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Commander's Letter

As the summer weather quickly gives way to cooler morning temps and warm afternoons, we have officially entered the Fall season. To some of us, it's our favorite time of year. This past summer seems like it passed in a blur between Apple Blossom, the Department Convention here in June, the Pangborn Army National Guard Picnic, the 250th Anniversary of our Great Republic, VFW National Convention in Reno, a valley-wide veteran's picnic, on top of several weeks of forest fires and smoke invading our valley.



Through it all we managed to come together to serve our veterans and our communities with pride. Thank you again for all you do!

#NoOneDoesMoreForVeterans #StillServing

-- Commander Brad Pieratt

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

You may have seen some new faces around – we're excited to welcome some new members to our ranks: Mike Lewis, Cesar Mendoza, and Jeffrey Seath have recently transferred in or joined new. Glad to have you here, guys!

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

Fall is upon us! The crisp morning air signals that change is in the air. Even more than the New Year, fall brings a sense of new beginnings. The laid-back days of summer gives way to a change in schedules as we use the next three months to prepare for winter ahead. As always, the Auxiliary is busy with the coming events.

Operation Homefront has ended with all of the school supplies delivered. In November the next phase of Operation Homefront will begin with the collection of toys for the Christmas season. We will start planning for the Christmas parties also (where has the year gone?!).

In the next few months we will be busy with all of the festivities! The **Walgreens vaccination clinic is on October 16th**. Hopefully everyone needing a shot will come to the Post that day. We will have our annual "Operation Bottom Cover" diaper drive at Fred Meyers in East Wenatchee on **November 14th**. The diapers collected from this drive will be donated to the young families at the Army National Guard Aviation unit. It helps the families at Christmas time: if they don't have to buy diapers, they have more to spend on Christmas. The Auxiliary will also be helping the Post with the **Buddy Poppy drives** just before Veterans Day. This is always a fun event that we look forward to each year. It is a great way to talk with the public about all we do for Veterans. We will also be out at the Veterans Day parade, November 11th, and the lunch afterward. It's great seeing everyone come out and wave their flags!

The applications for the essay contests have been sent to the schools. The Youth Essay is for third, fourth, and fifth grade elementary students. The theme is *"What I Would Say To a Founding Father"*. Patriot's Pen is for middle school students and Voice of Democracy for High School students. The theme for both Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy is *"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"*. The essay programs are for all students and they do not have to be members of or related to the VFW. The essay program **ends on October 31st**. We will judge entries for Post-level winners and advancement to District on November 6th.

We want to welcome our two newest members, Gloria Anglin and Tonya Vaughan. We look forward to getting to know them better. Our mission of serving our Veterans is important to all of us. We know they will be a great addition to our Auxiliary. **WELCOME to Gloria and Tonya!** If you have a family member or friend that may want to join our auxiliary please let us know. We look forward to expanding our membership base and being able to help more Veterans. If you have not attended a meeting in a while we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on October 21st.



~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President

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Chaplain's Message

Hydrate and Feed Your Soul



Hydration reminders are all around us. Advertisements for electrolyte packets and flavor drops to help entice you to drink more water have become more common. And it's not just targeted at athletes anymore. Yes, drinking literal water is good for you. And if it takes a flavor or additive to help you, do it, go ahead! A small healthy decision is better than not doing anything at all.

I like to say "something is better than nothing" when it comes to healthy habits. I also think it can be applied to our faith life. Reading the Bible is likened to eating and drinking. It is a healthy habit for our souls and spirits and can become a chore at times.

That's where the "something is better than nothing" comes in. If you can't sit down and open a physical Bible because you're too easily distracted, you can use an app with audio features. I like to play it while I get ready in the morning. It reads through my daily bible reading for me, so I am still feeding myself the Word without feeling like I HAVE to sit down.

I still take time to sit and read, and I have devotionals and other resources I use to help me learn and understand. And occasionally I spend some time alone with calm music to focus and meditate on the word.

But, just like staying hydrated to be healthy is an ongoing task, hydrating and feeding your soul is too. So be blessed and encouraged that reading a little bit is better than not reading at all, and if you don't know of a good resource, I've included information for some of the ones I use here for you to check out.

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/> - Answers to just about any Bible question
- <https://www.youversion.com/> - Bible App available for both Android and Apple users
- <https://thefathersbusiness.com/> - Devotionals and encouragement

A blessing for you as you take time to connect with God and invite Him into the mundane parts of your life through new resources:

Spirit, be blessed with knowing your covenant-keeping God of promise as you seek Him and keep company with Him in Spirit and in truth. Be blessed to discover Him more as His Spirit lives in you to fulfill your deepest cries. Be blessed to encounter Him in such dimensions that you feel as if you have never breathed spiritually before. Be blessed in His name: Rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him (Heb 11:6).

*Inspiration and excerpts from The Father's Business:
Are You Spiritually Dehydrated? - <https://thefathersbusiness.com/devotion/seeking-god-psalm-631-2/>
You Are Blessed in the Names of God (pg 117) -
<https://thefathersbusiness.com/product/you-are-blessed-in-the-names-of-god/>*

-- Chaplain Sarah Simonson

Annual Wenatchee Valley Veterans Picnic – another success!



The annual Wenatchee Valley Veteran's Picnic was a great success! Perfect late summer weather saw over 175 people dropping by to share a wonderful meal and good conversation. We also had a 50/50 Raffle that raised \$247 for our Picnic Fund. If you missed it, the food was fantastic and everyone had a great time. As always, none of this was possible without volunteers from the American Legion and VFW. Special thanks go to all the helpers that pulled off another wonderful gathering of veterans and their families from around the valley.

LOTS more photos on our website!

<https://vfwpost3617.org/events/another-fun-wenatchee-valley-veterans-picnic/>

Patriot Day, 25 years later

Did you know? Just up the river we have the 9/11 Spirit of America Memorial located in Cashmere, WA. Every year since the dedication in 2015, they have held a ceremony on Sept 11 to Remember, Honor, and Educate.

This year was the 25th anniversary of the original attacks, and members of our Post and Auxiliary made it a point to attend the event in Cashmere.

From the emotional stories of the guest speakers to the respectful music to the young students in the front row, it was a powerful, somber, and positive day for many.



More photos on our website:

<https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/9-11-spirit-of-america-memorial-in-cashmere/>

Proud of our Cancer Hero, Becky

On September 11th, a few of us were privileged to attend the 2026 Central Washington Cancer Heroes Ceremony to honor our local heroes, including a dear friend of the VFW, Becky Cummins. Becky is the manager of Chapel of the Valley in East Wenatchee where she's been very involved with supporting veterans and their families with donations to some of our programs that benefit these heroes.

Brad & Kim Pieratt along with Steve & Dee Johnson attended this celebration to support Becky and her family during this special occasion. Not only to honor her service to this community, but especially for her deep care of veterans and their family's service and sacrifice to our nation's cause. Keep on fighting Becky, we've got your back!

Learn more about Becky's journey on our website:

<https://vfwpost3617.org/commanders-update/supporting-our-cancer-hero-becky/>



Becky, center, with Commander Pieratt (L) and Senior Vice Johnson (R).

POW/MIA Remembrance Day

Every year on the third Friday in September, we honor and remember our nation's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action with a modest table and a small ceremony at our Post. This table is set up all year long, but at this ceremony, the Auxiliary Chaplain reads the meaning behind each of the items.



Auxiliary members present the POW/MIA table for the group at Bonaventure.



POW/MIA Ceremony at our Post.

On September 22nd, we gathered at Bonaventure to present this same POW/MIA Ceremony to the residents. The Auxiliary performed the ceremony and we were able to stick around afterwards to talk with the residents, many of them who are veterans, about their service or memories during that time frame of service.

Please see our website for a video and some photos:

<https://vfwpost3617.org/patriotism/pow-mia-missing-man-table-ceremony/>

Buddy Poppies

Buddy Poppies will be distributed at area stores on Saturday, November 7. We're always looking for new members to join the effort to help raise monies for our Veteran's Relief Fund.

We don't "sell" poppies, rather we hand them out to the public with a request to remember our veterans. Some may decide to donate to our collection jar, and others may not. This is ok too, as the main purpose of poppies is to remind the public that we have veterans living in our beautiful valley, and to remember their service and sacrifice to our country.

If you would like to help hand out poppies, a sign-up list is located on the dry erase board at the Post. *(Editor's note: if you can't make it to the Post, contact an Officer and we'll get you on the list.)* Volunteers can help on a morning shift from 0900 to 1200, or an afternoon shift of 1200 to 1500. We will be stationed at locations in East Wenatchee including Fred Meyer, Safeway, and Bi-Mart. Poppies will also be at Martin's Market in Cashmere.



Veterans Day

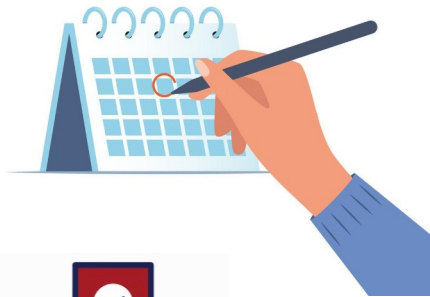
As combat veterans, we're fast approaching our national holiday, Veterans Day. Dedicated to American veterans of all wars, Veterans Day 2026 occurs on a Wednesday. In the days leading up to this holiday, we'll be participating in several Veterans Day school programs across the valley as students learn about what it means to be a veteran, and participate in flag presentations to honor those that sacrificed and gave their all in service to our country.

The Wenatchee Veterans Day Parade will start at 10:30am from Wells Fargo Bank on N. Chelan Ave and travel south to Memorial Park. After a short ceremony with rifle volley and playing of Taps, the parade will head downhill to Mission Ave, and then north to the starting point at Wells Fargo Bank. We'll be participating with our 1957 Navy Shore Patrol Jeep "Annabelle" and handing out American flags along the parade route. Rain or shine, we will be there to honor this special day.



After the parade you're invited to join us at Pybus Public Market from noon to 3pm for a free BBQ hosted by Wenatchee Valley Fire Department. There will be music, resources for veterans, and some wholesome family fun.

Planning Ahead – Upcoming Dates to Note

Oct 13	<i>US Navy Birthday</i>	
Oct 16	Flu & COVID vaccinations at the Post, 10am – 2pm	
Oct 21	Potluck, 6pm; Meetings 7pm	
Oct 31	VoD, PP, and YE entries due to the Post <i>Halloween</i>	
Nov 1	<i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> (clocks roll BACK one hour)	
Nov 3	<i>Election Day</i> – Don't wait to VOTE! Coffee at Bonaventure, 9am	
Nov 4	Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am	
Nov 7	Buddy Poppy tabling, 9am – 3pm; Volunteers needed!	
Nov 10	<i>US Marine Corps Birthday</i>	
Nov 11	<i>Veterans Day</i> Wenatchee Parade, 10:30am Lunch at Pybus, noon – 3pm	
Nov 18	Potluck, 6pm; Meetings 7pm	
Nov 21	District 7 Meetings – Potluck at noon, meetings at 1pm Includes district-level Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen judging	
Nov 26	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	
Nov 27	Friday coffee is on!	
Dec 5	Holiday party for our Adopted Unit at the Veterans Hall, 4pm	
Dec 19	Wreaths Across America, 9am Post 3617 Holiday Party, 2-4pm	
Dec 25	<i>Christmas Day</i> – No Friday Coffee	
Jan 1	<i>New Year's Day</i> – Start the new year right with coffee, donuts, and friends!	

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 & Passcode when prompted.

Zoom Meeting Information

Meeting ID: **815 7531 2989**

Passcode: **996024**

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