





Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another.

# SERVING MARION & POLK COUNTIES

Building better lives for Oregon's Disabled veterans & their families.



Volume 2 — Issue 1 — Printed Monthly DAV Ch 6 & VVA Ch 271, 6319 Veterans PL SE, Salem, OR 97317

January 2012

# OUR HONORED SUPPORTERS

Individuals and businesses who have donated resources in support of our projects focused on honoring and improving veterans' lives, are featured on this page. Their compassion toward veterans is immeasurable.

## COLUMBIA GORGE COTONS

CGC is committed to our mission. Their contributions show the magnitude of their compassion for veterans. Many of America's heroes have benefitted from CGC's generosity.



### THE TEAM DEPOT

Janet McCann, Associate Support Department Supervisor, works at the North Salem Home Depot on Cherry Ave.

"The Team Depot" that has volunteered to help Chapters 6 & 271 with projects.

We can build ramps, raised garden beds, wheelchair friendly paths, and many other things for our comrades.

**Janet informed me she has a large crew scheduled to do a project on Thursday, January 26. Two volunteers can do light plumbing work. The crew can rake leaves, repair fences, garden work, and other chores.**

I will liaise with Janet in coordinating our projects. If you have an idea that will make a veteran's life better, please contact me.

Ron Morgan, Project Manager  
rhmorgan@usa.net or 503.931.9555

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~Ron Morgan, Editor



Physical Therapy Team Members

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**Carmen L. Anglin, DPT, CMP**  
**Susan Wells, DPT**  
**Michelle Reisig, MPT**

503-769-3123  
fax 503-769-3176

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## FUNERAL HONORS UPDATE 07:

The volunteer rifle squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery has provided military honors at almost 60,000 burials. But now it's in danger of losing its guns because the Army wants them back. The Army wants to replace the honor guard's 1903 Springfield bolt-action rifles, a model that predated World War I, with a somewhat more modern weapon, the World War II vintage M-1 Garand semiautomatic. But the volunteers with the Fort Snelling squad hope to stick to their old guns. U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-MN) a retired Marine who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, wrote to Army Secretary John McHugh 16 DEC

asking the service to reconsider. On 21 DEC, he said the Army will look into the matter.

Vietnam-era machine gunner John Sobaski told Minnesota Public Radio the Springfield's mechanism is part of the weapon's allure. "I like the action that it makes, the sound that it makes," he said. "It sounds a little more traditional." Bob Nelson, a Vietnam vet who commands the squad, which formed in 1979, said the Springfield's shots have a distinct ring as well. "They sound the best. M-1's, they have a mellower sound. And we think it's really a nice tribute to our veterans that we are having the honors for that they go out in style and class," Nelson said. The Garand is also heavier, with a tricky re-

loading mechanism that could spell potential trouble for the volunteers, many of whom are in their 70s, 80s and even 90s. Howard Tellin, the armorer and bugler for the squad, calls it "The M1 thumb. If you don't watch it, you're going to have the prettiest black-and-blue thumb you've ever seen. It hurts for about a week," Tellin said.

The Army wants the Springfields back under a new policy that also limits the squad to 15 rifles, down from 50 that are now shared among the five details working different days. Combined, the details serve an average of 45 to 50 burials a week. The reason for the changes remains unclear, at least to the rifle squad members who blame the Pentagon bureaucracy. A Pentagon

spokesman contacted by the Star Tribune said he did not have a ready answer.

"We can't get a truthful statement out of anyone," Nelson said. "I don't know anyone who really knows why they want to take them away." On 21 DEC, Kline announced the Army would launch an inquiry. In addition, an aide said Kline intends to introduce legislation early next year to ensure the squad can keep its Springfields. Kline said the issue is largely about recognizing the squad's sacrifices for their fellow soldiers, sailors and Marines. "As you talk to them you realize they're all guys in their 70s and 80s," he said. "They're out there in the winter when it's below zero. They're out there all the time."

*Associated Press article 22 Dec 11*

*(Rift Continued from page 1)*

or injuries. Currently, there is a backlog of 1 million cases. Just like civilians trapped in the flawed —privatel insurance system, veterans and their families do not get the care they were promised or desperately need.

Sadly, homelessness is an American problem. Due to the current economic downturn and subprime mortgage schemes of 2001-2008, the housing bubble burst and 20% of sub-prime mortgages went into default, displacing millions of families. This situation,

combined with high unemployment and a stagnant economy, contributed to a sharp increase in homelessness. As it stands now, an estimated 2.3 and 3.5 million Americans will experience homelessness this year, 1.8 million of which are American children directly impacted by the ongoing foreclosure crisis. About one-third of the adult homeless population are veterans. 107,000 veterans, nearly half of whom served during the Vietnam era, are homeless on any given night. Two-thirds served our country for at least three years, and one-third were stationed in a war zone. With no recovery

in sight for the American economy and with veteran financial assistance in the hands of the incompetent VA, our current soldiers and Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan threaten to swell these numbers further. It is estimated that 260,000 veterans will be homeless this year.

Americans may remain divided on the necessities of both wars and politics and differences in experience may play a major role in the lack of dialogue between both communities, but we have much to discuss. The common social ills deem these roadblocks largely ir-

relevant in the grander picture. For we, the American people, whether civilian or warrior, are both citizens. We are the only individuals that can effect change in the civilian world, and most effectively by working together. As our longest perpetual state of war ends, we will choose to understand each other, learn to communicate with civility, situational awareness, common sense, and compassion, or continue to allow the gap between our communities to widen.

*Wash Times Tiffany Madison article 20 Dec 11*

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA AND CAMPAIGN ENDORSEMENTS

(Washington, D.C.)—Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) President John Rowan said today that VVA cannot make any endorsements of political candidates for any elected office.

"VVA's Constitution and our not-for-profit tax status strictly prohibit the national organization, as well as local VVA chapters and state councils, from making any such endorsements," Rowan said.

"Occasionally, confusion arises when individual VVA members--whom we encourage to be politically active--are identified as representatives of our organization. To preclude any misunderstandings, as required by our membership, we must get the word out to clarify the record," Rowan said.

Rowan stated, "The federal tax code is very clear in this regard, and any implication of improper activities could cause us to lose our tax exemption and

not-for-profit status. As long as no VVA endorsement of a political candidate is given or implied, individual VVA members are encouraged to participate in the political process. As private citizens, we have every right to do so."

Vietnam Veterans of America, founded in 1978, was formed, in large part, to fight for and affect laws and policies to ensure that our nation's veterans receive the benefits they have earned and need. With chapters and state councils nationwide, VVA is the only Congressionally chartered, national Vietnam veterans' service organization exclusively comprised of Vietnam-era veterans. VVA's commitment to all veterans is exemplified in its founding principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." VVA continues to maintain advocacy in the veterans affairs arena as its top priority.

## VIETNAM VETERANS FAST A DYING BREED

*by Michael Patrick Brewer on Oct. 03, 2009*

These are indeed some very sobering statistics. As a combat veteran of Marine Corps having served in Vietnam, I have always known that we seem to have a mortality clock that ticks a bit faster than then that of the standard for insurance actuaries. Might any of our readers speculate about why this may be? I have a few observations, but I will let you all go first.

This isn't good news for us "in country vets".... Like I always said ....we died in 'Nam , just haven't fallen over yet....Too bad all the imposters don't die just as quick or quicker.

served in Vietnam ? I don't know about you guys, but kinda gives me the chills, considering this is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean War vets.

So the last 14 years we are dying too fast, only the few will survive by 2015 — if any. If true, 390 Vietnam vets die every day. In just 2,190 days, in only 6 years, nearly all Vietnam vets will be gone.

These statistics were taken from a variety of sources, included are: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer—1st Recon April 12, 1997.

The 1995 census indicates 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995.

During that same census, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958.

As of the last census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day.

During this census, a huge number of Americans falsely claimed to have served in-country. (fact check note by Mike Brewer. I do not concur with this figure. The only qualifier may be that there is a misunderstanding about what "In Country" means. There are tons of "Era Vets" who are categorized as Vietnam Veterans, which is sort of true, but they are Vietnam ERA Vets, and never left the United States. Their census number is quite high, but I do not think it is this high.)

In case you haven't been paying attention these past few decades after you returned from Vietnam, the clock has been ticking. The following are some statistics that are at once depressing yet in a larger sense should give you a HUGE SENSE OF PRIDE.

"Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 54 years old."

If you're alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last third of all the U.S. Vets who



THE U.S. NAVY ANNOUNCES 50X ALTERNATIVE ENERGY BY 2020



VVA Ch 271 & DAV Ch 6  
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## HONEST ABE

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. ~Abraham Lincoln (16th President of the United States | 1809 -1865)

## KIM'S YUNG'UN?

I am really concerned about North Korea's appointment of the "dear leader", Kim Jung Ill's youngest son to be the new leader of North Korea -- a nuclear power!

After all, Kim Jung Un (pronounced Kim's young'un?) had *NO* military experience whatsoever before daddy made him a four-star general in the military. This is a snot-nose twerp who has never accomplished anything in his life that that would even come close to military leadership: he hasn't even so much as led a cub scout troop, let alone coached a sports team or commanded a military platoon. So, setting that aside, next they make him the "beloved leader" of the *country*. Terrific!!!

Oh, crap! I'm sorry. I just remembered that we did the same thing here. We took a community organizer who has never worn a uniform and made him Commander-in-Chief; a guy who has never led anything more than an ACORN demonstration and made him the leader of this country. *Never mind.*

## WWII TRIVIA

You might enjoy this from Col D. G. Swinford, USMC, Ret and history buff. You would really have to dig deep to assemble this kind of historical info.

The first German serviceman killed

in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); and the highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. So much for allies.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace, or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse

yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all, it was the practice to load a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell when you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy! Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton who had himself photographed in the act.

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City ... but they decided it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the assault on the island. It could have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.



**NEXT MEETING IS  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH**

**at the CENTER 50+ 2615 PORTLAND ROAD NE  
(At Portland & Silverton Roads).**

**Ch 6 Coffee Social: 9AM-10AM Biz.: 10AM-11AM**

**Ch 271 Biz.: 11:30AM-12:30PM Lunch/Social afterward.**

*Kelly Cape, CDR, DAV Ch 6 & Ron Morgan, PRES, VVA Ch 271*

*For questions concerning these meetings:*

*call Ron at: 503.931.9555 or email: [rhmorgan@usa.net](mailto:rhmorgan@usa.net)*

