

The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire



March 2023 Issue

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

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MARCH 8th (Wednesday) Tahoma National Cemetery Honor Guard

MARCH 9th (Thursday) 7:00 pm Monthly Post Meeting

MARCH 29th (Thursday) National Vietnam War Veterans Day (See Article on Page 4)

MARCH 30th (Friday) Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (POW/MIA Flag Display Day)

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL 6th (Thursday) 7:00 pm Monthly Post Meeting. Nominations for Officers for Elections in May.

MAY 6th (Saturday) Stay tuned for a very special event - details announced next month!

MAY 29th (Monday) Memorial Day Observed with ceremonies at local cemeteries and memorials. Details announced at May Meeting

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

Why Join The American Legion?

Do You Remember?

Do you remember when your unit was under fire? You were scared. You didn't know whether you would ever get home again, see your family, your loved ones. And the only thing that you could count on in that instant was your buddy. And you knew he was counting on you too. Perhaps you were one of the lucky ones who never saw combat. Do you remember the tediousness of garrison life or living aboard a ship at sea? Do you remember the interminable hurry up and wait? Do you remember the inane make-work projects you were ordered to do? But your buddy was always there alongside you, making the wise-crack, helping you make it through each day, maybe even covering for you on occasion.

Your buddy still needs you!

Maybe your buddy is in one of the VA hospitals; his war wounds and/or time have taken its toll on his body. Maybe he or she is a young veteran, just discharged from service in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Vietnam, and is having difficulty finding a civilian job. Maybe your buddy is just an ordinary guy or gal like yourself, wanting to share stories and comradeship with someone who was in a similar situation. The American Legion is the place for you to help your buddy and for your buddy to help you. Founded in 1919, it is the largest veteran's organization in the United States with over 3 million members. We are veterans just like you. We care about America, our fellow veterans, our families and our children. As a member of our Post we continue to serve our God, our Country and our Community. Your Post needs you now. Our Legionnaires participate in many community activities such as parades, memorials, dedications, etc. Local Posts have funeral honor guard details ready, willing and able to serve at the family's request. Funeral details are available to all veterans. When requested, we are also available to help other veteran organizations with their memorials. Our local Posts sponsor students in their community to participate better educate our children.



*Michael Pollina
Commander, Post 79,
Snoqualmie, WA*



The American Legion Family

(Continued from P.1)

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our our vision: veterans, the military and their families.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families.

A VETERAN IS A VETERAN

The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.

SELFLESS SERVICE

The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.

AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM

The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.

ADVANCING THE VISION

The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans.

HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US

The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.

WE ARE THE UNITED STATES ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY, AIR FORCE, COAST GUARD AND SPACE FORCE.



CHAPLAINS CORNER - FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



JESUS CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE

There can be no peace until all aspects of life are brought into harmony with the one who made and understands us. This is only possible by a complete surrender to Christ. He is not only master of the world but knows our life from the beginning to the end. He was thinking of us when he came into the world to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace (Luke 1:79) Jesus offers light for darkness, peace for strife, joy for sorrow, hope for despair, and life for death. He says in (John 14:27) "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*"

REPENTANCE BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

When you feel the heavy load of sin weighing you down, the remedy is to repent.. And be converted that your sins may be blotted out acts 3: 19. Jesus invites you to this most meaningful life changing experience. Quote *come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" [Matthew 11: 28]. First John 1: 9 proses "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Will you accept His invitation? When you come to Jesus, you will find forgiveness and freedom. Instead of resentment and unforgiveness, your heart is filled with love and mercy. With Jesus reigning in your heart, you will love your enemies. This is possible through the power of Christ's redeeming blood.

ABIDING PEACE

As a Christian, faith in God and trust and his care is the antidote for fear and anxiety. How restful is it to trust in an unchanging God who was from everlasting to everlasting. He loves us and will always care for us. So why worry and fret? Learn to do as we read in first Peter 5: 7 quote casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you. " we also have the promise "*Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee. Because he trusted in the*" [Isaiah 26: three]. With Jesus Christ in your heart, your search for peace is over. He will give peace and a calm that comes only from trusting him. You will be able to say with the poet "*I know peace where there is no peace a calm: where a wild winds blow, a secret place where face to face with the master I may go.*"

- Ralph Spaulding Cushman

THE ABC'S OF GOOD INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS



BE AS LIKEABLE AS YOU CAN (YES THIS IS A GOOD TOOL TO ADD TO YOUR GIVEN AUTHORITY)

- Be positive and look for ways to interpret some positive aspect, even in negative events.
- Practice politeness and take genuine interest in the person and what he or she is saying or doing (this is just another way of treating others the way you want to be treated).
- Be honest and sensitive to other people's feelings and situations, without faking it.
- Act as smart as you can with good common sense and always have a good appearance that is appealing as it can be (right or wrong, people do judge books by their covers).

Know what makes people tick:

- We all want to be treated with respect, dignity, equality, fairness, and freedom.
- We all want to feel important, do something meaningful and be recognized for our efforts.
- We all perceive things differently, but our perceptions are our realities that we act on.
- We are all capable of doing wrong, given enough of the wrong opportunities or stresses.
- Helping other people get what they need and want is the key to interpersonal success.

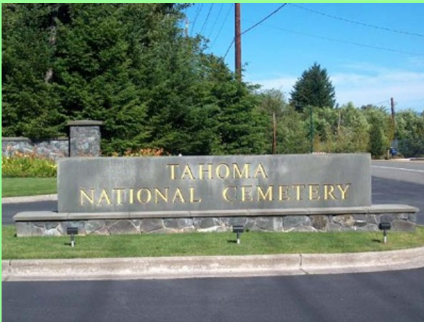
Learn, grow, and improve:

- Learning and improving your interpersonal relations skills is a "perpetual college."
- As soon as you think you know it all, you will find out you don't.
- Use your natural skills to improve your weaknesses but focus mainly on your strengths.
- Have someone who you trust to give you honest and accurate feedback, good or bad.



By Bill Cottringer

OUR TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD



Perhaps the most visible and most significant program of our Post is the Tahoma National Cemetery Honor Guard which represents Post 79 each month providing Military Funeral Honors as part of the Eastside Veterans Honor Guard. Last month we had no burials scheduled on our Duty Day the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This month we will be telling you more about Tahoma National Cemetery.

Tahoma National Cemetery was established Nov 11,1993, and opened for interments on Oct 1,1997. The cemetery was dedicated on Sept. 26, 1997. A small expansion project was completed in March 2006, adding over 12,000 new columbarium niches, more than 5,000 pre-placed crypts, road improvements, new signage, a third committal shelter and a third funeral cortege lane at the Public Information Center. Phase II expansion project was completed June 2014, adding 14,000 new columbarium niches, more than 9,000 pre-placed crypts, more than 6,000 in-ground garden cremation sites, two memorial walls and an ossuary.

Tahoma has a Memorial walkway containing 36 memorials that commemorate soldiers of various 20th century wars, donated by various service organizations. At the northeast corner of the walkway is the POW-MIA flag. At the southwest corner of the walkway is a carillon that was donated by the Navy Fleet reserve Association Seattle Branch 18 and was installed in 2010, dedicated to the volunteers of Tahoma National Cemetery. (Continued on Page 4)



MEDAL OF HONOR Recipients buried or memorialized here:

Corporal Jesse T. Barrick (Civil War). He received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Army, Company H, 3d Minnesota Infantry, for actions near Duck River, Tennessee, May 26 - June 2, 1863. Barrick received a commission as an officer, Company G, 57th U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment, in July 1864; he mustered out of service that October. Second Lieutenant Barrick died in 1923

Sergeant Dexter J. Kerstetter (World War II). He received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Army, Company C, 130th Infantry, 33rd Infantry Division, for actions near Galiano, Luzon, Philippine Islands, April 13, 1945. Kerstetter died in 1972.

Master Sergeant Wilburn K. Ross (World War II). He received the Medal of Honor while serving in the U.S. Army, Company G, 30th Infantry, 3d Division, for actions near St. Jacques, France, October 30, 1944. Ross died in 2017.

The United States National Cemetery System is a system of 164 cemeteries in the United States and its territories. For more information visit <https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/tahoma.asp>

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



Historically, **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day** is a holiday that has been celebrated since 1973 on either March 29th or March 30th of each year through a patchwork of state resolutions. The first **Vietnam Veterans Day**, declared by President Richard Nixon in 1974, coincided with the one-year anniversary of the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from Vietnam on March 29, 1973. Today, the holiday is officially observed on March 29th and is referred to as **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**.

Is it Vietnam Veterans Day or Welcome home Vietnam Veterans Day? Depends on what State you live in. Most states celebrate "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" on March 29 or 30 of each year. Though there is some debate, March 29 is generally viewed as a more appropriate date. The Washington State Legislature passed HB 1319 in 2013 making **March 30** of each year "**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**". All state and local public entities are required to fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag at their main building.



THE HISTORY OF OUR POST

Renton-Pickering Post 79 of The American Legion in Snoqualmie, Washington is named for not just one decorated WW I Veteran but two local men who served in WW I – David Renton and Lester B. Pickering.

Pickering was an Army 1st LT who died in France in 1918 as a result of a battlefield wound. **David Renton** enlisted as a Private in the 20th Engineers and died after his troopship was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Scotland.

The **David Renton Post 79** received its charter on December 12, 1919 at North Bend, Washington with 30 Charter Members.

The **Lester B. Pickering Post 102** received its charter on January 30, 1922 at Duvall, Washington. Thirty-one names appear on the original charter.



Due to membership numbers and popularity, these two posts merged and a new charter was issued Sept. 14, 1925. The name of this new post was **Renton-Pickering Post No. 79** and the charter was issued at Fall City.

The building, which is now home for the American Legion, was the original Snoqualmie Valley United Methodist Church. In 1924, after the church building had been outgrown by its population, it was loaded onto logs and rolled or skidded across the street to its present location shown on the photo.

INTRODUCING OUR MEMBER RALPH FREEMAN



Ralph Freeman was born and raised in Hoquiam, WA . He graduated from Hoquiam High School in 1950 and joined the Navy in July 1950 . He did boot camp in San Diego and then school in Great Lakes. He then went to his first ship in Bremerton, WA and then made two tours to Korea . His ship was **USS Bon Home Richard CV31** an Essex-class aircraft carrier.

He was discharged in 1954 . Ralph joined the Legion in 2000. Dave Lake was the one who signed him up in both the American Legion and VFW. Ralph was one of the early volunteers at Tahoma National Cemetery. At the present time he is a "snow bird" in Arizona but will soon be back in town again.



Ralph shown with Dave Lake , Dave Mauter and Jim Posey in 2010. Jim is wearing his Tahoma National Cemetery Honor Guard jacket

SAVE THE DATES



Coming on Saturday May 6th!

We are planning for a major community event on this date that will involve all of us Post 79 Members - more details will be announced in the near future.

Also coming will be our traditional Memorial Day Observances on Monday May 29th with services starting at Preston followed by Fall City and the Snoqualmie Valley Veterans Memorial and Mt Si Cemetery in North Bend culminating at the North Bend Veterans Memorial

We will have our Annual Elections at the Post Meeting in May with Nominations accepted at the April Meeting. Members are needed to fill several vacant Officer Positions. Please think about stepping up!



OUR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Commander: Michael Pollina michaelpollina@gmail.com

1st Vice Cdr: George Townsend gntownsend@yahoo.com

2nd Vice Cdr: Art Farash artfarash@gmail.com

Adjutant/Finance: Mike Johnston mikedjohnston@comcast.net

Chaplain: Michael Pollina michaelpollina@gmail.com

Service Officer: Dave Waggoner davids_waggoner@msn.com

Sgt at Arms: **Vacant**

Historian: Bill Cottringer ckuretdoc@comcast.net

Judge Advocate: **Vacant**

Armorer: George Townsend gntownsend@yahoo.com

Honor Guard: Art Farash artfarash@gmail.com

Newsletter: Art Farash artfarash@gmail.com