



Legislative Update

70th D-Day Anniversary

June 6th, 2014, we celebrated the Normandy landings, codenamed Operation Neptune, which was the landing operations (termed D-Day) of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II. The largest seaborne invasion in history, the operation began the invasion of German-occupied western Europe, led to the restoration of the French Republic, and contributed to an Allied victory in the war.

This last Friday, we dedicated the WWII Memorial near the Oregon Capitol in Salem. I had the honor and privilege of escorting four Albany men who served our country during WWII.

Del Riley - at age 18, Del enlisted in the U.S. Army in July 1943. He was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, a new alpine force designed to combat the skilled Nordic German soldiers. In Italy, the troops lived high in the frigid Alps. Del was a member of small recon scouting patrols that searched for trails that could support massive troop movements toward Austria and open a route into Germany.

On February 20, 1945, two months after arriving in Italy, Del was on an early morning patrol when the first scout in front of him "got tangled up in trip wires" and detonated an explosive booby trap. Shrapnel cut off the first scout's leg and Riley was hit in his right thigh bone. He received a Purple Heart as a result of the wound. To this day, he still has lingering effects from his wound.

Chet Russell - at age 19, Chet was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to U.S.S. AM112 Seer mine sweeper, removing mines in the Mediterranean Sea. His ship would be traveling along the west coast of Italy near Naples, Salerno, Latina to name a few cities. While sweeping mines on the southern coast of France; his ship hit a mine killing three servicemen and damaging the bow of

Notable and Quotable:

"You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life."

-Winston Churchill

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

"We are going to have peace, even if we have to fight for it."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

the ship. He would eventually be assigned to the Pacific Islands, Okinawa being one of them.

Art Jensen - at age 18, Art was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the artillery division. During the D Day invasion, he was in Northern England, having received new equipment; he protected a P-38 air base with .40 mm and .50 mm guns. Months later, he was assigned to protect the Utah beach head. He did walk up Omaha beach months after the Invasion. On 8 May 1945, he found himself standing near the Rhine River when the war ended.

Don Stutzman - at age 18, Don was drafted into the U.S. Army, assigned to the 44th Infantry Division. He found himself moved to the front lines three weeks before the Invasion waiting to engage. His division waited in foxholes, "There were plenty of them from bombing raids," Don said. His Division would eventually disarm the 19th German Army while moving across France, crossing the Rhine River into Germany and finishing the war in Austria.

The dedication was a major success. To see family, friends, veterans from all wars and over 200 WW II veterans gather was incredible.



From left to right; Del Riley, Art Jensen, Andy Olson, Chet Russell, and Don Stutzman

Purple Heart Memorial Highway

America is rich with stories of men and women who have given of themselves to protect her, our freedom and liberty.

Because of that, I am honored to submit a measure during the 2015 session to identify the 309 miles of I-5, from border to border, as the Purple Heart Memorial Highway.

Oregon is one of the last states in the Nation to identify a highway as a Purple Heart Memorial Highway. I have had the opportunity to work with members from the Oregon



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Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although their membership is restricted to the combat wounded, the Order supports all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

Next Month's letter will discuss several measure concepts that my office has been researching and developing for the 2015 session. Thank you for your support.

Be well,

Andy Olson

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