

Legion membership drops in Cannon Beach

As 100-year anniversary approaches, American Legion membership falters

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

Hundreds attended Memorial Day events around the county in memory of those who died while serving in the military.

But as wreath ceremonies and flag salutes unfolded, concerns about the longevity of the institution that largely coordi-

nates these events remained a troublesome undercurrent to an already somber holiday.

The American Legion, a wartime veterans organization that focuses on veteran outreach and community service, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019. But it has been declining in membership nationwide for years.

In Oregon alone, membership has dropped from around 21,500 in 2005 to 16,700 last year — and local legion posts are also feeling the crunch.

Mike Phillips, the adjutant of Clatsop Post 12 of the American Legion, said while the local finances have remained stable, membership between the Legion, Auxil-

iary and Sons of the American Legion branches have dropped from 1,110 when he joined in 2002 down to below 800.

With fewer people joining, worries have mounted about who will take over organizing traditional ceremonies and events.

“We want to get more young people involved,” Phillips said. “We only have about 50 members from Middle East wars — that’s the same as our World War II membership.”

At American Legion Post 168 in Cannon Beach, membership has dropped about 25 percent in the last 10 years, Adjutant Agris Pavlovskis said. But what has impact-

ed this post more has been a decline in turnout at fundraising events like classic oyster feeds and rib night specials.

“We’re not in dire straits. We’re just coming to a point where we can’t continue like this,” Pavlovskis said.

Fewer people attending fundraising events is beginning to impact the Legion’s ability to pay for community events like the Memorial Day wreath ceremony and Fourth of July parade, he said.

With less money coming in and newly-instituted city requirements to buy liability insurance cutting into reserves, for the first time the Legion will have to require parade participants to pay a

\$5 fee to enter. The organization may need to find other revenue sources if the parade is to continue.

“It’s a national trend,” Pavlovskis said. “We do a lot of community service, but every time we dig out money from the reserves, the less we can do to help veterans.”

The cause for the drop is hard to identify. Pavlovskis said in general it is always harder to get younger people interested in community service when they are busy with jobs and families.

Some larger, cultural changes about how the military is perceived in general could be partially to blame, Phillips said. Locally, with an

active Coast Guard population, there are probably more options for younger veterans in town to congregate elsewhere, Phillips said.

“The average age is 70 when you walk into the Legion,” he laughed. “They probably still do a lot of their partying elsewhere.”

But there is reason to be hopeful. With the 100-year anniversary of the American Legion approaching, Phillips hopes the message of helping veterans will again be at the forefront of people’s minds.

“We just have to keep maintaining the spirit of the post,” he said. “Because as long as you have that, you’ll be okay.”

OBITUARIES

Tevis Ernest Dooley Jr.

Cannon Beach

Dec. 11, 1928 — April 22, 2018



Tevis Ernest Dooley Jr., of Cannon Beach, sailed away on the morning of April 22 from Avamere in Seaside, Oregon, surrounded by his family. Tevis was born Dec. 11, 1928, on the island of Guam, the first of four children to Florence Herrero and Tevis E. Dooley Sr.

At 15, as a freshman at Seaside High School, he met his future wife, Lily Genevieve Forsythe. In 1946, at 17, he joined the Navy, but was reunited with Lily during training in San Francisco, California, where they married in 1949, and got busy with life and family while he finished his service as a submariner.

In San Diego, in January 1950, their first child, Melissa Ann, was born. From there it was to the University of Oregon, where he enrolled in architecture and they had two more children, Maureen Ann and Tevis E. III.

With a growing family, his search for employment led to California, where he worked at numerous architectural and engineering offices, eventually settling in Los Gatos in 1958, and set up his own practice. Two more children, Colleen Ann and Shana Ann, joined the family, and all five children graduated from Los Gatos High School.

Tevis went on to join the Architectural Division of Santa Clara County, eventually becoming the Public Works managing architect, with a staff of 36. He oversaw designs for everything from public parks to airports, court houses, and hospitals.

By 1984, with all the children grown and on their own, he and Lily moved up to Can-

non Beach, Oregon, preceded by three of the five children. Again he set up his own practice, designing many fine homes, the first being his own for once, where he and Lily lived out their days, filling it with ever increasing amounts of loving memories as the family continued to grow.

Tevis Dooley Jr. is survived by his sister, Doreen (Dooley) Allison; and brother, Allan Dooley; his children, Melissa (Dooley) Meidinger, Maureen Dooley-Sroufe, Tevis E. Dooley III, Colleen (Dooley) Balzer, and Shana (Dooley) Giess; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Lily left us in February 2010.

Tevis was driven by an insatiable appetite to study the world around him, and his interests were extensive. A gifted artist, excellent photographer with a keen eye for design, whether it be furniture or a civic building, he was known for unusual cars, (one of the first in the U.S. to own both a Volkswagen Micro Bus and a Bug), and as a snappy dresser.

He loved hiking the Sierras and wherever the land met the sea. He left an extensive library, and no doubt about the importance of family. He imparted to all around him a fierce sense of civic duty, of history and community service, sat on numerous committees, attained a state level Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) soccer referee certificate, and in his last years volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. The world is a better place for his living in it.

John Sandsted

Cannon Beach

Dec. 23, 1935 — April 24, 2018

John Sandsted passed away on April 24, 2018, at Samaritan Evergreen Hospice in Albany, Oregon, following a brief battle with mesothelioma.

John was born in Portland, Oregon, on Dec. 23, 1935, to Peter and Frances Sandsted. After attending Benson High School in Portland, John went to work as a plumber for Industrial Plumbing, which was owned by his family.

Due to disabilities that John faced, his mother was fiercely devoted to him. John and his mother loved to go boating on the Columbia River with a large group of friends, and in the early 1970s they bought a home in Cannon Beach. They enjoyed clam digging and had a beautiful collection of Japanese glass floats. John took care of his mother until she lost her battle with cancer. John enjoyed helping others, and spent years driving friends to doctor appointments.

Friends and neighbors were surprised when John announced that at the age of 62 he would be marrying for the first time. John married Marjorie Quarles in 1998, and enjoyed having

four stepchildren. He found his greatest joy in being a grandfather. John was a skilled woodworker and made beautiful pieces of furniture for his grandchildren.



John Sandsted

Marge and John attended North Coast Family Fellowship, and were active in the Bible study for seniors. In 2004, John and Marge rebuilt Sea Breeze Court in Cannon Beach, and he took great pride in his work at the motel. After Marge had a stroke, John would take time away from the motel to go to the nursing home to help her eat her meals. Marge passed away May 22, 2017.

John is survived by his stepchildren, Janice Filley (Dave) of Albany, Oregon, Ken Quarles (Stephanie) of Cannon Beach, Oregon, Bev Buschert (Matt) of Tualatin, Oregon, and Nancy Pannel (George) of Henderson, Nevada. John had nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his beloved Dachshund, Bernie.

Cannon Beach has always had a cast of colorful characters, and John fit perfectly into this cast. He will be greatly missed.

Obituary Policy

The Cannon Beach Gazette publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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