



The Veteran's View

News and Information for Veterans in East Multnomah County

VFW Members Go the Extra Mile for 578th Engineer Battalion Post adopted the unit with MAP

VAL SHAULL

February 15, 2012

VFW Post 184 Senior Vice Commander Richard De La Hoya and his wife Yvonne wanted to do something special for their niece's husband Adrian before he deployed to Afghanistan with his National Guard unit, the 578th Engineer Battalion.

The De La Hoyas started planning a send-off party for him, but they soon discovered that other Guardsmen's families were also planning send-offs. Everyone decided to combine efforts and plan one event for the entire Battalion.

As expenses for the send-off event began mounting, the Post

turned to VFW's *Military Assistance Program* (MAP) for help,

where they applied for a grant. Post 184 Commander Joe Diaz also asked other Posts in District 23 if they would be willing to pitch in as well.

The MAP grant was approved, and two other Posts in the District, Post 233 and Post 9223, contributed toward the event.



The event was held at March Air Reserve Base Readiness Center in Riverside, Calif., and was a complete success. A lunch was provided for the entire Battalion, their families, and guests. The deployment ceremony featured several guest speakers, including Maj. Gen. Scott Johnson, Commander of the 40th Infantry Division, Brigade Commander Col. Peter Kim, and Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Richard Rabe.

The event was a great way to show VFW's support for our nation's troops, and to top everything off, Post 184 adopted the 578th Engineer Battalion through MAP's Adopt-a-Unit. The adoption allows Post 184 to support the unit before, during and after their deployment.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Gresham Saturday Market
1st and 3rd Saturdays
June to September 2012
- Department of Oregon Convention
Mill Casino, North Bend
June 27-9 2012
- TNT Fireworks Tent
Gresham, Oregon
June 27-July 5, 2012
- VFW National Convention
Reno, Nevada
7/21-25, 2012

Turn to Page 2 for further information on Upcoming Events.

VFW Washington Weekly - Additions to February 10, 2012

The following are additions to the February 10, 2012 VFW Washington Weekly

VFW Denounces Survey Military Benefits: Early last week, Stars & Stripes reported that a defense think tank, the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, was conducting a survey of current and former service members to gather data on priority benefits for those who serve. The survey comes in the wake of announcements from Department of Defense officials that personnel benefits and programs could face potential cuts in the coming years – cuts the VFW has vowed to fight. After reading through the survey, VFW leaders balked at the tone of the questions, which asked participants to rate certain military benefits over others, and then determine the kinds of benefit packages that would be preferable to service members in the future. The VFW dis-

courages members from participating in the survey, since the data will likely be used as an endorsement of certain benefit cuts by service members, themselves. The VFW's reaction caught the attention of Military Times, which discussed the survey in this week's print edition. To read more about the survey and to read VFW's full reaction, click here: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/01/vfw-denounces-survey-on-military.html>.

VFW Builds Coalition to Support Student-Veteran Success: VFW staff in Washington have been working over the last month to build a coalition, pushing for student-veteran success in higher education. The coalition, comprised of 10 organizations vested in supporting student-veterans, recently sent a series of letters to leaders in Congress and the White House, calling for improved consumer education for potential student-veterans and a streamlined method of recourse for veterans who feel they

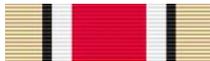
were victims of fraud, waste or abuse while using their benefits. Recent reports indicate that some of today's newest student-veterans may lose their benefits by enrolling in schools that fail to confer relevant educational credentials. While some continue to point fingers at certain sectors of higher education, the VFW has chosen to look at the root causes of the problem, making concrete recommendations on how to improve the system. The VFW believes that by ensuring veterans understand their benefits and can take action when a school breaks the rules, student-veterans will be able to use their G.I. Bill effectively, molding the next generation of American leaders, as we intended. To read the letter and to learn more about VFW's recommendations, click here: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/2012/02/vfw-builds-coalition-to-support-student.html>

Getting to Know Your Post Members

JOSE LUIS ALTIG



2011
Jose Luis Altig



Jose Luis Altig was born in Torreon, Mexico and immigrated to Oregon at the age of 7 and graduated from Crook High school in 1967.

Luis joined the army in 1968; and volunteered for Vietnam in '69-'70 and served in "I Corp", with the **18th Surgical Hospital** at Camp Evans and Quang Tri, driving supply trucks, an ambulance, and flying medivac missions.

In 1971 he joined the Army Reserves and spent 20 years on active reserve status. He served as 91G, Behavioral Science Specialist, "I served as a counselor working with soldiers experiencing mental health problems while on duty."

In the fall of 1990 he served in Desert Storm. He was on active duty from November 1990 until April 1991, serving in the emergency room of a hospital in Riyadh, again as a mental health counselor. "One more time, I

was happy returning home." He states. He completed my USAR commitment in 1992 and retired from the military.

Education: Luis has a B.S degree from the University of Oregon in 1975 and a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Washington in 1977. **Employment:** Luis worked for the department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) in Washington for four years after college. In 1981, he was able to begin work for the VA Medical Center here in Portland and spent 28 years at the VA. All his time was spent in providing social work and mental health services to veterans. "I worked in several different areas and spent my last 15 years in the community visiting/counseling veterans in their homes."

Luis retired from federal service in April, 2008 and says that he was grateful for the great experience of working with veterans for

most of my entire career.

Present time: Currently married to Sally Altig and will celebrate 40 years of marriage in November. They have four children and seven grandchildren, all living within the greater Portland Area. "My kids are all healthy, employed, and turned out to be pretty successful. I credit my wife for helping me raise them properly", Luis says.

Hobbies/Interests: During his free time he walks, hikes, bikes and spends time with his family. He is a mentor to a middle school boy and spends time working with him as well as working in his church programs and activities.

VFW: Luis joined VFW & Post 180 in Oct 2010. He simply wants to be involved in Community Activities and help the Post w/ projects: He also has boy Scout connections.

If you would like to be featured in 'Getting to Know..' send your story to: Editor@vfwpost180.us

Plan for these Future Activities and Events

Post Elections April. Be a part of your post leadership

Gresham Saturday Market
1st and 3rd Saturdays
June to September 2012

Our Saturday Mrkt affords our BEST opportunity to meet the public and let them know we even exist. It is also one of our best fund raisers, bringing in over \$3,000 on good years.

Contact Tyler Marriott for dates and to be scheduled for this very important Post Event

Department of Oregon Convention
Mill Casino, North Bend
June 7-9 2012

State Convention is EARLIER this year due to a National Convention date change. Therefore, don't get caught not getting your reservations in time.

TNT Fireworks Tent
Gresham, Oregon
June 27-July 5, 2012

We will be manning the Fire-

works Booth again this year. This is our second best fund raiser, only based on the amount of 'man-hours' it takes. Come out, share some good conversations, some cokes, and even a beer or two after close.

VFW National Convention
Reno, Nevada
7/21-25, 2012

As mentioned, Nat. Conv. Is a full month earlier this year. The Oregon assignment is in the **ASCUAGA'S NUGGET Hotel, Reno Nevada.**





Getting our Veterans Back to work...

December 01, 2011

The Dept. of Labor recently re-ported that there were 3.2 million American jobs available and companies were looking for a few good men and women to fill them. Yet, despite unemployment hovering over 9 percent, and with nearly 1 million veterans out of work, many of these jobs have remained open because employers can't find qualified workers.

We have seen this trend increasing in recent months, especially in the manufacturing industry where it is estimated that more than 600,000 jobs are unfilled. According to the Wall Street Journal, this has had a severe impact on the energy, transportation, and labor industries and has created what the author called "a ripple effect" throughout the rest of the business world by straining the positions that are currently filled.

What is the biggest problem cited by employers in not being able to fill these positions? The answer is, plain and simple, skills. While college degrees are important and substantially increase chances for employment, the key is providing unemployed veterans in the middle of their working careers access to these unfilled jobs by learning specialized trades at vocational schools and community colleges. The power of American industry is still in high de-

mand, therefore, we must apply our resources to help those where resources will provide the greatest return on the investment.

To address this problem, I introduced the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act earlier this year. The legislation recognized the very real need for skilled employees and provides for nearly 100,000 veterans of past generations (ages 35-60) to return to school to learn a new skill to acquire an in-demand job. It does that by offering up to 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits—currently \$1,473 per month to pay for training. It also frees up critical training programs within the Department of Labor for even more veterans to participate in skills-based courses to help them compete in today's marketplace. In November, the final bill, the VOW to Hires Heroes Act, became law.

The passage of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act was certainly cause for celebration. But as the law is implemented, now is the time we must remain focused on the end goal and ensure that we are all doing our part to keep our veterans out of unemployment lines.

Enacting a law should not be the end of the discussion; it is just one means to an end. It was but a first step. One law will not employ the 900,000 veterans who are out of work. Clearly, aggressive hiring by the private sector is

the real key to putting unemployed veterans back to work and it is my belief that the VOW to Hire Heroes act will make many of these heroes highly competitive for jobs.

Our private sector must, and has in many cases, step up to the plate. In September, we held a Veterans Employment Summit to learn about the best practices in veterans hiring programs. Many companies have specific programs and recruiting offices just for veterans. And in some cases, companies with similar business platforms have formed coalitions to hire veterans.



For instance, the Edison Electric Institute has asked its partner power companies to seek out veterans who are looking for work. Not only are these positions highly technical (the power companies provide the training), but also provide our veterans with a sense of duty by allowing them to continue serving our nation during times of national crises, such as acts of criminality, hurricanes, and other disasters. Likewise, Chase Bank has set a goal of hiring 100,000 veterans with its business part-

We know from meetings this fall that number one on that list is finding unemployed veterans. The U.S Department of Labor and the state employment services must do a better job of coordinating training and job placement services on a national scale.

But by far the biggest obstacle for many of our veterans who are unemployed is the state of our economy. Until the federal government releases its vice grip on the regulations that are strangling our small businesses and we are able to reform the tax code, we will not see a change in our economic outlook. We must get our economy back on track and provide are unemployed is the state of our economy. Until the federal government releases its vice grip on the regulations that are strangling our small businesses and we are able to reform the tax code, we will not see a change in our economic outlook. We must get our economy back on track and provide veterans, and all Americans, with opportunities to succeed.

If we can do all of this, I am confident that over the next two years, we will see our veterans in leadership roles in companies across the nation, continuing to lead by example, as they did in service to our country, well into the future

Join the Post 180 Yahoo Group

Did you know that VFW Post 180 has an active, vibrant discussion and information group on the internet?

All post members are both invited and encouraged to join the group. This is the best way to learn about the current activities of the Post,

to keep abreast of the most current news and information, and an easy way to communicate with other Post members.

To join, simply go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VFWPOST180/join>

on the web or send an email to the VFW Post 180 Yahoo Group moderator (Val Shaul) at:

Commander@vfwpost180.us

and you will be manually added to the group. See you on the internet!





**GRESHAM UNITED
VFW POST 180**

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The Veteran's View

ANTHONY WYNN, Editor

Articles and information about local activities and events of interest to both Veterans and Auxiliary members are warmly welcomed. Send via email to:
Editor@vfwpost180.us



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Gresham United VFW Post 180
Post Office Box 281
Gresham, OR 97030**

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Gresham United VFW Post 180 holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 150 W. Powell Boulevard in Gresham (Across from the Gresham Post Office in the Multnomah County Court).

Members and prospective members are encouraged to show up early for the 50/50 drawing held before each meeting. Proceeds help to support this website and VFW Post 180.

Upcoming VFW Post 180 Meetings:

Wednesday, March 2, 2012
Wednesday, April 6, 2012
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
Wednesday, June 6, 2012

POST 180 OFFICERS:

Commander
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Auxiliary President
DIANA LINDOFF
WomensAux@vfwpost180.us

Senior Vice Commander
JOSHUA RAY
SrViceCommander@vfwpost180.us

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Chaplain
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Quarter Master
FRANK WEST
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Judge Advocate
BOB DOOMS
JudgeAd@vfwpost180.us

Surgeon / Adjutant
BILL DENNIS
Surgeon@vfwpost180.us
Adjutant@vfwpost180.us

Service Officer
DAVE SCHAFFER
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