

2018-2019 Flag Ceremony – Patty Anderson

Good Morning!

Welcome to the 73rd Oregon State convention.

Our Oregon State Council President theme this year has been “Happiness is ESA”. It makes me happy to see each and everyone of you here today.

We start this morning’s ceremony flag ceremony with the **United States of America Flag**. Today our flag consist of 13 horizontal stripes - seven red alternating with six white. The stripes representing the original 13 colonies, and the stars representing the 50 states of the union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well - red symbolizes hardiness in valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

We are honored today to have Robin Bussey, 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 State Flag** is presented by Nancy Reid our Oregon State President. Adopted in 1925, the flag is colored navy blue with gold lettering and symbols. The flag front the words “State of Oregon” are displayed above a gold shield surrounded by 33 stars. The stars represent Oregon as the 33rd state to be admitted to the union. The shield which is part of the state seal depicts the many great opportunities and experiences that are quintessentially Oregon. Below this is the year 1859 when Oregon was admitted to the union. Being known as “The Beaver State” it should come as no surprise there is USA beaver on the back. The Oregon State flag is the only state to carry a different design on each side.

**The Washington State Flag** is presented by Theresa Duhamel, Washington State President. The Washington state flag is the only state flag with a green field and it’s the only state flag that displays an image of an actual person. It is a fitting representation of the Evergreen State, and the only state to be named in honor of a United States President.

**The All Faiths Flag** is presented by Ronda Adler, \_\_\_\_\_. The flag is symbolic of all our faiths, regardless of denomination or creed. Represents the spiritual growth in our lives, with a circle of never-ending friendships. The dove depicts love and peace among all mankind.

**The ESA Banner** is presented by Joy Serkowney, Gavels \_\_\_\_\_. This blue and gold flag symbolizes the golden Lamp of Learning and the Open Book, unfolding a wealth of knowledge. It pays tribute to members joining in the ideals and standards of ESA and is the heritage of us all.

**The ESA Foundation Flag** is presented by Claudia Hale, Oregon State Foundation Counselor. Dedicated to making a difference in the world community, the ESA flag is illustrated with a globe depicting the motto “Serving The World Community Because We Care”.

**The St. Jude Flag** is presented by Sandra Bristow, Senior Circle of Life Chair. The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital mission is to find cures for children with catastrophic illnesses through research and treatment. The dedication and tireless efforts of 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 presented by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. This flag symbolizes the mission of Easter Seals 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 presented by Judy Huntley, Oregon's Western States Representative. 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 Central District Council Flag** is presented by their district president, Barb Moss. The blue flag, with a darker blue circle, encompasses symbols depicting the many majestic mountains and the beautiful high desert plateaus of the region.

Next is the flag of our host district, **the Willamette Valley District Council Flag** is presented by their district president, Su McDonell. The flag is white and has a seascape within a circle and a lone tree, symbolizing the area from the mountains to the sea.

**The Douglas District Council Flag** is presented by their district president, Vicki Boler. 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 Eastern District Council Flag**, presented by their district president, Kathy Rudd. The flag has a brown background with symbols depicting the diversity of the area, from the majestic Wallowa 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** presented by their district president, Karen McNeil. 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 Southern District Council Flag** presented by their district president, Shirley Reese. The flag 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 sybolize 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 and be seated.

Presenting the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony for us this morning is Mr. Virgil "Bud" Dickey, Oregon Army National Guard Captain, Retired.

Bud served as an enlisted soldier, then as an officer in the Field Artillery, and in the Infantry from 1982 – 2006. While in the Army National Guard, Bud held many positions including Mortar Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, Company Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer S4, Battalion Intelligence Officer S2, 2- 162 IN Rear Detachment Operation Iraqi Freedom Liaison, Oregon National Guard Mobilization/Demobilization Liaison, Deployed Regional Family Assistance Centers Liaison, Community Family Support Programs, Madigan Army Hospital, Army Mobilization Stations, and Dept. of Veterans Affairs Point of Contact and Liaison.

Bud still continues to serve his military brothers and sisters as he is the Vocational Rehabilitation Coordinator at the Roseburg VA Health Care System, assisting Veterans with employment and transitional work therapy and training, helping them to transition from active duty, guard and reserve status to a productive civilian life.

----- Carolyn will help to dim the lights -----

### **Guest Speaker**

*As you enter the room this morning, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor in your head table. The table is set for one. This is our way of symbolizing the fact that members are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POW/MIA; we call them brothers. They are unable to be with us this day, so we remember them because of their incarceration.*

*The table set for one is small - symbolizing the frailty and one prisoner alone against his oppressors.*

*The tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their countries' call.*

*The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return.*

*Red ribbon tied so prominently on the base is reminiscent of the red ribbon worm upon the lapel and breast of the thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.*

*A slice of lemon is on the plate to remind us of their bitter fate.*

*There is salt upon the bread plate - symbolic of the families tears as they wait.*

*The glass is inverted as they cannot tell us with us this evening.*

*The chair is empty as they are not here.*

*Remember all of you who served with them and call them comrades, who depended on their might and relied on them, for surely they have not forgotten you.*

----- PAUSE. Let is set in them meet him at the podium. -----

Thank you Bud 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.

----- Present the gift. -----

----- Carolyn will come up and help escort Bud out. -----

This concludes our flag ceremony and presentation. Thank you.

----- Meet Bud and Carolyn outside the meeting space. -----

## **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 United States Flag – Symbolizes freedom for all.

The Oregon State Flag -Symbolizes our State’s great heritage.

The Washington State Flag - Recognizes our nations first president

The All-Faiths Flag – Recognizing the guidance of a higher power.

The ESA Banner - Achieving our goals together.

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

The St. Jude Flag - Helping children with catastrophic illnesses.

The Easter Seal Flag - Helping people with disabilities.

The WSRC Flag - Sharing common goals among the western states.

Our District flags - the Pride of Oregon

Willamette Valley District Flag  
Central District Flag  
Eastern District Flag  
Northwest District Flag  
Douglas District Flag  
Southern District Flag

Many thanks to the Willamette Valley District members for all their hard work in hosting this convention. We really appreciate you working together to make it happen.

We hope you had a great time!

Have a safe journey home!