



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord, this Christmas let us:

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a friend, Dismiss your doubt with trust. Write a letter. Share some treasure

Answer softly. Encourage youth. Show mercy in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine Your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind and gentle. Laugh a little. Take up arms against malice. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Love. Amen

Source: Given by Marietta E. Fournier

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain

Commander:

I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Christmas is just around the corner! I hope all of you have been good. Santa knows who has been naughty or nice. We will be celebrating the season with Santa and enjoying a Potluck Christmas Party on December 14th. Please plan to attend. It will be fun for all.

I want to start out this month's article by saying THANK YOU and BRAVO ZULU to all who helped make our Annual Veterans' Recognition Event a true success. What a fantastic day. I also want to give a big pat on the back to the Event Committee. Barbara Williams, a member of the Guardian Riders, did a fantastic job as committee chairman and all the committee members worked well together to make this event a memorable experience for all who attended. For those that don't know, the committee is made up of representatives from Post 154, the City of Rathdrum and the Northwest Guardian Riders. Once again, GREAT JOB!! In addition, I want to thank our Second-Vice Commander Bob Flowers for supporting our Needy Family Program by delivering a Thanksgiving meal to a family in Post Falls.

Next, let's get everyone talking about membership. We have talked a lot about renewing membership and getting new members. Here are two of the advantages of being a member of the Legion. First, there is veteran's representation - The American Legion is the nation's largest and most effective advocate in Washington D.C. for veterans, troops and their families. The American Legion fights every day on Capitol Hill and across the country for a quality VA health-care system, improved benefits processing and a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel. Moreover, accredited service officers - The American Legion has nearly 3,000 trained experts in veteran benefits nationwide. We also need to discuss how to find ways to recruit and retain the younger veterans. There is a propensity for younger veterans not to join Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) such as The American Legion. Many of the younger veterans see the VSOs as a bunch of old guys sitting around a table drinking and tell old stories. They are looking for more of a family centered program or something they feel will get a return for their investment of time. We all need to realize if we can't get the younger veterans in the program, we may not have an American Legion in the future. So why am I starting my article with this you ask? I am asking for everyone to think about this dilemma and if you have ideas (no matter how crazy they may seem) please let me know.

I would like to encourage all Post 154 Legion members to attend the monthly business meetings. It is imperative that we conduct our regular business and address any ideas, suggestions or concerns to help our post and organization perform better. The next regular Legion Executive Committee meeting will be on the second Thursday, January 10, 2019 and the next General Membership meeting will be on the fourth Thursday, January 24, 2019. As a new year begins there are several items to be discussed. First and foremost is the Post's 2019 Budget. Secondly, what are our plans for 2019?

No matter how you celebrate the upcoming holidays, please take a moment to pause, remember and to say a prayer for those brave men and women in our military who are serving to protect our freedom! Never forget that we are all members of the world's greatest veteran organization, we are American Legion! As your Commander, if there are any questions or suggestions to improve our Post, please contact me at dsasse1962@gmail.com - For God and Country, Dee Sasse, Commander



Finance Officer:

We ended the month of October with a fairly low bank balance. The Executive Board agreed to move \$1,000 from our reserves to the checking account to meet our obligations for the next several months, until we begin to see the results of our major fundraising effort – Distributing Poppies in May.

The Board also voted to allocate funds for a female veteran who is also a single mom with several children. The funds will provide food for Thanksgiving for this family. Thank you to Vice Commander Bob Flowers for locating this veteran, arranging for the food from Yokes and delivering the food to the veteran and her family.

Congratulations to all of our members who worked hard to make our annual Veterans Recognition Event a huge success. We had well over 200 attend this event which honored Vietnam Veterans. Helen and Bill Kinder led our contingent of able volunteers. Great job everyone. Our Honor Guard looked sharp and our Commander did an outstanding job keeping the program moving and insuring that things ran well and smoothly. Our Post and the City of Rathdrum got some excellent press coverage for the event (hope you saw the article in the CDA Press), and we had five members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart who travelled up from Boise to participate in the event and interact with our Veterans. GREAT JOB ALL BRAVO ZULU. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

VA Rates 70 Percent of its Nursing Homes as Failures: In a joint release, the national commanders of the VFW and American Legion are demanding that VA Secretary Robert Wilkie bring immediate attention to his nursing home program that currently has 70 percent of its 132 homes receiving failing grades by the VA's own rating system. The call by Legion National Commander Brett Reistad is in response to a [series of scathing articles](#) by two USA Today and Boston Globe reporters who documented substandard and negligent care at the VA nursing home in Brockton, Mass., which is one of 45 nursing homes that received the VA's lowest rating of one star. The facility in Boise, ID also received a failing rating.

Forty-seven homes, including the VA facility in Spokane, WA received two stars, 16 homes three stars, and 15 homes four stars. Only nine nursing homes received the VA's top five-star rating. "While much of the media's attention has been on the proper implementation of VA health care legislation, we cannot forget about 46,000 mostly senior veterans who reside in these nursing homes," said Legion's national commander.

Blue Water Navy Bill Continues to be Stalled in the Senate: In July, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, to end the injustice of denying Vietnam, Korean DMZ, and Thailand veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange the care and benefits they deserve. This important bill continues to be stalled in the Senate and the American Legion needs your help to make sure this bill is passed before the end of the year. Contact your senators to demand that the Senate passes H.R. 299. [Contact your senators by email](#) or call (202) 224-3121 and ask to be transferred to your senators' offices.

TRICARE Enrollment: This past Monday, TRICARE kicked off its first open season where Prime and Select beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage plan for 2019. The open season period will last until Dec. 10 and any changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2019. If you are satisfied with your current plan, then your coverage will continue automatically for 2019, as long as you remain eligible for coverage. [Find out more](#) about the open season and how to modify your existing health plan.

TRDP and FEDVIP Update: The current TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end Dec. 31, 2018, and will be replaced by the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) dental coverage options. Vision plans will also be available to eligible TRICARE beneficiaries through FEDVIP. The first opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP is during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season, which began on Nov. 12, 2018, and runs through Dec. 10, 2018. Coverage begins on Jan. 1, 2019. In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage, and if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, FEDVIP vision coverage, beginning in 2019. Family members of active-duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage. - Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman



Service Officer:

Merry Christmas Legionnaires and fa la la la la...la la la la. Snow is on the ground (at least it is at this moment), my tree is ablaze with multi colored lights, and I have a fresh cup of coffee, complete with cocoa/marshmallow Coffeemate. My dining table is littered with four projects that I start and stop because I suddenly realize I want to google "how to make floating shelves". I'm sure you can relate. But none of this has anything to do with O. Oh? Yes, O is our December letter. And O my goodness, the VA webpage has changed, and I can no longer access the A - Z listing. What a surprise. But I shall soldier (or in my case, sailor) on and let you know that this month, O is for (mail) Order prescription refills.

With the VA Prescription Refill and Tracking tool, you can refill your VA prescriptions, track their delivery, and create lists to organize your medicines. Find out if you're eligible and how to sign up to begin using this tool in our health management portal within My HealtheVet.

You can use this tool if you meet all of the requirements listed below.

All of these must be true. You:

- Are enrolled in VA health care, *and*
- Are registered as a patient in a VA health facility, *and*
- Have a refillable prescription from a VA doctor that you've filled at a VA pharmacy and that's being handled by the VA Mail Order Pharmacy

With this tool, you can:

Refill your VA prescriptions online; View your past and current VA prescriptions; Track the delivery of each prescription mailed within the past 30 days; Get email notifications to let you know when to expect your prescriptions; Create lists to keep track of all your medicines (including prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, and supplements).

On your Welcome page, you'll see a module for "Pharmacy." Within that module, you'll see these options:

- "Refill VA Prescriptions"
- "Track Delivery"
- "Medications List"

Click on the link you want, and you'll get instructions on the next page to get started.

You can get answers to your questions about this tool within our My HealtheVet web portal.

[Read Prescription Refill FAQs.](#)

You can also contact the My HealtheVet Help Desk.

[Find out how to contact us online.](#)

Or call us at [1-877-327-0022](tel:1-877-327-0022) (TTY: [1-800-877-8339](tel:1-800-877-8339)). We're here Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CT)

ATTENTION ON DECK! Don't forget that for military retirees using the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, the current program ends December 31, 2018. The new program that will replace the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program will be the Office of Personnel Management Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (OPM FDVIP), which will begin on January 1, 2019. Enrollment in the current TRICARE Retiree Dental plan does not automatically rollover to the new OPM FDVIP, so you must enroll during the upcoming open season, which begins **November 12, 2018, through December 10, 2018**. The new OPM FEDVIP includes dental plans managed by 10 different dental providers (Aetna Dental, Delta Dental, Dominion Dental, EmblemHealth, FEP BlueDental, GEHA, Humana, MetLife, Triple-S Salud, and United Concordia Dental). The new plan also contains four different vision plans (managed by Aetna Vision, FEP Blue Vision, UnitedHealthcare Vision, or Vision Service Plan) which TRICARE currently does not offer. Plan details and rates for the 2019 plan year will be available this fall. You must use BENEFEDES to enroll or change enrollment in a FEDVIP plan. BENEFEDES is a secure enrollment website sponsored by the Office of Personnel Management. Call (877) 888-FEDS to enroll or change your enrollment, or visit tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/indexAction for more information. Additional information can also be found on the TRICARE website at www.TRICARE.mil. – Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Christmas in the Trenches: The Rest of the Story.

One of the signature events of World War I occurred on Dec. 24/25, 1914 when fraternization happened between British and German soldiers on the Belgian sector of the Western Front. It was Christmas Eve and soldiers of both sides did the unthinkable, celebrating Christmas in unison. Much has been written of the event. I'd like to share some of the lesser known facts about the truce.

By late summer of 1914 it had been wet making the trenches a real mess. By December the ground had frozen and men could move around a bit easier. On the eve of Christmas, the combatants of each side could hear the other side singing Christmas carols. It was reported that the Germans were singing "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) and the British responded with choruses of The First Noel, note that no-man's land, the barbed-wired open spaces between the enemy troops was, in some places, barely a hundred feet in width.

Scouts on both sides were in the no-man's area when someone cautiously shouted to the enemy that if one did not fire a gun, neither would they fire. Some men in the trenches were shouting Christmas greetings and the other side responded. Some unit histories recorded that Germans from Saxony said, "We're Saxons you are Anglo-Saxons, what is there to fight about?" Another account said Germans held up signs that read "You no shoot, we no shoot". As this was occurring it is reported that shouted to the enemy that if one did not fire a gun, neither would they fire.

As this was occurring it is reported that one of the British scouts in no-man's land, Pvt. Murker of a Scots Guard Unit, was given a glass of whiskey from the Germans with further assurances that if the British would not fire, neither would they. Not long thereafter, in some sectors, tiny Christmas trees were observed on the front lines. Shortly after, troops converged from both sides and handshakes were exchanged. This sort of comradery and singing went all night.

It was noted that soccer was played that night between the two sides but this, in fact, probably did not happen. Rather, some efforts were made to do some friendly kicks with other objects that looked a bit like soccer balls. Interestingly, to mark a hundred years of the truce, Prince William on Dec. 14, 2014 unveiled a memorial representing two clasped hands on a soccer ball. A week later British and German soccer teams played a friendly memorial match as a testimonial to that truce a century earlier.

We need to recognize that this truce was unofficial and illicit. The British high command was not happy over these events. General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien told division commanders to prohibit any friendly interaction with the enemy. Officers on both sides took steps to insure this kind of behavior would not happen again. A century later the truce of 1914 is remembered as a testament to the power of hope and humanity in a dark hour of history. The truce symbolizes a very human desire for peace, fleeting as it was in 1914. May we in this Christmas season have a blessed time for peace in a troubled world. May we also continue to pray for our ill and deceased Legionnaires and their families.

Submitted by Dee Sasse



Mark Your Calendar:

Dec 1, 2018 - Holiday Donor Blood Drive Nov. 22-Dec. 31.

Dec 3, 2018 - Hanukkah

Dec 7, 2018 - Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

Dec 14, 2018 – Post 154 Christmas Party Potluck – See page 9 for details

Dec 15, 2018 - Bill of Rights Day

Dec 16, 2018 - National Guard Birthday

Dec 20, 2018 - Panama/Operation Just Cause (1989)

Dec 25, 2018 - Christmas

Dec 31, 2018 - New Year's Eve



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This is a reminder to get your membership renewed before December 31st, while the dues are still only \$40.00. On January 1st, dues will be raised to \$45.00 for 2019.

Thank You

Bill Kinder, Membership Committee

Please make checks payable to:

American Legion Post 154

P.O. Box 1116,

Rathdrum, ID 83858



A Healthier You: From *The People's Pharmacy*



Can Fish Oil Really Help Your Heart?

Fish oil supplements prevent fatal heart attacks. The benefits are clearest among people who don't eat much fish. How much do you eat?

[Read Article](#) →



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G
 Z O M N T H E D A Y S G N I T E E R G M
 S D Z I R V T Q P S G S B W C C P W V Q
 P U I Z O V A J A E O R U A C F S O G S
 G R E H N X R L B P Y N N N H R S O I L
 B N Z C S T B H J O M D P I M O A B V M
 Y M I S T L E T O E Y R D E E S M C I U
 G O C N O R L D K C O Q O N R T T W N B
 W K Y Q C Z E J A G O V T D R Y S D G Q
 L O R T K L C N I C G P N R Y L I N X S
 J N X J I R E F B A V A P J E H R D C Z
 X L W O N H T A E R W V I I L E H A Y E
 W L R D G Z G Y L D J C G N X E C M B O
 M Y A D I L O H L S U H J A W N Z A M J
 I X P D B T V H S K M W S E L D N A C U

BELLS	RUDOLPH	ELVES	JOY
CANDLES	SANTA	FROSTY	MERRY
CANDY CANE	SEASON	GIFT	MISTLETOE
CARDS	SLEIGH	GIVING	NOEL
CELEBRATE	STOCKING	GREETINGS	NORTH POLE
CHIMNEY	TREE	HOLIDAY	REINDEER
CHRISTMAS	WREATH	JOLLY	



MANUEL SCHNEIDMILLER POST 154
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IDAHO
PO BOX 1116, RATHDRUM ID 83858

**American Legion Post 154
Christmas Party 2018**

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the Third Annual Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 Pot Luck Christmas Party to be held Friday, December 14, 2018, from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at the Rathdrum Lions Club, 16114 N. Meyer Road. (corner of Hwy 53 and Meyer Road)

Please come and enjoy an evening to celebrate the holidays with friends and family.

Again this year we will have a visit from Santa and he will be reading *The Night Before Christmas to the youngsters and oldsters*. Please bring a wrapped, labeled gift, if you wish to have your children or grandchildren receive a present from Santa.

We will have a Toys for Tots box available for donated toys this year. Please help by bringing *unwrapped* toys to help make this a great Christmas for the youngsters.

The Post will provide coffee, tea, water, plates, napkins, and eating utensils. Please bring your favorite holiday dish to share. (suggestions might include: hot dishes, , vegetables, salads or desserts.

Please RSVP by December 11th, with the number attending and what you are bringing. Direct questions to Sue Fevold at 208-916-5149 or email; schoolmarm66@hotmail.com