

Department of Oregon Award Winning Newsletter, Earle B Stewart American Legion Post 16



PO Box 1124 406 SE Oak Ave Roseburg, Oregon 97470 541-672-4392

May 2016

www.roseburglegionpost16.org/
Post website

**Post Meeting
Begins at NOON
on Saturday
May 14, 2016**

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Tribute Monday
May 30th**



**LEGION BASEBALL
SEASON
COMING SOON**

Post Elections

By Rick Sciapiti



Post Officers are being sworn in by Post Adjutant Larry Hill (L) . L-R Commander Rick Sciapiti, 1st Vice Steve Bergadine, 2nd Vice Mike Harper, Finance Officer Dirk Kruysman, Chaplain Ted Blann, Historian Kirk Conner, and JAG Doug Page.

With the slate of nominated officers names being read by Commander Steve Bergadine, the nominations were open again for the last time. Being no more nominees, and no nominee for Sgt at Arms, he closed the nominations for the final time. With the Service Officer nominee Bud Bessey being absent and no proxy authorization in written form accepting the nomination, a point of order by Historian Kirk Conner said that the name

had to be removed from the slate of nominees. Sighting Roberts Rules of Order, Commander Bergadine corrected the nomination. Elections for the two empty offices will be held at a future monthly meeting.

A motion was made to elect the full slate of nominees minus the Sgt at Arms and Service Officer, a second followed. The vote to accept the nominees was unanimous.

Oregon Woman Veteran of the Year

From ODVA



Dodie Blessing

Dodie Blessing was among three women to be given the 2016 Outstanding Oregon Women Veterans Award. The award recognizes women veterans who exemplify

service as a veteran and as an outstanding member of the Oregon community, highlighting achievements in support of veterans, her commitment to

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ODVA Outstanding Woman Vet Award

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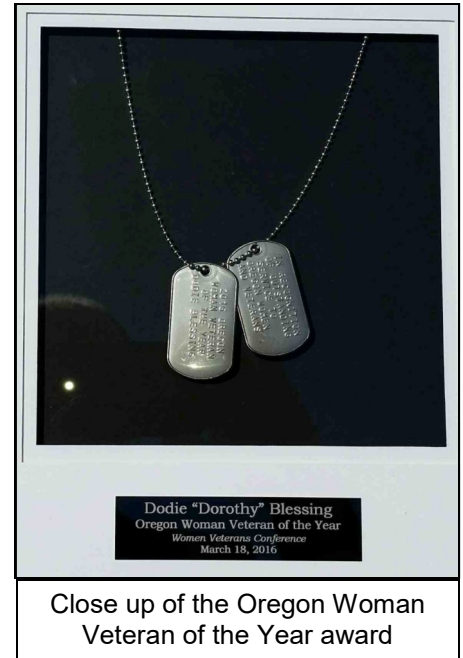
women veterans' issues and as a citizen in service of her hometown, the State of Oregon and the United States of America.

Ensign Dodie Blessing served as a nurse in the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1960-1962. She began working at the Community Cancer Center in Roseburg in 1980 and later worked in nursing at the VA Roseburg Healthcare System. There she began working with women veterans, primarily those who were inpatient, to ensure quality care. That led to her being appointed as the Women Veterans Coordinator for the local VA. Her work advocating for expanded funding and coordinating specialty care, eligibility and transportation, led to greatly expanded services for women veterans at a time when many considered them highly invisible and underserved within the VA system. Blessing is also credited with bringing other women veterans who worked for the VA system into the light where their ongoing service could be recognized.

In 1985 Dodie Blessing founded the American Women Veterans Association and was instrumental in making it part of the fabric of veterans organizations in Douglas County. Her work continued after

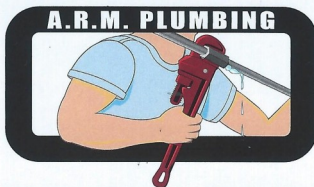
her retirement in 2000. She served on the Veterans Advisory Board for the Roseburg VA Hospital where she worked to expand the awareness of women veterans.

Dodie is a past President of the Douglas County Veterans Forum, and was instrumental in the Campaign to 'Save the Roseburg VA Hospital' in 2008. For years she has served on the Douglas County Veteran Day parade Committee, helping plan and organize "Oregon's Greatest Veterans Day Parade".



Close up of the Oregon Woman Veteran of the Year award

Dodie who recently relocated to Coquille, is a member of Post 16 and married to Dick, a retired US Navy Veteran.



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4 "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, and the other is gold."



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50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War

Local Ceremony attracts 500 Vietnam Era Veterans

On Monday March 28th, Post Commander Rick Sciapiti was the keynote speaker at the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War ceremony.

US Army Specialist 5 Sciapiti served in Vietnam as a Crew Chief and Door gunner on a UH-1 Huey Helicopter with the 114th Assault Helicopter Co. He spoke about the number of people who served in the military during the Vietnam Era in all job classifications, and thanked all who put on the uniform of the United States Military during an extraordinary time in our nation's history.

The commemoration recognized all Veterans who served between NOV 1, 1955 and MAY 15, 1975 regardless of duty station, branch of service, or length of time.

The local ceremony was part of over 9,000 ceremony's taking place around the country.

During the Vietnam War 12,000 US Army Helicopters saw action, with nearly 5,000 Army pilots and crew losses.

The US Navy lost 859 aircraft, with losses of flight personnel around 450. 179 US Navy flyers were taken POW.



50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War Pin.

The US Marines lost 193 Fixed and 270 Rotary winged aircraft. 95 F-4 Phantom's were lost.

The US Air Force lost 1,737 aircraft to hostile action. 382 F-4's, 31 B-52's, 55 C-130's, and 53 C-123's.

There are still 1,666 unaccounted MIA's from the Vietnam War.

Of the 58,220 who died in Vietnam, 48,717 were Enlisted, 6,606 Officers, 1,277 Warrants, and the remaining Army and Marine grunts. 8 Female nurses died in Vietnam.

Oregon State casualties were 708, with Douglas County losing 29 of her sons.

The Gavel is passed



In ceremonial posture, Past Commander Steve Bergadine passes the gavel to newly elected Commander Rick Sciapiti.

Background on MyVA

From Legion.org

Launched on September 2, 2014, MyVA is an initiative which will reorient VA around Veteran needs and empower employees to assist them in delivering excellent customer service to improve the Veteran experience. It is the largest department-wide transformation in VA's history and will be a product of ideas and insights shared by Veterans, employees, members of Congress, VSOs, and other stakeholders.

The first phase of MyVA has included creating the task force and building the team to support the mission and an organizational change of this breadth. MyVA is focused on five areas of improvement:

- 1) Improving the Veteran experience
- 2) Improving the employee experience so they can better serve Veterans
- 3) Improving internal support services
- 4) Establishing a culture of continuous improvement, and
- 5) Enhancing strategic partnerships.

A Regional Map can be seen at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/myva-5-regions-map.pdf>

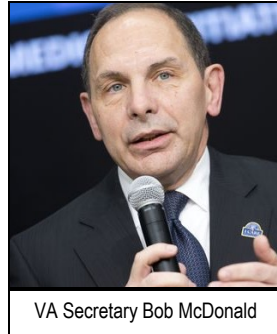
**Memorial Day Tribute
Roseburg National Cemetery
Monday May 30th 1100
Veteran's Picnic @ Stewart Park Noon**

Panel weighs closing all VA Medical Centers

Veteran Organizations raise opposition

Military Times April 1, 2016

A blue-ribbon panel created to evaluate the Veterans Affairs health system is weighing a radical proposal to eliminate all VA medical centers and outpatient facilities in the next 20 years and transition 9 million veterans to the private sector for health care.



VA Secretary Bob McDonald

A 34-page "strawman document" floated last week by seven of 15 members of the VA Commission on Care calls for giving all veterans immediate access to private health services and closing VA health facilities gradually, starting with those that are obsolete or underutilized in a process similar to a base realignment and closure. VA eventually would become "primarily a payer," much like Medicare, under the proposal.

Of the seven commission members whose names appear on the document, three are from the private sector and one is a board member of a veterans advocacy group that has proposed its own plan to expand privatized health care for veterans.

Eight veterans organizations — including the American Legion, sent a letter Thursday to Commission Chairwoman Nancy Schlichting denouncing the document.

"We are greatly alarmed by the proposed strawman document that was developed and drafted outside the open commission process ... without the input or even knowledge of the other commissioners," wrote organization officials. "What is most unsettling about the 'proposed strawman document' is the utter lack of consideration that veterans would want to improve and expand the VA health care system."

Rifle Raffle Fundraiser



This time it's a Henry Big Boy .38/.357 Magnum—Octagon barrel



Tickets are available at the Post Monday's and Friday's from Noon to 3. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Veterans Day Breakfast on November 11th. Need not be present to win.

US Flag Flying Again Over the Post



With construction in progress on the Hwy 138 bypass, Oregon Department of Transportation fulfilled their promise to reset the flagpole on its new base in front of the Post Building.



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Post 16 Officers

Commander



Rick Sciapiti

1st Vice



Steve Bergadine

2nd Vice



Mike Harper

Adjutant



Larry Hill

Finance Officer



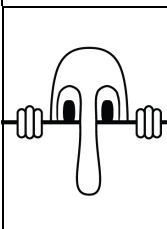
Dirk Kruysman

Chaplain



Ted Blann

Sgt. At Arms Service Officer



Vacant



Bud Bessey

Historian



Kirk Conner

JAG



Doug Page



The Post is pleased to announce that we are sponsoring 4 Boys and 2 Girls to this years Boys and Girls State.

With no Auxiliary in our Post, we still have access to the trust fund that allows Girls to be sponsored by our Post.

The two girls are Sophia Garcia, and McKenzie Vogel. The girls are Juniors from Roseburg High School.

The Junior Boys, Benjamin Swanson and Camron Wright come from RHS, Jacob Maynes from Glide HS, and Ryan Daniels from Douglas High in Winston.

With this year being the biggest sponsorship the Post has seen in years, we want to be sure that all members are aware that we are fulfilling two of the Four Pillars of the American Legion, "Youth and Patriotism".

Both Patriotism, Children and Youth help to strengthen our nation and provide leaders for the future; and provide guidance to our community's youth.



The Samsung Corporation has chosen the American Legion as a way to give back to our nation in the form of youth scholarships to participants of the Boys and Girls State. All the students who complete the event are eligible to apply. Students also qualify for College Credits from the University of Oregon.

The attendees will be scheduled at one of the Monthly Meetings to give us all a short talk on their experiences at Willamette University.

The Samsung Scholarship

After researching dozens of veterans organizations, Samsung Group, a worldwide leader in electronics, chose The American Legion in 1995 to administer an endowed scholarship fund of \$5 million. The endowment was established to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of Korea during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War. The scholarship is for undergraduate study only and may be used for tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Seven to 10 students are chosen each year for the \$20,000 scholarships, which are awarded to direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans.



Join the American Legion as we present our colors and lay a wreath in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice at this years Memorial Day Tribute.

The Tribute begins at 1100 at the Roseburg National Cemetery Annex main flag area.

The Memorial Day Picnic for Veterans and their family members begin following the ceremony at the Stewart Park Pavilion.

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Post Meeting @ Noon Saturday May 14th



May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Loyalty Day	<i>2</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> American Legion Post 62 7:00 PM Reedsport	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Post Open 1-3 DCVF Executive Board Meeting 1200 @ Post 16	<i>7</i> District Meeting & Caucus in Reedsport @ Noon-Senior Center Sea Cadets @ the Post
<i>8</i> Mothers Day VE Day	<i>9</i> Post Open 1-3 American Legion Post 152 3:30pm Oakland City Hall	<i>10</i> AWWA 5PM @ Post HOSTING EVENT WITH WOMEN VETS COORDI- NATOR FROM ODVA	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> FLEET RESERVE 328 6PM @ the Post	<i>13</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>14</i> POST 16 MEETING AND LUNCHEON @ NOON
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>17</i> Douglas County Veterans Forum @ the Post 5PM	<i>18</i> Quarterly Remembrance @ Nat Cemetery 1300	<i>19</i> MOPH 4PM @ the Post Legion Post 123 6 PM Vets Hall Tri-City RHS LIVING HISTORY	<i>20</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>21</i> Armed Forces Day Sea Cadets @ the Post
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Post Open 1-3	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	 <i>30</i> Memorial Day 1100 Tribute @ Na- tional Cemetery, BBQ @ Noon, Stewart Park	<i>31</i>				