



# Oregon

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## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

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[Note to editors: This award will be a surprise to the recipient. Please do not publicize his name before noon today. Thank you.]

## **Grants Pass resident to receive Defense Department's Patriot Award**

A supervisor at the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass will be recognized this afternoon with the Patriot Award, presented to supervisors for exemplary support of National Guard and Reserve members.

Rogue Valley YCF treatment manager Pete Roberts of Grants Pass will be recognized for his support of Staff Sgt. Kenny Walker, a group life coordinator at the 100-bed Oregon Youth Authority facility. Walker said he nominated Roberts because of Roberts' support of his work with the Air National Guard, which has deployed Walker four times and will deploy him again to Afghanistan in January.

The award will be presented to Roberts today at about noon during a staff meeting at the facility, 2001 N.E. F St., by military representatives from Medford and from the 116<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron at Camp Murray, Wash. Walker, who also did five years' Air Force active duty, is attached to the Washington unit because it is closest to Oregon.

Roberts will receive a Department of Defense certificate of appreciation and a Patriot lapel pin.

Walker last month received the Bronze Star with Valor for heroism in a May 2009 seven-hour firefight with Taliban forces in Afghanistan (story at <http://www.ang.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123223557>). He said he greatly appreciates the support of Roberts and other colleagues at Rogue Valley YCF, and elected to work graveyard shift to minimize disruption that his National Guard service causes. Walker also has been deployed to Kosovo, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

OYA has custody of approximately 900 offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and supervises approximately 1,100 youth on probation and parole in communities throughout Oregon.

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