



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

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



May Your Christmas Be Full
of the Love and Joy of Family and Friends.

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:

Greetings to all! I hope you and your families had a joyous Thanksgiving holiday and looking forward to Christmas, making memories and sharing gifts of fun and love. I am praying that your thoughts will go to the men and woman, the warriors, who will be standing watch over our country around the world so we can enjoy the holidays.

November is the month in which we give thanks for our (so many) blessings. However, it is also the month in which we show our thankfulness for all our country's military veterans (living or deceased). I know that if it was not for our veterans, we would not have a country. Accordingly, the primary purpose of our post's recent activities was to pay tribute to our nation's veterans. An additional goal was to remind others of the importance of veterans and Veterans Day, especially our youngest generation. Highlights from last month's events follow: our Veteran Recognition Event with our Honor Guard doing an outstanding job, many members going to the community's schools representing the American Legion. Attending city events in Coeur d'Alene and Hayden. Attending the ribbon cutting of our newest Idaho Veteran's Home in Post Falls with our Color Guard presenting the colors while two governors watched us do a fantastic job. This is just to name a few.

Our post does so much for our community. I am looking forward to seeing you all on December 9th for our Annual Christmas Party at Shepard of the Hills church and on December 17th for Wreaths Across America at the Pinegrove Cemetery. THANK YOU!

I am asking our Legion Family to continue to reach out to our fellow legionnaires to see if they are okay and if they need any help or just to give them words of encouragement during this holiday season. Please thank Bill and Helen Kinder for doing Buddy Checks. We need more volunteers to help with this program. Remember, veterans taking care of Veterans and their Families is why we belong to the Legion.

As the National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola stated, "as the military issues change, so does The American Legion." While the Legion continues to celebrate its past, it does by also marching toward an evolving future, discovering ways to stay relevant and add even greater value to the lives of younger Veterans. One thing that has not changed is the Legions dedication to addressing the toughest challenges facing Veterans and their families. Veteran Suicide may be the biggest challenge yet, but anyone can "Be the One" to help save just One Veteran.

Let us all pledge to "Be the One" Stay Safe, be Well and as a Legion Family we can accomplish great things. Remember, Membership is the Lifeblood of The American Legion.

For God and Country - Dee Sasse, Commander



Finance Officer:

October Financial Report: During the month of October, Post 154 received income of \$4,698.38 and had expenses of \$1,289.95. Net income for the month of October was \$3,408.43, however this **included** a lot of income from donors to the Veterans Recognition event, and **did not** include a number of November expenses associated with that event.

Income was from donations to our Honor Guard (\$1,500), Membership renewals (\$270); Donations to Veterans Recognition event (\$2,795) Boys State (\$5.50) and the Veterans Home (\$5.50), hat sale of \$20 and Candle donations of \$102. The Post received \$0.38 in interest income.

Expenses were for membership renewals (\$300.00), Honor Guard expenses for mileage (\$320.54), Classroom Adoption Program (\$100), Veterans recognition event expenses (\$509.41) and a donation to Wreaths Across America (\$60.00).

At 10/31/22 Capital reserves totaled \$74,501.83 and included our Money Market Account, and four Certificates of Deposit. Total assets were \$89,093.56 and Liabilities, including restricted funds set aside for specific programs and un-cleared checks, were \$15,455.91. As of the close of the month of October 2022, Post 154 had a net worth of \$73,687.65. -Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Pew:

“
Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of
Jesus, that we may share in the
song of the angels, the gladness
of the shepherds, and worship
of the wise men. Close the door
of hate and open the door of love
all over the world. Let kindness
come with every gift and good
desires with every greeting. Deliver
us from evil by the blessing which
Christ brings, and teach us to
be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make
us happy to be thy children, and
Christmas evening bring us to
our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.”

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

womans day

Sick Call & Taps:

Member Mike Warren is recovering slowly from his second heart valve replacement. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.



Service Officer:

TRICARE Open Season

TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when you can enroll in or change your health care coverage for the next year. The next TRICARE Open Season is Nov. 14 – Dec. 13, 2022. Enrollment changes made during TRICARE Open Season will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

Open season applies to anyone enrolled in or eligible for a [TRICARE Prime](#) option, including the [US Family Health Plan](#) (USFHP), or [TRICARE Select](#).

If you're eligible to participate in TRICARE Open Season, you have three options:

- Stay in your plan. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE health plan, you don't have to re-enroll. You'll continue in your current health plan through 2023 or as long as you're eligible.
- Enroll in a plan. If you're eligible for a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select but not enrolled, you can [enroll in a plan](#) now.
- Change plans. If you're already enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select, you can switch plans and switch between individual and family enrollment.

Am I Eligible to Participate in TRICARE Open Season?

You're eligible to participate if you're currently enrolled in, or eligible for a TRICARE Prime option, including USFHP, or TRICARE Select.

Open season doesn't apply to active duty service members. It doesn't apply to [TRICARE For Life](#)—coverage is automatic if you have Medicare Part A and Part B. Open season also doesn't apply to premium-based plans. You can purchase the following plans at any time throughout the year:

- [TRICARE Reserve Select](#)
- [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#)
- [TRICARE Young Adult](#)

If you aren't currently enrolled in a TRICARE Prime option or TRICARE Select and would like to enroll in one of those plans, you can visit the [Eligibility page](#) to learn about TRICARE eligibility.

How can I Enroll in a Health Plan?

You can enroll by:

- Enrolling online on [milConnect](#)
- Calling your regional contractor or designated provider:
 - East – Humana Military: 1-800-444-5445
 - West – Health Net Federal Services: 1-844-866-9378
 - Overseas – International SOS: [Country specific numbers](#)
 - USFHP: [Designated provider numbers](#)
- Submitting an enrollment form by mail or fax:
 - [TRICARE Prime](#)
 - [TRICARE Select](#)
 - [USFHP](#)

You can check the [TRICARE Plan Finder](#) tool to see which plans you may be eligible to enroll in. If you need to determine what region you're in, you can visit the [TRICARE Regions](#) page.

What Happens if I Don't Take Any Action?

If you aren't already in a plan and don't enroll in a plan during open season, you'll only be eligible for care at a [military hospital or clinic](#) if space is available. – Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



VA Life Insurance has been serving our Nation's Veterans, service members and their families for over 100 years. [Life insurance](#) is a key component of an individual or family's future financial planning. With the right policy and coverage amount, life insurance can cover end-of-life costs, provide an inheritance to family, serve as income to a spouse or cover some outstanding debts.

VA offers a diverse array of life insurance programs to Veterans, service members and their families. Whether you are actively serving, transitioning out of the military, or living with a service-connected disability, VA has a life insurance program tailored to meet the financial needs for you and your family. These programs include:

- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)
- Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)
- Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)
- Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI)

In addition, on January 1, 2023, VA is launching a new program for Veterans with any level of service-connected disability (0-100%), called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife). VALife offers the following benefits:

Guaranteed acceptance whole life up to \$40,000, available in increments of \$10,000.

Premiums will never increase for the life of the policy and are competitive with similar private sector offerings.

No medical requirements for enrollment. Due to the absence of medical requirements, there is a two-year waiting period for full coverage to take effect.

Cash value that builds over the life of the policy after the first two years of enrollment.

Fully automated online enrollment with instant approvals.

No deadline to apply if you are age 80 and under.

To learn more about VA Life Insurance programs, how to manage your policy, or file a claim, visit: <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance>. – Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Hey folks! Our wonderful "shirt lady" Paula will give a short presentation our January membership meeting. She will explain what items of apparel are available and the options to embroider our Post info or the new logo. She can also attach our Legion emblem - which you can purchase from Helen Kinder for \$2.00. Paula will be prepared to take orders after the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have questions, feel free to contact her:

Paula Gaulin emsunfire@gmail.com 508-335-6224 – Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

First, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Where has this year gone? Sixty three members have yet to renew before December 31st. That is 38% of our goal. Not sure you've paid for 2023? Check your ID card, if it is saying 2022, you need to renew.

Post 154 can earn \$500 from the Department of Idaho, if we can reach 100% membership by December 31, 2022. Keep in mind, all unpaid dues after January 1, 2023, are delinquent and if not paid by February 2023, they are expired.

Renew today to continue your active membership. We have 108 paid members, The easiest and quickest way to renew is still online. Go to legion.org/renew and have your ID # and credit card ready. **(DO NOT PRESS ANY BUTTONS THAT SAY JOIN, ONLY THE RENEW BUTTON!)**

If you wish to pay the Post directly, mail your \$45.00 check to:

American Legion Post 154
PO Box 1116
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Thank you for renewing before December 31, 2022

IT'S NOT THE AMOUNT YOU PAY TO BECOME A MEMBER, BUT THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE.

Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander & Membership Chairman

208.661.6850 * wakinder74@gmail.com



Pledge Of Allegiance Day

www.NationalDayCalendar.com

Training Officer:

As there are no membership meeting in November or December, there will be no new training presentations until January. However, if you missed the third installment of the Basic Training History, you can find it [HERE](#).

FINANCIAL SAVVY NEEDED

Would you be willing to serve on the Post 154 Finance Committee? The purpose would be to assist the Finance Officer in carrying out his duties. Please contact Bryan Bledsoe by phone (509) 990-6739 or email bryandbledsoe@gmail.com if you would like to serve on this committee. Specifically, it would involve the following:

1. Finalize the 2023 Budget to submit to the Executive Committee in January.
2. Conduct an audit of the Post accounts for 2022 in January.
3. Review filing of the 2022 income tax return
4. Meet periodically to review and assist in making recommendations to the Executive Committee for various issues that may come up during the year, such as opening or rolling over CD's, etc.
5. Review bond requirements for anyone handling Post funds. This hasn't been done but is called for in two sections of the Post bylaws. Either the bylaws need to be changed or if bonds are required then there will most likely be changes to how and who signs checks.
 - a. Article III Section 6 "shall require adequate bonds (paid for by the Post) from all persons having the custody of Post funds"
 - b. Article IV Section 5 "The Post Adjutant, in all matters relating to finance, shall furnish such surety bonds (at the expense of the Post) in such sum as shall be fixed by the Post Executive Committee, and shall carry on the work in close correlation with the Post Finance Officer."

--Bryan Bledsoe

(509) 990-6739

bryandbledsoe@gmail.com

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

- Kindness is the only service that will stand the storm of life and not wash out. It will wear well and will be remembered long after the prism of politeness or the complexion of courtesy has faded away. Abraham Lincoln
- Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most. Ashleigh Brilliant
- Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are. Harold. S. Kushner
- Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. Mother Teresa
- Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind. Henry James
- Kindness makes a fellow feel good whether it's being done to him or by him. Frank A. Clark

Idaho Fish & Game has two programs that benefit disabled Veterans

(<https://idfg.idaho.gov/licenses/dav-programs>).

Disabled Veterans are eligible for reduced fees for hunting. To receive DAV reduced fees, veterans must provide Idaho Fish and Game with a copy of their official VA Disability Percentage Rating letter, and the letter must verify a service-connected disability rating of 40% or greater.

The resident DAV license, \$5, allows the disabled veteran to purchase reduced fee DAV tags for deer \$10.75, elk \$16.50, bear \$6.75, or turkey \$10.75. Permits for archery or muzzleloader are \$3.75 each. The nonresident DAV hunting with 3-day fishing license, \$31.75, allows the nonresident disabled veteran to purchase reduced fee nonresident DAV tags for deer \$23.75, elk \$39.75, bear \$23.75, or turkey \$19.75. Permits for archery or muzzleloader are \$5.75 each.

On December 1, 2022 at 10 a.m. MST, a limited number of general season deer and elk tags go on sale for nonresidents for 2023. Nonresident hunters are limited to their selected areas for deer (GMU) or elk (zone). (More information at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/tag/quotas-nonresident>.) Nonresident DAV Tags are limited to 300 Nonresident DAV elk tags and 500 Nonresident DAV deer tags. Once this limit is reached, DAV license-holders are subject to the available deer and elk tag limits and quotas at the normal nonresident prices.

In addition to reduced fees for licenses and tags, the State of Idaho also allocates five Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Tags annually. The Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Tag Program allows a qualified organization to apply for a special big game hunt tag on behalf of a disabled veteran. A qualified organization is defined as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization, or a government agency, with a mission to afford opportunities, experiences and assistance to disabled veterans. The program is not limited to organizations in Idaho.

Idaho Fish and Game makes five tags available each year. Tags are eligible for any hunt for deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, black bear or mountain lion except controlled hunts with less than 5 tags. Participants are exempt from licensing requirements and the tag is free. The tag is a once in a lifetime opportunity. These tags are allocated by a selection committee and are generally reserved for the most severely disabled Veterans.

The application period is January 2 through January 31 of the calendar year of the hunt. Each year, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services will first screen all applicants and provide a list of screened applicants to Idaho Department of Fish and Game in priority order of issuance. The top two candidates sponsored by Idaho Divisions of Veterans Services will receive a tag for a guided elk hunt in Unit 45 and Fish and Game will issue the three remaining tags to candidates sponsored by other qualified organizations. There is no limitation to how many applicants a qualified organization may sponsor each year. The application, at the link below, must be used to apply. Send your application to the address or email address listed on the form at the link below.

[Application for a Disabled Veterans Special Big Game Hunt](#)

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services sponsors two Idaho residents every year under this program. The two Disabled Veterans selected are taken on a guided hunt in Unit 45. Applications for this hunt are accepted January 2 through January 31 and can be accessed at:

<https://veterans.idaho.gov/pressrelease/disabled-veterans-elk-hunt/>. - Kevin R. Wallior, CPM®

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 509-953-0885.

This month there were eight (8) Military Honor ceremonies for 3 Army veterans, 2 Air Force veterans, and 3 Navy veterans. In addition, colors were posted for the Veterans Recognition Event and the dedication of the new Idaho Veterans Home in Post Falls. These ceremonies collectively required 46 volunteers who drove 801 miles and spent 179 hours to accomplish their missions. – Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard Member



Did you know...?

In April 2004, Joe Ruggiero was a petty officer serving with a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment aboard the Navy's USS Firebolt in the Persian Gulf.

Ruggiero and a team of Coast Guardsmen and sailors were conducting a boarding operation near an oil terminal when the boat they were intercepting detonated in an apparent suicide bombing, killing two sailors and one Coast Guardsman. For his actions that day, Ruggiero, now a chief warrant officer, became the first Coast Guardsman since the Vietnam War to earn a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor. Submitted by Len Crosby

New Post 154 Members

Ray Newman....US Navy

Tammi Gibbar....US Air Force

Daniel Neese.... US Air Force

Please make these new members feel welcome and a part of our wonderful family!



Mark Your Calendar:

Throughout December	Holiday Blood Donor Drive
December 7 th	Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
December 10th	Post 154 Christmas party & Exec Committee Meeting
December 15 th	Bill of Rights Day
December 17th	Wreaths Across America at Pinegrove Cemetery starting at 9 am
December 19 th	Hanukkah
December 20 th	Space Force Birthday established 2019
December 20 th	Panama/Operation Just Cause (1989)
December 25th	Christmas
December 31 st	New Year's Eve



Bits & Pieces

- **On Veterans Day**, Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families started obtaining a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges and forests. [LEARN MORE](#)
- **VA Disability Claims for Burn Pits**, Agent Orange and More. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, if you were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange or radiation, there are new, presumptive conditions that may entitle you to free health screenings and VA disability compensation. Watch to learn more. [WATCH](#)
- **Reporting Volunteer Hours**

Greetings All. I am not getting a good response from members that have volunteer hours to report so I'm going to try a new method. There will be a form that I will pass around at each Board Meeting that will have the categories on it and a place for your name and the horn under the category's) that apply. I will then take it home, add it ip and send a report to the Post Adjutant Let's give this a shot for a while and Happy Volunteering. - Lonnie Morse



A Healthier You: Be Involved in Your Health Care



Working with Your Healthcare Provider

Having a regular healthcare provider is important to help you stay healthy. Telling your healthcare provider (HCP) about yourself will help improve your care and keep you safe. And ask questions when you don't understand something, or just want to know more. Don't be afraid to speak up! Good communication with your HCP helps you get the most out of your healthcare. For more help communicating with your healthcare providers, go [HERE](#).

North Idaho Veterans Home

It is not difficult to understand the rules and regulations, policies and procedures, entitlement and eligibility factors of various government programs. Said no one ever. Chatter and comparisons abound around coffee cups and lunch counters when folks talk about what they were told/what they heard/what their neighbor said. A simple comment can become misinformation that is picked up and passed on.

With the November opening of the North Idaho Veterans Home (Post Falls), conversations are flowing, making veterans remove their U.S. Navy (or other branch of service) cap and scratch their heads.

Reliable information is best received from the true source. According to the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, applicants for this 24-hour skilled nursing facility must be a veteran (wartime or peacetime), or the spouse, widow or widower of a veteran eligible for admission to a Home. There are FOUR SPECIFIC requirements:

1. Proof of honorable service in the United States Military, (DD2114 or Military Discharge) showing a minimum of 90 days active duty service or discharged from military service earlier than 90 days under honorable conditions because of service connected disability.
2. Spouses, widows or widowers eligible for nursing care must provide a copy of the veteran's honorable military service on whose service they are qualified, and proof of marriage (license or certificate) and/or a death certificate, when applicable.
3. Applicants must be a resident of the State of Idaho at the time of admission to a Home.
4. All veteran residents must also either be in receipt of or apply for a VA pension.

General information of interest: The maximum daily resident rate is \$370.00 plus other ancillary, special items, and service charges. Each resident is liable for the payment of this charge not provided or paid for by VA, Medicaid, Medicare, or other insurance. Veterans with a disability rating of 70% or greater pay nothing, or a much lower rate because of VA assistance. The veteran DOES NOT lose or forfeit his/her VA disability or retirement pay while residing in a VA contracted nursing home. The VA Home will accept veterans for rehabilitation once the service is VA and Medicaid certified. Most of these residents utilize their Medicare Part B to cover these services.

A special addition to the North Idaho Veterans Home includes the office of the Idaho Veterans Services Officers. Scott Thorsness and Matt Ranstrom are certified to assist current residents or incoming residents to acquire additional service connected or Veterans/survivor pension benefits which can help in the cost of residency.

Would you like to go to a Taylor Swift concert? Go to Ticketmaster.com. And good luck with that. Would you like more information about the North Idaho Veterans Home? Go to Veterans.Idaho.gov. Click on the "Veterans Homes" tab - Post Falls Home and "news". This will also give you the link for the admission application. – Written by Ruth Aresvik for *The Veterans Press*





"Things to Remember"

American Legion, Post 154 Christmas Party

**Where: Shepherd of the Hills Church; 13541 W Hwy 53, Rathdrum*

**When: Saturday, December 10th at 1:00pm*

**It's a "Pot-Luck Meal" (Bring your favorite dish to share.)*

**RSVP to: jeanbledsoe@gmail.com – By December 3rd.*

How many people & what you are bringing.

**Santa is Coming" Bring your kids or grandkids along with a low cost, wrapped gift for Santa to give them.*

Questions: Sharron McPhail - 760-289-9266 (phone or text)

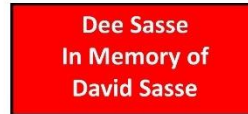


Thank You To Our 2022 Veteran Recognition Ceremony Sponsors

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Silver Sponsors



The Military Officers Association of America had an opportunity to interview Christine Wormuth, the first female Secretary of the United State's Army. Some interesting and frightening (highlighted in the answer to the first question below) observations. These observations are important, because – based on current projections - by 2040 female members are expected to make up 40% of our active duty military:

Q. The Army's recruiting challenges have made a lot of headlines. What do you see as the service's largest recruiting challenge? What are some ways you are tweaking incentives or tactics to improve recruiting?

A. The biggest challenge we have, frankly, is the fact that only 23% of Americans are, physically and from a conduct perspective, qualified to join the Army in the first place. ...

I think that something we can control in the Army ... is how do we do a better job of telling our story to more young Americans than just those who grew up in military families? ... 83% of the people in the Army today come from military families.

Q. With the reduction in end strength for the Army, what steps are you taking to make sure that this doesn't result in a "do more with less" environment?

A. There are two things I think we're going to try to do to make sure we don't have that kind of situation in the near term. ... For example, let's take the 82nd Airborne. We want to make sure that the 82nd Airborne is fully manned so that they're able to respond on short notice when necessary. So we probably will look at [whether] we need to shift personnel to those high readiness units. If we have shortfalls in terms of personnel, that's kind of a bridging strategy.

And then we have a process in the Army called total Army analysis. That is how we look at what new types of units we [are] growing. ... But we also use the total Army analysis process to help us figure out where do we need to make adjustments to units, whether it's thinning out the force structure or whether it's getting rid of entire units.

Q. What does the Army of 10 years from now look like, and how do we get there?

A. You are going to see us bring a whole series of new weapons into the force. You're going to see robotic combat vehicles, you're going to see new long-range precision fires systems like the extended range cannon artillery, the precision strike missile, long-range hypersonic weapons. And we're actually going to start fielding the first pieces of those systems in fiscal year.

And I think you'll also see those systems enabled by greater artificial intel ... And then we're also going to really be investing in a network that allows us to share data much more easily, not only across the Army, but also with our sister services.

But there's a human dimension to the Army of 2030 where we're really needing to focus on making sure we're developing leaders who can operate all of that high-tech equipment and who can operate in a very highly contested environment. So a lot of what we're doing is investing in making sure that our NCOs and officers understand the threats they may face today. – Submitted by Len Crosby

