

Projects for Patriotism

February 10th, 2012

by Ronald Verini

At Saint Peters Catholic School, Rugina Ormsby's class made flags out of cray- paper and composed letters to our deployed troops. They also discussed what a veteran is and talked about how they helped each other on this project and why they honored our deployed military. This was done during National Catholic Week- Providing Service to the Community. A presentation was made to Charlene Pelland representing the Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida, who will be sending these letters to Afghanistan in their 'Treats for the Troops' program.

The VAOI Community Color Guard stepped out in style with the help of Max Arvidson, Harold Baer, Celeb Day and Chris Christopher in Fruitland the other day proving that there are no borders when it comes to patriotic pride and love of 'Old Glory'. The community color guard has shown to be one of the best ambassadors of bringing honor to our Nation and the ones that have served. Thank you.

Marilyn Justus sent me a piece on the Vietnam War and the last line of this sticks with me. 'There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.' Of the over 58,000 names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall the pain is indeed fresh to many of us. Those statistics are real neighbors, sons, daughters, fathers, wives and friends and loved ones. Each generation learns this hard lesson of war. Learn from the past and the issues today, then vote.

When is the last time that you or your organization has talked with Cliff Bentz or Ted Ferioli, Greg Walden, Ron Wyden or any one that matters on veteran issues? Talking to ourselves is not enough; we need to get word to the ones that represent us in government. Go to www.veteranadvocates.org and click on the links or look in the Argus (opinion page) and they have many of the legislators for the state/federal government of Idaho and Oregon.

I was asked the other day what 'Treats for the Troops' and 'Pencils for Peace' are that I write about? The 'Treats' program sends packages of goodies to our troops on the front lines and other locations. The boxes are filled with items that we collect from our community, including letters, artwork, beef jerky and a long list of other items. The 'Pencils' program is a humanitarian project that is directed by the needs of our reconstruction teams in 'Hot Zones'. The items in those boxes are sent to troops that are working with the people in the villages and are filtered through our troops to the schools, orphanages, etc. In these boxes are pencils, pens, paper, shoes, medical items and many other requested items by the Civil Affairs Officers. VAOI is one of the many organizations that help in this effort. For more information call VAOI at 541-889-1978 and ask for Phil. Or call me.

"A project without a critical path is like a ship without a rudder." D. Meyer.