



March | April 2011

www.oregon.gov/lodva

www.facebook.com/lodvavet

Jim Willis, Director

WYDEN PRESENTS NISEI WITH HONORS

World War II veteran Kennie Namba speaks with Sen. Ron Wyden after the senator presented leather bound copies of Congressional law and U.S. flags flown over the nation's capitol to Oregon Japanese American (Nisei) veterans. The president will bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to all Nisei veterans later this year to honor their military service.

--PHOTO COURTESY OF SETSY LAROUCHE.



Late last year, the U.S. Congress voted to award Japanese American (Nisei) veterans from the 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment and Military Intelligence Service the highest civilian honor the government can present—the Congressional Gold Medal for their exemplary service during World War II.

A long trip to Washington D.C. to officially receive the medal from the President is arduous as most Nisei are over the age of 85. Recognizing that, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has arranged to present leather bound replicas of Public Law 111-254, that authorizes the award of the

Congressional Gold Medal, and a flag flown over the Capitol to the men of 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment who reside in Oregon.

Nisei veterans are not slated to officially receive these medals until later this Fall.

Prior to a town hall meeting on Jan. 14 at Milwaukie High School, Wyden presented three copies of the law to Portland residents Kennie Namba, Kazumi Oda, and Dr. Kenji Yaguchi. It was one of six similar presentations Wyden has made around the Portland metro area to at least 17 Nisei veterans since December.

SEE NISEI ON PAGE 7

IN THIS ISSUE

- Director's Message.....Page 2
- GI Bill Improvement.....Page 3
- UVGO Represents Veterans Page 4
- OR Guard Presented Citation..... Page 5
- Film Features Oregon Guard.....Page 6
- DAV Van Program Faces CutsPage 7
- Veterans' Service Officers..... Page 11



Director's Message

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

THE OREGON LEGISLATURE IS BACK AGAIN IN SESSION

...And ODVA Is There Working For You

The 76th Regular Session of the Oregon Legislature convened on February 1. In looking at the bills, resolutions and memorials that affect veterans and their families, we will be monitoring or testifying on 35 House bills, 20 Senate bills, 12 Senate Joint Memorials or Resolutions, and 10 House Joint Memorials or Resolutions.

Both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees have hit the ground running and the pace of this session is as fast as I have seen in recent years. The ODVA budget bill will be up before the Ways and Means Subcommittee sometime in March and while it is a very modest proposal, I am convinced that we will be able to carry on our mission with the money proposed in the Governor's balanced budget for 2011-2013.

ODVA Staff is also working with our Congressional Delegation on federal legislation important to Oregon veterans to include the USDVA proposed budget, amendments to the IRS Tax Code to allow the use of our Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) for the funding of our veterans home loans with the

lifetime eligibility and the ability to do refinancing of loans within our veterans home loan program.

Two of the bills pending before the Legislature will establish every March 30th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day and every June 25th as Korean War Veterans Honor Day. While we welcome this legislation, we are equally happy with legislation that supports the creation of a WWII Memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol.

The WWII Memorial working groups are well along with the design process and I believe when this work is done we will have a memorial to the "greatest generation" that all Oregonians can be proud of. I hope to have a design mock up in the next edition of the *VETS NEWS*.

The construction on the Stan and Jean Adams Community Center at the Oregon Veterans' Home is on schedule and we hope



to dedicate the Center this spring. Many of you continue to donate your time, materials and money to the operation of the Home and we very much appreciate your efforts.

I would like to thank all of you who continue to support ODVA and our programs and services. It is our honor to continue to do this important work.

Sincerely,


Jim Willis, Director

NASHVILLE RECORDING ARTIST ROCKIE LYNNE PERFORMS FOR OREGON VETERANS

It's not every day you meet a successful Nashville recording artist who leaves his record label because it won't support a creative project the star wants to pursue. Usually that is considered the first step to the end of your career. However, Oregon veterans were able to meet such a man when Rockie Lynne came to Oregon in January to perform songs from his latest album *Songs for Soldiers*.

The former 82nd Airborne Paratrooper had found success on the country charts. Starting in 2004, Lynne debuted the song *Lipstick* which made its way up to number 29 on the Billboard Country Singles chart. Then came more hits, such as *Do We Still* and *More*. His label, Universal South Records, had a budding star. But Lynne was still a soldier at heart and he wanted to do something for his comrades in arms fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Rockie Lynne and his band played acoustic versions of his *Songs For Soldiers* repertoire during the mini concert at ODVA.

SEE CONCERT ON PAGE 11



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

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

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, 2011.**

PRESIDENT SIGNS IMPROVEMENT TO GI BILL

WASHINGTON – To bring the educational benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill closer to more veterans and service members, President Obama signed legislation Jan. 4 that streamlines the 18-month-old education program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“Since the first GI Bill in 1944, this unique educational program has adapted to the needs of America’s veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists and Guardsmen,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Like its forbearers, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is growing to ensure the men and women who serve this nation in uniform receive valuable education benefits from a grateful nation.

“On behalf of veterans and the many who serve them at VA, we would like to thank the President for his support, as well as members of Congress and our veterans service organization partners for helping make this bill a reality,” Shinseki added.

Among the provisions of the legislation are:

- Paying for on-the-job training, some flight training; apprenticeship training and correspondence courses;
- Allowing reservists and Guardsmen to have their time supporting emergencies called by their state governors credited to the time needed to qualify for educational benefits;
- Providing one-half of the national average for the program’s housing allowance to students enrolled in distance learning;
- Pro-rating the housing allowance to exclude payments when students are not in class;
- Allowing students on active duty to receive the stipend for books and supplies;
- Allowing people eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, but participating in VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits to choose between the GI Bill’s

housing allowance or VR&E’s subsistence allowance;

- Permitting reimbursement for more than one “license and certification” test;
- Reimbursing fees to take national admission tests, such as SAT, ACT, GMAT and LSAT, and;
- Establishing a national cap of \$17,500 annually for tuition and fees in a private or a foreign school, not including contributions by educational institutions under the “Yellow Ribbon” program.

Information about the new provisions is available on the Internet at www.gibill.va.gov. If you have questions about the Post 9/11 GI Bill or any education benefits, please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 503-373-2085.

Home loans exclusively for Oregon veterans.



15-Year Term

4.375% fixed

1.375% Origination Fee
*4.626% APR

30-Year Term

4.375% fixed

1.375% Origination Fee
*4.518% APR

Up to \$417,000
Single Family Residence
Owner Occupied

*APR based on \$165,000
15-year or 30-year loan with 20% down
Effective date 2-2-11.
Rates are subject to change.



OR
VET
HOME LOAN

A product of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Now a lifetime benefit.

To apply for a home loan or to find out more about your eligibility, call the Home Loan Department at Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

503-373-2051 | www.oregon.gov/odva/homeloans

Toll free in Oregon 888-673-8387 | 700 Summer Street NE, Salem OR 97301

UVGO: WORKING FOR OREGON'S VETERANS

There's the old joke that if you put 10 veterans in a room you might get 11 different opinions. But one group has enjoyed finding common ground in the veteran community for more than 35 years and continues to represent veterans' interests throughout Oregon.

The United Veterans Groups of Oregon (UVGO) is a coalition including most of Oregon's veterans' organizations. In all, 18 Oregon veteran organizations participate in UVGO.

UVGO's main emphasis is to provide a mechanism for veterans' service organizations to present a unified front on matters concerning the welfare of more than 340,000 Oregon veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Current UVGO Chairman, Lt. Col. Gary Zwicker (U.S. Army Retired) said there was little coordination between veterans' groups before UVGO, resulting in a less effective voice for Oregon veterans. UVGO prides itself on being an organization that does not take a position on legislative issues without unanimous consent of voting member organizations.

"We work with Director Jim Willis at ODVA and the veterans' organizations to bring issues

to the legislature's attention. They have been taking care of veterans pretty well in recent years," Zwicker said. "We also ask for Joint Memorials to encourage the U.S. Congress to support our requests."

The organization has championed issues such as education benefits for dependents of those killed in action and 100 percent service-connected disabled; veteran license plates; business loans for veterans and more.

UVGO successfully urged the legislature to support Oregon's first veterans' home, which opened in the Fall of 1997. Zwicker added that UVGO was equally successful in getting the same approval for a second Veterans' Home, which recently was awarded to Linn County.

As a member of the Oregon Coalition of Federal Retiree Organizations, Zwicker said UVGO takes pride in being instrumental in the ruling and legislation in the late 1990s that resulted in the retired pay of state and federal (civilian and military) retirees being taxed equally.

Voting membership is restricted to those congressionally chartered veterans' organizations that have a state headquarters within the

state. The current membership of 18 voting organizations includes: Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, American Legion, American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Korean War Veterans Association, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of World Wars, Non-commissioned Officers Association, Northwest Indian Veterans Association, Oregon Point Man Ministries, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Retired Enlisted Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

"As a member of any of these groups, veterans have a strong voice in Salem thanks to our unified work together," Zwicker said.

UVGO will hold a Veterans' Muster on the steps of the State Capitol on March 2 at 1:30 p.m. The Salem Vet Center will have the mobile vet center parked in front of the Capitol during the event throughout the day. All veterans are invited to participate.

Contact Zwicker for more information about UVGO at 503-399-8359, or email, gary4606@comcast.net.

More than 200 stories in one book.

150 YEARS OF OREGON VETERANS



In 150 years, there has never been a book quite like this one.

With more than 275 full color pages, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has produced a stunning collection of veteran stories representing over 150 years of conflicts including the Indian and Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War and the present campaigns in the Middle East.

There are more than 200 personal accounts of Oregon veterans and 650 full color photographs in this 15.5 x 8.5 soft cover, beautifully designed table-top quality book.

Quantities are limited. Don't miss this opportunity to own a piece of Oregon's history.

Order your book today!

503-373-2384

www.oregon.gov/odva/veterans_book.shtml

On sale now! \$39.95 including shipping. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the Oregon Veterans' Home.

HEALTHCARE VANS DEPLOYED IN SOUTHERN OREGON

In an effort to provide better VA healthcare access to veterans residing in very rural areas, the VA's Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) in White City has acquired three new Rural Healthcare vans to be out-based in Lakeview, Cave Junction and Applegate.

About three million veterans nationally who are enrolled in the VA Health Care System, live in rural or highly rural areas of the country. Men and women veterans from rural areas make up a disproportionate share of service members and comprise about 39 percent of the enrolled veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan; many of whom are returning to their rural communities.



PHOTO BY BRIGITTE MARKER

In order to better serve rural veterans, the VA created the Office of Rural Health in 2006. Last year, Oregon volunteer drivers racked up more than one million miles in 24 vans while transporting an average 5,000 veterans each

month to and from VA medical facilities in Portland, Roseburg and White City.

The Rural Health Care vans were officially placed into service on February 4.

OREGON GUARD UNIT EARNS MILITARY'S HIGHEST HONOR

CORVALLIS – Perhaps no battle in the annals of Operation Iraqi Freedom was as fierce as the second Battle of Fallujah during which U.S. forces stormed the city and ripped it out of the hands of thousands of insurgent fighters in November 2004.

In the middle of that fight were 30 Corvallis-area men of the 2nd Platoon Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team – Oregon's own National Guardsmen. Manning the northern part of the city, the platoon was instrumental in winning the decisive battle.

On January 8, these men were recognized for their actions when they received the Presidential Unit Citation – the highest award a military unit can earn – for showing extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy.

“It was go, go, go,” recalled Sgt. Ryan Howell, who was in the thick of the fight. “We were getting hit with direct fire.”

Platoon leader Sgt. 1st Class Chris Johnson, Lt. Chris Kent, and Sgt. 1st Class Scott Davis stopped about five miles from the city west of Baghdad as they drove toward Fallujah. Johnson remembers looking down from his Humvee and seeing people milling around in the city.

As they drove off, bullets rained down on the vehicle's turret shield, one of the unarmed vehicle's few protections, and one that Johnson, who was sitting in the gunner's seat, credits with saving his life.

“It was the first time I realized that this is real. This is what we came over here to do – it was an eye opener,” Johnson said.

“Anyone in the Army will be able to immediately recognize the medal and understand these men came from an elite unit that exceeded



Thirty members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Platoon of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation for their brave service during the Battle of Fallujah in 2004.

– PHOTO BY SPC. CORY GROGAN

high standards of the armed forces,” said Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, a former active duty Marine. “The citation puts these men in the same category as those who fought at Omaha Beach on D-Day.” An Oregon Guard unit last received the honor during World War II.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon's Adjutant General, said he was never more proud to be a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, as he spoke to a large audience of soldiers, family and friends.

“When our founding fathers wrote the Constitution and talked about defense of this

nation, this is what they were talking about. These are your hometown heroes,” Rees said.

In the spring of 2004, the U.S. turned the city over to the Iraqi Fallujah Brigade after the U.S. Marines had secured the city after the first Battle of Fallujah. However, the Iraqi forces collapsed under the weight of an insurgent counterattack. U.S. forces surrounded the city again and what followed was the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War with 51 Americans killed and 425 wounded. Iraqi forces lost eight troops, with 43 wounded.

GUARD UNIT'S AFGHAN DUTY TOLD IN DOCUMENTARY: *SHEPHERDS OF HELMAND*

By Mike Allegre

In 2008 a 17-man all volunteer unit of the Oregon Army National Guard deployed to Afghanistan to train a battalion of the Afghan National Army. Their mission took them to the dangerous Helmand Province, center of the opium trade and a region notoriously known as the “Fallujah of Afghanistan.”

On Feb. 3, an audience of 450 people filled the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland to view the premiere of *Shepherds of Helmand*, the story of these soldiers and the training, enemy fire and death that can befall any combat unit.

Featuring interviews, film footage and photos of the men of Team Cobra, the documentary is directed by Portland filmmaker and military historian Gary Mortensen. His last documentary, the award winning *This is War-Memories of Iraq*, the story of Oregon's 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry has been widely heralded as one of the most authentic accounts of combat in Iraq ever made.

“My documentaries are non-political and give the soldiers a chance to tell ‘the ground truth’ using their words, their photos, their war,” Mortensen said. “These men were there to train Afghan soldiers and help their army to be able to stand up on its own. The world of their mission was revealed with the help of video from their hand-held cameras and helmet cams. While the footage was intended to be used for reviewing their training, it also showed a soldier's camaraderie with his unit, the landscape of Afghanistan and the cold hard facts of war.”



Mark Browning (right) speaks to KOIN-TV videographer Gary Kahne before the premier of the film *Shepherds of Helmand* in Portland.

— PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. NICK CHOY, ORE. MILITARY DEPARTMENT

In the film, Maj. Dominic Oto said they were sent to train the Afghan Army and then became targets. He described a conversation with a veteran Afghan soldier named Najeebola who had been fighting since the Soviet War in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

“Najeebola said, ‘I have fought against the Russians in an eight-year war. And I’ve fought against the Taliban. And the past three years I’ve been fighting with Americans against the Taliban. So, tell me Captain, what will you tell me about war?’”

The film follows the deployment as the team is assigned a first-of-its-kind Counter Narcotics

Infantry Kandak (Afghan version of a battalion) with the goal of interdicting the opium trade in the Helmand Province. A handful of seasoned veterans led a mostly raw, illiterate group of young teenage Afghan recruits. Communicating with and training their recruits took innovation. Soon their patrol mission changed and the Kandak was ordered to occupy four small patrol bases along the Helmand River.

Almost all of the Oregon soldiers had never been in a firefight prior to the deployment. On a tiny patrol base called Attal, north along the Helmand River, the Oregonians fought against daily attacks by determined Taliban fighters whose only mission was to overrun the base and kill the Americans.

The Taliban attacked the Oregon soldiers' small base every day for three months. The film captures harrowing accounts of those hot, bloody days and features combat footage taken from the wall of patrol base. There were also moments they will never forget.

“July 15th was the first time that I shot someone,” Capt. Paul Dyer said.

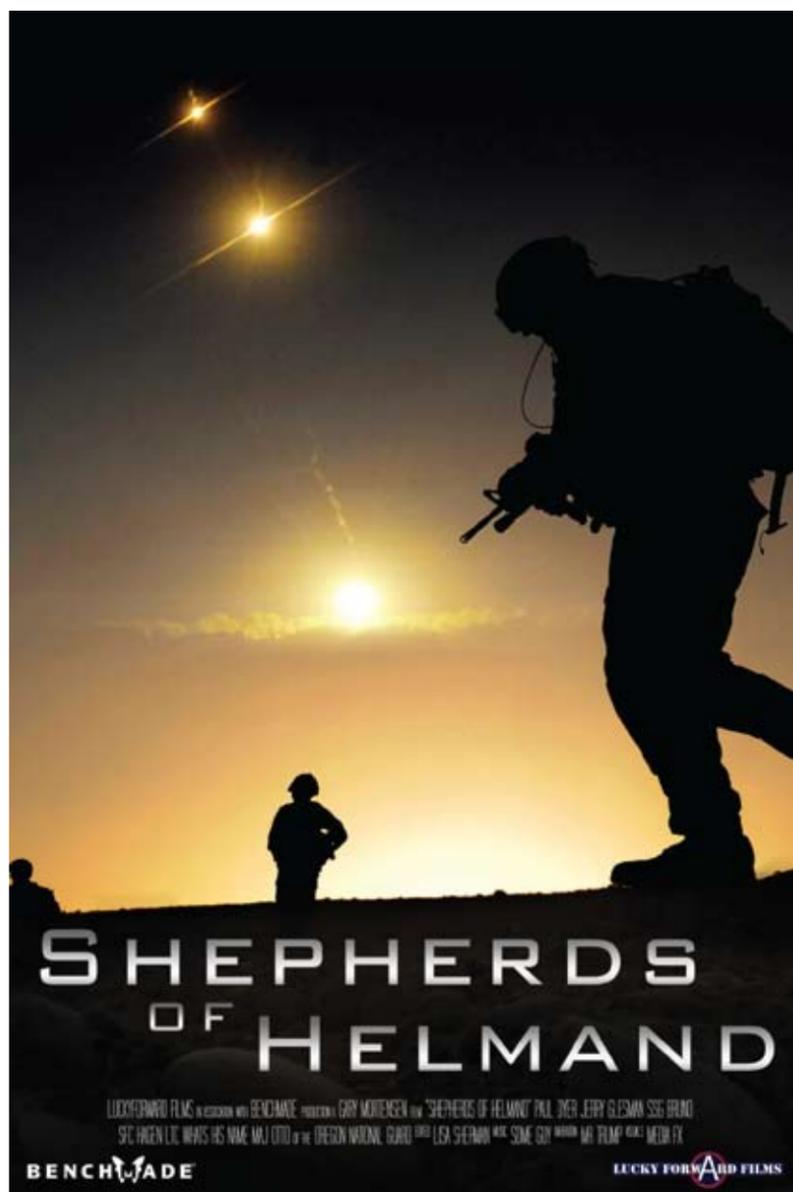
One soldier assigned to Team Cobra, Capt. Bruno de Solenni, was killed in action while riding in the top turret of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle during a convoy to Khandahar. Oto was driving the MRAP when the explosive device detonated. Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Glesmann was the first one on the scene. For 40 minutes he administered medical treatment to try and save de Solenni's life.

“It was a gruesome situation and I tried, but he was gone. It's a very tough thing to have to accept when it happens,” he said.

A month later, the team found themselves in the battle for Lashkar Gah fighting with their Afghan forces against a force of 2,000 Taliban. A year later, 19,000 Marines would be dropped into the same area.

Four of the soldiers, Dyer, Glesmann, 1st Sgt. Dave Hagen and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Browning, along with de Solenni's sister, Pia, attended the premiere and took questions from the crowd after the movie was shown. Former Gov. Ted Kulongoski also attended and was lauded, along with the Oregon Guard's senior leadership, for his support of Guardmembers.

“The military has needed our soldiers since 9-11. They have answered the call and served with honor and distinction. They are the pride of Oregon and their service tells you about



the outstanding citizen soldiers they are,” Kulongoski said.

“Afghanistan has been called the Forgotten War of this generation, but for the soldiers serving there, it is anything but forgotten,” Mortensen said. “Every day Americans, many of them Oregonians, patrol this desolate and forbidding country. Rarely do these stories get documented and almost never are they made into a documentary. For this we all owe a debt of gratitude to Benchmark Knives Company for stepping forward to make this film a reality.”

When the deployment was over, they would return as one of the most decorated units in Oregon Guard history. The other members of Team Cobra included: Lt. Col. Keith Ensley, Maj. Phil Chik; Maj. (Ret.) William Krei (medically retired due to his wounds), Maj. Carter McReynolds, Maj. Eric Wunderlich, Capt. Steve Cooper, Capt. Dan Tuck, Command Sgt. Major (Ret.) Mike Campbell (medically retired), Command Sgt. Major Ken Jackola, Master Sgt. Larry Williams and Sgt. 1st Class Mike Walker.

To order *Shepherds of Helmand* on DVD, go to: www.shepherdsofhelmand.com. Proceeds from the sale of the DVD will go to Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA)—a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of the returning disabled veterans whose healing and reintegration into American life can be substantially enhanced by participation in hunting and shooting sports.

DAV VAN PROGRAM COULD SOON BE STOPPED DUE TO FUNDING

A lack of funding could slam the brakes on a program that has ensured more than 48,000 Oregon veterans were transported more than one million miles to and from three VA medical facilities in 2010. Unless an influx of donations or other financial resources are located to offset a tight operating budget, the Oregon Disabled American Veterans (DAV) van program will come to a halt in June.

“We’re at a serious risk now of losing this program,” said Oregon DAV Commander Brigitte Marker. “Donations have been less and less and that’s how this program operates—by the generosity of others.”

In 2010, Marker said volunteer drivers racked up more than one million miles on 24 vans while transporting an average 5,000 veterans each month to and from VA medical facilities in Portland, Roseburg and White City.

“Some drivers begin their day at 2:30 a.m.” she said, “and may drive from one corner of the state to another as they transport veterans to and from medical appointments. They can go from Ontario, Brookings, Klamath Falls or other remote locations in Oregon to ensure our veterans see their doctors. Some don’t return home until after nine.”

Three program coordinators are paid approximately \$10 per hour and work 40 hours per week to manage the program and ensure vans are operational, volunteer drivers are

qualified and that veterans are delivered safely on every trip that is made. The cost to run the program is more than \$150,000 annually.

The program is always in need of volunteers, but if program funding is not found, Marker said it would disappear this summer.

In recent years in Oregon, chapters have been closing or combining forces with other chapters because of the dwindling membership. The declining state economy is one factor. Marker said not only does DAV need more members, but it needs the support of the public to maintain services like the van program for needy veterans.

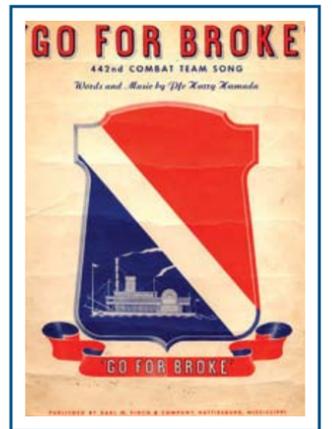
The 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans is a non-profit charity dedicated to building better lives for America’s disabled veterans and their families. Disabled World War I veterans founded the organization in 1920 in order to represent their unique interests. In 1932, the DAV was congressionally chartered as the official voice of the nation’s wartime disabled veterans.

If you are interested in helping DAV, contact Brigitte Marker at 541-273-2191. To become a volunteer driver for the Portland VA Medical Center, contact the DAV coordinator at 1-800-949-1004, ext. 57804. For the Roseburg VA Health Care System, call 541-440-1293 ext. 44358. For White City, call 541-826-2111 ext. 3619.

NISEI FROM PAGE 1

Originally from Ontario, Ore., Yaguchi served in the 232nd Combat Engineer Company in Europe. That company was unique. Unlike the other units in the 442nd that were primarily run by white officers, the engineers took their orders from other Japanese Americans.

“Like many Nisei, I am humbled to receive this from the Senator. We are thankful to be honored like this. We were there to fight for our country and to show we were loyal Americans,” Yaguchi said. “We never retreated.”



“Go For Broke” was the 442nd Combat Team Song.

The 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment was called the “Go For Broke” regiment—the regiment’s battle cry. The regiment was awarded seven Presidential Unit Citations and 21 Congressional Medals of Honor among thousands of other collective and individual medals and citations while serving in France, Italy and Germany.

“The Nisei veterans who fought in the ‘Go For Broke’ regiment are the most decorated in American history,” Wyden said. “Each medal was earned through courage and bravery and awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian honor—is a fitting tribute to this outstanding regiment and an opportunity to ensure that history remembers these men for their great service.”

MEMORIAL DAY 2011

EVENT INFORMATION CAN NOW BE SUBMITTED ONLINE

Memorial Day Event Info Needed by April 4

Submitting event information to ODVA just got easier. ODVA has created an online tool that allows event notifications to be submitted for publication in VETS NEWS, ODVA’s website or Facebook page with one simple form.

A link to the new online form can be found on ODVA’s website at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/INFO under Event Submission. You can also request an emailed link to the Event Submission Form by emailing vetsnews@odva.state.or.us.

To ensure Memorial Day events appear in the May-June issue of VETS NEWS, please be sure to submit event info no later than April 4th.

If you have any questions, please call Public Information at 503-373-2384.

Event Submission Form

Please fill out this form to submit an event notification to Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. If you have any questions, please call 503-373-2384.

*** Required**

Name of Event *

Date(s) of Event *

Time(s) of Event *

Location of Event *
Please provide complete street address and city of event.

Group or organization sponsoring event *

Please provide a brief description of event
Optional:

Website where more information about event or organization can be found.
Optional:

Point of Contact for Event *

Contact Phone Number *

Addition Information

This event is for *

Memorial Day
 Veterans Day
 A Reunion
 An Annual Convention
 A General Event
 Other

Please tell us where you would like your event published *

ODVA's website
 Vets News
 ODVA's Facebook Page

ONLINE SAMPLE



THANK YOU!

9th Sugar Bowl
 Access Computer Products
 Linda Adams
 AFA of Oregon
 AFA of Oregon—
 Columbia Gorge Chapter
 Donna J. Albee
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 168
 American Legion Auxiliary—
 Department of Oregon
 American Legion Capitol Post 9
 American Legion Oregon Trail 150
 American Legion Ray Johnson—
 Post 44
 American Legion Washington Post 2
 American War Mothers
 Martha Peck Andrews
 Roger and Kathryn Antonich
 Donna L. Arnold
 Lori Asa
 Association of the U.S. Army—
 Columbia River Chapter
 Cynthia Biboux
 Kathleen Blome
 Robert and Maria Bornheimer
 David and Carol Boyles
 BPOE Condon #1869
 Dean Brege
 Denis and Mary Lee Brown
 Jean Brown
 Harry B. Burcalow
 Paul E. Burger
 Capitol City Republican Women
 Diane Carpenter
 William Chisholm
 Les and Jody Cochenour
 Columbia Sportswear Company
 Lael and Darrell Cooksley
 Pat and Carolyn Corcoran
 Steven L. Covey
 George Cranswick
 James and Marion Crews
 Sheila Cruz
 Samuel L. and Dorothy Dalesky
 DAV Auxiliary #1
 DAV Auxiliary #17
 DAV Yamhill County Auxiliary #5
 Mary Davis
 Tabby Detrick and Family
 Dale Draper
 Betty Ehleringer

James R. Ellis
 Patty Embree
 Donald and Patricia Emmons
 Paul Farrell
 Fleet Reserve Association—
 City of Roses Branch 55
 Jeff and Sue Ford
 John Fossler
 Darlene Fredrick
 Charles Frost
 Nick and Martha Galash
 Mike and Edna Garvin
 Mary Gifford
 Jeanette Gold
 Stephen R. Gracon
 Raymond A. Gregory
 Gresham Ford
 Thomas E. and Virginia Hake
 Gordon Halsten
 Guy H. Hancock
 Jim F. Hands Memorial Trust
 Olga Haub
 Dick Heinz
 Edith Hickam
 Hickory Farms—Mosier
 Mike Hillier
 Herb and Cindy Hirst
 Daniel and Patricia Hitchcock
 Frank Hotchkiss
 Beverly Imper
 Charles and Patricia Irvine
 Priscilla Johnson
 Mark and Kathy Johnson
 Raymond T. Keen, Jr.
 Levi Kleiber
 Dennis and Maureen Klein
 John and Linda Krafsc
 Joan K. Lagerberg
 Robert M. Lee
 Dennis Leonard
 Harold and Jacqueline Lesch
 Claire Madison
 Jack Magnuson
 Marine Corps League—
 Rogue Valley Detachment #386
 John and Starla Marti
 Thomas E. Mattson
 Ruth McNamara
 Eugene Melvin
 Military Order of the World Wars
 Jeff Millenor

Gary and Janet Miller
 Darrell and Winifred Mitchell
 MOAA—Lower Columbia Chapter
 MOC, Grand of Oregon
 Christopher and Patti Moore
 Vern Moore
 Jane Nichols
 Craig Nowland
 Oakes Family Dentistry
 Allen Ogron
 OODAlink, Inc.
 Georgia Opheir
 Bernice Orchard
 Oregon County Veterans
 Service Officers Association
 Oregon Trails Good Sam
 Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Shop
 Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition
 Kathy and Jim Page
 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Irene Payne
 Clinton and Lucile Peck
 Mel and Norma Peterson
 Lawrence K. Peterson Law Office
 Portland General Electric
 Albert Powell
 Preceptor Alpha Epsilon Sorority
 Hazel B. Presley
 Marvin S. Prestwood
 Project D.E.F.T.
 Mike Quinn
 David H. Raner
 Reno Emblem Club
 Reserve Officers Association—
 Marion Chapter
 Sabrina Riter
 James F. Robb
 Kenneth W. Rolph
 Don and Noreen Rowe
 S. F. Sanders
 Screaming Eagles
 Seniors of Mosier Valley
 George Sevier
 Sheron Dental
 Gale and Donna Sickler
 Silverton Elks Lodge #2210
 Gary Sorensen
 Madeline Sprague
 Standard TV & Appliance
 Michael and Diane Sterle
 Cheryl Stroh

Vance E. Strunk
 Supporters of the Bowlers to
 Veterans Link
 Victor Swanson
 Everett Swezey
 Harry Taylor
 The Elks
 Lee Tobie
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 U.S. Air Force Recruiting Office—
 Beaverton
 U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion—
 Portland
 U.S. Army Recruiting Company—
 Wilsonville
 U.S. Army Recruiting Station—
 The Dalles
 U.S. Coast Guard Base—Portland
 U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting
 Station—Portland
 U.S. Navy Recruiting District—
 Portland
 United Way of the Columbia-
 Willamette
 USMC Coordinating Council
 S. Douglas Van Dyke
 Gary Van Orman
 Don and Barbara Varnes
 Veterans Care Centers of Oregon
 VFW Auxiliary 2848
 VFW Blue Mountain Post 4567
 VFW Grizzly Post 353
 VFW Post 10626
 VFW Post 2471
 VFW Post 2666
 VFW Post 293
 VFW Post 5638
 Walking Point Farm, LLC
 James A. Walling
 Louis Wampler
 Jeff Ward
 Mary and Tom Watts
 John and Loni Welsh
 Irene White
 Penny White
 Clyde Wilson
 Wilson Construction Company
 Robert Windus
 Virginia Wood
 Wright Land Co.

Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund are deeply appreciated. The generosity of the ever-growing number of Friends of the Home continue to provide life enriching experiences to the veterans who call the Veterans' Home home. To become a Friend of the Home, use the gift form below. Your donation is tax deductible. Thank you again to those who contributed during the months of December 2010 and January 2011.



OREGON VETERANS' HOME GIFT FORM

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

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

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

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____

I would like to make a donation using: Personal Check Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you for supporting the place where honor lives!

REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Veterans Opportunity Conference will hold a community workshop, March 14, at the Doubletree Hotel, 2900 Chinden Blvd., Boise, ID. Workshop offerings include Government Contracting, Social Networking and Web Marketing, Small Business Loans, and Networking Effectively for Jobs and Business.

For information: Lance Foster, 208-334-9004, Ext. 334; lance.foster@sba.gov.

American Ex-Prisoners of War will hold their annual meeting, April 28, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market St NE, Salem, OR 97301.

For information: Mike or Dorothy Ryan, 541-258-5732.

USS Tarawa CV-40 and LHA-1 is having their 22nd annual reunion, April 28-May 1, in Baltimore, MD.

For information: Cliff Gardner, 401-539-1149; cliffgardner.1@verizon.net.

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

For information: Arthur Hebert, 603-672-8772; www.uspboston.org.

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

For information: www.sutherlintributewall.com.

USS Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA-31 will hold their 26th reunion, August 25-27, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 919 Kruse Way, Springfield, OR 97477.

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

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.

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.

Mary Lee Brown

Bob Federspiel Ruth McNamara
A L Foust Craig Nowland
Gordon Halsten Penny White
Korean War Vets- Linn/Benton

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.

OVH RESIDENT HELPS UPDATE FLAG DISPLAYS

By Mike Allegre

John Sullivan of Keizer loves living at the Oregon Veterans' Home. He especially appreciates the flags that adorn the main lobby and elsewhere in the Home, reminding everyone of service and country.

However Sullivan, 92, wanted to make one small addition.

"The POW flag had been placed in the corner and needed to be out," Sullivan said. "Tom (Oakes) and I worked together and located a small alcove in a hallway where that flag, and the U.S. flag could be displayed and protected. It also allowed us to set-up a traditional table setting that remembers those military members who are missing or being held captive."

Sullivan, along with Oakes, the Home's building operations manager, devised a display plan that followed regulations about the proper display of the flags.

A retired state employee, Sullivan served nine years in the U.S. Marine Corps during and after World War II (1941-50). He was a Naval flight instructor until August 1944 when 2nd Lt. Sullivan was involved in a mid-air collision with a student.

"I jumped out of that SNJ (Navy Trainer Plane) and deployed my parachute at about 400 feet. I hit pretty hard. After spending nine months in a body cast, I was released for rehabilitation," Sullivan recalled.

After retiring from active duty and Reserve service, Sullivan became one of the first veterans hired by the State of Oregon. For 32 years, he worked at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

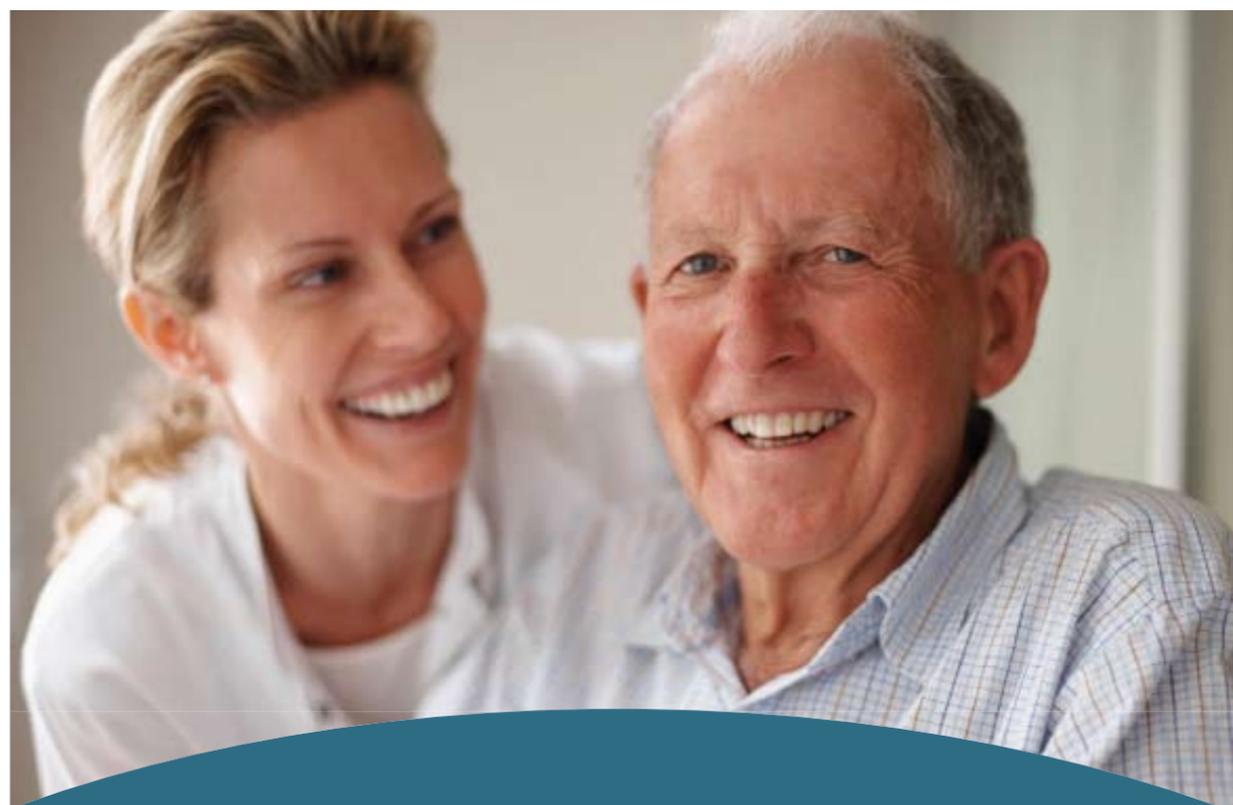
Sullivan maintained his private pilot's license until recent years, but he still enjoys the opportunity to go flying when asked.

"You never lose that love of having your hands on the controls of a plane."



John Sullivan stands next to the POW-MIA Flag display he helped arrange at the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles.

--PHOTO BY DAN LONG



HIPAA Statement

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

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

- * ODVA's website at www.oregon.gov/odva
- * 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.

Welcome to the Place Where Honor Lives
Welcome to the Oregon Veterans' Home



The Oregon Veterans' Home is one of two Veterans' Homes in the nation to receive the Step II Award for Quality Achievement from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL).

Call **1-800-846-8460**
 700 Veterans Drive in The Dalles

* Based on the standard daily veteran rate. All payment options and pricing described are subject to change without notice. Please contact the Oregon Veterans' Home for details.

At the Oregon Veterans' Home you or your loved one can have it all - exceptional quality of care, veteran camaraderie and affordability in one location. In fact, people are often surprised to find out just how affordable the Oregon Veterans' Home really is.

For less than \$150 per day*, veteran residents can count on the care and honor only the Home can provide. To off-set cost for veterans and make our standard rates affordable, the Home:

- Accepts Medicaid/Medicare
- Accepts Aid and Attendance payments
- Helps reduce veterans rates by using VA per diem
- Welcomes eligible veterans who are 70% or more service-connected disabled to live at the Home for little or no cost

Discover for yourself why veterans choose to call the Oregon Veterans' Home, their home.

AGENT ORANGE: KOREAN DMZ UPDATE

Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access quality health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates of when illnesses, caused by herbicide exposure, can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange.



Under the final regulation, VA will presume herbicide exposure for any veteran who served between April 1, 1968 and Aug. 31, 1971, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied.

Previously, VA recognized that Agent Orange exposure could only be conceded to veterans who served in certain units along the Korean DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969.

Typically, eligible veterans who have specific illnesses that the VA presumes to be associated with herbicide exposure, do not have to prove an association between their illness and their military service. This presumption simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

VA encourages veterans with service in Korea and who have medical conditions that may be related to Agent Orange, to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation as soon as possible.

Individuals can contact their Veterans Service Officer, or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to get a more complete understanding of presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure and what evidence is needed by VA to make a decision about disability compensation or survivors benefits, or to help them file a claim. To reach ODVA, call 503-373-2085, or find your local Veterans Service Officer at www.oregon.gov/odva/vsodirect.

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services can be found at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

The new regulation is available on the Office of the Federal Register website at www.ofr.gov/.

RESERVE OFFICERS CHAPTER DONATES \$8,000 TO HOME

In one of its final official acts as a group, the Marion (Salem) Chapter of the U.S. Army Reserve Officers Association donated the chapter's remaining financial proceeds to the Oregon Veterans' Home. Three chapter members and retired officers, Maj. Gen. Dennis Klein, Col. Louis Kurth and Lt. Col. Ken Crawford presented a check for nearly \$8,000 to ODVA Director Jim Willis in January.

Primarily due to declining enrollment and an aging membership, the chapter's leadership voted to close and give the money to the Home.

"This is a good thing to do," said Col. (ret.) Louis Kurth. "Our members were happy to direct this money to support the work being done at the Home."

Donations to the Home are used for many of the conveniences that make life more enjoyable for the residents including outings, exercise equipment, refreshments for outings, transportation, medical equipment and supplies, benches, patios, plants, magazine subscriptions and much more.



Lt. Col. Ken Crawford (front), Maj. Gen. Dennis Klein (center) and Col. Louis Kurth (right) from the U.S. Army Reserve Officers Association present a check for nearly \$8,000 to ODVA Director Jim Willis as a donation to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

--PHOTO BY NICOLE HOEFT

I Got Mine!

New military service graphic license plates are now available for your automobile.

Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator Val Conley (US Army) has worked in service to veterans since 1979.

"Although I did not make a career of the military I am proud to have served my country and I believe the veterans license plate reflects that pride. As a result of having the veterans plate on my car I have had many people that I have never met go out of their way to thank me for my service and many others who have expressed surprise that I was indeed the veteran represented by the plates. I would love to see all of my fellow veterans have veterans plates on their vehicles so that others could recognize them as a veteran and express our appreciation of their service and sacrifice."



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

Going to his label, he asked if he could produce an album for the troops with proceeds going to benefit organizations such as Gold Star Mothers and Wounded Warriors. Universal turned him down, saying they would not contribute to those causes. Lynne left Universal and signed with Robbins Nashville, which agreed to send a third of all proceeds to military support organizations. Further, for every CD purchased from his website, Lynne sends another one to a soldier deployed overseas.

His heart for the troops was evident during a mini-concert he performed at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

His first number was *Happy Birthday* with a special greeting to Hank Wasson – the son of ODVA staffer Mae Wasson – who lost a leg in an IED attack in Iraq.

With strong vocals and perfect three-part harmony, Lynne and his band performed seven songs, including *Proud to be a Soldier*, *Ain't America Beautiful*, *I want to Thank You* – dedicated to Vietnam veterans in the audience, *Heroes Come from Small Towns*, *Red, White and Blue*, and a stirring rendition of the gospel songs *Will the Circle Be Unbroken/I'll Fly Away*. Lynn concluded his concert by inviting the crowd to sing the *Star-Spangled Banner*.

Scheduled to play in Eugene the next day, Lynne was emotional about his decision to write *Songs for Soldiers*, sharing that the song *Heroes Come from Small Towns* has been played in theatre at every military funeral in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thanking ODVA Director Jim Willis for the invitation to sing for his staff, Lynne stayed and greeted every person who attended, clearly enjoying meeting the men and women who work for Oregon's veterans.

To learn more about Rockie Lynne and *Songs for Soldiers*, visit his website at www.rockielynne.com.

NEW VA CLINIC COMING TO WALLA WALLA

WALLA WALLA -- The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded a nearly \$23 million design-build contract for a new outpatient clinic to be built on the Walla Walla VA campus.

Brian Westfield, Director of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, said ground will be broken on the clinic project this spring. It is scheduled for completion in January 2013.

"This new clinic is a badly needed addition to this facility that will enable us to offer the best possible care for our area veterans," Westfield said.

The project includes a new outpatient clinic, creates approximately 175 parking spaces and includes associated site work relating to campus-wide upgrades to antiquated utility distribution systems.

Construction of the new outpatient clinic building also will allow the VA to consolidate clinical, administrative and support functions currently spread across 88 acres of the Walla Walla campus onto approximately 24 acres on the west end of the campus.

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker	541-523-8223	Jane Chandler
Benton	541-758-1595	Don Johnson
Clackamas	503-650-5631	Janice Harlan-Raisl
	503-650-5768	Rick Rutherford
Clatsop	866-325-2429	Kenneth H. Rislow
Columbia	503-366-6580	Joseph Pyle
Coos	541-396-3121, Ext. 362	Mary Ann Sackett
Crook	541-447-5304	Angela Gilley
Curry	866-298-0404	Frank Van Meter
Deschutes	541-385-3214	Keith Macnamara
Douglas	541-440-4219	Mary Newman
Gilliam	541-384-6712	Bryan Hunt
Grant	541-575-1631	Bob Muenchausen
Harney	541-573-1342	Guy McKay
Hood River	541-386-1080	Lester Logsdon
Jackson	541-774-8214	Renee Burgdorf
Jefferson	541-475-5228	Patricia White
Josephine	541-474-5454	Lisa Shipley
Klamath	541-883-4274	Kathy Pierce
Lake	541-947-6043	G. Don Boone
Lane	541-682-4191	Joseph Reiley
Lincoln	541-574-6955	John Reed
Linn	800-319-3882	Kim Grooms
Malheur	541-889-6649	Russ Snow
Marion	503-373-2085	ODVA
Morrow	877-999-8387	Linda Skendzel
Multnomah	503-988-3620, Ext. 25005	Katie Pereault
Polk	503-373-2085	ODVA
Sherman	541-565-3408	Bryan Hunt
Tillamook	503-842-4358	Steve Weld
Umatilla	541-278-5482	Peggy Raines
Union	541-962-8802	Byron Whipple
Wallowa	541-426-3155, Ext. 241	Linda McIntyre
Wasco	888-804-1817	Lester Logsdon
Washington	503-846-3051	Eric Belt
Wheeler	800-982-1172	Bryan Hunt
Yamhill	503-434-7503	Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771	Greg Demarais
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087	Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	Robert Lougee
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	Jennifer Burt
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4763	Ken Fink
Veterans of Foreign Wars	503-412-4757	Jack Zule

State Offices-ODVA.....	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Salem	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	Jessica Garcelon Leah Rickert Mitch Sparks Gina Thomas Jerry Wilson Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777	Deanna Erhardt Donna Hunt Linda McMillan Russell Snow Ed Van Dyke

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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 22
Salem, OR

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...



WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY

www.oregon.gov/odva

www.facebook.com/odvavet

Jim Willis, Director

March | April 2011

Address Changes / New Subscriptions

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

ADDRESS AS IT APPEARS NOW:

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS...



WHERE EVERYDAY IS VETERANS DAY

VETS NEWS

March | April 2011

www.facebook.com/odvavet

www.oregon.gov/odva

Jim Willis, Director

WYDEN PRESENTS NISEI WITH HONORS

World War II veteran Kenzie Namba speaks with Sen. Ron Wyden after the senator presented leather bound copies of Congressional law and U.S. flags flown over the nation's capitol to Oregon Japanese American (Nisei) veterans. The president will bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to all Nisei veterans later this year to honor their military service.
-PHOTO COURTESY OF SETSY LAIROUCHE



Last year, the U.S. Congress voted to award Japanese American (Nisei) veterans from the 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment and Military Intelligence Service the highest civilian honor the government can present—the Congressional Gold Medal for their exemplary service during World War II.

A long trip to Washington D.C. to officially receive the medal from the President is arduous as most Nisei are over the age of 85. Recognizing that, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has arranged to present leather bound replicas of Public Law 111-254, that authorizes the award of the

Congressional Gold Medal, and a flag flown over the Capitol to the men of 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment who reside in Oregon.

Nisei veterans are not slated to officially receive these medals until later this fall.

Prior to a town hall meeting on Jan. 14 at Milwaukie High School, Wyden presented three copies of the law to Portland residents Kenzie Namba, Kazumi Oda, and Dr. Kenji Yaguchi. It was one of six similar presentations Wyden has made around the Portland metro area to at least 17 Nisei veterans since December.

SEE NISEI ON PAGE 7

IN THIS ISSUE

- Director's Message.....Page 2
- GI Bill Improvement.....Page 3
- UVGO Represents VeteransPage 4
- OR Guard Presented CitationPage 5
- Film Features Oregon Guard.....Page 6
- DAV Van Program Faces CutsPage 7
- Veterans' Service Officers.....Page 11