



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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November 2021

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Commander's Letter

Greetings everyone! It's been busy here at the Post during these last couple months. Our weekly Coffee Break has resumed every Friday between 9:00am-10:30am and we've also brought back the Potluck Dinner before the monthly meetings. So if it's been awhile since you joined us, you have my personal invitation to drop by and get to know us again.

WWII VETERAN TURNS 100 Mr. Luciene Ott of East Wenatchee celebrated his 100th birthday on October 24th surrounded by family and friends at his home on SE 4th Street. As a special surprise, his daughter contacted our VFW Post and asked if it was possible to organize a vehicle parade in front of his house. A quick phone call to the other veteran organizations in the valley started a grassroots word of mouth campaign to get everyone to show up on Sunday to parade by Mr. Ott's house. (*Editor's note: More of the story is available on our website: <https://vfwpost3617.org/news/world-war-2-veteran-turns-100/>*) He was overwhelmed with the turnout and kind gestures he received from the community. His entire family was really appreciative of everyone who showed up to celebrate this local hero's landmark birthday. Thank you to everyone that made the signs and turned out for the parade, you've done your Post and community proud!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (VOD) & PATRIOT'S PEN (PP) October 31st is the deadline for VOD and PP entries to be turned in to the Post. Youth Essays Chairman Jose Solis will be leading the judging team as they score the entries after the November 5th Friday Coffee Break. Our post winners will be forwarded to District 7 for their judging on November 20th. The statewide judging will take place at VFW Department Headquarters in December and winners will be announced at the VFW Mid-Winter Conference in January 2022.

EASTMONT VETERAN INTERVIEWS During the last week of October, students of Eastmont Senior High were interviewing local veterans to get their story of military life. Several members of this post participated in the project which looked into the varied experiences of being in the military. Questions about being drafted, or joining voluntarily, branch of service, boot camp, and technical training started the interview. This was followed by more insightful questions about what it was like to be deployed, what did we miss the most, and if we struggled at all being away from home. All questions were agreed to before the interviews and it was done very professionally. The interviews ended with an opportunity to tell everyone what we thought the community should know about being a veteran. It was a great opportunity to share a little bit about the military and our experiences with the students.

(Continued on page 2)

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I did leave them with a task after my interview... as an alum of Eastmont, graduating in the previous century, I remember we had a plaque that hung on the wall in the old high school on 9th street that was dedicated to classmates who were killed in Vietnam. None of the current students recalled seeing this plaque at their new high school. So I challenged them to research and try to locate the missing plaque and have it restored to its rightful place, a challenge they seemed eager to do. I hope they succeed.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA The annual Wreaths Across America event will take place on **December 18th** at **Evergreen Cemetery** in East Wenatchee starting at 9am. The short ceremony to lay wreaths in honor of all branches of the military will culminate with the opportunity for the attendees to lay wreaths on veteran graves in the cemetery. Dress warm and hope to see you out there. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts will be served at the American Legion following the final laying of wreaths.

DISTRICT 7 MEETING The VFW District 7 Meetings (Post & Auxiliary) will take place at our Post on Saturday, November 20th. Luncheon will be served at 12 noon with meetings scheduled to start at 1pm.

FINAL THOUGHTS As we approach Veteran's Day in a few days, I extend a big thank you to those of you that sacrificed and served your country, and continue to serve through your participation in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Also, a huge thank you to the wives, husbands, and families of military members that stayed behind, sacrificed, and served your country too. I knew that I could keep my mind on the mission if everything was good at home, so your hard work on the home front was vital to so many of us that were "down range" or "over there". Happy Veteran's Day!

Brad Pieratt, Commander

Troubles with the CBOC?

Any veteran in our area who has tried to work with our local VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) knows the troubles that can and do happen. Namely issues with the phone system, but also with appointments and getting the correct care. But what can we do about it? Well, we can talk to our government about it. And **U.S. Congresswoman Kim Schrier, representing the 8th District of Washington**, wants to hear your stories. Kelli Scott, the Congresswoman's Central Washington Office Manager, recently sent the following:

"Our office has heard from local veterans about how difficult it can be to communicate with the Wenatchee CBOC. We have conducted test calls of our own and experienced first-hand the mess of automated messages, dropped calls and endless hold times that vets have to deal with. The Congresswoman is extremely concerned about this and has been making noise with the Spokane VA and in Washington, DC. In order for her to most effectively make the case for communication improvements at the Wenatchee CBOC, she would like to collect stories from local veterans about their experiences dealing with the CBOC. She will then mention those experiences when speaking with the VA Secretary and others in leadership."

If you'd like to share your stories (can be anonymous), please contact Kelli at kelli.scott@mail.house.gov, or (509) 850-5340. Additionally, **Congresswoman Schrier will be in Wenatchee** to meet with and hear from Veterans on **November 9th**. She will be at the CBOC in the early morning and then at the Bunker (Vets Serving Vets) after. Please consider coming out and meeting with the Congresswoman if you are available.



Auxiliary President's Letter

I hope this finds everyone doing well. Let this cov'd virus be over soon. If you have your vaccination get your booster, if you are not vaccinated consider it. We all want to get back to normal.

We survived our crazy day on September 25th. We started with a breakfast at our Post for the National President Jean Hamil. It was fun to meet such a kind and special lady. We went from cleaning up after breakfast to Walla Walla Park for the Veteran's picnic and the Auxiliary Family Festival. We had games and coloring sheets for the children, and handed out youth program information and applications for membership. Not as many in attendance as hoped but we had lots of fun anyway. The food was great too! After the picnic it was on to the dinner for the National President in Cashmere. Could any more have been added to our day?

We finally held our Garage sale at the Post on October 3rd. A big Thank You to everyone who donated items. We could not believe how many donations we had with more showing up as we were setting up that morning. We were able to raise over \$1000.00 for our Veteran's Relief Fund and Family Support. I want to give a special Thank You to Post members who came and helped the Auxiliary: Steve Johnson and Charlie Suriano for helping with set-up and Dave Schwab for the use of his trailer. When the sale was over Steve took a trailer full of items and clothing to the Veteran's Warehouse and about 35 pieces of art to Goodwill. October 23rd for Make A Difference Day the Auxiliary donated ten coats (4 smaller, 6 larger) at the Albertson's collection site.

On the 24th of October many of the Auxiliary members were able to attend the Drive-by Birthday Celebration for Mr. Ott. It was heart warming to see so many helping to make a special day for a Veteran. The family seemed truly amazed by the turn out. A thank you to Brad for the planning, a job well done.

We have lots planned for the upcoming months. We will be collecting items from the East Wenatchee Dollar Tree store and delivering them to schools in need of gifts for students. This program runs through November. Donations can be purchased and left at Dollar Tree stores. We chose the Humane Society as our Community Outreach partner. We are asking members to save their empty toilet paper and paper towel rolls. The Humane Society uses them to hide treats for the shelter animals to entertain them in their kennels. Needless to say they go through a lot of rolls. We will have a collection box at the Post.

We have started on our Christmas plans. We will have a box for food collection at the Post starting in November: we will be collecting nonperishable food to give to Serve Wenatchee or the Bunker. Both organizations provide food for Veterans in need. We will hand out lists of the most needed items. Along with the food drive, we will also have a Veteran family to help at Christmas. We have been asked to help a single mom with two children. More information on the family will follow.

If you haven't signed up for a store for the Buddy Poppy drive please do so. Buddy Poppy Day is November 6th. The sign up sheets are on the board at the Post. We need all of the help we can get so this can be successful. Fundraising has been hard during Cov'd and this will help immensely. The stores are divided with two different shifts so should fit any ones schedule. This is a fun day and a great way to get the VFW and our Post out in the Community.

Stay safe and enjoy this Fall season. The leaves are changing and the Holidays are on the way. We are all looking forward to things feeling more normal and family and friends able to visit.

~ Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President
(425) 223-2172 slanc0382@netzero.com

Naming Hwy 97 World War II Veterans Memorial Highway

My name is David Schwab. I am a Veteran and just starting the process through Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) for naming the portion of Highway 97 that is within the Douglas County Boundaries to "World War II Veterans Memorial Highway".

A veteran from Klickitat County sponsored a similar request to the WSTC covering Hwy 97 from the Oregon border to the Yakima County line. After the WSTC approved his request he reached out to other Counties Veterans Advisory Boards that had US Highway 97 within their boundary, asking for their help to name US Highway 97 from the Oregon border to the Canadian border, World War II Veterans Memorial Highway.

If you area **resident of Douglas County** I would appreciate an email from you noting such and that you support the naming of Highway 97 within the Douglas County borders.

Thank you for your support.

- David Schwab

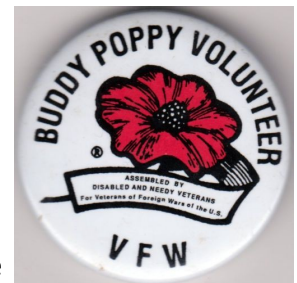
Member of VFW Post 3617, American Legion Post 10, and Douglas County Veterans Advisory Board

email me at davidschwab1946@charter.net

P.S. I am working with a Veteran from Chelan County to name Hwy 97 within the Chelan County borders next.

Buddy Poppies - 6 November

Buddy Poppy Day is scheduled for **Saturday, November 6**. This year is going to be a little different from years past. Due to the pandemic, some corporate offices of our local grocery stores are not approving "Doorway Activities" just yet. As of right now, we have only a couple stores approving our request to hand out poppies, but we're still looking for more opportunities. At coffee on Friday, November 5th, the final store assignments will be posted. If you can give a hand with our fundraising, it would be greatly appreciated. Sign up at the Post. Poppies, tables and supplies will be ready for pickup after coffee.



Zoom Meetings Information

Post Meetings: 17 Nov & 15 Dec @ 7pm

Meeting ID: 815 7531 2989

Passcode: 996024

Coffee with the (State) Commander via Zoom

VFW Washington Commander Chad Hassebroek is hosting monthly open discussion and information sharing sessions via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (same as our Post meetings). Open to all.

Meeting ID: 830 9932 2478

Passcode: 123456

17 Nov & 15 Dec @ 10am or 4pm

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.

Gather In Love

Spending time with family and friends is a big part of the holidays. So, loving those we spend time with and truly enjoying those relationships is very important. Let's take a look at some ideas on how you can love those around you in a greater way.

Jesus said, *"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another"* (John 13:34).

We were created by God to have relationships, and some of the greatest joys in our life can be found in our connection with others—with our spouses, our friends, our children and grandchildren, coworkers and neighbors. Healthy relationships bring us new strength and true joy.

But some relationships can be more difficult, and you may be asking yourself, *How can I get along better with those people? How can I love others the way God loves me? How can I make a struggling relationship better?*

There are several different keys to building better relationships. But one thing in particular is that God always takes care of you when you put the needs of others ahead of your own.

Selfishness destroys a relationship—but *selflessness* makes it thrive. It's not always easy to do. Many times, other people don't act in a way that we want or expect them to.

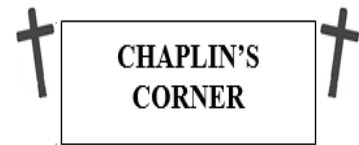
But if you'll look for ways to bless others, your relationships will improve. And the amazing result is, God will bless you in return.

John 13:34-35 NLT

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

From "The Greatest Gift" by Joyce Meyer (<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13276-the-greatest-gift/day/1>)

- Sarah Simonson, Chaplain



TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost

Roger Bratner

Larry Davis

Donald Dwinell

Lawrence Kolzowski

John Graybill

Keith A Balthazar

Earl R. Storey

From the Editor

As a reminder, any member of the Post or Auxiliary may submit stories, photos, article ideas, etc for inclusion both on the website and in our newsletter. The next issue of the newsletter will publish on/around 10 January 2022, so the deadline for submissions is end of the year (this allows time for any holiday events to be shared). Photos and stories to be included on the website can be submitted at any time via email.

If you have any questions, comments, stories, photos, or just ideas, email webmaster@vfwpost3617.org

Thanks,

- Connie Hill, Adjutant / Newsletter / Webmaster

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