

# The News-Review



DAN BAIN/The News Review

Mike Eakin, left, and Steve Bennett helped organize the veterans golf tournament at Roseburg Country Club, which helped raise fund for the V.F.W.

Douglas County veterans will benefit from a golf tournament at the Roseburg Country Club this weekend and the proceeds will go to help those military vets in the community that are struggling to make ends meet.

There has been such great response to the first Veterans Appreciation Golf Tournament, that it has sold out. The four-person scramble is set for 9 a.m. on Saturday July 23rd.

The tournament was organized by The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2468 in Roseburg, and they did it to raise funds for projects in which the V.F.W. is involved. They support veterans who need assistance, and honor and give appreciation to those who have served in the military.

Organizers said they have had tremendous support from the community and businesses in donating to the tournament.

Steve Bennett got involved after being the quartermaster at the V.F.W. for several years, and wanted to step aside. But when he did, he ended up being the chairman of the golf tournament committee and was happy to be a part of the cause to help his fellow veterans.

“It’s all about the veterans and their families. It’s amazing how sometimes they’ll come to us and need food. We even have quite a few of the Afghan and Iraqi folks that have now come into play. And the money is for the outreach we do in the community,” said Bennett.

Bennett said they have secured some nice raffle prizes, including a flat screen TV donated by Good Vibrations in Roseburg. There are golfing packages, fishing trips, a set of tires from Industrial Tire Company. In addition there are some enticing hole-in-one prizes including \$5,000 on hole number #17. There is a hole-in-one prize on another hole, for a golf package at the TPC golf course in Las Vegas and a set of new golf clubs .

Mike Eakin is the new V.F.W. Post Quartermaster and is also the State Veterans Administration Hospital Representative for the V.F. W. He echoed Bennett's feelings about the community getting behind the project.

"It's a salute to our veterans, and it's for a good cause because it comes back to the V.F.W. Post to continue maintenance upkeep of our Remembrance Wall as well as the Veterans Relief Fund," Eakin said.

The Remembrance Wall is a work in progress at the V.F.W. Hall on Walnut Street in Roseburg, stretching around the lot in front of the Hall, depicting the history of U.S. involvement in foreign wars throughout the history of the country. Some of the funds raised go to support the wall project, and they plan to continue to it, in memory of those who served in the foreign wars from Douglas County.

The V.F.W. provides school supplies for children of current military and veterans. They also give Christmas gifts for the children, transportation assistance, they deliver food and have a meat program for veterans in need.

The V.F.W. operates other programs for students including the Patriotic Pen for junior high students whose essays are judged for their patriotic themes, and the Voice of Democracy, which awards scholarships to Douglas County high school students for their essays on democracy.

"We are so appreciative of the response to the tournament. Golfers have signed up and we have a full field of golfers," Bennett said.

Organizers plan to have special ceremonies at the event with a color guard presenting the flag, and Rebecca Reed, a Roseburg high School student singing the national anthem. A soldier will be on the 18th green to pull the flag for the players when they arrive there.

"At least three World War-II veterans plan to be at the event, and they're the honorary starters," said Bennett.

Even though the tournament is full, spectators are welcome to come for the opening ceremonies about 8:40 a.m. Saturday July 23rd, at the Roseburg Country Club.

For more about the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2468, you can visit their website at [www.vfwpost2468.com](http://www.vfwpost2468.com).