

The USO Insider

14 June 2007

Inside This Issue

- 1 A Note From the President
- 2 SeaTac Center News
- 3 McChord & Mobile Canteen News
- 4 Volunteer Spotlight –and– Red, White and Blue Golf Tournament
- 5 Volunteer Birthdays –and– Comments from our Clients
- 6 Memorial Day, 2007

USOPSA Staff

President & Executive Director
CDR Tom Hinman, USN (Ret)
Tom@usopsa.org

Business & Finance Manager
Kelly Carey, MSW
Kelly@usopsa.org

SeaTac Center Manager
Sylvia Key
Sylvia@usopsa.org

McChord Center Manager
Tracy Kakely
Tracy@usopsa.org

Newsletter Editor (Volunteer):
Tracy Early

206-246-1908 ★ info@usopsa.org

A Note from the President

In mid-May, the USOPSA Board held a retreat hosted by the Coast Guard at Pier 36 in Seattle. Besides working on a strategic plan, one of our tasks was to articulate our underlying values... why we do what we do to support those that serve our nation. I'd like to share them with you.

~Draft Core Values of the USO Puget Sound Area~

Because we recognize the service and sacrifice of the military members and their families, we are dedicated to these values:

Passion for freedom and the welfare of those serving in the Armed Forces

Immediate and tangible service to those who serve and their families

Connecting those who care with those who serve, and acknowledging the contributions of service members through community education and outreach.

This is a remarkably succinct statement of what we do...

- (1) serve the troops and their families and
- (2) help the broader community understand the magnitude of their commitment...and ours as staff and volunteers.

I know you care deeply about our men and women in uniform, as do I. I'm thankful to be part of the USO Team every day and I am grateful for your gift of time and talent in service to this remarkable organization.

Regards,

Tom Hinman CDR USN Ret
President & Executive Director

~ SeaTac Center ~

ROTC Update

Our annual surge of ROTC has begun. The Cadets started arriving on June 4 and in one week we have served over 1200 Cadets, not to mention the regular center traffic. We only have 3800 more to go. Each cadet receives a sack lunch and bottled water and the knowledge that the USO cares. Thanks to all of the volunteers who have put in extra time making sandwiches and getting the sack lunches ready.

We can still use help on the following days if any of you have extra time to give:

Monday, June 18	Thursday, June 21	Friday, June 22
Sunday, June 24	Monday, June 25	Wednesday, June 27
Thursday, June 28	Monday, July 2	Tuesday, July 3
Thursday, July 5	Friday, July 6	Sunday, July 8
Monday, July 9	Wednesday, July 11	Thursday, July 12
Saturday, July 14	Sunday, July 15	

For you new volunteers, the ROTC Cadets are going to Ft. Lewis in shifts for 33 days at a time for training. When their 33 days are up the graduating Cadets come through the USO. July 15 will be the last day for the ROTC Cadets going to Ft. Lewis, so be ready to send Cadets off through July 15 and welcome back the graduates throughout July and August.

Please let Sylvia know if you would like to participate.

New Volunteers

Please welcome the following New Volunteers to our SeaTac Center!

Stephen Becker, Andrew Bush, Harold & Trudy Schenne, Gazelle Lacenski, Jonathan Randolph and Adrienne Sardelli.

We are very fortunate to have six new volunteers from the Boeing Blue Belles: Marian Herrin, Judith Derbes, Lorenzo Del Rosario, Theodore Leyden, Robert Pitts and Eleanor Skinner. who have joined us to help with ROTC and the Mobile Canteen:

★★★★★

SeaTac USO Receives new Xbox 360s

USOPSA Board Member and Microsoft Business Development Manager Michael Worosz recently provided us with the latest in Internet-capable gaming technology. The wireless controllers, camera and ability to play others on-line give us the ability to conduct Xbox competition and improve our communications tools.

Congrats!

We would also like to express our congratulations to volunteers on hiatus Bob & Margie Junk on selling their house and purchasing a new home at Trilogy at Redmond Ridge.

Thank you for all that you do!!

Condolences...

The staff and volunteers would like to express our condolences to Don and Andrew Dinsmore on the passing of Don's beloved Mother and Andrew's beloved Grandmother as well as to Vicki Tinkler on the passing of her sister.

~ McChord Center & Mobile Canteen ~

- McChord Center News -

Congratulations to Carolyn Mackay on her move to Moses Lake! We will miss you and your fabulous administrative skills, but we know you will be much happier being closer to your grandchildren!

★★★★★

Mobile Canteen Renovation Update – Entertainment Upgrades

We are happy to announce that the inside renovations are completed on the USO Mobile Canteen. The next steps in upgrading our Mobile Canteen will take place in June with the addition of Direct TV satellite programming. This will feed the existing internal TV for the moment, but we plan to have two large screens viewable from outside installed by the 4th of July. This will enable the troops to watch DVDs, sports events and other features on one screen with a second, smaller screen intended for video games. For better safety, we will also give the driver a TV displaying the view from a back-up camera... not quite as entertaining.



Tracye Kakely receives the AUSA award on behalf of the McChord USO Center and volunteers.

May 12th - The McChord USO supported the Children's Deployment Fair at the Chloe Clark Elementary School in Dupont, Washington. We had a fantastic time with games, Ronald McDonald, Elvis, and a viewing of the film "BRATS: Our Journey Home." Congratulations to Tommy Carson for organizing such a wonderful event!

May 16th - Congratulation to the McChord USO and volunteer Herb Schmeling for their recognition during the AUSA Award Ceremony at the McChord USO on May 16th. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their hard work this past year!

May 17th - Tracye Kakely, McChord USO Center Manager, did an interview with AI Knight of KLAY radio to discuss the upcoming deployment needs and events at the McChord USO.

May 18th - Tracye Kakely and Carlene Joseph, Vice President of Military Relations, joined Herb Schmeling for the Retiree Appreciation Day and Health Fair at the American Lake Club on North Fort Lewis. We saw USO volunteers from McChord and SeaTac enjoying themselves. We also solicited for new volunteers for both McChord and SeaTac.

- Upcoming McChord Center Events -

July 17-27 - RODEO at McChord!!

- Mobile Canteen News -

May 19th - Volunteers joined Tracye Kakely at Armed Forces Day on Fort Lewis. They were surrounded by military vehicles and vendors celebrating our military! The show of support for the USO was overwhelming by the many people who stopped by the USO Mobile Canteen to share their stories of how the USO has helped them!

May 28th - Tracye Kakely and volunteers Wayne Jackson and Herb Schmeling celebrated Memorial Day at Patriot's Landing with the USO Mobile Canteen. They served coffee and donuts in "USO Style" and enjoyed all the festivities! Thank you AI Knight for inviting us to participate in this memorable event!

- Upcoming Mobile Canteen Events -

July 4th - The USO Mobile Canteen and volunteers will be celebrating the 4th of July in Everett. Contact Tracye Kakely for more information and if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

2007 Red, White & Blue Golf Tournament a Success!

This year's golf tournament at the Golf Club at Newcastle started off gray and wet. The registration and silent auction started off indoors and we were worried it would rain all day. Luckily for us the sun came out and shone long enough for the putting contest and for play of nearly 18 holes - the clouds and rain did not return until everyone was done golfing or on their 18th hole.

We had 88 golfers registered including 12 sponsored military players. Our putting contest winner Oliver Roy sank his putt, and was also on the 1st place team with Steve Belling, Dave Curry and Andrew Howeller. Our second and third place team included Billy Korum, Gabe Scott, Mike Sosa and Brent Winter; and Michael Dana, Mark Haller, Trent Barnes USN, and Doug Levesque USAF respectively. Our men's longest drive winner was Trent Barnes while our women's longest drive winner was Diane Goodman and the golfer who won closest to the pin was Joshua Bergmann. Congratulations to all our prize-winning golfers!

Following play, golfers and dinner attendees were treated to a delicious BBQ buffet in the Prestwick Terrace overlooking the city of Seattle. During the meal, everyone participated in the silent and the live auction, expertly emceed by board member Fawn Spady, and purchased cookies for dessert to support the troops. The dinner program included words from sustaining sponsors Boeing and Tri-West Healthcare, represented by VP Bob Kiga and USOPSA chairman George Cargill, respectively. We thank Tri-West for being title sponsor of the tournament and the Seattle Seahawks for being photo sponsor.

The Seattle Seahawks were there in full force and arranged for their defensive lineman and Washington Air National Guard public affairs officer Bryce Fischer to assist in handing out the awards and recognize the hard work of one of our staff, Kelly Carey, with an autographed Seattle Seahawks cap.

At the end of the day we had raised over \$35,000 (net) for the USO of Puget Sound Area. Special thanks go to our contest and hole sponsors as well as our day of event volunteers: Leoyce Broadbent, Cheryl Jackson, Sharda Bowen, Josh Bowen, Karen Madison, Denny Hamilton, Max Carpenter, Nola Strecker, Wayne Jackson, Carrie Thearle, Dan Pass, Jim Landerdahl, Sharon & Bill Griffiths and Belinda Hernandez; our day of event staff, Tracye Kakely; our golf committee, Mike O'Byrne, John Drescher, Mike Flood, Jim Mendenhall, Donna Rosenberg, Fawn Spady and LTG Howard F. Stone, USA (Ret.); and our planning, preparatory and day of event staff, Tom Hinman and Kelly Carey.

Volunteer Spotlight: Frank and Nina Green

by Sylvia Key, SeaTac Center Manager

Anyone who has ever worked the midnight –to– 4 a.m. shift at the SeaTac Center knows what an experience that can be. I would like to tell you about a certain couple that has been doing this shift for a very long time – Frank and Nina Green.

Nina has been a volunteer for 37 years, and yes, on the midnight to 4 a.m. shift! Her husband, Frank, has been a volunteer for almost 17 years. Frank also served in the Merchant Marines for 48 years and then for two years in the Army – a grand total of 50 years' worth of duty in the Military.

When Frank was home on leave for 2-3 months at a time, where did he and Nina spend their time? Volunteering, together, at the USO. In their early days here, they not only worked one shift, but were on duty from Midnight to 8:00 a.m.

Nina is the SeaTac USO Volunteer who has been with us the longest. She had a lot of time while Frank was away on duty.

The USO is very proud to have this special couple still volunteering at the USO. We are very grateful for their dedication and loyalty to serving today's military men and women.

Thank you, Frank & Nina!



(above) Golfers at the tournament before play starts ; (below) Volunteers Max Carpenter & Denny Hamilton 'working hard at the Hole-In-One



Volunteer Birthdays

June

Tommy Carson	June 03
Richard Holtz	June 05
Judith Leu	June 07
Mark Hokenson	June 08
Paul Hunter	June 11
Kenneth Ellis	June 15
Verona Hoff	June 16
Donald Dinsmore	June 19
Mary Nance	June 20
Allen Jolley	June 21
Cheryl Jackson	June 24
Mary Hokenson	June 30



Tom Hinman sends off Journey of Freedom leader Dan Harris before 30 motorcycle riders head to Washington, DC on Operation Rolling Thunder.

Photo credit to Wendy Wiley.



COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

Outstanding! Great facility.

~ Herb Mellon – *McChord USO patron*

Thank you so much! What a wonderful place to spend lunch.

~ Diana Fendle – *McChord USO patron*

Thank you for creating such a warm and welcome environment for all – families, soldiers sailors, etc. We really enjoyed our time!

~ Petty Officer Darin Collins & Jenna Collins

Thank you for everything you do for all the members of the family. Without you we would have been stranded in the airport. Keep up the good work!

~ Shannon Outlaw

The hospitality here is unbelievable, and unmatched! Thank you so much for taking good care of us in a bind.

~ Lt. Lawrence Brandon, USN

Thank you for all that you do for our military and their families. Without you there would be a lot of lost soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines out there. And thank you for the time served and the sacrifices you have made for our country.

~ Sgt. Nathan Longacre, Ft, Hood, TX

Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor. A struggle to preserve our republic, our religion and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

~ FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT – D-Day – 6 June 1944

Memorial Day, 2007

by Tracy Early

USOPSA Volunteer and Newsletter Editor

This past [Memorial Day](#), with so many of our men and women in uniform finding themselves in harm's way, I was reminded of just what the day is truly about. For all of us here at USO Puget Sound, we are acutely aware of those men and women; serving them and their families is our core mission. Undoubtedly, many of them are our family members or close friends, as well.

Still, in the madness of summer preparations and finding camps for our kids and grandkids, or even just in the busyness of everyday life, the true meaning behind what has become, in essence, little more than a three-day White Sale, can somehow become a little lost.

It is as important as ever for all of us to take just one moment from our family gatherings to give a thought to these men and women, and more importantly, to all those who have given everything that was in their power to give -- to the efforts of freedom, to the call of duty, to their friends and comrades, and ultimately to us all.

As a nation, for just one day, we should be able to put aside our vast differences and give a thought of respect, and profound thanks, to the Fallen and their families.

★★★★★

**U.S. Troops Wounded in Iraq and
Afghanistan: 25,378**

**Coalition Forces Killed in Action in Iraq,
Memorial Day 2006 - May 27, 2007:
969**

**Coalition Forces Killed in Action in
Afghanistan,
Memorial Day 2006 - May 27, 2007:
195**

★★★★★



Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves

This 22 ft. high bronze statue is the centerpiece to the Memorial at the Normandy American Cemetery at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, France – overlooking Omaha Beach. Nearly 9,400 Americans, in both identified and unidentified graves, are buried there.

Links of Interest:

Memorial Day:

- USMemorialDay.org: U.S. Memorial Day History and Information on U.S. War Memorials
- [Arlington National Cemetery: 'The Old Guard': The Sentinels of the Tomb of the Unknowns](#)
- [Arlington National Cemetery: The Origin of 'Taps'](#)

Tributes to the Fallen:

- ['Taking Chance' - from PBS' America at a Crossroads ~ "Operation Homecoming"](#) - This is an amazing piece of film, only five minutes in length, shown at the very end of "Operation Homecoming". It is the recollection of U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Michael Strobl, on accompanying the body of PFC Chance Phelps, USMC, back home to Wyoming from Iraq. Narrated by Robert Duvall.
- [To the Fallen](#) – Written by Army Sergeant John McCary as a letter home, from "Operation Homecoming". Or, [listen](#) to John McCary read his letter, and learn his thoughts about writing it; courtesy of NPR.org. Requires Windows Media Player ([click for a free download](#)).