

PUGET SOUND ON WATCH

Taking home the gold in more ways than one

THE colors dominating the gym were black and red. Fans led cheers on the left and right. The tangible excitement in the gym was thick enough to cut with a knife. The rivals squared off against each other and the Warrior Games’ championship wheelchair basketball game was on.

“When in the game you play with delivery, intent, and always in the moment,” claims Army Sergeant Brice Hamilton, assistant coach for the Army team.

The Army defeated last year’s champions, the Marines, 44-19. Not only did the Army win the championship game against the Marines, but stunned them in the first round with a 24-17 victory.

“Being selected to participate in the Warrior Games is a humbling experience,” Brice said. “But being put into a position where I will be representing the Army was nothing short of a blessing.”

The Warrior Games, held in Colorado, hosted 200 service members during the sporting events. Service members were able to compete in a variety of team and individual sports such as: sitting volleyball,



Photo by Tom Kimmell Photography

All-Army team cuts down the net after defeating the Marine Corps in the championship game of wheelchair basketball, May 17, 2011.

swimming, archery, shooting, cycling, and track and field. Service members competing in the Warrior Games are wounded, ill or injured.

“The focus players have when practicing, the excitement as they compete and the determination as they exhaust all of their energy to win the gold is nothing short of touching when you consider everything they had to endure to make it to this moment,” Brice said.

Brice plays wheelchair basketball on the Tacoma Parks and Receptions team. He also instructs and plays wheelchair basketball within the battalion adap-

tive sports program at Joint Base Lewis McChord. Working with service members and helping them reach their goals is something he loves doing, he said. Brice will be moving to Washington D.C. to work with the Army Warrior Transition Command and assist with adaptive sports programs there.

“Adaptive sports are key to unlocking the door for a lot of people,” Brice said. “I would like everyone to remember an injury can only disable you if you enable it.”

The Army wheelchair basketball team taught their assistant coach to overcome obstructions in his life and reinvent himself in a positive way, he said.

While he taught them about having a game focus to win the gold –defend, play hard and play smart – he hopes they learned to focus on life to, he said.

“In life you’re going to have things hinder your progress, and, you are going to decide to take a chance on change,” Brice said. “You can’t be afraid of that moment when it takes place; start by accepting it and understanding in what manner can this help or hurt me.”

From the cockpit of the Executive Director

WITH the beginning of summer comes a multitude of huge events for our organization. Joint Base Lewis McChord will host aircrews from throughout the world in a competition called “Rodeo”, SeaTac will begin the summer long hosting of 6,000 ROTC students, our friends from Merrill Gardens are also supporting USOPSA and we will celebrate our 45 Anniversary in July with two Gary Sinise and the LT Dan Band concerts in July. That said, we are always busy here in the Puget Sound Area -which is how it should be.

In the last two months, Team USOPSA has supported the 3,500 American military family members who voluntarily left Japan following the country’s tragic tsunami, was recognized on the field by both the Seattle Mariners and Tacoma Rainiers baseball teams during their recognition of the Puget Sound Area’s Armed Forces and were even selected by the Slaughter County Roller Vixens as their charity of choice at a Roller Derby event in Kitsap!

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Japan evacuations prove USO Puget Sound can provide support at a moments notice

THE earth violently shook. The ocean heaved and roared. Everything went black. When power came on three days later Claire Hogue and her family stationed at Misawa Air Force Base were able to see the devastation which struck Japan.

“It was terrifying,” Hogue said. “There was no telling what would happen to my husband’s orders, or what hardships were ahead of the base due to supplies being bought out at the commissary, and most importantly, we were worried about the safety of our small child.”

During the blackout loud speakers on the base broadcasted news and updates. The damaged

Fukushima nuclear plant added to the chaos caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

When military families and Department of Defense employees were being granted voluntary evacuations, Claire said she and her husband knew they needed to do everything they could to make sure their son was safe at all times.

“The constant aftershocks that followed were giving our toddler anxiety,” Claire said. “We couldn’t stand making him go through that when we had the option to make him feel safer.” The decision was made. Claire would take her son on

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From the cockpit

Additionally, we successfully completed our annual Red, White and Blue Golf Classic on May 24 at the Golf Club at Newcastle. Over 300 golfers filled both courses, were welcomed by our “Friends of Kilroy” and their M.A.S.H. tent, were thrilled by an 18 gun salute and viewed a flyover by the Blackjack Squadron of Arlington. Multiple food vendors also supported the event (I think there was food at every 4th hole!). Each golfer and volunteer had a great time sharing the camaraderie that can only occur in our special golf format experience, which included a military “guest celebrity” as part of each golf fivesome.

Fortunately for our sponsors from Brotherton Cadillac, Barrier Automotive Group, Roy Robinson Chevrolet and Walker’s Renton Subaru, none of our golfers successfully made a “hole in one” so all the cars went safely back to the showroom floor. The All Navy team won the event at an amazing minus 10.

As with any successful event, “thanks” is due to over 100 volunteers. Without you, this event could not have happened! A special “thanks” to Golf Tournament Co-Chairs, Stan and Mary Harrelson of the Pinnacle Family of Companies, Stan’s staff, and USOPSA staff member, Chris Cote’, for their spectacular efforts. They brilliantly teamed together and effortlessly produced the largest and most successful USOPSA Golf Tournament to date. I also want to recognize our Presenting Sponsor, Triwest Healthcare Alliance, who along with 75 other sponsors and partners, allowed 100 military players to participate for free.

Each year the USO of the Puget Sound Area sets records in the number of military and family members served. In 2010, our numbers served totaled in excess of 438,000 – quite a staggering number for an organization comprised of only six additional devoted staff personnel.

I can not thank the Center Managers, Shirley McGann at SeaTac and Tracye Kakeley and Mariah Mazerski at JBLM enough for running their centers at peak efficiency each day. Thank you to Shannon McManus, for flawlessly overseeing the daily business needs of this organization. Additionally, I would like to “welcome” Meghan Cox, our newest member in our Communications Department for her efforts in communicating the USOPSA story to our friends.

I am proud to serve with each and every one of our 24 dedicated Board Members, 275 caring Volunteers and exceptional staff members. USOPSA would not exist without the collective efforts of each one of you.

We have set a date of Thursday, November 17 for our annual USOPSA Five Star Gala and Auction. This year’s event will take place at the Museum of Flight. This will be our last major fund raiser for the year and will go a long way to raise the capital necessary for every USOPSA program.

I wish you all a great start to the summer and hope we all have a truly wonderful and successful summer season serving our military and their families.

Cheers, Don

Commander, US Navy
(Retired)
Executive Director, USO
Puget Sound Area
director@usopsa.org



Japan evacuees find assistance, sanity at USO SeaTac

an 8:30 P.M. flight to Seattle, Wash., then fly to Los Angeles, California.

Less than a week after the quake and tsunami, Shirley McGann, manager of the USO center at SeaTac, received two calls moments apart stating up to 5000 military dependents may come through the Seattle International airport.

USO Puget Sound Area volunteers rallied with Shirley to make the center the transitional home for the dependents coming in. Volunteers stocked tables with coffee, snacks and sandwiches.

Ready to accommodate an arriving flight with 240 passenger USO staff suddenly needed to shift gears. Nearly 80 percent of the incoming passengers were children. Volunteers added peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the food selections.

“The volunteers are an amazingly resourceful, energized group when they are asked to help military families,” Shirley said. Volunteers stayed longer than their designated shift time, acted as liaisons between the military processors and families, and handled luggage in addition to all their normal duties.

One plane landed at SeaTac but passengers were not allowed to come inside.

“We were asked, with only 30 minutes notice, to make 300 sandwiches,” Shirley said. “We did it and provided cases of water,

juice, chips, diapers, wipes and everything else we could send to them!”

The Red Cross provided the USOPSA center with pizza for two days and then Fred Meyer provided fried chicken for the following days of the evacuation.

“When I heard the USO was taking care of us, it was a relief,” Claire said, “because I knew it was people that didn’t have to be

my husband for an indefinite amount of time.”

Claire said she is in awe of how much the USO did to support the dependents and describes the organization as the ultimate sanity saver.

“Too bad it took such a huge event to really bring [the USOPSA] out to light,” Claire said. “I think more people need to be aware of how much these volun-

teers really pour out to what they do. Thank you so much.”

Even though USOPSA volunteers were there to help, providing everything they could—even childcare services—many saw the incoming dependents as the real heroes, Shirley said.

“USO volunteer Solveig Steenerson told me a story with tears in her eyes about a woman with three children,” Shirley said.

Solveig approached the tired looking woman with three

children and asked if the flight was rough. The woman confirmed she was tired and then revealed the children were not hers. She was taking them to their grandmother’s house for a friend who could not leave Japan.

“Think of how difficult it is for a mother to evacuate with her child, never mind a 20 hour day with three children under the age of six who are not yours,” Shirley said. “This shows how deeply rooted the bonds are between military families.”



During the Japan evacuation USOPSA Volunteers helped military dependents during processing by watching their children and providing many sandwiches.

there, but ones that wanted to be there for us.”

Claire and her toddler stayed with the USO SeaTac center during their six hours of processing and making flight and hotel arrangements for California.

“That had to have been one of the longest days of my life,” Claire said. “The stress from the natural disasters, followed by the what if’s from the nuclear plant, the waiting game on what was going to happen with the departures, but also to be away from

Items and Tasks Needed for Centers

USO Puget Sound Area Staff

We are looking to improve our computer and XBOX areas available at the centers. If anyone is willing to build or donate six carrels to each center, please contact Chris Cote at coordinator@usopsa.org

Sea-Tac Center

Bunk Room Duty this June - requires two strong people who are able to take mattresses off of bunks, remove the mattress covers then place the mattress back on the bunk. Keep record which bunks were changed in a log then turn the mattresses over the following week. Usually six mattresses turned a week because it is very hard work.

Items: Capri Sun or other individual juices, assorted individual chips, hot dogs, hot dog buns, bread, ketchup, mustard, paper for copier/fax, pens and pads of paper for the front desk

Joint Base Lewis McChord

Items: Paper plates, paper cups, paper towels, sandwich meat, individually wrapped candy, sandwich bags, individual soda, individual yogurts, P Touch label maker, 2x4 inch mailing labels, and latex gloves.

Red, white and blue golf tournament becomes first class

From the Golf Club at Newcastle Clouds covered the sky as far as the eye could see. Rain threatened to make an appearance. USO Puget Sound Area Staff and volunteers held on to the hopeful rumors of possible sunshine. In a historical move, the USOPSA's Red, White and Blue Golf Classic took over two courses for the day, hosting more than 300 golfers.

"To be invited to play this year was wonderful," Army Command Sergeant Major Matt Barnes said. "But to see the amount of volunteers and local celebrities all there in support of the USOPSA and the service members was spectacular."

The area around registration was crowded with service members, business leaders, volunteers and civilians. Korean War-era M*A*S*H* units were on display. Everyone waited anxiously for the tournament to begin. The All-Navy team wanted to have fun and beat last year's military cup winners, the Air Force, Commander Dan Worra said.

Before the golf teams could be let loose, the Marine Corps 4th Landing Support Battalion gave an 18-gun salute. The Arlington based Blackjack Squadron flew over the courses in the missing man formation. The colors were presented by the Issaquah High School Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard. Golf carts decorated by each branch of service passed in review before the growing crowd while the Issaquah High School Marching Band played.



Photo by Nate Murphy



Photo courtesy of Microsoft



Photo by Meaghan Cox

Above: Marines wait to give an 18-gun salute. Below: Microsoft Store employees volunteering at the USOPSA Golf Classic strike a pose, and a team plays on the green.

"This was a first class operation in every facet," Worra said.

More than 75 companies, such as TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Boeing, Lockton, Famous Dave's and Starbucks, sponsored the USOPSA golf tournament, dinner and auction. Navy Chief Yeoman Steve Sauer said he was surprised at the number of community businesses who showed up to encourage and support on the various tee boxes.

"Our brave men and women in uniform and their families deserve our respect and support," Stan Harrelson, USOPSA Golf Committee Chairman and Pinnacle Family of Companies CEO said. "Supporting the USOPSA represents a promise kept to those who defend our freedoms."

More than 100 local active-duty military and Wounded Warriors participated in the golf tournament. Structures of teams varied. Some were all military with a National Football League Seahawks player as a teammate.

"As a Seahawks season ticket holder for years, meeting Max Unger and Mack Strong was a huge part of my day," Sauer said.

Other teams consisted of business leaders, civic leaders and a service member.

"[The team structures] provided the opportunity to interact with the civilian business leaders," Barnes said, "and allowed me to know and let our service members know that what they do each day does matter and that our communities support them."

Coast Guard Master Chief Steve Fields, on the All-Services Team, said being able to talk to different services about everything from jobs performed to leadership difficulties was a very valuable experience.

For over four hours golf teams competed for the winning title.

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Befriending Bedouins during deployment

BEDOUINS are commonly known as nomads - a group of people moving from one place to another. Everything they own can be broken down, packed up in a moment's notice. On the move, a timeless caravan goes from one place to the next making new acquaintances along the way. A mobility similar to today's service members.

Staff Sergeant Trevor Dodge, of the Army National Guard, was on an exterior patrol in Iraq when he saw the Bedouins arrive. A friendly person, Dodge looked for an opportunity to introduce himself. He learned there were nine children among the five families.

"Our friendship began when I brought the children a soccer ball," Trevor said. "Seeing their faces when I brought them the soccer ball was priceless." Alluand, an adult male, initiated a conversation with Dodge inviting him to have tea.

Over the course of the year Dodge interacted with the various families playing soccer, sharing tea and stories. He discovered a few of the men

in the families had been captured by Iraqi forces.

The Bedouins lived in large tents separating the men, women and children. Beautiful ornate rugs and wall coverings were decoration in the men only, non-air-conditioned tent. Tea was always hot, served by a brass decanter into small stoneware cups, Dodge said. Meetings

The moment was sobering for him. What we have so freely, others may never see, he said.

were usually limited to an hour which was just enough time for Dodge who was required to wear full body armor in the heat.

"You wouldn't believe how much energy the kids had when it came to playing soccer," he said, "even during August with temperatures in the 130s."

Dodge doesn't regret taking time out of his schedule to spend time with the Bedouins, to

learn from them, speak with them, and develop a friendship.

"I brought the children each a Tootsie roll pop," Trevor said. "Alluand then explained the children never had them and may likely not see them again. It was then I learned the life of a Bedouin."

The moment was sobering for him. What we have so freely, others may never see, he said. When his deployment was coming to an end Trevor brought the families postcards from the US, which was sent to him from home. "We sat for tea one more time," he said, "It was emotional to say goodbye."

Trevor's aunt, USO Puget Sound Area volunteer Doris Carruthers, retold his story on air with 94.1 KMPS FM radio through the Soldier Salute program. She said when his tour was over the families were hysterical, sobbing and upset he was leaving. Trevor was told people were at the gate mentioning his name and holding his picture. The Bedouin families came to say goodbye a second time.

Coast Guard receives laptops for internet café

AT the Senior Enlisted Summit on April 26, the USO Puget Sound Area presented the Coast Guard with three new laptops.

Aviation Maintenance Technician Master Chief Kenneth Sampson approached the USOPSA, on behalf of the Coast Guard, for assistance in creating an internet café for those in the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters located in Seattle.

“While at a USO Leadership meeting in the fall of 2010 I heard mention of the Cyber Café at NAS Whidbey,” Sampson said. “After learning it was supported by donations made by the USOPSA I requested consideration for one to be sponsored at Pier 36 for Coast Guard personnel.”

Don Leingang, Executive Director of the USOPSA, said the USOPSA is always looking for ways to provide support and when the USOPSA Board was told about the Coast Guard’s request, there was no question laptops would be purchased.



Three HP dm4-1164nr laptops were given USOPSA skins, complimentary of the Microsoft Store in Bellevue.

Partnering with the Microsoft Store in Bellevue, the USOPSA was able to buy three, newly released HP dm4-1164nr laptops and stay under budget. The laptops

have built-in cameras for service members to Skype. They were also outfitted with custom USOPSA labels, courtesy of the Microsoft Store.

“The skins with the USOPSA logo was the perfect touch,” Meaghan Cox, Communications and IT Lead of the USOPSA, said. “Everyone at the Coast Guard station will be reminded of how the USOPSA is there to support the troops and what we are capable of providing.”

Laptops are checked out by service members when they provide their military I.D., which is held until the laptop is returned.

“Having access to things like Facebook, Twitter and e-mail is something that is not allowed via our standard Coast Guard computers,” Master Chief Storekeeper Karl Keyes said. However, the new USOPSA laptops allow sailors access to the sites, providing a huge morale builder for the sailors, Keyes said.

Going the distance with determination and motivation

SPECIALIST Michael Grover looks forward to challenges. While others squirm at the mention of a 5000 meter swim or balk at the word triathlon he’s already signing up.

When he was 17, Michael and his best friend Raymond Rugenstein, now a Staff Sergeant Airman, rode bikes for 120 miles during spring break. Michael got his first taste of a short distance triathlon his senior year of high school.

“I like the challenge of three different physical disciplines all in the same race,” Michael said. “I fell in love with the sport and have been doing them every year since.”

Michael finds sprinting a challenge, which is one reason he participated in the Warrior Games, held in Colorado.

“I feel honored to participate in the Warrior Games,” he said. “To be with [Wounded Warrior] athletes is just an eye opener for what I can do with my life after my time in the Service.”

The Warrior Games is a sporting event held for service members of all branches in the Armed Forces who are wounded, ill or injured. Michael swam the 100 meter, placing third, and came in fifth in the 50 meter freestyle. He cycled 30 kilometers, taking fifth in the overall event.

Michael was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after serving in Afghanistan. Research shows PTSD changes the way a brain stores memories. The basic understanding of PTSD indicates the mind is in a state which one cannot stop remembering. The main symptoms are flashbacks, emotional detachment and jumpiness.

Individuals who experience traumatic events from car accidents, assault or natural disasters like hurricanes can show signs of PTSD. This diagnosis is not specific to service members out in the field.

“The only goal I set for myself was to encourage others to overcome their disabilities,” Michael said. “I went to show others with PTSD that you can cope with it in your own way and swimming is

my way.” Michael has been swimming competitively since high school. He quotes Olympic medalist Michael Phelps saying how swimming is normal for him, he’s comfortable there in the familiar surroundings. It is his home.

This July Michael Grover will be running a half marathon. He’ll tackle the 197 mile OfficeMax Hood to Coast relay in August, beginning on the slopes of Mount Hood and ending in Seaside, Oregon. On September 11 he will participate in a half Ironman to raise money for wounded veterans.

“I would encourage anyone with a disability to get out there and try something,” Michael said. “I went [to the Warrior Games] thinking I was going to motivate others but I got motivated by people with more severe injuries than mine.”

The Wounded Warriors’ attitude about life, how they are not handicapped but ‘handicapable’ and remain in high spirit motivated Michael, he said. Who inspires you?



Executive Director Donald Leingang and a service member pose with the Slaughter County Roller Vixens on May 14, 2011, in Bremerton, Washington. “Partnering with Slaughter County Roller Vixens is an outstanding example of the grassroots and civic support of our service men and women and their families,” Donald Leingang said. “We appreciate them reaching out to USOPSA to establish this partnership. Rock on ladies.”



13.1 Mile Half-marathon 2 Mile & Kids Fun Run

Sunday, October 16, 2011
Gig Harbor, Washington

The half-marathon will take you through scenic Gig Harbor and the breathtaking natural beauty of the Canterwood community.

www.RaceForASoldier.org

‘Donut Dave’ dunks Volunteer of the Quarter title

DAVE Tennent, the son of a WWII B17 Pilot, knows supporting the troops whether through service or not, is needed. He views volunteering at the USO Puget Sound Area as his best way to give back.

“The men and women give so much to America,” Dave said. “Not just the ones in uniform, but his or her family. They struggle to keep things together and support their loved ones, sometimes to a sad ending.”

During the week long Japan evacuation in March, Dave was no longer known as “Donut Dave” but as the “Go to Volunteer”.

He put in 33 hours helping maintain the Sea-Tac Center. In the first two weeks of May, he recorded 52 hours. Without extraordinary circumstances Dave averages 100 volunteer hours per month.

His efforts led him to being selected twice by USO World



Dave Tennent smiles for his Volunteer of Quarter photo

Headquarters as Volunteer of the Quarter. “I know I work hard,” Dave said. “However, my accomplishments would not be possible without team work.” Both Monday and Wednesday are days he looks forward to because his co-workers work hard and stay busy, he said.

Dave’s work is not confined to the rooms in Sea-Tac. He handles grocery deliveries from Sam’s Club in Auburn to the center. Most famously though is his work with Top Pot Doughnuts. Volunteer Doug Hoople es-

tablished a relationship with the chain and Dave joined in as his co-delivery person. Since then Dave has continued the relationship adding an additional Top Pot Doughnut location to the Sea-Tac’s list of supporters.

“Dave is all about giving of himself to help others,” Sea-Tac Center Manager Shirley McGann said. “I bet he spends more time in a day helping others than most people do all year.”

Since 2006 Dave has worked with USOPSA. No job is too small or challenging for him. From fixing carts, taking a 4 A.M. shift, or helping a teary eyed woman traveling with a cat find a place to stay, is all part of his volunteer experience.

Being Volunteer of the Year would be a great honor and something he is aspiring towards, he said.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers –

THESE last four years my life has become immersed in service members, their families, care packages and the United Service Organization. It was the last thing I expected.

I’ve always been a supporter of the troops –my father served with the Marines, raising me on ‘G’ rated Jodies as a little girl. There is always birthday cake on November 10. In high school I became inspired to send occasional care packages to soldiers I didn’t know. But it is my friend, Ben Thompson in the Navy, who inspired my volunteering with, and now working for, the USO. He is my hero for so many reasons.

There was a conversation where he told me he felt people didn’t support him –or the military. The words filled me with despair. For once I didn’t know what to say. I couldn’t stand the thought of my friend, my hero, feeling forgotten. I now strive to do everything I can to show my support. I know I can’t help him directly but every service member I support takes me one step closer.

I’d like to dedicate this, my first newsletter with the USO Puget Sound Area, to Ben and all the service members who entered my life. Army Sergeant Bryon Noletti, who I finally met after two years of correspondence, became a good friend. I can only hope I made the same positive impact on his life as he influenced mine.

Others I have not met, such as the individuals of Task Force 62nd Medical or Army Reserve Sergeant Alonzo Lunsford. He is one of the first soldiers I interviewed for an article when I began my reporting career. His story still amazes me to this day.

Some I’ve only met briefly. When I was an intern at USOPSA SeaTac there were three soldiers who stayed to speak with me while I checked in gear. They made two boring hours great. I couldn’t stop smiling and it was great to hear their stories.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Please feel free to send me your com-

ments and thoughts on anything here.

Sincerely,
Meaghan Cox

Communications
& IT Lead
Comm.it@usopsa.org



Photo by Mariah Mazerski

USOPSA center at Joint Base Lewis McChord hosts service members before deployment on June 14.

Acknowledgments from Center Managers

Shirley McGann, manager of the Sea-Tac Center, says Thank You to the following:

- ◆ Jean Wigle for donating coffee stirrers and to Joan Fehlings for taking care of Bunk Room from January thru May.
- ◆ Steven Grissom for hanging the pieces of art and military memorabilia which was taken down to repainting of the center.
- ◆ Everyone who volunteered to work tables at the Seattle Mariners’ Salute to the Armed Forces Day. You raised \$5,300.
- ◆ Those who volunteered to work tables at the Armed Forces fund raiser in Lynnwood and who worked at the Tacoma Convention Center Armed Forces Day Event.
- ◆ All volunteers selling 9/11 Coins at the front desk. As of May 16, 245 coins were sold!

Students Doing Class Projects:

Benjamin Dennis completed 30 volunteer hours as a requirement for his degree from Seattle Community College. Joe Lesar completed 128 hours over the past year for his High School volunteer project.

Tracye Kakley, manager of the Joint Base Lewis McChord Center, says Thank You to the following:

- ◆ Judy Bumbaugh for picking up Starbucks every week and being the POC for a monthly Kiwanis donation!
- ◆ Kim Darrow for taking over the Deployment Line Briefing every Tuesday.
- ◆ Bill Brengman for using your employer’s employee volunteer program to raise money for the USOPSA by volunteering your time.
- ◆ Ella Young for regularly organizing donations of sandwich meat from the Model T Club.
- ◆ Jane Hughes for being the Volunteer Coordinator for the Tacoma Rainiers’ Salute to the Armed Forces and for the Golf Tournament.
- ◆ Chris Gilmore for delivering the Mobile to Sumner to have estimates done.
- ◆ Curtis Sellers for always coming to rescue when we have last minute needs.
- ◆ Debbie Zeller for working all four I Corps Deployment Fairs in May.
- ◆ JBLM Volunteers for all their hard work and support.

Visit USOPSA at www.usopsa.org and like our facebook page

Mariners and Rainiers show support for military

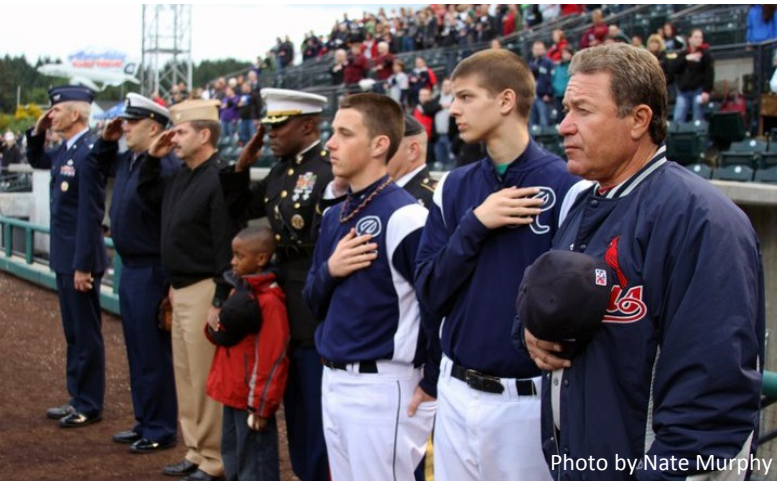
ONCE the National Anthem begins there’s an attitude shift among the crowd. Members of the Armed Forces stand more rigidly at attention. Hats are off. Military brats—those who spend their childhood with a parent in the Armed Forces—stand a little straighter with hands on their hearts. The general public does not stand nearly so still. The respect is there but the aim of events like Armed Forces Day or Military Appreciation Night is to encourage even more.

Baseball claims the slogan America’s pastime. The sport draws a large crowd year after year. What better place than the baseball field to educate people on the USO Puget Sound Area and show appreciation for America’s service members. The Seattle Mariners on April 23, and the Tacoma Rainiers on May 21, shared the baseball diamond and stadium with service members old and new.

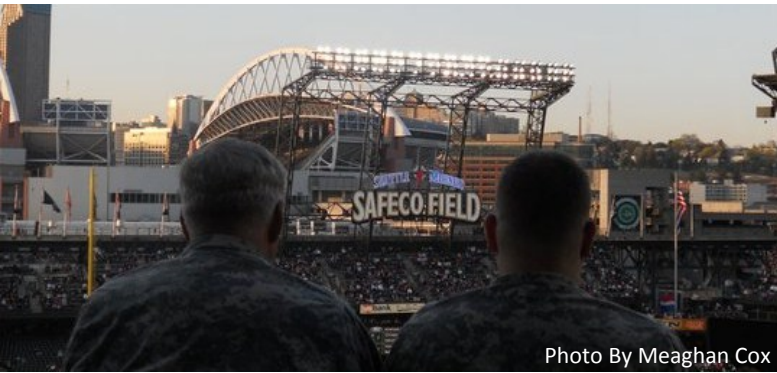
“Without the selfless service of the men and women of our Armed Forces we wouldn’t have the opportunity to enjoy this great game,” Ryan Latham, Group Event Coordinator for the Tacoma Rainiers, said.

At the Tacoma Rainiers’ game the I Corps Band played at the gates and performed the National Anthem.

Military representatives, in uniform, took the field with the baseball players as the



Above: The Tacoma Rainiers stand side by side with service members during the Anthem. Below: Military watch the Seattle Mariners play ball.



colors were presented and the Anthem performed. C-17s flew over Cheney Stadium. The Military Father of the Year was honored at the game as well.

USO Puget Sound Area volunteers manned booths during the Seattle Mariners and Tacoma Rainiers’ games. They answered questions about the USO, encouraged people to donate and shared smiles with service members and

their families. USOPSA Volunteer Marina Baker grew up in the military world while her father completed 30 years of service. He passed away in 2009.

“My father would have had his perfect daddy smile he knew I was volunteering,” she said. “[Armed Forces Day] is about honoring any past and current military personnel for the sacrifices they have done and currently do to serve our country.”

The majority of people at the games were interested in the USO and the service members, USOPSA Volunteer Jane Hughes said. When people learned of the USOPSA’s involvement with the service members they were surprised and thought it was great, Marina said.

“Salute to Armed Forces Night was the Tacoma Rainiers third sellout of the season,” Ryan said. “Our fans value the service of the men and women of the Armed Forces and always show up in strong numbers.”

Both USOPSA volunteers and the baseball teams agree showing support for the service members and their families is a number one priority.

“Whether you go to the Rainiers, the Mariners...or any event as a volunteer you are there to promote the USO, the military and make a difference to the military members and their families,” Jane said.

Golf classic demonstrates support among community

The All Air Force team was very serious about defending their championship title from last year, USOPSA scorekeeper Caileen Cox said. Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Christopher Smith said the Marines missed a few easy birdie putts which would have put them in the lead, but they were really out there to have some fun and camaraderie.

“The courses were not for the novice—although we had one on our team,” Fields said, “and there were more ‘blind’ tee shots than expected.” A blind tee occurs when a golfer on the tee, cannot see the group ahead once they move up the course to take their next swing.

At dinner the winning military team was announced. The All Navy team won at minus ten.

Former fullback for the Seahawks Mack Strong emceed during the evening while John

Curley, host of the John Curley Show on 97.3 FM, announced auction items. The Todd Beamer High School Air Force Junior ROTC performed a Missing In Action/Prisoners of War tribute ceremony. USO World Volunteer of the Year Herb Schemling, from Graham,

ganization,” Fields said. Barnes said witnessing the outpouring of support from the community in support of the USOPSA that in turn supports the military members across Puget Sound was a highlight of his.

“USOPSA provides a vital link between the deployed military members and those that remain here to keep the family together,” Coast Guard Master Chief Steve Fields said.

Wash., received a standing ovation for his volunteer services.

“At dinner, when the auctioneer asked if anyone want to donate \$10,000 to the USOPSA and two people raised their cards, I was amazed to see that kind of support for the or-

ganization,” Fields said. Barnes said witnessing the outpouring of support from the community in support of the USOPSA that in turn supports the military members across Puget Sound was a highlight of his.

“Civilian support means everything to military members,” Worra said. The USOPSA’s Red, White and Blue Golf Classic raised more than \$380,000 in support of local service members, their families and Wounded Warriors.

“This was a landmark occasion for the USOPSA,” Don Leingang, USOPSA Executive Director, said. “We brought together local business leaders, members of all five military branches, Seattle sports legends, and the public to honor the service and sacrifice of our local military heroes and their families.”

Mark, circle, scribble. The events are here

Lt. Dan Band concerts with Gary Sinise

July 4, Joint Base Lewis-McChord from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Open to the public
July 5, Naval Base Kitsap from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Authorized base patrons only

SeaFair

August 4 through 7, USO Mobile Canteen serves hot dogs/brats, drinks & chips

Race for a Soldier

October 16, Gig Harbor, 13.1 Mile Half-marathon, 2 Mile & Kids Fun Run

Paint Ball with the Marines

October TBD, Fundraiser on Microsoft campus, Microsoft employees and family only

5 Star Gala

November 17, Museum of Flight, Black Tie event

Food & Toy Drive

December 2 and 3, Partnering with Wal-Marts throughout the Puget Sound

September 11 Anniversary Coins

These coins represent lives lost and given for our country.



Visit www.usopsa.org
Under tab “Get Involved” to purchase a coin for yourself or others for \$10.

Proceeds go toward the USO Puget Sound Area
Brought to you by Coinforce.com

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New volunteers at Centers

Sea-Tac Laurene Ako Brandi Boden Alexis Crouch Eric Derscheid Meagan Garrott Mallory Hayes Taylor Kleis Charles Kovacs Victoria Lockwood Heather Morgan Thomas Valencour	Joint Base Lewis McChord Kim Darrow Margaret Duff Lee Galt Chris Gilmore Anna Gray William Mantzke Ed Marentis Shirley Marentis Melissa Norwood Kuni Okinaka Judy Verhaalen-Lam
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USO Trivia

- 1. Birthday year of USOPSA?
- 2. How many USOPSA Staff members are there?
- 3. In 1942, how many hostesses (volunteers) attended the Spokane USO Center?
- 4. In 1943 how many USO centers were in Tacoma, Wash.?
- 5. Has the USO logo ever had more than six stars?

USOPSA Volunteers’ Birthdays

June	
1. Judy Bumbaugh & Jo Ann Christopherson	16. Verona Hoff
7. Judy Leu & Joelle Machia	19. David Idler
9. Clara Carter	21. Carol Matzke
10. Jerome Fredrikson	23. June Hershey
11. Patricia Allison, Paul Hunter & Shirley Marentis	24. Cheryl Jackson
15. Kenneth Ellis	30. Bo Bollinger

July	
2. Terri Bogren & Joice Bueling	16. Hildegard Gruber, Mike Mellen & Terry Roy
3. Chuck Dixon	17. Larry Schloer
4. Carole Sykes & Heidi Tennent	19. Manual Gutierrez
6. Pree Carpenter & Lynn Nelson	20. Carolyn Ohlson
7. Robin Roy	21. Scott Engstrom
9. Mary Roberts	22. Elizabeth Abbott
10. Vic Kaufman	23. Mel Knott
11. Jimmie Lowen	24. Heather Morgan
12. Josie Sappington	26. Peter Adler & Mike Gazarek
13. Jill Johnston & Victoria Lockwood	30. Evelyn Parker
14. Andy Bush	31. Maureen Fehrenbach

August	
3. Jannel Burke	20. Crystal Cooper
6. Elisabeth McBee	22. Charles Kovacs
7. Kathryn Natsuhara	23. Maybelle Brickley
8. Kelli Drube	24. Darcy Greenwood & David Jackson
11. Tara-Lynn Poole & Dave Tennent	27. Mario Navora
15. Rosie Knott	29. Joan Fehlings
16. Lonny Thompson	



Trivia Answers: 1. 1966 2. Seven 3. Three Thousand 4. Five 5. Yes, between 1951 – 1957 a seventh star represented Camp Shows Inc.