



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

## STEVENS-CHUTE POST #4 and AUXILIARY

### BEND, OREGON



**COMBINED MEETING**  
**Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2024**  
**6 p.m.**



**MEETING LOCATION**  
**VFW POST 1643**  
**1503 NE 4th Street, Bend**

OUR IN-PERSON MEETING PROCEDURE: Before the meeting, social time and potluck dinner starts at 6 pm, and Post and Auxiliary meetings follow about 6:30 pm. We enjoy the company of veterans and hope you'll join us. It doesn't matter where you served in the military, only that you served honorably. Families are always welcome. BYOB if you want something to drink other than water or soda. A small donation is encouraged to help defray costs of entree and supplies. Thanks!



### EASTER GREETINGS

To our American Legion Family and Friends

With wishes for happiness to you all on this joyous day

### BELOVED AND HONORED PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR DIES

102-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor Dick Higgins, US Navy, passed away early Tuesday, March 19.

A memorial service is planned for March 28 at 11 a.m. at Eastmont Church in Bend, to be followed by a funeral with full military honors at Deschutes Memorial Gardens at 1 p.m. The public is invited to both.

Higgins' family asks that attendees wear Hawaiian attire in celebration of his life.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Bend Band of Brothers.



### VA BENEFITS BANKING CHANGE

By April 20, 2024, you must have a single bank account for all VA benefit payments.

Check your direct deposit information in your VA.gov profile. If you currently have more than one bank account listed for disability compensation, pension, and education benefit payments, you'll need to update your information. You must have the same account listed for all benefits.

We're making this change to help protect you from fraud and to make sure we can pay you on time, every time, without error. Change at [va.gov/change-direct-deposit/](https://va.gov/change-direct-deposit/)

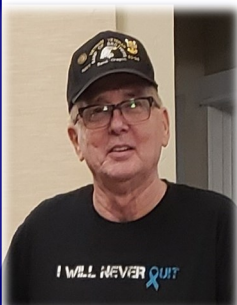
### NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY CELEBRATED MARCH 25

National Medal of Honor Day will be celebrated next Monday, March 25. It was established by Congress to "foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients." March 25th was chosen because it was on that date in 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews' Raiders. President Lincoln signed Medal of Honor legislation in 1861 and 1862. Presidents issue proclamations on that special day.

According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society there are only 63 Medal of Honor recipients living in our nation today.



They represent less than 2% of all 3,517 recipients awarded our nation's highest award for valor since the Civil War when the award was created. The last recipient living in Oregon was the late Robert D. "Bob" Maxwell of Bend.



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Everyone. Thanks to all for a fun meeting last month and a special thanks to Vivian for a delicious St. Patrick's day dinner.

We are also sorry to hear of the loss of a good friend

Dick Higgins, a Pearl Harbor Survivor.

This meeting we will bring some ideas for things we would like to accomplish this year. Look forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting. *Commander JW Terry*

## DICK TOBIASON RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR HIS SERVICE

By unanimous votes, the Oregon House and Senate have passed resolutions honoring Post 4 member Dick Tobiason for his lifetime of service to the Country and our Veterans.

Tobiason will also be inducted into the Oregon Military Hall of Fame April 28 2:30 p.m. at Camp Wythecomb, Clackamas, OR. Per the Inductees letter:

"LT. COL.(R) ALLAN R. "DICK" TOBIASON, U.S. Army Vietnam, Master Army Aviator with 20 years' service including 2 tours in Vietnam, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, 15 Air Medals with V for Valor device, and Purple Heart.

One of his proudest assignments was helping repatriate 27 American POWs in South Vietnam during "Operation Homecoming" in 1973 during his second tour.

Personally responsible for getting all 9 border to border highways across Oregon



named to honor nearly one half million Oregon wartime veterans and 6,000 Gold Star Families and Medal of Honor Highway Across America on the 3,365 mile US Hwy 20 between Newport, OR and Boston, MA, and many more impressive accomplishments."

All are invited to attend. Ceremony and dinner \$50 per person. For more information, contact Dick at 541-390-9932.

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – VA News - WASHINGTON**—(Feb. 26, 2024) Today, VA announced that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

This expansion of VA health care eliminates the phased-in approach called for by the PACT Act — meaning that millions of Veterans are becoming eligible for VA health care up to eight years earlier than written into law. This is a critical step forward because Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans.

VA encourages all eligible Veterans to visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply for VA health care beginning March 5. Since President Biden

signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, 2022, more than 500,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care.

To apply for care or benefits today, visit [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MYVA411. More information on eligibility can be found at [VA.gov/PACT](http://VA.gov/PACT). (*Laura Moore, Lead Veterans' Service Officer*)

## NOTES FROM THE PREZ

The year is rushing on and we are now planning for our annual Poppy Days distributions. Please keep a few hours available over Memorial Day weekend to help man the poppy table at Fred Meyer Bend store. This is a fun time meeting and talking with other veterans and the public about our mission for our military personal and veterans, their families and our community.

The Drury family are heading back to Oregon in a few days and will be at our April meeting. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone again!

*Unit President Yvonne Drury*

## ALA OREGON GIRLS STATE HELP WANTED JUNE 23-29, 2024

Now is your chance to help make a difference in the lives of Oregon's high school juniors who attend Girls State.

We are looking for ALA members who would like to assist the program for the entire week. Here is a sampling of the positions needing filled:

County Moms	Office Manager
Music Person	Store Clerks
Junior Counselors	Media Persons
Medical Staff—certified/licensed	

For questions and more information to apply, please contact: Connie R. Smith, 2024 Girls State Director 503-807-1603; [Connieug46@gmail.com](mailto:Connieug46@gmail.com).

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Vivian is preparing some yummy lasagna. Side suggestions for members to bring: salad, bread or dessert.

## SUPPORT ALA EMERGENCY FUND

In times of hardship, the American Legion Auxiliary stands dedicated to providing support to members in need through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF).

Since the establishment of AEF, the Auxiliary has distributed over \$6 million to more than 6,500 members, making a tangible impact on eligible members facing significant setbacks due to acts of nature or personal crises.

To sustain this vital assistance, the ALA relies on this generous community. Contributing to AEF ensures the spirit of solidarity remains strong, creating a better tomorrow for fellow Auxiliary members in their times of need.

Gifts of \$100+ will receive an exclusive "Members Helping Members" AEF pin while supplies last.

## BLOOD DRIVE HELD MARCH 4

Nine donors, one first time donor, nine Units collected, 27 potential number of lives saved.

Per Jennifer Shaw, Donor Recruitment Supervisor, American Red Cross: Every pint counts!!! Thank you and the ladies for managing the front desk and to you for getting all the marketing out. I love working with you all! We saw 9 donors and got 9 good pints of blood.

Thank you so much and enjoy this sunshine and warmer temps!! Yeah! See you next time! Jen, American Red Cross

***You are not alone!*** If you need immediate support — or just someone to talk to who understands — there are lifelines available 24/7 \* **Veterans Crisis Line 988 (Press 1)** or **TEXT the Crisis Line at 838255** \* **Vet Center Call Center at 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)** \* **Military Helpline 1-888-457-4838**

## GOOD TO KNOW

You can be part of ALA media's National Poppy Day coverage. As we make plans for the day, we want to include you! You can participate in any of the following ways:

*Finish the sentence: I wear a poppy...*

You can send us a video (instructions in graphic) or email a photo of yourself with the answer.

*Do you have a loved one who was killed in action, a Prisoner of War, or Missing in Action?* Send us an email with their photo, name, and branch of service.

*How does your ALA unit observe National Poppy Day?* Email us with details and pictures of past events.

Submit to [PR@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:PR@ALAforVeterans.org) by Monday, April 15.

## VERSE FOR SPRING

For behold, the winter is past;  
The rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth,  
The time of singing has come, and  
the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

*Song of Solomon 2: 11-13*

*(Thanks to Unit Co-Chaplain  
Bonnie Wilkins)*

## APRIL EVENTS

- April Month of the military child
- April 5 Gold Star Spouses Day
- April 10 Post 4 and Auxiliary 6 pm Potluck dinner; 6:30 meeting
- April 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 17 Purple Up! Wear purple to honor military childrens sacrifice and resiliency.
- April 20-21 DEC meetings—John Day, OR
- April 23 Army Reserve Birthday
- April 28 Oregon Military Hall of Fame Induction event
- April 30 National Military Brats Day

***Dial 988 (Press 1)  
for Veterans Crisis Line***



***Wednesday, April 10 for potluck dinner and combined meeting***

*Please contact us when we can be of assistance. We are here for you!*

### 2023-2024 Post Officers:

Cdr: 541-350-0314

Adj: 541-350-0892

Chap: 541-350-0892

Commander J W Terry

Vice Commander Denny Shannon

Chaplain Vivian Shannon

Adjutant Vivian Shannon

Finance Officer Denny Drury

*Mailing address: American Legion Post 4, PO Box 784, Bend, OR 97709*

### 2023-2024 Unit Officers:

President: 541-390-4231

Chaplain: 541-977-5471

President Yvonne Drury

Vice President Katie Terry

Secretary Karen Banks

Treasurer Carole Jura

Chaplain Sr. Barbara Etter

Sgt-at-Arms Bonnie Wilkins

*Mailing address: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 4, PO Box 7911, Bend, OR 97708*

*To be removed from this email list, please email [ydrury47@gmail.com](mailto:ydrury47@gmail.com)  
with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.*