

Warm Winter Wishes

Aside from the weather lately being warmer than normal, I am hoping all of you have a warm place to sleep, warm food and drink in your bellies, warm clothes to wear, and warm conversations with friends and family to keep your spirits high during the coming darker days of winter.

Thankfully, many events are returning, which means (hopefully) happy and healthy gatherings with your community, whatever shape it may take. Let's all be conscious of our health this season, taking steps to avoid getting sick, or staying isolated if we do become sick to keep others healthy. Be sure to drink plenty of water (easy to forget when it's not hot out) and eat nutritious foods like hearty soups.

As you go about your holiday season, gift-giving and sharing, don't forget to take some restful time for yourself as well. While a candle loses nothing by lighting another, it should still only burn from a single end. Winter is a time of rest, recuperation, respite, and rejuvenation, all of which lead to a refreshing reemergence in the spring.

We've come so far, yet there's still more to do. Rest now and recharge - time for action will be back soon enough.



Wreaths Across America



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

"Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to **Remember, Honor and Teach** is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad."

Generally in October, local groups start requesting funds for wreath sponsorship. Then in December, when the wreaths are delivered to their location, volunteers come out to local cemeteries to place wreaths on the headstones of Veterans following a short ceremony. Check with local scout troops, American Legion and/or VFW posts for information about an event near you.

18 Dec 2021

As I confirm locations, they are being added at

<https://ncwveterans.info/events/>

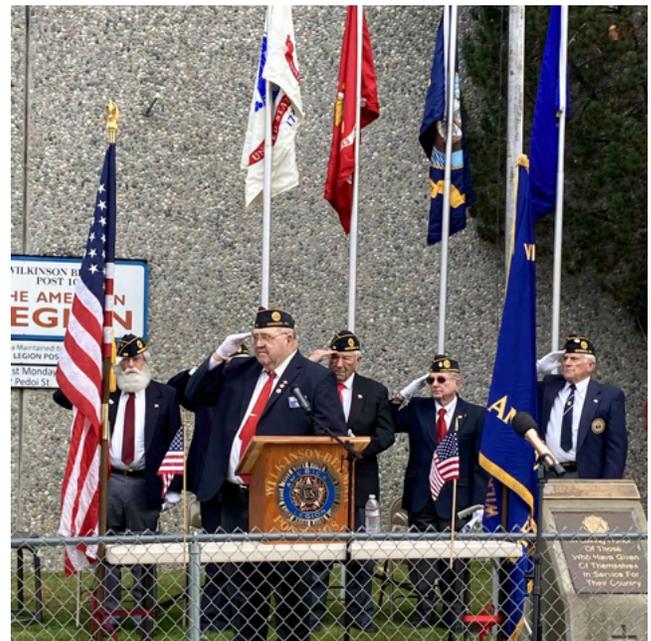
Veterans Day Around the Region

As vaccination numbers increase and COVID case counts decrease, a lot of our usual events are returning to (somewhat) normal, including Veterans Day events. All around the region, meals, parades, and assemblies took place to recognize and honor veterans. Below are some photos of those events, either submitted by veterans/organizations, or found in social media and local news coverage. Check the blog for additional information and links:

<https://ncwveterans.info/local-events/veterans-day-2021-returning-to-normal/>



Pre-parade breakfast at Wenatchee Legion Post 10; photo by Doug Gardner



Manson Legion Post 108 members salute during the playing of Taps; photo from Facebook



Chelan VFW Post 6853 leading the parade in Chelan; photo from Facebook



Veterans walking out the Colors at Lake Roosevelt School Veterans Day assembly; photo from Grand Coulee Star online



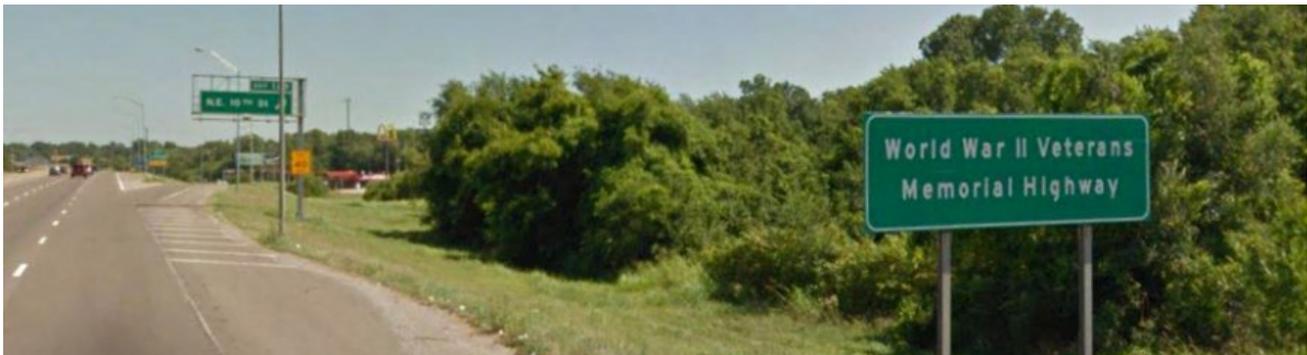
Post-parade Lunch at Legion Post 28 in Ephrata; photo rcvd via email from Grant Co VAB

Veterans In Business: Cassandra Clark

Shortly after the last newsletter was published, I was able to interview Cassandra Clark - Legion District 9 Vice Commander, Oroville Post 84 Commander, and Entrepreneur. Cassandra took part in the 2021 Supernova Business Launch competition and placed in the top 4. Her business, C&C Inspections, conducts all sorts of home inspections anywhere in Chelan, Ferry, Douglas, and Okanogan counties.

Read the full interview on the blog:

<https://ncwveterans.info/business/veterans-in-business-cassandra-clark>



Naming Highway 97

“My name is David Schwab. I am a Veteran and just starting the process through Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) for naming the portion of Highway 97 that is within the Douglas County Boundaries to “World War II Veterans Memorial Highway”.

“A veteran from Klickitat County sponsored a similar request to the WSTC covering US Highway 97 from the Oregon border to the Yakima County line. After the WSTC approved his request he reached out to other Counties Veterans Advisory Boards that had US Highway 97 within their boundary, asking for their help to name US Highway 97 from the Oregon border to the Canadian border, World War II Veterans Memorial Highway.

“If you are a resident of Douglas County I would appreciate an email from you noting such and that you support the naming of Highway 97 within the Douglas County borders.

“Thank you for your support.

David Schwab

Member of VFW Post 3617, American Legion Post 10, and the Douglas County Veterans Advisory Board
email daidschwab1946@charter.net

“P.S. - I am working with a Veteran from Chelan County to name Highway 97 within the Chelan County borders next.”

From Your Veteran Service Officers



Tony Sandoval
Chelan County VSO
 428 Orondo Ave,
 Wenatchee
 9am - 4pm Mon - Thurs
(509) 667-6906
 tony.sandoval@
 co.chelan.wa.us

I hope this reaches you all in great spirits as we move through the holidays! Chelan County VSO continues to be open and willing to tackle any and all questions and requests for Veterans and their families, so please feel free to contact us if we can assist in any way. Trent and I are working hard to follow up on calls and emails as quickly as possible. If we have missed you, please drop us another line.

Remember that resources like the American Legion, VFW, Vets Serving Vets, and more, are doing tremendous work in reaching out to assist those in need and those who just need a smile. Don't forget to support them! And don't hesitate to reach out if you are in need yourself.

If you happen to be a Blue Water Navy Vietnam veteran or a Gulf War veteran, you may have seen the new presumptive conditions from the VA. Give us a call - we are happy to help explain your potential eligibility.



Sarah Simonson
Douglas County VSO
 211 11th St NE (VFW Post
 3617, East Wenatchee)
 9am - 3pm Tues - Friday
(509) 683-3605
 vso@co.douglas.wa.us

Here at the Douglas County Veteran Services Office, we've been busy addressing the problems our veterans face in the Valley due to the VA Healthcare Records system failures. I was fortunate enough to be interviewed by our local TV station NCW Life as well as the DC Correspondent for the Spokane Spokesman-Review. Hopefully those interviews will help shed light on the hurdles we Veterans face when attempting to access the healthcare we were promised.

With the Holidays coming up and opportunities to connect with family members arise, I would like to remind you all of the importance of talking about your Health Care and end of life preferences with your friends and loved ones. Planning ahead and making your wishes clear is a wonderful gift for those left to handle your affairs once you pass. If you have questions about this process, or what benefits and support are available, please give me a call or email.

Okanogan County VSO

Tom Even

1 Tonasket Shop Rd
 8am - 3pm Mon-Thu
 8am - 2pm Fridays

(509) 486-2121

vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

Grant County

Jerry Gingrich

Handles county veteran fund,
 provides assistance vouchers
(509) 766-5015 x5212
(509) 237-2162
 vets@grantcountywa.gov

Fil Rivera

Accredited Service Officer,
 handles Claims
(509) 629-1735
 riverph@hscis.net

Next Grant County Veterans Advisory Board meeting is 12 January 2022, 4pm, in the Commissioner's Hearing Room at the Grant County Courthouse, 35 C St NW, Ephrata

Congresswoman Schrier wants to fix the CBOC

Washington's 8th District congresswoman, Kim Schrier, M.D., has heard the stories from countless veterans who are frustrated with the processes surrounding the use of Wenatchee's VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). For the past few months, she has been collecting stories and investigating the issues Veterans in our region have been having accessing and using our local VA Clinic. Now she is taking it up the chain and trying to find ways to improve what we have, making it easier for veterans already in the system to use it as well as encouraging more veterans in the area to sign up for local VA services. If you have stories to share or just want help navigating the system, please contact her Wenatchee Office.

Congresswoman Schrier's Wenatchee Office



Primary Contact: Kelli Scott

Email: Kelli.Scott@mail.house.gov

Phone: 509-850-5340



Full story with more details and links to local news coverage on the blog:
<https://ncwveterans.info/news/congresswoman-schrier-wants-to-fix-the-cboc/>



Civil Air Patrol

Read all of the CAP updates:

<https://www.ncwveterans.info/tag/civil-air-patrol/>



AWARDS

On 05 October, Cadet Airman Zachary Ritzke received the Airman of the Quarter Award.

PROMOTIONS

In November, Cadets Jameson Graham and Maverick Moss were promoted to Cadet Airman.

RECENT EVENTS

On 09 November, C/Lt Col Emmanuel Larsen and C/CMSgt Austin Jeffris presented the United States colors and the MIA/POW flag for the Eastmont Baptist Church's Veteran's night dinner. *(photo, right)*

The following Cadets completed the Rocketry Course at the Washington All Mission Academy on 14 November: C/CMSgt Austin Jeffris, C/SSgt Jacob Tate, C/SSgt Zachary Wisner, C/SSgt Grey Olin, C/A1C Alexardrea Toledo, C/Airman Dawson Brender, C/Airman Jameson Graham. They built and launched three different rockets. All passed with successful launches.



Post 10 (Wenatchee)
208 N Wenatchee Ave
(509) 663-5912

Post 28 (Ephrata)
276 8th Ave NW
(509) 754-2761
2nd Thursday at 7pm

Post 56 (Okanogan)
860 N 2nd Street
(509) 826-2610
3rd Monday at 7pm

Post 64 (Cashmere)
401 Sunset Highway
(509) 782-4973
1st Thursday at 7pm

Post 82 (Tonasket)
319 S Western
(509) 486-2382
1st Monday at 5pm

Post 84 (Oroville)
314 14th Ave
(509) 476-2761
2nd Thursday at 7pm

Post 97 (Brewster)
102 N 3rd St
(509) 689-3307

Post 108 (Manson)
142 Pedoi St
(509) 888-3831

Post 143 (Twisp)
626 Bridge St
(509) 997-1527
2nd Thursday at 7pm

Post 157 (Electric City)
31 Coulee Rd
(509) 771-5796

Post 183 (Quincy)
(509) 760-8124

Post 209 (Moses Lake)
538 W Broadway
(509) 765-1126
2nd Tuesday at 6pm

American Legion



Post 10, Wenatchee

Veterans Day was very busy for us, hosting breakfast before the parade and a catered dinner afterwards. Our Legionnaire of the Year is Charlie Suriano. We will be hosting Wreaths Across America at 9am on 18 Dec at Wenatchee Cemetery.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday at 7pm.

Post 108, Manson

It was great to have the Veterans Breakfast at the school return this year. We were also honored to host a small ceremony at Legion Park on Veterans Day. Also, we recently updated the flag donation box at the Chelan Transfer station - photos for all events are on Facebook.

Monthly meetings on 1st Monday at 7pm.

Columbia Post 97, Brewster

It was great to see everyone out for our thanksgiving dinner!

Monthly meetings on 1st Wednesday at 6pm

Post 157, Electric City

We continue to host monthly blood drives organized by Vitalant. We are also very active with the local food bank - the Post regularly supplies 60-70% of the workforce needed for food distribution.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Post 183, Quincy

Next post meetings will be 11 Dec & 12 Feb at **Jack's at the Market** (1004 F St SW, Quincy). Coffee/Breakfast (optional) 8am, meeting at 9am.

Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 9am.

National Commander visits Rural Washington

In early November, American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard toured a number of smaller posts in North Central Washington. Between 01-04 Nov, Commander Dillard visited with post and community members at Post 157 Electric City, Post 97 Brewster, Post 143 Methow/Twisp, Post 56 Okanogan, and Post 84 Oroville, along with a few other posts outside of the 4 county region of NCW Veterans Info.



View the full story and photos in the blog online:

<https://ncwveterans.info/news/american-legion-national-commander-tours-rural-washington/>

Veterans of Foreign Wars



George Washington Post 24

Monthly meetings on 2nd Saturday at 10am.

Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley

We have resumed all in-person gatherings (1st Thursday Breakfast at Country Inn, 9am; weekly Community Coffee at the Post, Fridays 9am) as well as meetings. Post meetings also include a Zoom option - contact us for more details. Join us for Wreaths Across America at Evergreen Memorial Park at 9am on 18 Dec.

Monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday at 7pm.

Chelan Post 6853

We awarded our \$1,000 Nursing Scholarship to Rylei Franks, musician, volunteer, and student at Wenatchee Valley College.

Additionally, we were honored to carry the colors and lead the Veterans Day parade in Chelan this year.

Monthly meetings on 1st Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Post 24 George Meets at Quincy Senior Center (even months) / Moses Lake Elks Lodge (odd months)
(509) 750-0938

Post 3617 Wenatchee Valley
211 11th St NE
East Wenatchee
(509) 884-3617

Post 6853 Chelan
427 Bradley St, Chelan
(509) 679-4949
1st Tuesday at 6:30pm

News from The Bunker

A lot has been happening at the Bunker recently, including more renovations to the space, a BBQ on Veterans Day, updates to the Food Locker, a number of donations received, and more Downtown banners purchased. Please visit the blog post on the website for a full rundown and some photos:

<https://ncwveterans.info/post-pride/news-from-the-bunker-nov-2021/>



Tuesday Coffee

Looking for some camaraderie with fellow veterans? Come to the **Wenatchee Veterans Hall** (1206 N. Wenatchee Ave) on **Tuesdays** from **8-9:30am** for coffee, donuts, and a casual atmosphere to relax and just chat with folks who "get it". No division, no competition, no expectations, just some friendly conversation with those who have also worn the uniform.

Editor's Notes

This issue, number 18, marks 3 full years of this publication; I can hardly believe it! Time flies when you're having fun.

Seriously, I really do enjoy putting all of this information together for you, and hearing about how it reached folks and helped make a difference for someone I may never meet.

So **Thank You**, all of you, who have supported me along the way, who answer my emails requesting stories and photos, who invite me to your meetings (especially when virtual) so I can glean more information, who reference the directory or the blog when sharing with your friends or colleagues, and all of you who take the time to read this newsletter, the website, the blog posts, and even Facebook. I do this FOR you, but also WITH you. I certainly can't be everywhere, so your input is vital to ensuring this Resource continues to exist. Again, Thank You.

I never expected my job as Web Developer to lead me into volunteer titles like Journalist and Publisher, but it seems to be working out quite well so far. Let's see what the new year brings, shall we?

As always, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay in touch.

~Connie



NCW Vets Gazette is a newsletter for Veterans in North Central Washington, provided free of charge in print and digital form courtesy of NCW Veterans Info. It is made possible with thanks to the continued support of VFW and American Legion posts across the region, NCW Vets Serving Vets, other local veteran organizations, as well as Sponsors & generous community members (like you).

Contact:

Connie Hill - (509) 433-7879
whatsnew@ncwveterans.info
ncwveteransinfo@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ncwveterans

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www.ncwveterans.info/events

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www.ncwveterans.info/support

**Mann-Grandstaff
 VA Medical Center**

4815 N. Assembly St - Spokane
 (509) 434-7000 (800) 325-7940
www.spokane.va.gov

Wenatchee VA Clinic (CBOC)

2350 Chester-Kimm Rd
 (509) 663-7615
 weekdays 7:30am - 4pm

24/7 Support
 Crisis Line:
800.273.8255
 Vets4Warriors:
855.838.8255

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