving their orders, and Wiles remembers it being extremely cold.

She was assigned to the 203rd General Hospital outside Paris. Many of her patients

were soldiers from the 101st Airborne and the 82nd Airborne. The nurses there also rotated shifts to care for injured German soldiers, who were kept in another building.

Wiles was a valuable resource because she could speak some German after taking classes in college, before she went to nursing school.

"Our GIs didn't know there were Germans down there," Wiles said. "They never would have understood."

The nurses were, of course, bound by the Geneva Convention. Besides, Wiles said, the German soldiers were young and handsome, just like the Americans.

THE BEST OF CARE

More than 59,000 American nurses served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. Working closer to the front lines than ever before, 201 nurses were killed by accident or enemy action, and 1,600 more were decorated for meritorious service.

By this time, nurses had gained respect from not only the Army, which began granting equal pay and full military rank, but from their male counterparts.

"The GIs saluted us," Wiles said. "We were treated very well."

The nurses' skill and dedication contributed to the low post-injury mortality rate among U.S. military forces during World War II.

Fewer than 4 percent of American soldiers who received medical care in the field or underwent evacuation died from wounds or disease, according to documented history of the Army Nurse Corps.

KEEPSAKES OF WAR

Wiles collected unit patches from many of the patients she cared for. Fifteen are sewn on the back of a fleece vest that she planned to wear today for the D-Day anniversary event.

A patient she knew only as "Joe" gave her a caricature that he had sketched of her. It depicts her in a sexy nurse's uniform with GIs off in the distance whistling at her, and it hangs on another wall at home.

She has photographs of the royal family of Spain, which was in exile at the time. The queen had asked to meet U.S. troops, and Wiles, who was taking military R&R, was among those chosen. Her favorite snapshot is of her holding the queen's grandson, Juan Carlos, who today is the king of Spain.



1st Lt. Jane Wiles



Wiles holds a young Juan Carlos, the current King of Spain.

Other memories stand out from her service, including the time she went to church on Christmas Eve and the American patients sat on one side and the Germans on the other.

"You have these guys killing each other and now they're praying together," she said.

Another time, she remembers her unit taking over a hospital the Germans just had evacuated.

"The candles were still burning," she said.

WARTIME ROMANCE

While serving in Europe, Jane corresponded with a young man named S.D. Wiles. They

SEE WILES ON PAGE 15



123rd Observation Squadron

NEW INDUCTEES SELECTED TO AVIATION HALL OF HONOR

MCMINNVILLE -- The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum celebrated the induction of six new members into the museum's Hall of Honor on Oct. 17, including the first military unit to ever be recognized.

The museum recognizes Oregon's finest men and women who have made important contributions to aviation and air power in all fields including, but not limited to, military, civilian, engineering, business, education and government. The inductees included:

Ernest C. Brace, a U.S. Marine Corps pilot and author. He was the first person to fly 100 missions in the Korean War. As a civilian pilot for USAID during the Vietnam War, Brace was captured by the North Vietnamese Army while on a mission in Laos. He was held as a prisoner and tortured for seven years before being released among the final group of POWs.

Jerry Florey of McMinnville was an aerospace engineer who worked on rocket engines with Rocketdyne. He later worked on the Apollo and Saturn moon rocket program. He became chief engineer on Rockwell's satellite programs and later worked on Delta IV rockets with McDonnell-Douglas.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, the late-Rear Admiral S. David Griggs was a decorated combat pilot in Vietnam. He later served in the Naval Test Pilot School and was assigned to test programs on fighter and attack aircraft. Griggs went to work for NASA as a research pilot in 1970 and was selected as an astronaut in 1979. He flew on mission STS 51-D in 1983 and performed the first unscheduled space walk in history to repair a satellite in orbit.

Ensign Grant W. Teats of Sheridan, and an Oregon State University graduate, became a naval aviator. Assigned to Torpedo Squadron 8 (VT-8), he flew the TBD Devastator torpedo plane from the USS Hornet. On June 4, 1942, VT-8 was sent to attack the Japanese fleet at Midway. Teats and all members of VT-8, except one, who flew from Hornet that day perished in the action. Their sacrifice allowed U.S. dive-bombers free reign to sink four Japanese carriers, turning the tide of the war in the Pacific.

Henry Troh was a pioneer in Oregon aviation who developed and managed three airports beginning in 1931. He "barnstormed" the region with his wife, giving thousands of people their first taste of flight, while also promoting aviation through a flight school, an aircraft dealership and an air taxi service. During World War II, Troh trained pilots for the military, and after the war, continued his work to offer numerous aviation services to the Northwest region.

A pioneer in the use of helicopters in industry, the late Joseph I. Soloy began his flying career operating helicopters off of Aristotle Onassis' whaling ships in the Antarctic, and then he went on to work for Dean Johnson's helicopter operation in McMinnville, where he worked with a young Delford Smith, founder of Evergreen International Aviation. He co-founded two helicopter companies and in 1969, he founded the Soloy Corporation which converted piston engine helicopters to turbine power.

The 123rd Observation Squadron of the Oregon National Guard received special recognition as the first aviation unit assigned in the state. The 123rd became operational in April 1941 with 117 volunteers who would later serve in the China-Burma-India Theater



Ernest C. Brace



Jerry Florey



S. David Griggs



Grant W. Teats



Henry Troh



Joseph I. Soloy

and the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

Redesignated as the 123rd Fighter Squadron after the war, the "Redhawks" are assigned to the Oregon Air Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing. Nearly 70 years after their founding, the unit flies the F-15 Eagle from Portland and provides air defense for the Pacific Northwest.

FREE CLOTHES TO "WELCOME HOME JOE"

The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America has teamed up with JC Penney and Joseph Abboud to launch "Welcome Home Joe," a program that will give away \$1 million in professional attire to Iraq and Afghanistan vets transitioning from combat to career. And it is all for free.

If you are a veteran of Iraq or Afghanistan or know one, go to this website to learn more about having a chance to receive a \$200 certificate for professional attire from The Rucksack: <http://rucksack.iava.org/>

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

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

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

The individuals listed below have recently joined dozens of previous donors to support this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by our veteran residents.

Dawn Jurado

Tiny and Mary Bellamy

Ruth McNamara

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

MILITARY REUNIONS AND EVENTS

American Legion Post 2 and the Elks Lodge # 2440 will sponsor a free dinner for present armed services personnel and their families Nov. 14, at the Elks Lodge, 2810 Pacific Av., Forest Grove, OR. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. For information: American Legion, 503-357-3660, Elks, 503-357-2440.

Annual Saint Barbara Banquet will be held Dec. 10, Red Lion Inn, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR, by the 2d Battalion 218th Field Artillery. For information: Richard Helzer, 503-359-4632. Ext.1584.

Veterans of Underage Military Service meet the first Friday monthly, at Shari's Restaurant, 122nd and SE Sunnyside, Portland, at 10:30 a.m. For information: Willie Paradise, 503-665-1739.

VETERAN CLAIMS BACKLOG

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs recently conducted a hearing on the effectiveness of personnel training within the Veteran Benefits Administration to address the backlog of unresolved veteran benefits claims.

Representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs reported improvements in both the quantity and quality of VBA's training model, and were confident that over time, with continued focus, pending benefit claims will begin to dramatically decrease.

**I Got Mine!
Did you?**

Major (ret.) Mike Allegre, served in the U.S. Air Force and Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland. Mike proudly displays the plate he ordered when they first became available. It reflects his pride in his service and his branch. He also enjoys the positive comments from veterans and non-veterans alike.

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

Contact ODVA for more information: 1-800-828-8801
www.oregon.gov/odva

Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form
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 c/o ODVA
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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE OREGON VETERANS' HOME!
"The Place Where Honor Lives"

met at Camp Cook in California and had been dating about a month before she was shipped overseas.

“He wrote long, beautiful letters,” Jane said. S.D., who was sent to Saipan, complained that her letters were much too short. “Ten words or less,” he chuckled.

When Jane returned from duty, S.D. called and arranged for her to visit to see if there still was a spark between them. He was stationed in Hawaii at the time and knew about a job opening for her at a hospital if things worked out. Jane made the trip to Hawaii, and 12 days later, she and S.D. were married at St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Honolulu.

After they both were out of the military, they moved to Salem in 1947. Jane put her nursing career on hold while raising their five children. When the children were of school age, she resumed her career and worked in IV therapy at Salem Hospital.

SHARING MEMORIES

Jane has made the trek to Omaha Beach four other times since she was a young Army nurse, but that Sunday was extra special because her granddaughter was by her side.

Anna Wiles, (then) a fourth-grader at Candalaria Elementary School, considers herself fortunate to visit the site where her grandmother waded ashore six decades ago and went on to help save the lives of many American soldiers.

“I feel proud of her for serving and being an Army nurse,” Anna said before leaving on the trip, “and I’m glad she made it through the war.”

Now six years later, Jane told the *VETS NEWS* how she and her fellow nurses were young and very patriotic back then.

“I know that being able to walk on that beach that day in 2004 with my family, and for all of the people who were also there, was made possible because of the thousands who came ashore in 1944. It was bedlam when we came ashore. It’s now a calm stretch of beach that was once the scene of so much violence and sorrow.”



Jane Wiles stands with her granddaughter, Anna, and actor Tom Hanks. Wiles met Hanks while visiting Omaha Beach, where she waded ashore more than 50 years ago during WWII.

VETERANS’ SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker	541-523-8223	Jane Chandler
Benton	541-758-1595	Don Johnson
Clackamas	503-650-5631	Janice Harlan-Raisl
.....	503-650- 5760	Rick Rutherford
Clatsop	503-325-2429	Kenneth H. Rislow
Columbia	503-366-6580	Joseph Pyle
Coos	541-396-3121, Ext. 362	Mary Ann Sackett
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Curry	866-298-0404	Frank Van Meter
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Jefferson	541-475-5228	Patricia White
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Klamath	541-883-4274	Kathy Pierce
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Washington	503-846-3060	Doug MacEllven
Wheeler.....	800-982-1172	Bryan Hunt
Yamhill	503-434-7503	Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771	Greg Demarais
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087	Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	Salina Norton
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
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Portland	503-412-4777	Deanna Erhardt Donna Hunt Linda McMillan Russell Snow Ed Van Dyke

Campus Service Officers	Telephone Number	Service Officer
.....	503-373-2186	Dave Cooley

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

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

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November | December 2010

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November | December 2010

Jim Willis, Director

By Mike Allegre

SAILOR RECOUNTS 50'S NUIKE TEST FALLOUT

Today no one would knowingly go or send a person out into a downpour of radioactive fallout. Certainly a person would not allow themselves to run through a shower of gamma radiation wearing just their skivvies.

In 1956, long before anyone knew the exact effects of radioactivity, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Lowell Gunselman made the decision to do just that. He did it to potentially save the lives of sailors on three ships and trusting that a decontamination team would save him.

Gunselman was stationed aboard the USS *Curtiss* (AV-4), a converted seaplane tender that had earned seven battle stars from World War II and Korean service. It would be the first sea duty for the electronics technician from Kansas. The 22 year-old would never have guessed he would soon be a key participant during the upcoming historic nuclear tests in the South Pacific. Specifically, the highly classified Operation Redwing.

He entered the Navy in March 1954 and trained through the end of that year. He was assigned to the *Curtiss* in January 1955 and was soon briefed on the ship's upcoming mission. He was sent to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Treasure Island for highly specialized training. In April 1956, the *Curtiss* transported nuclear components to Bikini Atoll for Operation Redwing.

This operation is notable for having demonstrated the first U.S. airdrop of a

SEE GUNSELMAN ON PAGE 3

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VA "PRESUMPTIVE" ILLNESSES REG FOR GULF WAR, OIF, OIF VETS PUBLISHED

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki has announced the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register that makes it easier for veterans to obtain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in Southwest Asia.

The final regulation establishes new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia beginning on or after the start of the first Gulf War on

Aug. 2, 1990, through the conflict in Iraq and on or after Sept. 19, 2001, in Afghanistan.

"This is part of historic changes in how VA considers Gulf War Veterans' illnesses," said Secretary Shinseki. "By setting up scientifically-based presumptions of service connection, we give these deserving veterans a simple way to obtain the medical and compensation benefits they earned in service to our country."

The final regulation reflects a determination of a positive association between service in

SEE GULF ON PAGE 6