

Oregon Cascade Chapter

We held our annual D-Day BBQ this July and had a great turnout. Weather looked rainy, but it cleared up and was a wonderful day.

Brian Kraft , 1ST Brigade Lrps Medic Viet Nam e-mailed : ò I climbed Mt. Rainier with the 101st Flag, did so to honor all Troopers past and present. The picture of the flag is at Camp Muir, 10,000 ft. Other 2 pictures at Ingram glacier, at 11,100 ft. Weather turned us around just past Disappointment Cleaver--aptly named--at 12,500 ft.+





Don Malarkey, Easy Co. 506th WWII celebrating his 90th Birthday in July, 2011. Congratulating Jerry Gomes on daughter Julia's Jump Wings!

Ed Casciato and Don Christensen put together the Veterans Day Parade event this year. Everyone met as usual at Elmer's Pancake House for breakfast and then decorated Old Abe our Eagle. The Albany Oregon Veterans Day Parade is the biggest on the West Coast.

John Reid 3/506, Brian Kraft and Ernie Estrada L 75th proudly carried the Screaming Eagle Flag in the Auburn, Washington Veterans Day Parade. Al Viste also attended.

Jerry Gomes attended a Memorial Ceremony put on by Oregon City High School Nov. 8th and placed a wreath on a plaque honoring Oregon City area soldiers who have been killed in action. Oregon City High School Band and the Army JR ROTC will march in the New York City Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 11th! Quite an honor for them!

Our friend, 1st Air Cav Vet Terry Low accompanied WWII Veteran Al Phillips, 377th WWII Forward Observer, to Washington DC in October. He writes:

It was an experience I will never forget. We had 21 WW II veterans; 17 men and 4 women, 18 guardians, and 2 group leaders. I was a "Team Leader" responsible for 4 WW II veterans, 4 guardians, plus my own veteran.

My veteran was Al Phillips from Canby, OR. Al was a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division. Al was a replacement so he missed D-day and Normandy. Al joined the 101st in time for Operation Market-Garden where he went into Holland on a glider. Al next fought in the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne. Al was wounded which he does not remember anything about and then rejoined his unit to help liberate one of the Death Camps. Al makes a jump every year on his birthday out at Molalla SkyDiving!

Floyd Kirby was a Marine with the 3rd Marine Division. Floyd fought on Guam, Iwo Jima where he was wounded, and Okinawa. Floyd currently resides in Corbett, OR.

Larry Bird was on a submarine patrolling off the northern coast of Japan when they sunk a Japanese cruiser.

Audrey Johnson was a young nurse in Portland, OR, in the early 1940's, where she knew my Godfather, Dr. Earl Duboise. Later, they would both serve in Paris after it was liberated, not knowing the other was also stationed in Paris.

Rex Esch was a medic with the 10th Mountain Division, serving in the same unit as Senator Bob Dole. Rex e-mailed Sen. Dole asking him to come greet us. Sen. Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, visited with us at the WW II Memorial for about 20 minutes.

We started our visit at the Capital where Oregon Congressman Greg Walden greeted us. Congressman Walden presented each veteran with a US flag that has flown over the Capital since 9/11. Our group was escorted around the Capital by aides of the Congressman.

We visited the WW II Memorial twice. We toured the Lincoln Memorial, the Viet Nam Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. At Arlington National Cemetery our veterans were given the front row for the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, after which we placed a wreath at the Tomb. We also visited the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Navy Memorial.

On our return flight we had a four hour layover in Denver. We received a nice greeting and escort to the Airport USO. We were given food and drinks made to feel at home. On our return to PDX we were greeted by fire trucks, firemen, policemen, family, friends, and about 20 members of the Patriot Guard. It was a great trip and an honor to serve these men and women. There will be more Honor Flights coming up. They need volunteers as Guardians, anyone can be a guardian, and they need donations.



Al Phillips standing in center. Terry Low standing far right side.

Next Chapter get-to-gether will be in February 11th at Noon in Salem, Oregon at The Great Wall Buffet. We'll have a short meeting, vote on officers and visit.

It's time to vote on our Board, President, Vice-President and Secretary Treasurer positions. Notice will go out asking for nominations and voting will take place at the February Bastogne-Tet Luncheon.

Reminder to everyone that to be a member of the 101st Chapter you also must be a member of the National 101st Association. This is a requirement of our Chapter and National By-laws. And by becoming a member of National, you receive the fine Screaming Eagle Magazine. Questions? Please call Jerry Gomes 503-668-6127.

Check out our website: www.101stAirborneOregon.com Ray Westbrook, Recon 327th donates his time to taking care of our website. Thank you Ray.

Submitted by Jerry Gomes