

Local veterans among others honored in trip to D.C.



Five Morrow County World War II veterans, accompanied by friends or family members, made the Honor Flight trip to D.C. this month. Pictured are (back L-R) Clint Carlson, Sandy Matthews, Don Bennett, George Griffith, Lloyd and David McNary, (front L-R) John and Ernie McCabe, and Alice and Jody Tatone. —Contributed photo

By Andrea Di Salvo

Five Morrow County veterans were among a group of 48 World War II veterans from Eastern Oregon to participate in a World War II Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. earlier this month. Local veterans on the four-day trip were Don Bennett and Ernie McCabe of Heppner, George Griffith and Lloyd McNary of Ione, and Alice Tatone, formerly of Boardman and now of Condon.

McCabe, 90, served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific from '43 to '46. He was stationed at a naval ammunition depot in Guam. He was accompanied on the trip by son John McCabe.

Bennett, 87, was one of the youngest veterans on the trip. He served in the Army Air Force from 1945-1947, training in Kansas before shipping out for Oberhausen and then Munich, Germany. He was accompanied by daughter Sandy (Bennett) Matthews.

Lloyd McNary, 90, served stateside in the Pacific Theater from '45 to '46. He served as a Navy corpsman in a naval hospital on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. He was accompanied by David McNary.

Alice Tatone, 92, served stateside in Florida and San Francisco with the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) 1943-

1944, including serving as secretary to Rear Admiral Andrew C. McFall. She was accompanied on the trip by her son, Jody Tatone.

George Griffith, 89, served in the Marines from 1944-1946. He spent most of his time in the Pacific Theater, participating in Iwo Jima and serving with the occupying forces in Japan.

The trip was planned by Honor Flight of Eastern Oregon (HFEO), one of 117 regional hubs in 42 states participating in the national Honor Flight Network (HFN) program honoring World War II veterans by taking them to Washington, D.C. to visit their National World War II Memorial. In order to qualify for the flight, participants must be World War II veterans and not have seen the World War II Memorial, which opened to the public in 2004.

World War II veterans travel free of charge in appreciation for their service and sacrifice seven decades ago preserving our freedoms. "Guardians" assisting the veterans pay for their own lodging, meals, and airline expenses. HFN operates totally on donations; even the HFN staff donate their time. Many of the Honor Flight volunteers are Korean War and Vietnam War veterans.

"It was a wonderful experience, one of my best

ones," said Ernie McCabe of the trip. "I was surprised at the emotion I had, seeing all the things we went to."

The veterans and their "guardians" began their journey on May 13 when they arrived in Portland and were greeted with a welcome party that night. The group of 48 veterans plus guardians left early the next morning on their flight to D.C.

From the beginning, the trip was memorable. On their arrival in D.C., fire trucks at the airport sprayed the plane with water, an honor usually reserved for retiring pilots. Even the hotel was a highlight for some.

"We stayed in a Sheraton Hotel, which on 9/11 had airplanes fly right over it. That was pretty exciting," said Alice Tatone.

Their tour of D.C. began the next day with the purpose of the trip, a visit to the World War II Memorial. It was an emotional time for all of the veterans.

"The World War II Memorial was really beautiful," said Ernie McCabe. "There are 4,048 stars on that memorial, each representing one hundred people who had died. A real good friend, Paul Rietmann, lost his life in Normandy. I could look at it and think, 'He's in one of those stars, there.'"

After the World War II Memorial came a tour of the U.S. Capitol, where

BMCC bond passes in four of five Morrow County cities

Hermiston, Stanfield, Umatilla and Milton-Freewater all vote no in Umatilla County

The Blue Mountain Community College bond measure passed last week, and every precinct in Morrow County voted yes except for Irrigon. The BMCC district covers both Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

The \$23 million bond will cost taxpayers approximately 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for 15 years.

In Umatilla County, the bond passed with 52.96 percent of the vote, and in Morrow County with 52.25 percent.

Heppner voted 316 to 192 in favor, Ione 123 to 68 yes, Lexington 83 to 66 in favor, and Boardman 196 to 182 in

City	Yes	No
Heppner	316	192
Lexington	83	66
Ione	123	68
Boardman	196	182
Irrigon	187	319
Umatilla	138	216
Hermiston	941	1209
Stanfield	114	126
Echo	90	57
Helix	67	39
Adams	42	50
Pendleton	2215	1360
Meacham	16	47
Pilot Rock	178	98
Athena	145	128
Ukiah	9	36
Umapine	15	22
Milton-Freewater	321	446
Weston	67	62
Total	5263	4723

favor. Irrigon voted 187 yes to 319 no on the measure.

About 36 percent of the eligible voters in Morrow County cast votes.

Above are totals from both Morrow and Umatilla Counties.

Wyden postpones town hall

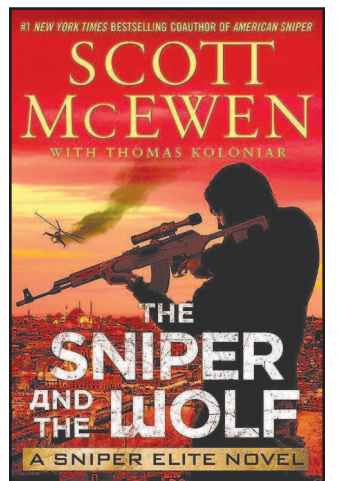
U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, has postponed the Morrow County town hall originally set for this Friday, May 29, in Heppner due to a scheduling conflict. A spokesperson for Wyden said the meeting will be re-scheduled.

McEwen releases third Sniper Elite novel

Hometown boy Scott McEwen continues his literary career with the release this month of a third Sniper Elite novel, "The Sniper and the Wolf," with co-author Thomas Koloniar.

Released May 12, the book continues the saga of SEAL Team sniper Gil Shannon, who joins up with an unlikely ally in order to stop a terrorist plot bent on destruction across Europe.

According to the book teaser, "Hot on the trail of 'The Wolf,' a rogue Russian military sniper-turned-Chechen-terrorist, Gil Shannon turns from hunter to hunted when his mission is exposed by a traitor high up in US government. Shannon must turn to an unlikely ally—a deadly Russian special operative—to help even the odds. But when they discover that 'The Wolf' is just the tip of a global ter-



The Sniper and the Wolf: A Sniper Elite novel.

rorist plot whose goal is to upend the US economy and the stability of the Western world, Shannon and his team of operatives must track the terrorists down before their plan comes to fruition."

The book is available at major book outlets, including Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and Costco.

Graduation approaches for local seniors

Graduation day is quickly approaching for seniors at Heppner and Ione high schools.

Ione's commencement will be held Friday, June 5, beginning at 7 p.m. Baccalaureate services will be held Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the Ione Legion Hall.

Heppner's commencement ceremony will take place Saturday, June 6, beginning at 2 p.m. in the



Heppner Jr./St. High School gymnasium.

Baccalaureate services for Heppner will take place Wednesday, June 3, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church beginning at 6 p.m.

Pavement chip seal planned on Hwy. 207

Oregon Dept. of Transportation has issued an update to the planned pavement chip seal on OR 207 (Lexington - Echo Highway) between Kilkenny

Road and the Morrow County line.

Travelers should expect lane closures, reduced speeds, day/nighttime flaggers, pilot cars, loose rock

on the roadway, and delays up to 20 minutes.

Work is expected to start June 1 and take about two days.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.