

## Winter is Here

The snow has started falling, the days are short, and the season of giving is upon us. Hopefully you have a warm place to sleep at night, and maybe even some friendly faces to share a hot drink or meal with. If not, reach out – there are so many people and groups who want to help.

And if YOU are the person helping others, **Thank You**. No matter what you are giving – your time, money, food, clothes, shelter, or just a friendly face – it is making a difference to a fellow human being, and it is appreciated.



WREATHS  
— across —  
AMERICA



As the holidays close in, please be mindful that this time of year can be extra hard for people who have lost loved ones, especially if it was in this past year.

*“Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver.”* Barbara de Angelis

at a cemetery near you on  
**Sat, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am**

**Wreaths Across America** aims to Remember, Honor, and Teach, by laying wreaths on Veterans graves across the nation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of Dec each year. Volunteer at or attend a ceremony near you.

## Veterans Day Around the Region

In North Central Washington, we love our Veterans so much that Veterans Day events span nearly a week, from assemblies at the area schools, to parades, to luncheons, and more. Here's just some of the events that happened around the area for 2019 Veterans Day.



*American Legion Post 108 VC  
Brian Strasbaugh & Commander  
Clyde McCullough at Manson HS  
Veterans Day breakfast*

**Manson, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>:** Students hosted and served breakfast for area veterans. The High School students also presented Tatley Outpost Farms with \$2,100 from their month-long Penny War fundraiser to help build tiny homes for veterans. At 11am, a ceremony was held at Legion Park, led by Legion Post 108 and accompanied by Manson High School band.

**Continued...**



## ***Veterans Day Around the Region (cont)***



**Wenatchee Valley College, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>:** WVC Veteran Knights hosted a ceremony on campus, and CAP Pangborn Composite Squadron provided assistance with raising the colors. Guest speakers included Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz and WVC President Jim Richardson.



In all school districts around the region, Veterans are typically invited to attend school assemblies and ceremonies on the last school day before the holiday to honor their service. Pictured above are the veterans who attended the assembly at **Chelan High School**. Almost every other school in the area held similar events, although no photos were shared with this publication. If you are interested in participating in future events, consider reaching out to your local American Legion or VFW posts, as they are usually the ones who receive the invites from the schools.



**Wenatchee Valley:** After a breakfast hosted by American Legion Post 10, the Parade marched to Memorial Park for a brief ceremony including a 21 gun salute before continuing along the route. Legion Post 10 provided the Color Guard. Participants included the Legion Riders, Boy Scout & Cub Scout troops, the Fallen Heroes Banners, multiple area Veterans groups, three school bands, and our Police & Fire Departments. After the parade, lunch was hosted at Chelan Fire Station 1.

Other parades, ceremonies, and free meals took place in Tonasket, Okanogan, Omak, Ephrata, Brewster, Electric City, Moses Lake, and probably more. Stay in touch with your local Service Organizations to find out how you can get involved with these events. And don't hesitate to submit photos and stories about any events in which you participate to the Editor at [whatsnew@ncwveterans.info](mailto:whatsnew@ncwveterans.info) in order to be included in future editions of the Vets Gazette.



**Veteran  
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**509-264-2050**



# Supernova Business Launch Competition



The North Central Washington Economic Development District (NCWEDD) is proud to present the Supernova Business Launch Competition. A competition committed to growing small businesses in NCW while overcoming barriers to employment. Barriers include but are not limited to veterans; people with disabilities; people without a high school diploma or GED; unemployed youth; justice-involved citizens; women and underrepresented minorities. The NCWEDD has partnered with organizations (such as NCW Veterans Info) throughout Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Ferry Counties as well as the Colville Confederated Tribes to assist the makers, dreamers, and entrepreneurs in successfully creating a solid business plan. We will be offering workshops to assist those wanting to take the next steps in launching a small business, as well as other tools and resources needed to build the shining new stars of our region.

We invite you to attend a **live webinar on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**, to learn about the Supernova Business Launch Competition and how you can apply. We will be LIVE streaming through our Facebook page starting at 9:00 AM, at <https://www.facebook.com/NCWEDD/> If you are not able to attend the LIVE stream, the video will be available through our Facebook page to view anytime at your convenience.

## Attention Disabled Veterans

If you were helped in processing a VA Disability Claim by **Larry Strozyk** from the years 2000 – 2019, please call **(509) 884-3617** as soon as possible. Larry is no longer processing VA Claims and may have a file folder to give you. If he is not available, leave your name and number and he will get back to you. Please call **before Dec 31, 2019**.



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## Pangborn Flag Detail

Douglas County Commissioners, Washington Trust representatives, and the Color Guard from Wenatchee Valley VFW Post 3617 gathered August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Pangborn traffic circle to install a new 20' x 30' flag. The flag was provided by Washington Trust Bank. Post 3617 volunteers have adopted the duties of lowering and raising the flag for commemorative events (previously handled by Douglas County facilities department).



VFW Post 3617 Color Guard with Douglas County Commissioners and WA Trust reps at Pangborn Traffic Circle, Aug 27<sup>th</sup>.



## From Your Veteran Service Officers



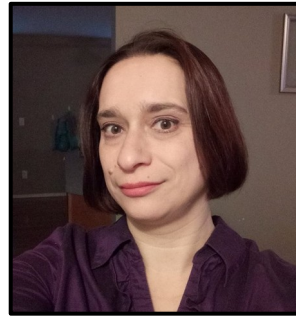
**Tony Sandoval**  
**Chelan County VSO**  
 428 Orondo Ave,  
 Wenatchee  
 9am – 4pm Mon – Thurs  
**(509) 667-6906**  
 tony.sandoval@  
 co.chelan.wa.us

Staying busy here at the Chelan County Veterans Service Office. Appointments are appreciated, but walk-ins are always welcome during our office hours.

I will be in Leavenworth on Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> and Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> (10am - 1pm) at Kristall's, and in Chelan on Thursday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and Jan 9<sup>th</sup> (9am - noon) at the Apple Cup Cafe.

We are constantly watching for updates on Blue Water Navy disability claims as well as Burn Pit determinations. If you have any questions about whether you should submit a claim, just ask.

Our next Chelan County Veterans Advisory Board meeting is Thurs, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at my office. This meeting is open to the public however, seating may be limited.



**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

In Oct & Nov I have been able to share some of what my job is to a few local organizations. I spoke at the Retired Public Employees of WA council monthly meeting as well as one of the weekly meetings of the Eastmont Kiwanis group. This outlet has been great for me to share with the community what my office does and why it is such a needed resource. I must thank the Bunker for being a vocal & active part of the veterans community, as well as Eric & Tony for paving the way for this office to exist.

So far this year I have submitted 59 claims with 126 issues. Of that, the VA has made a decision on 8 claims, rating 13 of 14 issues. This puts my batting average over 90%. I'm hoping that trend continues into the new year.



**Pam Stevens**  
**Okanogan County VSO**  
 1 Tonasket Shop Rd  
 8am – 3pm Mon–Thu  
 8am – 2pm Fridays  
**(509) 486-2121**  
 vso@co.okanogan.wa.us

I've been settling into my new position rather smoothly, and I am excited to share a special upcoming event with you:

Okanogan County Veteran Services is holding a Stand Down in conjunction with the Okanogan County Community Action Council's Resource Fair on **Tues, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm, at 424 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S, Okanogan.** Watch for a flyer to be passed around in the near future.

**Jerry Gingrich**  
**Grant County VSO**

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



509-667-8828

[www.centralwashingtonveterans.com](http://www.centralwashingtonveterans.com)

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 families

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# WorkSource

## Pybus Job Fair Success

Our Job and Resource Fair, held in the Spring and Fall at Pybus Market in Wenatchee, continues to grow while meeting the needs of our community.

From the Oct 24<sup>th</sup> job fair, we found out that:

55 job seekers attended, approx 20% are veterans.

21 Employers and 9 Resources attended.

For our Spring event, we are adjusting the time of day, in the hopes of increasing attendance on both sides of the table, and making more valuable matches all around.

Save the date: **Thurs, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 3-6pm** at Pybus Market

WorkSource Veteran Reps for NCW:

**Eileen Boylston**

Eboylston@esd.wa.gov

(509) 766-4111

**Terrie Garcia-Hernandez**

mgarcia-hernandez@esd.wa.gov

(509) 423-6678



The Wenatchee Valley College Veteran Knights would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to some local groups for their recent help.

To the Bunker: Thank you for your support in funding two new computers for student veterans to use in our Veterans Lounge.

To the CAP Squadron: Thank you for helping with our Veterans Day presentation on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. We couldn't have done it without you.



## Civil Air Patrol



Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Emmanuel Larson was promoted to the rank of Cadet Captain and was also awarded the Amelia Earhart Award. This promotion and award presentation was conducted by Air Force ROTC Recruiter Captain Wesley Griffith on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. Achievement of the Amelia Earhart award is a huge milestone for any Cadet in the Civil Air Patrol program.



*Air Force ROTC Capt Griffith presenting Amelia Earhart award to Cadet Capt Larsen*



Wenatchee Valley VFW Post 3617  
Volunteers of the Quarter

Thanks for all you  
do to keep Bingo  
running smoothly!

Larry Strozyk  
Milt Slaght  
Mike McGlone

We have been actively collecting donations for this year's **Wreaths Across America** event – Thank you all for your support so far. we are excited and honored to be involved with the ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery in East Wenatchee on **Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us at 9am!





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

Post 64 (Cashmere)  
401 Sunset Highway  
(509) 782-4973

Post 82 (Tonasket)  
319 S Western  
(509) 486-2382

Post 97 (Brewster)  
102 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
(509) 689-3307

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

Post 157 (Electric City)  
31 Coulee Rd  
(509) 631-1839

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

***Is your post not listed? Reach out to be included in the next issue.***

## ***From the American Legion***

*Department of Washington is hosting a training event and mid-winter conference in Lacey on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> & Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.*

### **Post 10, Wenatchee**

Our Auxiliary is hosting their annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Proceeds go to Veteran, Youth, and Community programs.

Our Kids' Christmas Party is Sun, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm, featuring treats, cookie decorating, crafts, and a visit from Santa.

Don't forget to join us every Monday for a delicious \$5 meal.

*Monthly Board, Post & Aux meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm. Legion Riders meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 9am.*

### **Post 56, Okanogan**

Our Christmas party is on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Dinner is a potluck, with ham & turkey provided. Bring a side to share. Any veterans interested in learning about or joining the Legion are welcome to attend. Questions can be directed to Adjutant Ken: (509) 429-9882

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

### **Post 82, Tonasket**

We are celebrating 100 years of the American Legion with a Prime Rib dinner and Post Open House on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, noon – 5pm. Our Christmas Dinner & Open House is on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, noon – 3pm, including turkey, ham, mashed & scalloped potatoes, and more. Cost for either meal is by donation.

*Monthly meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 5pm.*

### **Columbia Post 97, Brewster**

We had a great turnout for our annual Craft Bazaar in November.

Cops and Kids event at the Post on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 11am-4pm. This gives kids a chance to 'shop' for gifts from items that have been donated. We are providing hot cocoa & treats as well.

Annual Christmas & Appreciation dinner for members & guests on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>; Community Christmas dinner (by donation) on Dec 25<sup>th</sup>.

Our Annual Crab Feed is also coming up – Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 5-8pm. Tickets are \$45 and available as pre-sale only: (509) 689-3307 or stop by 102 N Third St, Brewster, to order.

*Monthly Board & Aux meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 6pm. Legion Riders meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 10am.*

### **Manson Post 108**

During December, we will be helping out the Salvation Army with their Red Kettle efforts to raise money for Chelan Valley Hope.

*Monthly meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7pm.*

# ***From the Veterans of Foreign Wars***

*Department of Washington is hosting their mid-winter conference and training in Yakima on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*



## **Post 24, George / Grant County**

We took part in the Ephrata Veterans Day parade. We also hung up the winners from our Youth Art Contest on the Veterans Recognition Walls in Quincy – stop by to admire the creativity of the local children.

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

## **Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley**

Our November Buddy Poppy tabling events went well. We'd like to say a special thanks to the volunteers who were at Martin's Marketplace and the Entiat High School craft shows for their successful efforts.

Members, family, and guests are welcome to our Holiday party on Sun Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Potluck and gift exchange.

We host Bingo every Friday night, with doors opening at 5:30pm, first call at 6:30pm.

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

## **Post 6853, Chelan**

Congrats to our Service Officer Bob Goedde on your election as Mayor of Chelan!

We have a new meeting location: the clubhouse at the Horseshoe pit by the Ball Park (on the gravel part of Bradley St). We are hoping to make this a permanent Post Home.

*Monthly meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> St NE  
East Wenatchee  
(509) 884-3617

Post 6853 Chelan  
Meets at the Club House at  
the Horseshoe Pit next to  
the Ball Park  
(509) 679-4949

# ***Phone Scams on the Rise***

Please be vigilant – scammers are getting more prevalent and more cunning. To avoid trouble that might come from scam phone calls, keep these tips in mind.

Scammers often try to mimic the language and mannerisms of the organization they are pretending to be – this makes it hard to identify them as fraudulent.

Organizations like Social Security and the VA don't usually call you unexpectedly to request or verify your information, especially if it is related to your finances. As a general rule of thumb: **Don't give our personal details unless you initiated the phone call.**

If at any time during the conversation you don't feel comfortable, tell them you will call them back and then hang up. Scammers may threaten you at this point, whereas valid callers will not.

For more helpful tips or help after getting such a call, speak with a trusted professional.

## Editor's Notes

You may be interested to know that this issue completes the first full year of this newsletter existing. And with the continued support from the local Veterans organizations, I will be able to continue publishing and printing it for at least another year. In October, The Bunker committed to \$500 in annual support, while issuing a challenge to VFW Post 3617 and AL Post 10 that they do the same. I am pleased to say that both organizations have accepted the challenge, and combined with financial support from other local organizations, most of my costs (until Nov 2020) are covered. Additional donations will allow me to grow NCW Veterans Info with new website features.

Another interesting thing I hope you've seen is the new logo (right). I've partnered with a graphic designer who was able to create this image to better represent NCW Veterans moving forward. Watch as it becomes part of the consistent branding, both online (website, facebook, etc) and in print (newsletter header, fliers, business cards, etc).

I also want to point out that the main purpose of this newsletter, besides sharing information, has always been to remind you about and encourage you to visit the main website, [www.NCWVeterans.info](http://www.NCWVeterans.info) - It is the central resource hub for veterans and those who work with veterans. It has a searchable directory, a comprehensive events calendar, even a growing list of veteran discounts in the area. As a way to provide more frequent updates, and encourage visitors to keep coming back, I am planning to restart my weekly blog posts (The Weekly Brief) in the new year. Of course, there will be an option to get these updates via email as well, so I encourage you to sign up when it becomes available.

Thanks again for your continued support!

~Connie



**NCW Vets Gazette** is a newsletter for Veterans in North Central Washington, provided free of charge courtesy of NCW Veterans Info, with continued support from VFW 3617 Aux & other local veteran organizations.

### Contact:

Connie Hill – (509) 433-7879  
[whatsnew@ncwveterans.info](mailto:whatsnew@ncwveterans.info)  
[www.facebook.com/ncwveterans](https://www.facebook.com/ncwveterans)

### Quick Links

Main Website:

[www.ncwveterans.info](http://www.ncwveterans.info)

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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](http://www.spokane.va.gov)

### Wenatchee VA Clinic (CBOC)

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