

The American Legion Renton-Pickering Post # 79



The North Bend-Snoqualmie Legionnaire

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

May 2024 Issue



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING - MAY 2024

- MAY 8 (Wed) TAHOMA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD DAY**
- MAY 9 (Thurs) MONTHLY POST MEETING 7:00 PM AT THE POST**
- MAY 18 (Sat) ARMED FORCES DAY**
- MAY 25-26 (Sat-Sun) POPPY TABLES 8 TO 5 AT NORTH BEND QFC**
- MAY 27 (Mon) MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES AT CEMETERIES**
1:00 pm RE DEDICATION AND GRAND OPENING OF THE POST HALL WITH BURGERS, HOT DOGS, SIDES - ALL ARE INVITED!

FROM THE POST COMMANDER



Memorial Day Message 2024

We stand here today, in honor of those who are no longer with us, they are more than headstones to us. In my eyes, they are the finest a country can produce. Our Men and Women answered the call of our country, both in times of peace and war. They did this with honor, courage, and a deep sense of duty, that seems to be lost today.

The real heroes of our military are the ones who never left the battlefields and those who endured the conflicts of service and war and brought those issues home with them, let us not forget our families who missed and worried about us every day, I have long believed that their sacrifice is the pinnacle of patriotism.

Courage is contagious. When brave men and women take a stand, the spines of others are stiffened. The willingness of American veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude. May we never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Enjoy the day with your loved ones, and do not forget to think about those who served and sacrificed everything.

Happy Memorial Day - Michael Pollina, Commander, American Legion Post 79

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Brothers and Sisters, May is already upon us! The days are getting longer, the color green dominates the landscape again, and the birds' chorus grows ever stronger in the daily morning and evening transitions. May is the month that Nature celebrates the victory over the din of winter.

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The month of May also marks victories in our military history as well. On May 8, 1775, the Battle of Fort Ticonderoga was a victory for the American colonists in the Revolutionary War, ending a protracted and concerted effort. May 1, 1898, brings us to Commodore Dewey's victory over the Spanish fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay, propelling the United States to world prominence.

In World War II, May 8, 1945, marks Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), the day we celebrate the surrender of Nazi Germany. Each of these victories came after a lengthy struggle. In each case, a period of peace and growth followed for those involved, similar in some ways to the relief felt by Nature after a long, unfriendly winter season. It is also similar to what we go through as well.



"Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters," the biblical author James wrote, "whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." (James 1:2-4 NIV). When we face difficulty in our lives, it often seems we are alone in yet another useless mess, but we are repeatedly promised that He will never abandon us and that the trials are not to destroy us but to build us up. The trials end, and we come out on the backside stronger, more able to enjoy the following peace, and equipped to help others.

When we are IN the trial, though, it certainly doesn't feel that way! Sometimes, we think we are holding the pieces alone and have nowhere to turn. Veterans, it seems, often have stronger versions of those feelings. During those times, I would encourage you to remember that you are NOT alone. We are a band of brothers and sisters, and you can be assured that there are people you can turn to for help or direction. The post leadership and I are an email away, and I would like to remind you that I would welcome the opportunity to talk, pray, or help as much as possible; do not hesitate to contact me (jim.besso@outlook.com). Like spring and the victories enjoyed by our military over the years in May, I pray that we will see our victories over the trials we face this month.

For God and Country, Chaplain Jim



NO B.S. WAR STORIES

"OOOOHHHH!!!! [--2-3 second pause--], jellyfish."

Spoken on the way to PD, about 10-20 feet before the scope cleared the water, the OOD, **LT Magendanz**, said the above. During that 2-3 second pause we all knew that we should be executing an emergency deep (and the OHHH!! was oh-so-emphatic), but we also knew the guy on the scope, so we violated standing orders



and waited. We were glad we did.

<http://www.submarinesailor.com/quote.asp>

I made the Submarine Quotes posted here. What it doesn't say is that the CO heard my

"OOOOHHHH...jellyfish!!!"

comment over the intercom and came barreling up to the control room to emphasize how much he really didn't care how pretty the jellyfish were during the ascent to PD. Fortunately, I still have a little bit of my ass left.

CHAD MAGENDANZ, Post 79 Judge Advocate 2023-2024

AND HERE'S ONE FROM MIKE JOHNSTON FROM HIS TOUR WITH THE 4TH AVN, 4TH INF DIV AT CAMP ENARI IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM



In early April of 1970 the 4th Infantry Division left it's home at Camp Enari near Pleiku moving to it's new home of Camp Radcliff near Ahn Khe in South Viet Nam. In the early evening on the arrival at Camp Radcliff a sapper attack occurred while the guard was being changed on the airfield. A number of helicopters were destroyed.



As a counter to the attack we were assembled in our company area and assigned positions to stop the sappers before they could escape from the camp. Our armorer could not locate our bandoliers of ammo but he found magazines of ammo so he started passing them out giving 2 magazines to each man.



I was an NCO and was put in charge of a squad of 6 and our position was the road on the west side our company area just south of the airfield. When we arrived at our position I assigned the squad to positions in the ditches on both sides of the road. As we settled in awaiting the arrival of the sappers, I started examining the two magazines I had been given and noticed they seemed a little light. I found I had 2 rounds in one mag and 3 in the other magazine. I asked the others in the squad to check their mags and found everyone had but a few rounds. I told them to put the rounds in one mag and lock and load. I then directed them that if the sappers

came our way that we would not all fire at once but the first man closest to the enemy would fire first and would let the next man know when he was out. As luck would have it the sappers had chosen another route out of the camp and we never had to try our tactic.

From that night on, I carried 2 fully loaded magazines in the pockets on my flak jacket. I was not going to get caught like that again.

Mike Johnston, Vietnam 1969-1970

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR



Greetings! We have completed the interior renovation of our Post building! We invite you to attend our grand re-opening on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th. Our annual Poppy Distribution will occur during Memorial Day weekend (May 25 -26th, Saturday and Sunday, respectively). We will have tables outside the North Bend QFC between 8 am and 5 pm on both days. Please stop by to get your poppy!

We still need more volunteers to help us! We need help with food preparation, Poppy Distribution, and upcoming events. If you would like to become a volunteer, please email me: info@CovenantEagleEnterprises.com for more information.

We host a "Coffee with Comrades" event at the South Fork Restaurant in North Bend (near Exit 32) every Saturday at 9 a.m. If you are a veteran, come join us! If you know a veteran, ask them to join us! Veterans and spouses will enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee as they socialize in a relaxed environment.

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Post 79 will soon offer opportunities to rent our hall for meetings and events! We will keep you posted. Our members attend networking and civic events within the community at large every week. We are truly the **American Legion Post 79 Reimagined!** Thank you.

**Rachel Y. Johnston Community Relations Coordinator
American Legion Post 79 – Snoqualmie, WA**

THE ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Our Legion Post in Snoqualmie was a busy place in April, with cleaning and painting ongoing to liven up the interior and prepare it for Post events beginning on Memorial Day and thereafter. Our Post Commander was performing on an overtime level, having logged over 38 work hours in just one week alone! And many thanks to the dozens of members and their spouses for help in painting, preparation and bringing in lunch for the laborers.

Another noteworthy event in April was our very own Sergeant-At-Arms, Art Farash, receiving a well-deserved Community Citizenship award from the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. At their monthly luncheon, the ladies at the DAR presented Art with a fine certificate (see photo) and recognition for his decades of maintaining and administering to the many US Flags that fly in our North Bend and Snoqualmie communities.



It's Spring in the Snoqualmie Valley, and that means Legion election season...and we have a fine slate of members nominated for the next year of Post leadership and administration. Elections will be held during the June Post meeting, and we're still looking for any nominations for the open positions of 2nd Vice Commander and Historian.

Having recently applied for 3 financial grants to benefit our Post, we're now in "wait-and-see" mode to hear back if we've won any of the awards. We desperately need income to offset our monthly bills to maintain and insure our building and to continue our monthly operations. Our next major project is to replace the worn siding on the Post building. Bids for siding and painting are hovering around \$65,000 and your Adjutant has begun the process of contacting King County's Office of Historical Preservation for the requisite design reviews and potential for financial assistance to advance this project.

I'll be seeing you at the next Post meeting on Thursday, May 9th.

Respectfully,

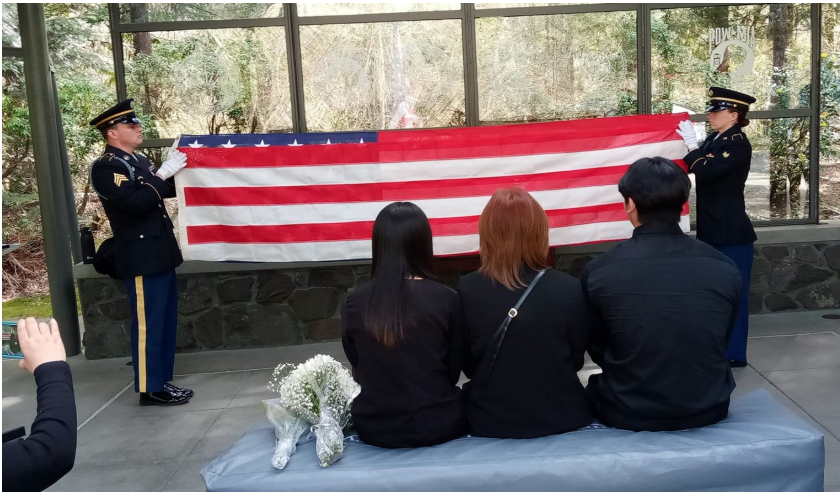
George Townsend 1st Vice Cdr/Adjutant

OUR HONOR GUARD IN ACTION



On Wednesday, April 10th at Tahoma National Cemetery, Military Honors were rendered for six Veterans, including three who served during the Korean War, one from Vietnam, and one from the Persian Gulf War. Once again we were short handed for the Rifle Team with the two VFW Redmond members calling in sick, one with a heart attack. Without new volunteers the continued existence of our Tahoma National Cemetery is jeopardized. Thanks to Alan for taking time from work to fill in and for George and the Chaplain Michael for being there today.

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MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



MEMORIAL DAY IN SNOQUALMIE VALLEY

Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 27th will be as follows:

- 9:00 am at Preston Cemetery**
- 10:00 am at Fall City Cemetery**
- 11:00 am at Mt Si Cemetery in North Bend**

1:00 pm After a short ceremony at the Snoqualmie Valley Veterans Memorial there will be the Grand Opening of our redecorated Post with food and refreshments served for guests and Post Members and Friends as well as the public. Our Commander and Officers are proud of all the time and labor donated by so many to paint and decorate the hall and create a center for Veterans as well as a rental facility to provide needed income for the operation of the Post.

THANKS TO OUR LANDSCAPERS



Thanks to our dedicated team of landscapers **Bill Cottringer** and **Marty Smith** who cut and trimmed the grass around the Post and cleaned up the outside of the Post on Saturday April 13th.

Future landscaping needed is the removal of the tree at the Veterans Memorial which has overgrown its space and the roots have started to disturb the commemoration bricks donated to the Memorial. The other shrubs will have to be trimmed. This is a major project that will have to be accomplished in the near future along with the replacement of the damaged siding on the east side of the building.

WA AL DEPT. DISTRICT 11 SPRING CONFERENCE

Only **Carol Stripling** was nominated and voted in as District Commander. The current appointments will stay the same—**Carol Reed** as Adjutant, **Michael Pollina** as Chaplain, **Bill Cottringer** as Judge Advocate, **David Waggoner** as VSO, and **Earl Thompson** as Sgt. At Arms. The positions of First Vice Commander and Historian are open for nomination from the posts at the June District meeting.

The two delegate positions with the committee to finalize the governing documents were filled by **Bill Cottringer** (Post 79) and **Charles Grenard** (Post 227) as the two delegates representing District 11's interests in this project. They will spend a few days in Lacey revising the first draft of the new Constitution and By-laws for presentation at the upcoming Constitutional Convention.

Our Post 79 was recognized for reaching 100% of the membership goal. The District voted to endorse **Bob Clark** and **Rafael Munoz-Cintron** as primary and alternate delegates to the NEC for voting at the July Convention

The National JA and his assistant **Ken George** are currently in the process of meeting with a team of 6 members of Washington to work on development of the first draft of the new Department Constitution and By-Laws. As it becomes available, updates and information will be provided to the 24 elected delegates from the Spring Conferences as to when they will begin to meet and work with the JA. Your District leadership know who their District representatives are so if you have input you would like considered, please contact them. From **Interim Administrator Barbara Lombro** ,



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SATURDAY VETERANS
COFFEE WITH COMRADES

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.