

**Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)
Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2024
40et8 Boxcar and VIA ZOOM**

Board of Directors present: Chairperson – Larry Smith, Vice Chairperson– Mike Burton (Excused); Director of Operations -Marlene Varga (Excused), Secretary – Stephanie Collazo-Serrano, Treasurer -Bruce Evans (Excused), Board Members- Teresa Wheeler, Rod Williams, Dan Sockle, and Samantha Whitley (Excused) [5]

Members at Large present: Patrick Locke (Toastmasters), Anne Phillips (CLT at Home), Tom Barton (Radio Club), Ron Powers (Clark College), Ralph Walker (CMAC), June Lasch (Red Cross), Nelson Collazo (CMAC), Launie O’Leary (CMAC), Steven Stanley (Young Marines), Terry Ogle (CMAC), Anne McEnerny-Ogle (City of Vancouver), Kristine O’Brien (VA), Geri Stuart (Blue Star Mothers), Mike Goss (CMAC), Brad Aiello (City of Vancouver), Donal Singleton (Buffalo Soldiers), Linda Humason (CMAC), Harry Humason (CMAC), Minh Pham (Vietnamese Community of CC), Ron Rasmussen (CMAC), Ron Brandon (Pointman), Brian Andrus (Legion of Service), Scott Seal (CMAC), Jay Williams (CMAC), Alan Martinez (VA), Judith Johnson (CCVAC), Ray Heller (CMAC), [27]

Meeting called to order by Larry Smith

Pledge of Allegiance: Rod Williams

Words of Inspiration: Ron Brandon

CMAC Upcoming Scheduled Events:

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

CMAC 2023 40 et 8 and ZOOM

May 17th 40et8 and Zoom 8:30 AM

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

- Rod Williams shared there will be 105 seniors being honored at this year’s Our Community Salutes event that will take place on May 8th at Skyview High School. The press release has gone out. There will be a reception directly following the event. This event is open to the public and all members are encouraged to invite their family, friends, and organizations to come and show their support to the high school seniors and their families.
- Launie O’Leary wanted to thank everyone that she has reached out to regarding Memorial Day and for your help in getting the event prepared. Launie shared John Toll with the University of Portland and will be a guest speaker at the event along with the keynote speaker, John Kaiser, speakers, Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, and Tracy Fortmann with the National Parks Service. Launie shared Marlene Varga has confirmed she has requested a flyover. There will be a VIP Reception at the Marshall House starting

at 9:30am. Aaron Ochoa will do a practice run of the Garrison Flag with the Boy Scouts this weekend. Launie and Nelson will go over the agenda at our May 17th regular CMAC meeting. The Friday before Memorial Day we will do a full walkthrough at the parade field. Nelson Collazo shared they are looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the day of the event. He also shared if your organization has a Honor Guard and would like to participate in the event, please email him at ncserrano37@gmail.com.

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_=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/>. 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 free to attend. They would like to 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.

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

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