



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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Commander's Letter

Welcome to Summer! For some reason, the continuous wind this spring has been very annoying! I know the old local lore that as long as there's snow on Mission Ridge, the wind will continue to blow in the valley. I don't know about you, but I'm really ready for all the snow to be gone from the Ridge. With the summer months here, we're finally getting some downtime as far as events and holidays to support. April thru June have been pretty busy as you'll see in the following articles. We have some projects around the Post that we need to catch up on, but nothing major. Just some housekeeping. Please enjoy the warming weather, but remember to stay safe and hydrated when doing any activities outdoors.

- Commander Brad Pieratt

APPLE BLOSSOM & CLASSY CHASSIS PARADES

Our normally festive Apple Blossom weekend was subject to another weekend of inclement weather. But, we did see an improvement over previous year's volunteer turnout to carry the banner of a Washington Fallen Hero. We had about 80 banners carried in the Grand Parade which is twice the number that were carried in the past 2 years. We had 7 Gold Star families in attendance. The Post was hosting Dennis & Tammie McConkey, one of our Gold Star family from Spokane, as they traveled here with the Fallen Heroes Memorial Float to partake in our festival. Volunteer numbers for Friday night's Classy Chassis Parade were also an improvement over previous years as we saw better weather magically appear right before the start of that parade.

(Continued on page 2)



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We will continue to rebuild our volunteer force back to our 2019 numbers when every one of the 320 banners were carried. It's a tall order, but building our network of sporting teams, churches, students, and businesses throughout the year makes it easier for us to get the volunteers committed earlier in the run-up to Apple Blossom.

WENATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JROTC AWARD

On May 18th, Commander Pieratt was honored to present the VFW JROTC Medal to Cadet **Alejandro Anguiano** for his active engagement and accomplishments during his senior year in the Air Force JROTC program at Wenatchee High School. Cadet Anguiano was presented with a certificate and the VFW JROTC Medal.

Available to Wenatchee School District students in grades 9-12, the AFJROTC program provides high school students with a new opportunity to earn core and elective credits through classroom education in air and space fundamentals and hands-on learning opportunities while also educating and training cadets in citizenship, promoting community service, and instilling personal responsibility, character, and self-discipline. This is not a USAF accessions program and cadets are never under any obligation to join the military. [Editor's note: read more on our website at <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/supporting-the-new-whs-air-force-junior-rotc-program/>]

MEET ANNABELLE

After receiving various nominations of names, careful consideration by the Jeep Committee, and input from our members, our 1957 Shore Patrol Jeep will now be known as **Annabelle**. Full story was in our November newsletter, or you can read it on our website at



<https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/meet-annabelle-1957-shore-patrol-jeep/>

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 business meetings:

17 July & 21 Aug at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**



Auxiliary President's Letter

Hooray, Hooray summer is finally here. The hot days and long nights are on the way. Cherries are here and soon Pybus Farmers Market will be in full swing with all of the produce we love.

Our raffle basket for VFW state convention turned out amazing. The theme was **gardening** and we included everything anyone would need for a garden. Our basket for the Catching Freedom event was also great - it had every type of **game** you could imagine. A special Thank You to everyone who donated items to the baskets. It is the variety of donations that make our baskets such a success.

The Catching Freedom event (at Union Hill Cider on June 15) was a great success. The Auxiliary had a table at the event to let everyone in attendance know about what we do to help veterans. We had information about programs and membership. A heart felt Thank You to Carol Trunzo for chairing the Catching Freedom event and to everyone who helped man the table.

We have completed so many things in the last few months. We participated in the Classy Chassis Parade and the Apple Blossom Parade, handing out flags and helping carry banners. We also had volunteers involved with both the Buddy Poppy drive on May 25 and the Memorial Day events on May 27 (including the Veteran's lunch at the American Legion afterward which went over quite well!). A huge Thank You to everyone who participated in all of these events and made them so amazing.

Coming up next for the Auxiliary is **coffee at Nason Creek Aug 27-30** and then the Veteran's Picnic on Aug 31. Hosting at Nason Creek is a fun opportunity to talk with travelers from all over our country (not to mention some international visitors, too!) about our mission. Then on Saturday August 31st we will be hosting our Family Freedom Festival at the Veteran's Picnic at Walla Walla park. We always look forward to this event. The Auxiliary uses this time to share information about our programs, membership, and ways we help our community. There will be school supplies and fun activities for children. Be sure to bring the whole family! Potluck salads and desserts are always welcome, too.

We want to welcome our new Auxiliary members **Liliana Johnson and Sue Lauer**. A special Thank You to Lilliana for helping with the poppy drive as well.

As always if you want more information about the projects we have planned or how else you can be involved, please give me a call or email. If you are a member who has not been active for awhile I would enjoy hearing from you. I am hoping to see all our members at the picnic or any of our other events in the near future.

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

Daily Reminders

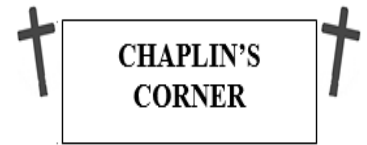
First thing in the morning, instead of reaching for a smartphone or TV remote, let us reach for the constant Word of God and look to it for reminders of who He is. With that focus we can better navigate who we are and what we're doing.

As you go about your day remember these truths about the living God. He is:

- ⇒ **Eternal:** You have always been and always will be. You see the beginning and end simultaneously; therefore, Your people can trust Your leading. (1 Tim. 1:17)
- ⇒ **Unchanging:** You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. In Your eternal permanence we find stability and peace. (Heb. 13:8)
- ⇒ **Wise:** You are the source of all truth and wisdom. You give wisdom generously to all without finding fault. (James 1:5)
- ⇒ **Faithful:** You are my covenant-keeping God. You are always true to Your Word. Great is your faithfulness. (2 Tim. 2:13)
- ⇒ And **Gracious:** In Christ Jesus, You deposited grace to my account when I was bankrupt and declared my debt paid in full by Your Beloved Son. (Psa. 116:5)

By Elizabeth Gunter, [https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/10-things-to-remember/selected-attributes-from-Prayer-Essentials-for-Living-in-His-Presence, Vol 1](https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/10-things-to-remember/selected-attributes-from-Prayer-Essentials-for-Living-in-His-Presence-Vol-1-by-Sylvia-Gunter) by Sylvia Gunter

God Bless, Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson



Vet Center Operations are a GO! for Central WA

Thanks to the hard work by our Douglas County Veteran Service Officer, an agreement has been reached between the Douglas County Board of Directors and the Yakima Valley Vet Center to create a Community Access Point here in the Wenatchee Valley. In the past our only access to this resource was when the Mobile Vet Center came to town during a Stand Down.

Douglas and Chelan County veterans now have another resource for **Behavioral Health Care** through the Federal VA Vet Center Program. A Vet Center offers **counseling services** to eligible veterans (including National Guard and Reserves) and their families to help support a whole-person approach to the VA's duty to care for Veterans.

If you or a loved one would benefit from their service, please reach out directly to the Yakima Valley Vet Center to assess eligibility and get established. **(509) 457-2736**

For more information about the Vet Center program, visit <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>



Memorial Day

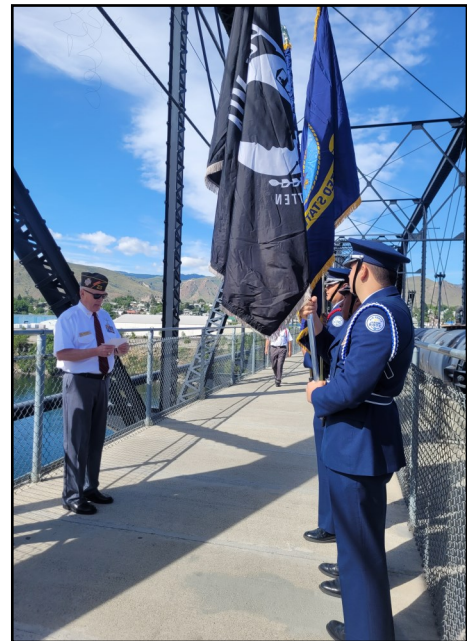
This year's Memorial Day ceremonies around the valley were carried off flawlessly by volunteers from 9 different organizations at 4 different locations throughout the day. This year, we started at Evergreen Memorial Park at 9am with the presentation of colors, wreath laying in honor of all who served and sacrificed in service to our country, taps and a rifle volley from the Honor Guard. East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford was the guest speaker for this event.

At 10am, a smaller event took place mid-span of the Old Wenatchee Black Bridge. This ceremony was to honor all those that served and were lost at sea. A ceremonial wreath was tossed into the Columbia River by Mayors Mike Poirier and Jerrilea Crawford.

At 11am, the exact ceremony that took place at Evergreen was repeated at the Wenatchee Cemetery with Wenatchee Mayor Mike Poirier as the guest speaker.

The day's ceremonies concluded 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 had the honor of giving a short patriotic speech to conclude the official events of the day.

Afterwards, the auxiliaries of the American Legion and VFW hosted a free luncheon for participants at American Legion Post 10 in Wenatchee.



Cmdr Pieratt giving the speech on the Pedestrian Bridge while the AFJROTC Cadets serve as color guard.

Post Cleanup and Spring Planting



This year's annual property cleanup and flower planting took place on May 21 with plenty of volunteers to handle the weeds, flower pots, and garbage pickup around the Post. Thank you Auxiliary and your green thumbs for all the plantings along the front of the building and in the pots down by the flag poles.

Spring Changing of the Pangborn Flag

On June 8, our post “Keepers of Flag Team” replaced the large 20’x30’ flag at the Pangborn roundabout. For a replacement operation of this size, it requires a team of 8 people to safely lower and secure the old flag in calm conditions. That’s the easy part. Without a winch system to hoist the flag, it takes up to 4 people pulling on the halyards to lift the heavy flag, the other 4 guide the flag as it unfolds and help attach the header grommets to the clips. In windy conditions, a couple more people are required. If it’s blowing over 15 mph, or raining, we wait until conditions are more favorable. With the flag’s large surface area, a gust of wind can easily lift a person off the ground on a wild ride that wouldn’t end well. On this occasion with only a slight wind, the team was able to swap out the flags in about 20 minutes. Thanks Steve J., Dave, Parrish, Tony, Ed, Ken, and Kim for taking pictures.



Planning Ahead—Upcoming Dates to Note

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| July 2 | Military Appreciation Night at Wenatchee Applesox (baseball) game, 6pm |
| July 4 + Aug 1 | Breakfast @ Country Inn, 9am |
| Aug 27-30 | Nason Creek Rest Area |
| Aug 31 | <u>Annual Veterans Picnic, Walla Walla Point Park, Shelter 1, 11am to 3pm</u>
Good food (burgers, beer brats, local corn), games, camaraderie, multiple raffles!
Veterans, active duty military, CAP, and JROTC members and families welcome! |
| Sept 11 | Patriot Day (remember Sept 11, 2001) |
| Sept 21 | District 7 Meeting, 1pm (potluck lunch w/ Aux at noon) |
| Sept 18 | Happy 77th Birthday Air Force!
POW/MIA Day (https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/national-pow-mia-day/) |
| Nov 9 | Buddy Poppy campaign |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day |

East Wenatchee Police Dept Flagpole Dedication

Earlier this year, the East Wenatchee Police Department (EWPDP) moved to its new location at the corner of Simon St and Rock Island Rd in East Wenatchee. One thing that was missing at their new facility was a flagpole. In a project started by the East Wenatchee Rotary, in conjunction with the American Legion Post 10 and Wenatchee Valley VFW, funds were donated by these three community partners to purchase a new flagpole for the station.

On June 14th (Flag Day), the flagpole was dedicated in a ceremony that saw the US Flag transferred from a joint-veteran color guard made up of Legion and VFW members to a police color guard detail that received the new flag and raised it during the National Anthem sung by VFW Chaplain Sarah Simonson. Attendees included East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford, Police Chief Rick Johnson, Assistant Chief Erik Hampton, police officers, East Wenatchee Rotary members, and members of the VFW and American Legion.

The ceremony concluded with a reception and tour of the new police station.



From the Editor

While I wish I could share all the amazing things we've been up to in here, there's only so much space in our newsletters. As such, some stories and photos submitted by our members don't make it to print, but I still try to get them added to our Website so we can show the world what we've been up to. If you want to **submit something to be included on the website or in our newsletter**, please send an email to webmaster@vfwpost3617.org with any photos and all story details—I can put it all together to be published one way or another. Please also contact me with any mailing list updates including **change of address** or switching to **digital-only delivery**.

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

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