

## **Honoring- One by One**

**January 6th, 2012**

**by Ronald Verini**

A celebration of Sven Anderson occurred the other day at Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida (VAOI). Sven with the 2-6CAV (Lightning Horse) will be stationed in Afghanistan. Sven is one of those heroes that with quiet endeavor, steps up to the plate to serve his Nation. His wife had tears of joy and pride when Sven received his quilt from the 'Quilt for Our Troops' program. The 'Happy Bee's' in Fruitland made this quilt for Sven. This quilt project makes sure all of our deployed receives a homemade quilt when we receive information about their deployment. Sven on his last deployment also received boxes of goodies from our 'Treats for the Troops' program. Our community continues to support our Armed Forces with Love, goodies, letters, notes and artwork. Thanks to the many ladies and men in our community that continue to make quilts and donate product to the many projects that bring a little bit of home to our deployed.

Be on the outlook this year to Veteran's Benefits Events that will be taking place during the year. Mark your calendars to attend one of these at the Baker County Fairgrounds building in Baker City on Saturday, March 24th from 10AM to 2PM. Take advantage of the many other events that will be closer to home here in the Treasure Valley. Operation Enduring Support and County Veteran Services are putting this one on. I will provide information about these events as they are reported to me.

Be alert: you do not have to pay to learn about VA benefits. In Idaho visit with the Idaho State Office of Veteran Advocacy located at 444 Fort Street. Call 208-577-2300 to set up an appointment with a service office to file a claim or learn about benefits. In Ontario we have our own special County Veteran Service Officer, Connie Tanaka located at 316 NE Goodfellow St., 541-889-6649. Connie is one of the best service officers that the system has, so take advantage of his knowledge and expertise, you have paid for that service, use it.

Boys and Girls State will be coming up June 17th on the campus of Willamette University. Applications must be received by April 1st by the American Legion Post in your area. For the boys: learn about this program of "One Week to Shape a Lifetime" please go to [www.alorboysstate.org](http://www.alorboysstate.org). I am on staff for this event so if you have any questions call me about the program. This is open to high-school juniors. For information on girls state please contact the Legion Auxiliary in your area.

Plan ahead now for the "Treasure Valley Car and Bike Show" held in Lions Park on July 28th. Shine up that special car/bike or come out as a vender or sponsor to support our Armed Forces/Veterans and families. This is one of the largest events supporting our Military in the Treasure Valley. Call 541-889-1978 and ask for Phil at VAOI as to how you might participate.

" War is sweet to those who have not experienced it. " D. Erasmus.