

The USO Insider

9 July 2007

A Note from the President

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You may recall that the USO Puget Sound Area has an initiative in progress to better inform the general public about our mission. Since April, we have been fortunate to have a number of newsworthy events receive local news coverage, starting with a homecoming celebration for the Washington National Guard's 81st Brigade Combat Team on April 21st hosted by the SeaTac USO Center that was covered by KIRO 7 TV. Our most recent TV coverage was on June 9th, when KIRO 7 covered a deployment from McChord USO Center. In both cases, the roles of USO volunteers were part of the story.

Besides TV coverage, USO Puget Sound activities have received some flattering coverage in newspapers, both on base and off. You may not know that we have been a prime supporter of a new technology that allows troop and families to stay in touch by exchanging large photo or video files over the Internet. This is a great improvement over the regular email that keeps people informed but does not move sound bites or snapshots easily or securely. As result of our efforts, the USO headquarters in Washington DC is considering promoting this technology throughout Southwest Asia where troops are in harm's way.

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To learn more about recent press coverage of your USO, check out our new website Media link to In the News <http://www.usopsa.org/index.php?content=inthenews> where you will find TV clips and newspaper articles. I am proud of our accomplishments as detailed on this page. Another place you will want to check is the Newsletter sign-up link (<http://www.usopsa.org/index.php?content=newsletter>) where you will find archives of this volunteer newsletter.

Next time somebody asks you why you volunteer or what the USO Puget Sound Area does, just refer them to www.usopsa.org and there will be great coverage of who we serve, how we serve and ways they can be part of Team USO.

Thank you all for your continued service.

Regards,

Tom Hinman CDR USN Ret
President & Executive Director
USO Puget Sound Area

~ SeaTac Center News ~

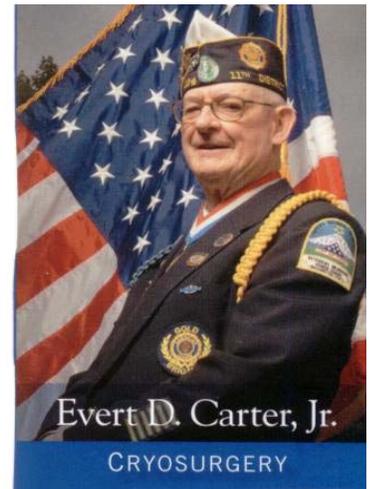
Volunteer Spotlight: **"Sarge" Carter, Jr.**

Evert D. "Sarge" Carter, Jr. was born 82 years ago and has been heard to brag, "I can still get my uniform on!" He has thirty years of military service, retiring with the rank of First Sergeant. He was a combat infantryman through three wars; WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

Some of the units he served with were the Bushmasters Infantry 158th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) (Historical Member #309). This unit was known as General MacArthur's Jungle Troops, 1943-46. Sarge also served with 6th Army Infantry, 101st Airborne (The "Screaming Eagles"), 1st Missile Battalion, 67th Artillery, as well as other outfits.

In his picture, Sarge is wearing the American Legion uniform, which includes the District Officer's cap; a blue rope on the right shoulder signifying infantry; a gold rope on the left shoulder, which shows his membership in the Honor Guard, and; a gold badge on his chest – the Gold Brigade Recruiting Award, which he received for recruiting over fifty new members into The American Legion this past year alone. This is the highest national recruiting award in The American Legion.

The patch on his left shoulder shows that he is a Tahoma National Cemetery Volunteer and the six bars on his left sleeve represent six years served with the Honor Guard, plus one day a week at the cemetery Public Information Center. Sarge also serves on escort duty at Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Seattle every week. Combined, he now has over 3000 volunteer hours at VA Medical Center, VA National Cemetery and Tahoma. In addition, Sarge now has approximately 1800 hours devoted to the USO Puget Sound Area.



"Sarge" Carter
USOPSA Spotlight
Volunteer for July

SEATAC CENTER ALERT:

We've had an increase in thefts and items missing from the luggage room. Please keep the light on at all times and ensure that one person is at the desk during your shift. Don't be afraid to question anyone entering the luggage room without signing in. Thank you!!

When Sarge started his first volunteer work almost seven years ago at USO Puget Sound Area and VA Medical Center in Seattle, little did he know then that it would last this long or snowball into so many jobs, but he loves it.

Sarge's picture was taken by Highline Medical Center Public Relations to use in an advertisement for their Cancer Center after his cryosurgery for prostate cancer. He is now cancer-free and living a normal life in his "old age".

USO Puget Sound Area – always there, always home to American military and retirees. Sarge says, "I always enjoy helping people, *especially* our veterans! Thank you!"

***And thank you for your service,
Sarge!***

~ SeaTac Center *Cont.*~



ROTC "Surges" Through SeaTac Airport

The annual summer surge of Army ROTC students is in full swing. Arriving at SeaTac from 247 colleges throughout the country and heading for training at Fort Lewis, over 4,300 ROTC students got a bag lunch and drink prepared by SeaTac USO Center volunteers since June 4th. This USO provides that "last touch of home" before trainees board a bus for the trip to their summer assignment. The SeaTac USO Center also greets "graduates" after their training is over as they await flights home. ROTC students from other services also come through SeaTac between June and August, but not in the numbers of their Army counterparts.

Key USO volunteers in feeding these ravenous young adults included: Gazelle Lacenski, Karen Madison, Carol Nyseth, Helene Pedrazzini, Jonathan Randolph, Adrienne Sardelli, Anita Shores, Lorenzo Del Rosario, Judith Derbes, Meagan Herrin, Theodore Leyden, Robert Pitts and Eleanor Skinner. Our 4:00-8:00 am shifts were also a key to the success of this operation by making sure the cart with coffee and supplies was ready by 8:30 am for the military checking in the ROTC everyday. Thank you all!!!

Special thanks go to Frank and Solveig Steenerson for all their hard work. Solveig was here several days making sandwiches by herself while Frank replaced all the boxes with sack lunches. They also took over for Sylvia while she was laid up with her back – we are very grateful for all they did!!!



~ McChord Center~

Reflections of McChord

By Tracye Kakely

It is one of life's strange coincidences that a person is placed in a situation where their passion coincides with their social awareness. It is a good sign!! Up until that moment, I was spiraling with uncertainty if I could even make any difference in a military person's life.

Such fears are unsubstantiated when you meet a military person, their dependents or receive an e-mail of thanks from someone whose life you have touched, even for a moment by what we do at the USO. My primary thought was, if I can touch even one life, I have succeeded. Apparently, my McChord volunteers were thinking the same thing. Some were more vocal than I in their determination to fulfill "a taste of home." Needless to say, my perception of "making a difference" has changed.

A few months after arriving in my new position, I found myself surrounded by a group of some of the most generous, thoughtful, and warm people I have ever encountered. You see, by this time, I had jumped in feet first at McChord with constant deployments and long work schedules. Although the military is part of my "inner workings," it had been a long time since I had been in the military environment. I was interested in how our surrounding community could donate to our military and bring cohesion between businesses and the military. Instead, I found myself invited to speaking engagements, luncheons, boat trips, etc. Did I mention all of this helped bring the McChord USO to where it is today and our surrounding community generously donating to the well being of our military community?

They were not alone in this graciousness, as even my own family extended acts of hospitality through the giving of their time. Many people, when they learn I work for the USO, have said the exact same thing, "How may I help?" I remember thinking, what else can we do through the USO to nurture the growing relationship between our community and the military.

Soon, I began to reflect on how different my perceptions have changed since I began here at the McChord USO almost one year ago, and how different our community would be if people would shed their misconceptions. The USO commitment of "until every one comes home" is no small thing.

As I begin another year at the McChord USO, no longer a fresh faced new manager, let us all continue to expand the understanding of our military and what we can do to stand by our military members and their families.

McChord Center News

June 7th - Tracye co-hosted with Al Knight on KLAY radio to discuss the McChord and SeaTac Centers and what we are doing within the Puget Sound Area.

June 20th - Tracye and Herb Schmeling volunteer hosted the 2007 Evergreen Fleet Cruise onboard the Navy vessel Old Man IV. The Evergreen Fleet Cruise is presented by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Affairs Committee, which fosters networking and community links between civilian and military

Upcoming McChord USO Events

July 28th - Tracye and volunteers will be participating in the Fort Lewis 7th Annual Scavenger Hunt.

August 17th - Tracye will be participating in the Surviving Spouses Appreciation Day at American Lake on North Fort Lewis. We will have a table with USO information.

Mobile Center News

June 2nd - Volunteers from the McChord USO partnered with SAAF and Harborstone Credit Union for Operation Support at Puyallup, Top Foods. Over 300 Care Packages were packed and shipped to troops deployed overseas.

Upcoming Mobile USO Events

August 4th - Our next Operation Support with partners SAAF and Harborstone Credit Union will be at Puyallup Top Foods collecting items for our military families.

August 11-12th - Overnight event hosted at Holiday Park on McChord AFB. Families receive a free tent and sleeping bag rentals along with a pancake breakfast the next morning. We will have the USO Mobile Canteen at Holiday Park to show movies during the campout.

August 17th - Rev up your engines and get ready for the Hot Summer Nights Car Show on McChord AFB. Enjoy a display of automobiles from the years past to present.

August 18th - Join the USO Mobile Canteen for Moment of Thunder in the Fife/Tacoma area. All proceeds with benefit the Fort Lewis Fisher House. We are still looking for motorcycle participants and volunteers.

August 24th - In conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the Air Force, SummerFest is a base wide celebration featuring entertainment, picnic lunch, a family fun area and more.

For more information or to volunteer for any of the above events, please contact Tracye Kakely.

~ Mobile Center ~

WHQ Mobile Visits Puget Sound Area

The USO World Headquarters Mobile USO visited the Puget Sound in early June on an orientation visit to South Sound bases. Crewed by Cory Hulze and Pam Fairbanks, this 40-foot rec center on wheels was on hand for the June 9th troop deployment supported by the McChord USO Center. Soldiers watched "Pirates of the Caribbean" on the two outdoor TV screens and Xbox gamers enjoyed contests at 4 consoles inside while waiting for their flight to depart. The Mobile USO also provided a WiFi hotspot for laptop computer users. On June 11th, the Mobile USO helped mark the Grand Opening of the High Tec Rec Center at the North Fort Lewis's Wilson Recreation Center in cooperation with the MWR group. Before leaving town, the Mobile USO also made an appearance at Madigan Army Hospital.

★★★★★

Puget Sound Mobile Canteen Supports Everett Freedom Fest, RODEO and SeaFair; a busy summer ahead!

Our own Mobile Canteen was a star attraction at the Family Freedom Fest on board Everett Naval Base to help celebrate the Fourth of July. With a joint team of USO volunteers from McChord and SeaTac, this was the first time the Canteen appeared in Everett. The gates to the base open on this occasion and over 30,000 people attended the festivities and toured the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, which had just returned from overhaul in Bremerton.

We look forward to a ten-day "deployment" of the Mobile Canteen across the runway at McChord to provide hospitality for airlift logistic teams from around the world competing in RODEO from July 17 – 27. We will be parked right on the flight line by the C-130 teams and will provide traditional USO goodies for the duration of this exercise.

The chance to support the sea services will extend into August when the USOPSA Mobile Canteen will be parked on Pier 91 near the US Navy ships for 4 days of SeaFair. We will provide some refreshments to those waiting to tour the ships and have the opportunity to tell the USO story to the thousands of Seattleites that flock to this annual event. Thanks to all of our USO Mobile Canteen volunteers. There are still opportunities to serve on the SeaFair crew, and possibly to even get some special ship tours in the bargain. The shifts will be split between McChord and SeaTac, so let Tracye and Sylvia know of your interest in helping at our initial trip to this festival.

Volunteer Birthdays

July

Joice Bueling	July 02
Chuck Dixon	July 03
Stacy Bodenner	July 04
Donald Joss	July 06
Theodore Theyden	July 09
Vic Kaufman	July 10
Jimmie Lowen	July 10
Annette Lowen	June 11
Josie Sappington	July 12
Fannie Sumaoang	July 12
Herb Schmeling	July 13
Andrew Bush	July 14
Terry Roy	July 16
Michael Gazarek	July 16
Evalena Hatcher	July 17
Kelly Carey	July 20
Scott Engstrom	July 21
Carrie Thearle	July 24
Catherine Wangstad	July 24
Peter Adler	July 26
Lorenzo Del Rosario	July 30
Art Thompson	July 30



SAVE THE DATE!

September 19, 2007

Annual Volunteer Luncheon

The Air Force is hosting this year's celebration and will be helping us celebrate *you* and all that you do. Please plan to join us!

New Volunteers SeaTac & McChord:

Vicky Arneson	Jannel Burke
Eric Swenson	Lisa Swenson
Alana Byrum	Bill Bumbaugh
Dottie Cole	Christian Delgado
Melissa Lipscomb	Carmen Rosa-
Louis Stojaspal	Fashaw

Welcome!!



COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

Much thanks to the warm and hardworking people working in this facility!

~ Wilma B. Messer, USAF Retired Dependent

The best part of jumping from McChord is having the USO at our disposal. Thanks for the incredible job!

~ SPC Hugo, US Army – McChord USO patron

I came to Seattle on this day to pick up my 7-year-old son. Your staff was wonderful in not only welcoming me in, but making sure I felt “at home.” Thank you for your support & volunteerism. You are what make the USO such a wonderful program. Take care and may God bless you all.

~ Hans Esknes, USCG

This has been by far the greatest USO that I've been to. I've been to Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia. I enjoyed the services that aren't offered at the others ... such as the bunk, and mini-theater. Thank you guys for your volunteer services and providing a home away from home ... for us military service members. Keep up the great work!

~ Chris Coley, ETSN, US Navy

Thanks a lot – it is really a relief when you get off the plane to have somewhere to come and relax. Especially when traveling with 4 rambling kids. Thanks again and you all are very much appreciated.

~ SGT Kimi Michael

You are what life is about. Without you and your love there would be lost hopes. Than you all so much.

~ Betty Salazar – parent of military children

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.”

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th U.S. President

Programs ...

The USO Helping Hands Grants Program has been very active during the last two months. From May 25th through June 26th we funded 8 requests and awarded over \$5,200. A large variety of events were supported from homecomings to the Joint E-9 ball. One of our larger awards went to the American Lake Golf Course to assist in their renovations to make the course more accessible. The Helping Hands grant was specifically awarded to improve the course's tee boxes so that they would be accessible for play by all. Another important project funded was Camp Primetime, a weekend summer camp put on specifically for members of the Exceptional Family Member Program – a program for soldiers in the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who have family members with special medical and educational needs. The USO Puget Sound area with the assistance of the Helping Hands Grant committee is proud to support these important causes and wonderful programs. If you'd like to apply for or recommend someone apply for a Helping Hands Grant, please direct them to our website www.usopsa.org where the guidelines and form can be found.

Congratulations are in order for our Business & Finance Manager, Kelly Carey. After several months of class, studying and preparation, she has completed her bookkeeper program and is now a Certified Bookkeeper and a member of the American Institute of Professional Bookkeepers. Kelly would like to thank the USO for supporting her in this effort and recognizing the accomplishment. We are excited to see Kelly finish this program and the great effects it will have on our accounting – we already saw the difference in our excellent audit.

Please join us in congratulating Kelly!

Community Event of Interest: **ESTATE PLANNING and Mapping** **Your Financial Future:**

July 18, 25 & Aug 1, 2007 ~ 10 am-11:30 am
Burien Community Center
425 SW 144th Street / Burien, WA

Free three-part class with lunch catered by Sal's Deli. **Please register** to assure your place by calling (206) 246-5109.

USO Staff, Board Member Receive Top Patriot Award

On June 10, the McChord USO Center manager, Tracye Kakely, her son Antony Kakely, and USO Puget Sound Area board member, Joan Shalikashvili, received the Patrick Henry Award for patriotic service from the Puget Sound chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW). This is the highest award given locally by the MOWW and the first time a mother and son have received the award together.

Alan Peschek, Regional Commander of the MOWW, said that the Silver Patrick Henry Award is given to those individuals who express patriotism through service to their communities. "It simply means that you love your country enough to give something back," Peschek said.

Kakely, who has headed the McChord USO Center for the past 10 months, said, "I am blessed to be able to work in a position that allows me to make a positive difference and to be an example to my son. As a parent, we wonder whether we are planting good seeds in our children. This award means a lot to me because it is a confirmation from the community that I am doing something right both with the USO and with the values my son is learning."

Peschek added that Kakely and her son, and Mrs. Shalikashvili have demonstrated this kind of patriotism through their dedicated service to the military, military families, and through their volunteer efforts in their communities. Peschek also praised Kakely's son Antony, age 9, who received the Bronze Patrick Henry Medallion given to children under the age of 18. "This kid has it," said Peschek. "He's a leader and could easily be the next Colin Powell," referring to the former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Tom Hinman, president and executive director of the USO Puget Sound Area, said that Kakely's efforts have had a huge impact on how the USO has served the troops. "Tracye devotes an incredible amount of energy to serving our troops and their families," said Hinman. Hinman also praised USO board member, Joan Shalikashvili, as a tireless advocate for the troops and their families. "She could spend her days in full retirement after serving with her husband, Gen. John Shalikashvili, the former Chairman of the Joint Chief, but she spends countless hours volunteering at the USO center, helping with our collections for troop care packages, and working with other community organizations. She reflects the heart and soul of this organization."

"When you accept an award like this," said Shalikashvili, "it is really on behalf of all the people who do so much for our service members."