



Veterans Service Office Newsletter

VSO Newsletter

January 2008

The Douglas County Veterans Service Office strives to provide excellent service to the County's Veterans and their families. Staff serve 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 our program focus.

In this issue:

- ☆ Another Highway Sign to be installed.
- ☆ Meet our newest Staff member.
- ☆ Cold War Medal and Certificate.
- ☆ Entitlement information for Veterans receiving compensation or pension.
- ☆ Veterans Service Office Open House.
- ☆ Coming Events.
- ☆ Flag Disposal.
- ☆ Veterans Day Parade.

Douglas County Honors Veterans

Rick Freund (member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Roseburg "Mike Healy" Chapter 805) recently completed the mission of placing "Douglas County Honors Veterans" signs at all of the major roads coming into Douglas County. You may see them on Highways 38, 101, 42, I-5 and other roadways. Somehow, Tiller Trail Highway from Crater Lake was overlooked. Once again, Rick called on the County Road Department and requested and received permission to place a sign at that border. (It will be placed in the Spring during better weather). Kudos to Rick and Douglas County Road Department.....and the folks who noticed that there was no sign there, wondered why and brought it to Rick's attention. **We salute you!**



Veterans Service Office Staff

Wayne Davis is the newest addition to our staff. He started working as a Claims Representative at our office in October 2007. He previously worked for the Roseburg VA Medical Center and other VA facilities. He brings further expertise to our staff and a commitment to helping our veterans! Welcome Wayne.

Cold War Certificate Program FAQ's about the Cold War Certificate

Cold War Recognition Certificates are available to qualified individuals at no cost.

Due to the remarkable success of this program, turn-around time for mailing certificates will be a minimum of 2 months.

Is this for real?

Yes. In the 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, through Dec. 26, 1991. Applicants must certify that their service was "faithful and honorable", and they must supply a copy of a supporting document which proves that they served during the Cold War era. The certificate may be awarded posthumously to those whose relatives apply on their behalf. There is no charge for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. Note that no medal has been authorized or issued for Cold War Recognition. The program is scheduled to run for 10 years, so there is plenty of time to send in your request and supporting document.

Who is eligible for a certificate?

Anyone who worked for the U.S. Government at any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 through Dec. 26, 1991, is eligible, provided their service to the country was faithful and honorable. National Guard and Reservists are eligible. Contractors and volunteers are **not** eligible. Those who are currently active duty military or civilian employees of the U.S. government are also eligible if they had at least one day of service during the Cold War era.

Why are online applications no longer available?

The recent increase in DoD-wide computer system security has reduced access to the Web Site online applications (you cannot

apply "online"). A new printable application form replaces the online application.

How do I request a certificate?

Fill out the new printable application and mail or fax to the Cold War Office with your proof of service. An acceptable supporting document includes any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number, and a date showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991). If you are unable to print the application you may submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application (full name, address, identification including type (SSN, MSN, or FSN), applicant name if different from recipient, and email address (if available)). You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

What kind of supporting document is acceptable?

Any document which shows that the intended recipient was a U.S. Government employee during the Cold War era will be accepted as proof. The document must contain the recipient's name, the Social Security Number or Military Service Number or Foreign Service Number and a date showing at least one day of service between 2 September 1945 and 26 December 1991. Examples of acceptable documents include a Leave and Earnings statement, DD214 or other Discharge Paper, or SF50 (Civilian Personnel Action Form.) Send a copy of the supporting documents, DO NOT SEND original. Original documents cannot be returned.

What is a Military Service Number or a Foreign Service Number?

Military Service Numbers (MSN) were issued to members of the armed forces before Social Security Numbers (SSN) were used to identify personnel. The changeover to Social Security Numbers occurred in the late 1960's, so many older veterans who are eligible for the certificate may have only a Military Service number on their supporting document. The Foreign Service Number

(FSN) was assigned to foreign nationals employed by the US government and who do not have Social Security Numbers. NOTE: The number supplied in your initial request, be it SSN, MSN, or FSN, must match the number supplied on your supporting document.

Apply for the Certificate

To apply for a certificate you must have been a *U.S. government employee* during the period of the Cold War.

1) Fill out the application, as directed online:

www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/coldwar/default.htm

2) Print the application. You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the application or your application will be rejected. You may also submit a signed and dated letter containing the same information as the application. You must include the phrase "I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the nation during the Cold War Era."

3) If you have questions, please contact via phone (703) 325-5864 or email cwrs1@conus.army.mil. Mail or fax the application to the Cold War Office along with your supporting document to:

U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Cold War Recognition Program, Hoffman
II, Room 3N45
ATTN: AHRC-CWRS
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0473

Fax: 1-800-723-9262

Can I request certificates for my entire unit at once?

Yes. You must supply a POC with email address and DSN phone number, the name and identification number (SSN) for each of the applicants and the request must be signed by an O-4 /GS-13 or higher. The request must also include certification that all applicants served honorably during the Cold War era. Upon receipt of large group requests the Cold War Office may contact your POC to provide detailed instructions for an electronic submission. The certificates will be mailed to the address provided.



Are you receiving all of the benefits to which you are entitled?

Disabled Veterans may be eligible for benefits in addition to health care and monetary compensation.

SERVICE CONNECTED VETERANS

Veterans who are service-connected at 0% and higher are eligible for an Oregon Disabled Veterans License Plate, an "America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Lands Pass" (formerly the Golden Access Passport) for National Parks, Forests and other Federal lands, State Park card (which is also good for County Parks), and Disabled Veteran Life Insurance. To apply for these entitlements you will need letters from the Portland VA Regional Office. You may use the toll free number, 1-800-827-1000 to request these specific letters:

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. Take the VA letter to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The America The Beautiful Pass (previously called the Golden Access Passport) is also available for Veterans rated 0% or higher. It is free. The card allows you to visit National Parks at no fee and camp in Forest Service Campgrounds for half price. See next Article in this newsletter.

Oregon State Parks are free for 5 consecutive days, 10 days cumulative per month. Includes full hook-up (everything except yurts and cabins). This pass can also be used for Douglas County Parks (and other counties such as Clackamas. Check with other counties about use.) Also extended to Active Duty Military.

Vocational Rehabilitation may be available to service-connected disabled

