



# Veterans Service Office Newsletter

VSO Newsletter

February, 2006

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.

## ENTITLEMENTS

*Do you receive all of the benefits to which you are entitled?* Disabled Veterans may be eligible for benefits other than health care and monetary compensation.

### SERVICE CONNECTED VETERANS

Veterans who are service-connected at 0% and higher are eligible for an Oregon Disabled Veteran License Plate, a Golden Access Passport, and Disabled Veteran Life Insurance.

To receive the Oregon Disabled Veteran License Plate, you must be rated at least 0% service-connected (by the VA or the Military). The plates will cost \$20 but you will not have to pay registration fees again.

The Golden Access Passport is also available for Veterans rated 0% or higher, and is free. The card allows you to visit National Parks at no fee and camp in Forest Service Campgrounds for half price.

With a service-connected rating of 30% or higher, disabled Veterans are eligible for free hunting and fishing licenses through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

At 40% service-connected or higher, Oregon Statutes authorize a specific amount for Property Tax Exemption. The County Tax Assessor will need a letter from the VA to allow property tax exemption.

When a Veteran is rated for any service-connected disabilities that requires the use of prosthetic devices (such as knee braces, wheelchair, etc.) they may be eligible for a Clothing Allowance.

Veterans who have service-connected disabilities that limit their ability to drive (such as loss of use of an arm or leg) may be eligible for an Automobile grant and/or Adaptive Auto Equipment grant. Those service-connected Veterans whose mobility is limited by their service-connected disabilities may be eligible for Adaptive Housing grant.

Veterans who are rated 100% service connected may be eligible to receive additional entitlements including Waiver of premiums on Service-Disabled Life Insurance policies, Military I.D. Cards for Commissary and Exchange privileges (for the Veteran and his/her dependents). If a Veteran is rated Permanently and Totally disabled their dependents are eligible for ChampVA Medical Insurance and Education Benefits.

**NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS**  
Wartime Veterans who are entitled to non-service connected disability pension are eligible for a Golden Access Passport, Hunting and Fishing License and Property Tax Exemption (to a specific amount per Oregon Statutes).

Veterans must request letters from the VA to be eligible for these entitlements.

If you have a file in our office and would like to receive these letters, or if you would like more information regarding these entitlements, please contact our office.

The most expedient way to receive the VA Entitlement Letters is to contact the VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

## FREE CAMPING AT OREGON STATE PARKS



Effective November 11, 2005, The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will waive state park campsite and day-use fees for veterans with service-connected disabilities. The fee waiver will apply to traditional campsites and to parking in all 26 state parks that charge a day-use fee. Campsite reservation fee (\$6 per site) will still apply. To reserve a campsite, you must call Reservations Northwest, at 1-800-452-5687. When arriving at the Camp Ground, simply present a VA photo I.D. Card with the annotation of "service-connected".

## 2005 VETERANS DAY PARADE A SUCCESS!

The 2005 Veterans Day Parade was made a success with the assistance of the Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee and Douglas County Veterans Organizations.

Planning of the parade began in May by the Veterans Advisory Committee heading up the planning. The Parade Committee met monthly and began working on a parade theme, grand marshals and funding.

The theme for the Parade was "Got Freedom? Thank a Veteran!". All Vietnam Veterans were honored as Grand Marshals. Approximately 200 Vietnam Veterans participated as Grand Marshals from all over the state.



For the second year, the Advisory Committee received a \$2,000 grant from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. This grant helped to fund portable toilets, supplies and trophies.

This year, the Office received one hundred and eighteen applications for participation in the parade.

### 2005 Entry Winners:

**Best in Parade:** RHS Band

**Judges Trophy:** Sons of the American Revolution

**VARHS Director:** Cub Scouts Pack 119

### Marching

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Honor/Color Guard:** Boy Scouts Troop 118

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Honor/Color Guard:** Roseburg ROTC

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Veterans Group:** American Women Veterans Assoc.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior High Band:** RHS Band

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Senior High Band:** Marshfield High School Band

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Youth:** Cub Scouts Pack 119

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Youth:** Cub Scouts Pack 133

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Junior:** Umpqua Valley Gymnastics

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Junior:** Boy Scouts Troops 195, 309, 109, 235

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Senior:** Boy Scout Troop 114

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Senior:** Boy Scout Troop 127

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Adult:** Umpqua Navigators

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Adult:** Douglas County Scottish Society

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Animals:** Douglas County Dog 4-H

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Mounted Groups:** Junior Miss Rodeo – Stubblefield

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mounted Groups:** Douglas County Sheriff's Posse

### Floats

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Commercial:** VA Operative Care

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Non-Commercial:** Sons of the American Revolution

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Non-Commercial:** Girl Scouts (Linda Cline)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Veterans Group:** VFW Post 2468

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Veterans Group:** VFW Post 9745 & Ladies Auxiliary

### Motorized Vehicle

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Military Vehicle:** Mark Pierce

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Military Vehicle:** US Merchant Marines WWII

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Individual Truck:** Partners, Brothers, Friends

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Individual Truck:** SMART

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Automobile:** Shriners (Model A & Clown)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Automobile:** Douglas County Professional Fire Fighters

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Car Club:** Shriners Motor Patrol

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Car Club:** Douglas County Search & Rescue

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Motorcycle:** Roseburg HOG

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Motorcycle:** Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Assoc.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Pick-up:** Douglas County Scottish Society

Douglas County Schools participated in a Poster Contest. The theme of the contest was "Got Freedom? Thank a Veteran!". The winners of the Poster Contest are:

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Katie Hancock, Fremont Middle School

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Angelica Tanner, Winston Middle School

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Christina Lucas, Roseburg High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Rebecca Lee, Roseburg High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Gina Lusher, Roseburg High School

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Nicole Casebolt, Roseburg High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Corinna Loveday, Roseburg High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jacob Emmy, Roseburg High School

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kevin Dunn, Roseburg High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alexa Wylam, Roseburg High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Daniel Melton, Roseburg High School

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Elizabeth Swegle, Roseburg High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chad Whitson, Roseburg High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Dustin Bryson, Roseburg High School

These winning posters are available for viewing on the Office Web Page: [www.co.douglas.or.us/veterans](http://www.co.douglas.or.us/veterans).



received Purple Hearts while serving with the Oregon National Guard in Iraq.

**OFFICE OPEN HOUSE**

On November 9, 2005 the Veterans Service Office held an Open House from 1 to 5 PM. Members of the community were invited to attend. The Office showed off artifacts from the Museum and a Picture Gallery which is being updated daily featuring pictures of Douglas County Veterans when they were in the Military. The results of the Veterans Day Poster Contest were also announced at the Open House.

**VAC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

The Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee has appointed three new members: James Pershall, Henry Russell and Michael Hendricks.

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 were involved in support of the 2005 Veterans Day Parade.

**VETERAN RECOGNITION**

The Douglas County Veterans Service Office presented two Douglas County Veterans with Certificates of Recognition at the November 9<sup>th</sup>, Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Don Yoder and Jim Miller received recognition for the numerous Veterans in which they have referred to the Veterans Service Office.

During the same Board of Commissioner Meeting, Douglas County recognized CPT Eric Riley, SSGT Jason Willett and SCF Shannon Compton who received Bronze Stars and SGT Michael Blanchard, SPC Nicholas Bright and CPL William Congleton who