



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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November 2024

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Commander's Letter

It sure didn't take long for Summer to leave and Fall to make its presence known. In the space of 3 weeks I went from wearing shorts and a tee-shirt to looking for my insulated Carhartts and stocking cap. Man, that was a quick season change. We've already had ice on the birdbath at our place, and I see we have mixed rain/snow in the near forecast. The Farmer's Almanac and the National Weather Service both agree that this be a colder and wetter Winter for the Northwest. That means lots of snow for the mountains and possibly here in the Valley. It could be another doozy!

Please remember to winterize your vehicles and don't forget the safety gear you should be carrying with you. Stop by the Post to pick up a copy of the Washington State DOT Winter Driving Checklist to help prepare you and your vehicle for Winter driving conditions.

- Commander Brad Pieratt

VISITING WITH BONAVENTURE VETERANS

We're pleased to announce the monthly gathering with veterans at Bonaventure is back. We held our first informal coffee with 6 veteran residents on October 1st. The new Activities Director at Bonaventure has pledged her support to organize these gatherings on a monthly basis. In addition, they'll have a veteran's breakfast every month that we're invited to, but we must reserve our spot in advance and pay for the meal. Our next coffee visit is scheduled for Nov 18 at 10am. Future dates for both the coffee gathering and the breakfasts will be posted on our website.



<https://vfwpost3617.org/events/>

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VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOTS PEN

Deadline for submitting to the 2024 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competition was **October 31st**. Submitted entries will be judged and scored by a committee of VFW and Auxiliary members in the coming week. The 1st Place winners will be submitted to District 7 for their judging at the meeting 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.

TEAM HOME DEPOT & VFW PROJECT

We have again partnered with Home Depot (HD) to complete a project for a veteran in the valley funded by a generous donation from the Home Depot Foundation. Project planner and HD Assistant Manager, Mick Ball, put together a well versed and experienced team of 6 volunteers to tackle this project to repair and expand a deck for a Korean War veteran in Cashmere. On Oct 24-25, our VFW volunteers joined them to complete this mission.



Please see the blog post on our website with the full story and more photos: <https://vfwpost3617.org/events/another-project-with-team-home-depot/> Thanks to the volunteers who were able to come out and help!

From the Editor

As a reminder, there's only so much space in our newsletters. Because of this, some stories submitted by our members only get a short space in print. Fear not! I am adding them to our Website so you can see more pictures and read more details, and we can show the world what we've been up to. I then add the website address/link here. If you want to **submit something to be included on the website/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. 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

What a fun time of year! Pumpkins are out, decorations are up and the children are looking forward to all of the holidays coming. I hope this finds everyone doing well. We are all getting ready for the colder weather ahead. This is a busy time for the Auxiliary also.

We started off with attending the 9/11 Ceremony as a group in Cashmere. As always it was a moving ceremony that brought tears to our eyes. If you have not attended, I highly recommend it. [Editor's note: please see the website for more info and photos - <https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/patriot-day-sept-11/>] We also donated coats to Coats For Kids as part of Make A Difference Day at the end of October.

November is looking just as busy. **Operation Bottom Cover**, a diaper drive and the VFW Auxiliary National President's special project, happened at Fred Meyer on Nov 2nd. We collected diapers and diaper wipes to give to local military families, including the Reserve troops at Pangborn and members at the Armory. We will also take some to mid-winter convention for other bases in Washington. This project was selected due to the rising costs for these necessary family care items.

We will be helping the Post with the **Buddy Poppy Drive** on Nov 9th. If you have not signed up for a store, please do so. The more volunteers we have the more stores we can cover and more \$'s for the Post Veteran's Support. District meeting will be on Nov 16th at our Post, then on Nov 17th at 1pm we are meeting at the Post to **craft another batch of tray favors** for the retirement homes. Anyone willing and able to help is encouraged to come with glue gun in hand!

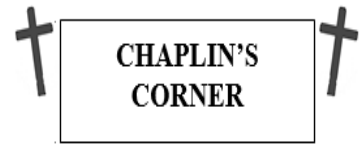
Then we start our winter **Food Drive**, collecting food in December and January to be delivered to Serve Wenatchee in February. They are seeing an increase in the number of families being served so our donations are greatly appreciated and this is an easy way to support our local community.

Save the date of **December 14th for our annual Christmas Party!** It is a great time to connect with those members we have not seen for a while. Once again, the Post will provide the ham and turkey. We ask those attending to provide a side dish or dessert. We will be having a gift exchange also. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift. The limit for gifts is \$20.00. Ladies bring a gift for a lady and men bring a gift for a man. This is always a fun part of the party. I hope to see you there.

If you find any of our projects interesting, please come join us. We always enjoy seeing our members at our activities. If you want more information or just want to talk, please give me a call. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas Party.

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

5 Ways a Christian Can Approach Contentious Topics



As believers it's hard to understand how to approach the difficult topics surrounding elections. This year is one of the most contentious election years I have personally experienced. I am sad, frustrated, and at times, disheartened. However, I am still called to engage and I encourage everyone to vote. As you make your ballot selections and discuss the issues with friends, family and neighbors, please think about approaching one another with the following tips:

1. **Listen.** "... You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry." *James 1:19*. Listening does not mean agreeing, simply extend human dignity to the person you are conversing with. You don't have to agree to listen.
2. **Look for common ground.** It may be small, but it is likely there. There are many things we all can agree on. If you want or need to be in relationship with someone you disagree with, look for what you agree on and build on that.
3. **Let go of controlling tendencies.** When you do disagree, realize it is not your responsibility to control someone or change their mind. You can even walk away after realizing either you are attempting to control the other person, or they are trying to control you. Do so kindly, not in a way to manipulate or belittle.
4. **Limit contact with negative people.** We all have a right and ability to complain or disagree. However, if all you ever hear from someone is how horrible things are, then maybe limit your time with that person as appropriate. It is not an attempt to ignore the negative and difficult things, but they do not need to be our focus. If you find things getting out of hand, set boundaries to protect yourself. Remember, God hasn't called us to fight every battle.
5. **Pray.** Philippians 4: 6-7 reminds us that when we pray, we can receive God's peace. Prayer is our most valuable asset and the best way to handle any difficult situation.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

Excerpts from KLove resources:

<https://www.klove.com/resources/blog/5-ways-christians-should-approach-this-year-s-election-9050>

May He bless you with grace and peace,

- Chaplain Sarahbeth Simonson

A Call for Help

A few weeks ago, I sent out a letter. Hopefully, many of you received it.

I sent the letter to members of the Post asking for volunteers to participate in our annual Veterans Day Poppy event.

I sent the mailing to members who we haven't seen at events in the last several years hoping to remind you that it still takes a lot of arms and legs to keep our Post vital. Poppy Day fundraising raises money exclusively for our Veterans Relief fund.

Feedback results from the mailing: we found that 1 member had died, 2 members had changed addresses and **2 members raised their hands** and answered the call for help. THANK YOU!!

We know that not everyone is available to help at every event but we hope you will think about helping at the next event. We'll work hard to notify you through the Newsletter (and website) with upcoming activities. We know that our annual picnic in September and our Memorial Day and Veterans Day Poppy Drives take a lot of volunteer Veteran Power to be successful.

Think About It!!

If you know of corrections to our membership list, please send a text to me.

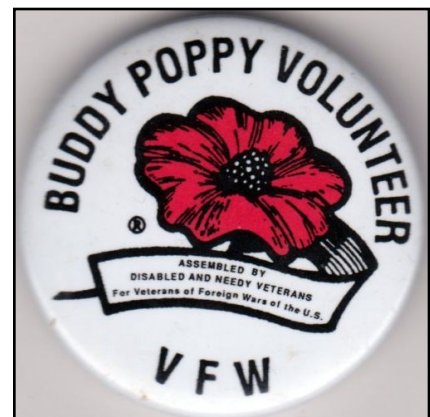
Steve Johnson, Sr. Vice Commander

425-274-6263

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 is located on the dry erase board at the Post. 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 Meyer, Safeway, and Bi-Mart, and at Martin's Market in Cashmere.



Veterans Day

Dedicated to American veterans of all wars, Veterans Day 2024 is on Monday, November 11. Originally called Armistice Day, it was created when in 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.” Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In 1954, in the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day to honor **veterans of all wars and conflicts**.

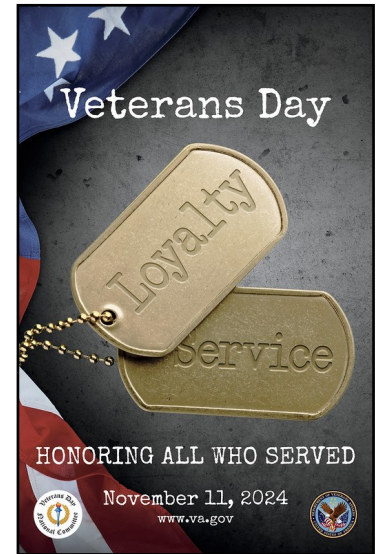
In the days leading up to this holiday, members of our Post will be participating in several **Veteran’s Day school programs** across the valley as students learn about what it means to be a veteran, and participate in flag presentations to honor those that sacrificed and gave their all in service to our country.

Wenatchee Veterans Day **Parade will start at 10:30** from Wells Fargo Bank on N. Chelan Ave and travel south to Memorial Park located at S. Chelan Ave and Orondo Ave. After a short ceremony with rifle volley and playing of Taps, the parade route will head downhill to Mission Ave, and then north to the starting point at Wells Fargo Bank. We’ll be participating with our 1957 Navy Shore Patrol Jeep “Annabelle” and handing out American flags along the parade route.

Afterwards, join us at Pybus Public Market from 12 noon to 3pm for a **free BBQ hosted by Wenatchee Valley Fire Department**. There will be music, resources for veterans, face painting for those interested in bringing their family, artwork on display from our community's children thanking veterans for their service and camaraderie of fellow veterans.

Additionally, several restaurants in town will be offering free meals to veterans on November 11th including Olive Garden, Red Robin, Denny’s, and Applebee’s.

<https://vfwpost3617.org/event/veterans-day-wenatchee-valley/>



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:

20 Nov & 19 Dec at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

Wreaths Across America

On December 14 at 9 am, our Post will be participating in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Wenatchee Cemetery. We will be joining more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to **Remember, Honor and Teach** at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. Our local sponsor for this year's ceremony is the Pangborn Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

Please join us along with the Civil Air Patrol, American Legion, multiple local veteran organizations, active duty military, veterans, and family members at the Wenatchee Cemetery as we Remember, Honor and Teach. After the ceremony in Wenatchee ends, our Post will be placing wreaths at the Military Section of Evergreen Memorial Park, Stemilt Hill Cemetery, and Sunset Cemetery in East Wenatchee.

Read more about Wreaths Across America on our website at <https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/wreaths-across-america-in-the-wenatchee-valley/>



Planning Ahead—Upcoming Dates to Note

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Nov 5 | Election Day—Be sure to submit your ballot! |
| Nov 7, Dec 5 | VFW Breakfast, Country Inn @ 9am |
| Nov 9 | Buddy Poppy campaign—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! |
| Nov 10 | Happy 249th Birthday Marines! |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day (<i>see page 6</i>) Free Breakfast for Vets at Bonaventure, 7am (RSVP w/ Cmdr Pieratt NLT 11/8) |
| Nov 16 | District 7 Meeting @ 1pm (potluck lunch w/ Aux at noon) |
| Nov 18 | Coffee with Vets at Bonaventure @ 10am |
| Nov 28 | Thanksgiving |
| Dec 14 | Wreaths Across America, Wenatchee Cemetery @ 9am Annual Holiday Party, Post 3617 @ 2pm https://vfwpost3617.org/event/post-3617-holiday-party/ |
| Jan 16-19, 2025 | VFW WA Mid-Winter Conference, Pasco |

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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