



# THE OUTPOST

## Veterans of Foreign Wars

### Linn Post 584 • Albany, OR



541-928-7925

*Donna M. Spencer, Canteen Manager*

June 2007

#### **2006 - 2007 Post Officers**

##### **Commander**

Roy Poppleton

##### **Sr Vice Commander**

Gregory Doyle

##### **Jr Vice Commander**

Doug Anderson

##### **Quartermaster**

Bob Gore

##### **Chaplain**

Gene Shannon

##### **Adjutant**

Mike Kelley

##### **Service Officer**

Chris Christy

#### **Auxiliary Officers**

##### **President**

Jackie Poppleton

##### **Sr Vice President**

Shirley Bodoh

##### **Jr Vice President**

Donna Dawson

##### **Chaplain**

Wanda Irwin

##### **Treasurer**

Linda Rose

##### **Secretary**

Deborah Irwin

##### **Conductress**

Nola Foss

##### **Patriotic Instructor**

JoAnn Lundberg

### Greetings from the Managers office ...

Happy Father's Day!

I don't know about you but I cannot believe it is June already. My, this year is going by too fast! By the time this bulletin comes out I will have started my 9<sup>th</sup> year as your Club Manager.

This past month Bob and I had the great pleasure of attending the OSU/WOU Army ROTC Annual awards formal ceremony and dinner. It is so wonderful to see the young men and women in their Army Uniforms with their dates.

If you missed our annual Volunteer Dinner, I am sorry, as you missed a terrific Chicken-Fried Steak dinner. I especially want to thank Tina Shaw and Alice Latta for helping me prepare the dinner and with the clean-up afterwards. Thanks to Bob E. for helping to clean up the kitchen and a big thank you to Roy P., Greg D., Bob G., Howard G., and Jackie P for serving the volunteers who came out for the dinner - and of course, to each and everyone of you who has volunteered here at the Post throughout the past year.

I have finished my State travels (in my other organization) for the 2006-07 year. My "homecoming" was great and now I look forward to State Convention in Coos Bay this month. This is where I will be presenting the ABC House with the charity money I have been raising this past year. In case you don't know, the ABC House is an assessment center for abused children. There are 19 of these assessment centers in the State of Oregon so now, many abused children will be helped and the abuser is taken out of the situation. These centers are only about 10 years old and they were truly needed years ago.

Sunday, June 17, we will feature a 5-oz Chicken-Fried Steak and Eggs Breakfast for our Dad's for only \$4.00. We hope to see our Father's turn out for this special day.

It is time to start thinking about the Post's Annual Picnic and this year it will be on Saturday, August 4. This is the first Saturday in August so be sure to mark your calendar for a great day of fun and food. We are so lucky to be able to hold our picnic here at the Club utilizing our grassy area and the Post building.

Lucas, our Friday/Saturday night cook, is leaving us the week-end of June 2. He's moving to Maine to take care of an ill Aunt. So I will be looking for another person to cook Friday and Saturday evenings. I'm hoping to find a mature person who would like to supplement their income. During June and July I will be cooking most of the dinners except when I have another engagement and then Jennifer, our Sunday Morning cook will fill in.

Until next month, May God Bless. Please be kind to each other and remember to keep the service men and women who serve our country in the Armed Services in your daily prayers.

*Donna M. Spencer*

## Commanders Comments



*Greetings Comrades,*

Well, OK – I have to admit that I was wrong about when the new Commander and Officers would take the reins. It will be after the State Convention which takes place in late June rather than after Installation in May as I said in my article last month.

This will probably be my last message to my comrades so first I want to thank all of you so very much for your help in furthering the goals of our Post. There remains many small projects to be completed and I will try to get some of them completed before our new commander, Greg, takes over so that he can start with a clean slate and give us some fresh input and ideas. I am sure he will be good for Post 584, so let's give him all the support we can.

Suggestions and solutions are always more constructive than criticism and complaints, so if we could keep this in mind we can make our Post a good place to bring our families and friends to or to just relax with a cool one. Hope to see you around often.

If any of you members have the time, talk with Scout Master Greg Doyle who could use some adult help on Camp-outs. If you volunteered for one trip each it would be a big help to him and sincerely appreciated by the boys.

*Do not forget to place your unusable American flags in the barrel just inside the door in the Auxiliary Room.*

**Roy Poppleton, Commander**

Cell Ph: 974-2172 – Home Ph: 924-9085

Flag Burning Ceremony  
5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday  
June 20

Please join us before our regular meeting!

Post Officers each have a part in this Ceremony and the young men from Scout Troop 359 will assist us.

## Quartermaster's Remarks



Greetings! Veterans of Post 584,

Memorial Day is just past and I hope that you were able to join us at Willamette Memorial or Twin Oaks Cemeteries as we honored our deceased veterans.

Our "Buddy Poppy" campaign is getting into full swing. Once again, I am overwhelmed with your response to the Poppy letters that were recently mailed out. Over \$500.00 has come in already, a very generous response from you members! We will be setting up at several locations to hand out Buddy Poppies and accept donations in June, so if you can help let Linda Rose or myself or any other officer know and we will put you to work. We are still working on locations and times; we would like to go out on June 9<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. If you can spare any time on those weekends let us know. We would like to raise at least \$2000.00 this year, that is quite a high target, but we can do it.

Several new members have joined us in the last few weeks. Welcome to our Post Family, Phillip Dean Niskanen, John Ivan Ukolov, Zachary Wood, and Mark Robinson. It is great to see so many new members and the recruiting that's being done.

Roy Poppleton, Les Schmidt, Howard Gourley, and Mike Kelley joined me in downtown Albany as we staffed a recruiting booth at the Selco Family Expo. We had a great time and made some good contacts. The next opportunity will be the Linn County Fair in July, so once again step up and volunteer. It is great to meet people and get the VFW out in front of the public. We are always well received and we did sign up several new members last year.

Once again, remember we have VFW covers at the Post in most of the common sizes as well as assorted ball caps. In addition, American made 3x5 nylon flags for sale at only \$15.00 each.

Continue to support our troops; they need us more than ever before.

**Bob Gore, Quartermaster**

Ph: 503-394-3791

E-mail: [bobgore47@comcast.net](mailto:bobgore47@comcast.net)

---

## Post Meeting Notes...

The Post Adjutant did not give us his information.



by Gene Shannon

### I Am Your Flag

I am your Flag. I have been kicked, trampled, burned, and shot full of holes. I have fought battles, but I prefer the untroubled air of a world at peace.

I am your Flag. I represent the freedom of humanity, and I shall fly high, thundering in silence for the whole world to hear. My gentle rustling in the breeze sounds out the warning to all who would bury me forever, that below stands a population dedicated to liberty.

For those who have perished for my right to freedom of flight, for those who will die, and indeed, for those who will live, I stand as a symbol of a freedom-loving people.

I have been carried into battle in faraway lands, always for the cause of freedom. I am blood-stained, torn, and many times wearied and saddened by the thousands who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Do not let it all be for nothing. Tell me the brave have died for a worthwhile cause. Be proud of what I represent, and display me for all to see.

Whether you call me "Old Glory," "Stars and Stripes," or "Star Spangled Banner," I shall fly forever as a symbol of your freedom, as I did for your ancestors, and I shall for your heirs.

*~By James M. Fillmore~*

"If we ever forget that we're One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under." *Ronald Reagan, former President of United States*

"A simple way to take measure of a country is to look at how many want in . . . And how many want out." *Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Britain*



*Our prayers and best wishes to all who are not well. Please let us hear from you. Call the Post at 928-7925 or any Officer of the Post or Auxiliary.*

Gene Shannon is home and doing well and attended our last VFW meeting!

Linda Shannon will have back surgery on June 9<sup>th</sup>. She will be in Good Sam for about a week.

Alyce Grabotin spent a week in the hospital having a shunt placed in her body. She's still doing dialysis.

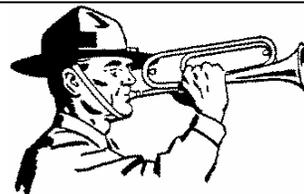
Heather Rau (Vancouver, WA) shattered an ankle and it is now being held together with "pins."

### Linn County Veterans War Memorial

We are pleased to announce that we have received the grant from the State of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department that was applied for several months ago. It was for \$21,960.00. We appreciate the help from the Albany Parks and Recreation Director in applying for this grant. It will help purchase benches and pay for some of the landscaping. We are moving forward with donations of materials and construction services and will start actual construction soon.

We will continue to sell bricks, you can still purchase one for any veteran by sending a check or Money Order for \$50.00 to the LCVMA; at PO Box 2739, Albany, Ore. 97321 A DD 214 is also needed for the person whose name will appear on the brick.

**Robert Gore, Executive Secretary**



### In Memoriam

**Elmer R. Faulkner**

5 March 1918 – 20 April 2007  
U.S. Navy in WW II. While on board, his ship was sunk by a Japanese Kamikaze plane.  
Contributions to Lebanon Boys & Girls Club

**Jean F. Rasor, Sr**

12 August 1922 – 20 April 2007  
Contributions to American Cancer Society or Willamette Hospice

## Auxiliary News

By Jackie Poppleton

Our Joint Installation went on without a hitch followed by short meetings and refreshments. Thanks to Wanda Irwin and Reba Duncan who brought sandwiches to share and Roy and I had two Pizzas' delivered.

Our officers need the help of all able-bodied auxiliary members. Won't you please let us know who you are by attending a meeting now and then? If you need a ride, please let us know and we will try our best to see that you get a ride to the meeting and home again.

Committee Chairmen are needed and we will be calling and asking for help. Please say yes!

*We invite and encourage all auxiliary members to come to our meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. The meetings start at 7:00 and end by 8:00 PM. Be proud of your membership and get involved in your Auxiliary!*

---

## Hospital Report

By Shirley Bodoh

Our next shipment will be for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The same goodies and comfort items will be needed. You might also be thinking of things we can send beyond the things we usually ask for.

If you would please leave your name on donations, I would be able to get my thanks to you personally!

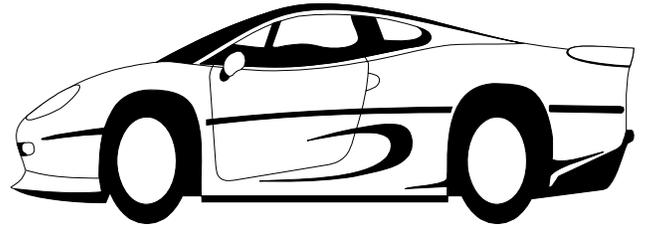


## Timber Toppers Pup Tent 12 Shavetails (Officers) for 2007-08

Seam Squirrel – Ed Rose  
Blanket Bum – Michael Kelley  
Hide Gimlet – Roy Poppleton  
Custodian of the Crummy Duffle Bag  
– Bob Gore  
Shyster – Open  
Sky Pilot – Gene Shannon  
Keeper of the Lousy Records – John Wacek  
Pill Pusher – John Wilson  
Tightwad # 1 – Greg Doyle  
Tightwad # 2 – Dale Wachslicht  
Tightwad # 3 – Howard Gourley

## Cootie Auxiliary

President -- Reba Duncan  
Sr Vice – Jackie Poppleton  
Jr Vice – JoAnn Lundberg  
Chaplain – Mary Henshen  
Secretary/Treasurer – Linda Rose  
Hospital – Linda Rose  
Fun Lady – Reita Carden



Lets give a great big Thank You to Kevin Avery of Cummins Moving System for his donation of four (4) Nascar Collector Cars. These were donated for our Cancer Aid and Research Program. Get your tickets from Twyla Ehmke or Donna Dawson.

---

## Camping News . . .

Camper Club will meet at the Post at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 24.

For more information contact Dean Booth, Twyla Ehmke or Donna Dawson

---

Linn Post 584 is on the Web at:  
<http://www.kbent.com/post584>

---

*If you would like to ride the DAV VAN for a medical appointment at the Portland or Vancouver VA Hospitals, call 1-800-949-1004 Ext 57804 or Ext 56957. You must make arrangements at least 3 to 4 days before your appointment date.*

## Scout Troop 359 Report

Hello *Outpost* Readers,

Our Boy Scout Troop is sort of growing. We add boys and lose others. There is one common cause and that is parent support. Our activities have slowed down a bit because I need two adults per ten boys. Couple that with lack of drivers and things do slow down somewhat.

We are preparing for camp in August. The boys are looking to spend a week at the base of Mt. Jefferson. It is a beautiful camp with more things to do than time to do them.

My two Eagle candidates are working on Citizenship of the World Merit Badge. It is one of the more difficult badges to get and stands in many a boys' way. I have decided to teach the troop as a whole this time because they can all use it and if the younger boys do not get it right away, at least they will know part of it for later on. They have until they are eighteen so the rush is not there – Yet.

The next trip is a fishing trip to Loon Lake. One of the boy's family's has invited us to camp near their cabin. I know the lake has a great population of fish, so we should have a fun time. More on this later.

Lastly, the boys have committed to assist in putting the flags on veterans' graves and to picking up the flags after Memorial Day.

Respectively submitted,

**Gregory P. Doyle, Scoutmaster, Troop 359**

## Sudoku Puzzle No. 19

	2	7		3	8		4	1
8			6	2		5		3
4			1			2	9	8
	6	4	2		9		3	
	7	9		6	1	4		
2			3	4		9		6
6	1	8	4		3		5	
			5	1		3		9
9		3	7		2		6	4

We have 3 x 5 foot American Flags for sale at the Post for \$15 each. See Roy, Bob, or the Bartender on duty.



*Birthdays are good for you.  
The more you have the longer you live!*

June 01	Juanita DeFrees
June 03	Gene Duncan
June 09	Gene Miller
June 13	Bill Haight
June 15	Gayle Hess
June 17	Judith Bellanger
June 17	William Pittman
June 22	Billy Lancaster
June 23	Alice Latta
June 26	Clarette Kiser
June 27	Joe Cook
June 28	Dee Gakey
June 29	James Mitchell

*If your birthday isn't listed here  
it may be because you have not written it in  
the Birthday Book by the front door.*

### Birthday Dinner Coupon

**Paid up Post 584 & Auxiliary Members Only**

Bring this coupon to the Post on any Saturday evening in your birth month and receive a Free Dinner (Value up to \$7.00). You must show your paid up membership card and driver's license or other ID showing your birth date.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

## In the Olden Days at Post 584

Someone turned in a bunch of old newsletters and they were quite interesting. Did you know that since 1996, Linda Boggs (now Rose) was called upon to do just about everything that needed to be done – and she did it. Apparently willingly and with a smile!

- ✓ In July 1996, Linda Boggs was “acting manager” of the Canteen. In August 1996, Twyla Ehmke was named the new Canteen Manager. Twyla resigned in December 1996 and Lois Robl became manager. June 1997 Bonnie Hugley of Sweet Home became Canteen manager.
- ✓ Activities included Family Day, Hobby Day, weekly or monthly movies depending on interest, and Quarterly Mystery Bus Trips.
- ✓ Volunteer of the Month was started in October 1996. Alta Reed was named in November 1996, Linda Boggs in December 1996 and Delma Davis in January 1997.
- ✓ Potlucks were served yearly as part of a Pearl Harbor Commemoration.
- ✓ The parking lot was paved in April 1997. Also in 1997 the Commander and Judge Advocate declared that there would be no smoking during meetings.
- ✓ September 1997 Twyla Ehmke was the Cancer Aid and Research Chairman.
- ✓ Linda Boggs was newsletter editor in 1996-97.
- ✓ In the late 90's, Breakfast was served annually to Pearl Harbor survivors.
- ✓ January 1998 the Cooties State Convention was held at Post 584.
- ✓ March 1998 Bonnie Hugley resigned as Canteen Manager and Linda Boggs became acting manager - again.
- ✓ In April 1998, Frenchy and Dorothy Benson personally purchased a brand new stove for the kitchen to replace the one that kept breaking down.
- ✓ In 1994-95 Irma Erenberger was the new Canteen manager.
- ✓ 1994-95 Dave Brown was commander, Bill Summit was Quartermaster and John Wilson was adjutant.
- ✓ 1994-95 Delma Davis was Auxiliary President
- ✓ 1996-97 Ed Rose was commander with John Wilson as Quartermaster.
- ✓ 1996-97 Lorraine Jones was Auxiliary President
- ✓ 1997-98 Al Goldbaum was commander with Vern Baker as Quartermaster.
- ✓ 1998-99 Dave Brown was Commander, Bill Summit was Quartermaster followed by Dale

Wachsntich in September 1998 when Bill resigned.

- ✓ November 1998 Linda Boggs was acting Canteen Manager.
- ✓ February 1999 Bud Myers was named Club Manager
- ✓ April 1999 Carolyn Birman was Club Manager.
- ✓ June/July 1999 Donna Spencer was hired as Canteen Manager.
- ✓ During the 1999 Christmas Holidays, someone cut the ropes and stole the VFW Flags.
- ✓ After several years as Secretary and many, many years of everything else, Linda Boggs was elected President of the VFW Auxiliary in 1999-2000.
- ✓ 1999-2000 Marty Lovik was Post Commander with Vern Baker as Quartermaster.
- ✓ VFW Color Guard consisting of Jim Wolfe, Ed Rose, Marty Lovik and Dave Post marched in the Veterans Day Parade in new matching uniforms.
- ✓ Post 584 celebrated its 79<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 5, 2000. It is the oldest post in Oregon.
- ✓ January/February 2000, the Auxiliary sent 320 pair of mens socks to White City along with other needed items.
- ✓ In 2000, Ted and Connie Swanson from Front Street donated a fax machine to the Post.
- ✓ 2000-01 Denise Lovik became president of the Auxiliary with Marty Lovik as Commander. Vern Baker was Quartermaster and Rose Marie Allyn was Secretary.
- ✓ During these years, deadline for the Post Newsletter was the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month with no exceptions! If meeting night came after the 20<sup>th</sup>, officers had until the day after the meeting to get their articles turned in.
- ✓ In 2000, 830 flags and 244 urn flags were placed at Willamette and Waverly Cemeteries.
- ✓ July 2000, Linda Boggs and Ed Rose were married at Post 584 with Gene Shannon officiating.
- ✓ November 2000 Pat Bodoh was elected Quartermaster.
- ✓ January 2001 the Post purchased a new computer for Donna Spencer, Canteen Manager.
- ✓ January 2001 the Post celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ✓ March 2001 Linda Rose was Auxiliary President Protem.
- ✓ May 2001 Dave Post was elected Commander and Gene Shannon became Chaplain.
- ✓ June 2001 Debbie Irwin elected as Auxiliary President

- ✓ October 2001 Jackie Poppleton took over doing the newsletter, *The Outpost*.
- ✓ January 2002 Donna Spencer started the Saturday night dinners. Up until now there were Friday night dinners and Sunday breakfasts.
- ✓ February 2002 was the beginning of the articles by and for the Chaplain.
- ✓ March 2002 was the first entry under Taps with Clyde J. Rhea being our reported death on Feb 5, 2002.
- ✓ January 2002 we adopted one of the crews on the USS Peleliu sending a few packages each month.
- ✓ When the Peleliu returned to the States, we adopted the USS John F. Kennedy. When the JFK returned to the states, we had no adopted unit until 2005-2006 when Gregory Doyles son went to Iraq.
- ✓ At the present time we have no officially adopted unit but we are sending items to female soldiers in Iraq.



## MEMORIAL DAY, 2007

Another sad Memorial Day  
 To Honor all of those lost  
 As we tally up another year  
 Of all, that this War has cost.

Nearly thirty-five hundred Families  
 To mourn the death of a loved one  
 How many more must we add  
 Before this War is finally done?

Let's not forget all those wounded  
 More than twenty-five thousand strong  
 Though this day is for the Dead  
 To Honor these too, can't be wrong.

First observed in Eighteen sixty-eight  
 And the "list", continues to grow  
 As real Peace seems so elusive  
 Something, we'll probably never know.

It's not in the Human psyche  
 To get along, with one another  
 It seems that all we know to do  
 Is just one War after another.

So, this day we Honor those Heroes  
 Who marched off to War to die  
 Sometimes for a noble cause  
 And some, those times when some ask, "Why!"

But, one thing we can always count on  
 There's always those Heroes-to-be  
 Who step up, Sacrifice their lives  
 So that other people, might be Free.

Del "Abe" Jones  
 5.22.2007

Printed with Permission  
 < abeabe@bellsouth.net >

---

## The Flag Speaks

*Born during the nation's infancy, I have grown with it,  
 my stars increasing in number the domain over which  
 I wave, expanding until the sun on my flying folds  
 never sets.*

*Filled with significance are my colors of red, white and  
 blue, into which have been woven the strength and  
 courage of American manhood, the love and loyalty of  
 American womanhood.*

*Stirring are the stories of my stars and stripes:*

- I represent the Declaration of Independence.
- I stand for the Constitution of the United States.
- I reflect the wealth and grandeur of this great Land of Opportunity.
- I signify the Law of the Land.
- I tell the achievements and progress of the American people in art and science, culture and literature, invention and commerce, trade and industry.
- I stand for peace and good will among the nations of the world.
- I believe in tolerance.
- I am the badge of the Nation's greatness, and the emblem of it's Destiny.
- Threaten me and millions will spring to my defense.

**I am the American Flag!**

---

## Coming Events

*Please Save!*

*This List updated for June 2007*

Every Saturday – Farmers Market - City Hall parking lot at 4th & Ellsworth, plus the adjacent block of 4th Ave. We are opening and closing an hour later -- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Historic Downtown Albany, 541-752-1510, [www.locallygrown.org](http://www.locallygrown.org)

May 31 to June 3 – Lebanon Strawberry Festival – Cheadle Lake, Weirich Dr & Hwy 20, Lebanon, 541-258-7164

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday – Free State Parks Day – Silver Falls State Park, Sublimity – 503-873-8681. [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)

June 9 – Saturday – Free Fishing Derby – Foster Lake Dam – 541-367-3492

June 9 – Tentative Buddy Poppy Distribution  
Contact Bob Gore or Linda Rose

June 14 – Thursday – Flag Day & Army Day. Be proud to Fly your Flag!

June 15 to 17 – Linn County Pioneer Park & Picnic, Brownsville – [www.historicbrownsville.com](http://www.historicbrownsville.com), 541-466-5656

June 16 – Tentative Buddy Poppy Distribution  
Contact Bob Gore or Linda Rose

June 17 – Sunday – Father’s Day – Time to bring your fathers and husbands to Breakfast. No, don’t buy him a tie! But do give him a big hug to show him you love him!

Happy Father’s Day!

June 18 – Monday – House Committee Meeting

June 20 – Wednesday – VFW Post and Auxiliary meetings

June 24 – Sunday – Pup Tent 12 Cooties Meeting. Prospective members invited to attend

June 28 – Friday – Movies by Moonlight – Free at Dusk – behind Wyatts Eatery on 1<sup>st</sup> St – Bring your own chair – 541-928-2469

June 30 – Saturday – State Cooties Potluck Picnic here at Post 584. Grand will furnish the meat. Attendees are to bring salads and desserts. *Prospective members invited to attend*

July 4 – Wednesday – Independence Day. Celebrate your Country and your Freedom!

July 14 – Saturday – United Veterans Groups of Oregon – 1:30 p.m. at Legion Post 10. All Veterans Groups invited to attend.

July 16 – Monday – VFW House Committee – 6:00 p.m.

July 18 – Wednesday – VFW Post & Auxiliary Meetings – 7:00 p.m.

July 21 – Saturday – VCA Meeting – 10 a.m. at Legion Post 10. Come help to plan the Veterans Day Parade.

July 22 – Sunday – Cooties Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

August 4 – Saturday – Annual VFW Picnic – All Day!

August – Auxiliary Annual Yard Sale. Date to be determined. We are currently accepting all those items that you no longer use or need.

## *Answer to Sudoku Puzzle #19*

5	2	7	9	3	8	6	4	1
8	9	1	6	2	4	5	7	3
4	3	6	1	7	5	2	9	8
1	6	4	2	5	9	8	3	7
3	7	9	8	6	1	4	2	5
2	8	5	3	4	7	9	1	6
6	1	8	4	9	3	7	5	2
7	4	2	5	1	6	3	8	9
9	5	3	7	8	2	1	6	4

*THE OUTPOST is a monthly publication of Linn VFW Post 584, District 14 of the Department of Oregon, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Linn VFW Post 584 is located at 1469 Timber St SE, Albany, OR 97322. Phone 541-928-7925. The information contained herein is of interest to members of Linn VFW Post 584 and it's Auxiliary, to individuals who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and to their widows and children. Linn VFW Post 584 is a non-profit veteran's organization that is supported by its membership. Comments and suggestions regarding THE OUTPOST should be directed to Post Commander, Roy Poppleton, or Post Quartermaster Bob Gore. Recommended news articles should be given to Jackie Poppleton or placed in THE OUTPOST mailbox at the Post.*

*The Meaning of Memorial Day  
A Memorial Day Message from Gary  
Kurpius, VFW National Commander*

Greetings,

Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day was born in Waterloo, New York in 1866. Henry Wells, a local drugstore owner suggested that all businesses close for one day to honor, in a solemn and patriotic manner, the Fallen Soldiers who lost their lives during the Civil War. A group of Confederate Widows placed wildflowers on the graves, townspeople made Wreaths and Crosses to place upon the Headstones, Flags waved proudly at half-staff. An American Tradition was born.

Today, I stand before you on this proud day of Remembrance and ask that you join me in celebrating the lives of those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice for the good of this great Nation. I would also remind you that there has been no other Nation on Earth whose Sacrifice has been greater than ours has. Nowhere in the Annals of History has there been a Country before ours that has given so much to purchase Freedom for others. Sacred and Hallowed Ground at Arlington and in the Cemeteries at places like Ardennes, Normandy, Pearl Harbor and Manila are a testament to the price to achieve and maintain Freedom around the globe.

General George Patton once said during a Memorial Day Service, "In my mind we came here to thank God that men like these lived rather than regret that they died." I ask today that you embrace those words in their entirety.

The lives of our Fallen Soldiers, our Fathers, our Mothers, our Brothers, our Sisters, our Comrades, were lives not lost in vain or anguish, for each life lost has contributed to the evolution of America as we know it today; A Free Nation, A Strong Nation, A Nation that stands the Tallest when we Stand Together.

As we stand together today on this 141<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Memorial Day, we are reminded that the Cost of Freedom comes with a High Price in human terms. And as we as a Nation mourn the lives lost, we celebrate the lives Lived and are forever grateful. Above all, in an attempt to pay back our debt as American Citizens, we also must not only Remember the Fallen, but it is our Responsibility to teach our youth that nothing comes without cost. And that sacrifices are meaningless without Remembrance.

I ask that today you not accept feelings of grief or affliction without encompassing a feeling of Honor, Patriotism, and Pride. It is said that where one story ends – another begins, a statement that holds true for our men and women of service. Though their lives were cut short, our absent comrades have ensured

that the Declaration of Independence holds true for everyone, some whose story is just beginning, some who otherwise may not have been entitled to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The Courage possessed by the men and women that we are honoring today is something that cannot be taught. It is something that is felt. The willingness to die for their Country truly makes America the Home of the Brave. Our Service Men and Women leave the Life that they have grown accustomed to and thrust themselves into unfamiliar and dangerous territories eager to succeed in their Endeavors.

No matter how different these Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coastguardsmen are from one another, one thing remains the same: From the White Pine Forests of Maine, to the White Sandy Beaches of Washington, this is the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. And no matter their fate, America will always be their Home. And a home worth dying for. We commend you, our Fallen Comrades.

Today, perhaps more than any day past, we set aside our personal beliefs regarding politics and war. And we pray and give thought to their families whose sacrifice is equally worthy of praise and gratitude.

I am reminded of words spoken by Thomas Paine shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed – words that undoubtedly hold Truth Today. "These are the Times that try men's souls. The Summer Soldier and the Sunshine Patriot will, in this Crisis, shrink from the Service of his Country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and Thanks of a Man and Woman."

To each of you we Honor today, we thank you, we love you and today we celebrate your life.

Today, as you go about your Celebrations with your Families and Friends, I ask that you also give thought to the Families and Friends who have lost their Loved Ones in the Line of Duty. We must encourage the preservation of their Spirit, Dreams, and Sacrifices.

Though we cannot fully comprehend the weight of sorrow that these friends and families carry, we can and must, carry the Memory always, and teach those who will remain here when the time comes for us to join our Fallen Soldiers.

Today, as we stand United as a Nation under Old Glory – the Silent Sentinel of Freedom that you have defended – we will forever see your faces embedded in our Symbol of Red, White, and Blue. We dedicate this day to you, our Comrades, and vow to devote this day whole-heartedly to the preservation of your Memory. For it is you, our Fallen, who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice giving us a past, and in giving us Hope and Memories that will propel us into the Future.

God Bless all of our Departed Heroes, their Families, and God Bless America.