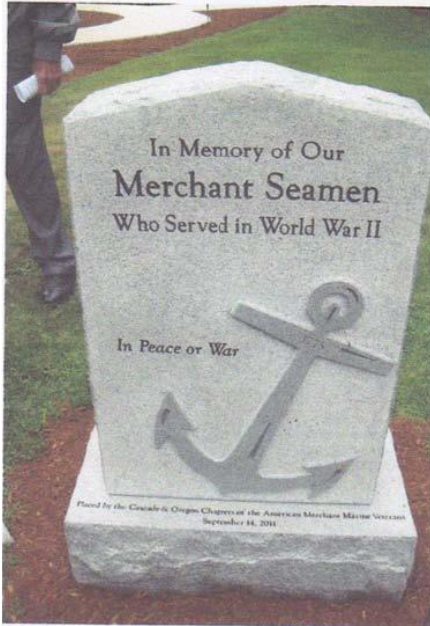


The Portland VA Medical Center Vancouver Campus invites you to the Dedication of the Merchant Seaman Memorial May 30, 2012



The Merchant Marine is a civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Navy, but not a uniformed service, except in times of war when, in accordance with the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, mariners are considered military personnel. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law granting Veteran status to Merchant Mariners who served in war. Prior to such legislation, they did not receive Veteran's benefits.

The Vancouver Washington chapter of the Cascade Mariners & Oregon Chapters of the American Merchant Marine Veterans donated the monument to honor the U.S. Merchant Seamen.

The Portland VA Medical Center along with The Vancouver Washington chapter of Cascade Mariners & Oregon Chapters of the American Merchant Marine Veterans would like to invite all Veterans with their family and VA employees to the May 30, 2012 Dedication of the Merchant Seaman Memorial who served in World War II.

- **Location: Portland VAMC, Vancouver campus gym building 14**
- **Time: 10 to 11am on Wednesday May 30, 2012**
- **For more information contact:**

**Community Development Office
(360) 737-1441
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