

# VFW Post 1440 Seeks Names for McCormick Park Veterans Memorial Expansion

The St. Helens Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1440 is seeking the names of all war-casualty veterans that have resided or were born in Columbia County. The McCormick Park Veterans Memorial will soon be expanded to include a new monument that will honor those by name who were lost in the Vietnam, Gulf, and all conflicts in the Middle East through the present. The VFW Post 1440 is seeking names for this expansion and the existing monument by May 31, 2018. Any names discovered after the deadline may still be included after the new monument's installation.

To be eligible for inclusion, the veteran must have either died during conflict or passed away after returning home due to a war injury. They also must have resided or been born in Columbia County. If you or someone you know has a friend or relative who may be eligible for inclusion, please leave a message at the VFW Post 1440 telephone message center at (503) 278-8473. You can also email the VFW Post 1440 at [vfwpost1440@protonmail.com](mailto:vfwpost1440@protonmail.com).

This project is made possible by the financial support of VFW Post 1440, the City of St. Helens, and private donations.

## About the Expansion Project

The existing McCormick Park Veterans Memorial located in St. Helens pays tribute to the servicemen by naming those that were killed in World War I, World War II, and Korea. Since its original dedication ceremony on November 11, 2010, there have been several increasingly popular countywide Veterans Day events held at the memorial. Often attracting state senators

and house representatives to be guest speakers, the events have outgrown the space available for attendees. In April 2017 the City of St. Helens was awarded a \$46,770 grant from the Oregon Parks & Recreation Veterans & War Memorials Grant Program to support the expansion project. The VFW Post 1440 is also contributing at least \$40,000 to support the project. In addition to honoring Columbia County veterans who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts, the expansion will open up the memorial to accommodate several hundred spectators and provide adequate room for guest speakers. The expansion project is expected to be completed by Veterans Day 2018.

## About the Original McCormick Park Veterans Monument

The VFW Post 1440 hand-built the first St. Helens Veterans Memorial which was originally located along Highway 30 at Columbia Boulevard. It included wooden plaques with hand carved names of Columbia County war casualties from World War I, World War II, and Korea. The original wooden plaques and a 105 Howitzer Cannon were dedicated in 1958. When the Oregon Department of Transportation widened Highway 30 certain items from this memorial were moved to McCormick Park but not the original wooden plaques.

Members of the VFW Post 1440 were very interested in finding or recreating the lost plaques. A local engineering firm, Lower Columbia Engineering, volunteered to design and build new monuments that would be more durable replicas of the original wooden



plaques.

Considerable donations and public and private in kind contributions helped fund the project. Similar to the original project Lower Columbia Engineering is playing an instrumental role in the design and construction management for the current expansion project.

To inquire about inclusion in the McCormick Park Veterans Memorial Expansion please leave a message at the VFW Post 1440 telephone message center at (503) 278-8473. You can also email the VFW Post 1440 at [vfwpost1440@protonmail.com](mailto:vfwpost1440@protonmail.com).

For further information regarding the McCormick Park Veterans Memorial Expansion Project please contact City of St. Helens Associate Planner Jenny Dimsho at [jdisho@ci.st-helens.or.us](mailto:jdisho@ci.st-helens.or.us) or (503) 366-8207.

# Oregon's Valuable Dungeness Crab Fishery Gets Underway

And they're off! Oregon's most valuable commercial fishery for the state's official crustacean, Dungeness crab, got underway north of Cape Blanco on January 22.

This year's opening was delayed from its target start date of December 1 because testing of crabs on some parts of the Pacific coast showed crabs were low in meat yield. In partnership with the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission and the commercial crab industry, ODFW collects and quality tests crabs out of the six major crabbing ports before the season begins. The season can be delayed if the meat yield doesn't meet a certain standard, which means that consumers get a high quality product with plenty of meat. (The goal is 23 or 25 percent meat recovery depending on the area, or 9-10 oz. of crab meat for a crab weighing 2.5 pounds.) Failure to achieve a negotiated opening price and intense coastal storms also delayed the opening a few days after January 15.

Dungeness crab have been har-

vested commercially along the Pacific coast since the late 1800s. Current regulations allow only male crabs larger than 6 1/4 inches across the back of the shell to be taken. This protects the female and undersized male crabs which constitute the breeding population and produce the next generation of crab to be harvested in about four years, ensuring the sustainability of the overall stock and the industry.

This regulatory approach is working. Preliminary results from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) study show that the population of legal-size males appears to be stable to increasing on the West Coast. Harvest rates are also stable to increasing. Last season's ex-vessel value (or average price) set a record of \$62.7 million, with landings totaling 20 million pounds, 22 percent above the 10-year average.

Vessels returning to Newport had the most pounds of crab landed last year, followed by Astoria and Coos Bay.



A crabbing boat gets ready to head out from the Coos Bay/Charleston port on Monday, January 22, 2018. Photo by Tim Novotny.

A little over 300 fishing boats bring crab into Oregon each season. The industry is an important economic driver in Oregon's coastal towns.

Commercial crabbing starts in

the winter, when crabs are hard-shelled and full of meat. State natural resource agencies in Oregon, Washington and California cooperate as part of what is

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