

# The American Legion

## Renton-Pickering Post # 79



### The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire

P.O. Box 359 38625 SE River Street, Snoqualmie, WA 98065



AUGUST 2024 ISSUE



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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING - AUGUST 2024

- AUG 8 (Thurs) MONTHLY POST MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE POST**
- AUG 10 (Sat) FESTIVAL AT MT SI PARADE—POST COLOR GUARD— 10:30 AM**
- AUG 14 (Wed) TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY DUTY DAY**
- AUG 17 (Sat) SNOQUALMIE DAYS PARADE—POST COLOR GUARD— 11:00 AM  
POST 79 INFORMATION BOOTH. DONATION SALE AT POST.**

## FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires!

August is bearing down on us just as July is closing out. We've had a busy month preparing for our first ever "**Donation Sale**" which is scheduled for the weekend of July 27 & 28. Many, many staff hours have been consumed receiving incoming donated items and pricing/displaying them in the Post building. Let's hope we're able to sell ALL the donated items for the benefit of the Post's treasury and our ability to convert those dollars to community welfare and veteran support!

Meanwhile, King County has been generous to our post in awarding us a County Council grant which I just heard about on July 22nd. Many thanks to our District Council Representative, Sarah Perry, for her unwavering and continual support of veterans in the Snoqualmie Valley!

Meanwhile, Post 79 Officers have been steadily welcoming a string of cross-country bicycle riders from Warrior Expeditions; a group that this year has sponsored 7 riders bicycling across America, departing from Washington DC back in May and terminating in Forks, WA. after pedaling more than 3,800 miles on the Great American Rail Trail. Each rider is a combat veteran seeking to find themselves and America in this once-in-a-lifetime sojourn. A special thanks goes out to Post 79 Legionnaire, Johnny Blair, owner of South Fork Cafe, who graciously sponsored a dinner for our 3rd rider passing through North Bend earlier this month. 4 more to go!!!

As we enter the month of August, look to see our Post 79 Honor Guard members at the head of the Snoqualmie Railroad Days Parade and North Bend's annual parade (do we still call it "Alpine Days"?). Meanwhile, we're always looking for more valley veterans to join our happy Post, so please don't hesitate to reach out to your diligent Adjutant ([gntownsend@yahoo.com](mailto:gntownsend@yahoo.com)) for more information on membership and joining "*we few, we happy few, we Band of Brothers*" at Post 79. A special thanks to William Shakespeare for that quote from "*Henry V*". Until next month, I remain your humble Adjutant and Finance Officer.

**George Townsend**

## THE CHAPLAINS CORNER



### Comrades,

It is hard to believe it is already August! As the dry, warm days of Summer pass us by, we anticipate putting the hot, steamy days of July behind us as we ease into cooler, but still mostly Sunny, days of August.

Often overlooked in terms of US Military History, August does enjoy memorable moments, such as The Battle of Fallen Timbers (August 20, 1794). This battle was a pivotal moment in the Northwest Indian War. It took place along the Maumee River near present-day Toledo, Ohio. The United States forces, led by General Anthony Wayne, decisively defeated the Northwest Indian Confederation. The outcome of this battle helped secure American control over the Northwest Territory and paved the way for further westward expansion.

While not a famous battle, The Battle of Fallen Timbers greatly improved the safety and security of the new frontiers of our growing country, and the people in that frontier were very appreciative of the sacrifices of those fighting for them. Today, while we were also part of incidents that people have never heard about, we can take heart that we did our part to protect and defend our great nation. I'm reminded of Paul's call in Galatians 1:10 that the reward and attention of men is far overshadowed by our reward from Above. We should seek praise from above, rather than in the here and now. Your selfless service to others might not be known now, but we can find comfort in know that He sees, and we will be rewarded eventually.

That said, I thank you for your service on my behalf, and I am honored to be counted with you all. I trust August treats you well, and that you can enjoy the fruits of the Summer season. Remember, I am always an email away, and I also pray your you all daily - let me know what I can pray for specifically, if you'd like. Email the post to get my email address, if you don't already have it.

***For God and Country, Jim, Chaplain of Post 79***

## OUR FIRST "DONATION SALE"



Last month we had our first ever "Donation Sale" with the goal of obtaining more funding for the mission of Post 79 in supporting and assisting local Veterans in the Community. After several days receiving donations from the public our Post Hall was literally filled with some great items for the sale on the weekend of July 28th and 29th. Since we have a lot of unsold items we are continuing the sale thru Snoqualmie Days on August 17th while at the

same time our Color Guard will be marching in the Grand Parade and we will have an information booth. We will need plenty of volunteers to get all this done.

# MEET OF WARRIOR EXPEDITION VETERANS

## A GRAND WELCOME TO THE "OTHER WASHINGTON"

Post 79 officers continued a great annual tradition in welcoming the first two of seven Warrior Expedition Great American Railroad Trail bikers into the "Other Washington" from their start in D.C on May 6, 3.5K miles away. Welcome to Washington, John Wirth and Michael Kohler. We at Snoqualmie-North Bend American Legion Post 79 are all very respectful and have much admiration for these warriors' very challenging effort on this long bike trek. What a feat! Congratulations on getting here and going on to finishing the last leg of the epic journey to La Plush, the next few days with our other Washington welcoming committee partners at Forks American Legion Post 106.



Our first thirsty and weary Expedition Warriors, John and Michael, were first met by Art Farash at Tanner Way Landing crossing North Bend Way; then a quick photo, with Mt. Si in the background; and then escorted to George Townsend's house for freshening up before bringing them to the picnic at Bill Cottringer's.

Later, they were joined by the other Post 79 officers, Chad Magendanz and Bill Cottringer. The group convened at the Cottringer home on the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River for a picnic full of tasty food (especially the brats and baked beans!), thirst-quenching libation on a hot day, eye-candy views with a slight breeze, two friendly dogs, Cody and Yuri, and lots of inspiring conversation. Needless to say, there was some very intriguing storytelling for several enjoyable hours in this group.



*John and Mike at Cottringer's Gazebo*

John and Michael went back to George's "B & B house" for a quick sleep, breakfast and an early-morning departure for the final leg of their final bike ride to the ending point on the Washington coast at La Plush. There they will be greeted and hosted by Post 106. Again, a heart-felt congratulations to John Wirth and Michael Kohler for completing this cross-country expedition.



*Dinner at the South Fork*

On Saturday July 13th the third Warrior Brandon Blankenship arrived in North Bend and was again greeted on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail at Tanner Landing and proceeded to the Townsend's home where he was provided bed and breakfast. We were hosted at South Fork Restaurant by our Post Member and the Owner Johnny Blair for dinner in the garden with the Townsend Family, Allen Brown, and Art Farash all enjoying wonderful evening with delicious food and comradeship.

*(Continued on Page 4)*



Brandon was introduced to Post 79 Commander Michael Pollina and visited the North Bend Memorial



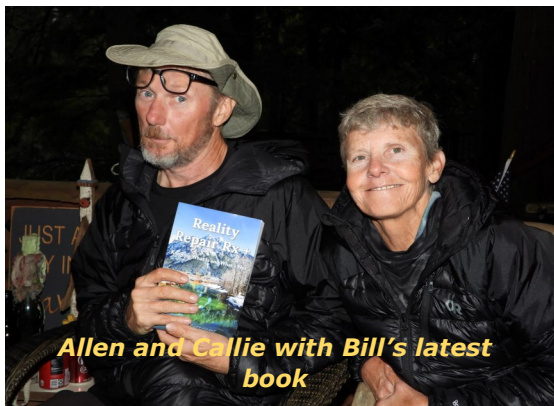
Arrival at Tanner Landing in North Bend 2024. 7.29



Bike Maintenance at George's 2024. 7.29



Party at the Cottringer's



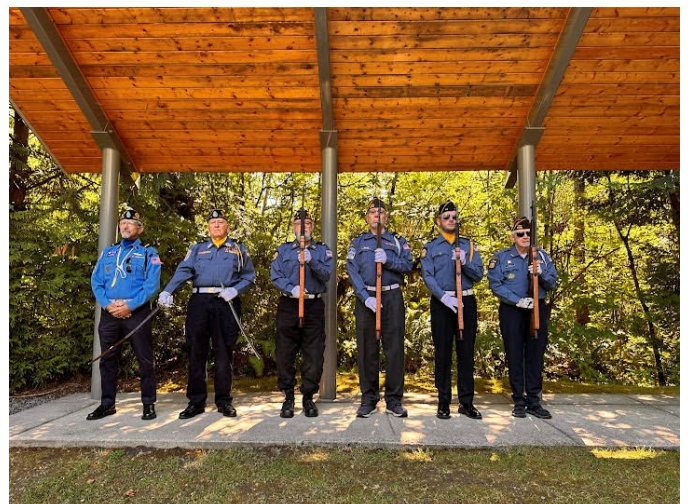
Allen and Callie with Bill's latest book

Warriors Callie and Allen arrived Monday July 29th wet and weary at Tanner Landing after a long ride from Cle Elum and were escorted to the Townsend's house where they washed up their bikes and were able to shower and do their laundry before heading to the Cottringer's for a delicious buffet and social time at the gazebo with several Officers and Members of Post 79.

The last two Warrior Cyclists will be arriving in the next week or two and at that time our very successful **Warrior Expeditions Veterans Engaged Program** for 2024 will come to its conclusion.

## TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY MILITARY HONORS

**TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY - JULY 10, 2024.** The Eastside Veterans Honor Guard, consisting of members from American Legion Post 79 and VFW Post 2995, participated in Military Funeral Honors for 6 Veterans from WW 2, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Active Military included the WA Army National Guard, Naval Station Everett, US Coast Guard Station Seattle, the USMC at JBLM, and the McChord Air Base Honor Guard. The one WW2 Veteran was a US Army Air Corps Flight Officer with the Army providing Honors. Bugler Dave Dittmore, from the American Legion Department of Washington Band sounded Taps and played the service songs for each service.





## PURPLE HEART DAY

**Purple Heart Day** is celebrated on **August 7th** each year to honor and remember current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were wounded or killed in action. The day also aims to raise awareness of the effects of war on veterans and their families, and to highlight the importance of providing them with the support they need to live fulfilling lives after their service.



## THE JUDGE ADVOCATE'S BENCH

On July 12-14, over 100 Post and District officers convened in Kennewick for the first Departmental Convention to approve the new Department's Constitution and By-laws (CBL) and to vote for the Department Commander, Area Vice-Commanders and Department Executive Committee (DEC) seats. The new CBL was unanimously approved with allowance for technical mistakes to be rectified by the National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey.

The newly elected Department Commander is Al Jenson, Area 1 Vice-Commander is Debra Wood and Bob Clark is the National Executive Committee person and the Alternate National Executive Committee person is Rafael Munoz-Cintrón. Our District 1 Commander Carrol Stripling was installed during this same ceremony as the other Department Officers.

We will be reviewing our Post Constitution and By-laws to make sure they do not contradict anything in the Department's new CBL documents. The general rule is that the CBL is a standard guide on what to do and what not to do, and the do list can always be expanded as long as it doesn't run contrary to the rules on not doing something.

The approval of the new CBL by all those present at the Convention, sets the stage for the National Advisory Committee to recommend that the Washington Department's revoked charter be restored at the American Legion National Convention in August. We will be then placed on probation for a (hopefully short) period and continued to be supervised by the Advisory Committee and the Administrator Barbara Lombardo, until taken off probation.

Two of our Post Officers are up for appointments to the Department Officer positions, Committees and Commissions, but that information won't be released until the Department's Charter is restored at the National AL Convention.

***BILL COTTRINGER - POST 79 JUDGE ADVOCATE***

# OUR LOCAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



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### POST 79 IS A PROUD MEMBER



**SOUTH FORK RESTAURANT**  
ON CEDAR FALLS ROAD -  
MEMBER OWNED BUSI-  
NESS - HOSTING OUR SAT-  
URDAY VETERANS COFFEE  
WITH COMRADES

**POST 79 THANKS ITS LOCAL SUPPORTERS AND IS PROUD TO HAVE THESE MEMBER OWNED BUSINESSES AS PART OF OUR LEGION FAMILY**

Since 2010 active-duty military families have found renewed relationships, healing, and peace while creating lifetime memories. Show their appreciation for everyone in the military family who serve. **WARRIOR FAMILY RETREAT**

**DATE:** August 24 & 25, 2024 **LOCATION:** Fall City.

*The North Bend - Snoqualmie Legionnaire is the Monthly E-Newsletter of American Legion Post 79, the Department of Washington. Its purpose is to keep Members and well as the Local Community informed about our activities and events over the past month and information about upcoming events. Nothing is copywrited and can be forwarded and shared with others. We are on social media at #<https://www.facebook.com/groups/legionpost79>. Comments and articles with photos may be sent to the Editor at [artfarash@gmail.com](mailto:artfarash@gmail.com) Thank you for reading and sharing.*