

# 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

**February 2016**

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

**Four Chaplains  
Saturday  
February 13th  
Meet-&-Greet 11:30  
Ceremony begins at  
Noon**

**Post Meeting  
will follow the  
Four Chaplains  
Ceremony**

\*

**Part of  
February's  
meeting will be  
a short  
Oratorical  
competitor from  
another Post**

\*

**Luncheon to  
follow**

**Roseburg National  
Cemetery Quarterly  
Remembrance Service  
Wednesday February 17  
@ 1:00 PM (1300)**



## Eugene VA Healthcare Clinic

**Opened January 25th after 8 years of delays**



Eugene VA Healthcare Center– 3355 Chad Drive

*By Rick Sciapiti*

Ribbon cutting for the long awaited Eugene VA Healthcare Center took place on Saturday January 16th.

The by invitation event was attended by Veteran leaders, VA staff and politicians. The speakers included US Senator Ron Wyden, and Congressman Peter DeFazio. Oregon's 4th District Congressman Peter DeFazio was praised by Mr. Terry Moreland the chief architect of the project and keynote speaker at the event. Mr. Moreland sited the many times Congressman DeFazio had to intervene over many years, and never gave up. Peter DeFazio got a standing ovation for his work to secure the new Center for Veterans.

During Senator Wyden's speech, the senior Senator from Oregon cited that Veterans will no longer have to travel up or down Interstate

5 for their healthcare. He was referring to Veterans in Lane and other counties in the VA Roseburg catchment area who drive to Roseburg for their VA healthcare.

With Veterans in counties north using the new 126,000 square foot center, VA Roseburg Healthcare System Director Doug Paxton told an audience at the last Town Hall that VA Roseburg will see a 40% reduction in patients. This potentially will be a win for those who use VA Roseburg for their healthcare.

*Over to page 2*

## Four Chaplains

**Mark your calendars for Saturday  
February 13th for the Four Chaplains  
Service @ the Post. Meet & Greet begins  
at 11:30 AM with the Service beginning at  
noon. Post meeting to follow.**

# Eugene Center Opening

With 45,000 veterans in Lane, Linn and Benton counties no longer having to travel to Roseburg or even Portland, those of us in Douglas County who use VA Roseburg should start seeing a reduction in wait times for appointments as the transition of patients from Roseburg to Eugene takes place. It is unknown at this time if patients in Roseburg will utilize specialties at the New Eugene Center.



Rep Peter DeFazio

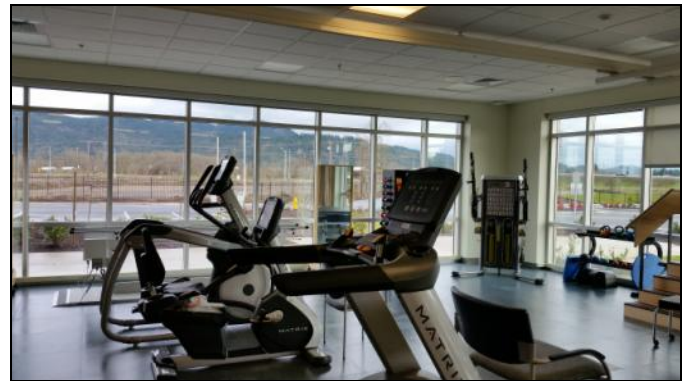
Before the ribbon cutting event I was given a tour of the state-of-the-art Healthcare center by VA Roseburg's Public Information Director Shawn Clark. What I saw was an impressive array of specialties that included vision, hearing, dental, mental health, Women's health, gastroenterology, orthopedic, rehabilitation, along with Primary Care. The outpatient surgery pre and post-op area, with all the bells and whistles, surgery rooms, sterilization, and physicians private locker area was indeed a sight to see.

The Center also has C&P exam rooms, and an area

with two large conference rooms. Shawn Clark told me that those rooms can be used for the Lane County Town Halls, or other events.

One thing that struck me was that the Physical Therapy unit at the new Center is located on the ground floor corner of the building with glass windows letting in lots of light. It is a lot different from the dark, no windows PT unit in Roseburg.

If some of us end up having to travel to the new Center for specialty care, it will sure beat having to drive to the Portland VA Medical Center.



The Physical Therapy Unit at the New Eugene VA Healthcare Center

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

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USN-USMC-USCG

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## A bit of American Legion History

The next time you visit the Post, take a look at the new addition hanging on the wall.

The family of George Wilbur walked into the Post two months ago and asked some of the officers that



Shadow box which hangs on the wall at the Post

were standing around if the Post would be interested in some of their grandfathers American Legion memorabilia. The answer was yes, and we thanked the Wilbur family for keeping these pieces of early American Legion History alive.

Following the inspection of the things by Post Historian Kirk Conner, it was determined that these are some of the earliest American Legion Convention pins produced. One of the American Legion Delegate ribbons is dated September 17-18 1919, comes after the American Legion got its Congressional Charter on March 16, 1919. This ribbon is from Department of Oregon's first Convention.

The Post wants to thank Dale Nelson for donating the Oak Shadow box, and Ann and Jim Barnett for mounting the ribbons and pins; and placing them in the shadow box display. Special thanks to the family of George Wilbur.



Delegate ribbon from 1st Dept Convention-1919

**VA Roseburg**

**Prevention & Wellness Programs**

Schedule for programs & classes available on campus and in the community.

For more information:

Kayla Allen, Medical Support Assistant, Scheduler	541-440-1000 Ext. 45755
Fletcher Watson, Registered Nurse, Health Promotion Program Manager	541-440-1000 Ext. 45307
Jason Wilcox, Social Worker, Health Behavior Coordinator	541-440-1000 Ext. 40341
Jessica Kovarik, Registered Dietitian, MOVE! Coordinator	541-440-1000 Ext. 40346

### Prevention and Wellness Programs

VA Employee and Air Force Veteran Cindy Houston passed out a comprehensive list of all the scheduled programs and classes that are available at the VA, on Campus and off Campus at the last Douglas County Veterans Forum Meeting.

There is the MOVE program, the PACE Challenge, Fit-Vet exercise, The Fitness Center weight management, Swim Only, and Yoga at the YMCA and VARHS.

If you are an eligible Veteran that is registered at VA Roseburg, then you probably qualify for the classes.

For information Contact the personnel listed on the flyer, or call the VA switchboard at 541-440-1000 and ask to speak with the Move coordinator Jessica Kovarik at EX-40346

# Oregon Boys State

## Willamette University June 12-18

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. Each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935.

At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

High school juniors are selected by local American Legion Posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.



This years Boys Sate will once again be sponsored by Willamette University June 12-18th 2016.

Post 16 is prepared to offer scholarships to High School Junior Boys residing in our area.

We have been told that we can offer scholarships to High School Junior Girls too.



# Korean War Veterans Honored

## Purple Heart Trail Completed



**Oregon Military Order of the Purple Heart and Korean War Veterans pose under Interstate 5 and I -205 near Tualatin, Oregon prior to ODOT installing the new highway signs.**

The dual signs Honoring Korean War Veterans and Purple Heart recipients are seen in the attached photo that was dedicated January 12, 2016 by the Purple Heart Organization at the Juanita Pohl Center in Tualatin, Oregon to honor the memories and the sacrifices of the men and women that served our country during the Korean War.

The signs were in place at the intersections of Interstate 5 and Hwy 205 South bound on January 13, 2016, by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) There is also a sign placed on I-5 outside the City of Medford designating the Purple Heart Trail. These signs will now complete the I-5 corridor that runs from the border of Canada to the border of Mexico. The Interstate 5 posting is the only International Purple Heart Trail anywhere.

There are 3 Oregon Korean War Memorials, one at the Willamette National Cemetery, on the Capitol grounds in Salem, and in the Town Center Park in Wilsonville.



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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

## Dues Increase in effect

American Legion Dues have increased to \$40.00 for an annual membership.

For Membership information, or to renew your membership go to the National website:

[American Legion](#)  
If you are seeing this online  
Click on the American Legion  
Hyperlink

## Nominations coming soon

It won't be long and Officer nominations for 2016-17 will take place.

The nomination committee is out there looking for some members in good standing to step into leadership at the Post.

Nominations began at the January 2016 meeting, with the appointment of a nomination committee. Nominations will remain open until election day when they are closed prior to the vote.

## Military Humor



Military strategists during the Vietnam War designed a fuel saving concept for Air Force B-52's. Using the lift capability of a UH-1 Helicopter. The fuel saving was significant.

## Pantry



In last months Newsletter we reported that our Food Panty was full and that we have food boxes available for Veterans.

The Officers at the Post are scratching our heads because there has been no-response from Veterans and their families.

The Post has put out the word at the Douglas County Veteran Forum, the Vet-Net meeting and have let UCAN and the VA know we have food available on Mondays and Fridays.

Unless there is interest in food, the food will have to be donated to the UCAN food bank or similar agency before the food reaches its shelf life limit.

Last year we had a large donation of food from one individual, and when we looked at the expiration dates on the food, it was discovered that the food was past its shelf life. We had no choice but to toss the food in the garbage.

We don't want the food that volunteers solicited from patrons at Sherm's Market to go to waste and reach their expiration.

Pass on the information that we have food boxes.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 16  
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**Post Meeting NOON Saturday February 13th**



# February 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Post Open 1-3 pm	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5 Post Open 1-3 pm	6
7	8 Post Open 1-3 pm	9  <b>National Salute</b>	10  <b>to Hospitalized</b>	11  <b>Veterans week</b>	12 Post Open 1-3 pm <b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>	13 <b>Four Chaplains 11:30 Followed by the Post meeting</b>
14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15  <b>President's Day</b>	16	17 <b>National Cemetery Remembrance 1300</b> <small>(moved up one day)</small>	18 Sutherlin Middle School Veterans visitation 0930am- 2:20pm (RSVP Req)	19 Post Open 1-3 pm <b>IWO Jima -1945</b>	20
21	22 Post Open 1-3 pm <b>Washington's BD</b>	23 <b>1991 -Desert Storm Ground War Begins</b>	24	25	26 Post Open 1-3 pm	27
28	29 Post Open 1-3 pm					