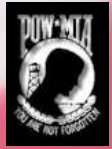




Mike Healy Umpqua Valley

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>

December 2011



Vol 4 Issue 12

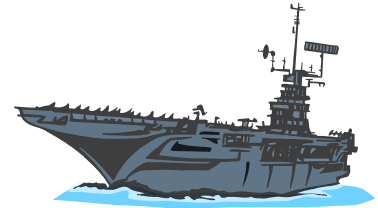
Christmas Dinner Meeting

Monday December 5th 5:30 PM

VA Auditorium

News From the Flight Deck

Christmas Dinner Meeting



Veterans Day Parade - A rousing success

By Rob O'Brien

On November 11th was our Roseburg Veterans Day parade. Over 100 groups, floats and marching bands participated. Most noticed among all of them were our VVA and AVVA floats, decorated with Purple Heart posters and dozens of orange balloons representing our efforts to educate the public of the damaging effects of Agent Orange on our veterans and their families, children and grandchildren. Agent Orange was

one of the most deadly of toxic substances used in Vietnam during the war, eventually sickening and killing thousands of our troops as well as over 1 million Vietnamese.

The overall theme of the parade was honoring those who were awarded the Purple Heart, for those wounded while serving. Two of the many Grand Marshals were featured in the News Review, Iraq Veteran William Congleton and our own Rick Sciapiti.

William was badly injured when the Humvee he and other soldiers were riding in was hit by artillery fire, tossing the 10,000 pound Humvee up in the air like a toy and landing on its roof. Rick was shot while in a helicopter delivering supplies to troops in 1968.

Our AVVA float won top honors in 2 categories. They were awarded the

Continued on pg 3

1st Place - 2011 Veterans Day Parade

AVVA News

By AVVA Rep Linda Mooney

AVVA Chapter 805 received 2 trophies for our entry in the Veterans Day Parade.

We received the Best Non-Commercial Float and VA Director's Choice Award. Our awareness for Agent Orange victims and their families has started with the release of 500 orange balloons that went off without a hitch from our Float. Our community stepped up and followed instructions to release the balloons



VARHS Director Carol Bogedain presents AVVA Representative Linda Mooney with the Directors Choice Award at this years Veterans Day Parade. Associate members stand wearing their Orange shirts promoting Agent Orange Awareness. MC Jim Little is standing in the back.

with us. . As we all gazed up and looked at this amazing sight I could not help hearing the cries of so many hearts going through pain and sorrow from the effects of dioxin.

I want to thank all that put in so much time and energy to get our project off to an outstanding start.

Our entry also brought interest in our Chapter to the forefront and we are hoping to sign new members.

Here is the information about our first Agent Orange Support Gathering:

Over to page three

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



Chair Rob O'Brien

Board member



Linda Mooney



Rick Sciapiti

Notes from the Prez

By Tom Johnson

December is upon us already. Our chapter has a lot of things going on in December. Our December meeting will start with our Christmas Potluck. Plan on coming early and enjoy dinner together. We plan on sitting down at 5:30 PM, December 5th. We will be having door prize drawings during the course of the evening. Mary Newman will be joining us for dinner this year. For those of you that do not know Mary, she is the Veterans Service Officer at the Douglas County Court House. Mary will be talking to us about the benefit of filing your VA claims and also survivor's benefits. So, plan to bring your significant other with you.

We will be adopting a Veteran and his or her family again this year. We will not have a name until December 1st. As always we will hope to have the family present at our meeting so everyone can meet them. Our Treasurer Gary Baxman reminded me at the Board meeting we have

\$300 budgeted to help give this family a good Christmas this year. Donations are always welcome. We will be passing the hat to add to this amount. We will also have a food barrel and the food will be going to a food basket for the family. Make sure you bring a none perishable item to leave in the barrel.

Members of our chapter will be taking the mother of the adopted family shopping. This way the family is assured to get things that are really needed. The chapter will be wrapping the presents and delivering them with the food basket at a later date. Anyone who wishes to help with any part of this please see me.

As those of you at the last meeting recall we opened the nominations for the election of new chapter officers. We will be reopening those nominations again at the next meeting.

Continue on page 6

Chapter Office Hours
Tue-Wed
10 am-1 pm

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

VA Roseburg Director's Choice trophy and The Veterans Floats trophy. The Judges Choice trophy went to The Patriot Guard. We should all be proud of ourselves and our efforts. Well done all.

We had booths on Jackson Street and Main Street handing out flyers about Agent Orange. There is going to be a gathering for learning about Agent Orange at the Garden Valley Christian Assembly Church on Garden Valley Blvd on January 26th, at 6:30 PM.

Also on Veterans Day, Applebee's Restaurant was giving free meals for veterans and current service members from a special menu all day long. Tuesday, Nov. 8th, Abby's Pizza on Stephens gave a free buffet to veterans. Round Table Pizza and Denny's offer veterans discounts every day.

Christmas Dinner

Our annual Christmas dinner will be held at 5:30 PM on Monday December 5th, before our membership meeting. Turkey, ham and gravy will be provided by the Chapter. Members of VVA and AVVA will bring side dishes, drinks and other items needed. The AVVA is the main coordinator of this event. Those members bringing side dishes and other items should have already contracted Linda Mooney, AVVA President. Last year's dinner was a rousing success.

A shortened membership meeting will immediately follow. Chapter elections will be one of the main things discussed. Also, we will be adopting a veteran's family for Christmas, so

Continued on page 5

AVVA

Christmas Party Info



Continued from page one

We are asking for each VVA member to come join us at the Christmas Party and bring their guest. I would appreciate a call or an email with the dish and the number they will be bringing so we can make sure we have everything setup: linda.mooney@earthlink.net or 541-679-4205.

We will have the samples of our Agent Orange shirts all 7 designs with pre-order forms available so everyone will be able to have their own Agent Orange shirt by Christmas.

Our AVVA monthly chapter meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Zen's Mongolian Grill 1969 SE Stephens, Roseburg at 1800 hrs. 6:00 pm.



Orange Balloons released during the Veterans Day Parade, picture taken by Carrie Boothe

Agent Orange Support Gathering

January 26th, 2012 6:30 pm

Garden Valley Christian Assembly

3047 Garden Valley Rd.

Roseburg, OR 97470

AVVA Chapter 805 Hosting

Linda Mooney, Rep. 541-679-4205

Wreaths Across



America

Roseburg VA National Cemetery
Roseburg, Oregon

Saturday December 10, 2011
1200 Noon

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4

Terry "Sparky" Mooney
 Linda "Liberty" Mooney
 Patriot Guard Riders
 Southern Oregon District Co-Captains

Terry Cell # - 541-817-7673
 Linda Cell # - 541-817-7646
 Email: Linda.mooney@earthlink.net



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Support Our Troops
veterans day parade 2011



please bring canned or non-perishable food items for donation to the family

Chapter Elections

Candidates have been nominated for all officer positions, but more nominations will certainly be accepted. Nominations will close at the end of the meeting. See you all at the December meeting.

The French Legion of Honor

On Wednesday, November 9th, two Douglas County WWII Veterans received The French Legion of Honor for their service and help freeing France from Nazi occupation. This is France's highest honor. Idleyld Park resident, 88 yr. old Frank Moore, and Roseburg resident, 91 yr. old Arnold Ebert, were awarded the honor at a ceremony at the Douglas County Fairgrounds attended by over 400 people. This ceremony was sponsored by the Roseburg VFW Post 2468. Moore and Ebert joined a very few given this honor, created by Napoleon in 1802. Ebert fought with the Army's 1st Infantry Division at Normandy on D-Day and in Africa and Germany. Moore served in the Army's 83rd Infantry Division. He fought at the Battle of the Bulge and skirmishes along the Rhine River and in Berlin. Moore and Ebert have now been declared "Chevalier", or Knights of the Legion.

Benefits for Vets exposed to Radiation

The Roseburg News-Review reports that the National Association of Atomic Veterans is searching for about 195,000 veterans who were

exposed to radiation from atmospheric nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962 or who served as part of the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These men and women could receive a one-time benefit of \$75,000 from the US government under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990 or a monthly disability payment of up to \$2,673 from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs if they have contracted any one 21 cancers traceable to radiation exposure. Widows and children could be eligible as well. Few vets know about this, for more information call 1-800-729-7327. Could some of our older members be eligible or know someone who might be?

Senate Passes Vets Jobs Bill

Just after Veterans Day, the US Senate passed legislation aimed at giving companies that do business with the government tax breaks for hiring disabled veterans who have been unemployed for long periods of time. These tax breaks include credits of up to \$9,600 double the current amount for hiring disabled vets unemployed for at least 6 months, \$5,600 for vets who've been looking for work at least 6 months and \$2,400 for hiring disabled vets unemployed longer than 4 weeks. This bill also gives older veterans benefits for up to a year of education or training at community colleges and technical schools, mandatory career counseling and job training for troops leaving the military; gives disabled vets up to a year of additional help finding and training for jobs, allows troops to apply for civilian jobs in the federal government before leaving the military and repeals a law requiring federal, state and local government to with-

hold 3% of payments to contractors (this law would have made it harder for companies to hire more workers). This makes it a small but significant victory over congressional deadlock on larger jobs legislation. President Obama signed it into law on November 21st.

Pearl Harbor Day

By Rob O'Brien

December 7th, 2011 will mark the 70th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

As the sun rose on the morning of December 7th, 1941, people woke up ready to enjoy just another Sunday in paradise, as most folks living in Hawaii felt about it! People went to church, picked up the Sunday paper, ready for another bright day. Rumors of an attack by the Japanese were just that, rumors. Then at about 7:35 AM people living on Hawaii's western islands and on fishing and sailing boats spotted waves of Japanese airplanes heading east towards the main islands. Some people even waved at them. No one had any clue what would happen within just the next few minutes.

Then at 7:45 AM, as the planes approached the Pearl Harbor Naval Facilities, the first bombs were dropped and the first strafing fire began. People just stood, rooted to the spot, not fully taking in what was happening before their eyes. Some sailors aboard ships and on the docks quickly realized what was really happening in front of them, as they saw their ships being destroyed and their friends being killed and took action, firing back with the limited machine guns and anti-aircraft weapons fought back, but could not stop the attack.

As the first waves of Japanese planes left, having dropped their bombs and emptying their wing guns, people on the ground started breathing a sigh of relief, thinking it was over.

Then the second wave came. Bombing became more in-

Continued on page 6

Pearl Harbor

tense as huge battleships and destroyers began tipping over and sinking, trapping those inside. Ships like the USS Arizona took some of the heaviest bombardment and tipped over and sank, trapping the crew inside.

The planes then moved on to attack nearby Hickam Field, destroying almost all of our planes. Hangers quickly became makeshift hospitals. As the casualties poured in, nurses, doctors and others who had no real combat experience quickly triaged the wounded, determining who could be saved - and who could not.

By midmorning the attacks finally stopped, but the real work had just begun. Welders worked on the hulls of the overturned battleships. On the Arizona you could hear the banging from those still trapped inside, but nothing could be done for them. They are still there today.

Within hours after the attack, the Japanese started to realize the huge mistake they had just made, prompting Japanese Admiral Yamamoto to comment "We have just awakened a sleeping giant". The U.S. had been determined up to that point to stay out of the war.

He was right. Less than 24 hours after the attacks, President Franklin Roosevelt called a joint session of Congress calling for, and immediately getting a formal declaration of war. Calling December 7th "A day that will live in infamy." Within days the U.S. began retooling its manufacturing industries to make the necessary weapons of war. Factories began making guns, bombs, bullets and other weapons. Auto plants began making tanks, jeeps, planes and other military vehicles. Shipyards began making battleships, destroyers, aircraft carriers and more. Some of these started becoming available within weeks. Almost all U.S. industry became war ready by mid-1942.

We would be fighting on 2 fronts, as Germany and Italy declared war on us the day after our Declaration of War against Japan, December 9, 1941, leading to nearly 4 years of some of the bloodiest fighting in human history.



USS Arizona Memorial

PREZ notes

Continued from Page 2

We have added two more Board of Director positions to the chapter in order to be in compliance with the national constitution. Chapter 805 will have 5 BOD members after this election. Our election will take place at our January meeting. Our January meeting will be Monday, January 2, 2012. The new officers will meet the following Monday, January, 9th, 2012.

The last thing I want to tell everyone is about our Oregon Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall. We received a \$2000 check from the Sutherlin Wall Committee that brought the travelling Vietnam Memorial Wall to Sutherlin last July when we did the Healing Field of Flags. This is our seed money for our Traveling wall project. We have formed a frame work committee to work on this project (Terry Mooney, Tom Johnson, Gary Baxman, and Rick Sciapiti). Please talk to us if you are interested in getting involved. We could really use someone who is familiar with writing grants. Our intentions are to do this project right. It is going to take everyone getting involved to make this a first class operation.

In addition to having the Names of the Oregon Vietnam War Lost on this Wall, we will be adding sections for the names of every conflict since then. This will be for the names from Oregon only. The BOD felt that this would be in keeping with our motto, "Never again will one Generation of Veterans Abandon Another".

I have been informed by Gary Baxman, (our membership committee chairman), that we will finish out the year of 2011 with over 100 members. Working together we were finally able to make it. Way to go....

I hope to see all of you at our Christmas Dinner at 5:30 PM, December 5th 2011.

Tom



Picture of the Traveling Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall . Our Chapter has taken on the project to construct a similar Wall Honoring all Oregon Vietnam Veterans who paid the ultimate price .