



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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July 2022

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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone! Most of the snow is melted off Mission Ridge which means Summer has finally arrived to our valley. That was a lot of rain and wind we had to put up with these past few months, but I hope it leads to a better snowpack and plenty of water in the reservoirs for our farmers. I know personally the grass and weeds around the post have been enjoying all this moisture. We've got some great news to share with you in this issue, so let's get to it.....

- Commander Brad Pieratt

SWEEPING LEGISLATION FOR OIF/OEF BURN-PIT AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS On June 16th, the U.S. Senate passed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 by a vote of 86 to 14. This bill (H.R. 3967) will help veterans who have been exposed to toxic chemicals from burn pits. It will help veterans get the benefits and care they deserve.

It also includes coverage for **veterans and family members exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina**. Also included in the bill is coverage for veterans that served outside Vietnam, but none the less were exposed to herbicides at their duty stations.

In short, military members that served overseas on **active duty on or after August 2, 1990 in: Iraq; Kuwait; Bahrain; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; UAE; or Somalia** are considered as a Covered Veteran for the purpose of this Bill.

Additionally, military members that served **on or after September 11, 2001 on active duty in Afghanistan; Djibouti; Egypt; Jordan; Lebanon; Syria; or Yemen** are also covered.

This bipartisan legislation has a provision that will establish a presumption of service connection for 23 conditions and cancers. *Presumption means that if you have one of these conditions and served in the stated geographic areas, it's more likely than not that your condition is related to your military service.* In other words, veterans would not have to find medical literature to convince VA what we've known all along; burn pits are toxic and cause serious health problems. This is a huge win for millions of brave men and women who are still suffering the effects of their deployment.

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THE PRESUMPTIVE DISEASES SPECIFIED IN THIS BILL INCLUDE:

FOR OIF/OEF VETERANS: This bill covers Asthma (diagnosed after military service); Chronic Bronchitis; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); Constrictive Bronchiolitis; Bronchiolitis; Emphysema; Granulomatous Disease; Interstitial Lung Disease; Pleuritis; Pulmonary Fibrosis; Sarcoidosis; Chronic Sinusitis; Chronic Rhinitis; and Glioblastoma.

And the following cancers of any type: Head; Neck; Respiratory; Gastrointestinal; Reproductive Organs; Lymphoma; Lymphomatic; Kidney; Brain; Melanoma; and Pancreatic cancer.

For “**Vietnam Era Veterans**”, H.R. 3967 also expands the locations where exposure to certain Herbicide Agents occurred. These areas include **Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnson Atoll**. The dates for exposure to herbicides at these locations vary, but in general it includes dates from the early 1960s to as recent as 1980.

Once this Senate amendment is approved in the House, it then moves on to President Biden’s desk for his signature. Twenty-three medical conditions and cancers would be added to the list of those that can be presumed to be service-connected, meaning veterans would not have to prove a causal link between their condition and their time in service.

THE IMPORTANT PART

Due to the vast content of the H.R. 3967 (150 pages), the information presented above is only a quick look at some of the main points. **Once this legislation is finally law**, I recommend you contact your County Veterans Service Officer to check your eligibility on these new presumptive diseases and start building your claim.

MANLEY MARTINSON CELEBRATES 96 TH BIRTHDAY

Comrade Manley Martinson celebrated his 96th birthday with friends at Friday Coffee on June 24th. A longtime member of the VFW, Manley joined the US Navy in 1944 and trained as a Motor Machinist’s Mate (MoMM) before being assigned to the USS Princeton, USS Vulcan, and USS Deuel. It was aboard the Deuel that he took part in the Battle for Iwo Jima as the mechanic assigned to a landing craft (LVT) that brought marines and supplies to the volcanic shores of Iwo Jima. Happy Birthday Manley and thank you for your service and sacrifice during WWII.



SUMMER PICNIC The annual Wenatchee Valley Veteran’s Picnic will take place on **Sunday, September 18th** at **Walla Walla Point Park in Shelter No. 1** (which is by the Swim Beach and Bathrooms). Good food, games, and camaraderie. Mark your calendar. We’ll see you there!

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PANGBORN FESTIVAL of FLIGHT On October 3, 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon left Sabishiro Beach in Misawa, Japan, to fly Miss Veedol across the ocean in the first non-stop, trans-Pacific flight. After 41 hours in the air, Miss Veedol crash landed on the bluffs above East Wenatchee what is now the Fancher Heights neighborhood. The Wenatchee Valley has been connected to Misawa and the aviation world ever since and Pangborn's Festival of Flight was created to celebrate this historic event.

On August 6th from 9am-3pm, Pangborn Memorial Airport will be celebrating its annual Festival of Flight. This year's exhibits include the Commemorative Air Force with their **B-17 "Sentimental Journey"** and **B-25J Mitchell "Made in the Shade"**. There will be limited opportunities to take a tour inside these aircraft as well as paying for a "ticket" for a 20-minute flight aboard these planes. Both aircraft will be at Pangborn from August 2-7 and available for tours and flights. Cost for ground tours is \$15 per person, or \$30 for a family of 4. If you're interested in taking a flight, please see their website to reserve your seat at FlyingLegendsTour.com.



Hope you take advantage of this opportunity to learn about East Wenatchee's aviation history, check out some amazing airplanes, grab some lunch from our delicious food vendors, then visit our exhibitors and have fun learning with their exciting Japanese activities!

FINAL THOUGHTS Thank you again to everyone that participates in keeping this Post up and running. Behind the scenes you will find an outstanding group of comrades and sisters that take care of everything from Monday morning cleanups, lawn and property maintenance, admin and computer work, to the much dreaded plumbing work when it's needed (thanks for the new loo!). We may not have the VA Van to staff or Bingo games to help with, but there's plenty opportunity to roll up your sleeves and give us a hand with our continuing project list. Plus, we'd just like to sit down and have a cup of coffee and catch up. **Every Friday at the Post between 9-10:30 is our Community Coffee** where you see old friends and catch up on and what we're doing. Wishing everyone a safe and happy Summer season!

Brad Pieratt, Commander

Zoom Meetings Information

Post Meetings: 20 July & 17 Aug @ 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

Summer Sweet Summer is finally here! Hopefully, everyone is out and enjoying this wonderful time of year. For the Auxiliary it is a little slower paced. The VFW Convention is finished and our new year is underway. At convention we received a number of awards for our committee chairmen. The awards will be presented at our July meeting. An excellent job was done by all of the committees. New committees will be assigned at the July meeting.

We were able to get a lot accomplished before the end of the VFW year:

- We wrapped up our Outreach Project with the Humane Society. Jude Greening volunteered to continue delivering the paper rolls to the Humane Society if everyone keeps bringing them in to the Post.
- After the Apple Blossom parade we were told the Fallen Heroes Banners Project needs new cases to store the banners. Our Auxiliary voted to donate \$150 for one new case.
- For National Veteran's Caregivers Month, we were able to take a pizza lunch to the CBOC. This is our small way to thank them for all they do for our Veterans.
- Our Auxiliary members attended the Memorial Day programs around the area and donated desserts to the Veterans Lunch. Thanks to Jo Cadwallader and Judy Ebi for helping with the lunch at the American Legion.
- A special Thank You to Steve and Dee Johnson for putting out and taking down the small flags at the Post home for Flag Day. If you drove by the Post on June 14th you got to see the Post surrounded by flags.

On July 20th we have invited the Art Contest winners to the dinner prior to our meeting. If you would like to meet and congratulate our winners, please attend the dinner at 6pm on Wednesday, July 20. (The original date was changed due to conflict with the State VFW Convention.)

We had so much fun giving out coffee at the **Nason Creek Rest Area**, even in the pouring rain, that we have asked for additional date. We will be back up there to hand out coffee on **August 9-12**. If you would like to volunteer to cover a time slot or donate cookies, please let us know.

SOAR will be having an event on Aug 27 in Port Orchard, WA. This dinner and auction provide funds for the Thomas A Biddle Foundation, which gives funds to help military families who are touched by service member suicide. Often the family is left with no housing, income, or insurance—the Foundation provides a stop-gap for these families. Our Auxiliary has been asked to donate a raffle basket. We will be deciding on a theme soon and gathering donations to put the basket together.

The Auxiliary members are looking forward to the Veterans Picnic on **Sept 18 at Walla Walla Point Park**. We combine this annual picnic with our **Family Freedom Festival**. If you have not been able to attend our meetings but would like to participate in an event, this is a fun way to meet your fellow Auxiliary members. More information to come, but for now be sure to mark your calendar.

In closing I hope this finds everyone interested in our programs and wanting to learn more about what we are doing. As always, all Auxiliary members are welcome to our meetings and events. If you want more information or just to talk, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

What can I say? We live in contentious times. I am reminded of what Paul said in his letter to the believers in Rome:

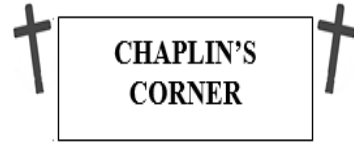
"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

(Romans 12:18)

We are all entitled to our opinions, we are also free in this country to vote for our representatives. Please remember to exercise those rights and allow other to do so as well. Be loving to those around you even if, and dare I say especially if, they disagree with you.

I pray these words find you well and you are encouraged to follow the best examples set for you by Jesus and his relationship with those around him.

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain



TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost

Patrick Breen

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 in September 2022, so the **deadline for submissions is end of August**. 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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