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Jim Willis, Director

REMEMBERING THE DAY OF INFAMY 70 YEARS LATER



Pearl Harbor Survivor Served on USS California

By Mike Allegre

Nearly 70 years have passed since that fateful day at Pearl Harbor that drew America into an engulfing world war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and generations of healing. And regardless of how much time has passed, for Virgil Taylor of Keizer, that day remains engrained in his mind - vivid as the day he lived it.

At dawn on Dec. 7, 1941, the pride of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was docked at Pearl Harbor. Seven battleships were moored in pairs along Battleship Row: *Maryland* with *Oklahoma* and *Tennessee* with *West Virginia*. Behind the *Tennessee* lay *Arizona*. The repair ship *Vestal* was alongside. Last in line was the *USS Nevada*. Taylor was aboard the Navy's Battle Force flagship *USS California*, which was moored alone.

Just before 8:00 a.m., newly promoted Machinist's Mate First Class, Taylor was writing a letter to his mother when the sound of general quarters jolted him. The South Dakota native, who had joined the Navy to get money for college,

thought it "was a lousy time for a drill." As he left his quarters and arrived in the engine room, the whole ship vibrated. He thought a fuel tanker had accidentally bumped his ship.

Little did Taylor know that in the air above, America was being thrust into history as 40 Japanese torpedo planes and 27 dive bombers descended and flew low along the harbor. Their ordinance began slamming into ships, tearing at the fabric of America and instantaneously, awakening the sleeping giant.

"We were hit by a torpedo in the bow (forward) part of the ship and then another slammed into us aft (rear)," Taylor recalled. "It took out our steering and fires had started. Guys were everywhere and we got word the Japanese were after us. We started to open steam valves to get the engines moving. We were so busy we didn't even know we were being attacked even though the ship had begun to list to the left."

As the crew was trying to get the engines moving, a 550 pound bomb tore through several decks and

landed about 20 feet from Taylor's locker and ignited an anti-aircraft ammunition magazine. A second bomb ruptured the ship's bow plates. The *California* could not get underway.

"Then the lights went out and the chief told all of us to get out of there."

SEE SURVIVOR ON PAGE 4

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EVEN IN WAR, THERE ARE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Director's Message

Jim Willis,
Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

On Friday, November 11, 2011 we will once again celebrate Veterans Day. It is difficult to put into words what this day means to so many people here in Oregon and around the world. Suffice to say that our veterans have affected countries and their people on a worldwide basis.

As an example, for as violent as war can be, those of us who have seen war can also tell you about the many acts of kindness that were the direct result of our veterans doing what they could to take care of foreign people and even their animals.

It was that can of C-rations given to a village elder, a stick of chewing gum for a crying child, or that scrap of meat for a stray dog. The veterans I served with thought nothing of sharing what little they had with people that they did not know, and in most cases, would never see again.

These were the acts of people who, while fighting a war, did not lose their humanity or sense of right and wrong. For some, their service in the uniform of our armed forces was the best they would ever be. For others it was simply a prelude to what they would accomplish with the rest of their lives.

In any case, the overwhelming majority of our veterans served with honor and respect and remember their service with a feeling of pride in their fellow veterans and their mission, be it during peacetime or war.

This Veterans Day once again finds us at war in countries far from home. Our all-volunteer U.S. Armed Forces continue to serve with a commitment that is as old as our nation and beyond. These young men and women understand their mission and the commitment they have made to our country and to each other.

I hope that on this Veterans Day you will get a chance to spend some time with some of these great young people, and with your fellow veterans. It is a chance to renew our devotion to our country and the principles that have carried us forward since our Declaration of Independence. Please check this issue of VETS NEWS on pages 8 and 9 for Veterans Day activities close to your home.

This November also offers us a chance to wish all current and former members of the United States Marine Corps a happy 236th birthday!

This December we will pause to remember the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. As one way to pay tribute to those who were at Pearl Harbor and all who served in WWII, let me suggest that you make a donation to Oregon's WWII Memorial Foundation.

Simply make out a check to the WWII Memorial Foundation, 805 Skyline Crest Road, Portland, OR 97229.

When you make your donation, you can also do so in the name of a WWII veteran who may be a friend or family member. All we need is their name, rank, branch of service (see WWII Memorial Donation Form on page 4).

When you get the receipt for your donation, you will also receive a certificate suitable for framing that will honor your WWII veteran. The WWII Memorial Foundation is a [501 c (3)] non-profit dedicated to the construction of Oregon's WWII Memorial on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Happy Veterans Day,

Jim Willis, Director



GOV. APPOINTS MAYER TO VA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SALEM – Governor John Kitzhaber has appointed retired Col. Mary J. Mayer to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA). Mayer replaces Nancy Visser whose term expired on Aug. 31. Mayer's term began on Sept. 7, and will run through Sept. 6, 2016.

"We are very pleased and excited about Mary joining the Advisory Committee," ODVA Director Jim Willis said. "We are committed to ensuring diversity on our Advisory Committee so, ensuring that we have the women veterans' perspective is vital to our mission. I trust that she will be a strong advisor on those and other issues."



Mary Mayer

After Mayer earned an undergraduate degree and taught three years at St. Helens Junior High School, she was commissioned in 1972 as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force.

Throughout her 30-year career, she served in a variety of intelligence, personnel policy, administration, contracting, program management, and special duty assignment positions.

Mayer retired in December 2002. Her major military awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC).

Currently, Mayer is doing part-time consulting work and making major contributions of her time and talent in support of various veteran and community activities.

The Advisory Committee was formed by statute in 1945 to provide input to the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. It is a nine-person committee that plays an active advisory role in the effective administration of the department.



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Input for the next issue must be received by December 1.

YELLOW RIBBON VETERANS ENDOWMENT

Across the United States approximately 12 percent of all people experiencing homelessness are identified as a veteran.

When the Corvallis Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Military Officer Club of Corvallis (MOCC) received an \$800 Give Me Ten (GMT) incentive check, the organizations established the Yellow Ribbon Veterans Endowment with the Benton County Foundation.

The funds are being used to help homeless and needy veterans in the mid-Willamette Valley. For many veterans the return "home" has meant no home, hunger, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), drug and alcohol abuse or coping with a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The endowment is supporting veterans through Community Outreach, Inc. (COI). In 2010, COI provided emergency shelter to 34 homeless veterans, 19 of whom went on to enter their transitional housing program.

This endowment also provides an annual source of funding to assist veterans in getting personal, one-on-one case management services. COI helps them in finding permanent housing options and access to additional resources to assist in gaining the skills necessary for long-term self-sufficiency. Homeless veterans also have access to basic medical and dental care through COI's medical clinics for the uninsured. And their food pantries, community kitchen and showers assist individuals, including veterans, in need of basic services.

To learn how to support the Endowment Fund, visit the foundation's website: www.bentoncountyfoundation.org/scholarships/military-science-scholarships.

NEW LAW TO HELP VETERANS GET JOB INTERVIEWS

SALEM – With veteran unemployment skyrocketing, the Oregon Legislature agreed last session that veterans with proven military skills and education that meet the minimum requirements for public positions should be automatically interviewed for the job.

House Bill 3207 was originally introduced by Mac MacDonald and the United Veterans Groups of Oregon and would have required every veteran be interviewed for a public position. However, many felt the original bill was too broad. MacDonald worked with Associated Oregon Counties, League of Oregon Cities, the state and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to craft an amendment to the bill that passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor.

First identified as a significant issue by the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services, veteran unemployment has been a key issue for those working on reintegrating veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. When the Oregon National Guard 41st Brigade returned to Oregon from Iraq last year, more than half of the 2,300 soldiers were unemployed.

HB 3207, as amended, looked to address the problem in a way that was fair, yet gave veterans the opportunity to meet hiring managers face to face. "We believe that when hiring managers meet these veterans they will be impressed with the quality of these people," ODVA Director Jim Willis said. "Unfortunately, veterans sometimes have a hard time translating their military education, skills and abilities to civilian job announcements and thus do not get the chance to be interviewed

even though they are very qualified."

Under the provisions of HB 3207, veterans who clearly show on their public employment applications that their military education, skills and abilities are directly transferable and meet the minimum qualification and desired attributes will automatically get an interview for the position. The goal of HB 3207 is to give veterans more opportunities to prove their worth to public sector civilian employers.

"Although these public employers are not obligated to hire the veteran, we believe these veterans can do a great job of selling themselves to win these positions," Willis said.

"People who served in the military know how to show up to work on time, focus on the mission and finish the job in a competent and professional manner. Who wouldn't want to hire an employee like that?"

The ODVA will continue to work with MacDonald and UVGO, as well as the National Guard Reintegration Team, the Oregon Employment Department, AOC, LOC, the state's human resource managers and individual veterans to help these veterans appropriately describe how their military experience transfers to public employment positions.

"We see this as a win-win law," Willis said. "More veterans will have the opportunity to obtain gainful employment and public employers will gain outstanding men and women who will be tremendous employees for years to come."

2012 OREGON Women Veterans CONFERENCE

THE GRAND HOTEL IN SALEM
SALEM CONFERENCE CENTER

March 30-31

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTER, DONATE, BECOME A VENDOR AND FIND MORE INFORMATION ONLINE AT www.oregon.gov/odva/wvc.shtml



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OPEN TO ALL WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY

NO COST FOR PARTICIPATION

FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES TARGETING VETERANS LIVING IN RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Sam Speciale isn't the kind of veteran you usually hear about. The World War II veteran served in the European Theater on an anti-aircraft gun crew. He tells the story about how his position was bombed so many times that he lost count. After two years in England, Belgium and France, Sam returned home and built a good life.

When Sam called the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, he thought he may be eligible for benefits he never knew existed, but it all sounded just a little too good to be true. A man had come to his retirement home offering veterans between \$2,500 and \$3,000 a month in VA benefits to help pay the cost of his retirement home.

However, in order to receive this money, Sam was told he had to sign over his assets to this company to manage in some type of trust. If Sam would do that, the man and his company would submit all the necessary paperwork to get him this VA money.

Unfortunately, Sam is not the only one being approached by for-profit firms, and it's not just happening in Oregon. All over the country, private companies have figured out a way to target aging veterans and convince them to sign up for a VA benefit known as Pension with Aid and Attendance.

While what these companies are doing is completely legal, many question the methods being used by these companies in their pursuit of veterans and the profits they hope to make from these claims.

VA Pension is a benefit that is provided to low-income veterans who served 90 consecutive days with at least one day in a combat zone, and is totally disabled not due to military service. Veterans must also be over the age of 65 to qualify and have an income of no more than \$925 a month. If qualified, the VA will provide a veteran a pension amount that will bring the veterans total income up to that \$925 amount.

However, if the veteran is severely disabled the VA can provide an extra monetary benefit called Aid and Attendance. It is meant for veterans needing significant in-home care or skilled nursing care.

Sam doesn't qualify for either program.

However, if Sam would have allowed the company

that approached him to put his assets in a trust – essentially divesting Sam from his money – then he would have met the financial, military and age requirements for VA Pension. And, at this point it is legal to do this.

Yet, Sam still does not qualify for Aid and Attendance; his health is not at a level where he needs that significant level of care.

Under federal law, people like the man trying to sell Sam this program are not allowed to charge a fee to file an initial claim. Also, they are required to disclose that they are not the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, what is not disclosed is that these companies are allowed to charge a fee for an appeal should the VA turn down a claim. Had he agreed to file a claim for Aid and Attendance and lost, the company could have charged Sam a fee to file an appeal.

Every month, dozens of veterans just like Sam call ODVA or their local county veteran service office to see if the deal they are being offered by these companies is for real.

In response, ODVA contacted both the Federal VA and United States Sen. Ron Wyden to determine if there are regulations or laws that need to be written to stop the practice of offering Pension with Aid and Attendance to veterans who do not qualify for the benefit unless they hide their assets in a trust. Further, ODVA is working with the Oregon Legislature on similar legislation.

ODVA Director Jim Willis has been very clear about the agency's stance on these for-profit companies. "No veteran should ever be charged a fee to file a claim for the benefits they earned through their honorable service – ever!"

ODVA will continue to work with its federal partners and political leaders to place proper boundaries around companies that want veterans to pay claims service. If you or any veteran you know needs claims services, these services are provided free by ODVA and by county veteran services officers throughout the state.

If you need more information about claims services or your veteran benefits, please contact ODVA at 503-373-2085.

SURVIVOR FROM PAGE 1

Burning oil from the *Arizona* had begun floating toward the stern of the *California*. As ordered, Taylor began climbing to the second deck to abandon ship but what he saw stopped him dead in his tracks.

"All we could see was blue sky. The deck above us was gone. A bomb had peeled that three-quarter inch steel deck back. The water was 30 feet below and we jumped in. When we came to the surface a Japanese Zero flew by and strafed us."

Like Taylor, most men began to swim hard towards Ford Island and were hoisted aboard a ferry boat. "From on deck I looked around for the first time. The *Oklahoma* was lying on her side and all I could see was thick black smoke coming from the *Arizona*."

Within 15-20 minutes of jumping from the ship, the wind shifted, forcing the oil slick away from the *California*. The captain called his men back onboard to fight the fires. The U.S. flag was raised on the ship's fantail and sailors hurried back aboard.

Taylor was a survivor but because of an injury that hospitalized him, the War Department listed him as missing in action and then, killed in action. On December 16th, his mother was notified of his death.



Virgil Taylor

As the government was consulting with her about funeral arrangements, she received a Christmas card from her son. It was mailed after the attack.

"It's a common name and things were kind of confused there for a while," Taylor recalled. "Right after Christmas they heard I was ok."

Today he still remembers the sounds and the smells of the attack like it was yesterday. "We recovered the remains of our dead shipmates. It was an awful job. So many guys had been badly burned and dismembered," Taylor remembered. "But I can't talk about that."

The damage in Pearl Harbor was horrendous. The *California* had lost 98 of its 1,800 officers and crew, with 61 more wounded. She came to rest on the bottom of the harbor along with the *West Virginia*.

The *Arizona* was not salvageable and 1,177 of her crew perished. The *Oklahoma* had capsized with sailors trapped inside. The *Nevada* had been beached.

In all 2,335 U.S. servicemen and 68 civilians were killed at Pearl Harbor. Another 1,178 were wounded.

Six of the eight battleships were eventually repaired and returned to service. Taylor was later assigned to the *USS Pensacola* until June 1942, but was then reassigned to the *California* just in time to take part in the Battle of Midway. He later saw action in the battles of Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf, Saipan and Okinawa.

And after 20 years of honorable military service, Taylor retired from the Navy in 1957. He eventually settled in Salem with his second wife Gloria, who passed away in 2010.

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Taylor will celebrate his 95th birthday. While Taylor has trouble at times remembering all the names and places from his naval service, the vivid memories of Pearl Harbor from 70 years ago remain etched in his memory.

World War II Memorial Donation Form

Yes, I would like to donate toward to construction of Oregon's WW II Memorial.

Please make out your check to: WW II Memorial Foundation, 805 Skyline Crest Road, Portland, OR 97229.

Amount donated: \$ _____

Please mail my receipt and a certificate to honor the above named WW II veteran to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

(This section is optional)

My donation is made in honor of the following WW II veteran.

Name: _____ Branch: _____

Rank: _____

OREGON HOSTS ANNUAL NASDVA CONFERENCE

Under unusually clear coastal skies, Oregon welcomed more than 100 state veteran affairs leaders, federal VA representatives and guests who attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) Fall Conference. The conference was held in Lincoln City at Chinook Winds Resort on Sept. 22-25.

The members of NASDVA are the 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.

Each year the association gathers to discuss national and state veteran issues and legislation, meet with top level VA leaders and to train new directors about the association and how their new roles can help veterans nationwide.

Some of the speakers at this year's conference included Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, VA Deputy Secretary W. Scott Gould, VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey, VA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs John Garcia, and VA Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs Joan Mooney.

The conference was honored to have Bear Spirit



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOEFT, ODVA

NASDVA Directors, Commissioners and Administrators met with the Siletz Tribal Color Guard at the national conference. From left are Dave Brasuell, Ida., Peter Ogden, Me., Jim Willis, Ore., Clayton Clark, Vt., Many Bears-Grinder, Tenn., Clyde Marsh, Ala., David Fletcher, Ark., Lonnie Wangen, N.D., Edmond Ben, Siletz Tribe, Tony Molina, Siletz Tribe, Linda Schwartz, Conn., Stan Werth, Siletz Tribe, Alan Fish, Siletz Tribe, Joey Strickland, Ariz.

perform the tribal drums and the Siletz Tribal Honor Guard present the colors. Delores Pigsley, Siletz Tribal Chair, welcomed the group to Oregon.

During the conference, ODVA Director Jim Willis was pleased to be elected as the organization's

new senior vice president for 2011-12. He served this past year as NASVDA's junior vice president.

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

OREGON PVA IS SEEKING VEHICLE DONATIONS

Help make a difference in the lives of Oregon paralyzed veterans by donating running or non-running cars, trucks, vans, or SUV's.

The Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) accepts vehicle donations to help bolster vital programs that enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of veterans who have sustained an injury or disease of the spinal cord.

The Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is a major force in the disability community. Their pledge focuses on providing sports and recreational activities, ensuring employment and civil rights, and offering opportunities to veterans and other persons with disabilities.

"The majority of OPVA's funding comes from individual donations," said OPVA President Jeff DeLeon. "All donations to OPVA are 100 percent tax-deductible and your donation will help us to continue offering programs and other services, to Oregon's paralyzed veterans and others with disabilities."

Your donation is one way to honor someone who has served in the Armed Forces or believes in OPVA's mission. An acknowledgment of your gift can be sent to the honoree or their family.

Vehicle donation is fast and easy whether you call or donate online using the easy pick-up form. Donate cars, trucks, vans, boats, or planes and qualify for a car donation tax deduction.

Call a car donation operator seven days a week at 800-799-2538, or find more information on their website: www.oregonpva.org/donations.html

FRENCH CITY HONORS MAXWELL FOR WWII DUTY



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF ST. TROPEZ

Oregon's only living Medal of Honor recipient, Robert Maxwell, (center in uniform) was honored during a ceremony on Aug. 15 in St. Tropez, France for his part in helping to liberate that city from the German Army in 1944. St. Tropez Mayor, Dr. Jean-Pierre Tuvéri is on Maxwell's left.

For 67 years, the residents of the southern French coastal city of St. Tropez have been celebrating their liberation day on August 15. It is on that day the city remembers and gives thanks to the Allied military forces that drove the German Army from their town in 1944.

To honor that day this year, the mayor of St. Tropez recognized Robert Maxwell of Bend during the city's liberation ceremony that also honored the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division and the fallen paratroopers of the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Standing in front of the town monument, St. Tropez mayor, Dr. Jean-Pierre Tuvéri, awarded Oregon's only living Medal of Honor recipient the town's Gold Medal for his heroic military duty during Operation Dragoon during the Allied invasion of southern France.

This event also marked Maxwell's first visit to the area since 1944. It was during this battle

that Maxwell, 90, earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for falling on a grenade and saving the lives of three fellow soldiers during combat operations.

Operation Dragoon was a very large, complex amphibious and airborne military operation. It was part of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's one-two punch to liberate France in 1944. The French Riviera's D-Day is not as well-known and was overshadowed by the larger Operation Overlord (D-Day) on June 6.

Retired Col. Rob Rider, of the British 15th Infantry Regiment, also received the medal for his part in the joint-Allied operation. This was the first ceremony since 1945 where a member of the British Armed Forces had participated.

Maxwell is one of 15 World War II Medal of Honor recipients living in the U.S.

FREE DINING, DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS

Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate and honor the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. This is why we celebrate this very important holiday on November 11th each year.

Organizations and businesses all over the country take this day to thank veterans for their service by offering discounts or free offers for the day. Here are a few of the national Veterans Day promotions that will be offered:

Applebee's - Military veterans and active-duty service members will be able to eat for free at any Applebee's across the U.S. on Veterans Day.

The Outback Steakhouse will provide a free Bloomin' Onion and beverage of choice (one non-alcoholic drink or one draft Anheuser Busch beer except where prohibited by law) will be available.

McCormack & Schmick's Restaurant will offer a special menu for veterans to order a free meal on Sunday Nov. 13. Reservations are encouraged.

Home Depot and **Lowe's** offer a 10 percent discount to military members and their families and in many cases to veterans and retirees.

Aeropostale - 20 percent

Cabela's - 10 percent

Kohl's - 15 percent

Old Navy- 10 percent from the 1st through the 4th of every month

Universal Studios offers military discounts through the end of the year.

AT&T, Sprint-Nextel's and **Verizon** each offer a 15 percent monthly service charge discount.

Oregon State Parks and many **National Parks** will offer no entry fees to veterans on Nov. 11.

AARP Driver Safety Program is offering a free classroom course to all veterans, military personnel and dependents throughout November regardless of age.

The program is the nation's first and largest course for drivers 50 and older. Veterans or spouses do not have to be members of any veteran's organization. To locate a course near you call 1-888-227-7669 or visit www.aarp.org/drive

More veteran discounts can be found online:

www.baseops.net/marketplace/

www.militaryspot.com/discounts/

www.military.com/discounts/

www.militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/

Commonly accepted proof of service documents include: U.S. Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S. Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, a current Leave and Earnings Statement, Veterans Organization Card, Oregon Driver's License with a Veteran designator or a VA Medical ID card.

GULF WAR VETS' HEALTH CONTINUES TO WORSEN

By Patricia Kime, *Army Times*
Reprinted with permission

The health of 1991 Persian Gulf War veterans has worsened compared with military personnel who served during that time but did not deploy, a new Veterans Affairs Department study says. In their second decade after that conflict, Gulf War veterans were more likely than non-deploying peers to report persistent health problems and develop chronic ailments such as arthritis, high blood pressure and heart disease, according to the study that compared survey results taken in 1995 and 2005.

And while nearly 45 percent of war-zone veterans who said they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder in 1995 reported having recovered by 2005, 9 percent actually developed PTSD during that 10-year period, according to the VA report, published July 27 in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

"The purpose of the study was to see whether health status of Gulf War veterans changed over time and whether they were experiencing new illnesses," said Han Kang of VA's Environmental Epidemiology Service. "Gulf War veterans' health problems were more likely to persist or develop than non-deployed veterans."

The study compared the results of a 1995 health survey of 30,000 veterans, roughly half of whom deployed, to results of a 2005 survey of the same people. Although only 9,000 veterans answered the second poll, the researchers said the low response was unlikely to have skewed the results.

For report purposes, persistent poor health was measured by assessing veterans' responses to being functionally impaired or unable to perform activities because of their health, having recurrent hospitalizations or clinic visits and disclosing chronic fatigue-type symptoms and PTSD.

In 2005, 31 percent of Gulf War vets said they were functionally impaired, 29 percent said they had limits on their activities due to poor health and 9.4 percent reported having chronic fatigue-type symptoms. By contrast, 16 percent of the non-deployed group reported functional impairment, 18 percent had limited activity and 3.1 percent said they experienced symptoms similar to chronic fatigue.

Regarding chronic diseases, Gulf War veterans developed new cases of arthritis at a rate 24 percent higher than non-deployed veterans, hypertension at a rate 15 percent higher and coronary heart disease at a rate 61 percent higher.

The findings come as no surprise to Gulf War veterans, many of whom are experiencing the aches and pains of middle age, as well as maladies possibly related to military service. Wanakena, N.Y., resident Bill Gleason testified in 1996 before a House subcommittee about his health issues, which he said stem from service with a Marine tank battalion in Operation Desert Storm.

While in the Persian Gulf, Gleason's unit was exposed to burn pits, as well as fires from burning oil wells. Today, Gleason has severe shortness of breath and persistent chest pain that often leaves him gasping, even when stationary.

"They say it's chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, but I'm wondering if it's constrictive bronchiolitis — you know, what some of those kids coming back from Iraq have now," he said.

The 2005 survey did not seek to determine why Gulf War veterans are sicker than their non-deploying brethren; it simply relayed whether Gulf War veterans were getting sicker and what types of diseases they have. The results will help VA anticipate needed treatments and watch for new developments, officials said.

FREE PARKING FOR VETERANS

KEIZER – The city of Keizer now has a new, free parking space for veterans. Community members, including John Rizzo, the founder of the free veterans parking program, dedicated the program's first parking space on Sept. 6, at Keizer Civic Center.

At the dedication for the Civic Center parking space, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis said the program has great outreach and he would not be surprised if the program spread across the country.

"We were first," Willis told the gathering of more than 20 people. "When you honor veterans anywhere, you honor veterans everywhere."

The reserved parking spaces are marked by blue and white signs, and are reserved for veterans when possible. Keizer City Manager Chris Eppley said "drivers will be on the honor system." The city is not required to fine any driver



or otherwise prevent any motorist from parking in the reserved spaces.

No public funds or tax monies have been used to install the signs marking the veteran parking spots, which cost about \$75 per space. Funds were collected by Rizzo for each sign using general donations and aid from the facility approving the parking space.

Other Keizer businesses that have a dedicated veterans parking space are the Renaissance Inn, Mommy and Maddie's, Dearborn LLC and Keizer Elks Lodge.

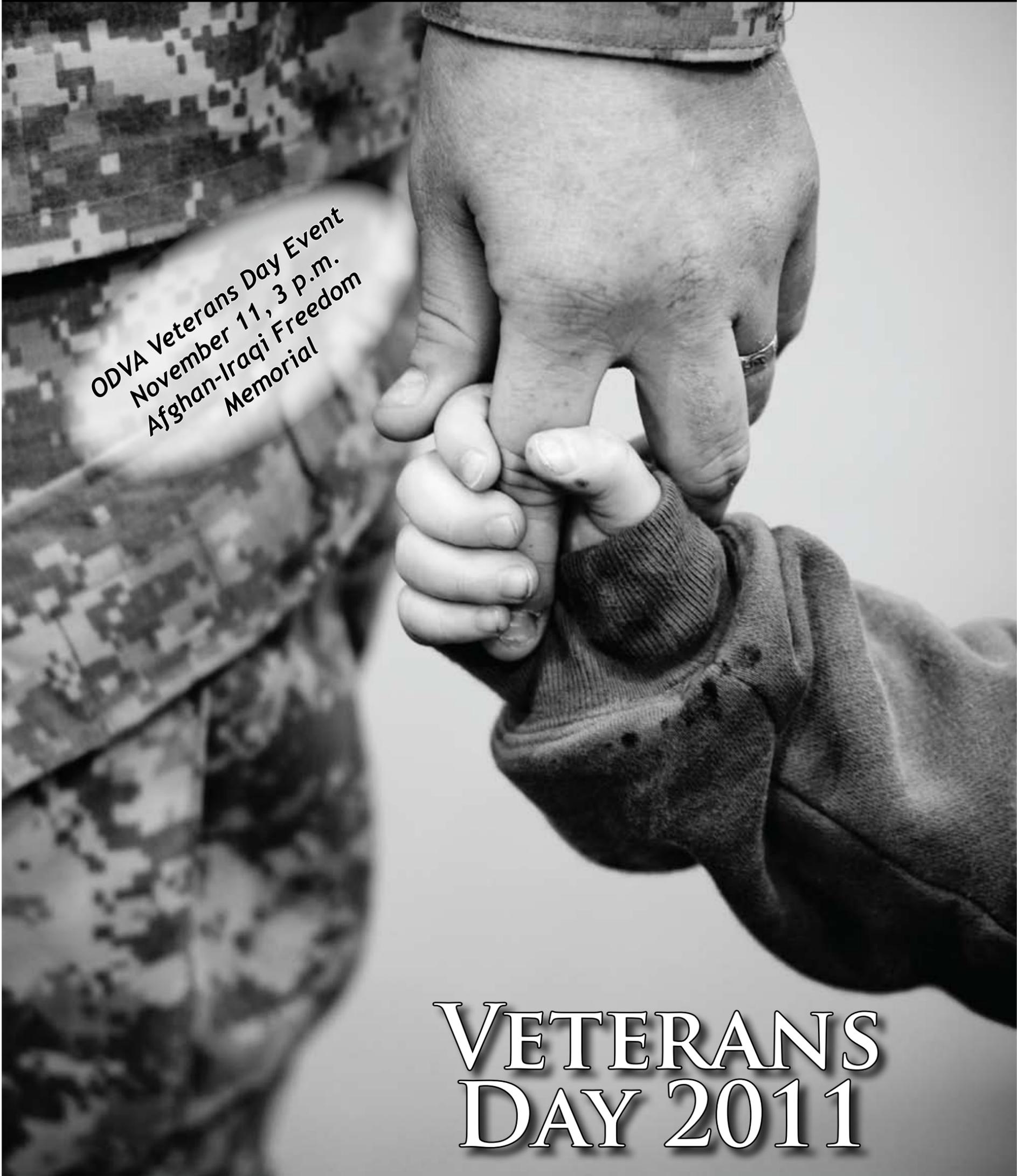
A Vietnam veteran, Rizzo presented his idea to the city council Aug. 1. He also intends to put a bill before the 2013 state legislature to allow a statewide veterans parking program. Contact Rizzo at 503-854-1988, or visit www.veteransparking.org.



Veterans Day 2011

Special Pull-out Section

Veterans Day November 11, 2011



ODVA Veterans Day Event
November 11, 3 p.m.
Afghan-Iraqi Freedom
Memorial

VETERANS DAY 2011

VETERANS DAY EVENTS 2011

Albany

Nov. 11 - 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Optimists Pancake Breakfast at West Albany High School Cafeteria, 1130 Queen Ave. S.W.

7:30 a.m. – Dignitaries Breakfast Veterans of Foreign War Post 584, 1469 Timber St.

8 a.m. – Memorial service at the Linn County Veterans Memorial located at Timber-Linn Park, 900 Price Road.

9 a.m. – Eagles Club Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast, Eagles Lodge, 127 Broadalbin St. N.W.

11 a.m. – Grande Parade, "Treasure Your Freedom – Honor Our Veterans." Pacific Blvd., Lyons St., 2nd Ave., Ferry St., and ending on 5th Ave.

12:00 p.m. – Lunch for parade participants and veterans at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 584, and Albany / American Legion Post 10, at 129 1st Ave., and Albany Eagles #225.

2 p.m. – Awards Ceremony on Courthouse steps.

Contact: [Patty Louisiana, 541-961-1466](mailto:Patty.Louisiana@albanymilitary.com)

7:30 p.m. – The Willamette Master Chorus will perform a concert entitled: "The Call," relating stories of American service men and women, honoring their victories and sacrifices, at the Assembly of God Church, 2817 Santiam Hwy. S.E. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.WillametteMasterChorus.org.

Contact: [Ron Peters, 503-931-9179](mailto:Ron.Peters@albanymilitary.com)

Astoria

Nov. 9 - 12 p.m. – A ceremony will recognize Veterans and families, to include campus and community officials, veterans and students, and family members, at Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Nov. 10 - 12 p.m. – Veterans Honor Ceremony at Astoria High School, 1001 W. Marine Dr., with patriotic songs, guest speakers, and POW-MIA Remembrance.

Nov. 11 - 8 a.m. – American Legion Post 12 will serve free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to veterans and their spouses (12 p.m. lunch, 5 p.m. ham dinner). Donations are welcome.

6 p.m. – Veteran displays. Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms and bring photos. Post 12 is located at 1132 Exchange St.

Contact: [Mike Phillips, 503-791-4591](mailto:Mike.Phillips@albanymilitary.com)

Beaverton

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – A veterans ceremony will be held at Bethel United Christian Church featuring speakers, a choir and a remembrance of the POW / MIA.

Contact: [Marv Doty, 503-644-0350](mailto:Marv.Doty@albanymilitary.com)

Bend

Nov. 10 - 5 p.m. – Marine Corps Ball, Elks Lodge on Butler Market Rd. Reservations required.

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

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – 12th Annual Veterans Day Parade. Theme: "Veterans Are Our Heroes for Life!" Parade Grand Marshals: Robert D. Maxwell, Medal of Honor recipient and VFW - Ponderosa Pine Post #1643 members. Civil Air Patrol will kick-off parade. Procession begins on N.W. Newport Ave. and will march over Veterans Memorial Bridge, south on N.W. Wall, N.W. Franklin, around Drake Park on N.W. Riverside, concluding on N.W. Galveston and Harmon St.

Contact: [Rabbine Harpell, 541-480-4516](mailto:Rabbine.Harpell@albanymilitary.com)

12 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Open House at VFW Post 1643 located at 1503 N.E. 4th St. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: [Bob Cusick, 541-389-0775](mailto:Bob.Cusick@albanymilitary.com)

Nov. 12-13 - 9 a.m. – 12th Annual Marine Corps Birthday 5K Run/1 Mile Walk. Sign-up for the 5K/1 Mile Walk next to City Hall, 710 N.W. Wall St. The run and walk will finish in Drake Park. Prizes, refreshments and raffle prizes will be awarded after the run. This charitable event is to raise money to purchase a new passenger van to transport Disabled American Veterans daily to the VA Hospital in Portland. Register online: www.vetsdayrun.homestead.com.

Contact: [Eric Chandler, 541-350-8512](mailto:Eric.Chandler@albanymilitary.com)

Burns

Nov. 11 - 6 p.m. – Veterans Day Dinner at the Elks Lodge #1680, 118 N. Broadway. Cost is free to veterans, \$5 for others. Speaker will be Guy McKay.

Contact: [Guy McKay, 541-573-1342](mailto:Guy.McKay@albanymilitary.com)

Canyonville

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans' memorial in front of City Hall, 250 Main St. Guest speakers: Former State Rep. and former B-17 pilot, Bill Markham; County Commissioner Susan Morgan and Sue Shaffer, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Indians. F-15 Flyover was requested.

Contact: [Chuck Spindel, 541-863-1602](mailto:Chuck.Spindel@albanymilitary.com)

Central Point

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. – The Oregon Fallen Heroes Memorial off I-5, exit 33 on Hamrick Rd/Vilas Rd. In the Don Jones City Park. We will honor all Oregon veterans and military personnel. Guest Speakers: Rep. Greg Walden and Afghanistan veteran, Cody Smith.

Contact: [Marty Terrell, 541-664-0191](mailto:Marty.Terrell@albanymilitary.com)

Coos Bay

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Post 34 will host a breakfast, 1421 Airport Way.

6 p.m. – Coos Bay Eagles Lodge, and American Legion Post 34 will sponsor a dinner at the Eagles Lodge, 568 S. 2nd St. Free for veterans and spouses. No-host social hour, 5-6 p.m.

Contact: [Paul Truax, 541-297-3236](mailto:Paul.Truax@albanymilitary.com)

Corvallis

Nov. 10 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Oregon State University Veterans Affairs and Veterans and Family-Student Association are co-hosting a social at the Memorial Union Veterans' Lounge.

Contact: [Kyle Hatch, 541-737-6366](mailto:Kyle.Hatch@albanymilitary.com)

Elkton

Nov. 10 - 1 p.m. – Elkton High School will honor veterans with a special Assembly in the school's gymnasium. This year veterans who, because of their service in the military, were not able to complete high school (and who previously qualified) will be receiving official high school diplomas.

Contact: [Melissa Whitley, 541-584-2228, ext. 2](mailto:Melissa.Whitley@albanymilitary.com)

Estacada

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – American Legion Auxiliary Post 74 will host a Veteran's Day Breakfast - eggs, sausage and pancakes for \$5. Free cookies to all veterans. Located at the Estacada Odd Fellows Hall, 267 S.W. 2nd St.

Contact: [Kay Nelson, 503-630-7287](mailto:Kay.Nelson@albanymilitary.com)

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. – Veterans Day Breakfast, sponsored by the Estacada Cheerleaders. Veterans eat free!

8:45 a.m. - Proud to Be an American Motorcycle Ride. Ride briefing at 8:45. Kick stands up by 9 a.m. All vehicles welcome to follow the bikes.

11 a.m. – The Veterans Day parade will begin at Estacada High School, 355 N.E. 6th Ave. Staging begins at 10:30 a.m.

11 a.m. - Veterans Day lunch of hot dogs, chili dogs and a soda will be offered following the parade. Veterans eat free.

12 p.m. - Veterans Day ceremony at the Estacada High School football field.

Contact: [Becky Ginsbach 503-706-7930](mailto:Becky.Ginsbach@albanymilitary.com)

Florence

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Service at the Florence Elks' Club honoring all veterans.

1 p.m. – The 6th annual parade in Florence. Route stages on Quince Street north of Harbor, onto Second Street and Nopal, onto Bay Street in Old Town, and disperses in the area of the Veterans Memorial Park. Transportation will be provided by the Rhody Cruisers Car Club for those who are unable to walk the full parade route. Lunch provided free for veterans.

Contact: [Megan Gerber, 541-999-8216](mailto:Megan.Gerber@albanymilitary.com)

Forest Grove

Nov. 13 - 12 p.m. – American Legion Post 2 and Elks Lodge 2440 will co-host a ceremony, followed by speakers, entertainment and a free lunch for veterans, current active-duty military personnel, and their families. Lunch begins at 1 p.m. The lodge is located at 2810 Pacific Ave.

Contact: [Jim Craig, 503-357-3660](mailto:Jim.Craig@albanymilitary.com)

Hood River

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. A "Celebration of Veterans" of all ages at Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Rd. Guest speaker: Shaun Benson, Retired Special Forces, Afghanistan.

Contact: [Jeanne Marie Davis, 541-354-1139](mailto:Jeanne.Marie.Davis@albanymilitary.com)

Klamath Falls

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

11 a.m. – A ceremony following the parade will include placing wreaths for each military era. A fly-over has been requested.

Contact: [Ron Ballard, 541-891-1004](mailto:Ron.Ballard@albanymilitary.com)

Nov. 9 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Oregon Institute of Technology is hosting a luncheon for our veterans on campus. There will be a presentation given to staff noting issues veterans may have while attending college after returning from active service.

Contact: [Herbert Richards, 541-851-5768, herbert.richards@oit.edu](mailto:Herbert.Richards@albanymilitary.com)

La Grande

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – American Legion Post 43 Veterans Parade along Adams Ave. VFW Post 4060 will lead the parade. A spaghetti feed will be held afterwards at the Post 43 Legion Hall, 301 Fir St. Cost: Free to Legion members; \$3.50 for non-members.

Contact: [John Marsh, 541-910-0123](mailto:John.Marsh@albanymilitary.com)

La Pine

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Ceremony at La Pine Community Cemetery. Afterwards, American Legion Post 45, 52532 Drafter Rd., will host an open house with hamburgers and hot dogs.

Contact: [Pat Cotton, 541-536-1402](mailto:Pat.Cotton@albanymilitary.com)

Lebanon

Nov. 5 - 5:30 p.m. – American Legion Post 51 will hold a prime rib dinner at 480 S. Main St. Cost: \$13. A USO-style show and dance with a 13-piece swing band will follow at 7 p.m. There is no cover charge.

Nov. 10 - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. – Annual Veteran of the Year Banquet at the American Legion Post 51. Cost is \$14. Open to veterans and non veterans alike.

Contact: [Doris Fuller, 541-401-1705](mailto:Doris.Fuller@albanymilitary.com)

McMinnville

Nov. 11 - 7 p.m. – Second Winds Community Band is honoring America's veterans at its annual Veterans Day Concert, "Honoring All Who Serve," at the Community Center, 600 N.E. Evans St. There will be a color guard, guest speakers, and a return performance by the Grandhaven Elementary School choir. This concert is open and free to the public.

Contact: [John Hutt, 503-472-9785](mailto:John.Hutt@albanymilitary.com)

Medford

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. – Veterans Day Parade, rain or shine. Parade runs along Main St. from Hawthorne to Oakdale.

For more information go to www.medfordveterans.org.

Milwaukie

Nov. 11 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Open House at American Legion Post 180, 2146 S.E. Monroe St. Hot dogs and chili will be served. Live patriotic music provided by Portland American Legion Post 185 musicians. All veterans and their families are welcome.

Contact: [Shirley Davis, 503-752-5752](mailto:Shirley.Davis@albanymilitary.com)

North Bend

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. – American Legion Bay Area Post 34, 1421 Airport Way, will host their annual breakfast. Cost: \$5; children under 12, \$2.50. An 11:11 a.m. remembrance ceremony will celebrate the history of Veterans Day.

Contact: [Mike Button, 541-294-0611](mailto:Mike.Button@albanymilitary.com)

Ontario

Nov. 5 - 1 p.m. (MST) – The 10th Annual American Legion Post 67 parade will form on Alameda and S.W. 4th Ave., and conclude at the train depot.

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. (MST) – Post 67 will host a memorial ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery at the American Legion Memorial, 1155 S. Park Blvd.

Contact: [Mike Jones, 541-889-5655 or 541-881-1398](mailto:Mike.Jones@albanymilitary.com)

Oregon City

Nov. 8 - 8 a.m. – Oregon City High School will honor veterans at an assembly. Area veterans are invited to attend. The high school is located at 19761 S. Beaver Creek Rd.

Contact: [Angie Smith, 503-785-8545](mailto:Angie.Smith@albanymilitary.com)

Pendleton

Nov. 11 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Pendleton VFW Post 922. Programs for Veterans Day at Memorial Garden at Bishop Funeral Home

11 a.m. Avenue of Flags at Olnay Cemetery, 865 Tutawilla Rd.

Contact: [Gary Ward, 541-276-0308](mailto:Gary.Ward@albanymilitary.com)

VETERANS DAY EVENT SPOTLIGHT: ALBANY'S VETERANS DAY PARADE

Portland

Nov. 10 - 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. - Portland State University is hosting a celebration at the Smith Memorial Student Union. Keynote speaker: Former U.S. Rep. Darlene Hooley. Representatives from DAV, VA Medical Center, WorkSource Oregon will assist veterans. The event is free, open to the public and all local military veterans are encouraged to attend. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Contact: Robert Britt, 503-332-1016; bobbritt79@gmail.com

Nov. 11 - 9:45 a.m. - 37th Annual Hollywood District Veterans Day Parade will travel between N.E. 40th and 48th Ave. and Sandy Blvd. The parade concludes with a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Flag Pole, N.E. 48th and Sandy Blvd. Covered seating will be available for seniors and those with disabilities.

Contact: Angela McKenzie Tucker, 503-281-1800

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - The University of Portland's AFROTC and AROTC will present a Veterans Day ceremony at the Praying Hands Memorial, located next to Christie Hall and Howard Hall on campus, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. A reception will follow afterwards.

Contact: Amanda Hodges, 253-327-2698, hodges14@up.edu

Redmond

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - Veterans Day Parade will honor Grand Marshals - World War II Veterans, marking the 70th Anniversary of the start of that war. Chili Feed: Open to veterans and families at the VFW Deschutes Post #4108, 1836 S.W. Veterans Way, noon to 2 p.m., following the parade.

Contact: Dennis Guthrie, 541-280-5161

Roseburg

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - Douglas County Veterans Day Parade, downtown. The parade theme: "Honoring Those Who Have Borne The Wounds of Battle." Grand Marshalls will be Purple Heart recipients. This parade features 100-plus entries. Refreshments will be catered in Douglas County Courthouse Annex following parade during an awards ceremony. A flyover has been requested.

Contact: Michael Hendricks, 541-673-8455

Salem

Nov. 11 - 11:30 a.m. - "A Patriotic Tribute to Our Veterans." Veterans eat free, cost is \$4.50 for all others (includes lunch, program, and entertainment). Art exhibit showing planes and equipment used during war times. A military uniform display will be in the entry area. Center 50+, 2615 Portland Rd. N.E.

Contact: Kris Yates, 503-588-6303

Nov. 11 - 3 p.m. - A ceremony will be held at the Afghan-Iraqi Freedom Memorial on the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs grounds, 700 Summer St. N.E. Names of Oregonians recently killed while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom will be unveiled.

Contact: Robin Steckley, 503-373-2390

Nov. 13 - 3 p.m. - The Willamette Master Chorus will perform a Veterans Day weekend event entitled: "The Call," relating stories of American service men and women, honoring their victories and sacrifices, at Willamette University's Smith Auditorium. All veterans will receive specially discounted ticket prices. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.WillametteMasterChorus.org.

Contact: Ron Peters, 503-931-9179

Sandy

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - Ceremonial tribute with Patriotic music hosted by VFW Post 4273 and Auxiliary at the Sandy Veterans Memorial Statue, intersection of Highways 26 and 211.

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

Contact: Terry Boyer, 503-319-8854

Scappoose

Nov. 11 - 10:30 to 11 a.m. - VFW Post 4362 will hold a Veterans Day Service to be held at the Veterans Memorial in Heritage Park. Flyover was requested. Gun salute by Oregon Army National Guard Det. 1, B. Co., 1-186.

Contact: Ronald Urban, 503-543-7482

Sisters

Nov. 10 - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. - Sisters High School Leadership team will honor veterans and their families at their annual breakfast. Students will perform a patriotic ceremony presentation; musical entertainment; includes guest speaker. Morning ceremony immediately following breakfast. Evening performance at 7 p.m. Free admission.

Contact: Sisters High School, 541-549-4048

ALBANY -- With more than 200 entries and as many as 40,000 spectators, Albany annually hosts the largest Veterans Day parade west of the Mississippi. This year that city's monumental tribute to veterans is celebrating its 60th anniversary. This year's theme is "Treasure Your Freedom-Honor Our Veterans."

Every year the parade events are organized and run by the volunteer efforts of the Veterans Commemoration

Association. The events begin with the annual Veterans of the Year Banquet that honors the dynamic contributions by veterans to their communities. This gala event has been relocated this year to the city of Lebanon and will be hosted by American Legion Post 51, 480 S. Main St., and will begin at 6 p.m.

Bright and early on Veterans Day, traditional community breakfasts will be served. The Optimists Club begins its annual pancake breakfast at the West Albany High School Cafeteria from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and a biscuits and gravy breakfast will be served at the Eagles Club beginning at 9 a.m. Also the annual Dignitary Breakfast will be held at the VFW 584 at 7:30 a.m. followed by the Veterans Day Memorial Service at the Linn County Veterans Memorial, Timber Linn Memorial Park beginning at 8 a.m. The public is invited to attend this heartwarming service.

Patty Louisiana is the president of the Veteran's Commemoration Association and the primary events coordinator. She said this year's parade is extra special, considering it has been around since the Korean War.

"To be heading up this extraordinary organization at this time is quite humbling,



PHOTO BY ORE. MILITARY DEPT. PUBLIC AFFAIRS

for at the heart of it all is a desire to honor our veterans. We are reflecting on the past 60 years and the contributions so many have made in our community to keep this tradition marching on," she said.

"We will also be observing a rare moment in history as Veterans Day this year is observed at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, in the 11th year on 11-11-11."

The grand parade begins at 11 a.m. at the overpass on Pacific Highway, ending at the Linn County courthouse at 300 3rd Ave. S.W. The parade will feature veterans from wars past and present. There will also be a full contingent of military units primarily from the Oregon National Guard, marching bands, color guards as well as local schools and college participants.

Following the parade, Albany's American Legion Post 10 will once again host lunch for all parade participants and veterans.

A complete rundown of the events surrounding this annual parade is on page 8. For more information, go online to: www.ci.albany.or.us/about/veteransdayparade.php.

The Dalles

Nov. 11 - 11 a.m. - Mid-Columbia Veterans Day Parade begins at the National Guard Armory, 713 Webber St. It will proceed downtown and return to the Armory. Flyover has been requested.

1 p.m. - VFW Post 2471 Auxiliary will host a potluck dinner and patriotic program at the National Guard Armory. The public is invited to attend.

Contacts: Les Cochenour, 541-298-5692, or Gary Pratt, 509-767-1461

Tigard

Nov. 11 - 12 p.m. - Annual Hobo Stew luncheon for American Legion Post 158 members and guests will be held at the Post, 8635 S.W. Scoffins St.

Contact: Mac McLaughlin, 503-624-2332

Troutdale

Nov. 9 - 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - Reynolds High School will host an all-day program at, 1698 S.W. Cherry Park Rd., to recognize all veterans. American veterans of Hispanic/Latino descent will be featured. Speakers include: Mexican-American Veterans Assoc.; Tuskegee Airmen; American Indians Veterans Assoc. Commander, Don Loudner; Blackfoot Tribe Honor Guard; Harold Bray, USS Indianapolis survivor; Kennie Namba, 442nd Combat Regimental Combat Team; Philip Coon, Bataan Death March survivor.

1:15 p.m. - Assembly in gym to honor all veterans.

Contact: Ken Buckles, 503-351-2632, ken@rahusa.us

Tillamook

Nov. 11 - 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Tillamook Air Museum volunteers will serve a traditional S.O.S. Breakfast at the museum's Air Base Cafe, located on Hwy. 101, south of Tillamook.

9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. - The Museum and local VFW Posts, will host the 14th annual Veterans Appreciation Day and Open House to honor and thank veterans. Free admission for all veterans.

Contact: Michelle, 503-842-1130

White City

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. - Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics, 8495 Crater Lake Hwy., will host a ceremony in the theater. Guest Speakers: U.S. Rep. Greg Walden; Mike Green; bag pipes and the Rogue Valley Symphonic Band. The ceremony is scheduled to conclude on the traditional "Eleventh Hour". Honor Guard: 1-186 Infantry. The event is open to the public.

Contact: Tom Marshall, 541-830-7468

Wilsonville

Nov. 11 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Korean War Veterans Association Oregon Trail Chapter will be on site, at the Korean War Memorial, to answer questions and be of service during daylight hours. A flag ceremony and playing of Taps will be at 11 a.m. The Memorial is located off Interstate 5 at exit 283, about 10 miles south of Portland. Follow the signs to Town Center Park.

Contact: James Arling, 503-285-8118

SAILOR ON HOSPITAL SHIP HELPED RESCUE INJURED AT PEARL HARBOR, U.S.S. ARIZONA

Original article, Chad Richins, *The News Guard*

At 17, Ed Johann found himself at the center of a storm that would eventually grow to encompass most of the world.

Standing on the deck of the *USS Solace*, a hospital ship, Johann was enjoying a Hawaiian Sunday morning when he saw several small planes arrive and circle the area.

“It must be some kind of drill,” he heard someone say. But when Johann and others realized the planes bore Japanese insignia, a dreaded moment of calm took hold until the planes began their bombing runs and all hell broke loose.

The day, of course, was Dec. 7, 1941, and Johann was front and center for one of history’s most notorious events. The planes dropped their bombs and black smoke billowed into the sky.

“That’s what I remember most,” Johann said, “the sound of the explosions and the smoke in the sky.”

Jumping into a motor launch with two other sailors, Johann worked the engine controls while another sailor sounded a bell to tell him when to throttle forward, backward or stop. The launch sped out into the harbor and down battleship row,

the sailors pulling alongside the burning ships to take off the wounded and collect casualties from the water when they could. The water, which had been translucent blue, was now fouled with engine oil, and in many places the surface was aflame.



Hospital ship *USS Solace*

Just a few minutes after the attack began, at approximately 8:10 a.m., a 1,760 pound, armor-piercing bomb slammed through the deck of the *USS Arizona* and ignited her forward ammunition magazine. The hull of the *Arizona* collapsed and she sunk in less than nine minutes with 1,177 of her crew aboard.

Johann and his companions came alongside the *Arizona* and hauled men out of the water while the

Japanese planes continued to hammer American fleet, dropping bombs and torpedoes on ships and even strafing men in the water.

The launch made trip after trip, hauling wounded, dying and dead sailors and marines back to the *Solace*.

“There were basically three ways most of them died,” Johann explains. “They were burned from the oil and fire in the water, suffocated because the smoke was so thick, or they were drowned. The fourth way would have been if they were shot.

“You’re standing there with men all around you and some of them are bleeding or burning and you don’t have a scratch. That’s not skill. That’s luck.”

Many soldiers would struggle with the emotional cost of having served during this catastrophic and historic event, but upon returning home, Johann was able to put the war behind him and eventually land a job as a Portland firefighter.

At the time of this writing, every Dec. 7, Johann would join a dwindling group of sailors, the Pearl Harbor survivors of Lincoln County, where they talk about the amazing and deadly time they shared nearly 70 years ago.

DEFENSE FROM ENEMY, NOT OPPONENT, WAS THE CALL FOR WILLAMETTE’S FOOTBALL TEAM

When news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was broadcast on the radio Sunday, Dec. 7th, some of the first fears for Oregonians were for Willamette University’s football team and fans in Honolulu. They had traveled to Hawaii for a series of post-season games known as the Shrine Bowl against the University of Hawaii and San Jose State.

On the gridiron that year, the Bearcats had forged an impressive 8-2 record; including six shutouts. They easily won the Northwest Conference title; outscoring their five opponents 218-7.

The first game in Hawaii was played Dec. 6th before a crowd of 24,000. Although the Bearcats had suffered a 20-6 defeat to Hawaii, many of the Oregonians were looking forward to several days of post-game festivities.

The Willamette team and fans from Salem were waiting outside the Moana Hotel for a bus tour to take them on a sightseeing tour of the island and a picnic. They were planning to see Pearl Harbor. As black oily smoke filled the air the team and their supporters realized they were witnesses to a momentous event.

In the aftermath of the devastating attack, the football team was enlisted by the Army to fend off a possible Japanese invasion by water. Their first set of orders was to string barbed wire on Waikiki beach at low tide. The players were issued bolt-action Springfield M1903 rifles from World War I and given some brief training. They were told to be prepared to defend the beach. Shortly thereafter they were assigned to Punahou High School in the hills above Honolulu.



COURTESY OF THE WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

1941 Willamette University football team.

Authorities feared that water towers and storage tanks nearby might become targets of sabotage. The players moved into the dormitories and classrooms and went on sentry rotation.

Uppermost in everyone’s mind was how and when they would get home. They finally left Hawaii on December 19th aboard the *SS President Coolidge*. A luxury ocean liner, the *Coolidge* had arrived in Hawaii with evacuees from the Philippines. Now it was commandeered to transport gravely wounded servicemen.

Willamette coach Roy “Spec” Keene and State Sen. Douglas McKay persuaded the captain to take the team and their followers back to the mainland in exchange for assisting with the wounded. There were approximately 1,200 people on board the ship

that was designed to carry 800. The normal four-day trip took seven days because of the zigzagging route required to avoid Japanese submarines.

On Christmas Day, Willamette’s football party returned safely to San Francisco. It was the last time they would all be together.

Virtually everyone from that year’s football team enlisted in the service. All but one, Bill Reder, survived the war. They went on to careers as teachers, business people, and lawyers. One became a federal judge.

The team was inducted into Willamette’s Athletic Hall of Fame. The honor acknowledges the team’s football exploits, their winning record, being the second leading scoring team in the country and extra service in a time of chaos and disbelief in Hawaii.

SURVIVORS RECALL UNEXPECTED ATTACK



USS West Virginia burns amid flames and smoke.

By Mike Allegre

“Remember Pearl Harbor!”

It was America’s battle cry as the United States was propelled into World War II following the deliberate attack upon the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

When Pearl Harbor survivors recall the “date that will live in infamy,” their stories vary, but in many ways they are similar. Surprise, fear, doing one’s duty and fighting back describe only some of the emotions felt that day. For Oregon survivors Del Pitzer and Don Raymond, their stories come from two different locations on Oahu - the Navy Yard and near Battleship Row.

In December of 1941, both Pitzer and his brother Dallas were stationed at Pearl. Dallas was turning 21 on the 7th and the brothers had planned to go golfing, have lunch and celebrate. Minutes before leaving, their plans immediately changed.

The first wave of more than 180 Japanese planes arrived at about 7:55 a.m. and caught all island residents by surprise.

“The enemy planes overhead were headed over the harbor toward the eastern side of Ford Island towards the seven ships docked at Battleship Row. Before we knew it, there were explosions, and smoke began pouring from the ships,” Del Pitzer said.



USS Shaw’s ammunition magazine explodes.

Dallas, who would survive the attack, quickly said good-bye to Del and rushed to a small dinghy that was bound for his ship, the *USS San Francisco*. A Marine stationed at the Navy Barracks, Del scurried with other men to find ammunition and weapons—any kind of a weapon—to defend their area.

As the second wave of Imperial Japanese aircraft arrived almost an hour later, American anti-aircraft fire commenced. For Pitzer and others, it was the beginning of three sleepless days and nights—time he spent hurriedly driving ranking military personnel to locations all over the island. On one excursion he drove two Naval officers near a beach where a Japanese mini-submarine had just been destroyed.

During the battle, one of the few ships able to get under way was the *USS Nevada*. Raymond was near Battleship Row aboard the tug *USS Sunnadins*. “We followed the *Nevada* down the channel. She was shot up and bombed and began sinking at the bow,” Raymond recalled. “Her skipper didn’t want to block the channel so, he ran her aground. We later pulled the *Nevada* out and moved her to a beach.”

Like many military personnel there, Raymond was later assigned to retrieve body parts. “It was one of the worst parts of being at Pearl after the attack.”

Pitzer admits his only attempt to fire a weapon at the enemy was at a Japanese Zero that was strafing at about 50 feet off the ground. As he fired the first shot from the newly issued M-1 rifle, the round partially jammed and the recoil knocked him to the ground. “I had the pilot of that Zero in my site, but I don’t remember what happened,” he said.

“The worst thing I recall from that day and the days afterwards was the sound of those boys banging on the bulkheads trying to get out of the overturned ships,” he said. “Most of them never survived.”

Weeks later, Pitzer and hundreds of Marines were shipped out to defend the Aleutian Islands, but the Japanese never arrived. Their ship was redirected and sailed on to San Francisco where his unit, the 2nd Motor Transport



Aircraft at Ford Island destroyed.

Company, 2nd Marines, began driving military vehicles to Naval stations in San Diego.

In 1944, as the 2nd Marine Division was departing for battles in the Pacific, Pitzer was one of three Marines who had his name drawn from a hat and was chosen to remain behind to train new Marines in “boot camp.” Later that year, following



USS Arizona burns as it sink. (L-R) USS Maryland and Tennessee lay damaged nearby.

several stays in a Naval hospital for treatment of a severe back injury he had suffered at Pearl, Pitzer was medically discharged.

Following retraining in 1942 and an assignment at the Navy’s mail processing area in Boston, Raymond was reassigned to sea duty in 1944 as part of the first crew on a new cruiser, *USS Wilkesbury*. In San Diego he would later join the crew of the troop-carrying vessel *USS Thurston* and head back to the war in the Pacific.

“We were in Manila just after the U.S. took back the Philippines. I saw both flags raised on Iwo Jima and later we were at Guadalcanal,” Raymond recalled. “I was never wounded, but I ducked a few bullets and grenades.”

The attack at Pearl Harbor killed nearly 2,400 military personnel and wounded more than 1,100. Additionally, 20 naval ships were sunk or damaged, and 169 aircraft were destroyed.

In Oregon, it is estimated that there are more than 100 Pearl Harbor survivors. After 70 years, Americans still remember Pearl Harbor and continue to honor those who died there.

These stories and other veteran accounts of historical moments in U.S. history are included in ODVA’s “150 Years of Oregon Veterans” book. See ad on page 13 for ordering details.



THANK YOU!

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



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VETERAN'S FISHING DOCK DEDICATED

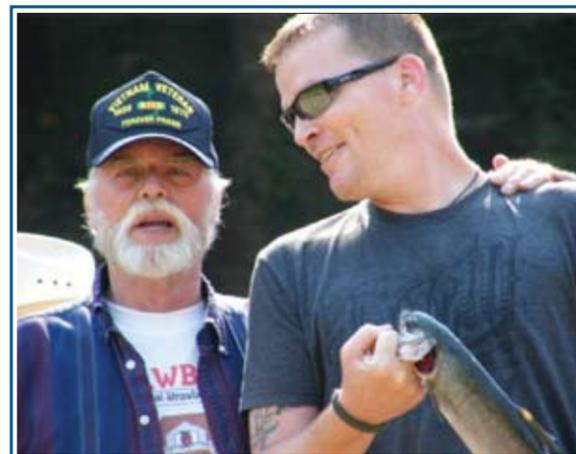


PHOTO BY VIRGIL EZELL

Carrell "Gator" Alden, chairman of the dock committee, and an unknown veteran (right) from Roseburg VA Hospital admire a fish caught off of the newly dedicated dock.

With generous donations by several sponsors, including an anonymous land owner, a new fishing dock for veterans was dedicated in Linn County on Sept. 8.

Following a pastor's blessing, Post 51 Honor Guard's 21-gun salute and taps were heard echoing in the wilderness surrounding the fishing area. Ric Olson, President of the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA), Mid-Valley Chapter 585, and a project coordinator, said this private fishing area was opened to allow people to take patients from a veterans' hospital and go fishing.

The setting on this property Olson said is "beautiful and ideal" for anyone to use to just get away, forget life's stresses and enjoy time with Mother Nature.

"It's about being outside and relaxing at this place, and while you're there if you'd like to fish, you can grab a pole, borrow some tackle and out a hook in the water to catch fish. This was the main reason we were able to secure this spot and receive the support we got," he said.

It is not open to everybody. Each request is approved on a case-by-case basis.

"The purpose wasn't to open it as a fishing destination for all veterans, but to cater to those veterans who are in a VA hospital and those under the care of the VA medical system," Olson said. "We were honored to have 12 special guests from the Roseburg VA Hospital to help break in the new dock."

Olson said one of the visiting veterans told him, "Even the worse day fishing is better than a day at the hospital, and this was a great day for fishing unless you were one of the fish."

The donations were sizable. Post 51 made a monetary donation. Smoker Craft, Inc. of Stayton, Ore., developed the plans for the dock and provided them at cost. And Cabela's, Olsen said, provided more than \$750 worth of free items.

"They donated 15 rods and reels, eight life jackets, and plenty of fishing tackle for our guests to borrow and enjoy. It's obvious that Cabela's and Smoker Craft, Inc. care about veterans," he said.

Olson also thanked the project's sponsors, Post 51 and Auxiliary, 40&8 Voieture 891, and many private donors. To learn more about fishing at the dock, contact Olson at 541-401-4639 or olson891@comcast.net.

DoD IG REPORT: KBR, MILITARY FAILED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO HEALTH RISKS POSED TO OREGON SOLDIERS

By Mike Francis, *The Oregonian*
Reprinted with permission

The Defense Department and contractor Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) failed to act as quickly as they should have to protect those exposed to a carcinogenic chemical at an Iraqi water treatment plant in 2003, according to a report Wednesday by the Department of Defense's Inspector General.

The report was hailed as a victory for Oregon soldiers by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who was one of a group of senators who sought the IG's evaluation, and by Oregon National Guard troops who are among those suing KBR. They accuse the contractor of knowingly exposing them to sodium dichromate, an anticorrosive compound that can cause skin and breathing problems and cancer.

Because KBR "did not fully comply with occupational safety and health standards required" under its contract with the Army, the Inspector General found, "a greater number of Service members and DoD civilian employees were exposed to sodium dichromate, and for longer periods, increasing the potential for chronic health effects."

The report found that "nearly 1,000 Army soldiers and civilian employees were exposed to the compound in the five months it took from the initial site visit until the military command required personal protective equipment."

"To me, the bottom line is this report confirms what Oregon soldiers and I have been saying for years," said Wyden. "KBR and the military command failed to protect soldiers from a known threat."

Houston-based KBR couldn't be reached for comment before deadline. KBR has previously denied knowingly exposing soldiers or contractors to health risks.

Rocky Bixby of Tualatin, the former Oregon National Guard soldier who is listed as the first plaintiff in the suit against KBR, said Wednesday afternoon that he hadn't yet seen the report, but is "obviously happy."

"I'm just happy that the government is making a stand on this and protecting its troops," said Bixby, who says he continues to suffer breathing difficulties that started after he helped secure the plant where KBR was working to restore water service.

The 56-page report also faults the military's handling of the work at Qarmat Ali, from the vague wording of its initial contract to its failure to monitor the contractor's compliance with its terms.

The report "restores faith in government," said Portland lawyer David Sugerman, who represents the 34 Oregon Guard veterans suing KBR. Sugerman said he'd contacted a handful of his clients to tell them about the report. The reaction they'd given, he said, is "validation and vindication."

The case in federal court in Portland is in the discovery phase, with the trial scheduled for June next year, Sugerman said.

Another case brought against KBR by lawyers for soldiers from the Indiana National Guard and other states is proceeding in Houston.

Hexavalent Chromium

Oregon soldiers escorted contractors to the Qarmat Ali plant, built by the Soviet Union in the 1970s to provide water needed to service some of the oil fields in southern Iraq, beginning in April 2003.

According to the report, KBR became aware sodium dichromate had been used at the site by May 31. It notified the contracting officer of potential contamination Aug. 8. On Sept. 30, a team of Army public health specialists arrived to begin their own assessment of conditions at the site. They gave physical exams to 129 Indiana troops still on the site, and they gave surveys to 52 Oregon soldiers who had left the site.

The decision by the public health officials to physically examine only some of those who served at Qarmat Ali, the Inspector General wrote, "created a lost opportunity for medical recognition and documentation of symptoms."

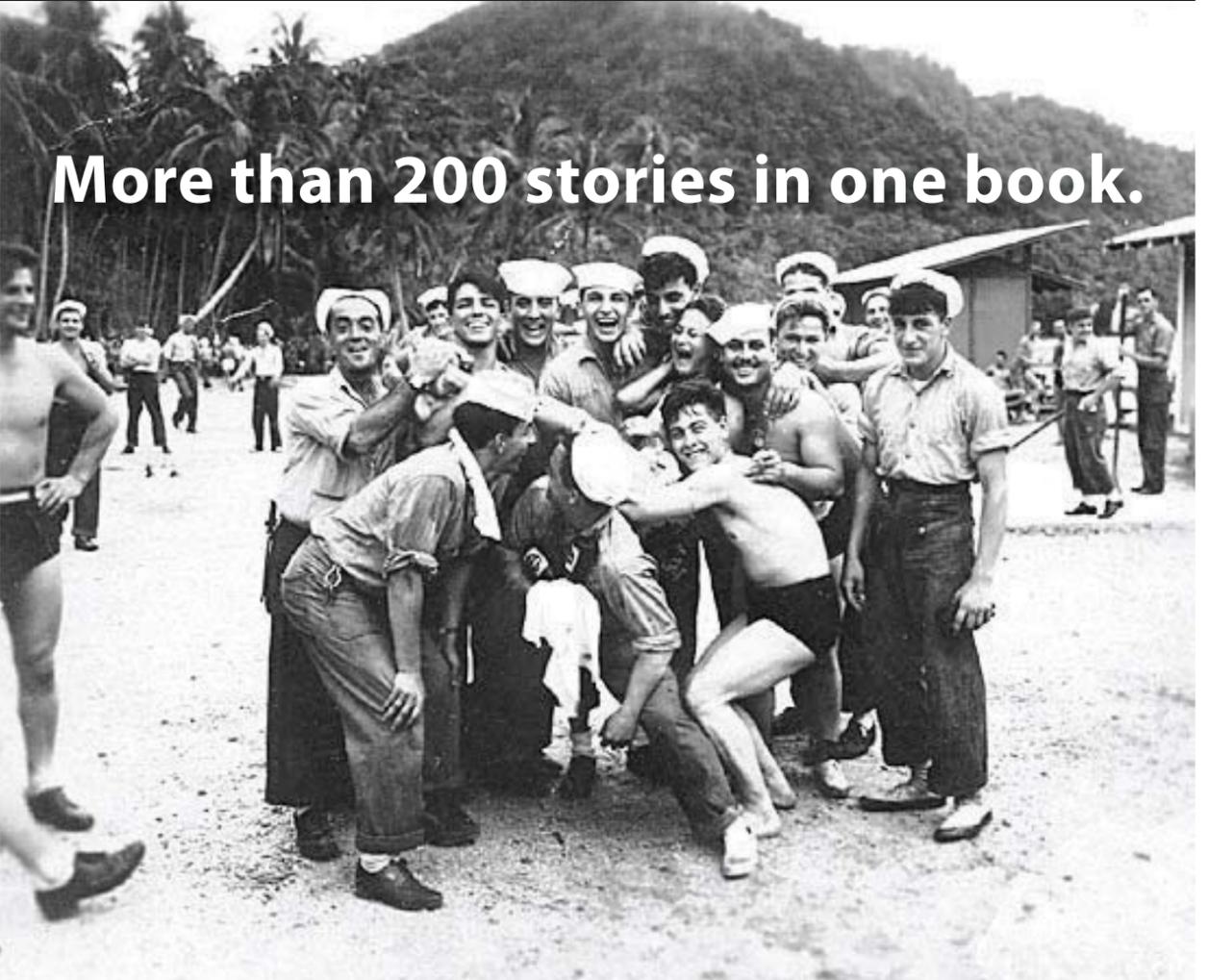
Not all surveys were returned, but 18 percent of the responses showed symptoms that could be related to chromium exposure, according to the report.

Many IG reports contain a set of recommendations to prevent a recurrence of the problems identified, but because exposure in the Qarmat Ali case occurred in 2003 and the military has made many changes since then, the report has no recommendations.

Read more at: www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2011/09/defense_department_inspector_g.html.

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All proceeds from the sale of the book go to support the Oregon Veterans' Home.

MORE CHANGES TO THE POST-9/11 GI-BILL

There are more changes to the recently revamped Post-9/11 GI Bill as of Oct. 1. Many changes relate to the pursuit of non-degree training, which will help veterans who don't necessarily want to use their benefits at a traditional school. There's also a new housing allowance for exclusively online students.

A housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents. The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100 percent eligibility tier would be \$673.50 for 2011.

Other new changes allow students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for:

Non-college degree (NCD) programs- Non-college degree (NCD) programs offered at non-



degree granting schools: GI Bill pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.

On-the-job and apprenticeship training- GI Bill pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.

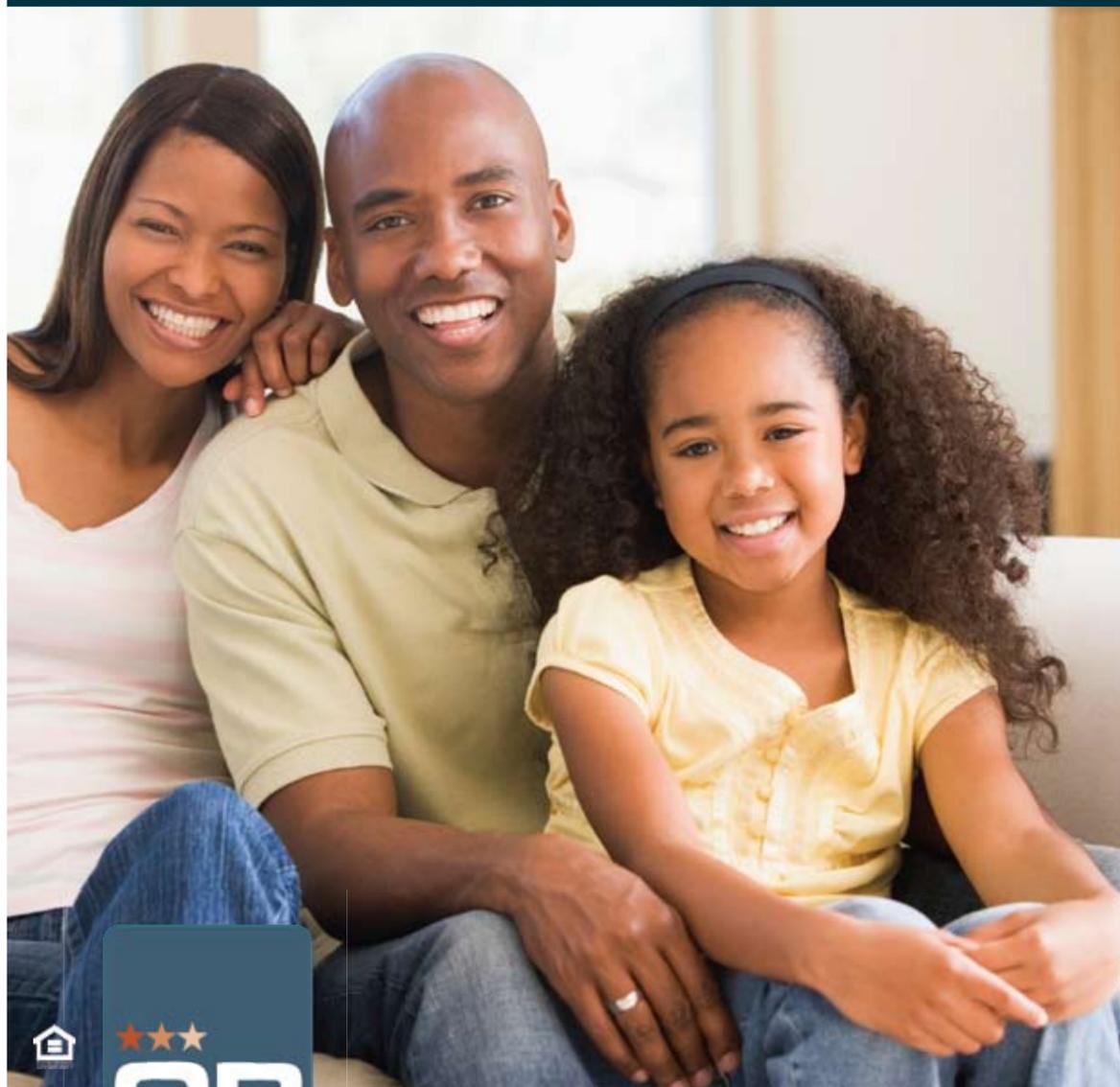
Flight programs- Per academic year, GI Bill pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less.

Correspondence training- Per academic year, GI Bill pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.

Also, students on active duty can now receive a books and supplies stipend.

Get more information at http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/Post911_changes.html or, call 1-888-GIBILL-1 to get answer questions on specific cases.

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LETTER PROMPTS CHANGE TO MEDICAL POLICY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Coming on the heels of a letter sent to DoD Under Secretary Dr. Clifford Stanley in October, calling on the department to fix a policy severely inhibiting the access to healthcare that injured National Guard and Reserve members receive after leaving service, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore) announced that Under Secretary Clifford has instituted changes to the Transitional Assistance Medical Program (TAMP) that will ensure separating servicemembers injured in combat, receive the healthcare they are legally entitled to.

Under the previously flawed policy, injured servicemembers that were assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit – a unit designed to give healthcare to injured servicemembers -- prior to separating from the service were considered to have left the army -- starting the clock on the temporary transitional health benefits offered by the TAMP program.

“The TAMP program was designed to give returning servicemembers access to healthcare while they transition into their civilian lives,” Wyden said. “DoD’s misinterpretation of the intention of the program not only went against the spirit of the law that created it, it went against the common decency our troops should expect from a military they dedicated their lives to. The decision to change the policy means that the most vulnerable members of our armed services will be given the healthcare they have earned.”

TAMP gives servicemembers 180 days of access to the TRICARE healthcare program once separating from the service. Those injured servicemembers assigned to the WTU and considered officially separated from the service were having their temporary TRICARE benefits run concurrently with the healthcare they were receiving as an active-duty member assigned to the WTU. For a soldier with a severe injury like the a loss of a limb, the required stay in the WTU could easily exceed 180 days leaving them zero access to TRICARE once leaving the service.

The policy will give all injured servicemembers receiving healthcare in the WTU access to the full 180 days of TRICARE they were promised once separating from the military.

CONVENTIONS, REUNIONS, EVENTS

10th Mountain Division are welcoming newcomers and old comrades who served from WWII to present as well as descendants to meet on Nov. 16 and Dec. 14, and on the last Wed. of each month in 2012. Discussions include: planning for maintenance, improvements and new planting for the 10th Mountain Memorial Grove. Lunch is at 12 p.m., Hometown Buffet, 13500 Pacific Hwy. (99W), Tigard.

For information: [Jim Bay, 503-913-7058](mailto:Jim.Bay@odva.state.or.us)

Oregon Women Veterans meet the 1st Thursday each month, 6 p.m., for a potluck gathering. All women veterans welcome at the Heeran Center Bldg., 2222 Coburg Rd., Eugene.

For information: [Sonja Fry, 541-607-7428](mailto:Sonja.Fry@odva.state.or.us)

American Legion Post 75 in Sheridan meets for a Fund-raiser Breakfast the 1st Saturday of each month, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m., at the Post, 125 N. Bridge St.

For information: [Jim Gordon, 503-843-3773](mailto:Jim.Gordon@odva.state.or.us)

Vietnam Veteran 25th Infantry Division & 1st Air CAV veterans meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, Superking Buffet, 5105 S.E. 82nd Ave., Portland. All veterans are welcome to meet for lunch and conversation.

For information: [Gary Hartt, 503-632-6955](mailto:Gary.Hartt@odva.state.or.us)

Veterans of Underage Military Service meet the 1st Friday of each month, at Farm House Restaurant, 3612 S.E. 82nd Ave., Portland, at 10:30 a.m.

For information: [Willie Paradise, 503-665-1739](mailto:Willie.Paradise@odva.state.or.us)

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Clackamas	503-650-5631	Janice Harlan-Raisl
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Wheeler.....	800-982-1172	Bryan Hunt
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Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	Robert Lougee
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	Jennifer Burt
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4762	Ken Fink
Veterans of Foreign Wars..	503-412-4757	Jack Zule

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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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REMEMBERING THE DAY OF INFAMY 70 YEARS LATER



Pearl Harbor Survivor Served on USS California

By Mike Allegre

Nearly 70 years have passed since that fateful day at Pearl Harbor that drew America into an engulfing world war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and generations of healing. And regardless of how much time has passed, for Virgil Taylor of Keizer, that day remains engrained in his mind - vivid as the day he lived it.

At dawn on Dec. 7, 1941, the pride of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was docked at Pearl Harbor. Seven battleships were moored in pairs along Battleship Row: *Maryland* with *Oklahoma* and *Tennessee* with *West Virginia*. Behind the *Tennessee* lay in line was the *USS Nevada*. Taylor was aboard the Navy's Battle Force flagship *USS California*, which was moored alone.

Just before 8:00 a.m., newly promoted Machinist's Mate First Class, Taylor was writing a letter to his mother when the sound of general quarters jolted him. The South Dakota native, who had joined the Navy to get money for college,

thought it "was a lousy time for a drill." As he left his quarters and arrived in the engine room, the whole ship vibrated. He thought a fuel tanker had accidentally bumped his ship.

Little did Taylor know that in the air above, America was being thrust into history as 40 Japanese torpedo planes and 27 dive bombers descended and flew low along the harbor. Their ordinance began slamming into ships, tearing at the fabric of America and instantaneously, awakening the sleeping giant.

"We were hit by a torpedo in the bow (forward) part of the ship and then another slammed into us aft (rear)," Taylor recalled. "It took out our steering and fires had started. Guys were everywhere and we got word the Japanese were after us. We started to open steam valves to get the engines moving. We were so busy we didn't even know we were being attacked even though the ship had begun to list to the left."

As the crew was trying to get the engines moving, a 550-pound bomb tore through several decks and

landed about 20 feet from Taylor's locker and ignited an antiaircraft ammunition magazine. A second bomb ruptured the ship's bow plates. The *California* could not get underway.

"Then the lights went out and the chief told all of us to get out of there."

SEE SURVIVOR ON PAGE 4

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Jim Willis, Director

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