

IN HONOR OF OUR
VETERANS



Tillamook

2021

Salute to Veterans

Honoring all
those who
have served.



Thank you to the men and
women who have served in
our armed forces.

Meet Nicholas Torres, the Veterans Service Officer for Tillamook County

My name is Nicholas Torres and I am the Veterans Services Officer for Tillamook County.

I grew up in North Western Pennsylvania and enlisted in the United States Army at the age of nineteen. I served eight years as an Infantryman. I deployed to Afghanistan in 2009-2010 and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Two Army Commendation Medals, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

After leaving the Army in 2014 I worked in the lumber mill industry while pursuing my business degree at Oregon State University. I have been working as a Veterans Services Coordinator for seven months

under William Hatton.

As the Tillamook County Veterans Services Officer, I look forward to working with local Veterans, social service organizations, the VFW, and the community. Please feel free to contact us at 503-842-4358. We are scheduling veterans for appointments



a day in advance. If a veteran or dependent is unable to travel, we will travel to them. It is an honor to serve the Veterans of Tillamook County.



Tillamook County Veterans Services Officer Nick Torres. (top) Nick in combat gear.

Salute to Veterans

A guide to local Memorials and Markers

Bay City (2)

- Plaque/Native Boulder with POW/MIA Flag on the flagpole; Dedicated December 16, 2003; Located Marion Barr Library
- Vietnam Memorial; Dedicated July 4, 1992; Located Campsite between Bay City and Tillamook east of Hwy 101

Cloverdale (1)

- Plaque; Located

Nestucca Valley Cemetery off Highway 101

- Plaque; Located west of bridge off Highway 101 in Cloverdale, directly across from the High School digital sign

Garibaldi (1)

- Coast Guard Boat Memorial; Dedicated - Unknown; Located near the marina off South 7th Street to Coast Guard Way just north of the Coast Guard facility.

Hebo (1)

- Mt. Hebo Memorial Plaque; Dedicated 1987; Former Mt. Hebo Air Force Station

Nehalem (3)

- Nehalem Bay Veterans Memorial; Dedicated May 21, 1989; Located Nehalem Bay Cemetery; http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM13M9_Nehalem_Bay_Veterans_Memo-

rial

- Plaque (All Veterans); Dedicated - 1994; Dennis D. Schnoor Veterans Memorial Park located near the northwest entry to Nehalem Bridge
- Plaque/Flagpole (Veterans of All Wars); Dedicated - Unknown; Located Cemetery between Nehalem and Manzanita, Highway 101

Tillamook (6)

- Plaque (Tillamook

County Veterans Korean and Vietnam); Dedicated - Unknown; Located US Post Office, 2200 First Street

- Plaque (All Wars); Dedicated - Unknown; Located Courthouse, 201 Laurel Ave.

• Plaque (Country's Dead); Dedicated - Unknown; Located Odd Fellows Cemetery, across from the County Fairgrounds, 4603 E 3rd Street

- Giant Flag; Dedi-

cated - Unknown; Located next to Werner's Meats on East 3rd Street across from Goodspeed Park

- The Tillamook Air Museum (Wartime Memorabilia); Dedicated - Unknown; Located Highway 101 just south of Tillamook

• Pioneers Museum Exhibit of Veterans' Memorabilia; Dedicated - Unknown; Located Pioneers Museum, 2106 2nd Street

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Salute to Veterans

Army veteran Rolan Easystone reflects on accomplishments, experiences



Hilary Dorsey
Staff Writer

Army veteran Rolan Easystone served in the Army for eight years and continues to use his knowledge and experience to help other veterans at the Tillamook County Veterans Services Office.

Easystone was born in Los Angeles and attended a private high school called Oak Meadow School. He attended some college at the Art Institute of California and then went through the defense information school through the military.

"I served for eight years," Easystone said. "I started off as an MP – a military

police officer – and then later on in my career, switched over to PSYOP."

Easystone served in the Army for eight years. He began as a military police officer and switched to a PSYOP position. Psychological operations, or PSYOP, are intended to convey selected information to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives and behavior of foreign governments, organizations and individuals.

Easystone deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 and 2011 and spent time in Korea in 2013 or 2014.

One of the projects Easystone had originally organized in his PSYOP company was executed

and made headlines in 2015, after Easystone left service.

"They used my plan and hijacked North Korean radio waves and broadcasted Korean pop music over their radio stations," Easystone said.

Easystone said he put it together partly as a joke but it was effective.

Easystone said most of his military career was memorable. In Maryland, he was tasked as a guide for the Egyptian army's foreign military students. He met a lot of Egyptian officers he is still in contact with to this day.

"I've worked at a private investigation company in California and I've owned my own real estate

photography business," Easystone said of his career after the army. "When the pandemic started, I moved up here to Tillamook."

Easystone has been working at the Tillamook County Veterans Services Office as an office specialist for about one year.

Easystone said he put off working with Veterans Affairs (VA) on his benefits due to a bad experience in California. At the Tillamook County Veterans Services Office, he said he has gained a better understanding of VA benefits and would like to see more veterans get the benefits they are entitled to.

Easystone lives in Netarts with his girlfriend.

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11:00am-7:00pm



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Thank you for your service.

Salute to Veterans

What we can do for other veterans is important

Charles Bridge

Charles "Chuck" Bridge made his career in the Air Force. "I was in the Oregon National Guard and then joined the Air Force between my junior and senior year of high school," Bridge said.

Bridge's father had also served in the Air Force and held a position as a communication officer on Eisenhower's staff.

After graduating high school in 1958, Bridge enrolled in college. But he soon discovered it wasn't what he wanted to do.

"I had had enough of going to school so I decided to join the Air Force [full time]. The first thing they did was send me to radar operators' school," Bridge said with a laugh.

Bridge spent his career in the Air Force traveling the world.

"I volunteered for deployment and was sent to Nova Scotia first,"



Bridge said. "Then I was sent to Europe. The six years I was in Europe made it worth it."

Bridge was a part of many moments in history including control-

ling flights over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis and visiting the Olympic Village in Munich the night before the Munich Massacre. He also served in Vietnam in 1966.

Bridge retired from the military in 1979 after a 20 year career (27 including reserves) and now resides in Manzanita.

During his retirement, Bridge has been active on the Tillamook Coast holding positions on the City of Manzanita Planning Commission and the Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue Board of Directors.

Bridge is also very active in the local VFW Post 2848 and encourages others to join as well.

"What we can do for other veterans in need [is the important part]," Bridge said. "And getting them hooked up with available services."



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Salute to Veterans

We need to do all we can for our veterans

Dr. Donald Olson

Dr. Donald Olson's family is what he calls a group of overachievers. "The rest of the family were either lawyers or dentists," Olson said. "I had to be different than the rest of the family."

Olson spent three years completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin before studying neurosurgery and graduating with his Medical Degree.

Olson enlisted in the Air Force in 1962 and was a part of Counterinsurgency in Vietnam.

"I wanted be an astronaut and I couldn't be one. I got pretty far though," Olson said. "I got my wings as a flight surgeon and I was

involved in things that happened around the world. I was very much involved in what was going on in Vietnam."

After his tour, Olson left the Air Force and took a 14 year break from the service. In 1984, he was asked to come back to the army as a neurosurgeon.

"I left the Air Force as a major, and within two weeks being in the Army I was promoted to full 'bird' Colonel," Olson said with a chuckle.

With that status, Olson was able to attend National War College.

After being credited for 23 years in the service, Olson retired from the Army in 2001.

In addition to the army, Olson also founded and built Torii Mor Winery in Dundee, Oregon from the ground up.

"I read something in the Wall Street Journal that the best pinot noir was grown in Dundee, Oregon," Olson said. "I thought, 'Where is that?' Bought a plane ticket, flew out, looked at a piece



of property, and bought it. It changed my life."

In 2015, Olson joined Adventist Health in Tillamook as a part-time outpatient therapy services offering pain modulation consultations and treatment.

"Few people understand the pain world from a patient's point of view," said Dr. Olson, "and I think I do.

You have to find out the real reason why people hurt and figure out a logical way to address it. You have to listen more than you talk."

Dr. Olson utilizes a variety of treatments and interventions to modulate pain including epidural steroid injections, electrical stimulation and transcranial electromagnetic stimulation. He prefers to identify and treat the cause of pain, as opposed to simply treating pain with drugs.

"Traditional drug treatments don't really work," he said. "You can't ever make pain totally go away. You try to reinstitute hope with the understanding that hope is never perfect."

Olson is also very active in Veteran's Affairs in Tillamook County.

"I'm proud to be a soldier, proud to be a veteran," Olson said. "But I believe that veterans deserve better. The reality is that veterans are killing themselves at an increased rate."

Part of Olson's mission as a physician and veteran is to help improve the care of veteran's emotional and physical well-being.

"I'm an advocate and I'm trying to get something for vets," Olson said. "Brothers need to know there's someone to come talk to, part of my practice is to treat them."

Olson currently resides in Neskowin and Dundee.

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Gavin McClaskey — US Navy
Kyle Prulhiere — US Navy

Netarts-Oceanside Fire

John King - US Army & Army National Guard
Debbie Drake — US Army
Rick Miller — US Marine Corps
Tim Mayne — US Army

Nestucca Fire

Daniel Sheridan — US Air Force
John Eckhardt — US Navy
Austin Sears — US Navy
James Oeder — US Navy

Bay City Fire

Karl Anderson — US Air Force
Aaron Bentley — US Army
Jace Huseby — Coast Guard
David Stacey — US Marine Corps

Garibaldi Fire

Larry Worrel — US Navy

Rockaway Fire

Tom Martine — US Army National Guard

Nehalem Bay Fire

Joe Jones — US Army
Bill Diebold — US Air Force

We invite you to become a volunteer firefighter!

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Garibaldi Fire Department 503-322-3635
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H49785

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- Carolyn H. Decker

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Salute to Veterans

The Navy was an opportunity to see the world

John Reaksecker

John Reaksecker grew up in a town similar to Tillamook.

"It was a mill town. When most of the people graduated high school, they went and worked in the mill," Reaksecker said. "So, going into the service was a natural thing because it got you out and you got to go see the world."

Reaksecker graduated from White Salmon High School (Washington) and enlisted in the Navy in 1960.

"I was an interior communications electrician," Reaksecker said. "I was stationed in San Diego. We made one cruise to the far east and off the coast of Vietnam in 1963; we were getting ready to take civilians out of south Vietnam."

Reaksecker received an honorable discharge in 1964 and began studying education at Central Washington University.

"It's really a career chance because once you've served in the service...your full tuition is

paid and they give you a stipend to live on," Reaksecker said. "That made the difference, I was able to go to school full-time. I think if I hadn't gone into the service, I probably wouldn't have gone to college."

After graduating, Reaksecker taught for five years in Beaverton before teaching 5th and 6th grade in Tillamook for 18 years.

Reaksecker and his wife, Cherry, of 50 years reside in Tillamook.



Thank you Veterans for your service to our country



The Tillamook Family Counseling Center offers a variety of services including problem gambling treatment and prevention services

Problem gambling can be a high risk activity for some people. If you choose to gamble create responsible gambling guidelines such as setting a time and dollar limit. For more information about responsible gambling guidelines and to access other prevention resources visit www.opgr.org.

Help is free and confidential

Call the OPR helpline 1-877-MY LIMIT (695-4648)
or Tillamook Family Counseling Center 1-503-842-8201



H64344

Dr. Tracy Solis, DVM

Dr. Jennifer Witt, DVM

Dr. Mark Witt, DVM

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H64395

Salute to Veterans

Making a choice after college was better than being drafted

Phillip Gates

Phillip Gates had a choice to make.

"I finished college and I was going to be drafted [for Vietnam] because I was finished with school and I wasn't married," Gates said. "I had to make a choice: be a draftee or volunteer to go in the service and choose what I wanted to do."

Gates grew up in North Dakota until his family moved to Whidbey Island, Washington when he was 15 years

old.

"I graduated from Oak Harbor High School and then went to University of Washington," Gates said.

After receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Business, Gates volunteered for the service and enlisted in the Army Special Forces.

"I served from October 1965-1998," Gates said. "I spent 18 months in training and 18 months overseas in Vietnam."

After his tour, Gates returned to the United States and made Portland his home in 1971. He spent the majority of his career in the medical field working on medical devices such as implants and medical equipment.

Seeking to retreat from the city, Gates now resides in Beaver, Oregon.

In his spare time, Phillip Gates teaches Tai Chi/Qi Gong at the Tillamook YMCA.

"I've been teaching there for 10 years," Gates

said. "But I've been involved in athletics since I was five years old. And I was also in the Special Forces, that was also physically demanding."

For those thinking of enlisting, Gates advises those to research each branch.

"Choose a branch where [you] can get an education that can get you a good job in civilian life," Gates said. "Find a branch where you can get that education to get that job."



SALUTING OUR VETERANS

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info@tillamookair.com

Help us stay safe and keep you and yours safe, too! Due to COVID-19 we are requiring masks in the museum, and outside where you can't maintain a 6ft distance. Some exhibits and displays are limited or closed to help maintain social distancing.

H64411

Salute to Veterans

Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon Release Digital Tactical Career Planning via the 541VETS Resource

The Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon have released a digital version of the Tactical Career Planning (TCP) training course via the 541VETS web page.

The TCP series consists of short videos that cover employment related topics with an insightful Veterans perspective. The TCP concept is to apply a mission-oriented mindset when working to achieve employment and career

goals. Veterans, their Spouses, Covered Persons, and even civilians, can watch the training through 13 topic-specific videos on their own time and at their own pace. Video topics vary from how to create a resume, translating Military skills, apprenticeships, interviews, and asking for the job.

"This video series was created to give Oregon's rural Veterans the same individualized employ-

ment training and support they would receive in person at a WorkSource Oregon center," said Paul Messett, a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) representative.

The Tactical Career Planning is the first series



in the 541VETS digital library. The 541VETS digital library will grow as Veteran represen-

tatives create more digital resources.

Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request at no cost to indi-

viduals with disabilities. Contact: 971-673-6400. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

The Jobs for Veterans' State Grant (JVSG) is 100% federally funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (USDOL-VETS). This grant is a part of an award grant totaling \$2,429,678 with 0% financed from non-gov-

ernmental sources.

The Jobs for Veterans' State Grant provides federal funding for individualized career and training-related services to veterans and eligible persons with significant barriers to employment. The grant also provides funding to conduct outreach to the business community and engage in advocacy efforts to increase employment opportunities for Veterans.

Veterans Ride FREE on November 11

In observation of Veterans Day on November 11, the Tillamook County Transportation District will be offering free fare for Veterans on WAVE routes 1, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4. Veterans are invited to ride as many bus services as they need, at no charge, all day long.

"Each year the District

looks forward to serving Veteran's with free public transportation to thank them for their service," says Doug Pilant, General Manager for the District.

For more information about WAVE bus schedules or services, please visit www.TillamookBus.com or call 503-815-8283.



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H44456

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Salute to Veterans



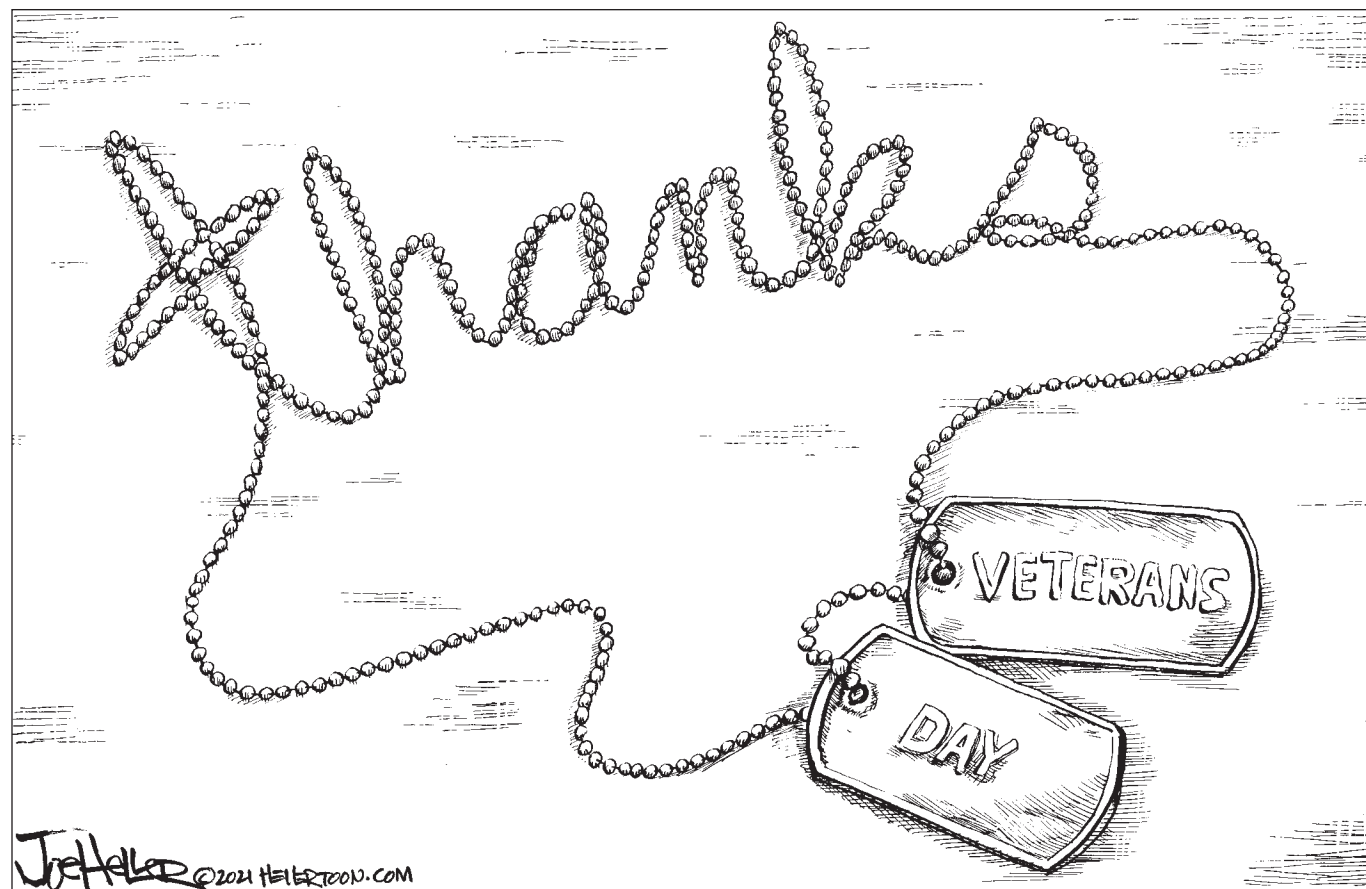
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H64113




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www.tpud.org

H49737

Salute to Veterans

History of Veteran's Day

Service members make numerous sacrifices in defense of their countries. While the debts to service members may never be the kind that can be repaid in full, paying tribute to veterans, on Veteran's Day and throughout the year, can be a great way to show them just how much their efforts are appreciated.

Veteran's Day begins with Armistice Day

Veteran's Day is a byproduct of the end of World War I, when Germany and the Allied Nations signed the Treaty of Versailles, formally ceasing fighting and establishing terms of peace. On November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the signing of the treaty, the first Armistice Day events were held. Armistice Day was initially a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I only, states History.com. The United States Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and November 11 became a national holiday starting in 1938. However, in 1954, after the country had been embroiled in both World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by renaming the commemoration "Veteran's Day" to honor veterans of all wars.

Veteran's Day in October?

According to Military.com, for a short time, thanks to the Uniform

Holiday Bill, which in 1968 established three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating national holidays on Mondays, Veteran's Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October — the first being October 25, 1971. However, many people did not agree with this decision, continuing to honor the holiday on the original date. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a new law that returned Veteran's Day to November 11 beginning in 1978. Since then, parades, memorial events, volunteer efforts, and other celebrations revolving around veterans have been held on November 11.

Veterans around the world

Many countries, including the United States, celebrate veterans on or near November 11. America's closest neighbor to the north, Canada, commemorates veterans on Remembrance Day (also November 11), as does the United Kingdom. Britain also has Remembrance Sunday, which is the second Sunday of November. Remembrance Day also is called Poppy Day, when people of the Commonwealth member states wear a red poppy flower in honor of military members who have died in the line of duty.

Paying tribute

There are various ways to honor veterans

on Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day. Federal government closings, educational efforts in schools, parades, and visits to military hospitals or cemeteries may take place. In Europe, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veteran's Day and its sister holidays mark the honoring of veterans of all wars, with a particular focus on living veterans. It is a day to celebrate the dedication and selflessness of hardworking military men and women.





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Salute to Veterans



Tillamook County Veterans' Services

Tillamook County Courthouse Basement Level
201 Laurel Avenue Tillamook, Oregon 97141 • (503) 842-4358
Office Open Monday – Friday 8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm

www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/Veterans/

IF THE OFFICE IS CLOSED PLEASE CALL (503-842-4358) TO
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS YOUR QUESTION,
CONCERN OR NEED.



Our Mission

The Tillamook County Veterans' Service Office assists Tillamook County residents who are U.S. Military veterans in preparing compensation claims, accessing social services, health care benefits and pension benefits that may be available to the veteran from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and other governmental agencies.

LOW INCOME SERVICES

Pension

VA assists Wartime veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension Benefit. This is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to Veterans at or below the poverty level.

Eligibility Requirements

- Wartime Service
- Age 65 or older with limited or no income, OR
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, OR
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, OR
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income.

In addition to Pension you can also receive:

- Healthcare
- Aid & Attendance- Veterans and survivors who require the aid and attendance of another person, or are housebound, may be eligible for additional monetary payment. These benefits are paid in addition to monthly pension.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/index.asp>

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

If you are a veteran and served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 or served within 12 nautical miles in the territorial sea of the Republic of Vietnam, also known as Blue Water Navy sailor, you may qualify for disability compensation and medical care.

Were you injured during your service? Have you been diagnosed with one of the following conditions?

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2, Ischemic Heart Disease, Prostate Cancer, Lung Cancer, Hodgkin's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Myeloma and Soft Tissue Sarcomas. (Please ask our office for a full list of conditions.)

If so you may have an Agent Orange Presumptive Service Connected Condition.

WHAT does this mean? VA and federal law presumes that certain diseases are a result of exposure to Agent Orange. This "presumptive policy" simplifies the process for receiving compensation for these diseases and can lead to a monthly non-taxable compensation and enrollment in the VA health care system. <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/>

OEF/OIF/OND VETERANS

How do you find the help you need?

New Presumptive Conditions have gone into effect for veterans who served in OEF, OIF, and OND Theaters. Conditions now presumed to be caused by certain exposures include Sinusitis, Rhinitis, Asthma, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Gastrointestinal Disorders, and some Undiagnosed Conditions. For a full list of OEF, OIF, and OND related conditions, visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf> Contact our office to file a claim.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Vet Center - Local Support Group

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to wartime veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. The Vet Center Program was established by congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Contact the Portland Vet Center for a local support referral, (503) 688-5361 or 877-927-8387 for after-hours assistance or general info. www.vetcenter.va.gov

CARE, Inc.

Non-profit social service agency

CARE provides a variety of services including placement into housing with case management, basic needs support, energy assistance, home visitation for families with infants, and senior and disabled assisted living. CARE is also the county agency that helps coordinate services for veterans experiencing homelessness. (503) 842-5261

Faith in Action

Faith in Action offers assistance and support to the frail and elderly and people of all ages who suffer from chronic illness, mental illness or disabilities through in-home volunteer services and through Wellspring, an adult respite day care center. Volunteer services include: Local transportation, in-home respite care, friendly visiting, yard work and minor home repairs. (503) 815-2272

DAV Van Transportation

Transportation to Medical appointments can be scheduled with the DAV Transportation Network. Call 4 business days before appointment 1-800- 949-1004, Extension 57804.

NW RIDES VETERAN APPOINTMENT TRANSPORTATION

NW Rides through the Tillamook Transportation Department is currently offering free transportations for veterans to any VA related medical appointments. The service provides pick up and drop off to the Veterans to and from their doorstep. To schedule a ride, call (888) 793-0439

FEDERAL VA SUPPORT

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

<https://www.va.gov/health/>

Health Care & Disabilities

Health Care, Dental & Non-Combat Conditions Prosthetics and Sensory Aids
Portland VA Medical Center
(503) 220-8262 OR 800-949-1004

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

<https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>

Education

GI Bill & School Search Resources

Employment

Career Resources, Job Search & VA Careers Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

Women Veterans

Veteran Services & Women's Health www.va.gov/womenvet/

Housing

Home Loans & Housing Assistance

Transition to Civilian Life

Locate a Vet Center, Stress & Mental Health Programs and Substance Abuse Programs

Monetary Benefits

Compensation & Pension and Life Insurance

How to request your military service records?

DD 214/Separation Documents, Personnel Records, Replacement Medals, and/or Medical Records.

Order online at: <https://www.archives.gov> or come into our office and we will help you fill out a SF-180 and send a request to National Archives.

DD-214 Copy Only: if you recorded your DD-214 with the County Clerk after separation they can help you. (503-842-3402)

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

The Dalles & Lebanon

Veterans discharged under general or honorable conditions and in need of skilled or intermediate nursing home care and able to pay the resident's portion of the cost of care can call the Admissions Coordinator at The Dalles, (541) 296-7190 ext. 52330 or Lebanon, (541) 570-7477 to check on availability and the application process.

CONTACT US

You can reach our office at (503) 842-4358 & our FAX number is (503) 842-2174. Call to make an appointment with us.

Our Staff

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