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Jim Willis, Director

FORGOTTEN OREGON VETERANS LAID TO REST AT WILLAMETTE NATIONAL



PHOTO BY OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS, ROBIN STECKLEY

A member of Oregon's Select Honor Guard, Spc. Kyle Sizemore, presents ODVA Deputy Director Val Conley with a flag. Conley received the flag on behalf of four veterans whose families could not be located.

CREMAINS OF 4 OREGON VETERANS INTERRED

PORTLAND — The cremated remains of four Oregon veterans were laid to rest with full military honors at Willamette National Cemetery on Aug. 15. The cremains date back to 1919 and were among those discovered at Oregon State Hospital (OSH) in 2004.

Since that time, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has been working together with both OSH and the Veterans Administration (VA) to identify the cremains of veterans.

“We have worked closely with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to identify these four individuals as veterans, and we're proud to know that these brave men will now be given a final resting spot with all due dignity and respect.” said OSH Superintendent Greg Roberts.

The cremains of the four men interred include: James Edward Butler, Pvt., US Army, who served from Sept. 1940 to May 1941; Lanier Dick Johnson, (rank unknown) US Navy, Jan. 1917 to Nov. 1919; William Julius Madson, Sgt., US Army, Aug. 1918 to

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Director's Message

Jim Willis, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

STANDING FOR THOSE WHO STOOD FOR US



For some time now I have been meaning to write about a group of Americans who volunteer their time and resources to honor those who have served our nation. In fact, their motto is, "Standing for those who stood for us."

You may have already guessed that I am talking about the Patriot Guard Riders. The mission statement of the Patriot Guard Riders says in part that they are "a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation. We have one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security."

They also say that they will respond rain or shine, night or day and I have seen this commitment right here in Oregon on a regular basis.

As they carry out their missions, it may be to meet an aircraft carrying the remains of one of our fallen, or conduct an escort to a home town, or attend a memorial service to include a flag line that is now familiar to anyone who has attended a memorial service for a service member.

We are fortunate indeed to have persons in our country who fill this important need and here in Oregon I want to especially recognize these volunteers for their unselfish contribution of their time to ensure that all of our service members are honored for the sacrifices they have made for our liberty and security.

In other news, the Federal VA has a fairly new website entitled maketheconnection.net. This site is designed to deal with the mental health issues resulting from military service. It can provide a custom fit for veterans by gender, era of service and branch of service.

In addition, it has links just for veterans, family and friends, National Guard and Reserve, Clinicians, and much more. The site also features real world videos from veterans who have struggled with mental health issues and how they dealt with stress, flashbacks, money and legal trouble and family issues.

If you or someone you know is challenged by their experiences while serving in uniform, I encourage you to direct them to this website where they can seek solutions in private and plan to successfully overcome these issues.

As always, my thanks to all of you who volunteer to help our veterans, those who give their time to our Veterans Home and those who have made donations to the home and to Oregon's WWII Memorial Fund.

OREGON RECOGNIZED FOR PROTECTING MILITARY VOTERS

WASHINGTON – Oregon has been recognized as an All-Star state by the Military Voter Protection (MVP) Project for taking significant efforts to promote and protect the voting rights of America's military service members and their families.

"Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown has long demonstrated her commitment to the voting rights of our men and women in uniform, especially through the use of technology including iPads and internet tools," said Eric Eversole, founder and executive director of the Military Voter Protection Project. "These efforts will help ensure that our service members can vote, regardless of where duty takes them."

In analyzing these states, the MVP Project looked at a number of factors, including:

The state's efforts to work with and reach out to local military installations and National Guard units on a proactive basis to provide on-base voter assistance; its use of electronic and web-based services to send election materials; its willingness to create specialized communications to military voters either through public service announcements or web-based announcements; the state's legislative efforts to eliminate barriers to military voter participation; and its track record of making sure that absentee military ballots are sent out no later than 45-days before the election and, when they are not, a high degree of accountability to resolve any violations.

"It truly is an honor to be recognized for our extraordinary efforts in protecting the voting rights of Oregon's service members and their families," said Secretary of State Kate Brown.

All-Star states list include: Oregon, Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

For more information about the Military Voter Protection Project's Heroes Vote Initiative or to view details about the MVP Project All-Star states, please visit www.mvpproject.org.

NATIONAL VA STATE DIRECTORS APPOINT OREGON'S WILLIS AS PRESIDENT



Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis (right) is the new president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). Willis will lead NASDVA's efforts nationally, including meeting with VA Secretary Eric Shinseki (center).

The National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs (NASDVA) has appointed Jim Willis from Oregon as the organization's new president. Willis will complete the remaining term of former president David F. Fletcher from Arkansas who stepped down following his recent retirement.

For nine years Willis has been the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and served this past year as NASDVA's senior vice president. He will serve as the association's president until September 2013.

The members of NASDVA are the chief executive officers or state directors of veterans' affairs in each state as well as the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Formed in 1946, NASDVA has been instrumental in federal and state legislation that has benefit veterans, their families and their survivors.



VETS NEWS

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REDMOND VETERAN APPOINTED TO VA ADVISORY COMMITTEE



The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has welcomed a new member to the governor-appointed Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee. Dennis Guthrie, with Vice Pres. Joe Biden, began serving in June.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has welcomed a new member to the governor-appointed Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee. Dennis G. Guthrie of Redmond was officially appointed in late-June by Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Guthrie enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and volunteered for duty in Vietnam. He served as a field medic with the 1st Cavalry Division and earned both the Silver Star for valor and Bronze Star for valor. For decades Guthrie has been active as a community volunteer including leadership with the Boy Scouts and 10 years as a volunteer fireman. His VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) post has been recognized nationally five of the past eight years for outstanding community participation.

A four-term past commander of Post 4108, Guthrie has served in many capacities from the color guard to chairing numerous projects to help the needs of others in and outside of the Redmond area. He is also a past-VFW National Surgeon General, a member of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Association and First Cavalry Association.

Guthrie is a founding member and co-chair of Redmond's Downtown Flag Committee in charge

of placing 1,150 flags every Memorial and Veterans Day. He personally raised funds for a third flag pole at the Redmond Airport for the POW-MIA flag. A three-time VFW District Commander, Oregon department commander, and member of the VFW's national council of administration, he is currently Oregon's VFW National Legislative Committee chair.

ODVA Director Jim Willis is very pleased to have Guthrie join the committee.

"Dennis is a great example of how volunteering in one's community can and will enhance the lives of everyone around you. He's worked tirelessly for others and displays the military core value of service before self. I couldn't be prouder to have him join and serve on our committee," Willis said.

Guthrie will serve in the appointed position through June 2016.

"The most recent committee member to serve two terms, David Fairlco, raised the bar quite high for me. I want to maintain that level and I'm looking forward to working with Director Willis and the committee as we work together on behalf of Oregon veterans," Guthrie said.



Joining their dad, retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, on stage at the All-Star fundraising event were his sons (left to right): Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS, Brig. Gen. Thayer, Mike, John, and Jim Thayer.

OREGON MILITARY MUSEUM GETS NEW NAME AND HOME

CLACKAMAS - The Oregon Military Museum has moved from its former location and is now in a historical armory located at the old entrance to Camp Withycombe. The move has greatly expanded its capability to tell the history of Oregon's military from the tribes, statehood, Indian Wars, both World Wars and all the wars in between and since.

Yet, the move has come with a cost.

The new museum will be named the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum. The Thayer family is spearheading a \$6.5 million capital campaign to ensure that the Oregon Military Museum will become a regional attraction with a museum quality building and exhibits to tell Oregon's military history.

One of Oregon's finest military and civic leaders, Thayer joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and earned the Silver and Bronze Stars for his combat service in Europe during World War II. He returned home to start his own successful business in Oregon, and with his wife raised four sons and one daughter.

The capital campaign will transform the 32,000 square-foot Clackamas Armory and grounds into a state-of-the-art museum that will be the centerpiece of the Oregon Military Heritage Park at Camp Withycombe, home of the new 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center. It will become a major Pacific Northwest attraction and gateway to other historic military sites in Oregon.

Another feature of the museum will be the 30,000

volume library and archives, centralized in one location to provide greater access for visitors and researchers, and preserved through the modernization of building systems: air conditioning, humidity control, fire sprinklers and security. Improved design and security will increase the museum's capacity for visitors and school field trips.

The non-profit Historical Outreach Foundation supports the museum's capital campaign. Donations are accepted on-line at www.historicaloutreach.com. All capital campaign contribution checks should be payable to the HOF Museum Fund and mailed to Historical Outreach Foundation, Oregon Military Museum, 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, OR 97015.

VIETNAM WEBSITE

Much has been written and researched about the Vietnam War and the veterans who served there. Yet, there are always questions and controversy concerning that era.

A website called Vietnam War Websources has captured many of the topics and provides answers and links to questions that veterans and non-veterans alike may have about that volatile period of history.

The website covers everything from general information about the war's timeline to strategy, Naval, air and ground operations, military and governmental leaders, politics, reaction in the U.S., a history of the countries involved, personal photos and narratives, and a host of other interesting topics.

Link to this resource at www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html.

COACHING HELP FOR VET FAMILIES

Often when a veteran begins to experience emotional, physical or other health issues, the first people to notice the struggle are their friends and families. Yet, typically those concerned have experienced denial by the veteran when approached about seeking help.

The VA recognized that a little coaching may make the difference between a veteran receiving help or suffering through their pain alone.

Coaching Into Care is a VA national program that operates as a call center working with family members or friends who become aware of their veteran post-deployment difficulties and supports their efforts to find help for the veteran. This national clinical service provides information to concerned family and friends and helps them determine how to motivate their veteran to seek services.

The program provides information about getting an evaluation and services, coaching to help motivate the veteran to seek evaluation/consultation, and referrals to services for veterans and their family members.

The service is free and is provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists.

Call the hotline weekdays, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. (PT), at 888-823-7458. Visit their website at www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching, or email coachingintocare@va.gov.

CREMAINS FROM PAGE 1

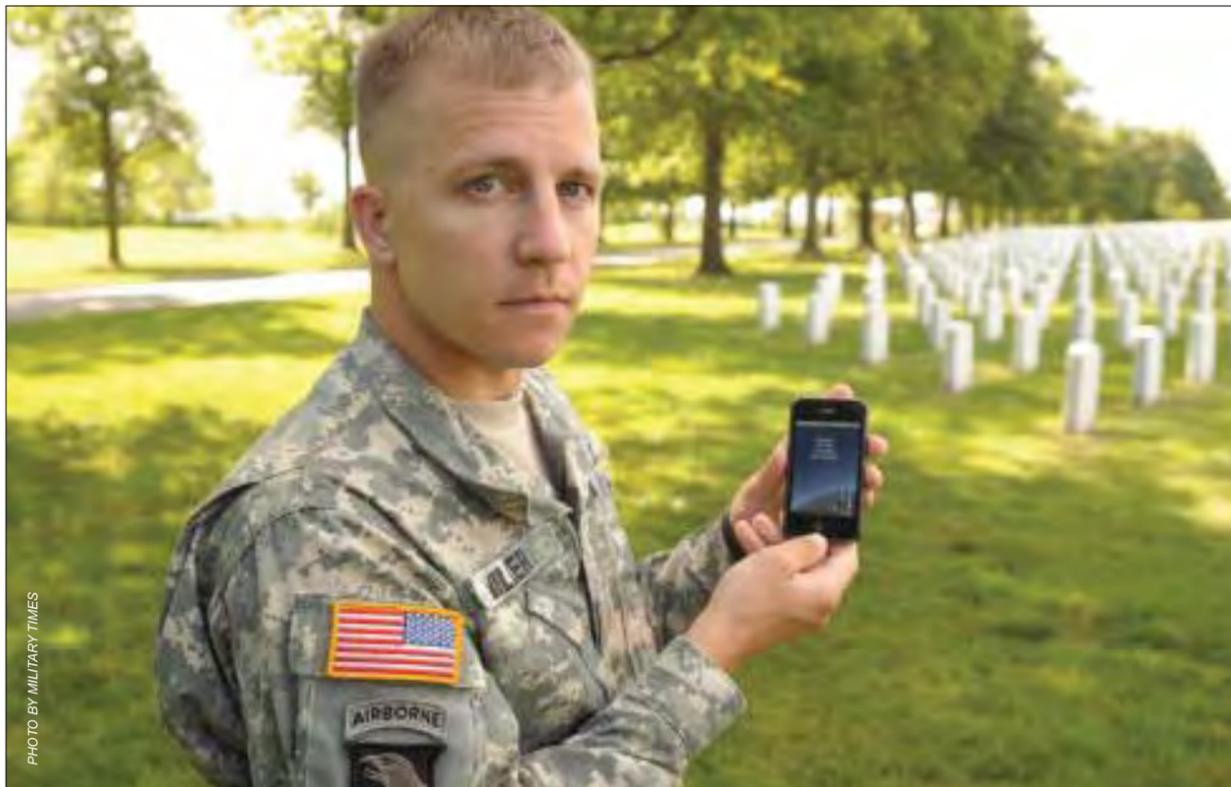
Feb. 1919; and Frank John Martin, Boatswains Mate 2nd Class, US Navy, June 1943 to March 1946.

Because of record keeping, little more is known about these veterans. The exact dates of their deaths and their hometowns remain unknown.

At the ceremony Val Conley, ODVA's deputy director, received the American flag on behalf of these four veterans whose families could not be located.

"While we know little about these men, we do know they honorably served their country during one of two world wars. That sacrifice in itself is deserving of a fitting burial with full military honors that this State will give them and to others who are identified later," Conley said.

ODVA will continue to partner with OSH and VA to assist in identifying the cremains of other veterans.



ARLINGTON CEMETERY APP TO HELP PINPOINT GRAVES

In a first for any federal cemetery, a new Army smartphone app looks to better connect Americans with soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Set for release this fall, the software plots nearly 260,000 burial sites and urn niches on photographic maps, and will showcase photos and records of more than 300,000 individuals buried there, according to cemetery officials.

A cutting-edge 4G network located at the sacred grounds, the app commemorates the lives of soldiers who served the nation, said Maj. Nick Miller, chief information officer at Arlington.

"We are going to continue evolving the platform, so we put out technology that really allows people to honor, remember and explore the cemetery," he said.

Visitors using the app will be able to search by name to pull up details about service members interred at the cemetery, such as rank, birth and death dates, branch of service and possibly a headstone

photo. Digital maps will mark a visitor's position in the cemetery with an icon, supply "turn-by-turn directions" to graves and allow users to zoom in and out, Miller said.

Those without smartphones will be able to access the same information on kiosks throughout the cemetery. Arlington also plans to host a similar interactive map on its website, so guests can virtually visit burial sites.

Once unveiled, the app will be available for download from major online marketplaces and also on Arlington's website.

The program follows a cemetery mismanagement scandal that broke two years ago, a byproduct of Arlington's effort to move on from an Inspector General investigation that found mismarked or double-booked gravesites and faulty record-keeping.

More than 4 million people visited the grounds last year.

SERVICE RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY IMPACT INSURABILITY



Many separating service members have injuries and medical conditions incurred during military service that impact their health and make it difficult or even impossible to obtain private life insurance.

Health problems that may impact your insurability at standard rates include: Autoimmune conditions such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, sarcoidosis, and chronic fatigue syndrome; blood

disorders like aplastic and sickle cell anemia; active and cancers in remission; diabetes; heart conditions such as uncontrolled sleep apnea, transplants, hypertension, bypass surgery, heart failure; HIV/AIDS; liver and kidney diseases; mental health conditions including PTSD, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression; neurological conditions like multiple sclerosis, ALS, Parkinson's, epilepsy, and TBI; respiratory conditions including severe asthma/bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and emphysema; and other conditions.

However, recognizing the difficulties veterans have in obtaining affordable insurance, the VA offers group life insurance options that are reasonably priced and that you can keep as long as you desire - regardless of your health.

Learn more at the VA website www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/vgli/uninsure.htm

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDALS DATABASE EXPANDS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department (DoD) has unveiled a stolen valor website designed to help citizens learn if someone is lying about military medals.

The database was created after the Supreme Court in June struck down a 2006 law that made it a federal crime to lie about receiving combat valor medals. The court argued that the punishments for those lying about military medals infringed on free speech. Nevertheless, all of the justices acknowledged the legitimate intent of the law to protect the integrity of honors bestowed on war heroes. Two justices suggested Congress could rewrite the law in a more narrow form.

In response to the high court's ruling, a former Marine Vietnam combat veteran and Secretary of the Navy, Virginia Sen. Jim Webb, introduced the "Military Service Integrity Act of 2012" in July. Webb drafted the legislation to comply fully with the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment restrictions outlined by the court's decision. If passed, the new act could bring criminal penalties to any individual who profits from making a false claim to have served in the military or to have received a military award.

Within weeks, 52 Senate cosponsors and at least 13 national veterans' service organizations have endorsed the legislation.

A former Marine and Vietnam combat veteran, Webb said, "Profiting from the misrepresentation of military service or awards undermines the value of service and is offensive to all who have stepped forward to serve our country in uniform."

The website was launched July 25, and initially listed only the recipients of the military's highest awards for valor — the Medal of Honor and service crosses — that were awarded after Sept. 11, 2001. Silver and Bronze Star recipients are now being added. The Pentagon is expanding the database to include recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Air Force Cross. Record keepers from each military branch have been compiling awards records.

Vietnam veteran, curator of the Military Times Hall of Valor, and archivist Doug Sterner said the DoD has not had time since announcing it would work on a database in July to fully grasp what is really involved. He began cataloguing medals privately in 1998; Sterner has personally entered 105,000 awards of the approximately 350,000 medals above the Bronze Star and up to the Medal of Honor into his database. He said other records could fill in the gaps left by the fire that destroyed thousands of military records at the National Personnel Records Center.



Sterner said he was glad the DoD was making a start, but hopes they move quickly to digitize these records before they too are lost. His work appears on both the Military Times Hall of Valor website and his own Home of Heroes website.

Until another act to prohibit falsifying claims of military valor or service is signed by the president, there is nothing technically illegal about anyone misrepresenting themselves and lying by wearing or claiming to have earned military awards and decorations. If they're profiting from the false claims or placing others in danger, they can be reported to local law enforcement.

Sterner said that typically "information about false claims should be turned over to a local FBI office."

This is especially true if the individual making those claims is profiting or gaining the public trust, based on those claims, according to long-time *Military Times* reporter Mark Faram, who has written about and investigated false claims of fake military heroes.

"If the FBI isn't interested, one can also call local law enforcement agencies, too," he said. "But even if law enforcement officials decline to investigate, there are other ways to expose individuals who misrepresent their military service -- or who sometimes have never even served, specifically by calling your local newspaper or television station."

When making a report to law enforcement or media, he said, the best practice is to stick to the facts as you know them and explain why their stories just don't add up to you. More often than not, local media will investigate and often will confront the faker and expose them.

"Thankfully," Faram said, "most investigative reporters and news organizations around the country are taking notice and acting to expose these false claims of valor and service."

The website will be hosted at valor.defense.gov.

Get your ODL with your veteran status today.

To get the new VETERAN designation added to your Oregon Driver License, driver permit or ID, simply provide a copy of your DD214 to any DMV representative when applying, renewing or replacing your card.

For more information visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/index.shtml

*All normal application, renewing or replacement fees apply. Contact DMV for more information.

MILITARY CONVENTIONS, REUNIONS AND EVENTS

Stand Downs Set – Six Veteran Stand Downs will be held on these dates and locations: Sept. 7-8, Warrenton, Camp Rilea; Sept. 14-16, Roseburg, VA Medical Center, 913 NW Garden Valley Blvd.; Sept. 28, Salem, 1st Free Methodist Church on Silverton Rd.; Oct. 3, Portland, Oregon Convention Center; Oct. 6, Bend Community Center, 1036 NE 5th St.; Oct. 20, Gresham/Troutdale, The Chapel, 27132 SE Stark St.; Nov. 10, Springfield, Armed Forces Reserve Center, 3110 Pierce Parkway.

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

Oregon LST Association Fall Reunion – Meeting Sept. 11, at 12 p.m., at The Salem Sizzler, 1151 Lancaster Dr., NE.

Contact: *Ken Deacon, Pres., 541-271-3727*

9th annual Celebration of Honor in Lincoln City – Events run Sept. 20-23. Chinook Winds Casino Resort hosts a Field of Honor with 1,000 American flags. Sept. 22, SOS Breakfast at Henry's Lighthouse Donuts, Lighthouse Square, north Lincoln City; 5K Run/Walk, proceeds to the Wounded Warrior Project; Oregon Veterans Medal presentation ceremony, at the casino, 5 p.m. Sept. 23, Free breakfast, lunch, or dinner for all veterans (with proof of service) at the casino's Siletz Bay Buffet; Rededication of the casino's Veterans Memorial, 2 p.m.

For information: *Teresa Simmons, 541-996-5815*

USNR Midshipmen's School – Reunion in San Antonio, TX, Sept. 23-27, at the El Tropicano River Walk Hotel.

Contacts: *Carl Duncan, 210-408-1766, elcid8603@sbcglobal.net, or Bob Burke, 760-384-4902, res16xt2r@verizon.net*

Veterans Benefits & Job Fair in Beaverton – Be there between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Thur., Sept 27, Willow Creek Center, 241 SW Edgeway Drive (near SW 185th and Baseline Rd).

Contact: *Washington Co. Veterans Services, 503-846-3060.*

US Merchant Marine WWII Veterans Regional Conference – Meeting Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, NV. Reservations: 800-233-4939. Send checks to AMMV, Sacramento Chapter, P.O. Box 1793, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924.

Information: *www.usmm.org/western2012.pdf*

USS Brush (DD-745) Reunion – The annual reunion in Nashville, TN, Oct. 4-8. Four different tours arranged and a dinner meeting on Oct. 7. Enjoy the fun and meet some of the plank owners or former shipmates. Reservations: Holiday Inn Opryland/Airport; 877-859-5095.

Contact: *Larry Mack, 503-442-3596; www.ussbrush.org*

USS Begor (APD-127) Final Reunion – In San Diego, at the Holiday Inn Bayside, Oct. 3-7. Tours and a Luau will be included.

Hotel Reservations: *800-662-8899, or res@holinnbayside.com*

Contact: *Rich Parly, 541-582-1761, rogriv@q.com, or www.ussbegor.org*

FACs (Forward Air Controllers) Reunion – The annual convention and reunion, Oct. 17-21, in Tucson, AZ. Hotel reservations: 800-222-8733. Online registration form at: *www.fac-assn.org*. Mail-in by Sept. 17.

Contact: *Elton Humphreys (Rash 03), 281-825-1606, ehumphreys2@cox.net*

USS Princeton Veterans Inc. (CV, CVA, CVS, -37, LPH-5) – The semi-annual reunion is in Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 15-19.

Contact: *Ron Hoak, 503-658-8356*

49th Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance – All military and service organizations are invited to bring their colors and participate in the event, Oct. 28, 2 p.m., at the Kliever Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive, Portland.

Contact: *Kathy Page, 503-502-9072, or kpageusa@aol.com*

Military Week of Honor at Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum – Veterans will be honored Nov. 5-9, at the museum, 500 NE Capt. Michael King Smith Way, McMinnville. Special lunch for veterans and/or a spouse: \$5. Hear veterans – WWII (Tuskegee Airmen, Battle of the Bulge, Code Talkers), Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Gulf War, Iraq-Afghanistan – from around the U.S. speak, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Space Museum. Veterans Assembly of Honor: 12-12:45 p.m. Lunch follows. RSVPs due by Oct. 12.

Contact: *Ken Buckles, 503-351-2632, ken.buckles@sprucegoose.org, or www.sprucegoose.org*

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall trip to DC – Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC with a special trip. Departure from Portland is Nov. 7, returning the 14th. Package rates subject to availability and change: \$1,134 per person (triple occupancy); \$1,310 per person (double); 2,015 (single) at the State Plaza Hotel. Final payment is due Oct. 1.

Contact: *Diane, Nob Hill Travel, 503-227-3530*

Hiring our Heroes: Veterans Career and Job Fair – At Portland's Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Tue., Nov. 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Co-hosted by the Dept. of Labor, Oregon Employment Dept. 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*



AARP DRIVER SAFETY SALUTES VETERANS:

OFFERS FREE CLASS COURSE

To recognize and thank military veterans for their service, AARP Driver Safety is offering a free classroom course or 50 percent off the online course to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces — active duty, veteran, guard or reserve — regardless of age, from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30.

Vehicles have changed and so have traffic rules, driving conditions and the roads you travel on every day. Even the most experienced drivers can benefit from brushing up on their driving skills. The AARP Driver Safety course teaches valuable defensive driving techniques and provides a refresher about the rules of the road. And those completing the course could qualify for an automobile insurance discount from their insurance company.

Any eligible veteran, military member or military spouse may take any version of the AARP Driver Safety classroom course for free in November. Required course lengths vary by state.

As an alternative to the classroom course, veterans and their spouses are invited to take the AARP Driver Safety online course at 50 percent off the normal course price. In the online course, drivers will learn the same valuable tips and information as you would in the classroom course, but you can take it at your own pace from the comfort of your home.

To receive the online course discount, visit online at www.aarpdriversafety.org and enter the promotion code "Veterans" when prompted during registration and checkout.

SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN EVENT

Send your upcoming events online at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/INFO/VetsNews.shtml or by emailing vetsnews@odva.state.or.us.

Veterans: Make a difference—become a teacher

Learn more about teacher education programs available to Veterans at **Portland State University**

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- Middle/High School
- Special Education
- Dual Endorsements
- Early Intervention

Troops To Teachers can support you:

- \$5,000 stipend for tuition, books, expenses
- \$10,000 bonus for teaching in high-needs schools

Contact: *Ed Brands, TTT Oregon Director, ebrands@mpptt, 1-800-438-6851*



pdx.edu/education/prospective-students



VAC volunteer pilot Kimberlie Miller, and her husband Cameron, of Washougal, Wash., flew injured Army Pvt. Cory Doane of Vancouver, Wash. to Portland in 2011 so he could celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with his family. This was Doane's first trip home since deploying and being injured.

WOUNDED WARRIORS HELPED BY VETERANS AIRLIFT

There are more than 2.9 million disabled American veterans according to the Veterans Administration and the Census Bureau. An increasing number of severely injured veterans, nearly 50,000, are or have returned from Afghanistan and Iraq.

In earlier wars, these disabling wounds were more likely life ending, but with today's technology and advanced medical skills more lives are being saved. For these wounded warriors, this means undergoing long and difficult rehabilitations, often far from home.

This is where the generosity of America's private volunteer aircraft owners, members of Veterans Airlift Command (VAC), steps in. They provide free air transportation for medical and other compassionate purposes to post-9/11 wounded veterans, and their families through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots.

Wounded warriors are flown to receive medical treatment; home to their families; and families to the medical facility where the veteran is being treated. These pilots fly their planes and pay for all flight costs including fuel and landing fees.

In 2006, VAC "Airboss" Walt Fricke saw the vital need for this transportation as many U.S. wounded were being hospitalized hundreds of miles from home and many do not have the resources to travel.

"My own experience of being wounded in Vietnam and ending up in a hospital 700 miles from home was enough to prove the value of the connection to family and battle buddies in the healing process," Fricke said. "These resources were not available then, but today the attitudes are much different."

Having prosthetics, metal rods and shrapnel inside a Wounded Warrior's body can make flying commercially a humiliating experience. Returning veteran, Army Spc. Jack Zimmerman of Minneapolis, Minn., is missing both legs above the knee, and most of his right hand and arm. He and his wife Megan are very grateful for VAC.

Zimmerman was injured in March 2011 after stepping over an IED in Afghanistan while serving a 12-month deployment with the 101st Airborne Division. After suffering with long lines at airport security, lost baggage, difficulty at times in getting seating, and several other concerns, Zimmerman was weary of commercial airlines. His wife Megan said in her blog that "no one knows or really understands

how truly difficult it is for a wounded veteran to fly."

Even after arriving at the airport extra early, Megan knew with Jack having a two-foot long metal rod running down his right arm, an eight-inch metal plate in his left elbow, and loose shrapnel throughout his legs, getting through security would be a nightmare. He had just two bags, one for his medications and other necessities in case the airline lost his luggage, and a small carry-on.

Since he was flying alone, Jack had to push his own wheelchair. The Zimmermans were forced to pay and check Jack's extra bag just because he couldn't carry it to his gate from security.

"Here sits a veteran completely helpless in his wheelchair. He has given America the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country against terrorists and these people are actually going to question his motives going aboard a plane? My husband is not dangerous," Megan exclaimed.

She added that, "The pilots tell us over and over again, 'You have made the ultimate sacrifice. We have all the thanks to give to you.' We don't feel like that at all. We feel they are our heroes. That's why the Veterans Airlift Command is truly the greatest organization that we know of, and we cannot be more thankful for all the pilots who fly for us."

A VAC flight to Portland last November was piloted by Kimberlie and Cameron Miller of Washougal, Wash. The husband and wife team brought an injured soldier, Pvt. Cory Doane of Vancouver, Wash., home for the first time since he had been deployed and severely injured in combat.

"I have flown these missions for a few years and love every minute of it. We truly have the best job in corporate aviation," Kimberlie Miller said. "No one is more deserving than our wounded soldiers. We are honored to be able to help them in any way we can."

"We've flown more than 1,600 passengers in the past 12 months," Fricke said, "and we'll do pretty close to that in 2012. But, we need public funding for the small flight coordination center as well as the operation of our own aircraft. We use them when a volunteer is not available."

Fricke said the VAC needs three things to keep going: Passengers, pilots for planes and donations to keep the program operational. To learn more, go to VAC's website, www.veteransairlift.org.

OREGON RECEIVES GRANT FOR HOMELESS VETS

Five private and non-profit community organizations in Oregon have been awarded grants from the federal VA to help improve housing stability for very low-income veterans and their families.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced in July the award of nearly \$100 million in grants that will help approximately 42,000 homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. The grants are going to 151 community agencies in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Under the grants, homeless providers will offer veterans and their family members outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits and assistance in getting other public benefits. Community-based groups can offer temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

The VA reports the following organizations plan to serve between 60 and 220 participant households in their respective areas: Community Action Team Inc., St. Helens (\$584,538); Central City Concern, Portland (\$453,143); ACCESS, Medford (\$451,690); Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, Bend (\$228,786); Transition Projects Inc., and St. Vincent De Paul Society of Lane Co. Inc., Eugene (\$137,499).

This is the program's second year. Last year, VA provided about \$60 million to assist 22,000 veterans and family members.

VETERAN RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES

A variety of license plates recognizing military service are available through DMV. Sales of these the plates help support the **Oregon Veterans' Home**.

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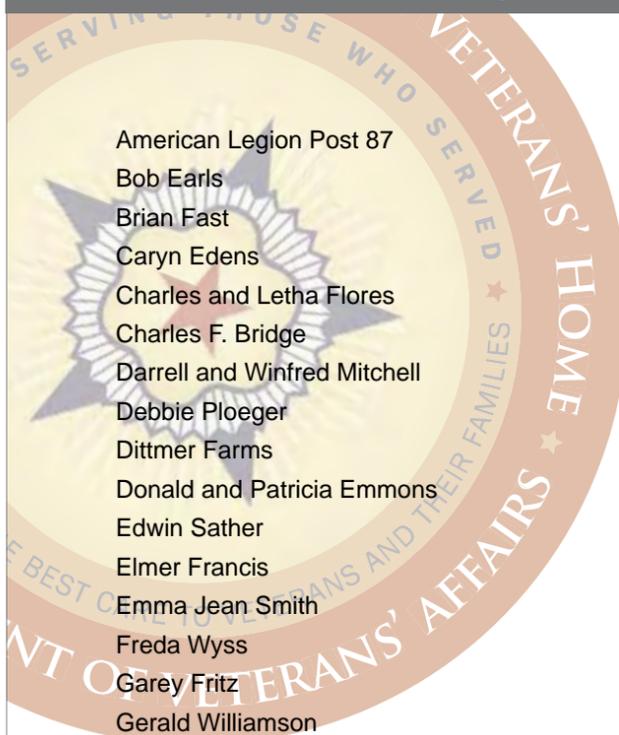


The generosity of the ever-growing number of Friends of the Home continue to provide life-enriching experiences to the veterans and their family who call the Veterans' Home - home.

DONATIONS TO THE VETERANS' HOME ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

Not only does the Home accept monetary donations, but gifts such as magazine subscriptions, books, blankets, and personal items. If you are interested in donating your time as a volunteer, please contact the Home at 541-296-7152.

Contributions during the months of June and July 2012.



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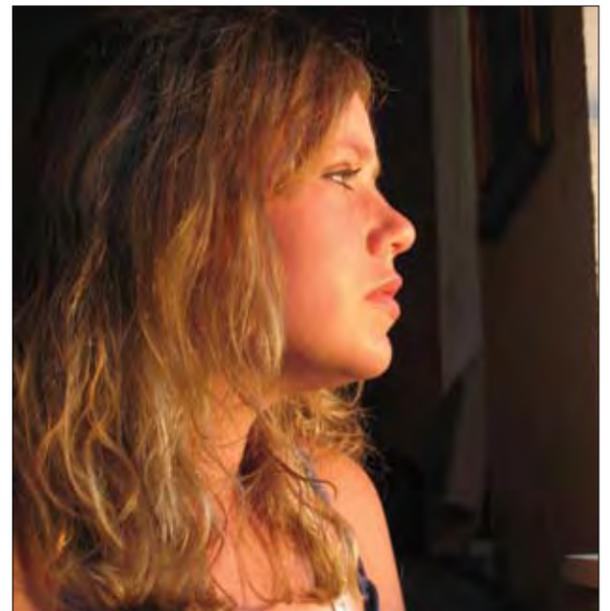
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SECONDARY PTSD AFFECTS SPOUSES, FAMILY, FRIENDS

The impact of PTSD can reach far beyond individuals with the disorder, affecting the lives and health of friends and family who care for them.

This transfer of emotional distress is called Secondary Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. However, if you live with someone who suffers from PTSD, you may notice yourself beginning to "mirror" some of their behaviors.

The signs, symptoms, and effects of Secondary PTSD are just as varied as the ones exhibited by veterans with "primary" PTSD. Researchers found that as PTSD symptoms got worse in veterans, so did the burden experienced on the part of the spouse or loved one.

It is important to have basic information about PTSD. Simply knowing the symptoms and where they come from can help the relationship.

Dr. Matthew D. Tull, a contributor to About.com says it is important to realize that providing support requires energy and can be stressful. It can be upsetting for a spouse to see someone they care about in a state of distress or struggling with a problem. Most times, a spouse will be able to provide support without feeling too taxed themselves. However, when the stress is constant and support is frequently needed, "caregiver burden" may occur.

Spouses tend to slip in to a caregiver role without even noticing it. That role may include constantly watching for people or circumstances that might "set them off" or arranging the family life so that the veteran will not be upset by normal daily activities.

A second study also revealed that violent behavior in the relationship (such as pushing someone, throwing things, physical abuse) was linked with caregiver burden.

While secondary PTSD is not a disorder which is currently recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, mental health professionals have long recognized the stress of loving someone with PTSD and suggest attending individual therapy and support groups in order to understand and learn how to cope better with their loved one's PTSD. Couples counseling may also be very useful.

For more information on PTSD treatment for veterans and their families, locate the VA center nearest you for assistance: www.va.gov/directory/guide/ptsd_fish.asp.

ARMY FEMALES PROUD TO EARN SAPPER TAB

Compiled from reports by Army Times and USA Today

Women are not allowed to serve in certain combat occupations — but that's not stopping female engineers from taking on the grueling 28-day Sapper Leader Course, becoming qualified and wearing the coveted Sapper tab.

Sappers are combat engineers who advance with the front-line infantry. They have fought in every war in American history. About 300 students attend the course each year. The designation is earned as an additional proficiency.

As the Army considers opening Ranger School to female soldiers, women have shown their ability to tackle another prestigious Army course for the past 13 years. There has been plenty of discussion over the past decade about what opportunities should be open to which soldiers, said Brig. Gen. Duke DeLuca, commandant of the Army Engineer School.

"I am for every policy that allows the Army to have the widest selection of the most talent possible," DeLuca said. "I think changing the standards should only be done in order to address the mission of that particular school or unit. It shouldn't be as a result of desiring to change throughout."

That's why, he said, the standards for the Sapper Leader Course have not changed, and they won't change this fall when the course is expanded to take on more students each year.

During the first 14-day phase, students learn specialized engineer tasks and they are tested on land navigation. Students also do urban orienteering, ruck and litter runs, and a road march.

The students go into the patrolling phase during the second 14-day phase. This includes a 10-day field training exercise and training on technical tasks such as demolition and urban breaching. Students also learn water operations — how to work with inflatable boats and rope bridges — and mountaineering, including how to move an element through cliffs and rappelling.

DeLuca said, "It really brings out those who can dig deep ... to be able to do what they need to do under great pressure."

Maj. Jennifer Etters, the first female officer Sapper Leader Course graduate in March 2002, saw it as a great opportunity to prove to herself she could do it. She recalls her course schooling as the hardest thing she has ever done, but is thankful for the demanding training.

"The course taught me a lot about me and what I could handle physically, mentally and emotionally. I believed it prepared me for some tough situations down the road — especially in Iraq and Afghanistan," Etters said.

Some female students are the only females in their class. That is because women account for about three percent of all students and about two percent of all graduates. Etters found this to be true for her.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILITARYPHOTOS.NET

Female soldiers train during the Sapper Leader Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

It didn't change her affection for her profession. A decade later she laughs about it.

"It made the living conditions strange at times. There was only one latrine and shower facility, so I would wake up before the guys to knock out hygiene before them. In the evenings, I would either be first, or wait until last. I would try to be as fast as I could to free up the facility. I did end up with more time to study knots," she said.

"A few classmates did not want me there, particularly during the patrolling phase," Etters said. "I think it's important for any soldier that truly has the heart of an Engineer be given the chance to be a Sapper. I love being an Engineer and our motto 'Let us try.'"

According to the Sapper Leader Course's records, the female graduation rate is 35 percent, compared to 52 percent for their male comrades. "Entry and graduation requirements are the same for female students as they are for male students," said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Winters, the course's chief instructor. "Our instructors are trained to treat all soldiers equally."

Capt. Emily Hannenberg said she and her classmates were held to the same high expectations.

"There is absolutely zero difference between the standard for female and male students. Females never once were given a different packing list for a ruck, a slower time standard for a run, or a lighter weapons system during patrolling. In my experience, the course did an exceptional job of being gender blind and adhering to unwavering high standards of

performance for all candidates," Hannenberg said.

Through July 2012, 46 women have graduated from the Sapper Leader Course, all of them officers — one of them with honors.

Female Sappers say the Sapper tab looks great on every Engineer — man or woman.

"It is important that women of this branch be given the opportunity alongside our male counterparts to show the unity of diverse soldiers in the Engineer Regiment," Etters said.

Etters is currently stationed in Vicenza, Italy with U.S. Army Africa. She said people often point out her Sapper tab and inquire about it. "Often times, they say they are impressed or they have never seen one on a female before. I usually just say 'thanks.'"

Hannenberg is currently finishing her master's degree before heading off to the 249th Engineer Battalion at Fort Belvoir, Va. She is proud to have a Sapper tab. It is a constant reminder to her of the valuable life lessons she learned in the course.

"Most people ask me if I went through the Sapper Leader Course to get it. I tell them that it was an extremely rewarding and challenging experience, and that I am so grateful I had the opportunity to go through the course. If they are a soldier, I often recommend that they try to go if they have the opportunity," Hannenberg said.

"It's especially influential for young soldiers to see a woman wearing a Sapper tab and helps to break mindsets about female inadequacy or limits being placed on what females can or should do in the military."

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VIRTUAL ONLINE VETERAN JOB FAIRS

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced a partnership with Milicruit.com to sponsor nationwide, virtual online job fairs.

“As we work to help veterans find good paying jobs, it is important that we take advantage of online resources that connect our Veterans with employers around the nation who want to hire these highly qualified and experienced men and women,” said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

To date, more than 60 military-friendly national employers from both the private and federal sectors and more than 36,000 veterans have registered to participate in the all-day online event.

Veterans can register at www.veteranscareerfair.com for events. On the day of the event, veterans can log in and visit employer booths, view job openings, apply for jobs, watch employer videos and

presentations, chat live with recruiters, and complete on-the-spot video interviews.

They can also interact with VetSuccess counselors to learn more about VA benefits, as well as additional resources and tools for transitioning service members and family members regarding training, employment, and independent living.

VA’s VetSuccess.gov website offers services by providing access to a job board of more than 8 million job openings, as well as tools for veterans to build or upload resumes and for employers to search for Veterans who match their recruiting needs.

“Using technology allows us to connect excellent veteran job seekers with businesses in need of the leadership, discipline, skills, and training that veterans bring to the workplace,” said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

**VETERANS DAY
EVENT SUBMISSIONS**

Events submitted by **October 1** will be included in the November issue of Vets News.

Submit online and by email
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VA TO ADD 2 OREGON CBOCs

As part of the continuing effort to provide health care closer to where more veterans live, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced plans in July to open 13 new community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in nine states, including two in Oregon.

By 2013, VA plans to open CBOCs in Clackamas and Grants Pass.

“Community-based clinics are key to providing veterans better access to high-quality care closer to home,” said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. “By reducing the distance veterans have to travel, we hope more veterans will benefit from the health care services they have earned through their service to our nation.”

With 152 medical centers and more than 812 community-based outpatient clinics, the VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. Oregon currently has 13 CBOCs across the state including:

- Bend, 503-220-8262
- Brookings, 541-607-0897
- Eugene, 541-607-0897
- Hillsboro, 503-906-5000
- Klamath Falls, 541-273-6206
- LaGrande, 541-963-0627
- Newport, 541-265-4182
- North Bend, 541-756-8002
- Portland, 503-273-5142
- Salem, 503-220-8262
- The Dalles, 800-949-1004
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Grant	541-575-1631Bob Muenchausen
Harney.....	541-573-1342Guy McKay
Hood River	541-386-1080Les Logsdon
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Morrow	541-922-6420Linda Skendzel
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Umatilla	541-278-5482Peggy Raines
Union	541-962-8802Byron Whipple
Wallowa	541-426-3155, Ext. 241Linda McIntyre
Wasco	888-804-1817Russell Jones
Washington	503-846-3060Eric Belt
Wheeler.....	800-982-1172Bryan Hunt
Yamhill	503-434-7503Jerry Wilson

Service Organizations	Phone	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771Vacant
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750Robert Lougee
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770Jennifer Burt
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4762Ken Fink
Veterans of Foreign Wars	503-412-4757Jack Zule

State Offices-ODVA	Phone	Service Officer
Salem	503-373-2085 or 800-692-9666Patty BolstadRenee FrenchVicky KaufmanLeah RickertMitch SparksDoug Yerke

Portland	503-412-4777Deanna ErhardtDonna HuntLinda McMillanMartin OrnelasEd Van Dyke
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Meetings of the Advisory Committee are held quarterly. For meeting dates and locations, please call 503-373-2383. (Special needs will be met for those who have a disability.)

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VETS NEWS

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Jim Willis, Director

FORGOTTEN OREGON VETERANS LAID TO REST AT WILLAMETTE NATIONAL



A member of Oregon's Select Honor Guard, Spc. Kyle Sizemore, presents ODVA Deputy Director Val Conley with a flag. Conley received the flag on behalf of four veterans whose families could not be located.

PHOTO BY OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, ROBIN STOCKLEY

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WHERE EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY



VETS NEWS

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2012

CREMAINS OF 4 OREGON VETERANS INTERRED

PORTLAND—The cremated remains of four Oregon veterans were laid to rest with full military honors at Willamette National Cemetery on Aug. 15. The cremains date back to 1919 and were among those discovered at Oregon State Hospital (OSH) in 2004.

Since that time, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has been working together with both OSH and the Veterans Administration (VA) to identify the cremains of veterans.

"We have worked closely with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to identify these four individuals as veterans, and we're proud to know that these brave men will now be given a final resting spot with all due dignity and respect," said OSH Superintendent Greg Roberts.

The cremains of the four men interred include: James Edward Butler, Pvt., US Army, who served from Sept. 1940 to May 1941; Lanier Dick Johnson, (rank unknown) US Navy, Jan. 1917 to Nov. 1919; William Julius Madson, Sgt., US Army, Aug. 1918 to

SEE CREMAINS ON PAGE 4

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