

Leading Candidate for National Commander Visits Oregon Read all about it on pages 7-11





LARRY WITTMAYER DEPT1ST-VICE COMMANDER

was a hectic month with DEC Fall and District visits. Much business was accomplished at the DEC, and comradeship

We recently

celebrated

Veterans Day

Thanksgiv-

ing, and now

quickly 2021

how

followed

realize

prevailed. Quite a lot was executed at the District Commanders forum.

Concerning Membership, the Department is doing quite well. As of 11/7, we are ranked 26th in the nation at 62.75% and 2nd in the Western Region.

Keep up the great work. Western Region National Vice Commander Higuera is planning a visit to Oregon



ARIZONA

you that you will follow up on, which will help make a difference in the lives of others.

There are many veteran organizations across the country, each striving to improve the lives of veterans in some way. Within The American Legion, we have been doing such work for over 100 years! And, our work also includes the well-being of our children and youth as well as our communities. There are many programs within The American Legion. You can contribute to the benefit of our veterans and children, and it doesn't always have to be a financial contribution. We have much work to do, and volunteering to help any of our programs is a fantastic way to give support.

The American Legion identifies six value principles that we ascribe to as an organization. I want to take a moment to address two of them here, those are:

A Veteran is a Veteran. By this, we - The American Legion - embrace all of our current and former military members and endeavor to help them transition into their communities. It can be difficult to embrace and adapt to something different. To a former

from 1/5-9/22. Please get in touch with your lawmakers to get the Buddy Check Bill passed.

Please view the latest emails and get the Oratorical Program moving in the Districts. Our Oratorical Chair is Maria Tye and can be reached at 281-786-5402.

My visit to the District 6 meeting was a great pleasure.



MISSOURI

member of our armed forces, it can be a huge challenge to integrate back into a society that we know but that may appear changed to the veteran. One that becomes different to our veterans because of the unique training, discipline, and obedience each adhered to in support of their mission.

It is important to note that our work on Capitol Hill isn't only about The American Legion. It is about our veterans. All veterans. It is about supporting the U.S. Constitution. It is also support given to ensure a strong national security. And, it is about patriotic and family values to support future generations to come.

The other value principle is to *Honor* those who came before us. Meaning, The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure new generations never forget them. The histories of individuals, of the sacrifices made, are important to honor and to remember.

Currently, we are living in an unprecedented era where certain pieces of history are sought by some to be

Continued on page 3





CORY BROCKMANN Dept2nd-Vice Commander

is coming to a close. I hope you had the opportunity to spend time connecting with family and friends.

It is an excellent time to pause and give reflection upon our families and friends, our values, the sacrifices made by service members and veterans and their families, along with the many other blessings in our lives. It is also an excellent time to look forward and give consideration to potential opportunities before us. The opportunity to make a difference!

I hope in some small way you gave a contribution to a better world on Giving Tuesday. Whether it was a donation made on that day to the philanthropy of your choice or a commitment made to a cause near and dear to

Continued from page 2

CORY BROCKMANN canceled Dept2nd-Vice Commander and moved. However, it is important to remember that history is also the recording of both right and wrong. Recorded history may also capture the bias of the one recording it. And, as such, there remains important lessons that continue to be learned from history. We shouldn't seek to cancel history; instead, learn from it.

Perhaps now more than ever, we should seek tolerance—the tolerance of ideas, thoughts, and opinions, and of each other as fellow citizens. Seek not to call out or hurt another for being different or identifying differences, rather strengthen our citizenry because of that difference. Countless sacrifices have been made by those who have fought to support our country and its citizens for its ideals and the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Some have even paid the ultimate sacrifice, the loss of their life, and in which there remain today families that bear a significant burden due to that loss.

Yes, we honor all those who came before us.

The American Legion's motto is "Veterans Strengthening America." We accomplish this through your continuing selfless sacrifice to our nation.

Yes, Veterans do strengthen America! Thank you for your continued service to our country!



Department Officers

Don Weber Commander Imed. Past Cmdr Steve Adams 1st Vice Cmdr Larry Wittmayer 2nd Vice Cmdr Cory Brockmann Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips **NECman** Kevin Owens Alt NECman Gene Hellickson Finance Officer **Bob Huff** Chaplain Steve Shollenberg Historian Dick Winders Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson Service Officer Ed Van Dyke Veterans Service Officer Jody Marsh Phyllis York Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Mike Morris Asst Sgt-At-Arms Ward Allen

Need to Know Dates

December

Pearl Harbor **OVH Gift Shop Cancelled** Portland Gift Shop Cancelled

January

Initiation Ceremonies Prepare for Oratorical

Februry

Looking forward to Oratorical MLK Day

We started our new Budget Year on October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. The Budget for 2021-2022, which was approved at our Department Convention, provides a Budget for our programs, our officers, our district commanders, all of which have responsibilities to perform in their office or function.

We revisit the Budget monthly as the Budget is put together with all information that we have available. CO-VID did not help in our assumptions. We have processes for when items that are budgeted or that are our duties are not performed that we must reduce the budget line for that function. As our new Budget started on October 1, 2021, I have reviewed the Oregon Legionnaire for October and November 2021.

I am alarmed at the number of district commanders and chairs that have not submitted articles for the Legionnaire. I would like to congratulate and thank District 1 Commander Lou Neubecker, who always provides a Legionnaire Article of the activity in his District and messages to his mem-

articles the Legionnaire. For the Months of October and November 2021, we will reducing budget line on those required to

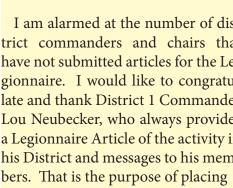


the Oregon Legionnaire that have not submitted articles.

As I asked all the District Commanders during our Fall DEC, when making their Post visitations and Post assessment, to verify that their Posts have filed their 990 Taxes. If the Post has not filed in three years, the IRS will revoke their EIN numbers, and they will lose their 501 c19 status. This is part of the District Commanders' assessment of each Post in their District.

As I have reported, we took a lower membership quota for income for our 2021-2022 Budget year. We can not continue to reduce our membership;

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Contined from page 3

have PDC, Bob Huff we DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER had some successes

and so have our Posts. Lower membership will mean reducing expenses in our other operations, our programs. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We have found that making Buddy Checks which is doing the right thing for our members, is providing positive outcomes in renewing our members. We have other income, but membership supports our programs, supports our ability to support legislature on Veterans issues, supporting Veterans and their families and caregivers.

Remember, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501@3. Contributions are tax-deductible, funds are used for our programs. is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site. Let's have a great year, face to face when safe. We have plenty of opportunities for a great year. I hope that you and your families have a great Christmas and a positive, wonderful New Year. Hope to see you all next year in person.



PDC, Kevin Owens **NEC**MAN

As I look around, I am reminded of the many sacrifices so many Veterans have given to this country to the loss of their own

lives. November 11th is a day we

District 7

honor all Veterans for their service to this great country. We all can do that within our organization by those Buddy Checks. How important are they you might ask? Think about that veteran who is shut-in with no family and has belonged to our organization for many years and never hears from his Post. Ask yourself why would he want to continue to be part of an organization who he never hears from? The reason is the American Legion cares about our members, and we take care of our "BUDDIES". This is a big initiative this year by our National Commander, and we should also make it ours. As you may have heard the Washington Conference has been cancelled because of the lack of access we have to meet with our Federal Rep-

resentatives. The American Legion will be coming out with its Legislative agenda shortly and I encourage all of you to read a copy of it and contact your Congressmen and Senators to support them. Our voice is strong and the more they hearfrom us, hopefully the more they are paying attention to the values and goals the American Legion has. As we progress into the fall holidays it's a time to reflect on the the good things our Posts are doing, but also on the things we could have done better or maybe should have done. As we hopefully can resume a normal life, we need to get out to our schools and communities and share our story. We don't often hear who the American Legion is and what they do. We should be saying here is what we have done for over a hundred years and what we continue to do every day. I want to again thank you for allowing me to be your National Executive Committeeman, it is a job I don't take lightly but one I embrace trying to make this organization 1% better each day. We may not agree on everything as a group, but we should all be striving for the same goal. We need to make the future for Veterans better than when we found it, that is the American Legion.



This 1925 F. Scott Fitzgerald novel is still considered by many to be one of the greatest books of all time.

- A. This Side of Paradise
- B. A Farewell To Arms
- C. The Great Gatsby
- D. To The Lighthouse



for lunch and JAMES MORIARTY a tour of the DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER Estacada Support Our Troops Foundation Veteran's Memorial. We also welcomed Department Commander Don Weber, Past National Vice Commander Rob

Liebenow, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, and Department Historian Dick Winders. I was pleased to see a majority of District 7 in attendance speaking about their Posts. Thank you all for your time especially this close to the holidays.

Membership goals are upon us again, but we are entering into the slow time of the year. Please continue to get the word out and have your Post members renew and keep having your events at your Posts, breakfasts, harvest markets, etc. Please emphasize that Buddy Checks are very important

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

James Moriarty and call some-District 7 Commander one you served with or haven't seen in a while. You will be glad that you made that call. I attached some photos of the lunch and Estacada Veteran's Memorial. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving with your friends and families.





Lt-Rt ALR Director, Charlie Peppers, Dept. Commander, Don Weber, Leading Candidate for National Commander, PNVC Jim Troiola, PNVC, Rob Liebenow, District 1st Vice Cammander, Terry Brown, and District 7 Commander, James Moriarty









Interesting things to make



you say Hmmm....

You can thank the

Greeks for calling Christmas "Xmas"

In Greek, the word for "Christ" starts with the letter Chi, which looks like an X in the Roman alphabet.





Editors Notes

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Business and general offices:
30450 SW Parkway Ave
PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730
Phone (503) 685-5006

adjutant@orlegion.org www.orlegion.org

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

The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

Editor Publisher S. Flynn Phillips S. Flynn Phillips

Chairman

Members Daniel Burks

David Applegate Iaun Palacios

orlegionnaire@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

December Christmas Cheer
07 Pearl Harbor Day
11 District 1 Meeting
25th Christmas

January *Initiation Ceremonies*01 Happy New Year
17 MLK Day (Nat'l Closed)

February Oratorical Coming your way
21 Preidents' Day (Nat'l

Closed)

27-2 Washington Conference

March Community Service Month

2-4 Dept Officer School 12 District 1 Meeting 15-17 TAL Birthday



Lou Neubecker District 1 Commander Happy
Hanukkah,
Merry
Christmas,
Happy New
Year from
your District
1 Officers.

Well, on

November

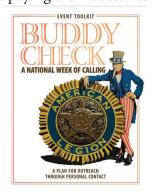
19, we show-

cased 3 Posts in the District. Post 119, 90, and 104 to the leading candidate for National Commander. He completed his visit to Oregon. His name is Vincent J. (Jim). Troiola. He was very impressed with our Posts and the activities with the cities from which they are in and stated so several times during his visit to District 1. JOB WELL DONE District 1.

Our next District meeting is December 11 in Aloha Post 104, lunch is served at 1130, and the meetings start at 1 PM. It should be completed by 2:15.

Our membership is moving along at a snail pace; we need to pick it up. I know that it is the holiday season, and members would rather buy presents for their loved ones instead of paying for their membership. We are sitting in the lower portion of the Department; we need to work on the 114 lists and our non-renewals. Give our members a call on the phone and ask them *HOW THEY ARE DOING*, don't ask about paying their dues. Let

them bring that up. Just tell them that the call is a buddy check. We want to know how they are doing.



Deadline

for the **December** issue of the Oregon Legionnaire is **November 5th, 2021**



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT. ADJUTANT
ing World War II.

BIO:

Jim grew up in Queens, New York, one of the five boroughs of New York City. His father served in military intelligence in Germany dur-

In 1968, Jim joined the U.S. Navy. He served onboard the USS Nitro AE-23, an ammunition ship homeported in Davisville, Rhode Island, in 1970-71.

He left active duty as a Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class and continued his service as a Naval Reservist until 1974, when he was honorably discharged.

Jim's working career was spent in the automotive industry as a Managing Director of the service and parts departments of several large dealership groups. He retired in 2017 after spending his last ten years in a New York Metro Mercedes-Benz Dealership.

A PUFL and member of the SAL at the William E. DeBevoise (pronounced dee-bev-oys), Jr. Post 1682 in New City, New York, Jim served as Membership Chairman, Oratorical Chairman, Vice Commander, and Commander. Jim held these same positions at the County level and during his time as Rockland County Commander served on the Military Academy Review Board and the veteran's advisory committee for United States Congressman Benjamin Gilman. He served the 9th District of New York as Oratorical Chair, Adjutant, Legislative Chair, Vice Commander, and Commander.



Lt-Rt Dept Commander, Don Weber, Leading Candidate for National Commander, PNVC James V. Troiola and PNVC Rob Liebenow, at the Vietnam War Memorial at Washington Park

For the Department of New York, Jim served on the faculty of the New York American Legion College, as the Department Membership Chairman, Chairman of the Centennial Task Force for the Future, a consultant to the Americanism Committee, and as Department Commander 2010-2011.

At the National level, Jim has been a member of the Membership and Post Activities Committee, the Committee on Children and Youth, the Citizens Flag Alliance, and the National Security Commission. He has served as the Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission and, most recently, the Legislative Commission. Jim was National Vice Commander in 2016-2017.

Jim credits much of his success in the American Legion to those in his Post who mentored and sponsored him.

Jim has been married to his wife Saveria for 48 years. They have two daughters, Laura and Jeanette, and have three grandchildren, Alexander, 10, Abigail, 6, and Natalia, 1.

Jim currently lives in Maine, where he can be close to one of his daughters and his grandchildren while still driving distance to the Department of New York.

OREGON VISIT NOVEMBER 17-20, 2021

The Past National Vice Commander James Vincent Troiola, pronounced (Troy-Ola) for those of you that have tripped over your tongue, Flew from Portland to Portland, Main to Oregon. He had a quick lunch at Famous Daves BBQ before being whisked off to the Vietnam Veterans of Oregon Memorial at Washington Park by the tour group of Department Commander Don Weber, PNVC Rob Liebenow, and Department Historian Dick Winders.

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Continued from page 7
S. Flynn Phillips
Dept. Adjutant



The tour team let Jim rest up a bit at the hotel before taking him out to one of Wilsonville's best restaurants, the Oswego Grill.

Pictured blow left is our photographer and historian, Dick Winders. The reason you never see him is because he is always behind the camera.





The next day November 18, 2021, Thursday, the group headed out for Milwaukie Post #180, with District 8 Commander William (Chris) Christopherson to pickup Post 180 Commander Mike Wilson and their adjutant Al Hanley to tour Willamette National Cemetery.









Next Stop for Oregon Trail Post #150, Post Commander and 40&8 Chef De Gare Roger Harr and Post Adjutant Ron Bickford.





Then they were off back to Post 180 for Lunch.





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S. FLYNN PHILLIPS

They headDEPT. ADJUTANT

ed out to the
American Military Encouragement
Network, AMEN Ministries, American Military Encouragement Network
(AMEN), which provides assistance
and encouragement to homeless veterans active and reserve military personnel, servicemen and women, and
military families, Oregon and SW
Washington.











Next Stop; Wilsonville Oregon, Korean War Memorial for Tour and Presentation with Post #65 Commander Larry Edwards, Chuck Lasardi, Korean Memorial Association and Frank Walsh, Post #65 Member (WWII Veteran)









After the long day the group take him to McCormick & Schmick's Grill in Tigard at the Bridgeport Shopping center.





Friday morning head out for for Vernonia Post #119. Post #119 Commander Damien Cox, and Adjutant PDC Tom Harris along with District 1 Commander Lou Neubecker, where lunch hosted by the Post. Department Vice Commander Cory Brockmann joins the group. Remember Department Historian Dick Winders is behind the camera.

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S. Flynn Phillips
Dept. Adjutant









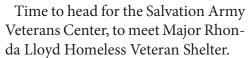
Afterwards they all head out to the John Kalmbach Post #90 and meet Post Commander Michael Warrens and Post Adjutant Rodger Rau and Post and members.











We arrived at the Salvation Army Veterans Center, and was met by Major Rhonda Lloyd, with a tour of the Homeless Veteran Shelter









Next was Aloha Post #104 Post Commander Adam Gettmann and Post Adjutant Mike Childress and town Hall Meeting and Social Hour followed by Dinner with Remarks by the National Commander Leading Candidate James Vincent Troiola.

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10 S. Flynn Phillips
Dept. Adjutant









Two reprentitves from the Washington Department came to join in. Jim talks with a younger member of post 104.

November 20, 2021, Saturday they arrive McMinnville Post #21, for breakfast and met by District #2 and Post #21 Commander Juan Palacios and Post Adjutant Shirley Brown and Department Auxiliary President Debra Godwin. Not to mention the Oregon's number one Color Guard.

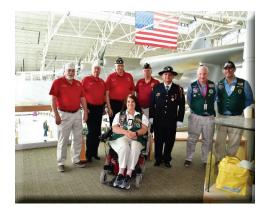








Tour Evergreen Air & Space Museum, with Honor Guard Captain Angel Mendoza.









He enjoyed his visit and can't wait to come back and do a longer visit at the Air Museum.



PDC, STEVE ADAMS INTERNAL AFFAIRS CHAIR

fall DEC to look into the issue.

In November, we had a meeting to determine what needed to be done and meet in December to determine the progress and what still needs to be done with a goal for completion by the spring DEC.

District Commanders need to submit monthly reports to Department every month along with Post analyses of the posts that they visit. It

is recommended to visit each post twice a year. If the Commander cannot visit all Posts because of scheduling, then District Vice Commanders can visit posts and report to the District Commander and the Post analyses. As of November, no reports or analyses have been received by Department, and this needs to change.

There are other issues being looked at by the IA Commission and will be reported on at the Winter DEC in January.



MARIA TYF ORATORICAL CHAIR

The Oratorical Contests Committee m e m b e r s availare able to assist each District to have their Posts be success-

The Internal

with

merger

Districts

committee was

formed at the

ful.

They are as follows:

Districts 1, 7 & 8 Debra Jacobson Districts 2 & 3 Steve Bergadine Districts 4 & 9 Charles Wilson Districts 5, 6 & 10 Charlie Schmidt

We have added another category, 5th place.

Placement 1st \$5,000 Placement 2nd \$4,000 Placement 3rd \$3,000 Placement 4th \$2,500 Placement 5th \$1,500

The first and second place winners from each District will go on to compete at the Department level. Postlevel contests should be in January. District level should be in February and the Department level the 2nd

week of March. Please keep in contact with your District commanders to provide more information. Let's get everyone excited! Let's hit our local media, schools, homeschoolers, and all the organizations with children from grades 9th through 12th. Remember the children can compete EACH YEAR. It's ALL ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

For God and county,

Maria Tye

EM: Corey0071@gmail.com



PNC, CHARLES SCHMIDT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

The American Legion National Headquarters announced November 22, 2021, the release of the Public Relations Toolkit Legionto naires. It has been over a

decade since The American Legion's Public Relations Toolkit has been updated. But the newest version is now available on the national webpage www. legion.or/media/publications/ media&communications. Produced



by the Media Communications Division of The American Legion, this toolkit will help Posts, Districts, and Departments

enhance The American Legion's image through positive communication and messaging. Another purpose of this manual is to provide assistance for all levels of PR practitioners, from novices to experienced professionals. The 73-page American Legion Public Relations Toolkit provides examples of news releases, media advisories, public service announcements, and information on networking, social media, podcasts, internal/external media, interviews, crisis management, and prevention, and more. Use the tools offered in the toolkit to fill your Public Relations toolbox to communicate with your members and engage your other communities.



GALE SEARS
LEGION RIDERS

Birthday Rideby for Jim Black, Sr.



Oregon American Legion Riders from Post 21, 58, and 10 and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association honors WWII Veteran and Purple Heart recipient (Okinawa). The Riders performed a Birthday Ride-by, Labor Day, Sept. 6th, 2021, marking his 95th birthday.

As a US Army Veteran, Mr. Black enjoyed the tribute and Ride-by as he was presented a gift and the 100-year anniversary coin by ORARL Director Paul Schnell and the Oregon American Legion Post 21 Riders.













LARRY WITTMAYER SCOUTING CHAIR contact me at 503-970-4944.

Scouting remains vital and active within the area of the Department of Oregon. If your Post considers chartering a Scout unit.

don't hesitate to



The competition for the Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year is coming up soon. Please look within your Troops for possible candidates. More info in the near future.

The Boy Scouts of America has announced a new requirement for Eagle Merit Badge - Citizenship in Society. The inaugural class of Young Women Eagle Scouts soars to nearly 1000.

The Boy Scouts of America and the Veterans Administration have announced a collaboration to ensure every Fallen Hero is remembered on Memorial Day. More info to follow.

Council Events

Cascade Pacific Council

11/21 OA Vigil Nominations Due 12/4 OA Vigil Selections 12/8-22 Virtual College of Youth Leadership

Oregon Trail Council

11/20 Webelos World

Blue Mountain Council

11/21 Ham Radio Testing 12/1-13 Toys for Tots 12/11 Virtual Course -Prep for Winter Camping

Mountain West Council

11/14-22 On-Line Holiday Auction



THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION FUNRAISING RAFFLE

Help support our American Legion Veteran and Youth programs by purchasing raffle tickets!

Raffle Prize: "Legacy & Vision" The American Legion

100th Anniversary lithograph print, wood-framed and matted with the American Legion Centennial Silver Dollar

Ticket Price: \$10 each (Limited ticket availability.)

Contact: Department Headquarters or members of

the TOALF committee





TOALF raffle tickets make an excellent stocking-stuffer gift for your veteran or veteran supporter!



Training and Development

On October 31st at Aurora Post 110, we had a very successful Post level training event. It is the

BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
TRAINING CHAIR

first of four training sessions to be held around the state. The role of the Commander, and Vice Commander, was presented by 1st Vice Larry Wittmayer. Adjutant Flynn Phillips discussed the role of the Adjutant and the New MyLegion. Steve Shollenburg Department Caplain gave a presentation was on the role and duties of the Post Chaplain. Chairman Betty Fish-Ferguson moderated and for those new to the Legion showed a movie of the History of the American Legion and Admiral William McCraven's famous Commencement address "Make your

Post Level Training at Aurora Post 110



Attendees were: Juan Palacios, Jerry Patton, Chris Christopherson, Doug Peal, Frank Davis, Joe Strelecki, Jerry Outslay, Roger Holderby, Fred Broadwater, Gordon Kroemer, Wendy Bergerwood, Bunny Bigley, Michael and Dana Speer, Lisa Hand, Robert Earhart, Ian Gerstel, Michael Ireton, Norm Solomon, Ann Evertts, Cheryl Murphy, Steve Shollenburg, Don Weber, Larry Wittmayer and Flynn Phillips

Bed speech." The day ended with a panel of Department Officers and the most senior Legionnaire in the room who had more than 20 years of experience. Questions were enthusiastic and varied and seemed to be enjoyed

by all. Department will send certificates and a class photo to all those participating. A special thanks to Lisa Hand, Commander of Aurora Post 110, for hosting the event. See you all at a class near you.

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Continued from page 14 BETTY FISH-FERGUSON TRAINING CHAIR



Training and Development Chairman Betty Fish-Ferguson



Department 1st Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer



Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg



Discussion Panel: Roger Holderby, Dept Cmdr, Don Weber, Steve Shollenburg, and Dept Adj, Flynn Phillips



* Must wear a mask and be 18 years or older. Due to COVID, only visitors who are 18 and older are allowed on campus. Proof of ID is required. Find out about qualifications and other positions on our job and career website.

https://www.southernoregon.va.gov/careers/

WITH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS (FEHB), YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF SELF OR FAMILY HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OR
FEE-FOR-SERVICE HEALTH PLANS THAT ALL COVER PREEXISTING CONDITIONS. YOUR SPOUSE, DOMESTIC PARTNER AND CHILDREN UNDER AGE 26 ARE
ELIGIBLE AS ARE CHILDREN — REGARDLESS OF AGE — WHO ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES. VA PAYS UP TO 75% OF HEALTH PREMIUMS.

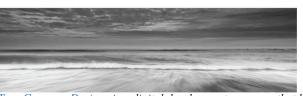
VA EMPLOYEES ARE COVERED BY THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (FERS). FERS IS A THREE-TIER RETIREMENT PLAN COMPOSED OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS, FERS BASIC BENEFITS AND THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP).

VA EMPLOYEES ALSO RECEIVE

- 15 TO 26 DAYS PAID ANNUAL (VACATION/PERSONAL) LEAVE
- 13 SICK DAYS ANNUALLY WITH NO LIMIT ON ACCUMULATION
- 11 PAID FEDERAL HOLIDAYS
- UP TO 12 WEEKS OF PAID PARENTAL LEAVE (FOR EMPLOYEES COVERED BY FMLA) FOR THE BIRTH, ADOPTION OR FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT OF A CHIL
- MILITARY LEAVE IS AUTHORIZED UP TO 15 DAYS A YEAR FOR OUR ACTIVE RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS

USAJOBS

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS





<u>True Compass Designs</u> is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. **Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer**.

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

360.210.4157 19215 SE 34th St. #106 PMB 142 Camas, WA 98607 https://www.godaddy.com/garage/true-compass-designs-navigating-web-design-by-honoring-his-true-north/



PDC, Bob Huff VA&R Chairperson

Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually, offices are still closed with COVID restrictions and telephone contact, and virtually.

tual meetings have been successful. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSO's are supporting veterans in their hearings. Virtual meetings have proven to allow more access and quicker response to some of our Veterans' claims and appeals and have filled in a void with our rural Veterans population.

Our Department Veterans Service Office is doing a great job supporting our Veterans during a very difficult time and has adjusted to new means in supporting our veterans. With the Oregon National Guard possibly starting to plan for Yellow Ribbon events soon in-person, we will be supporting those events. The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program, which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon and many hours of volunteer service, contributions and has filled in a void at our VA's during COVID 19 in all areas, some more depending on the area. Our representatives and volunteers at the VA SORCC in White City received awards this past week and a commendation for work conducted during COVID.

With VAVS Volunteer opportunities opening, the VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction. The Commission and our VAVS Arm also participate in the System Worth Sayings Ac-

VA & R

tivity at our Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Facilities with our National VA&R Commission.

The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National Cemeteries. The Commission also represents our department along with the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission at Veterans Stand-Downs, Benefit and Employment and Education Events, Woman Veterans Events, Mobilization, and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon.

We continue to participate in virtual meetings to support some of this effort. Making plans a year out has changed to sometimes, day by day as the rules change. If you hear of events that VA&R and VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol.com or (541) 826-4916 with your contact information, and I will contact you. If your District is holding its meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, and we will be happy to support you.

Thank you

Help us prevent Veteran suicide



Dear American Legion
Family Members and
Friends,

The American Legion is conducting a survey to assess how the

PAUL DILLARD pandemic has NATIONAL COMMANDER affected the overall physical and mental wellbeing of veterans. Take the survey now at this link. (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRQRPS8)

The 2021 Mental Health Survey, open through Nov. 28, will keep the identities of participants anonymous. A central objective of this research is to find effective ways to reduce and prevent veteran suicide. After the last two years of social isolation, financial insecurity, and loss of life, it is more important than ever to understand what works in this constantly changing landscape.

Continued on page 17

Are you moving?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

City/State/Zip: ______
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

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, Bob Huff VEE & H Chairperson

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homeless-ness Commission is an arm of The American Legion Pillar I: Veterans, that is charged with Veterans

Employment, Veterans Education, Help for Homeless Veterans and atrisk Veterans.

We are working with our community partners, VA, NCA, ODVA, Oregon National Guard, Worksource Oregon, our DVOP Team, Easter Seals, Bar Associations, ESGR, County Organizations, HHS, VSO's. We will be hosting and supporting an in-person Job Fair on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the VA SORCC in White City

for critical shortages in five areas at the VA SORCC. This Job Fair will be for VA Jobs only; participants must wear a mask and be 18 years or older; because of COVID, only visitors who are 18 or older are allowed on campus.

Applicants are encouraged to fill out the application on USA Jobs. Because of restrictions of no more than 50 in an area, we will be using five different areas and using golf carts to transport applicants from the parking lot to the areas of the Job Fair. The new way of doing business, but it is a start, including a copy of the flyer with this article. We continue to honor each County Health and Federal rules for the safety of our Legion Family and Veterans community.

We are still in discussion to hold virtual Employment Fairs in locations we can not have in-person, there has been some success, and we are meeting on that now. We are working with VA Homeless Centers, have not stopped but still need some face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs.

We are gathering equipment, clothing, and I have met with one of the VA Directors for a venue. Everything is in the planning stages, and the venue is still not open. Once we have the green light, we will plan them and plan dates; once approved and the number we can have safely in a gathering and the rules, we will then communicate those dates and locations to our Districts and Posts through the Department Email list.

Our VE&E Events are partnered with VA&R and our Membership and Post Activities Team. Remember, the most successful events are those when local Posts and the Legion Family participate. As always, veterans' and participants' safety remains our focus. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a positive, wonderful New Year, and please stay safe and see you next year.

Continued from page 16

PAUL DILLARD In 2019, 6,261 NATIONAL COMMANDER veterans were lost to suicide. Compare that sobering number with the 7,057 killed in post-9/11 war operations. However, for the first time in 20 years, we have seen a decrease in veteran suicide. Still, just one veteran lost to suicide is too many.

I am calling on you to take the survey (at this link) (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DRQRPS8) and encourage your fellow brothers and sisters in arms to also participate. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete

the survey. All responses are confidential, and no personal information is collected.

The survey results will be instrumental in The American Legion's efforts to improve mental health treatment for veterans, reduce the suicide rate, and shape our policy and resolutions on these important issues.

We must act now.

No Veteran Left Behind,

Paul E. Dillard, National Commander







Betty Fish-Ferguson Post 149 Adjutant

The American Legion format was used, including the Pledge of Allegiance and a full POW table demonstration.

24 Veteran residents were present, in-

cluding two women, many of whom shared stories of their time in the service. Many other guests and residents were present to celebrate the day, including the Director of the facility.

The facility gave out framed certificates to each Veteran, and Carole gave a candy gift with a small flag and Legion bookmark to each Veteran. The program ended with the playing of TAPS.

The facility provided refreshments, and people stayed to visit. The program drew many accolades, and Carole received many thanks for coordinating the event.



Bonaventure Assisted Living Veteran's Day Tribute



Pioneer Post #149 provided a Veteran's Day tribute to Bonaventure South
Assisted Living Facility residents on November 11th.
Those members present were Commander Ann Everetts,
Adjutant Betty Fish-Ferguson, VSO Carole Bova-Rice, JAG Barbara Hosier,
and Carolyn Hamstreet-Shores













Be prepared with the Lifeline Medical Alert Service

Learn more

Or call 855-495-4359

From Your



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

To my fellow Legionnaires in Oregon,

This is a critical time for our organization. A recent report revealed a 15-percent increase in suicide among active-duty troops. Preventing suicide among veterans is a top priority for The American Legion and it should be a top concern for all Americans.

You do not need to be a first responder or a professional counselor to help a veteran a need. You just need to be informed. Please memorize and share the number to the Veterans Crisis Line with anybody whom you think could benefit from it. That's 1-800-273-8255, extension 1. Veterans in crisis can also chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text 838255.

A large and strong American Legion can ensure that our elected leaders in Washington hear our concerns. That mean not writing off any generation of veterans. The LEGION Act not only opened our membership to Cold War veterans, but it also tore down walls that may have existed between various war eras. Last summer's events in Afghanistan continue to be particularly hard for many veterans of that war. We must be accessible to these men and women who may be experiencing a whole range of emotions.

I am extremely proud of the opportunities that The American Legion offers through our job and career fairs. Veterans and their spouses are disproportionately impacted in the job market due to their frequent address changes and other challenges associated with transitioning back to civilian communities.

At its heart, The American Legion is a grassroots community-service organization. The American Legion posts in your department prove it with your constant devotion to our four founding pillars.

I thank you for your service to America and The American Legion. Best wishes for a productive conference.

No Veteran Left Behind,

Saul & Dillard







Pearl Harbor December 7th

A day of infamy







James Moriarty On Veteran's Post 74 Commander Day, Estacada Post 74 sponsored a Veteran's Day breakfast at the Odd Fellow's Hall in Estacada. Exchange students Above (ISE) from Estacada (Spain, Montenegro) and Barlow (Spain, Germany, and Italy) High Schools and Boy Scout Troop 186 took and served food orders.

All veterans were free of charge, and those who signed up on the breakfast day, Post 74, paid for their 2022 American Legion membership. We want to thank the Estacada community, volunteers, the exchange students, Boy Scouts, River Mill Elementary School (Veteran's Day art), and of course, the veterans that came out and supported Post 74.

One of my missions as the Post Commander (Post 74) is to have an American Flag in every classroom in Estacada. Last month, I contacted Principal Jennifer Behrman at River Mill Elementary School, and she stated that they needed 10 1 1/2' x 2' American Flags and hardware for their classrooms. Last week, I delivered them to her and 50 American Legion American Flag Comic books for history class in the first and second grades.

Thanks, Jim 951-368-4277



On Veteran's Day, Estacada Post 74

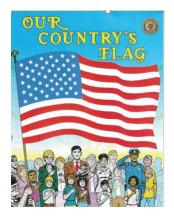
















We are mailing Travel Accident on December 29th

Quick reminder about Travel Accident:

Pays if you were to die as the result of a covered Travel Accident in a private vehicle or common carrier. Also pays a daily benefit if you were to be treated as an inpatient in a hospital because of a covered travel accident. Product may not be available in all states and may not mail all your members.

If you want a more detailed description of this product, visit www.TheLIT.com/Travel-Accident.

Stay tuned from new product launches - Eargo Hearing Aids and VSP Vision Plans!!!

- 1. Our next mailing is Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) in February.
- 2. Action plan is under development from the forum discussion at the Williamsburg board meeting.
- Applications for the annual Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative will be sent out in early December.

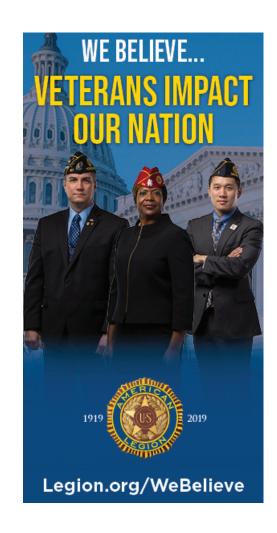








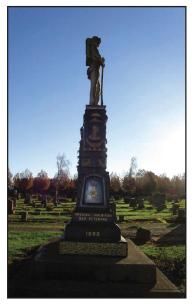
Questions? Contact Howard Bender 800-445-3269 hbender@agia.com



G. A. R. CEMETERY WOODBURN

G. A. R. CEMETERY WOODBURN







Milwaukie Post 180 Honor Guard had the honor and privilege of conducting burial honors for a World War II Navy veteran at this well kept pioneer cemetery on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

Women Who Lost Their Lives During WWII

October 25, 2021 by Jenny Ashcraft

During WWII, more than 500 U.S. military women lost their lives while serving their country. Our friends at Stories Behind the Stars are compiling their stories, and we'd like to share just a few.

Aleda E. Lutz was the first Ameri-



can woman to die in combat during WWII. Lutz enlisted in the Army Air Forces Nurse Corp on February 10, 1942. She served in the

802nd Medical Air Evacuation Squadron and was part of a highly classified unit that used unmarked C-47 cargo

planes to fly to the battlefront with supplies and return with the wounded. On November 1, 1944, 28-yearold Lutz was flying on a Medevac C-47 with nine wounded American soldiers and six wounded German POWs from Lyon, France, to a hospital in Italy. The pilot lost control in a violent storm, and the plane crashed near Saint-Chamond, France. There were no survivors. At the time of her death, Lutz had the most evacuation sorties (196), the most combat hours flown by a flight nurse (814), and the most patients transported by any flight nurse (3,500). Lutz was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the first given to an Army Nurse in WWII. She was also honored with the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters and a Purple Heart, in addition to other commendations. The Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center was named after her by Congressional decree.

Cornelia C. Fort was a young civilian



flight instructor from Tennessee. On the morning of December 7, 1941, she took off from John Rodgers Airport in Honolulu with a stu-

dent. Fort noticed a military plane approaching from the sea. Suddenly, she realized that the plane was headed straight towards her on a collision course. Fort wrenched the controls from her student and managed to pull up just in time to avoid a collision. Just then, she noticed the red sun symbol on the plane and saw smoke rising over Pearl Harbor. Fort had just witnessed American's entry into WWII. The following year, Fort joined the

Cotinued on page 23

Women Who Lost Their Lives During WWII

newly established Women's Auxiliary Blanche F. Sigman was working Ferrying Service (WAFs). She was thrilled to join the war effort and flew planes from factories to military airbases. Her work freed up male pilots for combat missions. On March 21, 1943, Fort was ferrying an airplane to Love Field in Dallas when another male pilot's landing gear clipped her plane, sending it plummeting to earth. Fort died on impact. She was one of 38 female pilots who died flying military airplanes during the war.





a public as health nurse Brooklyn when she enlisted United in States Army Nurses Corps in 1942. She was assigned to the 95th

Evacuation Hospital as a Chief Nurse. On September 13, 1943, Sigman was serving aboard the hospital ship for the Eighth Army, the HMHS Newfoundland, in the Gulf of Salerno, Italy, when German planes bombed the ship. She survived the attack and went on to serve in Italy during the Anzio campaign. Along with some 200 nurses, and while being bombarded, Sigman cared for 33,000 patients at Anzio. On February 7, 1944, a Luft-

waffe pilot fleeing from a British fighter dropped a load of bombs on the hospital where Sigman was caring for the wounded. Sigman died in the attack. Fellow soldiers temporarily interred her body on the Anzio beachhead next to her patients. In 1948 she was reinterred in her hometown of Byesville, Ohio. A US Army Hospital Ship was named the Blanche Faye Sigman in her honor.



A new book about a unique episode in the Cold War

When the Cold War split Berlin in half...

one neighborhood was caught in the middle.

steinpocket.com

A Cold War Success Story

Steinstuecken (German for "stone pieces") is a Berlin neighborhood. During the Cold War, it was under American protection. But, it was not connected to Berlin! It was one kilometer outside the city limits, completely surrounded by Communistheld territory.

For more than twenty years, American soldiers and diplomats kept Steinstuecken safe and free. The residents showed determination---and even courage---as they faced down Communist threats...and still managed to lead relatively normal lives.

This book tells how they did it.

Steinstuecken was a "canary in the coal mine" that was Cold War Berlin. Berliners, Germans and Europeans saw the village as a test of America's resolve to protect Western Europe from the Soviets.

The neighborhood was frequently in the news---it even drew the personal attention of President John F. Kennedy.

The American soldiers and diplomats who protected Steinstuecken forged close bonds with the villagers---bonds that are still strong today!

Help Us Get It Printed and Distributed

Our publisher needs to sell a certain number of copies at retail, in order to cover its costs. To do that, please do one (or more!) of the following:

Buy copies of the book for yourself. Buy copies and present them to libraries...(and get recognized as the donor!)

Support our GoFundMe, Which Is Raising Money to Buy Books for Libraries

A wonderful David and Goliath story about the brave citizens of this little hamlet and the courageous American MPs, aviators and diplomats who came to protect them. Any student of the Cold War, Berlin, or Germany needs to read this well researched and grippingly told book."

John B Emerson, US Ambassador to Germany, 2013-17



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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	☐ Male ☐ Female					
(Ph	none)	(Email)	(Gender)	(Post #)	(Dues)	
☐ I certify that I serve	ed at least one day of active milit	ary duty since December 7, 1941 a	nd was honorably discharged or am still sen	ving honorably.		Date
Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:						Date
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☐ Gulf War ☐ Panama	U.S. Navy U.S. Air Force					• \$ for 20 Dues
☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ Vietnam	U.S. MarinesU.S. Coast Guard					10/20
☐ Korea	Merchant Marines	WWII only)				Recruiter's Name
☐ WWII ☐ Other Conflicts						
						Recruiter's Signature
Signature of Applicant Name of Recruiter						
Mail completed application	ion to The American Legio	n National Headquarters, Att te address, go to www.legion	n: Internal Affairs. Annual dues mus	st accompany comple	eted application. Ask local	Recruiter's Phone #
contact for amount due.	roi current department/sta	ite address, go to www.iegior	.org.		ALA 08/2019	•
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Date	_					
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Veteran through whom eligibili	(Street)	(City)	(State) (ZIP)	(Ph	one)	•
	•		Department of		*	Date
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No Department of						Received From
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from						•
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran						\$for 20 Dues
Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? Where?						•
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and						Squadron No.
Email Address			ransmit \$	for 20	annual membership dues	Description of
Signed By Applicant (or Paren			Eligibility certified by			Department of
Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.						•
Tor amount due. For curre	ent detacmment address, g	o to The American Legion de	bartinenostate neadquarters, or visit	www.legion.org.	ALA 12/2013	•

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William Co.						
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Full Name			Eligible Through-Name of Veteran (Fe	emale Veterans: List Your	Own Name)	William .
Address			If Living:			DUES RECEIPT
Address			American Legion Member ID		City State	(Please Print)
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contact Nationa	al Headquarters at (317) 569-4 pany completed application. Asl	500 for assistance.	Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verifi	ication	/ / / Date	Describer's Phase #
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