



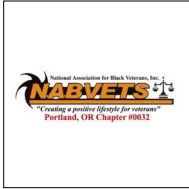
PORTLAND VETERANS DAY PARADE

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November 11, 2023

Honoring all who served

Sponsored by



NOVEMBER 11, 2023

CLOSING CEREMONY

PRESENTATION AND POSTING OF THE COLORS Native American Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sung by
Crystal Thornton

INVOCATION

Major Rhonda Lloyd
Executive Director Salvation Army Veterans & Family Residence

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Crystal Thornton
FISH Radio

RECOGNITION OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

TAPS

Scott Napper

INTRODUCTION OF GRAND MARSHALS / DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LORETTA SMITH

Former Multnomah County Commissioner

JAY DEFILLIPO

Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

SENATOR LEW FREDERICK

State of Oregon

COMMISSIONER SHARON MEIERAN

District 1
Multnomah County

PATRIOTIC MUSIC

BENEDICTION

Justin Moshkowski

GRAND MARSHALS & DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Hermann Colas, Jr., born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti in 1948, relocated to Brooklyn in 1969 amidst political unrest. His commitment to change and safety concerns led him to make the move. In 1970, driven by a sense of duty and purpose, he voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army. Serving during the Vietnam War, Hermann was stationed at Williams Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso, Texas until his discharge. For his dedication, he was granted U.S. citizenship. Post-service, he moved to Portland, Oregon in 1974, marrying Roberta a year later. They raised three children in Portland where Hermann also earned a degree from Portland State University in mathematics and computer science. His two-decade tenure at USWEST saw him handle large projects and represent 13 states on the ANSI. His entrepreneurial journey led to the founding of Colas Construction in 1997. Now managed by his children, the company specializes in diverse construction projects. Hermann's legacy is a blend of military dedication and business acumen, deeply rooted in family values.

Frank Dixon is an Oregon attorney who practiced consumer law for fifteen years in state and federal courts. Before that, Frank entered the Army as an Infantry Unit Commander in 1973. He retired from the Army Reserves after serving with the 104th Division as a commander of the Leadership Academy (drill sergeant school) and as the Division's internal auditor. Frank was one of the founders of Veterans for Human Rights, an early LGBT war veterans' group. He served as a Director of Basic Rights Oregon from 2002 to 2012.

Bruce Hall currently serves as commander of the VFW Peninsula PEP Post 1325 and has served on the Executive Board of American Legion Post 150, Veterans Representative of the NALC Branch 82, Inside Guard of North Portland Eagles Aeire 3426, and is active with the Portland Veterans Parade Committee and his church, University Park Baptist. Bruce is a graduate of Letourneau College and entered military service on Jan 6, 1969. He completed Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood Missouri and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Mr. Hall went on to attend Artillery Officer Candidate school at Ft. Sill and the Signal Officer Basic Course at Ft. Gordon, Georgia and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Nov 27, 1969 and assigned to the Signal Corps, U.S. Army. He earned his parachutist badge at Airborne School in Ft. Benning, Georgia, attended Basic Avionics Maintenance course at Ft. Gordon, Georgia, and the Air Movement Officer course at Charleston AFB, Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Hall served in Vietnam from November 1970 to June 1972 and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Bronze Star. He left active duty in 1973 and worked for NAPA auto parts for nine years and ultimately retired from the US Postal Service in 2011.

Loretta Smith is a 1987 graduate of Oregon State University after which she was hired as a staffer for then-U.S. Representative Ron Wyden. She remained on his staff for 21 years, eventually becoming his field representative. Loretta began her own political career by running for Multnomah County commissioner in 2010. She was only the second Black person elected to the Board since the County's founding in 1855. During her first term, Loretta focused on investments in programs helping poor youth, created thousands of jobs for vulnerable young people, and expanded programs to keep seniors in their homes. In 2019, Loretta started her own small business, a communications consultancy called Dream Big Communications specializing in building coalitions, bringing people together, and improving communities. Through this work, she represents clients on social justice and education initiatives. Loretta is active in the Greater Portland region, serving as a volunteer board member for Black Women for Peace, Promise Neighborhood Coalition, Travel Portland, Airway Science for Kids, and Start Making A Reader Today (SMART).

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Jay DeFillipo Jay R. DeFillipo is the Legislative Director for Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, responsible for managing the legislative affairs and public policy initiatives of the agency. In this crucial role, Jay advocates for policies, securing resources, and ensuring that Veterans in Oregon receive the support and benefits they deserve. Mr. DeFillipo has a distinguished career of over 32 years of government service in both the Active Duty Army and as a Department of the Army Civilian. Upon completion of his active military service, Mr. DeFillipo served as a Senior Systems Analyst III for Omega Training Group and then returned to government service as a Department of the Army Civilian where he performed duties as a Theater Army Transformation Program Manager.

Senator Lew Frederick first took office on October 30, 2009, during a swearing-in ceremony as an appointed representative from House District 43. In 2016, he was elected to Senate District 22, representing most of north and northeast Portland. Professionally, he is a Strategic Communications Consultant, focusing on Strategic Planning, Community Relations, Science/ Technical issues and Media Crisis Communications. Senator Frederick is a former board member of the Oregon State Board of Education, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. His legislative focus is on justice in public safety, education, and economic security, "quality of life" issues for Senate District 22 and beyond. With an academic background in biology, theater, and political science, his professional life has included seventeen years as a television reporter at KGW-Channel 8 in Portland, thirteen years as the Director of Public Information for the Portland Public Schools, teacher, actor and ranch-hand.

Commissioner Sharon Meieran serves as District 1 Commissioner for Multnomah County and practices emergency medicine in the Portland area. She uses her experience on the front line caring for those in crisis to inform her policy and advocacy work. Her key focus areas include behavioral health, housing and homelessness, community safety, and the intersections of these systems. She also volunteers as a physician with Portland Street Medicine, providing care to people living unsheltered. Serving as the Board Liaison to the Multnomah County Veterans Task Force, the Commissioner seeks to support and elevate the veteran experience in all policy.

2023

PORTLAND VETERANS DAY PARADE PLANNING TEAM

Don Espinoza • Moda Health

Shawn M. Flynn • Veterans Affairs Chair, PDX NAACP

Bruce Hall • Commander, VFW Post 1325

Napoleon Hodgers, MBA • Commander, NABVETS, Portland Chapter #0032

Tina Kimmey • Community Member

Francessca Lee • NABVETS, Portland Chapter #0032

Major Bob Lloyd • Salvation Army

Ron Mansolilli • Portland State University

Cleveland McCord Jr. • NABVETS, Portland Chapter #0032

Anna Mehrer • OrderOrder.net

Commissioner Sharon Meieran + **Shelley Ashford** • Multnomah County

Melody Moshkowski • Salvation Army

Dr. Salina B. Norton • Veterans Service Officer, NABVETS, Portland Chapter #0032

Larry Peters • Moda Health

Jo Schaefer • Hollywood Neighborhood Association

Doug Wilkinson • Jacobs Engineering + Warriors Together



Portland's only Veterans Day parade was established in 1974 by Vernon E. Ross, proprietor of Ross Hollywood Funeral Chapel. Ross founded the parade to honor all veterans, past and present, living and deceased. Today, the tradition is carried on by Veterans Day Portland, Inc. The Portland Veterans Day Parade is an inclusive, nonpartisan, family-friendly event. The parade would not be possible without our volunteers and generous sponsorships—thank you.