

A Newsletter for the Veterans in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan Counties

### **Ready for Summer?**



We got our first taste of summer recently, and the usual outdoor activities are making their comeback after a stunted year. Gardens are growing, the rivers are rising, and the sun is shining! This may just be the perfect way to "get back to normal" as best we can after a very long pandemic adventure.

As you get out there, please be safe – drink plenty of water, protect your skin and eyes from the sun, be prepared with first aid supplies and knowledge, and review safety measure for whatever your adventure (hiking, water, etc). Oh, and don't go out alone!

Stay cool, stay safe, stay healthy.

### Women Veterans Day

Women Veterans Day is observed on June 12, a date chosen to mark the **anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act**. The date is not recognized nationally, but is recognized by a number of states, either through legislation or proclamation, as well as by various organizations. The stated goal of Women Veterans Day varies but can generally be acknowledged as an *effort to honor the work of women in the United States Armed Forces and recognize the unique challenges that they have faced*.



Alatheia Riding Center in Wenatchee is hosting a Women Veterans Day event on Saturday, 12 June, at 2pm. This event is an opportunity for lady veterans to experience the healing power of horses with a time of hands-on learning, play, and reflection. Snacks and door prizes will be available.

Please RSVP to DeeAnne DeAngelo at **(509) 669-0601** or email:

info@alatheiaridingcenter.com



### Veterans Coffee

Looking for some camaraderie with fellow veterans? Come down to the **Wenatchee Veterans Hall** 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.

### Memorial Day Around the Region

As vaccinations increase and restrictions begin to lift, Memorial Day seemed a bit more normal this year, with ceremonies and gatherings at cemeteries across the 4 counties.

Check out some of the photos from events that took place around the region this year. This is only what was submitted or I found online, but I'm certain veterans and community members far and wide took time to honor those lost while serving.

If you have photos or a story to share, reach out to whatsnew@ncwveterans.info and I'll get it posted on the website for everyone to see.



*Quincy Valley Cemetery, 31 May – VFW Post 24 & AL Post 183 participated; photo by Rachel Pinkerton, Columbia Basin Herald* 



87 Forgotten Heroes Memorial, Moses Lake – AL Post 209 and others held a service to honor those lost at the Port of Moses Lake in a fatal crash during Operation Sleigh Ride on 20 Dec 1952; photos by Sam Fletcher, Columbia Basin Herald; full story at https://tinyurl.com/ml-memorialday2021

### Memorial Day continued



The Patriotic Council (including AL Post 10 and VFW Post 3617, with other local groups) honored veterans at Wenatchee Cemetery, George Sellar Bridge (for those lost at sea), Evergreen Memorial Park (East Wenatchee), and Pybus Market, all on 31 May; Pictured: (left) Wenatchee Cemetery, Veterans Section; (right) Pybus Market ceremony; photos by Kim Pieratt

American Legion Park, Manson -AL Post 108 hosted an event, including guest speaker Congresswoman Dr Kim Schrier, who distributed commemoration pins to 25 Vietnam Veterans in attendance after the ceremony; photo by Susan Manly





*Riverview Cemetery, Oroville -AL Post 84 and community members worked together to clean up grave sites and place flags on Veterans graves over the weekend, with a ceremony on 31 May; Photo by Cassandra Clark, Post 84 Cmdr* 

## 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

No input received in time for publication.



Tom Even Okanogan County VSO 1 Tonasket Shop Rd 8am – 3pm Mon-Thu 8am – 2pm Fridays (509) 486-2121

vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

No input received in time for publication.



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

DCVS is glad to continue supporting our community by helping veterans with their VA claims process and local Veteran's Relief funds. With the heat of summer upon us, please remember to care for yourself by staying well hydrated and protected from the sun and heat. Make sure to wear a hat/sunscreen and keep a bottle of water handy when you go out for a walk.

We are looking forward to planning some information sessions later this year so keep your eyes and ears perked for details. We'll post on our Facebook page and share through the NCW Veterans Info site. We're also starting to work with the local radio stations to help get information out to those who might not access the internet as often.

#### Jerry Gingrich Grant County VSO

(509) 754-2011 x2931 jtgingrich@grantcountywa.gov



Wenatchee Valley 13 June @ 2pm 850 N. James Street East Wenatchee

# Flag Day - 14 June

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. While most commonly recognized as a day to learn about the history of our flag, it is also often used as a day to respectfully and ceremoniously retire old, faded, frayed flags and those otherwise no longer fit for flying. Local groups will often collect worn-out flags during the year in preparation for a retirement ceremony on or around Flag Day each year. These ceremonies include burning the retired flags.

Grant County 14 June @ 7pm American Legion Post 28 276 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Ephrata Other groups may be hosting events - check with local scout troops, Legion/VFW posts, or other service organizations.

## Fourth of July

As the May military holidays wrap up, we begin to prepare for the next patriotic event, our nation's celebration of Independence. Most localities feature some sort of public, community event with food, music, and family entertainment, often culminating in a fireworks display after dark.

Events this year may still be limited due to COVID-related health & safety restrictions, and few organizations have complete details posted yet – please check with your local community groups, such as Chamber of Commerce, for more details.



Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center - https://grandcouleedam.org/event/festival-of-america/

Moses Lake Freedom Festival- www.moseslakefreedomfest.com

### Civil Air Patrol

Read all of the CAP updates on NCW Veterans Info: https://www.ncwveterans.info/tag/civil-air-patrol/

Major Doug Taylor will be leaving our squadron and moving to Colorado. Major Taylor has been in the Civil Air Patrol as a Senior for 11 years, he will be missed.

#### PROMOTIONS

Elijah Rinke to c/2nd Lieutenant

Jacob Tate, Zachary Wiser, and Grey Olin to c/Senior Airman

Alexandrea Toledo and Chase Bull to c/Airman First Class

Dawson Brender to c/Airman

#### AWARDS

C/2nd Lt Elijah Rinke and C/CMSgt Austin Jeffris both received Achievement Awards for their performance at the Airman Training Day at the Washington All Mission Academy on the 22nd of May 2021. Cadet Rinke also received the Airman Training Day Honor Award as Flight Commander, while Cadet Toledo received the Airman Training Day Honor Award as Honor Cadet in Alpha Flight.

Cadet SrA Grey Olin received the Cadet of the Quarter award (for Feb-May 2021) for his motivation in learning, training and achieving personal Leadership skills.

(L-R) Capt Keyanna, Major Taylor, Maj Hahn, Capt McGougan and 2nd Lt Gardner







#### NCW Vets Gazette

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

Post 28 (Ephrata) 276 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NW (509) 754-2761

Post 56 (Okanogan) 860 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (509) 826-2610 3<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7pm

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

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

Post 84 (Oroville) 314 14<sup>th</sup> Ave (509) 476-2761

Post 97 (Brewster) 102 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St (509) 689-3307 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 6pm

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

Post 143 (Twisp) 626 Bridge St (509) 997-5322 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm

Post 157 (Electric City) 31 Coulee Rd (509) 771-5796 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm

Post 183 (Quincy) (509) 760-8124

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 9am

Post 209 (Moses Lake) 538 W Broadway (509) 765-1126

### American Legion

*Please check with each Post for complete details about in-person meetings and any restrictions that may still be in place.* 



#### Post 10, Wenatchee

We hosted the AL District 9 conference on April 25<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended with many posts attending. Among other business, new district officers were elected. A number of our members will be attending the American Legion State of WA Convention July 6-11. *Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.* 

#### Post 28, Ephrata

We recently hosted an Honor Flight fundraiser. We will be providing a Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday, 20 June, from 9am -noon. *Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.* 

#### Hodges Post 84, Oroville

Thanks to all who helped out for Memorial Day, both Post/Aux and community members alike! Full story, complete shout-out list, and photos available on NCW Veterans Info:

https://ncwveterans.info/post-pride/memorial-day-2021-oroville/ Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.

#### <u>Manson Post 108</u>

We appreciated everyone coming out for Memorial Day, including our special guest, Congresswoman Dr. Kim Schrier – full story and images available on NCW Veterans Info blog: https://ncwveterans.info/post-pride/memorial-day-2021-manson/ with a link to the Facebook album featuring more photos and details. *Monthly meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7pm.* 

#### **REMINDER:**

If your Post has recently hosted an event, or would like to promote an upcoming event, please send details to whatsnew@ncwveterans.info any time. I'll make sure it gets published on the website and to Facebook, and included in the newsletter as applicable.

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Please check with each Post for complete details about in-person meetings and any restrictions that may still be in place.

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

Post 3617 Wenatchee Valley 211 11<sup>th</sup> St NE East Wenatchee (509) 884-3617

Post 6853 Chelan 427 Bradley St, Chelan (509) 679-4949

#### **George Washington Post 24**

Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 10am.

#### Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley

Our monthly Community Breakfast has resumed - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 9am at Country Inn in East Wenatchee, all are welcome. We are also beginning to plan more in-person events as restrictions are lifted.

Monthly meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7pm.

<u>Post 6853, Chelan</u>

Monthly meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm.

### NCW Vets Serving Vets - the Bunker

We provide navigational assistance to veterans dealing with the VA as well as a safe place to socialize with those whose life experiences are akin to our own. It always amazes us how much veterans have in common, even though they served in different branches, different conflicts, and different times. At the Bunker, all veterans are free to discuss their experiences without fear of being attacked for having served (still a real response in society, unfortunately). Here, the former Sp4 and the senior NCO, no longer separated by their former rank differences, are free to exchange perceptions, experiences, and yes, "war stories" without fear of being judged. The playing field is indeed level.

Know a vet who is having a hard time, relunctant to take that first step? Call us. We will do our best to provide assistance. Sometimes it is as simple as giving a ride or playing a game of cribbage. We do not have a real Red Carpet to roll out, but a new face is always welcomed as if there were.

Located in the Harle Center between Cricket and Sumo, we are officially **open Mon-Fri between 9am-1pm**. Assistance may be available during off-hours – just give us a call.

**All veterans are welcome**. No membership fees. Just bring in your DD214 and you are automatically a member. Those that need social assistance, help with the VA, or just desire to help others, will always find a place at our table.



**The Bunker** 1206 N. Wenatchee Ave

**(509) 885-5559** *Where "Thanks for your Service" is more than just lip service.* 



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NCW Vets Gazette

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### Editor's Notes

Warmer weather is here, more folks are getting vaccinated (what are you waiting for?), and restrictions on activities and gatherings are being lifted. Are you ready?

Whether it be a desire to be around and talk to others, support your fellow veterans and community members, or just get back to activities outside the home, we are all itching to "get back to normal". I know it's exciting, but I also hope you found some time during the pandemic isolation to do some reflection on yourself, your society, and what you really want from life. Personally, I've discovered some things that I'd like to keep and others I'm okay with letting go. It's put a new light on how I wish to live my life.

That being said, I hope as we come back together, hosting events, feeding others, donating time and goods, that we all bring a positive attitude of connection, support, and respect to everything we do, and that as a community, we can rebuild more sustainable networks around us. If it wasn't supportive to you before, you don't have to go back to it. Remember, YOU are in control of your life, and that includes your mental health and wellbeing.

Stay safe and healthy, and stay in touch.

~Connie

24/7 Support Crisis Line: 800.273.8255 Vets4Warriors: 855.838.8255

#### 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



**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 www.facebook.com/ncwveterans

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