



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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January - February 2020

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Commander's Letter

Happy New Year's greetings to all!

2019 was an exceptional year for our VFW highlighted by two huge community projects to help veterans and their families. These wouldn't have happened without the financial support and project volunteers from Team Depot of the Wenatchee Home Depot Store. Many thanks to store manager Richard Madariaga for his exuberant support of these veteran projects.

The holiday season was busy as usual with several events and projects to bring thanks and good cheer to the Valley. We teamed up with 8th District Legislator Dr. Kim Schrier to present congressional pins to Vietnam veterans at a ceremony on November 9th. The Vietnam War Veteran pins were authorized by an act Congress and available to all veterans that served in the Vietnam Era, November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Direct service in Vietnam is not required to receive the pin as many veterans served around the world to support the effort in Southeast Asia. If you didn't receive a pin yet, contact the post and we'll add your name to the list for the next presentation ceremony later this year.

Our adopted unit, the 53d Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company at Yakima Firing Center, is still in Afghanistan as part of a 6-month deployment. We're planning a road trip to welcome them home in about 5 weeks. Not forgetting their families in Yakima, we sponsored the catering for their Christmas Party and provided \$20 gift cards from Target to all of the children.

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Editor's Note

It is my honor to take over the newsletter for our Post. This is an important element in how we keep our membership informed, and I look forward to helping us all stay in touch, both amongst ourselves, but also with our community at large.

Any Post or Auxiliary member may submit information to be shared in this newsletter, as well as to any of our social media. Subjects of interest include Post and Auxiliary members being active in our community (I love seeing photos and stories of past events), VFW or National news related to Veterans, particularly those in our membership demographic, as well as any past or upcoming Post news and events.

Questions, comments, concerns, or information submissions can be directed to me via email vfw3617adj@gmail.com or call 509.433.7879 and leave a message. Thanks.

Connie Hill, VFW Post 3617 Adjutant

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Wreaths Across America took place on December 14 all across our nation. Here at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, we teamed up with several businesses and churches to sponsor 149 wreaths to lay on the graves of veterans, which is about 100 more wreaths than usual. Special thanks to Captain Mo Hahn and the Pangborn Composite Sq. of the Civil Air Patrol for organizing this year's donations and providing the Color Guard for the ceremony.

Looking forward to this year, we have several events already lined up (see calendars below):

- VFW Department of Washington Mid-Winter Conference and Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet in Yakima on January 18th
- VFW Family Pancake Breakfast which will be on Saturday, January 25 from 9am to 11am
- VFW District 7 Meeting on Saturday, February 15. Lunch at 12 noon, meeting at 1pm
- Wenatchee Valley Sportsman's Show runs February 21-23 at the Convention Center

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January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 Breakfast @ Country Inn 9am	3 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am DCVAB 10:30am Bingo 5:30pm	4
5	6 Bonaventure 10am	7 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	8	9	10 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Pizza Party @ Bingo 5:30pm	11
12	13	14 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	15 Potluck Dinner 6pm Post & Aux Meetings 7pm	16	17 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm Midwinter Conference in Yakima	18
19	20 MLK Jr Day	21 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	22	23	24 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	25 Family Pancake Breakfast 9-11am
26	27	28 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	29	30	31 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	

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As always, I truly appreciate the help and support of our Auxiliary and every volunteer that donates their time and resources to make this post the success it is. Never underestimate the positive impact we have on veterans in the Wenatchee Valley. Everything from providing veteran service officers, financial assistance, providing veterans free transportation to VA medical appointments, and financially supporting our community partners that provide critical services to veterans and civilians. All of this happens because of volunteers.

In closing, I extend an invitation to those of you that may have a few hours during your month that you could help with supporting our mission. We always have room for a helping hand with transporting veterans to medical appointments, Bingo on Friday nights, Post cleanup on Monday mornings, Color Guard and Honor Guard details, and community outreach events. We strive to live up to the VFW motto of, "No one does more for veterans!".

Wishing everyone a safe and happy new year in 2020.

Brad Pieratt, Commander

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Bonaventure 10am	4 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	5	6 Breakfast @ Country Inn 9am	7 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am DCVAB 10:30am Bingo 5:30pm	8
9	10	11 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	12	13	14 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm Valentine's Day	15 District 7 Potluck noon Meetings 1pm
16	17 President's Day	18 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	19 Potluck Dinner 6pm Post & Aux Meetings 7pm	20	21 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm The Sportsman's Show	22 Newsletter Input Due
23 Sportsman's Show	24	25 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	26	27	28	29



Auxiliary President's Letter

It's hard to believe 2019 is over. We have been very busy as an Auxiliary with our many projects to help the Post and the area Veterans. We collected items for the homeless, adopted a family at Christmas, served lunch at the Home Depot Veterans work projects, put on Pancake Breakfasts, carried Fallen Soldier banners in two parades, put together large raffle baskets for the SOAR auction, participated in the NCW Veterans Family Day at the college, just to name a few of our projects. We also participated in the Buddy Poppy drives for the Post, Wreaths Across America, Veterans Day, and Vietnam Veterans pinning ceremony with Congresswoman Kim Schreier.

It looks like 2020 is going to be just as busy. The Auxiliary is starting off the new year with the following projects: We are having a pancake breakfast at the Post on January 25th. We will be gathering items for the homeless again to hand out at the shelter in late January or early February. We will have a community day to promote the Illustrating America contest for children K-8th grade in February, and of course our St Paddy's day dinner in March.

With the Post Centennial coming up in 2022, we are excited to help with the planning of the events that will mark this momentous occasion.

I am hoping all of our Auxiliary members find something of interest in all we do and are able to volunteer for the things they find interesting. Please give me a call at (425) 223-2172 if you have any questions about the Auxiliary and/or would like to help. I am looking forward to a busy, fun, and fulfilling year ahead.

Shirley Lance, VFW 3617 Auxiliary President

Welcome New Auxiliary Members!

Lorraine Ashworth

Blair Tamngin

100 YEARS



Centennial Celebration Planning has commenced

For those who don't know, our Post will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary in a couple years (charter date 29 March 1922). We are currently planning a series of events to take place during 2022 to both honor our history as well as look forward to continued service to Veterans in our community.

If you are interested in being part of our Centennial Planning Committee, which currently meets every other month, please reach out to Committee Chair Connie Hill at vfw3617adj@gmail.com or 509.433.7879



Come to Me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways are you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involved being *transformed by the renewing of your mind*. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. *I also know the plans I have for you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence.

Romans 12:2 / Jeremiah 29:11

Larry Severin, Chaplain

Disabled Veterans Can Access Commissaries and Exchanges Starting Jan. 1, 2020

Disabled veterans (0%-90%) will now have access to Commissaries, Military Service Exchanges, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities starting January 1, 2020. Veterans who received a Purple Heart, were former POWs, **or veterans with a service-connected disability rating** will be able to physically access on-base facilities that were previously off limits. Veterans seeking access to military installations can use their current VA-issued **Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC)** to access base facilities. If a veteran is ineligible for a VHIC, DOD will temporarily accept the VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A that indicates Priority Group 8E and an acceptable identification credential, like a REAL-ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport.

Also, individuals **approved and designated** as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers will have access to military facilities.

Contact our VFW service officer if you have further questions.

FAQ page on Disabled Veterans Access to Military Commissaries and Exchanges

<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf>

TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost

Lewis "Lou" Leininger

Curt Lance

Leland Rothenbeuhler

Ronald Hoffman

Welcome New Members!

Sean Gervais

Dan Beattiger

Shawn Derrick

Morris "Moe" Hahn

Gerald Poole

Frank Hogenhout

Lennard Vereb

Dick Winn

Michael Hughs

Greg Day

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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