



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS

**AND A NEW YEAR OF HEALTH, HAPPINESS,
AND BLESSINGS ALL AROUND!**



Commander's Comments:

All the best to you during this Christmas Season and Happy New Year! We've just completed our Veterans Recognition 2019 Event and it was once again a huge success. We had around 200 people including our helpers. Great job everyone! Thank you to the Event Committee who consistently makes this event happen every year! I couldn't be happier that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community.

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in own lives and regular jobs, but with the holiday season and we will be having our Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal on December 13th at the KTEC campus on Lancaster. As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2019 membership year and the start of the 2020 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we're growing.

With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to have a strong voice regarding veterans' disability compensation and educational benefits. Our collective voices speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and their subsequent disabilities sustained while in the military.

After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And, how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our community. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, seek an active membership and promote involvement and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 154 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always use more 😊), so come on down and see what we do – we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!

As we come to the close of 2019, I want to thank all in our Post 154 Family and our community or a good year of good deeds and good times, and I look forward to another good year of service and camaraderie! So come to the post membership potluck meetings on the 4th Thursday, it is amazing how good it feels to be with like-minded people committed to service - doing good deeds to help others, especially your friends and neighbors. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All! – Dee Sasse, Commander



Finance Officer:

We ended the month of October with a net loss of \$498.16. Major expenses included the purchase of Poppies for our annual Poppy distribution program (\$1,462.06) and expenses associated with the Veterans Recognition event. It should be noted, however, that the Veterans Recognition event is fully self-supporting and has an annual carry over of between \$800 and \$900. This year's carry over of donated funds vs. expenses will exceed \$1,000.

The Post continues to build reserves for the day when we can move to a space of our own, either donated space in a City of Rathdrum building, or a rented space or a property we own. Our reserves total \$40,655 however a portion of that is operational reserves for future operations. I continue to suggest that the member consider if the Post wishes to continue to build reserves toward a space of our own or utilize a portion of those funds to support our work with Veterans and within the Community. We need to have an in-depth discussion regarding the future.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so. That is very important. Additionally, please remember to e-mail me your volunteer hours each month. Our volunteer hours for work we do for Veterans, for our youth and for our Community are valued at \$22.00 per hour and it is important to be able to document the positive impact our Post is and continues to have on each of these important pillars of the American Legion. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

Legislation Introduced to Help Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits: Representative Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 4574, the *Veterans' Right to Breathe Act*. Rep. Ruiz introduced this bipartisan bill with Representatives Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) and Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.). This important legislation would establish a presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to burn pits for nine pulmonary diseases including asthma, pneumonia, and chronic bronchiolitis. For years Veterans have been calling for the connection of research and presumptive illnesses surrounding open air burn pits. The *Veterans' Right to Breathe Act* is a great step in making sure veterans affected by toxins from burn pits are finally provided the care and benefits they deserve

TRICARE Open Season: TRICARE Open Season will run from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9, 2019. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. If they forget to enroll in TRICARE Prime, individuals are no longer going to be automatically enrolled into TRICARE Select and will have to wait for the next Open Season enrollment period. Individuals already enrolled can change their TRICARE coverage.

I hope you exercised your right and privilege to VOTE for the candidates for public office. Less than 30% of your fellow citizens voted again this year. **REMEMBER: IF YOU DIDN'T VOTE YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT YOU HAVE OR THE GOVERNMENT YOU ARE GETTING!!** The first question I ask anyone who is complaining about taxes, politicians, roads, traffic, etc. is DID YOU VOTE??? If the answer is NO, then I stop listening to them, because they gave up their right to have their views represented by local, State and our National Government. – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Service Officer:

As you can tell from the image below, even Santa and his friends find the holidays a bit difficult. After months of planning and attending assorted veteran events, you may be like me, feeling the need for a bit of R and R. Red (wine) and uhhh... ravioli? Yes, as I sit to write this article, I am a bit under the weather, so the brain is not firing on all cylinders. But I believe! My clipboard sits in waiting for sticky buns to be made, gift lists to be reviewed, ice scrapers to be unearthed and put in the car before it's too late. If your gift list needs help, try registering with www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans. The exchange, the DOD's oldest and largest military retailer, serves all honorably discharged veterans with a lifelong online military exchange shopping benefit. Free shipping on orders over \$49, or any amount when you use your Military Star card.

Have you heard about VEText? VEText is VA's text messaging appointment reminder system to alert Veterans of upcoming health care appointments, allowing you to confirm or cancel quickly. Many Veterans are already receiving interactive VEText appointment reminders. Every enrolled Veteran with a cell phone number listed in their health record is automatically enrolled in the program. For you to participate, make sure that your local medical center has your current phone numbers. You may update your phone numbers during check-in at your next appointment, or use the self-service kiosks located throughout VA facilities.

How does it work?

You will receive the first text message reminder seven days before your VA appointment. A second text message reminder will be sent two days before your appointment. The timing of the reminders may vary by facility. You should review the date and time of each appointment and use the prompts provided in the message to either confirm or cancel the appointment. You will receive multiple reminders if you have more than one appointment on the same day.

VEText works for VA health care appointments only, and the text messages do not currently replace the letters and automated phone calls you already for appointment reminders.

For a preview of VEText messaging, text @DEMO to 53079.

May your holidays be merry and bright! - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



The Soldiers Night Before Christmas

It was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
And on the wall, pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
The home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice,
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

*By Lance Corporal James M Schmidt
Submitted by Chaplain Helen Kinder*



Four men die in the Centralia Massacre on November 11, 1919.

By Alyssa Burrows Posted 11/06/2003 HistoryLink.org Essay 5605

On November 11, 1919, a gun battle erupts during an Armistice Day parade of American Legionnaires in Centralia, leaving four dead and resulting in the lynching of one member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). World War I veterans and other Centralia citizens march on the local headquarters of the IWW, whose members anticipate an attack. Shots are fired, killing veterans Arthur McElfresh, Ben Casagranda, and Warren Grimm and wounding veterans John Watt, Bernard Eubanks, and Eugene Pfister. That night a mob removes imprisoned IWW member Wesley Everest, who is also a veteran, from the town jail and lynches him from the bridge over the Chehalis River.

From Parade to War Zone

An American Legion Armistice anniversary parade down Tower Avenue, made up of Centralia and Chehalis veterans, Elks club members, Boy Scouts, nurses, Red Cross workers, the Salvation Army, Centralia citizens, and the Elks Club band, stopped for a moment in front of the IWW hall, located in the Roderick Hotel. World War I veteran and newly elected leader of the Centralia Legion Post, Lieutenant Warren Grimm, who was leading the Centralia veterans, ordered his men to stop. A group of the veterans rushed the IWW hall. Shots rang out and Grimm was hit.

The IWW of Centralia had been warned that their hall would be raided, as many other IWW halls had been since the autumn of 1917, and so had discussed what to do about it. Elmer Smith, their lawyer, advised them they were entitled to defend their property. They decided to do so and members volunteered to take places around the hall -- in the Arnold rooming house, the Avalon Hotel, and on Seminary Hill -- where they would be in firing range of the attackers, although they didn't expect the raid to happen during the parade.

Many shots rang out. Arthur McElfresh, a veteran who had sought cover peered around a corner and was shot in the head. Wesley Everest, an IWW member, shot ex-servicemen Ben Casagranda and John Watt as they were running toward him down an alley. Servicemen crouching in an alley saw Everest run past them and chased him. They eventually stopped him at the bank of the Skoocumchuck River, which Everest didn't cross due to its fast currents and his heavy gear.

The Lynch Mob Forms

Dale Hubbard, one of the servicemen, pointing a pistol he knew was jammed, ordered Everest to surrender, and began moving towards him. Everest shot him, Hubbard fell, and Everest unloaded his gun by shooting him twice more. Hubbard died in the hospital later that night, becoming the fourth death from the parade melee, but not the final death of the day.

The others caught Everest and led him by a belt around his neck to the City Jail on Maple Street. A growing crowd of Centralia citizens followed as they went, kicking and punching Everest, whom they were told was Britt Smith, acknowledged leader of the local IWW. When the crowd arrived at the jail, one of them produced a rope and strung it around his neck. It was thrown over a spike on a telephone pole, and Everest's feet left the ground before Dr. Livingstone, the parade marshal, talked the crowd down, and Everest was put in a jail cell.

Meanwhile, vigilantes were rounding up anyone suspected of being involved with the Wobblies and destroying the IWW hall. Men hauled all the furnishings out into the street and set them on fire. The IWW membership list and records were given to the town prosecutor, who just happened to be watching from the other side of the street. News of Hubbard's death further inflamed the vigilantes.

Later that evening, about a hundred men gathered at the Elks Club, waiting to be sworn in as deputies in order to take part in rounding up IWW suspects. (cont. below)

They made their way down to the jail and gathered outside. Someone pulled a main switch in the power distribution building adjacent to the jail and the lights went out. The crowd broke a panel out of the door and entered the jail, removing Everest. They threw him in a car and took him to the bridge over the Chehalis River near the edge of town. A rope was thrown over the cross beam, tied to Everest's neck, and he was thrown over the side. A witness, Bob Burrows, said perhaps 20 shots were fired at or close to the body, then the mob silently got back in their cars and left (McClelland, p. 81).

Other witnesses said he had been castrated, but the coroner's report the next day stated "no scars that could be located on the body outside where the rope cut neck. Hole that looked like bullet hole ... rope was still around the neck of the man" (McClelland p. 85).

The mob gathered again at the Elks Club, and Centralia judge George Dysart with his son, Lloyd, worked to talk reason into the men there, convincing them not to grab other IWW suspects now at the jail. At 11:25, the National Guard arrived by train and prevented further violence.



Warren O. Grimm (1886-1919), the Centralia American Legion head killed in the Centralia Massacre, ca. 1917
Courtesy John McClelland, Jr.



Arthur McElfresh, a World War I veteran shot and killed during the Centralia massacre, ca. 1917
Courtesy John McClelland Jr.



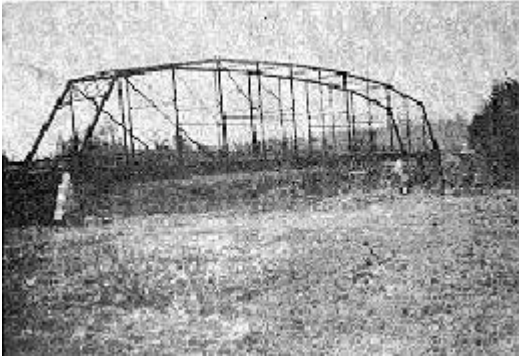
Vandalized Centralia IWW Hall on Tower Avenue, taken the day after the parade, November 12, 1917
Courtesy John McClelland Jr



Wesley Everest, the WWI veteran and IWW member who was lynched after the Centralia Massacre, ca. 1917

Courtesy UW Special Collections (Neg. UW5754)

(cont. below)



Bridge over the Chehalis River where Wesley Everest was lynched, nicknamed "Hangman's Bridge," ca. 1929

Courtesy John McClelland, Jr.



Centralia jail, with truck carrying away Everest's body. At right, two National Guardsmen stationed at the jail to protect inmates, November 12, 1919

Courtesy John McClelland Jr.

Sources:

John McClelland Jr., *Wobbly War: The Centralia Story* (Tacoma: The Washington State Historical Society, 1987); *HistoryLink.org Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History*, "Industrial Workers of the World -- A Snapshot History," (by Ross K. Rieder), <http://www.historylink.org/> (accessed November 3, 2003).

Note: On August 24, 2004, this essay was corrected to accurately name the veterans' organization as "the American Legion."

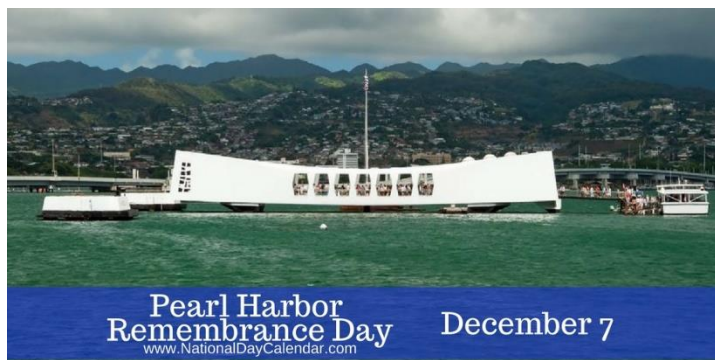
This was a follow up story to the original Story - From the Wobbly beat:

A signed letter, allegedly from a managing secretary of the Wobblies, threatened eight members of the Spokane's American Legion with the same fate that befell four slain American Legion men in Centralia. The letter said that, if the American Legion continued to "create hatred against the I.W.W. of Spokane, ... they will follow in the footsteps of the marked ones of Centralia."

The letter then proceeded to list the eight "marked ones" in Spokane, including the commander, office manager and members of the executive committee." The letter was signed, "Yours for a free world, Fred Rushman, managing secretary" of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Meanwhile, the local American Legion called for a huge mass meeting at the Spokane Armory, with all Legion members and ex-servicemen invited to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to urge action against the Wobblies, the Chronicle said. – Submitted by Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant





Zack Earp By Jim Doyle

“The worst thing is not having an answer,” says former California State Council President and longtime VVA activist Zack Earp. “I know there are lists of birth defects and stories about how Agent Orange affects veterans and their children, but still, I don’t have any definitive answers.” Like other Vietnam veterans, Earp is deeply concerned about the effects of his exposure to Agent Orange while patrolling the DMZ from Dong Ha to Con Thien for 8 months in 1967-1968, where nearly 180 thousand gallons of toxic herbicides were sprayed. Earp has battled prostate cancer, and he wrestles with Parkinson’s disease, but what weighs on him is how his three sons and his grandchildren have been affected. “I’ve reviewed many of the AO stories,” says Earp. “All of these kids have very serious health issues, and my kids’ health issues aren’t as obvious or as serious, but I still wonder, was it me?” Earp’s oldest son, Clayton, was born in 1972 with a heart murmur. He has fought a lifelong battle with hives. “He has these large welts all over his body, head to toe,” said Earp. As an adolescent, Clayton experienced uncontrollable neurological tics. Seth, born in 1977, exhibited more profound health issues. At 16, he began experiencing grand mal seizures, which precipitated numerous trips to the hospital. Efforts to identify the causes of his seizures were inconclusive. “When Seth was young, his arms would go rigid for no reason. Tests by pediatric neurologists at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, affiliated with the UCLA Medical Center, provided no answers,” said Earp. Despite his neurological problems, Seth was a bright, intellectually curious student with advanced language skills who hoped to become an English teacher. He wrote short stories and poetry. He played the piano. “Seth’s seizures continued.... There was no warning, no pattern, no regularity.... Over the years, test after test produced no answers.”

On Christmas Eve 2009, at the age of 32, Seth died at home after a violent seizure. “Seth had wanted to have brain surgery to remove the part of the brain that was causing his seizures,” said Earp. “The Chief of Neurology at UCLA wasn’t eager to do the surgery, because it would have involved Seth’s frontal lobe, which was far riskier than temporal lobe surgery. Seth never had a chance to be a regular kid.” To read the full story, [go here](#).



Zack receiving the Purple Heart at Camp Pendleton U.S. Naval Hospital



Seth, Josh, Zack, and Clayton



Seth and his mustang, which he was never able to drive due to his seizures

Here is the next installment on the health risks of various environmental toxins. This month – **Asbestos**.

Asbestos

Exposure to asbestos can be a serious health risk if asbestos-containing material is disturbed in such a way that the particles and fibers become airborne. Symptoms of asbestos-related diseases, such as shortness of breath, coughing, and chest pain, often do not appear until 20 to 50 years after the exposure.

If you are concerned about health problems associated with asbestos exposure during your military service, talk to your health care provider or contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to help you get more information from a health care provider.

How Veterans may have been exposed to asbestos

Veterans who served in any of the following occupations may have been exposed to asbestos: mining, milling, shipyard work, insulation work, demolition of old buildings, carpentry and construction, manufacturing and installation of products such as flooring and roofing.

Veterans who served in Iraq and other countries in that region could have been exposed to asbestos when older buildings were damaged, and the contaminant released into the air.

Health problems associated with exposure to asbestos

Breathing asbestos mainly causes problems in the lungs and the membrane that surrounds the lungs, including:

- **Asbestosis:** Scarring of lung tissue that causes breathing problems, usually in workers exposed to asbestos in workplaces before the Federal government began regulating asbestos use (mid-1970s).
- **Pleural plaques:** Scarring in the inner surface of the ribcage and area surrounding the lungs that can cause breathing problems, though usually not as serious as asbestosis. People living in areas with high environmental levels of asbestos, as well as workers, can develop pleural plaques.
- **Cancer:** The two types of cancer caused by exposure to asbestos are lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the thin lining surrounding the lung (pleural membrane) or abdominal cavity (the peritoneum). Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer usually caused by asbestos exposure.

Learn more about [asbestos and its health effects](#) from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Health concerns?

If you are concerned about health problems associated with exposure to asbestos during your military service, talk to your health care provider or contact your local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#) to help you get more information from a health care provider.

VA offers a variety of [health care benefits](#) to eligible Veterans. Not enrolled in the VA health care system? [Find out if you qualify for VA health care](#).

Compensation benefits for health problems

Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to asbestos during military service. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis. [File a claim online](#).

Learn more about [VA benefits](#).



Mark Your Calendar:

December 6 th	Big Band Dance Night – see details on page 16
December 7 th	Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
December 13th	Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting & Christmas Party – see page 13
December 13 th	National Guard Birthday (1775)
December 14th	Wreaths Across America at Pinegrove Cemetery @ 9 am – see page 12
December 15 th	Bill of Rights Day
December 20 th	Panama Operation Just Cause (1989)
December 23 rd	Hanukkah
December 25 th	Christmas
December 26th	NO Post 154 Membership Meeting
December 31 st	New Year's Eve

Bits & Pieces

- **If you don't get the Spokesman Review**, here is a link to the Veterans Day Veterans Chronicle. It's got so much good stories and information in it! [Click Here!](#)
- **The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is hosting a free Eagle Watch Cruise for veterans in Coeur d'Alene on Saturday 21 Dec, departing at 10:00 a.m. and returning to the Coeur d'Alene Resort by noon.

It is offered to military veterans, active duty and their families.

The cruise is limited to those who have never attended before. Reservations are required, and registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, 22 November by calling (208) 769-5004 until space is filled.

Reservations will not be taken in advance. Group sizes are limited to six (6) people and the capacity of the cruise boat is 150 people.

Please [click here](#) for more information.

A Healthier You: from The People's Pharmacy



Supplements to Help Ease Diabetic Neuropathy

Certain supplements such as benfotiamine and alpha lipoic acid may help ease diabetic neuropathy. They do not have the same side effects as approved drugs. Diabetes threatens the health of millions of Americans. Five years ago, doctors had diagnosed more than 30 million people with this metabolic disorder. People with diabetes either don't make insulin (type 1 diabetes) or can't utilize it efficiently (type 2 diabetes). The high blood sugar that often characterizes the condition damages many organs, including the heart, the kidneys and the eyes. [Read this article](#)

Wreaths Across America 2019



To sponsor wreaths, begin by [clicking here](#). Click on “Groups” on the menu at the top of the web page. It will bring up groups that are local sponsors. Purchase your wreaths through Rathdrum Lions Club, Northwest Guardian Riders, or the City of Rathdrum. That way, for every 2 wreaths sponsored you’ll receive a 3rd wreath (although that doesn’t show on the website, it is automatic). The Girl Scouts are using it as a fund raiser where they receive \$5 for every 2 wreaths sponsored through them rather than the individual sponsor getting a free 3rd wreath.



Note: Wreaths must be purchased by DEC. 2nd!

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

**American Legion Post 154
Christmas Party 2019**

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the Fifth Annual Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 Pot Luck Christmas Party to be held Friday, December 13, 2019, from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at KTEC Student Center, located at 6838 W. Lancaster Road, Rathdrum.

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.

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

Please RSVP by December 6th, with the number attending and what you are bringing. Direct responses to Helen Kinder at 208-772-7736, or hlkinder41@gmail.com.

Mornings at the Pentagon

By JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY

McClatchy Newspapers

Over the last 12 months, 1,042 soldiers, Marines, sailors and Air Force personnel have given their lives in the terrible duty that is war.

Thousands more have come home on stretchers, horribly wounded and facing months or years in military hospitals.

This week, I'm turning my space over to a good friend and former roommate, Army Lt. Col. Robert Bateman, who recently completed a yearlong tour of duty and is now back at the Pentagon.

Here's Lt. Col. Bateman's account of a little-known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning. It first occurred on May 17 on the Weblog of media critic and pundit Eric Alterman at the Media Matters for America Website.

"It is 110 yards from the 'E' ring to the 'A' ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad, and the lighting is bright. At this instant the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians, all crammed tightly three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands here.

"This hallway, more than any other, is the 'Army' hallway. The G3 offices line one side, G2 the other, G8 is around the corner. All Army. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew.

"Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center. The air conditioning system was not designed for this press of bodies in this area.

"The temperature is rising already. Nobody cares." 10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-Ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained, hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway.

"A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier in the wheelchair who marks the forward edge with his presence. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are still suppurating. By his age I expect that he is a private, or perhaps a private first class.

"Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Three years ago, when I described one of these events, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder, perhaps in private guilt for not having shared in the burden ... Yet.

"Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. This steadies the applause, but I think deepens the sentiment. We have all been there now. The soldier's chair is pushed by, I believe, a full colonel.

"Behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal, or sergeant assisted as need be by a field grade officer.

"11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. My hands hurt, and I laugh to myself at how stupid that sounds in my own head. My hands hurt. Please! Shut up and clap. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30.. Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts. (cont. below)

"They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along. Some insist upon getting out of their chairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

"There are families with them as well: the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husband's wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this, the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear is crying; the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20s son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their son's behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

"These are our men, broken in body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on, every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years.

Editor's Note: This was sent to me by Marilyn Hunt, the Commander of Fort Sherman DAVA (of which I am a member). I hope it touches you as much as it did me.



December is here! 2020 is closing in rapidly, and we still have a number of people who have yet to renew. Since the first of October we have 7 online renewals, 3 transfers in, and 20 regular renewals. Our total paid membership is now at 88. (75.21%) Please keep in mind January 1st begins the new dues year. We still have a way to go, so let's focus on getting your dues in soon. A big thank you to all Post 154 members for your membership support.

You may renew your membership online at legion.org, or mail your \$45.00 check to:
AMERICAN LEGION POST 154, PO BOX 1116, RATHDRUM, ID 83858
Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander
Membership Committee

**Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Don't forget the Christmas Party on December 13th at KTEC.**

HOLIDAY EVENT

Veterans Fundraiser
All proceeds benefit
our local veterans!

TUXEDO JUNCTION

FRIDAY DEC. 6th 2019 7-10 pm

We Care, Helping Heroes
827 W Prairie Ave.
Hayden, ID 83835



BIG BAND

dance
night

Tickets
\$25

Limited number of tickets @ [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Come join us for a fun holiday party with big band music, dancing, appetizers. All for a great cause. All proceeds go to help and honor our local veterans.

FEATURING: Tuxedo Junction Big Band | Flag Ceremony | Silent Auction | Appetizers



Veterans Fundraising Event | All Ages Welcome | Casual Attire | Holiday Party



Free Tickets for
Veterans call
Shawn Burke
541-251-0062