

# Oregon's 234th Army Band to play July 23

The 234th Army Band will perform a free concert at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, July 23, beginning at 2 p.m. A limited number of advance tickets will be available from the FEC box office.

American military bands have been present since colonial days. Prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, colonial soldiers marched to the sound of fife and drum. Later, in the Civil War, soldiers depended on musicians to entertain them, position them in battle, and spur them on to victory. Military bands play at both military and civilian official functions, entertain American troops worldwide, assist community relations between civilian and military, and have been decorated for their performance in battle.

On June 20, 1919, "Oregon's Own" band was organized and federally recognized as the Band Section, Service Company, 162nd Infantry Regiment. The band remained a part of the 162d Infantry Regiment until 1940. The band was inducted into Federal service on September 16, 1940 in Portland. Band members saw service in the South Pacific and received campaign participation credit for the Luzon, New Guinea and Southern Philippines campaigns. After receiving the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for service during World War II, the band was deactivated in 1946 on Okinawa, and redesignated the 234th Army Band on May 17, 1947. At that time, the 234th was organized and federally recognized in Portland OR, and attached to the state militia. Over the years, since 1947, the band has provided musical support for Oregon troops, toured the state, and entertained many Oregonians.

The mission of an Army band is to "provide music throughout the spectrum of military operations to instill in our forces the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad." (Army Regulation 220-90) There are many ways in which the 234th Army Band carries out this mission.

On a regular basis, the band provides



musical support at military functions, such as Military Academy graduations, change of command ceremonies, parades, and mobilization and demobilization ceremonies. Between brass quintet performances, funerals that call for a bugler, and ceremonial band missions, the 234th continues to be a busy unit. In TY10, the 234th Army Band was recognized as having the highest operational tempo in the reserve band system. The 234th has also performed for gubernatorial inaugurations, opening ceremonies for the Oregon State Fair and State Games of Oregon, and dedication ceremonies for the Veteran's Hospital.

In 2005, soldiers from the 234th Army Band deployed to Louisiana to assist those who experienced the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Among the band's favorite assignments is presenting music to communities throughout Oregon.

After 26 years of being stationed at the Portland Air National Guard Base, effective 26 October, 2011, the 234th Army Band's station was official changed to the newly



constructed 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe. 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, Ore..

The 234th Army Band is truly "Oregon's Own."

## Get the 'scoop' at the Van Fans Ice Cream Social



The Van Fans annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser will bring Florence residents and Van Fan members together for an afternoon of ice cream, pie and other treats while supporting the Cancer Van for the Florence community.

The social will take place Saturday, July 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. There will be homemade pie and ice cream served by BJ's Ice Cream, with hot and cold beverages available.

The Friends of Florence Van Fans,

a non-political volunteer organization, is sponsoring this event.

All proceeds donated go to support the van that transports cancer patients daily to Eugene and Springfield for radiation treatment. This service is free of charge to the community. Come and spend a relaxing afternoon enjoying pie and ice cream and listening to music, while helping a fellow neighbor or friend in need.

For more information, call Mary Fuestenberg at 541-997-1564.

