“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another”

Meetings: Meetings of Chapter #757 are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, lower level, at 1800 hrs. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the lower level, at 1800 hrs. as well.

Sam Sez: I am so proud of our Chapter and what we have accomplished to date. We have a good reputation here in our County, and I feel that is very important. Thanks to all of you for making this happen. Keep up the good work!
My saying for this newsletter: “To succeed you need to find something to hold onto, something to motivate you, something to inspire you”. Tony Dorsett

What we’ve done since last issue:
Feb. 18th: Terry Clawson and her crew of volunteers put on another breakfast at the Elks Lodge, to help pay the postage for her Letters to the Troops program. The occasion was very well attended, we hope she’s made enough money to buy the stamps. Our thanks to Terry and her crew.

Membership:
Bill Farrell reports 82 VVA (43 life), 30 AVVA (11 life)

Sick Call:
Former member, Martin Shepherd is out of the hospital and on the mend. Gary Hartung is now out of the hospital and home resting. He’s going to need some time, but sounds good. We wish him well.

In Remembrance:
It is with deep regret I have to announce the passing of AVVA member and former Curry County Veterans Service Officer, Frank Van Meter. On February 19, 2012 Frank took his own life, in Gold Beach. Frank was buried in Gold Beach on February 27th, on a surprisingly nice day for Gold Beach. Later, at the Elks Lodge, a Celebration of Life service was held. There was a large turn out. Our VVA Color guard presented Frank’s daughter, Laura, our Memorial Certificate and the MCL, Calvin E. Murphy Detachment #578 performed a rifle salute. The entire service was in excellent taste. Frank, you will be missed.
Who we’ve donated to since last issue:
$100.00 to “Toys for Tots” (in Dec.)

We are in a time of rebuilding. Unlike the Govt, we can’t give out money if we don’t have any.

Keeping Current around town:
Our new VSO, Kimberly O’Neal will be at the Elks Lodge on Wednesdays all day, and by appointment only on Mondays. You can call her at (541) 247-4579 (in Gold Beach), or email her at veterans@co.curry.or.us to make an appointment.

Sam Vitale, Rick Mahanay, Sally Laasch, Dave Swindell and Ken Vogt representing Brookings at Curry County Veterans Association are making progress with the memorial. Architectural drawings are complete, fund raising is underway, (still), and memorial bricks are for sale for those who wish to purchase a memorial to veteran friends or loved ones who have/or is serving their country, (living or deceased) . Email Rick Mahanay for the forms. (See Soapbox for more).

New Fund Raising Campaign: Starting today, every time you go to Ray’s Food Place to buy groceries save your receipt and put it in a bag to bring to our meetings. This is something new so we can build up some money for CCVMA. Each time we save enough old receipts,(about $2,000) worth, we can turn them in to Ray’s and they will cut us a check for about 1%. Note; each store runs it’s own fund raiser. So only put receipts from one store in each bag. Not a bad way to raise some money. **So start saving your old receipts from Ray’s.** Every penny counts.

Judi Anderson wanted everyone to know about a TV documentary “HONOR in the Valley of Tears” a DVD that is about the 4th Infantry Div. 8th Infantry, 1st Battalion, in Polei Doc (Vietnam), available by searching the Documentary Channel on line. No info about price, but you may want to look it up.

Coming Up:
Mar. 29th: Sam will be giving notice of the official Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Day in front of Brookings City Hall, at 1800 hrs, 6:00 p.m. (inside if it’s raining). All VVA and AVVA members should attend.

Mar. 29th: Judi Anderson will be posting the flags over the Chetco Bridge in Honor of the Official Day of “Welcome Home to Vietnam Veterans”. It’s only 47 years late. (Some people started coming home from Vietnam in 1965)

Apr. 29th: The Knights of Columbus and Star of the Sea Church, will be putting on a breakfast, (pancakes, hash browns, eggs, biscuits and gravy, and sausage with juice and coffee), to benefit CCVMA from 0730 hrs to 1000 hrs (7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.). Cost is a mere $7.00 per person. If I can get up early, so can you. **You can also purchase your memorial brick while you’re there.**

May 5th: Golf Tournament and Car Show at Salmon Run Golf Course on Saturday
This will be sponsored by Curry County Veterans Memorial, (CCVMA), not VVA. (Pebble Beach watch out), Even I can come out and watch the athletes involved in such a violent sport, and buy a
sandwich. **Sam** announced that he has signed a contract for the tournament for **May 5th**. We could use everyone’s support. A $65.00 entry fee ($45.00 if you are a **Salmon Run Member**), includes: Green Fees, Cart and Lunch. Tickets for raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing will be available. Golf starts at 0900 hrs. and car show begins at 1200 hrs. (noon) Don’t forget, **May 5th**.

**May 26th**: Keep in mind. . . We will be needing volunteers for the Memorial Day booth after the Azalea parade in May. You can sign up at the meetings, or call **Sam** or **Rita** to sign-up

**July 7th**: Chapter #757 and Happy Days Malt Shop are again celebrating the Fourth of July with another “Show and Shine” car show at the Port of Gold Beach. Notices are being sent out to car clubs all along the west coast, we hope to at least double the amount of cars, to 110 this year. **Ron & Vicky Thompson** of Curry County Cruisers will again be helping us. This year, trophies will be awarded for “Best of show”, “Peoples Choice”, “Best Motorcycle”, “Best Truck”, “Best Classic Car” (pre-1972) and “Best Antique”, (other than **Mike Darling** of course, but that’s another story). Full meals will be offered at the Happy Days Malt Shop, not just hamburgers. Vendor fees will pay for the entertainment. We will be having a raffle to help with our fund raising. **Richard Avila** is again donating a set of tools for the drawing winners.

**Correction and update:**

The car show, to be at Gold Beach Harbor on the **7th of July** is to be co-sponsored by the **Happy Days Malt Shop** not the Happy Days Café, as reported earlier. (Oops).

We will also need about five volunteers for the Car Show in Gold Beach on July 7th. (**Hint to Mike Darling**), with or without his Jeep. For the live entertainment, **Jerry Naylor** of the post Buddy Holly Crickets has apparently had some medical emergency and will not be able to attend the car Show on July 7th. More as we get closer. . . . . . .

**Thoughts of the Day:**

Vacuum Cleaners suck.

A bad day is still better than no day.

Two wrongs never make a right, but three rights make a left.

What if there were no such thing as a hypothetical question?

Talking to yourself doesn’t always get the smartest responses.

**Soapbox:**

I know, someone is always trying to get in your pocket, **but**, Chapter #757 has been involved with **Curry County Veterans Memorial Association** since it’s inception, in 2009. (CCVMA) is back on the front burners and starting to cook. Now is the time we need individual participation from all of you. We will of course accept donations any time, but here is a way to honor friend(s) or loved one(s) forever. (They need not have died during a conflict), only that they were, or are serving now. CCVMA is now selling memorial tiles, that will be attached to the front wall of the memorial in Gold Beach. Each tile will contain up to 3 lines and up to 20 characters and spaces in each line. These tiles will outlast any of us. They will be seen by thousands of people. Let the visitors to the memorial know that someone put their own life on the line, for all of us. Write or email **Rick Mahanay** for
a tile application. Remember, it’s one hundred dollars, but it will last forever.

Food:
Whenever we suggest that you bring food to an event, (meetings, picnics, dinners or whatever), please use the following as a guide for what to bring. (This may change from month to month, depending whatever mood Rita is in).

- A Dessert if your last name begins with “A” thru “H”
- An Appetizer if your last name begins with “I” thru “P”
- A Side Dish if your last name begins with “Q thru “Z”

**NOTE:**
Be sure to keep your email addresses up to date. Call Rita, and tell her if you’ve changed your mailing or email address. This is very important if you want to keep getting this valuable newspaper. (And it keeps the Chapter roster up to date). The cost of printing, mailing, envelopes, and labels is going up. Emails, if current, work much better.
Should you find any glaring mistakes, or if someone’s name is horribly mangled, or if something important was overlooked, please write or email your thoughts and we may attempt to correct them by next issue, or, we just may say. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . “Too Bad”. ###

**Rick Mahanay**, Editor/Publisher of “News from the Front” 19026 Pacific Crest Dr. Brookings, OR 87415 or rickmahanay@charter.net