

MOAA®

THE EMERALD VOICE

A FIVE STAR CHAPTER



EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MARCH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, 11 March 2026

1130 social, 1200 lunch, \$20

Veterans Memorial Building, 1626 Willamette Street

MENU

Caesar Salad

Spaghetti and Meatballs in Marinara Sauce

Local Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Garlic Bread

Lemon Bars

PROGRAM

Chapter Member Phil Groshong

He will update us on Veterans Legacy

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not cancel it by Sunday, 8 March, you are still responsible for the cost of the meal. Guests are always welcome, but we must have a reservation.

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2026

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March

- 08 Daylight Saving Time Starts
- 11 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 25 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets
- 29 Vietnam Veterans Day

April

- 05 Easter Sunday
- 05 Gold Star Spouses Day
- 08 MOAA Luncheon, 1130, Vets
- 15 Tax Day
- 22 Board Meeting, 1200, Vets

CALENDAR

MOAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS MANY

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Floyd Bard	688-4172
1st Vice Pres	Ken Evans	914-6235
2nd Vice Pres	Dick Kimbell	915-0405
Secretary	Pat Harris	942-5274
Treasurer	Elaine Callahan	968-1746
Chaplain	Jonathan Landon	946-3888
Membership	Ken Evans	914-6235
Newsletter	Pat Harris	290-0814
Webmaster	Ginger Banks	484-3336
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Michael Pace	636-3745



Daylight Saving Time

The dreaded Daylight Saving Time starts on March 8th

Printing graciously provided by



541-762-8000

DICK HEYMAN RECEIVES ANOTHER HONOR

Chapter member and past president Colonel Richard M. “Dick” Heyman was posthumously awarded the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, France's Knight of the Legion of Honor, on February 23 at the Soaring by the Sea Foundation's airplane hangar in Eugene. Twenty-three MOAA chapter members and spouses drove through the pouring rain and flooded streets to see Barbara Heyman presented with the medal authorized by French President Emmanuel Macron and presented by the Oregon representative of the French Consulate in San Francisco.

The setting couldn't have been more appropriate. The Soaring by the Sea Foundation's hangar houses a collection of aircraft that represented every war that Dick fought in; a PBY-5 Catalina, a P-40 Warhawk and an A-1 Skyraider. Tables were set for the guests and an interesting spread of appetizers was laid out for all to enjoy.

At the end of the ceremony, the south hangar door was opened just in time for all to see and hear two jets of the 173rd Fighter Wing from Klamath Fall, Oregon, fly out through the rain and fog with afterburners lit to honor Dick.

After the flyover, the MOAA members and spouses got together for a group photo that ended up including representatives of the organizations responsible for this presentation and cadets from the ROTCs at OSU and OU. After the photos were taken, everyone sang Happy Birthday to Barbara, who had turned 90 the day before.



Barbara Heyman is holding the medal of France's Knight of the Legion of Honor. She was also presented a pin fashioned from a pair of Royal Air Force wings that had been nicknamed "Sweetheart Wings" by the RAF pilots during WWII.



MOAA... What We Do

We, and the national organization, are a non-partisan advocate on military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of all the uniformed services. Our main areas of emphasis can be found at <http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/>. As a local chapter, we focus more on the local military and veteran community, e.g., supporting the programs of Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent de Paul that target the Lane County veteran population.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

Over the last year, your Board of Directors has invested their time and effort to make the Chapter's scholarship endowment fund more accessible and profitable. We have terminated the 501-C-19 (veterans nonprofit) status and created a 501-C-3 nonprofit in the name of the endowment fund. This change will facilitate the transfer of funds from your personal investments to the scholarship fund. This is particularly useful for donating required minimum distributions (RMD's) as a tax free donation.

After some research, the Board has decided to open a second account with Vanguard as a future depository for current donations to the scholarship fund. We will continue to use Benton Community Foundation (BCF) to invest our donor advised fund as it existed at the end of 2025. The primary reason for the change was rising account fees at BCF.

Currently, the Chapter has about \$72,500.00 in the scholarship endowment funds. On behalf of your Chapter Board and the University of Oregon ROTC program, I wish to thank every member and associate member for their support. Your annual participation over the years has made this scholarship program relevant and important to the Cadets.

R Kimbell

Past President 2010

Corrections to the 2025-2026 Directory of Members

New Members:

Sherri Stephenson, Maj, USAF (Ret)
5202 Glenn Ellen Drive, Eugene, OR 97402
Phone: 575-693-3779, email: alsea73@hotmail.com

Marie D. McElligott, CDR, USN (Ret)
2219 Lakeview Dr., Eugene, OR 97408
Phone: 253-495-8711; email: vicenza25@hotmail.com

Use of this Directory

This directory is not to be used for the compilation of mailing lists for commercial or political purposes. It is intended for the private, noncommercial use of the members of this club and is not for distribution without prior consent of the Board of Directors.

Chapter Dues for 2026: Dues for 2026 were due as of 1 Jan 2026. So far, about 84 percent of our members have paid their \$35 dues. If you have not already paid, please do so soon. Notices were sent out in mid November. Send a check made out to Emerald Empire Chapter, MOAA, (or just "MOAA") to P.O. Box 767, Eugene, OR 97440.

MOAA... Who We Are

We have 91 regular and surviving spouse members made up of active, retired and former members of the nation's eight uniformed services and their surviving spouses. An application to join our local chapter or the national MOAA organization can be downloaded from our website:
www.emeraldempiremoaa.org/ABOUT-US .

ST. PATRICK'S
DAY
March 17th



Vietnam Veterans Day, 29 March

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed each year on March 29. The day was established by the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. It is the day that honors the service and sacrifice of all veterans who served in the military between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975.

Nine million Americans served during that period. 6.4 million are alive today. 2.7 million served in Vietnam. The costs were high. 58,267 died in that war and are memorialized on the black granite wall in our nation's capital; 153,303 were wounded; 2,500 were prisoners of war; 1,253 are missing in action and still are not accounted for.

The first ground troops entered Vietnam in March, 1965. They were 5,000 members of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade that landed at Da Nang in northern South Vietnam. Prior to the arrival of the Marines, US involvement was primarily with advisors and Army and Air Force aviation units. This force grew to nearly 530,000 by the end of 1968.

After Richard Nixon was elected President and took office in January, 1969, a gradual draw-down began until the final combat troops were withdrawn and the prisoners of war were returned in March 1973. A small element of advisors remained until the fall of South Vietnam in 1975.

A more detailed account of that war, written by Chapter Member LTC Don Simpson, USA (Ret), is attached to the distribution email.

YOU TOO HAVE A STORY TO TELL... and we want to hear it.

Just like Dick Heyman did in last month's newsletter.

We would like to have the military biographies of each of our members. Let's face it, we're in a group of people with similar backgrounds and what do we really know about each other? At a luncheon last year we learned that one of our members has cattle, one does embroidery and a couple of others rescue cats. We also had very diverse experiences in our military careers. Some commanded ships while others drove airplanes, flew desks or pounded the ground, but we all put on uniforms and did things that our civilian contemporaries couldn't or wouldn't do. Who can appreciate your experiences better than those who experienced some of the same stuff?

This is something we need to do more of... share those histories. It's also something that the Library of Congress is trying to gather. The ROTC cadets have started interviewing veterans to capture their stories, so you can think of our project as an opportunity to gather your thoughts and do a little reminiscing. Use the QR code on the poster on page 5 to make an appointment with the cadets.

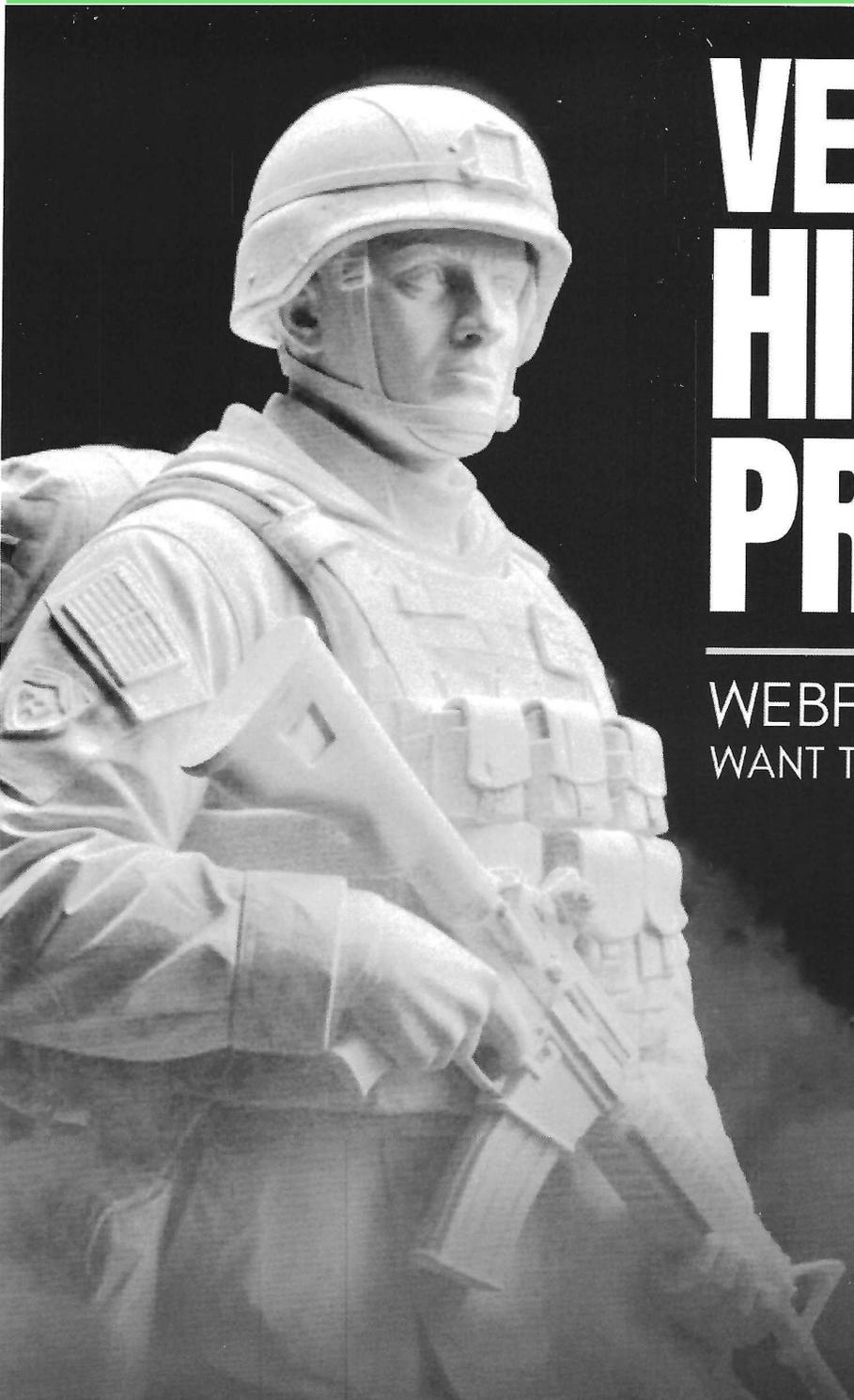
We have been trying to gather these bios since 2017, and so far have eleven from people who are still with us. We're not

looking for a minute-by-minute account of what you did in Basic Training/Boot Camp. We would like to see where you're from and why you decided to go into the service and where you went and what you did and how you felt about the whole thing. Then, if you feel like sharing more, it would be nice to learn about what you've done since the service and who you're doing it with.

We have several ways in which you can write your history. I have attached a biography form to the distribution email of this newsletter that you can fill out and mail back to us at MOAA, PO Box 767, Eugene, OR 97440. It will be in a Word format so you can type right into it then email back to MOAAofEugene@gmail.com. If neither of those ideas work for you, just call Pat Harris at 541-290-0814, and we'll figure something out.

MILITARY

**LIFE
STORY**



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

WEBFOOT WARRIORS
WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

SCAN TO SIGN UP
FOR AN INTERVIEW



The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress

collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. Military Veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 25 FEB 2026

Excerpts from the Board Meeting Minutes. Full minutes are attached to the distribution email.

PRESENT: Officers: President Floyd Bard, 1st Vice President Ken Evans, 2nd Vice President Dick Kimbell, Treasurer Elaine Callahan and Secretary Pat Harris. Board members Les Cunningham, LTC Joe Snyder, Tom Kulick and Michael Kennedy. Former board member Frank Balazs was also in attendance. MSIV Anthony Meza was a guest. A quorum was established.

EMERALD EMPIRE CHAPTER MOAA, TREASURER'S REPORT, Jan 28 – Feb 24, 2026

BALANCE ON HAND (February 24, 2026):

Chapter Operations	\$ 6580.43
Veterans Services Fund	\$ 2399.05
ROTC Scholarship Drive 2026	\$ 2281.00
ROTC Scholarship Endowment Fund	\$ 9329.84
Cadet Dinner Fund	\$ 1012.40

COLUMBIA CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE February 24, 2026 \$ 21602.72

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Report - Elaine.

- The 2025 checking balance increased to over \$3500.
- The Benton Community Foundation's value increased nearly \$5000 in 2025.
- 2025 outgoing philanthropy was more than \$5800, plus another \$2000 in ROTC scholarships.

Membership (Attend State NGAUS Oregon Conference) – Floyd.

President Floyd Bard, Ken Evans and Dick Kimbell will attend the NGAUS conference on Saturday, February 28th, at Camp Withycombe. The conference will provide a table, and we will set up at 7:30 am with tablecloth, MOAA banner, our flag with streamers and a batch of informational brochures and applications. The effort is hoped to recruit some younger active duty and National Guard officers.

“Spotlights” next luncheon – Les, Ken.

- The object of this exercise is to get members to interact with each other.
- We will place short forms on the luncheon tables and ask members to fill them out highlighting their military history and their activities upon separation from the service.
- We then intend to collect the forms and select two or three members at each luncheon to make a three-to-five-minute talk about what they have experienced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Storage Unit Big Y, invoice and ad in newsletter – Elaine, Pat, Floyd.

- There is some confusion as we got a second invoice for \$0.00 for our donated storage unit. President Bard will meet with the management to get a better understanding of what we need to do.
- Les Cunningham asked if we wanted to secure some storage space in the Vet Building. He said that some space should be available if we can't resolve the Big Y Storage issue.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Dick Kimbell made a motion to donate \$500 to the Reveille and Retreat Project presented to us by member Dakota Olson-Harris. Michael Kennedy seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Visit our Chapter website at EmeraldEmpireMOAA.org

BRIEFS AND BOOSTERS

The Medal of Honor is the highest military award for valor in the United States and was created in 1861. It is awarded only to US military personnel by the President of the United States in the name of Congress for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. There are only three versions of the Medal of Honor; one for the Army, one for the Navy, and one for the Air Force. Personnel of the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard receive the Navy version.

Since its creation only 3,468 Medals of Honor have been awarded.



Army

Navy

Air Force

**National Medal of Honor Day
March 25th**



STORAGE

Many thanks for providing our storage for records and material

90 Highway 99, Eugene, Oregon 97402

541-485-2449, Contact@BigYStorage.com

ROTC Boosters

The Emerald Empire Chapter ROTC Boosters provide the scholarship monies normally awarded at the annual Cadet Dinner during the May General Meeting. We have zeroed out the 2025 Booster Fund and are now accepting donations for the 2026 scholarships. Here are those who have donated to the 2026 ROTC Booster Fund so far:

Patrick Harris, CAPT, USCG (Ret)	Elaine Callahan, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)	Ken Evans, CAPT, USPHS (Ret)
Scott Sandgathe, CDR, USN (Ret)	Richard Kimbell, CDR, USN (Ret)	Michael Kennedy, CAPT (CHC) USN (Ret)
Frank Balazs, 1stLt, USMC (Fmr)	Carole Applegate, Surviving Spouse	Raymond Byrne, BG, USA (Ret)
Richard Heyman, Col, USAF (Ret)	John Ingman, LTC, USA (Ret)	Mary Ann Roos, Surviving Spouse
Ronald Sticka, Col, USAF (Ret)	Darlene Thomasec, LTC, USA (Ret)	Lance Englet, COL, USA (Ret)
Donald Simpson, LTC, USA (Ret) in memory of LTC Patrick Simpson and LTC Edward "Mike" Reuter		
Bert Toepel, Jr., COL, USA (Ret)	Barbara Gunn, Surviving Spouse	Dick Norton, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Lynette Campbell, MAJ, USA (Ret)	Tom Stewart, CDR, USN (Fmr)	Les Cunningham, Capt, USAF (Fmr)
Eric Watkins, LTC, USA (Ret)	David Cooper, Maj, USAF (Ret)	John Simmons, CH, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Richard Edwards, COL, USA (Ret)	Robert Heaton, Maj, USAF (Ret)	Jackie Patterson, Surviving Spouse
Larry Senn, LT, USN (Fmr)	James Helbling, LTC, USA (Ret)	Erven Kincaid, LCDR, USN (Ret)
William Gutheim, COL, USA (Ret)	Jonathan Landon, Chaplain (MAJ), USA (Ret)	

Booster contact is John Toensing (541) 345-7535. Checks may be given to the Treasurer at meetings or mailed to: Emerald Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767.

BRIEFS AND TAPS

Legislative Affairs

Chapter member presented to the Oregon Senate

I was honored for my service to the Military Veterans in our local area on the Oregon Senate floor on Thursday, February 6, 2026. I was the guest of Senator James I. Manning, Jr., an Honorary Member of our Chapter. He recognized me as the President of our Chapter and the support we provide for "Legislative Issues" for our Veterans.

My Bio was read on the Senate Floor as well.

Floyd Bard, CW5 (R), USA, ORNG, served under Adjutant General Raymond F. Rees, MG (R), USA as the Command Chief Warrant Officer. My duties included approving candidates for helicopter flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama. I served in Afghanistan, Task Force Phoenix 5, in 2007, under BG Douglas Pritt. Retired from the Oregon Army National Guard in 2007, after 42 years of military service. Awards include the Legion of Merit Medal and the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal. Currently, I am the Advisor for the Lane County Stand Down, after being the General Chairman for 9 years. The Lane County Stand Down has been very successful for many years serving our Veterans that are Homeless, the underserved Veterans and their family members. I am the current President for the Emerald Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and the Vice President for the Oregon Trail Chapter of the US Army Warrant Officer Association.



A Real Hero Finally Gets the Recognition He Deserves

From "Tuesday Tidings" by the National Maritime Historical Society, 10 Feb 2026

A Huzzah to CAPT Royce Williams, who turned 100 this past April. Last Wednesday, it was announced he would receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his role in a remarkable dogfight in 1952 over waters near North Korea that pitted him against seven Soviet MiG-15s. He shot down four and reportedly hit two others before returning to the carrier Oriskany with 263 holes in his F9F Panther. For decades, the incident was hush-hush, given that the US was not at war with the Soviet Union. Recent legislative action cleared the way to allow this highest recognition to be bestowed.

As many of you saw, President Trump awarded the medal to CAPT Williams during his State of the Union speech on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

Congratulations, Captain Williams!

Published with permission from the U.S. Naval Institute, To receive "Tuesday Tidings" every week, go to <https://nationalmaritime.app.neoncrm.com/forms/56>

TAPS

LTC James Helbling, USA (Ret), passed away in February 2026. His wife, Ginny, passed away in 2021. Jim was an Infantry officer who served from January 1959 through August 1979

Visit our Chapter website at EmeraldEmpireMOAA.org

BRIEFS

What do the Super Bowl, Olympics, and MLB Spring Training have in common?

They all generate a powerful thirst which creates an over-abundance of beverage containers which creates an opportunity for our chapter to cash in on recyclables.

We have the answer... BLUE BAGS. Blue “BottleDrop” recyclable bags, to be exact... the ones you can get from Ken Evans at any of our meetings (be sure to pick up some stickers, too).



Those of you who have been saving your recyclable bottles and cans in the green bags or any other bag that happens to be laying around, can now start using the blue bags. Once those bags are full, you can drop them off at either of the “BottleDrop” locations and they will be credited to our MOAA account. OR you can bring them in to a meeting and Ken will handle them.

When you pick up your bags from Ken, make sure to pick up a sticker for each bag. This way when you go to the drop-off point, you just scan the sticker to open the door, then attach the sticker to the bag and put the bag inside the door. All done.

There are two convenient locations to drop off your bags: 2105 Broadway in Eugene and 2289 Olympic in Springfield. If for some reason you are unable to get to the drop off locations, Ken will handle that chore if you deliver them to him at one of our meetings.

REMEMBER: All proceeds go into our Veterans Service Fund, which can benefit many of the veterans residing within Lane County.

Your 2026 Committee Chairs

Personal Affairs	Michael Pace	Membership	Ken Evans
Programs	Ken Evans	Chaplain	Jonathan Landon
Newsletter	Pat Harris	Website	Ginger Banks
House and Calling	Pat Harris	ROTC and Awards	Eric Watkins
Historian	Eric Watkins	Scholarship Fund	Dick Kimbell

You see the term “Committee Chairs” and you think that these are the leaders who make sure their teams have the resources and training needed to fulfill their missions. Well, that’s a slight misnomer since none of these committees has an additional member. You can help remedy that. Only one of these committees requires a particular skill, but all require your desire to move the chapter toward our goal of helping all of our veterans.

“The Emerald Voice”

is published monthly by Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA),
PO Box 767, Eugene, Oregon 97440-0767
Email: EmeraldEmpireMOAA@gmail.com
Copy of newsletter available upon email request.

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**MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA**

Emerald Empire Chapter
P.O. Box 767
Eugene, OR. 97440

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Website:

www.emeraldempiremoaa.org

E-mail:

MOAAofEugene@gmail.com



*Thank You for
supporting MOAA
with your
membership.*

**It's
never
too late
to
become
a MOAA
Life
Member**



Service, loyalty,
honesty and
integrity

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MOAA is the largest veterans' organization for military officers in the United States, with approximately 364,000 members.

The organization represents those on active duty, former officers, members of the National Guard, Reserve, Retirees and their surviving spouses.

Chapter Mission Statement:

The mission of the Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA is to advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.



**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
29 MARCH**