



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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American Legion Post 154 Mission Statement

The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.

Commander:

Greetings Members of Post 154, another month has passed, and we see positive movement in our lives gaining more normality. We still have a way to go and must remain vigilant in our fight with this pandemic, but we now can have in person meeting. I hope to see you all at our Monthly Membership meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month. We will not be holding our normal potluck for a couple of more months. I will be waiting to see how the number are. See ya then!

I would like to thank the many volunteers who have made our post possible. Many of you have stepped up to help with our annual events, Buddy Checks and more. Thank you for loving your post and wanting it to succeed.

I appreciate all of you that have paid your dues. These are just a few of the things we do to make a difference at Post 154 and why we have been the one constant people have been able to count on for over 101 years. Under the four pillars of the American Legion here are a few examples of what we do.

Americanism: Veteran's Day celebration, Memorial Day remembrance, Poppy distribution, Wreaths Across America observance and Flag Day.

Children and Youth programs consist of the Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Soccer team sponsorship, Boys State, Legion School Award Program. If you would like to learn more about what you can do help us make a difference, we would love to hear from you.

April is Children & Youth Month. The Legion encourages us to support and promote this month with your Children & Youth programs. As Americans, we need to remember amid the problems we face daily with the pandemic, environment, crime, unemployment and financial uncertainty, the one constant that will make or break this nation is our young people. They are our future. Our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow rest in their hands. The American Legion has been actively involved with children's issues since the early 1900s. In many instances, we have been the driving force on the federal, state and local levels representing their interests and voicing their concerns. In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month (now called Children & Youth Month) and has continued on an annual basis. During this special time, we urge each of you to show your community that The American Legion family is committed to Children. Our Most Precious Natural Resource!

For the "why should I pay my dues" crowd, it is because without your membership we would not be able to support the worthy causes outside of our post walls that deserve our time and effort.

We have some new events that we are hoping will be a great success. First, we are planning to have a Swap Meet fundraiser in August with the assistance of the folks that are involved with the community center. This should be a super fun event for everyone involved. We will also be conducting a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony. I have already started the groundwork for the display.

As always if you have suggestions, questions or problems or just want to say something good about our post please contact me. I would like to hear from you. It is an honor to serve as your commander and I am humbled by the confidence you have in me. I look forward to seeing you around the Post and in working with you to keep our post moving forward.

- Dee Sasse, Commander



Legislative Chairman:

Major Richard Star Act: This week, Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT), Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Jerry Moran (R-KS) introduced the American Legion-supported *Major Richard Star Act*. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) along with 58 bipartisan original cosponsors have introduced the House companion bill. The bill would eliminate the unjust offset for Chapter 61 military retirees who suffered injuries in combat. The bill is named in honor of Maj. Richard Star who [lost his battle](#) with cancer on February 13, 2021. Maj. Star was a father, husband, and decorated war veteran who was medically retired as a result of his combat-related injuries.

COVID Deaths and Survivor's Benefits: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that there have been 215,171 coronavirus cases afflicting veterans using VA health care services, and more than 9,500 veteran deaths as of February 5, 2021. We are concerned that some of the survivors of service-disabled veterans will be denied benefits because of a death certificate that lists the cause of death as COVID-19 and does not mention the service-connected conditions that may have contributed to their cause of death.

On January 28, 2021, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Thom Tillis (NC) re-introduced S. 89, the Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act, which would address this issue by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs seek a medical opinion in the case of any veteran who has a service-connected condition and who passes away due to the coronavirus. This medical opinion could be crucial in obtaining survivors' benefits.

Burn Pit Exposure Act: On February 24, 2021, Senator Dan Sullivan (AK) and Senator Joe Manchin (WV), introduced S. 437—the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act of 2021. The bill would concede exposure to burn pits and the toxins emitted.

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not provide a presumption of service connection for diseases related to burn pit exposure. Exposed veterans must file for direct service connection and VA has denied nearly 80% of those claims since 2007. The recent report from the National Academies notes that there is insufficient evidence for presumptive diseases and more studies are needed.

However, Congress can take action now and not wait for more studies. S. 437 would concede exposure to burn pits to any veteran who served in recognized countries and to specific toxins currently accepted by VA. If the evidence is not sufficient for VA to grant the claim, the bill requires VA to request a medical opinion to address the association of the veteran's claimed disease to the known toxins.

Kootenai Veterans Council:

1) Property tax relief for veterans is on-going now. There are two types of benefits letter – one for 100% disabled and another for low income. Veterans can qualify for both. Apply on-line at VA.com if you have an account. These letters must be obtained every year. Don't wait too long to obtain your letter. DAV9 webpage and myhealthyvet webpage have links to the appropriate va.com page to obtain the letters.

2) Covid vaccine for VA call Panhandle Health or VA primary care. Spouses are not getting vaccines at VA unless they are also Veterans.

3) Agent Orange presumptive conditions have been updated to include Parkinson's Hypothyroidism and bladder cancer. Hypertension is NOT on the list.

4) USS Idaho will be commissioned in 2023 or 2024. Commissioning activities will be published closer to the launch date. Personnel assigned to the USS Idaho will be coming to Idaho to meet some of its citizens.

Free tax prep help for Veterans: The nationwide AARP tax help program is geared toward people 50 and older or those who have low to moderate incomes, but Tax-Aide is open to anyone free of charge. AARP membership isn't required to take advantage of Tax-Aide's knowledgeable volunteers, nor will there be any sales pitch for other services. If you'd like to look for an appointment to receive tax filing assistance from AARP Foundation's Center Tax-Aide, Tax-Aide is available at the Rathdrum Senior Center, the Post Falls Senior and the Lake City (CDA) Center.

Other programs offering free tax help include Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), IRS Free File and MilTax. (cont. below)

In addition, here is some helpful information specifically for military Veterans from CPA and tax expert Lisa Greene-Lewis of TurboTax.

VA payments exempt from federal taxes:

- VA education benefit payments.
- VA disability payments.
- Interest from VA life insurance policies.
- Benefits under a dependent-care assistance program.
- Money paid to a survivor of a member of the armed forces who died after Sept. 10, 2001.
- Payments made under the compensated work therapy program.
- Any bonus pay from a state, county, city or town because of service in a combat zone.

Legislation Introduced to Improve Adaptive Automobile Grant Program: Sens. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Susan Collins (R-ME), and Reps. Daniel Meuser (R-PA) and David Trone (D-MD) introduced legislation to improve the VA adaptive automobile grant program. S. 444 and H.R. 1361 would allow eligible disabled veterans to receive an adaptive automobile grant every 10 years. Currently, they may only receive one adaptive automobile grant during their lifetime, despite the fact that automobiles are typically only useful for 10 years.

Dental Care for Veterans? Chairwoman Julia Brownley of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health introduced H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act, legislation that would phase in eligibility for all veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care to receive dental care as a part of its medical benefits package.

This bill would require the VA Secretary to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service and defines a four-year implementation plan beginning with veterans in priority groups one and two—for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more—in year one. - Len Crosby, Legislative chairman



Finance Officer:

The Financial reports for the month of February, were completed after the newsletter came out, but there was little to report from the information provided in the March newsletter. To update the report, in February, the Post had income of \$601.42 (membership renewals, flag sales, member donations, interest income and donations to the Honor Guard). The Post had expenses of \$1,260.00 (membership expenses, donation to the Lions Club, Donation to the Easter Egg Hunt, sponsorship of two youth soccer teams and renewal of our liability insurance). Net loss for the month of February was \$658.58.

As of February 28, 2021, the Post's net worth was \$51,860.22.

As I write this on March 26, we have not closed the books on the first quarter of 2021. For the month of March, through the 26th, our Post has spent a total of only \$276.33, and received \$10,000 in income for a net gain of \$9,723.67. Our only expenses include the allocation of \$250 in funds held for Stand-down to Newby-ginnings, as a donation to their food pantry and \$26.33 to renew the SSL Certificate for the Legion website for a period of two years.

The donation from the Post was matched by one of our members who doubled our donation, providing Newby-ginnings with \$750 in funds for their Veterans food pantry.

Due to the need to submit this report prior to the end of the month, I do not have the bank statements and cannot update the Net Worth report.

Happy Spring. - Len Crosby, Finance Officer

PS. If you have not received your COVID vaccine, you have now run out of excuses. The Johnson and Johnson "one shot and done" vaccine is available, and the State just indicated that everyone over the age of 16 can receive the vaccine at one of the several vaccination locations available locally. GET VACCINATED TODAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS!!



Former Prisoner Of War Recognition Day

Chaplain's Pew:

APRIL 1, 2021

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5, RSV

Lord God, our Father, we thank you for all the light you give us and for all your loving help in outward things as well. We come into your presence and ask you to give us your light and your constant guidance for the path we must follow. Grant that what is of heaven may be revealed on earth, that we may rejoice in the good and beautiful things you give to all people. Our Father, reveal what is of heaven, and free people from their sin and darkness so that at last they recognize your glory. Strengthen our hope for this goal. Rule and work in the hearts of many people, that through them your glory may be proclaimed to all. Amen.



- Helen Kinder, Chaplain



Training Officer:

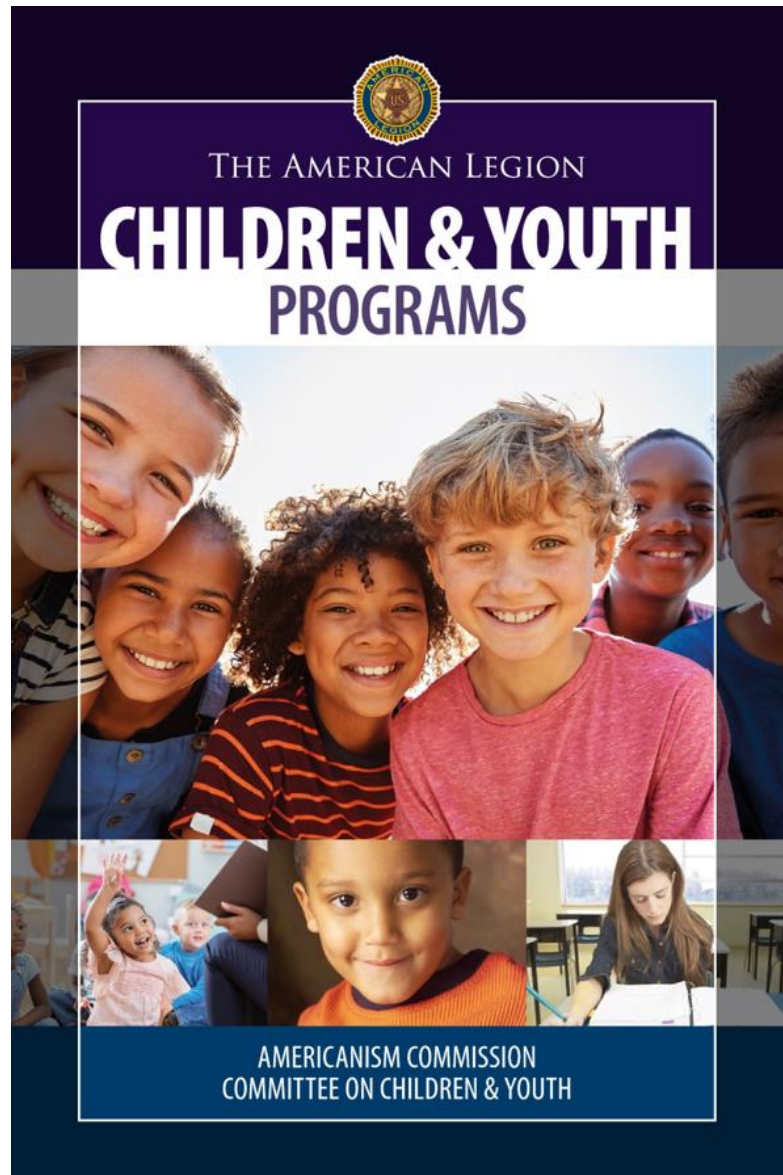
April is American Legion Children & Youth Month. Your legion provides many programs to help the children and young people of our country. Members of The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth have been entrusted with the responsibility of upholding this pillar – the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.

The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

To learn more about this important aspect of the American Legion, follow this [link](#).

- Jean Bledaoc, Training Chairman



Service Officer:

After the passing of a loved one who has served this country, many survivors do not know what to do or where to begin to obtain VA assistance. VA has prepared a Survivors and Burial Benefits kit to help guide Veterans, service members and their families after the loss of a loved one.

The VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit gives a description of each burial benefit, instructions on how to apply, and where to go to get assistance.

The [Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit](#) covers:

- Pre-need eligibility for National Cemetery burial or memorialization
- Memorial or burial flags
- Government headstones or markers
- Medallions
- Presidential Memorial Certificates (PMC)
- Burial benefits and burial automatic payments
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA)
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship
- Survivors pension
- Special monthly pension benefits
- The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMP-VA)
- Home loan guaranty
- Veterans Month of Death benefits
- VA life insurance

Other features include tips on how to fill out applications with examples of completed forms. These tips examples give applicants a better understanding of how to properly fill out applications.

VA encourages Veterans and service members to discuss their military service with their dependents, as well as planning their legacy. Families and survivors should know where to locate service medical records, discharge documents, VA disability ratings, and other information. These details will be beneficial to survivors as they prepare to apply for VA benefits. Families and survivors should keep this kit in storage so that it will be available when needed.

[Planning Your Legacy: VA Survivors and Burial Benefits Kit](#)

- Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



Faces of Agent Orange

On the following 3 pages are flyers regarding Agent Orange for boots on the ground in Vietnam veterans and for blue-water Navy veterans.

These flyers have the **most up to date information** on the presumptive conditions. Honorably discharged Vietnam Veterans or a Surviving Spouse may be entitled to a service-connected disability benefit from the VA.

Contact the Office of Veterans Advocacy at 208-780-1380 (press 1 or 2 for an admin assistant).

Vietnam Veteran?

or

Know a Vietnam Veteran

with One or More of the Following Conditions?

- ✓ Type II Diabetes (Adult –onset)
- ✓ Prostate Cancer
- ✓ Parkinson’s Disease
- ✓ Hodgkin’s Disease
- ✓ B Cell Leukemias
- ✓ Chloracne (must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange)
- ✓ Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy
- ✓ Respiratory Cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- ✓ Soft Tissue Sarcoma (*other than* osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma or mesothelioma)
- ✓ Bladder Cancer
- ✓ Hypothyroidism
- ✓ Parkinsonism, or Parkinson-like symptoms
- ✓ Ischemic Heart Disease
- ✓ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- ✓ Multiple Myeloma
- ✓ Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- ✓ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge who served in-country in Vietnam you may be entitled to service-connected disability benefits from the VA.

If awarded service-connected disability benefits you may also be entitled to medical/prescription benefits for those conditions.

Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran?

or

Know a Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran

Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions Above?

(or one of the above conditions was listed as a contributing factor in the Veteran’s death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualifying Vietnam Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed above, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits based on the Veteran’s death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

(208) 780-1380

www.veterans.idaho.gov



VIETNAM BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Disability benefits available to those serving offshore

Agent Orange Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam Waters (Blue Water Navy)

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of [Public Law 116-23](#), the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in [Public Law 116-23](#), between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure that are listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

What conditions are related to Agent Orange exposure?

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- Ischemic heart disease
- Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Parkinson's disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).
- Bladder Cancer
- Hypothyroidism
- Parkinsonism, or Parkinson-like symptoms

How do I file a claim for disability compensation?

- Apply online using www.va.gov, **OR**
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, **OR**
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator](#) page.
- State on your application that you are filing for one of the presumed Agent Orange conditions.

- Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the ship(s) and the date(s) you crossed within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current Agent Orange presumptive condition or tell us where you are being treated.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our [Disability Compensation](#) web page. www.va.gov

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to prove contact with Agent Orange?

No. You don't need to show that you came into contact with Agent Orange. Congress has provided that conditions on the list of presumptive diseases will be deemed to have been caused by contact with Agent Orange through service in the Republic of Vietnam, including offshore waters as defined by the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019.

What will the effective date for Benefits be for Blue Water Navy Veteran claims?

Presumptive Agent Orange conditions granted for Blue Water Navy Veterans may be retroactive to the date VA received your original claim. If you had a previously denied claim and you resubmit your claim, the effective date will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

When do the Blue Water Navy presumptions go into effect?

The Blue Water Navy Act of 2019 will take effect on January 1, 2020. Veterans can file claims at any time, and they will be decided after the law is implemented. Blue Water Navy claims and appeals currently in process have been placed on hold (stayed) until the new rules go into effect. The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

How will the previously denied claims be handled?

If you had an Agent Orange claim with one or more presumptive conditions denied in the past, you are urged to **file a new claim**. Provide any new and relevant information regarding your claim such as dates you believe your ship traveled within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, or updated medical information. Claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal will be reviewed under the new policy.

If a Blue Water Navy Veteran has not applied for benefits in the past, but would like to apply now will the presumption of exposure be extended to them?

Yes, VA will apply the provisions of the law to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who file new claims based on presumption of exposure to Agent Orange.

What happens if the Veteran dies before his or her claim is decided?

If the claimant dies while his or her claim is pending, a living dependent, such as a spouse or child, may file a request to be substituted as the claimant.

May the surviving spouse of a Blue Water Navy Veteran who passed away from a condition related to Agent Orange exposure, and who was previously denied compensation for such condition, become entitled to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

If the Veteran served on a Navy or Coast Guard ship that that operated not more than 12 nautical miles from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#) and the cause of death was from a condition related to exposure to Agent Orange, then VA may award entitlement to DIC on that basis.

Where can I get additional information on disability compensation for Agent Orange?

Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/. They can also call the disability benefits call center at 800-827-1000.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Thank you to Len Crosby,
for these submissions.

Post 154 Honor Guard:

For those of you not aware, our Post has an Honor Guard. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. Starting this month there will be an account of the honors and hours given by the men and women in our Honor Guard. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com or by phone at 509-226-5355.

The Honor Guard provided rifle salutes for two US Air Force veterans and six US Army veterans during the month of March. Each memorial service requires between 3 and 8 volunteers. This month required thirty-three volunteers and they logged in 101 volunteer hours for March. - Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard Member

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

During the past couple of weeks, we were able to welcome three new members from the Department of Idaho, Administrative Post 85 to our Post 154 family. They are Ed Benson, Jon Wikum and Jim Witten. When you see them, give them a warm welcome.

Our total paid membership now stands at 139. This places us at 104.51% of our department goal of 133. At this time, we have 13 unpaid members. I am hoping they will renew soon.

The American Legion National Office will be changing over to a new record keeping system beginning April 1, 2021. However, anyone who has not renewed for 2021 by April 27, 2021, no matter how many continuous years of service they have, will be deleted from the rolls.

Anyone with questions regarding membership should call or email me. Call 208661-6850 or email: wakinder74@gmail.com.

Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

Did you know...?

VA Copayment Debts to be Canceled, Refunded. American Recovery Plan will cancel many VA copayments for medical care and prescriptions. If you're a Veteran who receives care through VA, and you are charged copays, go [HERE](#) for details.

American Legion Post 154 of Rathdrum, Idaho Recognizes Boys State Delegates

American Legion Post 154 of Rathdrum selected four outstanding local students to represent North Idaho at the American Legion Boys State Program in Boise this year.

The Legion wishes to recognize those students who were selected to participate in the Boys State Program. They are all Juniors at the STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum. The students include:

Bronsen Fulk, a Junior at Northwest Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum. Bronsen is the son of Eva and Jason Fulk of Rathdrum, Idaho.

Joshua McKenna, a Junior at Northwest Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum. Joshua is the son of Deborah and Mark McKenna of Rathdrum, Idaho.

Basquiat Nelson, a Junior at the Northwest Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum. Basquiat is the son of Mariann and Joel Nelson, of Rathdrum, Idaho.

Brenner Drake, a Junior at the Northwest Idaho STEM Charter Academy in Rathdrum. Brenner is the son of Jennifer and Brian Drake of Hayden, Idaho.

All four of these young men also attend North Idaho College, and Bronsen Fulk and Joshua McKenna were recently named to the NIC Dean's List for the fall semester.

The American Legion Boys State program is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 by the American Legion.



Boys State delegates from North Idaho Stem Charter Academy. From left, are Bronsen Fulk, Joshua McKenna, Basquiat Nelson and Brenner Drake. Far right is Leo "Tuck" Calhoun, American Legion Boys State project chairman for Post 154.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations and recreational programs.

The program is a weeklong immersive learning experience, often held on a college campus where young men live in "cities" within a dormitory-like setting. The learning, experience, memories, and friendships last a lifetime.

Prominent alumni of the Legion's Boys State Program include Senator Mike Crapo – Senior Senator from Idaho, Richard Cheney – former U. S. Vice President, Gen. Wesley Clark – U. S. Army, Keith Jackson – All-Pro NFL tight end and Sportscaster and Michael Jordan, professional athlete.

American Legion Post 154 of Rathdrum is proud to recognize these young men, their many accomplishments and their commitment to our Country and their Community.

Editor's Note: This picture ran in last month's newsletter, but the article, with the accompanying picture, ran in the CDA Press on March 13th.

Bits & Pieces

- **Free Veteran training** for Microsoft Software and Systems Academy
The Microsoft Software & Systems Academy (MSSA) is offering free training to Veterans and the military community. This free, formal training takes place in some of the technology industry's most in-demand roles. [LEARN MORE](#)
- **Borne the Battle:** Peter Aylward
Even during a pandemic, retired Major General Peter Aylward is still fighting to make sure no Vietnam Veteran goes unrecognized. So far, his group has recognized over 3 million. There are about 3 million more. Click below to hear how you can help. [LEARN MORE](#) [LISTEN](#)
- **If you are now fully vaccinated:**
 - **Keep your vaccination record card as proof of vaccination.** But do not share a photo of your card on social media. The card contains personal information, like your birthdate. Scammers can use this information to try to steal your identity. [Get more tips on how to avoid COVID-19 scams](#)
 - **Continue to follow health safety guidance.** Even after you are fully vaccinated, you'll still need to wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose when you're in public. You will also need to follow other safety rules like practicing physical distancing. This helps protect others who have not yet received a vaccine. But you may be able to start doing some things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer guidelines to help you understand what is safe and what's not. [Get CDC advice on what to do when you've been fully vaccinated](#)
- **Between January 2nd and April 15th**, disabled Veterans having a rating of 100% service-connected disability, may apply for a \$1320 property tax benefit. Veterans who qualify, the property taxes on your primary home and up to one acre would be reduced by \$1320.00. Income is not a factor for qualification. The Veteran must provide a VA letter EACH year, stating the 100% rating and must have this determination prior to January 1st. You may contact the Veteran's Administration (VA), at 1-800-827-1000, each year to acquire a current letter. This benefit can be combined with the Property Tax Reduction (Circuit Breaker) if applicable, however, the combined benefit cannot be more than the actual bill. For more information contact the Assessor's Office at 208-446-1500.
- **TogetherWeServed.com** Reunites Veterans with over 2 million Veteran Members, and one of the most complete databases of U.S. Military Units available, TogetherWeServed.com enables Veterans, from all eras, to find and reconnect with other Veterans who served in their units, commands, ships or squadrons at the same time. Simply register your basic military service details to take advantage of this FREE reconnect service which you can cancel anytime.

Also, please remember to send your volunteer hours to Len Crosby so he can compile them. These include hours devoted to Veterans, Youth, Honor Guard and Community.
His email is: crosbylenmary@frontier.com

A Healthier You:

All About Arthritis

Arthritis refers to a group of disorders that involve the body's joints and have similar symptoms, including pain, stiffness, and swelling. Learn about the different types of arthritis and their treatment.

To watch the video, click on this [LINK](#).



Mark Your Calendar:

April 1st - American Legion Children & Youth Month

April 2nd - Good Friday

April 3rd - Rathdrum Community Easter Egg Hunt - Start Time 11:00 am - see details page 20.

April 4th - Easter

April 6th - U.S. entry into World War I (1917)

April 7th - ChildHelp National Day of Hope

April 8th - Executive Committee meeting 6 PM Lyons Club - open to the public.

April 9th - National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

April 14th - National Gardening Day

April 16th - National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day

April 20th - National Pineapple Upside Down Cake Day - see page 19 for a delicious recipe.

April 22nd - General Membership meeting 6 PM Lyons Club - open to the public and...

Greetings All,

Lots of spots open for the Poppy campaign. Call or email Lonnie so your date, time and location will be locked in.

(208)777-5157 lionlonnie@gmail.com Thank you. Lonnie Morse, Poppy Project Chairman

Friday, May 14 Super-1 in Athol				
	0900 - 1300			1300 - 1700
Len Crosby	208-651-0697	door-1	Holly Greaves	208-818-9271
		door-1		
Saturday, May 15 Super-1 in Athol				
	0900 - 1300			1300 - 1700
		door-1	Ruth Averisk	208-699-6615
		door-1	Larry Carstensen	208-777-9684
Friday, May 21 Ace Hardware in Rathdrum				
	0900 - 1300			1300 - 1700
Holly Greaves	208-818-9271	door-1		
Len Crosby	208-651-0697	door-1		
Friday, May 21 Bi-Mart in Rathdrum				
	0900 - 1300			1300 - 1700
Paula Atwood	208-446-6293	door-1		
Ruth Averisk	208-699-6615	door-1		
Saturday, May 22 Ace Hardware in Rathdrum				
	0900 - 1300			1300 - 1700
Mike McPhail		door-1	Mike McPhail	
Sharon McPhail		door-1	Sharon McPhail	

Saturday, May 22 Bi-Mart in				
	0900 - 1300		1300 - 1700	
Paula Atwood	208-446-6293	door-1	Dee Sasse	208-777-1607
		door-1		
Friday, May 28 Trading Post in Rathdrum				
	0900 - 1300		1300 - 1700	
		door-1		
		door-1		
Friday, May 28 Super-1 in Rathdrum				
	0900 - 1300		1300 - 1700	
Bill Kinder	208-772-7736	door-1		
Helen Kinder	208-772-7736	door-1		
Saturday, May 29 Trading Post in				
	0900 - 1300		1300 - 1700	
		door-1		
		door-1	Dee Sasse	208-777-1607
Saturday, May 29 Super-1 in				
	0900 - 1300		1300 - 1700	
Bill Kinder	208-772-7736	door-1		
Helen Kinder	208-772-7736	door-1		

Thank you for participating in this very important opportunity for veteran outreach and fundraising.



Key Bill Would Provide All K2 Veterans Exposed at 'Black Goo' Airbase VA Care, Benefits



As reported February 25 by Abbie Bennett for *Connecting Vets*, nearly two decades after troops first deployed to a former Soviet airbase in Uzbekistan veterans say was a source of significant toxic exposures, members of Congress are moving to provide care and benefits for the ill veterans and families of those who have died. House and Senate lawmakers introduced the *K2 Veterans Care Act* on Thursday, which aims to provide a presumption of service-connected illness for veterans who served at the airbase, qualifying them for Department of Veterans Affairs care and benefits.

[Read More...](#)

WHAT: 5th Annual "GETTING DIRTY: Silent Auction * Live Music
WHEN: Saturday, April 24th - bidding starts at 2pm
WHERE: D-mac's on the Lake, 11304 Cliff House Road, Hauser ID
WHY: Portion of the proceeds goes to Newby-ginnings of North Idaho



Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

Butter and brown sugar topped with pineapple and maraschino cherries form the decadent topping on this classic pineapple upside-down cake.

Prep Time **30 minutes** - Total Time **2 hours** - Servings **12**

Ingredients:

Topping

1/3 cup butter
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
12 slices pineapple, well-drained
1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries, stems removed

Cake

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2/3 cup butter, softened
3 large eggs
2 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
3/4 cup milk

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
Melt 1/3 cup butter in 12 inch cast iron fry pan or 9x13-inch ungreased baking pan in oven. Stir in 3/4 cup brown sugar. Spread mixture evenly in pan.
2. Arrange 12 pineapple slices on top. Place cherry in center and between each pineapple slice, if desired.
3. Combine flour, baking powder and salt in bowl; set aside.
4. Combine 1 cup brown sugar and 2/3 cup butter in bowl; beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until creamy. Continue beating, adding eggs 1 at a time, until well mixed. Stir in vanilla. Gradually add flour mixture alternately with milk, beating at low speed and scraping bowl often after each addition.
5. Gently spread batter over pineapple. Bake 35-40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Loosen sides of cake from pan by running knife around inside of pan. Invert cake onto serving platter; let stand 5 minutes. Remove pan. Cool completely.



Community Egg Hunt 2021
Saturday, April 3, 2021

FREE COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY APRIL 3RD, 2021
START TIME: 11 AM
HUNT
WITH SPECIAL GUEST:
THE EASTER BUNNY
@MAJESTIC PARK
5400 W. Majestic Ave.
Rathdrum, ID 83858
PRIZES & EGGS PROVIDED BY



PARKING IS LIMITED, SHOW UP EARLY
AGE GROUPS:
3 & Under, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

QUESTIONS?
CALL 208-687-2399 
VISIT RATHDRUM.ORG/REC



Majestic Park
5750 W Majestic Ave
Rathdrum ID, 83858

Start Time 11:00 am,
sharp
Arrive early, parking is
limited!

Age Groups:
3 & Under
4-6
7-9
10-12
All participants must be 12
years old or younger.

FREE EVENT! Special
Appearance by The Easter
Bunny

Easter Eggs and Prizes
Provided by The City of
Rathdrum & American
Legion Post 154