



Mike Healy Umpqua Valley

VVA Chapter 805 Newsletter

"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"



570 SE Jackson St. #2

Roseburg, OR 97470

541-229-3456

Email: vva805@mdpartech.com

website: <http://vva-or.org/805.htm>

November 2011

Veterans Day Edition

Vol 4 Issue 11

Next Chapter Meeting Monday November 7 7:00 PM VA Auditorium , Building 16

VETERANS DAY 11-11-11

Parade Downtown Roseburg 1100



AVVA Story on Page Three



AVVA Chapter members and volunteers are seen making custom Veteran Day Cards. The 150 handmade cards (sample on the left) will be distributed to Veterans on Veterans Day at the VA Hospital and other local care facilities.



News From the Flight Deck

By Rob O'Brien VVA Membership Details

Membership in VVA qualifications - Our membership eligibility is based on U S law concerning Vietnam and Vietnam Era vets. Those who served anytime between February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 for In-Country vets and/or between

August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 for all veterans who served anywhere during this period.

At the October 10th BoD meeting, we discussed that our main focus for 2012 was going to be some serious member-

ship recruitment drives.

One way to do this was to have our own Vietnam Memorial Wall, listing the names of the service members from

Continued on pg 3

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President



Tom Johnson

Vice-President



Rick Freund

Secretary



JoAnn Compton

Treasurer



Gary Baxman

Sgt At Arms



Don Hegele

Chaplain



Stephen Dickinson

Women's Chaplain Chaplain Asst



Valerie Williams



Scott Munion

Board Members



Jack Miles

AVVA Rep



Linda Mooney



Chair Rob O'Brien

Board member



Rick Sciapiti

Notes from the Prez

November is upon us and Veterans Day will be a big day. October has been very busy for me. I hope to get some time to get the fire wood in before the rain sets in.

I spent a week in Washington DC at the VVA Conference of State Council Presidents CSCP and the VVA National Board Meeting. At CSCP we had representation from 40 States and Territories. Some of the highlights from the first day with CSCP were a class on suicide intervention. If you come in contact with some one considering suicide, the best intervention is to ask, "Are you going to commit Suicide".

The theory is hearing it most times makes it a bad idea. Our young Veterans of OEF and OIF have taken their own lives at a greater rate than what we have lost in combat.

We also heard about legislation that has been introduced in the US Senate to make March 29th the Vietnam War Day in purgatory. So, if you are a writer, write Senators Wyden and Merkley and tell them you support this bill.

I was able over a three day period to attend the Committee Meetings for Homeless Veterans, Agent Orange, Veterans Medical Care, Membership, and Governmental Affairs. As a result I was appointed to the Homeless Veterans and Veterans Medical Care Committees. I was also asked to be an advisor to a subcommittee of the Membership Committee. I found that the VVA National is a very powerful organization and we now have a voice on several of the committees that work with the Congress and VA to insure Veterans are not brushed under the carpet.

The float is coming together for Veterans Day. Our AVVA will also have a float in the parade this year. They have asked us to help with their theme, "Agent Orange". Part of our float will be in support of the AVVA's theme. But, having said that, the Grand Marshalls this year will be those Veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart. Many of our members have the honor to wear a Medal called the Purple Heart that came

Continue on page 6

Chapter Office Hours
Mon-Tue-Wed
10am-1pm

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 805 is a tax exempt organization under the provisions of the IRS Code Section 501 (c) (19) Exemption # 3202 . The Newsletter is published monthly in the Chinaberry Studios.

Chapter Committee Members

- ✓ Fundraiser : Chair Jack Miles, Gary Baxman
- ✓ Communication:
- ✓ Membership: Chair Gary Baxman, Stephen Dickinson, Valerie Williams
- ✓ Office Manager: Gary Baxman
- ✓ Government Affairs: Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Public Relations:
- ✓ Newsletter: Editors Rob & Caryn O'Brien,
- ✓ Newsletter Publisher Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Advertising: Terry Mooney, Rick Sciapiti
- ✓ Veterans Day Float: Tom Johnson, Don Hegele
- ✓ Avenue of Flags: Fred Becker
- ✓ Southern Oregon Stand Down : Rick Freund
- ✓ Women Veterans: Chair Jane Johnson
- ✓ AVVA Secretary: Patti Sciapiti
- ✓ AVVA Treasurer: Christy Mooney

Flight Deck

Continued from page 1

Oregon, over 600, who died during the war. A suggestion was to display this wall at our fundraisers so veterans and others could look up the names of friends or loved ones who are on it and/or just to lend comfort and support for those who lost someone in Vietnam. We could lend it to other state and local veteran's organizations as well.

The Veterans Day Parade will start at 11am. It will move up Jackson St., turn left on Lane St. and then turn left, going back, on Main St.

The theme of this year's parade is to honor all recipients of the Purple Heart, past and present. Our float will feature 2 new VVA Chapter 805 banners and Purple Heart Banners. Orange balloons will be attached as well, representing Agent Orange and its effects. There will be efforts made to get all vets eligible for Agent Orange benefits.

Our AVVA's theme is to inform the public about Agent Orange and its long term effects.

VA Cemetery parking lot - A big Setback The efforts to construct a decent parking lot next to the Roseburg VA cemetery were recently dealt a serious setback. The city of Roseburg (who is responsible for it) had applied for a \$120,000 grant for this project. This request went before an 8 member State Parks and Rec-

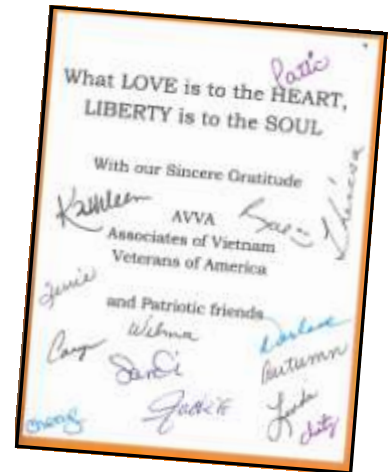
Continued on page 5

AVVA

By AVVA Secretary Patti Sciapiti

On Saturday October 8th a joyful group of AVVA members and patriotic friends gathered at the American Legion Hall to make Veteran's Day cards. We had an amazing assembly line and were able to make 150 cards which will be distributed to local veterans at the VA Hospital, care facilities and our own personal favorite veterans. Many of the ladies took cards to mail to special relatives and friends.

We opened with the pledge of allegiance and a prayer and closed with a prayer asking God to bless each card recipient with an awareness of our gratitude and love for their service.



Inside of the card (above)
Cover of card (page one)

Attention Veterans

There has been a lot of discussion about the decreasing services at Roseburg VA hospital. An investigative reporter is gathering information about the impact on veterans and their families. This reporter is interested in documenting specific examples of how the decreasing services have affected individual veterans...especially have there been veterans who have died because of the lack of appropriate care, have there been veterans who have suffered prolonged pain because of incorrect diagnosis...have suffered financially because they were diverted away from Roseburg VA hospital...or any other true stories about how care received at the emergency department, the ambulatory care services, or hospital treatment has resulted in increased pain or suffering for a veteran or his or her family. cataniaross@msn.com

md PARTECH
Computer Services
 SALES · SERVICE · NETWORKING · TUTORING
Bob & Sherry Pearson
672-4785 <http://www.mdpartech.com/>

4

**Support
 Our
 Advertisers**



BROWN'S SHOE FIT COMPANY
 \$15.00 **Off Coupon** \$15

Use this coupon to save \$15 on any regular price shoe in stock.
 SALE ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

Do you have a frequent buyer card? The 9th pair is always FREE
 (Good on items \$49.95 and up)

526 SE Jackson Street Roseburg, OR 97470 541-672-1311
 visit our website <http://www.brownsshoeco.com/ourStores/roseburg.aspx>

Vicki Hegele Manager

Support Our Troops



Wednesday November 9th 'French Legion of Honor Medal' presentation to two WWII Veterans DC Fairgrounds 4:00 PM

Thursday November 10th "Take a Vet to School Day" Glide HS 9:00 AM Gymnasium—Followed by student interviews.

Thursday November 10th 1:00 PM Elkton HS Veterans Tribute

Friday November 11th 1100 'Veterans Day Parade

Friday November 11th 7:00 PM Douglas High Veteran Musical at UCC's Jacoby Auditorium— tickets on sale

"Honoring Those Who Have Borne the Wounds of Battle"

Veterans Day Parade

Friday November 11

11AM Downtown Roseburg

Looking for Chapter

Members on Sick—Call

If you're in distress or battling a medical condition please let us know or have someone in your family contact the Chapter. You can leave a message on the Office Phone or email the office at :

vva805@mdpartech.com

541-229-3456

reaction grant committee. The committee just recently rejected it, with no real reason cited. There is only speculation as to the reasons why (no money available, etc.). The city will need to reapply next year, between January and April of 2012, with no guarantee of getting this grant.

Even if this request is actually granted, funding from other sources would still be needed for the \$180,000 - \$200,000 cost of construction. Then it would take a long time to set up the project, engage building contractors, get permits and so forth. Completion would still be at least 1-2 years off. This denial puts this project at least a year back as it is. The question now is this would the current cemetery get a decent parking lot for funerals, services, memorial ceremonies before the new cemetery on the VA hospital grounds is completed?

Some Good News... This is from the Roseburg News-Review of Sunday October 16th. Ford Motor Company donated a van to our VA hospital for transporting disabled veterans. This Econoline van is one of 9 vehicles donated by Ford this year to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), which provide free rides for patients.

DAV accepted this van at a "passing of the keys" ceremony on Thursday, October

13th at the hospital. Ford's partnership with DAV began in 1922, when Henry Ford organized a cross country caravan of 50 Model T's to take disabled vets to a convention in San Francisco. Since 1996, Ford has donated 156 vehicles to DAV.

Other articles in the News-Review mentions the VFW's fight to stop bids to slash veterans benefits, urging its 2 million members to get Congress to spare military and veterans benefits from efforts to cut the deficit.

The VFW and other veterans organizations oppose any efforts to cut any veterans benefits and decried any efforts to balance the budget on the backs of military retirees and disabled veterans.

Top members of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate and House Veterans Affairs committees wrote to the "Super committee", formed to balance the budget, suggesting cost-saving and other budget saving ways from military and veterans' programs. The VVA has also been in the trenches fighting these efforts. We will always work with other veterans groups to fight for our well-earned and promised benefits.

A Bomb Scare at the Roseburg VA was a False Alarm. On Wednesday, October 19th,

a box fell off of a construction truck and landed in the middle of the road going through the VA campus. This prompted visits from the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad, the Roseburg Police and others after a VA Police Officer spotted it and reported it to Roseburg VA management and the Roseburg Police Department.

VA Police closed off the Harvard Avenue entrance to the hospital campus and evacuated VA employees working nearby.

After examining (x-raying it and so forth) this box, which fell near the new cemetery construction site, they deemed it harmless and reopened the Harvard gate and resumed normal operations. The box had only contained chains used to lower cement crypts into the ground. It had been sealed with yellow tape and didn't look like a typical construction shipping container.

October Meeting Notes

Remember, the Chapter elections are coming up. Please consider running for office or joining one of the committees.

The following positions are being voted on:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Board of

Flight Deck

Continued from page 5

Directors (Note: There will be 5 positions here, in accordance with our National By-laws.) Chairman being selected by highest amount of the votes.

Committee chairpersons and members are those that volunteer and/or appointed by the Board.

The Minutes of the October membership meeting are available online and copies will be available at the November membership meeting. The October Board of Directors meeting minutes will also be made available as well. I think that this will be a better way to let members know what is addressed at the Board meetings.

One suggestion mentioned at the board meetings has been the possibility of holding the Board of Directors meetings one week before the membership meetings. The idea being that topics addressed at board meetings may be acted on by the members more quickly. See you at the November Meeting.

Prez Notes

Continued from Page 2

into being during Revolutionary War. This Veterans Day will give the rest of us a chance to Honor Their Sacrifice.

At our November Meeting we will be unveiling a new fundraising strategy for the coming year. A committee of volunteers has already stepped forward for this effort. So, be sure to be there and find out what it is.

Again I want to thank JoAnn Compton for stepping up to be our Secretary. I know JoAnn has a lot going on in her life right now and it was a big step for her. JoAnn is going to be a big asset.

At our last Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting we discussed adding at least two more board members. The National Constitution calls for a minimum of 5 BOD members not counting the chapter officers. If you would like to serve on the Board please get your name to a member of the BOD.

I think our next year is going to be very exciting for our chapter. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Christmas Potluck prior to the December Meeting. We have some good raffle items this year. Also, mark your 2012 calendar for the end of March when we have our second annual Vietnam Veterans Day Dinner. If you would like to be on this committee please see me at the November Meeting.

Enjoy the fall colors and we will see you all at the November Meeting.

Tom



**Write our Senators and ask them
to support a National Vietnam
Veterans Day Bill**

**US Senator Ron Wyden
405 East 8th Ave Suite 2020
Eugene, OR 97401**

**US Senator Jeff Merkley
One World Trade Center
121 SW Salmon St 1250
Portland, OR 97294**