



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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Commander's Letter

What happened to our Fall? In a short three-week period, we went from wearing shorts and t-shirts in a smoky valley to scrambling to get the irrigation lines blown out before it freezes. As I write this, it's snowing hard in Waterville and I have ice on the bird bath in my back yard. This year, the Farmer's Almanac says we're in for a colder wetter winter which means I'd better dig my snow shovel out of the shed sooner than later. Hang on – here comes Winter.

Commander Brad Pieratt

VETERANS DAY This Veterans Day, we honor every man and woman who has proudly worn the uniform and bravely defended our nation while protecting its people from the evils of this world. Every American, no matter where they live or what they do, reaps the benefits of their service.

Friday, November 11th is a special day. It is, in fact, a remarkable day. As veterans of foreign wars and as members of an organization whose primary mission is to serve those who have served, we understand that Veterans Day is a day of deep significance of opportunity. It is a day to recognize and honor the millions of men and women who answered without hesitation when their country called, and to the countless families of our military members who stayed at home waiting for their loved one's return.

It should also be a day of reflection, a day when every American takes time to consider the legacy of freedom and liberty that has been passed to us. It is a day to think about the awesome responsibility that is ours, and what it takes to maintain this land of the free, this home of the brave.

Across the nation, patriotic Americans will gather at events to remember the countless sacrifices of our nation's veterans. Our veterans cherish the values and virtues upon which our nation was founded and have bravely preserved them at all costs. So it is our responsibility to reflect on the many costs attached to our victories over tyranny, and the many liberties we enjoy today because of their selflessness and sacrifices.

(Continued on page 2)

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Veterans Day is a day for every American, every citizen – no matter what race, religion or political affiliation they might have – to contemplate the price of our liberty.

As we honor the veterans of our nation, we must also acknowledge and give thought to those who are currently serving. Those who wear the uniform of today's military services face a world that is filled with change and challenge.

Thousands of our service members who have been thrust into the boiling cauldron of war, they too, are veterans of foreign wars. And as they serve to protect all of us, we have an equal responsibility to care for them and their families; it is our obligation to do so. To do anything less would diminish and cheapen the service and sacrifice of millions of patriots who have selflessly served this country.

We owe so much to today's generation of great patriots, and all who've come before them. And while we can never repay the debt owed to them, we can show our appreciation through actions to ensure they receive proper and adequate medical care for both their visible and invisible wounds, that they have every opportunity to pursue the American dream they sacrificed for.

As a grateful people, we must continue to do all we can to ensure our veterans get the benefits and recognition they have earned and deserve. Let us resolve right now, to do these things with a renewed sense of purpose. Gratitude.

It is a day to celebrate the courage, the deeds, the sacrifice, dedication and commitment of all veterans who have served this great nation – and what is in fact the greatest nation on earth, thanks to their efforts.

Happy Veterans Day to all of America's veterans, and a sincere and heartfelt, **THANK YOU.**

BUDDY POPPY DAY ON NOVEMBER 12 This year we will have our annual Buddy Poppy Drive on Saturday, November 12th (the day after Veteran's Day). If you're out and about in East Wenatchee or Cashmere, stop by to say hi to our members tabling and raising funds at **Bi-Mart, Safeway, Fred Meyer** and **Martin's Market** in Cashmere. Our semi-annual Buddy Poppy Drives are our only opportunity to raise much needed monies for our Veteran's Relief Fund which supports veterans and their families. Volunteers for handing out Buddy Poppies at these locations are still needed—please contact a Post Officer for more information about available shifts.





Auxiliary President's Letter

Fall is in the air: cooler mornings and evenings and the trees are changing. This is the best time of year in this beautiful valley! With so many opportunities to help our Veterans and our Communities the Auxiliary will be busy: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas are all coming up over the next two months.

What have we been up to? At the picnic in September, we handed out school supplies to the children who attended. We had a lot of interest from the public about what we do. The flag folding flyer and little pocket flags were a great hit! Thank you to everyone who helped with the picnic. We donated a basket to the SOAR auction, which raises funds for the Thomas A Biddle Foundation. We are still working with the American Red Cross to arrange a blood drive in the Spring (date still TBD). If you want to be on our early sign up sheet please contact Bicky La Roque or Shirley Lance. Once again we have made and delivered small favors for the Assisted Living facilities: decorated pumpkin and leaf foam cutouts for Autumn and cute little firecrackers for Veterans Day. A thank you to Carol Trunzo and Billie Reynolds for planning the crafts.

We have lots of projects coming up. The first and foremost is the Buddy Poppy drive [more info on page 2] - volunteers are still needed. Operation Homefront starts in November: we collect donations from the Dollar Stores and distribute them to schools and veteran families. We are also currently looking for a Veteran Family to help this Christmas. As we do every year, we want to make it a very special Christmas for one or two Veteran Families. If you know of a family in need or would like to donate to the project please let someone in the Auxiliary know.

Welcome our newest Auxiliary member: Pam Reinfeld! Pam joined our Auxiliary in September and she has jumped right in helping with all of our projects. If you would like to join the Auxiliary, or if you are a member and have not attended a meeting in awhile, we would enjoy seeing you at the November meeting. New volunteers for our projects are always needed.

As always give me a call with any questions or just to talk.

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

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 January 2023, so the **deadline for submissions is New Years Eve (31 Dec 2022)**. Photos and stories to be included on the website can be submitted at any time via email.

If you have any questions, comments, stories, photos, or just ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org
Thanks,
- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

Why Worry?

We all experience worry at some point in our lives, don't we? An unexpected bill comes through the door that we haven't budgeted for, and we worry about how we are going to pay it. A loved one arrives home 30 minutes after they said they would, and we have spent the whole time worrying that something may have happened to them. Your child goes off to nursery for the first time and you spend the day worrying about how they are getting on and if they have settled ok.

We all have these times where we feel out of control and unable to balance all of the plates spinning in our lives. We turn to worry, trying to figure out how we can resolve a certain matter or problem, sometimes without going to the Source first.

There is nothing wrong with caring, we all have things that we care about and that is good. But when caring becomes worrying, it robs us of our joy and depletes the energy we need for life.

Pause to read today's verses, found in Matthew 6:25-34. Matthew starts off by acknowledging the things that we all need - food, drink, and clothes. We know it. Matthew knows it. **God** knows it! We can rest assured that God is aware of what we require to live well and has plans to provide them.

Matthew goes on to illustrate this by pointing out that even the birds of the air go day to day, trusting the provision of the Father. They do not fly around worrying about their next meal or where they will build their nests – it is all richly provided for them by God in nature.

Can we achieve anything with our worrying? Or does it simply drain the joy out of our lives?

Matthew adds that the flowers in the field are better dressed than we could ever hope to be even though they are discarded after the day is done. How incredibly valuable are we to God compared to them! Remember **that** when you are worrying. He loves you and cares about what you need. He even cares about what you **want**! God knows the desires of our hearts as well as our needs.

Friends, how will we stand out to a world that is lost and searching if we live our lives worrying about the same things as those who don't yet know God. We must resist worry and fight for peace. Look to God's business rather than your own and He will look after the rest. Live in accordance with His ways and He will provide you with all you need. Don't worry about the future, God know the plans He has for us (see Jeremiah 29:11) and if we trust Him, that can be enough.

Excerpt from: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/29446-worry-for-nothing/day/1>

God Bless, Chaplain Sarah Simonson



Zoom Meetings Information

Post Meetings: 16 Nov & 21 Dec @ 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.

Passing of Nick Hamburg

Our friend and buddy Nick Hamburg passed away suddenly on September 28th after fighting an infection for the last couple months. Nick was born in Everett on January 31, 1983 and moved with his family to Wenatchee in 2005. Shortly after moving here, I met Nick at a Mike Utley Foundation event, he was riding his hand cycle. He said he always appreciated military members and veterans for their service, so I invited him to one of our Friday Community Coffee gatherings. After meeting everyone on his first visit, he made an effort to be there every Friday to visit his friends. He became a fixture at our VFW.



Nick wanted to help us during our Spring and Fall Buddy Poppy Drives by handing out poppies and receiving donations from the public. He usually paired up with a couple of our older WWII and Korean War vets at the old Food Pavilion Store (now Grocery Outlet) in East Wenatchee. Looking back at our volunteer list, Nick helped raise over \$100k in Veteran Relief donations during 32 poppy drives over the years. He may not have served in the military due to his spina bifida, but Nick certainly SERVED our local veterans and their families by his efforts to raise relief funds. He made a difference in the lives of many.

Always happy to talk with veterans, he really appreciated the kindness and attention he received at the Post. Quite often when a veteran would present him with pin, patch, or military unit shirt, Nick would be proudly wearing it at our next gathering. He was a good friend of everyone he met, especially the Comrades and Auxiliary members of this Post. Rest in peace my friend.

Please be sure to read his online obituary for a better understanding of his life.

<https://www.chapelofthevalleyncw.com/memorials/nicholas-hamburg/5032413/index.php>



SUMMER PICNIC The annual Wenatchee Valley Veteran's Picnic was a great success! Over 150 people dropped by to share a wonderful meal and good conversation. We also had a 50/50 Raffle that raised \$198 for our Picnic Fund. If you missed it, the food was fantastic and everyone had a great time. A special **thank you** to all the helpers that pulled off the best picnic we've seen in years.

Cemetery Plots for Sale

The Wenatchee Valley VFW Post 3617 has received 2 cemetery plots in the Veterans Section of Evergreen Memorial Park, East Wenatchee. The current market value of each plot is approximately \$8,000. The cost of transfer of ownership will be approximately \$200 per plot. Each plot may be further divided into 2 parcels to accommodate 2 cremains.

VFW Post 3617 is offering to sell the plots as configured for \$6,500 each. The purchaser will be responsible for any transfer fees.

Questions can be directed to Steve Johnson via call or text 425-274-6263

Interested parties should submit the following information in writing to the Post **no later than 01 Dec 2022**.

Interest in ONE or BOTH plots

Understand these plot(s) must be used for Veterans.

Name | Address | Contact Phone | Email (optional)

Threat Awareness Training



Officer Erik Magnussen, of the Wenatchee Police Department, recently held a Threat Awareness Training Seminar to 13 members of our Post and Auxiliary. The hour-long training included what to do if you are caught in the middle of an active threat, like the recent shootings at schools or shopping centers. The frank discussions included videos of situational awareness scenarios that could happen to any of us. Officer Magnussen is providing this free training to employers and organizations throughout the Valley. We will probably have an additional class held at the Post after the Holidays if you're interested in attending. Information on a future class will be in the January 2023 newsletter.

Thomas A. Biddle Foundation

Dennis and Nancy Brouwers from the Thomas A. Biddle Foundation were our guest speakers at dinner before our meeting on 19 October. They briefed us on the progress and impact the foundation is having on family survivors of military suicides. Also, they have a new website to share in addition to their Facebook page. Please check them out at

thomasabiddlefoundation.org



Wheelchair Ramp Projects

We're just finishing up our last ramp project of the year at a veteran's home near Monitor. The 39-foot ramp was assembled in just 3-hours by our small crew. We're getting better at this as we remember not to repeat the mistakes of our previous builds.

By teaming up with **Operation Ramp It Up**, our capability to help more veterans with ADA access to their homes is improved greatly. It also stretches out our grant funds from Home Depot as we no longer have to build the entire ramp from wood. We just use the grant to pay for minor alterations to the existing property that will allow for the attachment of the modular aluminum ramp.



Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication



Auxiliary member Tara Damschen attended the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument dedication in Lynnwood on 02 Nov. This monument is the 200th such placed in the country and the 3rd monument placed in the state of Washington. It is located in Veterans Park at 44th Ave W in Lynnwood, WA. The Park is maintained by members of VFW Post 1040.

Last Summer, our Post donated \$1,000 towards another such memorial being built at Tahoma National Cemetery in honor and memory of our local Gold Star family of Lando Jasso. Once we have more information on that Monument's dedication, we'll be sure to let everyone know.

Douglas County Service Officer new location

Douglas County Veteran Service Officer Sarah Simonson has a new office and is **no longer located within our Post home.** Please update your address books:

Douglas County Veteran Service Office

110 2nd St NE

East Wenatchee, WA 98802

(509) 683-3605

vso@co.douglas.wa.us

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Wenatchee Valley Post 3617
211 - 11th St NE
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509-884-3617
vfwpost3617@nwi.net

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