

Presenting...



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Oregon NEWS



Songs of Freedom Concert

At the VFW/VFWA 2025 Dept. of Oregon Convention

Cale Moon

&

Coyote Joe



Member Tickets



\$25 at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-oregon-convention-final> or QR code above until they're gone! Save \$5 if you buy your banquet ticket too!

June 20th 7:30 PM

Pendleton Convention Center Exhibit Hall

Doors open at 7:00 PM

Bring the Family to Dance and Sing – All Ages Welcome!

This is an alcohol-free event



DON'T FORGET!

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AT THE PENDLETON CONVENTION CENTER WILL BE ON JUNE 18-22, 2025

JOIN US FOR A CONCERT FOLLOWING THE AWARDS BANQUET ON JUNE 20, 2025. SEE FLYER TO THE LEFT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE FOR THE VFW AND FOR THE AUXILIARY IS ON PAGE 4 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

& Auxiliary

Oregon

DEPARTMENT OF OREGON VFW HEADQUARTERS HAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION!

WE HAVE MORE TO CELEBRATE!

THE DEPARTMENT OF OREGON VFW HEADQUARTERS IS IN THEIR NEW LOCATION AT 880 LIBERTY STREET NE, SALEM, OR.

SEE FLYER TO THE RIGHT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEN HOUSE.

COME AND SEE US IN OUR NEW SPACE!

OPEN HOUSE!

Friday, 6 June
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 1100 hrs
Followed by Open House until 1600 hrs

Saturday, 7 June*
Open House from 1200 to 1500 hrs
*VFW & Auxiliary members only. Not open to the general public.

Refreshments
Door Prizes
Site Tours

Questions? Call (503) 255-5808

880 Liberty Street NE, Salem, Oregon

UPDATES

COMMANDER’S CORNER

SOARING IN EXCELLENCE, STRENGTH IN SERVICE



Andrea Summerlin
State Commander
541-252-0515
asummerlin23@gmail.com

Greetings Comrades,

It seems just like yesterday when I was elected and installed as your Commander. Time has flown by quickly and I want to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to serve Oregon. I have travelled many miles throughout this beautiful state and witnessed the love you have for our VFW Family and the country’s military.

My thoughts about this column, being my last as your Commander, are bittersweet. Although the Department did not accomplish all we set out to, we have a lot to be proud of. We have corrected the course we were on, have a better roadmap of our future and improved training, processes, and communication. We have returned to basics and are implementing enhanced accountability procedures at all levels.

Due to the dedication of a small group of individuals, we have moved from Portland to Salem. Our new headquarters building is a work in progress, but we will be having an Open House on June 6 and 7 (see flyer for more details). We are excited that our new building is ADA accessible, has additional parking and training space, and is very convenient to the Capitol, where we can advocate for our benefits.

May is Mental Health Month and my Commander’s Special Project was Suicide Prevention Awareness. I would like to thank those Posts and Districts that hosted training on this issue. For those who were not able to attend, more training will be provided at the Convention. Always remember that no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Some resources are available at the links below:

<https://www.nami.org> or <https://www.maketheconnection.net/>

Let’s talk about the benefits of Membership and why it is critical that we reach our goals. I encourage every member to share your story and invite someone that is eligible to join our VFW Family. We are the largest and oldest war veterans service organization and have a long history of supporting the military, veterans, and their family members. Membership dues are part of the revenue that funds the Service Office and the excellent work they do with filing claims.

Congratulations to these Posts and Districts who have reached 100% or higher:

- | | |
|---|---|
| District 2 - Post 2994 (Clatskanie) - 114.81% | District 10 - Post 1412 (Prineville) - 103.26% |
| District 2 - Post 4362 (Scappoose) - 102.89% | District 10 - Post 7242 (La Pine) - 101.81% |
| District 4 - 104.11% | District 13 - Post 2468 (Roseburg) - 106.63% |
| District 4 - Post 966 (Brookings) - 117.85% | District 13 - Post 4166 (Marcola) - 100.00% |
| District 4 - Post 2928 (Myrtle Point) - 102.17% | District 13 - Post 9448 (Veneta) - 105.46% |
| District 4 - Post 3182 (North Bend) - 101.47% | District 14 - Post 4227 (Toledo) - 102% |
| District 4 - Post 3440 (Bandon) - 106.91% | District 15 - Post 1324 (Oregon City) - 102.37% |
| District 4 - Post 4439 (Gold Beach) - 100.00% | District 16 - Post 3452 (Tualatin) - 104.81% |
| District 7 - Post 9670 Jacksonville) - 110.34% | District 16 - Post 4211 (Willamina) - 100.00% |
| Department of OR Total - 87.99% (Goal 100% by 30 Jun) (National Goal is 102%) | |

It has been one hell of a ride this year but one of opportunity and growth. To those who walked with us during some challenging times, you have my heartfelt gratitude. Confucius encouraged us with this quote: “Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” There have been times where we have fallen but each time we have gotten up, dusted ourselves off, and boldly continued on.

I encourage members to attend our State Convention in Pendleton from June 18-22. We have six training sessions scheduled, a patriotic concert, and many awards to present. Our National Representative will be the one and only Dan West (Adjutant) and I am positive he will have some words of wisdom (or a story) to share with us.

This year, I have seen firsthand how our members have made a positive difference. It’s not about doing it all; it’s about doing one thing with intention. Together, our small steps create a larger, lasting impact. Small actions, done consistently, can create powerful ripples of change that reach further than we can imagine.

I am truly humbled and honored to have served as your Department of Oregon Commander. I will never forget the memories we shared and the work we did. Oregon is a rare jewel of precious members and each one of you matters to me.

Yours In Comradeship,
Andrea D. Summerlin,
2024-25 Commander



Debra Duggan
Dept. Sr. Vice President
541-403-4331
debdfwa@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

VFW Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

It’s hard to believe but my year is almost over, and it seems like it just started. I want to thank each and everyone of you for the support and the hard work each of you has done to make Oregon shine.

This year has been a lot of firsts. It was wonderful to share them with my VFW Auxiliary family. I loved seeing old friends and meeting new friends at the Academies and during District Inspections. You all work so hard supporting our Veterans. I enjoyed exploring Hawaii during the Western Conference on Oahu and attending the National Mid-Year Conference in Cancun. I tried many new dishes and foods there. I had a fabulous trip to Washington D.C. during the Legislative Conference. It is amazing how each official was different.

We have had some bumps in the road but that is to be expected as we all strive for the same result. Our membership is almost at 100%. We are at 96.59%, only needing 153 more new or reinstated members.

My special project didn’t go as well as I had wanted it to, but we were able to send \$,1015.00 to “Creating Memories for Handicapped Children” to help with replacing the electrical in the Lodge. The camp is located in the Wallowa Mountains at the old Boy Scout Camp in Joseph, Oregon.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in Pendleton, Oregon June 18 through 22, 2025.

Thank you all. You made this President very proud of our Auxiliaries.

Deb Duggan



UPDATES

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER



Bert Little
Sr. Vice Commander
503-739-1071
bdlittle1020@gmail.com

Finally, our VFW department headquarters has moved into our new location in Salem Oregon!

The flyer is out giving you the time and location, and the open house is June 6 and 7 2025. I invite you to attend our grand opening.

If you have time before the open house and would like to stop by and help put items back on the shelf, please stop by.

The new year is about to begin and let’s hit the road at full speed. Start working the programs and getting the election reports and inspections done, district dues paid, and donations to PP, VOD, Teachers, Service office program, and the VMS on the National OMS website. Keep up the excellent work reporting your community service, you have been impressive this year and next year will be even better. Do not forget the delegates need to be voted on and turned in to the Department before the convention.

This year has gone by fast, but we have. accomplished many tasks like; 100-year post anniversaries, remodeling post buildings, grants have been given out and posts welcomed home Veterans coming back from overseas.

Several officers are stepping down from leadership and passing the tasks to new and younger members. (Yea!!!).

Still Serving is big this month and posts have started helping the community with cleaning up grounds, painting buildings, and cleaning up cemeteries. Take advantage of getting out there in public and letting everyone know the VFW is still around and working hard to show support to our communities.

Bert Little

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE



Greg Arnold
State Judge Advocate
503-752-7203
gregallen.arnold@gmail.com

It is recommended that Post Bylaws and amendments be reviewed annually, and a perfect time to do that is before or shortly after Post elections. It’s a good way to train incoming officers and newer members. Bylaws at the Post level give it its own uniqueness, if they do not conflict with the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual or laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Section 202 of the National Bylaws gives guidance concerning the Post’s adoption of bylaws and amendments as well as Section 202 of the Manual of Procedure.

If a Post has no bylaws or needs a review, the VFW National website has got you covered; go to vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/bylaws-training-forms-and-templates. Then download the POST BYLAWS TEMPLATE, you will find that most of the work is already done for you. Another great resource is the VFW Parliamentary Procedures and Rules Learning Facebook page.

My term as VFW Department of Oregon Judge Advocate will be over soon, I just want to say I hope I did well in this capacity, and it was an honor to serve.

Anchors Aweigh!

Gregory A. Arnold
Judge Advocate

SCOUTING AMERICA

Dear Comrades,
My name is Josh Davis, and I am a member of the Scappoose, Oregon VFW Post 4362. I am also the Scoutmaster for the Scappoose Scouting America Troop 294. About two years ago, the leadership for Troop 294 (The Boys Troop) and Troop 5294 (The Girls Troop), made a decision to change our charter organization from the Kiwanis Club to the VFW. We did this for multiple reasons. One being that both primary Scoutmasters are veterans, and the other being that as a troop, our values and our commitment to the military community as a troop more closely aligns with the mission of the VFW.

Since that transition, the troop has been able to partner with the Scappoose VFW to raise funds for veterans in our community, accept flags throughout our community for respectful retirement, participate as flag bearers during ceremonies, conduct community service by keeping military monuments in our town clean, serve as ushers and servers during Vietnam Welcome Home Dinners, and place flags on our fallen comrade's final resting places during the last two Memorial day weekends. Additionally, we had two youth in our community win both the Patriot's Pen, and the Voice of Democracy youth writing contests. Our scouts and the community have benefitted greatly from this partnership.

Last year while attending a department level meeting in Tillamook, OR I was asked if I would serve as the Department Chair on Scouting for all VFW posts that act as a chartered organization for Scouting America Troops in Oregon. I was honored by the proposal, and I happily accepted. Like most of you life gets busy, and I have not been able to give it all the attention that I feel like it needs. I am now able to focus on this meaningful task and give the position the attention it deserves. I have spoken with National about the VFW's commitment to scouting and there is still a commitment there, however in recent years, the monetary commitment has waned a bit and has been left to the various districts and departments to decide on how we support Scouting America and its mission to help young people enjoy the outdoors and serve their community with an emphasis on patriotism, citizenship, and basic life skills. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has over a 100- year tradition of supporting scouting in our various communities across the United States. That is a tradition that I wish to continue to honor in the years that follow. However, I cannot do it alone.

In the coming months, I will be forming a department level Scouting America committee for all Scouting America troops in the state of Oregon. This committee will consist of myself as the chairman, and a vice-chair (yet to be determined), and all the chartered organization representatives from the various VPN posts across Oregon. The committee will meet in-person, two times per year. Once prior to the new year and again prior to summer camp season in the spring.

This committee will focus on the following key goals to start:

- 100% compliance with Youth Protection Standards as set by Scouting America.
- An accurate list of participating posts who currently charter a Scouting America Troop.
- Setting standards for new youth and adult applications pending approval.
- Setting a standard operating procedure for troops that are requesting funds and scholarships tor low income Scouting America families that need help.
- Set up a department level committee for selecting Scout of the Year winners at the department level as well as establishing what the prize will be.
- Set up a date in the near future in which chartered organization representatives can share best practices tor their troops.

More to follow.

Thank you all for your time and attention to this wonderful opportunity of Scouting and to work with the young people in our community. If you currently charter a scout troop within the state of Oregon, please email me at: Scoutmasterjosh294@gmail.com and

Continued on next page....



Josh David
Dept Chair on Scouting
503-713-8284
Scoutmasterjosh294@gmail.com

UPDATES

VFW NATIONAL HOME REPORT



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

Michael Malish
National Home Chair
541-808-0407
rockhound3m@outlook.com

VFW National Home, 3573 South Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI. is where our Department of Oregon is sponsoring a home to be used by a Veteran family, while they are attending classes for a career to support their family after they leave. The Cooties and Auxiliary also have a home there along with several other Departments.

The VFW National Home offers families of veterans, actively serving military, and members of the VFW and Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in nurturing, residential community. To learn more, phone 800-313-4200, email at help@vfwnationalhome.org , and online at www.vfwnationalhome.org/et-help.

While they are there, their children are well attended to. They have playgrounds, a fishing pond, hiking trails and indoor activities. For those that are of school age, they get to go to school. The National Home has many holiday activities and a Buddy Poppy Girl contest.

This year on June 28th the National Home will be celebrating their 100th birthday. The celebration will start at 11AM and go till 4 PM at The Eaton Rapids, MI campus. There will be carnival rides, a car show, activities for all ages, live entertainments, various food trucks, and a spectacular laser light show.

Executive Director, Mike Wilson, said, “This event isa chance to have fun and acknowledge our efforts in supporting veterans and military families.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY by Bob Beck, Chairman

AND THE WINNER IS...!!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Oregon announced their winners for their annual Voice of Democracy (VOD) high school speech program. Each of the 12 VFW Districts in Oregon submitted their winner for Department judging in November 2024. In January the Department winners were announced at our VOD banquet:

- 1st Place: Ashlyn Dalton, Baker High School, representing Post 3048, Baker City
- 2nd Place: Emily Krauss, Pleasant Hill HS, representing Post 4039, Creswell
- 3rd Place: Tommy Biggs, Klamath Union HS, representing Post1383, Klamath Falls
- 4rh Place: Noah Polen, North Valley HS, representing Post 2302, Grants Pass
- 5th Place: Grant Cynor-Ford, Sam Barlow HS, representing Post 180,Gresham

On 3 March, the National VFW winners were announced: Ashlyn Dalton, representing Oregon, placed 9th among the 53 state and territory Departments.

The theme for 2024-25 is “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

ISSUES—WE NEED YOUR HELP:

- 1. We did not have sufficient funds to pay the scholarship awards without using department funds from other programs. Each Post **MUST** make their \$50 annual donation to Department VOD. Donations from community Sponsors: Department is working to develop a program to recognize/reward Posts that bring in the most donations from businesses in their communities.
- 2. Scholars App: Each Post must have the Scholars App form/poster available to the students for them to enter using the Scholars App program. We cannot require the Department Chair to spend 30-50 hours entering each of the District winners; the students are much more familiar with computer programs than I will ever be.

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile and visible program.

Bob Beck, LTC USA Retired
Rangers Lead the Way!!”



SCOUTING AMERICA Continued from previous page

include the following information:

- Troop number and city
- Boy Troop, Girl Troop, or Co-ed Troop
- Name of Scoutmasters and Committee Chair
- Name of Chartered Organization Representative with contact phone number.
- Email Address of Committee Chair

Your communication about your troop should look like this:

Troop 294 and Troop 5294, Scappoose, OR
294: Boy Troop, 5294: Girl Troop
Troop 294 Scoutmaster: Josh Davis,
Troop 5294 Scoutmaster: Adam Neider
Committee Chair: Dr. Sara Chewerda

Chartered Organization Representative:
Ashlee Taylor, VFW Post 4362 Scappoose -Adjutant.
Phone Number: 714-600-0297
Troop 294, Troop 5294 Committee Chairperson:
Sarah Chewerda.
Email: Sarah.Chewerda@gmail.com

If you have any questions or would like to reach out to me, I can be reached by phone at: 503-713-8284 or via email at: Scoutmasterjosh294@gmait.com. Thank you again for your commitment to scouting and your continued commitment to this country that we all love.

Best Regards,
Josh Davis (US Army Veteran)
Department Chair on Scouting
VFW Oregon 503-713-8284 Cell
Scoutmasterjosh294@grnaiLcom

VIRTUAL TOUR OF OREGON HOME

Dear Oregon Members,
We’re pleased to share the new virtual tour of the Oregon House with you!
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=EgWx3WmKTpu>
As you'll see, the home is clean, welcoming, and ready for the next family. Please note that the homes are only partially furnished at this stage. We wait to fully furnish the space until we’ve assessed the unique needs of the incoming family, ensuring that each home is both comfortable and functional for those we serve.
Your continued support makes it possible for us to provide a safe, stable environment for veteran and military families during times of transition. We encourage you to share this tour with your Department and Auxiliary members—it’s a great way to show the impact you’re making.
Thank you again for your dedication to the mission of the VFW National Home.

Brian Daniels
Community Development & Alumni Engagement Manager
VFW National Home
Office: 517-663-7024
Cell: 517-402-1835



IN THE NEWS

Department Convention— Pendleton Convention Center
1601 Westgate, Pendleton, OR 97801
June 18 to June 22, 2025

CONVENTION SCHEDULE—VFW:

DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	TIME
Wed June 18, 2025	Registration	VFW Post 922	2:00 pm— 5:00 pm
	Council of Admin	VFW Post 922	7:00 pm— 9:00 pm
Thurs June 19, 2025	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	7:00 am— 9:00 am / 10:30 am— 1:00 pm / 3:00 pm— 5:00 pm
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am— 4:00 pm
	Joint Opening	Exhibit Hall	9:00 am—10:30 am
	Business Session	Exhibit Hall	10:30 am—11:30 am
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	11:30 am— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Business Session	Exhibit Hall	1:00 pm— 4:30 pm
	Joint Memorial Practice	Exhibit Hall	4:30 pm— 5:30 pm
	Dinner (on your own)		5:30 pm—7:00 pm
	Joint Memorial Service	Exhibit Hall	7:00 pm—end
	Fun Night!	VFW Post 922	
Fri June 20, 2025	PDC/PDP Breakfast	Happy Canyon	7:00 am— 8:00 am
	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	7:00 am— 9:00 am / 1:00 pm—5:00 pm
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am— 4:00 pm
	Business Session	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am—10:00 am
	Training Session 1	West Rooms	10:00 am—11:00 am
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	11:30 am— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Training Session 2	West Rooms	1:00 pm— 2:15 pm
	Training Session 3	West Rooms	2:30 pm— 3:45 pm
	Networking (Hospitality)	West Rooms	4:00 pm— 5:30 pm
	Awards Banquet	Happy Canyon	5:30 pm— 7:30 pm
	Patriotic Concert & Dance	Exhibit Hall	7:30 pm—10:30 pm (See flyer on page 1 of this newsletter)
	MOC Midnight Scratch	VFW Post 922	10:00 pm—12:00 am
Sat June 21, 2025	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	7:00 am— 9:00 am
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am—12:00 pm
	Networking (Hospitality)	West Rooms	8:00 am—12:30 pm
	Business Session	Exhibit Hall	9:30 am—11:30 am
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	12:00 pm— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Training Session 4	West Rooms	12:30 pm— 2:00 pm
	Training Session 5	West Rooms	2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
	Training Session 6	West Rooms	3:30 pm— 5:00 pm
	Dinner (on your own)		5:00 pm— 6:30 pm
	Joint Installation Practice	Exhibit Hall	4:00 pm— 6:00 pm
Sun June 22, 2025	Joint Installation	Exhibit Hall	6:00 pm— 7:00 pm followed by Reception
	Incoming C of A breakfast Council of Administration		7:00 am 9:00 am

CONVENTION SCHEDULE—VFW AUXILIARY:

DATE	FUNCTION	LOCATION	TIME
Wed June 18, 2025	Registration	VFW Post 922	2:00 pm— 5:00 pm
	Council of Admin	VFW Post 922	7:00 pm— 9:00 pm
Thurs June 19, 2025	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	8:00 am— 11:30 am / 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am— 4:00 pm
	Joint Opening	Exhibit Hall	9:00 am—10:30 am
	Business Session	Exhibit Hall	10:30 am—11:30 am
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	11:30 am— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Business Session	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	1:00 pm— 4:30 pm (Presentation of flags and banners)
	Joint Memorial Practice	Exhibit Hall	4:30 pm— 5:30 pm
	Dinner (on your own)		5:30 pm— 7:00 pm
	Joint Memorial Service	Exhibit Hall	7:00 pm— end
	Fun Night!	VFW Post 922	
Fri June 20, 2025	PDC/PDP Breakfast	Happy Canyon	7:00 am— 8:00 am
	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	8:00 am— 11:30 am / 1:00 pm—2:00 pm
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am— 4:00 pm
	Business Session	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	8:00 am— 11:30 am (Memorial starts at 11 am)
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	11:30 am— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Business Session	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	1:00 pm— 4:30 pm
	Awards Banquet	Happy Canyon	5:30 pm— 7:30 pm
	Patriotic Concert & Dance	Exhibit Hall	7:30 pm—10:30 pm (See flyer on page 1 of this newsletter)
Sat June 21, 2025	Registration	Convention Ctr Foyer	8:00 am— 9:00 am
	Vendor & Raffle Tables	Foyer / Hall	8:00 am—12:00 pm
	Business Session	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	8:00 am—11:45 am (10 am Nominations)
	Lunch (on your own)	Happy Canyon	12:00 pm— 1:00 pm (Lunch catered—available for pre-order)
	Business Session	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	1:00 pm — 2:00 pm
	Joint Installation Practice	Exhibit Hall	4:00 pm— 6:00 pm
	Joint Installation	Exhibit Hall	6:00 pm— 7:00 pm followed by Reception
Sun June 22, 2025	Incoming Line Officers Mtg	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	7:00 am - 8:00 am (Incoming District Presidents at 8:00 am)
	Council of Administration	Rooms 5-7 (east side)	9:00 am

IN THE NEWS

IN MEMORIAM—STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER FLOYD LEACH



The Department of Oregon Junior Vice Commander passed away suddenly last month. It has affected many of us profoundly. We will pay tribute to him at our Department Open House in June. His obituary and service details are below. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate life without him.

...Andrea Summerlin

Floyd was also a Past Grand Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie. He had many health challenges, but never gave up. Floyd always had a smile and was ready to help anyone who needed it. I will miss my friend, but I am glad he is out of pain now and watching over all of us. I hope he and John Wrinkle are enjoying their reunion!

...Valorie Wrinkle



<https://www.madraspioneer.com/obituaries/floyd-william-leach/>

THE WALL THAT HEALS IS COMING TO OREGON

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) unveiled a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, *The Wall That Heals* has been displayed at nearly 800 communities throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial’s healing legacy to millions.



Bringing The Wall home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The Wall That Heals exhibit was on the road for nearly 20,000 miles and visited 29 communities across the country during its 2024 season. We were escorted by more than 3,000 vehicles into those communities, and we were able to spread The Wall’s healing legacy to nearly 200,000 visitors. Guided tours of the exhibit were provided to more than 20,000 visitors.



HONOR YOUR VIETNAM VETERAN WHO RETURNED HOME AND LATER DIED THROUGH THE **IN MEMORY PROGRAM**



The Wall That Heals will be in Independence, OR from September 18 - 21st

To have your veteran included as part of the mobile Education Center display when The Wall That Heals is on display in Independence, apply by August 17th.



For more information, visit www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/ or scan the following QR code:



POSTS AND AUXILIARIES IN ACTION

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH
What Do You Have Planned in May?

May is Military Appreciation Month and the month of Memorial Day, V-E Day, Armed Forces Day, Mother’s Day, VFW Day of Service, Silver Star Banner Day, Home Front Heroes Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Children of Fallen Patriots Day and Loyalty Day, among others, which means there are many opportunities this month to celebrate in ways that benefit our service members, our veterans, their families and the community.

Military Appreciation Month was established by Congress in 1999 with the intention of being an opportunity for a patriotic and grateful public to honor and recognize the incredible contributions all troops, past and present. May was selected because of the number of military-related holidays scattered throughout the month (aforementioned), with the best-known being Memorial Day, when we remember those lost.

We at National Headquarters know that our VFW Auxiliary members show appreciation for our service members and veterans all year round, and this month is incredibly busy with projects and programs, especially with Memorial Day less than three weeks away. Scroll down to see how our members are working together with the VFW comrades on VFW Day of Service Projects and "Buddy"® Poppy drives, and don't forget to send in photos of the veteran mothers in your life - the moms who joined the military and served with pride - we would love to join you in honoring them on Mother's Day this year.

"Our servicemen and women are serving throughout the world as guardians of peace – many of them away from their homes, their friends, and their families. They are visible evidence of our determination to meet any threat to the peace with measured strength and high resolve. They are also evidence of a harsh but inescapable truth – that the survival of freedom requires great cost and commitment, and great personal sacrifice."

-President John F. Kennedy, January 20, 1961

“The valor and courage of our young women and men in the armed services are a shining example to all of the world, and we owe them and their families our deepest respect.”

-Congressman William "Bill" Frist, September 8, 2004

"On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind."

-Representative Dan Lipinski, November 9, 2005

A Night in Italy

Reynolds High School Raider Battalion Military Ball

by Department Commander Andrea Summerlin

I had the great pleasure of attending the Reynold High School Military ball on April 10, 2025. They were celebrating their many accomplishments during the school year. Colonel Mark Johnson is the Commander for the JROTC at RHS and he does an extraordinary job of training the cadets for future military leadership.

The venue was decorated exquisitely with Italian flags and lights. The tables were set with precision. The evening started with guest photos and a formal receiving line. Cadets posted the colors which were followed by several toasts (to the United States, To the Army, to the Raiders, to the Cadets, and to the Guests).

The Culinary Arts team prepared a delicious meal of salad, bread, pesto, spaghetti with meatballs, chicken alfredo and cheesecake. Italian Sodas were served as well.

After dinner, I had the honor of presenting a keynote speech. I spoke about how our two groups connected and what my wish was for them. I shared my experiences in the military and as the first female Commander of the Department of Oregon. My wish for the cadets was for Wisdom, Inspiration, Service, and Hope.

Following my presentation of a \$1,000 check to the Reynolds High School JROTC, the cadets received awards for their service. This was my first time at a High School Military Ball, and it was outstanding. The cadets were so engaging and professional.

The colors were retired and that was the end of the formal program. The cadets were eager to have guests depart so they could start the social and dance. It is my hope that the partnership between the VFW and RHS continues for many years.



VFW POST 1324, OREGON CITY

On April 17, 2025, VFW Post 1324 Commander Greg Arnold presented its Annual Tyrone S. Woods Leadership Scholarship award of \$1000.00 to Hannah Abbott of the Oregon City High School JROTC. Post member Larry Mosely presented the VFW JROTC Awards to Michael Perez-Adan and Sadie Couch of the Oregon City High School JROTC. See pictures below:



MEMBERSHIP

RECRUITERS

As of May 12,, 2025

Dist	Post #	Recruiter	Mbrs	Dist	Post #	Recruiter	Mbrs	Dist	Post #	Recruiter	Mbrs
2	2848	Donavan J. Goff	2	10	4108	Joseph J. Steller	1	14	4227	Michael R. Petersen	3
2	4362	David P. Sleightam	2	10	4108	Michael K. Trammel	1	14	4227	James H. Buisman	1
2	4362	Roger J. Antonich	2	10	4108	Steven D. Nicholson	1	14	4227	Rollan S. Perkins	1
2	10580	Claude Miller	6	10	7242	Roy Murel Christiansen	3	14	5638	Charles William Mead	1
2	10580	Albert A. Little	2	10	12141	Leonard P. Hellwig	1	14	5638	Charlie D. Fink	1
2	10580	Floyd E. Holcom	2	10	12141	Michael D. Williams	1	15	180	William E. Watkins	4
2	10580	Robert W. Bigda Jr.	2	13	293	Arnold B. Christensen	5	15	180	Michael L. Martin	3
2	10580	Tiffany C. Adams	1	13	293	Jason P. Johnson	1	15	180	Samantha Rose Ciaramitaro	3
3	1325	Bruce W. Hall	3	13	293	Jerry L. Johnson	1	15	180	Brandon M. Ferrell	2
4	965	Brandy T. Olmstead	2	13	2468	Ronnie D. Thomlison	7	15	180	James Killinger	2
4	966	Jerry W. Law	2	13	2468	David L. West	3	15	180	Daniel Patterson	1
4	966	Thomas E. Way	1	13	3232	Richard L. Earnest	6	15	1324	Franklin R. West	4
4	2928	Michael S. Clary	1	13	3232	Bruce D. Andrade	1	15	1324	Gregory A. Arnold	3
4	3182	Michael C. Malish	3	13	3473	Mary K. Sweezy	6	15	1324	Paul H. Harris	3
4	3182	Warren C. Sublett	1	13	3965	Deven L. Fisher	2	15	1324	John S. Morell Jr.	1
4	3440	William R. Henry	3	13	3965	James E. Manson	1	15	1324	Maurice A. Deets	1
4	3440	Donnie G. Wise	2	13	4039	Camren J. Baker	1	15	3973	Rodney W. Wymore	6
4	3440	Preston O. Wayte	1	13	4039	James E. Horton	1	15	3973	George E. Carroll	2
4	3440	Robert J. Bain	1	13	9448	Kerry G. Shafer	3	15	3973	Andrew L. Fosket	1
4	6102	Jeff B. Allred	1	13	9448	Benjamin J. Bennett	1	15	4273	Bert W. Key	3
4	6102	Phillip A. Wolcott	1	13	9448	George W. Vaughn	1	15	4273	Allen P. Anderson	1
5	1383	Duane G. Whitehead	4	13	9448	Kathy A. Lundeen	1	15	4273	David B. Lowe	1
5	1383	Daniel B. Williams	1	13	10639	Bradley A. King	1	15	4273	Michael J. O Leary	1
5	1383	Ronald E. Johnson	1	14	584	Mark D. Lamberty	24	15	4273	Steven Atterberry	1
5	4070	Michael D. Shults	3	14	584	Michael Robert Aaron	4	15	6057	Alejandro G. Bello	2
6	5452	Michael A. Pratt	1	14	584	Monte L. Holcomb	1	15	6057	Hubert L. Breshears	1
6	5452	Paul A. Donovan	1	14	584	Robert W. Gore	1	15	12140	Anthony L. Barber	25
7	2302	Daniel C. Johnson	1	14	661	Kerry A. Wymetalek	7	15	12211	Brad J. Uaban	1
7	9670	William G. Travis Jr.	4	14	661	Gregory L. Warnock	3	15	12211	Kevin G. Cole	1
10	1412	David W. Seiffert	1	14	661	Alvin M. Klausen Jr.	1	16	2666	Dale S. Yee	2
10	1643	Christopher I. Thomson	4	14	661	Eric J. Wunderlich	1	16	2666	Michael G. Hyde	1
10	1643	Robert W. Cusick	2	14	661	Louis Bondi	1	16	3452	Paul A. Maidel Jr.	8
10	1643	Dean E. Sears	1	14	661	Matthew Decker	1	16	3452	Jason A. Potter	2
10	1643	Kari E. Doyle	1	14	661	Rick A. Breen	1	16	4015	Daniel W. Helfrich	1
10	4108	Dan S. Tureck	8	14	3203	John Timothy Hager	1	16	4015	Rebecca R. Wallis	1
10	4108	Dennis G. Guthrie	8	14	3437	Ryan P. Matteson	2	16	4211	Louis A. Rober	3
10	4108	Aundrea Pea Leese	4	14	3957	Alex J. Mauric	1	16	4211	Josh D. Pixley	1
10	4108	James A. Russum	2	14	4227	Andrea D. Summerlin	9	MAL	15038	Don Clark	1
10	4108	David R. Deichler	1					MAL	15038	Margaret G. Stermer-Cox	1
									No Recruiter		101

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To print on 8.5" x 11" paper, choose 'Shrink to printable area' or 'Scale to Fit.'



If you prefer to receive a hard copy of the Oregon VFW News printed on 11" x 17" paper, email QM@vfwor.org to get on the mailing list. The cost is \$15 per year for a black & white copy, or \$20 per year for color. We are working on a link from the website as well.



If you have information or news you want to share about your Post, Auxiliary or membership, we want to know! Send documents and/or pictures to Valorie Wrinkle at vjwrinkle@gmail.com.

All submissions will be subject to approval by Department leadership. Include a contact number in case we have questions about your submission.

Pictures should be in .jpg format and articles can either be sent in an email or attached as a word document.
We want to hear from you!

MEMBERSHIP

Oregon Memstats as of 12 May 2025

Red Lettering indicates membership is under 80%					Highlighted yellow indicates membership under 70%		National Goal is 101% by May 31st			
Post	Dist	Current Year	Prior Year	% as of 12 May 2025	Division	City	95%	98%	To get to 100%	To get to 102%
1440	2	43	55	78.18%	10	SAINT HELENS	53	54	12	14
2848	2	81	98	82.65%	8	BAY CITY	94	97	17	19
2994	2	31	27	114.81%	11	CLATSKANIE	26	27	-4	-3
4362	2	71	69	102.90%	9	SCAPPOOSE	66	68	-2	0
10580	2	101	158	63.92%	6	WARRENTON	151	155	57	61
12123	2	39	55	70.91%	10	SEASIDE	53	54	16	18
District 2	2	366	462	79.22%	6		439	453	96	106
1325	3	96	109	88.07%	8	PORTLAND	104	107	13	16
4248	3	269	304	88.49%	4	PORTLAND	289	298	35	42
District 3	3	365	413	88.38%	6		393	405	48	57
965	4	18	20	90.00%	11	COQUILLE	19	20	2	3
966	4	66	56	117.86%	10	BROOKINGS	54	55	-10	-8
2928	4	47	46	102.17%	11	MYRTLE POINT	44	46	-1	0
3182	4	69	68	101.47%	9	NORTH BEND	65	67	-1	1
3440	4	170	159	106.92%	6	BANDON	152	156	-11	-7
4439	4	37	36	102.78%	11	GOLD BEACH	35	36	-1	0
6102	4	26	28	92.86%	11	POWERS	27	28	2	3
District 4	4	433	413	104.84%	6		393	405	-20	-11
1383	5	516	578	89.27%	3	KLAMATH FALLS	550	567	62	74
4070	5	54	60	90.00%	10	LAKEVIEW	57	59	6	8
District 5	5	570	638	89.34%	6		607	626	68	81
3048	6	97	104	93.27%	8	BAKER CITY	99	102	7	10
4060	6	108	129	83.72%	7	UNION	123	127	21	24
4307	6	118	131	90.08%	7	ENTERPRISE	125	129	13	16
5452	6	94	101	93.07%	8	ONTARIO	96	99	7	10
7847	6	60	64	93.75%	10	HALFWAY	61	63	4	6
District 6	6	477	529	90.17%	6		503	519	52	63
1833	7	253	273	92.67%	4	MEDFORD	260	268	20	26
2302	7	113	133	84.96%	7	GRANTS PASS	127	131	20	23
6881	7	55	82	67.07%	9	SHADY COVE	78	81	27	29
9670	7	32	29	110.34%	11	JACKSONVILLE	28	29	-3	-2
District 7	7	453	517	87.62%	6		492	507	64	75
922	8	194	222	87.39%	5	PENDLETON	211	218	28	33
2471	8	41	50	82.00%	11	THE DALLES	48	49	9	10
3597	8	30	33	90.91%	11	JOHN DAY	32	33	3	4
4567	8	20	24	83.33%	11	MILTON FREEWATER	23	24	4	5
District 8	8	285	329	86.63%	6		313	323	44	51
1412	10	96	92	104.35%	8	PRINEVILLE	88	91	-4	-2
1643	10	248	258	96.12%	4	BEND	246	253	10	16
4108	10	516	531	97.18%	3	REDMOND	505	521	15	26
7242	10	56	55	101.82%	10	LA PINE	53	54	-1	1
8138	10	48	51	94.12%	10	SISTERS	49	50	3	5
12141	10	67	81	82.72%	9	MADRAS	77	80	14	16
District	10	1031	1068	96.54%	5		1015	1047	37	59

National goals
December 31st: 91%
January 31st: 93%
February 28th: 95%
March 31st: 98%
April 30th: 99%
May 31st: 101%
June 30th: SUCCESS!

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Post	Dst	Current Year	Prior Year	% as of 12 May 2025	Division	City	95%	98%	To get to 100%	To get to 102%
293	13	206	273	75.46%	4	EUGENE	260	268	67	73
2468	13	241	226	106.64%	5	ROSEBURG	215	222	-15	-10
3232	13	267	297	89.90%	4	FLORENCE	283	292	30	36
3473	13	110	127	86.61%	7	COTTAGE GROVE	121	125	17	20
3965	13	501	553	90.60%	3	SPRINGFIELD	526	542	52	64
4039	13	79	111	71.17%	8	CRESWELL	106	109	32	35
4166	13	42	42	100.00%	11	MARCOLA	40	42	0	1
9448	13	135	128	105.47%	7	VENETA	122	126	-7	-4
9745	13	132	139	94.96%	7	WINSTON	133	137	7	10
10639	13	13	18	72.22%	11	JUNCTION CITY	18	18	5	6
District 13	13	1726	1914	90.18%	4		1819	1876	188	227
584	14	365	357	102.24%	3	ALBANY	340	350	-8	0
661	14	307	361	85.04%	3	SALEM	343	354	54	62
732	14	16	29	55.17%	11	SILETZ	28	29	13	14
3156	14	25	38	65.79%	11	WALDPORT	37	38	13	14
3203	14	108	116	93.10%	7	DALLAS	111	114	8	11
3437	14	156	164	95.12%	6	SWEET HOME	156	161	8	12
3957	14	34	47	72.34%	11	MONROE	45	47	13	14
4065	14	21	26	80.77%	11	JEFFERSON	25	26	5	6
4227	14	153	150	102.00%	6	TOLEDO	143	147	-3	0
5638	14	66	71	92.96%	9	STAYTON	68	70	5	7
12214	14	26	28	92.86%	11	CORVALLIS	27	28	2	3
District 14	14	1277	1387	92.07%	5		1318	1360	110	138
180	15	234	278	84.17%	4	GRESHAM	265	273	44	50
1324	15	302	295	102.37%	4	OREGON CITY	281	290	-7	-1
3973	15	302	444	68.02%	3	MOLALLA	422	436	142	151
4273	15	368	495	74.34%	3	SANDY	471	486	127	137
6057	15	59	73	80.82%	9	CANBY	70	72	14	16
12140	15	115	171	67.25%	6	LAKE OSWEGO	163	168	56	60
12211	15	36	40	90.00%	11	HOOD RIVER	38	40	4	5
District 15	15	1416	1796	78.84%	4		1707	1761	380	416
2666	16	210	244	86.07%	5	HILLSBORO	232	240	34	39
3452	16	262	249	105.22%	4	TUALATIN	237	245	-13	-8
4015	16	273	371	73.58%	3	DAYTON	353	364	98	106
4211	16	66	66	100.00%	10	WILLAMINA	63	65	0	2
District 16	16	811	930	87.20%	5		884	912	119	138
M-A-L		1996	2309	86.44%	1	PORTLAND	2194	2263	313	360
State To-tals		11206	12705	88.20%			12070	12451	1499	1754

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