



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Bill Thomas, a Pearl Harbor survivor and Seaside resident, listens as Maureen Boggs sings “Amazing Grace” during the Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion in Seaside.

# Memorial Day: ‘You’re a veteran, you’ve paid your due’

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**A bit of history**  
Seaside Elks’ Exalted Ruler Jerry Lounsbury gave a short history of Memorial Day, which was sparked in the mid-1860s in Waterloo, N.Y. — and possibly other locations — when volunteers would place flowers on the gravesites of deceased veterans. Originally, he said, it was called “Decoration Day,” and on May 30, 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, the first national ceremony was held at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. In 1971, the U.S. government made Memorial Day a federal holiday, to be observed on the last Monday in May.

In Lounsbury’s opinion, making it a national holiday, and subsequently part of a three-day weekend, is “when some of the true meaning of Memorial Day was lost.”

The holiday is about more than a chance for a miniature vacation, Lounsbury said.

“It’s a great day to remember,” he added. “Every day is a great day to remember our veterans and their families.”

Mitch Miller, of Oregon’s Veterans of Foreign Wars department, also paid tribute to “our American fallen,” who “humble Americans have gathered” to honor since the Civil War.

“Every American owes a



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A woman waves to Jay Pitman, sergeant-at-arms at American Legion Riders Chapter 99, as Pitman drives through Seaside as part of a Memorial Day motorcade.

great debt to the courageous men and women who have selflessly given their all to defend and protect our way of life,” he said. “And while giving back to the extent they deserve is impossible, celebrating their memory and honoring their most selfless deeds offers a start.”

He thanked the approximately 1.3 million members of the nation’s military who have fought to defend American values and the daily freedoms citizens enjoy.

“God bless our fallen, their families and those that live in

uniforms in this world,” said Miller, himself a Vietnam War veteran who served several years in the 1960s.

In Vietnam, he said, he saw many good service members fall, memories that still touch him.

“It was no picnic,” he said. The war was lost, he added, but not by the soldiers. “We did our job. We got ‘er done.”

### The ceremony

Guest speaker Luke Thomas, the Clatsop County Veterans’ service officer, said he’s committed to helping veterans

get the services and benefits they deserve. He told the veterans in the audience to call him, even when they might believe another veteran needs his help more.

“You’re a veteran, you’ve paid your due,” he said, adding the fallen soldiers who were being memorialized would want the living veterans to now receive what they deserve.

Maureen Boggs, a member of the Seaside American Legion Auxiliary, sang “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “Amazing Grace” and



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Maureen Boggs sings “Amazing Grace” during the Memorial Day ceremony at the American Legion in Seaside.

“America, the Beautiful” for the ceremony. A member of Boy Scout Troop 642 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kyrstin Crawford, a member of the legion’s Junior Auxiliary, served as Miss Poppy and handed out red remembrance poppies, made by veterans, at the ceremony for donations. The Junior Auxiliary members also passed them out in front of grocery stores and in other locations, and the donations go to veterans, Crawford said.

After leading the crowd in the closing prayer, Chaplain Jere Mattila read “Flanders Field,” a poem written by John McCrae in May 1915 during World War I. The poem, which is the inspiration behind the traditional remembrance poppies, reads:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place;  
And in the sky the larks, still bravely singing,  
Fly scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead.  
Short days ago we lived,  
Felt dawn  
Saw sunset glow, loved and were loved  
And now we lie in Flanders field,  
Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you from failing hands we throw the torch  
Be yours to hold it high.  
If you break faith with us who die we shall not sleep,  
Though poppies grow in Flanders fields.*

# Reserve: ‘Each reserve is different, and they all come out of a different process’

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“None of them are equivalent to what we’re doing now,” she said. “Each reserve is different, and they all come out of a different process. Each had a large stakeholder involvement, the conservationists proposed something, the fishermen proposed something, the state proposed something.”

### Parks in the ocean

According to Gardner, marine reserves are natural area parks in the ocean, established to protect wildlife and natural resources, and to provide baseline scientific monitoring to study as a living laboratory. “Marine reserves are about diversity of species, not just fish, sea lions and seals, our bird species, our invertebrates. There are a wide variety of species that will benefit from the marine reserves.”

The reserve is 12.6 square miles and runs a length of six miles, from Falcon Cove to the north end of Manzanita Beach. Most of the reserve’s shoreline is part of Oswald West State Park, which consists of 2,500

acres and is listed as the second most visited state park on the coast.

According to Gardner, the reserve prohibits the removal of any living marine resource, including fish, mussel or kelp. It is also protected from any ocean development. The western marine protected area will allow only salmon line fishing and crabbing. The Falcon Cove marine protected area allows only recreational line fishing. The area will be open to scuba diving, wildlife viewing, surfing and tidepooling.

There are 20 seabird ponds and thousands of nesting birds which will benefit from the forest fishery protections in the reserve, she said. Wildlife includes bald eagles, pinnipeds and a wide variety of marine fish. The public is urged to access the reserve by boat or by Oswald West Park.

According to Gardner, the reserve’s development was

funded by the Oregon Marine Reserve Partnership, with the participation of local groups including the Haystack Rock Awareness Project, North Coast Land Conservancy and others that proposed a variety of locations.

“We even looked at going to Tillamook Head, having a reserve in front of Cannon Beach and connecting to another reserve at Cape Falcon, but after years we ended up with this. But there were some compromises,” she said. “Originally we conceived a reserve that lined up with the Oswald West boundaries, but we shifted so that there was a wash rock that fishermen like to go to, which shifted the whole thing a little south. It now runs just south of the Arch Cape headlands.”

“Our goal is to get people knowledgeable and involved, and participate in the process,” Gardner said.



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