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Commander's Letter

My hope is that this edition of the newsletter finds you in good health and tolerating the grey days that have become normal for our valley. I see that several of our local assisted living facilities have been closed to visitors due to an outbreak of the Flu and COVID that's impacting the northwest right now. Please mask up and see your doctor if you're experiencing any symptoms.



And what's up with our weather this year? While I appreciate not having to shovel snow, my main concern with this warmer winter season is the lack of snow for our mountains which equates to no water in the reservoirs this summer. This definitely will have an impact on water availability for agriculture and an imminent fire season. Not to mention our orchards are in danger of early buds that could freeze if we get another cold snap. Talking to the old timers, this winter is very unusual. Hoping for the best for our orchardists.

#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 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

The calendar says it is winter, but beautiful sun outside is glorious and deceiving. Everyone must be wondering if February will finally bring some snow, If you are traveling remember to be prepared. The weather can change at anytime especially in the mountains.

The Auxiliary had a busy December. We helped the Post host the Christmas Party for the Pangborn Army National Guard unit at the Veteran's Hall. Everyone had a great time with good food, family fun, and camaraderie. Nancy Brouwers made over 40 blankets which we raffled off along with gift cards donated by our generous Post members. We also handed out the toys from Operation Homefront and Tony Warren donated fishing trips.

We also hosted the annual Post Christmas party. Ham, turkey, and all of the fixings and great desserts. The gift exchange was fun. Hopefully everyone got just what they wanted or could use. Visiting with members we don't always see is a highlight of the event. Hopefully everyone had a great time.

Coming up in February, the Auxiliary will be going to **Highgate Senior Living to make Valentines** with the residents. We are looking forward to this unique version of our Valentines Auxiliary project as it gives us a chance to meet some of the residents. Thanks to Bicky LaRoque for planning this project. Anyone who would like to help just show up at Highgate on Sat, Feb 7 at 2:00 pm.

The **Illustrating America** and **Patriotic Art** contests are in full swing. We are encouraging all Post and Auxiliary members to give entry forms to all the children in their lives. Entry forms have also been given to the Eastmont schools, home schooled students and Private schools in Wenatchee. The art is due at the Post **by March 31st**. We will be asking for judges at the March meeting. We encourage Post and Auxiliary members to volunteer as judges.

The **food drive to support Serve Wenatchee** is still in progress. We are asking for any nonperishable food items. You can put your donations in the box located in the main meeting room at the Post. If you are unable to make it to the Post and want to donate, give Shirley a call and arrangement for pick up can be made. After the flood at Serve Wenatchee they are still trying to get their Hope Market stocked with items. This is a great organization that will help anyone in need of groceries. They serve many Veterans in our area.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Friday coffee, the monthly breakfast at Country Inn, or at the monthly meeting. Enjoy the comradery and see what we can do to help our Veterans in this valley. Give Shirley a call if you would like more information about the Auxiliary or just want to visit.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President





Chaplain's Message

The LORD cares deeply when his loved ones die. – Psalm 116:15 NLT

As we mourn the loss of our beloved and active Comrade McGloan, I pray that we work together to comfort one another. Whether you knew him well or are just now learning he was a comrade through membership at our post, we can all agree the community has lost a great friend. May God help us each find comfort and hope, no matter how deep our pain and grief are.

I can honestly share that it would be so much easier if there were a set timeline for grief. A plan we can follow and know when it is completed. Unfortunately, grief is often much messier than that. It's a deeply personal journey, and no two people ever have the same experience.

Turning to the Bible for comfort and strength can help during any season of grief, whether it comes from this loss or from burdens carried quietly for other reasons. In every situation, God is our ultimate comforter and our source of hope in trials. We can lean into His peace and grace daily through His Word.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. [2 Cor 1:3-4 NLT]

Excerpts from <https://www.klove.com/resources/grief-and-loss/struggling-through-grief-4615>

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

Together We Served

Have you ever wanted to reconnect with the people you served alongside? Thanks to the website network of **TogetherWeServed**, you can do that. There is a separate website for each branch, and these sites are for all those who served in the U.S. Military. It is a place where you can reconnect with your former brothers and sisters-in-arms and preserve a record of your military service that will live on for future generations.

<https://togetherweserved.com>

Comrade Jim Reece is dedicated to helping Veterans record their military story. As the Chair of our Military History Committee, he's happy to help you set up a profile for yourself or a loved one. Email him at reecejim@yahoo.com or call/text 509-668-6101.



NOTICE Re: Vote to Change Name of Post

A motion was put forth at the December 2025 General Membership Meeting to change the name of this Post from “Wenatchee Valley Post” to “Wenatchee Valley”.

Historically, VFW National has sometimes addressed us as Wenatchee Valley Post Post, causing confusion and issues when ordering caps and other post-specific customized items. We are wanting to officially remove “Post” from our name, hopefully preventing further similar issues.

All members in good standing are highly encouraged to attend the **18 March 2026 General Membership Meeting**, in person or via Zoom, where this motion will be brought to the floor for final discussion and a vote of the quorum. Approval of this motion requires at least 2/3 “yes” vote of the members present.

IAW the 2026 Veterans of Foreign Wars Manual of Procedure, Section 208, this serves as the thirty (30) day written notice of the proposed action.

Recap of VFW Dept of WA Midwinter Conference

On January 15-17, 2026, the VFW Mid-Winter Conference took place at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. During the course of the conference, we attended some excellent training provided under the guidance of Department Commander Drew James and his staff. This was by far the best training received in many years. Our Quartermaster attended training on IRS and State of Washington Non-Profit requirements, State of Washington Gambling Commission, membership processing and VFW Dashboard training. Commander Pieratt attended training on the new on-line Community Service Reporting Program, VFW Department HQ TED Talk, VFW Dashboard, and Parliamentary Procedures and Roberts Rules of Order.

We finished off with the best convention banquet I have ever tasted that was prepared by the staff of the Murano. The highlight of the banquet was the selection of this year’s winner for the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy which went to Noel Fernandea of VFW Post 318 located in Tumwater, WA. This year’s theme was, “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”. National winners for this year’s contest will be announced in March.



Quartermaster Vaughan and Commander Pieratt enjoy lunch with Ron Ness and Fil Rivera (District 7).

VFW Dept of WA Convention in Wenatchee this June

The annual VFW Department of Washington Convention will be held in Wenatchee this year on **17-20 June at the Wenatchee Convention Center**. There'll be several training sessions held on subjects for Commanders, Quartermasters, Adjutants, and Special Programs like Community Service Management, fundraising, membership recruiting, and VFW Dashboard computer training. Additionally, there are plenty of raffles along with corporate and non-profit tables set up in the concourse with specialized programs and opportunities for veterans. The convention concludes with an awards ceremony and very nice banquet on Saturday night. **All members are encouraged to attend**, especially if you have any interest in stepping up into a leadership role or would like to network with VFW and Auxiliary members from across the state. It's a short trip – no need to go over a mountain pass!

Our Post is responsible for handling the registration table for the entire convention. In addition to being ambassadors for the Valley, our main duties will be helping attendees register on the correct District Sign-In Sheets and collecting a \$5 convention fee. We can expect to open the registration table at 0800 and close at 1500 each day. We will also have a collection of brochures provided by the Wenatchee Chamber that highlight restaurants and attractions to visit while they're here. **We can really use some help from membership to man these tables for a 3-hour shift (0800-1100 & 1100-1400)** during the convention. A sign-up list for helping during this event will be posted in mid-May.

If you have any questions about Convention, getting involved, helping with our Registration table, or other ways to welcome visitors to our Valley this summer, please reach out to a current member of Leadership – we'd be happy to answer your questions and have your involvement.

Quarterly Luncheon

Please put February 16th on your calendars to attend the VFW Quarterly Luncheon at The Olive Garden. The luncheon will start at 11:30am in the back room where we have several new members to welcome and other Post business to attend to. Please RSVP with Commander Pieratt if you're attending. This gives the restaurant a heads up on how many place settings to set and the number of staff needed to attend us. Hope to see you there!

District 7 Meeting



The first meeting of 2026 for VFW District 7 will take place on February 21 at our Post. The luncheon features a Ham & Baked Potato Bar which will start at 12 noon followed by our meetings at 1pm.

During the meeting, the first nominations for District 7 Officers for the 2026-2027 year will take place. All members are welcome to attend.



The annual Spring ritual of cleaning the Post grounds and planting flowers will take place on Friday, April 24th following our weekly coffee break.

Please bring your own gloves and any tools that you'd like to operate!

Donuts and coffee are free to the volunteers on this day and we should be finished by 12 noon.

This project will ensure we look our best during the Apple Blossom Festival.

Apple Blossom Festival

We're again hosting the **Washington Fallen Heroes** Float and Banners for the Classy Chassis and Wenatchee Grand Parades. As with past parades, we'll be working with local schools, non-profits, churches, and sporting teams to carry the over 300 banners of Washington's military heroes that died in support of combat operations in the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The April newsletter will have the specifics and exact times for you to volunteer to help carry a heroes banner on Friday, May 1 for the Classy Chassis Parade, and for the Apple Blossom Grand Parade on May 2.



Always Looking for Volunteers

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

*A friend said they didn't understand cloning.
I said that makes two of us.*



Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- Feb 5 Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
- Feb 14 *Valentine’s Day*
- Feb 16 *President’s Day*
Quarterly Luncheon at Olive Garden, 11:30am
- Feb 18 Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Feb 21 District 7 Meeting at 1pm (potluck at noon)
- Mar 5 Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
- Mar 8 **Daylight Savings Time starts** – set clocks ahead 1 hour
- Mar 17 *St. Patrick’s Day*
- Mar 18 Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Mar 25 *National Medal of Honor Day*
- Mar 29 *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*
- Apr 5 Easter Sunday / *Gold Star Spouses Day*
- Apr 9 *Former POW Recognition Day*
- Apr 15 Post Meeting at 7pm (potluck starts at 6pm)
- Apr 18 District 7 Meeting at 1pm (potluck at noon)
- Apr 24 Spring Cleanup at the Post
- May 1 Classy Chassis Parade, 6pm East Wenatchee
- May 2 Apple Blossom Grand Parade, 11am Wenatchee



Medal of Honor –
(L to R) Army, Air Force, Navy

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 Feb + 18 March at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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