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**Commander's Letter**

Greetings everyone! I'm not quite sure how it happened, and at the speed at which it arrived, but, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! Before, during, and after Veteran's Day, we stayed very busy with our usual gatherings to bring light to our special day for all veterans.



As you'll see, we were in our local schools, reaching out to our older vets, shaking a lot of hands at the Wenatchee Wild game, raising much needed donations for our Veteran's Relief Fund, joining our community in the Wenatchee Veteran's Day Parade, and celebrating together at a wonderful BBQ at Pybus put on by our Wenatchee Valley Fire Department.

A big "thank you" for all you do to serve in our community and helping our military veterans and their families!

**#StillServing**

**"VFW – No one does more for veterans!"**

-- Commander Brad Pieratt

**From the Editor**

I continue to post photos and stories to our website which have been submitted by our members. 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](mailto:vfw3617adj@gmail.com) with details (names, date, location, etc) and any photos. I'll put it together for publishing on the website and/or in the newsletter.

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

Where has the year gone, It is hard to believe it is December. If you go outside you know winter is on it's way. There is a little snow mixed in with the rain right now. If you plan to do any traveling across the passes be prepared. Make sure you have an emergency kit and chains. A nice day can change quickly in the mountains. Christmas is a beautiful time in the valley, a bit of snow on the mountains and sunshine on our valley.

The auxiliary held the **Operation Bottom Cover** at Fred Meyers and had a great success. Brad and Kim delivered the diapers to the soldiers at the Army National Guard Aviation unit while the government shut down kept them from receiving paychecks. Hopefully, this helped them a small amount. The next project for us was to deliver lunch to the CBOC. This is our way of thanking the doctors and nurses who take care of our local Veterans. Their dedication to helping our Veterans is amazing. We also took coats to the **Make A Difference Day coat drive**. This year Serve Wenatchee had requests for over 1,000 coats. Every child deserves a warm coat in the winter.

**Operation Homefront** is under way. As volunteers for this project serving Veterans and their families, we pick up the toys donated by customers at the Dollar Tree stores. We will have the toys available to the Guard members at their Christmas party on December 6th. As a fun addition at the party we will have a raffle. Nancy Brouwers has made blankets for the raffle and we will also have gift cards. If you would like to donate a gift card for the raffle drop them off at the Post. Toys will also be given out at the Post Christmas party. Remaining toys will be distributed to the elementary schools in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at **Wreaths Across America** in the morning of December 13th. Then we hope to see you again at the **Post Christmas party** later in the afternoon. Remember to bring your gift for the gift exchange. If a lady bring a gift marked lady, if a guy bring a gift marked guy. If you would like to bring a dish any side or dessert would be welcomed.

If any member has suggestions for serving our Veterans please reach out to me. If you just want to talk give me a call also. I enjoy hearing from our members.

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



## Chaplain's Message



*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

– Colossians 2:7 NLT

As we roll through the year, and November has arrived, our hearts and minds turn to Thanksgiving. With all that has happened in our lives, it can be far easier to complain than to be thankful. I think God understands our human tendency to grumble. It is why He so often tells us in Scripture to remember who He is and what He has done. God desires us to see our circumstances through His eyes, but we frequently flip that around and see Him through our circumstances, distorting our view of who He is.

That's why giving thanks is so important. It helps us to see Him for who He truly is. Good, Kind, Faithful, Just, and Powerful. Remembering what He's already done for us, how He's already healed, provided, or guided us, fosters a heart of gratitude and helps us trust Him to be faithful in the future.

Take a moment to shift your eyes from the current problem, frustration, difficult family member, or overwhelmingly disheartening global situation, and onto the God who is greater and more powerful than all those things.

Regardless of what you are facing, may you be blessed with eyes that can truly see and a heart that can receive all the love that God has for you.

*Excerpt from <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/thanksgiving-in-all-things/>*

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

## Another Successful Buddy Poppy Campaign!

The Saturday before Veterans Day, the Post and Auxiliary collected over \$2,800 during our Buddy Poppy Drive which took place at 4 different retail locations in the valley. Thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen!

The donations we receive 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. So, thanks to everyone that donated to the fund.



## Giving a Hand Up to our Army National Guard Members

During the federal shutdown that happened during October and November, we got word that our local Pangborn Army National Guard full-time technicians were not getting paid during this fiasco. Unlike active duty members of the military who's pay wasn't affected by the shutdown, the Guard pay relies on federal funds distributed through the Washington State Guard HQ to pay its members. Basically... our troops here at Pangborn were not getting paid.

Our membership, including the Auxiliary, knew we had to act fast to support these soldiers during this crisis. The Auxiliary had already collected over \$3k in diapers and baby supplies that was planned for distribution at our December Holiday Party for our adopted guard unit. Many of the younger members of this unit are also new parents, so it was an easy decision to gift them those diapers and supplies right away, when they needed them most. Additionally, we provided \$2k in grocery gift cards and \$600 in gas cards out of our Veteran's Relief Fund to bolster the finances of these junior enlisted members.

We notified the Douglas County Veterans Service Officer that there could possibly be an imminent need to provide county relief funds for some of those soldiers to help pay rent, mortgages, vehicle loans, and living expenses due to the shutdown. She verified the special requirements that National Guard members needed to meet to qualify for financial assistance, and prepared to help any members that sought relief through her office.



*Brad & Kim Pieratt, center, deliver diapers and gift cards to our adopted unit in early Nov 2025.*

Fortunately, the federal shutdown ended on Nov 12, just as we were getting ready to make another donation of food and gas cards. Those several weeks of uncertainty for our National Guard members really drives home what we as a VFW and Auxiliary can accomplish to directly support the people and mission of our local soldiers. Thank you to everyone that has ever stood out in front of a store or business in nasty weather to distribute Buddy Poppies over the years. This is what your selfless actions brought to the relief of local soldiers during the unprecedented shut down of our national government. Thank you.

*Be sure to visit our blog about this story which includes an easy way to donate to our dedicated Adopted Unit fund as well as feedback from the VFW Department of Washington:*

<https://vfwpost3617.org/adopted-unit/assisting-the-guard-during-these-uncertain-times/>

As a side note, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pangborn Army National Guard Holiday Party is on **Saturday, Dec 6th at the Wenatchee Veteran's Hall** starting at 4pm with dinner served at 5pm. While we have a volunteer crew lined up for cooking and prep, we welcome anyone who wants to lend a hand or join the fun to come out!

## Veterans Day Parade and Lunch at Pybus

Nice weather ensured a good turnout of entries and supporters at the Wenatchee Veterans Parade this year. We had our 1957 Shore Patrol Jeep in the mix of military vehicles and provided our flatbed trailer to Chapel of the Valley so they could transport veterans that wanted to be in the parade. We even had a few members who handed out stick flags along the route thanks to Comrades Jim Reece and Steve Turner.



After the parade, a free BBQ was hosted at Pybus by the Wenatchee Valley Fire Department. There was music, resources for veterans, face painting for those interested in bringing their family, and artwork on display from our community's children thanking veterans for their service and camaraderie of fellow veterans. Over 350 meals were served to our veteran community. Thanks WVFD!

## Military and Veterans Night with the Wenatchee Wild

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> was the annual Veterans and Military Appreciation Night with the Wenatchee Wild at the Town Toyota Center (TTC). The team donated free tickets to veterans, first responders, and their families to watch a match against another Western Hockey League team, the Prince George Cougars. We had about a dozen members in attendance and overall, there was a large crowd of veterans in attendance that night. The Wild went on to win the hard fought match 2-1.

Our U.S. Navy Shore Patrol Jeep, Annabelle, was parked right on the concourse inside the TTC. The jeep was a natural attraction to most of the military veterans in attendance that night. We even made contact with a couple vets that were interested in joining our VFW Post.



## Flag Folding at Wenatchee Memory Care

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, we had a get together with the veterans living at Wenatchee Memory Care (formerly CIEL) on Red Apple Road in Wenatchee. We brought a special flag and members of our Post & Auxiliary Color Guard to perform a 13-Fold Flag Ceremony for the residents.

Afterwards, we sat in the soda fountain area with the vets and talked about a myriad of subjects they brought up for discussion for about 40 minutes. Some had recollections of their military service; to others, it was just as important to talk about the weather or the common theme of “What’s for lunch?” Overall, it was nice to spend time with the residents and we’re looking forward to our next visit (date TBD).



## Appreciating, and Looking for, Volunteers

Valuable in more ways than words can say.  
Optimistic and helpful in every way.  
Lending support with a heartwarming smile.  
Unselfishly going the extra mile.  
Notable for all the work you do.  
Trusted because we can count on you.  
Effective in all you undertake.  
Esteemed for the difference that you make.  
Ready to serve in so many ways.  
Special and deserving of our praise.



We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitment of our past and current volunteers. At the same time, there’s always a need for more. There are so many ways you can help us out – from cooking and cleaning to manual labor to reaching out to one another. To make it easier for you to get involved, we have a new online form [<https://vfwpost3617.org/volunteering/>] where you can express your interest. Once you fill it out, a member of our leadership team will contact you about opportunities where you can be of service.

Examples and ideas of how you can volunteer:

<https://vfwpost3617.org/from-our-members/looking-for-volunteers/>

### *Suriano’s Words of Wisdom*

*Be prepared for your next ski trip – it’ll go downhill fast.*

## Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- Dec 6            Holiday Party for Army National Guard unit,  
                         4-6pm at the Veterans Hall
- Dec 13           Wreaths Across America at 9am, Wenatchee Cemetery  
  
                         Post Holiday Party at 2pm (dinner at 3pm)  
                         Potluck meal and optional \$20 gift exchange
- Dec 17           Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Jan 1            New Year’s Day – NO Breakfast at Country Inn
- Jan 8-10        VFW Dept of WA Mid-Winter Conference in Tacoma
- Jan 21           Monthly Meetings CANCELED (for good behavior)
- Feb 5            Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
- Feb 18           Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Feb 21           District 7 Meeting at 1pm (potluck at noon)



**Wreaths Across America** is where 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. At **9 am on 12/13**, we, along with the Civil Air Patrol, Wenatchee High School JROTC, American Legion, multiple local veteran organizations, active duty military, veterans, and family members will lay wreaths **at the Wenatchee Cemetery**. After this ceremony ends, our Post will be placing wreaths at the Military Section of Evergreen Memorial Park, Stemilt Hill Cemetery, and Sunset Cemetery in East Wenatchee.

## 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:

**17 Dec + 18 Feb** at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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