



# VETS NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

Find current veteran news and information 24/7 online at [oregon.gov/odva](http://oregon.gov/odva) | [oregondva.com](http://oregondva.com) | [facebook.com/odvavet](https://facebook.com/odvavet)

VETERANS DAY EDITION:

## TRAVELING WALL MAKES FINAL VISIT TO OREGON DURING VETERANS DAY



### VIETNAM VETERAN RECALLS LAST DAY OF COMBAT

By Mike Allegre

PORTLAND – For most Vietnam veterans, the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC and the traveling walls represent more than monuments to fallen comrades, friends and family who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It is a reflection of a time of change and internal strife for our country and its veterans. It's also a stark reminder of the loss of a way of life and of the devastating scars of war.

On its black, reflective surface is inscribed the names of more than 58,000 servicemen and women who died or who remain missing in Vietnam. It

remains place of solace to grieve and remember, to celebrate the fallen or to just be silent.

This November, the traveling Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Washington DC memorial, will make its final visit to Oregon, Nov. 8-12, arriving by motorcycle escort at Portland's Skyline Memorial Gardens.

One Portland Vietnam combat veteran knows the impact the Wall has had in his life. He has seen the traveling Wall, and has visited the national memorial

SEE VIETNAM WALL ON PAGE 4

#### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012 ISSUE

- 2 Expansion of CBOC in The Dalles
- 3 DoD Celebrates Forgotten War
- 4 Oregon's Conley Selected for NG Post
- 5 Lebanon Veterans' Home Groundbreaking
- 6-7 2012 Statewide Veterans Day Events
- 8 Bend Home Planned for At-Risk Veterans
- 9 White City: Healing for Heroes Program
- 10 The Invisible War: MST Documentary



## Director's Message

Jim Willis, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

# NEVER PAY FOR VETERAN BENEFIT HELP

In this message I want to talk about those individuals who approach our veterans claiming to be able to get the veteran benefits in several areas of eligibility.

To begin with, the best rule of thumb for veterans is to remember that you have earned benefits based on your service and you should never have to pay anyone to file for those benefits.

One example of the type of fraud that's occurring is what is called "pension poachers." These individuals usually approach senior veterans claiming that they can get them a benefit such as Aid and Attendance. All the veteran has to do is turn over their assets to them and they will then get the veteran qualified for the Aid and Attendance benefit that is designed for low-income or indigent veterans.

They can charge as much as \$3,000 for this "service." The long term impact of these actions can affect the veterans' estate, can set veterans up for an investigation into the hiding of assets and could cause the veteran to have to pay back a benefit that they legally could not have received.

And where are the "pension poachers" in all of this? They are long gone with the veteran's money and in some cases access to the veteran's assets.

Again, remember, you do not have to pay for these services. Accredited Veteran Service Officers are available in every county in our state along with National Service Officers representing a number of our veteran's organizations. Their services are free and they are there to help you. As always, their names, locations and phone numbers are listed in this edition of the VETS NEWS.

To help protect our veterans, bills have been introduced in the US Congress. H.R. 6171 in the House and S. 3270 in the Senate and are known as the Protecting Veterans Pension Act. Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader is one of the leaders of this effort in the House along with Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden in the Senate. These bills are gaining sponsors and should pass during the 112th session of the Congress.

Another resource available to veterans and service members at the federal level is the Office of Servicemember Affairs (OSA) at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

In that past few months, OSA has worked to limit the reach of predatory for-profit colleges that target servicemembers and veterans for their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits; worked to reduce the prevalence of predatory payday lenders that market to military families; worked with the VA to help protect senior veterans and retirees from unfair, abusive and deceptive scams that target their hard earned benefits; and worked to help make federal mortgage refinance and short sale programs more veteran and military friendly.

To learn more about the CFPB OSA, please visit [www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/servicemembers).

I hope you are able to celebrate Veterans Day and that you and your family will enjoy a safe and happy Holiday Season.

# NEW CBOC OPENS IN THE DALLES



**Director Jim Willis attended the Ribbon Cutting for the newly expanded CBOC located in The Dalles on Aug. 30. The clinic was expanded from 1,272 to more than 2,200 square feet.**

THE DALLES – Aging veterans and those with disabilities will no longer have to make the long and at times difficult trip to Portland and Vancouver for medical attention. A new community based outpatient clinic (CBOC) opened its doors on Aug. 30.

The 2,248 square foot expansion to the CBOC located next to the Oregon Veterans Home, at 704 Veterans Drive, will help to provide a variety of primary care services to eligible veterans. Drs. Jesse Papac and Greg Melby, and their respective staff, were on hand to answer questions and provide tours during the recent ribbon cutting event.

Previously, both doctors were working out of the original 1,272 square feet of office space while construction was underway on the expansion. The project took about six months to complete.

By expanding the clinic, two care teams, each comprised of a physician, registered nurse, clinic associate and clerk, now have room to work so the more than 1,200 patients who are currently served there are better cared for. According to Jeff Arcaro, administrator director of primary care for the VA's medical center in Portland, the expansion will allow that patient number to nearly double.

Arcaro said a \$1.3 million grant from the VA Office of Rural Health provided funding to enlarge the clinic, as well as revenue to cover some salary and operational expenses.

He said not only is primary care available at The Dalles clinic, but veterans can also receive mental health support and are often eligible for no-fee health care. The two doctors refer cases requiring major medical care, such as surgeries, to larger facilities in Portland.

Women veterans who prefer a female physician can obtain services from the new VA outpatient clinic just-for-women across the street from the Portland center.

Since 2009, outpatient clinics in Oregon have been built or expanded to serve veterans in The Dalles, Astoria and Newport. Arcaro said area veterans' groups began advocating for those services to be provided closer to home and the VA met that need in 2010 when funding became available.

In addition a clinic to help homeless veterans has opened in downtown Portland and numerous outpatient medical centers are scattered throughout the metro area. Several years ago, veterans in the Columbia River gorge had to travel to Portland for outpatient services, which was both time consuming and expensive.

For more information on The Dalles CBOC, call 541-296-3937.

## VETS NEWS

Published by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Vets News is a free publication printed every two months. Each issue contains current information impacting veterans in Oregon including Federal VA hot topics, and state, regional and local happenings. When credit is given to the source, Vets News articles may be reprinted.

**Nicole Hoeft** Managing Editor / Production / Staff Writer  
**Mike Allegre** Associate Editor / Staff Writer  
**Robin Steckley** Staff Writer

### SUBSCRIBE / CHANGE OF ADDRESS / SUBMISSIONS

**Mail** Send your name and current address to ODVA, Vets News, 700 Summer St., NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285  
**Phone** 503-373-2386  
**Email** vetsnews@odva.state.or.us  
**Online** [www.oregon.gov/odva/INFO/VetsNews.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/INFO/VetsNews.shtml)

Reunions, events and story submissions are welcome, however, please note that all items are printed upon space availability. Input for the next issue must be received by **December 5**.

Up to the minute Oregon veteran news at [www.oregondva.com](http://www.oregondva.com)

## CLARIFICATION

In the Sept./Oct. 2012 issue of *Vets News*, we reported the award of nearly \$100 million in VA grants to assist homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Five private and non-profit community organizations in Oregon (Community Action Team, Inc., Central City Concern, ACCESS, Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, and Transition Projects, Inc. and St. Vincent De Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.) were awarded grants. Because this article was general in nature, we did not include details regarding how each grant awarded in Oregon was to be distributed or other mandates that limit how the grants can be used, including, but not limited to, the requirement that veterans have to be homeless or at risk of homelessness and living at 50 percent of Area Median Income.

Each organization has a limited number of veterans it can serve based on the award amount and award requirements. Veterans who are seeking assistance are asked to check directly with organizations regarding qualifications for assistance.

# KOREAN WAR, 1950-53: ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORGOTTEN WAR

By Nicole Hoeft



**Above: Federico Simmons of Puerto Rico in a Borinqueneers jeep, served in the Heavy Mortar Communications Battalion from March 1951-53.**

**Right: As president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), ODVA Director Jim Willis was able to help honor some of the Korean War veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment while attending DoD's screening of a PBS documentary, *The Borinqueneers*, at the NASDVA annual conference in Puerto Rico. Pictured from left to right: Federico Simmons, Director Willis and Francisco Alicea.**



## NEW PROGRAM FOR VETERANS AGED 35-60 VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Veterans between the ages of 35-60, who have exhausted their GI Bill benefits, may be eligible to participate in the new Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). The program was created as part of the Heroes Act passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in 2011.

The program offers an opportunity for unemployed veterans to upgrade their skill for in-demand jobs by providing a financial stipend for education costs for up to 12 months.

"The largest populations of veterans that are unemployed are between the ages of 35 to 60, so this is a great opportunity for a veteran out there who is unemployed to basically jump-start their career," said Curtis Coy, the deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity at the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Counselors who work with veterans say the program is not for all their clients. It requires legwork by the applicant to find a school within program parameters, get the field of study approved, show that you are unemployed, etc. Also, because the

stipend is a reimbursement, the participant may have to do some planning in case they need to pay upfront costs.

The program is not intended to help veterans get four-year degrees, but rather certificates of training in growing industries and make veterans quickly eligible to get back into the job market in high-demand occupations.

Applications have been flooding into the federal Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) since enrollment began in May.

The goal of the program is to train 99,000 veterans over the next two years. According to the VA, some of the most popular fields of study include computer support, heating and air conditioning repair, business support, culinary arts, nursing, paralegal assistants, and one surprising choice: substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselor.

Potential applicants can learn more about VRAP by contacting their local veterans service office or ODVA.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea launched a surprise attack as its troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. This act of aggression ignited an epic struggle between democracy and communism that spanned from the Chosin Reservoir, to the skies over the Yalu River, the Pusan Perimeter and the Sea of Japan.

The Korean War was the first time in history 22 nations had come together to ensure freedom. Failure was not an option.

Historians now recognize that the Korean War was the decisive conflict that marked the beginning of the end of the "Cold War" and was a major victory for the United States and the first test of the newly formed United Nations.

The war victory, however celebrated today, has been branded throughout history as the "Forgotten War." Overshadowed by the massive worldwide impact and historical significance of World War II, the events and battles of the Korean War remain little known by the American public today.

In 2010, the Department of Defense (DoD) began efforts to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War. Their efforts are dedicated to guaranteeing that we never forget the selfless sacrifices of the veterans who fought in Korea from 1950 to 1953, to ensure the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today.

In September of this year, as president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), ODVA Director Jim Willis was able to help honor some of the Korean War veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment while attending a DoD screening of a PBS documentary, *The Borinqueneers* at the NASDVA annual conference in Puerto Rico.

The 65th Infantry Regiment was created in 1899 by the U.S. Congress as a segregated unit composed primarily of Puerto Ricans with mostly continental officers. It went on to serve meritoriously in three wars: World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The unit was nicknamed after "Borinquen," the word given to Puerto Rico by its original inhabitants, the Taino Indians, meaning "land of the brave lord".

When they were finally called to the front lines in the Korean War, the men of the 65th performed impressively, earning praise from Gen. Douglas MacArthur. They valiantly held the line and completed a critical role containing the Chinese advance and supporting the U.S. Marines in the aftermath of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Sent to every corner of the peninsula, these soldiers showed outstanding resilience and a legendary fierceness as combatants, even as they faced discrimination within the Army.

But in the fall of 1952, the regiment was at the center of a series of dramatic events that would threaten its very existence.

As the documentary reaffirms, Puerto Ricans occupy a special place in U.S. Army history. However, because of the island's commonwealth status, they don't have the right to vote in U.S. elections, yet they serve in the military and can be drafted. For many of the veterans of the 65th, this paradox became an incentive to be even more patriotic, to "prove themselves in battle 200 percent."

To learn about the film, visit [www.borinqueneers.com/home](http://www.borinqueneers.com/home). More information about the DoD 60th Anniversary of the Korean War is at [www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0610\\_korea60ann](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0610_korea60ann).

at least 10 times. This Veterans Day, Ron Cannon will see it an eleventh time along with a group of fellow Oregon Vietnam veterans in DC.

Each time he stands near it and looks into the black granite wall, the feelings he has are the same. And there is always one name he looks for first.

Cannon left for Army boot camp in 1967. While still in Portland processing to leave, he met someone who would become his “best buddy” – Ron Van Avery. “We just hit it off and became good friends. We were buddies all through training and when we served in Vietnam.”

On April 21, 1968, a date forever imbedded in Cannon’s memory, Private First Class Cannon was on foot patrol “out in the bush,” quite a distance from his home base at Chu Lai. He and Pfc. Van Avery were members of a 23-man patrol that had trekked up a hill to set-up camp. It was hot and muggy. As the men moved about to establish a perimeter, Cannon had headed to his position in a foxhole near a tree.

Then, with no warning there was huge loud explosion. What his patrol didn’t know and was about to learn was they were surrounded by landmines. The Vietcong had created a death trap for the Americans. Soon a “bouncing Betty” took out the platoon’s command element. Then there was another explosion.

Cannon stood his ground near the foxhole. Spec. 4 David Tunnell saw him and yelled from above to look for any trip wires.

“And there was one glistening in the sunlight,” Cannon recalled. “I located and reported it, but then without any warning... boom!”

Cannon was told he went flying almost 15 feet up into that tree. He hit the ground hard, felt no pain, but then saw that most of his left leg had been shredded by that third explosion. He was bleeding profusely. Three heavy duty land mines had killed three soldiers in his platoon, injured the rest and ended Cannon’s combat tour in Vietnam.

Following a dust-off and chopper flight back to Chu Lai, Cannon would undergo seven painful months of rehabilitation and training to learn to walk with his prosthesis. Emotionally he was adjusting to what had happened. He had survivor’s guilt. He wondered, “Where are my buddies? How is Van Avery? How will I be able to walk again?”

The good news was Pfc. Cannon had survived. Yet, upon returning to Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis, Wash., in May 1968, Army doctors had asked Cannon’s dad to give his son the bad news about his friend. “Van” was one of three men who had died on that hill.



**Left: Pfc. Ron Van Avery and Pfc. Ron Cannon together in Vietnam. Right: Pfc. Ron Cannon pauses after a mission near Chu Lai, South Vietnam in 1968.**



Officially discharged in 1969, Cannon felt he was adjusting pretty well. He saw a silver lining to it all and was positive. “You can’t dwell on the past and move on in life,” he said. “And when I saw two feet at the end of my legs again, I knew the world could be mine.”

After a short career in radio broadcasting, he could find no work, only part-time jobs here and there. It wasn’t until 1976, when he became Oregon’s first Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) employee in Gresham that he felt whole again.

After eight years of working on behalf of veterans, Cannon was then hired as the assistant director of U.S. Dept. of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training. He would later become the director and after serving thousands of veterans in Oregon, he retired in 2010.

Cannon’s last Veterans Day trip to DC was five years ago. There he joined three of his buddies who were in Vietnam when he lost his leg. “Tunnell earned a Bronze Star that day for taking charge on the hill. He also held my hand and encouraged me on that chopper ride when I was flown back to Chu Lai.”

He remembered his very first visit to the Wall was at midnight and minus-15 degrees. But, Cannon had to see it. “It’s there on that black granite wall you can see yourself and those names together.”

After Veterans Day, Cannon and his wife Shirley will travel to Boston to see Dr. Robert First for a second time in 10 years.

“He’s the man who saved my life and with the nurse’s help, stopped the bleeding. His field report said he didn’t expect me to survive,” Cannon said, “but they worked long and hard to keep me alive. We’ve become friends. It’ll be an emotional ride, but not like the first time.”

Here in Oregon, the final public grand opening for the traveling wall is on Nov. 9, at 4101 S.W. Skyline Blvd. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Oregon’s Adjutant General and Vietnam combat veteran, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees. He and Cannon are among the more than 100,000 Oregonians who served during the Vietnam War.

The Wall will be open in Portland 24 hours a day through Nov. 12th, said Natasha Tjaarda, an event coordinator for Dignity Memorial.

“Volunteer veterans will be there to answer questions. Among the events planned is a special MIA/POW ceremony that begins at 7 p.m., Nov. 10th. This is the last time anyone will see this traveling wall in Oregon before it’s retired at Fort Benning, Ga. in 2013,” she said.

Closing ceremonies at the Wall are on Nov. 12 at approximately 2 p.m. Military honors, patriotic music guest speakers, and a Coast Guard flyover will honor all U.S. service members who were killed during that war.

For more information call Kim Morley, 503-292-6611, or visit [www.dmvietnamwall.com/portland](http://www.dmvietnamwall.com/portland).

## OREGON’S CONLEY SELECTED AS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD’S CSM

ARLINGTON, Va. – Oregon’s Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley took over responsibilities as the 10th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard in a ceremony Sept. 27 at the Army National Guard Readiness Center. This position is the top enlisted position within the Army Guard.

Conley takes over from Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch, who has returned to duties with the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Since 2010, Conley had served as the command sergeant major of the Oregon Army National Guard. His military career began in December 1981 and was trained as an infantryman. After serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Conley transitioned to the Oregon Army Guard where he served in a variety of leadership positions from squad leader through command sergeant major.

Conley has deployed overseas twice with the 41st

Infantry Brigade Combat Team, first to Baghdad in October 2003 and then to Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2006. Additionally, he served in New Orleans during the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in August 2005.

“I want it to be clear that in my mind there is nobody more important than the citizen-soldier,” Conley said during the ceremony. “I will not rest in this position until vacancies are filled, soldiers are deployed, they are equipped and fully trained for all missions foreign and domestic. We live and breathe to support the citizen-soldier. You have my word, and thank you for this opportunity.”

In his new position, Conley represents and advises the director of the Army National Guard on matters pertaining to Army Guard policies and actions that affect enlisted soldiers, coordinates with the sergeant major of the Army and command sergeants major of the Army Guard and major Army commands.



**Above: Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., director of the Army National Guard, ceremoniously transfers responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch to former Oregon State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, during a ceremony in Arlington, Va., Sept. 27.**

# OREGON'S SECOND VETERANS' HOME BREAKS GROUND: NAMED AFTER WWI MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

By Nicole Hoeft

LEBANON - Jodie Allworth comes from a remarkable Oregon veteran family who has repeatedly left their mark in U.S. military history. Along with her two daughters and many grandchildren, Jodie attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the state's second veterans' home in Lebanon on Sept. 20. The home was being named in honor of her father, Edward C. Allworth, a World War I Medal of Honor recipient from Oregon.

Allworth was a captain in the U.S. Army and was the epitome of a leader. On Nov. 5, 1918, mere days from the Armistice's signing, while his company was crossing the Meuse River and canal, the bridge over the canal was destroyed by shell fire. Allworth's command became separated on the east and west banks of the canal. Seeing his advance units making slow headway up the steep slope ahead, Allworth mounted the canal bank and called for his men to follow. Plunging in, he swam across the canal under fire from the enemy, followed by his men. Inspiring his men by his example, Allworth led them up the slope, joining his hard-pressed platoons in front.

By his personal leadership, he forced the enemy back more than a mile, overcoming machine gun nests and capturing 100 prisoners, whose number exceeded that of the men in his command. The exceptional courage and leadership displayed by Capt. Allworth made possible the re-establishment of a bridgehead over the canal and the successful advance of the other troops. For his action, Allworth was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following the war, Allworth joined the Oregon Agricultural College faculty, now Oregon State University, as secretary of the alumni association and secretary of the Memorial Union Board of Governors. Known to the students as "The Major," he was instrumental in planning and fundraising for the Memorial Union and served as manager for 38 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



PHOTO BY ROBIN STECKLEY

**Left: WWI Medal of Honor Recipient Edward C. Allworth was a captain in the U.S. Army. Following the war, Allworth joined the faculty of the Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University).**

**Right: Director Jim Willis officially announced the name of Oregon's second veterans' home during the groundbreaking ceremony in Lebanon on Sept. 20. Pictured in the first row is the Allworth family, including his daughter Jodie Allworth and granddaughter Lea Lutz.**

Jim Willis, director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), said the naming of the new home "after one of Oregon's bravest soldiers from World War I is fitting.

"We want always to honor the brave and courageous service of all veterans by providing them with superior care in the season of life when they most need it. The Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home will be a testament of Oregon's regard for its veterans," Willis said.

The home will be built on 12 acres adjacent to the Samaritan Health Sciences Campus off Highway 20 in Lebanon. The project's contractor, Lease Crutcher Lewis of Portland, began site work in October.

Plans for the Home are being constructed on an innovative small-house model and has already caught the attention of the National Association of State Veteran Homes. Organized around the idea of an intentional community or neighborhood, this new veterans' home will offer residents a way to maximize normal living environments with routines, autonomy, a sense of community, and quality of life. The communities will consist of three houses per neighborhood and each house will

accommodate up to 14 residents.

The houses will be easily accessible and adaptive, designed for ease of movement and feature open kitchens, dining areas where family style meals are served, a living room with fireplace, private bedrooms and baths.

The Home will provide space for 154 individuals who require long-term skilled-nursing care as well as rehabilitation services, Alzheimer's and dementia care in a true home-like setting with on-going activities and social interaction.

State legislators and other local officials who spoke at the ceremony expressed their pride about the planned Home.

County Commission Chairman Roger Nyquist thanked the people who recognized the opportunity to bring the Home and jobs to Linn County. Many people contributed to the development of a 400-plus page document in response to ODVA's Request for Proposals in a remarkably short amount of time.

But most importantly, Nyquist and others thanked "the citizens of Linn County, who, in the worst economic time since the Depression, ponied up \$10 million, voting 2-1 to approve this."

Despite the intense work to produce the proposal, Commissioner John Lindsay said, "if not for the citizens of Linn County, there's no way any of these events could take place."

The groundbreaking event drew more than 200 people from the community. The Allworth family now has one more remarkable event to add to their family history.

Funded by federal grants and local Linn County matching funds, the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home is expected to open in late 2014.



**Left: The new Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home in Lebanon will feature open kitchens, dining areas where family style meals are served, a living room with fireplace, private bedrooms and baths.**

**The plan is designed around communities that will consist of three houses per neighborhood and each house accommodating up to 14 residents.**

# 2012 STATEWIDE

## Albany

**Nov. 10 - 6 to 9:30 a.m.** Optimists Pancake Breakfast at West Albany High School Cafeteria.

**8:30 to 9:15 a.m.** Memorial Service at Timber Linn Park. Guest speaker: Gus L. Bedwell, OSU Veteran Services Advisor.

**9 to 11 a.m.** Eagles Club Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast, 127 Broadalbin St. NW.

**11 a.m.** Grande Parade, "Veterans-Always Ready-Always Serving," presented by Greenberry and Jim Barrett family. Grand Marshall: Joseph "Papa" Novak. Route: Pacific Blvd./Lyons St./2nd Ave./Ferry St. to 5th Ave.

**2 p.m.** Awards Ceremony in front of the Linn County Courthouse, 300 4th Ave. SW.

Contact: Patty Louisiana, 541-981-2390 or 541-961-1466, albanyveteransdayparade@gmail.com

## Astoria

**Nov. 10 - 5 p.m.** Dinner with a USO dance to follow at American Legion Post 12, 1132 Exchange St.

**Nov. 11 - 8 to 10 a.m.** Breakfast will be served at American Legion Post 12, 1132 Exchange St.

**12 p.m.** Lunch, followed at 1 p.m. by a Veterans Day Program which includes a guest speaker. Entertainment: "Tapped Out Tappers." Free to veterans and their families. Donations are welcome.

Contact: Mike Phillips, 503-791-4591

## Beaverton

**Nov. 11 - 1 to 3 p.m.** A ceremony, hosted by American Legion Post 124, is at Bethel Congregational Church, 7th and Watson St. Guest speakers and a POW/MIA remembrance. Musical presentation: Lloyd Farrell.

Contact: Marv Doty, 503-644-0350

## Bend

**Nov. 8 - 11 a.m.** Bend Senior High School, 230 NE 6th, will honor veterans in attendance and rededicate the World War II plaque. Hear veteran guest speakers. The school's band and choir will present patriotic music.

Contact: Jan McKnight, 541-355-3700

**Nov. 10 - 9 a.m.** Annual Marine Corps Birthday 5K Run/1 Mile Walk is a charitable event to raise funds to purchase a new van to transport Disabled American Veterans to Portland's VA Hospital. Sign-up online: [www.vetsdayrun.homestead.com](http://www.vetsdayrun.homestead.com)

Contact: Eric Chandler, 541-383-8061

**Nov. 10 - 5 p.m. to Midnight** Marine Corps Ball at the Elks Lodge, 63120 Boyd Acres Rd. Marines and guests will celebrate 237 years of dedicated service to God, Corps and Country with dancing, music and fun. Reservations are required. Dress is not "black tie."

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

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Veterans Day Parade downtown. Grand Marshall: DAV Chapter 14 in memory of Mike Ward, past-DVA State Commander. Parade route: NW Newport to NW Wall St., NW Franklin, around Drake Park on NW Riverside and conclude at NW Galveston and Harmon St. Open House after the parade hosted by VFW Post 1643, 1503 NE 4th St.

Contact: Bob Cusick, 541-382-1948, 541-389-0775

## Burns

**Nov. 11 - 6 p.m.** Free Veterans Day Banquet for all veterans hosted by Elks Lodge #1680, 118 N. Broadway Ave. \$5 for non-veterans.

Contact: Ron Estep, 541-573-6170

## Canyonville

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** VFW Post 5714 will honor all veterans at the annual event at City Hall, 250 N. Main St. Hear patriotic choir music. Speakers include Bill Markham, WWII B-17 pilot and Sue Shaffer, Cow Creek Tribal Elder. Refreshments donated and served by the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort.

Contact: Chuck Spindel, 541-839-4645

## Central Point

**Nov. 12 - 9 to 10 a.m.** The annual Oregon Fallen War Heroes Memorial Commemoration Ceremony at Don Jones City Park on Hamrick Rd.

Contact: Marty Terrell, 541-664-0191, [martyter@chapter.net](mailto:martyter@chapter.net)

## Clackamas

**Nov. 9 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Open House at Camp Withycombe and the Oregon Military Museum. See museum displays, living historians in the crowd, Tribal dance demonstrations, and Oregon National Guard equipment displays including howitzers, a black hawk helicopter, an F-15 flyover and gun salute at noon. Free lunch provided by Fred Meyer.

Contact: Alisha Hamel, 503-705-5965

## Coos Bay

**Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. to Noon** Breakfast at Bay Area Post 34, 1421 Airport Way, co-hosted by the Coos Bay Eagles.

**5 p.m.** Social Hour. **6 p.m.** Dinner.

Contact: Terry Jones, 541-982-4552, or Paul Trueax, 541-297-3236

## Corvallis

**Nov. 12 - 3 to 5 p.m.** Female Veterans Panel: Focus on Women Veterans across the Generations. Oregon State University Memorial Union Bldg., 112 Memorial Union. Followed by a reception.

Contact: Gus L. Bedwell, [gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu)

**Nov. 15 - 5 to 8 p.m.** Free showing of the documentary, "The Invisible War." The most shocking cover-up in the U.S. military and is not what you expect. Oregon State University Memorial Union, East (Snell Hall) Bldg., 2150 SW Jefferson Way.

Contact: Gus L. Bedwell, [gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu)

## Dallas

**Nov. 9 - 10 a.m. to Noon** Faith Christian School (Preschool - 8th grade), 2290 E. Ellendale Ave., will honor veterans with a special program. Classes will make presentations to salute veterans. All veterans and spouses are invited to stay for a free lunch and visit with students. Veterans are encouraged to bring military memorabilia - pictures, uniform, souvenirs - to share with students.

Contacts: Michele Stein or Juli Tschiegg, 503-623-6632

## Elkton

**Nov. 8 - 10 a.m.** Elkton School District will host their annual Veteran's Day celebration in the high school gym. Enjoy student songs, poetry, original writings, a guest speaker and refreshments. The District will issue "official" high school diplomas to all qualifying veterans who actively served in the military and did not receive their diploma.

Contact: Melissa Whitley, 541-584-2115, ext. 2

## Eugene

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Annual 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette St.

Contact: Nick Urhausen, 541-344-5070, [nickurhausen@comcast.net](mailto:nickurhausen@comcast.net)

## Florence

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Service honoring all veterans at the Elks Club, 1686 12th St.

**1 p.m.** The 7th annual parade runs through Old Town and disperses near the Veterans Memorial Park. Transportation will be provided by the Rhody Cruisers Car Club for people who are unable to walk the full parade route. Free lunch provided for veterans at several local restaurants.

Contact: Megan Gerber, 541-999-8216

## Forest Grove

**Nov. 11 - 12:30 p.m.** American Legion Post 2 and Elks Lodge Post 2440 will host opening ceremonies at the Elks Lodge, 2810 Pacific Ave. Lunch will be served afterwards and is free to veterans, their families, active military, Guard and Reservists. A guest speaker and entertainment will follow.

Contact: Jim Craigg, 503-357-3660, [jl.ml.craigg@frontier.com](mailto:jl.ml.craigg@frontier.com)

## Hillsboro

**Nov. 11 - 10 a.m.** Ceremony at the Veterans Gateway, Washington Co. Fair Complex, NE Veterans Drive and NE 34th Ave., honoring all veterans. A special ceremony honors Washington Co. service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11. Guest speaker: Ore. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici. Keynote speaker: Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, Oregon Army National Guard. Unveiling of Memorial Stones, Taps, and rifle salute. Co-sponsored by VFW Post 2666, American Legion Post 6 and Washington Co. DAV.

Contact: Doug Lund, 503-357-0357.

## Hood River

**Nov. 11 - 2 p.m.** Community celebration ceremony of all veterans at Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont. Patriotic Music: Mid-Columbia Choir. Oregon National Guard/Scout Troop Color Guard. Guest speakers: Les Logsdon, County Veteran Service Officer, and Tom Mann, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Contact: Jeanne Davis, 541-354-1139

## Klamath Falls

**Nov. 11 - 10 a.m.** Parade in downtown will begin on Spring St. and conclude at Veterans Memorial Park.

**11 a.m.** A ceremony following the parade will include guest speaker, placing wreaths and a POW/MIA remembrance. A fly-over has been requested. A free lunch is provided by American Legion Post 8, VFW Post 1383 and Marine Corps League at their respective posts.

Contact: Ron Ballard, 541-891-1004

## La Grande

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** American Legion Post 43 Veterans Parade is on 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

## 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 BBQ brisket, hamburgers and hot dogs. Guest speakers to be named.

Contact: Pat Cotton, 541-536-1402

## Lebanon

**Nov. 9 - 7 to 10 p.m.** Annual Veteran of the Year Banquet at American Legion Santiam Post 51. Tickets: \$22.50 per person. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.

Contact: Patty Louisiana, 541-981-2390, 541-961-1466

**Nov. 10 - 7 to 11 a.m., Nov. 11 - 8 to 11 a.m.** American Legion Post 51, at 480 S. Main St., is serving breakfast both days. Cost: \$5.

Contact: Doris Fuller, 541-401-1705

## McMinnville

**Nov. 11 - 3 p.m.** Second Winds Community Band presents an annual free Veterans' Day Concert at the Community Center, 600 NE Evans St. Special guest: former news anchor Mike Donahue, who will narrate "The Ashoken Farewell" from the PBS Series, "The Civil War." A multi-media presentation of photos of Yamhill County veterans will be included.

Contact: John Hutt, 503-472-9785

# VETERANS DAY EVENTS

## Medford

**Nov. 12 - 11 a.m.** Annual Veterans Day parade, rain or shine, runs on Main St. from Hawthorne to Oakdale.

Contact: Brett Johnson, 541-499-5587

## Milwaukie

**Nov. 11 - 1 to 5 p.m.** Open House at American Legion Post 180, 2146 SE Monroe St. Hot dogs and chili will be served. Live patriotic music provided by Portland American Legion Post 180 musicians at 3 p.m. All veterans and their families are welcome. Donations accepted.

Contact: Gary Wolfe, 503-659-1300

## North Bend

**Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Breakfast is served by American Legion Post 34 and the Coos Bay Eagles at the post, 1421 Airport Way.

**6 p.m.** Free dinner for veterans and families is free to veterans and families. Social hour: 5 p.m. Cost: \$6. Location: 568 S. 2nd St.

Contact: Terry Jones, 541-982-4552

## Ontario

**Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. (MST)** The 11th Annual American Legion Post 67 Parade will form on Alameda and SW 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: Mike Jones, 541-889-5655

## Pendleton

**Nov. 11 - 9 a.m.** VFW Post 922 will conduct a ceremony at Pioneer Chapel, on SE Byers.

**11 a.m.** VFW Post 922 will conduct a ceremony at Olney Cemetery, 865 Tutawila Rd.

Contact: Ray Bickere, 541-377-3707

## Portland

**Nov. 9 - 10 a.m.** The public grand opening ceremony for the travelling Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, 4101 SW Skyline Blvd., includes rendering of military honors and the 234th Army Band. Guest speaker: Oregon's Adjutant General and Vietnam combat veteran, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees. The Wall honors more than 58,000 US service members killed during the Vietnam War.

Contact: Kimberly Morley, 503-292-6611

**Nov. 10 - 7 p.m.** MIA/POW Ceremony at the Wall, 4101 SW Skyline Blvd. Speaker: Dr. Anthony J. Melaragno, (Capt., USN, Ret.).

Contact: Kimberly Morley, 503-292-6611

**Nov. 11 - 1 p.m.** University of Portland Reserve Officer Training Corps will host a ceremony at the Praying Hands Memorial, on campus, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. Guest speaker: Brig. Gen. Steve Gregg, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard.

Contact: Clarissa Weber, 503-569-2608, weber14@up.edu

**Nov. 12 - 9:45 a.m.** 38th Annual Ross Hollywood Chapel Veterans Day Parade starts at NE 40th and Tillamook and ends at NE 48th and Sandy Blvd. Grand Marshals: The family of Marine Cpl. Keaton Coffey who was KIA in May. Flyover requested at 11 a.m. After the parade attend a free WWII style USO show at the Hollywood Theater on NE Sandy Blvd.

Contact: Angela McKenzie Tucker, 503-281-1800

**2 p.m.** Closing ceremonies for the final Oregon visit of the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall, 4101 SW Skyline Blvd. Guest speakers: Silver Star recipient, Al Herrera; Val Conley, ODVA Deputy Director. Military music by the 234th Army Band and a Coast Guard flyover.

Contact: Kimberly Morley, 503-292-6611

## Prineville

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Veterans Day parade beginning on Elm Street and 4th.

Contact: John Ferguson, 541-447-2329

## Redmond

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Veterans Day parade downtown. Free Chili feed at the Redmond VFW Post, 1836 SE Veterans Way, for all veterans and families.

Contact: Dennis Guthrie, 541-280-5161

## Salem

**Nov. 9 - 11:30 a.m.** The 50+ Center hosts a lunch and Veterans Day program.

**1:30 p.m.** - Free musical entertainment for veterans. Located at the corner of Portland and Silverton Roads NE. RSVP by Nov. 8.

Contact: The 50+ Center, 503-588-6303

**Nov. 10 - 3 p.m.** Ceremony at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial on the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs grounds, 700 Summer St. NE. Names of Oregonians recently killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom will be unveiled. Military honors will be rendered.

Contact: Robin Steckley, 503-373-2390

**Nov. 10 - 7 p.m. and Nov. 11 - 3 p.m.** The Willamette Master Chorus will present its 8th annual Veterans Concert, "Requiem," in Hudson Hall at Willamette University. Special salute to D-Day veterans and music from France. Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors, \$15, Veterans, \$12, Students, \$5.

Contact: Wilmar Kohne, 503-585-6778

**Nov. 12 - 9 to 11 a.m.** Annual Veterans Day Breakfast at Schroeder's Guest House Restaurant. Guest speaker: Jim Willis, Director, Oregon's Dept. of Veterans' Affairs. Hosted by MOAA, Willamette Chapter.

Contact: Bill Meyers, 503-370-9013

**Nov. 12 - 11 a.m.** Orchard Heights Assisted Living, 695 Orchard Heights Rd. NW, is hosting a ceremony. Dallas American Legion Post 20 and Auxiliary will post colors. Guest speaker: TBA. A free spaghetti dinner will follow the ceremony.

Contact: Christy Hald, 503-566-9052

## Sandy

**Nov. 11 - 11 a.m.** Ceremonial tribute with Patriotic music hosted by VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary at the Sandy Town Square on Pioneer Blvd. Guest speakers, Color Guard, Taps will be played.

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

Contact: Terry Boyer, 503-319-8854

## Scappoose

**Nov. 11 - 10:30 a.m.** Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial, Heritage Park. Guest speaker: Bert Key, VFW National Committee Member. Firing Detail: Oregon Army National Guard. Taps will be played. A flyover has been requested.

Contact: Ron Urban, 503-543-7482

## Sisters

**Nov. 8 - 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.** Sisters High School invites all veterans and their families to participate in their Veterans Assembly honoring all those who have served their country. Guest speakers, and patriotic music performed by the school's orchestra and choir. A coffee reception with the Leadership Class will follow the morning assembly.

Contact: Michele Hammer, 541-549-4045, ext. 1024

## Springfield

**Nov. 11 - 1:30 p.m.** 14th Annual Lane County Veterans Day Parade begins at 21st St. and Olympic St.

Contact: Nick Urhausen, 541-344-5070, nickurhausen@comcast.net

## The Dalles

**Nov. 12 - 11 a.m.** Annual parade starts and ends at the National Guard Armory, 714 Weber St. The VFW Auxiliary will host a potluck after the parade at the Armory. Get parade entry forms at the Chamber of Commerce, 402 W. 2nd.

Contacts: Les or Jody Cochenour, 541-298-5692

## Tillamook

**Nov. 12 - 8 to 11 a.m.** SOS Breakfast at the Tillamook Air Museum, 6030 Hangar Road., off S. Hwy. 101.

**9:30 to 11 a.m.** The Air Museum ceremony will honor America's veterans. Guest speakers: US Navy Korean War veterans, Donald Adams and John Sollman. Tillamook High School band and Community Chorus will present music from "Americana."

Contact: Christian Gurling, 503-842-1130

## Troutdale

**Nov. 10 - 8 to 11 a.m.** Fairview/Troutdale Eagles #4515 will host a pancake breakfast at the Wood Village Baptist Church, 23601 W. Arata Road. Veterans eat free. A \$5 donation is requested for non-veterans. Guest speakers: Oregon Rep. Earl Blumenauer and County Commissioner Diane McKeal.

Contact: Diane Eberhardt, 503-413-5306

## White City

**Nov. 11 - 10 to 11 a.m.** Saluting America's veterans and active duty military and honoring America's fallen heroes at the VA SORCC, 8495 Crater Lake Hwy. OEF/OIF/OND memorial and flag folding ceremony, mini-concert by the Rogue Valley Symphonic Band, special veterans recognition, children's patriotic activity, VA information booths, and refreshments.

Contact: Rhonda Haney, 541-830-7585, www.southernoregon.va.gov

## Veterans Day Discounts

### Dining

Veterans Day, Nov. 11: Applebee's, Chili's, Famous Dave's BBQ, The Outback Steakhouse, McCormack & Schmick's, Olive Garden, Original Roadhouse Grill, Red Lobster, TGI Friday's, and on Nov. 12 at Denny's.

### Retail

Look for 10 to 20 percent off of purchases at: Aeropostale, Banana Republic, Cabela's, Home Depot, Kohl's, Lowe's, and Old Navy.

### Lodging

Inns and Bed and Breakfasts around the U.S. are offering a free nights lodging to active duty and military veterans with ID.

Visit: [www.BetterwaytoStay.com](http://www.BetterwaytoStay.com).

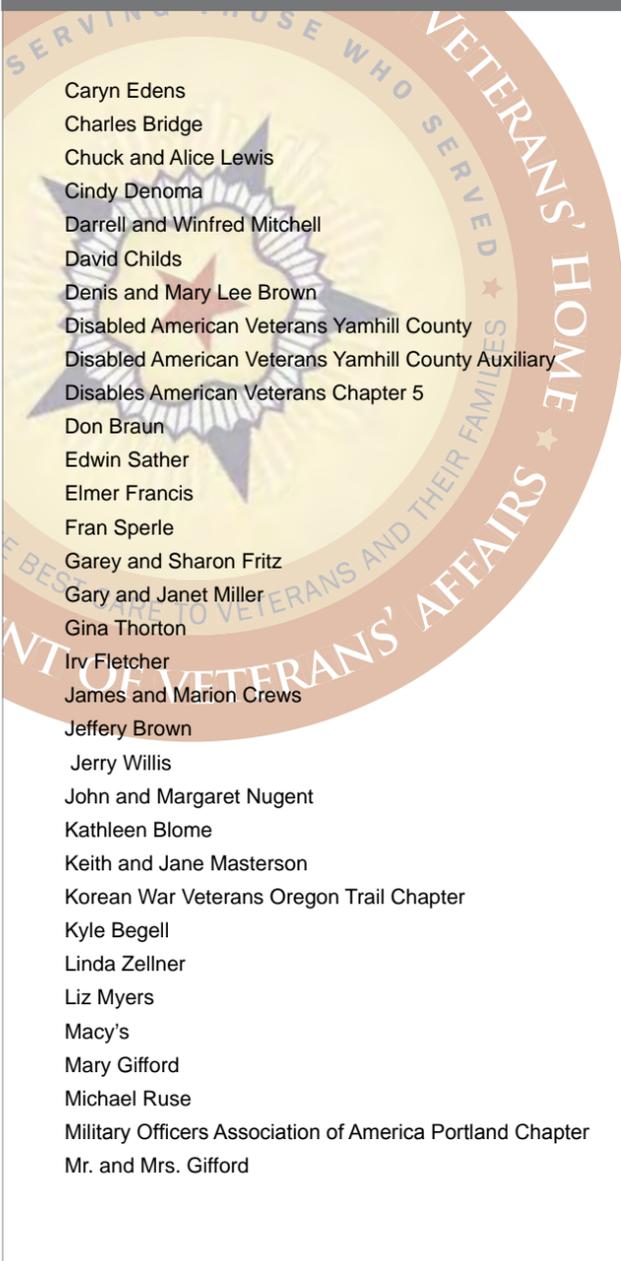
### Recreation

Oregon State Parks and many National Parks will charge no entry fees to veterans on Nov. 12.

### More veteran discounts

[www.military.com/discounts](http://www.military.com/discounts) and [www.militaryspot.com/discounts](http://www.militaryspot.com/discounts).

Contributions to the Oregon Veterans' Home during the months of Aug/Sept 2012.



Caryn Edens  
 Charles Bridge  
 Chuck and Alice Lewis  
 Cindy Denoma  
 Darrell and Winfred Mitchell  
 David Childs  
 Denis and Mary Lee Brown  
 Disabled American Veterans Yamhill County  
 Disabled American Veterans Yamhill County Auxiliary  
 Disables American Veterans Chapter 5  
 Don Braun  
 Edwin Sather  
 Elmer Francis  
 Fran Sperle  
 Garey and Sharon Fritz  
 Gary and Janet Miller  
 Gina Thorton  
 Irv Fletcher  
 James and Marion Crews  
 Jeffery Brown  
 Jerry Willis  
 John and Margaret Nugent  
 Kathleen Blome  
 Keith and Jane Masterson  
 Korean War Veterans Oregon Trail Chapter  
 Kyle Begell  
 Linda Zellner  
 Liz Myers  
 Macy's  
 Mary Gifford  
 Michael Ruse  
 Military Officers Association of America Portland Chapter  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gifford

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Ehlers  
 Nancy Marvel  
 Noreen Rowe  
 Northwest Veterans Motorcycle Association  
 Oregon Chapter of the Chosin Few  
 Oregon County Veterans Services Officers Association  
 Paul Burger  
 Pete Macnab  
 Peter Lebray  
 Port Plastics  
 Portland Precision Manufacturing  
 Quality Gear  
 Robert Drake  
 Ron Darnielle  
 Ron Hammon  
 Rudy Mauch  
 Sharon Hull  
 Small Parts Manufacturing  
 Stephen and Lynn Harrel  
 Stephen Gracon  
 Sue Awmillar  
 Thomas and Virginia Hake  
 Tom Levitt  
 Trinetta Nicholson  
 Tube Services  
 United Way of the Columbia-Willamette  
 Veterans Care Centers of Oregon  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4211  
 Vicki Moore  
 Virginia Wood  
 Walmart Foundation  
 Walmart Stores  
 Warren Cook

**MILITARY CONVENTIONS, REUNIONS AND EVENTS**

**Veteran's Stand Down in Springfield** – Nov. 10, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, 3110 Pierce Parkway, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: *Tonja Pardo, 503-947-1490, pardo.tonja@dol.gov*

**Hiring our Heroes: Veterans Career and Job Fair**

– More than 100 employers will be at Portland's Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Tue., Nov. 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Co-hosted by the Dept. of Labor, Oregon Employment Dept., US Chamber of Commerce, and others, this huge job fair is open to all veterans, National Guard members, Reservists and employers.

Contact: *Gary Dominick, 503-947-1845, gary.l.dominick@state.or.us*

**Complimentary Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

– Everyone is welcome to enjoy "all the fixins," hosted by American Legion Post 180, 2146 SE Monroe St., Milwaukie. Volunteers are needed for preparation before and on Thanksgiving. Dinner: 12 - 4 p.m., Nov. 22. Donations are accepted.

Contact: *Ward Allen, 503-659-1300*

**Vietnam 25th Infantry Div., 1st Air CAV Vets**

– All veterans are invited to meet monthly for lunch and conversation on the second Tuesday at Superk-ing Buffet, 5105 SE 82nd Ave., Portland.

Contact: *Gary Hart, 503-632-6955*

**US Merchant Marine-Navy Armed Guard Meet**

– Oregon's AMMV meets on the third Monday of each month at Tigard's Hometown Buffet, 11530 SW Pacific Hwy. (99W).

Contact: *Bob Roberts, 503-663-7876*

**10th Mountain Division Group** – Newcomers, WWII comrades and descendants meet monthly on the last Wed. Lunch: 12 p.m., Eastmoreland Golf Course Club House, 2425 SE Bybee Blvd., Portland. Discussions include maintenance planning, improvements and planting for the 10th Mountain Memorial Grove.

Contact: *Jim Bray, 503-913-7058*

**Underage Military Veterans Service** – Monthly meeting on the first Friday, 10:30 a.m., at Farm House Restaurant, 3612 SE 82nd, Portland.

Contact: *Willie Paradise, 503-665-1739*

**Submit Event and Reunion information:**

Online form: [www.oregon.gov/odva/info/events](http://www.oregon.gov/odva/info/events)  
 Email: [vetsnews@odva.state.or.us](mailto:vetsnews@odva.state.or.us)

**Another opportunity to donate.**

I would like to become a:  
 Bronze (up to \$99)  Silver (\$100-199)  Gold (\$200 or more) level donor with my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate in  memory /  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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you would not like to receive a window decal for your donation.

Please make checks payable to the Oregon Veterans' Home and mail to:  
 Oregon Veterans' Home, c/o ODVA, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

**HOME FOR VETERANS AT RISK PLANNED IN NE BEND**

Reprinted with permission of *The Bend Bulletin*  
 By *Hillary Borrud*

BEND - Central Oregon Veterans Outreach plans to open a new home in northeast Bend for military veterans who are homeless or at risk of ending up on the street. The nonprofit's executive director, Chuck Hemingway, has been helping young veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Many returned home believing they would not need help, but now some are struggling to find jobs and stay afloat, he said.

"We're expecting there's going to be a slow and steady climb in the next few years," Hemingway said, referring to the younger population of veterans who need help.

Hemingway described the project on Northeast 10th Street as "permanent supportive housing."

Residents will sign one-year leases, pay rent

and receive case management from COVO staff. Leases will include agreements by veterans to participate in case management. Stephen Haupt, property manager for a COVO housing complex on Dekalb Avenue, will move into the home to oversee operations. Hemingway hopes the home will be ready for veterans by January.

COVO received a \$360,000 federal grant earlier this year. The property, a former group home for developmentally disabled people, cost \$160,000, Hemingway said. It had sat vacant since 2009 and at one point, squatters camped in the backyard. Hemingway said COVO plans to use the remaining federal grant money to pay for remodeling.

Previously, a conditional use permit allowed up to 20 people to live in the house, according to COVO's federal grant application. The nonprofit must obtain a new conditional use permit to turn the home into a duplex, said Colin Stephens,

current planning manager for the city of Bend. Before applying for the permit, COVO must hold an informational meeting for neighbors. One was held on Aug. 30th.

COVO hopes to remodel the building to create a 12-bedroom home in which each veteran or veteran's family has a separate unit and everyone shares a kitchen. Onsite case management will include help obtaining senior services, job search assistance, alcohol and drug treatment, and education.

COVO currently has 28 applications for the new home and other properties from all types of veterans, including veterans with families, single female veterans with children, and elderly men.

"One of our residents might be an elderly veteran who's lost his wife and he can't take care of the big place himself anymore," Hemingway said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# HEELING FOR HEROES: PAVING THE WAY FOR HEALING

By Nicole Hoeft

WHITE CITY - As a former U.S. Navy Seabee, Pete Penlington was trained to build structures and pave miles of roadway for use by future generations. Today, however, he is the one doing the training and his work is paving the way to heal veterans.

Penlington is participating in the Heeling for Heroes Project, a first of its kind program at the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC).

Heeling for Heroes partners veterans, who are in the SORCC residential treatment program, with homeless dogs. Then the veterans train the dogs to serve as companions to other veterans. The program is designed as a 10-month Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Skills Training program to develop and hone veterans' employment skills while allowing shelter dogs to learn to become a valuable member of a working team.

A total of six veterans are in charge of living with, caring for and training puppies donated by local animal shelters. A professional trainer provides classes weekly with a monthly two-hour field trip into the community. Problem solving and clinical support are provided to the veterans throughout the duration of the program.

Penlington is partnered with Sam, a friendly mixed breed rescue dog from the Saving Grace Pet Adoption Center. Upon first meeting Sam and his trainer, it is hard to believe they have been together for a mere few months. Penlington is calm and sure, quietly giving commands to Sam, who eagerly complies for a little treat.

Another trainer, Vincent Bocchicchio, who served with the Marines from 1984-88, works with Zippy, a short-haired puppy that was found at the Marion County Dog Shelter. Bocchicchio knows his trainee well and patiently works with the puppy that was appropriately named for his high energy and enthusiasm to please.



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOEFT

**Left to right: Veterans Pete Penlington, Davnport Hill, Jr., Vincent Bocchicchio, and Michael Smith are partnered with Heeling for Heroes dogs Sam and Zippy.**

When trainers cannot be with the dogs, another veteran "sits" with the puppies. Although the program does not have funding to pay the sitters along with the trainers, these veterans provide the same commitment to the dogs as the trainers. This set up allows for the dogs to have consistency as they learn their new roles.

Dahna Dow Osmus, Lead Social Work Case Manager with the SORCC created the program which, because of funding, is considered a pilot program. Conceptually, the program is modeled after a similar program at the Carl Vinson VA in Dublin, Ga. Osmus noted that program has reported a 70 percent employment/college enrollment rate for veterans who participated in the program with no recidivism back into residential treatment.

Dow Osmus says the program supports veterans in their new life journey, encouraging problem

solving, goal setting, patience, self-confidence, and responsibility.

"This program is a true collaboration between disabled veterans, the local community and the VA," Osmus said. "The relationship between humans and dogs creates a bond that transcends life's daily struggles and provides a sense of purpose and accomplishment for something that matters."

After 10 months of training and socialization of the dogs, local outpatient veterans seeking to adopt a dog to provide support are identified and paired with a Heeling for Heroes dog. The training then continues within this new working team.

Funding for the program is needed. Heeling for Heroes obtained private, one time funding but, like any worthwhile program, it needs continued support. For more information on the program or how you can help, contact Dahna at [dahna.dowosmus@va.gov](mailto:dahna.dowosmus@va.gov).

# VETERAN EMT SUPPORT ACT BEFORE CONGRESS

WASHINGTON DC - When experienced military medics return home they are often required to begin their training completely over at the most basic level to receive certification for civilian jobs. This unnecessarily keeps veterans out of the workforce and withholds valuable medical personnel from communities.

With that, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed H.R. 4124, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2012, to help veterans trained as EMTs in the military to transition to similar civilian jobs.

The Act would amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to award demonstration grants to states with emergency medical technician shortages. The grants would streamline state requirements in order to assist veterans who completed military EMT training while serving in the Armed Forces in meeting state EMT certification, licensure, and other requirements.

State economists reported in 2011 the average annual unemployment rate for Oregon's veterans, ages 20 and over, was 11.4 percent. The U.S. Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics reports unemployment nationally for Post 9-11 veterans was 9.7 percent in September. While that rate is down 2 percent from a year ago, the jobless rate among Post 9-11 veterans is still around 30 percent more than the civilian population.



PHOTO GETTY IMAGES ASH/PAC

The bill's sponsor, Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, said because of this situation, many veteran EMTs are needlessly being delayed from entry into the civilian workforce. Oregon Rep. Greg Walden, the bill's co-sponsor, said America's men and women in uniform receive superior training during their military service.

"So, why must this highly skilled-workforce be subjected to unnecessary and duplicative requirements upon entering the civilian workforce? This is a

common-sense proposal that helps put our uniformed service members back to work and alleviates shortages in our nation's health care workforce," Walden said.

If passed, this legislation would make allowances for returning veterans to enter the EMT workforce without unnecessary duplication of their training. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.



**World War II sailor Phillip Meier (right) is presented his Navy Good Conduct Medal by retired Navy Lt. Commander Bob Zafran at a ceremony at Meier's home.**

## WWII SAILOR FINALLY RECEIVES MEDALS

By Mike Allegre

SALEM - Phillip Meier of Salem hasn't worn or seen his Navy uniform in 66 years. He thinks it was lost.

Meier enlisted on Dec. 10, 1942 and served more than three years in the U.S. Navy. He was soon qualified as a Hospital Apprentice First Class. Ten days later he was called to active duty.

By 1944 Meier had received training and worked at various bases around the country. Newly transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., Meier was about to go overseas. It was then he met and worked with Helen, a Navy nurse. Their wartime letter writing led to a marriage of nearly 62 years.

As the war in the Pacific neared an end, Pharmacist Mate First Class Meier was serving in the Philippine Islands prior to being honorably discharged in February 1946. He didn't know that he had been awarded five medals.

Meier has been visited by Neil Sherwood for the past year. "His military record had been lost, but it was obvious his Navy experience was important to him," Sherwood said.

Sherwood tracked down Meier's military record in July and Meier's family applied for and received his medals. On Aug. 30, Meier was officially awarded his military medals during a small ceremony at his northeast Salem home.

Retired Navy Lt. Commander Bob Zafran presented each medal to Meier. They included: World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal. Zafran said, "They're a little late, but they're here."

After the presentation, the room full of family members and friends broke into applause. Meier, 93, said it felt great to have his service recognized.

"I can wear them on my pajamas," he said.

## 'THE INVISIBLE WAR': AWARD-WINNING MST DOCUMENTARY

By Robin Steckley

It is estimated that half a million service men and women have been sexually assaulted since World War II.

For Oscar and Emmy nominated director Kirby Dick the inspiration for 'The Invisible War', a powerful new documentary about the systemic cover-up of military sex crimes, the struggles to rebuild lives and the fight for justice, came from a 2007 *Salon.com* article about women serving in Iraq. When he and Emmy-nominated producing partner Amy Ziering read the article, they were astounded by the prevalence of sexual assault in the military.

They were equally surprised to learn that no one had yet made a feature documentary on the topic.

Focusing on the powerful and emotional stories of rape victims, 'The Invisible War' is a moving story. It also includes hard-hitting interviews with high-ranking military officials and members of congress that reveal the perfect storm of conditions that exist for rape in the military, its long-hidden history, and what can be done to bring about much-needed change.

Dick says the rape survivors featured in the film agreed to participate on condition that it not be an

anti-military film. 'The Invisible War' exposes the epidemic of sexual assault in the military, a story the filmmakers are proud to be breaking to the nation and the world.

They hope the film will help lead a national dialogue about the crime of the rape perpetrated on the very people who have pledged to protect our country. The film has been making an impact since its premiere at Sundance and has been circulating through the highest levels of the Pentagon and its administration.

The impact of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) is massive and the only way to heal those who have been affected is to bring the issue to light.

In Oregon, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4108 in Redmond has begun screening the documentary. So have Independent film festivals in Ashland, the Returning Veterans Project in Portland, and the Joys of Living Assistance Dogs in Keizer, among others.

To find out how you can view the movie, host or attend a screening, visit [www.invisiblewarmovie.com](http://www.invisiblewarmovie.com) or find them on Facebook. The film is also available for purchase through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [iTunes](http://iTunes).

A product of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

## Historic Low Rate



## 30-Year Fixed Rate

# 2.99%

1.375% Origination Fee - \*3.225% APR

### 20-Year Fixed Rate

## 2.625%

1.375% Origination Fee  
\*2.953% APR

### 30-Year Fixed Rate

## 3.25%

0% Origination Fee  
\*3.376% APR

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

\*APR based on \$165,000  
30-year loan with 20% down  
Effective date 10/18/12

This information, which is general in nature, is based on applicable federal and state laws, Administrative Rules, and the policies and procedures of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Interest rates are subject to change.

## VA CLAIMS PROCESSING STILL BEHIND

WASHINGTON – The good news is the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) processors have completed more benefits claims than ever before, wrapping up work on a record 107,462 cases in September.

The agency also announced another historic mark by topping 1 million completed claims for the third fiscal year in a row.

The bad news is that the record pace of work barely made a dent in the massive benefits backlog which has plagued the system for years.

As of Sept. 4, more than 567,000 benefits claims had been awaiting completion by VBA workers for more than 125 days. That's a decrease of almost 13,000 applications from the start of August, but up nearly 27,000 from January and 2,000 from June, when Veterans Affairs officials announced the reassignment of hundreds of claims processors to start attacking the backlog problem.

In a statement, VA Undersecretary for Benefits Allison Hickey said the department is on the right track, but "we realize much work remains to be done to better serve veterans. Too many veterans still wait too long."

Department officials have set a goal of eliminating the backlog – all claims pending for more than 125 days – by the end of 2015.



**Chuck Hemingway, executive director of Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, tours a home on 10th Street in northeast Bend that is being converted to housing for veterans.**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Haupt said apartments in Bend often cost \$600 to \$700 a month, whereas the COVO units will likely cost no more than \$450 with utilities included.

“I think what we’re doing is much more reasonable to help these folks out,” Haupt said. “They might have jobs, but if they’re minimum-wage, this is affordable.”

Some neighbors are disappointed they did not receive more notice and worried the veterans could be dangerous.

“I’m surprised this was known about in January,” said Jacob Salber, who lives across the street. “That’s somewhat bothersome to me, that (Hemingway) talked to someone he knew but didn’t bother to talk to anyone else on the street about it.”

Salber’s fiancée, Shannon Lee, has been talking to other neighbors about the project and handing out copies of COVO’s grant application.

“It’s concerning that we don’t know anything,” Lee said.

Lee said the program could be a good fit in

the neighborhood if it is well-managed. “I don’t think these are bad people by any means,” said Lee, who added that Salber’s mother works with veterans and she feels compassion for them.

Salber said the housing will be “a great thing for these people.”

However, he is concerned that the veterans could be a danger to students at nearby Juniper Elementary School and Pilot Butte Middle School.

“The fact is in that document, it says it could be really anybody” living in the home, Salber said, referring to COVO’s grant application.

Similar concerns surfaced a couple of years ago when it was announced two mental health treatment homes would open in the neighborhood. So far, fears that patients would commit crimes in the neighborhood have proved unfounded.

Hemingway said he takes the questions from neighbors as a positive sign.

“The fact that people are interested means it’s a vibrant neighborhood.”

## VETERANS’ SERVICE OFFICES

### County Service Organization Service Offices

Baker .....	541-523-8223	Jane Chandler
Benton .....	541-758-1595	Don Johnson
Clackamas .....	503-650-5631	Janice Harlan-Raisl
Clatsop .....	503-440-8310	Philip Simmons
Columbia .....	503-366-6580	Grace Clark
Coos .....	541-396-3121, Ext. 362	Mary Ann Sackett
Crook.....	541-447-5304	Angela Gilley
Curry .....	866-298-0404	Kimberly O’Neal
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	Les Logsdon
Jackson .....	541-774-8214	Bob Carson
Jefferson .....	541-475-5228	Tom Weiss
Josephine.....	541-474-5454	Lisa Shipley
Klamath .....	541-883-4274	Kathy Pierce
Lake .....	541-947-6043	G. Don Boone
Lane .....	541-682-4191	Joseph Reiley
Lincoln .....	541-574-6955	John Reed
Linn .....	800-319-3882	Kim Grooms
Malheur .....	541-889-6649	Connie Tanaka
Marion.....	503-373-2085	ODVA
Morrow .....	541-922-6420	Linda Skendzel
Multnomah .....	503-988-3620, Ext. 25005	Katie Pereaault
Polk .....	503-373-2085	ODVA
Sherman .....	541-565-3408	Bryan Hunt
Tillamook .....	503-842-4358	Bill Hatton
Umatilla .....	541-278-5482	Peggy Raines
Union .....	541-962-8802	Byron Whipple
Wallowa.....	541-426-3155, Ext. 241	Linda McIntyre
Wasco .....	888-804-1817	Russell Jones
Washington .....	503-846-3060	Eric Belt
Wheeler.....	800-982-1172	Bryan Hunt
Yamhill .....	503-434-7503	Jerry Wilson

### National Service Organization Service Offices

American Legion .....	503-412-4771
Disabled American Veterans .....	503-412-4750
Military Order of the Purple Heart.....	503-412-4770
Paralyzed Veterans of America.....	503-412-4762
Veterans of Foreign Wars.....	503-412-4757

### Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Service Offices

Salem	503-373-2085 or 800-692-9666	Patty Bolstad Dave Cooley Renee French Joe Glover Vicky Kaufman Leah Rickert Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777	Deanna Erhardt Donna Hunt Linda McMillan Martin Ornelas Ed Van Dyke

### Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee

<b>Irv Fletcher</b> 1272 Mayanna Dr. Woodburn, OR 97071 503-981-4356	<b>J. Ryan Howell</b> 1780 NW Valley View Dr. Albany, OR 97321 541-990-4176	<b>Mary J. Mayer</b> 2520 NE 58th Ave. Portland, OR 97213 310-897-1902
<b>Dennis G. Guthrie</b> 4495 NE 25th St. Redmond, OR 97756 541-548-6990	<b>Trisa E. Kelly</b> 5121 N. Williams Ave. Portland, OR 97217 503-267-3988	<b>Kevin J. Owens, Chair</b> 2249 Commercial St. North Bend, OR 97459 541-756-2390
<b>Al Herrera</b> 22625 SW Riggs Rd. Beaverton, OR 97007 503-591-8638	<b>Gerard F. Lorang</b> 3914 SW Hewett Blvd. Portland, OR 97221 971-404-5154	<b>Charles E. Schmidt</b> PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

Meetings of the Advisory Committee are public meetings held quarterly. For meeting dates and locations, please call 503-373-2383. Special needs will be met for those who have a disability.

**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. Visit ODVA’s website at [www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva), or call 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2141 or 503-373-2141. Write to ODVA’s Privacy Officer to have a copy mailed to you.

**SALE!**  
ONLY 280 BOOKS LEFT IN STOCK  
**\$30** Originally priced \$39.95

**THIS MIGHT BE YOUR  
LAST CHANCE TO OWN  
A PIECE OF OREGON  
VETERAN HISTORY**

**150 YEARS OF OREGON VETERANS**

With more than 275 full color pages, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs produced a stunning collection of veteran stories representing over 150 years of conflicts from the Indian and Civil War to 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. Originally released in 2011, the books are almost completely sold out.  
Get your copy today before it is too late!

**ORDER BY CALLING 503 373 2390**  
Preview the book at [www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Pages/veterans\\_book.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/Pages/veterans_book.aspx)