



The Heritage

Heritage Chapter Bluebills
Boeing Retiree Volunteer Newsletter

June 2014

WWW.BLUEBILLS.ORG

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 06

Chairman's Corner

By Howard Syder



Well it is almost summer and Jean and I are back from our vacation in Hawaii. We spent a month sightseeing and lounging on the beach and snorkeling or swimming. We attended a one hundredth birthday party which was quite a celebration. Unfortunately the gentleman passed away last week. We went snorkeling with him on a previous visit when he was ninety four years old.

With our vacation over it is time to get back to work. By the time you read this in the newsletter we will have had our meeting in the Veterans of Foreign Wars facility in Renton. I cannot thank enough all the people who worked hard to find us a location for our monthly meeting and it is free too. I hope we can establish a great relationship with the VFW as we had with Harley Davidson.

We have been receiving used three ring binders from the Boeing Company and have been working hard to getting them ready for our school customers. Don Hilt is taking over the liaison position with the schools as Fran Parker has to have a knee replacement in June.

I would like to appeal to our membership to volunteer to become an active part of our office staff and to consider being a member of the Heritage Chapter Board. We need desperately to recruit back up for our committee positions. Please let me know if you have an interest. A nominating committee is to be formed to recruit interested members for our board.

This is our twentieth year as Bluebills and most of the people on the board and in committee chairs have been doing this for almost the whole time. It is definitely time to bring in some new blood and give some of our old hands a deserved rest. Term limits have been non existent.

Don't be bashful become an active participant in

the administration of the Bluebills. There is a wealth of experience to help you.

FASTER BENEFIT DECISIONS FOR VETERANS

By Kirk Larson Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

On Memorial Day, as we pay tribute to the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, we also share some news about Social Security disability benefits for veterans with disabilities: a new expedited disability process.

We believe it is important to recognize those who currently serve in the military as well as those injured in the line of duty and consider it an honor and a duty to serve them. Whether the injury is physical or mental, getting a decision about Social Security disability benefits from your government shouldn't add to the problems faced by the injured.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, recently unveiled a new initiative to expedite disability applications from veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way we currently handle disability claims from wounded warriors.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," said Acting Commissioner Colvin.

Learn more about the new expedited process for veterans at www.socialsecurity.gov/pressoffice/pr/2014/expedited-dib-process2-pr.html.

Read about this new service at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

You can also visit our Wounded Warriors page at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. There you'll find informative webinars, a *Disability Planner*, an overview of our disability programs and the convenient online disability application.

June Chapter Meeting Recap

By Mary Ulibarri

Vice Chairman Don Hilt called the meeting to order with a word of thanks to Tom Moberg, VFW member, for arranging our new meeting location. With that, Tom led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Next was acknowledgement to our birthday celebrants – Lonnie Stevenson, who was not present until later, sent a charming note to Bambi to share with us. The second birthday this month was Jim Ewing. We had one anniversary this month – Dave and Mary Franz, 61 years. Congratulations! We were sad to hear that Jim Peterson is struggling with his health. All members are sending their thoughts and best wishes to him.

Announcements:

There was a quick reminder that more volunteers are needed to man the Bluebills booth at the September Washington State Fair in Puyallup. Also, please note Monday-Wednesday of the first week, the building doors will open at 11:00 am, instead of 10:00 am. More details to come.

Margaret Stone stated she had the sign-up sheet for the tour/social visit to Bob Lambert's one-of-a-kind home on Saturday, June 14. There will be two "shifts" – 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm and 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Parking is limited so interested folks should consider carpooling.

Don passed around a chart showing how the Bluebills budget was being used. Plus, he and several others told of instances where they were either called or received mail that were obvious scams. Warning to all – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Jim Beasley then introduced our speaker Don Skoumal. Don is a retired senior executive manager of Boeing and a veteran of over 36 years in the Aerospace field. He graduated from the University of Nebraska where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and later did graduate work at both the University of Nebraska and the University of

Washington, and completed numerous Boeing engineering and management training courses.



He joined Boeing in 1966, as a research engineer in the Commercial Airplane Group. He was involved in the early development and use of titanium and high temperature composites. At one point, Don served as Director of Structures Engineer-

ing, Defense and Space Group, where he was responsible for management and engineering personnel.

Don was an author/co-author of nine technical publications in the structural development field and was a member of numerous professional associations receiving many related awards. He held a number of management positions, not the least of which was VP Project Management for the Sea Launch Program.

In retirement Don and his wife Dana spend time in Wyoming, Washington and occasionally Arizona. In addition to a variety of hobbies, he is involved in many volunteer organizations.

With the help of detailed slides, and despite a limited amount of time, Don's presentation was a thorough and interesting insight into the Sea Launch Program from concept to reality in four fast years. One of the first slides showed the key milestones of the program including the design, development and beginning of the operational phase.

The Sea Launch Company was formed in 1995 around a Russian concept to launch satellites from a floating platform. The concept was in response to a growing market demand for a more af-

fordable and reliable commercial satellite launch service. Sea Launch combined proven launch systems with marine based operations to provide heavy lift launch services to customers around the globe.

Sea Launch began as a Limited Liability Company joining Boeing with a historical Russian Space Company, a Ukraine based rocket Design Bureau and builder of many launch vehicles including ICBMs and surveillance systems, and a Norwegian company that at the time was one of the world's largest ship and platform builders. As an added bonus, it allowed Don and Dana the opportunity to live in beautiful Norway for a time.

There was much discussion regarding the type of marine ship needed for a launch platform. They included super tankers, decommissioned aircraft carriers, and other large freighter class ships. Ultimately, cost and safety concerns being paramount, a slightly used oil-drilling platform was deemed the best solution for a mobile launch pad large enough to house a 200 ft. rocket along with some 3,000 tons of launch support equipment and fuel for three missions. A crew of 50 is typical including both marine and launch personnel.

By using an off-the-shelf launch vehicle with upgrades for marine environments, a modified oil drilling platform and a cruise liner to house the launch crew, the operational concept receives commercial satellites at a Home Port in Long Beach California. After fueling and checkout in a special clean room environment, the satellites are mated to the launch vehicle and the two-ship flotilla travel to a Pacific Ocean launch site. This location, at the equator, was selected due to its nearly ideal year-round weather and the launch being in an Easterly direction taking advantage of the Earth's rotation to provide a 15% boost over most land-based systems. The launch vehicle is remotely rolled out from its protective hanger on the platform, raised to a vertical position, fueled and after remote monitoring checks, the rocket lifts off and proceeds easterly to typical Geosynchronous orbits nearly 22,000 miles away from the surface of the Earth. The process takes about one hour from lift-off to satellite separation from the upper stage.

Hughes Space Systems, later purchased by

Boeing, placed the initial order for ten launches in late 1995. This was quickly followed by an order for ten more launches by Space Systems Loral. They both ordered five more in 1996. As a result of these initial orders, Boeing felt confident to proceed and target potential users with launch dates set four years into the future.

The Sea Launch system was designed to repeat the process every two months and has delivered some 31 commercial satellites to successful orbits, including those operated by DirecTV, XMSat Radio (now SiriusXM), ECHOSAT, and many other global television and communication systems.

Initially the management team leased office space in Oslo, Norway, contracts were issued and from 1996-97, the rebuilding of the launch platform began. A new Assembly and Command Ship started in Glasgow, Scotland and all components of the rocket stages and launch equipment began construction.

Approximately 18 months later the vessels were "marine complete" in that both vessels were seaworthy passing the tests to be certified by the De Norske Veritas (DNV), the equivalent of the FAA agency. A monitoring office was established in St. Petersburg, Russia. After all of the equipment was installed and checked out, including a cargo hold large enough to hold two rockets and an upper stage block portion.

Transit to Homeport (Long Beach, CA), a former U.S. Navy site on a total of 17 acres with a 1,000 ft. dock, began in June of 1998 where the vessels then started Sea Trials off the California coast in preparation for the first launch. Needless to say, the first nighttime viewing of the rocket in its upright position caused quite a stir for the local residents. A number of 911 operators received calls inquiring about an ICBM being erected in the harbor and wanting to know why!! Management released details in the local press that also caught the attention of the national news folks. Both Popular Science and Aviation Week printed articles including the front cover. These articles were not very favorable due to much skepticism on the part of the authors.

Pointing to a detailed cross-section of the launch

platform, Don pointed out its composition from the catamaran pontoons, cargo hold, launch deflectors and pad, the bridge and the crew quarters. During launch, to facilitate ballast and stability, the ship is lowered into the water up to the cargo hold area. He also ran through the entire sequence of events that take place during a typical launch. This process takes as little as 90 minutes from start to orbit and can be conducted during the day or night.

In summary, Sea Launch has been operational for 15 years and in that time has 35 successful launches and only two that failed due to technical difficulties. The program now has several new competitors, namely DELTA, Proton, SpaceX and systems from China and Japan. RSC Energia recently took over the role of prime owner and operator of Sea Launch. With DELTA4 now owned by Boeing, the support from Boeing is now limited to engineering, sales and the payload adaptor plus fairing hardware and communications. They also remain as part of the launch crew but have no equity in the business.

The Russian/Ukraine conflict raises concerns about the future of the Sea Launch, but they have booked several more orders and just launched the Eutelsat on May 26 (see the mission video posted on www.sea-launch.com). Don concluded his fine presentation with some questions from the audience.

Oh yeah, let's not forget what a great job Jim Beasley does of finding such excellent, versatile speakers for our meetings. Thank you, Jim.

Tom Moberg announced the VFW operates a canteen in another part of the building and members of the audience are invited to partake in the good food and reasonable prices. In the future, interested persons should use the sign-in sheet when entering the building. Tom also stated there are a number of entertainment activities at the hall, for instance, live music and dances – on Wednesdays and Fridays. See Tom for specifics.

Don concluded the meeting with the door prize drawing and thanked everyone for coming. The members helped moved the table and chairs back into their original configuration – by lifting, not dragging them across the floor.

Volunteer Opportunities

from Maybelle Brickley

VOLUNTEER REQUEST FROM FULL LIFE CARE

We have another request for volunteers to connect with the elderly. I hope some of you will be able to assist in this request.

Agency: Full Life Care

**Address: 800 Jefferson St. Suite 620
Seattle, WA 98104**

**Volunteer Coordinator: Ginger Seybold
Telephone Number: 206-224-3790**

Full Life Care is asking for volunteers as Elder Friends. Elder Friends is a volunteer companionship program that matches volunteers throughout King County with elders to form a meaningful relationship to relieve isolation and loneliness. You will visit elders in their homes. The approximate time commitment is from two to four hours a month for a year. The volunteer hours are up to each individual.

Busy Bees

by Janice Hawes



Quilts of Valor organization was started by a Delaware mom in 2003. The mission of the QOV Foundation is to cover ALL those service- members and veterans touched by war with Wartime Quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOV). By the time you read this article over 100,000 quilts will have been awarded to wounded combat warriors and veterans. QoV are stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts. Our troops who have been wounded or touched by war are awarded this tangible token of appreciation that unequivocally says, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor."

Quilts are generally red, white, and blue, and approximately 60" X 80". Each quilt is presented with a label that includes the service member's name as well as the quilter's name. Presentations can be individual or in a group setting. We have several groups around Washington state who make quilts to be awarded locally. I have attended personal presentations for veterans of the Vietnam war. The stories are always touching and sometimes a little sad. It is a pleasure to recognize these warriors since many came home to little or no recognition.

My personal goal is to complete at least 4 quilts per month, a small number compared to the hundreds that are now being requested by our returning warriors and veterans. If you or someone you know would like to receive a quilt, please contact me.

Guest Speaker for June 27th

by Jim Beasley

Andrew Schmid Public Information Officer Sound Transit

Andrew Schmid joined Sound Transit in 2004.

For five years, he held the position of Government and Community Relations Specialist in the Office of Policy, Planning and Public Affairs. Cur-

rently, he serves as Public Information Officer in the office of Communications and External Affairs.

That's a mouthful of words which don't mean much to most people; so - in short - Andrew does his best to relate Sound Transit's plans, projects and services to the people who pay for them.

For more than a decade before arriving at Sound Transit, Andrew worked in the public policy arena, focusing on transportation.

His past experience includes staffing the King County Council, where he worked on regional transportation issues - including Metro transit & the Trans-lake Washington Study Committee.

Previous to that, he managed several campaigns and served as legislative aide in the Washington State Senate.

At Sound Transit, Andrew's current responsibilities include media relations, with an emphasis on New Media - which means: blogging, tweeting, posting and monitoring online media.

In previous years, Andrew has been active with Seattle's Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance as well as the Ravenna-Bryant Community Association. He currently serves as a board member for the King County Conservation Futures Citizens Committee.

Andrew is a graduate of Whitman College and Bainbridge Island High School.

Calendar of Events 2014

- Jun 12** Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Jun 27** Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Jul 10 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Jul 25 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Aug 14 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Aug 22 Chapter Picnic
- Sep 11 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Sep 26 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Oct 16 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Oct 31 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Nov 13 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Nov 21 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Dec 11 Heritage Leadership Meeting
- Dec 19 Chapter Monthly Meeting
- Dec 20 Chapter Monthly Meeting

Food Bank Schedule For 2014

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month.

June	Auburn	Lonnie Stevenson
July	West Seattle	Marian Herrin
August	Tacoma	Ted & Judy Leyden
September	Renton	Bob Lambert
October	White Center	Eileen Bear
November	Issaquah	Eleanor Skinner
December	Des Moines	Dave & Mary Frantz
January	Highline	Marian Herrin
February	Bellevue	Doug Hoople
March	Federal Way	Jim & Bambi Lee
April	Maple Valley	Vaughn's
May	Kent	Bob Stubbs

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Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting

VFW Post 1263
416 Burnett Ave S
Renton, WA

June 27, 2014

Social: 10:00 to 10:30 AM Meeting starts at 10:30 AM

Speaker: Andrew Schmid, Public Information Officer, Sound Transit

Topic:

“Agency Update—regional projects, growth, and recession impacts”

Bring a non-perishable food item to monthly meetings to be given to a different food bank each month

Please Note:

The Bluebills monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post 1263, 416 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA. Parking is available in the lot immediately across the street from the VFW.

Bluebills Monthly Volunteer Hours

Volunteer Name _____

Phone Number _____

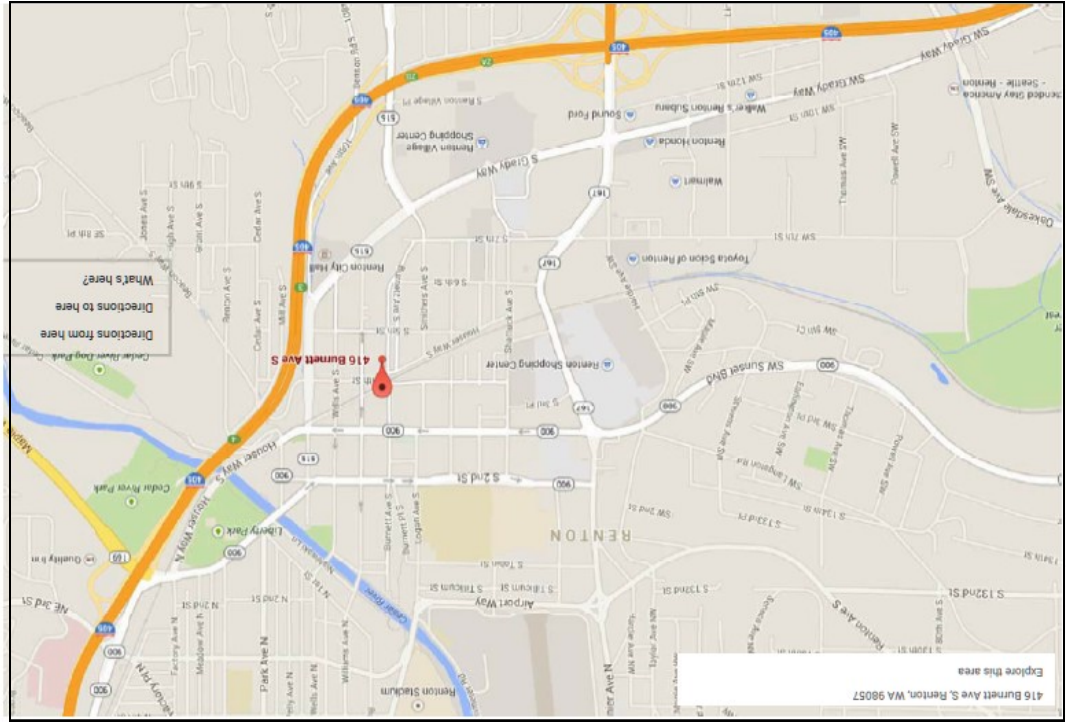
_____ **Hours worked** _____ For _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ For _____
(month/year) (agency name)

_____ **Hours worked** _____ For _____
(month/year) (agency name)

Please send completed hours form to Bluebills, PO Box 3707 2T-04, Seattle, WA 98124
Email to bluebills@boeing.com or bring to Bluebills monthly meeting

Bluebills Heritage Chapter Meeting: 416 Burnett Ave S, Renton WA 98057



From the **north** take 405 S Bronson Way. Keep right to **Exit 4** Sunset Blvd N to Williams Ave S. Turn left onto Williams Ave S and continue to 5th St S and turn right onto 5th St. Go one block and turn right onto Burnett Ave S to VFW. From the **south** go north on Highway 405 to Exit 2. Hwy 167 Rainier Ave S. Go north to S Grady Way. Turn right on S Grady Way to Talbot Rd (3rd light) turn left on Talbot Rd. One block turn right on 7th St and then left on Burnett Ave S. Continue three

