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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone and welcome to Summer! We've been extremely busy this Spring with military and veteran events throughout the Valley. Now that the hot weather has arrived and the snow is almost gone from Mission Ridge, the winds will hopefully subside to just a gentle breeze for the next few months.



We've been very busy with repairs to the flag and flagpole equipment at the Pangborn Circle. During the last big wind storm, the hoisting gear to the pole was damaged, so consequently we're waiting on replacement parts before we can put the flag back up.

Don't forget our monthly VFW Breakfast at the Country Inn on the first Thursday at 9 am. Additionally, we'll be starting our visits back with veterans at several assisted living facilities in town. Check our calendar on Facebook for those upcoming coffee dates. Hope to see you at some point during the Summer at one of our Friday Coffees at the Post.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

-- Commander Brad Pieratt

From the Editor

I know, it looks a bit different from what it has in the past. This is a necessary change related to software usage, but hopefully this newsletter design is still clean and easy to read.

We continue to post photos and stories which have been submitted by our members to our website. Due to space limitations, some items may not get as much attention in the newsletter itself. Be sure to visit <https://vfwpost3617.org> to stay up to date on all our recent activities.

And if you have something you'd like to share, email vfw3617adj@gmail.com and I'll put it together.

-- Connie Hill, Newsletter / Webmaster



Auxiliary President's Letter

Hopefully everyone is enjoying this great weather. The winds have died down and sunshine is here. With the nice weather comes all of the great produce. Cherries are a couple weeks away! The Farmer's Market is back at Pybus on Saturdays and soon all of the great fruits and vegetables will be available. Get out and enjoy all the valley has to offer as we ease into summer.

May was a very busy month for the VFW. We started with the Classy Chassis and Apple Blossom Parades. The auxiliary passed out over 500 flags at the Classy Chassis. The Apple Blossom Parade was a fun day. We had about 45 walkers carrying the Fallen Heroes banners. Next year we are hoping to have even more walkers. We also had a number of Veterans on the trailer hosted by Chapel of the Valley. Mark your calendars for next year - come and ride on the trailer if you are not able to walk. After the parades were a memory we jumped right in to planning the Memorial Day ceremonies. This was a special day with four different ceremonies. Starting at the Wenatchee cemetery and ending with a Veteran's luncheon at the American Legion. The weekend before Memorial Day the Post held it's Buddy Poppy drive. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful day for the Post Veteran's support.

The next project for the auxiliary is our Fourth of July tray favors for the Veterans in retirement homes. We will be meeting after coffee (about 11:00am) on June 13th to make firecrackers. We need all of the help we can get so if you like to craft, come and help us. On June 20th, the Post and Auxiliary are hosting the annual picnic for our adopted Army National Guard unit at Pangborn. The auxiliary is making the salads and desserts. If you would like to donate either, it would be greatly appreciated. The end of June is the annual VFW convention in Yakima. Louisa, Bicky, Kim, and Shirley will be representing the auxiliary this year.

We would like to welcome all of our new officers for the 2025 - 2026 year. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to fill a position. Everyone is busy and each position requires time and dedication. At the meeting in July, we will be placing our committee chairmen. We are all looking forward to a fun new and active year. Helping our Post and Veterans is our purpose. As always if you have any questions or want to volunteer please give Shirley a call. If you haven't been active lately, we would enjoy seeing you at our next meeting.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Chaplain's Message



Let those who are wise understand these things.

Let those with discernment listen carefully.

The paths of the LORD are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them.

But in those paths, sinners stumble and fall. – Hosea 14:9 NLT

The Bible shows us that discernment is more than just having a sixth sense or being able to read people very well. It's knowing how to apply the Bible and follow the Holy Spirit in our experiences.

Answering these can help us learn how God works and how He shows up in our life.

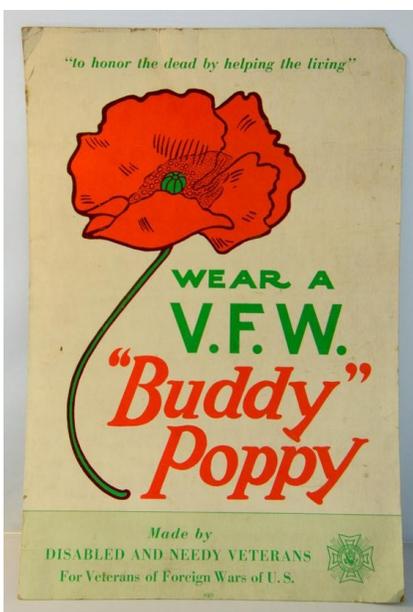
1. **Where is God at work in this?** Another way of saying this is, "what is God wanting to do or accomplish in this situation?" The answer helps you remember that your life is connected to God's plan. He is always aware and present with you to lead you through each moment.

2. **How is this situation making room for the work of Jesus in my life and the lives of those involved?** Submit to what the Holy Spirit may be showing you need to work on in your own heart. If something is out of alignment, let Him guide you into a process of prayerful focus and transformation.

3. **How is Godly love being expressed in this moment?** I use this question to help me listen to God's Word and act based on what I know of God, not only what the situation feels like to me. How does God love the people involved in this situation and me?

Excerpt from <https://www.klove.com/resources/blog/3-questions-for-developing-godly-discernment-7283>

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson



This Memorial Day, the Post & Auxiliary **collected over \$2,700** during our Buddy Poppy Drive at four different retail locations in the valley. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this happen!

Donations from handing out Buddy Poppies are our main source of Veteran Relief Funds that give us the capability to help military veterans and their families. Thanks to those of you who donated to this important fund.

Will you help out with our next collection?
Plan to volunteer on Sat, Nov 8, 2025

Operation Catching Freedom Fundraiser at Circle 5 Winery



Comrades Jim Reece (left) and Steve Vaughan (right) presented the colors. Chaplain Sarah Simonson (center) sang the national anthem.

On May 16th, Operation CATCHING FREEDOM (OCF) held their annual fundraiser with Bob Feil Boats & Motors at Circle 5 Winery in East Wenatchee. VFW Post 3617 was honored to be part of the opening ceremonies (pictured above).

Monies received at this annual event, from silent auctions of donated goods and services, help fund this program to get vets and first responders paired up with fishing guides for several fishing events plus individual fishing trips throughout the year.

Sponsored by Bob Feil and hosted by Circle 5, the event featured a catered BBQ dinner, live music with Aaron Crawford and his Band, lots of wine tasting, and a chance to bid on some great stuff!

“The mission of this veteran run nonprofit is to unite military veterans and first responders with member fishermen for a no-cost fishing adventure here in the Pacific Northwest. Rivers and lakes provide an atmosphere of peace and calm, opening opportunities to develop friendships that will last beyond the boat.”



Be sure to visit the OCF website at <https://www.operationcatchingfreedom.org/> where you can sign up for upcoming trips or watch the recent short film, *Reel Therapy*, which highlights the positive effects of this group and what they do for veterans.

Memorial Day around the Wenatchee Valley

This year's Memorial Day ceremonies around the valley were carried off flawlessly by volunteers from 7 different organizations at 4 different locations throughout the day.

This year, we started at the Wenatchee Cemetery at 9 am 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. Wenatchee Mayor Mike Poirier was the guest speaker.

At 10:15 am, we conducted the same ceremony at Evergreen Memorial Park on 10th Street NE in East Wenatchee with Mayor Jerrilea Crawford as the guest speaker.

Due to the construction at the entrances to the Black Pedestrian Bridge (where we normally host the Lost at Sea ceremony), we decided to start a new event at the Boat Launch Area behind the Pybus Public Market. To honor all military who were lost at sea, a ceremonial wreath was placed into the Columbia River by Mayors Poirier and Crawford accompanied by a solemn rendition of "God Be With You" by Christy Robinson.



Pictured L to R: Mayor Poirier, Mayor Crawford, Commander Pieratt, and Chaplain Simonson on the Pybus Boat Launch. Tony Warren, foreground, broadcast the ceremony via Facebook.



WHS JROTC Cadets prepare to march with the Colors at the final ceremony of the day.

The day's ceremonies concluded at Pybus Public Market at 12 noon. This included posting of the colors by the Wenatchee High School U.S. Air Force JROTC Cadets 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.

Editor's note: check our website and Facebook for videos and photos.

Happy 250th Birthday United States Army! June 14

The Continental Congress authorized the creation of the US Army on June 14th, 1775. George Washington was selected as the first leader of the Army.

The Army's main responsibility has been in fighting land battles and military occupation. The Continental Army was founded in response to a need for professional soldiers in the American Revolutionary War to fight the invading British Army. Until the 1940s, the Army was relatively small in peacetime.

Today, there are approximately 449,000 Active Duty Army personnel, with 75,900 serving outside the continental US.



National Guard Picnic and Family Day

The Army National Guard unit, Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Security & Support, will be having their Annual Family Day on June 20 at Army Aviation Support Facility 2, located at 1 South Campbell Parkway, East Wenatchee (the old Executive Flight Aviation Center, pictured right).



Our VFW has "adopted" this unit and will be providing the picnic and children's activities for the day. We can always use more help flipping burgers and dogs as we host a great event for our Guard members and their families. This is your invitation to join us: meet and get to know these new military members to our community while hanging out with them on a lovely Friday in the summer. We don't have the exact hours of this event, but if you show up between 11am and 2pm, you should hit it just right.

Suriano's Words of Wisdom

*I'm reading a book about anti-gravity.
I just can't put it down.*

Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- June 14 Flag Day + US Army Birthday
- June 15 Father’s Day
- June 20 **National Guard Picnic & Family Day** at AASF-2
- Jun 25-28 VFW Dept of Washington Convention in Yakima
- July 3 Breakfast at the Country Inn, 9am
- July 4 Independence Day
- Aug 4 US Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug 7 **Purple Heart Day**
Breakfast at the Country Inn, 9am
- Aug 9-13 VFW National Convention, Columbus, OH
- Aug 26-29 Auxiliary at **Nason Creek Rest Area** --->
- Sept 6 VFW Dept of WA School of Instruction in Yakima
- Sept 14 **Annual Veterans Picnic**, Walla Walla Point Park
- Sept 20 District 7 Meeting & School of Instruction



This year’s Veterans Picnic is on **Sunday, Sept 14th at Walla Walla Point Park, Picnic Shelter 1**. Set up starts at 8am with food starting at 11am. This year we’re repeating the very popular 50/50 Drawing and the Raffle for some great prizes in addition to great food and games. Hope to see you there!

Zoom Meeting 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 June & 16 July at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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