

# 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

**March 2016**

[www.roseburglegionpost16.org/](http://www.roseburglegionpost16.org/)  
Post website

**Post meeting  
Begins at NOON  
on Saturday  
March 12, 2016  
Special Event  
Planned for the  
meeting, please  
attend if  
possible.**

## Inside This Edition

Page 2

**Construction on  
Oak Ave**

Page 3

**New VA ID Card  
VA Town Hall &  
Parade meeting**

Page 4

**Rifle Raffle @  
Sportsman Show  
& Cow Creek gives  
Grant to Veteran  
Pipers**

Page 5

**Hwy 101 named for  
Veterans  
& Boys State**

# Four Chaplains

## Post 16 hosts the annual event

*By Rick Sciapiti*

Jim Little stood before the packed Post meeting room and welcomed everyone to the Four Chaplains Memorial Service.

After an opening prayer by Post Chaplain Ted Blann, Jim read the history of that fateful day when the USAT Dorchester was sunk by a German U-Boat off the coast of Greenland.

With over 80 people in attendance, the Chaplains came up one by one reading the biography's of the Four Chaplains. The Four Chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling, and John P. Washington. Each "Chaplain" lit a candle in honor of the courage and sacrifice of these four men.



Pictured at the event representing the Four Chaplains, (L-R) CPT. Chance Chastain, Past Dept. 1st Vice Commander Larry Hill, VA Chaplain Dwayne L. Brown, and Post 16 Historian Kirk Conner.

*Over to page 2*

## Sutherlin Schools Welcome Veterans



On Thursday February 18th, Sutherlin High and Middle Schools welcomed about 30 veterans for their version of "Living History Day". Veterans were treated to a school assembly where they were presented with a metal plaque that said Thank You Veteran. Following the assembly Veterans spent the rest of the time sitting down with students sharing their military experiences. Students rotated in groups of 4 or 5, as different classes came and engaged the veterans with questions related to the subjects some were studying in US and World history classes.



Post Finance Officer Dirk Kruysman speaks to the students as Jim Barnett, 1st Vice Rick Sciapiti and Historian Kirk Conner look on.

## Chaplains Service



Jim Little

Following the lighting of the candles, the traditional 8 bells was rung by American Women Veterans Association member Dodie Blessing. Amazing grace was played by Bag piper Heidi Wood, and Taps played by Post Bugler Dave Davis.



Dodie Blessing

The Service concluded with the benediction given by VFW Post 2468 Chaplain Bill Johnson.

## Special Post Meeting Event Planned

On Saturday March 12th, a special recognition event is planned during the meeting.

Commander Steve Bergadine is asking that all who are able to please try and make this special event.

Reminder ..... Lunch is served following the meeting.

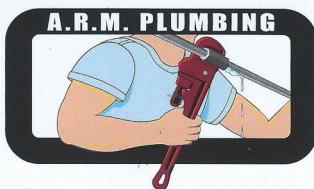
## Construction Hampers Legion Access

Oak Avenue Construction Update



Construction workers on the Hwy 138 project making up the concrete forms for the Post's driveway along Oak Ave.

The Oregon Department of Transportation highway 138 bypass project through Roseburg is hampering access to the Post. While access is available through the City Park driveway, the Post's driveway will be closed until the new side-walks are poured and the street repaved. The Flag pole was taken down and will be moved two feet closer to the building, out of the easement. ODOT is incorporating a new driveway with all the new curbing, and a new asphalt transition area of the parking lot adjacent to the driveway. With one lane of traffic, slow down before turning into the driveway.



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8

DANIEL E. DILLMAN Across the street from the Post

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



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12



# New Veteran ID Card Delayed Until 2017

Page 3

## Proposal to Replace DD-214 With New Card

Article from Military Times and American Legion National

After the Military Times reported last week that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was delaying the launch of the Veterans ID card program, a Florida congressman wants answers.



Current VA ID Card

Back in July, President Barack Obama signed U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan's, R-Fla., "Veterans ID Card Act" into law. Buchanan's proposal looked to ensure all veterans receive ID cards from the VA instead of just those vets who served 20 years in the armed forces or are seeking medical treatment for service-related wounds.

After reports emerged that the VA would not launch the cards until 2017, Buchanan wrote U.S. VA Sec. Robert McDonald, insisting the cards will help crack down on identity theft and offer more convenience for veterans. "The VA needs to pick up the pace and move faster on issuing identification cards to any veteran who wants one," Buchanan said on Thursday. "Another year is too long of a wait as millions of veterans remain vulnerable to identity theft."

Military Times reported last week that the VA was nowhere near ready to unveil the cards.

Veterans Affairs officials said it will likely still be months before anyone gets the new cards," Military Times reported. "The rule-making process is expected to take at least another year, with production and issuing times still to be decided."

"This is a lengthy process that requires time for a public comment period as well as approval from the Office of Management and Budget," the VA told Military Times. "VA currently estimates the program will be implemented

in 2017."

In pushing his bill in the first half of 2015, Buchanan noted veterans are forced to carry DD-214 paperwork, which contains sensitive information including Social Security numbers. He insisted an ID card would be more convenient and do a better job of keeping their personal information secure.

The House passed Buchanan's bill back in June with 402 representatives backing it and no votes cast against it. In the Senate, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., offered an amendment to the bill ensuring all veterans would be eligible for the ID card. The Senate passed the amended bill without opposition, sending it back to the House, which passed it again, this time on a 411-0 vote.

During his efforts to pass the legislation, Buchanan insisted his bill was budget-neutral because veterans who opt for the ID card would pay a small fee, which the VA secretary would examine every five years.

"Every veteran -- past, present, and future -- will now be able to prove their military service without the added risk of identity theft," Buchanan said in July after Obama signed his bill into law. "It's the least we can do for the brave men and women in uniform who put it all on the line for us."

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., is chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., the ranking Democrat on the committee, both backed the bill. Other congressional representatives from around the country backed the Bill.

The American Legion suggested better income verification processes similar to what VA has moved toward in the pension program since there's not an automated system with the TDIU benefit, which can lead to delays in benefits for veterans in need.

## VA Town Hall

Roseburg VA Healthcare System announces that there will be a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday March 8th.

The Town Hall will be held from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the VA Auditorium located in Building 16 on the Campus.

## Veterans Day Parade Committee Meetings Begin

The Veterans Day Parade Committee meetings will resume on Wednesday March 2 @ 3PM in the meeting room of the County veterans Service Office.

All those interested in helping out with the 2016 Veterans Day Parade planning and organizing are encouraged to attend the meeting. No experience necessary.

# Cow Creek Tribe Awards Grant

Robert Van Norman from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, Vietnam Veteran and Post member is pictured awarding John Pierson founder of

"Military Honor's by the Pipes" a grant to help with the expenses of their volunteer organization. Military Honors by the Pipes provide bagpipers for all three Oregon National Cemeteries,

Willamette, Roseburg, and Eagle Point. The presentation took place at the Quarterly Remembrance service that was held at Roseburg National Cemetery Feb 17.



(Ctr) Robert Van Norman presenting John Pierson (L) a grant for "Military Honor's by the Pipes". Honor Guard member and our Post Finance Officer Dirk Kruysman (R) looks on.

# Banner Finishes off Display



The Military Combat uniform display that depicts the Revolutionary War uniform thru the current conflicts, was finished off with a banner that reads, "Together We Stand For God and Country Past and Present".

# Rifle Raffle Fundraiser

Ticket Sales Begin at the Sportsman Show



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



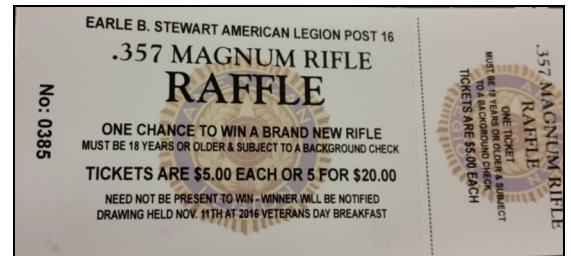
4 of the many volunteers L-R Bud Bessey, Mike Harper, Dirk Kruysman and Commander Steve Bergadine

Tickets will be sold through the summer with the winning ticket drawn on Veterans Day at our Annual Breakfast.

Ticket sales began at the Sportsman Show over the weekend of February 19-

21. The price remains the same at \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets are available Mondays and Friday during our regular hours and at the monthly Post meeting.

The owner of the lucky ticket must be able to pass a background check under current Oregon Law. The transfer will take place at a Federal Firearms Licensed dealer.



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# Post 16 Officers

Commander

1st Vice



Steve Bergadine



Rick Sciapiti

2nd Vice

Adjutant



Doug Page



Dale Nelson

Finance Officer

Chaplain



Dirk Kruysman



Ted Blann

Sgt. At Arms Service Officer



Mike Harper



Bud Bessey

Historian

JAG



Kirk Conner



Mike Hampton

## Nominations for 2016-2017 Officers Announced

Officer nominations were announced on the floor at this month's meeting by the nomination committee. Commander Bergadine read the following:

For Commander: Rick Sciapiti

1st Vice-Commander Steve Bergadine.

2nd Vice-Commander: Mike Harper

Adjutant : Larry Hill

Finance Officer: Dirk Kruysman

Chaplain: Ted Blann

Sgt at Arms: Terry Pilson

Service Officer: Bud Bessey

Historian: Kirk Conner

JAG: Mike Hampton

This is the first reading of nominations. Legionnaires' who qualify and are in good standing with their membership are eligible.

Contact the Post if you are interested in a Post position and talk to the nominating committee.



Scholarship money is available for Boys and Girls State. Get the information out to all High School Juniors you know. The event is at Willamette University June 12-18th.

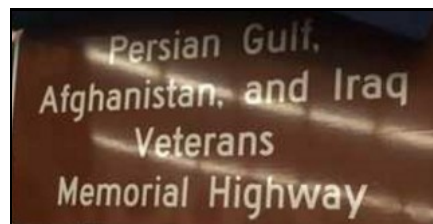
## Highway 101 Named Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway

*From the Capitol News January 9, 2016*

HB 2036 which designated U.S. Highway 395, which stretches from Lakeview north through Pendleton, as the World War I Veterans Memorial Highway, also named the coastal U.S. Highway 101 the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway.

Plans for a ceremony on the coast to unveil the signs that will be located on the stretch of Hwy 101 that pass through Douglas County is in the planning stage.

As soon as the information becomes available, the Post will get it out to all members.



Pictured is the Flag Pole base that was removed by ODOT for the new sidewalk. The base will be re-cemented closer to the building soon, and Old Glory will be flying again.

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## Post Meeting @ Noon Saturday March 12th



# March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Veterans Day Parade Meeting 3PM DC Courthouse VSO	3	4 Post Open 1-3 pm	5
6	7 Post Open 1-3 pm	8 VA Town Hall 5PM Auditorium	9	10	11 Post Open 1-3 pm	12 Post meeting NOON
13	14 Post Open 1-3 pm	15 DCVF Meeting 5pm @ the Post	16	17 	18 Post Open 1-3 pm	19 
20 1st Day of Spring Palm Sunday	21 Post Open 1-3 pm	22 "Buddy Check 22"	23	24	25 Good Friday Post Open 1-3 pm	26
27  Easter Sunday	28 Post Open 1-3 pm	29	30	31		