

3 wars in 30 years

Keizer vet has seen it all

By **LAUREN MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

In 1944, Keizerite Jon Vierra joined the Merchant Marines. Three wars and 30 years later he retired from the U.S. Army.

At age 16, Vierra enlisted to serve during World War II. He got out of the service in 1947 for about two years and worked in a steel mill.

"I was getting a little restless. I worked there for while then all of the sudden I just packed my bags and went down to the recruiting station and signed up for the Army," Vierra said.

About the same time he reenlisted, in 1949, he met his wife, Nan.

"That was the best thing that ever happened to me in my life," Vierra said. They married in 1950 and spent the next 61 years together.

Not long after they married, Vierra was called to duty in the Korean War, and then joined fellow troops in the Vietnam War.

"When it came time for my duty to Vietnam, I didn't have to go," Vierra said. His younger brother was killed, making him the sole surviving son in the family. He chose to go anyway.

His nephew was also sent to Vietnam. The two met up in the country briefly before going their separate ways for duty. His nephew was shot four times in the chest, though he managed to survive.



File
John Vierra, a veteran of the U.S. Marines, U.S. Army and the Merchant Marines, was visited by representatives of the Oregon National Guard to thank him for his service in 2014.

Vierra emerged from the conflict, but he did not escape entirely unscathed.

"Agent Orange had messed me up pretty bad," he said. Complications arising from exposure included diabetes and heart problems, though he said the heart problems were not recognized by the military or the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).

Because of the close relations that were killed and wounded, Vierra was pulled from foreign assignment. He retired a year later in 1974.

Two days after retirement, Vierra took a job at the U.S. Postal Service where he worked for 20 years.

Vierra said transitioning

from the military to civilian life wasn't difficult for him. He credits that partially to the fact that he was able to train for work at the post office while he was still in the military. It meant he did not have to go job hunting after his retirement.

"[My time in the service] could've impacted me if I let it, but I didn't let it impact me in any way," Vierra said. He mentioned his family in particular, which was cared for by his wife.

"She took care of the house and I never worried about it. She did a real good job with that," Vierra said.

She only had to manage the house alone when he was in Germany during the Korean War and, later, when he was in Vietnam. Otherwise Vierra was there to help raise their seven children, too.



A Mile in Their Boots is a Keizertimes series focusing on the lives of veterans and active duty military personnel.

Boredom-busting resources to pass the isolation hours

Despite our best efforts, boredom looms like a cloud during these weird times.

We dug up some resources you can tap into to pass the time online, many are free and some have a cost, but there's a little something for everyone.

The National Emergency Library

The Internet Archive is suspending waitlists for roughly 1.4 million ebooks. The items available support emergency remote teaching, research universities, independent scholarship and intellectual stimulation while universities, schools, training centers, and libraries are closed. Wait lists are suspended through the end of June. Topics are virtually limitless and languages available span the globe. Keep to the older stuff, there are a lot of newer titles in the database, but not all of them are being made available in ways that benefit the creators. www.archive.org/NEL

The Science of Well-Being

This is a popular Yale University course that is now being offered free online. Professor Laurie Santos reveals misconceptions about happiness, annoying features of the mind that lead us to think the way we do, and the research that can help us change. tinyurl.com/science-well-being

Coursera

Coursera has numerous free online classes as well as others that come with a fee. Learn how to learn, a new language, how cryptography works and more from some of the top professors around the world. www.coursera.org

Masterclass

Learn about filmmaking from Jodie Foster, basketball shooting from Steph Curry, storytelling from Neil Gaiman, self-expression and

authenticity from RuPaul and so much more. Classes can be purchased individually or with an annual subscription for \$180. www.masterclass.com

edX.org

Sign up for free courses from top universities and colleges. Topics include computer science, languages, data science, business and management, engineering, humanities and more. edX.org

Open Culture

Another free course site associated with some of the top universities and colleges. Open Culture's big emphasis is on humanities and social sciences with course names such as: Archaeology: from Dig to Lab and Beyond; Architecture Studio: Building in Landscapes and Foundations of American Cyber-Culture. openculture.com

Skillshare

Skillshare doesn't have as many mega-celebrities, but there are several well-known names and a few metric tons of average folks with some incredible insights to share. Arts and lifestyle are the primary focus. skillshare.com

Story Club

Read or listen to a short story and then participate in an online Q&A with the author. More details at tinyurl.com/4storyclub.

DC Comics Kids Camp

The creators behind some of the most popular DC Comics are sharing projects for free on Twitter (@dcomickids) and Instagram (@dckids). Follow the accounts to find out how to make Green Lantern rings, Superman origami, and design your own superhero. DC is planning several weeks of content to be released.

Warmline can connect you to local assistance

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the community, Marion County Health & Human Services has established a warmline for community members to call for support and find out about available resources that may be helpful.

The line will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8

p.m. at 503-576-4602.

Marion County staff answering calls to the warmline will be able to help community members address the challenges they are facing due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Resources they will be able to assist with include: available financial supports for utilities and rent; resources for mental

health care; information about food pantries and food boxes; and entertainment resources and ideas to beat cabin fever.

The resources available through the warmline will be updated frequently as the needs of the community continue to change.

The warmline is not intended to replace a crisis hotline.

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020
Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*Terms & Conditions Apply

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR

1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Tax Problems: RESOLVED

There are many ways we can tackle IRS or State tax relief together:

- ✔ Tax Levies & Liens Release
- ✔ Wage Garnishment Release
- ✔ Stop Penalties and Interest
- ✔ Tax Debt Negotiation & Settlement
- ✔ Resolve Back Taxes
- ✔ Payroll Tax Negotiation
- ✔ Tax Preparation & Bookkeeping Services

"They stopped my garnishments in less than 2 days after lifting them. This saved me \$84,276 with the IRS and \$13,500 with the state of California. They saved my emotional and financial well-being."

— Wage Garnishment Client

Call us now for your FREE tax consultation & evaluation!
844-945-2056

Anthem offers a money-back guarantee designed to help you avoid wasting money on ineffective tax services. We will gather as much information from you as necessary and work with the authorities to give you the best chance of reducing your tax debt. If for any reason that does not work out, and the government notifies us they refuse to reduce your owed tax liability or modify payments by any amount, we will gladly refund you the fees you paid for our services in trying to reduce that debt. Money Back Guarantee does not apply to Bookkeeping and Tax Preparation Services.

Shop Safely

At Egan Gardens, there are wide open spaces, cleaning and screening precautions, and a staff dedicated to following all safety measures.

Call us with an order, 503-393-2131, ext. 2, and we'll get it ready for driveway pick-up. Larger orders can be delivered.

Oh, and also there are beautiful flowers, healthy veggie plants and sturdy shrubs!

Mon-Sat 9-6, Easter 10-2

Egan Gardens
GREENHOUSE GROWERS

(503)393-2131

9805 River Rd NE Salem
EganGardens.com

BARGAINS OF THE MONTH

4.99
WD-40® 12 oz. Lubricant with Smart Straw
Never lose the straw again.
H 178 413 B12

5/\$15
GreenThumb® 2 cu. ft. Premium Colored Mulch
L 200 426, 424, 425, 192, 210, 212, 213, 196, 457, 458, 459, 201, 763, 764, 765, 065

Miracle-Gro® 1 cu. ft. Potting Mix
SALE PRICE **7.99**
MAIL-IN REBATE* **-2.00**
FINAL PRICE **5.99**
L 462 572 B65

22.99 SALE PRICE -3.00 MAIL-IN REBATE*
FINAL PRICE **19.99**
Roundup® 36.8 oz. Weed/Grass Killer Concentrate Plus
L 147 895 B12

© 2020 True Value Company LLC. While supplies last. Individual stores may choose not to participate. Participating stores have the right to limit quantities and set their own prices. Prices good through April 26, 2020.

True Value

Brooks True Value Hardware
5050 Brooklake Rd NE • Brooks, OR 97305
503-393-1251 • truevalue.com/brookshardware

Call in your order, and we'll bring it out to your car.

We Need Your Help!

Donations & Sewing Talent Needed!

- Sew gowns from pre-made kits
- Sew masks for our medical staff and patients
- Donate new supplies:
 - PPE (gowns, masks, etc.)
 - Tarps (new and still in the wrapping) that you would use to cover something outside
 - Clear Shower Curtains (new and still in the wrapping)
 - Elastic 3/8 inch
 - Elastic 1/8 inch
 - Elastic 1/4 inch
 - Bias Tape- extra wide double folded
 - Tyvek

Email giving@santiamhospital.org or call 503-769-9319 for more information.

We are grateful to live in a generous community!
Thank you!

SANTIAM HOSPITAL embrace HEALTH™
1401 N 10th Ave. • Stayton, Oregon • SantiamHospital.org