

The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire



Renton-Pickering Post 79, 38625 SE S. E. River Road, Snoqualmie, WA 98065

WEBSITE: <https://www.waalpost79.org/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER

DEC 7th NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY (FLAGS HALF STAFF)

DEC 13th (WED) TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY DUTY DAY

DEC 14th (THURS) MONTHLY POST MEETING @ 7:00 PM IN POST HALL.

DEC 25th (MONDAY) CHRISTMAS DAY

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

We made it through Thanksgiving and hopefully, it only added a few ounces to us. Christmas is in front of us, more family time and being with good friends, sharing in this most wonderful time of the year. Then right around the corner is the New Year, what does it have in store for us?

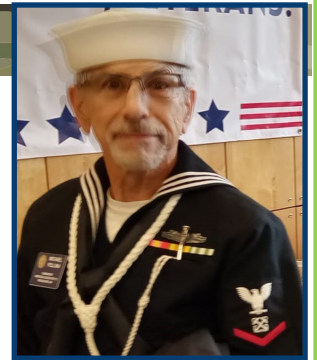
There is so much conflict in the world, that seems to dominate people's thoughts and hearts. Nonetheless, we must look forward to the new year in planning for the best. As Legionnaires, we should have a plan to move forward and fulfill our charter. It starts at our Post level and then moves on from there into the lives of our members and veterans and their families and then our community. None of this can happen without planning, this cannot happen without each one of us stepping up to the plate.

Since May 2023 we now have seven new members as a result of our community exposure that we diligently worked on this year. Some of these new members have contributed handsomely to our Post already. I have seen our Post Members engaging at each meeting. We have upped our charity-giving and sponsorship. We have a great start going into the New Year and we will be "dry" when we get in our building. As we are aware, the Shelter vacates the building in February 2024, and we must be ready to hit the ground running with some of the ideas we have. We also will have a "Get The Post Looking Good" work party coming up.

Let 2024 be the year the Valley knows our name by what we do for our veterans, their families, and our Auxiliary and how we engage the community. I am looking forward to working for all of you this New Year and having your support.

Merry Christmas to all and a wonderful New Year,

Michael Pollina, Post Commander. American Legion Post 79



FROM THE POST ADJUTANTS DESK

The major issues discussed or resolved at the November 9th Post 79 meeting were -

- ◆ The Post building roof has been completed with the final inspection scheduled
- ◆ Members voted to donate \$300 to "Sweats for Vets" being coordinated by Legion Post 78 in District 11
- ◆ The members voted to sponsor Cub Scout Pack 452 as well as Boy Scout Troop 466, with Chaplain Jim Besso as the Post liaison to both organizations.
- ◆ The members voted to support a \$500 scholarship to the winner of an essay contest with the theme of "What does military service mean to me". The scholarship will go to a Mt. Si High School senior next year.
- ◆ The Post will be distributing free turkeys (donated to us by the Snoqualmie Casino) to Legion members or veterans on Tuesday, November 21st at the Post.



*George Townsend
Post Adjutant/First
Vice Commander*

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*Jim Besso
Post 79 Chaplain*

Fellow Veterans and Legionnaires, It is hard to fathom that December is already upon us! As the colder weather closes in, and the white stuff seems to drift down the slopes of the foothills, we head into the height of the Holiday Season. But December also heralds an important day in the history of our country; one that is not festive but needs to be remembered.

In the early morning of December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise military strike against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack, which lasted for two hours, was devastating. In total, 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk or severely damaged, including five battleships. The attack was a turning point in World War II, bringing the United States into the war and solidifying its resolve to defeat Japan. Until that fateful event, the United States was largely isolationist and was dedicated to neutrality. After years of resisting repeated calls to ally with those embattled against the Axis, Congress passed a resolution to declare war on Japan the day after the attack, and against Germany three days later. The U.S. entry into the conflict marked a turning point in the battle against the Axis powers, and led to their defeat. The attack marked the largest loss of life on American soil during the war, by a wide margin. The second highest casualty count was 5, caused by balloon attacks by Japan along the Northwest Coastlines of Oregon and Washington.

The Battle of Wake Island also took place in December. December 8-23, 1941 saw a small but significant victory for the United States in the early days of the war. A small garrison of Marines and Navy personnel were able to defend Wake Island for several weeks against a much larger Japanese force. The battle ended with the surrender of the American garrison, but it bought valuable time for the United States to prepare its defenses in the Pacific.

Please take a few moments on December 7th to remember those who gave their lives in the defense of their comrades and our country. The Holidays often overshadow the contributions of our brothers and sisters in arms, which is unfortunate. The peace and freedoms we exercise in our celebrations were in part paid for by those brave Americans.

I know I didn't say much about the holidays themselves. More to come! December is upon us, and there is much to be celebrated, but I thought it was important to honor those to whom December means something a bit different. **For God and Country, Chaplain Jim**

VETERANS DAY IN THE SNOQUALMIE VALLEY

TWIN FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY. The first activity was a Veterans Day Assembly at Twin Falls Middle School on Wednesday Nov 8th where several Post 79 Members attended. The featured speaker was Post 79's 2nd Vice Commander Bill Cottringer.

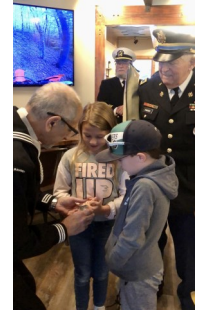
MT SI HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY AND VETERANS BREAKFAST. Our next activity was at Mt Si High School on Thursday Nov 9th where all Veterans were invited to a Veterans Day Assembly followed by a great breakfast hosted by the School's Culinary Department. About 20 Veterans as well as active duty Recruiters attended.



SNOQUALMIE TRIBE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY. On Saturday Nov 11th in honor of Veterans Day, the Snoqualmie Casino hosted a flag raising ceremony. The event included the members of the Snoqualmie American Legion Post 79 and Snoqualmie Tribe Honor Guard. Snoqualmie Mayor Ross joined Snoqualmie Tribe leaders, King County Councilmember Sarah Perry, Representative Bill Ramos, the SnoValley Chamber of Commerce, North Bend Councilmember Mary Miller, Officers and Members of American Legion Post 79 and others to reflect and honor local veterans with a special Veterans' Day ceremony at the Snoqualmie Casino.



Our last event was at the South Fork Restaurant in North Bend where the Post Color Guard Presented the Colors. We were honored to have two local children sing the songs of all of the Military Services for us after the ceremony.



Jeri Taylor-Swade These are my Grandchildren. Jordyn is 10, Nathan is 8. They live in Kennewick and were here visiting us. My son and myself are both Veterans and so we thought it was important that they experienced a Veterans Day Colors Ceremony. They go to a private school and they learned this song there. Their school has a Veterans Day celebration as well. *Jeri Taylor-Swade, North Bend*

WHAT IS PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

What is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2023?

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is an annual commemoration that pays tribute to the events of December 7, 1941, when the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese forces. This attack led to the United States' entry into World War II and had a profound impact on the nation and the world.



How to Commemorate National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2023?

Participating in the observance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day allows individuals to honor the memory of the events of December 7, 1941, and the sacrifices made during World War II. Here are ways to commemorate this day:

- **Attend Commemorative Events:** Many communities and military bases hold memorial ceremonies and events on December 7th. Attend these events to pay your respects and show support.
- **Visit Memorials and Museums:** Explore local memorials, museums, and historical sites related to World War II and the Pearl Harbor attack. Learn about the history and impact of the events.
- **Observe a Moment of Silence:** At 7:55 a.m. (the time of the attack), observe a moment of silence to honor the victims and reflect on the significance of the day.
- **Support Veterans:** Donate to veterans' organizations or volunteer your time to support veterans and their families. Many veterans from World War II are still alive and appreciate recognition and assistance.
- **Learn and Educate:** Study the history of World War II and the events leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Share this knowledge with younger generations to ensure the memory lives on.
- **Encourage all Flags to be lowered to Half Staff at the Post and Community.** Display the Flag at your homes.

TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD

On Wed Nov 7th our Eastside Veterans Honor Guard with members of VFW Post 2995 Redmond and American Legion Post 79 had a total of 9 services with Military Honors at Tahoma National Cemetery. Services were back to back every half hour with a short 30-minute break at noon. There were five US Navy, two US Army, and one each USAF and USMC services. Veterans were honored from Korea (2), Vietnam (4), Persian Gulf (1), and the Cold War (2). Here are some photos to see!



(Continued on Page 5)



The original members of the Tahoma National Cemetery when it was first opened for burials in 1997 included Members of American Legion Post 79 and the Snoqualmie VFW Post and presently there are four Post 79 Members actively participating along with two from Redmond VFW Post 2995. As of December 2023 Eastside Honor Guard Chaplain Michael Pollina has volunteered 214 hours, Rifleman George Townsend 70 hours and Honor Guard Commander/Rifleman Art Farash 854 hours since 2009. The Honor Guard has officiated at over 77 burials with Military Honors in 2023. We welcome any Veterans to join us at this important duty of Military Funeral Honors at Tahoma National Cemetery.

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Explained by Bill Cottringer,

The misunderstood core values of Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion are a big part of the uncomfortable divide going on in our country. However, a better understanding of why and how to live these values in any organization can transform a potentially toxic work culture into a very healthy, satisfying, and productive one. Below is a more positive way to view and practice these values:



Diversity

The value of diversity goes far beyond culture, ethnicity, and race, to include the multitude of other individual differences in people such as age, gender, educational level, religious upbringing, family background, intelligence level, physical and mental disabilities, etc. The reason why diversity is so important in organizations is that these individual differences offer varied and useful perspectives on important functions such as communication, motivation, performance, problem-solving, and decision-making.

Equality

Despite all these individual differences, we all have the same legal right to be treated equally and not be discriminated against because of our differences. To assume superiority or inferiority or disrespect others based on these individual differences is an affront to common decency and fundamental fairness. And unfortunately, the greater the diversity, the greater the temptation to be annoyed or angered at differences. *The Golden Rule* applies here.

Inclusion

Our society tends to marginalize or set aside people who seem to be too difficult to deal with in the traditional or preferred ways. The trouble today, is that too many outcasts have been marginalized and the problem is so big that it demands an immediate solution. The challenge for leaders is to purposefully include these previously excluded people more in all the various organizational activities through open, two-way communication, more engagement and shared decision-making.

The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire is the monthly electronic newsletter of American Legion Post 79, Department of Washington and is published each month for the information of all our Members, Supporters, and the Local Veterans Community in the Snoqualmie Valley. The Editor is Art Farash the Post Sergeant at Arms and Honor Guard Commander. Send any comments to Artfarash@gmail.com please. Your own news and public interest submissions are needed and welcome.

Thank you for reading our Newsletter.

OUR POST SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

FLINTOFT'S
 Funeral Home and Crematory
 Family owned and operated since 1938



SCUTTLEBUTT - THIS AND THAT NEWS



VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11TH



NORTH BEND VETERANS MEMORIAL

Last month the City of North Bend installed a new sign directing visitors to the North Bend Veterans Memorial at City Hall after some public comments that the Memorial was had to find - thank you Mark Rigos and the City of North Bend.



Last month the new roof was installed at the Post 79 building in Downtown Snoqualmie to replace the previous roof installed in 2008 and hopefully this one will last a lot longer. Still a lot more work to do on the building.



Looking good **LTC (Ret) Dave Waggoner** in his brand new set of Army "pinks and greens" the Army's newest service uniform. The pinks and greens uniform that first appeared in the mid-1920s and was retired in the mid-1950s — provides a smart, stylish look for everyday wear that allows dress blues to become what they were always intended to be: the dress uniform that is a bit too formal to wear every day.

