

## **Vancouver's three-day Salute to Freedom honored more WW II vets than any other**

Vancouver's Salute to Freedom, honoring World War II veterans last weekend, was "twice what we thought it would be," according to retired Lt. General **Harry E. Soyster**, who, for the Department of Defense, headed up the 60th anniversary commemorations of the end of World War II at locations across the United States.

The three-day celebration was by far the largest of any held, with more than 1,200 World War II veterans honored in Vancouver, Soyster said today.

According to Vancouver Historic Reserve Trust president **Elson Strahan**, something like the weekend extravaganza could happen again, honoring both military and community service, which is the hallmark of the General George C. Marshall theme of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust.

More specifically, Strahan said, "This was a positive precedent with regards to what the city, the National Park Service and the reserve trust can do. The historic reserve can be a venue for these sorts of events."

Most of the events were spread across the vast historic reserve area that includes Vancouver Barracks and the National Park Service's fort and museum.

The Salute to Freedom had something for everyone—hangar dancing, a gala dinner, speeches, rides in military vehicles and bi-planes, an outdoor movie, an outdoor symphony concert, fireworks, more speeches and a spam breakfast. Adult comments were: "It was well done. Extremely well done. The people were so nice." Kids comments were: "I wanna ride the tank again."

Attendance was huge. Nearly 20,000 people visited the Living History Encampment in the barracks over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Probably another 10,000 attended the Sunday pancake and spam breakfast and Department of Defense commemoration in the historic reserve. Thousands more attended the USO hangar dance, the concert and fireworks show and the George C. Marshall Lecture.

Strahan said today the success of the event was the result of a phenomenal collective effort of the reserve trust, the city and the county, C-TRAN, Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Clark Public Utilities, Port of Vancouver, and dozens of local businesses that stepped up to the plate.

## **New law firm created**

Three Vancouver attorneys who had been with Morse and Bratt have formed their own firm, Nellor Retsinas Crawford, PLLC, 1201 Main Street. Their practice concentrates on business, real estate, family and financial matters, according to partner **Nancy Retsinas**.

Retsinas, who is licensed to practice in Washington and Oregon, is a director of the Clark College Foundation board and the Southwest Washington Chapter of the American Red Cross. She has been twice named Volunteer of the Year by the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program.

**John David Nellor**, Retsinas's brother, is licensed in the state of Washington and admitted to practice before the U.S. district courts in Washington, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, 9th District, and the U.S. Tax Court. Nellor is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the American Bankruptcy Institute. He is a director of the board of the Washington School for the Blind Foundation.

**Cassie N. Crawford** is admitted to practice in Washington and California. She is a director for the Evergreen Habitat for Humanity and is a volunteer for the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program.

## **Calendar**

Beeches Summertime Cruisin's is being presented from 4 to 9 p.m. today at the Portland International Speedway. Adult admission is \$5. ☞ A C-TRAN open house, designed to give the public information on the .2 percent sales tax proposal on the Sept. 20 ballot for continued C-TRAN operations, is at 5:30 p.m. this evening in the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 Main Street. ☞ A two-hour payment card and fraud management seminar is being presented at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive, by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce. The seminar, co-sponsored by The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Visa USA, is free, but advance registration is required and can be made by calling **694-2588** or by going to [www.vancouverusa.com](http://www.vancouverusa.com). ☞ Columbia River Economic Development Council members will hear a discussion of redevelopment of the downtown Vancouver waterfront during an 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, meeting in the Heathman Lodge. Admission is \$30. For required registration, call **694-5006**.

**Wednesday Headlines at home and abroad**

[More than 600 die as fear of insurgent attack stampedes Shiite Muslim pilgrims on Tigris River bridge in Baghdad--Washington Post, \*\*Ellen Nickmeyer, Naseer Nouri and Bassam Sebti\*\*](#)

[Bus convoy to move thousands of New Orleans refugees from Superdome to Astrodome--New York Times, \*\*Joseph B. Treaster and Maria Newman\*\*](#)

[Oil prices drop below \\$70 on news that U.S. will release oil reserves--New York Times, \*\*Vikas Bajaj\*\*](#)

[Looters ransacking New Orleans--USA TODAY, AP](#)

[County high school seniors make strong showing in SAT scores--Columbian, \*\*Howard Buck\*\*](#)

[State crime lab opens in Vancouver--Columbian, \*\*Stephanie Rice\*\*](#)

[Smaller county cities may get more land for expansion--Columbian, \*\*Jeffrey Mize\*\*](#)

[Mayors see outlines of next Clark County growth management plan--Oregonian, \*\*Bill Stewart\*\*](#)

[WW II festival gives taste of past pride--Columbian, \*\*Tom Koeningner\*\*](#)

[Rosario Resort & Spa on Orcas Island to be razed and replaced with condo-like cottages--Seattle Times, \*\*Carol Pucci\*\*](#)

**Wednesday on the air**

Stars and Stripes Gala Dinner (8/26)—5 p.m. CVTV

Telecommunications Commission (8/3)—7 p.m. CVTV

**Portland Beavers at Tucson (live)—7 p.m. KKAD**

**New York Yankees at Seattle Mariners (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KFXN**

World War II 60th Anniversary Commemoration (8/28)—10:30 p.m. CVTV

**Town Tabloids and the weather**

**Jeff Williams** enjoying life of landed gentry. ☞ **Jonathan Avery** reporting 502 ED visits in the first week. ☞ **Maryanne Caruthers** gazeteering. ☞ **Susan Courtney** getting due credit. ☞ **Garen Horgen** supplying musical precision. ☞ **Beth O'Kelly** successful people mover. ☞ **Wednesday**, after morning fog sunny and warm, 80. **Thursday**, more sunshine, but some clouds, 81. **Friday**, cloudier, but dry, 76.