



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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May 2023

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Commander's Letter

Greeting everyone! I hope you had a great Apple Blossom weekend and are enjoying the normal weather (finally) of May. During the last couple months, we've been busy with projects, parades and planning for Memorial Day. As usual this time of year, it seems to come back-to-back without any recuperation time, but we'll have time to rest after Memorial Day.

Commander Brad Pieratt



PARADE FOR FRED HOLSONBAKE On April 17th, our Post & Auxiliary joined with other patriotic citizens as we gathered to wish Mr. Fred Holsonbake of Wenatchee a happy 100th birthday with a car parade in front of his home. A lineup of police cars and fire trucks led the parade with the Wenatchee High School Marching Band following closely behind. Then, the Wenatchee Valley Cruisers Car Club with about 20 classic cars plus numerous veterans and community members driving their own cars. In total, about 100 people showed up to wish Fred a Happy Birthday.

Fred joined the U.S. Army in 1940 at the age of 17 and soon found himself thrust into World War II with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Fred's military service includes landing at North Africa for Operation TORCH in November 1942. In January 1944, Fred was part of the landing forces at Anzio, Italy. Recalled to England in 1945 to join General Patton's 3rd Army, Fred, who was a Sergeant now, prepared his machine gun squad for the eventual D-Day landing on the

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beaches of Normandy. On June 6, 1944, Operation OVERLORD initiates which puts Fred's unit on standby for the second wave of the landing force. In July, after the 1st Army broke the German line, Patton's 3rd Army swept through the breach into northern France in pursuit of Nazi forces north. Later that year, his unit played a key role in frustrating the German counterattack in the Ardennes during the massive Battle of the Bulge. Fred served with that unit until the end of the war. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals. After the war, he returned to California to raise a family and start a career as an autobody man and later becoming an insurance adjuster.

During the parade, I was honored to present him a special Allied Forces D-Day Challenge Coin along with an Army T-Shirt. Additionally, the Auxiliary presented him an Army Lap Quilt to which really appreciated since it was a bit chilly that morning. On departing, I rendered him a salute and thanked him for his service to our country and the sacrifices he had made. He replied, "My only hope is that I was able to help some of the boys make it home." Then, the old soldier returned my salute and said thank you.



- It was only 5 days later that Sergeant Fred Holsonbake passed away peacefully. Thank you to everyone that helped make his 100th Birthday Parade a very special event.

Editors note: more photos available on our website in the Recent News section.

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. If you have any questions, stories, photos, or article ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

Zoom Information

Upcoming Meetings:

17 May & 21 June @ 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

Hi to everyone. Summer is just around the corner! Hopefully everyone is as excited about this time of year as I am. Mother's Day is soon and then summer wonderful summer. Outdoor activities abound for this area: Hiking, boating, fishing, gardening, and so much more.

Memorial Day weekend will be a busy time for all. We will be helping the Post with the **Buddy Poppy drive on Saturday May 27th**. Please sign-up for a store if you haven't done so yet. *The more stores we can cover the more funds we can raise to help veterans.* Members will also be attending all of the programs on Memorial Day. This is a very moving event and covers many locations. After all of the programs there is the Veteran's Lunch at the American Legion. We will be helping at the lunch and providing the desserts. Be sure and come for lunch and sample all of our dessert creations. Additionally in May, as part of **Veteran's Care Givers month**, the Auxiliary will be providing lunch to the staff at the CBOC as a way of thanking them for their service to our veterans.

June also brings the start of a new year for the Auxiliary. The new year starts with the **State Convention in Spokane in mid-June** which 3 of our members will be attending. Some of our Auxiliary members will also be going to **School of Instruction in Spokane on August 17th**. We are looking forward to learning about the new programs for the coming year.

We are still working on a raffle basket to donate to Operation Catching Freedom for their June event. The theme for our basket is "**Donuts**". We have been amazed at all of the different items we have found with a donut theme. So far our basket will have everything from band aids to puzzles and so much more in between. We are also working on collecting items for the District 7 raffle basket for the convention. The theme for that basket is "**Sports in Washington**". We have memorabilia from a number of teams, along with box seat tickets to a Spokane Indians game. Any donations of items for either basket would be greatly appreciated, just drop them off at the Post any Friday at coffee.

We will be hosting the **free coffee program at the Nason Creek Rest Area** on Highway 2 from **August 29th through September 1st**. This is always a fun event and a fundraiser for the Auxiliary as we are able to accept donations. If you want to volunteer for a shift let us know. If you are traveling during those dates stop and say hi.

Welcome new Auxiliary members, **James Pieratt** and **Grace Moore**. Grace lives in Nespelm and some of us went to Grand Coulee to welcome Grace in person. While there, we attended a Memorial Service for a Veteran at the Spring Canyon cemetery. It was a very moving and beautiful service.

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



Memorial Day Ceremonies

The events listed below will take place on **Monday, May 29th**.

This year, we're starting at the **Wenatchee Cemetery at 9am** with the presentation of colors, wreath laying in honor of all who served and sacrificed in service to our country, taps and a rifle volley from the Honor Guard. Additionally, Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz is the guest speaker for this event.



At **10am**, a smaller event will take place mid-span of the **Old Wenatchee Black Bridge**. This ceremony is to honor all those that served at sea. A ceremonial wreath will be tossed into the Columbia River by Mayors Kuntz and Jerrilea Crawford.

At **11am**, the exact ceremony that took place at the Wenatchee Cemetery will be repeated at **Evergreen Memorial Park** on 10th Street NE with East Wenatchee. Mayor Jerrilea Crawford will be the guest speaker at this event.



The day's ceremonies conclude at **Pybus Public Market at 12 noon** with the raising of the colors followed by a rifle volley and the playing of Taps. Commander Pieratt has the honor of giving a short patriotic speech to conclude the official events of the day.

Afterwards, at approximately **12:30pm**, the auxiliaries of the American Legion and VFW will host a **free luncheon** for participants at American Legion Post 10 in Wenatchee.

Don't forget, flags will be lowered to half-staff for the start of Memorial Day and raised to full-staff at 12 noon.

Veterans Coffee at Bonaventure

We're still meeting on the first Monday of each month at 10am in the upstairs Common Area and Billiards Lounge on the second floor. We're working hard with the Bonaventure Activities Director to get all the veteran residents notified on the day of our gathering to increase the participation of the residents. The coffee is open to all our members and auxiliary to attend.

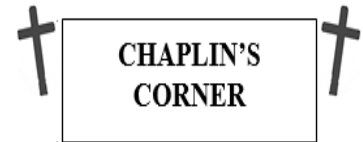


Next coffee will be on **June 5 at 10am**.

Fruits of the Spirit

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

- Galatians 5:22-23



How often have we read that list as a check list and found ourselves lacking? Often reading this list leads to conviction and determination to work harder. Quickly the burden of trying to be more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more everything becomes overwhelming. It feels like trying to walk up steep terrain.

Rather than trying harder, Jesus invites us to put our feet in His footprints. Galatians 5:24 says *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there"* (NLT). **That's** our motivation and power. Galatians 5:25 tells us, *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* What sweet relief comes from knowing that my job is **not to produce the fruit** but to keep in step with the Savior, in alignment with the Spirit who lives His life in me and who produces the fruit.

As the stress of life rises, don't strive to be better which only leads to feeling more stressed. Instead, take a moment and ask Jesus a simple, but powerful request. **"Live in me and produce Your fruit."**

Excerpts from: Sylvia Gunter, 2010.

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

Quarterly VFW Luncheon at Olive Garden



Our next VFW Quarterly Luncheon will be held on **May 16 at 1130** at the Olive Garden. This will be an RSVP event with payment before the lunch. Due to the short notice, we'll take your payment on the day of the luncheon. I expect to have 3-4 different meals to choose from. Cost should no more than \$20 including your soda drink and tip. This is being done to expedite the bill paying at the end of lunch. *Beer, wine, mixed drinks are the responsibility of each guest.*

Please **RSVP by May 15** - pieratt@nwi.net or 509-630-1754

Wenatchee Veterans Hall Open House

Everyone is invited to drop by the **Wenatchee Veterans Hall** during their open house event, **Friday, May 19 to Sunday May 21 from 12 noon to 7pm each day**. This is the largest veteran facility in the Valley and is available for YOUR use. Seriously, any veteran can reserve the space for veteran-related activities such as group meetings at no cost. Those who attended Nick's memorial service last fall know what it looks like. The space includes a kitchenette, accessible restrooms, a small stage with ramp, and lots of room for seating or tables.



Ron Bruno, Service Officer with the Disabled American Veterans, also has an office on site, and has regular hours for helping with benefits navigation or claims support. If you haven't seen it yet, please make it a point to check it out.

Address:

1206 N. Wenatchee Ave
Formerly the Eagles Ballroom

Buddy Poppy Day - May 27

Our annual Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Drive will be held on **Saturday, May 27** at several East Wenatchee and Cashmere retail locations. **Volunteers will be needed for just a 3-hour shift** at Safeway, Bi-Mart, Fred Meyer, and Martin's Market in Cashmere. Funds raised support our Veteran's Relief Program and Youth Patriotic Scholarships. Please consider helping us reaching our goal by signing up for a shift—signup sheets are at the Post.



Save The Date for the Annual Veterans Picnic

This year's American Legion & VFW Picnic will be on **Saturday, September 9th** at Walla Walla Point Park at Picnic Shelter 1. Set up starts at 8am with food starting at 1100. This year we'll have a 50/50 Drawing and a Raffle for some great prizes in addition to great food and games.

Put it on your calendar now!



2023 Fundraising Event

Saturday June 10th 3:00 - 9:00

Union Hill Cider Co.
 988 South Union, East Wenatchee
BBQ Provided by R-Shack BBQ



3:00	BBQ & Silent Auction Opens
4:00	Opening Ceremonies
4:00 - 6:00	Live Music
6:15	Silent Auction Closes
6:30 - 7:00	Presentations
7:00 - 9:00	Live Music

All proceeds from Auction & Donations will go toward funding the 5 annual events, operating expenses, and hiring guides throughout the year to take veterans & first responders on smaller trips.

Annual Events

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| May 13, 2023 | Operation Bass |
| June 3, 2023 | Operation Kokanee (Ladies) |
| July 15, 2023 | Operation Salmon |
| August 12, 2023 | Ladies & Lures |
| September 30, 2023 | Operation Walleye |

To learn more or to sign up for an event go to: operationcatchingfreedom.org

OCF Mission is to unite military veterans and 1st responders by offering no-cost fishing adventures in the Pacific Northwest. Rivers and lakes provide an atmosphere of peace and calm, opening opportunities to develop friendships that will last beyond the boat.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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