



Veterans' Connection



Serving those who have served.

BRIEFINGS FROM JOINT BASE WASCO

SUMMER 2015



Front Lines

A message from CVSO Russell Jones

erans Affairs to distribute identification cards to all veterans with a favorable discharge.

One of the most common questions we hear is about veterans ID cards. Many businesses offer a discount for veterans, but require proof in the form of an ID card or DD Form 214. Carrying your DD-214 whenever you might shop at such a business is very inconvenient, so vets want to have a card showing they are eligible for these discounts.

The VA Medical Centers do have their Medical Identification Cards, but the purpose of these cards is only to assist in checking veterans into medical appointments at VA hospitals and clinics. Some businesses have accepted the VA Medical Identification Cards for discounts on a case-by-case basis, usually at the manager's discretion.

On July 7th the United States Congress finally passed a law authorizing the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs to distribute identification cards to all veterans with a favorable discharge. President Obama signed the bill on July 20th; the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 is now law.

The VA will begin designing and distributing the

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new ID cards soon. These cards are not free! There will be a fee charged by the VA to issue the cards, the

amount is yet to be determined but is supposed to cover all costs associated with making the card.

The new ID cards should be available by the end of the year. Once the Veterans ID Cards become available, the Wasco County Veterans Service Office will post information on how you can get your card and the price.



In the military, "got your six" means "I've got your back." The saying originated with World War I fighter pilots referencing the rear of an airplane as the six o'clock position. If you picture yourself at the center of a clock face, the area directly in front of you is twelve o'clock and six o'clock is what lies behind you. On a battlefield, your "six" is the most vulnerable. So, when someone tells you that they've "got your six", it means they're watching your back. By extension, that person expects you to have their back as well. "Got your six" is now a universal term in the military that highlights the way military members look out for each other.



MEDAL OF HONOR

Robert Patriot Maxwell is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient. He is an Idaho native but currently lives in Oregon. He joined the Army serving overseas as a technician fifth grade with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. His service spans nearly the whole American involvement in the war in Europe. In September of 1944, near Besancon, France Robert Maxwell, defended the battalion observation post with 3 other soldiers against an overwhelming onslaught by enemy infantrymen. Maxwell aggressively fought off the advancing enemy elements with only his .45 caliber automatic pistol. By his tenacity, fortitude, and calmness it inspired his fellow soldiers to continue the unequal struggle. Then an enemy hand grenade was thrown into his squad, Maxwell without a second thought hurled himself head-on to the grenade only using his wool blanket to protect his body from the full force of the explosion. This act of instantaneous heroism permanently maimed Mr. Maxwell, but saved the lives of his Brothers in arms and facilitated the repairs of essential military communications during the mo-

mentary withdrawal of the battalion's forward headquarters. He survived his wounds and several months later, on April 6th, 1945, was awarded the Medal of Honor. His other medals of achievement include the Purple Heart, two Silver Stars and the French Legion of Honor. Mr. Maxwell's story of courage has been told and retold. Legislators in Deschutes County renamed a memorial bridge to honor his courage and memory for all to see.



M-4: THE MINI-MUSEUM



As a part of the 4th of July celebrations, VSO volunteers Max, Lynn, and Jean worked with the Mid-Columbia Veterans Memorial Committee to create the **Mini-Museum of Military Memorabilia (M-4)** in a storefront three doors east of Canton Wok restaurant. The M-4 may be just a window display, but the items on view stir strong memories of times gone by and those who did their part (some with the ultimate sacrifice) to preserve the freedoms we celebrate. We hope everyone has the opportunity to walk downtown and take a look at this small representation

of what some of our neighbors experienced during their military service. The M-4 will be on display until the end of summer.

Our thanks to Canton Wok, JC Pennys, Columbia Stowaway, and The Dalles Wedding Place for their help in creating this exhibit. Above all, we thank the veterans for their service to our country—and their families for sharing these treasured memorabilia.



Making A Difference



On June 19, VSO volunteers and supporters gathered in the Fireside Room of the Civic Auditorium to take part in the first ever Veterans Services Appreciation Luncheon. The 20 volunteers and



supporters enjoyed a lunch by Four Cs Catering and dessert by Big Jim's Drive In.

County Commissioner Rod Runyon and County Administrator Tyler Stone talked of the history of veterans' assistance in Wasco County, lauding the volunteers' role in turning the often woefully inadequate service into a program that is a model for the state. In the past year alone, approximately 3,500 hours were donated by volunteer staff.



Volunteers and supporters received Certificates of Appreciation thanking them



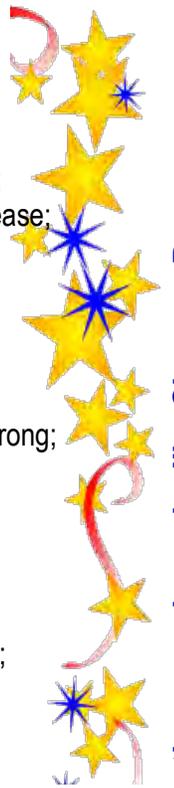
for their commitment to sharing their time and skills, thus providing guidance and support, ensuring a welcoming and professional atmosphere in the VSO, offering assistance to veterans' widows and families through *Home Fires Burning*, and spreading the word of veterans issues through the news media.

At the VSO, "**Making a Difference**" is not just a motto—it is what we do.



1694. The Flag Goes By

~ By Henry Holcomb Bennet



Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!

Blue and crimson and white it shines
 Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.
 Hats off!
 The colors before us fly;
 But more than the flag is passing by.

Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great
 Fought to make and to save the State:
 Weary marches and sinking ships;
 Cheers of victory on dying lips;

Days of plenty and years of peace;
 March of a strong land's swift increase;
 Equal justice, right and law,
 Stately honor and reverend awe;

Sign of a nation, great and strong
 To ward her people from foreign wrong;
 Pride and glory and honor, - all
 Live in the colors to stand or fall

Hats off!
 Along the street there comes
 A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;
 And loyal hearts are beating high;
 Hats off!
 The flag is passing by!

"True patriotism hates injustice in its own country more than anywhere else!" ~ Clarence Darrow



Solution to Last Issue's Puzzle

Anagrams

Unscramble to find common military terms.

- evertan _____
- raylimit _____
- trainso _____
- chorei _____
- flatbedtile _____
- enlarge _____
- tinnyfar _____
- miniamount _____
- redoyster _____
- norumif _____

		¹ c	o	m	² m	e	m	o	r	a	t	³ i	o	n	
		o				e						n			
⁴ c		m			m							f			
a		m			o					² g	u	a	r	d	
v		a			³ a	r	m	e	d				n		
a		n			i					a		t			
l		d			a			⁵ v		r		r			
r		o			⁴ f	l	e	e	t		m		y		
y								t			y			⁶ b	
	⁷ t							e						r	
	r				⁵ c	o	u	r	a	g	e			a	
	o							a						v	
⁶ h	o	n	o	r				n						e	
	p													r	
												⁷ n	a	v	y

destroyer
 battlefield
 veteran
 uniform
 general
 military
 orders
 infantry
 rations
 orders
 heroic
 foxhole
 ammunition
 Anagrams Unscrambled



TAPS

In Country

- ★ 4.8.2015: Specialist (USA) John M. Dawson, 22, of Whitinsville, MA died in Jalalabad, Afghanistan from small arms fire while on an escort mission. Unit: 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.
- ★ 4.13.2015: Technical Sergeant (USAF) Anthony E. Salazar, 40, of Hermosa Beach, CA died at an air base in southwest Asia in a non-combat related incident. Unit 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, U.S. Air Forces Central Command.
- ★ 5.16.2015: Petty Officer 3rd Class (USN) Devon J. Doyle, 21, of Alamosa, CO died in Manama, Bahrain in a non-combat related incident. Unit: USS Farragut (DDG 99).
- ★ 5.21.2015: Petty Officer 3rd Class (USN) Ryan D. Burris, 24, of Lisle, IL, died in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in a non-combat related incident. Unit: Special Operations Command Central.
- ★ 5.24.2015: Sergeant 1st Class (USA) Pablo A. Ruiz, 37, of Melbourne, FL died in Bagram, Afghanistan in a non-combat related incident. Unit: Group Support Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.
- ★ 6.8.2015: Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) **Civilian Krissie K. Davis, 54**, of Talladega, AL, died at Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan by indirect fire onto the base.
- ★ 6.12.2015: Private 1st Class (USA) Monterrious T. Daniel, 19, of Griffin, GA died in Camp Buehring, Kuwait in a non-combat related incident. Unit: 68th Combat **Sustainment Support Battalion**, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, 4th Infantry Div.

Vietnam

- ★ Lieutenant Dennis W. Peterson (USN) was shot down and presumed dead July 19, 1967 in HaNam province, North Vietnam. His remains were identified and he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on May 2, 2015.
- ★ CWO3 (USA) James L. Phipps and CWO3 (USA) **Rainer S. Ramos** were shot down in their "Huey" on January 9, 1968 over Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. Their remains were identified and buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 17, 2015.

Korea

- ★ Corporal Richard L. Wing (USA) was reported MIA in late November 1950 near Unu-ri, North Korea. His remains were identified and buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Jun 5, 2015

WWII

- ★ 2nd Lieutenant John W. Herb (US Army Air Forces) pilot of a P-51D Mustang was shot down on April 13, 1945 near Hamburg, Germany. His remains were identified and buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 18, 2015

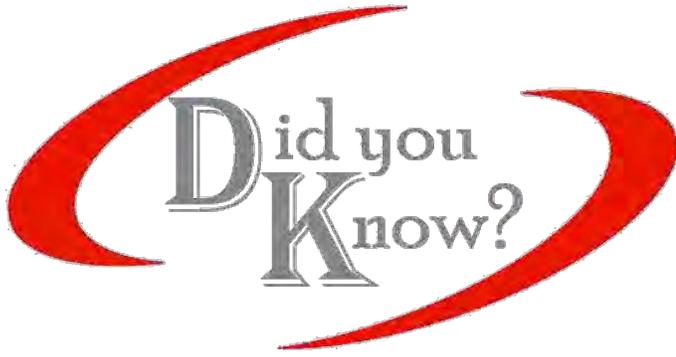


On to a New Assignment



ARENDS, Edward E. (08/1941—03/2015). U.S. Army
 DURST, William J. (08/1941—03/2015). U.S. Navy, USS Hector
 SHANNON, Larry A. (03/1948—04/2015). U.S. Army, Vietnam
 GARRISON, Earnest "Ernie" (05/1930—04/2015). U.S. Air Force, Japan
 BABCOCK, Charles A. (07/1921—05/2015). U.S. Navy, Carrier Pilot
 LINDSAY, Bruce G. (03/1947—05/2015). U.S. Coast Guard
 HONALD, Gary B. (07/1935—05/2015). U.S. Army, Berlin Crisis
 BRICE, Everette W. (07/1922—06/2015). WWII
 COPPLE, James B. (06/1933—05/2015). U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Paratroopers
 MARTIN, Patrick K. (11/1947—05/2015). U.S. Air Force, Vietnam
 PALMER, Francis H. (06/1921—06/2015). WWII, Pacific Theater
 OSTER, Willis O. (11/1926—06/2015). U.S. Army, WWII, Pacific Theater
 KORTGE, Bernard "Bill" W. (06/1927—06/2015). U.S. Navy, WWII, Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Six Day War





The Korean War—also known as the Forgotten War—never actually ended!

The U.S. and North Korea agreed to a cease fire on July 27, 1953 until the two sides could reach a “final peaceful settlement.”

This settlement never happened and a peace treaty was never signed.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Crisis Hot Line – 800-273-8255

Oregon VA Home Loans – 503-373-2051

VA Hospital (Portland) – 800-949-1004

VA Regional Office (Portland) – 800-827-1000



Service Officers: Russell Jones and Patrick Wilbern
Wasco County Veterans Service Office
201 Federal Street, The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone (541) 506-2502



Home Fires Burning will present "Tea and Auction" from 11:00 to 2:00 on September 19th at the Civic Auditorium. HFB is dedicated to supporting local Women Veterans and the Spouses, Children, and Care Givers of service members—past



and present. For event information, contact Andretta Schellinger at Andretta.schellinger@gmail.com or Jen Borne at bornebad@att.net.

AUCTION

Where liberty dwells, there is my country! ~ Benjamin Franklin