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OREGON'S STORY

10 YEARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

PLUS: MEMORIAL DAY 2013 EDITION - HONORING OREGONS' FALLEN HEROES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OREGONIANS ANSWERED THE NATIONS CALL

Throughout Oregon's history, men and women from every corner of the state have courageously given their youth, and sometimes their very lives, to the hands of war for our country. Nearly 6,000 Oregonians have lost their lives in the line of duty. Those who served – whether by choice or by draft – dutifully answered the nation's call, sacrificing for the greater good.

This year marks 10 years since the country witnessed the "shock and awe" of a war half a world

away. Since then, operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have made up the longest sustained U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War. More than 30,000 Oregonians from all five service branches have been deployed in support of these operations and 137 have died.

There are countless stories of events and individuals that tell Oregon's role in these operations. As the largest mobilization and deployment overseas for the Oregon National Guard since World War II,

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Director's Message

Cameron Smith, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

REMEMBER THE LEGACY OF THOSE LOST

Memorial Day is at once a day to honor the fallen in our nation's wars and the unofficial start of the summer season when we fire up the barbecues and enjoy our rivers, lakes and beaches.

Many veterans and military families voice frustration at this dichotomy and the dilution of Memorial Day. In the lead up to the last Monday in May, there will be articles, editorial cartoons, blog posts and twitter feeds urging us all to remember the real meaning of Memorial Day.

I will join them in highlighting the true cost of war – a cost far beyond dollars and cents. In Iraq and Afghanistan alone, we have lost over 6,000 of America's best men and women. We owe them and their families a debt that can never be repaid.

But I also worry that our pointed effort on Memorial Day to remember the legacy of those lost will not bridge the civilian-military cultural divide. World War II was fought by 10 percent of our citizens, affecting a large segment of the population. Today, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been fought by less than 1 percent of our population.

Even for those of us who work closely with veterans, it is disconcertingly easy to go about our everyday lives, forgetting that thousands are still deployed overseas in harm's way. We must all go beyond a day and recommit to building the critical

relationship between our citizens, military families and veterans.

Sharing our stories and experiences is not always easy, but it is essential as we ramp up and sustain community support for our veterans. Ultimately, our efforts are not simply for the troops. The bond between a nation and its veterans is about

our way of life that the military defends and that we all actively create and cherish: a democratic nation, full of freedom, with justice and opportunity for all.

As we honor the fallen on Memorial Day this year... let us

take to heart the symbolism in the flag code. The flag will be flown half-mast from sunrise until noon when it will then be flown at the peak until sunset. Half-mast to honor all those who have given their lives in the service of our nation and then flown high to show that the nation they defended lives on.

Continue to share the stories of your service and most importantly share the stories of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you for all of your support for our veterans and God Bless all those still serving overseas.

Continue to share the stories of your service and most importantly, share the stories of all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

C. Smith



The second USS Portland, on its return from Kuwait in 2003.

U.S. NAVY TO NAME NEW SHIP THE USS PORTLAND

Reprinted with permission from Albany Tribune

The U.S. Navy will name the next San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship the *USS Portland*, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) said in April.

“Oregon has a long history with the U.S. Navy going back to the construction of hundreds of World War II Liberty and Victory ships at three Portland-area shipyards,” Wyden said. “I want to thank Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus for naming a ship for Oregon’s largest city. It is an honor for the City of Portland and for all Oregonians.”

Construction of the ship began in August 2011 in Newport, Va. According to the Navy, when it is completed and delivered to the Navy in the summer of 2017, it will be the only ship in the current fleet named for a location in Oregon. Landing Platform Dock ships are named for major American cities. Designated LPD 27, the *USS Portland* will be the third Navy ship to bear the name.

In announcing the naming of the *USS Portland*, Secretary Mabus said, “I appreciate the many contributions to our Navy and Marine Corps team that have been made by the people of Portland and the state of Oregon. The two previous ships to bear the name Portland distinguished themselves in service to our nation and I fully expect the future *USS Portland* will continue that proud tradition whether delivering humanitarian assistance or the full range of combat capability for many decades to come.”

The *USS Portland* will support amphibious assault, special operations, or expeditionary warfare missions through the first half of the 21st century. It will be used to transport and land Marines, their equipment and supplies using different types of craft, including, the Navy said, “air cushion or conventional landing craft or Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles augmented by helicopters or vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

“This is a great honor for our state and the many Oregonians who have served and sacrificed for our country,” said Governor John Kitzhaber. “The *USS Portland* and its crew will always be welcome in Oregon, and I look forward to the chance to come aboard.”

USS Portland is part of a class of Landing Platform Dock ships and is being constructed by Huntington Ingalls Industries with Raytheon Systems Corporation and Intergraph Corporation. It will be 684 feet in length, have a beam length of 105 feet and will be capable of operating at 22 knots. It is expected to be delivered in summer 2017.

VETS NEWS

Published by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Vets News is a free quarterly publication. 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.

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Online 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 **July 5**.

Up to the minute Oregon veteran news at www.oregondva.com

VETS NEWS PUBLICATION SCHEDULE CHANGE

Beginning with this issue, *Vets News* will be published quarterly. Publication dates will still be the first of the month with the issues arriving in August, November, February and May.

The new publication schedule will still ensure receiving timely Memorial Day and Veterans Day event calendar information.

To receive up-to-date information from ODVA about news that impacts veterans, please connect with us on the blog, facebook and eSubscribe. Visit www.oregondva.com.

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GOVERNOR SIGNS SENATE BILL 1 INTO LAW

OREGON VETERANS TO GET VETERANS DAY OFF

By Marc Huchette

You just never know what can happen over a simple cup of coffee. Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney understands that saying all too well after buying a cup of coffee from Lucy Van Oort. It happened to be the morning of Veterans Day 2010 when she curiously mentioned to the senator that her late husband, Steve Lippert, was a Vietnam War veteran and was never able to have Veterans Day off.

The conversation stayed with Sen. Courtney, eventually leading him to sponsor a bill in 2011 that would have allowed Lucy's late veteran husband to have that day off. Unfortunately, it did not have enough support to pass the House that session, but when re-introduced in 2013, the bill passed with full bi-partisan support in both the House and the Senate on March 28th.

Senate Bill 1 encourages all employers to give veterans a day off on Veterans Day. This measure also allows employers to make other arrangements with veteran employees if giving that day off would create any type of business hardship on the employer. The employee can then select another day off instead with employer approval.

Gov. John Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 1 into law on April 4th during a public event held in his Ceremonial Chamber at the Capitol. "I want to thank all Oregonians and employers that have done an amazing job of hiring veterans and helping re-employ veterans who are returning from overseas."

Cameron Smith, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs director, who was also in attendance said, "Agencies are focused on securing education, health care and jobs for returning veterans. At the same time we realize the symbolism in this bill is real. It's



Gov. John Kitzhaber signing SB 1 with Maxwell Lippert (front left) and Lucy Van Oort. Also in attendance (from right to left in back) is Rep. Brad Witt, Sen. Alan Olsen, Rep. Julie Parrish, MSG Phillip Jacques, Rep. Greg Matthews, and SGM Sean Mishra.

powerful and it matters for Oregon veterans."

Van Oort and her son Maxwell Lippert were both in attendance and were presented signature pens by Gov. Kitzhaber after the signing. Sen. Courtney said, "This bill is for all of our veterans. It is a serious bill and I'm so proud to be part of it."

The event was also attended by the Chairman of

the Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Sen. Brian Boquist, and Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Services and Emergency Preparedness, Rep. Greg Matthews. Both committees have focused efforts on providing veterans with more services and support, including employment opportunities in Oregon.

OREGON VETERANS' HOME EARNS TOP NATIONAL NURSING HOME RATING

THE DALLES – The place where honor lives, the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles, was recently named one of the top rated nursing homes in Oregon.

U.S. News & World Report released its fifth annual Best Nursing Homes ratings on February 26, highlighting the top nursing homes in each state and nearly 100 major metropolitan areas. The ratings cover more than 15,000 nursing homes nationwide.

"All seniors deserve the best nursing care available, and we've made sure the information they need is at their fingertips with a consumer-friendly tool to help seniors and their families confront one of life's most difficult and anxious transitions," said Avery Comarow, U.S. News Health Rankings editor.

Among several noted points of excellence, the Home met health and safety standards for food preparation and other nursing-home activities. The inspections are conducted at least every 15 months.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Cameron Smith said the Home's outstanding designation reflects credit on both the staff and management.

"Residents at the Oregon Veterans' Home are like family and that's how they're cared for by the excellent staff and volunteers there," Smith said.

"Their approach to care is simple; treat all veterans and their family members with the same care, respect and dignity they would want for their own families. That entire team earned this national recognition."

Smith also noted that disabled veterans who have been rated with as little as a 10-percent service connected disability may qualify for assistance from the VA.

"With a VA physician's certification that nursing home care is needed due to their service connected disability, a veteran may be eligible to have some or all of their cost of care at the Veterans' Home covered by the VA," he added.

Opened in the fall of 1997, the Home is located just outside the city. The staff is able to care for as many as 151 residents who need long-term care in a care facility that provides skilled nursing, Alzheimer's and dementia-related care, and inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative care to veterans, their spouses and parents who have lost a child to war-time service.

In 2008, the Home was awarded the Step II Award for Quality Achievement from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL).

A second veterans' home in Lebanon, with an additional 154 beds, is scheduled to open in Fall 2014. To learn more about Oregon Veterans' Homes, visit www.oregon.gov/odva/VetsHome.

A product of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs



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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**

*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.

we look back and honor these Oregonians for their service and their sacrifice.

Salvador "Sal" Trujillo | Tigard



Salvador "Sal" Trujillo from Tigard, was with five Marines that went on night patrol in Iraq in 2006. They were riding in a Bradley fighting vehicle when an IED detonated beneath them. Doused in diesel from the fuel tanks

exploding and set aflame, three of them were injured seriously. Not realizing how badly he was injured or burnt, Trujillo leaped into action to help save his buddy's' lives. He suffered third-degree burns over 40 percent of his body, lost two fingers and had to undergo massive reconstructive surgeries. For his brave actions that night, Trujillo was awarded the Chehalem Valley Sportsman Club's George Washington Patriot award.

Scott Anderson | Canby



Chief Warrant Officer Scott Anderson served in the 158th Aviation Regiment in Balad, Iraq. When the Canby resident was not using his military skills as a medevac pilot, he was able to apply

his civilian skills as a magician to help people in a different way. Anderson worked through translators to perform magic shows for groups of Iraqi children during base-hosted events. He also worked with parents to entertain children under the care of the hospital there with his illusions. His magic not only provided an outlet for him, it also broke the ice and formed relationships with Iraqis around the base.

Jacob Jones | Prairie City



Sgt. Jacob Jones, originally from Prairie City, was an infantryman in the Army. He was patrolling the streets of Mosul wearing 50 pounds of gear and his rifle, searching for insurgents, sometimes

clearing an intersection of the rubble from a suicide bomber. The sniper's bullet hit him in the left shoulder and he never saw it coming. That bullet ended his four-year military career, earning him a Purple Heart and an honorable discharge. "Iraq is a dangerous place. It is hard to distinguish the good from the bad there. I am just really proud to have served my country in this time of hostility and war," Jones said. "It is hard to see exactly how good life is until everything is taken away."

Dillon Bergstad | North Bend

August 27, 2007 is a day 24-year old Army Specialist Dillon Bergstad of North Bend will never forget. Driving in the second vehicle of a convoy in Afghanistan near the Pakistan border, Bergstad and his unit were ambushed. As many as 30 enemy fighters, some only 10 feet away, attacked his convoy. While fighting off the ambush, Bergstad was thrown from his turret three times. The first time his truck was hit by an RPG. The second time he was shot through the right bicep with an armor piercing

incendiary round. The third time his vehicle was struck again with another RPG. Bergstad continued to get back up and return fire. As a result, the enemy RPG team was killed and several machine gun positions suppressed. Dillon earned the Silver Star for his actions that day. "I don't think I did anything more outstanding than anyone else." Bergstad said of his award. "I would trade 10 of these medals to get PFC Thomas Wilson back who died that day," Bergstad said. Thomas was Dillon's close friend.

Michelle Ring | McMinnville



Army Specialist Michelle Ring was deployed to Bagdad with the 92nd Military Police Battalion from Fort Benning. Ring attended school in McMinnville before she enlisted into the Army. Her goal was to obtain a college degree and become a U.S. Marshall. In July of 2007, Michelle was on guard duty when her base at Camp Liberty was hit with mortar rounds. The mother of two was unable to avoid the flying shrapnel and was killed. At her memorial, Ring was promoted posthumously to the rank of corporal. Her family was also presented with her Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal. Specialist Michelle Ring became the first woman with ties to Oregon to be killed in Iraq.

Bob Shano | Scappoose



Vietnam Vet and business owner, Bob Shano, felt there was something he could do to help a new crop of young soldiers heading over to Iraq. That help came in the form of joining them. In his fifties and

with already 22 total years of military service, it was a little difficult convincing recruiters to take him seriously. Once they did, Shano began an extensive battery of medical exams to ensure his fitness level was on par with the military standards. His experience training young paintballers seems to have transposed into a fatherly devotion to the next generation of real infantrymen. He explained that he wants to bring guys back from Iraq in one piece, so they will be around for their children. "I just feel like they need some older guys," said Shano. "I can do something to help."

Kent G. Solheim | Oregon City

In July of 2007, Capt. Kent Solheim's team "fast-roped" from hovering helicopters into Karbala, Iraq and set up their positions. His team took enemy fire from three sides with rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s throughout the 40-minute mission to capture the leader of the Shiite militia. At one point, Solheim charged an insurgent with an RPG and killed him. Later he fatally shot an armed Maddhi fighter, but as the terrorist fell, he fired a burst from his AK-47 which wounded Solheim in the legs and back. After having his right leg amputated, Solheim continued to serve as a Major at the Special War Training Group On December 12, 2008, Kent received the Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for combat valor, along with fellow Oregonian, Sgt. Gabriel Reynolds (next story). The ceremony was the largest in of its kind since the Vietnam War.

Gabriel Reynolds | Lake Oswego

Sgt. Gabriel Reynolds' Special Forces detachment came under intense enemy machine gun fire from Afghan Insurgents while conducting operations in the Khas Oruzgan District in November of 2007. During three very intense firefights, Reynolds is credited with continually engaging the enemy with suppressing gunfire that had trapped American soldiers during the ambush. This would eventually allow the U.S. troops to escape. Reynolds would later destroy a machine gun emplacement and RPG positions. He then dismantled his disabled vehicle while under immense gunfire, and set up a mortar tube and fired at enemy positions.

Chelsea Rice | Newberg

Chelsea Rice can be described an idealist after making her decision to join the Army after she graduated from Newberg High School in 2003. When she deployed to Iraq, her main mission was running munitions to the front lines to keep troops supplied. Stationed near Bagdad, she typically slept no more than four or five hours a day. She described seeing education improvements and the Iraqi women's faces when they voted for the first time. She truly believes the military work in Iraq is helping Iraqis and Americans. Rice now owns a Purple Heart and scars after a mortar shell landed seven feet from her, sending shrapnel into her left leg. And, after all of that, she still has no regrets.

Shane Bohnenkamp | Pilot Rock



While Shane Bohnenkamp was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 he began writing poems from the field which captured the essence of soldiers serving their country in a hostile environment.

One such poem titled, Afghanistan – The Guardian, was written in memory of his battle buddy, SSG. Michel Estes:

Afghanistan – The Guardian

A soldier standing at the gates of heaven when the angel guarding the gate asks, "Why do you think you should enter into heaven?"

Without hesitation the soldier replied, "I don't wish to enter into heaven."

The angel, shocked on such a fast and yet quick answer, asked, "Why don't you wish to enter onto heaven?"

"For on earth I have guarded the weak and innocent, protected the land of the free, and when others countries needed I went to their aid to keep evil at bay."

"Know that my time has come and called my name. I will stand here so that the innocent and weak, and those from the land of the free, can enter into heaven without the threat of evil and have no more fear."

The angel, in disbelief and with a tear running down his face, said in a thunderous voice,

"Darkness and evil beware, for a new guardian of heaven has come."

"Soldier, take up your post and stand ready to carry on your duties here in heaven, as you would on earth."

OREGON'S 1ST OIF CASUALTY WAS IN INFAMOUS IRAQI AMBUSH

By Mike Allegre

Three days after the Iraq war had begun, an Oregon soldier would become involved in what's been called one of the darkest early incidents of that war. It would cost him his life.

Sgt. Donald R. Walters, a former Salem resident, would become the first Oregonian killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Walters grew up in Colorado where his father, Norman Walters, was a trombone player at the Air Force Academy. The family later moved to Salem in 1981.

Walters, 33, was a member of the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas, that was ambushed in southern Iraq on March 23, 2003. When the story was initially reported, it was suggested that fellow unit member, Pvt. Jessica Lynch, of Palestine, W.Va., was eventually taken prisoner only after a prolonged battle in which she was shot and stabbed.

Walters's fellow soldiers had maintained it was he who was killed after mounting a lone stand against the Iraqis who ambushed their convoy of maintenance vehicles near Nasiriyah. It was determined later by military investigators that the 1988 North Salem High School graduate had been executed. In all, 11 soldiers were killed and six captured in the ambush.

Later it was learned that Lynch's rifle had jammed and her injuries were caused when her truck collided with another vehicle as the convoy came under attack. When the international media frenzy

that proclaimed her a hero had subsided, Lynch came forward and said she did not fire a shot during the ambush.

Four years following Walters' death, Lynch maintained before Congress, despite the continued media publicity, that Walters was a hero that day.

"I am still confused over how they chose to lie and try to make me a legend when the real heroics of my fellow soldiers that day were legendary," Lynch said. "Sgt. Donald Walters... actually did fight 'til the very end."

Initially, the Army had posthumously awarded Walters the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

In May 2004, one year after he was buried, the Army honored Walters with the Silver Star -- the U.S. military's third-highest decoration for valor. During a ceremony at Fort Leavenworth (Kan.) National Cemetery, where Walters is buried, he also was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal by Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace, once the commanding general of the Army's V Corps in Iraq. Wallace presented the medals to Walters' widow, Stacie, and his mother, Arlene.

Wallace said Walters displayed a "courage that reflected his gallantry to serve his country and fellow soldiers caught in the ambush."

Sergeant Walters had served in the Army on and off since 1989, including during the 1991 Gulf War. His father, Norman Walters, said his son was changed by his experience guarding Iraqi prisoners in 1991. "He was nervous and suffered from terrible thoughts and nightmares. He didn't want to go," his father said. "But he didn't have a choice. He had his orders and he felt it was his duty."

Walters left the Army in 1992 and joined the Reserves but to give his family greater stability, Walters re-enlisted in 2002. He left for Kuwait in February 2003.

Walters loved to fish. He and his wife Stacie spent countless days on fishing trips. Before he left for Iraq the second time, Walters penned a short children's book, *My Very Special Fishing Trip*, which recounted his first fishing trip with his father. After his death, his friends and family arranged for the book to be illustrated and printed for those who knew him.



Sgt. Donald R. Walters

OREGON GUARD UNITS DEPLOYED SINCE 2003

OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1-186 INF | Sinai |
| 1042 Med Co (AA) | Afghanistan Kuwait Saudi Arabia |
| 82 Rear Op Cell | Iraq |
| B Co/52 Eng Bn. | Iraq |
| 1-162 INF | Kuwait |
| HHC, Co A,B,C,D | Southern Iraq |
| 2-162 INF | Iraq |
| 1/HHSB/2-218 FA | Iraq |
| 2/L/ 151 Avn | Iraq |
| 41 Brigade | Afghanistan |
| 3-116 Cav | Iraq |
| 2/B/145 Spt Bn | Iraq |
| 2/HHB/1-148 FA | Iraq |
| G Trp 82 Cav | Iraq |
| F Trp 82 Cav | Iraq |
| A Co/249 Avn | Iraq |
| D Co/113 Avn | Afghanistan |
| 3670 Maint Co | Iraq |
| 1042 Med Co (AA) | Afghanistan Kuwait |
| 41 PSC | Kuwait |
| 41 BCT | Afghanistan |
| 41 BCT | Iraq |
| F(-)/145 BSB | Iraq |
| 1/B/3-116 CAV | Iraq |
| Joint Forces HQ(-) | Iraq |
| 115 Mobile PA Det. | Iraq/ Afghanistan |
| 224 Engineers | Iraq |
| 234 Engineers | Iraq |
| A Co/641 Aviation | Iraq |
| 41 BCT | Iraq |
| Joint Forces HQ | Afghanistan |
| 2-641 Regiment, HQ | Iraq |
| C Co/7-158 Aviation | Iraq |
| TF Odin-AF (Det 47 OSA) | Afghanistan |
| 41 Inf Bde Combat Team | Iraq |
| 162 Engineer Co | Afghanistan |
| Det. 1 B 1/168 AVN | Afghanistan |
| HHC 1249 EN CO | Afghanistan |

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

| |
|------------------------------------|
| 142nd Fighter Wing |
| 142nd Combat Operations Group |
| 142nd Maintenance Group |
| 142nd Medical Group |
| 142nd Mission Support Group |
| 173rd Fighter Wing |
| 173rd Maintenance Group |
| 173rd Medical Group |
| 173rd Mission Support Group |
| 173rd Operations Group |
| 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron |

Pictured in the background is the cover of Sgt. Donald Walters' children's book, which features a rendering of him and his dad fishing for the first time.

HONORING OREGON'S FALLEN: OPERATIONS IRAQI FREEDOM/ENDURING FREEDOM

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|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danial R. Adams | Cody J. Eggleston | Michael E. Johnson | Joshua D. McIntosh | William C. Ramirez | Brandon S. Tobler |
| Mabry J. Anders | Adrian M. Elizalde | Robert L. Jones | Eric S. McKinley | Elijah J. Rao | James M. Treber |
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| Joseph R. Blake | Billy B. Farris | Bryan P. Kelly | Mikeal W. Miller | Ricky W. Rockholt, Jr. | Michael L. Vaughan |
| Joseph M. Blickenstaff | Sean P. Fennerty | Joseph P. Kenny | David A. Mitts | Joseph E. Rodewald | Ryan D. Walker |
| Aaron R. Boyles | Damien T. Ficek | Aaron A. Kent | James L. Moore | Dominic N. Rodriguez | Donald R. Walters |
| Travis J. Bradach-Nall | Ryley Gallinger-Long | Erik C. Kesterson | Travis A. Moothart | Philip G. Rogers | Brett A. Walton |
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| Douglas C. DesJardins | Drew N. Jensen | Jeffery A. Lucas | Dale G. Peterson | Ian M. Tawney | Nathaniel D. Windsor |
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| Matthew J. DeYoung | Robert L. Johnson | Erik S. McCrae | Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr | Joshua M. Tillery | Michael S. Zyla |

2013 STATEWIDE

Albany

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 10 presents the annual program at Willamette Memorial Park, 2640 Old Salem Rd. NE. A lunch will be served following the program at the VFW Post 584, 1469 Timber St. SE.

2 p.m. – A similar program will be presented at Twin Oaks Memorial Gardens, 34275 Riverside Dr.

Roy Poppleton, 541-924-9085

Ashland

May 27 10:30 a.m. – A ceremony with American Legion Post 14 and VFW Post 353 at Mountain View Cemetery, 440 Normal Ave. Guest speakers, music from the Valley of the Rogue New Horizons Band, Southern Oregon Concert Band, Ashland High School Choir. Flag presentation: Boy Scout Troop 112.

Bradford Fish, 541-261-5867, bg75fish@gmail.com

Beaverton

May 27 10:30 a.m. – Gathering at Veterans Memorial Park, 7th and Watson Streets. The American Legion Band will play patriotic music.

11 a.m. – The ceremony will include an Honor Guard flag presentation, POW/MIA ceremony, gun salute. Speaker: Col. William J. Edwards III, commander, 41st Infantry Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard.

12:15 p.m. – Submarine veterans will conduct the Tolling of the Boats at the USS Albacore Monument.

Marv Doty, 503-644-0350, marvind@frontier.com

Bend

May 27 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. – The opening ceremony for *We Are Remembering-Not Just a Number* precedes the continuous reading of 6,600+ names of fallen American veterans in Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom/New Dawn at River Bend Park, on Columbia Ave. Color Guard, Flag Line, Bagpipers: Bend Band of Brothers.

Tracy Miller, 541-310-0701, firstamendmentsightings@live.com

May 27 1 p.m. – Annual ceremony and services at Deschutes Memorial Gardens, Hwy. 97. Ceremony will honor Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. Speaker: Col. (ret) Mike Brock, USMC. Poppy March held during the ceremony. Reception following at VFW Post 1643, 1503 NE 4th St.

Bob Cusick, 541-389-0775

Canby

May 27 11 a.m. – Zion Memorial Cemetery, Township Rd. Guest speakers, rifle salute, reading of the names of Oregon veterans who passed away in the last year. Event sponsored by American Legion Post 122. BBQ chicken lunch held at the Post following the program, 424 NW 1st Ave.

Richard Weiss, 503-975-9537

Cave Junction

May 27 10 a.m. – Ceremony at City Hall, 222 Lister Ave., hosted by American Legion Post 70, with guest speakers and Taps. A new flag pole will be dedicated nearby on the site of a former WWI barracks.

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony at Laurel Cemetery, 1090 Laurel Road.

Bob Soria, 541-592-6856

Central Point

May 27 9 a.m. – Veterans at Don Jones City Park, on Hamrick Road, host the annual Fallen War Heroes Memorial Day Commemoration and ceremony.

Marty Terrell, 541-664-0191

Coos Bay

May 25 11 a.m. – Annual Memorial Day parade through downtown. Grand Marshals: WWII Veterans Elmer Lively and Russell Hull. Parade check-in and registration begins at 8 a.m. on 4th and Golden St. Entrants must register to be in parade.

Bill Kehler, 541-888-6556, slkwrk@frontier.com

Corvallis

May 24 3:30 p.m. – OSU's Departments of Athletics and Veteran Resources are dedicating the Beavers vs. Washington State baseball game to veterans. Two veterans will be honored on the field at Goss Stadium. Discounted ticket prices for military service members, veterans, and their families: \$10, reserved seating; \$5, general admission. Valid military/veteran ID required for discount.

Gus Bedwell, 541-737-7662, gus.bedwell@oregonstate.edu

May 27 2 p.m. – Tribute to Benton County veterans at Benton County Vets Memorial, south lawn of the National Guard Armory, 1100 NW Kings Blvd. Open to the public.

Les Whittle, 541-752-3222

Dallas

May 27 11 a.m. – Avenue of Flags display at Dallas Cemetery, 2065 SW Fairview, with more than 500 burial flags. Speaker: Col. (ret.) Gerald Tipton. The high school choir will sing. Students will play Echo Taps.

Dennis Johnson, 503-623-3727

Depoe Bay

May 27 11 a.m. – 67th Annual Fleet of Flowers: Following a brief ceremony at the Harbor front, attendees will board local fishing fleet vessels and head to the open ocean. Flowers from all boats are cast upon the water in memory of all who have lost their lives at sea and to the men and women of the U.S. armed forces who were KIA. Reception afterwards: U.S. Coast Guard Station.

Phil Taunton, 541-765-2261

Eagle Point

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony at Eagle Point National Cemetery. Keynote speaker: Ore. Rep. Greg Walden. Music by local bagpipers. Helicopters and bi-plane flyover.

Bob Huff, 503-628-1847

Estacada

May 27 7 a.m. – The Odd Fellows Hall, SW 2nd Ave. American Legion Post 74 will host a Memorial Day breakfast until 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$5 per person. The parade begins at 11 a.m.

Terry Brown, 503-867-6123

Eugene

May 27 9 a.m. – Ceremony at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, 200 Crest Dr.

Dee Harbison, 541-686-2818

May 27 11 a.m. – Memorial Day Ceremony at Eugene Pioneer Cemetery, 18th and University Ave., sponsored by American Legion Post 3.

Bob Potter, 541-338-4074

May 27 12:30 p.m. – Ceremony at Lane Memorial Gardens, 5300 W. 11th Ave. Speaker: Bob Welch, Eugene Register-Guard. Music: Willamette HS Topnotchers Choir. Military Honors: Oregon Army National Guard.

Dee Harbison, 541-686-2818

May 27 2:30 p.m. – Ceremony at West Lawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 225 S. Danebo Ave. Speaker: Bob Welch, Eugene Register-Guard. Music: Willamette HS Topnotchers Choir. Military Honors: Oregon Army National Guard.

Dee Harbison, 541-686-2818

Forest Grove

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony and Avenue of Flags, Forest View Cemetery, 1161 Pacific Ave., with 100+ burial flags, American Legion Post 2, high school choir, Boy Scouts, Oregon Army National Guard's 218th Field Artillery Color Guard and cannon salute. Keynote speaker: Ore. Sen. Jeff Merkley.

Jim Craig, 971-235-6056

Glide

May 27 10 a.m. – A Matter of Honor - Lest We Forget: Names of veterans added to the Memorial Wall will be read during the ceremony at the community center, 20062 N. Umpqua Hwy. Speaker: Jim Little. All are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Bill DeGroot 541-505-6526

Grants Pass

May 23-27 10 a.m. to Midnight – Boatnik: A Memorial Day weekend event along the Rogue River for more than 50 years. 2013 Theme: "A Proud Tradition of Supporting Our Vets." Proceeds support local children and youth programs.

Michael Sellers, 541-659-2113, boatnik@boatnik.com

May 25 7 to 10 a.m. – Annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at American Legion Post 28, 206 NW F St.

Post 28 Commander, 541-474-6400

May 27 12 p.m. – Nearly 1,000 flags on display at Hillcrest Memorial Park dedicated to those who have served and given their lives for freedom. Speaker: Col. (ret.) Dave Dotterer, USMC. Color Guard and Firing Squad: The Marine Corps League.

Hillcrest Memorial Park, 541-476-2310

Gresham

May 27 9 a.m. – Graveside tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters by VFW Post 180 at Forest Lawn, 400 SW Walters Road.

May 27 11 a.m. – Tribute to all fallen military members is presented by VFW Post 180. Local and state dignitaries will speak at the corner of NE Powell Blvd. and Roberts St.

Val Shaul, 503-805-8991, www.vfwpost180.us/

Hillsboro

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 6 will conduct a ceremony as done by the Grand Army of the Republic at Pioneer Cemetery, 1601 SW Baseline St.

Robert Liebenow, 503-649-9250

May 27 1 p.m. – Ceremony at the Veterans Gateway, Hillsboro Fairgrounds, on Cornell Rd. The names of Washington County's 129 WWII veterans who were KIA will be read. WWII veteran's stories will be read or told by family members. Keynote speaker: Ore. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici.

Dan Fink, 503-799-2665

Hood River

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony at Idlewilde Cemetery, 980 Tucker Road, with American Legion Post 22, the Boy Scouts, and Oregon Army National Guard. Veterans' plaques will be added to the "Bud Collins Walk of Honor." Flyover: Vintage WWII aircraft.

Bob Huskey, 541-386-2599

Independence

May 27 9 a.m. – Veterans groups will host a ceremony at the city park. A veteran's color guard will render military honors. Speaker: Maj. Paul Evans, Oregon Air National Guard, Iraq veteran.

Mike Forest, 503-851-0751

Junction City

May 27 10 a.m. – Ceremony will include a POW-MIA Table at Restlawn Cemetery, Hi Pass and Territorial Rd. Speakers: American Legion Post 61 Cdr., Fred Jamieson; VFW Post 10639 Cdr., Brad King; David Noble, Restlawn Cemetery.

Margaret Kimbro, 541-998-6192, 4margaretkimbro@comcast.net

Klamath Falls

May 27 6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service, Avenue of Flags at Klamath Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Drive.

10 a.m. – Annual parade sponsored by Klamath Freedom Celebration Committee; Main St. to Veterans Park. Grand Marshal: SMSgt. Cody Pemberton, Bronze Star recipient.

11 a.m. – Ceremony at Veterans Park co-sponsored by 173rd Fighter Wing, VFW Post 1383. The Marine Corps League and Post 1383 will render military honors.

12 p.m. – Open house at each of the following: VFW Post 1383, 515 Klamath Ave., will serve a stew lunch. American Legion Post 8, 228 N 8th St., serving a chili feed, the Marine Corps League, 1018 Main St., will host a free spaghetti feed.

Michael Reynolds, 541-891-5749

La Pine

May 27 11 a.m. – A ceremony will be held at Community Cemetery, Reed Rd. off Hwy 97 with an open house afterwards at the American Legion Post 45, 52532 Drafter Rd.

Pat Cotton, 541-536-1402

La Grande

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 43 presents a Avenue of Flags and ceremony. Speaker: Roger Cochrane. The Avenue of Flags will be on display on Sat., May 25 and will remain lighted overnight at Grandview Cemetery.

Lonnie Myers, 541-963-2908

Lebanon

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 51 and Lebanon High School JROTC will present the colors and military honors during a ceremony at the IOOF Cemetery, 37295 Cemetery Rd., near Hwy 20. More than 500 burial flags will be on display. Over 1,300 U.S. flags and crosses will be placed on veterans graves.

Fred Schafer, 541-258-7453

Malin

May 27 7 a.m. – Annual Memorial Day Breakfast at Malin Park Community Hall, 2307 Front St. Cost: \$7.50 each; \$20 per family. All proceeds to support veteran and community needs.

10 a.m. – An Everlasting Ceremony will honor all deceased veterans.

Dennis Chabot, 541-723-2110

Madras

May 27 12 p.m. – Tribute ceremony at Sahalie Park, at 7th & B Streets, is hosted by American Legion Post 125. Free Hot Dog BBQ will follow. Donations accepted. Music: Tucker Band.

Keegan Hodges, 541-350-8009

Molalla

May 27 10 a.m. – VFW Post 3973 will hold a public ceremony at Adams Cemetery, Adams Cemetery Rd.

Jason Carroll, 503-824-3608

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

Mt. Angel

May 27 9:30 a.m. – Memorial Day service with flag presentation, Honor Guard and military gun salute at Calvary Cemetery, Hwy. 214.

10 a.m. – Mass will be offered. A reception will follow at American Legion Post 89, 740 College St.

Stephen Miller, 503-845-6460

Newberg

May 27 8 to 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 57 and VFW Post 4015 will conduct full military honors services at five local cemeteries starting at 8 a.m. at each location.

11 a.m. – A public ceremony at Memorial Park, SE 6th & Blaine, with a flag ceremony, Gettysburg Address recital, Memorial War roll call, and floral presentations by various groups. Speaker: Lt. Col. (ret.) Thomas Barnes, U.S. Army. All are welcome at the Community BBQ at 12 p.m.

Faith Gerstel, 503-538-9151

Oregon City

May 27 10 a.m. – Mountain View Cemetery, 500 Hilda St., will present floral tributes, military vehicles, Gardiner Middle School Band, bagpipers, and children's activities. Speaker: Iraq War veteran, Capt. (ret.) Ken Kraft, U.S. Army; Cdr., VFW Post 1324. Enjoy free refreshments and a BBQ. Coffee and donuts available for a charitable donation.

Mountain View Cemetery, 503-657-8299

Portland

May 24-25 The Portland Ballet Youth Company is offering veterans and active-duty military members special pricing for the Memorial weekend production of *Stars and Stripes*. Select the discounted \$15 ticket price when ordering online or when calling.

Theportlandballet.org, or call 503-452-8448

May 26 11 a.m. – Rededication of the Korean War Memorial at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd.

Bill Call, 503-784-7589, billsplymouth@aol.com

May 27 10 a.m. – Annual ceremony with live patriotic music, military honor guard, guest speakers, veterans' organizations flag procession at Willamette National Cemetery, 11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd.

Roger Huntley, 503-273-5250, roger.huntley@va.gov

May 27 10 a.m. – Reading of all 803 names of Oregon service members KIA who appear on the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial, 4022 SW Canyon Rd.

11:15 a.m. – Annual ceremony at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Living Memorial with military honors, rifle salute, Taps. Speaker: Jim Willis.

Ron Cannon, 503-819-4228

May 27 12 p.m. – Memorial Day concert series at Portland Rose Festival's City Fair, RoZone near Yamhill St. entrance to Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Military members, veterans (and one guest) get free entry to City Fair every day, May 24 - June 9, with a valid military/retiree/veteran ID. Memorial Day concerts: 12 p.m., Lew Jones; 1 p.m., Heroes; 3 p.m., Ceremonial Moment of Remembrance; 3:10 p.m., Oregon's 234th Army Band; 4:30 p.m., Sandy Saunders Band; 6 p.m., Steve Hales Trio; 7:30 p.m., Geno Michaels; 9 p.m., Usual Suspects.

Emily Morris, 503-227-2681

Prineville

May 27 - 11 a.m. – Annual parade from the Courthouse to the Firefighter Memorial Park, followed by a ceremony at Juniper Haven Cemetery, hosted by VFW Post 1412 and American Legion Post 27.

John Ferguson, 541-447-2329

Rainier

May 27 11 a.m. – Service conducted by American Legion Post 1909 at Hudson Cemetery, 75900 Larson Rd., with color guard and gun salute. Speaker: Pastor Paul Rice.

Roger Ege, 503-556-4119

Redmond

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony at Redmond Cemetery, Yew Ave. and Old Bend-Redmond Hwy, featuring an Avenue of Flags with 1,250 displayed downtown. Speakers: Brig. Gen. (ret.) Dennis Merrill, Mayor George Endicott.

Dennis Guthrie, 541-280-5161

Roseburg

May 27 11 a.m. – Ceremony at VA Cemetery Annex, with military honors rendered by VFW Dist. 12, Honor Guard, White Doves release, wreath presentations, reading "In Flanders Field," Taps. Speakers: Dr. Tim Godlove, National Cemetery Admin., Carol Bogedain, director, Roseburg VAMC.

Dodie Blessing, 541-784-6250

Salem

May 27 11 a.m. – The ceremony is hosted by Greater Salem Area Veterans Organization at City View Cemetery, 390 Hoyt St. SE. Military honors presented by JROTC units from McNary and North Salem High Schools. Multiple ceremonial wreaths to be presented. Speaker: Tom Mann, ODVA. A free lunch will follow at VFW Post 661, 630 Hood St. NE.

Marcia Read, 503-779-6568

May 27 3 p.m. – Ceremony at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial, 700 Summer St. NE. Army Capt. James D. Nehl's name will be added to the Memorial Wall. Speaker: Cameron Smith, director, Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs. All names of Oregon KIAs from both wars inscribed on to the wall will be read during the ceremony. Military honors: Oregon National Guard Select Honor Guard.

Mike Allegre, 503-373-2389

Scappoose

May 27 10 a.m. – Memorial Service with Honor Guard presenting all service branch flags, a 21-gun salute, and Taps played at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church Cemetery, 51555 Old Portland Rd. Refreshments to be served. A free-will offering will be given to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

Bernard Offley, 503-706-6693

Seaside

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 99 and Seaside Elks #1748 will conduct a ceremony at the Post, 1359 Broadway. Speaker: Col. Dean Perez, Oregon Army National Guard.

Lou Neubecker, 503-717-0152

Selma

May 27 11:45 a.m. – Ceremony at Deer Creek Cemetery on Lake Shore Dr.

Bob Soria, 541-592-6856

Sisters

May 27 11 a.m. – A memorial service will be held at the Village Green Park, at Fir St. and Washington Ave. followed by a BBQ. Speaker: Jim Horsley, former Navy Blue Angels pilot.

Pat Bowe, 541-588-0192

Springfield

May 27 9 a.m. – American Legion Post 40 Flag Ceremony at Mohawk and I St. Guest speakers include Mayor Christine Lundberg.

Frank Blair, 541-998-2839

May 27 10 a.m. – Ceremony at Springfield Memorial Gardens, 5305 Main St. Speaker: Bob Welch, Eugene Register-Guard. Music: Willamette HS Topnotchers Choir. Military Honors: Oregon Army National Guard.

Dee Harbison, 541-686-2818

Terrebonne

May 27 9 a.m. – A memorial ceremony will be held at Pioneer Cemetery, 485 NW Larch Ave.

Dennis Guthrie, 541-280-5161

The Dalles

May 27 12 p.m. – A memorial, wreath laying, military honors by American Legion Post 19 will be held at the Kelly Viewpoint Veterans Memorial.

May 27 2 p.m. – A memorial service, military honors by American Legion Post 19 will be held at the Oregon Veterans' Home, 700 Veterans Dr.

Vandee Mauser, 541-993-4300

Tigard

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 158 will honor veterans at Crescent Grove Cemetery, 9925 SW Greenburg Rd. Veteran's Color Guard, Bag pipe music. Speaker: Marland Henderson, Tigard City Council Pres. An Avenue of Flags will be displayed all weekend. Potluck is served, 12:30 p.m., at the post, 8635 SW Scoffins St.

Bernie Healy, 503-692-5700 or 503-624-2332

Tillamook

May 27 11 a.m. – Sunset Heights Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 7800 Trask River Rd. Tillamook Community Band will be performing patriotic music, guest speakers, presentation of the colors, reading names of Tillamook County veterans that have died since May 2012. Taps will be played. Refreshments served following the ceremony.

Dean Crist, 503-842-6213

Tualatin

May 27 11 a.m. – A ceremony at Winona Cemetery, 9900 SW Tualatin Rd., will include guest speakers: Pearl Harbor survivor Monty Montague; Oregon's only living Medal of Honor recipient, Robert Maxwell; Ore. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici; State Rep. Julie Parish. Tualatin Police Honor Guard and static display by Tualatin Valley Fire Dept. Taps: WWII submariner, George Hager. Free community picnic follows.

Dale Potts, 503-692-1832, dalepotts@gmail.com

Vernonia

May 27 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 104 members will conduct the ceremony at Memorial Cemetery, 2080 Bridge St. Speaker: Del White, Commander, Post 104. The Post Honor Guard will post the Colors, fire a 21-gun salute, play Taps.

Bill Shields, 503-649-5099, bill760@frontier.com

Wasco

May 27 - 10:30 a.m. – Ceremony at the Historic Train Depot, Clark and Fulton Streets followed by the annual parade. Veterans are invited to ride on the parade float. Enjoy a BBQ lunch, car and truck show, and a pastry auction.

Cassie Strege, 541-442-5515

Wilsonville

May 27 - 11 a.m. – The Oregon Trail Chapter, Korean War Veterans of America will host a ceremony at Oregon's Korean War Memorial with a commemorative reading. Taps will be played. Located off I-5, exit 283, 10 miles south of Portland. Follow the signs to Town Center Park.

Chuck Lusardi, 503-628-1847

Woodburn

May 27 - 10:30 a.m. – The annual Remembrance Ceremony is hosted by American Legion Post 46 at Belle Passi Cemetery, 997 Belle Passi Cemetery Rd. An Avenue of Flags will have nearly 300 burial flags.

Dan Evers, 503-628-1847

Also visit www.oregondva.com for updated Memorial Day Event information.



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

AFGHAN-IRAQI
FREEDOM MEMORIAL

MAY 27 @ 3 P.M.

OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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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.

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 to the Oregon Veterans' Home during the months of March and April 2013

Albert Powell
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 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 11
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 American Legion Carl B. Benton Post 20
 American Legion Post 106
 American Legion Post 2, Oregon
 American Legion Post 2, Washington
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 Betty Jack
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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



KOREAN WAR VETS TO CELEBRATE 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Korean War has been called a war that never really ended and left the Korean peninsula divided in 1953 after more than two million Koreans died, and thousands of families were separated. It created the world's most heavily fortified border and also drew the alliances that exist today.

In just over three years of fighting, more than 33,600 Americans were killed in battle and nearly 8,200 were missing in action. Oregon lost 298 military members in Korea.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement of 1953, the Korean War Veterans of America, Dept. of Oregon, and the Oregon Trail Chapter, will be hosting a program, Saturday, July 27, at 9:30 a.m. The backdrop will be the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville.

The event coordinator, Don Cohen, and Oregon Trail Chapter President Chuck Lusardi said this anniversary is being commemorated nationwide.

"We are working diligently to organize this major event which we endeavor to honor these war's veterans while paying respect to all military personnel that have served and continue to serve. For many, this may be our last big hoorah," Lusardi said.

Along with support from local military and other organizations, Lusardi said several guest speakers will address the large crowd expected, including Korean War veterans, South Korean officials, military and civic leaders. Oregon's 234th Army Band will provide ceremonial music.

The memorial is located off Interstate 5 at exit 283, about 10 miles south of Portland, then follow the signs.

For more information contact Lusardi at 503-628-1847 or luallenrd6@gmail.com.

NEW!

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PHOTO COURTESY FRED HILL



PHOTO COURTESY FRED HILL

Fred Hill's photos taken in March 1945 shows the devastation of Manila during World War II. Hill has sent 51 photos he took during a three-day period after the liberation of Manila to the Filipino government.

OREGON SOLDIER'S WWII PHOTOS OF WAR-TORN MANILA

By Dick Mason / Reprinted by permission from The LaGrande Observer

LA GRANDE — Fred Hill of La Grande was heartened by what he saw and disheartened by what he did not see in Manila 68 years ago.

Hill, then a U.S. Army Air Corps photographer and previously a member of Oregon's 123rd Observation Squadron, was in Manila on a three-day pass in March 1945. The Philippines had recently been freed by the United States from three years of a brutal Japanese occupation, following a bloody month-long battle.

"You never saw such happy people," Hill said. Manila, known as "Pearl of the Orient" prior to World War II, was not even a shell of her former self. Hill said Filipinos were greeting all American soldiers as liberators.

"They just opened their arms. They were so welcoming," he said.

Their freedom had come at a steep price — more than 100,000 civilians had died in the battle of Manila. Bombing had erased many homes and left thousands of others without roofs.

"It was unbelievable, I was shocked," Hill said.

Today, the Filipino government wants to view what Hill saw 68 years ago. He recently received a request from the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office in the Philippines for prints of some of the 78 photos of Manila he took and collected in March 1945. Hill has sent 51 of the Manila photos to the Filipino government.

The photos show people bathing and washing at street corner fire hydrants because they had no running water. Houses had been gutted by bombs and people released from Japanese-run prisons had nowhere to sleep but except on outdoor cots.

Hill, who grew up in Elgin, was with an Army Air Corps photo reconnaissance unit which processed pictures taken by crews on reconnaissance planes that returned from flights over islands occupied by the Japanese.

Hill's unit, the 17th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, was in the Philippines island of Mindoro,

about 400 miles southwest of Manila when he asked his commander for permission to visit the nation's capital on a three-day pass. Hill's commander granted him and friend Dick Baxter a "wild cat pass," but with a good-natured warning.

"He told me that he knew where we were, but if I got into trouble 'I never heard of you,'" Hill said. "Neither Dick nor I drank or smoked, so he had little to be concerned about."

Hill and Baxter had nowhere to stay when they arrived in Manila but were taken in by the family of an assistant editor of the Manila Post who provided a dinner to the two soldiers.

"They hosted us royally with a meal and entertainment," Hill said.

The family did not have overnight accommodations for the two men but directed them to an abandoned prison where they slept each night in relative comfort on cots.

The black and white photos Hill snapped in Manila are among more than a thousand he took while in the South Pacific during World War II. More than 50 of Hill's WWII photographs have been published in history books.

Hill said when he visited Manila in 1945 he felt safe even though the fighting had ended only about a week earlier. The photographer admits he had no idea in 1945 that the photos he was taking in Manila would be valued today by the Philippines' government.

"Heavens, no," he said. "I went there just because I wanted to show my family (later via photographs) what was going on."



PHOTO COURTESY FRED HILL

Sgt. Fred Hill took a break in a steamy Philippine jungle after developing aerial reconnaissance photos during World War II.

Get your Oregon Drivers License with your veteran status today.

Visit your local DMV for details.

“HIGH FLYERS” FELLOWSHIP AND STORIES IN THE DALLES

By Mike Allegre

When you put together military aviators from days gone by, most often you will get a history lesson with some friendly banter only pilots tend to toss around. In The Dalles, a group of aviators has been meeting weekly since 1994. Most are in their 80s and 90s and served their time in World War II, Korea or Vietnam.

It began at a local restaurant with a handful of guys brought together by the late Walt Erickson. The meetings have moved several times and eventually landed at the Oregon Veterans Home. This group of veterans shares plenty of laughter, camaraderie and personal experiences each Thursday.

Larry Bellarts lives in Boring Oregon and travels up the Gorge to each meeting. Bellarts was a B-17 pilot who flew 30 missions in World War II and he shares the sentiments of many of the High Flyers.

“If I can make it, I won’t miss being here with these guys. It’s a tradition,” he said.

Now 90, and a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, Bellarts withstood the dangers of combat missions in a B-17, C-46 cargo planes in Korea and C-130s in Vietnam. His story is one of survival following one attack late in the war over Germany by a ME-262 jet that came a little too close. The German pilot had just shot his three wingmen down.

“So, I ordered my tail gunner to shoot him just as he passed by us. He led him well and I saw him, dead in the cockpit as he fell away.”

Just across the table is 9th Air Force P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber pilot David Childs of The Dalles, another one of the founding group members. He joked, “They didn’t have enough bomber pilots so they asked me to come.”

Childs’s painful story has been heard by many of these men. On his 48th and final combat mission he sustained terrible burns as he parachuted from a fiery cockpit after taking ground fire while attacking two German locomotives on Nov. 17, 1944. He bailed out before his plane crashed and hit hard in a few inches of snow. As a POW, a French medical staff treated both of his legs, hands, and face for first and second degree burns at a German field hospital between Luxembourg and the Rhine River.

“I got to the Rhine before Gen. Patton did, which is fitting because we were his flying artillery.”

His fellow POWs helped in his recovery at Stalag 4B in Muhlberg, north of Dresden. He was released May 9, 1945, the day after Germany surrendered to the Allies and by mid-June Childs was back home in Arlington.

“That was six months, 26 days and a steak sandwich after I left on my last mission,” Childs said.

A loadmaster for four years, flying aboard some of the Air Force’s biggest propeller driven cargo

planes in the 1960s, Jerry Meligan, 78, has been a High Flyer for eight years. Living in The Dalles makes it easy. Militarily, he was part of the early delivery of ammunition into Laos in the early-1960s before America’s involvement in Vietnam escalated. Meligan is happy to be one of the first non-pilots to join the group.

“These guys came from all over, from central to western Oregon and Portland. They are a special generation, and they always say, ‘no that was our parents.’ They’re all real gentlemen, educated and I like being around them,” Meligan added.

Over the years, the group has numbered between 40 and 50 and have hosted some very wonderful and prominent veterans sharing time together including the late-Rex Barber (Marine pilot who shot down Japanese Admiral Yamamoto) from Culver, Hood River’s former Flying Tiger, the late-Ken Jernstedt, and former WASP Anna Monkiewicz of The Dalles.”

“We have about 10 who attend now,” Childs said, whose vision is impaired and he can’t drive. “It’s pretty important to me and I miss very few meetings. There aren’t that many of us anymore. And to be still meeting with these fellas for all these years, that’s something.”

Since moving to the Home from Keizer more than four years ago, John Sullivan, 94, is always at the table. Injured in an aircraft training accident during the war, “Sully” said he loves “all of the BS.”

“We all agree it’s a great time,” he said. “Almost every time some guy’s got a story that’s a little better.”

These shared memories aren’t just for one or two generations. The Home’s State Liaison Officer, Dallas Swafford, a former active duty and current National Guard soldier, has been there since November 2012. Swafford has attended almost every meeting and is astounded at the camaraderie and friendship these men and other friends have developed.

“For someone from my generation, it’s a humbling experience to have the opportunity to be there and take time to listen to them share their memories and to learn how their experience as veterans shaped who they are now. While I am truly honored to be part of the group,” Swafford said, “I find it somewhat sad that fewer people from my generation are able to listen to their experiences and appreciate what they’ve been through and what they’ve sacrificed for the rest of us – making the experience bittersweet for me at times.”

“I believe it’s my duty to carry the torch for this bunch of battle buddies so that their stories are not lost. I consider myself a group member, and in some sense a curator of their stories to ensure these memories live on.”

TUITION ASSISTANCE RESTORED UNTIL END OF SEPTEMBER

This past March when Tuition Assistance (TA) funding was abruptly eliminated due to the sequestration budget cuts within the Department of Defense, many veterans and service members who use the program to pay for college scrambled for alternate ways to continue their education.

Fortunately, on March 21st, in response to the overwhelming reaction of those impacted, Congress passed the new 2013 federal spending bill HR 933, which instructed the Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps to restart their TA programs. It also prohibited the Navy, which never stopped TA, from reducing the level of benefits until the end of the fiscal year. Even though the Coast Guard, which falls under the Homeland Security Department, was not mandated to restart their program through HR 933, officials also decided to reinstate TA benefits until the end of the fiscal year.

HR 933 did help fix the immediate funding issues with Tuition Assistance, but with the end of this fiscal year approaching, it appears to only be a band-aid on a much larger issue. The new budget bill does not erase the \$43 billion in spending cuts for the Department of Defense this year. Congress also did not provide the additional funding to DoD’s budget for Tuition Assistance, leaving the service branches needing to cut in other areas in order to continuing paying for the program.

The forecasted budgets for all of the service branches indicate that TA will be back in 2014, however, there does seem to be a lot of discussion about possible changes in the future to the benefit. An article written for the Air Force Times by Rick Maze, reported that eligibility rules may be tightened to stretch available funding. Many of the service branches are pushing to return to the pre-2000 model, under which the services paid 75 percent of tuition and troops kicked in the other 25 percent. The rationale behind that idea is not only to stretch the program’s funding, but also to force troops to put some “skin in the game” and give them more of an incentive to complete their courses.

The Tuition Assistance program is a military benefit that definitely makes an impact with our service men and women. It provides education opportunities while in the Armed Forces and helps prepare service members for transition back into civilian life after service.

With uncertainty surrounding the availability of funding for many worthy programs and benefits, veterans and service members are encouraged to contact the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs to explore other earned veteran education benefits.

1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)

NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR FEMALE VETERANS LAUNCHED

The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the launch of the toll-free line at 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636).

“Some women veterans may not know about high-quality VA care and services available to them,” VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement. “The hotline will allow us to field their questions and provide critical information about the latest enhancements in VA services.”

Women make up nearly 15 percent of the active-

duty military and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserves. The VA says the number of women using VA health care has more than doubled from nearly 160,000 in 2000 to more than 354,000 in 2012 and is expected to continue rising.

In Oregon there are more than 25,000 women veterans and with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, more women are returning home to Oregon with unique and sometimes challenging medical needs.

In 2009, Oregon initiated the country’s first

legislative task force on health care for women and in 2010, the task force submitted a final report to the legislature with a list of findings and recommendations. Lawmakers in 2011 translated many of those recommendations into bills, including HB 2406 which established a toll-free 24-hour hotline to assist victims of MST.

Although the bill did not make it into law, the need of women veterans’ health care issued that had been long overlooked now has traction and a voice.

There are thousands of untold stories of the Americans who fought on or near the frontlines and endured their own wartime experiences.

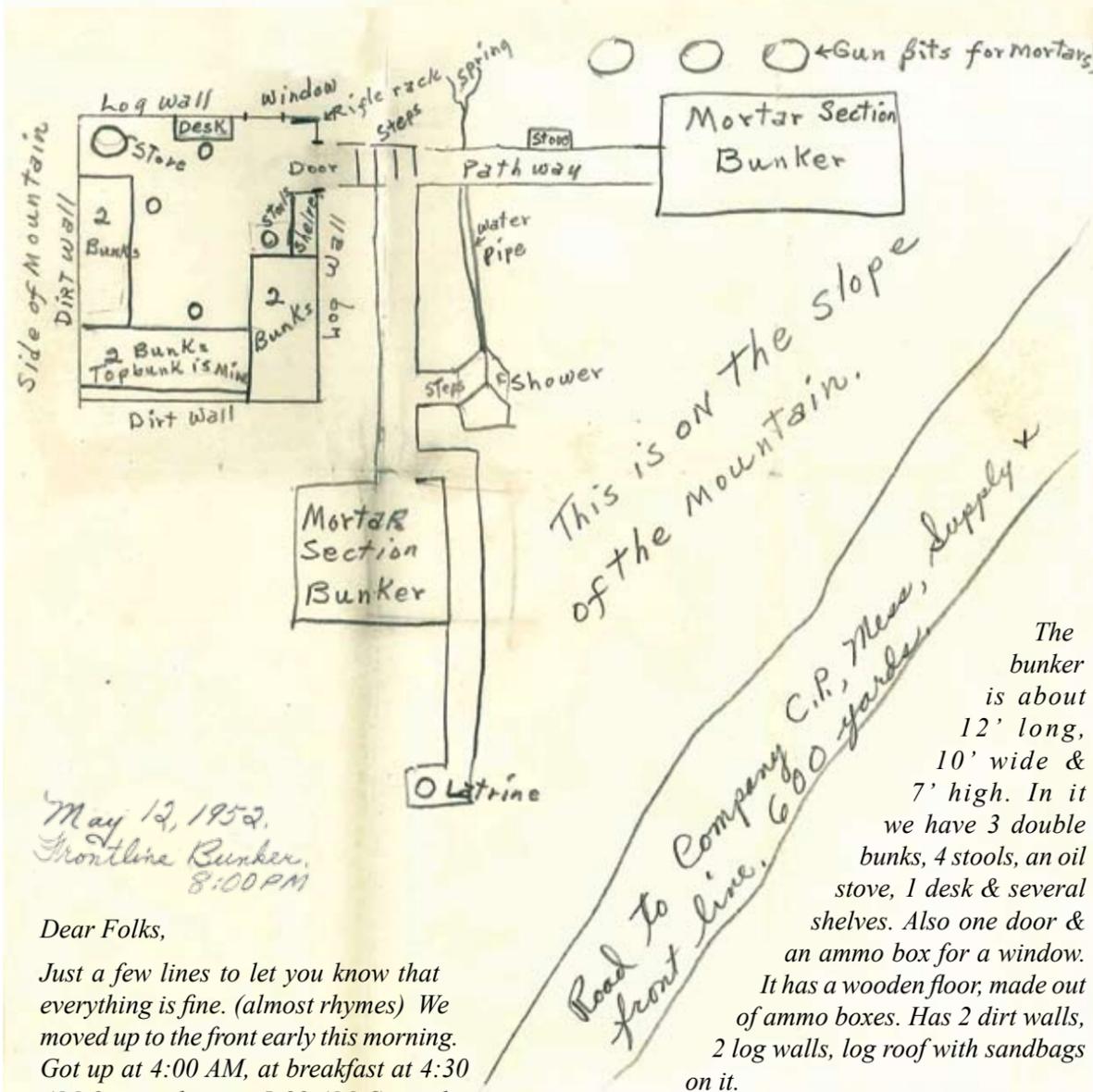
In May 1952, a young U.S. Army soldier from The Dalles, Archie "Sonny" Robertson, Jr., was on the front lines in Korea. He had been in the Army for two years and was three months shy of his 19th birthday. He had recently survived one of the coldest winters in Korea's history and was with a company of men who were on the move.

In a letter to his parents, Robertson wrote of his life on the front lines.

men on personal hygiene, let the squad leaders know about any patrols they will cover, how much ammo they will fire as harassing fire, & a few other things that don't amount to much.

It generally takes about 2 hours to get around to all the squads. Depends on how long I sit & talk.

I sleep in a bunker, about 600 yards down, on the reverse slope. It's the 4th platoon C.P. bunker, There's six of us sleeping in here. Lt. Huff, the platoon leader, S.F.C. Langley, the platoon sgt, Cpl Compton, the Mortar Section leader, a platoon runner or messenger, a platoon medic, & myself.



May 12, 1952.
Frontline Bunker.
8:00 PM

Dear Folks,

Just a few lines to let you know that everything is fine. (almost rhymes) We moved up to the front early this morning. Got up at 4:00 AM, at breakfast at 4:30 AM & moved out at 5:00 AM. Since then I've been on the run & am pretty tired tonight, so should sleep good.

May 13, 1952 10:30 AM

Hi Again!

As you can plainly see, I didn't get much writing done last night. The mail came in & I delivered it around to the fellas, as our platoon runner hasn't learned yet where the guys are located. I didn't get back to the bunker until 9:30 PM so went right to bed.

Yesterday I got all my squads moved into position & pretty well set up. Our company is controlling three peaks. I've got one "57" squad on the top of the left peak, one "57" squad on the top of the center peak & the "50" caliber squad about halfway down the finger, on the right flank.

My job will be a little easier now that I've got everything situated.

Each morning after breakfast, I have to go around to all the squads in my section & get ammo report, check the weapons, check the

The bunker is about 12' long, 10' wide & 7' high. In it we have 3 double bunks, 4 stools, an oil stove, 1 desk & several shelves. Also one door & an ammo box for a window. It has a wooden floor, made out of ammo boxes. Has 2 dirt walls, 2 log walls, log roof with sandbags on it.

We have a shower right outside our door, hooked up to a nice cold spring. Also have places to heat C-rations & water for washing. It's really a nice set-up. Hope to stay a long time. I'll try to draw you a diagram of it [above].

As you can see, it's a pretty good set-up. Abe Lincoln never had it any better.

Last night was the first time I slept stateside, (without my clothes on) since I've been in Korea. I'm eating some crackers with peanut butter & jam. Got a 1 gallon can of peanut butter & a gallon can jam from the mess hall & got lots of crackers in C-rations so gives us something to piece on between meals.

Haven't had any mail for 3 or 4 days now, expect a letter from Donna Shaw. Well, that about covers everything up until now, so will close.



Love,
Sonny

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| Military Order of the Purple Heart | 503-412-4770 |
| Paralyzed Veterans of America | 503-412-4762 |
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Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Offices

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

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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.

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OREGON'S STORY
10 YEARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN
 PLUS: MEMORIAL DAY 2013 EDITION - HONORING OREGONS' FALLEN HEROES



OREGONIANS ANSWERED THE NATIONS CALL

Throughout Oregon's history, men and women from every corner of the state have courageously given their youth, and sometimes their very lives, to the hands of war for our country. Nearly 6,000 Oregonians have lost their lives in the line of duty. Those who served – whether by choice or by draft – dutifully answered the nation's call, sacrificing for the greater good.

This year marks 10 years since the country witnessed the "shock and awe" of a war half a world

away. Since then, operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have made up the longest sustained U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War. More than 30,000 Oregonians from all five service branches have been deployed in support of these operations and 137 have died.

There are countless stories of events and individuals that tell Oregon's role in these operations. As the largest mobilization and deployment overseas for the Oregon National Guard since World War II,

SEE OREGON'S STORY PAGE 4

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