



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

Volume 16, Issue 4

Sept 2024

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Commander's Letter

Congratulations on surviving another hot Summer! While we only had a couple extreme temperature episodes the past few months, the lack of rain and gale-force winds did a number on my landscaping. Thankfully the long range forecast has some relief in sight with highs in the 70s starting very soon. My favorite time of the year with crisp mornings and foliage turning color. September and October finds us reaching out to students in the area to let them know about our youth scholarship programs of Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Youth Essay competitions. [Editor's note: see below for more info.] If you have kids or grandkids in grades 3-12, there is a scholarship program for them. Top prizes are valued at \$35 thousand with local winners receiving up to \$250. Check our website for registration forms and rules. Remember, deadline is October 31, 2024.

- Commander Brad Pieratt

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOTS PEN

Deadline for submitting to the 2024 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competition is **October 31st**. Submitted entries will be judged and scored by committee of VFW and Auxiliary members during the first week of November. The 1st Place winners will be submitted to District 7 for their judging on November 16. All District winners will be notified in December and invited to the Voice of Democracy Banquet at the VFW Mid-Winter Conference in January 2025 where the VOD winner for Washington State will be announced.



Voice of Democracy theme: ***"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"***. The first-place winner from each VFW Department (State) wins an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in March 2025 where the national first-place winner receives a \$35,000 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.

(Continued on page 2)

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Patriot's Pen theme: *"My Voice in America's Democracy?"*. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

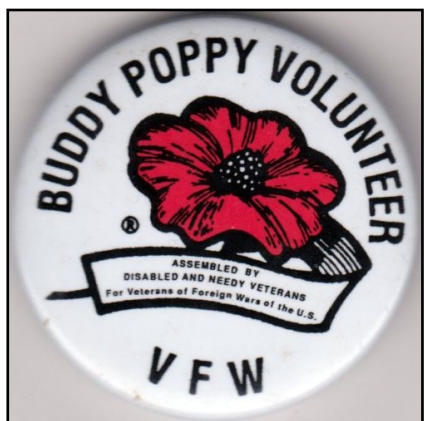


Application forms for these contests are available at the Post, or on our website:

<https://vfwpost3617.org/programs/voice-of-democracy/>

<https://vfwpost3617.org/programs/patriots-pen-youth-essay/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BUDDY POPPIES



Buddy Poppies will be distributed at area stores on **Saturday, November 9**. 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 available at the Post starting Oct 18th (or reach out to an Officer if you can't make it to our Post home). Volunteers can help on 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, and at Martin's Market in Cashmere.

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



Auxiliary President's Letter

Fall is in the air, the days are shorter, and the nights are cooler. Enjoy the change! It's hard to believe we had 100 degree weather at the annual Veterans picnic. Speaking of, the picnic was bigger and better this year! So many attended, so many new faces! **Thank you to everyone** for their hard work

setting up, taking down, and providing salads. Leona Wolk did a great job organizing our Family Freedom Festival tables, manning the food tables, and keeping everything organized. The food was amazing, especially the variety of salads. We also handed out school supplies to the children who were in attendance. The items were donated by the Dollar Tree Stores as part of Operation Homefront and are intended for military families. Since we do not have military families in our area, the majority of the supplies will be delivered to local schools. Thank you to Char Lauer and Jo Cadwaller for their help collecting, sorting, and delivering the over 1200 items donated.



During the week before the picnic, the Auxiliary handed out coffee and cookies at the Nason Creek Rest Area. This year **we collected over \$1000.00 in donations** from stopping travelers, which will be used for the Auxiliary Family and Veterans Support. Thank you to everyone who manned the booth and those who donated snacks! *[Editor's note: more on page 6]*

The next crafting project for the Auxiliary is favors for the Nursing Homes. We will be making magnets to celebrate Veterans Day using old cardboard VFW coasters. If you have any to donate to the project, please drop them in the collection box at the Post. We need over 100 coasters for this project.

We will be attending the **9/11 ceremony in Cashmere** on September 11th, meeting at the Post at 9:30am to carpool to the event since parking at the Memorial can be slim. This is always a very moving ceremony. If you have never attended, it is highly recommended. We hope to see everyone there.

Sept 29th is Gold Star Mother/Family Day. Let us know if you have an idea of how we can remember and honor these families for the sacrifice they made.

It is with a sad heart we mention the passing of our longtime member Marge Singleton. Marge passed suddenly on August 5th. Her family is planning a celebration of life at the Post in October (date/time TBA). All who knew Marge will miss her.

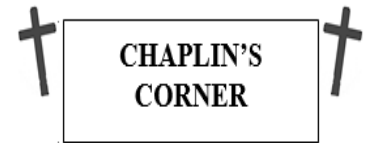
A note from our legislative chairperson, Dee Johnson: **REMEMBER TO VOTE BY NOVEMBER 5TH!**

As always if you want more information about any of our projects or how you can be involved, please give me a call or email. And if you are a member who has not been active recently, I would especially enjoy catching up with you.

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

Are you ready for God to move?

Before every major new thing God did in the Bible God would tell His people “Consecrate yourself, purify yourself, repent.” Over and over, God showed new revelations of Himself or a new unfolding of His glory to those who prepared the way by purification.



We all long to love God from a pure heart, but we are easily distracted and give our love to other things. Sometimes we don't even realize it. God is jealous for the spirit He has put in us (James 4:1-5). He wants us to partner with Him in the things He is doing.

In order to be ready, we have to “consecrate” ourselves. Set aside time to read, study and meditate on God's word. Fast and pray. Find time to ensure you are plugging into the Word of God so your spirit is ready to hear him speak and your eyes are open to see Him move.

*From <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/are-you-ready-for-god-to-move-2>
based on works by Sylvia Gunter*

May He bless you with grace and peace,
- Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

Veterans Outreach at the Douglas County Fair

On August 24, members of our Post and Auxiliary joined Douglas County Veterans Service Officer Sarah Simonson in Waterville for the Douglas County Fair for a day of veteran outreach. In spite of a constant rain all day, spirits remained high as we were able to speak with veterans and their family members about services and benefits available from the VA, Douglas



County, and VFW Post. Our 1957 Shore Patrol Jeep “Annabelle” worked her magic as a focal



point to garner interest in our corner of the fair. Due to the rain and excessive mud it caused, the jeep wasn't able to deliver the national anthem singer to the rodeo arena, as we have done in the past.

Wenatchee Purple Heart Ceremony

The community and local veterans gathered on August 7 at Pybus Market to honor recipients of the Purple Heart, a distinguished military decoration awarded to individuals wounded or killed in combat. The ceremony featured the Presentation of Colors by our VFW Post and American Legion Post 10, along with light refreshments. Organized by the Chelan County Veterans Program, the ceremony welcomed Purple Heart recipients from Chelan and Douglas counties, as well as family members of those who have received the award. During the ceremony, elected officials from Chelan and Douglas counties, as well as the cities of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee, read a proclamation declaring each area a Purple Heart City or County. A Purple Heart City or County officially recognizes Purple Heart recipients as part of the Purple Heart Trail, and local jurisdictions may install road signs to mark the designation.



Full story available on our website: <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/purple-heart-community/>

Great Turnout at the Wenatchee Valley Veterans Picnic!



The 3rd Annual Wenatchee Valley Veteran's Picnic was on August 30th at Walla Walla Point Park. This joint picnic, hosted by the VFW and American Legion, brought together close to 200 veterans, first responders, and family members. In addition to an excellent BBQ, fresh corn on the cob, and beer brats provided by our team of volunteers, an outstanding selection of salads, fruit, and deserts were provided by the auxiliary members of both organizations. The donated prize raffles and 50/50 raffle again proved to be very

popular with the crowd as close to \$2,000 in tickets were sold with the 50/50 winner taking home more than \$350! Each year we hold this picnic it gets a little bit better. Improvements for next year are already on the planning document. Thanks to everyone that helped with this year's event. It is because of you that we can make this happen for our veterans.



More photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/events/3rd-annual-veterans-picnic-success/>

Chatting with Travelers at Nason Creek Rest Area

The Auxiliary and a few Comrades spent 4 days up at Nason Creek Rest Area handing out coffee, cookies and good conversation to the travelling public as they made their way over Stevens Pass. The weather was perfect, except for the first day, as they welcomed visitors from all over the world. They had visitors from Europe, Canada, and Mexico stop in for some hospitality with the volunteers. Annabelle, our Shore Patrol Jeep, was there as well greeting the public. The veterans that did stop by were thrilled to see the jeep and a few even crawled in the driver's seat for a photo. We were fortunate to have a friend of Jo Cadwallader, who lives by Fish Lake, allow us to park the jeep and transport trailer at his house for the week so we didn't have to return it to Wenatchee nightly. It saved us a lot of time and miles. Thanks Mike & Kim!



More: <https://vfwpost3617.org/auxiliary/refreshments-and-conversation-at-nason-creek-rest-area/>

Planning Ahead—Upcoming Dates to Note

Sept 11	Patriot Day; Ceremony at 9/11 Spirit of America Memorial, Cashmere @ 11am
Sept 12	Luncheon at Olive Garden @ 11:30am
Sept 18	Happy 77th Birthday Air Force!
Sept 20	POW/MIA Day (https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/national-pow-mia-day/)
Sept 21 + Nov 16	District 7 Meeting @ 1pm (potluck lunch w/ Aux at noon)
Sept 24	Coffee with Veterans at Bonaventure @ 10am
Sept 29	Gold Star Family Day
Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5	VFW Breakfast, Country Inn @ 9am
Oct 13	Happy 243rd Birthday Navy!
Oct 16	Veterans Breakfast at Bonaventure @ 07:30am, cost \$12
Nov 5	Election Day—Be sure to submit your ballot!
Nov 9	Buddy Poppy campaign—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Nov 10	Happy 249th Birthday Marines!
Nov 11	Veterans Day; parade in Wenatchee @ 10:45am

Thoughtful Shares: "Stuff"

It's easy to fall in love with stuff.

You know what I mean by stuff, don't you?

It's all the stuff we collect in the house, in the car, and in the desk.

Come to think of it, stuff is also the house, the car, and the desk.

Stuff is what we comfort ourselves with.

Stuff is what we collect when our hearts are empty.

Stuff makes life easier... and more complex.

Every once in a while I decide to reduce my pile of stuff.

I'm going to simplify my life, I say.

But it's hard to get rid of stuff.

First you start caring for it.

Then you begin to think of it as necessary.

Finally your life becomes consumed with your stuff.

You build a place for it.

You classify it.

You count it.

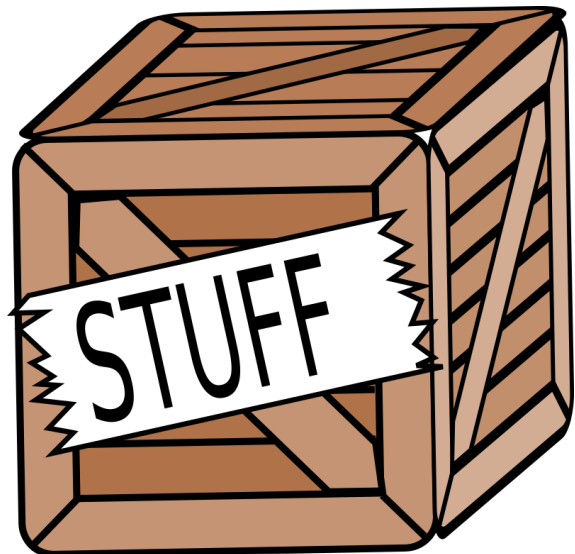
You lock it up.

And perhaps even hire someone to dust it.

Then one day you notice something new:

The stuff you once had, now has you.

- Author Unknown



[Editor's note: Thanks to Don Dent for sharing this short writing. If you have short things like this that you'd like to share with our members, whether it's something related to military service, life after, or just general good thoughts, please email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org and I'll do what I can to include it on our website or in our next newsletter.]

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:

18 Sept & 16 Oct at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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

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