

**Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)
Meeting Minutes of May 17, 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 (Excused), Rod Williams (Excused), Dan Sockle, and Samantha Whitley (Excused) [5]

Members at Large present: Patrick Locke (Toastmasters), Annette Allen (40et8), Tom Barton (Radio Club), Ron Powers (Clark College), Ralph Walker (CMAC), June Lasch (Red Cross), Nelson Collazo (CMAC), Launie O’Leary (CMAC), Dave Casteel (MOAA), Ralph Harris (DAV), Pat Spring (CMAC), Megan Anderson (Clark College), Bill Hauser (Marine Corps League), Curt Loop (CMAC), Richard McHugh (CVI), Greg Gilbertson (VFW), Terry Ogle (CMAC), Anne McEnerny-Ogle (City of Vancouver), Jack Rosenthal (CMAC), Geri Stuart (Blue Star Mothers), Mike Goss (CMAC), Donal Singleton (Buffalo Soldiers), Linda Humason (CMAC), Harry Humason (CMAC), Ron Brandon (Veterans Outreach) Brian Andrus (Legion of Service), Jeff Keller (USO Northwest), Judith Johnson (CCVAC), Ray Heller (CMAC), [29]

Meeting called to order by Larry Smith

Pledge of Allegiance: Mike Burton

Words of Inspiration: Ron Brandon

CMAC Upcoming Scheduled Events:

- Memorial Day Remembrance, May 27th, Fort Vancouver, 11:00am

CMAC 2024 40 et 8 and ZOOM

May 31st 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

June 14th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

June 28th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

July 12th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

CMAC Summary

- Mike provided a recap of the OCS event, noting that 93 students participated in the ceremony. He highlighted that the event was well-attended and well-organized. Mike expressed gratitude to Molecular Testing Labs for their sponsorship and extended thanks to the parents, students, volunteers, and guest speakers who contributed to the event's success. He also thanked Rod Williams and Buck Marr for their efforts in coordinating the event and acknowledged Sean Gibson, the former event manager, for passing on a detailed plan to Buck and Rod. Bill Hauser will upload the photos from OCS to the website within the next week.
- Launie O’Leary reviewed the details of the Memorial Day Remembrance agenda. She mentioned that a walkthrough will take place on Friday, May 24th, at 9 a.m. at the Gazebo on the Parade Grounds, and she will reach out to those who need to attend.

Launie was a guest at this month's Board meeting to discuss the agenda items in preparation for the event.

She distributed the event flyers and encouraged everyone to share them with family, friends, organizations, and on social media. The National Parks Service will send out the press release this week.

Launie highlighted the need for volunteers to assist with setting up the event, distributing water and programs, and helping with cleanup. Volunteers should meet at the Gazebo at 9 a.m. on the day of the event. Patrick Locke announced that Franz is donating the hotdog buns this year and will continue to do so in the future.

- Dan Sockle provided an update on the CMAC Historian Project. He announced that the Clark College Veterans Center of Excellence has generously offered space and storage at their facility for CMAC to work on the project. Currently, the History Project Committee is arranging interviews with individuals who have been part of CMAC over the years to gather information on how and why CMAC was started.

Guest Speakers

- Curt Loop introduced Jeff Keller from the USO. Jeff, the Portland Center Manager of the USO Northwest, discussed the organization's future plans following the announcement that they will no longer be based at Portland Airport due to remodeling. Despite the relocation, he emphasized that their mission to support active-duty members and their families remains unchanged. Jeff shared that while their physical presence at the airport will end, they plan to enhance their mobile services within the community, aiming to double or even triple their outreach efforts. The USO Northwest, which serves Oregon and Southwest Washington, will also be expanding into Idaho. As a Gold Star parent and USO volunteer, Jeff expressed his honor in being part of such an esteemed organization. He thanked CMAC for organizing events like Memorial Day to honor fallen soldiers. For any questions or information about volunteering with the USO, please contact Jeff at jkeller@uso.org.

Events/Announcements

- The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Starting March 5th, the VA is expanding VA health care to millions of Veterans—years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. If you would like more information or would like to apply or see if you are eligible, please contact your local Veterans Service Officer or visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/> or call [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) for more information.
- The Blue Star Mothers of Oregon have been serving the military since 2008, recently helped the 142nd 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/ls/16HHBGEZIYNRX?ref=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/>. They are also hosting a Meet & Greet and fundraiser at Uptown Barrel Room in Vancouver, WA on May 18th in honor of Armed Forces Day from 1pm-4pm.
- Clark College Veterans Center of Excellence will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary on May 21, 2024, from 1:30-3:30pm in the Gaiser Student Center. This event is open to the public and free to attend and will be holding tours of the center. They would like to

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say thank you to everyone for the continued support for veteran student success. Come meet fellow veterans, donors, and supporters.

- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) will be holding their Red, White, & Blue Gala, Salute to Our Veterans at Ilani Casino Jr. Ballroom on Tuesday, July 16th, 2024, from 2pm-6pm. The keynote Speaker will be Daniel Sitterly from the Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Washington D.C. Emcee will be Tim Taylor from KGON Radio. For more information about the event, please visit <https://www.ccvac.net/events-2/gala-fund-raiser>.
- The Senior Heroes Awards will take place on July 18th at 11:00am at the Leupke Center. Nominations are open until June 1st. Sponsorship Opportunities are available. For more information, please visit www.seniorawards.org.
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center will hold their annual Standdown on September 27th at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. More information will be available as the date gets closer.

If you would like to add your event to our Calendar of events, please email:
Stephanie Collazo, at CMAC11.Secretary@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CommunityMilitaryAppreciationCommittee/
Or visit us at our website at www.cmac11.com

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