# The Oregon Legionnaire

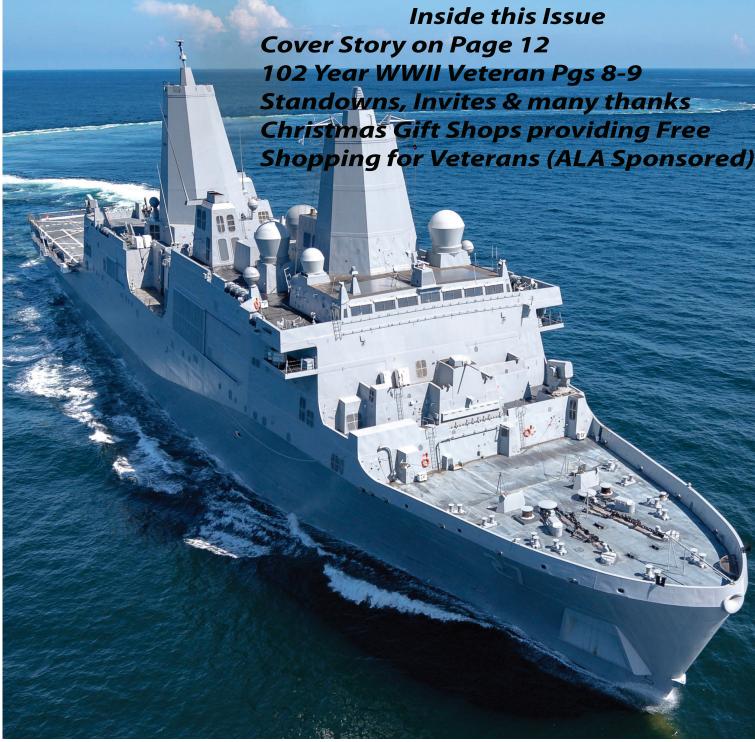
The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919

October 2019



# USS Portland Commissioning





Greetings folks,



CORY BROCKMANN

DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

May 11th.

MEMBERSHIP

I have sent out the DMS and 114 list(s) to each of our active posts and ask for you to give those a review and hit the lists hard to get transfers in; note: Tigard #158 has not received and Larry W., membership commission chair, has been notified for a rerun. Work those zip codes specific to your city/post. While I would like to see a change at Department toward GIS street address-proximity locations used, zip code is still the practice. PII - these lists contain personally identifiable information (PII) - privacy information - and need to be used and handled for official uses only for American Legion membership purposes. This isn't new to you experienced folks, but as you put together your post membership teams as discussed by PDC Tom H., you may have younger/inexperienced volunteers who need to hear that message loud and clear.

#### **MEMBERSHIP - Part-2**

2nd renewal date cut-off: 20 Sep 2019! This is the cutoff time-frame for the 2nd renewal notice extract and will cut down on National sending out another notice to those who have already paid. Please transmit your latest 2020 memberships by September 20th.

#### 50% TARGET

Once again, thank you to

all who made

it out to I.H.

Wellington

#42 (St. Hel-

ens) for our

D1 meeting

last Saturday.

It was good to

get together

since our last

meeting

Looking at MyLegion.org last night, then again this morning, I am seeing total current members (2020) for D1 at 1,685 (3,481), which puts us at 48%. Close to goal, but not over it; however, we await official membership reporting from Department. The 55% Target date is 9-Oct-2019.

#### **VETERAN EVENTS**

Listed below are three, somewhat, local events you may have interest in, so I share them with you.

\* Military Appreciation Day - Oregon State Football | 9/14/2019 https://oregondva.com/events/military-appreciation-day-in-corvallis/

\* 2019 Veterans Stand Down & Expo | VA Portland Helath Care System | 9/28/2019 <u>https://oregondva.com/events/2019-veterans-stand-down-expo-in-vancouver/</u>

\* Celebration of Honor | Lincoln City | 9/18 - 9/21/2019 https://oregondva.com/events/celebration-of-honor-in-lincoln-city/

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes to the 7 Sep 2019 District 1 meeting were just distributed separate from this update. And, yes, it took two attempts (as I'm distracted at work, lol).

#### JERRY PEAL MEMORIAL FUND

J.H. Wellington #42 sends their thanks and appreciation to the District, as well as, to others who made donation to the Jerry Peal Memorial fund. As we discussed at the D1 meeting, for those who were cash and/or checkbook light, please send your donation checks as follows:

Pay To: VFW Post 4362 Memo: Jerry Peal fund Mail check to: Roger Antonich, 33341 Bonneville Drive, Scappoose,

#### OR 97056

#### LEGION INSURANCE TRUST -LIT

As a member of the Legion Family, you're eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in no cost to you coverage; however, your confirmation is required for activation. I have attached an update on LIT-coverage of D1 members. For a free benefit it is extremely underrepresented based upon on district membership goal. Please ensure you are sharing this benefit information with all of your members.

https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare

#### **DISTRICT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE**

7-Dec Hillsboro #6, 285 W. Main Street Hillsboro, Ore. 97123 - Ample parking located 1/2-block east of Post #6

7-Mar Clatsop #12, Astoria, Ore. 2-May Aloha #104, Aloha, Ore.

Thank you for all you do in supporting your veterans and communities!

#### For God and Country



# Legionnaire Insurance Trust



**PDC MIKE JONES** A & A COMMISSION CHAIR remember time

in the military. You, also no doubt, remember that there was a constant barrage of rumors floating around the squad, platoon, section, Company or base. If you have been a member of the American Legion for any time at all, you are aware that the same thing goes on here. There is the problem.

As members of the American Legion FAMILY this is not healthy. Most rumors are foolish, disruptive and most certainly distressing. Many times, people's lives are negatively impacted and trust is forever replaced with distrust. Quite often whole posts have suffered for years, even here in our own Department. In fact, there some indications that we have lost posts for good over some stupid, childish and malicious rumor.

Most rumors have just enough actual facts to make them seem plausible. Couple that with the fact that as the rumor passes along it gets embellished and twisted to the point of being unrecognizable from the original.

These further compounds the prob-

Apparently, there are a couple of rumors going around that involve the A/A commission. So, I would like to clear those up once and for good.

First rumor is more or less a 2-part thing, with the story seemingly to vacillate from one extreme to the other. One story goes that the A&A was going to take a post down. The other side of the same rumor said that the A&A was going to take down the Department Commander because he wasn't playing nice with some post.

Legionnaires, neither one couldn't be farther from the truth. The A&A commission's job is to protect and preserve the good name of the American Legion. Were we to become involved in a Post, it would be to energize, revitalize, enhance or help build up a Post, not destroy it. Same for a Department Officer, we would be there to mentor, support and help them for the good name of the American Legion. Hopefully this is all we need to say on this one.

The second one is becoming dis-

# **Department Officers**

Commander Imed. Past Cmdr 1st Vice Cmdr 2nd Vice Cmdr Adjutant **NECman** Alt NECman Finance Officer Chaplain Historian Judge Advocate Service Officer Veterans Service Officer Jody Marsh Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Aide to Cmdr Aide to Cmdr

Steve Adams Tom Harris Don Weber Larry Wittmayer S. Flynn Phillips Andy Millar Iim Willis **Bob Huff** Floyd Bacon S. Flynn Phillips Gerald Shorey Ed Van Dyke Phyllis York Mike Morris Ward Allen Steven Mays Larry Williams William "Bud"

Stutheit



October 1, 1919 at Hoop Spur in the vicinity of Elaine in rural Phillips County, Arkansas an estimated:

A) 50-122

B) 100-237

C) 200-322

D) 300-437

black people were killed, along with five white men.

tressing for one of our Legionnaires.

We had a change of Adjutants at convention, everybody knows that. Apparently, there has sprung up a variety of rumors about this. All of them wrong.

Let me say it here for the first and last time. Lou Neubecker was not fired. He was hired the previous year on a one-year contract. He had come to us willing to fill the seat and get us through a difficult time. The office was in disarray. Many things had to be dealt with right away. And, he did well for us. All of us who were involved had seen this as a more or less emergency temporary condition. As we were continuing to keep the feelers out for a long-term situation.

For reasons that are known to the principals and are no one else's business we made a change to what is hopefully a more long-term arrangement. And, this seems to be working out well for all concerned. But, we did not fire Lou. In fact, we applaud Mr. Neubecker for his service to the Department.

So please, stop rumors by not repeating them. If they involve you directly, ignore them if possible, or go straight to the horse's mouth and get it ironed out. Don't try to involve third parties except as an absolute last resort. When someone says that they heard a rumor, press them to tell exactly who told them.

Rumors can destroy the harmony of a Post, District or Department. So just don't play the game. Ignore them. Avoid them and if need be, the people who pass them.





CORY BROCKMANN

AMERICANISM

Summary –
The American is m
Commission
welcomed
the 2019
American
Legion Youth
Champion
Delegation
and heard
rks from each

remarks from each of the young cham-

pions in attendance. Those included: Lou Acevedo, 2019 Boys Nation President of Gardner, Mass.; Jaden-Ann Frazier, 2019 Sporter Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Surgoinsville, Tenn.; Makenzie Sheffield, 2010 Precision Junior Shooting Sports Champion of Granbury, Tex.; Patrick Junker, 2019 National Oratorical Contest Champion of Waukee, Iowa; and Jaden Anderson, 2019 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year of Provo, Utah.

Addressing the delegation was Dennis Boland of Fla., president of American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and chairman of the NEC Liaison Committee to the Americanism Commission. He stated that CWF had made awards of over \$766,000, which was distributed to 21 organizations, from 100 grant proposals that were received.

A key speaker during the session was Jason Vanderhaden, Master Chief

Petty Officer of the United States Coast Guard. He spoke with great appreciation of The American Legion and our support of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) during our nation's longest federal government shutdown. Unlike the other four branches of the uniformed armed services, which are funded through the Department of Defense, the USCG is funded under the Department of Homeland Security. As such, the USCG was impacted significantly by the shutdown. During the shutdown The American Legion was a vocal supporter on Capitol Hill for funding USCG personnel as well as providing financially, through the American Legion and Legion Family, critical financial support to enlisted families. Temporary financial assistance (TFA) in excess of \$1 million dollars went to aid 3,120 children of 1,713 USCG families before the government reopened a month after being shut down.

Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson gave out the 100% Americanism Award to Larry Price of the Department of South Dakota. Mr. Price, who is currently chairman of Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE), received the award for his significant lifetime accomplishments and dedication to Americanism for over 50 years. In making comment of his award Price stated, "Don't be afraid of change. This organization needs change," which was received much applause.

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The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

## The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

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Publisher S. Flynn Phillips
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Mick Wilson

orlegionnaire@gmail.com



I attended the National Children and Youth Conference this past weekend on September 21-22 2019. There were a number of presentations presented over the weekend, those presentation are now online.

I would like to share the link to the presentations, https://www.legion.org/youth/presentations.

Of particular note to Oregon are the changes to the TFA. I would like to try and implement greater participation by the committee in the investigation aspect of the TFA.

PDC Jon Marsh C&Y Chair

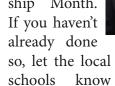


#### Members and Programs

We are well into our new 2019-2020 membership year and many of the posts are ramping up their activities as well as membership recruiting. Sometimes it seems we emphasize membership so much that the other programs we have pale in comparison for our attention. I've always felt we need to place more emphasis on what we do in our programs and then tell everyone, both our members and our community, and they will see all the good work we are doing and membership will grow because they will want to participate. (After all, when you approach a person to become a member, it would be nice if you could tell them all the good things your post is doing for veterans and the community.)

Each post has several programs they work on each year. You can get an idea of a post's activity level by looking at the Consolidated Post Report that is filled out every year. And, many posts have much more going on than there are places to report on this document.

Looking at The American Legion Officer's Guide we note that October Education and Scholarship Month.





RICHARD RAMEY **IA COMMISSION CHAIR** 

about our Oratorical and Achievement Medals programs. Also, it is not too early to talk about Boys and Girls State so students and parents can place that on their calendars for the future.

If you had to name one of the "signature" programs that your post participates in each year, could you? Now would be a good time to highlight that program at a post meeting and encourage members to give ideas on how your post might improve the program for this year. Most people would like to help, and often all it takes is an invite for ideas.



From left to right, Linda Liebenow, Dennis Boland and Barb Sumner.

Dennis is the NEC from Florida and unit 1's newest member and 1st male member. Signed up by Barbara Sumner.

Picture taken & submitted by his wife;

Dianne M Boland PDC 2018/2019 The American Legion Department of Florida

The Department Scouting Chair has scheduled to have a table and promote Legion Cooperation at the Cascade Pacific Council University

did.



LARRY WITTMAYER SCOUTING CHAIR

of Scouting in November.

As the end of the year rolls around LDS units wanting to continue Scouting in a traditional manner will need Posts to Charter them. Lets step up and promote this as the first resolution before our National Convention

That resolution resolved supporting Scouting.

Congrats to Post 63 for supporting Troop 440 in Burns.



National Vice Commander ROB LIEBENOW OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

This is a 501(c3) foundation. It was established to enhance the programs of The American Legion and be able to except donations from companies wishing to help veterans and their families. In order to survive, we need the help of individuals, posts and districts. We need your donations. We love to give out grants to support your local programs but if you are not willing to contribute to the foundation, then we will not have the funds to fill your requests. At your next post or district

meeting, please ask your members to consider sending in a donation. The directors of the foundation thank you.





★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ PO BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 ★ (317) 630-1200 ★ FAX (317) 630-1223 ★ WEBSITE www.legion.org ★

9 September, 2019

Commander Steve Adams
The American Legion Department of Oregon
30450 SW Parkway Ave
Wilsonville, OR 97070



Dear Commander:

At the 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention of The American Legion, the Convention Committee on Americanism took action on Resolution No. 49 titled *Changes To The American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year* that originated from your department.

On Sunday, August 25, 2019, delegates assigned to the Convention Committee on Americanism, consisting of the two subcommittees of Americanism and Children & Youth, met at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. During those meetings it was voted to **refer** this resolution to the Standing Commission on Americanism for further study and assessment.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Department of Oregon and to the author(s) of this resolution. With warm personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

RICHARD ANDERSON, Chairman Convention Committee on Americanism

Schard W. Enderson

101st National Convention of The American Legion

Cc: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

Stephen Flynn Phillips, Adjutant, The American Legion Department of Oregon Robert Millar, NEC Member, The American Legion Department of Oregon Loren Sperry, Chairman, Youth Activities Subcommittee, Americanism Commission

Jill Druskis, Director, Americanism Division

Jeff Hendricks, Deputy Director, Americanism Division

# ALEI now stands for "American Legion Education Institute,"

The forthcoming package of advanced American Legion online coursework for Legion Family members and youth program participants. The expanded ALEI will soon offer online training, YouTube videos, LEAD training videos, lesson plans for department instructors, and assistance for department Legion Colleges.

# American Legion Basic Training — only the first step.

The former American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) course was renamed to "Basic Training" to indicate it is the first step of training. The original ALEI was an American Legion correspondence course designed decades ago to give members a history and description of the organization. The new Basic Training course is better defined as an introductory training course within the American Legion Extension Institute (now the new ALEI) explaining our mission, history, programs and basic skills. It is the anchor course for future training under ALEI. Basic Training is available now and is free at www.legion. org/alei.

#### District Training In A Box

To effectively implement District Training In A Box modules departments should maintain a cadre of approved educators, subject matter ex-

perts, facilitators, and trainers to develop members and progress the mission of the department through training. Graduates of National American Legion College and Department American Legion College are an excellent source for this group, but many of this group could be qualified based on their knowledge or expertise on a particular subject or profession. Many essential presenters at national workshops are members of the Sons of The American Legion and the color of a presenter's cover should never be an assumption of their ability to promote training in a department, regardless of their connection or association to The American Legion family.

National Staff is developing training on the following topics:

## PHASE ONE Projected Phase Completion Date: 2019 Fall NEC Meetings

Membership Development / Retention, Post adjutant, MyLegion.org, Membership Recruitment, Post Leader Development, Post commander, Online Transmittal Process, Parliamentary Procedures, Mentorship, This is The American Legion, Resolutions

# PHASE TWO Projected Phase Completion Date: 2020 Spring NEC Meetings

Post Chaplain, Post Filing Requirements, Developing a Post Vision, Post Sergeant-at-Arms, Growing a Post,

Running a Meeting, American Legion Etiquette/Protocol, Growing a Program, Helping Veterans and Their Families/OCW.

lies/OCW, M e s s a g i n g



PNC, PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

to Your Community Fundraising, Constitution/By-laws Best Practices, Mentoring, Finance Officer, Post Service Officer

## PHASE THREE Projected Phase Completion Date: 2020 Fall NEC Meetings

American Legion Riders, Oratorical Contest, Scholastic Scholarship, Sons of The American Legion, Boys State/Nation, American Legion Baseball, National Emergency Fund/disaster preparedness, Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports, American Legion foundations (Temporary Financial Assistance, Child Welfare Foundation and NEF), Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, color/honor guard, amateur radio (TALARC), Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

While this training has the word "district" in the title, success of this training initiative lies squarely on the shoulders of the department level of the organization.

# Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan Endorsed By Your American Legion Department Money to help pay YOUR portion of hospital bills or you can use your cash benefits however you see fit!



# 102-year-old WWII Woman Veteran Served in WAVES

When the Navy called on women to volunteer for shore service during World War II to free up men for duty at sea, 102-year-old Melva Dolan Simon was among the first to raise her hand and take the oath.

"I went in so sailors could board ships and go do what they were supposed to be doing," said Simon. She recalled her military service as "something different" in an era when women traditionally stayed home while men went off to war. "I helped sailors get on their way."

Simon was 25 years old in October 1942 and working as an office secretary at the former Hurst High School in Norvelt – a small Pennsylvania town named for Eleanor Roosevelt – when she joined the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES.

Simon was the first woman in her hometown of Bridgeport, Pa., to join the WAVES, according to a yellowed clipping of a 1942 newspaper article. She was also among the first in the nation to join the service. It was just three months earlier, on July 30, 1942, that President Franklin D. Roosevelt had signed the law establishing the corps.

"I had a good job with the school, but I felt I would be doing more for my country by being in the service," said Simon.

The seventh of 12 children, Simon said she chose the Navy because several of her brothers were already serving in the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

"They were all enlisted, and I thought, well, what's wrong with joining the Navy?" said Simon. "I decided I wanted to go, and I was accepted."

Simon attended WAVES Naval Station Training at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) in Stillwater, Okla. Each class of 1,250 yeoman learned military discipline, march and drill, and naval history over a six to eight-week training period.

"That's where we learned the basics of the Navy," said Simon. "We were trained to march, we studied hard, and they drilled into us how important what we were doing was."

After completing basic, many of the WAVES trainees spent another 12 weeks at the college for advanced training in secretarial duties.

From Oklahoma, Simon was assigned to active duty at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, which during World War II employed 40,000, built 53 warships and repaired another 1,218. She and her fellow yeomen earned anywhere from \$50 to \$125 in basic pay per month, depending on their rank, plus food and quarters allowance, unless provided by the Navy.

Simon lived on the all-female fourth floor of the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia. WAVES personnel were under strict orders not to visit any other floors of the hotel – an order Simon said she followed.

"I didn't go on the other floors," said Simon, sternly. "It was none of my business." Simon's military responsibilities included taking dictation from the officer in charge, performing clerical duties and driving officers around the base.

"They gave me a driver's license for the Navy, and I would drive these officers, sometimes just very short distances," Simon said, smiling as she motioned from her seat at a dining room table to the far side of her kitchen. "I thought that was interesting because it would have done them some good if they'd just walked."

Simon wrote letters home to her family at first, then sent her parents money to have a home phone installed. Simon said that home phones were a luxury at the time. Before they installed the phone, her family used a telephone at a nearby store to call her.

"I sent them money every payday to keep the phone bill paid," Simon said. "It was much easier to call than to sit down and write, especially since I was writing all day at the office."

The phone also allowed her future husband, Joseph "Joe" Simon, to keep in touch with her. The two had met at the high school where Joe Simon worked as an agriculture teacher, and he'd visit with her when she was home on leave. They married in July 1945, just a few weeks before Melva Simon received an honorable discharge from the Navy in August 1945.

The couple purchased a 22-acre farm in 1947 in Mt. Pleasant Township, Pa., where they supplemented Joe's teacher's salary by growing and selling sweet corn.

Cont pg 9

# 102-year-old WWII Woman Veteran Served in WAVES



"It sold like hot fire because it was good sweet corn," Melva Simon said. "Then Joe planted apple trees, and that's what we decided to do."

The couple started an apple orchard – Simon's Apple Orchard – that re-

mains family-run today. The orchard opens its doors to customers everyfall, offering everything from pure sweet cider still made using the Simons' original recipe to bags of fresh McIntosh, Stayman, Rome, Jonathan, red and yellow delicious, and other apple varieties.

#### At the VA

Melva Simon worked the orchard alongside her husband, then took over when he died in 2004 at the age of 88. Still spry at 102, she drove tractors, harvested apples, made cider and worked the counter at a small shop on the property until just a few years ago.

Blessed with a lifetime of good health, Melva Simon only recently discovered she is eligible for health care benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. With the help of her daughter, Melvajo Bennett, the World War II Veteran has, since August, received care through VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's Westmoreland County VA Outpatient Clinic.

"It didn't dawn on her to go to the VA because she's always had such good health and never really had to see the doctor," said Bennett. "But they've been wonderful with how they are treating her."

Asked for the secret to good health and a long life, Melva Simon gave a simple answer.

"There is no secret," she said. "All it takes is simple living. I eat simple food. I don't drink, and I don't smoke."

As for her military service, Melva Simon said she'd do it all over again.

"That was all I ever wanted to do, was to do something for the government and the country," she said. "I'd do it again."

To check eligibility for VA health care or to enroll, visit *Apply for VA Health Care Benefits*.

Liz Zemba, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System



WWII Navy WAVES Veteran Melva Dolan Simon's service memorabilia includes her rank and insignia, photos and official documents

# Carry The Load Editors Notes



Marine Corps Veteran Harry Rivenbark cleans a headstone at Culpeper National Cemetery, Virginia, Sept. 11, 2019.

Rivenbark was one of more than 2,000 volunteers from Carry The Load, who partnered with the National Cemetery Administration for a day of service at 40 national cemeteries. VA photo by Adam M. Stump



Answer:

B.100-237

"the Elaine Massacre was by far the deadliest racial confrontation in Arkansas history and possibly the bloodiest racial conflict in the history of the United States".[

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#VetResources - for Veterans, their Families, Caregivers, and **Survivors** 

*Have a resource to share? Tweet it using #VetResources* 



# Honoring Fallen Veterans Online

The Veterans Legacy Memorial, the country's first digital platform dedicated entirely to memory preservation for the 3.7 million Veterans interred in VA national cemeteries, launched Aug. 14.

Each Veteran will have their own memorial page on the VLM, a secure, webbased platform that creates a perpetual memorial extending beyond the physical border of the national cemetery.

Search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran's memorial

"Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures 'no Veteran ever dies' by honoring the legacy of our nation's Veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery."

NCA, in conjunction with VA's Office of Information & Technology, built the architecture for the site starting with the information contained on every Veteran's headstone.

In the initial rollout, the public will be able to search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the basic details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add historic photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran's memorial page. Such capabilities will include provisions that allows NCA to manage the site in a manner that maintains the same level of decorum our customers experience in our national cemeteries.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit https://www. va.gov/remember. Have questions about Veterans Legacy Memorial? Find what you're looking for at VLM FAQ.

# Post Everlasting

District 1

## Forest Grove Post # 2

Dennis Cahill Harold Johnson David Keck

#### Hillsboro Post #6

David Connolly Harold Goff

### **Sherwood Post 56**

William Brennock William Cooper Philip Gauthier

#### **Cannon Beach Post 68**

Robert Gausin Claude Weaver

#### **Banks Post 90**

Earl VanDeHey

#### Seaside Post 99

Robert Bowdler Mike Harrison

### **Aloha Post 104**

Robert Bugansky Charlie Munkres

# **Tigard Post 158**

Donald Aldrich Dale Nass

# National National

## Clyde C. Ferguson (Dept of Virginia)

4171 Eby Dr., Dumfries, VA 22026, died September 10,

2019 at the age of 89. Source: Department Adjutant. A Korean War Marine Corps Veteran and a member of Post #28 with 69 continuous years of membership. ID#103462263.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

## Douglas F. George (Dept of Arkansas)

424 Hillcrest Dr., Heber Springs, AR 72543-2817, died September 5, 2019 at the age of 74. Source: Department Adjutant. A Vietnam War Navy Veteran and a member of Post #64 with 24 continuous years of member-

## **Ernest Gerundio** (Dept of Rhode Island)

139 Veazie St., Providence, RI 02908-2409, died August 23, 2019 at the age of 89. Source: Department Adjutant. A Korean War Army Veteran and a member of Post #60 with 36 continuous years of membership. ID#103229101. Memorial tions may be made to Hope Health Hulitar Hospice Center, 1085 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904 or Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517.

We encourage you to submit your District Post Everlastings to the Legionnaire at orlegionnaire@gmail.com

## Henry F. Gurney (Dept of New York)

32 Adams St., P.O. Box 134, Whitehall, NY 12887-0134, died August 22, 2019 at the age of 94. Source: PDC Morrill. A World War II Army Veteran and a member of Post #83 with 74 continuous years of membership.

Memorial donations may be made to Whitehall, NY Post 83, 148 Main St., Whitehall, NY 12887, or to the D-Day Memorial, 3 Overlord Circle, Bedford, VA 24523.

## James P. McAndrews (Dept of France)

Weststr 49, 74072 Heilbroun, Germany, died January 4, 2019 at the age of 55. Source: PNVC Haggan. A Lebanon/Grenada Army Veteran and a member of Post #GR79 with 8 continuous years of membership.

## Ramon A. Rivera-Rivera (Department of Puerto Rico)

P.O. Box 366124, San Juan, PR 00936-6124 died September 9, 2019 at the age of 92. Source: Department Adjutant. A World War II Army Veteran and a member of Post #113 with 74 continuous years of membership.

Condolences may be sent to his family at P.O. Box 363874, San Juan, PR 00936-3874

lost 140 since July 1



# **USS** Portland

Cover Page



The Commanding Officer of the USS Portland (LPD27) has invited all interested Portlanders to visit the ship in San Diego on October 23rd. This event is being organized by the Navy League and will begin at 9:00 AM with a welcoming ceremony which will include presentation of the ship's Sailorof-the-Year awards and Navy League gift to the crew. This will be followed by a ship's tour, which will include items named for famous or historical Portland places. For example, the main passageway is named Burnside Street, the ship's store is named Saturday Market, and drinking fountain is called Skidmore Fountain. Lunch in the wardroom will follow the tour. This is a great way to support our Navy.

To Register, go to <u>navyleagueportland.org</u>. Because of base security requirements, after registering you will be sent security forms must be submitted by September 28.

Gary Piercy
VP-Portland Council, Navy League
503-803-2771



# Harney County Fair and Rodeo Parade CountyEvent of the **Year**



Department Commander Steve Adams joins Harney County Post 63 Color Guard and Scout Troop 440 for a photo in front of the Post's 4-Pillar float.





Mentoring Scout Troop 440 on flag etiquette, Post 63 involves Scouts in their Color Guard and distributing US flags on the parade route



Waiting for the parade to begin on Post 63's 4-Pillars float is (L to R) District 10 Chaplain Jim Litscher, PNC Charles Schmidt, Department of Oregon Commander Steve Adams.



Aboard the 4-Pillars float is (L to R) Unit 63 member Darlene Wingfield, Post 63 member Paul Hyland, District 10 Auxiliary President Linda Schmidt and Scout Troop 440 Assistant Leader Jody Reese (standing).

# **VIETNAM BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS**

# Disability benefits available to those serving offshore

# Agent Orange Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam Waters (Blue Water Navy)

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of <a href="Public Law 116-23">Public Law 116-23</a>, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in <a href="Public Law 116-23">Public Law 116-23</a>, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

# What conditions are related to Agent Orange exposure?

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- · Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosar-coma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

# How do I file a claim for disability compensation?

- Apply online using <u>www.va.gov</u>, OR
- Work with an accredited representative or agent,
   OR
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.
- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.
- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our Disability Compensation web page. www.va.gov

# Support & Promote Your Post All Year!

## 2020 Post Fundraising Calendars



8.5	MUN	TLE .	*10	100	191	MI
	.eneum		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	OFFICE OF STREET
JAN	UAR	Y				2020

# Magnet

Your City and State

# Wall



# FLAG=REWARDS

Car Dealers Love Flags

Many car dealers fly multiple American flags on their lots. Consider approaching these dealers and asking them to support your Post with their flag purchases. You will likely save them money on their flag replacement budget.



# **Success Stories**

Congratulations! The following Posts have earned big credit in 2019 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2020:

#### Over \$400 earned:

- 1. Bay City, MI Post 18
- 2. Ankeny, IA Post 42
- 3. Lake Linden, MI Post 90
- 4. Bismarck, ND Post 1
- 5. Lily Dale, NY Post 1280

#### Over \$300 earned:

- 6. Douds, IA Post 494
- 7. Lawrenceburg, IN Post 239
- 8. Newburgh, IN Post 44
- 9. Caruthersville, MO Post 88
- 10. Des Plaines, IL Post 36

#### Over \$200 earned:

25 Posts have earned

#### Over \$150 earned:

25 Posts have earned

Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!





# Freddie's fall itinerary

Telling stories about songs, reaching out to veterans and bringing them on board to share positive stories about their lives is the focus of what Freddie is doing. That means the venues Freddie makes his presentations at vary from Festivals, Retirement Homes, Farmer's Markets, Churches and company parties and events, and more. You're invited to come out to the public events and meet people that Freddie brings along, or reach out to those he visits with after his show. Here is the itinerary of events so far for this fall:

Would you like to come out? Questions? Call Freddie at 661 433-1052, freddieprez@gmail.com or facebook. com/freddieprez Be Freddie's friend on Facebook. http://freddieprez.wixsite.com/violin

October 1 The Ackerly at Timberland, Portland, OR 11 AM

October 13 Colusa Asembly of God Church Colusa, CA 10:30 AM

October 31 Rosewood Park
Retirement Home, Hillsboro,
OR time to be announced

November 11 Brookdale Retirement Home, Forest Grove, OR

2 PM

December 6 Cascadian Nurseries Christmas Party, Beaverton, OR

Private event



# Christmas Gifts Shop

**Openings** 

Portland VMAC 80th
Opening Nov 30th,
then open Dec 2nd -5th

Oregon Veterans Home
The Dalles
Dec 7th at 10 am and

Lebanon Veterans Home Dec 11th, 1-4

Dec 9th at 10 am

Rosburg VMAC Dec 6th-10th

Join Us,
The More the Merrier



# "I Am The American Legion"

video authored by your Media & Communications Commission, which is representative of the type of material being produced every week. You will find much more of it online at Legion.org, or by contacting either the M&C Division or Marketing Division in Indy. In this case, Sandra Kee is a shining example of the caliber of young leadership we are all proud of, and hope to welcome even more of the same.

# MILWAUKIE POLICE START EMERGENCY FUND FOR VETERANS IN CRISIS

Milwaukie Police and the Milwaukie Post 180 American Legion partnered to create an emergency fund to help veterans when they need it most.

Author: Lindsay Nadrich Published: 09/13/19

MILWAUKIE, Ore — An unofficial motto of the United States Marine Corps is "Leave no man behind." That is what a Milwaukie police officer did after he encountered a fellow Marine on a call. The veteran he met was in crisis, but was not able to access needed services.

Veteran advocates said they often see veterans fall into this gap where they qualify for services through Veteran Affairs, but they cannot get help right away. That is the reason Milwaukie Police and the Milwaukie Post 180 American Legion partnered to create an emergency fund to help veterans when they need it most.

"A lot of us lose touch with our surroundings and he would be the first one to point them out to you," explained Milwaukie Police Officer Brad Walther. "He'd slow you down and make you see things you take for granted."

Officer Walther is talking about 29-year-old Sam Diffie who was a corporal in the Marine Corps and served two combat tours in Afghanistan. However, when Diffie returned home, he needed medical help and was struggling with housing.

In 2017, Diffie had multiple run-ins with police and fire. Officer Walther was on one of those calls.

"Every response he had was 'yes sir, no sir," Walther explained. "There's only two types of people, typically, that respond that way. They're either in the service or they're from the Midwest."

A Marine himself, Walther could tell right away Diffie was also a veteran.

"I asked him, what branch, and he told me Marine Corps, so we kind of had an instant bond there I think," Walther said. "You know, Marines are famous and known for, we don't leave any of our brothers behind, so I had to help him."

However, there was only so much Walther could do for Diffie as an officer. He would continually check on him and then on his own time, would drive Diffie to the VA in Vancouver. He said Diffie qualified for services, but it is a slow process and he could not get the help he needed right away.

"That's what we kept coming back to, is we were stuck in this gap, a need for service, a need for help, and there was nothing to address that," Walther said.

It is a problem the <u>Milwaukie</u> <u>American Legion</u> deals with as well. Their program helps about 150 veterans every year:

"Extremely frustrating, in fact, one of the goals of the American Legion, which was established in 1919 was to support the veterans that are coming home and don't get the necessary support that they deserve for their service," explained Michael Wilson, the Commander of Milwaukie Post 180 American Legion.

In January of 2018, Diffie passed away. His story, though, is not unique. That is why Walther helped start the Corporal Diffie Veterans Fund. Now, when there is a veteran in crisis, the Milwaukie Police Department and



# **CPL Sam Diffie**

American Legion can work together to get them immediate help. Donations will go directly to veterans for things like a hotel for the night, a meal, or a ride to a doctor, to name a few.

Walther thinks Diffie would be happy to know his legacy will now help others.

"We want to make a difference here in Milwaukie for our veterans," Walther explained.

Donations to the fund can be hand delivered or mailed to the American Legion Post 180, Attn: Finance Officer, 2146 SE Monroe St., Milwaukie, OR 97222

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 180. In the memo section of the check please write, "CPL. Diffie Veterans Fund."

Donations are tax deductible.

RELATED: <u>Veterans with PTSD</u>, anxiety turn to beekeeping for relief RELATED: 'I feel alive inside again': Vietnam veteran gets service dog

# Oregon National Guard Mobilization



Members of the Oregon National Guard stand at attention during the opening mobilization ceremony today in Portland, at the Oregon Convention Center, for Soldiers from both 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery (Forest Grove), and Company A, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (Clackamas) as they prepare to depart to Qatar. Known as Task Force Arrow, the group of more than 450 Soldiers is one of several units that the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is scheduled to deploy this fall and winter. In all, the 41st is scheduled to deploy more than 1,400 service members to five different countries: Djibouti, Jordan, Kosovo, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. (Oregon National Guard photo by Aaron Perkins, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs/Released)

The Oregon Army National Guard held a mobilization ceremony for soldiers Saturday departing to Qatar.

The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery from Forest Grove and Company A, 141st Brigade Support Battalion from Clackamas were recognized in the ceremony at the Oregon Convention Center.

Known as Task Force Arrow, the group of more than 450 Soldiers is one of several units that the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is scheduled to deploy this fall and winter.

In attendance was The American Legion Family, Department Adjutant, S. Flynn Phillips.



(above) (L-R) Post 104, Department 1st Vice Commander, Don Weber, Randy Butler Post 1st Vice and John Staub.

(Right) Senator Ron Wyden and Kurt Schrader with guard.

# Albany Post 10

Good Evening everyone.

Attached is the latest edition of Task Force 10.

Important October Dates

5th - about 1230 - ALR meeting

12th - 1700 Chef's Choice (Beef Stew)

14th - 5 PM SAL meeting

14th - 6 PM Post meeting

14th - 7 PM Auxiliary meeting

19th - 1700 - PALS Dinner Gourmet Burgers)

21st - 7 PM AMVETS Post 1919 meeting

31st - Kids Halloween Party

PLEASE -- if you get a different email address or would rather not be getting the newsletter or emails from the Post, Please let us know. Also if you know someone who should be on this list, have them send me an email.

Thanks everyone. Hope to see you at these events. //Bill - Newsletter Editor



(Above) (L-R) ODVA Director, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Don Weber, Dave Stuckey Deputy Director Oregon Military Department, and Randy Butler



# Clackamas County



For our homeless U.S. Military Veterans

# To be held at Clackamas Community College Gregory Forum in October, 2019, 12th,

# **NEEDED ITEMS:**

\* Blankets \* Backpacks \*Bus tickets \*Shoes \*Boots all sizes \*Socks \*Tshirts/Underwear \*Coats/Jackets \*Knit caps and gloves \*Tents \*Tarps \*Flashlights \*Hand Warmers \* Personal hygiene Items

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Businesses, groups, and individuals are generously donating their time and services to our veterans. Volunteers needed for set up and break down, to help veterans navigate through the event, and to help provide a friendly welcoming atmosphere.

**Donations** accepted from 8-5 Monday-Thursday (except closed between 12-1) at the **Clackamas County Veterans Service Office:** 2051 Kaen Road, Room 281, Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Contacts: Gina Thomas at 503-650-5631 <a href="mailto:gthomas@clackamas.us">gthomas@clackamas.us</a> Dave Denney at 503-650-5775 <a href="mailto:ddenney@clackamas.us">ddenney@clackamas.us</a> or Matt Furlow at 971-347-9785 <a href="mailto:mfurlow@clackamas.us">mfurlow@clackamas.us</a>



# Post 58

Adjutant Mike Sowles presents: Vern Hart Legion member with the Mover/Shaker Award for 13 years as a leader of Stayton Post 58. Vern has been a leader in many projects that Post 58 accomplishes, He has lead the post in recruiting new members for 13 years, Started and began the

Parade involvement and built the parade float, Started and implemented at least two or three raffle fundraisers per year, supported and began the Post 58 involvement with the Oregon State Penitentiary and the incarcerated Veterans Program with the OSP Veterans Association, promoted and hosted the Pictures with Santa program with his family and neighbors in Stayton.

# Deadline

for the December issue of the Oregon Legionnaire is November 5th, 2019



Post 58 Member Vern Hart and adjutant Mike Sowles

#### Need to Know Dates

Boys State - TBD

Girls State - June 14-20, 2020

State Convention June 24-28, 2020

# Calendar of Events

October

05-06 DEC Lebanon

12 District 5 Mtg

14 Columbus Day (Closed)

15 District 8 Mtg

19 District 6 Mtg

31 Halloween

November

09 John Day #77

27 National Closed

28 Thanksgiving (Closed)

29 Dept Closed

30 Portland VA Gift Shop

30 Dept Christmas Party

December

01 District 2 Mtg

07 Pearl Habor Rember

07 OVH The Dalles

Gift Shop

07 District 1 Mtg

17 District 8 Mtg

23-25 National Closed

25 Christmas (Closed)

31 National Closed

# Are you moving?

We hate to have you miss the next Legionnaire Newsletter!

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

■Name:	
New Adress:	
City/State/Zip:	
Effective Date	

Effective Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_PhoneNumber:

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org

**Or Mail to:** The Department of Oregon Attn: Adjutant

P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730



Suicide Prevention

VA staff's instant action prevents a Veteran suicide

It's not often that we talk about suicide in terms of lives saved, but recently, the Cleveland VA team saved a Veteran from ending his life.

He came in for his medical appointment for treatment just like any other day. During a casual conversation with a VA team member, he shared his plan for suicide. He had lost hope and didn't feel he had anything more to offer.

The VA team member wasn't a mental health provider, a nurse or a doctor, but is a compassionate VA employee who knew how to #BeThere. The VA team member immediately engaged members of the Veteran's treatment team.

In the photo above, Cleveland VA's lifesaving team includes (from left) Jose Rivera (ED nurse manager), Kimberly Miller (infusion clinic nurse), Jennifer Davis (dietitian), Erin Valenti (infusion clinic nurse manager), Alexandra Murray (psychiatry intern) and Rocco Burke (police officer).

They showed compassion and talked with the Veteran about his needs and together, then they developed a plan that helped him feel safe.

Every member of the VA team flawlessly executed their role to save this Veteran's life. They got him to the emergency department and, eventually, to the psychiatric assessment and observation center for further treatment.

# Compassionate, dedicated and responsive

"Safety is always my top priority. I am glad the VA has such compassionate, dedicated and responsive resources to ensure a Veteran's safety at such times," said Susan P. Berman, VA psychologist.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We ALL have the power to end Veteran suicide. Preventing suicides doesn't require special training. It means showing you care, reaching out to Veterans and knowing the <u>warning signs of suicide</u>.

Many common risk factors for suicide are treatable. As a community, we can #BeThere and save Veterans lives through stories of hope and recovery.

# Call the Crisis Line for confidential suicide prevention support

If you are a Veteran in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, call the Veterans Crisis Line. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

You also can contact VA's Coaching Into Care program if you are worried about a Veteran loved one. A licensed psychologist or social worker will provide guidance on motivating your loved one to seek support.

Thank you to our VA team members who work each day to keep our Veterans healthy and safe.

# Medal of Honor



We are honored that this year's Special Guest will be Medal of Honor Recipient Florent A. Groberg, the 10th living service member to be recognized with America's highest valor award for his actions in Afghanistan.

Our Five-Star Gala is USO Northwest's largest annual fundraiser with proceeds funding critical programs and services designed to meet the needs of today's military service members and their families.

Your support enables the USO Northwest to serve more than 800,000 service members and their families a year!

To sponsor a Gala Table or purchase individual tickets: CLICK HERE

We are proud that 92¢ out of every \$1 donated to the USO-NW goes directly to supporting our military and their families

Thank you for your support!



at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington at Seattle's Southport

# OCTOBER 19, 2019

A benefit to Support the USO Northwest and honor our Service Members of the Year



Northwest

VIP Reception - 5:00PM | Silent Auction - 6:00PM | Dinner and Live Auction - 7:15PM

RSVP attendance to events@usonw.org



PDC BOB HUFF
DEPT FINANCE OFFICER

As we have previously reported and again reported our Department Officers, District Commanders and Chairs of Commissions, our approved 2019-2020 Budget is

a zero-based budget. Each quarter, our Officers, District Commanders and Chairs of Commissions during our Department Executive Committee (DEC) when making their reports on their activity will report how they are using their approved budgeted funds. If the budgeted funds were not used after their Code of Procedures are approved in our Fall DEC, or are no in their plan for future use in the 2019-2020 Budget Year, the budgeted funds will be removed from their budget line and added to the reserve funds budget line. There are those commissions/committees not requiring budget to perform their mission, using other means, raising funds, this has been very positive.

My usual reminder that all Posts are separate corporations, are under our National IRS Group Exemption Number 0925, have a 501©19 IRS designation and are required to file IRS 990 forms or 990-N electronic e-postcard yearly, there are no exceptions. If you need assistance, questions, we are always here to help.

Our DEC voted in our Mid-Winter DEC last year to change our Tax Reporting Year from August 1 to July 31 to Tax Reporting Year October 1 to September 30 to support reporting our program expenses that occur during the August and September time period. Because of a 1976 Tax Ruling under our Group Exemption number

Number we were required to file a 1128 Form for our Department of Oregon Taxes. With additional documents required to support our change under the ruling as we have subordinate Posts that have filed 990T Forms in the past 10 years, we were required to support our change with additional documents before we can change our reporting year. We completed our document search in our Department and National Organization files and historical documents. With the search complete, we have submitted our 1129 Form for The Department of Oregon and with our Foundation, The Oregon American Legion Foundation not having completed ten Tax reporting periods, we filed a 1129 Form for an Automatic Approval Request to support changing our Tax Reporting Year to October 1 to September 30 each year. We are currently in process of developing our tax documents for our Tax Year August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019 for The Department of Oregon and The Oregon American Legion Foundation. We will then generate a "Short Year" tax document for August 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 for The Department of Oregon and The Oregon American Legion Foundation which will count as one tax reporting document of ten required for each to support the change in Tax Reporting Year.

Remember, that between Department Conventions, the administrative power of the Department shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee per Article VII, Section 1. As we have changed our Tax Reporting Year, as we have reduced membership numbers for income, increased expenses for our priorities within our mission, changes will be required in the alignment of budget within our Approved Budget. We are having those discussions and will provide our recommendations for discussion and DEC vote.



EVA SUMMERS
PERMENANT FINANCE
COMMISSION MEMBER

financial records for your Post – all receipts need to match both in coming and outgoing monies; in other words "a paper trail", to account for all monies.

Once you

It is very

important to

keep accurate

COMMISSION MEMBER have your income and expenses identified, you can prepare your income statement, which is the difference between money coming in and money going out, and to report how your Post is doing financially at your next meeting.

If you need a sample of income and expenses to use, a chart of accounts can be in found in the Post Operations Manual on page 19, or you can use your own categories, whichever is simpler for you.

You must keep records of all transactions and keep those records for the required period of time. (Refer to orlegion.org; >Media; >Resources; >Forms & Publications; >Dept of OR Policies; >Document Retention on page 11).

Don't forget to do a monthly bank reconciliation. On two separate occasions there two unidentified checks withdrawn from a checking account, after notifying the bank of those transactions, they were reversed. Had we not done a bank reconciliation, we could have been out about \$2,000.

You don't have to be an accountant to keep accurate records and report your financial status to your Post members.



PDC BOB HUFF VEE&H CHAIR

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission is tasked with Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness. Au-

gust turned right around as another busy month, me be-

ing triple booked on Tuesday August 6 for the Celebrate the Veterans Event at the Street of Dreams 2019 at the Home Builders Assn of Metro Portland held in Wilsonville, thank you to ALA President Gea Clausier and our Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer and a local team who supported this event, the Legion family, excellent. We supported the Southern Oregon Woman Veterans Conference on Thursday August 15 at the Inn of the Commons sponsored by the VA, great turnout. We set up our tables with our services at two Oregon National Guard Town Halls and participated with our Soldiers and families for the 186th Infantry before their Deployment in October. Our local team will be present on Sunday October 13 for their and the 4th Brigade mobilization ceremony to be held at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. We have also participated in four VA Town Halls focused on the Mission Act and providing information on our programs to the Veteran communities hosting the events and have more for October and November. Today, we have multiple Veterans Stand Downs in Oregon, the communities have become active; some are also Veterans Employment and Benefits events. All positive and most are attended by an average of 170 Veterans, the environment has changed. Our Posts, our Legion Family have been supporting as community events. This is important;

with our Oregon National Guard deploying, our biggest deployment, our Posts need to also participated with their local National Guard units and their families during this deployment. Some of our Posts are participating, all our Posts need to participate. We have programs that can support this deployment and the families of our Guard. This is an opportunity for our Legion Family to be in the community and show our National Guard units our programs and the good work we do. The ODVA Woman Conference is held every 2 years and is being planned for April 2020 and will be held in Bend, which we sponsor and support and we will be there. Remember again, we are having our largest deployment in Oregon starting in October. Each unit will hold a Yellow Ribbon before our soldiers are deployed, most have already occurred. We are welcome at these Yellow Ribbon Events, local Posts and Districts should be attending these events. There will also be Yellow Ribbon events for the families during the deployment and then when the Soldiers return. This is a great opportunity for our Posts and Districts to meet the soldiers being deployed and show our programs and the positive impact we have on Veterans issues and our communities and supporting their families. Reminder, also, Point in Time (PIT) Count, when your County conducts their PIT of Homeless Veterans, it is important that this count be taken, any assistance our Posts can give to assure an accurate count is taken is necessary for funding to support the Homeless Veterans population in those communities. If your Post is already participating, thank you. This is activity that each Post can participate in which can have some positive outcomes for their communities. Remember, we have need for more members for our committee, if interested please contact me with your interest and I will notify

our Commander with a recommendation. And remember our most successful events are those with local Post participation.



All,

Commander Oxford said he remembers somewhere in his travels a post, squadron, department of detachment that was selling Christmas ornaments with the all 3 family logos of them. He would like to find out where and purchase some as gifts this year. Does anyone know where that is? IF you do please forward it to me along with a point of contact. Thank you for your help.

Regards,



# HISTORY ON THE VIETNAM WALL

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics from the Vietnam Memorial Wall.



There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 63 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam .

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam .

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War;

153 of them are on the Wall Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation.

There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest, and in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps.

Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31,  $1968 \sim 245$  deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this, they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those who survived the war and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain

that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.

There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

MIKE Sowles

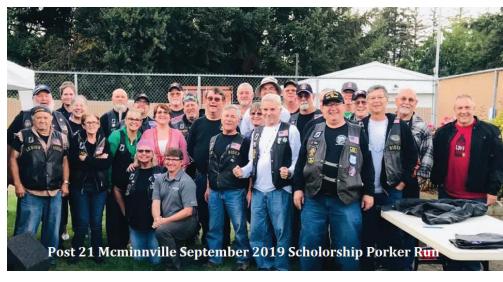
Post 58 AJUTANT This is an invite to an event inside the walls of the Oregon State Penitentiary from the Veterans Association and Legion member of Post 58, James Todd Gulley.

The OSP Memorial Healing Garden will have their Grand Opening on Wednesday, November 6th at noon and invites go out to American Legion Members of Post 58 and to the Department Officers and to our District 2 Commander.

Those admitted inside the walls will need to pass a background check, We will need the name on your Driver's License, Driver's Lic. number and DOB. all completed at least a week in advance. The healing garden is next to the Veterans Memorial and is meant augment those that served.

Mike Sowles, Post 58 Adjutant OSP Incarcerated Veterans representative of Post 58

Email me your information for entry: msowles@wvi.com



On September 7th, 2019, the American Legion Riders of Post 21, McMinnville, Oregon, hosted a poker run "Scholarships for Local High Schools" within our district.

As the American Legion Legacy Fund began 14 years ago, to ensure higher education for children whose parents lost their lives while serving our country. Expand to include children of VA rated, post 9/11 vets who had a 50% or higher disability rating.

Support for the Legacy Fund has accumulated enough funds to be self-supporting. American Legion Post 21 and its families made a brave decision. "We will support the Legacy Fund idea but rather than sending

our money derived from motorcycle rally's and fund raisers to a national pool, we voted to continue our support by giving locally used in a local, more relevant and connective manner

The September American Legion Post 21, McMinnville, poker run saw more than 67 bikes and several "cages", a cage being a mode of transportation other that a motorcycle, turn out for an amazing day of riding, eating, dancing, silent auctions and raffle events. The Legion families worked tirelessly behind the scenes to design, plan and sponsored the Scholarship Fund poker run. Generating over \$4,000 that will be used to help local high school students selected by a committee, for educational expenses of the winning students that otherwise may never see the doors of a higher educational institution or trade school.

In 2018, our first year at such an endeavor, we were honored to issue three scholarships for just under a thousand dollars each. The recipients were very grateful and were invited to the Post Rider's Meeting to express their gratitude.

The Post Riders and families can feel proud of what they have accomplished and look forward to future successes connecting the youth of our community to the very fiber of our veterans and families of American Legion Post 21.

# You are invited

To the Portland VA Medical Center

80<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Gift Shop Grand Opening

Presented by The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oregon

Saturday, November 30, 2019 10:00 am 3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road 2<sup>nd</sup> floor auditorium

2<sup>nd</sup> floor auditorium Refreshments will follow ceremony

Please RSVP to Linda Liebenow at 503-826-5877 or email <a href="mailto:lindaliebenow@comcast.net">lindaliebenow@comcast.net</a>

# You served with honor. You earned your rewards.



Did you know there are hundreds of thousands of stores that will offer you discounts as a THANK YOU for your service?

To date we have approximately **200,000 locations** across the country waiting for you to visit. It costs absolutely nothing and is total anonymous, we collect zero information when signing up.

All we ask is that you pass the app along to our fellow vets so that they can get their rewards, too.

Search "My Military Rewards" in your app store or scan the codes below with your camera:









Visit <u>mymilitaryrewards.com</u> or <u>facebook.com/mymilitaryrewards</u> to download the app and learn more!

From one Viet Nam vet to another vet, thank you!

# AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING

# The Legacy of Exposure to Agent Orange and Other Toxic Substances on Veterans and Their Offspring

Learn about the health problems associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals and how they affect your health and the health of your children and grandchildren for up to 6 generations.

Date: October 19, 2019 Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Location: Portland VA Medical Center Auditorium** 

# Hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Portland Metro Chapter 392

For more information, contact VVA Chapter 392 (503) 558-2970 • vva392@outlook.com





# WYOMING ANTELOPE HUNT



LIMITED NUMBER OF 2019 ANTELOPE PERMITS AVAILABLE TO 50% DISABLED VETERANS.

Season runs from 3rd Saturday in Sept thru Oct 22, 2019 in Hunt Area 66 near Lander, Wyoming.

Residents and Non-Residents are eligible to receive donated Antelope permits for this hunt.

Other big game permits or licenses may be available.

PERMIT AND GUIDE SERVICES PRO-VIDED. TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING AT HUNTERS EXPENSE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CON-TACT AMERICAN LEGION DON



STOUGH
POST 33,
DEPT OF
WYOMING
KEN
PERSSON SR.
307-349-2881

# REAch Veteran Toolbox Program

In 2012, WWII Veteran and former POW Clarence Robert "Bud" Shepherd created the REAch program to assist Post-9/11 combat wounded with the Veteran Toolbox Program. He provides Vets with free toolboxes filled with tools to assist with their transition into civilian life. Although Post-9/11 Purple Heart Veterans are priority for the program, all Veterans can apply. More than 8,000 Toolboxes have been shipped.





# FOREIGN AND OUTLYING DEPARTMENTS AND POSTS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ALASKA • CANADA • FRANCE • HAWAII • MEXICO • PHILIPPINES • PUERTO RICO • CHINA POST



# Still Serving America's Veterans... Around the World

# 2020 OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST FUND GUIDELINES

#### **Trust Fund Members**

Consists of the current National Commander of The American Legion, who shall be chairman, and the immediate Past National Commander of The American Legion and his predecessor, who shall be known as the Trustees, and who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the national convention of The American Legion. The American Legion National Adjutant will serve as recording secretary, The American Legion National Treasurer will be Financial Advisor, and the Chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he or she remains as chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee. The Trustees are charged with the custody, control and administration of the fund, the income of said fund are used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those U.S. Veterans who served in the World Wars, Conflicts, and Hostilities and who are buried overseas.

#### **Purpose**

Rather than barbecues, races or even parades, the real idea of Memorial Day is to remember those who served their country in uniform and are no longer with us. The American Legion has been in the forefront of such efforts since its existence – no matter how far-flung the fallen comrade.

The American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund was established in the 1920s, and provides all U.S. flags – from Emblem Sales, made in the USA – flown at cemeteries and burial sites in foreign countries where American troops are buried or otherwise memorialized. The first fundraising for the decoration of overseas graves took place in 1921-1922, and its current organizational plan has been in force since 1935.

The Trustees shall use the income of the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Fund to honor, preserve. and decorate the graves of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, and of those who served during the period of the Vietnam Hostilities, who lie overseas. They may adopt and use such methods and means as they may deem advisable, including the active cooperation and aid of overseas Departments and Posts of The American Legion and any other agencies, and in pursuance thereof may prescribe details, methods, and practices deemed necessary, expedient, or convenient. The income shall be used exclusively to honor, preserve, and decorate the graves and for no other purpose, and under no circumstances shall the Trustees have the power or authority to expend, use or divert the Trust Fund or any part there of for any other purpose.

In addition to the above guidelines this fund will financially aid Departments and Posts outside the continental United States of America to honor and decorate individual graves of those veterans who were laid to rest outside American Battle Monument Commission controlled facilities.

#### **Funds Request Procedures**

Fund requests will be sent to The American Legion National Adjutant. The following information is required for each request for funds.

- 1. The name of the Veteran.
- 2. The cemetery name and location (city and country) where the veteran is at rest.
- 3. A quote in writing (not to exceed \$50.00) from a local florist, for flowers to decorate each veteran's grave.
- 4. A mailing address for Emblem Sales use so they can mail each Department or Post "U.S.A. made American flag" for each grave to be decorated.
- 5. A mailing address for The American Legion National Treasure so he can mail each Department or Post the requested funds for each grave to be decorated.
- 6. After the Grave Side Ceremony in May of each year a picture with caption must be forwarded to the FOD-PAL Secretary.

OPENING DATE TO REQUEST OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORA-TION TRUST FUND MONEY IS 1 NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR

REQ THE FUNDS FROM THE OVERSEAS GRAVE DECORA-TION TRUST FUND ARE DIS-PENSED ON A

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASES ANNUALLY UNTIL THE INCOME EACH YEAR IS DEPLETED

#### **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Seaside Chapter 99



# POW/MIA Day

Seaside Chapter 99 recently passed a resolution to maintain the POW/MIA flag at the Seaside Library Vietnam veteran memorial flagpole. The city does not budget

for the flag and over the past several years our charter Director Michael O' Rourke (Custer) has purchased the flag himself.

Pictured below are two of our Vietnam Veterans Michael O' Rourke and Lou Neubecker raising the newly purchased flag at the Seaside library.





# **SeaPower**

The September 2019 issue of Seapower

# SPECIAL REPORT: U.S. Marine Corps

- Osprey's Readiness Struggles. A decade after fielding, 4 out of 10 MV-225s are unavailable for combat.
- Threats From the Air. Marines testing, developing next-generation systems to combat airborne threats. On Mission in Latin America. Marines, Sailors focus on disaster relief and humanitarian aid in Central America.

Janet Lang has been a long time Auxiliary member of Seaside Unit 99. Celebrating 100 years young.

We want to thank you for your visit on Wednesday celebrating mom's birthday. It was a great day. Around 94 people at last count. We had a family party for her yesterday at Langdon farms and was great too.

Mom liked to play golf, had 4 kids, She owned and ran several family grocery stores including the Brightwood store for 15 years. She loves all kinds of card and board games and is still playing almost nightly. A very motivating person. Loves to travel but above all Family first.

Greghill5000@gmail.com 503-791-8668

# **VSO NOTIFICATION**

#### What:

On Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded a multi-vendor, multi-million-dollar indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract to enhance customer service to Veterans by automating VA's mail intake process.

#### Goal:

The goal of this initiative is to automate the current mail intake process with a software solution to significantly reduce mail processing times.

Benefit: This will enhance customer service to Veterans and their families by enabling claims-related information to reach decisionmakers faster.

#### **Phased Implementation:**

This initiative will be a phased implementation starting in October 2019. Phased implementation will take place gradually over time across the country and not concentrated in any one location.

Respectfully,
Greg Nembhard, MBA
Deputy Director, Claims Services
The American Legion, Washington,
DC Office
National Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation Division

Phone 202.263.2985 :: 202.697.5943

Fax

gnembhard@legion.org



# The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin

What a wonderful lesson this is ~ do not recall ever being taught this in school. "The Meaning of the Flag-Draped Coffin!"

All Americans should be given this lesson. Those who think that America is an arrogant nation, should really reconsider that thought.

Our founding fathers used GOD's word and teachings to establish our Great Nation, and I think it's high time Americans get re-educated about this Nation's history.

Please pass it along and be proud of the country we live in, and even more proud of those who serve to protect our 'GOD-GIVEN' rights and freedoms. I hope you take the time to read this. To understand what the flag draped coffin really means.

Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers:

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.

The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The 3rd fold is made in honor, and remembrance of the veteran's departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens

trusting in God, it's to Him we turn in times of peace, as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it's still our country, right or wrong.'

The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It's with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty & Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country, and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within, or without the boundaries of their republic.

The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and mother's. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men, and women who've made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons, & daughters, for the defense of their country, since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David, and King Solomon, and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity, and glorifies, in the Christian's eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.



The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are upper-most reminding them, of their Nation's motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors, and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges & freedoms they enjoy today.

There're some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you will see flags folded, and now you'll know why. Please share this with the children you love, and all others who love what is referred to as the symbol of 'Liberty and Freedom.'

MAYBE THE SUPREME COURT SHOULD READ THIS EXPLA-NATION BEFORE THEY REN-DER THEIR DECISION ON THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. FOR-WARD IT;

MAYBE SOMEONE WITH THE NECESSARY POWER, OR POLITICAL CONNECTIONS and FINANCIAL INFLUENCE, WILL GET IT TO THEM.

IN THE MEANTIME. MAY GOD PROTECT US ALWAYS: ONE NATION, UNDER GOD, WITH LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Our Soldiers have preserved your right to make a choice to pass this on or to delete it.

# Welcome our new American Legion Legislative Director

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Melissa Bryant to the American Legion as our new Legislative Director. Melissa comes to The American Legion with nearly 20 years of combined experience in federal government management, nonprofit advocacy, and nonprofit executive leadership.

A former Army Captain and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, Melissa's extensive record of public service includes critical roles in both military and civil service as a senior intelligence officer. As a Department of Defense and Intelligence Community plans, policy, and operations managing expert, she served in key leadership positions with the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Joint Staff, the United States Military Academy, and Army Intelligence. She was successful in building "coalitions of the willing" to advance operational and strategic objectives while developing and implementing plans and policy for the defense and intelligence communities.

Melissa most recently served as the Chief Policy Officer for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). As the head of IAVA's policy division and all its Washington, DC operations, she oversaw the legislative, research, and government affairs departments. Melissa managed the development of IAVA's annual policy agenda, conceived strategic advocacy campaigns, and led IAVA's engagement with the White House, Capitol Hill, government entities to include the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Veteran and Military Service Organizations, and other advocacy organizations.

Melissa has provided remarks in dozens of press conferences, participated as both a panelist and moderator in a variety of venues, delivered numerous oral and written <u>testimonies</u> before Congressional and Administration hearings, as well as conducted live and taped interviews on <u>CNN</u>, <u>NPR</u>, <u>CBS Radio</u>, <u>PBS NewsHour</u>, <u>C-SPAN Washington Journal</u>, <u>MSNBC</u>, <u>HLN</u>, <u>local television</u> segments, web-based and <u>print articles</u>, and much more.

Melissa is an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science cum laude from Hampton University, is an alumna of Howard University School of Law, and also holds a Master of Arts in Policy Management from Georgetown University. She was named an Aspen Institute Ideas Festival Scholar in 2018, and her civil and military service awards include the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, plus dozens more accolades and honors.

Louis J. Celli Jr. Executive Director Government & Veterans Affairs Washington, D.C.

**Phone** 202.861.2700 :: **Fax** (202) 318-1430





	THE AMERICAN LEGION — MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION						
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	Membership ID# former member	Email	Post #	Date			
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	(8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities)  ☐ Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)  ☐ Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84)  ☐ Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)	☐ U.S. Navy ☐ U.S. Air Force ☐ U.S. Marines ☐ U.S. Coast Guard			\$ for 20		
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Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Date

Recruiter's signature

Recruiter's phone #

Mail completed application to American Legion Auxiliary department/state headquarters.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.

For current department address go to: www.ALAforVeterans.org/contact/state\_headquarters.

Dues include a yearly non-refundable allocation of \$3.40 for American Legion Auxiliary magazine.

Membership pending approval of application.