



VETS NEWS

March / April 2008

Jim Willis, Director

www.oregon.gov/odva

Combat Veterans Experience the Magic of Winter

by CHRISTOPHER DAUTERMAN
ODVA Staff Writer

For the last 22 years, veterans have been taking to the slopes across America. The first ever 'Soldiers in Sisters' weekend brought a taste of the action to some Oregon combat veterans and their families.

'Soldiers in Sisters' was held on the slopes of Hoodoo Ski Resort near Sisters, Oregon. Hosting 10 disabled veterans and their loved ones, the weekend package included skiing and snowboarding, lodging, food, and more. Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS), Hoodoo Ski Resort, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), along with several other Oregon organizations and businesses, planned and funded the program.

Amber Blanchard, President of OAS was inspired by all those who stepped up and supported the weekend getaway on behalf of those who stood to preserve freedom. "These men and women have given their all to defend our country. It is only right that we put together a weekend to bring them together," said Blanchard when describing the importance of including spouses and family in the weekend activities.

First class accommodations at the Five Pine Lodge were provided at no cost to the veteran. "The rooms are absolutely gorgeous, so we wanted to ensure veterans had ample time in their schedule to enjoy relaxation with

their loved ones." Blanchard said about the rooms that featured a fireplace and soaking tub.

Director Jim Willis of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs said, "An event of this scale is a shining example of how communities can provide a warm welcome home to war veterans while reflecting on community events being offered throughout Oregon. These events connect veterans and families with patriots who share in their love of country and passion for service."


Volunteers of OAS worked with adaptive ski instructors at Hoodoo Ski Bowl to teach skiing and snowboarding. Hoodoo offers five ski lifts, 806 skiable acres, 30 alpine trails, and a tube park. OAS, a Chapter of Disability Sports USA, is a non-profit corporation in Oregon.

The 22nd Annual VA Winter Sports Clinic kicks off on March 30 in Snowmass, Colorado. The event which runs through April 4th includes veterans who receive health care at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility. It is open to U.S. military service veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities.

PHOTO BY SCOTT R. LARSEN PHOTOGRAPHY



A disabled veteran enjoys the outdoor experience of snow-sports at Hoodoo Ski Resort. Using adaptive sit-ski equipment, the tethered instructor monitors learning progress.

For more information about the upcoming VA Winter Sports Clinic in Colorado, contact Sandy Trombetta at 970-244-1314 or Jenny Tankersley Ballou at 757-728-3450, or online visit www.va.gov/vetevent/wsc/2008. To get involved with the Oregon Adaptive Sports, contact Blanchard at 541-419-0314 or online visit www.oregonadaptivesports.org. 

Response Required!



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Director's Message



March will bring a major change to the membership of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Leaving the Committee after eight years of honorable and valuable service will be Staryl C. Austin, Jr., of Salem, Furlton M. Burns of Portland, Walter R. Crews of Aurora and Robert Haltiner of Oregon City. All have served two four-year terms, from March of 2000 until March of 2008. They represent military service during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. These members will be honored with a Governor's Commendation Award at the Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 in the Director's Conference Room at the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Salem. The public is invited.

Joining the Committee at that meeting will be Joseph R. (Ryan) Howell of Albany, an Army National Guard combat veteran of the war in Iraq, Eugene J. LaBonte of Grand Ronde, a Native American and a Vietnam era veteran who served in the U.S. Navy as a radioman, Gerard F. Lorang of Portland, a Vietnam era veteran who served in the U.S. Army as a radio technician and Kevin J. Owens of North Bend, a Gulf War era veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard where he served as an electricians mate. While we would

Changes Coming To The ODVA Veterans Advisory Committee

have liked to have appointed all of the veterans who were interested in these positions to the Committee, we are proud of this distinguished group of veterans who are willing to serve their fellow veterans.

On February 5th, I was pleased to join the members of American Legion Post and Auxiliary #122 when they donated 80 fifteen-minute phone cards to the Oregon Veterans' Home. This generous donation of twenty hours of talk time will enable our senior veterans to stay in touch with friends and family on special occasions or other important times in their lives. Please see the photograph of the presentation below (bottom).

On February 8th and 9th, I was pleased to join members of the VFW and Auxiliaries at their mid-year conference in Medford. While at the conference, it was my honor to present a Director's Commendation Award to the members of VFW Post 3452 in Tualatin for their effort in helping victims of the recent floods through Operation Recovery. A photograph of this award presentation also appears below. I would also like to thank all the veterans organizations that have reached out to those in need during the recent flood and wind disasters in our state.

I would like to extend my thanks to former ODVA Director Jon Mangis for his

SEE "MESSAGE," ON PAGE 10



VFW District 16 Commander Carl Anderson accepts the ODVA Director's Commendation Award from Director Willis for the members of Tualatin VFW and Auxiliary Post # 3452 as VFW State Commander Dennis Gloyn looks on.



On February 5th, members of American Legion Post and Auxiliary #122 donated phone cards to the Oregon Veterans' Home so that residents can stay in touch with friends and family. From left to right, Canby Post Auxiliary President Sharon Root, Charlotte Klug, widow of former American Legion Department Commander Harry Klug, ODVA Director Jim Willis and Canby Post 122 Commander Mike Kissner display phone cards totaling 20 hours of talk time.

You're Invited: Oregon Military Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

by KATY SPINKS, *Remembering America's Heroes*

The Oregon Military Hall of Fame will honor its second class of inductees on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 12 p.m., during a special luncheon ceremony at the Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach in Portland. This event will bring together veterans from some of the most famous battles of World War II in what may be one of the largest gatherings to date of military citation holders in Oregon.

Inductees are recognized in two categories: *Above & Beyond the Call of Duty* and *Service to Country & Community*.

In the *Above & Beyond the Call of Duty* category, the following groups and individuals are being inducted:

- Oregonians from the Northwest Chapter of the 10th Mountain Division
- The Oregon Chapter of the 41st Sunset Division-Junglers
- The Oregon Chapter of the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Team
- General Herbert B. Powell
- General Marion Carl
- Robert Maxwell
- Maximo Yabes

In the *Service to Country & Community*, one Veteran is being inducted:

- Jerry Pero

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person and include lunch. Anyone who is interested in purchasing tickets or seeking more information should contact *Remembering America's Heroes*, at 503-659-5157, or e-mail rahinfo@rahusa.us.

The Oregon Military Hall of Fame is sponsored by *Remembering America's Heroes*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has produced the successful and long-running Living History Day events held at Milwaukie High School and other events throughout the state.



2008 Supplemental Session

Most people are aware that the State Legislature held a first-of-its-kind supplemental session in February. Before the session began, Senate and House Leaders met to discuss issues they hoped to focus on and pass during the short session.

Some of those common issues included:

- Providing 24-hour state police coverage
- Quality care for seniors
- Children's welfare
- Mortgage lending
- Water storage and resources

The number of bills introduced by Committees was limited and the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs introduced House Bill 3625 (HB 3625), that if passed would establish the Veterans' Small Business Repair Loan Program and provide interest-free loans to certain veterans. Another bill, Senate Bill 1060 (SB 1060), was introduced by the Senate Committee on Finance and

Revenue, and seeks to establish the number of certifications for income tax credits that the Office of Rural Health may issue for certain tax years to health care providers who participate in the TRICARE medical system.

With the latest state revenue forecast, which was released on February 8, most bills requesting General Fund dollars were put on hold while the goals of the supplemental session were re-evaluated.

At the time of this printing, HB 3625 had been passed by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee with a do pass recommendation and was referred to Ways and Means. SB 1060 had passed the Senate and had been referred to the House Revenue Committee.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is tracking these and other bills and will provide a summary in the May/June issue of *VETS NEWS*.



Confirm Your Subscription to *VETS NEWS*

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is in the process of updating our distribution list for the *VETS NEWS* newsletter. In order to ensure that *VETS NEWS* is produced and distributed in a cost efficient manner we are looking into certain aspects of the newsletter's process.

More and more, information is being shared electronically, and the *VETS NEWS* is now available online at our website www.oregon.gov/ODVA/publications. The Department is also making plans to provide electronic distribution sometime in the not so distant future to those who wish to receive the *VETS NEWS* in that manner.

One important step in our review process is to verify that mailing addresses are correct and valid. In order to accomplish this, we are asking you to please take a moment to review the printed name and address on your copy of *VETS NEWS* and ensure that it is correct.

We are requiring *everyone* who receives *VETS NEWS* to contact ODVA and confirm if you still wish to receive the newsletter, and what changes to your name and address need to be made.

You may contact ODVA about your *VETS NEWS* subscription in one of the following ways:

1. Send an email with the requested information to Robin Steckley at stecklr@odva.state.or.us.
2. Telephone Sue Shaffer at 503-373-2384.

3. Complete and mail the address correction form that is located on the back cover of the newsletter to ODVA-VETS NEWS, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

NOTE: *If we do not receive a response on or before June 1, your address will be removed.*

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate your patience and cooperation.



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Dan Long, Staff Writer/Layout and Design
Sue Shaffer, Staff Writer

Published every other month for Oregon veterans and others interested in news affecting veterans and their dependents.

If you wish to receive the *VETS NEWS* regularly, send your name and address to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, Attention Communications Unit, 700 Summer Street, NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285. If you are a veteran, please include your era of military service.

When credit is given to the source, *VETS NEWS* articles may be reprinted. However, please call the editor to assure accuracy and timeliness of the articles. Reunions printed upon space availability. Input for the next issue should be received by April 3, 2008.

Memorial Day Events Information Sought

The *VETS NEWS* is seeking input from community event organizers statewide.

Annually, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) publishes in the May/June issue of *VETS NEWS* a list of Memorial Day activities about which we have been informed.

The deadline for receiving Memorial Day event information is April 4. To have your event listed, please submit the following information:

- Organization holding or sponsoring the event
- Location and address of the event
- Date and time of the event
- Name and phone number of contact person
- Short description of the event

You can also mail it to: *VETS NEWS*, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285, or fax it to, Attn: *VETS NEWS* at 503-373-2362 or you may send your information by email to: allegrm@odva.state.or.us.

If you have questions, contact Mike Allegre at ODVA toll free 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2389, or 503-373-2389.

Magazine Subscription Program

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Magazine Subscription Program, veterans residing at the Oregon Veterans' Home enjoy reading current magazines.

The individuals listed below have recently joined hundreds of previous donors in supporting this meaningful program. Their generosity is greatly appreciated by veteran home residents.

John Palmer
James F. Waldroff
Craig C. Nowland
William A. Moskaluk
Ted R. Osborn
Dan Peterson
E.M. Kelly

For information concerning the Magazine Subscription Program, please contact Linda Adams at the Oregon Veterans' Home by calling 1-800-846-8460 or 541-296-7152 or by email at adamsl@odva.state.or.us.



Friends of the Home

Donations to the Oregon Veterans' Home Trust Fund continue to be received. We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of an ever-growing number of Friends of the Home. To become a friend of the Home, use the gift form on page 5, and make a tax deductible donation today. Those who contributed during the months of December 2007 and January 2008 are listed below:

- American Legion Heppner
Post 87 and Auxiliary
Judy Buschki
Everett and Betty Marvel
Hood River Elks Lodge #1507
Korean War Veterans Association,
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and Auxiliary
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Murray's Drug Store
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NW Indian Veterans Assn of Grand Ronde
Catholic Daughters of America
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Customer Service
American Merchant Marine Veterans
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Columbia Gorge Chapter AFA
Eagle Creek Golf Club
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Oregon Veterans' Home Gift Form
 "Give to those who have already given of themselves"

Please designate my donation: In Memory of: _____
 In Honor of: _____

Gift Amount:

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Your gift qualifies for a charitable contribution tax deduction.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE OREGON VETERANS' HOME
 The Place Where Honor Lives!

Please clip this form and mail with your donation to:
 Oregon Veterans' Home, c/o ODVA, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-1285

State Conventions

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Date: April 16 at 9 a.m.
Location: Phoenix Inn (Market Street), Salem
Contact: RoJean Niemeyer, 503-777-1044

Non Commissioned Officers Association

Date: April 25-27
Location: Elmer's Restaurant, Klamath Falls
Contact: Ronald Dukes, 541-957-0721

AMVETS

Date: May 17-18
Location: Eagle's Lodge, Coos Bay
Contact: Bill Keller, 541-888-6556

Disabled American Veterans

Date: May 17-20
Location: Shilo Inn, Bend
Contact: Ed Mazza, 541-582-0504

American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV)

Date: May 24-27
Location: Red Lion Hotel On The River,
909 N. Hayden Island Drive, Portland
Contact: Nelson Cauble, 541-459-7982

Souvenir Army Munitions Unsafe

Whether they are called unexploded ordnance (UXO), "duds," or "dummy ammunition," munitions remain dangerous by design and should never be considered safe to handle. Too often, veterans unknowingly place themselves, their families and neighbors in danger by keeping war souvenirs and assuming they are safe.

In one case in 2007, the result of keeping these dangerous munitions as a conversation piece for many years occurred when two California children were killed and others injured after a live munition detonated.

Exposure to the thousands of keepsake munitions often comes unknowingly, but the risk can be significantly reduced through proper education. The Army is urging anyone coming upon a UXO to use the R's for explosives safety: Recognize—when a munition is encountered; Retreat—do not touch move or disturb it and leave the area; Report—call 911 and advise the police of what you have seen and its location.

If you have questions call, 703-697-5564, or email jc.king@us.army.mil.



Unexploded ordnance (UXOs) such as this one can be very hazardous. Individuals who find such items are urged to avoid them and call 911 immediately.

Oregon Soldier's WWII Pacific Theater Picture History

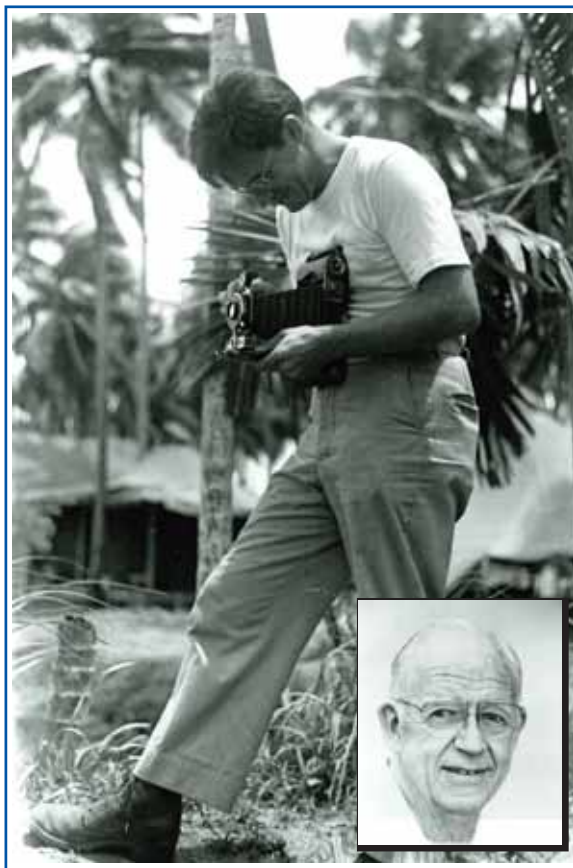
by MIKE ALLEGRE
ODVA Staff Writer

When Fred Hill is asked what he did during the war, he says he shot many things including people, but never injured one of them. From 115 personal letters and more than 200 photographs, the retired photographer from La Grande has created a unique record of war in the Pacific Theater of operations during World War II. This uncensored personal record, entitled *Darkroom Soldier*, is Hill's only published work and shows a world at war as seen through a combat camera lens between 1943-45.

Prior to December 1941, Hill was assigned to an Army National Guard infantry unit, but in November was transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard's 123rd Observation Squadron. As the war raged on, "weekend warriors" like Hill were reassigned to active duty units worldwide. Hill joined his new unit in 1942 and would train at Gray Field, located at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Before being called to active military duty, Hill had been studying in his hometown of La Grande at the Public Works Administration (PWA) Art Center and what is now Eastern Oregon University. He wanted to become a commercial photographer. While on duty, he split time as a clerk and performing other duties before an astute captain recognized his background and the need for trained photographers and photo lab technicians. Hill was soon reassigned as a photo lab chief in Salinas, California in November 1942. By October 1943, he was on his way to the South Pacific with the 5th Air Force's 17th Reconnaissance Squadron.

Portions of Hill's wartime photo album and the letters to his wife, Martha, chronicled much



Sergeant Fred Hill in 1945 using a 3A "Postcard" camera at Birmaley, Luzon, in the Philippine Islands. Inset: Fred Hill today.

of the U.S. military involvement from Australia to New Guinea and the East Indies to the East China Sea. The photos depict a record of life as lived by thousands of military members and indigenous people caught between war and their daily lives.

While in a support role, Hill says his unit's mission of processing aerial photos and developing them quickly was crucial for senior military officers. Photo crews worked tirelessly, from mid-afternoon and into the early morning, developing and providing these valuable photos showing enemy locations for U.S. combat leaders to make battle plans.

Sergeant Hill had a close call while aboard the *USS Juan Cabrillo* anchored near Tacloban, Leyte in the Philippines. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to photograph the nearby nighttime Kamikaze attack attempt on other American ships. "I was very scared for that short period of time. Those Marines reacted quickly and shot him down over the sea before he could target our ships."

Following the war, Hill would train at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco and study with noted photographer Ansel Adams. Between 1948 and 1986, Hill's professional photography career would thrive and earn him awards and notoriety. By 1989, he felt it was time to retire and return home to La Grande.

The feisty Hill, now 87, is still a well-known freelance photographer in Union County. His scenic outdoor photos, historical images and military history reprints are in demand and keep him busy. Much of his photo collection has appeared in 14 different books and he has produced hundreds of reprints for veterans. One battle in Hill's photonegative collection shows members of the Army's 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment jumping into battle on the Philippine island of Corregidor.

Hill's letters to Martha were kept in a safe place and bound in white string for decades. "There's nothing too personal in there. It gives readers a different view than other accounts from that era," Hill said. "The 'blood and guts' war stories are always popular, but home-front accounts are also interesting."

For information about the book, call Hill at 541-963-5438, or email him at fredhill@eoni.com.



New "Wheelchair Only" Parking Rules Clarified

In the January/February edition of *VETS NEWS*, we reported on the passage of Senate Bill 716 (SB 716) in the 2007 Legislature. This bill calls for specifically marked "Wheelchair User" parking spaces and corresponding placards or decals for use of these spaces.

Now that the bill has been implemented, some clarification on the rules may be helpful.

Under SB 716, establishments that have over 100 parking spaces are required to have specific wheelchair user spaces. This does not increase the number of disabled-access spaces an establishment has. Rather, it simply changes the designation of some spaces previously labeled as "Van Accessible" to that of "Wheelchair User."

Persons who qualify for the Wheelchair User placard will be eligible to park in any disabled-access space, however the reverse is not true. Those who qualify for a regular disabled parking placard cannot park in designated wheelchair user spaces.

In order to legally use one of these spaces, a person who uses a wheelchair or similar



Those wishing to use the "Wheelchair User" parking spaces will need to acquire the new light blue "Wheelchair User" placard.

low-powered motorized or mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a person with a physical disability must apply for and be granted the new light blue

placard with the words "Wheelchair User" printed on it. Persons currently eligible for family placards will also be eligible for the wheelchair user placards.

The application for Disabled Person Parking Permits has been redesigned in such a way that the medical authority signing the application must indicate whether the person qualifies for the new wheelchair placard or decal.

Those who currently have a disabled parking placard, and who feel they may be eligible for the wheelchair user permit and placard, will need to re-apply and obtain the signature of a medical authority specifying that the person qualifies. Applications for the new placard are available on the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website at www.oregondmv.com and at DMV field offices.

For more information, contact DMV Customer Services at 503-945-5000; Portland 503-299-9999; Eugene/Springfield 541-686-7855.



They Keep Serving - We'll Keep Sending

John Baker of Salem has developed and successfully maintained a program that is close to his heart. Known as 'Operation Love Boxes' (OLB), the effort has shipped thousands of boxes to Oregonians who currently serve in the U.S. military around the world. Forging ahead with the mission and the OLB motto, "They keep serving - We'll keep sending." Baker receives requests from all across the U.S. for his program to send boxes, but the primary focus is to reach out to fellow Oregonians.

During a January packing party, 254 domestic flat rate boxes were filled. Eighty percent of those packages were shipped directly to U.S. Army Sky Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Afghanistan. An additional 15 boxes included nine bread makers and numerous boxes of lasagna noodles. The unusual request came straight from retired U.S. Army CW3 Frank Eckrode, whose son is assigned with the 173rd.

Additionally, soldiers had requested extra socks and thermals. To say OLB is responsive is an understatement. Just a few weeks later Baker reported that some 800 pairs of wool socks worked perfectly for packing materials. Shortly thereafter, Baker reported to OLB supporters that all of the wool socks available in Willamette Valley Costco warehouses were bought for shipment.

Associated Students of OSU Veterans Affairs Committee

"Here to support our Soldiers at OSU"

*Story by Michael Rainbolt
Co-Faculty Advisor*

Oregon State University has a large number of students who have served, or are currently serving, in the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Many of these veterans have not been in school in recent years or perhaps have never attended a university. The primary purpose of the Veterans Affairs Committee (VAC) is to assist veterans in their needs as they transition from military life to college life. Along with this transition, there are many stresses associated with this major life change. Although some may be psychological in nature, which can be addressed by OSU's Counseling Center, the VAC can help alleviate financial, medical, and educational stressors. The committee is committed to supporting current veteran students, honoring the memory of past veterans from OSU, and creating a long-term endowment fund for future scholarship support.

The Associated Students of OSU Veterans Affairs Committee has established the endowed scholarship with The Benton County Foundation in Corvallis. The scholarship provides financial support to any veteran attending OSU seeking an undergraduate degree. The scholarship was established in



November 2006 through the efforts of former committee chairperson, Ashley Millward. Initial donations to establish the scholarship came from the Military Officers Club of Corvallis, American Legion Post #10 (Albany), American Legion Post #11 (Corvallis) and numerous individuals. The ROTC cadets and midshipmen at OSU and Western

Oregon University have also assisted through various fundraisers. The first recipient of the award in 2007 was Army ROTC Cadet Nicole Ludgate, who served a tour in Iraq in 2004. She is a senior majoring in human development and family sciences and plans to graduate in August 2008 and earn a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army. The

scholarship amount is small at this point with only \$100 being awarded in 2008. To ensure its future growth, support is needed from veterans and veterans' organizations.

If you would like more information about the Veterans Affairs Committee, you may contact, MIDN Kate Canja, Committee Chair for 2007-08, at canjak@onid.orst.edu. For more information on the scholarship and how to help, contact Michael Rainbolt at rainbolt@comcast.net or 541-752-7326.



SEE "LOVE BOXES," PAGE 10

2008 Womens Veterans Conference in April

Female veterans of all ages and from every branch of military service, who reside in the Northwest, will converge on the new Pendleton Convention Center for the Tri-State Women Veterans Conference, April 18-19.

Co-sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), the conference is open to female veterans from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The conference will serve as both an educational opportunity and a celebration of the service and sacrifices of women veterans throughout history.

A variety of workshops will be offered dealing with veterans' benefits, entitlements, women's health issues and employment/job-seeking tips. Veteran Service officers will also be available to discuss benefit eligibility and answer questions.

Jim Willis, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and an Air Force veteran, said the conference is a unique opportunity to bring these women together



and for building camaraderie among these veterans of all eras.

"Many women veterans are unaware of the benefits they earned as a result of their service. It is a vital forum for providing important veterans' benefit information. The previous conferences held in 2004 and 2006 in Oregon resulted in women veterans receiving thousands of dollars in disability compensation and other benefits," Willis said.

Several dynamic speakers will be featured including the conference's keynote speaker, Bob Welch, author of *American Nightingale—the story of Frances Slanger, Forgotten Heroine of Normandy*.

There is no charge to attend the conference however pre-registration is required. The deadline to pre-register is March 14.

Conference check-in will begin on-site at 8 a.m. on Friday, April 18. The event will be Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of their DD Form 214 or other proof of military service with them to the conference.

For more information about the conference or to register you may visit the ODVA website at www.oregon.gov/ODVA/wvc or call toll-free within Oregon 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2264 or 2090. Women veterans in Washington should call 360-725-2157, and in Idaho, 208-334-1245.

The Pendleton Convention Center is located at 1601 Westgate, take exit 207 off Interstate 84. Their phone number is 1-800-863-9358 or 541-276-6569 or you can visit their website at www.pendleton.or.us.



VA Expands its Reach in Southern Oregon

By Paul Fattig
Mail Tribune
January 13, 2008
REPRINTED BY PERMISSION

Uncle Sam is reaching out farther to veterans in Southern Oregon.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) in White City opened a once-a-week extension clinic in Lakeview in December and is considering opening one in Grants Pass.

"We are trying to reach out to veterans who are geographically challenged to save them mileage and time," said SORCC spokeswoman Anna Diehl. "Sometimes all they need is a blood pressure check or a medication refill.

"We're really focusing on access," she added.

There are about 40,000 veterans in Southern Oregon, including about 1,000 in Lake County where Lakeview is the county seat.

SORCC, formerly called the VA Domiciliary, was established at the Army's Camp White following World War II. It is the central VA medical clinic for residents in far Southern Oregon and Northern California and currently has about 500 resident patients from more than 30 states. Its 400 employees also work with about 13,000 outpatients in the region.

SORCC already has an outpatient clinic in Klamath Falls. Its first extension clinic opened

in Lakeview on December 18 and drew 29 veterans on its first day. It's open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Lakeview.

Although the extension clinic is intended to provide primary and preventive care services such as blood draws and limited health screenings, it may be open longer on more days and offer more services if the demand warrants, said Max McIntosh, SORCC director.

"Veterans living in rural areas need to have more convenient access to their VA care," McIntosh said in a prepared statement. "There are a number of veterans rurally positioned that do not take advantage of VA care available to them, even though they need help, simply because of social, economic and geographic barriers."

A nurse, a nurse practitioner and a clerk now staff the Lakeview site. Veterans not enrolled in the VA health care system can pick up applications for care at the clinic.

Diehl said a proposal has been developed seeking to open a similar extension clinic in Grants Pass, with the hope that it would become a full-scale outpatient clinic "in a couple of years."

Whether that happens will depend on the availability of funding and other factors, she said.

"We want to expand to focus on access for veterans in rural areas," she said. "We're trying to bring health care to their doorstep."

Contact Paul Fattig at 776-4496 or e-mail him at pfattig@mailtribune.com.



Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans' Home Loans - Veterans' Benefits - Conservatorship
Oregon Veterans' Home (skilled nursing & rehabilitative care)
503-373-2000 or 1-800-828-8801
ODVA Website: www.oregon.gov/odva

ODVA complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA provides that no qualified person with a disability shall be kept from participation in, or be denied a benefit of the services, programs, or activities of ODVA because of that disability. This publication is available in alternate formats. For this service, or concerns regarding ADA, contact the ADA Coordinator at 503-373-2380.

HIPAA Statement

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) complies with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA. You may obtain a copy of the ODVA Notice of Privacy Practices anytime by way of the following:

- * Access ODVA's website at www.oregon.gov/odva
- * Call ODVA at 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2141 or 503-373-2141
- * Write to ODVA's Privacy Officer to have a copy mailed to you; or
- * Ask for a copy the next time you visit ODVA.

Veterans Earn Travel Reimbursements

An increase in travel mileage reimbursement went into effect February 1st for certain veterans that travel to VA medical facilities. VA Secretary Dr. James B. Peake was able to authorize this increase within the first 30 days of taking command of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). When announcing the increase Peake said, "This increase helps veterans — especially those living in rural areas — offset some of the gasoline costs as they travel to the VA for health care."

The reimbursement rate is the first increase in 30 years. New rates are now set at 28.5 cents per mile, up from 11 cents per mile. The maximum deductible amount is \$46.62, \$15.54 for round trip, and \$7.77 for one-way visits. VA will waive deductible amounts upon approval of financial hardship to the veteran.

VA Extends Health Care Benefits

The period of eligibility for health care benefits has been extended for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998. Five years of health care is now available which includes cost-free health care services and nursing home care for conditions related to military service. New combat veterans are enrolled into Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher rating group.

Dental care has also extended from 90 days to 180 days. Dental benefits are also available for service-connected disabled veterans who are participating in the Chapter 31 VA Vocational Rehabilitation program. VA also provides an eye examination and eyeglasses for recipients of the Purple Heart medal, former prisoners of war, and veterans receiving compensation for service-connected disabilities.

Disabled Veterans and Spouses included in Economic Stimulus

In February, President Bush signed the 2008 Economic Stimulus package. Some individuals receiving certain veteran benefits will be receiving a cash rebate. In most cases, single veterans will receive up to \$600 and \$1,200 for married veterans. Overall, the package will put \$168 billion into the pockets of 128 million American households. Veterans with children will receive an additional amount of \$300 per child.

Reflecting on the impact to the veteran community, Director Jim Willis of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) said, "Once again, veterans are reminded that their honorable service to our state and nation is not forgotten. Disabled veterans and families should know that economic relief is on the way." Disabled veterans and spouses who receive at least \$3,000 from any combination of Social Security and certain veterans' benefits will receive rebates. Contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 for information and to determine if you must file a 2007 tax return to receive a cash rebate.

Bush Wants \$93.7 Billion for 2009 VA Budget

Honoring the nation's commitment to care for the newest generation of combat veterans and servicemembers from other conflicts and eras, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake has announced that President Bush is seeking a \$93.7 billion budget in fiscal year 2009 for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

If Congress accepts the White House's request, VA's budget would be \$3.4 billion more than the current spending level and nearly double the budget in effect when Bush took office in 2001. The proposal calls for \$47.2 billion in discretionary funding, mostly for health care. It also would provide \$46.4 billion in mandatory funding for compensation, pension, educational assistance, home loan guaranties and other benefit programs.

"This budget builds on VA's past successes in providing veterans with timely, accessible delivery of high-quality benefits and services earned through their sacrifice and service in defense of freedom," Peake said.

A high priority is being given to servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with \$252 million being devoted to research projects focused specifically on these veterans. This includes research in traumatic brain injury, polytrauma, spinal cord injury, prosthetics, burn injury, pain, and post-deployment mental health. Other portions of the budget request include:

- \$41.2 billion for VA medical care, or \$2.3 billion more than the 2008 budget;

- \$1.3 billion to meet the health care needs of an estimated 330,000 veterans returned from service in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- \$3.9 billion for mental health services;
- \$762 million for non-institutional long term care; and
- \$1.5 billion for prosthetics and sensory aids
- The resources needed to eliminate VA's patient waiting list by the end of 2009.
- Disability compensation payments will be made to 234,000 more service-disabled veterans and their survivors in 2009;
- \$14 million increase in vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits for service-disabled veterans;
- \$46.4 billion in mandatory funding for compensation, pension, educational assistance, home loan guaranties and other benefit programs;
- More than \$2.4 billion for the Information Technology program, including \$93 million to support VA's cyber data security program;
- Expanded access, by 88 percent, to VA's burial program by increasing the number of veterans served by a national or state veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their residence.

Highlights of the VA budget are available online at: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1448

Transferring Unused G.I. Bill Benefits

Beginning in November 2007, U.S. Army soldiers serving in certain Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs) as part of the Regular Army Active Component Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) became eligible to transfer their GI Bill education benefits to spouses and dependents.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) manages GI Bill education benefits and is responsible for all matters pertaining to payment for individuals applying for benefits under this program.

In his final State of the Union address in January, President Bush urged Congress to support U.S. servicemembers and veterans by, "expanding their access to child care, creating new hiring preferences for military spouses across the federal government, and allowing our troops to transfer their unused education benefits to their spouses or children."

Bush made the statement after praising the sacrifice of military families for America. Transfer of educational benefits to spouses and dependents is currently only available to Army servicemembers.

Veterans Homecoming Gets a New Stage?

by DAN LONG
ODVA Staff Writer

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland is hosting *Welcome Home Jenny Sutter*. The play is about an Iraq War veteran coming to grips with life outside war-torn Iraq, the loss of a leg, a sense of guilt and what her children will think of her disfigurement.

The "humor-filled and tenderhearted tribute" runs through June 20, at the Ashland theater before moving on to the New York-based Kennedy Center for a special engagement.

Sutter, a play written by Julia Marie Myatt, and directed by Jessica Thebus, is the story of Jenny Sutter, a U.S. Marine who loses a leg in an explosion and is sent home. The story deals with Jenny's torment and uneasiness as she faces her new life, and children, with her injuries.

The play is a narrative of the conflicts veterans face when returning from war. Jenny takes refuge in a former military site in California called Slab City, a place where many rag-tag refugees of life have

come to live. She is befriended by two other Slab City residents, who knowingly or not, help Jenny deal with her situation and prepare her for the rest of her life in very different ways.

The tale of young women coming home from war is increasingly common.

According to U.S. Defense Department statistics, more than 180,000 women have served in combat support roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of them, single mothers.

What kind of statement is *Sutter* on our current

military conflict? Myatt admits it is hard to say. "It's always important and challenging for artists to speak to the present cultural moment," she says. "We don't have much perspective yet."

Active duty military, National Guard members, reservists and veterans may receive two free tickets to the play, subject to availability. If ordering these complimentary tickets on the website, choose "Best Available" seating. You may also call the OSF box office at 800-219-8161 or 541-482-4331.



"LOVE BOXES," FROM PAGE 7

As word began to move across country, the effort grew with Carhartt, manufacturer of premium workwear, donating 750 pairs of heavy weight thermal underwear and 5,000 pairs of wool hiking socks.

While reflecting on a recent packing party, Baker wished that deployed servicemembers could be "witness to the feeling of support, praise, and thankfulness of the folks that permeated the atmosphere that evening."

OLB is also geared to assist Oregon veterans who have served our country in the past. In 2007 Baker was a five-star donor and active committee member to the first-ever Oregon All Military Gala that celebrated military veterans of all branches of service. In addition, for \$10 OLB supporters can receive a 4" x 4" iron-on patch.

All proceeds support the Oregon Veterans' Home (OVH) in The Dalles. OVH is a 151-bed long-term care facility for veterans, spouses of veterans, and parents all of whose children died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The patch is delivered postage paid.

Make checks or money orders payable to:

Oregon Veterans' Home
c/o John Baker
2339 State Street
Salem, OR 97301



The entire project is non-profit and Baker urges spouses and family members of deployed military servicemembers to participate. Call Baker at 503-364-6797, email john@nedbaker.com, or go online at www.loveboxesforourtroops.com.



"MESSAGE," FROM PAGE 2

willingness to Chair the Oregon WWII Memorial Committee. Members of the committee are expected to be announced in the near future and together they will work on the creation of a fitting WWII Memorial on the grounds of the Capitol mall. Jon Mangis worked on the National WWII Memorial Committee that created a wonderful tribute to our WWII veterans located in our nation's capitol and I am confident that Chair Mangis and his Committee can come up with a design that will be an equally fitting memorial for Oregon to honor this great generation of veterans.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of the Oregon Veterans' Home. Veterans, their families and members of the public continue to donate volunteer hours, books, magazines, cable television, phone cards, clothing and cash to help assist with providing an environment of honor and dignity for our senior veterans and their spouses. These efforts are much appreciated.

TRICARE Offers New Web Service

TRICARE Prime and Prime Remote beneficiaries can now manage their health care online. Beneficiaries can log on to the TRICARE Beneficiary Enrollment website to enroll, disenroll, update personal information and perform other procedures. The site also allows standard beneficiaries to add health care information and to enroll in Prime.

Enrollment forms are available on the website which may be printed off, completed

and mailed to a TRICARE regional office. Beneficiaries may also visit a TRICARE service center for assistance with other healthcare needs.

To learn more about TRICARE, Prime, Beneficiary Enrollment, or to have any questions answered, visit their website at www.tricare.mil/.



Helping Oregon's Vets, As Easy as 1, 2, 3

Charitable Check-Off

.00	Child Abuse Prevention	57	.00
.00	Stop Dom. & Sexual Violence	59	.00
.00	OR Military Financial Assist.	61	.00
.00	OR Head Start Association	63	.00
.00	Oregon Coast Aquarium	65	.00
.00	90LV	67	.00
.00	Charity code #69a 12 #69b		

more than your refund on line 54. NET REFUND

1) Locate the Charitable Check-Off option on your Oregon tax form (Long form, line 69 of Short form, line 39).

2) Enter Code # 12 for the Oregon Veterans' Home

3) Sit back and relax.
The Oregon Revenue Department does the rest. Your donation will be automatically sent to the Oregon Veterans' Home in your name.

The Oregon Veterans' Home...
The Place Where Honor Lives.



Oregon to Celebrate 150 years in 2009

Not only is February 14th Valentine's Day, but it is also Oregon's birthday. Next year, the state will celebrate Oregon's Sesquicentennial—150 years of statehood.

The Oregon 150 Board of Directors continues to plan events for a nine-month birthday celebration. In January 2009, the celebration kicks off with the sale of the U.S. Postal Service's commemorative Oregon stamp.

The sesquicentennial will involve Oregonians from all walks of life. Some of the projects will include Take Care of Oregon Day, Oregon Stories, Travel Oregon 150, and Children's Future Vision. The project's vision is to appreciate the past, celebrate the present, imagine the future.

Honorary Chairman Governor Ted Kulongoski is asking all Oregonians to become involved and is encouraging communities and organizations throughout the state to plan their own sesquicentennial activities.

Everyone is invited to sign-up on the Oregon 150 guest list to stay current on sequicentennial information. To sign-up, and for a detailed and updated list of potential Oregon 150 events, activities, announcements and general information, go to the organization's website at www.oregon150.org/events.

History shows that the road to statehood followed a vote by the people of the Oregon Territory on November 9, 1857, which approved the State's Constitution. On February 14, 1859, the U.S. Congress voted to admit Oregon to the Union as the nation's 33rd state.

Prior to Oregon becoming a state, the Oregon Territory had seven governors—Joseph Lane was the first. Oregon's first governor John Whiteaker, served from March 3, 1859 until September 10, 1862.

Additional Oregon 150 information may also be found on the Oregon Tourism Commission website at www.traveloregon.com/.

New Memorials to be Built

Two Oregon communities have begun work on constructing memorials to honor both Oregon's fallen and all military veterans.

A memorial at the Wallowa County Courthouse Square, located in Enterprise, will be a circle within a circle surrounding a fountain and an inner wall of honor that will hold 13 United States and the six service branch flags. Also, service branch seals will be engraved into granite located on the outer wall.

The county already has a site to remember local veterans that were killed in wartime, but the Fountain of Honor, in Enterprise will be different. "This fountain is to honor all of our local veterans," said Susan Roberts, a coordinator with VFW Post 4307 who is sponsoring the project.



"A World War II artillery piece is already in the square, which will be moved and incorporated into the project," Roberts said.

The project's two phases include planning and implementation, and then placing a bronze sculpture in the center. Roberts said the projected cost for phase one is \$40,000 with a completion date in the summer of 2009.

In addition to the two circular walls surrounding the statue, inscribed brick pavers will be sold and used for the walkways into the fountain area. For more information about the project or to purchase bricks, contact Susan Roberts at 541-426-3850, or email susanrae@eoni.com.

In Central Point, officials are preparing to break ground on the Oregon Fallen Heroes Memorial this Memorial Day, May 26. This memorial will honor all Oregon servicemembers who died in battle from 1859 to the present and will be located next to the Central Point Cemetery. Memorial committee spokesperson Marty Terrell said the group must raise \$40,000 by May to receive a matching state grant.

"In order to take this project to the next phase, we will need the additional funds required to add six service branch flags and monuments, plus a U.S., POW-MIA and state flags," Terrell said.

Paver bricks are now being sold to help cover the cost of the courtyard. Another planned phase will have a pavilion built near the memorial. To learn more, call Terrell at 541-664-0191, or visit their website at www.oregonwarmemorial.com.



Oregon Veterans' Home Accepting Donations

Now is the time of year when we look at our impending tax bill and say to ourselves, "Boy, I wish I had more tax deductions."

One simple solution to this dilemma is donating to the Oregon Veterans' Home. The Home provides a residence for veterans who have honorably served our country, or their spouses, who are now in need of skilled nursing and rehabilitative or Alzheimers care.

When making a donation to the Home, the money goes toward many of the conveniences that make life more enjoyable for the residents including: comfort items, such as blankets, field trips, exercise equipment, refreshments for outings, transportation, medical equipment and supplies, benches, patios, plants, magazine subscriptions, and also to assist in the cost of care for those with temporary financial difficulties.

Planning is underway for a multi-purpose room and a guesthouse to be built at the home. Both of these projects will have a direct impact on the lives of residents. In order to move forward with these projects, donations will be needed to assist with construction costs.

CHARITABLE CHECKOFF – Now is the perfect time to make a donation to the Home. As part of the Oregon Department of Revenue's tax laws, you can donate a portion or all of your Oregon tax refund to the Oregon Veterans' Home.

It is easy to do. Simply find the Charitable Checkoff section on your tax form (Long Form, line 69 or Short Form, line 39) and enter the amount of your expected refund you wish to donate. That's it. The rest is taken care of automatically. If you have a tax professional fill out your forms, simply ask them to add the desired amount to the Oregon Veterans' Home Charitable Checkoff campaign.

If you prefer to make a donation by check, a gift form for making donations is located on page 5 of this edition of *VETS NEWS*.

The Oregon Veterans' Home offers many amenities to its residents, and your donations help to make some of those amenities possible.

As veterans, you were there when America needed you. Now, the Oregon Veterans' Home is here for you. "*The Place Where Honor Lives.*"



VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS

County	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Baker	541-523-8223	..... Jane Chandler
Benton	541-758-1595	..... Don Johnson
Clackamas	503-650-5631	..... Janice Harlan-Raisl
Clatsop	503-325-2429	..... Kenneth H. Rislow
Columbia	503-366-6580	..... Joseph Pyle
Coos	541-396-3121 Ext. 362	..... Mary Ann Sackett
Crook	541-447-5304	..... Sid Carter
Curry	541-247-3205 Ext. 205	..... Richard Lewis
Deschutes	541-385-3214	..... Keith Macnamara
Douglas	541-440-4219	..... Mary Newman
Gilliam	541-384-6712	..... Paul Conway
Grant	541-575-1631	..... Bruce B. Makela
Harney	541-573-6024	..... Darre Wilson
Hood River	541-386-1080	..... Patrick Scranton
Jackson	541-774-7837	..... Marty Kimmel
Jefferson	541-475-5228	..... Tom Weiss
Josephine	541-474-5454	..... Lisa Shipley
Klamath	541-883-4274	..... Kathy Pierce
Lake	541-947-6043	..... G. Don Boone
Lane	541-682-4191	..... Joseph Reiley
Lincoln	541-574-6955	..... John Reed
Linn	541-967-3882	..... Kim Grooms
Malheur	541-889-6649	..... Bill Thomson
Marion	503-373-2085	..... ODVA
Morrow	541-922-6420	..... Juanita Cox
Multnomah	503-988-3620 Ext. 26123	..... Katie Pereaault
Polk	503-373-2085	..... ODVA
Sherman	541-565-3408	..... Paul Conway
Tillamook	503-842-4358	..... Steve Weld
Umatilla	541-278-5482	..... Peggy Raines
Union	541-962-8802	..... Timothy H. Jederberg
Wallowa	541-426-3155 Ext. 241	..... Rene Beaudoin
Wasco	541-506-2502	..... Patrick Scranton
Washington	503-846-3054	..... Doug McEllven
Wheeler	541-763-3032	..... Paul Conway
Yamhill	503-434-7503	..... Debbie Gill

Service Organizations	Telephone Number	Service Officer
American Legion	503-412-4771	..... Greg Demarais
American Veterans (AMVETS)	503-412-4767	..... Bill Talley
Blinded Veterans Association	541-265-9087	..... Frank Armstrong
Disabled American Veterans	503-412-4750	..... Jay E. Woodbury
Military Order of the Purple Heart	503-412-4770	..... Jennifer Burt
Paralyzed Veterans of America	503-412-4762	..... Ken Fink
Veterans of Foreign Wars	503-412-4757	..... Jack Zule

State Offices-ODVA	Telephone Number	Service Officer
Salem	1-800-692-9666 or 503-373-2085	Gus Bedwell Ron Jarchow Tom Mann Rita Nickleberry Mitch Sparks Gina Thomas Doug Yerke
Portland	503-412-4777 Deanna Barnes Ron Kincaid Linda McMillan Frank Van Meter

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Walter R. Crews 11561 Blue Heron Ln NE Aurora, OR 97002 503-678-5592	Irv Fletcher 1272 Mayanna Drive Woodburn, OR 97071 503-981-4356	David Fairclo 20751 Amber Way Bend, OR 97701-8510 541-382-8281
Robert Haltiner 19138 Bedford Drive Oregon City, OR 97045 503-657-7085	Tino E. Ornelas, Chair 22504 SW Riggs Road Beaverton, OR 97007-8467 503-844-9000	Charles E. Schmidt PO Box 1394 Hines, OR 97738 541-573-3130

Meetings of the Advisory Committee are held in the Director's Conference Room, Oregon Veterans' Building, 700 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon.

Special needs will be met for those who have a disability. For arrangements and meeting dates, please call 503-373-2383.

Address Changes - Subscription Confirmation

[ADDRESS AS IT APPEARS NOW:](#)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

CHANGE TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street: _____

City/ State /Zip: _____

Please clip and mail to ODVA, 700 Summer St NE, Salem OR 97301-1285.
Changes can also be e-mailed to: stecklr@odva.state.or.us

Do You Wish To Continue Your Subscription? YES NO

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700 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-1285