



# Stan Primozich

**I**served in the United States Navy and was stationed aboard the USS Henry County in 1964, 1965, and 1966 moving men and supplies on the beaches and up the rivers in Vietnam. We were known as the Brown Water

Navy. That war was part of an overall turning point in our American culture. Respect for almost all of our traditions and institutions was questioned and refuted. I recall being spit on when in uniform and criticized for my participation in the war. Our country has been engaged in many conflicts since then, but we have never again shown the patriotism shown during World War II. Fortunately we still have brave men and women who are willing to serve and protect the American belief and way of life. Today I salute and say **THANK YOU** and **WELCOME HOME** to all veterans.

I continue to work hard to see that veterans receive the benefits they rightly deserve! Not only have they ensured our continued freedoms but, they continue to provide a significant economic benefit to Yamhill County. In 2017 alone veterans' benefits brought over \$59 million dollars to our local economies.

- Co-chair of the Association of Oregon Counties Veterans Committee, working together with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs to make certain that veterans get access to benefits, working through the bureaucratic nightmare that so often keeps them from even trying to get their benefits. We work with the Yamhill County Health and Human Services Department on suicide and mental health issues that are prevalent among veterans. In the last two years 12 of our Yamhill County Veterans have taken their own lives. Our work with veterans includes helping them convert their service skills to civilian jobs which help to give them renewed purpose and security.
- Vice-chair of the Veterans Committee for the National Association of Counties, working to make certain our voices and concerns are heard at the federal level. We fight for easier and better access to benefits and programs essential to reentry. Our presence and pressure keep the needs of veterans on the front burner.
- Locally, I have served as the co-chair for the very first Habitat for Humanity Vets Build.