

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919

July 2022

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



Notes from Commanders,
Commission Reports,
Auxiliary, SAL,
Trivia and so much more...

Also in this Issue:
4 Army Veterans Re-
ceive Medals of Honor
Pages 27-30

**National Commander Visits
Oregon**
Pages 20-21

*Mt. Hood
Photo by S. Flynn Phillips*

Meet your 2022-2023 Leadership



Congratulations to

LARRY WITTMAYER

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

DEBRA GODWIN

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

ROBERT LIEBENOW

DETACHMENT COMMANDER



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

commission and committee people

My fellow Legionnaires, I am humbled by your support of me. I look forward to a great year with advanced planning on all events. The staff of the

will make our Department shine. The only thing not in the equation is you. With your cooperation, this year will be a success.

Dates to remember: Upcoming events:

Oregon Legion College:
August 6th -7th, 2022
Santiam Post 51, Lebanon

Fall DEC:
October 28th - 30th

Eugene/ Springfield Hotel

Winter DEC
January 13th-14th
HQ, Wilsonville, and online

Spring DEC
April 14th – 16th
Ray Johnson Post # 44 Redmond

Convention
June 21st -25th
McMinnville Post 21
and Evergreen Museum

July 4th is Independence Day



CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

our nation's Independence Day. As you celebrate our independence, I hope you also reflect on the sacrifices made for your freedoms and the dire importance of our responsibility to continue ensuring it remains for future generations.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men

My fellow legionnaires,

As we welcome the warm sunshine of July, ever brightening the vibrant colors of Old Glory, we celebrate

were free." – Ronald Reagan

This is a powerful quote made by then-President Ronald Reagan in 1987; those words seem timeless and remain relevant today.

While we are current witnesses to the global unrest that persists far away, as a nation, the very real dangers to our national security are present today, at and within our own borders. We must maintain diligence as leaders and be resilient as patriots. For it truly is "We, the people," who must bear the responsibility of our government.

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have exciting opportunities to continue supporting – and growing – our four pillars of advocacy. We also have unfinished work before us, specific to our support of our veteran brothers and sisters. Through buddy checks and wellness checks, we not only strengthen our fellow veterans we also make for a stronger American Legion.

As patriots of freedom, we continue

to support our nation, to do our part in helping to uphold our freedom and maintain our liberties. There is much we can accomplish together as a team, and I look forward to working with you. It truly is a privilege to serve with you and an honor to represent you as a leader within the Department of Oregon.

As veterans, we continue our selfless service to God and our country, and I thank you for your service. We are *Veterans strengthening America!*

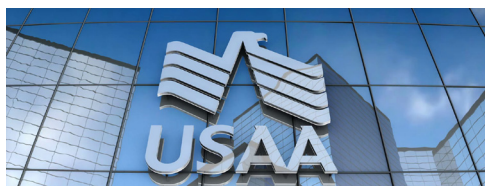


**LEGIONNAIRE
INSURANCE
TRUST**



DAN BURKS
DEPT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

I am honored to serve you as your Department's 2nd Vice Commander this year. As I alluded to at the convention, I am here to work alongside you to help build the Department of Oregon back up. For those of you who were present at the State convention, I asked that you join me on my mission to do so. For those of you who were unable to attend this year, I am asking you now. Everything we do, everything we stand for, could always use improvement. As your 2nd Vice, I have some oversight into your programs, and emerging from covid style business will be trying, but with all of your help, we will build our programs back up, find a new norm where need be, and reinstitute the traditions we have held true for decades before covid. I have no doubt that we have trials ahead of us, but I have even less concern about the capabilities of the men and women in the Department of Oregon and our ability to rebound. Together let's make our Department the example of teamwork used across the nation and our accomplishments front page news daily. Our Department leadership started making great headway into different avenues that would gain us great notoriety last year. Let us expand on that at each of our Posts and ensure that the American Legion lives on for decades to come.



I am honored to serve you as your Department's 2nd Vice Commander this year. As I alluded to at the convention, I am here to work alongside you to help

Need to Know Dates

July

Host a community Fourth of July celebration
Certify new officers with Department Headquarters
Installation of officers (makes an impressive ceremony at a Post meeting)
Support Summer Youth Programs

August

Begin planning a community Veterans Day observance
Boys Nation State
Baseball world Series
National Convention
Support Summer Youth Programs

September

(National Disaster Preparedness Month)
Encourage the community to recognize Patriot Day, Sept. 11
Anniversary of Congress' charter of The American Legion on Sept. 16
Sept. 17 is Constitution Day
The third Friday of the month is National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Department Officers

Commander	Larry Wittmayer
Imed. Past Cmdr	Don Weber
1st Vice Cmdr	Cory Brockmann
2nd Vice Cmdr	Daniel Burks
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
V. S. O. Assistant	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen

Department Convention is over and a new membership year. Held a good Convention in Beaverton, conducted the business of our Department -



PDC, BOB HUFF
DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER
elected new Department Officers, congratulations, and accepted a new Department Budget for 2022-2023, with a lot of new challenges. Thank you to all that attended, our Post delegates to the Department Convention, and guests. A copy of our Approved 2022-2023 Budget is included in this issue of the July Legionnaire. As income has reduced with declining membership and our other sources of income have reduced, our expenses have increased. We held discussions at our Department Convention and must make decisions for our future.

District Commanders and New District Officers, 990 Tax filing for your Posts are on your Post assessment sheet. There are no exceptions. All Posts must file their 990 taxes. We, Department, and Posts are under the National Umbrella and under Group Exemption Number 0925, our 501c19. Remember, every Post is a separate corporation. It is a business, and you operate under the Corporate Laws of Oregon. Each year, you pay a filing fee to the Secretary of State, Corporation Division.

Remember, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3. Contributions are tax-deductible, and funds are used for our programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site.



**PDC, KEVIN OWENS
NECMAN**

With our Department Convention in the history books and a new Administration, we need to get behind but still hold them accountable for the success of the Department. It takes a good leader to also be a good follower when needed. We have some big challenges to face, which also brings big opportunities for us to do things in a different way. Our success does not just rely on the shoulders of just a few but the Districts and the Posts.

You might be asking yourself "What I can do to help?" The answer is simple, get involved in some form or fashion. This might include working in a Legion program at the Post, District, or Department level. We know that membership comes up in just about

every conversation, but without it, we would not have the American Legion, and what would our communities, state, or nation look like without us?

The American Legion does not just work for our membership but for all Veterans who have served our great nation. Race, color, or creed is not a factor or the color of your uniform or the strips on your sleeve. When you think of the involvement or how hard something might be to accomplish, I look at what it took to defend the freedoms we so richly enjoy. Someone, somewhere, sacrificed for you and me to enjoy those freedoms. I encourage all of you that are on the fence to ei-

ther hold an office or work a program. Take a look in the mirror and see what you might have to offer to the American Legion.

I know we have many talented members who can bring fresh ideas to our Department. As we continue to promote "BE THE ONE" to prevent Veteran Suicide, you too can "BE THE ONE" to make a difference in our Department. Thank you for what each one of you does each day to support Veterans, the Children & Youth Programs, and to be a member of the greatest Veterans Organization in the world. https://youtu.be/kc_9AWxbd6k



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



What year did the Great Railroad Strike, also known as the Railway Shopmen's Strike, begin in July?

- A. 1920
- B. 1922
- C. 1921
- D. 1923

**HAVE
YOU**



**RENEWED
YET?**



PDC, BOB HUFF
NATIONAL VETERANS'
EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION
COMMISSION

At 10 am EST (8 am PST) on Friday, June 3, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission attended a panel discussion on ZOOM (virtual) on the subject "A Veteran Small Business Federal Contracting". James LaCoursier, the National VE&E Chair, led the discussion of the initial speakers. Larry Stubblefield, Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that the VA is moving all their staff over to SBA for Veterans Small Business, and that all Veterans Small Business will move over to SBA.

This will occur on January 1, 2023, and they are currently designing a new computer system that will talk to their partners and all agencies. HR76-94 is the law that moved Sub-Contracting, in house, Small Business Activity just starting CVE, is transferring #1 Priority to SBA. Dr. Vicky Mundt, Department of Defense, Office of Small Business Programs, DOD-OSBP reported on the current issue, SBA, DOD, VA, and US Agency for International Development (USAID), all agencies are below their goals and not meeting the requirements for service-connected veterans and small business veterans' contractors and sub-contractors.

Kimberly Ball, USAID Director, then spoke of their issues and struggled to achieve their goal for service-connected veteran activity. USAID is the development area for US Government domestically and in foreign countries. The USAID and the other agencies need veterans in small busi-

nesses and disabled veterans in the small business community to participate, and they are all behind their goals. Chair James LaCoursier then introduced Jake Brostuen, the National VE&E Analyst for Policy, to lead and monitor the panel.

Panel members were Dr. Vicky Mundt, Director, DOD-OSBP, Kimberly Ball, USAID Director, Wallace Semons, Acting Director, SBA, and Dr. Angela Billups, VA, who was telecon from her vehicle. Dr. Billups's concern was looking for women-owned businesses and new businesses and sub-contractors. VA is committed to the Veteran owned business, particularly the Service-Disabled Veteran business.

Jake Brostuen asked the American Legion questions, and the panel, each service, answered along with their issues. A good discussion with the panel and commission participating in the issues veterans are facing doing business with Government contracts.

The meeting was focused on Veteran and Service-Connected Veteran-owned businesses, and reasons Veterans are not applying for Government Contracts and sub-contract business, the issue of bundling, a big concern with the panel and veterans, the cost of answering Requests for Proposals, canceling RFP after investing in the RFI, veterans' sub-contractors not receiving funds from contractors or waiting 9 or 10 months for their funds, the security access to use computer programs in the RFP process, the cumbersome processes to do business with government agencies.

Also discussed is the American Legion resolution to raise the quota to 5% from 3% for all agencies. A lot was learned by the panel from veterans' small business owners and service-

Continued on page 6

Editors Notes

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The Oregon Legionnaire

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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

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The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

Editor	S. Flynn Phillips
Publisher	S. Flynn Phillips
Chairman	Renee Ohler
Members	Daniel Burks
	David Applegate
	Jaun Palacios

orlegionnaire@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

July Summer is on enjoy it
4 Independence Day
22-30 Boys Nation
27-29 Dept. Service Officer School
28-30 Membership Workshop

August Plan Community Veterans Day Observance
11-16 AL Baseball World Series Shelby, NC
26-1 103rd National Convention Milwaukee, WI

September National Disaster Preparedness month
11 Patriots Day
16 POW/MIA Day
16 Congress Charter
17 Constitution Day



PNVC, ROB LIEBENOW
DETACHMENT COMMANDER

It is with great honor that I serve as SAL Detachment Commander for 2022-2023. We will be getting back to some traditional functions, and we will be adding some new things as we go along.

Our 2022 convention was not well attended, and I hope to remedy that next year.

We will once again have area commanders. If you have questions, please go to them first. I will minimize everyone's workload while still getting the job done.

Communication is a critical factor in getting things done. The Detachment Commander and Adjutant can not communicate with the Squadrons if they do not have your current information. Every squadron must complete a 2022-2023 confidential list and send it to Dept.



A **BIG THANKS** to the twelve squadrons that have completed theirs. I will be sending copies to the rest of you. Do not write the same as last year. We need it filled out completely and returned **ASAP**.

Our first DEC is scheduled for Oct. 27th in Eugene. Please plan to attend or at least have someone from your squadron there. We can not continue to function as a detachment if you choose to ignore our meetings.

The SAL National Commander will be visiting us on July 8th & 9th and leaving early on the 10th. We will be in Lebanon, Eugene, McMinnville, and the Milwaukie area, with a stop in Estacada. You can check these posts for events and times.

I am looking forward to a fun year, so let us unite and bring The Detachment of Oregon back to the high standards we are accustomed to.

If you would like me to attend one of your functions, send a request to Dept. Headquarters or email me at robertliebenow@comcast.net. I will do my best to honor your requests.

Continued from page 6

PDC, BOB HUFF connected veterans' members of the commission. I have 16 pages of notes from the meeting in addition to contact information and information from presentations from each of the agencies on contact information and what they are looking for, what is available, and help in filling out applications.

Too much for this article; If you or members of your Post have an interest or have previously applied and met with negative results and need assistance with referral information, please contact our Department VE&E Chair at email huffe4@aol.com.

If you would like the presentations and contact information for your Post or District meeting, please contact me at the above email. As more information becomes available on this and Employment, Education, and Veterans' Small Business opportunity, we will publish the information in the Legionnaire along with sending it out to our Districts and Posts.



DEBRA GODWIN
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Hello Team Oregon,

AUXILIARY NEWS

Department of Oregon ALA President
Debra Godwin 2022-2023

My motto is:

A Year of Learning, With
Positive Communication!!!



We'll convention has come and gone. And I already miss everyone! What a great convention we had and a great big **THANK YOU** to Aloha Post #104 for the great hospitality! Lots of new faces and first-time members at the convention. We learned, planned, and made very positive changes. I can not express how proud I am of my American Legion Family. Without all of you, Oregon would not be where we are today. I thank everyone for all your support, understanding, dedication, and faith in me during my year.

The Auxiliary is already busy planning for the new year. I need all of my Team Oregon to remember that I am your voice, represent our State, and cherish your ideas. We are working on our first training class to take place in August. More info will come out when available. Girls State is in the works, and planning is well underway.

Hold your heads high; you all should be proud of where we are as a Department!

Stay safe, healthy, and focused!



TOP GUN MAVERICK
VETERANS, WATCH IT FREE
IN A THEATER WITH FELLOW VETERANS!

HERMISTON'S AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY INVITE ALL VETERANS
to a FREE showing at Hermiston Cinema on Saturday June 18 at 1:30pm.
The Movie, filled with aircraft carrier action and jet pilots in training and combat, has one swear word (the F-bomb), no sordid sex scenes, one kiss and a smart storyline. It runs 2.25 hours. Guests pay \$8.

ALL VETERANS RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION!*

The American Legion & Auxiliary thank you for your service.
Come fly with "Top Gun Maverick" - on us!
Tell your Vet friends and bring a Regiment!
Info: 541-571-5816

*Bring proof of service, please. Show it proudly.

47 VETERANS SHARED A CLASSIC TOGETHER

One flew fighter jets in Vietnam and now owns a trucking company in Oklahoma. He saw our "Top Gun, Maverick" offer free for Veterans online and chose Hermiston for his stopover to Seattle. He looked forward to it for 800 miles. Another is a volunteer firefighter and works for the City of Hermiston. Some were in wheelchairs. Some brought their wives and kids. Most are retired, but all of them love this country and awhile back signed up and placed their lives on the line for it.

During the action-packed movie, it was good to hear them laugh together and react to situations collectively. Afterwards, as they left the theater with quiet smiles and very little talking; they'd just gone through something pretty exciting with others who'd survived boot camp, drill sergeants, mess halls, all of it. Vets have a bond no others have. We hope these are a step closer to considering the American Legion. Thank you for your service, Veterans.





July 5, 2022 – Post 58 Canyon Crushers celebrating the birthday of Oregon Legion Baseball Chairman Michael Sowles (front center) in Newport, Oregon.

Oregon Baseball

MIKE SOWLES/CORY BROCKMANN A team picture with their Manager on his Birthday! What could be better than a double-header with the team on a summer day in Newport, Oregon?

A great day today Mike! Thanks for always cheering on the boys. At least they got one win for your birthday :-)

The following Oregon Legion Single A teams have submitted their rosters and have been approved to National.

1. North Coos Waterfront
2. Roseburg Pepsi
3. Alpenrose Dairy
4. Ashland Pilots

5. LaGrande Legends
6. Columbia Gorge Hustlers
7. South Coos Nooks
8. Post58 Silverfalls Bandits
9. Sherwood lobos A
10. Marion Berries
11. Mountainside Lobos
12. Redmond Sunwest
13. Newberg Abby's
14. West Lane Baseball
15. Cascade Christian Challengers
16. Portland Eastside Franklin
17. Central Point Comets
18. North Medford Mavericks
19. Tigard Twins
20. South Medford Colts
21. Grants Pass Miners
22. Grants Pass Cavemen
23. Post 20 Mid Valley Minute Men
24. Ridgeview Baseball of Redmond
25. Eugene Ole
26. Beaverton Sockeyes A
27. Eastside Roosevelt

The Oregon Legion Baseball Single A tournament will be played July 20-24, 2022 at Bob Brack Stadium in Aurora, OR (North Marion High School). The tournament winner qualifies for play in the Single A Regional Tournament slated for August 5-9th at Unitah High School, Vernal, Uta.

More than 3,400 teams and nearly 55,000 youth participate in the American Legion baseball program yearly from all 50 states and Canada.





DAN BURKS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Legionnaires, we are at the start of a brand-new membership year. Thank you for the effort each of you showed last year, gaining the Department of Oregon 13th place, finishing with 13,871 members @ 97.48% Way to go, everyone. I want to give an incredibly huge thank you to each of you who pushed to the end. While the 2022 membership year isn't

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

technically over, as I mentioned earlier, the 2023 membership year has begun. I have reached out to your District officers. We will be establishing monthly meetings, where they will update me on all of your progress. The last report for June 2021 shows us at 13783 members. This year's latest report as of June 30th shows us at 13871 Legionnaires; while that increase may be slight, it is huge in the fact we have lost between 1500 and 200 members a year for quite some time now, that is

a fantastic accomplishment, and you all should be commended for your efforts. So let's kick this year off strong. Let's be #1. We can do it together. I want each of you to remember your buddy checks. When I reached out to your District officers, I asked them to set a goal for us to have 100% accountability for each of the Legionnaires in the Department of Oregon by year's end. After all, they are our brothers and sisters, and our family means everything to me. As always, I am available to reach out if you have questions, comments, concerns, or need help with anything. If you're holding an event, reach out the Department of Oregon M&PA team is here to help you reach your goal.

Detachment Of Oregon 2022 Membership as of 6/30/22

Squadron	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0001	Portland	Portland	5	0	38	0	43	47	91.49
OR-0006	Hillsboro	Hillsboro	3	0	19	0	22	17	129.41
OR-0008	Klamath	Klamath Falls	2	0	14	0	16	15	106.67
OR-0009	Capital	Salem	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0010	Albany	Albany	7	0	13	0	20	23	86.96
OR-0012	Clatsop	Astoria	20	0	55	0	75	46	163.04
OR-0015	Medford	Medford	0	0	0	0	0		
OR-0019	The Dalles	The Dalles	0	0	6	0	6	10	60.00
OR-0021	Mc Minnville	Mc Minnville	16	0	38	0	54	45	120.00
OR-0022	Hood River	Hood River	1	0	5	0	6	10	60.00
OR-0024	Milton-Freewater	Milton-Freewater	0	0	4	0	4	15	26.67
OR-0028	Grants Pass	Grants Pass	5	0	19	0	24	16	150.00
OR-0029	Crook County	Prineville	19	0	60	0	79	69	114.49
OR-0032	Calvin Funk	Cottage Grove	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-0034	Bay Area	North Bend	0	0	21	0	21	31	67.74
OR-0041	John Noble Holcomb	Baker City	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-0043	La Grande	La Grande	2	0	30	0	32	28	114.29
OR-0044	Ray Johnson	Redmond	6	0	17	0	23	23	100.00
OR-0045	La Pine	La Pine	19	0	42	0	61	83	73.49
OR-0048	Eugene Cougar Greene	Warm Springs	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-0051	Santiam	Lebanon	16	0	78	0	94	86	109.30
OR-0056	Argonne	Sherwood	8	0	49	0	57	49	116.33
OR-0058	Stayton	Stayton	2	0	21	0	23	23	100.00
OR-0061	Tri-Counties	Junction City	0	0	10	0	10	11	90.91
OR-0067	Ontario	Ontario	0	0	14	0	14	14	100.00
OR-0075	Sheridan	Sheridan	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-0083	North Eugene-Santa Cla	Eugene	12	0	32	0	44	54	81.48
OR-0095	Ione	Ione	0	0	21	0	21	22	95.45
OR-0099	Seaside	Seaside	10	0	105	0	115	110	104.55
OR-0104	Aloha	Aloha	34	0	86	0	120	79	151.90
OR-0110	Aurora	Aurora	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-0116	Newport	Newport	21	0	46	0	67	54	124.07
OR-0173	Carlton Memorial	Carlton	4	0	20	0	24	24	100.00
OR-0180	Milwaukie	Milwaukie	22	0	65	0	87	82	106.10
OR-0184	Travis Moothart	Brownsville	0	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0
OR-9999	Sal Holding Sqdn	Tigard	0	0	0	0	0		
SUM:			267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09



Detachment Of Oregon 2022 Membership as of 6/30/22

Detachment of Oregon Totals

	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Transfers	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
Sum:	267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09

Detachment Of Oregon 2022 Membership as of 6/30/22

District Summary Including all HQ Transfers

District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
0	267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09
SUM:	267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09

Detachment Of Oregon 2022 Membership as of 6/30/22

County Summary Including all HQ Transfers

District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
0	267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09
SUM:	267	0	1,117	0	1,384	1,317	105.09

Department of Oregon 2022 Membership

as of 6/30/22

Including all HQ Transfers

OR Dist 0004 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0008	Klamath	Klamath Falls	4	37	203	7	251	281	89.32
OR-0014	Guy T Applewhite	Ashland	0	4	20	0	24	27	88.89
OR-0015	Medford	Medford	0	38	142	2	182	232	78.45
OR-0028	Grants Pass	Grants Pass	18	32	223	10	283	288	98.26
OR-0050	Williams Valley	Williams	7	6	35	0	48	43	111.63
OR-0069	Rogue River	Rogue River	0	3	6	0	9	13	69.23
OR-0070	Glenn Morrison	Cave Junction	0	4	27	0	31	42	73.81
OR-0084	Malin Inc	Malin	2	10	48	0	60	63	95.24
OR-0129	Myers-Holland Inc	Central Point	0	4	120	1	125	132	94.70
OR-0192	White City	White City	0	5	58	1	64	84	76.19
		SUM:	31	143	882	21	1,077	1,205	89.38

OR Dist 0005 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0004	Stevens-Chute	Bend	1	24	116	4	145	140	103.57
OR-0019	The Dalles Inc	The Dalles	0	13	68	3	84	80	105.00
OR-0022	Hood River	Hood River	0	10	61	1	72	70	102.86
OR-0025	Frank Burns	Condon	0	5	22	0	27	30	90.00
OR-0029	Crook County	Prineville	18	20	193	7	238	230	103.48
OR-0044	Ray Johnson	Redmond	16	39	190	3	248	260	95.38
OR-0045	La Pine	La Pine	51	79	265	2	397	410	96.83
OR-0048	Eugene Cougar Greene,	Warm Springs	6	2	3	0	11	15	73.33
OR-0049	Sherman County	Moro	1	9	23	0	33	42	78.57
OR-0055	Mosier Inc	Mosier	0	2	18	0	20	19	105.26
OR-0073	Maupin	Maupin	0	0	7	0	7	15	46.67
OR-0086	Sisters	Sisters	11	11	118	0	140	135	103.70
OR-0125	Jefferson County Vetera	Madras	1	6	40	0	47	45	104.44
OR-0131	Deer Ridge	Madras	0	1	1	0	2	29	6.90
OR-0135	Wamic	Wamic	0	1	3	0	4	15	26.67
OR-0164	Don L Medlock	Spray	0	3	0	0	3	15	20.00
		SUM:	105	225	1,128	20	1,478	1,550	95.35

OR Dist 0006 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0023	Pendleton	Pendleton	0	8	16	3	27	37	72.97
OR-0024	Milton-Freewater	Milton-Freewater	5	11	64	2	82	85	96.47
OR-0037	Hermiston	Hermiston	24	12	75	7	118	106	111.32
OR-0041	John Noble Holcomb	Baker City	7	11	37	3	58	63	92.06
OR-0043	La Grande	La Grande	4	27	186	6	223	229	97.38
OR-0072	Kruse	Wallowa	0	2	28	0	30	29	103.45
OR-0087	Heppner	Heppner	0	4	0	0	4	39	10.26
OR-0095	Ione	Ione	1	11	47	0	59	39	151.28
OR-0130	Athena	Athena	0	2	15	0	17	17	100.00
OR-0140	George St Dennis	Mission	0	5	14	2	21	25	84.00
OR-0157	Wallowa Lake	Joseph	1	8	44	2	55	61	90.16
		SUM:	42	101	526	25	694	730	95.07

OR Dist 0007 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0030	Gresham	Gresham	3	12	61	4	80	100	80.00
OR-0074	Carl Douglas	Estacada	17	36	99	2	154	150	102.67
OR-0098	St Johns Inc	Portland	1	11	42	0	54	54	100.00
OR-0108	Corbett	Corbett	0	7	12	0	19	20	95.00
OR-0134	Frederick And John Ravi	Portland	10	23	76	3	112	157	71.34
OR-0137	Dana King	Portland	0	4	19	0	23	26	88.46
OR-0185	City Of Roses Musicians	Portland	0	3	21	0	24	24	100.00
		SUM:	31	96	330	9	466	531	87.76

OR Dist 0008 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0001	Portland	Portland	8	57	271	4	340	427	79.63
OR-0005	Willamette Falls Inc	Oregon City	0	5	57	2	64	119	53.78
OR-0065	Wilsonville	Wilsonville	3	5	42	6	56	71	78.87
OR-0127	Sandy	Sandy	0	1	13	0	14	12	116.67
OR-0150	Oregon Trail	Portland	5	22	66	1	94	130	72.31
OR-0180	Milwaukie	Milwaukie	33	35	484	31	583	591	98.65
		SUM:	49	125	933	44	1,151	1,350	85.26

OR Dist 0001 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0002	Washington	Forest Grove	2	36	91	4	133	132	100.76
OR-0006	Hillsboro Inc	Hillsboro	8	49	183	4	244	240	101.67
OR-0012	Clatsop Inc	Astoria	16	54	321	1	392	400	98.00
OR-0042	J H Wellington Inc	St Helens	2	16	94	2	114	113	100.88
OR-0047	Tillamook	Tillamook	0	2	16	0	18	15	120.00
OR-0056	Argonne Inc	Sherwood	18	30	176	2	226	225	100.44
OR-0068	T Les Galloway	Clatskanie	9	20	77	7	113	111	101.80
OR-0090	John Kalmbach	Banks	2	18	102	1	123	136	90.44
OR-0099	Seaside	Seaside	23	36	287	10	356	340	104.71
OR-0104	Aloha	Aloha	23	63	394	15	495	490	101.02
OR-0119	Vernonia Inc	Vernonia	24	2	13	3	42	28	150.00
OR-0124	Beaverton	Beaverton	1	14	99	1	115	115	100.00
OR-0126	Neill Walker	Nehalem	0	3	12	0	15	15	100.00
OR-0158	Tigard	Tigard	22	67	487	7	583	579	100.69
OR-0168	Cannon Beach	Cannon Beach	8	9	134	1	152	151	100.66
		SUM:	158	419	2,486	58	3,121	3,090	101

OR Dist 0002 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0007	Delbert Reeves	Silverton	0	10	13	2	25	33	75.76
OR-0009	Capital	Salem	1	36	125	8	170	190	89.47
OR-0017	Keizer	Keizer	12	3	23	4	42	32	131.25
OR-0020	Carl B Fenton	Dallas	0	16	108	6	130	129	100.78
OR-0021	Mc Minnville	Mc Minnville	46	39	342	21	448	404	110.89
OR-0033	Independence	Independence	1	4	30	3	38	42	90.48
OR-0046	Woodburn	Woodburn	0	9	42	0	51	65	78.46
OR-0057	Lester C Rees	Newberg	1	9	60	3	73	86	84.88
OR-0058	Stayton	Stayton	13	18	128	13	172	167	102.99
OR-0075	Sheridan	Sheridan	12	9	33	3	57	55	103.64
OR-0089	M T Angel	M T Angel	1	1	52	2	56	64	87.50
OR-0110	Aurora Inc	Aurora	0	3	7	1	11	19	57.89
OR-0122	Canby	Canby	17	48	209	7	281	295	95.25
OR-0136	Salem	Salem	0	31	89	6	126	155	81.29
OR-0149	Pioneer Inc	Salem	0	13	21	0	34	45	75.56
OR-0159	Mill City-Gates	Mill City	0	4	16	0	20	30	66.67
OR-0173	Carlton Memorial	Carlton	11	11	77	5	104	90	115.56
		SUM:	115	264	1,375	84	1,838	1,901	96.69

OR Dist 0003 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0003	Eugene Inc	Eugene	1	18	44	1	64	79	81.01
OR-0010	Albany Inc	Albany	27	73	392	16	508	583	87.14
OR-0011	Corvallis	Corvallis	0	20	70	2	92	96	95.83
OR-0032	Calvin Funk	Cottage Grove	1	9	50	1	61	78	78.21
OR-0040	Springfield	Springfield	0	25	62	15	102	126	80.95
OR-0051	Santiam Inc	Lebanon	31	51	524	7	613	725	84.55
OR-0059	Francis M Yost	Florence	25	13	60	3	101	89	113.48
OR-0061	Tri-Counties	Junction City	0	15	56	1	72	88	81.82
OR-0064	Cascade	Oakridge	0	7	18	2	27	36	75.00
OR-0083	North Eugene-Santa Cla	Eugene	37	31	184	11	263	271	97.05
OR-0097	Lincoln City	Lincoln City	1	10	18	0	29	42	69.05
OR-0100	Mary's River	Philomath	0	1	7	0	8	29	27.59
OR-0116	Newport	Newport	31	29	222	6	288	294	97.96
OR-0133	Timber City	Sweet Home	0	8	21	0	29	34	85.29
OR-0184	Travis Moothart	Brownsville	1	8	47	1	57	70	81.43
		SUM:	155	318	1,775	66	2,314	2,640	87.65

OR Dist 0009 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0016	Earle B Stewart	Roseburg	3	46	141	3	193	257	75.10
OR-0026	Bandon	Bandon	6	3	44	3	56	49	114.29
OR-0034	Bay Area	North Bend	6	21	119	9	155	175	88.57
OR-0036	Coquille-Myrtle Point	Coquille	1	7	37	2	47	58	81.03
OR-0062	Reedsport	Reedsport	1	14	23	0	38	43	88.37
OR-0076	Port Orford	Port Orford	0	9	38	0	47	47	100.00
OR-0121	Sutherlin	Sutherlin	0	1	50	2	53	52	101.92
OR-0123	Fallin	Canyonville	9	6	58	3	76	77	98.70
OR-0152	Baird-Heaton	Oakland	2	5	35	0	42	42	100.00
SUM:			28	112	545	22	707	800	88.38

OR Dist 0010 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0063	Harney County	Burns	12	11	93	4	120	111	108.11
OR-0067	Ontario	Ontario	13	8	99	11	131	129	101.55
OR-0077	Ellis Tracy	John Day	1	4	32	3	40	50	80.00
OR-0079	Nyssa	Nyssa	3	3	14	4	24	27	88.89
OR-0096	Vale	Vale	0	4	45	0	49	57	85.96
OR-0106	Prairie	Prairie City	7	3	61	1	72	60	120.00
OR-0148	Monument	Monument	0	2	0	0	2		
SUM:			36	35	344	23	438	434	100.92

OR Dist 0099 LGN

Post	Name	Location	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
OR-0114	Headquarters	Portland	0	74	513	0	587		
SUM:			0	74	513	0	587		

Department of Oregon Totals

	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Transfers	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
Sum:	750	1,912	10,837	372	13,871	14,230	97.48

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1	OR Dist 0001 LGN	158	419	2,486	58	3,121	3,090	101.00
2	OR Dist 0002 LGN	115	264	1,375	84	1,838	1,901	96.69
3	OR Dist 0003 LGN	155	318	1,775	66	2,314	2,640	87.65
4	OR Dist 0004 LGN	31	143	882	21	1,077	1,205	89.38
5	OR Dist 0005 LGN	105	225	1,128	20	1,478	1,550	95.35
6	OR Dist 0006 LGN	42	101	526	25	694	730	95.07
7	OR Dist 0007 LGN	31	96	330	9	466	531	87.76
8	OR Dist 0008 LGN	49	125	933	44	1,151	1,350	85.26
9	OR Dist 0009 LGN	28	112	545	22	707	800	88.38
10	OR Dist 0010 LGN	36	35	344	23	438	434	100.92
11	OR Dist 0099 LGN	0	74	513	0	587		
SUM:		750	1,912	10,837	372	13,871	14,230	97.48

	District	New	PUFL	Renewal	HQ Tran	Totals	Goal	% of Goal
1		750	1,912	10,837	372	13,871	14,231	97.47
SUM:		750	1,912	10,837	372	13,871	14,230	97.48

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PNC, CHARLES SCHMIDT
TOALF MEMBER

As a new American Legion year begins July 1st, now is the time to look ahead to working programs in our Posts, Units, and Squadrons. The Oregon American Legion Foundation is a source of support to fund veteran and youth programs in our department.

A 501C-3 organization, the Foundation awards grants to Posts, Units, and Squadrons to fund Boys/Girls State, Oratorical, VA&R, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting, and Law Cadet programs. A grant application form is available at www.oregon.org/foundation.

The on-line fillable forms enhance the application process. Anyone, Post, Units, Squadrons, or individuals who would like to donate to the Oregon American Legion Foundation may do so on-line at the same location. As Legionnaires, our responsibility is to give opportunities to America's youth through our programs to become role model citizens.

Whether you want to donate or apply for a grant, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is there for your Post, Unit, or Squadron to ensure the Oregon youth have opportunities to participate in veteran and youth programs our American Legion Family offers.



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Web Site Content



True Compass Designs 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.

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COREY BROCKMANN
PERMANENT FINANCE COMMISSIONER

Challenging work continues as we seek means to ensure financial stability for a secure future for our Department of Oregon. Oregon's veterans are counting on us.

As we begin the new Legion year, we continue to function within our existing budget, which runs through the end of September. A critical action remains in actuating a 2022-2023 budget that melds the needs – *financial needs* – of our department business to conduct our veteran and youth program activities successfully.

FINANCIAL SECURITY ENSURES A STRONG FUTURE

As discussed at the recently concluded 103rd Annual Department Convention and previous Department Executive Committee Meetings, we continue to face significant financial challenges. Clearly, the current inflationary status of our nation and state's economy, combined with our decreasing membership, further hampers our financial stability and increases our challenges and risks for the future.

Several options are under consideration to aid in the stabilization of our financial status. They include budget reductions across the department, including officer travel expenses; program funding; selling the headquarters building and relocating into a smaller office; co-locating headquarters at an existing post with sufficient

space availability; teleworking; creative fundraising; and more.

Membership remains the lifeblood of our organization. It is the foundation for why we exist under the federal charter – as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. However, a declining membership increases our challenges. Growing our membership by renewing expired memberships and recruiting new members is a task for all Legion Family members and volunteers.

Want to help? Contact your post adjutant and let them know you want to be a team member that helps make regularly scheduled Buddy Checks and helps work on membership renewal contacts. It will make a difference!



The American Legion Calls for State Funeral for Woody Williams

Contact: John Raughter,
Media Relations
jraughter@legion.org
or 317-630-1350

(INDIANAPOLIS—June 29, 2022) – American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard called for President Biden to authorize a state funeral for Woody Williams, the last Medal of Honor recipient from World War II to pass away.

“Delegates at our national convention in 2018 unanimously **passed a resolution calling for a state funeral**

to honor the last of these remarkable heroes,” Dillard said. “Even before Woody’s passing today, our Washington staff has been working with Congress to permit the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient to lie in honor in the Capitol rotunda. All Medal of Honor recipients are extraordinary and Woody Williams was particularly special to The American Legion. He was a proud Legionnaire who demonstrated legendary valor at Iwo Jima and then spent a lifetime serving veterans and Gold Star Families. He was a true American hero in every sense of the word. We extend our condolences to his family.”

About The American Legion

The American Legion, the nation’s largest veterans organization, is dedicated to the motto of “Veterans Strengthening America.” Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Nearly 1.8 million members in more than 12,500 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Associated Press | WWII Medal of Honor recipient to lie in honor at US Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hershel W. “Woody” Williams, the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, will lie in honor at the U.S. Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Sunday.

A date and other details will be announced later, Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement. “Woody Williams embodied the best of America: living a life of duty, honor and courage,” Pelosi said. Schumer said: “Woody Williams was an American hero who embodied the best of our country and the greatest generation.”

Williams, who died on Wednesday at 98, was a legend in his native West Virginia for his heroics under fire over several crucial hours at the battle for Iwo Jima. As a young Marine corporal, Williams went ahead of his unit in February 1945 and eliminated a series of Japanese machine gun positions. Facing small-arms fire, Williams fought for four hours, repeatedly returning to prepare demolition charges and obtain flamethrowers.

Later that year, the 22-year-old Williams received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman. The Medal of Honor is the nation’s highest award for military valor.

In remarks at a memorial Sunday in Charleston, West Virginia, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said Williams “never quit giving back.” That included raising money for gold star families — immediate family members of fallen service members — with an annual motorcycle ride.

“It’s raised hundreds of thousands of dollars,” Manchin said. He joked

that “it’s not going to be stopping, because Woody would come after me in a heartbeat.”

Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, said he will miss Williams’ phone calls, noting how Williams would always give him directions and to-do lists.

“I’ll miss him telling me how I’m supposed to vote. And when I didn’t, how I made a mistake,” Manchin said.

Gen. David H. Berger, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, said at the memorial that Williams always took exception to the notion that he accomplished that feat alone. He always acknowledged the other men on his team, some of whom never returned home.

“Woody may be the most genuine person I ever met,” Berger said, noting his unique combination of humility and humor. “He could make you laugh. He could make you care. That was his gift.”

Williams remained in the Marines after the war, serving a total of 20 years, before working for the Veterans Administration for 33 years as a veterans service representative. In 2018, the Huntington VA medical center was renamed in his honor, and the Navy commissioned a mobile base sea vessel in his name in 2020.

“He left an indelible mark on our Marine Corps,” Berger said. “As long as there are Marines, his legacy will live on.”

Manchin announced during his remarks that Williams would lie in state at the Rotunda, but Pelosi and Schumer said he would lie in honor.

The distinction, according to the Architect of the Capitol, which oversees the building, is that government officials and military officers lie in state while private citizens lie in honor.

ALR Convention Saturday June 25th



The parking lot at ALR Convention



Penny McCarthy presenting sister Barbara with ALR Navy Coin



Sister Barbara, a Navy Veteran, checking one off her bucket list. Thank you ALR for giving her a ride.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission and Committees has been a Commission and Committee of one for this past membership year. I am looking forward to this upcoming year with our two new members, Larry Hill and Tom Fitzgerald. Larry and Tom have a background in Veteran Stand Downs, Employment and Benefits events, and working with the Veterans Community. The Commission supports Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness, Service Connected, and Veterans Small Business oppor-

tunities. The Commission supported two in-person Employment Events this past membership year with the Pandemic still active.

We are still having restrictions on our ability to hold large events, which we desperately need. The demand for critical clinical needs to support the Veteran population at our VA facilities is crucial, and the demand continues to grow, and we have been focusing on this requirement. We are currently planning our first Veterans Stand Down, Employment and Benefits Event which is still a go, maybe, depending on the latest outbreak. As more is defined and event restrictions for in-person events are allowed, we will publish dates and times and locations on flyers and place them in this Legionnaire and circulate them through our department email chain.

Each event will still require complying with the rules for the area we are holding them in and the number of participants allowed. All rules are followed for everyone's safety. All our partners are participating. Face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs have become more critical and is needed. We are gathering equipment and clothing and have met with the VA Directors for a venue. We are getting closer with in-person events starting.

If you are interested in being a member of this Commission or Committee, which is a very rewarding and good development and helping Veterans and their families, please forward your name and contact information to our Department Commander Larry Wittmayer or me through our Department Headquarters. We are looking for interest from members in all areas of our Department.



PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission welcome new members for the 2022-2023 membership year. IPDC Don Weber and Department 2nd Vice-Commander Dan Burks are joining PDC Bob Huff, Chair, and Ann Everetts. The Commission has oversight over VA&R activities for our Department. If interested in joining or participating with

VA & R

this elite team and being part of our future, please submit your name to our Department Commander Larry Wittmayer at Department Headquarters for consideration. We have just left our Department Convention and had an excellent speaker for our VA&R event. National VA&R Chair Ralph Bozella gave a presentation on all the areas of the National VA&R Commission. As we start a new Membership Year, our Department Veteran Service Officers will be transitioning to some normal, not all yet, with COVID protocols still necessary. The team works virtually and in person and supports

our Veterans and their families.

During this Pandemic over the past two years, they have adapted and adjusted to support our family of veterans during this critical time. They continue to support the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Traveling Boards and fill a void when our Veterans with appeals need computers and support that we can support that need. When you see one of them, Ed VanDyke and Jody Marsh, thank them, they are our first team. The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program, which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon, which all need more

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

volunteers desperately. Our VAVS community at Portland VA and Roseburg VA has been significantly impacted by volunteer positions with COVID protocols.

VA SORCC in White City has an American Legion presence which has increased with COVID to support this facility. With recommendations for the ten-year plan for the Missions Act, The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission, which some recommendations are not taking place as of now, will realign the CBOCs to VA's that are closer to the rural communities, closing Compensation and Pension in Roseburg and White City with staffing issues and reassigning clinical staff to higher priority assignments and moving patient needs to community care.

The VHA is working very hard to support Veteran's needs. The VAVS is in desperate need of more volunteers to support needs. Volunteer drivers

are a critical need, with some services moving to Portland and veterans in need of transportation from rural and other areas of our Department. If interested, if you have some extra time and want to help and support Veteran's needs, please contact your local VA or CBOC as there are lots of vacancies. You will meet new people, help veterans and their families, our first pillar, and make a difference. As with all Medical Care, staffing is an issue.

Issues that are being discussed and worked on are transportation, rural area support, and an aging Veteran population. As recommendations are approved and planned, we will forward the information to our members. The VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction. Face mask requirements continue at all Federal and Medical facilities. If going to a VA or Federal Building, you are required to wear a face mask. The VAVS arm also

supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point National Cemetery as we have more face-to-face contact, Employment and Education, and VSO activity at these facilities. The Commission also supports the System Worth Saving Program and has supported four events in the past at our Roseburg and White City VA's with our National Organization. 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. 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



GALE SEARS chapter members at Post **ALR LIASON** 58 Stayton, Oregon, supporting his efforts. The big tall guy with the LEGION RIDERS sleeves is Bob. I'm 5'11', so you can see he's a big man but humble.

I framed the letter you sent to make it a little more special for him and the many Oregon Riders present at the

Sometimes it's hard to keep a secret with this bunch, but Mr. Lemke was stunned and speechless. Photos include one with his

American Legion Riders of Honor (ALROH) Program



meeting. This was our Department of Oregon Convention meeting. To present the award, I explained a bit about the history of ALROH gleaned from our email threads and the website, read a couple of bits from his nomination application and then read out the award letter from you.

In addition, we are forming our selection committee for next year's award and will have that nominee to you by the end of this year. I'm hoping that, should our members be selected, we can get them out to your ROMP to be honored with the rest of the 2023 ALROHs.

Thank you again for choosing our Rider, Bob Lemke, as an ALROH honoree. It was a great selection, and he will represent the spirit of the award with honor, pride, and humility.

<https://oregonalriders.org/2022-2/>

Paul Schnell ORALR Director



American Legion Post 37 Flag Day

This morning, American Legion Post 37 hoisted a new flag donated to the Center. The Honor Guard arrived early to meet with director Willard Fordice and conduct a brief rehearsal.



The previous flag suffered terribly in the Eastern Oregon wind, and Mr. Fordice sought assistance from the Parks and Recreation in obtaining a replacement. They, in turn, recommended the American Legion, who

took it upon themselves to purchase a replacement and requested the honor of raising Old Glory on a very windy Flag Day. Following the short ceremony, the American Legion Honor Guard had lunch with the senior citi-

zens.

The Legion was asked before the ceremony to surround Army veteran Dale Gibson, 96, for photos. Mr. Gibson served with the 82nd Airborne.



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American Legion Post 37 Rifle Raffle Winner



We have a winner! As announced on June 6th, the American Legion Post 37 read the name of Darryn Ruth of La Grande, Oregon as the winner of the 2022 Gun Raffle. Today, Darryn obtained possession of his winnings. Many thanks to the Hermiston Ranch and Home, who co-sponsored the raffle, and to the Legionnaires, who sold raffle tickets.



The American Legion Department City Slickers at St. Paul Rodeo
Department Chaplain, Steve Schollenberg and Adjutant, S. Flynn Phillips
What can they say? Boys Just wanta have fun!

Post 63

Fellow Legionnaires,

The Harney County American Legion Family (Legion and Auxiliary) was busy during the Memorial Day weekend observance to honor and remember those veterans who gave their all for our nation. Veteran graves in 7 cemeteries were decorated with a US flag thanks to all our volunteers. The Post displayed flags along Highway 20 for 4-days on the Burns Cemetery fence and the fence of Hines City Park.

Veterans Strengthening America, Charles Schmidt

Final Budget for 2022-2023

	A	AB
1		
2	ACCOUNT NAME	2022-2023 Final
3	Membership Budget Based On:	11,750
4	Actual Membership	
5	Dues @ \$13.50 (per member)	\$ 158,624.00
6	Department Convention Income	
7	SAL Detachment Funds (1400 x \$15.00)	\$ 16,500.00
8	SAL Dues (1400 x \$5.00)	\$ 5,500.00
9	SAL Charitable Donations & Pins	\$ 8,050.00
10	ALA Postage Reimbursement	\$ 600.00
11	ALA Phone Reimbursement	\$ 600.00
12	ALA Copier	\$ 3,600.00
13	Emblem Sales Royalty	\$ 1,500.00
14	Boys State Income	\$ 70,000.00
15	AL Baseball Income	\$ 11,300.00
16	Law Enforcement Career Camp	\$ 8,000.00
17	Revenue Enhancement Program	\$ 25,000.00
18	AGIA Insurance	\$ 45,000.00
19	USAA Insurance	\$ 9,000.00
20	Other Income/Pass Throughs	\$ 100,000.00
21	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 438,275.00
22		
23	Dedicated VA&R Income	
24	AGIA Insurance (Dedicated VA&R)	\$ 2,000.00
25	OALF Disbursement to VA&R/VE&E	\$ 61,398.00
26	ODVA Rehabilitation Grant	\$ 89,000.00
27	Donations	\$ 1,000.00
28	Total Dedicated VA&R Income	\$ 153,398.00
29		
30	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 591,673.00
31		
32	Boys State Expenses	\$ 70,000.00
33	Law Enforcement Career Camp	\$ 8,000.00
34	AL Baseball Expenses	\$ 11,300.00
2	ACCOUNT NAME	Final
35	Admin. Expenses - B-1	\$ 190,254.00
36	Officer & Conv Expenses - B-2	\$ 53,490.00
37	Other Activities Expenses - B-3	\$ 73,931.00
38	Rehabilitation Expenses - B-4	\$ 153,398.00
39	Publication Expenses - B-5	\$ 1,250.00
40	SAL Expenses - B-6	\$ 30,050.00
41	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 591,673.00



Legionnaire Insurance Trust

ST. PAUL RODEO SUPPORTS AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAMS



J.J. Harrison, professional rodeo clown from Walla Walla, Wash., performed at the 86th St. Paul Rodeo and took a moment to stop by the American Legion Family booth between performances on July 4th to say ‘thank you’ for the donation of four U.S. flags. The flags were given out by J.J. Harrison to veterans attending the Family and Patriot Night rodeo performances on July 4th.

Pictured (l. to r.) Cory Brockmann, Dept. 1st Vice Commander; Catherine Brockmann, Auxiliary Dept. Vice President; and, J.J. Harrison.

Dept. Adjutant Flynn Phillips drives the department’s van in the St. Paul Parade on July 4th. Legion Family parade walkers received many compliments acknowledging the participation by The American Legion in the annual parade.



District 2 Commander Betty Fish-Ferguson offers a smile while participating in the July 4th St. Paul Parade, where she handed out U.S. flags, Buddy Check packs and candy. Large crowds were found along the 1.2-mile parade route.



BREAKING NEWS: JUDGE THROWS OUT COUNTY GUN 'SANCTUARY' ORDINANCE

By [Starla Pointer](#) • Staff Writer • June 30, 2022

National commander visits local Legion



Starla Pointer/News-RegisterEvergreen Aviation Museum docent Terry Naig, right, provides a tour of the Spruce Goose and other exhibits to National American Legion Commander Paul Dillard, center left, and his entourage, including Oregon Commander Don Weber, left, and Oregon national executive committee chair Kevin Owens, center right. Dillard, who's from Texas, visited the McMinnville, Sheridan and Carlton Legion posts last week to talk about his efforts to "Leave No Veteran Behind."

Local American Legion members welcomed their National Commander June 28, giving him a tour of the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museums as well as the McMinnville, Sheridan and Carlton Legion posts.

"It's pretty special to have a national commander visit," said Walt Fulcher of Carlton Memorial Post 173. "It's a great chance for a lot of our members to meet him."

National Commander Paul Dillard of Texas was in Oregon for only a few days. He said he was pleased to meet Yamhill County Legion members, including members of the Legion Riders

Continued on page 21

Continued from page 20

motorcycle organization from McMinnville and Newberg. The Riders escorted him from place to place.

Dillard and his entourage, which included state Legion officials, started the day at the air museum with a cockpit tour of the Spruce Goose. Then they toured other exhibits, from a reproduction of the Wright Flyer to war planes such as a Vietnam Era A-4 fighter jet.

The commander said he enjoyed the museum and the whole trip. "I've met a lot of great folks," he said. Dillard stopped for lunch at McMinnville Post 21 with local Commander Juan Palacios, Auxiliary State President Debra Godwin and other members of Legion organizations. Then he followed the Legion Riders to Sheridan, and on to Carlton.

At the latter post, he helped Fulcher present an honorary award to 75-year Legion member Alvin Tesky. Tesky joined the Legion after serving in World War II as an Army engineer. He said he spent most of his service time in the South Pacific building things such as quonset huts for troops.

The South Dakota native came to Oregon after the war. He joined the Newberg Legion Post first, then transferred to the Carlton one — which, incidentally, meets in a quonset hut similar to those Tesky built in The Philippines.

Dillard spoke with Legion members at each stop. He said he was interested in their projects and efforts to grow their membership. The Texan even took time to tease members. "I served in the REAL military, the U.S. Navy," he boasted to the Army, Marine and Air Force veterans in the room.

It's OK to say things like that, if you're

a vet, Dillard said. "We kid each other, but we're all good men," he said. "It's all about camaraderie." Camaraderie lies at the heart of Dillard's project for his year in office. In an effort to reduce the high suicide rate among veterans, he is promoting the "Buddy Check" project.

It's not just about Legion members, he said; it's about all vets. "No veteran left behind," he said.

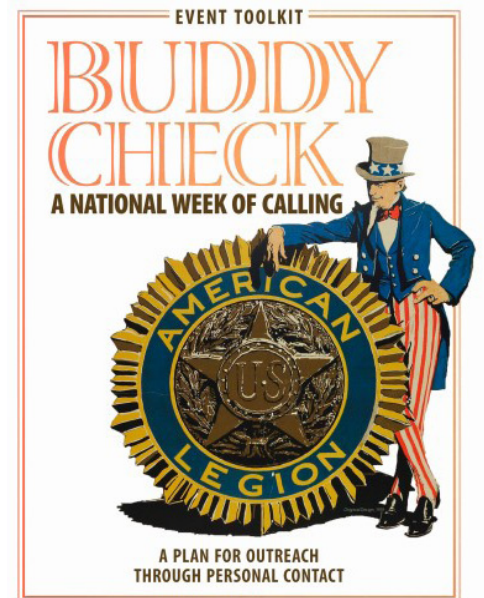
Twenty to twenty-two veterans kill themselves every day, Dillard said. The isolation of the last two years has only increased the program. But the number may be reduced by buddy checks: vets calling each other to ask how things are going.

"The chances are, if they're thinking of suicide, they'll tell you and you can get them help," he said. "Every vet should have 10 or 12 names in their pocket that they call regularly."

The Legion also is backing a National Buddy Check bill that's being considered by Congress. It would raise awareness of suicide prevention and the importance of people checking on each other, he said.

In addition, it would include some money for grants that would help train vets how to talk with those who are feeling suicidal. Dillard encourages vets who are feeling depressed, lonely, anxious or lost to call a national suicide prevention number, 1-800-273-8255.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



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for Legionnaires**

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The American Legion Hails Senate, 117th Congress for 'Historic Bipartisan Achievement' on PACT Act

WASHINGTON (June 16, 2022) – The head of the nation's largest veterans organization praised the Senate for its passage of legislation that will provide comprehensive benefits to veterans suffering from conditions linked to toxic exposure during their time in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Today, the U.S. Senate has saved lives and truly delivered for veterans," American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said. "By passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, the 117th Congress has put substance behind the phrase, 'Thank you for your service.' The American Legion is grateful for the service of millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other environmental poisons. Thanks to the U.S. Congress, these men and women will be able to receive the care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act is an historic bipartisan achievement. The American Legion thanks not only those who voted for this legislation but the thousands of Legionnaires and advocates who worked to make this happen. We look forward to President Biden signing the Honoring Our PACT Act into law."

The Honoring Our PACT Act, which had already passed in the House of Representatives, will provide health care for millions of veterans who were exposed to contaminants emanating from open-air burn pits. It establishes presumptions of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers linked to burn pits and other hazards. It will also provide additional resources and staff to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The American Legion is dedicated to the motto of "Veterans Strengthening America." Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Legionnaires in more than 12,000 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Media Contact: John Raughter,
jraughter@legion.org

(317) 630-1350

Dave Lapan
dlapan@legion.org
(703) 403-3835

Dickinson Press | **American Legion**
highlights current projects,
future goals

By Jason R. O'Day • June 28, 2022
01:15 PM

DICKINSON — The North Dakota American Legion hosted its annual summer convention Saturday at the Grand Roosevelt Hotel in Dickinson. Two high-ranking leaders within the organization, National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez of Carolina, Puerto Rico, and National Commander candidate Vincent Troiola of New City, New York, emphasized some of the organization's goals and ongoing projects.

"Right now our highest priority is eliminating veteran suicide," Troiola said. "We'll be developing a peer-to-peer program where every post in the United States will have the opportunity to identify veterans in their own communities."

The initiative will be called "Be the One," with a buddy system in which American Legion members proactively develop relationships with at-risk veterans in their area and more quickly connect them with proper resources to recover. He noted that the per capita suicide rate for veterans is substantially higher than that of the general population.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the veteran suicide rate from 2000 to 2019 was steadily around 6,000 per year. In the last three months of 2020, the rate increased by 25%. Troiola hopes this program will help mitigate stigmas associated with mental health issues.

"There's a stigma out there among those veterans that if they come forward, maybe they'd be embarrassed, their pride would be hurt or they could lose their jobs, they could lose

Continued on page 23

Interesting things to make you say



Hmmm.....

The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 influenced the Art Deco design style and popularized the use of eyeliner in the West.

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Poppies for Donations American Legion Post 11 Corvallis, Oregon



JOHN MORFORD
POST 11 ADJUTANT

American Legion Post and Auxiliary spend time giving out poppies for donations to support hospitalized and disabled Veterans. This year after the two-year delay for the Covid scare once again, the program took to the towns. This year Post 11 in Corvallis, Oregon, set out to see this program get back to work. Led by Marjorie Morford as poppy chairperson, a team of 9 people headed out to see what they could do. We were able to set up at the Bi-Mart on 53rd and the True Value in Philomath from the 27th to the 29th of May. Our First Vice Commander, LeeAnn Julsen signed up to work at True Value for 4-hours on Saturday.

We had 2 former Auxiliary ladies,

Dickinson Press | American Legion
highlights current projects,
future goals

Continued from page 22

their families. A lot of them will not come forward to try and get help," he said. "Through this peer to peer program, we want to teach our members how to start a conversation with a veteran, and how to listen for something the veteran is saying which will identify that this person has a need." He explained they also lead several

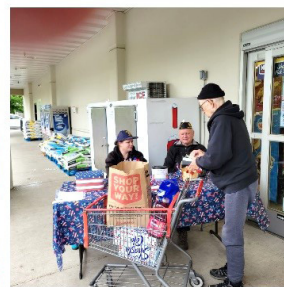
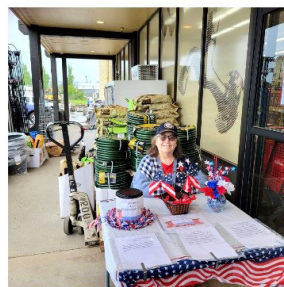
Memorial Day is the last Monday of May; during this time, The

Carolyn Web and Lousie Copes, that worked a 2-hour shift at Bi-Mart on

Bruce Morford worked three days, and for two days, he worked alongside

his ex-wife Michelle Morford helping him. On the 3rd day, Sherry pointed out to Marjorie that there was going to be a block party in Philomath on May 30th, 2022. After a few phone calls, we were invited to attend the block party to honor our fallen Veterans by handing out the poppies for donations. The block party was in

honor of the Veterans that were from Philomath that gave their lives for our freedom. After all, was done, we collected \$3242.87 dollars. Out of this total we paid \$1213.15 dollars to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oregon.



Friday. John Morford and Marjorie Morford filled in where there were blank times so that they could support the Post when they didn't have others to help support. Sherry Conn worked the three days where time permitted and as needed with her boyfriend Chris Moore working alongside her.

programs to build character and civic leadership skills among American youth. For example, each year posts around the country host mock government competitions called Boys' State and Girls' State.

"They're split into two separate parties, the federalists and nationalists. They get together, write bills and vote on them in the legislature," he said. "They learn how to work together and how the government operates."

The students ultimately choose a governor, who advances to the National level competition.

Another way the organization cultivates statesmanship is through public speaking competitions.

"These high school students have to speak from memory on a part of the duties of citizenship," he said.

Continued on page 24

Dickinson Press | **American Legion**
highlights current projects,
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Continued from page 23

The Legion also runs a baseball league.

“We have the American Legion World Series every year in Shelby, North Carolina. And 36% of all Major League Baseball players have played American Legion ball, it’s a pretty big thing,” Troiola said.

In addition to all of these youth programs that award college scholarships, Narvaez said they also have lobbyists in the nation’s Capitol advancing the interests of veterans.

“Right now we’re working on a bill to grant citizenship to immigrants who join the military,” he said.

Troiola added that all posts are happy to have volunteer support for their community engagement projects and veteran support services.

“I would contact either their Legion or veterans service organization in their own communities and ask them how they can help,” he said.



Congratulations

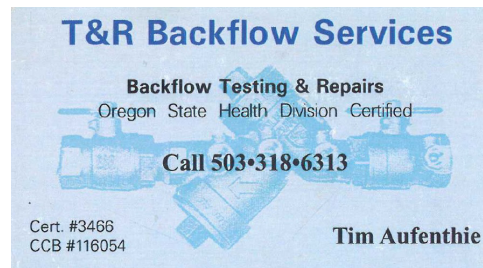
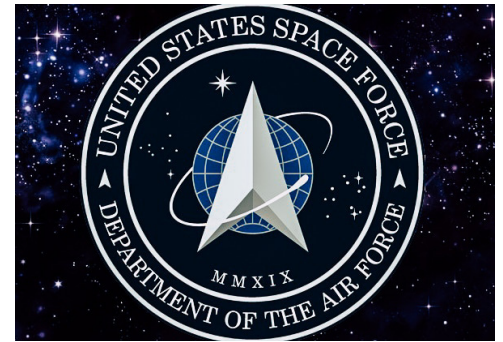
to all the of the sweepstake winners

The winners drawn at convention are:

1st Place	John Rose
2nd Place	Ronald Brinegar
3rd Place	George Galligar
4th Place	Bradley Harney
5th Place	Michael Redhead
6th Place	Gail Woodworth
7th Place	Charles Godwin
8th Place	Reed Barker
9th Place	Bruce Conrad
10th Place	Renee Ohler



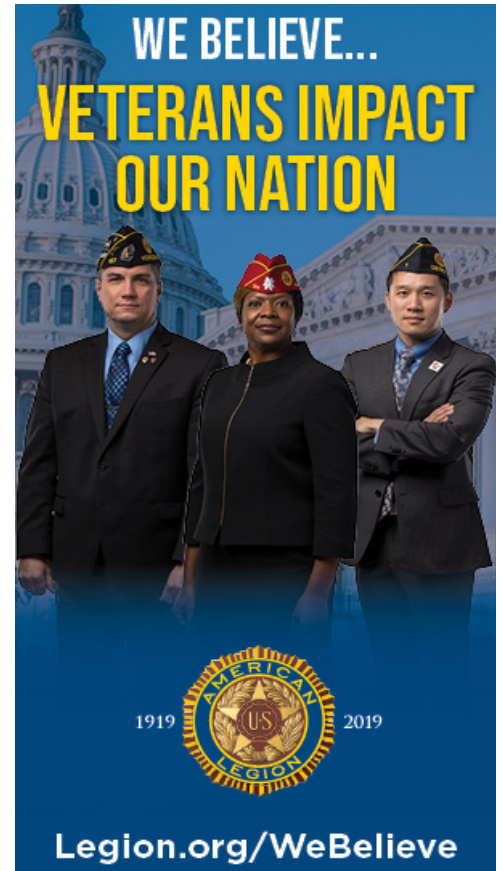
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Tim AUFENTHIE of T&R Backflow Testing was part of the Eagle Scout Program that put our lawn sprinkler system in.

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THANK YOU Tim !!!



HOW DID IT DO?



We are excited to report that the Emergency Assistance Plus campaign we mailed in February brought in over 1,900 new members!



Here's what it will look like to most people who receive it.

AND AS ALWAYS, DON'T FORGET:



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800-445-3269
hbender@agia.com

The next mailing is Hospital Help on July 6th.

WHAT'S MAILING THIS MONTH?



We are mailing Travel Accident on June 22nd.

Quick reminder about Travel Accident:

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Costs: Sponsors cover expenses so that it is **FREE** for our Service Members, Veterans and their adult family members or caregivers.

Online via Zoom and locations in WA & OR & CA are regularly scheduled, consider attending online or in person. With additional sponsorship we can bring this workshop to communities across the nation. To start the conversation for your community, send an email to Rod.Wittmier@na2evs.org for more information: Contact the website or,

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Stars & Stripes | Four Army veterans to receive Medals of Honor for heroic battles and selfless acts in Vietnam

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
STARS AND STRIPES • July 4, 2022

WASHINGTON — One soldier led his unit through a deadly ambush in 1968. Another defended a besieged fire base in 1972. A third directed airstrikes after a crash landing in 1971. And a fourth single-handedly cleared a trench of enemy troops in 1966.

Together, the four men — Spc. 5th Class Dwight Birdwell, Maj. John J. Duffy, Spc. 5th Class Dennis M. Fujii and Staff Sgt. Edward N. Kaneshiro — will receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest battlefield honor, for their courage in the Vietnam War.

President Joe Biden on Tuesday will award the medal to three of the four Army veterans at the White House while Kaneshiro, who died during combat in 1967, will be honored posthumously.

More than 3,500 service members have received the Medal of Honor since its inception for each of the service branches in the 1860s

“It’s not about me, I’m just part of the story,” Duffy said Sunday about the award. “It’s about the young gentleman who wants to join the military and find a career choice, which I did as a 17-year-old. It’s [about] inspiring him that anyone can do this.”

Birdwell sped to Tan Son Nhut Air Base with his unit expecting a fight with a small, inexperienced contingent of Viet Cong guerrillas. But the attack on the vital military installation near Saigon on Jan. 31, 1968, went far beyond a mere skirmish.

Hundreds of enemy soldiers had descended on the base in one of the first assaults of the Tet Offensive, a camp-

aign of surprise attacks on the South Vietnamese army, U.S. troops and their allies. Birdwell’s unit found itself in the middle of a horseshoe ambush, caught in a crossfire of 700 enemy troops on one side and 300 on the other.

Gunfire ripped through the air, piercing bodies and vehicles. One of the bullets hit Birdwell’s tank commander and without hesitation, Birdwell pulled him to safety and took over the commander’s seat, according to the Army.

“That’s what I was trained to do,” he said. “I was trained to do my best and part of doing your best is to become a leader in a time of need and there was no one else left to do it. If I didn’t do it, who would? So it was me.”

Birdwell’s decision to assume control made him a target of the North Vietnamese. They were “very effective” that day of shooting those in command positions in the head, he said.

He vividly remembers the unique whining sound of bullets whizzing by him. The closer they got, the more they whined, he said.

“Sometimes I was scared,” Birdwell said. “But it’s what I was trained to do. It’s what I was told to do.”

He provided situation reports to his squadron leader and fired every weapon at his disposal, launching volleys from the tank’s cannon, machine gun and his rifle until all the ammunition was spent. Birdwell then dismounted and found his way to a downed American helicopter, retrieving two M60 machine guns and ammunition.

With another soldier, Birdwell con-

tinued the firefight from the top of a tank until the enemy blew his gun out of his hands. The explosion wounded Birdwell in the face and torso.

The injuries did not stop Birdwell from staying in the fight. He refused evacuation multiple times, at one point disembarking from a rescue helicopter packed with other wounded men just before takeoff.

Birdwell rejoined the battle to collect more ammunition for his comrades from damaged vehicles. He then led a small group of soldiers behind enemy lines, took cover behind a tree and threw hand grenades until reinforcements arrived.

Birdwell stayed on the battlefield to help with casualties and only left when he was ordered to seek care for his own injuries.

“Throughout the entire engagement, Birdwell repeatedly placed himself in extreme danger to protect his team and to defeat the enemy,” according to the Army.

Birdwell’s actions that day previously earned him the Silver Star, the third-highest military decoration for valor in combat. Other members of his unit had lobbied for an upgrade for years. “It’s overwhelming,” Birdwell, a Native American, said of receiving the Medal of Honor. “It brings honor and credit to my creator, it brings credit to the Cherokee people, it brings credit to the U.S. Army, 25th Infantry Division, those I served with, those who were killed that day or were terribly maimed as well as their families... At least the families know that we did our job.”

Five months after the air base attack,
Continued on page 28

Stars & Stripes | Four Army veterans to receive Medals of Honor for heroic battles and selfless acts in Vietnam

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Birdwell earned another Silver Star for putting his life on the line to rescue Americans stranded in an enemy-occupied village. He again exposed himself to enemy fire to load wounded troops into a damaged personnel carrier and returned for more rescues after seeing them to safety.

Birdwell left the Army on Dec. 29, 1968, and pursued a career in law, rising to chief justice of the Cherokee Nation Judicial Appeals Tribunal. He is now a practicing attorney in Oklahoma City.

Chuck Hoskin Jr., principal chief of the Cherokee nation, said Birdwell is the first Native American to earn the Medal of Honor for fighting in Vietnam.

"We're tremendously proud of Dwight Birdwell as a fellow Cherokee," Hoskin said. "He represents thousands of Cherokees over the generations who have served for or alongside this country in conflict for things that are important, just as Dwight did."

Birdwell credits his upbringing in the Cherokee nation for prompting him to join the Army in high school and giving him the courage to put his life on the line for the United States.

"A lot of the older veterans from prior wars instilled in me the idea that you've got to serve and don't you bring any dishonor to us or the Cherokee people," Birdwell said. "So I wasn't going to break."

The siege of Fire Support Base Charlie in Kontum Province of South Vietnam began April 14, 1972. North Vietnamese soldiers first surrounded the encampment where Duffy was

serving as a senior adviser to South Vietnamese paratroopers. Then the enemy unleashed a 24-hour bombardment.

Duffy, a Special Forces officer, could have left the base two days earlier. A battle that day had given him a concussion that he said felt like "three hangovers separated by whipped cream," and killed the battalion commander and destroyed the battalion command post. Duffy was offered an evacuation but refused.

"I was a one-man team," he said. "You had to have Americans to control the American air assets so there was no way that I was going to leave with the Vietnamese still there fighting. If I left, they would have been killed, destroyed without much effort."

Duffy was also given specific orders before he deployed to the base: "Fight to the death."

As a veteran of two previous combat tours, Duffy knew air support was crucial for defending the base. So Duffy moved close to the enemy's anti-aircraft guns and started calling in airstrikes — nearly 200 of them.

Fragments from a rifle round punctured Duffy's skin but he again refused to leave the battle.

"I was never frightened," he said. "You volunteered, you trained, now do your job. It's that simple... I was doing what I was trained to do and I was good at it and I knew I was good. So I was confident. When you're confident, you're in control and if you're in control, you're not going to panic."

Duffy continued to put himself in the line of fire to direct aircraft at en-

emy positions even as the North Vietnamese launched a massive barrage of artillery. His targeting efforts eventually silenced the barrage, if only temporarily.

The respite gave Duffy an opportunity to survey the damage, ensure wounded South Vietnamese troops were moved to safety and distribute their ammunition to other defenders.

The enemy resumed its attack on the base with a burst of another 300 artillery rounds. In the late afternoon, ground forces stormed in from every direction. Duffy shifted from position to position to coordinate strikes and treat wounded South Vietnamese soldiers, spotting targets for artillery observers while dodging bullets.

When enemy forces advanced within 10 meters of him, Duffy directed American aircraft to launch runs on his position.

"They killed the battalion commander and almost killed myself," he said.

In the early hours of April 15, the enemy rushed the South Vietnamese battalion and inflicted more casualties. Duffy helped hold off the ambush and with the enemy in pursuit, led the remaining service members, many of them heavily injured, on a nighttime escape down a mountain.

At the evacuation site, Duffy marked a landing zone for a helicopter and fended off the enemy for an hour. He was the last man to board the helicopter, remaining behind to adjust aircraft covering the evacuating troops until the last possible moment.

"They wanted me to get on first. I

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Stars & Stripes | Four Army veterans to receive Medals of Honor for heroic battles and selfless acts in Vietnam

said, 'I'll be the last man out,'” Duffy said. “I had the radio, there was no other choice.”

As the helicopter lifted off, Duffy caught a South Vietnamese soldier falling off the aircraft and tended to a wounded helicopter gunner.

Duffy previously received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest award for valor in combat, for his actions on April 14-15, 1972. He later pursued a career in publishing, founded an investment firm and became a Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet.

Duffy is reluctant to be called “heroic” for his performance on Fire Support Base Charlie, preferring to instead heap praise on the “bravery and heroism” of the airmen. Without them, Duffy was “just a rifleman” with some radios, he said.

He later paid homage to the men in a poem, writing, “It is the lonely mission, the forward air controller. His are the eyes above the battle. His is the link to those below.” The ode was inscribed on a memorial in 2008 to forward air controllers in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“Was I heroic? Well I survived, I was lucky,” Duffy said. “Yeah, if you want to call that heroic, I'll go for it.”

Fujii was serving as the crew chief of a medevac helicopter when a group of seriously wounded Vietnamese troops called for rescue from a position of heavy fighting in a Laos valley on Feb. 18, 1971.

The helicopter made several passes over the battlefield, thick with smoke from artillery and mortars, before attempting to land.

“We started taking so much ground fire, I had never seen it in Vietnam. All the years I was there I had never, never seen anything like that,” Fujii said in a video interview the Army posted in 2018. Fujii deployed to Vietnam in 1968.

A torrent of enemy fire ripped through the helicopter as it finally managed to touch down. Fujii and the rest of the crew piled “screaming” Vietnamese troops onboard as fast as they could but as the aircraft attempted to lift off, mortar rounds brought it crashing to the ground.

Fujii scrambled off the helicopter with two other medics and sought cover in a nearby bunker. A mortar exploded near Fujii as he ran, injuring his shoulder. The second mortar hit was far more damaging.

A piece of shrapnel flew into Fujii's eye as he dashed out of the bunker to another rescue helicopter arriving on the scene. Temporarily blind and dazed, Fujii fell back and watched helplessly as his crew, carrying two injured pilots, jumped in the aircraft.

“I knew that there was no way I could make it from where I was into the chopper,” he said. “And the longer I stayed there and waited, I was putting everybody at risk so I just waved the bird off.”

Fujii did not think the departing helicopter would survive the barrage of artillery but it did. As the chopper slowly disappeared into the distance, Fujii realized he was all alone.

“It scared me,” he said. “It scared me because the enemy wasn't hiding, they were all out in the open.”

Plans to go back for Fujii were deem-

ed too dangerous. He remained the lone American on the ground and spent the night and the next day providing first aid to injured South Vietnamese troops.

As night fell on Feb. 19, the enemy launched a ruthless artillery assault on the Vietnamese unit. Fujii found a radio and called in American helicopters to help defend the outmanned South Vietnamese allies.

For 17 hours, Fujii “repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire as he left the security of his entrenchment to better observe enemy troop positions and to direct airstrikes against them,” according to his Distinguished Service Cross citation.

“At times, the fighting became so vicious that Specialist Fujii was forced to interrupt radio transmittal in order to place suppressive rifle fire on the enemy while at close quarters,” the citation read.

The South Vietnamese unit held on through the night. The next day, an American helicopter successfully landed to airlift Fujii and other injured military personnel from the area.

But the rescue was short-lived.

Enemy fire forced the air ambulance to make an emergency landing at another South Vietnamese base about 2 miles away. Fujii had to wait two more days for another ride out, finally departing on a helicopter on Feb. 22 to receive medical care.

The ordeal initially earned Fujii the Silver Star, later upgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross.

Fujii returned to his native Hawaii

Continued on page 30

Stars & Stripes | Four Army veterans to receive Medals of Honor for heroic battles and selfless acts in Vietnam

a week after his heroic acts and joined the Hawaii Army National Guard and the Pacific Army Reserve. He went on to work as a utilities and logistics technician at the Johnston Atoll Wildlife Refuge Island in the North Pacific.

Reflecting on his service years later, Fujii said he had no regrets about joining the military and fighting in Vietnam.

“I’d do it all over again,” he said. “I thought it was part of a young man’s obligation to our country. After all, freedom doesn’t come lightly and it doesn’t come cheap and I thought that I should do my fair share.”

Kaneshiro and his infantry squad entered the village of Phu Huu 2 on Dec. 1, 1966, on a search-and-destroy mission.

Some teams from the platoon deployed to the hamlet while Kaneshiro directed his team to scour the more open terrain in the east. None of them were aware that North Vietnamese troops had fortified the village with a camouflaged trench and bunker system teeming with a vastly larger force.

The enemy, seeing an opportunity for an ambush, opened fire. The hail of bullets killed the platoon leader and the point man, struck four others and pinned down the squads, according to the Army.

Kaneshiro rushed his troops toward the sound of gunfire. He saw most of the firepower coming from the main trench and realizing it had to be subdued to give troops a chance at survival, asked his men to cover him. Alone, he crawled forward to attack the enemy.

With his body pressed to the ground,

Kaneshiro lobbed a series of grenades over the top of the trench. One fell into a bunker and killed the gunner who had started the firefight, silencing his machine gun.

Kaneshiro then jumped into the trench himself. He swept through 35 meters of the ditch, using his M16 rifle to destroy one enemy group and grenades to kill two others.

By the time Kaneshiro single-handedly cleared the trench, survivors of the other squads were standing and preparing to move the dead and wounded.

“Kaneshiro’s actions enabled the orderly extrication and reorganization of the platoon, which was the beginning of a larger action that ultimately led to a successful withdrawal from the village,” according to his Distinguished Service Cross citation

Kaneshiro served in Vietnam until March 6, 1967, when he was shot and killed while trying to evacuate a fallen comrade. He was born in Hawaii and grew up working on his family’s farm alongside 16 siblings.

After stints with several civilian employers, Kaneshiro enlisted in the Army in 1959 and served in noncombat roles in Japan and South Korea. He was 38 years old at the time of his death and left behind his wife, Mitsuko, and five children.

Mitsuko, who died on April 10 at the age of 90, did not speak of her husband after his death. But she will be buried next to him at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii on July 22, Kaneshiro’s birthday.

“The grief was so profound and gro-

wing up it was sort of like an unspoken thing not to mention him because it was so, so tragic for her,” said Naomi Vilorio, Kaneshiro’s daughter.

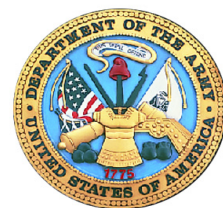
Viloria was eight when her father was killed and only remembers snippets of his personality — quiet and humble, with a love for fishing and photography. John Kaneshiro, Kaneshiro’s infant son, remembers nothing at all but believes his father’s military service subconsciously inspired him to join the Army and then the Army Reserve.

The Kaneshiro siblings spent decades pushing for the Medal of Honor to be awarded to their father. Viloria said she was overwhelmed when Biden called her with the good news.

“My whole body was shaking,” Viloria said. “Sometimes I try to imagine what [my dad] went through, like would I be able to do that? It’s very inspiring that he was just fearless or maybe he had fear but did it anyway. That takes a lot of courage, to do that alone. Since he was so humble, I believe in his mind he was just serving his country.”

Maj. Gen John B. Richardson, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, said Kaneshiro embodied the Army’s values of honor, duty to country and fighting for your fellow man by putting your own life at risk.

“He put deeds behind those words,” Richardson said. “We can now carry his story back to today’s troopers and share with them that these aren’t just words, these are actions and that’s what makes us the greatest Army in the world.”





A Word About Legionnaire Insurance Trust

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The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its over fifty years that today over 500,000 Legionnaires in 50 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, almost \$1 billion dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$100 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments. The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

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Answer: B. 1922

The Great Railroad Strike, also known as the Railway Shopmen's Strike, began in July 1922. Seven of the sixteen major railway unions at the time joined together to protest wage cuts for railway maintenance workers. At the start of the strike about 400,000 workers walked off the job and while the strike had some economic effects across the country, the running of the railroads was largely unaffected as many of the workers who operated the trains did not join. During the month many strikers clashed with security, undermining their efforts. Eventually many of the workers made local deals with railroads effectively ending the strike after about two months.



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THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____
 _____ (Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues) _____
 (Gender)

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____
 Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____
 Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
 Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____
 Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
 OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
 (c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____
 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
 Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues
 Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

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.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____
 _____ / _____ / _____ ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over
 Date of Birth (Required)
 Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)
 Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____
 _____ / _____ / _____
 Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____
 If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____
☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)
Veteran Served:
☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)
☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):
☐ Global War on Terror ☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ WWII
☐ Gulf War ☐ Vietnam ☐ Other Conflicts
☐ Panama ☐ Korea
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:
☐ Male Spouse ☐ Female Spouse ☐ Mother
☐ Grandmother ☐ Sister ☐ Self
☐ Daughter ☐ Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer
 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.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____

Date

ALA 09/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.
 Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.