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Commander's Letter

It is really shaping into a beautiful Spring for our Wenatchee Valley! Plum, apricot, and ornamental cherry trees are in full bloom, not to mention the Daffodils and crocus flowers are at their best this week. We had one weather hiccup since last newsletter with our only real snowfall this season on March 13th. It really worked out for the best by filling our reservoirs and lakes for the Summer, and it was pretty much gone in a couple days.

These past few months, the Post has lost 2 comrades and a sister that were key to the heart of our mission. **Mike McGlone** passed on Jan 11th after a sudden illness. Mike was our Assistant Quartermaster, responsible for making the weekly bank deposits and helping the Quartermaster with keeping financial programs and documentation in a flawless condition. **Joan Cadwallader**, or Jo to anyone who knew her, passed away on March 5th after a valiant fight against cancer for the last few years. Jo held many positions in the Auxiliary, but most knew her as the Queen of the Kitchen. She was always in the lead when it came to preparing delicious big meals for meetings and special dinners held at the Post. As a former restaurant owner, she brought a wealth of knowledge and organization to our little Post kitchen. To us, it will always be Jo's Kitchen. And just a few days later, Trustee **Don Dent** had his final PCS when he passed on March 9th after his 2-year battle with cancer. Besides ensuring our Post financial programs and records were in great shape, Don was one of the volunteers we could always count on to help with our Honor and Color Guard teams. A gifted mechanic and fixer of most things with a gearbox or an engine, Don was also our timekeeper. He ensured the large grandfather clock at the Post was always on time and running smooth. Needless to say, the old clock hasn't been itself since Don left us. Losing all three of these friends in short order has had a definite impact on our entire VFW family. We will endeavor to step up and take their place, while remembering the accomplishments and camaraderie they brought to our Post and community. Rest in peace my friends.

-- Commander Brad Pieratt





Auxiliary President's Letter

Spring is here! It is hard to believe what a mild winter we had. Hopefully everyone is getting spring cleaning done and getting their yards ready for planting. May and warmer weather will be here before we know it!. Don't forget: spring clean-up at the Post on April 24.

We had the opportunity to serve at the hospitality areas for the **Special Olympics**. We handed out snacks, water, and beverages at four different locations for the basketball players. It was a fun event and we got to meet a number of very special athletes. Hopefully we can be a part of this event next year. We also wrapped up our food drive and delivered a car load of food to **Serve Wenatchee** along with a \$200 donation (*photo, right*). The Hope Market is set up like a grocery store where people can "shop" for the items they need. The director mentioned they also need diaper wipes and diapers at this time. If you are wanting to donate you can drop items off Monday–Thursday.



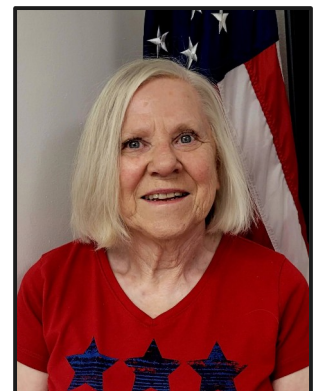
May is National Month of Service with May 2nd the actual Day of Service. Our project is always the Classy Chassis and Apple Blossom parades. We look forward to carrying the Fallen Soldier Banners in the parades - It is such an honor to carry the banners. This year as our way to honor Gold Star families we donated to the Fallen Heroes Project. We also had a banner made for **Antonio Burnside**, nephew of member Bicky LaRoque. As in the past we will also be handing our American Flags to the spectators for the Classy Chassis on both sides of Grant Road between Eastmont and Valley Mall Parkway. If anyone would like to volunteer to hand out flags let us know. Later in May we will be part of the Memorial Day programs planned by the Patriotic Council (*see page 4*). Thank you to Brad and Kim for their work on the Council.

This year the **VFW State Convention** will be held in Wenatchee (*see page 5*). The Auxiliary will be in charge of helping with the registration table and handing out hospitality bags. We are asking local businesses for items to include in the bags, such as note pads, ink pens, magnets, etc. We are hoping to also include apples from Crunch Pak and Stemilt and candy from Applets and Cotlets. We are lucky to have such generous companies! We will also be making the center pieces for the banquet tables. If you have any suggestions or donations for the bags or would like to help craft centerpieces, let us know.

As always we look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting. If you have not attended in a while know you are always welcome. Give Shirley a call if you have any suggestions for the Auxiliary. We are always looking for ways to serve our Veterans.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Chaplain's Message

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. – Galatians 5:1

Right where God has placed you, there are things that He has put in you that you don't know now, and fruits in your character that He is building in you in this season, and treasures in you that He has not yet revealed. Be released from all yokes of bondage to be the man/woman after God's own heart that you are. Be blessed to possess your freedom to which He has called you in Christ.

Welcome your Shepherd's disciplines for your good. He guides you to persevere into full freedom in Himself, that is your right in Him. Persist and stand firm in Him. Be blessed with all the liberty of the Lord. It's yours because Jesus set you free at the cross, and today He sets you free. Be blessed in His purpose for you to live free in full confidence in Him.

Excerpts from <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/possess-your-freedom-2/>

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson



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.

April is Month of the Military Child

April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child, a time dedicated to honoring the unique challenges and sacrifices faced by children in military families. Established in 1986, this observance emphasizes the resilience of these children and the importance of community support.

Wear **purple** this April to show your support. This color was chosen as it represents unity among all branches by blending blue (Air Force, Navy), green (Army), and red (Marines).



Army National Guardsman gets a kiss from a loved one.

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.

If you want to help carry a heroes banner in the **Classy Chassis Parade** on Friday, be at **Eastmont Community Park** (Grant Rd & Georgia Ave) at **4:30pm on May 1st**.

For those wanting to be in the **Apple Blossom Grand Parade**, be at **Triangle Park** (Miller & Cherry Streets) in Wenatchee at **9:30am on Sat, May 2nd** and look for the Fallen Heroes Float.



Memorial Day Ceremonies – Monday, May 25

This year, our ceremonies will start in East Wenatchee at **Evergreen Memorial Park** on 10th Street NE at **9am** 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. East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford is the guest speaker for this event.

At **10:15am**, the same ceremony will be repeated at the **Wenatchee Cemetery** on Western Ave in Wenatchee with Mayor Mike Poirier as the guest speaker.

At **11:30am**, a special ceremony will take place by the **boat launch behind Pybus Public Market** to honor all those that served or were lost at sea. A ceremonial wreath will be tossed into the Columbia River by Mayors Poirier and Crawford.

The day's ceremonies conclude at **Pybus Public Market** at **12 noon** with the posting of the colors followed by a rifle volley and the playing of Taps. A short patriotic speech by VFW Commander Brad Pieratt will conclude the official events of the day.

Don't forget, flags will be lowered to half-staff for the start of Memorial Day and raised to full-staff at 12 noon.

Saturday May 23, we will be distributing Buddy Poppies at locations throughout the Valley. Volunteers will be needed – shifts are 3 hours long.

If you are interested in helping with this outreach, please contact leadership or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the Post in early May.

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 will 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 Friday 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, or helping with Registration, please reach out to a current member of Leadership – we'd be happy to answer your questions and have your involvement.

Pangborn Army National Guard Family Day & BBQ

On **Saturday, June 20th**, our Post will be hosting activities and a barbeque for the military and family members of our Adopted Unit, Charlie Co 1st 112th S&S, at their building on Campbell Parkway in East Wenatchee. We'll be setting up activities and games for the children and providing the full meal deal for everyone attending. The menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, side dishes and desserts. We'll be serving food from 1100 to 1400.

As always, we need volunteers to make this happen! If you can help out with set up or tear down, flipping burgers, or working the serving line, there's always a place for you. You can also help by preparing a side dish and dropping it off at the Post on Friday morning. If you can give us just a couple hours or the whole day, it would be appreciated.

We're expecting about 100 guard members and their families to attend. This is also a great opportunity to meet our local soldiers and understand the critical mission they bring to our area. Talks by the pilots, crew members, and maintainers of the unit's UH-72 Lakota helicopters will be available throughout the day.

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 an 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 bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.



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.

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

Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

Apr 5	Easter Sunday / <i>Gold Star Spouses Day</i>
Apr 9	<i>Former POW Recognition Day</i>
Apr 15	<i>Purple Up! for Military Kids /</i> 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 https://www.appleblossom.org/festival-calendar/classychassis
May 2	Apple Blossom Grand Parade, 11am Wenatchee https://www.appleblossom.org/festival-calendar/stemiltgrandparade
May 7	Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
May 8	<i>Military Spouse Appreciation Day</i>
May 10	Mother's Day
May 16	<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
May 23	Buddy Poppies distribution
May 24	Sangster Motors Memorial Day Cruise-In & Car Show - Posting colors at 11am
May 25	Memorial Day – see page 4 for local event schedule
June 4	Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
June 5-7	Fairchild AFB Skyfest
June 14	<i>Flag Day / US Army Birthday</i>
June 18-20	VFW Department of WA Convention, Wenatchee Convention Center



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:

15 April + 20 May at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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