

August 2024

Vietnam Veteran



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 392 • Portland, Oregon

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."



Scholarships

63rd Annual Rose Cup Races



Audrey Nunn Tigard HS



Oregon City JROTC Cadets

This year we awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to local high schools. The scholarships were for JROTC cadets and children of veterans. There was no GPA requirement and good was good for college and trade school education. Adding to our donations. Many local auto dealerships donated to the scholarships amounting to over\$5,000.

Each student applicant submitted a resume about themselves. They told us about veteran in their lives, and how they have affected them. Also information about how they have contributed to their community. Their future goals in education and life.

Many wonderful stories from our future leaders. We selected the most deserving applicants.



Rose Cup winner & family

This years 63rd annual Rose Cup Races was a spectacular weekend of racing, with some very special guests. FOPIR that sponsored the race invited veterans to attend free of charge thru VETPIX, with over 900 vets attending the 2 day event.

Also a small number of handicapped vets and their caregivers were given the VIP treatment. Special parking, elevated and covered viewing area, and lunches were provided.

A special couple from Fort Kennedy came, Hector & Kelly Morales. Hector a Navy veteran. I took Hector & Kelly around the paddock and introduced them to many of my friends, including the Rose Cup Race winner Ken Sutherland and his family.

During our tour of the paddock a friend of mine Mark asked if Hector's wife Kelly would like to sit in his winning stock car. Of course she would. Kelly with thrilled sitting in a race car, then Mark started the engine. With the roar of the engine Kelly revved the motor up, and with shrieks of joy.

We had a number of handicapped vets watch the races with us, and their excitement was a joy to me. More of this will be in the future of PIR.



Leadership Conference

This year's leadership conference will be in Reno. I guess that is a fun place, never having spent any time there, other than the airport. On reviewing the agenda for the conference I got excited as the focus is on aging veterans and their family.

This year Greg Dunlap and myself will attend the conference. The two of us will attend separate seminars, gathering more information to bring back.

Health care in the aging veteran. Learn about the different services that the VA makes available. The information is to empower the Veteran and caregiver that the future does not have to be uncertain if you are proactive in your decisions.

Veterans and Aging: What you need to know about Elder Law:

As we age, we need to know what we can do to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our assets. Will learn about power of attorney (for health care and asset management); different trusts and their benefits and cost, what benefits the VA has available to support you and your family.

Spouse & Spousal Benefits

As veterans age, spouses and families need to be aware of the benefits due them now and after the veteran passes.

Veterans Health Administration Caregiver Support Program

Presentation will be an overall review which includes the general caregiver support services that are available to enrolled veterans.

These particular seminars have importance to all of us due to our ages, and health concerns. The information will allow our families to be better prepared when we pass.

As a thought, the information we can present to other veterans may be important to them as well.

Donations

As in the past we have made donations to numerous charities, and projects. With our estate inheritance we did more this year.

Fort Kennedy has long been our partner here at the center, and does an incredible job of assisting veterans needs. Not just in the day center, lunches, laundry, and more. Help with housing issues, and with a VSO, attorney help. Holiday support for the whole families.

Tina has built an organization that truly supports veterans and their families needs. No government support or other financial backing, only donations and fund raisers. So money is tight each year.

With our estate inheritance we were able to support Fort Kennedy (Tina) with a donation of \$100,000.00. This donation will fund Fort Kennedy for a full year.

The memorial for Vietnam Veterans in Salem has been a project looking for funding for the last several years. In the past VA392 has made several donations to this memorial project.

With our estate donation we had the funds to provide considerable support. Our donation of \$100,000.00 to the Vietnam Memorial will help complete funding for phase 1.

The memorial will be on the capital grounds. A memorial to all those Oregon veterans that lost their lives will be honored there.

Legacy

Vietnam veterans are not young men anymore. We are all in our 70's and 80's, wondering what sort of legacy we will leave behind us.

We want those that follow us to have a less hard road to follow. Be it coming home with honor, to receiving benefits that were earned.

We have in fact helped with the PACT Act. This provides for benefits for not just us, but those that followed us. This one legacy shows how we fought for our rights but those that followed as well.

Chapter 392 has been awarding scholarships to veterans descendants for several years now. These scholarships will be a legacy we pass down for many years.

Portland area sculpture Libby Carruth, has been commissioned to do a statue that represents the Vietnam Veteran. VA392 will donate \$85,000.00 to this art work. This will be noted on a plaque at the statue of the major donation.

VVA392 will long be remembered as Vietnam veterans, and what we stood for. All those that pass thru the sculpture will have a remembrance of us, and our home coming.

The opposite page shows the 2 sides of the statue. Walking towards the statue you see the backside of the veteran with his duffle bag coming home. After entering the monument you see the front of the soldier, with our flag in the back ground.

