

FLAG CEREMONY

April 21, 2018
Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond

Good morning, and welcome to the 72nd Oregon State Convention! Jill's theme this year has been 'Hooked on ESA' She has inspired us to get hooked and work harder to fulfill the dreams we have for St. Jude, Easter Seals, our Hope For Heroes program and for all the projects we do in our communities. This weekend, we will celebrate not only the results of that hard work but also the love, fun and caring we shared with each other along the way.

We begin this morning's ceremony with the flag of the United States of America. Also known as 'Old Glory', our 'Star Bangled Banner' has been the symbol of hope, freedom and the patriotic ideals of our nation for many generations of Americans. Together, the colors of the flag, red standing for courage, white standing for hope and blue standing for truth, represent unity and solidarity in the preservation of freedom and peace. Our flag was created from the dream of freedom and peace for all and carries with it the memories of all who have fought to preserve this dream.

We are honored today to have LeAnn Wray, our International Council Treasurer with us as our IC Representative. Please rise as she presents our nation's flag, then remain standing for the Pledge Of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

You may be seated.

The Oregon flag is carried by our Oregon State President, Jill Rankin, a member of Omegu Mu, Albany. Originally designed in 1925, the brilliant blue and gold of the flag encompasses and protects all the people of our great state, from coastal shores to mountain peaks, from high deserts to lush valleys.

The All Faiths flag is presented by Leianne Stinton, the Oregon State Chaplain and a member of Omicron Omega, Portland. The flag is symbolic of all our faiths, regardless of denomination or creed. The green represents the spiritual growth in our lives, with a circle of never-ending friendships. The white dove depicts love and peace among all mankind.

The ESA Banner is carried today by Kaycee Headley, the Gavels' secretary, and a member of Omega Mu, Albany. This blue and gold flag symbolizes the golden Lamp of Learning and the Open Book, unfolding a wealth of knowledge. It pays tribute to sisters joining in the ideals and standards of ESA and is the heritage of us all.

The ESA Foundation flag, carried by Claudia Hale, Oregon State Foundation

Counselor and a member of Alpha Upsilon, Hillsboro, is blue and white with a globe depicting the motto "Serving The World Community Because We Care".

Carrying **the St. Jude flag** is Connie Russell, the Senior Circle of Life Chair and a member of Beta Eta, Sutherlin. The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital mission is to find cures for children's catastrophic illnesses through research and treatment. The dedication and tireless efforts of all our ESA members have truly become a cause to celebrate in helping to fulfill the hospital's mission and aiding in realizing a dream come true.

The Easter Seal flag is carried by Jerry Saxwold, the Senior Easter Seal Chair and member of Omega Mu, Albany. This flag symbolizes the mission of Easter Seals which is to create solutions and change lives by helping disabled people gain greater independence. Each year, Easter Seals helps more than one million children and adults with medical rehabilitation, occupational and physical therapy as well as speech and hearing therapy, job training for employment and child care. Oregon's dedication to the mission has been ongoing for many years and ESA members are very proud of their involvement.

The Western States Regional Council flag is being carried by Judy Huntley, Oregon's Western States Representative and a member of Beta Eta, Sutherlin. The flag is a symbol of unity between Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and Australia. Together, we share the goals, ideals and enthusiasm of ESA.

We continue now with the flags of our district councils. First is the flag of our State President's council, **the Willamette Valley District Council**, carried by their president Katie Hobson of Omega Mu, Albany. The flag is white and has a seascape within a circle and a lone tree, symbolizing the area from the mountains to the sea.

Next is the flag of our host district, **the Central District Council**, carried by their vice president, Barb Moss, Beta Omicron, Burns. The blue flag, with a darker blue circle, encompasses symbols depicting the many majestic mountains and the beautiful high desert plateaus of the region.

The Eastern District Council flag, carried by the district president, Lori Ritter, Delta Epsilon, LaGrande, has a brown background with symbols depicting the diversity of the area, from the majestic Willowa Mountains to the fields of grain and the pioneer spirit of the people. The cowboy represents the famous Pendleton Roundup.

The Northwest District Council flag is carried by the district president, Shannon Willis of Omicron Omega, Portland. The field of blue represents the beauty of the Cascades and the mighty Columbia River. The capital building depicts the political strength of the region and the apple is the symbol of the great agricultural production in the area.

The Douglas District Council flag, carried by the district president Vicki Boler, Beta Iota, Roseburg, is in the shape of Douglas County. On one side is a Douglas fir. On the other side is a circle, within which are symbols showing the various economic and recreational aspects of the county.

The Southern District Council flag, carried by the district president Shirley Reese, has

a circle of green within which are symbols of the rivers, mountains and industries of the region.

Members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, these are the flags that symbolize all that we hold dear. I ask you to please take the time to remember their meanings as we celebrate our time together at this convention.

Flag bearers, you may post your colors.

Today, I am pleased to introduce to you members of the Madras VFW Post 12141 Honor Guard who are honoring us by performing the Flag-Folding Ceremony. These gentlemen are:

Leonard Hellwig, Air Force
Craig McDonald, Army
Wayne Krueger, Army
Duane Ledford, Marine Corp
Len Parsons, Navy
Floyd Leach, Navy

Thank you, gentlemen, for this beautiful and touching ceremony. We appreciate you being here with us this morning, and we especially appreciate your years of service for our country.

RETIRING OF THE FLAGS

Flag bearers, please take your places.

Please stand for the retiring of the flags.

As our convention comes to a close, let us once again salute and honor our flags, the symbols of our heritage and our lives

The United States flag is being retired by our International Council Treasurer, LeAnn Wray. LeAnn, it has been a pleasure having you with us this weekend. This is our Star Spangled Banner - long may it wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The Oregon Flag - a symbol of our state's great heritage.

The All-Faiths flag - may we go forth with God's blessings in all our endeavors.

The ESA banner - we are never alone in our quest to achieve our goals.

The ESA Foundation flag - Serving the World Community Because We Care.

The St. Jude flag - let us continue helping children with catastrophic illnesses.

The Easter Seal flag - let us continue helping people with disabilities.

The WSRC flag - symbolizing common goals among the western states.

Our District flags - the Pride of Oregon

Willamette Valley District

Central District

Eastern District

Northwest District

Douglas District

Southern District

This weekend we have enjoyed taking the time with Jill to show her how wholeheartedly we have been hooked on ESA. Now, as we begin another year, let's show Nancy just how happy ESA can make us!

Many thanks to the Central District members for all their hard work in hosting this convention. We hope you had a good time! Have a safe journey home!

FLAG CEREMONY REPORT **April, 2018**

Conducting the flag ceremony this year has been an honor for me. Thank you, Jill, for this privilege.

In preparation for the ceremony, in March I contacted all those ESA members I thought should be the ones to take part. I asked if they would be willing to participate and, if so, to bring their flags, poles and stands (if applicable) as well as their white gloves. Responses were received from most of them and, fortunately, all agreed.

I also contacted Craig McDonald of the Madras VFW Post 12141 to ask if they would be willing to conduct a flag-folding ceremony for us. They agreed, and I am so honored that they would do this for us.

During the week prior to the convention, I sent a reminder out by email to the flag-bearing participants which also included the time of the ceremony rehearsal. I also spoke again with Mr. McDonald to confirm our plans.

Again, thank you so much for this opportunity.

Joy Serkowney
Flag Ceremony Chair

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is as tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; by tut us still our country, right or wrong.

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of American, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, invisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who endured into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day's,

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion through the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes if a Christian citizen represents and emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God we Trust.