

**Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)  
Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2024  
40et8 Boxcar and VIA ZOOM**

Board of Directors present: Chairperson – Larry Smith, Vice Chairperson– Mike Burton; Director of Operations -Marlene Varga (Excused), Secretary – Stephanie Collazo-Serrano, Treasurer -Bruce Evans, Board Members- Teresa Wheeler, Rod Williams, Dan Sockle, Samantha Whitley (Excused) [7]

Members at Large present: Patrick Locke (40et8). Curt Loop (CMAC), Ron Powers (Clark College), Mindy Wilkins (The Historic Trust), Pat Spring (CMAC), Jay Williams (CMAC), Tom Barton (Radio Club), Ralph Walker (CMAC), Steven Stanley (Young Marines), June Lasch (Red Cross), Ralph Harris (Red Cross), Roy Billings (CMAC), Larry Clifton (40et8), Brian Andrus (Legion Services), Myrna Leija (Veterans 1<sup>st</sup> Responders), Ron Brandon (Pointman), Donal Singleton (Buffalo Soldiers), Bill Crist (AUSA), Richard McHugh (CVI), Amy Almond-Schmid(Returning Veterans), Jay Williams (CMAC), Megan Anderson (Clark College), Harry Humason (CMAC), Linda Humason (CMAC), Bill Hauser (40et8), Minh Pham (Vietnamese Community of Oregon), Buck Marr (MOAA), Nick Choi (US Army Recruiting), Ron Rasmussen (CMAC), Chris Thobaben (Lumen Fidelis), Anne Phillips (CTL at Home), Victoria Ferrer (CMAC), Kathy Endicott (Columbia Ridge Senior Living), Geri Stuart (Blue Star Mothers), Judith Johnson (CCVAC) [35]

Meeting called to order by Larry Smith

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Burton

Words of Inspiration: Ron Powers/Ron Brandon

CMAC Upcoming Scheduled Events:

- Our Community Salutes, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Skyview High School, 6:30pm
- Memorial Day Ceremony, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Fort Vancouver, 11:00am

CMAC 2023 40 et 8 and ZOOM

Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	40et8 and Zoom	8:30 AM
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	40et8 and Zoom	8:30 AM
Feb 23 <sup>rd</sup>	40et8 and Zoom	8:30 AM
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	40et8 and Zoom	8:30 AM
Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup>	40et8 and Zoom	8:30 AM

CMAC Summary

- Rod Williams shared the 2024 Our Community Salutes will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm at Skyview High School. Rod Williams and Buck Marr will be the co-event managers for OCS and will be setting up a meeting with Skyview soon to start planning the event and will share updates at our next meeting.

- Larry Clifton shared that our Memorial Day Ceremony will be on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Fort Vancouver, and he will start reaching out to the sub-committee leaders to start planning the event.
- Nick Choi with the Army Recruiting Command shared General Brunson from Fort Lewis will be visiting the area February 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. He will be visiting the Army Recruiting Station as well as attending the Marshall Series Lectures and presenting to the students at Fort Vancouver High School. We will have more information about his visit at the next CMAC meeting.
- Larry Smith shared that the CMAC Board of Directors has asked Megan Anderson and Josh Jones to head up a membership committee. They will update us at our next regular meeting.
- Dan Sockle shared that we have CMAC brochures available at the meetings that you are welcome to take and pass out at your organizations or share with others that might be interested in learning more about CMAC.
- Mindy Wilkins with the Historic Trust shared they are currently accepting applications for the 2024 Marshall Leadership Awards for both youth and adults. For more information about the application process or to nominate someone for the award, please visit their website at <https://www.thehistorictrust.org/marshall-awards/>. Nominations close on February 9, 2024.
- Dan Sockle shared he is working with CMAC and Rotary Clubs to bring the Speakers Bureau to local school and is looking for veterans that would like to participate and tell their story to the younger generations. Dan will share more about it at our next meeting. If you are interested in speaking, please email him at [dsocket@gmail.com](mailto:dsocket@gmail.com).
- Ron Brandon with Point Man shared they will start meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at the 40et8 Boxcar starting at 6:30pm. They work with combat veterans and 1<sup>st</sup> responders with PTSD and invited CMAC members to attend.
- Chris Thobaben with Lumen Fidelis shared about their Safe Haven project to help house 40 people in need at a hotel in the Vancouver area. If you are interested in learning more about their organization and project, please visit their website at <https://lumenfidelis.org/>.
- Mike Burton spoke about Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) is for honoring United States service members currently deployed overseas and there are about 170k troops currently deployed.

### **Guest Speakers**

- Ron Rasmussen, a former USAF officer presented information about a project to repurpose a section of Camp Bonneville for housing homeless Veterans, in collaboration with Do Good Multnomah, a 501(c)(3) non-profit with experience in this field. Camp Bonneville, a 4000-acre former US Army site, is currently owned by Clark County. The proposal envisions housing fifty homeless Veterans in semi-permanent structures, progressing through Emergency, Transitional, Permanent Supportive, and On Your Own phases. He shared the proposed project has garnered support from the Washington Trails Association, Windhaven Horse Therapy, and three Clark County Council members. Next steps will include collaboration with Clark County, reviewing transfer documents, engaging with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, and seeking a variance with US Representative Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez. Ron shared Do Good Multnomah has comprehensive case management capabilities, complemented by a team of licensed professional counselors and a background in food services. The organization is actively involved in serving around six hundred homeless individuals across multiple

locations in Portland. They recently opened, authorized, and supervised tiny-house encampment in Vancouver, with plans for a second site. Camp Bonneville would be their third site within Clark County. For more information about this project or if you would like to have a presentation on this project for your organization, please contact Ron at [tallraz.887@gmail.com](mailto:tallraz.887@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.dogoodmultnomah.org/>.

## Events/Announcements

- The Vietnamese Community of Clark County would like to invite all CMAC members and their families to join them for their annual Tet Festival on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, from 1:00pm-5:00pm in Gaiser Hall at Clark College.
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center is holding a family-friendly Bingo Fundraiser that is open to the public on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-5:00pm at the Vancouver Elks Lodge 823 located at 11605 SE McGillvray Blvd, Vancouver, WA. For more information about the event, please visit <https://www.ccvac.net/events-2/bingo>.
- The Blue Star Mothers of Oregon have been serving the military since 2008, recently helped the 142<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div.at PANG with sixty-four care packages and have additional care packages they are putting together for our military. They have put together an Amazon wish list that you can find here: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/16HHBGEZIYNRX?ref=list\\_d\\_wl\\_lfu\\_nav\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/16HHBGEZIYNRX?ref=list_d_wl_lfu_nav_2) . They would appreciate any help with getting the word out. If you are interested in donating to help with missing care package items, shipping, or would like more information, please visit their website at <https://bluestarmothersoforegon.org/> .
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) had a couple of pallets of Earth Animal no animal hides dog chews donated by the company. They have extra left over and would like to donate them to someone in need. Please contact Judith Johnson at CCVAC at [ccvacmedia@ccvac.net](mailto:ccvacmedia@ccvac.net) if you know of someone that can use them. Here is information about the products <https://earthanimal.com/>.

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Or visit us at our website at [www.cmac11.com](http://www.cmac11.com)

If you would like to add your event to our Calendar of events, please email:

Stephanie Collazo, at [CMAC11.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:CMAC11.Secretary@gmail.com)

### CMAC Mailing Address

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