

Salute to Veterans

You answered the call and gave it your all. We are forever grateful.

2026

CURRY COASTAL PILOT

The World

Honoring Our TROOPS & VETERANS

Bandon-area veterans gather for a photo in the BHS gym



Front row from left:

Calvin Cox, Army, 1964-66; **Nan Sands**, Air Force, 1977-82; **Danny Smith**, Army, 1950-53; **Eugene Fitch**, Air Force, 1962-70; **Bill Fitch**, Army, 1966-70; **James Perry**, Army, 1961-64; **Stephen Beauton**, Marine Corps, 1966-68; **Randy Texley**, Army, 1969-70; **Joseph Bain**, Navy, 1964-68

Second row from left:

Deb Earls, Navy, 1975-76; **Howard Hull**, Army, 1969-71; **Gary Sands**, Army, 1971-95; **Sean Pagliarulo**, Army, 1984-90; **Tina Volpe**, Air Force, 1979-83; **Dan Andor**, Army, 1969-71; **Henry Schlyper**, Marine Corps, 1964-70; **Dave Hankwitz**, Air Force, 1966-70

Third row from left:

James Lindsey, Navy, 22 years; **Tracy Wilkinson**, Navy, 1989-97; **Chad Wilkinson**, Navy, 1985-2005; **Ramon Jasso**, Navy, 1976-79; **Jerry Hettenbach**, Air Force, 1963-86; **Gail Dahl**, Air Force, 1973-93; **Gary Wiesner**, Navy, 1964-68; **LaLana Martin**, Marine Corps; **Bill Smedley**, Army, 1968-70

Fourth row from left:

Blaine Baker, Navy; **Jens Andersen**, Coast Guard, 1964-68; **Dru Neason**, Army, 1998-2005; **George Neason**, Army, 1966-68 and 1982-2002; **Steven Martin**, Marine Corps, 20 years; **Bill Phillips**; **Bill Smith**, Air Force, 1967-71; **John Scribner**, Marine Corps; **Ernest Vonthenen**, Navy, 1973-77 and 1989-91

Fifth row from left:

H. Elton Harris, Army, 1953-1956; **Bill Ellis**, Army, 1955-56; **Ed Norton**, Navy, 1965-88; **Kristy Bowman**, Navy, 1964-65; **Tom Goss**, Marine Corps, 1966-70; **W.F. "Bill" McNeil**, Coast Guard, 1967-71; **Wayne Strong**, Army, 1975-78; **Preston Wayte**, Marine Corps, 1967-74

Sixth row from left:

Rod Jackson, Navy, 4 years; **Chris Ensley**, Coast Guard, 20 years; **Neal Cahoon**, Coast Guard, 1995-2013; **Bryan Church**, Navy, 2005-2009; **Mike Dobney**, Air Force, 1967-89; **Patrick DelGreco**, Air Force, 4 years; **Scott Slocum**, Navy, 20 years; **Garick Ginestar**, Navy, 1983-89

To those veterans not pictured, *We appreciate your service and honor you.*

To those veterans no longer with us, *We will always remember.*

SOUTHERN COOS HOSPITAL & HEALTH CENTER
Bain INSURANCE AGENCY
The World

Commentary

We honor those who have worn our nation's uniform

By Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels
Director, Oregon Department
of Veterans' Affairs

Today, Americans honor all who have worn our nation's uniform.

Our military history lives in veterans, their families and those serving today.

Today, service members around the world carry that story forward, along with the families who stand beside them. They include Oregon's future veterans. Veterans Day began as Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I, and now honors all Americans who served in war and peace.

Veterans served in different times and places, but all promised to protect our country and its Constitution.

As our nation turns 250, we honor the people whose service helped carry us here—and what they taught us.

For me, those lessons are personal. Both my grandfathers served during World War II, when the military was segregated. My late grandfather, Bishop James Lot Smith, served honorably in the Army at a time when Black Americans were asked to defend freedoms they did not



fully have at home.

He did not talk much about his time in the military. Instead, he showed me what service meant by the way he lived.

He and my grandmother cared for their family, church and community. They fed people, helped neighbors and opened their home to those in need.

They taught me that service does not end when the uniform comes off.

That lesson inspired me to join the Army and still guides me as Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. I see the same spirit in veterans who volunteer, speak up for others and lend a hand.

I see it in my own family, too. One of my sons serves in the Army Reserve, and one of my sisters served in the Army for 30 years and continues to serve today.

As a veteran, a mother and a member of a military family, I understand both the duty of serving and the sacrifice of loving someone who serves.

That is why I often ask myself and my team: Are we caring for veterans as faithfully as they served our country?

We have not always done that. Some veterans came home to silence, hostility or discrimination. Many struggled to get the care and help they had earned.

We cannot change that past, but we can make this promise to every veteran: No matter when or how you served, you belong.

Whether you served decades ago or recently came home, your service matters.

Veterans deserve more than our thanks. For more than 80 years, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has helped them find the benefits and services they earned.

But reaching every veteran takes all of us — agencies, communities, neighbors and families — listening, reaching out and helping.

Veterans Day is a time to say thank you. But honoring veterans must go beyond a ceremony. We must welcome veterans home, stand with their families, help them find the benefits they earned and support them as they build their lives after service.

My grandfather taught me that service continues after the uniform comes off. We build our legacy by helping others.

May Oregon remember those who served before us, stand with those serving now and welcome every future veteran home with dignity and care.

Our country is stronger because of those who serve, the families who support them and the communities they come home to.

To our veterans and military families: Thank you. And to those serving today: May you come home safely.

God bless our veterans, military families, Oregon and the United States of America.

Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels is a proud veteran of the United States Army and the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, ensuring the availability and access of vital veteran services and programs for more than 260,000 veterans and their families across the state.

Veterans Day Schedule of Events

Coos County

• Bandon Veterans Day Parade and Program Motor parade from VFW Post 3440, 55352 Bates Road, Bandon, at 10:15 a.m. to the Bandon Veterans Memorial, a presentation will follow at 11 a.m., and a barbecue at noon.

North Bend/ Coos Bay Area

• North Bend Middle School assembly 9:30 am on 11/10. Veterans are requested to arrive at 8:30.

Curry County

• Gold Beach Veterans Day Ceremony Traditionally held at 11 a.m. at the Curry County Veterans Memorial, 54079 Shirley Lane. Speakers, an honor guard, rifle salute and possible F-15 flyover. Confirmation: VFW Post 4439 Commander John Bell, 541-247-6782
Source: 2025 Gold Beach ceremony announcement

Brookings Veterans Day Ceremony

• Traditionally begins at 11 a.m. at VFW Post 966, 507 Pacific Ave. The ceremony will consist of the following activities: The meaning of Veterans Day and why we celebrate this day, flag retirement ceremony conducted by Scouts of America- Troop 32, Honor Guard/Rifle Team three (3) gun salute, the newly installed commemorative brick layout will be presented and you have an opportunity to purchase a brick for your veteran, flyover of F-15s out of the 173rd Fighter Wing from Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls-contingent on flight path timing and weather.

Brookings Elks Lodge Veterans Dinner

Veterans Dinner, 5-7 pm. Chicken cordon bleu, au gratin potatoes, vegetables & roll. Desserts by Emblem #265. Veterans Free - Guest $20. RSVP Office - 541-469-2169.



RICKY OSTLE
British Army
2007—2018





Quilts of Valor covers veterans with comfort

The Quilt of Valor foundation was created in 2003. It's mission is to cover Service Members and living Veterans with comfort and healing quilts. Any Veteran with an Honorable, Medical or general discharge status is eligible for nomination as are current service personnel from all branches of service.

Locally the Azalea Quilt guild of Brookings-Harbor has awarded over 200 Quilts of Valor. Most ares presented to nominees at the Quilt Show during the Azalea Festival on Memorial Day weekend. They also make quilts for recipients who may live outside our local area or those unable to attend the Quilt Show.

If you would like more information about the program, you may go to Quilts of Valor Foundation at www.QOVF.org. You may also leave a voice mail message at 520-437-2610 and a representative will return your call. Nomination forms are available on line at the QOV website or through USPS from the Azalea Quilt Guild.

Please give them a call if you wish to thank a service man/woman for their service.





Thank you
to all of our Veterans for your service and sacrifice.

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Saying thank you with the Honor Flight program

America is filled with heroes. They are special people who did special things, usually to help someone else. One group that stands out is our veterans. These men and women served our country and protected our freedom with their very lives. One amazing way we say thank you is with the Honor Flight.

The Honor Flight is a program that flies veterans to Washington DC to see some of our countries most famous war and military memorials. The program was started in 2005 and was co-founded by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse, a retired Air Force captain. Morse, who was a physician's assistant with the Department of Veterans Affairs, saw many patients who were World War II veterans. When the World War II memorial was finished in 2004, Morse asked several veterans if they would like to see their memorial. The question was unnecessary, as they all said yes. Morse began by flying with two veterans to see the memorial. Once he witnessed their emotion and gratitude, Morse knew that this was something that every veteran should experience. After forming a board, gathering volunteers and securing funding, the first official Honor Flight took place in May of 2005. The inaugural flight used six small planes to transport 12 veterans to Washington DC. Due to the overwhelming success of the program, it began using commercial flights and by the end of 2005, 137 veterans had participated. Once a veteran applies to participate, they are chosen based on the conflict in which they served, age and sometimes their health status. Every effort is given to make sure each receives this honor. World War II veterans are given priority, then Korean War, Vietnam and so on. Female veterans are chosen by the same standards as their male counterparts.

The Honor Flight will always hold a special place in my heart, because I participated as a "guardian." Guardians act as traveling companions for the veterans. Some veterans are still very able-bodied, while others require special attention due to their age or physical condition. Therefore each veteran is assigned a guardian. Guardians are usually family members or a close friend, in my case it was the former. I had the honor of being the guardian for my father, a Korean War veteran who served in the United States Navy.

The Honor Flight is a one day trip, so the day starts early. Due to the years of experience, Honor Flight chapters are as organized as a military unit. Wheels up comes early and landing in our nation's capital occurs before most people have finished their first cup of coffee. In our case, the first stop was the World War II memorial. It is here where a group picture is taken. Veterans from all walks of life stand side by side, sharing the common trait of sacrifice. Friends are made and war stories are shared. The monument is inspiring while each representation of our 50 states. Next it's onto the Korean War memorial, which is beautiful and haunting at the same time. Life sized statues patrol a field, along a wall with the names of those who paid the ultimate price.

The tour then took us to the Lincoln Memorial. Probably the most recognizable stop of the tour. The Vietnam Memorial comes next and it is just as heartbreaking as you would imagine. Veterans then visited the Marine Corps Memorial, which features the famous flag raising Iwo Jima statue. Aside from its historical significance, its size is colossal. Colossal is not a word that normally applies to an accurate description, but in this case, it does. Then it was a visit to the Air Force Memorial and finally veterans observed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider. We were then back in the air and the best was yet to come. Arriving home veterans are greeted by hundreds of well-wishers cheering, waving banner and American flags and telling each veteran, "thank you for your service."

The Honor Flight is something that every veteran should experience. The trip is entirely free to the veterans, but the guardians pay for their own airfare. Honor Flight chapters exist all around the country. To locate the chapter nearest you visit, www.honorflight.org



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Honoring the branches of the Military

Each November, people across the United States and its territories honor the brave men and women who serve and have served in the various branches of the country's military. Veterans Day is observed annually every November 11 and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. The day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is celebrated each year in May and honors all military personnel who have died in service. Veterans Day is a great time for anyone to learn more about the various branches of the U.S. military.

Army

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

Marine Corps.

I t might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps. is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps. is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps. Reserve.

Navy

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.

Air Force

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

Space Force

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

Coast Guard

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

National Guard

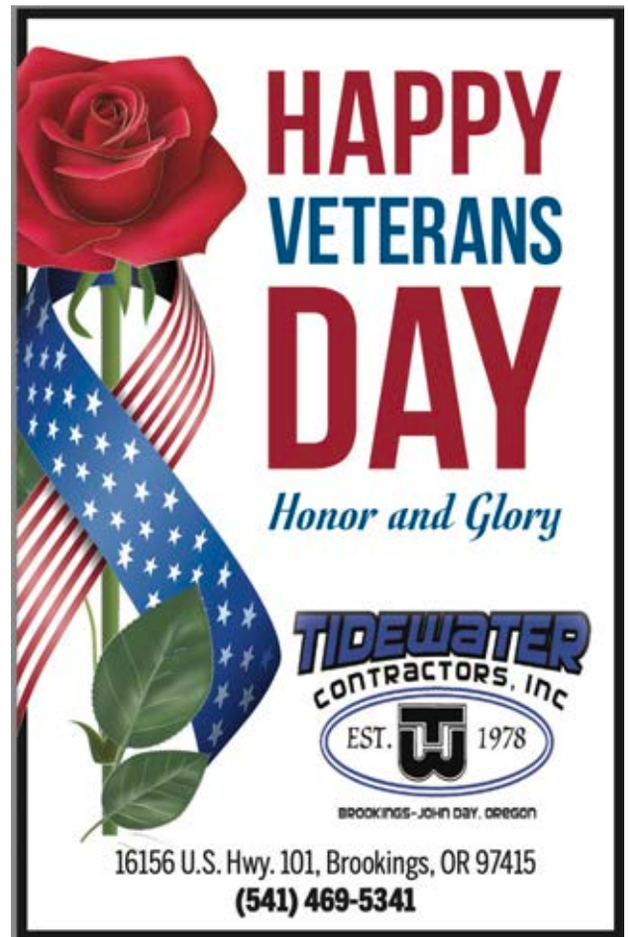
The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.



LeeVan Pelt
United States Army
Sergeant 3rd ID
Fort Stewart, Georgia from 2005-2008





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