

The American Legion

Renton-Pickering Post # 79



The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire

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



JULY 2004 ISSUE



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING - JULY/AUGUST

- JULY 4 (Thurs) INDEPENDENCE DAY - NATIONAL HOLIDAY**
- JULY 10 (Wed) TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD DAY**
- JULY 11 (Thurs) MONTHLY POST MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE POST**
- JULY 12-14 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION KENNEWICK**
- JULY 17 (Wed) POKER NIGHT AT THE POST 6:30—9:30 PM**
- JULY 28 (Sun) FIRST EVER POST "POST DONATION SALES" (Details TBA)**
- AUG 7 (Wed) TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD DAY**
- AUG 8 (Thurs) MONTHLY POST MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE POST**
- AUG 10 (Sat) FESTIVAL AT MT SI PARADE—POST COLOR GUARD**
- AUG 17 (Sat) SNOQUALMIE DAYS PARADE—POST COLOR GUARD**

FROM THE COMMANDER



Commander Michael Pollina

Here we are with July arriving in a few days, we got to see a couple of sunny days as June leaves us. June has been a busy time for the Post, the two main halls have been painted, and our Grand Opening was a great success with over 100 attendees. The new Post 79 officers were elected and sworn in at the June Meeting.

The big discussion was about what kind of social events we could host, many great ideas were discussed, and the Post held its first Poker night on Wednesday the 19th. It was a fun night for the 6 players. Poker will be held every 3rd Wednesday at 1830hrs, and our Facility Manager, Curt Heaslet will be coordinating the Poker Nights.

We will be holding our first Post Donation Sales on Sunday July 28th at the Post, I will send details shortly for members, family, and friends to donate items for the Post to raise funds. We are also planning a raffle.

We have ordered new tables and chairs, which were needed. There are plans to have events away from the post. Trips to the Flight Museum, a family movie night at the post, and other outings. Our goal is to have more than just a post-meeting night. We must be ready to find what our members are looking for; we must always be aware of what Veterans need and better ways to recruit members and their families.

(Continued on Page 2)

We should all be proud of ourselves, many people have come up to me and told me our American Legion Post has been making a good name for itself. Our Media Coordinator, Rachel Johnston has been a major influence in making this happen along with Art Farash, who keeps our presence via his Facebook Postings and Newsletter.

I would like to say again, with your help, we are making a difference to our Veterans, their families, and our community.

I would like to leave you with these words "***Damn the torpedoes and Full Steam Ahead***" OK, someone else said this, but it's how I feel. Thanks for all your support in making us Great Again!

Michael Pollina, Commander, Post 79

COMMANDER POLLINA GIVEN MLK AWARD



Michael Pollina, our Post 79 Commander and District 11 Chaplain, was presented with the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for outstanding civic service to the community. The ceremony occurred at the full King County Council Chambers on June 3, 2024, with a large audience of supporters and onlookers. His recognition presentation by Sarah Perry and his own speech were very moving and all

was recorded in the You-Tube video (URL <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=761781142787773>). This ceremony went National at Legiontown USA and Statewide at the Department's website, and also received many follow-up notes and phone calls from area leaders because of the widespread social media postings of the event and Michael's generous, over-flowing volunteer portfolio of veteran's and community activities. Congratulations Commander Pollina. A job well done beyond the call of duty!



(Submitted by Dr. Bill Cottringer)

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER



Brothers and Sisters in Arms, July is a month rich in American military history. We remember the courage of those who stood against the King, boldly declaring independence, the beginning of the path to our great nation. Much later, the Battle of Gettysburg was fought in 1863. The hostilities of the Korean War ended in 1953. More recently, the conflict in Vietnam raged loudly in 1965, rapidly intensifying as large numbers of US soldiers entered the region.

(Continued on Page 3)

As veterans, many of us have faced danger head-on, just like those who fought on these historic battlefields. The scripture in Proverbs 27:17 rings true: "*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*" Our service has sharpened the resolve of our nation, and our experiences can help others facing their own battles even now.

This July, let's take some time to reflect on our service and the sacrifices made by those who came before, and after, us. Remember the bonds forged in combat, and reach out to a fellow veteran if they seem to be struggling. Remember: We are a family, bound by shared experience and unwavering courage. If you would like to talk to me or any of the leaders, please always remember that we are only an email away. Email the post, and they will send you my email address if you don't have it.

In faith and fellowship, Jim, Post 79 Chaplain

OUR 2024-2025 ELECTED OFFICERS



Our 2024-2025 Elected Officers were sworn in and installed at the June 13th Post Meeting – shown from Left to Right are: Commander Michael Pollina reading the Oath of Office to Adjutant/ Finance Officer George Townsend, First Vice Commander Chad Magendanz, Second Vice Commander Art Farash, Judge Advocate Bill Cottringer, Service Officer Dave Waggoner and Sgt at Arms Chad Tietje. Absent was Chaplain Jim Besso We wish them all a successful year ahead as our Post continues to grow and thank them for their leadership.

FOUR WINDS BOAT OUTING



Several lucky Post 79 Veterans were treated to an eye candy, fun-filled evening on Lake Washington for their poppy sales volunteer work during the Memorial Day Weekend. Their combined efforts netted the post poppy fund nearly \$4K. The boat captain host of **Four Winds** was Curt Heaslet. And those enjoying the guided tour of all the *dot.comers'* opulent waterfront houses, the I-90 and 520 bridges and the *Boys in the Boat* sign at UW, included Bill Cottringer, Art Farash, Chad Magendanz, Alan Brown, Randall and Victoria Reese. Fantastic conversations, fellowship, tasty treats and libations, and fantastic views for an enjoyable and memorable veteran's team-building event. Thank you, Curt! Next up—Poker and Movie nights, at the post every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. *(Submitted by Bill Cottringer)*

TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONORS



On Wednesday June 12th the Eastside Veterans Honor Guard honored six Veterans with Military Honors at Tahoma National Cemetery. They included Veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam, Somalia/Persian Gulf and the Cold War. The Honor Guard consisted of Chaplain Michael Pollina of American Legion Post 79, the three-man combined American Legion Post 79 and VFW Post 2995 Firing Party. Bugler Dave Dittimore from the Department of Washington American Legion Band sounded Taps and played the service song for each of the Veterans.



(More Photos on Page 5)



Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

A Veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the Veteran.

Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK



Another month has slid past, and June was a bit busy for our Post. Our annual officer elections were conducted and all positions had candidates except Finance Officer. Since the Finance position is a mandatory office (without a Commander, Adjutant or Finance Officer, the Post must shut down operations), your Adjutant volunteered for the position and was appointed by the Commander into that additional role. All officers were sworn in during our June meeting and are now entrenched in their positions for the year.

Top financial news of the month was the receipt of a very generous grant from the Snoqualmie Tribe, in response to our grant request sent in earlier in the month. The tribal grant will help keep our post financially solvent for the next 2 years, so we are more than thankful to the Snoqualmie Tribe for their very timely assistance. Our very first use of those funds was to purchase 6 large tables and 50 chairs to enable our Post to host meetings, luncheons and special gatherings into the future. Speaking of grants, your Adjutant has written and submitted 4 other grants over the past 2 months, so we await responses from King County, Umpqua Bank and the Albertson's Corporation. Any funds from those entities will go towards our post operations, community sponsorships and our Poppy Fund charitable giving for veterans and their families in need.

We have no 4th of July activities planned for the Post, so here's wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

George Townsend, Adjutant/Finance Officer, Post 79

JUDGE ADVOCATES BENCH



Last month I was part of a work group of 22 District delegates to review and amend the second draft of the Department's new Constitution and By-laws (CBL). 8-hours later these near final draft documents were unanimously approved, with the caveat of Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate, finishing his review of a few minor legal issues. The CBL was supposed to be released to us delegates for distribution to our Districts and Post so that the vote at the coming Convention July 12-14 could be an informed one, hopefully with little or no outstanding contentious issues. However, recent communication with Department officials reveals that our first look will be by those who are attending the Convention.

It looks as though three of us from Post 79 are going to the Department's Convention. Our group will be me, representing the Post and District, Dave Waggoner, also representing the Post and District (and also on the welcoming Committee as member of the King County Veteran's Advisory Committee) and Art Farash, longest serving Post 79 member, with his color guard duties. The purpose of the Convention is two-fold:

1. To review, propose needed amendments, vote on, and approve (must be unanimous) the CBL in order to restore the Department's Charter which was suspended last year.

Continued on Page 7)

Continued from Page 6)

2. If this is accomplished (and it might be a BIG if)...then officers will be voted on.

At present there are only two candidates for Department Commander—Al Jensen, the Chairman of the National Legislative Affairs Committee and 30-year veteran detective of the Bellingham Police Department; and Kevin Russell, a 27-year veteran of the American Legion who had the highest membership renewals in the State for his Post where he is Commander. All the Convention news can be accessed at Department Convention - Department of Washington <https://walegion.org/convention/>

Dr. Bill Cottringer, Judge Advocate, Post 79 and Judge Advocate, District 11

POST 79 SPONSORS LOCAL LITTLE LEAGUE

Snoqualmie’s Renton-Pickering American Legion Post 79 sponsored one of Snoqualmie Valley Little Leagues teams for the first time this year. This is a great way to get our name and image out into our local communities. A portion of our sponsorship went toward sponsoring a player who could otherwise not afford the registration fees to play, Mariners Little League Day tickets, and needed equipment. As a sponsor, we got our name on a 3’x6’ sign at Torgusen park for the baseball season, our American Legion name on a team’s Jersey (They gave us the awesome red, white and blue Jerseys) and our Logo on their website. (www.svll.net) Little League is an excellent program for kids to learn teamwork, responsibility, sportsmanship, and work on physical fitness, all while having fun and burning off energy. Hopefully Post79 continues to sponsor Snoqualmie Valley Little League in the future to continue to show how we give back, and are an asset to the Community.



Story submitted by Chad Tietje, Post 79 Sgt at Arms and a Little League Dad

OUR LOCAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



The **helpful** place.
VETERANS GET A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES

FLINTOFT'S

Funeral Home and Crematory

Family owned and operated since 1938
SUPPORTING MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES AND POST EVENTS

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY
Chamber of Commerce

We Help Your Business Succeed!



POST 79 IS A PROUD MEMBER



"Words cannot express enough how blessed we are for having this experience..."

— Military Mom



SOUTH FORK RESTAURANT ON CEDAR FALLS ROAD - MEMBER OWNED BUSINESS - HOSTING OUR SATURDAY VETERANS COFFEE WITH COMRADES



WATSON FAMILY

TREE CARE
MEMBER OWNED
BUSINESS

KEVIN WATSON
(425) 615-5922

WFTC23@outlook.com

Providing expert tree care to the Snoqualmie Valley and surrounding area.

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

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 Thank you for reading and sharing.