



# The Veteran's View

News and Information for Veterans in East Multnomah County

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One of our own, **Pedro Castro**, won \$40 from the Dept of Oregon 'Daily Calendar'

fund raiser. This calendar only costs \$20 and affords you the chance to win \$40/day, with a \$1000 prize being drawn at the end of the year. 2014 Calendars will be available soon.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 3 Mtg
- 2013-2014 Elections
- May 4 District 15 Mtg
- Noon Potluck, 1pm Mtg.
- June 5-9 Dept. Convention, Red Lion, Pendleton, OR

Turn to Page 2 for further information on Upcoming Events.



## Membership is our backbone...

**VAL SHAULL**

VFW National has changed the way we record membership and calculate it for All-State/All American Posts. I think these changes are for the better for the VFW overall. Membership is our backbone. Without our members there would be no aid to needy Veterans. Without membership Washington would ignore us and legislation to help Veterans would not get passed. We need our members and they need us.

So how can you help increase membership? Every Veteran has friends, family or co-workers that are Veterans. Ask them, are you a Veteran? Did you serve in

a combat zone or get hazardous duty pay? Are you a member of the VFW? The VFW, the oldest, most recognized veterans organization in the USA? Carry membership applications in your car for that chance meeting. If you don't have an application, tell them to log on to our website (<http://www.vfwpost180.us/>) or Nationals website (<http://www.vfw.org/Join/>) to join. If every member gets one member to sign during the year we double our membership!

Other ways to help with membership is to volunteer when we have membership drives, i.e. Saturday Markets;

Memorial Day, Veterans Day booths at Fred Meyers. This is a great way to find new members and meet your neighbors. Help call Veterans and remind them that their dues are due and that we NEED them. We don't want to loose them.

Lastly, if you are an annual member think about becoming a Life Member. You save money in the long run and don't have to worry about paying dues on time. We have payment plans to help with this. If you are a Life Member, think about Legacy Life Membership. A great way to help our Post even after you pass on.



## United By Love For Our Veterans

**DIANA LINDOFF**

We set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities as a testament to the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

We are the wives, widows, mothers, daughters and sisters of combat veterans. Our job has traditionally been to stand as support in time of war and that doesn't change when a soldier comes home and hangs up his uniform. Our military needs our support and understanding even more when they return. As members of the Auxiliary to the VFW we live by the motto, "*Honor the dead by help-*

*ing the living.*"

Be a part. Focus on making the lives of our Veterans better just because we as an Auxiliary exist. Whether we are talented at sewing a lap robe to comfort those in the hospital or can write a note of appreciation or support. Maybe our gift is just being a good listener to a family member who is waiting at home as their loved one is deployed. The gift we all have is "**time**". It is the most precious gift we can give to someone.

Membership is the key to to continue that support. Our numbers are few but we are strong if we stand togeth-

er. No matter how small we may feel we are, we can make a difference. Like a little boy standing on the beach throwing the star fish back into the sea...he was told he couldn't take care of the hundreds of star fish on the beach. The discouraging voice told him there were too many, what he did wouldn't matter. The little boy picked up a star fish and held it up to the discouraging voice and said... "*it matters to this one.*"

Make a Difference.  
Be A Part.  
Matter to THIS ONE!



**2012  
Mike**



Mike Goss graduated from Pendleton High School in 1965, attended Blue Mountain Community College and worked part time in 1966. Avoiding the draft by enlisting in the Air Force Mike was able to be trained as an Electronics Technician.

Basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, then a year at the Air Force electronics training center at Keesler Air Force Base, MS, with training to maintain the inertial navigation computer for the F-4 Phantom.

After tech school Mike was stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID, an F-4 training base.

In 1968 Mike married his high school sweetheart, Kathy; now a 45 year marriage. Orders to Udorn Royal Thai

## Meet Your Members DENNIS M. 'MIKE' GOSS

US Air Force 1966-1970

Udorn, Thailand 1968

Air Base in northern Thailand came just 59 days after their wedding. One week after arriving the base was attacked by the Viet Cong. Mike was awarded the VSM, qualifying him for VFW.

After a year in Thailand he was assigned to Charleston Air Force Base, SC. He maintained the navigation computers and Doppler radar navigation systems on the C-141 Starlifter and the C-130 Hercules transport planes. 1970 saw the end of his four-year enlistment and a return to Oregon and Blue Mountain CC. *"This time, I made excellent grades. Everyone was surprised, since I was on academic probation when I left for the military four years earlier."* Mike says. *"We had our first child in Pendleton."*

A year later, they moved to Portland. He worked full-time and went to PSU full time, using the G.I. Bill education benefits. *"I graduated from PSU with a business administration degree the same day President Nixon resigned."* he says. *"Commencement was cut short*

*so we could hear his good-bye speech."*

He landed his 'dream job' working for **Otis Elevator Company** in Portland, San Francisco and Phoenix, where his son was born. The only way to get a promotion was to move every 18 months, so he resigned and moved his family to Gresham. Over the next couple of decades, he worked for four multinational companies, owned a computer store, taught business courses at MHCC, founded an accounting software dealership, and became a senior vice-president and sales manager of a bank in Vancouver.

After about 4 years, the bank said he was "too direct." He seemed to have a knack for speaking his mind, apparently at the wrong times! They eliminated his position and said goodbye. A couple of months later, he published a book titled **Breaking Through Walls**, a business novel about overcoming life's obstacles. For a couple of years he broadcast weekly business-building tips on KXL.

Open heart surgery ended chest pains in August 2010.

In 2011 he became a certified Project Management Professional. In 2012, he became a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM).

Today he is a business consultant, helping a mfg in Wilsonville increase their sales and margins. *"I can't imagine retiring."* he states.

Recently, he learned he was exposed to Agent Orange while in Thailand. He has filed a claim with the VA, and registered with the Agent Orange Registry.

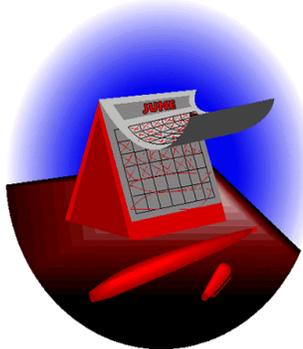
*"I've paid dues for a few years, but I never attended a meeting until we brought presents for the 2-218th to the December meeting."*

*"VFW is a service organization, made up of veterans, designed to serve veterans and the community. Our greatest value as individuals comes from our ability to serve others. For me, it's not about what I did in the war. It's about what I'm doing now, to help someone else."*

*"Everything else is just popcorn and beer."*

If you would like to be featured in 'Meet Your Members' send your story to: [Editor@vfwpost180.us](mailto:Editor@vfwpost180.us)

### Plan for these Future Activities and Events



- **April 3, 2013** 2nd Nominations & Elections for 2013-2014 Post Officers
- **May 4, 2013** District 15 Spring Meeting at Post 180. Noon Potluck/ 1pm Meeting.
- **Saturday Mkts** June-Sept 2nd-4th Saturdays each month. Come out and visit.
- **Dept of Oregon**

### Convention

June 5-9, 2013

- **'Joint Dinner'** June 15, 2013, w/ Gresham Senior Center. Sponsored by Gresham Manor
- **Fireworks Tent** June 26—July 5
- **National Convention 2013** July 20-25 – Louisville, KY; 2014 July 19-24 – St. Louis, MO

### Joint Dinner w/ Senior Center



**JUNE 15, 2013—6PM**

The **Gresham Manor**, is sponsoring a Joint Dinner at the Senior Center w/ Post 180. \$10/plate for a dinner cooked and donated by the Gresham Manor.

Gresham ROTC will be our Color Guard and help in serving.

This dinner is an outreach to our community, recruiting opportunity, and fund raiser.

Contact Jerrey Krzmarzic ([jjkrzmar@outlook.com](mailto:jjkrzmar@outlook.com)) to volunteer.

## Membership is more than Money

Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is the most important single item you can do to guarantee your rights as a veteran are maintained, and supported in the future. Membership is NOT simply wanting you to pay \$25-\$30 to spend on liquor for the canteen or free trips for upper level commanders. Membership is OUR way of telling our law makers, Senator & Congressman that we count and we have a vote! We cannot MAKE laws, but we can influence those that do simply by being a presence and a voice during elections when our politicians want to keep their seats in the public picture.

I know many 'younger' vets, Iraq & Afghanistan era, feel they do not have 'time' to give to being a Post/District/Dept Commander. That is OK! First be a member. That membership means ONE more individual who speaks for ALL veterans, and now one more for the younger veteran specifically. Do not think that just because you may not have time to command a Post you have nothing to contribute. There are many, many jobs at an active Post that simply take a Saturday afternoon, or Sunday morning to sit at a recruiting table and tell others the benefits of the VFW. Helping put out flags on Main St. once or twice a year is a help! Be as involved as you wish, but be a card carrying member first then discover how much you can do.

What does membership cost? In the Gresham Post it is currently \$30/yr. **That's 10 cups of coffee!** (OK Fancy coffee!) I have spent more on bad habits than that! Our 10% discount at Home Depot alone will pay for an annual membership! I have even paid for an entire Life Membership on that 10% discount alone!

What happens to that \$30. Currently \$19 is sent to National to pay for the Dept & National level programs. \$1 is used for Delegate fees to the

National Convention. The remaining \$10 goes directly to the Post's General Fund to help cover the costs of simply running the Post itself. (This newsletter costs about \$100 per mailing. We feel this is a necessary expense however and well worth that cost. We hope you feel the same way.)

I mentioned Life Membership. This is a more prudent way to be part of the VFW. I say 'prudent' because Life Membership (LM) is paid for in approximately 10-15 years of Annual dues. Once paid you never have to pay dues again. LM is based on your age:

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$425.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$20.45
81 and over	\$170.00	\$15.45

...and includes an installment plan to make it easier. However LM WILL increase in the not too distant future, most likely by possibly up to \$200. You will ALWAYS be eligible! Why not become a life member now?

Life Membership also has other benefits to all levels of the VFW: Post/Dept/National, in that your LM \$\$ are set aside and paid back to the Post/Dept on a 'per capita' basis for each and every Life Member. In this way you help support Veterans at the local and State level because you took the time and care to become a Life Member.

However, Life Membership is exactly that: For your LIFE. This means that when you pass the Post & Dept. no longer receive the \$\_\_\_\_ that was paid while you were alive.

This is why the 'Legacy Life' program was developed. 'Legacy' means exactly that; you leave a Legacy to your Post and Dept even after you pass. (I know there are many of you younger Veterans that can't even SEE yourself other than alive. However, we all know THAT is not reality. Therefore by becoming a "Legacy Life" (LL) member you

will leave a 'legacy' to your Post, every month ....for ever, from \$6—\$18/month

Yes, there is a cost for LL membership:

- Bronze = \$400**
- Silver = \$800**
- Gold = \$1200**

There are many other benefits of becoming an LL member including discounts at the VFW Store, insurance, special recognition, etc.

Contact Frank West for more details or to obtain a copy of this brochure.



Lastly, let me speak specifically to some statistics I saw in our last VFW Magazine. As you can see from the following graphic there are literally millions of potential members out there that need to know what THEY can do for the VFW and in protecting the rights of all Veterans.

Potential Growth Areas			
Listed below are estimates from VFW's Membership Department of some pools of potential members.			
	VFW-ELIGIBLE	CURRENT MEMBERS	% OF VFW MEMBERSHIP
Vietnam	2.65 million	440,000	31.4%
Iraq/Afghanistan	2.3 million	112,000	8.0%
Women	350,000	18,728	1.3%

Current Membership: 1.4 million

**YOU** have many friends and acquaintances that can join today. Tell them. They deserve to know!

**Let's force Congress to listen to us.**

**If WE don't care, THEY won't!**

## Join the Post 180 Yahoo Group

To join, simply go to:

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

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

[Commander@vfwpost180.us](mailto:Commander@vfwpost180.us)

and you will be manually added to the group.





**GRESHAM UNITED  
VFW POST 180**

Post Office Box 281  
Gresham, OR 97030  
**971-231-4180**

E-mail:  
[Commander@vfwpost180.us](mailto:Commander@vfwpost180.us)

VFW Post 180 URL:  
<http://www.vfwpost180.us>

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*The Veteran's View*

Tyler Marriott, 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](mailto: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 **7:00 pm**. Meetings are held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 150 W. Powell Boulevard in Gresham.

*(Across from the Gresham Post Office)*

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

*Upcoming VFW Post 180 Meetings:*

**Wednesday, April 3, 2013 - 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 - 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, June 5, 2013 - 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, July 3, 2013 - 7:00 pm**

**POST 180 OFFICERS:**

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VAL SHAULL**

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**Auxiliary President  
DIANA LINDOFF**

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**Judge Advocate  
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**Surgeon / Adjutant  
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[Adjutant@vfwpost180.us](mailto:Adjutant@vfwpost180.us)

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