

The Willamette National Cemetery would like to thank all those who took part in planning this year's event.

Special thanks to all Active Duty Service Members, Veterans of Foreign War, American Legion, 1st Marine Division and United States Volunteers America organizations for their continual support of military honors throughout the year. The Oregon Army National Guard, US Navy Reserve, US Air Force Reserve, US Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard for their tremendous efforts and dedication in providing dignified military honors to our fallen heroes. Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, the Portland Police Department, Portland Fire & Rescue, and Clackamas Fire District #1 for their continual support to the National Cemetery.

Thank you to the Troops and Packs of Thunderbird District Scouts BSA, as well Girl Scout Troops, and the many volunteers and organizations that place the gravesite flags.

Special Thanks to the Veteran's Affairs Police Department for providing continual support to the National Cemetery, as well as for providing external traffic control. Civil Air Patrol for program distribution for our Memorial Day ceremony.

Grateful thanks to the Willamette National Cemetery personnel who have contributed to the peace, tranquility and reverence of cemetery grounds as a National Shrine to our country's veterans.

Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1.
You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.
Website: www.veteranscrisisline.net or text 838255.



Saluting Our Military & Fallen Heroes

73rd Annual Memorial Day Observance

Monday, May 29, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Willamette National Cemetery

2023 Memorial Day Program

Saluting Our Military & Fallen Heroes

Officer of the Day: Lt. Col. Kenneth F. Broadwater, US Army (Ret.)

Master of Ceremonies:

Stephanie Ouellette, Administrative Officer, Willamette National Cemetery

Invocation: Chaplain Frank Clore

Posting of Colors: Joint Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance: Children of Willamette Employees & Audience

National Anthem: "Praise in 3D" – George, Cliff, and David Dominy

Welcome & Introduction of Dignitaries:

Maggie L. Ayres, Assistant Director, Willamette National Cemetery

Special Remarks: The Honorable Ron Wyden, US Senator, Oregon

Guest Speaker: David Holt, Executive Director, VA Portland Healthcare System

Guest Speaker: Renaye Murphy, Executive Director, Veteran's Benefits Administration, Portland/Anchorage Regional Offices

Wreath Presentation:

Ian Newland, 2022 Employee of the Year Runner-up / Gold Star Wives

Service Hymn Medley: Oregon Symphonic Band

Vocal Selections: Praise in 3D

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Jared Howard, Director, Willamette National Cemetery

Memorial Day Address: Brigadier General Jim Cook, Commander, Dept of Washington American Legion

"Amazing Grace": Portland Police Highland Guard Pipe Band & Portland Fire Band

Closing Remarks: Jared Howard, Director, Willamette National Cemetery

Rifle Salute: Oregon Army National Guard

Taps: Specialist Scott Steele, 234TH Army Band

Benediction: Chaplain Frank Clore

Retirement of the Colors: Joint Color Guard

Dismissal & Postlude: Portland Police Highland Guard Pipe Band & Portland Fire Band

Speaker Bios



Senator Ron Wyden is the U.S. Senator for Oregon, serving as Democrat in the Senate since 1996. He previously served in the State House from 1981 until 1996. Senator Wyden currently serves on the Committees on Finance, Budget, Intelligence, and Energy and Natural Resources. He is Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a senior member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



Mr. David L Holt MBA, FACHE has served Veterans for 29+ years in the VA. Prior to assuming his role as VA Portland Director, he served as Director, Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics (SORCC) in White City, Oregon since May 2021. His career spans 33 years of leadership experience and five years of experience as a nurse assistant and recreation therapist across five states including Wyoming, Utah, California, Washington, and Oregon. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and was adjunct faculty teaching MBA and health courses at five southern California universities, including UCLA Extension.



Ms. Renaye Murphy was appointed Executive Director of the Portland and Anchorage Regional Offices for the VBA in August 2020. As Executive Director, Ms. Murphy is responsible for administering over \$130,000,000 per month in compensation and pension benefits to approximately 97,289 Veterans, dependents and their survivors living in Alaska and Oregon. She is also responsible for providing Veteran Readiness & Employment services, placement assistance and Independent Living Services to over 2,700 Veterans throughout Alaska, Oregon and 5 counties in Southwest Washington. Prior to becoming Executive Director for Portland and Anchorage, Ms. Murphy was the Executive Director for the Denver Regional Office.



Brigadier General James Cook Current Commander, Washington State American Legion responsible for leading twelve Districts of 151 Posts covering 39 counties comprising of 25,000 members. Current owner of JTCWorld, a nonprofit organization, 501c3, helping veterans, and their families with resiliency and coping mechanisms. Advocate for humanitarian and community partnerships. Executive Director for Tillicum Community Center in Lakewood, WA. Responsible for the Center with a Food Bank, Clothes Closet, County Branch Library, a Medical Clinic, senior meal site, and WIC (Women, Infant and Children) program. Emergency Management and community coordinator.

