

Purposes of the VOA

- P**erpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and provide comfort to their survivors.
- A**ssist disabled and needy veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.
- T**each the heritage of our nation and its greatness and the role of veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.
- R**ecognize those who have served in our armed forces and those who are still serving.
- I**nstill pride and patriotism through education of our past and faith in our future ~ through action today.
- O**rganize, sponsor and participate in activities of a charitable, educational and patriotic nature.
- T**end to the needs of hospitalized veterans and their families through activities and programs that provide care, entertainment and assistance.
- S**upport and assist veterans organizations, groups and individuals in their efforts to serve veterans and their families, the communities, the state and the nation.

Questions and Answers about the VOA

Q. Is the VOA just another veterans' organization?

A. No. There are more than 380,000 veterans in Oregon. There are approximately 56,000 dues-paying members of veterans' organizations, and many of these individuals belong to more than one organization. The VOA wants to include all veterans who have served, or are still serving, regardless of rank, place of duty or branch of service.

The common requirement is an honorable discharge, or still serving in a branch of the armed forces.

Q. What if I belong to the National Guard or Reserves, can I join?

A. Yes. The VOA believes in the Total Force Concept whereby Active duty, Guard and Reserve members all play a key role in our nation's defense and are therefore entitled to the same benefits and services.

Q. Do I have to be a veteran to become a member of the VOA?

A. No. There are additional categories of membership for family members, individuals, groups, organizations and businesses who believe in the purposes of the VOA and want to join. See page 4.

Q. Who is considered a veteran?

A. Current members of the Armed Forces of the United States (Active duty, National Guard or Reserve); and those honorably discharged/released members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Former members of the National Guard or Reserve must have served a minimum of three (3) years unless discharged or released under honorable conditions on account of service-connected injury or illness prior to the completion of the minimum period of service. Furthermore, a "War Veteran" is defined by federal and state statutes based on periods of service and a prescribed number of consecutive days of service. You may write to the VOA for more information.

Q. Is the VOA a legislative lobbying organization?

A. No. The VOA is a non-partisan organization that provides information to its members about benefits, services and entitlements. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and the United Veterans Group of Oregon (UVGO) are two of the most recognized lobbying forces that act on behalf of all veterans and their families.



Q. Are there a lot of meetings to attend?

A. No. In fact almost all association business will be conducted through correspondence by mail, telephone, computer modem or our bi-monthly magazine, *The PATRIOT*. An annual meeting will be held each year, beginning in 1995, for the purpose of electing officers, presenting association and committee reports, preparing for statewide activities and disbursement of PATRIOT Fund proceeds. Special meetings will be held by volunteer committees of the VOA to address specific issues and projects as needed. In addition, representatives of the association will travel throughout the state on a continuing basis to conduct members' service and benefit briefings, and to provide programs of a historical, patriotic or educational nature that further the goals of the association.

Q. What is the registered status of the Veterans of Oregon Association?

A. Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association, registering the VOA as a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Corporation were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's office on March 1, 1994. An Application for Recognition of Exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code was filed by the VOA's accounting firm of Grove, Mueller, Hall & Swank on April 12, 1994.

Q. My spouse, who was a veteran, has passed away. Am I still eligible to join as a Patriot (family) member?

A. Definitely yes. Just as a veteran is always a veteran, "never forgotten, never forsaken," the same is true for family members. The VOA is dedicated to serve veterans and their families.

Q. Do I need my DD Form 214, Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States to join?

A. No. However, it is the goal of the VOA to maintain copies of official documents for all of its members to assist in obtaining private, state and federal benefits and services that each individual is entitled to. If you don't have a copy of your DD 214, the VOA will assist you in obtaining one.

Where our veterans live

According to figures provided by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, Oregon has an estimated veteran population of more than 380,000; one of the highest per capita rates of veterans in the United States.

The following figures represent the estimated veteran populations of each county in Oregon as of July 1, 1993:

COUNTY	# of VETERANS	STATEWIDE %
Baker	2,170	.57
Benton	7,320	1.94
Clackamas	37,500	9.95
Clatsop	5,120	1.36
Columbia	5,630	1.49
Coos	9,370	2.48
Crook	2,020	.53
Curry	4,010	1.06
Deschutes	12,270	3.25
Douglas	13,720	3.64
Gilliam	250	.08
Grant	1,010	.26
Harney	900	.24
Hood River	1,930	.50
Jackson	22,480	5.96
Jefferson	1,600	.42
Josephine	10,930	2.90
Klamath	8,410	2.23
Lake	1,050	.27
Lane	35,580	9.44
Lincoln	6,510	1.72
Linn	12,360	3.28
Malheur	2,790	.74
Marion	29,180	7.74
Morrow	960	.25
Multnomah	69,330	18.4
Polk	6,360	1.69
Sherman	320	.08
Tillamook	3,630	.96
Umatilla	7,300	1.94
Union	2,930	.77
Wallowa	920	.24
Wasco	3,160	.83
Washington	39,210	10.4
Wheeler	240	.06
Yamhill	8,370	2.22

WW II Commemorative Community

VOA recognized by Department of Defense Committee

The Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of WWII Commemorative Committee has designated the Veterans of Oregon Association as an official "Commemorative Community." As an official community the VOA will present historical, commemorative and educational events throughout the state during 1994 and 1995, recognizing those who served.

The Department of Defense is assisting a grateful Nation in commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II between 1991 and 1995. The purpose of the commemoration is to thank and honor the veterans of World War II and their families (especially families who lost loved ones), and remember those who served on the home front and turned America into the Arsenal for Democracy. The committee also wants to encourage the study of the history of this era so we can use this knowledge to help ensure a safer and better tomorrow for future generations.

If you would like more information about WWII Commemorative events and activities, or would like a display or presentation made in your community, contact the VOA. Information about WWII commemorative programs and history of World War II will be included in the *PATRIOT* magazine.



Board of Advisors

Members bring varied backgrounds, skills to VOA

The Board of Advisors for the Veterans of Oregon Association was created to guide the Association during its early months of organization and future planning. The Board consists of members from various branches and periods of service, from various regions throughout the state. Most members belong to other veteran organizations and will provide guidance and information for the VOA to work in cooperation towards the common goals of service to veterans and their families.

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Association, the initial Board of Directors shall be elected from the Board of Advisors unless exceptions are approved by a majority vote of the Board. If you would like to be considered for membership on the Board of the VOA, please send a biographical sketch to the Executive Director of the Association no later than September 1, 1994. The first election of officers is scheduled to occur in early October of this year.

Board members as of May 10, 1994 are:

- Richard Crow, State Commander, American Ex-POWs
- Judi Mayfield, State President, American Legion Auxiliary
- Charles Risely, State Commander, AMVETS
- Sunny Anderson, State President, AMVETS Auxiliary
- Dave Schroeder, State Commander, Disabled American Veterans
- Val Davie, President, Korean War Veterans
- Shannon Harlan, State Commander, Marine Corps League
- Charles Weatherill, State Chairman NCOA
- Don Barker, President, U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans
- Martin LeDoux, State Commander, VFW
- Louie Grimmer, State President, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Orville Rummel, State Commander, Veterans of World War I
- Clint Heath, State President, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Major General (Ret) Willard Carey, AUS, Former Deputy Commanding General, 6th U.S. Army(RC); Asst. AG(Army) Oregon
- Brig. Gen. (Ret) Staryl Austin, USAF, Deputy AG(Air) Oregon; Director, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (1981-84)
- Brig. Gen. Alex H. Burgin, acting Oregon Adjutant General and Commander, 41st Separate Infantry Brigade ORARNG
- Brig. Gen. (Ret) Fred M. Rosenbaum, Former Asst. AG (Air) Oregon
- Mr. Stan Adams, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient (Korea)
- COL (Ret) James B. Thayer, USA, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Ret) Rick Meyers, Editorial Director KATU-TV2, Portland
- COL (Ret) H. Gordon Waite, USA, Executive Asst. to TAG
- Mr. Ernie Argo, USMC(Korea), President Linn County Veterans' Council
- Mrs. Cheryl LaMar, Personnel Manager, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Mr. Jon Mangis, Director, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs; Sergeant Major, ORARNG
- Capt. Robert D. Hagen, Public Affairs Officer, ORARNG Executive Director, Veterans of Oregon Association

NOTE: Major General (RET) Richard A. Miller, former Adjutant General for the state of Oregon, was one of the first members of the Board during its organizational period. His untimely death in January 1994 left a big void of dedicated service to this state and our nation. In his memory, his wife Marjorie has granted permission for the VOA to name its Veteran, Business and Community service awards after her late husband.

The first "RAM Six" awards will be presented at the Association's annual "Salute to Veterans and Patriots" reception and ceremony to be held in Portland on Saturday, November 11, 1995.