

THE NORTH BEND - SNOQUALMIE LEGIONNAIRE

DECEMBER 2022



RENTON-PICKERING POST 79 THE AMERICAN LEGION

PO BOX 359

38625 SE RIVER STREET SNOQUALMIE, WA 98065

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- DEC 6th (TUES) NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY (HALF STAFF DAY)
- DEC 8th (THURS) **CHANGE! MEETING 7 PM @ LOS CABOS, COME EARLIER TO EAT!**
- DEC 14th (WED) EASTSIDE VETERANS DUTY DAY @ TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!
- DEC 25th (SUN) CHRISTMAS DAY - PUBLIC OBSERVANCE MONDAY THE 26th.
- DEC 31st (SAT) NEW YEARS EVE



FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER



New Year

What will the new year bring? The first thing I look at is, what am I bringing with me into the new year.

Lucky me, I don't have a lot of baggage this year and what I do have is small, but that may not be the same for many of us.

We all make choices in our life; Do we make the same mistakes and not learn? Since I became the Post Commander, I have had challenge after challenge in learning what this position requires. With this in mind, I move forward.

MICHAEL POLLINA
Commander, Post 79

I try to rely on my belief system to guide me in everything, well, I try to!

Our Post has some immediate needs and contacts have been made to hopefully remedy these problems early in the new year. And with the support of all members of our Post, we will bring our Post to the forefront of our community in supporting our Veterans.



I wish everyone a wonderful New Year and Merry Christmas.

INTRODUCING OUR POST ADJUTANT AND FINANCE OFFICER

Mike has been married to his beautiful wife Rachel for 31 years. He has a son Sam from a previous marriage and a stepdaughter Erica from Rachel's previous marriage. They have nine grandchildren and one more on the way. He taught mathematics at Mount Si High School for 34 years and coached Track, Wrestling, and Golf. Hobbies over the years have been skiing, golf, and motorcycle riding.



His motorcycle has taken him across the country 7 times to Washington DC with an organization called Run for The Wall. It was started in 1989 to promote the POW-MIA issue and participate in Rolling Thunder in DC on Memorial Weekend. Mike's FNG year was 2011.

Mike was born in 1948 in Seattle. He grew up in North Seattle and Renton, graduating from Renton High School in 1966. He attended Western Washington College for two years before joining the Army in 1968. Boot camp was done at Fort Lewis followed by Avionics training at Fort Gordon in Georgia. At the end of schooling the top 8 of us were trained for Control Tower Repair to work at the 8 towers in Vietnam. All 8 of us agreed to volunteer knowing we were going to Vietnam.

In Vietnam, he was the only one of the 8 who did not get assigned to a Tower. The Commanding General of the 4th Division refused to release him and kept him in B Co, 4th Aviation Battalion where he worked as an Avionics repairman. Since the radios were repaired by civilian contractors his job was to merely pull the radios and work on the electrical problems with the aircraft. He developed his skills at keeping the aircraft flying and got the reputation at being able to solve complex electrical issues.



When the UHF radio in the Division War Room went down, he got asked to come and try and solve the problem. Upon entering the room and looking at the radio, he fixed the broken antenna zues fitting in about 5 minutes. Two days later he was told by his first sergeant that he was being awarded 4th Division Soldier of Month which meant a week being the assistant to the Commanding General and the awarding of the Army Commendation Medal along with a 2-day R&R to Vung Tau. Following Vietnam he spent his last 8 months of service in Finthen, Germany. He was a member of a Flyng Crane outfit still assigned to avionics but again leaving the work to civilians. With that he became the company clerk and was able to type up his own early out to go back to college in 1971.



Top Soldier

Spec. 4 Michael D. Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Johnston, 7640 S. Lakeridge Dr., Seattle, has been named soldier of the week of the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Johnston, a 1966 graduate of Renton High School will be awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

Mike joined the American Legion in 2007 to be part of the **Post's Legion Rider** program. In 2009, the Commander and Adjutant both showed up to a meeting, placed boxes of their stuff on the table and said they were resigning, effective immediately. That is when Mike became the Adjutant and Finance Officer and has been ever since.



OUR VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES



Selection of photos from the Auburn Veterans Day Parade on Nov 5th, the Mt Si High School Veterans Day Assembly on Nov 10th, the Snoqualmie Casino Observance on Nov 11th, etc. can be viewed by opening up this link to our special photo album for your viewing pleasure:



<https://photos.app.goo.gl/yA2aLvtNiZKBy5FJ8>

Our first event was the Auburn Veterans Day Parade on Saturday Nov 5th with the truck decorated with all the flags led by Officers Art and Rob with the Post 79 Banner.



A special thanks to Mt Si High School for their wonderful assembly on Nov 10th followed by a brunch prepared by the Culinary Arts Department.

The final event was a Flag Presentation Ceremony at the Snoqualmie Casino. Here's a link to the article in the Valley Record for the event with photos of the event attended by the Mayor of Snoqualmie, Tribal Officers and Members and local elected officials.

<https://www.valleyrecord.com/life/valley-tribe-honor-its-veterans-in-flag-ceremony/>

MEMORIES OF PEARL HARBOR DEC 7TH 1941



Not many of us here experienced the "*day of infamy*" when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor so I will share some of these memories. The first I heard about the attack was going to school Monday morning when the principal announced that we were attacked and said some prayers and sang "*My Country Tis Of Thee*" which we sang instead of the National Anthem as we know it.

The next long 4 years saw most of the dad's leaving for the war both in the Pacific and in Europe with some classmates losing their fathers. My own Father a WW I Veteran was too old to be drafted. We had food rationing stamps and not everyone owned cars but also had gas and tire rationing.

Our play time was usually playing "*Krauts*" and "*Japs*" in the woods with toy guns and some helmets we got. Political correctness was an unknown concept and there was little sympathy for our German and Italian neighbors and classmates. Unlike the West Coast we had no Japanese in New York. We had comic books with inserts telling how to recognize the difference between Chinese and Japanese by their eye shapes and believe it or not from the shape of their feet and toes.

When VE Day and VJ Day finally came in 1945 we were relieved and overjoyed and the fathers started to return home. It seemed like it was all over in a short time for everyone except those who lost loved ones. When Flags are lowered again this year on December 7th how many of the younger generation will even know or understand what happened back then 81 years ago. Thank you for reading this and letting me share my own memories of a different time from a different place. ***Never forget!***



Art Farash. 2nd Vice Commander, Honor Guard Leader, Newsletter Editor

TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD



The Eastside Veterans Honor Guard comprising members of American Legion Post 79 and VFW Posts 3436 Issaquah and 2995 Redmond were pleased to welcome its newest member of the Rifle Team George Townsend from Post 79.

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Nov 9th at Tahoma National Cemetery with only 2 services with military honors for one Navy and one Army veteran with Vietnam Service. Active Duty Navy and Washington Army National Guard folding and presenting the Flag. Normally services can vary from one or two to as many as 8 or 10 depending on scheduling. Visit Tahoma National Cemetery on its website

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/tahoma.asp>

THE FOUR CRUCIBLES OF SUCCESS

By

Bill Cottringer



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"The 'luck' of success is when your efforts meet the right opportunity to apply them." Anonymous.

There are four crucibles to success: Purpose, Perspective, Principles, and Passion. No success can happen without these four Ps working together to produce needed change and get the best results in anything from winning the World Series to growing an organization like ours. The four P's all conveniently blend together as a powerful driving force. Each are discussed briefly below. Thank you for reading and it is my hope for success for our Post in 2023.

Dr. Bill Cottringer, Post 79 Historian.

Purpose

Whatever starts out right, has the best chance of finishing well and having a purpose is a primary goal that assures success when you apply these four Ps. Without having a clear purpose in anything you are doing, there is no real finish line in sight. You live your purpose by finding the best perspective of viewing life and people, and applying important success principles, with your growing passion.

Perspective

What you see as the "truth" is mostly dependent upon where you are doing the looking in time and place. The best place is always in the middle to see 360-degrees—up and down, left, and right, and inside and outside. And fortunately, this "golden mean" viewpoint is virtually timeless.

Principles

The only genuine shortcut to success is finding and applying tried and true success principles. The most widely useful principle is a perturbation point, or just "P" Point for short. This is a situation where a small, strategically timed and placed intervention get the biggest results. A good example is a newspaper headline drawing readers attention.

Passion

Actually, it is passion that both drives your purpose, perspective, and principles and is also a by-product from applying these other three crucibles. It is kind of like success being what you get from doing the things with which you achieve it. Passion is empathy for doing the right thing in the right way.

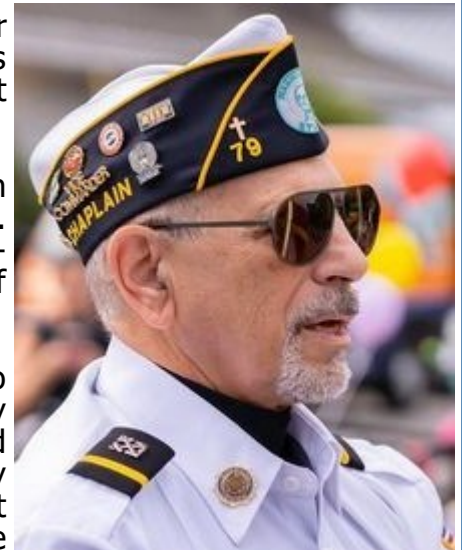
THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

PEACE OF MIND

Peace, where is peace - for our nations, our homes, and most of all our hearts and minds. This desperate cry has been heard through the ages. It is also the cry for your heart.

People are worried and weary. Without a doubt there a need for direction and console, security and confidence. We need, and want, peace, of mind. People are weary and worried. Without a doubt there exists a need for direction and counsel, security and confidence. We need and want peace of mind.

Peace of Mind, what a treasure! Can this treasure be found in a world of so much conflict and despair, turmoil and trouble? The great searches on! Many people are sinking peace in fame and fortune, and pleasure and power, and education and knowledge, in the human relationships and marriage. They desire to fill their heads with knowledge and their purses with wealth, but their souls remain empty. Others are seeking to escape the realities of life with drugs or alcohol, but the peace they seek eludes them they are still empty and lonely, still in and a troubled world with a troubled mind.



Michael Pollina Post 79 Chaplain

FROM THE EDITOR. This is the 4th edition of The Snoqualmie Legionnaire Newsletter which is intended to inform our friends and fellow Veterans of the activities of Post 79. Please read, download a share on your social media. It is being sent both as a link to open and as a Document for your choice. News, articles, photos as well as comments are welcome and can be sent directly to the Editor artfarash@gmail.com.