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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone and welcome to your summer edition of our Post newsletter. Since our last edition, we've been involved several new endeavors with other organizations to help raise funds, or provide assistance, to veterans and their family members here in the Valley.



We teamed up with the American Legion at several events to provide color and honor guard flag detail members; performed several funeral honors for veterans; we're working with the Wenatchee Valley Fire Department in planning and execution of the upcoming Veteran's Day BBQ & picnic; currently coordinating with Home Depot for another ADA ramp installation for a veteran; providing a color guard for the opening of Feils Boats & Motors Annual Client Appreciation Weekend at Circle 5 Winery.

This on top of regular VFW business and programs is keeping us quite busy. A huge "THANK YOU" to the comrades and sisters of this post that show up with a smile on their face ready to do the good deeds our VFW provides to veterans and their family members all over our Valley. "No One Does More for Veterans".

-- Commander Brad Pieratt

From the Editor

Thanks for the feedback on our new design. I'm glad this works out for everyone.

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.

Also, please let me know of any mailing address updates, including if you'd prefer to only get this newsletter electronically to save us on postage.

-- Connie Hill, Newsletter / Webmaster



Auxiliary President's Letter

Hopefully, everyone has been enjoying their summer. We have passed the longest day of the year and are on our way to shorter days. Get out and enjoy the rest of summer. Take a trip to Pybus Market, take a walk or hike, visit friends.

The Auxiliary was very busy this past year. Our hard work payed off and we received numerous awards at **State Convention in Yakima**. Our committee chairs received a total of **seven awards**: one third place, five second places, and one first place. Thank you to everyone who helped make our year so successful! The committee reports and awards let the Department of Washington know all that we do to help our veterans and our community. We will be choosing committee chairs for the coming year at the August meeting.

The picnic for the Army National Guard Unit at Pangborn was one of the fun projects we did with the Post. The picnic was for the active members and their families. Lots of food, games, helicopter rides, and items for the children in attendance. We had a request for more diapers and were able to supply diapers to everyone who requested them. It is heart warming to see how such a simple thing makes such a difference in lives.

The Auxiliary's largest fundraiser for the year is **Nason Creek**. We will be serving coffee and cookies to travelers at the Nason Creek Rest Area on Highway 2. Our dates are **Aug 26th-29th**. We welcome any help with this venture. We need to have at least two people at each shift. A sign-up sheet is on the whiteboard at the Post. We encourage anyone to volunteer, it is so much fun to meet the travelers and to visit with everyone. Post members have volunteered to have the Jeep there also. It is a great way to talk about the VFW and meet other veterans. We also need cookies. Either store bought or homemade are welcome. If you want to donate cookies, please have them to the Post by August 22nd. After coffee we will be putting them in individual bags for easier handling.

Be sure and put September 14th on your calendar. The annual Veteran's Picnic is always fun. The Auxiliary combines it with our Family Freedom Festival and giving out school supplies donated by the Dollar Stores. Please invite your families and make this the best picnic ever.

A special thank you to all of the Auxiliary members. Without your help we would not be able to do all that we do for our veterans. Supporting the Post and helping veterans are two main goals. If you have any suggestions or activities to recommend please let us know. If you haven't been active lately, we would enjoy seeing you at our next meeting or helping with Nason Creek.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Chaplain's Message

Do you—or someone you love—need healing from the Lord?

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

– James 5:16 NLT

There are many ways we may need His healing touch: physical, emotional, and spiritual. In a world broken by sin, that brokenness shows up in our bodies, our relationships, and our mental health.

It's important to remember: the presence of illness doesn't mean someone has sinned and is being punished. Sometimes God chooses to heal us in this life. Other times, He allows us to walk through suffering to teach us something we couldn't learn any other way. In both cases, we praise His name—whether in affliction or in health.

Is it God's will for us to be healed? Yes.

Does that mean we'll never experience pain or sickness? No.

James 5 reminds us that prayer and community are essential parts of the healing process. Pain and illness can have many causes. At times we focus only on the physical and miss the spiritual; other times, we focus so much on the spiritual that we overlook a physical issue. As with many things, the answer isn't always simple.

We live in a fallen world, and God sees our suffering—it grieves Him, too. Sometimes we suffer from others' choices; sometimes from our own. But always, we can trust that God's will is for healing, even when we don't understand His methods or timing.

Take heart, dear friend—Jesus has overcome the world and all its complications.

Excerpt from <https://www.klove.com/resources/health/healing-god-s-way-3885>

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

Wenatchee AppleSox Veterans' Night

On Friday, July 18, VFW Post 3617 had the honor to present the colors before the start of a 3-game series between the Wenatchee AppleSox and the Nanaimo NightOwls.

Color Guard members Jim Reece and Ken Wandrey posted the colors and our vocalist Sarah Simonson sang the National Anthem.

The AppleSox went on to win that night's game 11-1.



National Guard Picnic and Family Day



Grillin' crew: Ed, Brad, Steve, and Tony



Auxiliary members handing out toys for the kids

On Friday, 20 June, Charlie Co., 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Security & Support held their annual summer Family Day, and we brought the food and fun! This picnic and time to unwind was the conclusion of the unit's Annual Training (AT).

More details and photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/adopted-unit/summer-bbq-for-aasf-2/>

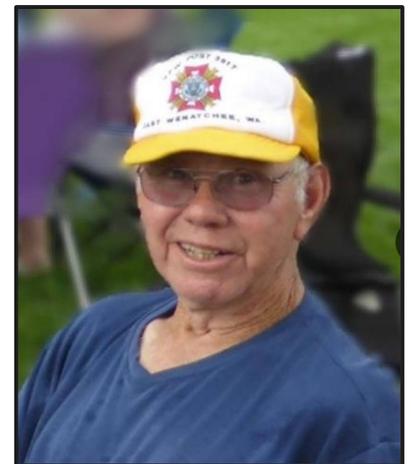
Past Commander Richard Engley Passes

VFW Past Commander Richard Engley passed away 02 June, 2025 here in Wenatchee with his family by his side. Commander Engley was critical to the modernization of the old post building into what we now enjoy as our Post home.

During his 5-year term as Post Commander from 1998 to 2003, Commander Engley was one of the leaders that helped to source the financing for and construction of the north addition to our Post building. A monumental task considering that the majority of the labor was provided by our membership.

Commander Engley really enjoyed helping with our program to drive patients to the VA Hospital in Spokane, especially talking with the VA Patients during the trip. He also established a strong VFW presence in our local schools to promote the VFW Youth Essay programs. Commander Engley also served one year as our VFW District 7 Commander.

Rest in Peace Commander and Comrade. We have the watch.



Shriners Visit Wenatchee

The Pacific Northwest Shriners Association recently held its summer convention at the Wenatchee Coast Center Hotel. On Saturday, 19 July, we were honored to act as the dignitary vehicle carrying the Shriners International Association Legion of Honor (IALOH) Commander, Wayne Steele, from Tennessee in a short parade along 4 blocks through downtown Wenatchee.



More details and photos at vfwpost3617.org/events/shriners-convention-in-wenatchee/

Commander Pieratt and wife Kim with IALOH Commander Wayne Steele in our Shore Patrol Jeep, ready to roll.

Annual Veterans Picnic



On Sunday, September 14, the Wenatchee Valley VFW and American Legion Post 10 will be hosting the annual All-Veterans Picnic at Walla Walla Point Park at Picnic Shelter #1 from 11am to 3pm.

We'll be offering the same great food that everyone raved about last year: hamburgers, hot dogs, brats in beer, and last but not least, we should have sweet corn from Kallstrom's in Quincy.

This year, in addition to the 50/50 Raffle, we'll have a Raffle for a few custom knives, military-themed swag, jewelry, and a gift basket filled with gift cards from local and national merchants, plus several other great items. All raffle prizes will be drawn at 2:30pm, then we will draw the 50/50 winner.

The picnic is open to all veterans and their families in the Wenatchee Valley so invite every veteran you know even if they are not members of the VFW or American Legion. See you at the gathering!



Suriano's Words of Wisdom

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Veterans Service Booth at Douglas County Fair

On August 23 (Saturday), our Douglas Co. VSO, Sarah Simonson, will be at the fairgrounds in Waterville to meet with veterans attending the fair. She's invited a few of our Post & Auxiliary members to join her for outreach and membership recruiting. We'll deploy our VFW pop-up shelter and bring our 1957 Navy Shore Patrol jeep in hopes of getting a veteran or two to stop by and visit with us. Later that afternoon, the Big Bend Rodeo Roundup will begin at 4pm with PRCA stock events and horse racing. We'll see you at the Fair!



Illustrating America Art Contest Winners

The Auxiliary's annual patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings.

On Friday, 11 July, Auxiliary members announced this year's winners and distributed their awards. More photos and all ranking details can be found in our recent blog post at <https://vfwpost3617.org/auxiliary/2025-art-contest-winners-announced/>

Kinder - 2nd Grade: Harrison Law, Romeo Romero, Ryder Therien, Dakota Countryman, and James Law

3rd - 5th Grade: Evelyn Law, Mia Romero, Khole Van Horn, and Elizabeth Mendez Villeda

6th - 8th Grade: Lily Smith

The Auxiliary also hosts an art contest for High School students, the Young American Creative Patriotic art contest, but no submissions at the high school level were received this year.



Harrison Law, our biggest winner, proudly displays his certificate.

Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- Aug 9-13 VFW National Convention, Columbus, OH
- Aug 18 Bonaventure Veterans Coffee @ 10am
- Aug 23 Douglas County Fair Patriot Day (look for our jeep!)
- Aug 26-29 **Nason Creek Rest Area Coffee Break**
Volunteers Needed! Sign up at the Post.
- Sept 1 Labor Day
- Sept 6 VFW Dept of WA School of Instruction at Yakima Post 379
- Sept 11 9/11 Memorial Program in Cashmere
- Sept 14 **Annual Veterans Picnic**, Walla Walla Point Park
- Sept 20 **District 7 Meeting** at our Post home
*Joint potluck lunch with the Auxiliary at noon;
Meeting starts at 1pm and includes
School of Instruction for the 2025-26 year
New and active members encouraged to attend*
- Sept 23 **Quarterly Luncheon at Ay Caramba @11:30am**
*In front of Macy's: 501 Valley Mall Parkway
Please RSVP so we can ensure enough space*
- Oct 31 Deadline to receive entries for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and WA Youth Essay contests



Our next Buddy Poppy Donation Drive is coming up.
If you can, plan to volunteer on Sat, Nov 8, 2025

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:

20 Aug & 17 Sept at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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