



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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Commander's Letter

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and made it through New Year's in good health. I'm not complaining, but I would have liked a little more snow on the hills during Christmas, but I'm thankful that the roads have been in better shape than usual for this time of year. The big event in just a couple weeks is the **VFW Mid-Winter Conference**, which is happening here at the Convention Center on January 18-20. Due to the conference, our monthly VFW **Meeting on January 17 has been canceled**. Keep working on those new resolutions for 2024 and stay happy & healthy!

Commander Brad Pieratt

POST WINNERS FOR 2023 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN

Our post winner for Voice of Democracy this year is Miss **Sarah Noyes** from Dryden. Sarah is a senior at Cashmere High School where she will graduate this year. In the Fall, she'll be attending Washington State University where she'll be pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine. Congratulations Sarah!



Sarah Noyes



Annika Peterson

Miss **Annika Peterson** is our winner of the Patriot's Pen contest. She is an 8th grader at Cashmere Middle School. Congratulations to you too!

AUXILIARY-SPONSORED CONTESTS NOW OPEN

With the Essay competitions closing for the year, youth can shift their focus to a few contents sponsored by the Auxiliary: **Illustrating America** (up to 8th grade), **Patriotic Art** (high school, both 2D and 3D), and **Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue** (national anthem singing contest). More information, including rules and entry forms, can be found on our website (under the Auxiliary drop down menu). **Deadline: 31 March 2024.**

World War 2 Vet Celebrates 100th Birthday

On November 28th, the Wenatchee Valley VFW Post 3617 and Auxiliary conducted a Drive-By Celebration for WW II Veteran Frank LaFayette. Frank celebrated his 100th Birthday the prior week surrounded by friends and family. The parade group was joined by Wenatchee and East Wenatchee Police Departments as well as the Wenatchee Valley Fire Department.

We presented Frank with a WWII Navy ball cap and a Patriotic Lap Blanket. Frank related that part of his military experience included participating in the assault on Iwo Jima and repairing underwater communication cables. Congratulations Frank and Thank You for your service to our country.



Left: Post Junior Vice Commander Steve Johnson presents Frank with a WWII Navy ballcap.

Right: Auxiliary member Dee Johnson presents Frank with a quilted Patriotic Lap Blanket.



Annual Christmas Party

This year's VFW Christmas Party was held in the afternoon of December 9th sponsored by the excellent chefs of our own Auxiliary. We had 32 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... Thanks to everyone that helped make this a special day.





Auxiliary President's Letter

Hopefully everyone had a good Christmas. It is hard to believe 2024 is already here. A new year and new beginnings are always something special. It is hard to believe we are half way through our current VFW year. We are busy getting our annual memberships turned in so we will be at 100%.

The Auxiliary was very busy in November and December. We made fall and Christmas favors for the nursing homes and their veteran patients. Thank you Carol for the fun Christmas project. Operation Homefront with the Dollar Tree Stores was a major success. Char, Jo and Shirley picked up more than 1200 items from the stores over a four week period and then distributed them to local elementary schools. We also adopted a veteran family for Christmas. Ruben, the father, came to the Post on the 22nd of December and picked up the items. We were able to give him over \$750.00 in gifts and gift cards for him and his sons. Thank you to everyone who donated money or gifts for our family. The goal is to give a family a boost up at Christmas and I believe we exceeded that goal!



Auxiliary members making holiday crafts at the Post.

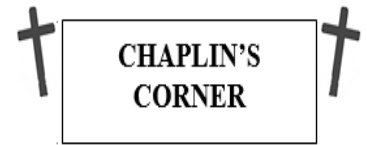
The Auxiliary is busy getting ready for the VFW Mid-Winter Conference. *[Editor's note: read more about the Conference on page 5 of this newsletter.]* Reservations for the dinner are already turned in, but there are still many things to do at the conference. Any member of the Auxiliary is invited to attend the meetings and different classes. Cindy Burky will be having a class about Malta. The conference is also where each Committee Chairman will be reporting on what their committee has been doing on a State level. We want to give a special thank you to Auxiliary member Blair for help in making the table decorations for the banquet.

Coming up on the horizon for the Auxiliary is our food drive. The Auxiliary will have a box at the Post during the months of January and February. We will be collecting non-perishable food items. The food will be delivered to Serve Wenatchee in the first week of March. By doing our food drive in January and February (as compared to the more common Nov/Dec time frame) we are able to help at a time when donations to Serve Wenatchee drop off. If you have food items you would like to donate just drop them off at the Post.

Stay warm and stay safe in the new year. As always if you find any of our projects interesting and would like more information just give me a call. I am always happy to talk with any of our Auxiliary members. Suggestions for new projects are always welcome

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

Alignment of Your Times



As 2023 comes to an end and you look forward to 2024, I pray you can see God's hand as he moves you through this time and place.

"Recognize that God's hand is on every circumstance of your life, as He gives you opportunity to learn and to express all of Himself in you. Be blessed as you accept the giftedness He has placed in you, and know that you are a gift from Him to all the people in your circle of influence. Be blessed today in God's redeemed time. He made everything beautiful in His time."

My prayer for you is that you may echo what David says in Psalm 31:14-15a

"But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands..."

May you be blessed to see God's hand of provision and peace among whatever you encounter this next year.

From *You Are Blessed In The Names of God*, p. 150, © 2008, by Sylvia Gunter.

Accessed through: <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/alignment-of-your-times-2/>

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

Name The Jeep

The Jeep committee is asking the Post and Auxiliary membership for help in giving our Jeep a name.

Choose and submit a name that:

- ⇒ would be period correct
- ⇒ you like
- ⇒ you think would draw attraction to the Jeep



Entries should be submitted via email vfwpost3617qm@nwi.net, standard mail, or in person to Dave Schwab, chairman of the Jeep Committee, before the end of January. Once nominations are received, the top 3 choices will be presented for a vote.

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 with any questions or submissions as well as updates to mailing addresses. 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

Dept of WA Mid-Winter Conference Comes to Wenatchee

The 2024 Department of Washington Mid-Winter Conference will be taking place at the Wenatchee Convention Center on January 18-21. This is an event where VFW Post and Auxiliary members from across the state of Washington gather to give and receive training, to provide state-level committee updates, and to honor our Voice of Democracy winners from each District and announce our state winner. It is also a great time to network and connect with your fellow members from other Posts and Districts to learn about what they have going on (inspiration, anyone?).

While this event spans a total of 3 days, most of the relevant activities will be on Friday and Saturday. The first full day, Friday, is dedicated to training and workshops, covering topics such as Community Service, Membership and Recruiting, Scouting and other Programs, as well as some training for specific positions such as Service Officers and Quartermasters. If you are interested in learning more about any of these topics, especially if you have considered stepping up into a leadership position, you may want to make some time on Friday to attend one of these trainings.

Saturday is the primary Business day of the convention. Post and Auxiliary will have a shared opening in the morning, including comments from Commander and President as well as presenting any Department level awards. After a break, the Post and Auxiliary will break into their separate business sessions where department-level program chairpersons will give a short brief on the status of their programs and progress made at the midpoint of the 2023-2024 VFW year. Typically business is concluded by about 3pm, giving us time for networking before the Banquet.



Post and Auxiliary members from District 7 at the Mid-winter conference in 2020.

The Conference concludes on Saturday night with a banquet to honor all District VOD winners from around the state. The Department VOD winner will be announced and they'll read their winning speech. Our District 7 representative to this competition is high school senior **Sofia Nicholson** from Cle Elum. The state winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C in March to visit our Congress, tour the National Monuments, and meet with other state winners of the VOD competition.

The exact schedule for this conference will be posted on our website once it is finalized. If you haven't attended a Department Mid-Winter or Summer Convention, we invite you to drop in and check it out. You can come and go at any time. Just remember the only head cover allowed in the conference room is your VFW Member Cap (no ball caps). Also, please remember to sign in at the registration table on the District 7 Roster.

Wreaths Across America

On the morning of December 9th, officers and members of our Post & Auxiliary performed a solemn ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery 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.

Additional wreaths were placed at other locations around the valley, including the East Wenatchee Police Department (at the flag pole constructed with a donation from our Post), Stemilt Hill Cemetery and Valley View Cemetery.



*Above: Wreaths at Valley View Cemetery.
Right: Commander Pieratt laying a wreath
on a grave at Stemilt Hill Cemetery.*

Far Right: Wreath at the base of the new flagpole in front of the East Wenatchee Police Department.

Major General Bargewell Memorial Delta Park

Earlier in 2023, the Post approved a donation toward the construction of the Major General Bargewell Memorial Delta Park in Hoquiam, WA. Army helicopter pilot CW3 Gordon Snyder, USA (Ret.) from Cashmere, brought the project to our attention during fund raising efforts last year. Snyder didn't know MG Bargewell personally, but served with many Army pilots and special forces operators that did. Bargewell is a legend in special operations circles.

At the time of his retirement in 2007, the General was the Army's most decorated soldier on active duty. The Memorial Park was completed and dedicated on Armed Forces Day, May 20, 2023. To see the full story on MG Bargewell and the Delta Park, please visit eldonbargewell.org

Recently, Gordon Snyder stopped by the Post to pass on his thanks for supporting the creation of the Park and present us a plaque to commemorate our support.



Commander Pieratt accepting the plaque from Gordon Snyder.

Upcoming Dates to Note

Jan 17	Post 3617 Meeting - CANCELLED
Jan 18-20	VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Wenatchee
Feb 1	VFW Breakfast at Country Inn (East Wenatchee, 9am)
Feb 17	District 7 Meeting (at our Post, lunch at noon, meetings at 1pm)
April 20	District 7 Meeting & Election
May 3-4	Apple Blossom & Classy Chassis Parades

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:

21 Feb & 20 Mar @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Wenatchee Valley Post 3617
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