



# Veterans Service Office Newsletter

VSO Newsletter

August, 2007

The Douglas County Veterans Service Office strives to provide excellent service to the County's veterans and their families. Staff serves as advocates for veterans. One important goal of the office is to ensure that Douglas County veterans receive the maximum amount of entitlements for which they are eligible. Making a difference in veterans' lives is a program focus.

## Commissioner Liaison

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners has continued their supervision of the Veterans Service Office with Commissioner Laurance as our Liaison Commissioner. Commissioner Laurance has been extremely supportive of the Veterans Service Office and our staff appreciates his support. Commissioner Laurance is open to suggestions and comments from our Veterans Advisory Committee as well as clients of our office.



## 2007 Veterans Day Parade

Time to get the Douglas County Veterans Day Parade plans on the road again!!!

The Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee will once again take on the important task of leadership in preparation for the 2007 Veterans Day Parade. This year the Parade will be held on Monday, November 12, 2007, the Veterans Day Holiday. Formation is at 10AM, marching out at 11AM. The presentation of awards and Ceremony will be held immediately after the Parade on the Courthouse steps.

Those interested in helping with the Parade can attend Parade coordination meetings, which will be held the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 P. M. in the Courthouse. Please call the office for further information.

**Parade Entry Forms can be picked up beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 at the Douglas County Veterans Service Office, the Courthouse Reception Desk and the County Commissioners Office.**

This year, due to the increasing costs of providing trophies and awards, City Merchants and other civic groups are being given the opportunity to sponsor a trophy category. A parade trophy sponsorship will be \$25 and will provide a first and second place trophy in one category. In consideration of this advertising expense for a merchant or group, the trophies will be engraved with the category of the award and the sponsor's name.

If you would like to participate as a sponsor, please contact the Veterans Service Office at (541)440-4219.



## Outreach Schedule

The Douglas County Veterans Service Outreach schedule is as follows:

**Yoncalla:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Yoncalla Community Center.

**Reedsport:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 A. M. to 3:00 P. M. at the Courthouse Annex.

**Canyonville:** 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 8:30A.M. to 12:00 Noon at the City Hall Council Chambers.

### **Welcome New Staff Member – Dale Radford**

You may notice a new friendly face in the Veterans Service Office on your next visit. Dale Radford joined the Office during the latter part of April. He is a Navy Retiree whom Mary found on Main Street in Canyonville one day (at Canyonville Outreach). He asked how he could learn everything about being a Veterans Service Officer, having just been made Post



Service Officer at the Riddle VFW. The County VSO office had an emergent need to fill the Veterans Claims Specialist position (which is funded by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Expansion and Enhancement Grant). Dale's quest for more training and knowledge, to be "all he could be" lead to his being hired by the office.

Please feel free to stop in to meet Dale next time you're near the Office. We are looking forward to providing assistance to even more veterans with this re-organization and are truly happy to offer the expanded assistance of a larger office.

### **Medal Presentations**

The Office has been busy presenting medals to Douglas County Veterans who have not yet received medals and awards to which they are entitled.

At the weekly Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 31, 2007, medals were presented to two veterans – Gene Johnson and William Graham.

Mary Newman attended the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Veterans Celebration dinner at Seven Feathers Hotel, where she presented medals with Senator Ron Wyden to three Douglas County Veterans: William Simmons (Army, Vietnam, Army Commendation Medal), Jack Lewis (Marine, WWII, Iwo Jima, Combat Action Ribbon), and the award of the Purple Heart to the widow of Melvin Ray Hunt (Marine Corps, WWII, Purple Heart and Navy, Korea).

On August 1, 2007, the Office again presented medals at the Commissioners meeting. The recipient was Wayne Barrows.

Congratulations! And thank you to these men for their service. They are our heroes!

### **VAC Welcomes New Members**

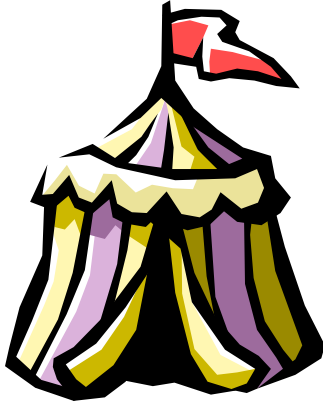
The Douglas County Board of Commissioners has appointed two new members to the Veterans Advisory Committee: Nelson Cauble and Steve Nagy.

The Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners and the Veterans Service Office. Members of the Committee also serve as liaisons to Veterans Groups around the County and are involved in and support the Veterans Day Parade.

## Free Admission to State Fair

Oregon Veterans will again receive free admission to the Oregon State Fair during the first weekend of the event (August 24-26, 2007).

Vouchers for free admission are available in the Veterans Service Office or on the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs webpage: [www.oregon.gov/odva](http://www.oregon.gov/odva)



## New Oregon Veteran License Plates

During the Legislative Session, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs worked with the Department of Motor Vehicles to pass a bill for a Veteran Recognition License Plate. Although the exact design of the plate has not yet been decided,



this is the current prototype.

Veterans will be able to include on the plate, the seal from their branch of service or campaign/valor medals. ODVA is working on a brochure to explain the process and choices. The new license plate will be available in January, 2008.

## Kosovo Campaign Medal

The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, has advised airmen who qualify for the Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM) to contact their local military personnel flights to ensure that their records reflect their service.

Qualifications include assignment to a military unit for 30 consecutive days, or 60 cumulative days, in

support of any of the following operations or as part of any of the task forces listed:

- Operations: Operation Allied Force - March 24, 1999 through June 10, 1999
- Operation Allied Harbor - April 4, 1999 through Sept. 1, 1999
- Operation Shining Hope - April 4, 1999 through July 10, 1999
- Operation Noble Anvil - March 24, 1999 through July 20, 1999
- Operation Joint Guardian - June 11, 1999 to a date to be determined.
- Task Force Hawk - April 5, 1999 through June 24, 1999
- Task Force Saber - March 31, 1999 through July 8, 1999
- Task Force Falcon - June 11, 1999 to a date to be determined
- Task Force Hunter - April 1 through Nov. 1, 1999.

