



# NCW Vets Gazette

Issue 7 - Feb / Mar 2020

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

## ***New Year, Same Mission***

Welcome to 2020 my friends. I hope the start of this year has been smooth for you so far. Did you make resolutions? Or are you like me, looking back at previous goals and reaffirming your commitment to the original mission?

Recently I've been reminded why I started the NCW Veterans Info website in the first place: **to (re)connect the veteran community** and reduce the isolation that can come from living in this region. I saw so many people helping veterans in their own way, but rarely in conjunction. With every new entry I post on the website, with every new issue of the Vets Gazette I publish, and with every email or conversation, I am taking steps to bring the veterans, their resources, and our communities closer together.

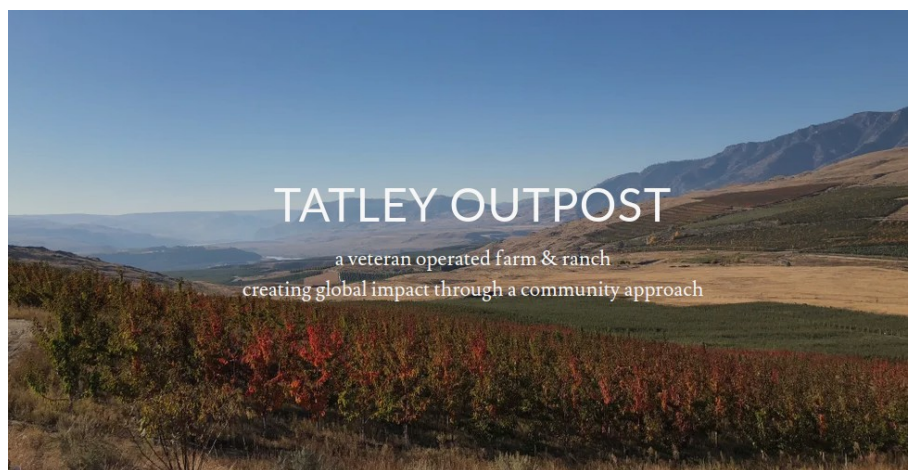
Now I'd like to ask YOU, the veterans and resources strewn about North Central Washington, to join me on this mission. I can't do this alone. But that's the thing about community: we are working together for a common goal. When we align our paths in the same direction, it makes the trip more enjoyable for all.

Reach out and connect with that service organization you've been considering. Share a story from this newsletter or the website with a veteran you know. And take steps toward your own goals with support from your community members.

## ***Tatley Outpost in Pateros***

From their website:

"At their core Tatley Outpost is a ranch and farm, built on the 1,600-acre ranch of the Tatley family in Pateros, WA. The center of the operations is a 40+ acre apple and cherry orchard, surrounded by acres of row crops and livestock. The entire day-to-day operation is run by Veterans and their families. Embedded within the operation are programs to assist Veterans with their own farms on the property, training programs, nature driven healing programs, outdoor adventures, and a housing community."



Find out more about Tatley Outpost, their programs, and how you can get involved or support them:

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

Facebook @TatleyOutpost

## ***Honorable Welcome Home***

*Honorable Welcome Home* offers veterans the welcome they should have received when they first returned from service. It is a welcome that lets them know that we are honored to receive them and to offer rejuvenation of spirit to those who carry the hidden burdens of war.

With the thoughtful guidance of our friends at the American Legion and VFW, as well as community-wide conversation, we decided to host our first *Honorable Welcome Home* in March of 2010. Since then, *Honorable Welcome Home* has hosted over 100 veterans, mostly from the Vietnam conflict, but also including veterans from WWII through the Iraq War.

What we have learned is that many veterans, especially combat veterans, have disqualified themselves from enjoying life because of the horrors in which they participated in battle. They come to Chelan, having for years carried the emotional and spiritual wounds of war, and find a community willing and able to accompany them on a journey to wholeness.

Veterans who have been through *HWH* return to Chelan to tell us how transforming their time with us has been. Men and women who thought they would never be received or welcomed find themselves open once more to the possibility of enjoying their lives. The experience has been profoundly liberating for many of our now dear friends.



The outline of *HWH* is simple. We welcome veterans (and their spouse) to Chelan, offering housing, meals and activities of the veteran's own choosing (like horseback riding, massages, fishing trips, skydiving, winery visits, helicopter tours, and more). We accompany them, talk with them and enjoy meals together. We gradually hear and hold many difficult stories and gently support veterans in their struggle to come to peace with their past. Through such hospitality, healing begins.

The next *Honorable Welcome Home* is Weds thru Sat, **March 18-21<sup>st</sup>**. If you or someone you know might be interested in attending, please call **Shannon Byquist-Freels** at **670-4193**.

## ***Washington State Patriotic Day***

Washington State Patriotic Day carries on the annual President George Washington Birthday tradition of Massing of the Colors supported by the America's First Corps Band. The parade of Flag Units honors and recognizes patriots that have served the United States of America and guides our Youth, the future of our Country, into patriotism.

Even if you won't be presenting as a flag unit, you are invited to attend and enjoy the music and display of patriotism. Free to attend, free parking.

More information at [www.washingtonstatepatrioticday.org](http://www.washingtonstatepatrioticday.org)

*Saturday*  
*Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020*  
*2pm*  
*Stadium HS Gym,*  
*111 North E St.*  
*Tacoma*

# WVC Veteran Knights Attend SVA NatCon 2020



Attending Student Veterans of America, NATCON 2020, allowed myself and my colleagues the opportunity to learn, enhance, and develop skills necessary to reach our full potential as student veterans. Speakers from vastly different backgrounds and professional fields passed down their knowledge and experiences in re-integration and success after leaving the military, speaking in detail on leadership, dependability, and integrity. In addition to enhancing our own ability to achieve excellence, we have brought the skills and resources back to the Veteran Knights student population.

*-Joe Gerak, WVC Veteran Knights*

*[L to R] Jose Solis, Joe Gerak, and Trent Mortensen grab a photo opp on the NatCon stage.*



## Job and Resource Fairs

We have 2 major job fairs coming up. If you are now or soon will be looking for work, plan to attend one of these events.

### Big Bend Community College Job & Career Fair

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 3pm, at Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake

Over 80 employers and resources on hand.

### Pybus Job & Resource Fair at the Pybus (Market) Events Center, Wenatchee

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 3pm – 6pm NEW TIME! Priority of Service for Veterans; All job seekers welcome.

Dress professionally. Be prepared to interview. Bring your resume.

Go to WorkSource to perfect your resume and brush up on your interviewing skills.

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

# ***From Your Veteran Service Officers***



**Tony Sandoval**  
**Chelan County VSO**  
428 Orondo Ave,  
Wenatchee  
9am – 4pm Mon – Thurs  
**(509) 664-6801**  
tony.sandoval@  
co.chelan.wa.us

Welcome to the new year. My outreach events in Leavenworth and Chelan continue to be well received. As a reminder, you can meet me at Kristall's in Leavenworth on the first Friday (Feb 7<sup>th</sup> & Mar 6<sup>th</sup>) from 10am to noon. Chelan outreach is now on the **third** Thursday (Feb 20<sup>th</sup> & Mar 19<sup>th</sup>) at the Apple Cup Cafe from 9am to noon.

Our next Chelan County Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm at my office. Everyone is welcome to attend.



**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

This year I am looking into the feasibility of getting a VA Vet Center in Douglas County. For more information on what a VA Vet Center is, visit <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>

In other news, my first year metrics have come in. My “batting average” is 79%, meaning that most of the claims I prepared and submitted, that the VA has completed review of, resulted in the veteran receiving compensation. Not bad for my first year on the job, considering all there is still to learn.



**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 was at 2 veteran resource events recently, the Tonakset Veterans Resource Fair and Stand Down, as well as the Okanogan County Veterans Resource Event. I met many more veterans in need of assistance, and I look forward to helping them all access the benefits they've earned.



**Joe Cruz**  
**Grant County VSO**

**(509) 855-4577**  
jacruz@grantcountywa.gov

Newly hired in January, Grant County is proud to welcome Joe Cruz to the position of Veteran Service Officer. More information will be coming soon regarding Joe's office hours and location, as well as an introduction to Joe himself. Until then, you can reach Joe via the email and phone number listed above.



## Civil Air Patrol

Pangborn Composite Squadron was honored to provide the Color Guard for the Wreaths Across America event hosted by VFW 3617 at Evergreen Memorial Park in East Wenatchee on Sat, Dec 14, 2019. We would like to thank all of you who generously sponsored wreaths, “to Remember, Honor and Teach” the meaning of this day. It was an honor for the cadets to lay wreaths on our fallen veteran’s graves.

Cadets in the Color Guard: Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Caleb Darlington, C/TSgt Elijah Rinke, C/Airman Hayden Reiber, C/Major Ethan Larsen, C/Airman Sophia Black, C/A1C Austin Jeffris, C/Captain Emmanuel Larsen. Senior members attending: Captain Ian Schuelke, Captain Leigh McGougan, Captain Morris Hahn (Squadron Commander), Major Douglas Taylor. Photographer: 2d Lt Audra Keyanna w/ assist from C/1st Sergeant Courtney Brown.



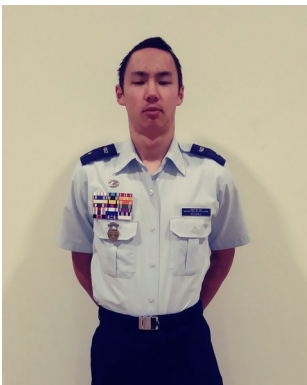
Cadet Sophie Black was promoted to Cadet/A1C, Pictured here with her family.



Cadet Nathaniel Black received the “General Billy Mitchell Award” and a promotion to the rank of Cadet/ 2d Lt. He was also interviewed as a candidate for the United States Army Academy at West Point.



Cadet / TSgt Elijah Rinke was awarded the Air Force Association’s Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award for our squadron.



Cadet/Major Ethan Larsen was promoted to the rank of Cadet/Lt Col in January. He is the first cadet to receive this rank level in over 4 years in the squadron. C/Lt Col Larsen also just returned from his National Leadership School in Iowa, which he was able to attend with the financial assistance from the America Legion Post 10 in Wenatchee. C/Lt Col Larsen will be entering the United States Marines this summer and wants to become a member of an armory tank crew.

In Nov 2019, a new senior member joined the Squadron. We are excited to welcome Douglas Gardner, a member of American Legion Post 10 Wenatchee, as our new Character Development Instructor and Communications Officer. Doug completed Level 1 Certification and received his certificate from Capt Hahn on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 [photo, right].







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

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

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

Post 143 (Twisp)  
626 Bridge St  
(509) 997-5322

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

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

## From the American Legion

### **Post 10, Wenatchee**

We were honored to present Wreaths Across America at the Wenatchee cemetery on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> [photo right].

Our annual Birthday Dinner with special guests Wenatchee Apple Blossom Royalty will be on Sun, Mar 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.

*Monthly Board, Post & Aux meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.*



### **Post 28, Ephrata**

In Dec, we presented a check for \$7345 to the Ephrata School District in support of the IDEA project as well as funding 'communication boards' to help nonverbal students talk to fellow students and staff.

*Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.*



[L-R] AL Post 28 QM Duane Dahl, Grant Elementary Principal Shannon Dahl, Cmdr Tony Ammann, Donna Nelson, & Aux rep Pat Whittham

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

We served nearly 100 meals at our crab feed on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> (pics below). Join us for a Super Bowl Chili Cook-off on Sun, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. \$5 buy in, crowd favorite wins a prize. Then on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, we're hosting a romantic steak dinner with music from the Crane Band. \$12/person for dinner at 5pm, \$5 donation for dancing starting at 8pm.

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



### **Methow Post 143**

[photo left] Our chaplain Caroline Groninger, sergeant-at-arms William (Skinny) Robinson (as Santa), and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr Keith Morden & wife Donna, delivered gifts and holiday cheer on Christmas Eve to a single mom with 2 jobs and her two kids, a boy (4) and a girl (10).

*Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.*



# From the Veterans of Foreign Wars



District 7 Voice of Democracy winner Camryn Mata [center] with Cmdr Ness & Pres Rivera



VFW Posts 24, 3617, & 6853, and their Auxiliaries, at the VFW Dept of WA mid-winter conference in Yakima on 18 Jan 2020



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

## **Post 3617, Wenatchee Valley**

Join us for a St Patrick's Day meal on Sun, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.  
Our Auxiliary will be coloring with the kids at Wenatchee Mall on Sat, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11am - 1pm.

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**

We are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Sat, Feb 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 - 7pm at Champion Orchards in Manson. Open to Veterans and family, by donation.

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

# American Legion cont.

## **Hodges Post 84, Oroville**

Look for us on Facebook: @americanlegionhodgespost84

We'll be hosting a Super Bowl Taco Party on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> during the game, our annual Crab Feed on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, and a benefit auction & dinner for Joe Eder on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.

*Monthly meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7pm.*

## **Post 82, Tonasket**

Valentine's event on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30am - 4pm: Chicken fried steak w potatoes & veggies, \$10.  
Join us for a St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef & cabbage on March 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30am - 2pm, \$8.

We will line Whitcomb Ave with flags for Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

## **Manson Post 108**

On Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, we presented Manson High School and Manson Elementary School with new 4'x6' American flags.

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



Manson Elementary Principal Ben Riippi receives the flag from Cmdr Clyde McCullough



[L-R] Manson HS Principal Dr. Heather Ireland, Vice Cmdr Brian Strausbaugh, Senior class president Parker Shoenwald, Post Service Officer Norm Manly, and Superintendent Matt Charlton



## Editor's Notes

I hope you found something useful, interesting, helpful, or otherwise worthwhile this time around. There were so many stories and photos submitted that I'm running low on room. This is a great problem to have, I promise. So in order to make sure all of your great stories get shared, I've started posting them to what I call **The Bulletin Board**, which can be found at [www.ncwveterans.info/news](http://www.ncwveterans.info/news). Intermingled with the Weekly Brief posts, which sum up the shares from Facebook and the upcoming events for the week, you'll find submissions from the more remote Posts, stories I find in local papers that feature veterans, and other worthwhile reads.

I'm hoping that having more, new content being added to the website regularly brings visitors (back) to the site more often. Since I know it's hard to start new habits (like checking a website on a weekly basis), I've made it easy for you - just sign up for the weekly emails, and I'll let you know what you missed. The sign-up form is on the right side of the Bulletin Board page. Spread the word, and please consider signing up, especially if you aren't on social media very much.

As always, I seriously appreciate everyone who stays in touch so I have something to share in these newsletters. Please don't hesitate to send me any news, events, discounts, activities, or other veteran-related **information to share** via email [whatsnew@ncwveterans.info](mailto:whatsnew@ncwveterans.info) or call/text (509) 433-7879.

Remember to pass along this newsletter to other veterans that you may know. If you appreciate this resource, chances are they will too.

~Connie

### 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)

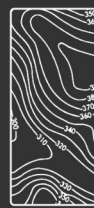
2350 Chester-Kimm Rd  
(509) 663-7615  
weekdays 7:30am - 4pm

24/7 Support

Crisis Line:  
**800.273.8255**

Vets4Warriors:  
**855.838.8255**

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### Contact:

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

### Quick Links

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