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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone! Here we are at the doorstep of Summer and things will be perfect as soon as the wind stops blowing! It has been a very busy Spring season at the Post with something going on almost every week. We're kind of looking forward to a little bit of a break in a couple weeks.

I can't stress enough about what a golden opportunity we have here in the Wenatchee Valley with the VFW Department of Washington 2026 Convention being held at our Convention Center. *(Editor's note: see page 5 for more details on this event.)* This is your chance to see how and what the VFW & Auxiliary does for our veterans and military members around the state. There's several training opportunities and briefings by program managers and chairpersons to listen to. Come see how our comrades, brothers, and sisters reach out in their communities. We will also have vendors and other related non-profits with a table in the concourse wishing to share their products and programs with you. This is all free to attend, so I do hope you will take the time to drop by and check it out.

-- Commander Brad Pieratt



From the Editor

I do my best 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

Summer is finally on it's way. Our gardens are planted and we are all waiting for our flowers and vegetables to flourish. Today the sun is shining and the warmer days are here. Be safe and enjoy the heat.

May is in the rear view mirror and the Post and Auxiliary did a great job on all of the programs we were working on. The Classy Chassis and Apple Blossom parades were great successes. The Auxiliary handed our over 800 flags at the Classy Chassis with the assistance from Post members Jim Reece and John Harrington. The Apple Blossom parade had lots of banners carried by volunteers and riders on the float provided by Chapel of the Valley. A big thank you to everyone for making it such a memorable event.

Additionally, the Memorial Day programs were amazing. The Post and the American Legion working together makes this day one of the best in Wenatchee. This year seeing so many spectators at all of the events was great. The Veteran's Luncheon was a fun ending to such a busy day, with good food and camaraderie.

Now we are on to the busy month of June. With the **State VFW convention in Wenatchee** this year (June 17-20), the Auxiliary is busy working on our portion of the convention. We are charged with providing hospitality gift bags at the registration table. We are getting donations from businesses to go in the bags. Any small items for the bags would be great. We are also in charge of the centerpieces for the banquet tables. A BIG thank you to **Jamie Hepburn, Blair Tamngin, and Bicky LaRoque** for taking on these tasks. All of our Auxiliary members will be busy the week of convention, but we look forward to enjoying it all. What a great way to show off our wonderful community.

If convention wasn't enough, we will also be helping the Post with the annual picnic for the **Army National Guard** Aviation unit at Pangborn on June 20th. Steve and Dee Johnson have taken on the picnic. This is a huge event and we want to thank them for spear heading it. We will also be remembering Flag Day on June 14th. Come see the Post all decked out in flags.

The **next Auxiliary meeting will be on June 17th at 7:00**. Due to convention, there will not be a meal before hand this time. We will be having the usual business portion and then working on the finishing touches of convention. We hope to see everyone at the meeting. If we have not seen you at a meeting lately we would enjoy welcoming you back. If you have any suggestions for the auxiliary please give Shirley a call. Remember "WE SERVE OUR VETERANS".

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Chaplain's Message

Why is it so difficult to trust God? Why should I believe what God's Word says? Is God's Word trustworthy?



God's Word says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5), but we feel abandoned.

God's Word says that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13), but we get mad at God for "standing by" when we are tempted.

God's Word says that all things work together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28), but we blame God for our troubles.

The point is that God's Word is trustworthy, even if it's difficult to do so. God's Word never fails! "Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands." [Deu 7:9 NLT]

If there was ever a person who would have been justified in failing to trust God's Word, it would have been Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have descendants as numerous as the stars (Genesis 26:4). Yet, from the time God made this promise to the day that Isaac was born, it took 25 years!

Abraham surely struggled with how long it took God to fulfill His promise, just see what happened in the interim (Hagar and Ishmael). Even through that, Abraham never doubted that God would do exactly what He said He would do.

God's Word never fails. It is absolutely trustworthy. God will never fail to do exactly what He has promised.

The next time you are tempted to doubt God's Word or His timing, picture Abraham, lying in a field on a clear night, counting stars.

Excerpts from <https://www.gotquestions.blog/do-you-trust-God.html>, S. Michael Houdmann

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

Post home is lookin' good!

We held our annual Spring Cleanup on April 24th. Thanks to the Auxiliary, the planters are renewed for another season of flowers gracing the front of our building. The comrades concentrated on the lawn and sprinkler system. Additionally, **Jim Reece** went crazy on an old section of chained link fencing that was an eyesore. He also tore down a cement planter box that encroached 4ft onto the neighbor's property and rebuilt it on our side of the line. A special thanks to Jim for the *blood*, sweat, and many extra hours you put in to making our Post look great!



New and improved planter box – thanks Jim!

Recap of Memorial Day, Monday, 25 May 2026



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 Evergreen Memorial Park 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. East Wenatchee Mayor Jerrilea Crawford was the guest speaker. At 10:15 am, we conducted the same ceremony at the Wenatchee Cemetery with Mayor Mike Poirier as the guest speaker.

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. This took place at the boat launch behind Pybus Market.

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.

LOTS more photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/events/memorial-day-2026-recap/>

Flag Retirement conducted

We have been looking for over a year for significant sized burn pile that would allow us the opportunity to retire boxes and boxes of flags. Recently, Post member Ed Reinfeld introduced us to Hans Weirich whom he has known for years. Hans has a 26-acre pear orchard that was reduced to 15-acres of pears, so he had a pretty good sized pile of stumps and branches to burn. When asked if he would allow us to retire our large collection of worn flags in his burn pile, Hans was very open to the idea and said he would love to support this ceremony.

On Tuesday, May 26th, Hans welcomed Ed and Pam Reinfeld, Jim Reece, Steve and Dee Johnson, and Brad and Kim Pieratt to his orchard, allowing us to conduct a somber, but fitting, retirement ceremony to respectfully dispose of the many flags that had flown over our homes and businesses in the Wenatchee Valley.



Retired 20' x 30' flag draped over the burn pile of orchard cuttings and old flags.

Full story and more photos at <https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/recent-flag-retirement-ceremony/>

VFW Dept of WA Convention in Wenatchee

The annual VFW Department of Washington Convention will be held in Wenatchee this year from June 18-20th at the Wenatchee Convention Center. There'll be several training sessions held on subjects for Commanders, Quartermasters, Adjutants, and Special Programs like Community Service Reporting, fund raising, membership recruiting, and LEARN Suicide Prevention Training.

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 convention fee. We can expect to open the registration table at 0800 and close at 1500 each day. We'll also have a collection of brochures provided by the Wenatchee Chamber that highlight restaurants and attractions to visit while they're here.



VFW members attending a convention.

Training Schedule: Thursday, June 18th

10:00 – 11:00

- Service Division (VSOs) Committee Meeting (Red Delicious West)
- Community Service Reporting (CSR) & Dashboard (Orchard South)
- Bylaws & Resolutions Committee Meeting (Gala 3-4)
- Combating Stigma presented by WDVA (Fuji 1-2)

11:00 – 12:00

- New Post/District Commander Training (Orchard South)
- Post Benefits Advisor Training (Golden Delicious)
- Time & Place Committee (Red Delicious West)
- Q&A for the Membership (Gala 3-4)
- LEARN Suicide Prevention Training by WDVA (Fuji 1-2)
- Gambling Commission Training (WSGC) (Fuji 3-4)

During the convention, you'll have the opportunity to meet and greet our **VFW National Commander, Carol Whitmore**, and the National Auxiliary Representative on Thursday evening (location TBD) starting at 1900.

Other events happening during the convention include a **Joint Memorial Service** on Thursday at 1700. Then, starting on Friday (6/19) from 0900-1600, VFW program and committee managers will give their year-end reports to the membership in the Orchard South Room. This will cover all programs the VFW is actively participating in – if you're curious what the VFW does, this will tell you.

Friday evening is the awards banquet starting with a No Host Social Hour at 1730, followed with banquet seating at 1800. Dress code for the banquet is business attire with no hat. *Banquet tickets are already sold out.*

Pangborn Army National Guard 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 Battalion 112th S&S, at their building on Campbell Parkway in East Wenatchee (pictured below). 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 & desserts. We'll be serving food from 11am – 2pm.



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 only give us an hour or the whole day, it would be appreciated. Sign up sheet for helping with this event is on the board in the Post.



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.

Suriano's Words of Wisdom

He had a photographic memory, but it was never fully developed.

June 14 is Flag Day:

Refresh your Flag Etiquette

The American flag has a long history, and the members of our organization have spent nearly as long defending and honoring our nation's most iconic symbol of freedom. Whether you're looking for the historic details of how the U.S. flag came to be, or the rules and regulations that encompass her daily flight, the VFW ensures you can find the information you need.

<https://www.vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette>



Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

- June 13 Don Dent Celebration of Life, 1pm at the Post
- June 14 *Flag Day / US Army Birthday*
- June 18-20 **VFW Department of WA Convention,**
Wenatchee Convention Center
- June 20 **Pangborn Army National Guard Picnic,**
11am – 2pm at 1 S. Campbell Pkwy, E. Wen
- June 21 *Father’s Day*
- July 2 Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
- July 4** *250th Independence Day*
- July 25-29 VFW National Convention, Reno NV
- Aug 4 *US Coast Guard Birthday*
- Aug 6 Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am
- Aug 7 *Purple Heart Day* – local event at Washington Park, more details coming soon.
- Aug 19-20 Serving Those Who Served Conference presented by WDVA,
Wenatchee Convention Center <https://dva.wa.gov/stws>
- Aug 29 **Wenatchee Valley Veterans Picnic,** 11am – 3pm, Walla Walla Point Park Shelter 1
- Sept 11 *Patriot Day,* National Day of Service and Remembrance
Cashmere 9/11 memorial event, 11am
- Sept 19 Wenatchee Valley **Veterans Stand Down,** 9am – 2pm at the 5th St Armory
- Sept 20 *POW/MIA Day* - <https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/national-pow-mia-day/>



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 June + 15 July at 7pm

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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