



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 14, Issue 3

May 2022

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Commander's Letter

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL Our normally festive Apple Blossom weekend was subject to inclement weather and other issues that saw fewer volunteers than expected to carry the banner of a Washington Fallen Hero. The Post was hosting Nicole and Scot, our Gold Star family from the Spokane Valley, as they traveled here with the new and compact version of the Fallen Heroes Memorial Float to partake in our festival. Friday's Classy Chassis Parade was met with gusty winds, temps in the 50s, and rain right up to parade start time. But right before the parade started, the clouds parted and provided a little sunshine to our volunteers that braved the elements. In all, there were about 30 banners carried.

Saturday started off with better weather for the Apple Blossom Grand Parade and great expectations based on the feedback I was receiving from our volunteer organizations. The last time we hosted the banners in 2019, all 320+ banners were carried and we were expecting a similar turnout for this year. As you may recall, there was a security incident across the street from Memorial Park at 8:30am when a man started firing a pistol into the Living Hope Community Church. Due to the unknown scope and possibility of other threats, many of our expected banner volunteers were told to stay clear of the area which resulted in most of them deciding to stay home where it was safer. This was especially true of our younger sport teams and church groups. But we persevered with the group of people we had and were able to carry about 40 banners.

While we were waiting for the parade to start, I happened to notice a group across the park that had several Hispanic dancers dressed in brightly colored native costumes and wearing carved wooden masks practicing their routine. I was making my way over to



The new Fallen Heroes Memorial float

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get a better look when I noticed an older man in their group that was carrying a large American flagpole over his shoulder. He was also wearing a Vietnam Veteran's cap. I changed my original purpose for walking over and made my way to the veteran. As I approached, I stuck out my hand to shake his just as he switched the flagpole to his left shoulder and he met me with a firm handshake. I introduced myself and thanked him for his military service in Vietnam and sacrifice. I wasn't even sure that he spoke English, but I felt he understood what I was telling him. He acknowledged with a short nod and we parted ways.

About an hour later, just as we were lining up the walkers for the parade, I noticed he was looking in our direction from across the way, as if trying to understand what we were doing with all these banners. I'm not sure he could quite read them at that distance, and then before I knew it, he was walking towards our formation.



At about 10 paces from our front line of Fallen Hero banners, he abruptly stopped, came to attention, and saluted smartly with the flag of our country held over his shoulder. I was struck by how sharp this older veteran looked, and the crispness of his salute while paying his respects. But it didn't end with this simple, yet appropriate, military gesture. He held his salute for over 20 seconds, then 30 seconds. His eyes were searching the faces of the fallen on the banners before him, as if to find someone he knew. Even though these heroes were not yet born when he served his country, it looked like he was looking for a familiar face. Soon, his chin began to quiver as tears welled up in his eyes and began to fall down his cheeks, he was trying hard to focus on those young faces before him, faces all too familiar that he'd seen before, long ago. After what seemed an eternity, he dropped his salute and bowed his head and softly cried. Our group of volunteers were stunned in silence at this veteran's very private gesture, some of them having tears in their eyes too. And then, he turned and slowly started walking back to his group. A daughter, granddaughter or maybe close friend had noticed what he was doing in front of our banners and was making her way to meet him. They met about midway between our two locations, she hugged him and held his head on her shoulder as they both cried. And then they disappeared into the crowd.

Now looking back at the entire festival over that weekend, one could be justified at the disappointment of the bad weather and dismal turnout of volunteers for various reasons. But probably the only thing I will remember from this time is the incredibly personal gesture from veteran of a different generation and culture paying his heartfelt respect to the most recent fallen heroes of Washington. It was a great festival to remember.....

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PANGBORN FLAG REPLACEMENT On May 3, our post “Keepers of Flag Team” replaced the large 20’x30’ flag at the Pangborn roundabout. For a replacement operation of this size, it requires a team of at least 6 people to safely lower and secure the old flag in calm conditions. That’s the easy part. Without a winch system to hoist the flag, it takes 4 people pulling on the halyards to lift the heavy flag, the other 2 guide the flag as it unfolds and help attach the header grommets to the clips. In windy conditions, a couple more people are required. If it’s blowing over 15 mph, or raining, we wait until conditions are more favorable. With the flag’s large surface area, a gust of wind can easily lift a person off the ground on a wild ride that wouldn’t end well. On this occasion with only 10 mph wind, the team was able to swap out the flags in about 20 minutes. Thanks Steve, Dave, Don, Jose’, Ed and Kim for taking pictures.



BUDDY POPPIES On Saturday, May 28th, volunteers from the Post and Auxiliary will be handing out Buddy Poppies at Bi-Mart, Safeway, and Fred Meyer stores in East Wenatchee. Poppies will be distributed between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Stop by and pick up your poppy to help support our veteran relief operations.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS This year the annual Memorial Day celebrations will start off with a ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery in East Wenatchee at 9:00am. Guest speaker will be East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford.

At 10:00am on the black pedestrian bridge over the Columbia River, Mayors Jerrilea Crawford and Frank Kuntz will meet for a short ceremony to drop a flowered wreath into the river to honor all military personnel lost at sea.

The Wenatchee Cemetery ceremony will start at 11:00am with guest speaker Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz.

And finally, a ceremony at Pybus Public Market will start at 12:00pm with the raising of the flag to full staff and military honors rifle team and bugle playing TAPS. Guest speaker will be yours truly.

Everything culminates at 12:30 with American Legion Post 10 serving a free lunch to veterans.

Brad Pieratt, Commander

Zoom Meetings Information

Post Meetings: 15 June & 20 July @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024

Join a zoom meeting one of 3 ways:

1. Use the Zoom app, tap Join
2. Visit <https://zoom.us/join/>
3. Dial +1 253 215 8782

then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.



Auxiliary President's Letter

I hope everyone is enjoying our crazy spring. This interesting spring makes us wonder what summer will be, super hot, super cold, or one of those great summers that reminds us all of why we live in this beautiful valley. With lazy summer days comes quieter times for the Auxiliary. The new year starts in June after the convention. I want to thank everyone who accepted a position with the Auxiliary. A special thank you to Angel Fillion for becoming our new Treasurer.

We are winding down on our Community Outreach Project with the Humane Society. We will collect your toilet and paper towel rolls through June. If you have any rolls to donate just drop them at the Post. We have a blue tote we use for collection. This has been such a fun, easy project we have members who want to continue on their own so keep collecting those rolls. The Humane Society goes through over 100 a day.

The Art contests ended in March. We want to recognize our winners and will be inviting them to our June 15th meeting. The winners were: Patriotic Art: **Colby Hull** 1st place; Illustrating America: **Henry Hamilton** 1st place (fourth grade), **Theryn Sanchez** 2nd place (fourth grade) and **Kingsley Hamilton** 1st place (kindergarten). A big congratulations to all winners. If you would like to meet the winners come to the dinner on June 15th before the meeting.

We made it through another Classy Chassis and Apple Blossom parades. We were all so glad to be able to participate this year. Hopefully this means we are getting back to our normal routines and celebrations. The auxiliary members handed out 200 small American Flags to the spectators watching the parade. A special thank you to Dee Johnson, Steve Johnson, Judy Ebi, and Jo Cadwallader for helping with this project.

On May 19th we took lunch to our CBOC. This is our way of thanking our CBOC caregivers for all they do for our Veterans. May is National Veterans Caregiver month so if you visit the CBOC in May be sure and give a special thank you to your caregivers. We should all be thankful all year for the care we get from the CBOC and the hospital in Spokane.

Auxiliary member Judy Ebi is organizing a **Craft Fair** to be held at the Post on **July 2nd**. If you want to have a booth at the fair call me or the post and let us know. We are anticipating about 20 to 30 different booths selling their wares. If you enjoy crafting be sure to come and see all that is available at the craft fair. We are hoping to see everyone there.

In closing I hope everyone is able to attend one of the Memorial Day ceremonies at the cemeteries, bridge, and Pybus Market. The auxiliary will be providing the desserts for the Veterans luncheon at the American Legion. If you have time on the Saturday May 28th we will be helping the post with the Buddy Poppy drive.

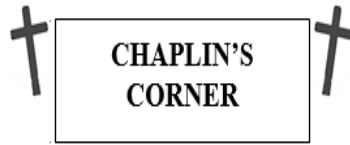
If you have questions, want to volunteer or just talk please give me a call.

**Welcome New
Auxiliary Member!**

Louisa Johnson

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President
(425) 223-2172 slanc0382@netzero.com

It has been a tough few years with each going through our own journey of joy and pain over the last few years. As we look at all the things changing around us, let us take a moment to pause, take a deep breath, and remember. Numerous times in Scripture God tells us to remember who He is and what He has done. Remembering what God has done for us fosters a heart of thankfulness and helps us to trust His faithfulness for the future. Remembering also helps us cultivate a heart of love and gratitude for those around us.



Perhaps you want to write a list of gratitude, which can be turned into a time of thanksgiving and praise. Each person's list will look different. Some examples of things I am grateful for are health and comfort, safety of my family and friends, and the freedom to live and worship in our community.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, help us to remember you are in control. When we're anxious about all that is changing, remind us that we can do all things through you, Jesus; that you will provide us the strength and wisdom we need to adapt. Teach us to be flexible. Help us to see change as an opportunity for growth in our character. In Jesus name, Amen."

Adapted from Journal Of Gratitude In The Empty Nest Season Of Life, Prayer Essentials For Living In His Presence Vol 1, from Prayer Essentials For Living In His Presence Volume 1 © 2008 by Sylvia Gunter as posted on www.thefathersbusiness.com and prayer adapted from <https://www.klove.com>

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain

Officers for 2022-23

POST

Commander: Brad Pieratt
 Sr Vice Commander: Jose Solis
 Jr Vice Commander: Steve Johnson
 Quartermaster: Dave Schwab
 Chaplain: Sarah Simonson
 Surgeon: Gerald Anglin
 Adjutant: Connie Hill
 Judge Advocate: Charlie Suriano
 Trustees: Don Dent
 Ed Reinfeld
 Gerald Anglin

AUXILIARY

President: Shirley Lance
 Sr Vice-President: Dee Johnson
 Jr Vice-President: Leona Wolk
 Secretary: Bicky LaRoque
 Treasurer: Angela Fillion
 Chaplain: Judy Ebi
 Conductress: Carol Trunzo
 Guard: Louisa Johnson
 Trustees: Billie Reynolds
 Jo Cadwallader
 Kim Pieratt



An Invitation To:

**ALL VETERANS & SPOUSES,
ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT
MEMBERS & SPOUSES.**

A Civic Duty Rally &
CALL TO ACTION!

Hear Military Veterans and Law Enforcement Leaders speak about their experience in Service to our Country and encourage your participation in voting.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

SCOTTY AND TIFFANY SMILEY

- First Blind Officer Retained on Active Duty

JESSE JENSEN

- Former Army Ranger with 4 Tours to Middle East

SHERIFF BRIAN BURNETT

- Chelan County

REP. BRAD KLIPPERT

- WA State Rep. and Former WA National Guard Cmdr.(R) and County Sheriff



JUNE 3, 2022

WENATCHEE VETERANS HALL

4:30-6:30PM

DOORS OPEN AT 4PM

Hosted By

Wenatchee Veterans Hall

Sponsored By

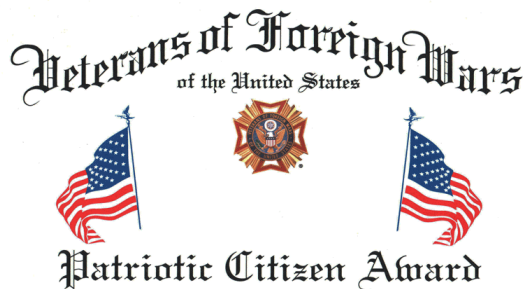
Wenatchee American Legion
Post #10 and Cashmere Post #64

Wenatchee Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post #3617

Patriotic Citizen Award

Commander Brad Pieratt presents the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet-Technical Sergeant Grey Olin at a recent CAP Awards and Promotion ceremony (17 May).

Cadet-TSgt Olin spearheaded a project to raise \$1,940.00 to purchase a complete set of military service parade flags for use during veteran funerals at the Entiat Cemetery.



The VFW Patriotic Citizen Award is given in *"grateful appreciation for unsolicited inspirational patriotic service to the community through the daily display of our National Flag."* Know someone who fits this description? Let us know! We'd be honored to hear their story and recognize them for their Patriotism.

From the Editor

As a reminder, any member of the Post or Auxiliary may submit stories, photos, article ideas, etc to be included both on the website and in our newsletter. The next issue of the newsletter will publish on/around 07 July 2022, so the **deadline for submissions is end of June**. Photos and stories to be included on the website can be submitted at any time via email.

If you'd like to receive our newsletter via email, please visit <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/newsletter/> to sign up. This is a double opt-in process, so after entering your email address in the form, you will need to check your email and click the link to **confirm your subscription**.

If you have any questions, comments, stories, photos, or just ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org
Thanks,

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

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