



DAV Ch 6 VVA Ch 271 Veteran News



PRICE FREE

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 2 — Printed Monthly

DAV Ch 6 & VVA Ch 271, 6319 Veterans PL SE, Salem, OR 97317

February 2012

VA CRISIS LINE

If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help **RIGHT NOW**, call the VA crisis line at

1-800-273-8255,

available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran.

All calls are confidential.

JOHN OSBORN, PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE LEBANON VETERANS' HOME IS GUEST SPEAKER FOR VVA CH 271 AT 11:30AM, FEB 4TH

DAV CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

SB 1542 WILL HURT OREGON MILITARY VETERANS

The following is a draft, prepared by Veterans' Advisory Committee member, David Fairclo:

The Oregon Legislature officially began its short session yesterday. With only a month to complete its business, things will move fast and communication to and from Salem may not allow everyone concerned to learn about some legislative details before they are acted on.

Senate Bill 1542 being considered in the current Legislature will inevitably be harmful to Oregon's military veterans if allowed to pass as written.

I am sending this to educate citizens that Section 1 of SB 1542 will hurt Oregon military veterans. Section 1 of SB 1542 should be removed from SB 1542 if the rest of the bill is desirable enough to pass. You are encouraged to take appropriate action to see the language in Section 1 of SB 1542 does not pass the Oregon Legislature. Your action needs to be taken ASAP as this looks to the unaware like an innocuous administrative detail with solid sponsorship that could be acted on at any time if there is no opposition.

Senate Bill 1542 has a provision in Section 1 to eliminate the long-standing requirement for the "Advisory Committee" (consisting of 9 Governor-appointed veterans nominated by congressionally chartered veterans' organizations operating in Oregon) to approve the Governor's candidate for appoint-

ment to the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA).

To my knowledge, this provision requiring veterans to approve any candidate to run ODVA has been in existence since the establishment of ODVA. Requiring the Governor to pick a capable Director suitable to the veteran community is a major reason ODVA has been so highly effective at serving Oregon's veterans. This provision ensures Governors nominate, to the Senate, skilled Director candidates whose motivation is truly to serve veterans and not aligned with other political agendas.

The current law requires the Oregon Senate to confirm any ODVA Director candidate while giving the veteran community a strong voice in approving candidates who will best serve our veterans. A common phrase used in the military is: "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies here. The system "ain't broke" now and this proposed "fix" will break a valuable link between Oregon's veteran community and our Department of Veterans' Affairs.

I encourage you to take action immediately to prevent SB 1542 from passing unless Section 1 is eliminated. I know many of you are bound to avoid partisan politics; but it is perfectly acceptable for veterans and veterans' groups to speak out on nonpartisan legislative issues affecting veterans. You should on this one.

DOD SECRETARY PANETTA GIVES US HINTS

Secretary Leon Panetta with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dempsey held a press conference to get a jump on expected criticism and explain parts of his 5 year budget (though the explanation gave us no proposed dollar amounts.) The Secretary repeated that he had been directed by the White House to cut \$259 billion in the next 5 years and \$487 billion over the full decade. He said that in total he has \$500 billion less than he had anticipated having through 2017. He said that his proposals include cutting the size of the forces, limiting military pay raises, closing bases, limiting weapons systems, newly purchased planes and ships, and increasing health care costs for military retirees. He said that there will be a drawdown of Army personnel (from its recent peak of 570,000 to 490,000) and of the Marines (from 202,000 to 182,000.)

He said that the President was going to call for another BRAC round. Again, no details were given—that must wait for the Administration's roll-out of its proposed budget in February. But the cuts and increases will not happen if Congress does not approve. And members of Congress have already started to voice their general objections of these general proposals. Reacting to the idea of a new round of BRAC, (something that is always extremely unpopular with Congress especially when a round finally ended only last fall.) Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan) said until some of the European bases are closed, "I am not going to be able to support" closing bases back home. And

the Chairman of the House Armed Service Committee Rep. Buck McKeon said: "These cuts reflect President Obama's vision of an America weakened, not strengthened by our men and women in uniform. To be clear, the impacts of these cuts are far deeper than Congress envisioned."

We must remember that different members of Congress will be trying to protect a host of different programs (including military end strength, military bases in their home districts and states, weapon systems and much more.) We need to make sure that Congress focuses on the retirement programs already made to and relied on by military retirees. Now would be a good time to contact your members of Congress about the need to protect all your earned benefits.

VETERANS AND BENEFICIARIES SEE THEIR 2012 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT

On January 1 the 3.6% COLA increase has been applied to the VA's compensation and pension benefit. The COLA (which is by law the same percentage as the Social Security COLA.) means that the Service Connected Disability rates will range from \$127 per month for a 10% to \$2,769 for 100% disability. The basic Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rate has risen from \$1154 to \$1195. The full rates for all effected programs are available on the Internet at: www.yba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/#BM01 or you can call the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

CHANGE IN REGULATIONS REGARDING PAYMENTS FOR EMERGENCY CARE FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans in non-VA facilities.

"This provision helps ensure eligible Veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

The new regulation extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans at non-VA facilities until the Veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility.

More than 100,000 Veterans are estimated to be affected by the new rules, at a cost of about \$44 million annually.

VA operates 121 emergency departments across the country, which provide resuscitative therapy and stabilization in life-threatening situations. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. VA also has 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments who need immediate medical or psychiatric attention.

For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities, visit www.nonvacare.va.gov.

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more

precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Such good men."

Quoted from "These Good Men" by Michael Norman



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OUR HONORED SUPPORTERS

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 home projects for veterans.

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

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 503.877.8411

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

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The wonderful staff and crew at Green Acres has provided us valuable expertise with accomplishing the Xtreme Landscape Makeover. They seized the initiative and installed an absolutely stunning stone walkway.

~Ron Morgan, Editor



Terry Crawford

Long time Life Member of DAV and Past Commander Chapter 6



Physical Therapy Team Members

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

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Ron Morgan



Long time Life Member of DAV and Past Commander Chapter 6

Long time Life Member of VVA President, VVA Chapter 271

DAV Chapter 6 & VVA Chapter 271 produce this monthly newsletter to communicate important information to members and friends. The cost, however, is very high for printing and mailing.

For just \$25/month, your business card ad can be displayed here. You could help 400+ veterans receive important news about benefits that

will help them and their families have better lives. Also, think of how many veterans will see your card every month. Vets enthusiastically support businesses that support them.

Call or email the Editor, Ron Morgan, at 503.931.9555 or rhmorgan@usa.net for more information.



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“TEAM HOME DEPOT” RE-SIDES VETERAN’S HEN HOUSE

Early in the morning of January 26th 2012, Jennifer Coolidge, Courtney Digman, Christopher Loudon, and Douglas Benson, arrived at Ron Morgan’s place to install siding on his hen house. Our own Jaycee Newman was on hand to assist.

The Salem/Keizer Home Depot on Cherry Street, generously provided pressed board sub-siding and this outstanding team of employees provided their expertise and labor, installing the sub-siding and vinyl siding Ron had left over from residing his home several years ago.

All that’s left to do is some trim work and washing.

Additionally, as part of the team was finishing, the others went to work hauling wheel barrow loads of river rock into the front yard landscaping.

Thank you Jennifer, Courtney, Christopher, and Douglas, for a job well done. Also, thank you, Jaycee for being on hand to assist. This has been a project that has been waiting to be accomplished, for a very long time.

Left to right: Jennifer Coolidge, Courtney Digman, Christopher Loudon, and Douglas Benson



THANK, HONOR AND SALUTE OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

The text below, is from an email, received from Jerry Howard:

I sincerely hope this greeting finds you well. Once again, I would like to greatly thank you for all your tremendous cooperation and participation in our Patriotic Days at Volcanoes Stadium in the past, whether it was 2008, 2009, 2010 “Spanning All Wars”, or 2011 “Patriotic Weekend at Volcanoes Stadium” when we expanded from a one-day event to a three-day event. It is now time to begin nine months of preparation for our “2012 Patriotic Tribute at Volcanoes Stadium” on **Wednesday, July 4, 2012 thru Friday, July 6, 2012.** Our goal is to make it even bigger and better than past years, and once again Thank, Honor and Salute our brave men and women of the Armed Forces – both past and present. Our challenge – secure the names and contact information for approximately 50-60 individuals so we may invite them – men and women, officers and enlisted, all races, from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and all Middle East conflicts/wars since then.

This is where I humbly solicit your input. Who should we invite? Who can you recommend? I would love to get the leads, and I will do the work.

Please submit veteran(s) you would like to see honored at this event. Assemble a short bio of the veteran’s service, and email it to Ron Morgan

DAV Ch 6 and VVA Ch 271 were honored last year.

If, though, you can put in a good word about our event to the individual, it always helps. Won’t you please get back to me, please, so we may get in touch with these very deserving and brave folks who served our country, and helped to secure our freedoms. We very much want to Thank, Honor and Salute them. I have attached the list of those honored in the past; what an outstanding group – the best of the best.

Thank you, and I look forward to the day we meet again.

Jerry Howard (USAF 1961-1966)
Senior Marketing Executive
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E-MAIL: j.howard@volcanoesbaseball.com

Iran May Strike U.S. Before Israeli Attack

Secretary of Defense Panetta says he believes there is a strong likelihood that Israel will strike Iran's nuclear weapons facilities this spring. LIGNET, the global intelligence and forecasting service, reveals what ways Iran may retaliate against the U.S. and Israel. LIGNET details the risk of an Iranian bio-terror surprise attack.



VVA Chapter 271 Meeting: Saturday, January 7th, 2012

President Ron Morgan presiding.

Opening prayer/minute of silence/pledge of allegiance.

New visitor, Steve Wiley from the Woodburn Eagles post visited...

The Rickreall Gun Show on March 10th and 11th was discussed. Mention was made of raffling off a gift certificate to take to the gun show.

A motion was made by Mike Brickley to nominate Ron Morgan's farm roof to be submitted to Home Depot for a work party on the facility.

The "Volcanoes Stadium" will be conducting a "Salute to Veterans" in July at some of their games. There is a need to consider what veterans should be honored.

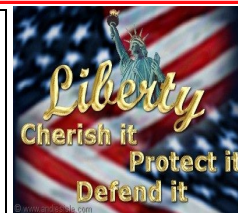
Steve mentioned that raffles, Dinners, ect. be considered to raise money for veteran's groups or the Eagles.

The Women's veteran's conference was to be held at the Salem Conference Center March 30th-31st. No cost for participation.

Motion was made to adjourn....

Thomas Vincent, Secretary,
VVA Chapter 271

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| The most destructive habit | Worry |
| The greatest joy | Giving |
| The most endangered species | Dedicated leaders |
| Our greatest natural resource | Our youth |
| The greatest “shot in the arm” | Encouragement |
| The greatest problem to overcome | Fear |
| The most effective sleeping pill | Peace of mind |
| The most crippling disease | Excuses |
| The most powerful force in life | Love |
| The most destructive pariah | Gossip |
| The most incredible computer | The human brain |
| The worst thing to be without | Hope |
| The deadliest weapon | The tongue |
| The two most powerful words | Can do |
| The greatest asset | Faith |
| The most worthless emotion | Self-pity |
| The worst thing you can lose | Self-respect |
| The most satisfying work | Helping others |
| The ugliest personality trait | Selfishness |
| The most beautiful attire | A smile! |
| The most prized possession | Integrity |
| The most contagious spirit | Enthusiasm |
| The most powerful communication | Prayer |



PONDER THIS —

To the world, you may be just one person; but to one person, you may be the world!

Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money.

If you bring macaroni and cheese to a covered dish supper, don't expect to dine on lobster and filet mignon.

A coffee grinder on sale at a 90% discount is not a great buy if you don't drink coffee.



VVA Ch 271 & DAV Ch 6
6319 VETERANS' PL SE
SALEM, OR 97317-6943

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Do we have the wrong mailing address for you?
Please let me know your current address while you are thinking about it right now.
The Postal Service will forward to your new address for a time, but eventually the forward service will end and your newsletter will be returned to us and we will be charged extra for the service.
Bottom line, you don't get your newsletter and we pay postage both ways to learn our address for you is no longer good.
Send your current address to me in an e-mail at:
rhmorgan@usa.net
Or, send us a note to the return address on this newsletter.
Thanks for your attention to this matter.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Editor received this email recently:

I have been doing some work with Willamette Valley Hospice. They have a veteran program that is very cool. They train veterans as volunteers to talk with their veterans who are on hospice.

I am wondering if you think this would be a good volunteer opportunity for VVA members and if so how we might go about getting people introduced. I have copied Jenny Johnson and Melissa Lindley of Willamette Valley Hospice on this email. Let me know what you think.

Tom Mann, Administrator,
Veterans' Services Division,
Oregon Dept of Veterans' Affairs

Since so many of us are unable to do much physical work anymore, perhaps this is something many of us could do.

~Editor

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Communication Break-down...

The reason the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines squabble among themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For example, take a simple phrase like, "Secure the building."

- The Army will put guards around the place.
- The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors.
- The Air Force will take out a 5-year lease with an option to buy.
- The Marines will kill everybody inside and make it a command post.

PHRASES OF WISDOM

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

My idea of house-work is to sweep the room with a glance.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

MEETING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
at the CENTER 50+ 2615 PORTLAND ROAD NE
(At Portland & Silverton Roads).

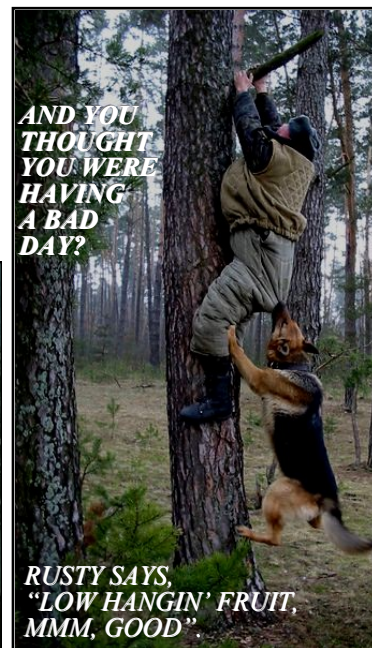
Ch 6 Coffee Social: 9AM-10AM Biz.: 10AM-11AM
Ch 271 Biz.: 11:30AM-12:30PM Lunch/Social afterward.

Kelly Cape, CDR, DAV Ch 6 & Ron Morgan, PRES, VVA Ch 271
For questions concerning these meetings:
call Ron at: 503.877.8411 or email: rhmorgan@usa.net

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.
There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.
Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.



US NAVY INITIATES NEW "TERRORIST CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAM".



AND YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE HAVING A BAD DAY?

RUSTY SAYS, "LOW HANGIN' FRUIT, MMM, GOOD"