



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 15, Issue 1

January 2023

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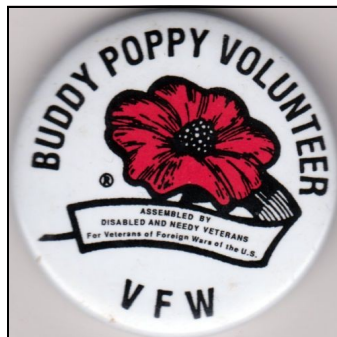
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Commander's Letter

Welcome to a new year! I hope all your holiday gatherings and celebrations were enjoyable and delicious! Mother nature provided us with a perfect backdrop for the season, even if we had to shovel the driveway a few times. To help everyone get through the doldrums that are January, February, and March, I'd like to start a monthly Lunch & Movie event at the Post. Details for our first "Lunch and a Movie" date and the upcoming Quarterly Luncheon are inside.

Commander Brad Pieratt



VETERANS DAY BUDDY POPPIES This Veteran's Day the Post & Auxiliary **collected over \$2,700** during our Buddy Poppy Drive at 4 different retail locations in the valley. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this happen! Buddy Poppies are our main source of Veteran Relief funds that give us the capability to help military veterans and their families. Thank you also to those of you that donated to the fund.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER Congratulations go to our Post winner for the 2022 Voice of Democracy, Miss **Kasey Paquette** from East Wenatchee. Kasey is a Senior at Eastmont High School. Kasey was also voted the winner of the District 7 contest held on November 19. As the representative of District 7, Kasey and her parents will be attending the VFW Department of Washington VOD Banquet where the Department winner will be announced. She has a great speech on this year's theme, "Why is the Veteran Important?". We wish her the best of luck in this year's competition.



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LOWES MAKEOVER PROJECT AT THE POST On December 3rd, a team of volunteers from our local Lowes arrived to spruce up our bathrooms and center hallway. The team of 10, with expertise in flooring and painting, got right to work at 8:30am to fix perhaps our biggest eyesore at the Post: our bathrooms. The taping crew got busy with removing and taping hardware and repairing damaged areas on the walls. They were followed by a paint priming crew that sealed the walls in preparation for the paint. The painting crew followed them to lay on a fresh coat of paint. Meanwhile, while all the painting was happening, a couple team members were laying down some new vinyl plank flooring in the central hallway. In total, the complete project was finished within 8 hours. **Special thanks to Lowes and their team of volunteers**, and to comrades Carbins and Reinfeld who helped out with the project.



NEW FLAG INSTALLED AT PANGBORN On December 14th, at the last possible moment before the big snowstorm was scheduled to hit our valley, Douglas County received the new flag for the Pangborn roundabout. With literally less than an hour before it started snowing, we were able to assemble a crack team of volunteers to change out a very worn flag in less than optimal conditions. The old flag was lowered and removed from the halyard and the new 20 x 30 foot flag was raised just as the winds came up and the snow started to fall. Not an ideal day to do this, but the swap out was long overdue, delayed by supply chain issues, and we had to retire the old flag. Thanks to the A-Team of Dave, Parish, Ed, and Don who braved the elements and made this happen.

JANUARY MEETING CANCELED Due to conflicting dates with the VFW Depart of WA Mid-Winter Conference, which Post & Auxiliary leadership will be attending in Yakima, **we will not have a January meeting. Next meeting is 15 Feb.**

Zoom Information

Upcoming Meetings: 15 Feb @ 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

Is everyone doing what I am and breathing a sigh of relief that Christmas is over? Hopefully the snowy weather will be over soon too - I am really looking forward to Spring. I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and Happy New Year.

We hosted our annual Veteran's Christmas Party in early December. There was a very good turn out, considering the weather. Thanks to Brad and his volunteers for providing Valet Parking. The meal was very good as always. A special **Thank You goes out to Jo Cadwallader** for making the turkey and dressing. I hope everyone enjoyed the gift exchange. It looked like there were some pretty nifty gifts given.

We adopted a great family for Christmas this year. Father, mother, and four daughters ages 17, 15 (twins), and 1 year old. **Thank you for the numerous donations of both gifts and cash.** We were able to give each child a \$100.00 gift card as their Santa present along with many other presents. We also gave the family grocery cards to spend as they see fit. The family recently came to Friday coffee at the Post to meet and thank everyone for the gifts.

Carol Trunzo and Billie Reynolds kept us busy with favors for the nursing homes for Fall, Veteran's Day and Christmas. Three very different craft projects and all fun to make. Carol delivered them to Bonaventure and the other facilities we regularly visit. It sounded like everyone who received one was thrilled. **Our next crafting project will be for Valentines Day.** We will also work with local schools for Valentines for Veterans. All of the Valentines made by school children will be sent to the Soldiers Home in Orting and the tiny home veterans village at Walla Walla.

We are still working with the Red Cross to coordinate a **Blood Drive this Spring.** The tentative date will be in March. If you have not signed our list of interest please do. We need to let the Red Cross know we have interest before they will commit the unit from Spokane. Signing the list does not commit you to giving blood: it just shows that we have interested individuals. If you are worried about your age or medication disqualifying you, don't worry - They will let you know when you go to give blood if you are eligible. More people qualify than think they will. As you may have seen on the news this winter has been really hard on the blood supply. Nationally there is a severe shortage. We are hoping to get not only Post 3617 members but the public as well to turn out and give blood. We will keep everyone up to date as we get closer.

The Auxiliary has done a **winter project for the homeless** the last few years. We normally try to collect clothing, hygiene, and other needed items in January and February to distribute at the end of February. This year we are changing it up a bit and **doing a food drive.** Bicky shared that one of the larger food banks for the Wenatchee area closed its doors at the end of December. No reason was given for their closing down. To pick up the slack, **Serve Wenatchee** is trying to get more donations so they can offer their services to more families and we want to help. There will be a collection box at the Post starting in the first week of January. We are asking everyone to donate canned goods and

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nonperishable food items: soups, chili, canned meats, tuna, canned fruit, cereal, nut butters, etc.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at **our next meeting, February 15th**. We will not have a January meeting due to the Mid-Winter Convention. Remember to sign up for the blood drive and bring your food items to Friday coffee if you do not want to wait until February. The weather has to be better by then, right? Please everyone drive safely and watch that ice when walking. Remember black ice not only plays havoc with cars but also with people.

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

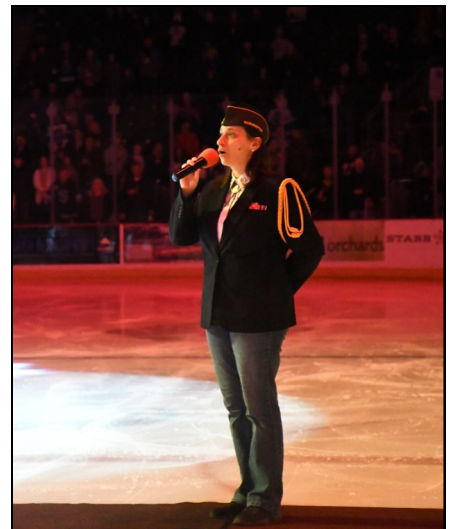
~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President
(425) 223-2172 slanc0382@netzero.com

A Star Amongst Us

Did you know we have an accomplished vocalist in our midst? Post Chaplain, Douglas County Veteran Service Officer, and Air Force veteran **Sarahbeth Simonson** has been known to sing when she's not busy helping friends, family, and community members in her free time. On many occasions, both for our Post events and other events in the local community, Sarahbeth has been asked to deliver our National Anthem, providing a live performance as part of an event's opening ceremonies. When time allows and she accepts, the crowd is always treated to a fantastic rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Recently, Sarahbeth had the opportunity to sing both the American and Canadian National Anthems at the opening of a couple **Wenatchee Wild** home games at the Town Toyota Center. The Wenatchee Wild are currently the only American team in the British Columbia Hockey League (BCHL), a regional junior hockey league that accepted the Wenatchee Wild in 2015. As such, both country's anthems are sang at the start of each game in which the Wild are playing.

Thank you Sarahbeth, for proudly representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, our Post 3617, and Veterans across the region while patriotically honoring the nations of our Home Team and their Guests!

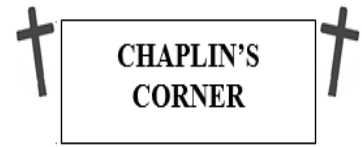


12 Nov 2022, Veterans Appreciation Night



26 Nov 2022

God is in Control



Some era-defining words have entered the English language in recent times. A good example is the Collins Dictionary Word of the Year 2022: 'permacrisis' – defined as 'an extended period of instability and insecurity' and, many would say, a spot-on synopsis of the past few years. In the face of global uncertainties, we can't help wondering: where is it all heading? And what will the future look like? Many would question, how do we remain steady, unruffled, energized, and robust on the inside, no matter how crazy things get on the outside?

God has some questions of His own for the prophet Isaiah (in Isaiah 40:25–26 NIV): “To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.’

When was the last time you gazed up at the heavens on a still, clear night, far from urban light pollution? In the passage from Isaiah, we read that God ‘calls forth each of them by name’ and that ‘not one of them is missing.’ And that’s just a glimpse of God’s ‘great power and mighty strength,’ considering that these are only the stars in our galaxy, which is merely one of about 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

These verses from Isaiah are an awe-inspiring reminder that God is in control and that He cares about the details, down to the last star. This is very good news for us. It means we can stop worrying about everything we can't control. The world may be sunk in a permacrisis, but God remains in control of everything that's happening on the earth and everything that's going on in our individual lives, down to the last detail. ‘God doesn't abandon or forget even the small sparrow He has made,’ Jesus says. ‘How then could He forget or abandon you? What about the seemingly minor issues of your life? Do they matter to God? Of course they do! But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Luke 12:7)

Excerpt from The Way Forward: A 5-Day Devotional by Phil Dooley

(<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/34848-the-way-forward-a-5-day-devotional-by-phil-dooley/day/1>)

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

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 early March 2023, so the **deadline for submissions is February 25**. Photos and stories to be included on the website can be submitted at any time via email. Also, please consider **signing up to receive a digital copy of our newsletter**, saving postage and printing costs. Visit <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/newsletter/> and complete the form on that page. If you have any questions, stories, photos, or article ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org

Thanks,

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

Wreaths Across America

On a very cold December 17th morning at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, officers and members of our Post & Auxiliary performed a solemn ceremony to mark the National Wreaths Across America Day.

Each December on this day, the mission of **Remember, Honor and Teach**, about the lives and sacrifices of our veterans, is carried out by volunteers across the nation, coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies with

the main event at Arlington National Cemetery. These ceremonies are held at more than 3,700 additional locations in all 50 States, as well as at sea and abroad. Each location hosts their event at the exact same time as the ceremony held at Arlington, which takes place at 12 noon on the third Saturday in December. At 9am local time, our brief ceremony commenced and we laid wreaths around the flagpole in honor of each branch of the military and in remembrance of the veterans buried at Evergreen. *Learn more about Wreaths Across America at <https://wreathscrossamerica.org>*



Annual Christmas Party at the Post

This year's VFW Christmas Party was held in the afternoon of December 17th. Sponsored by the excellent chefs of our own Auxiliary, we had 34 people attend this annual gathering with a great variety of potluck side dishes and desserts to accompany the delicious ham prepared by the ladies. We also had an optional \$20 gift exchange that folks could join if they wished. Thankfully the gifts were marked for either a man or woman, so Brad didn't end up getting new kitchen linens or hand lotion this year!

Due to the snow that was falling on that day, we offered a valet service for anyone driving their car. They just had to park their vehicle on the flat ADA parking area, hand their keys to one of our volunteer valets, and make their way into the building. No one had to negotiate the slippery parking lot with a hot dish and gift under their arm. The process worked perfectly as we didn't have a single fall.



VFW Commendation Medal Presented

A special VFW Commendation Medal and Certificate was presented to the Hamburg family in a private ceremony just after Christmas. The medal was in honor of the volunteer spirit shown by their son Nick over the course of the last 17 years. Looking back in my records, I saw Nick volunteered at every Buddy Poppy Drive since 2005. Except for a couple years where he was having surgery, Nick helped at our poppy tables which **brought in more than \$100k** for our Veteran's Relief Fund. Nick was always willing to help and became a fixture at our post for all the events and fundraisers we held over the years. He was a good friend to all of us and we were blessed to know him.



January Lunch & Movie Day



Here's something to break up your winter blues. Join us at the Post for a special \$5 Lunch follow by complimentary screening of "Top Gun: Maverick" on **Thursday, January 26th**. Lunch will start at 12 noon followed by the movie at 1pm, and Commander Pieratt is buying the popcorn! "Top Gun: Maverick" is the 2022 sequel to the 1986 movie "Top Gun" starring Tom Cruise.

Please RSVP with Brad or Shirley by January 24 so we can purchase the meal items.

Quarterly VFW Luncheon at Olive Garden

Due to the outstanding feedback we received for our last Quarterly Luncheon, we will be holding our next luncheon on **Tuesday, February 7 at 11:30am** at the Olive Garden in East Wenatchee. At this event, we will be welcoming our newest members who have joined in the last 90 days. For this event you will be responsible for your own tab.

As always, it would be nice to let our host know how many people will be attending so they can ensure they have the proper staffing. So please RSVP with Commander Pieratt so he can provide a headcount.



Veterans of Foreign Wars
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