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Our Community Salutes of Vancouver and Clark County would like to give a huge thank you to our sponsors for their generous contributions. This event would not have been possible without their support.

Presenting Sponsor

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We Support Our Troops



OUR
**COMMUNITY
SALUTES**
VANCOUVER
& CLARK COUNTY

Class of 2017
Future Military Service Members
On this 20th Day of April 2017

Hosted by
Evergreen School District
at
Union High School
Camas Washington

Schedule of Events

Presentation of Colors

Veterans of Foreign Wars

National Anthem

Officer Rey Reynolds,
Vancouver Police Department

Invocation

Dr. James Mead, (Ret) Chief Petty Officer , US Navy
Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)

Opening Remarks

Larry Smith, (Ret) Colonel, US Army, Co-Chairman
Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC)

Host Speaker

John Deeder, Superintendent
Evergreen Public Schools

Guest Speaker

Schuyler Hoss, Governor's Representative
Southwest Washington

Guest Speaker

John Blom, Councilor
Clark County District 3

Oath of Enlistment

Henson Deltang, Major, US Army, Executive Officer
Portland Army Recruiting Battalion

Recognition Ceremony

Certificates and Challenge Coins Presented

God Bless the USA by Officer Rey Reynolds

Benediction by Dr. James Mead

Closing Remarks by Larry Smith

Reception Cake and Ice Cream

Military Oaths of Enlistment

Federal law requires everyone who enlists or re-enlists in the Armed Forces of the United States to take the enlistment oath. The first oath originated on June 14, 1775 as part of the act creating the Continental Army. The first oath under the Constitution was approved by Act of Congress on September 29, 1789. The 1789 enlistment oath was changed in 1960 by amendment to Title 10, which outlines the role of the armed forces and the current wording became effective in 1962.

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.”

For National Guard

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of _____ against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to them; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of _____ and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations. So help me God.”

History of Our Community Salutes

Our Community Salutes (OCS) is a non-profit, all volunteer organization. It was created in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth E. Hartman to recognize and honor high school seniors (and their parents/guardians) who plan to enlist into the military immediately after high school graduation.

With what started as one OCS ceremony in southern New Jersey in 2009 has now spread across the nation. These events are all planned and conducted by volunteers, including military veterans, high school and college educators, local businesses, community leaders, and active duty military personnel.

Since the first event hosted in 2009, the idea has spread across the country with 22 states and nearly 5,000 future service members honored in ceremonies in 2014.

The Northwest's first event was held in April 2011 at the Chateau 40 et 8 in Vancouver. This was a cooperative effort between the Army and the Community Military Appreciation Committee (CMAC) of Clark County. We honored 34 future soldiers that day in front of a standing room only crowd of parents, relatives and friends.

Our Community Salutes in Vancouver took a giant leap forward in April 2012 as we expanded the event to include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The event was held at the Vancouver Armed Forces Reserve Center. With a crowd of more than 900 in attendance, 225 young men and women representing 85 high schools walked across the stage to receive a coin and a certificate from their respective military service. Several sponsors were recruited and Our Community Salutes has become an annual event.

Challenge Coin History

During World War One, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck.

Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilots' aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification.

He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no-man's land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and were ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners and one of his French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner - a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce it, they were required to buy a drink for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenger was required to pay for the drink. It's a tradition that lives on to this day.



Larry Smith
Co-Chairman CMAC

Larry Smith graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor's degree in Arts & Sciences in 1965 and went on to obtain a Masters degree in both Recent American History & Human Resource Management. Larry also served in the Army for 26 years before retiring as a Colonel of Infantry in 1991. After retiring from the Army, He served as Assistant to the City Manager until 1996 and then went on to be the Director of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department until 2003.



John Deeder
Superintendent
Evergreen Public Schools

John Deeder began his educational career 48 years ago as a sixth grade teacher, spent a number of years working as a teacher, counselor, coach, principal, instructional leader and assistant superintendent in several Oregon school districts. He joined Evergreen 15 years ago as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, before moving to Assistant Superintendent, then Chief Academic Officer before being named Superintendent in 2006. He has a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Idaho, a Master of Arts in teaching from Lewis and Clark College, a Principal Credential from Portland State University and a Superintendent Credential from Lewis and Clark.



Schuyler Hoss
Governor's Representative

Schuyler serves as the Director of International Relations and Protocol in the office of Washington State Governor Jay Inslee. He is also the Governor's representative for SW Washington. He has worked in the Office of the Governor since 2008, holding a variety of regional and functional responsibilities. He has been the Governor's liaison on several large projects and on designated policy issues.

Schuyler's professional background is in community based health care, specializing in home health, hospice, infusion therapy and home medical technology. He worked in this field for more than 25 years. Schuyler also has extensive experience with educational issues, serving as a long-time volunteer and school board member. He is active in supporting several community nonprofit organizations.



John Blom
Clark County Councilor

John Blom was elected to the county council in November 2016 and took office Jan. 3, 2017. He campaigned on a platform that included public safety as his top priority, working toward an increased supply of affordable housing, development of public-private partnerships to meet the community's mental health needs and an improved transportation system.

Councilor Blom served on the Clark County Planning Commission from 2013-2016. He resigned prior to being sworn in as a member of the Board of County Councilors. He maintains a strong interest in issues of mental health, land use and public safety. He was a member of the Leadership Clark County class of 2014.