



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc. Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue #8

August 2022

Email: rathdrum154@gmail.com

Website: Rathdrumpost154.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion>

Mailing Address: PO Box 1116, Rathdrum ID

Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum - Editor: Jean Bledsoe



FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP!
**CHECK OUT THE FLYER ON PAGE 15 FOR ALL
THE DETAILS.**

Manuel Schneidmiller 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:

Hot Summer Greetings to Everyone!!

We all know that the success of most American Legion Posts is directly dependent on members who are willing to get involved, volunteering to help with Post events and activities. These are the people who live within our theme of "let's make a difference". There is an old saying in the business world that "100% of the people reap the rewards of the efforts of 10%". This appears to hold true in an organization like the American Legion. We however are fortunate to have many people "making a difference by continually volunteering to help with whatever needs to be done around our post. We have many, but need many more...I would like to recognize some of the people who consistently seem to be there when we need them.....So here are hearty thanks for helping to make a difference to: Bryan and Jean Bledsoe, Len Crosby, Bill and Helen Kinder, Ruth Aresvik, Lonnie Morse, Todd Halverson, Mike and Sharron McPhail, Bob Kernan, Pete and Barbara Williams, Ken Anderson, Rich and Angie Hanna, and our Honor Guard.

Obviously, there are others, so please don't be offended if I overlooked recognizing you.... You are appreciated and will be recognized in future for your efforts.

I went to the Summer Convention and learned a lot. Firstly, I was sworn in as the new Area A Commander. I was very surprised when they asked me. With my appointment I am now one of the Department's three Department Vice-Commanders. Because of your great work at Post 154 they thought that I would do a good job for you all and the Department. I am very thankful for the great job our officers do and members do. Again, Thank you! During the convention there were many pressing issues, but this line item was the biggest. The Idaho Posts not filing the paperwork needed to continue to conduct Legion business. I happy to announce that we are not one of those Posts. I think the Posts need to work together if they don't know how to do something. One of my goals will be to see if I can make that happen.

Our Post picnic is coming up and I hope to see all of you there. It will be a great day. In addition, I forgot to mention what a great job everyone did at Rathdrum days! I have heard many exuberant compliments on our booth and the parade! This event is one of the big reasons we are a post and why we are helping veterans in our community.

Once again thanks for making our Post the best in Idaho! God bless our country, our families and our men and women serving. - Commander Dee



Renewal Contest

The early bird contest is over, and we thank everyone who renewed for 2023. We had 48 members renewing their membership. Sadly, we did not win the \$500, that was won by Mountain Home Post 101 with a total of 75 members renewed.

We were able to sign up a new member at Rathdrum Days. Hopefully he will make it to the August meeting. His name is Tim Chandler, please welcome him to the meeting.

The July meeting was cancelled due to extreme heat. Therefore, the drawing will be held at the executive committee meeting on August 11th.

Please renew for 2023, if you have not yet done so. Go to legion.org/renewal, which is the easiest and quickest way to renew. To qualify for 100% status, we need to sign 166 members. *Let's get 'errr done.* - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

Finance Officer:

July Financial Report: During the month of June, Post 154 received income of \$488.77 and had expenses of \$479.80. Income was from donations to our Honor Guard (\$290), Member donations to Boys State and the Veterans Home (\$36.80), Flag Sales (\$90.00), Dinner Donations (\$17.00) Poppy donations (\$9.54), donations to our Flag Box (\$25) and interest income of \$0.43. Expenses were for welcome committee materials (\$331.25), Poppy expenses (\$22.75), Adjutant expenses for paper and additional Welcome committee materials (\$51.10) and Chaplin expenses for cards and scrapbook (\$74.70). As of the close of the month, our Post had a net worth of \$72,372.57.

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP, AND TO BILL AND HELEN KINDER, OUR AMAZING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE!! – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

UPDATE on proposed changes to VA Health Care Infrastructure:

Last week, a bipartisan group of 12 U.S. Senators, including Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, announced that they would not support VA's Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) facility recommendations and that they would oppose the formation of the AIR Commission, without which the AIR process cannot proceed. As you may know, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 had authorized the creation of an independent AIR Commission to review facility recommendations from VA for changes to its hospitals, clinics, and other health care infrastructure. The purpose of the AIR process was to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan to modernize, expand and realign VA's health care facilities to improve access for veterans over the next two decades, and build support for the funding to implement those changes.

Unfortunately, the AIR process encountered major obstacles almost from the beginning. The assumptions underlying VA's analysis and recommendations were based on outdated and unreliable data, as acknowledged by VA itself. Further, the COVID pandemic and its impact on health care delivery – now and in the future – added significant uncertainty that could not be resolved. Ultimately, the lack of adequate support from both Congress and the Administration could not be overcome, particularly in today's highly polarized political environment.

While the AIR process is effectively over for the 117th Congress, and unlikely to be revived in the next Congress, the need to invest in VA's health care infrastructure remains paramount. The American Legion will continue advocating for increased funding to expand, realign and modernize VA hospitals, clinics, and other facilities to ensure that all enrolled veterans have timely access to high-quality, veteran-focused health care.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Waiver: On April 25, 2022, the Department of Education (ED) began allowing student loan borrowers seeking financial relief through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program to submit a DD-214 to certify periods of eligible employment. Many individuals with outstanding federal student loans may be eligible for PSLF, including eligibility from time served on active duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ED is offering a limited-time waiver to allow borrowers to receive credit for past periods of repayment on loans that would otherwise not qualify. Individuals must have been working full time for a qualifying employer. This waiver is available through October 31, 2022. (cont.)

S. 4223 and H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022.:

The Veterans' Compensation COLA Act would increase compensation rates for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, including clothing allowance, and dependency and indemnity benefits paid to survivors and families of service members who died in the line of duty or suffer from a service-related injury or disease.

These bills would increase compensation rates based on the same percentage that Social Security benefits are increased for 2023. If passed, these rates would be effective December 1, 2022, and most importantly, would be realized in compensation benefits paid on January 1, 2023.

VA Working to Expand Assistance Programs for Veterans residing in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes and Support for In-Home Care: While the VA moves ahead on its own to extend care to aging and disabled veterans, lawmakers are advancing provisions to expand, accelerate, and supplement the department's ability to meet the rapidly growing needs of veterans, their families, and caregivers.

A September 2021 VA report to Congress on long-term care projections indicated veterans over age 85 were the fastest growing veteran population in VA's health care system. Over the next 20 years, the number of veterans in that age group eligible for nursing home care will increase from 61,000 to 387,000, nearly a 535% jump. (Veterans must be rated with a 70% or greater service-connected disability to be eligible for VA nursing home care.)

The VA acknowledged in the report the value of rebalancing long-term services and support and shifting resources from nursing home care to home and community-based services (HCBS).

Approximately 5% of veterans in private nursing home care paid for by the VA would qualify for assisted living care if the department had the authority to pay for the services, per the report. Paying for assisted living instead of nursing home care would save the VA more than \$69,000 per veteran per year. Authorizing such a shift of resources would not only decrease reliance on nursing home care, but also free up resources to provide veterans in need of skilled nursing care in an institutional setting.

Like many Americans, veterans prefer to remain at home as they grow older. Familiar, comfortable, less-invasive surroundings are preferable over institutional or nursing home care. The VA recognizes aging and disabled veterans need a health care system that values who they are, meets their unique needs, and provides the necessary care and quality services in a variety of settings. The department has set in motion plans and initiatives to become an age-friendly system to improve geriatric or extended care programs over the next few years.

The American Legion supports the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act ([H.R. 6823](#) | [S. 3854](#)), a comprehensive piece of legislation that will improve home and community-based services for veterans. This legislation comes in response to growing demand for VA's long-term care (LTC), which increased 14% from FY 2014 to FY 2018, and (according to a 2020 Government Accountability Report) spending also went up 33% in VA's 14 LTC programs over that timeframe. Per the report, the VA projects demand will continue to grow, with spending set to double by 2037.

Today, over half of VHA-enrolled veterans are 65 or older. As the number of clinicians with advanced training necessary to care for the elderly has declined since the mid-1990s, GRECCs are more important than ever.

The VA is pushing education debt reduction and scholarships and clinical education programs to attract and retain geriatric professionals. The department is also redesigning its human resource practices to improve recruitment and onboarding of providers. Three years ago, the VA set out to make the VHA, the largest health care system in the U.S., an age-friendly system.

This movement is about health systems establishing evidence-based practices to meet individual needs rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. For veterans, this approach focuses on four key practices. (cont.)

- Determining the personal goals and care preferences of each veteran.
- Using medication to better manage mobility and cognitive abilities.
- Preventing, treating, and managing dementia, depression, or other cognitive conditions.
- Ensuring veterans can move safely in their lives and do what matters most to them.

To date, the VHA has 51 VA medical centers officially recognized as age-friendly facilities. By FY 2025, it plans to have all VA 171 medical centers deemed age-friendly. Once facilities earn that designation, the VA plans to continuously improve its programs and processes so it can provide the care veterans want, need, and deserve.

Expansion of Home and Community Based Services: This year, the VA started a five-year expansion of several home and community-based care programs. These programs include:

- 70 Veterans Directed Care Programs
- 75 Home-Based Primary Care Programs
- 58 Medical Foster Home Programs

The expansion will total \$165.8 million and is scheduled to end by FY 2026.

The VA is also in the process of implementing a Redefining Elder Care in America Project (RECAP). The pilot project has two parts. First, the VA will create a list of veterans at the highest risk for nursing home placement in the next two years using advanced analytics. Second, a geriatric coordinator will use the list to contact the veteran and caregiver proactively and assess needs or additional home or community care services required.

The goal is to see whether such interventions will improve aging in place for veterans. The VA hopes to apply a similar construct to preventing or delaying nursing home care, lessening the caregiver burden, decreasing hospitalization rates and emergency room visits, or addressing other high-risk situations.

Expansion of Geriatrics and Palliative Care Expertise: Among the programs in place to strengthen this part of the VA workforce:

- **Workforce Initiatives.** The department has held several VA-trainee recruitment events at 28 VA medical centers to identify potential candidates to expand the workforce in geriatric and extended care services. There is a proposal in the works to raise the pay table for geriatrics and palliative care physicians, and the VA has initiated a workforce recruitment and retention task force to address all disciplines within the VHA.
- **Emergency Department Accreditation.** The VHA's geriatric emergency department transformation project aimed at providing interdisciplinary geriatric-oriented care for at-risk veterans has expanded to 62% of the 111 emergency departments. These facilities have achieved or are actively working toward Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). The VA is among the first health systems recognized by ACEP.
- **VA Community Living Centers (CLCs).** VA is implementing a CLC resident satisfaction survey and developing a journey map to outline the veteran's path for care. Additionally, a pandemic plan has been distributed to the field that outlines the quality oversight process needed through the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care has partnered with the Office of Mental Health to provide suicide prevention training and is developing a toolkit for CLC field personnel. (cont.)

- **State Veteran Home (SVH) Modernization.** Though not operated by the VA, State Veteran Homes receive significant funding resources for construction costs, ongoing maintenance, and grants and per diems to help reimburse costs for a veteran's care. Veteran costs vary based on service connection and the type of care needed. The VA has specific areas of oversight it must perform, and it may establish sharing agreements with State Veteran Homes for resources and specialty care.

A Longer-Term Focus - The VA also has made veterans' long-term and extended care program a focus in its [FY 2022-2028 Strategic Plan](#) — for aging, frail, and end-of-life veterans of all ages. According to the plan, VA will implement six strategies to prepare for an expected increased number of veterans needing services by:

- Expanding home and community-based services (aging in place)
- Modernizing systems for health aging
- Modernizing and improving facility-based care
- Improving access with technology
- Increasing geriatric expertise
- Developing data definition and processes

Caregiving - Equally important to the VA are the 1.1 million caregivers supporting veterans and disabled service members. The department is expanding education, resources, supportive services, and other caregiver programs to support veterans and caregivers.

The VA addresses this issue in its strategic plan, noting efforts to “partner with DoD and the veteran caregiver community and other organizations with interests in research on caregivers or caregiving to understand the challenges and develop practical solutions that improve the financial security, experience, outcomes and quality of life for veterans, disabled service members and their caregivers.”

Veterans Being Recruited to be Poll Watchers: American democracy runs on elections, and elections run on volunteers. Every year, local county election boards across America must recruit more than a million citizen volunteers to administer polling sites.

The COVID-19 pandemic sharply cut the number of volunteers from the traditional 60-and-older cohort. The charges implying that the 2020 vote was stolen, have also resulted in poll workers being harassed and intimidated. Today, we have a critical national shortage of election workers, creating barriers that could prevent some American citizens from exercising their right to vote.

The shortage of volunteer poll workers has already negatively impacted our election system. Over the past few years, American communities have seen a drastic reduction in the number of polling locations and longer lines and wait times. In 2020, the situation was so dire that several states have activated their National Guard members to act as poll workers, and several voting locations in many states were unable to open due to a lack of volunteers.

Despite that, because of the systems and norms and, most importantly, the incredible efforts of the cadre of American citizen volunteers, 2020 was the most secure election in our history.

Military veterans and their family members are ideal candidates to help solve this critical challenge to our democracy. While in uniform, we came from all corners of the nation -- from every class and creed -- and put aside our differences, joining together to serve our democracy. A recent 2021 study by The Mission Continues, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and National Conference on Citizenship found that veterans are ["more likely than non-military civilians to volunteer in their communities"](#) (cont.)

And also more likely to vote.

Veterans are used to working together in teams, following orders and regulations, and tend to be exceptionally security-minded. We can think of no better, more trusted group within the American public to step up and fill this critical shortage and create a new civic tradition in the veteran and military family community.

To this end, the Veteran Community has launched [Vet the Vote](#), a national campaign led by former Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey to recruit 100,000 veterans and military family members to serve as the next generation of poll workers, starting with the 2022 midterm elections.

Vet the Vote invites and encourage America's 17+ million veterans and their families to serve their country once again by defending democracy but through a new mission – assisting with our election process by serving as poll workers. By doing so, Veterans will continue to serve our democracy in a very personal and meaningful way, help ensure the safety, security and efficiency of our elections, and demonstrate the pride veterans and military families have for our country.

– Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Chaplain's Pew:



There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven.

Summer is a time for ice cream cones, driveway basketball games, neighborhood swimming, and lazy afternoons.

May the joyous season of summer reflect God's loving care for our children.

Let us enjoy our times of sun, relaxation and leisure with our friends and family.

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain

Service Officer:

Do you know about DFAS? Defense Finance and Accounting Service. It provides payment services for the U.S. Department of Defense. Military members, retired military and annuitants, civilian employees, contractors and vendors – all of these.

It's a great site to manage your retirement, make changes, and get the latest news. And there is a monthly newsletter. Recently DFAS sent out an email. Did you receive it? If you're a military retiree, you should have. The email states:

Did you know there are two different types of beneficiaries you need to designate and keep up to date if you are a retiree? One is your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiary. The other is your beneficiary for Arrears of Pay (AOP), which is the prorated retiree pay from first of the month of death to date of death, because entitlement to retired pay stops on the date of death.

Each type of beneficiary must be designated separately. And each type of beneficiary needs to be checked regularly to make sure the contact information is up to date.

They also suggest you limit the number of your AOP beneficiaries to avoid delays in payment. Remember that the AOP payment is usually less than one month's pay, and this amount will be divided among all of your designated beneficiaries.

Keeping your beneficiary information current will help your loved ones.

If you'd like to read this month's DFAS Retiree Newsletter, follow this link: [Defense Finance and Accounting Service Retiree Newsletter](#) - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



Picnic's coming...!

Training Officer:

This month we are continuing with part 2 of Basic Training – History. As the July membership meeting had to be cancelled due to the extreme heat, the handout for this training, along with part 3 handout, will be given out at the August meeting on the 25th. Part 2 handout is also available on our website [HERE](#).

If you were unable to go to the June meeting and don't know about the small bites of training I'm presenting, here's a quick recap: I will provide the entire Basic Training course in small, easy to digest parts. Each complete section will have a short quiz at the end. There is a final test also, when you've completed all 6 sections. If you keep each month's segment in a notebook, you'll have it to refer to for quizzes. When you are ready, follow the link [HERE](#) to complete basic training online and get your certificate. It should be quick and easy as you'll have all the information and completed quizzes at your fingertips.

- Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

Post 154 Honor Guard:

Our Honor Guard is very active. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. 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.

This month there were fourteen Military Honor ceremonies for 6 Army veterans, 3 Air Force veteran, 2 Navy veterans, 1 Coast Guard veteran and 2 Marine veterans. In addition, there were 5 other ceremonies in which the Honor Guard participated.

In the past month these ceremonies collectively required 263 volunteer hours and these volunteers drove 1,377 miles to accomplish the missions.

Ken Johnson has recruited 5 new members from other American Legion and VFW Posts in the area. A training ceremony for these new members was held this past week and we look forward to their participation in the very near future. If you would like to find out more about volunteering as an Honor Guard member, please contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com. – Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard Member

FLASH!

PACT Act has just failed cloture. What does that mean? We did not get the 60 votes necessary to push it to the floor for the final vote. Many Senators who have supported us previously did not support the cloture vote. A Motion to Reconsider was filed and that means there will be another vote. Do not know when. (Editor's note: the vote may now take place this week.)

Obviously, something is going on behind the scenes. - We will find out. Meanwhile, keep the pressure on our Senators by using MVA's Bill of the Week at <https://p2a.co/AeUSbht> Please ask everyone you know to use the Bill of the Week link to contact your Senators.

Look, everyone is going to want to vent but that will not do much good. The Bill of the Week link will. Use it today!

**CDR John B Wells USN (ret)
Chairman, Military-Veterans Advocacy**

Note: This is from John Wells who was the attorney that was responsible for winning the Procopio lawsuit, which extended Agent Orange presumptive benefits to Blue Water Navy sailors that served within 12 nautical miles of the baseline off the coast of Vietnam. This legislation will extend Agent Orange benefits to many other locations as well as benefits (for toxic exposure to everyone in the military as well as veterans.

- Submitted by Bryan Bledsoe



Post 154 member and Chaplain, Helen Kinder has been recognized as Hayden's Distinguished Veteran of the Year. She's had a number of Hayden events since last fall that she participated in. One of her tributes was as Grand Marshal of the Hayden Days Parade. This was a very well-deserved honor for Helen, another extremely active member of Post 154 and our community.



Always a fun summer activity. Watch out for Dee. She's got a load of cucumbers coming on!

New Post 154 Members

This month new member Tim Chandler joined Post 154 after signing up at our Rathdrum Days booth. Tim served in the Army. His wife's name is Diana. Please welcome them at the next meeting & potluck.



Did you know...?

- ∂ The VA will provide a medical alert system with an order from your VA doctor?
- ∂ They also have electric bath chairs with a back which lowers the bather down into the tub and back out again?
- ∂ They can provide seated rolling walkers, grab bars, bidets, joint braces, paraffin baths for arthritic hands, blood pressure monitors, canes, and so much more. This is a very small and random example.
- ∂ And did you know all durable medical equipment is free, even for veterans with a co-pay?



A Healthier You:



KNEE ARTHRITIS AND FIXED KNEE REPLACEMENT

Arthritis of the knees is very common. It occurs in the more mature population mostly due to wear and tear over many years of use. However, it certainly isn't restricted to older people. Injuries and trauma can also contribute to arthritis. Many of us who suffer from this skeletal sign of aging tend to put off getting our knees taken care of. Here is a video put out by the VA to explain this condition and what can be done about it. Click [HERE](#) to view it.

Bits & Pieces

- Do you (or someone you know) as a low-income homeowner need a ramp? Some minor home repairs? See what is available through "A Brush With Kindness", a program of Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho. Information links can be found [HERE](#). Another program similar to this is through Elder Care of North Idaho, a non-profit organization that offers home repairs, ramps, and cords of wood to low-income individuals, seniors and disabled. For more information on Elder Care, call Trish at 208-661-8870.
- How to Calculate Your % Disability. Ever wonder how VA calculates a Veteran's percentage of disability? Watch this explanation with a step-by-step breakdown that's easy to follow. [WATCH](#)
- The VA is pledging to move forward with widespread updates to its network of hospitals and other facilities, even after both chambers of Congress have taken steps to spike a process aimed at doing exactly that on a comprehensive basis. [Read More...](#)
- No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number—**Dial 988 then Press 1**—in your phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.
- A joint task force to combat consumer fraud targeting servicemembers and veterans was introduced by House lawmakers as an amendment to the *National Defense Authorization Act*, the annual must-pass bill that sets policy and spending priorities for the Defense Department. [Read More...](#)
- Starting next month, the last page of the newsletter will be available for business ads from our members. Non-member businesses can run an ad at a fee. Watch for more details.



Mark Your Calendar:

August 2nd - Invasion of Kuwait/Operation Desert Shield (1990)
August 3-7th - Legion Baseball Tournaments
August 4th - Coast Guard Birthday – established in 1790
August 7th - National Purple Heart Day
August 7th - Veterans Monument Dedication @ St Thomas Cemetery see details on page 17
August 11-16th - 95th American Legion Baseball World Series
August 11th - Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting at Lions Club @ 6 pm
August 14th – V-J Day
August 20th – Post Annual Summer Picnic. See details on page 14
August 25th - Post 154 Membership Meeting at Lions Club 5:30 potluck meeting at 6 PM
August 26th – 103rd American Legion National Convention

Coffee Table Talk

This is a new column beginning this month. Got any fun information to share? A trip you just came back from or a cruise you're about to take? A new grand or great grandchild? Wedding or graduation in the family? New pet? Renovating or remodeling? Anything you would find of interest, others would too. Of course, no secrets unless they are yours, in which case they won't be secrets any longer. And nothing *too* personal please!

Here's an example...

- Auntie Maude just went to Montana to visit her sister Beatrice. She took the Greyhound and stopped for Rocky Mountain oysters along the way. She was having a great time until Beatrice told her what Rocky Mountain oysters were!

Now some real news...

- Bryan & Jean Bledsoe just welcomed their 4th great grandchild – a beautiful little *girl*! First female in 2 generations – finally!
- Len Crosby was bestowed by proclamation, an Honorary Life Membership in Post Falls Aerie 3682 of the Fraternal Order of Eagle. To see more go to next page.
- Helen Kinder, as Hayden's Distinguished Veteran of the Year, was Grand Marshal for the Hayden Days Parade.
- Sharron McPhail said, growing up with a Swedish Grandma living right next door was the best thing that could have happened to me. Here are some of the things I learned:
 1. A clean & tidy home was not a chore but a blessing.
 2. Dusting included the table legs and not just the tabletop.
 3. Flowers were important – especially the ones that were used for graves on Memorial Day. She taught me respect for those who had gone on before us & those who had given their lives for our country.



This is also a new column beginning this month. If you have anything to sell, (including crafts) trade or give away, this is the place to be. Maybe you are looking for something. Another reader just might have it for you.

To start the ball rolling...

Bryan & Jean Bledsoe: 509-981-3413

- Doing some landscape renovation and looking for perennial plants and berry bushes for my yard. Anyone thinning out something? Jean
- A file box of fantasy books to gift.

Dee Sasse 208-755-1607 Having a summer sale:

- Log Furniture bedroom set. Bed with rails, dresser and two side tables. \$350.00 (text me for more pics)



- Set of 4 studded snow tires for a Jeep Grand Cherokee with rims, used 2 seasons. \$375.00 OBO



- Wrought Iron Patio set with two other benches, one swings 500.00



- Helen Kinder 208-772-7736. If no answer, please leave a message: Searching for a used or new BBQ cover. Would like to cover the Legion flag burn barrel stored outside at the Lion's Club.



LET IT BE KNOWN

WHEREAS: During the conflict known as the Vietnam War, in the year of our Lord 1964, Leonard Crosby of Post Falls, Idaho, USA did join the military service of his country. And

WHEREAS: During his time of service, he spent two tours of combat duty in Vietnam. First as a platoon leader in the 4th infantry division, US ARMY second as a company commander for the 101st airborne division. And

WHEREAS: During these tours of duty, he saw action in Major campaigns including: the Operation MacArthur, the Tet Offensive and Operation Nevada Eagle.

WHEREAS: During these actions he was wounded twice. First: he was downed by shrapnel from an enemy grenade. Second: he was wounded in the neck by an enemy sniper. And

WHEREAS: During the many involvements with the enemy, he received several medals for his actions including two (2) purple hearts for the wounds he received. And

WHEREAS: With the rank of Captain, he left active military duty in the year of our Lord 1970. And

WHEREAS: He continues to serve his hometown of Post Falls, Kootenai County, in the state of Idaho and his country of America with honor. He has served on his school district's Board of Education, American Legion Post 154 and the Idaho Veterans Assistance League. And

WHEREAS: He was one of a group of Northern Idaho Veterans that spent several years trying to obtain funds from the Veterans Administration for the construction of a veteran home in North Idaho. And

WHEREAS: Some companions are deceased; Len is watching the North Idaho Veterans Home being constructed. Opening date for the project is scheduled for November 11, 2022 in Post Falls. And

WHEREAS: He was nominated by his wife Mary for the National Patriots Project. And

WHEREAS: He represented his city, county and state in Washington, D.C. at the 2021 National Purple Heart Day recipients.

THEREFORE: Post Falls Aerie 3682 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles does hereby bestow upon Leonard Crosby an honorary Life Membership in Post Falls Aerie 3682 by a Majority vote of membership present at a meeting on January 20, 2022

Signed: Robert E. Kernan

President, FOE Post Falls Aerie 3682



Len Crosby being presented a resolution by Bob Kernan, Past President of Post Falls Eagles #3682 of Honorary Life Membership in Post Falls Eagles.

POST 154'S ANNUAL SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC!



You and your family are cordially invited to the Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154 Summer Potluck Picnic to be held:

- * Saturday August 20th from 10 – 4 PM at...
- * Rathdrum City Park, 15456 N. Latah Street.
- * The Post is providing hamburgers & brats, buns, water, cups, plates, napkins, plasticware, & ice. Condiments and lettuce, tomato, & onion will be provided.
- * Please bring your picnic specialty dish to share; a main dish, salad, dessert, chips, sliced cheese... Be sure to bring serving utensils for your dish. Put your name on your container and make a tag with the name of your dish & whether it contains common allergens (nuts, gluten, dairy, etc.)
- * If you would like something other than water to drink, feel free to bring your own *non-alcoholic* beverage.
- * Pets are *not* allowed in the park.
- * Bring a chair if you like, as the picnic table benches don't move.
- * The picnic area is enclosed & shaded from the sun and there are indoor bathrooms.
- * We have a kitchen with sink & fridge, but please plan a way to keep cold dishes cold when they are on the table. Electricity is available to plug in hot dishes.
- * You can RSVP online [HERE](#). You do not have to sign in or create an account. Simply fill in your information. Or if you prefer you may email Helen Kinder at hkinder41@gmail.com or call her at 208-661-6850 no later than **August 13th** so she can get a head count for purchasing meat.
- * Food service will begin at noon. You can start arriving around 10 to visit & enjoy the park. If you know a veteran who isn't a member, please invite them to come.
- * **And...** We need more tables – 5 or 6' – for food service. If you have any, please let Helen Kinder know and plan to bring them in time for set up at 10 Saturday morning. If you can help set up, that would be appreciated too!

Thank You. The Picnic Committee Members

HONOR A VETERAN AND HELP THE NEW NORTH IDAHO VETERANS HOME: The North Idaho Veterans Home is currently under construction on a 7.5 acre site in Post Falls. The Home will be available for occupancy in November of this year. At the entrance of the Home we are creating a “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. You can honor a Veteran (living or passed) or a person currently serving in our Armed Forces, by purchasing a Brick in that walk for \$200. The Brick will be inscribed with the Veteran’s name, Branch of Service and Dates served or other messages. There are three lines on the Brick, and each line has spaces for only 16 characters. Businesses can purchase a Brick with the Business Name and a message of support for our Veterans. We have a limited number of bricks available. If you want to order one or several bricks, please go to the IVAL website (www.idahoveteransleague.com) and go to the “Donation” page. You will see a space to print out the brick order form under the tab “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. Send the completed form and your check to North Idaho Veterans Assistance League, Inc. Post Office Box 187, Post Falls, ID 83877. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Len Crosby, Treasurer, Idaho Veterans Assistance League at 208-651-0697 or crosbylenmary@frontier.com. THANK YOU! – Len Crosby, IVAL Treasurer



Members of Coeur d’Alene Eagles Aerie #486 and Post Falls Aerie #3682 present Len Crosby, IVAL Treasurer, (pictured front right) funds totaling \$7000 for the new Veterans Home in Post Falls. Pictured at left is Bob Kernen, Past President of #3682 & Judge Advocate of AL Post 154 in Rathdrum.

**STARS & STRIPES MINISTRY
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
OUR
VETERANS MONUMENT
DEDICATION**



**PURPLE HEART DAY
SUNDAY - AUGUST 7, 2022**



ST. THOMAS CEMETERY

THIS IS THE ONLY SUCH MONUMENT IN OUR
CEMETERY WHERE CLOSE TO 500 VETERANS
ARE INTERRED



CEREMONY BEGINS
12 NOON



115 S. 23rd St.
Corner of Sherman & 23rd St.



Light Refreshments Served

If you're looking for something to do and would like to help our Veterans, this is a great opportunity.



Disabled American Veterans The DAV is looking for drivers!

The DAV operates a fleet of vehicles around the country to provide free transportation to VA medical facilities for injured and ill veterans. Help our Kootenai County Veterans get to their medical appointments by contacting:

JAMES DEAN

509-434-7508

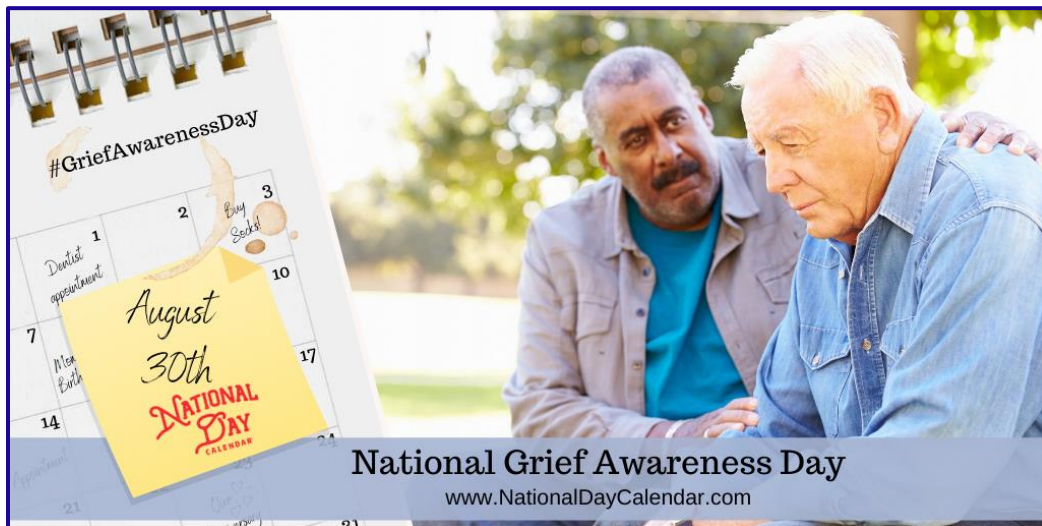
Spokane VA Hospital

Support our DAV VAN FUND. This fund depends on local support to help ensure this service remains available. Did you know all funds are kept local for the Van? Donations can be made by contacting:

BOB HUT

208-773-1074

Idaho Chapter DAV 9



Seright's Ace Hardware in Rathdrum is a big supporter of Post 154. If you can work it around our picnic, let's show them we appreciate them too.

Seright's ACE Hardware
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION
 Saturday, August 20, 2022
 14236 N. Highway 41, Rathdrum

BIG 99.9 coyote country
 LIVE REMOTE RADIO BROADCAST

LIVE MUSIC FROM ONE STREET OVER

SCHEDULE
 Round Up your purchases at the register all day long to support the Kootenai Humane Society

- 8am-10am — FREE Coffee Break
- 10am-1pm — Coyote Country 99.9 Live Broadcast
- 10am-2pm — Live Pet Adoptions from KHS
- 10am-2pm — Spin to Win
- 11am-2pm — FREE Lunch & Sweet Treats
- 12pm-2pm — Live Music from One Street Over
- 3:00pm — Raffle Drawing

LIVE PET ADOPTIONS

FREE MINI PIES

FREE COFFEE & DONUTS

FREE ICE CREAM

FREE HOT DOGS

SPIN TO WIN

ENTER TO WIN AWESOME PRIZES

Traeger Tailgater Stihl Farm Boss MS 271 YETI Roadie 24

ENTER TO WIN IN STORE 8/20/22

SCAN THIS TO LEARN MORE!

Enjoy a free morning coffee break with coffee drinks from Press On mobile coffee cart and delicious assorted donuts. We've got lunch covered with free hot dogs for everyone! Satisfy your sweet tooth with free Birdie Bites mini pies from Birdies Pies and a selection of ice cream bars from the Arctic Kat Ice Cream truck! Coyote Country 99.9FM will be broadcasting live from the store and cranking out your favorite country hits. The Kootenai Humane Society is bringing along some of their furry friends and having live pet adoptions on site. AND you can round up your purchases at the register to support the KHS all day long! Everyone is a winner when they spin the Seright's Ace Hardware prize wheel! Enter our free drawing for your chance to win great prizes, like a Traeger grill, a Stihl chainsaw, or a Yeti cooler! And rock out to a live performance of the newest inductees to the AMG Music Hall of Fame, One Street Over! All this plus special one-day only savings, product demos, and more surprises in store (See what we did there?) at Seright's Ace Hardware Customer Appreciation event!

Athol Post 149

AMERICAN LEGION
POST #149
ATHOL, IDAHO
208-683-2614

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
EVERY SUNDAY 4 PM BLACKOUT BAR BINGO POTLUCK— bring a dish to share for \$1 off 1st drink	1 REMINDER 2022/2023 Membership CARDS ARE HERE Dues are Due	2 6:30 PM POTLUCK 7 PM LEGION MEETING	 5 TO 8 PM	4 2 TO 4 PM FIBER FRIENDS 6 PM PREP & PISTOL	 4 PM	6 AUXILIARY MEETING 9 AM 4 TO 6 PM LIVE MUSIC	
7	8	9	 5 TO 8 PM	11 2 TO 4 PM FIBER FRIENDS 6 PM PREP & PISTOL CLASS	 6 PM	13 ATHOL DAZE SEE SCHEDULE POSTED BELOW NO ABC MEETING TODAY	
14	15	16	 5 TO 8 PM	18 2 TO 4 PM FIBER FRIENDS 6 PM PREP & PISTOL CLASS	 4 PM	20	
21	22	23	 5 TO 8 PM	25 2 TO 4 PM FIBER FRIENDS 6 PM PREP & PISTOL CLASS	 6 PM	27 6 PM AUXILIARY DINNER	
28	29	30 6:30 PM HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING	 5 TO 8 PM	8 AM—PARADE LINE UP ATHOL ELEMENTARY 9 AM—PARADE STARTS BEER GARDEN IN THE PARK (at the ball field) PULLED PORK SANDWICHES WILL BE SERVED 5 PM APPROX—BEER WAGON WILL BE AT THE POST FRONT PARKING LOT—WE WILL JOIN IN WITH THE PASTIME ACTIVITIES			

LEGION RAFFLE TICKETS (PISTOL) ARE AVAILABLE