

# News and Information from **CHARLESTON MARINA & LAUNCH RAMP**

Operated by Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

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## **Annual Charleston “Blessing of the Fleet” Scheduled For May 31 – Memorial Day**

Memorial Day activities in Charleston, Oregon, will focus on the annual Blessing of the Fleet and Memorial Service at the Charleston Fisherman’s Memorial Garden, near the launch ramp at the Charleston Marina, at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 31, 2010.

The service will honor the more than 130 local men and women involved in commercial fishing and the fishing industry who have died since 1941. This year four names will be added to the “In Memory” Fisherman’s Plaque: James “Jimmy” A. Hovden, Richard “Dick” Harrington, Ron Oxford and Geo “Duffy” Bauder. 2010 will also mark the addition of three names to the “In Memory” Fishing Industry Plaque: George F. Hartley Sr., Emery S. Hanson and Raymond McKinley Self. This year, the Charleston community will dedicate this new section of the garden, which is a memorial wall to honor people involved in other aspects of the commercial fishing industry.

William Elderkin, the local owner of a marine services firm, will comment about the fishing industry and the fisherman’s memorial, and give opening and closing remarks. Pastor Ross Wilbanks of the Charleston Community Church will deliver a memorial and blessing, and the Oregon Coast Pipes and Drums will perform on the bagpipes to open and close the event. The U.S. Coast Guard will provide a color guard and advance and retire the colors.

The Charleston Community Church Choir will perform “In Times Like These,” and there will be solo performances by Nancy Joy Butler singing “How Great Thou Are,” and Deborah Sensenbach singing “I Was On His Mind.”

Following the blessing and memorial service there will be a coffee and cake reception at the Charleston Marina RV Park recreation room, 63402 Kingfisher Road, near the Portside Restaurant.

A U.S. Coast Guard motor lifeboat from Lifeboat Station Charleston will load floral arrangements to take to sea and lay on the water in a brief ceremony. The lifeboat will get under way immediately after the blessing and memorial service.

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Charleston Fisherman's Memorial 2010 / May 20, 2010 / 2-2-2

The community is encouraged to provide floral arrangements or memorial wreaths, but they must contain only biodegradable materials. Local floral businesses can readily accommodate requests for this type of arrangement.

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