



# Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 15, Issue 6

November 2023

## CONTENTS:

Pg 1:  
Commander's Letter  
Buddy Poppies

Pg 2:  
Veterans Day Activities  
Christmas Party  
Youth Scholarships  
Meetings Information

Pg 3:  
Aux President's Letter

Pg 4:  
Chaplain's Corner  
Save These Dates!  
From the Editor

Pg 5-7:  
Beep! Beep! We have a  
Jeep!

Pg 8: Mailing Cover  
USPS ID statement

## Commander's Letter

Well, that didn't take very long to go from late summer temps in the 70s and 80s to the 50s for high temps this week. Did I miss something? That seemed awfully quick to me. I totally missed Fall, which means I'm behind in getting my yard in shape for Winter and stacking the firewood. Freezing temps are just around corner in addition to falling back to Pacific Standard Time on November 5. Time to put the shorts and Hawaiian shirts back into storage and embrace the wool sweaters, long pants and insulated boots. And, Christmas is less than 60 days away! Season's Greetings everyone!

*Commander Brad Pieratt*



## 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 is 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, as well as Martin's Market in Cashmere.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

**VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES** As usual, there are a number of events happening around the area for Veterans Day. Many of the local schools host assemblies and request Veterans attend. If you are invited to one of these school functions, please consider participating. Additionally, our Post Jeep will be making appearances across the valley both the week-end before and weekend of Veterans day. Keep an eye out!



On **Saturday, Nov 11**, please consider one or all of the following events as well: **Wenatchee Veteran's Day Parade** starts at 1045 at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot at 301 N. Chelan Ave; **Veterans Luncheon at Pybus Public Market** after the parade; **Veterans Day Dinner at the American Legion** starts at 6pm (Please RSVP at the Legion NLT Nov 8). And be sure to get your fill of free meals for veterans at one or all of your favorite restaurants in town.

**POST & AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY** This year's Christmas Party will be held at the Post on **Saturday, December 9th** starting at 2pm. As with past years, there will be a \$20 Gift Exchange for those that want to participate, a 50/50 Raffle for a little extra Christmas Cash, great food and even better conversation!

## Youth Scholarships

Deadline for the 2023 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions was October 31st. A committee of VFW and Auxiliary members is judging entries now. The 1st Place winners will be submitted to District 7 for their judging on November 18. All District winners will be notified in December and invited to the Voice of Democracy Banquet at the VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Wenatchee on January 20 where the VOD winner for Washington State will be announced.



The first-place winner from each VFW Department (State) wins an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in March 2024 where the national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college, or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000 for all state winners.

## 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:

15 Nov & 20 Dec @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024



## Auxiliary President's Letter

Fall is definitely here. I just had the pleasure of driving through the Tumwater Canyon. The trees are turning and it is beautiful. If you want a nice fall drive I suggest you check out Tumwater. The drive from Leavenworth to Cole's Corner is well worth the drive and lunch at the 59'r Diner is the bonus.

There is a lot going on for the Auxiliary at this time. We are starting to really get into all of the planning and programs for the year. **Veteran's Day** is coming and the parade is going to be a good one this year because our Post Jeep will be in it. *[Editor's note: read the story of our Post Jeep on pages 5-7]* We will also be helping the Post with the **Buddy Poppy drive**. If you have not signed up yet, please see if you can find a few hours on November 4th to help. It is only a 3-hour shift and we meet people in our community that like to honor our Veterans. With more volunteers we can cover more stores.

Our Fall favors for the Retirement Homes have been finished and delivered. We are now working on our Christmas project, a cute ornament Carol has planned for us to make. On October 28th we delivered new children's coats and glove/mitten sets for the children's coat drive for the local schools. We also have donated \$140.00 (the average a single child will spend) to Santa Stars, the funding for the local Christmas Shop with a Cop event for children in need.

We will be decorating the Christmas tree at the Post Home soon, a couple weeks before the **Post Christmas Party on December 9th**. Consider bringing a gift to the Party for the gift exchange – it is a fun part of the party along with eating lots of good food and enjoying everyone's company. We are also trying to **find a family to adopt** for Christmas. If you know of a Veteran family that needs a little extra help this Christmas please let an Auxiliary member know. We will share the family needs after we have a family selected and then collect donations from our members.

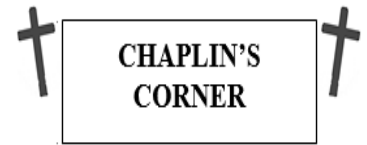
**Operation Homefront** is starting again. Auxiliary members will be collecting Christmas donations from the Dollar Tree Stores in our area. We will use some for our projects, share some with another Auxiliary for their projects, and donate items to local schools for their students.

We are also getting ready for the **Mid-Winter Conference in Wenatchee**. We will be called on to handle the registration table, center pieces for the tables, and other hosting duties. We will need everyone's help. If you have never attended a Department Conference this is your chance. At this time we are working on collecting information about Wenatchee and our area so we can highlight our wonderful community to the VFW and Auxiliary members from across the state.

If you find any of these projects interesting please let us know. We are here to support the Post and do things for our community. If you have and suggestions or questions please let us know. As always you can call Shirley anytime. Enjoy Fall and we hope to see you at the Christmas Party.

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

## Muscle Memory



*Listen with your spirit to the Word of God. "If Christ is in you... your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he ... will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:10-11).*

There is pain when you use physical muscles in ways that are out of your comfort zone or have not been used in a long time. The key to success in many sports is muscle memory. Athletes spend hours practicing what they want their muscles to do in the game. Spiritual muscle memory is the same. In the spirit, there's stretching as you learn new skills. So faithfully exercise your God-given identity and legitimacy. God is up to something significant and eternal in enlarging you and strengthening you. Be blessed with being active and strong, so that you will be complete spirit, soul, and body (1 Thes. 5:23).

From *You Are Blessed In The Names of God*, p. 22, © 2000, by Sylvia Gunter.  
 Accessed through: <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/youre-alive-be-strong/>

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

## Upcoming Dates to Note

Nov 5	<b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> - set clocks BACK 1 hour
Nov 10	Marine Corps Anniversary
Nov 11	VETERANS DAY
Nov 18	District 7 Meeting
Dec 7	VFW Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
Dec 9	<b>Post &amp; Auxiliary Christmas Party, 2pm—5pm</b>
Jan 17—21	VFW WA Mid-Winter Conference in Wenatchee

## 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 as well as updates to mailing addresses. Newsletters will not be forwarded automatically and we pay extra for any newsletters returned to us. Consider signing up for "digital only" delivery—visit <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/newsletter/> and complete the short form below the archive list.

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

## 1957 Willys U.S. Navy Shore Patrol Jeep Donated to Post 3617

VFW Life Member and Vietnam veteran Jack Pusel, wearing his Navy Blues, stands beside his 1957 Jeep, refurbished to include military elements. It was once owned by Dale E. Kelly, a U.S. Marine who served in World War II – and served as a major influence in Pusel’s life.

It had been years since Jack laid eyes on the Jeep he grew up with – the 1957 Willys originally owned by Kelly, who had the honor of driving Gen. George S. Patton around a number of times.



“After Kelly died they were going through his records,” Pusel said. “They found some stuff that Patton had written and also found he never told me that he had a Purple Heart.” They fished together – a lot. Pusel looked up to him. Kelly was so close to Pusel, himself a veteran, that he called Kelly “uncle.”

The old jeep looked much different in 2009 when Pusel purchased her from his aunt in hopes of refurbishing it in honor of his family who served in the military. Several wars and a few generations later, Pusel wanted the jeep for his own. It would be neat to restore it, he thought.

“I told my aunt what I wanted to do with it. I had to buy it from her,” Pusel said.

Pusel, who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, wanted the jeep to serve as a way to honor his father, nine uncles and eight cousins who served in the military, including the Purple Heart-bestowed “uncle” who originally had the jeep.

To be sure, the jeep had seen some rough miles, rumbling through the pear and apple orchards of the Wenatchee River Valley, season after season. It was likely a little worse for wear, but Pusel was not prepared for what he saw that day in 2009.

“It was in terrible shape,” Pusel remembered, shaking his head. “The windshield was all busted out. There wasn’t a straight piece of metal on it.”

By the time Pusel purchased the jeep in 2009, the old Willys was a shell of its former self, having worked in orchards in Washington state, among other adventures.

Despite its condition, Pusel wanted the jeep. It didn’t go easily, he said. “In order to get it loaded my buddy and I used his pickup and his trailer. We took the hood off and I had to stand there and pour gasoline in the carburetor to get it started, then stand there as he drove it up onto the trailer, pouring gas into the carburetor to get it up on the trailer.”

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

Pusel said he wasn't a "body person," but knew his way around a vehicle, having been a retired fleet mechanic. "I got home and I just started. I started restoring every bit of it myself to take all the dents out. I put the new bumper on the front and so I could put flags in it... just did everything – restored it all, totally."

That included engine work and putting in a new radiator. Back in the day, the jeep had a hand-cranked windshield wiper, so Pusel put in a more modern mechanical one on the driver's side.

He converted the jeep's electrical system from six volts to 12. "I wanted to put a CD player in; they didn't have CD players during the war," Pusel said, chuckling. "When I'm in parades I play patriotic music."

Fast forward 10 years to find the jeep restored, its adventures now consisting of car shows and parades.

Pusel's "Shore Patrol" jeep is now a shiny, creamy gray with subtle white military stars, topped with a genuine military tarp he found in California. The vintage vehicle has a World War II siren, given to him by his American Legion commander in Washington state, a POW/MIA flag and, of course, an American flag.



Restored from near ruin into a patriotic relic that has motored in many a parade, and gets proudly displayed at car shows.

In 2021, Jack and his wife, Nadine, made the decisions to sell their house and surrounding orchards in Monitor, Washington so they could be near their family in Grand Isle, Nebraska. About this same time, Jack was contemplating what the future would hold for the little jeep he so lovingly restored. Not sure how much longer he could manage the work load it took to maintain the jeep and travel to car shows and patriotic events, Jack began to look for a new home.

In conversation with our Quartermaster, Dave Schwab, Jack really wanted the Jeep to continue its new mission of bringing light to and honoring a long line of family members that served and sacrificed in the military. He could always put it up for sale to the public, but then the backstory and family history would be lost. He wanted the Jeep to continue in its present role.

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

In 2022 after several months of deliberation, Jack decided to donate the Jeep and accompanying transport trailer to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. But, he wanted to keep his pride and joy for one last round on the car show circuit in Nebraska and to drive her in their last parade together on Veteran's Day.

In July of this year, the '57 Willys Shore Patrol Jeep was secured to her transport trailer in Grand Isle and headed west to Montana to meet the Wenatchee Valley VFW team which traveled east to meet them. At Billings, the group met up to make the transfer. Our Post Jeep Team is headed up by our lead mechanics for the project, Dave Schwab and Don Dent. After going over the Jeep for one last time to share her idiosyncrasies, Jack bid her farewell and headed back to Nebraska knowing she was in good hands.

Back in Wenatchee, the "Jeep Committee" was busy getting the vehicle titles changed, finding insurance for the package, and locating a storage location. By late August, everything was in place for the first of many Jeep events. The inaugural outing was at the North Central Washington Fair at Waterville on August 26 where the Shore Patrol Jeep was an automatic eye-catcher and facilitated a great way to meet veterans and their families. Since then, the Jeep has made several other appearances at parades and patriotic events with many more events planned in the future.

All of this was made possible by the trust and generosity of Jack Pusel. It is his vision that the Jeep will continue into the future, acting as testament to his family's strong military service and sacrifice. This vision also includes the Jeep acting as a beacon for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, calling out to military veterans to check out the little gray jeep while providing an opportunity to have a conversation with them about their earned VA benefits they may not know about.

Thank you Jack for this incredible gift and the opportunity to share its history. Beep! Beep! We have a Jeep!



*(Portions of this story were taken from an article written by Jessica Votipka of the Grand Isle Independent newspaper on 2/20/2023).*

*[Editor's note: watch for our Jeep to make appearances in local parades and at patriotic events. Please let a member of our Jeep Committee know if you have suggestions for locations where it would be welcomed.]*

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

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WENATCHEE, WA  
PERMIT #47

Return Service Requested

Save the Date!  
Annual Holiday Party  
9 Dec 2023, 2pm



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

