



# Wenatchee Valley 3617

## Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 15, Issue 5

September 2023

### CONTENTS:

- Pg 1:  
Commander's Letter  
Veterans Picnic
- Pg 2:  
9/11 Remembrance Event  
Coffee @ Bonaventure  
Meetings Information
- Pg 3:  
Aux President's Letter
- Pg 4:  
Aux Pres Letter cont.  
From the Editor
- Pg 5:  
Chaplain's Corner  
Douglas County Fair
- Pg 6:  
Youth Scholarships  
New Members
- Pg 7:  
Buddy Poppies  
Save These Dates!
- Pg 8: Mailing Cover  
USPS ID statement

### Commander's Letter

Greetings to the last days of Summer everyone. With the exception of one very hot week and a little smoke in the air from area fires, we've had a pretty nice summer. Certainly better than other areas in our country. It was nice to have some time off for my schedule personally, but with school starting up, the VFW will be getting busy with youth scholarships, picnics, national holidays, and District 7 meetings which all signals the VFW Year of 2023-2024 is in full swing.

*Commander Brad Pieratt*

### ANNUAL VETERANS PICNIC

On Saturday, September 9, the Wenatchee Valley VFW and American Legion Post 10 will be hosting the annual All-Veterans Picnic at **Walla Walla Point Park at Picnic Shelter #1 from 11am to 3pm**. We'll be offering the same great food that everyone raved about last year: hamburgers, hot dogs, brats in beer, and of course the freshest sweet corn from Kallstrom's in Quincy, picked just hours before we serve it!



This year, in addition to the 50/50 Raffle (which helps covers costs for next year's picnic), we'll have another Raffle for a variety of different items include a few custom knives, blue agate jewelry, case of MREs, vintage cast metal airplanes, a pen handcrafted from reclaimed wood from the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world today, the USS Constitution, plus several other great items. Funds from this second raffle directly support our Post. All raffle prizes will be drawn at 2:30pm.

The picnic is open to all veterans and their families in the Wenatchee Valley. See you at the gathering!

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**9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY** On Monday, September 11th from 11am to 12:30pm, the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony will take place at the **9/11 Spirit of America Memorial** located in Cashmere at Riverside Park, 201 Riverside Dr.



The Memorial site, built in 2015, includes a piece of structural steel from the 60th floor of one of the Twin Towers, an ornamental piece of limestone from the face of the Pentagon and four bronze statues, together representing all those who perished on September 11th, 2001. Today the Memorial also includes “The Survivor Tree”, a Callery Pear Tree like the one pulled from the smoldering rubble of the World Trade site, and four granite monuments. The monuments are engraved with the names of those who perished on airplanes at each tragic site – Pentagon, World Trade Center site and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Learn more about the Memorial at <https://911memorialwa.org/>



You're invited to join first responders, active and retired military personnel, flight crews, veterans, and people from around the region for this important event as we dedicate, honor, and remember.

## Veterans Coffee at Bonaventure

We're still meeting on the **first Monday of each month at 10am** in the upstairs Hospitality Suite on the 3rd 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 and it's been improving by 2-3 new faces every time we meet. The coffee is open to all our members and auxiliary to attend.



Next coffee will be on **September 4 at 10am.**

## Zoom Information

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.

### Upcoming Meetings:

20 Sept & 18 Oct @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024



## Auxiliary President's Letter

It is hoped everyone is staying safe and out of the smoke. We know our brave firefighters will soon have the fires in our state under control and the smoke will clear. There is sad news related to the nearby fires: some of the Airway Heights Post 3386 members lost their homes in the Medical Lake fire. At this time Post 3386 has opened their parking lot to anyone who has a trailer or RV. Elk Post 5924 has opened their Post to families that have lost their homes. Both Posts have asked for donations to help with needs such as clothing, toiletries, diapers, however financial donations are also appreciated. Reach out if you want to donate something and we will get you the information you need. While we are all saddened by the fires in Hawaii, we also need to care for those in our own state.

On a brighter note an update on all we have been doing and what is coming up for the Auxiliary. Our basket for the SOAR auction event is finished and turned out great. The basket theme was "**Coffee, Tea, or Me**". Thanks to Carol Trunzo we even had a copy of the original book by that title. A thank you to everyone who donated items for the basket. As mentioned in the past newsletters, the SOAR auction raises fund for the Thomas A Biddle Foundation which provides support for families touched by Veteran suicide.

**Operation Homefront** with the Dollar Stores has ended. Char, Jo, and Shirley picked up donations from the stores in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee for the past five weeks. They collected well over 1,000 school supplies for children. The items will be taken to elementary schools in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee, as well as shared with families at our **Family Freedom Festival**, part of the annual Veterans Picnic. Not only will we have school supplies to give out but we will also have games, coloring tables, and other things for children in attendance. Be sure and invite your families, children, and grandchildren to the picnic. Thank you to Dee Johnson for chairing our Family Freedom Festival this year. The picnic is hosted jointly by our Post and the American Legion #10 (*more details on page 1*).

August 29th through September 1st the Auxiliary gave out coffee and cookies at the Nason Creek Rest Area in Coles Corner on Hwy 2. This is always a fun event and we always get to meet a number of interesting people. A special thank you to our volunteers and the Post members who helped.



(Continued on page 4)



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Our committees for the coming year have been formed. A special thank you to everyone who agreed to be on a committee; we look forward to working on many interesting projects this year. The Auxiliary members and committees will be extra busy with the **WA Mid-Winter Conference**, which will be in Wenatchee, January 18th-21st, 2024. As hosts of the conference we will be tasked with many things, so please consider stepping up to help if you can.

A special thank you to **Louisa Johnson and Grocery Outlet**. She arranged a special fundraiser at the East Wenatchee store, recognizing our Veterans and asking patrons to donate to the Post's Veteran's Relief Fund. They raised over \$1400.00 for the fund.

We want to welcome our new Auxiliary members: Judy Oldfather, Nancy Brouwers, and Kathy Enlow. We are excited for the all of their new ideas. Kathy is already getting us interested in taking on an art class project for Veterans. We are just in the planning stages, but will keep everyone up to date as we figure out this project.



As always please join us if any of our projects sound interesting to you. Come for coffee on Friday morning, join us for dinner and meeting of the 3rd Wednesday of the month, or give me a call just to talk.

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

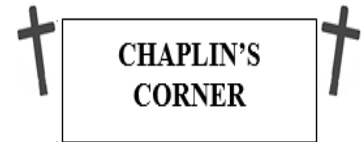
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## From the Editor

As a reminder, any member of the Post or Auxiliary may submit stories, photos, articles, etc to be included on the website and in our newsletter. Please email [webmaster@vfwpost3617.org](mailto:webmaster@vfwpost3617.org) with any questions or submissions. Also, let us know as soon as possible if you or another member changes mailing address, including those snowbirds who take off for a few months. Newsletters will not be forwarded automatically and we pay extra for any newsletters returned to us. Another way to help save us some costs is to sign up to receive our newsletter digitally via email. Visit <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/newsletter/> and complete the short form below the archive list. Be sure to check the box for "Digital Only Please!"

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

## Self Help vs God's Help



During stressful times it can be easy to think we need to do things on our own. We were likely taught that in our childhood, and for many of us who served on Active Duty, it is expected for us to "figure it out" and not ask for any help.

Thankfully for those of us who have faith in Jesus, we can count on God's help at all times. I recently found a way of reading Psalm 9 that helps me separate My Part from God's Part when it comes to handling the tough times in my life. Read Psalm 9 and identify what is your part versus what is God's Part. It becomes pretty clear that He's tasked with the heavy lifting of protection, strength and wisdom. We are tasked with listening, following and praising. Not a bad deal if you ask me.

For more on this subject check out Sylvia Gunter's book "*Prayer Essentials for Living in His Presence*." Part of what she share there is this:

God never intends for His children to handle His part and ours, too. God is sure to engineer for us valuable lessons and opportunities for letting Him be God.

Thank God that He guides us into His plans and gives us the tools to complete it!

Excerpt from *Prayer Essentials For Living In His Presence*, Vol. 2, p. 73-74, © 2000, by Sylvia Gunter. Accessed through: <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/praying-psalm-9-self-help-vs-god-help>

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

## Veterans Booth at Douglas County Fair

On Saturday, August 26, Douglas Co. Veterans Service Officer, Sarah Simonson, was at the fairgrounds in Waterville to meet and greet with veterans attending the NCW Fair. She invited a few of our Post & Auxiliary members to join her for this outreach opportunity. We had several members drop by her booth with our "just donated" 1957 Willys Shore Patrol Jeep that belonged to the U.S. Navy. The Jeep was donated by long-time member Jack Pusel who used to live in Monitor, but recently moved to the mid-west to be closer to family. The jeep was an instant hit with fairgoers and was used to escort the National Anthem singer to the Rodeo Arena for the start of that evening's event (*photo, right*).

We'll be doing an in depth look at the life story of this little jeep and how it ended up at our Post in the November 2023 issue of this newsletter.



## Youth Scholarships



### Voice of Democracy

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the VFW's premier scholarship program for High School students with more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives worldwide. The program is open to students in grades 9 thru 12. Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the Post, District, Department (State), and national levels. The winner at each State level receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. to tour the city and be honored by the VFW and Auxiliary as they receive their portion of \$171k in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

This year's theme is, ***"What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"*** Entrants will record a 3 to 5 minute audio essay on a flash drive and submit it along with the 2023-2024 official entry form (available at our Post or on our website [vfwpost3617.org](http://vfwpost3617.org)) by the **deadline October 31, 2024**. The winner at our Post level will be submitted to VFW District 7 for their judging on November 18. Each District winner will advance to the State selection committee.



### Patriot's Pen

The VFW Patriot's Pen youth essay program is open 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students. This year's essay theme is, ***"How are you inspired by America?"*** Entrants must submit a typed 300-400-word essay on this year's theme and submit it along with the 2023-2024 official entry form (available at our Post or on our website [vfwpost3617.org](http://vfwpost3617.org)) by the **deadline October 31, 2024**. The winner at our Post level will be submitted to VFW District 7 for their judging on November 18. Each District winner will advance to the State selection committee.

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## Glad to Have You With Us!

We are always excited to have new members. Please join us in welcoming our recent additions:

**Nancy Brouwers** (Auxiliary), East Wenatchee

**Hale** (Post) and **Kathleen** (Auxiliary) **Enlow**, Ephrata (transferring from Nebraska)

**Cortlin Martin** (Post, US Navy, GWOT Exped), East Wenatchee  
(transfer from WA Member-at-Large)

**Henry Munneke** (Post), Wenatchee (transfer from Chelan post 6853)

**Judy Oldfather** (Auxiliary), East Wenatchee





## Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppies will be distributed at area stores on **Saturday, November 4**. We're always looking for new members to join the effort to help raise monies for our Veteran's Relief Fund. We don't "sell" poppies, rather we hand them out to the public with a request to remember our veterans. Some may decide to donate to our collection jar, and others may not. This is ok too as the main purpose of poppies is to remind the public that we have veterans living in our beautiful valley and to remember their service and sacrifice to our country.

If you would like to help hand out poppies, a signup list will be posted at the Post. Volunteers can help for either a morning shift from 9am to 12pm or an afternoon shift from 12pm to 3pm. Our locations in East Wenatchee will cover Fred Meyers, Safeway, and Bi-Mart to start. If we have more volunteers sign up for this event, we'll expand to Wenatchee Safeway and Albertsons, plus Cashmere's Martin's Market and the Safeway in Leavenworth.

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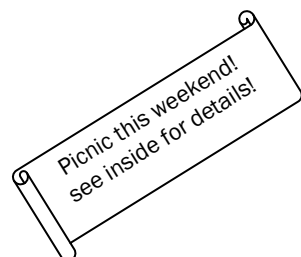
## Upcoming Dates to Note

Sept 9	All Veterans Picnic at Walla Walla Point Park; 11am—3pm
Sept 11	9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Riverside Park, Cashmere; 11am
Sept 16	District 7 Meeting at our Post home; Lunch at noon, meetings at 1pm
Sept 18	USAF Anniversary
Sept 18	POW/MIA Remembrance Day
Sept 24	Gold Star Mother's Day
Oct 13	Navy Anniversary
Nov 4	Buddy Poppies at locations around the Valley; 9am—3pm
Nov 10	Marine Corps Anniversary
Nov 11	VETERANS DAY

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
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**Wenatchee Valley  
All Veterans Picnic**

**This Saturday, 11am—3pm**

**Walla Walla Point Park, Picnic Shelter #1**