



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue #2

February 2020

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*Valentine's Day is almost here!
Don't forget to plan a treat for
your loved one!*

First Vice-Commander:



I can't believe we are a month into the new year already! There are a number of members who still need to pay their dues for 2020. I have sent reminders out, and I do thank those who have returned their payment for 2020. If you have not sent your dues in yet, please do!

Please remember that your dues are a means of support for our post activities. Keep in mind, the post only receives \$7.50 of the \$45.00 dues payment. I know this is not a large amount to work with, but it does go a long way, especially when we have other fundraising activities throughout the year.

To renew your membership online go to legion.org, click on Renew and pay with a credit card. This is the quickest way to renew. To pay by check you may send to: American Legion Post 154, PO Box 1116, Rathdrum, Idaho 83858. Thank you so much. - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander & Membership Chairman

Commander's Comments:

Welcome to February everyone! One month down for 2020 and we have lots to do for our fellow veteran's and our community. Woohoo! Although, it is still pretty cold remember we're not that far off from brighter and warmer days. Its February so don't forget the love of your life or someone extraordinary to say thank you and I love you!

February is Americanism Month. Americanism, one of the Legion's four pillars, is simply the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations. No other organization offers such a wide variety of programs designed to enhance the attributes of good citizenship, discipline, community service, education and patriotism as the Legion does. As we pause during the month of February to reflect on what Americanism means to us, it is the perfect time to rededicate ourselves to engage in meaningful activities and programs in our own community that perpetuate Americanism. There is no need for us to "reinvent the wheel" when it comes to promoting Americanism, as the Legion already has a variety of established, well-respected programs to achieve this goal. Their proven programs include American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, Baseball, Boy Scouts, Family Support Network, Flag Education, Get Out the Vote, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Operation Comfort Warriors, Oratorical Contest and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement just to name a few! Your imagination is your only limit on how we as a post can help!

In the American Legion, April is Children and Youth (also one of our Four Pillars) Month. So, it's time to start planning our 5th annual Easter Egg Hunt. Last years was an amazing success. If you would like to be on the Easter Egg Hunt Committee, please contact Sue Fevold. She is the Bunny-in-Charge.

February is also the time to start thinking about who would like to step up to hold a leadership position in our post. You know what we do and how we serve in this community. We need your input to make our post even better. It is a good thing to be involved as many of our volunteers have been, so why not help steer our direction? We have a variety of positions that really don't require a huge commitment of time and are designed to help individuals learn more about The American Legion. All I ask is that you think about it and if you're interested in being a part of a proud and prestigious organization talk to any of the post officers or even better, come to a meeting. I promise they're informative and don't take lots of time and you might even enjoy yourself! We will have a Nomination Committee so if you are interested please contact them.

Moving on, every one of our memberships allows us to be a stronger organization locally and on the national level. Our membership numbers are a distinct voice for veterans' rights and benefits. With over two million members nationally we collectively can influence the decisions made regarding what we, as veterans and future veterans, will receive due to our service; whether the benefits are medical, disability, education, or ongoing support. We have veterans throughout our community ranging from Korean Era veterans to veterans involved in ongoing military activities worldwide. All have served and all deserve the consideration due them for their honorable service. Our post has been the starting point for many of them to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of opportunities and benefits from the Veterans Administration. By coming to our general meeting/potluck dinner at 5:30 for dinner and 6 for the meeting, on the 4th Thursday of each month, and speaking to our Service Officer Ruth Aresvik or one of our officers, a veteran can potentially learn what is out there for them to help them medically or educationally. For God & Country

- Dee Sasse, Commander

Finance Officer:

Our Post continues to be a beacon of service in all the following areas, and we have some amazing Legion Post 154 members who devote a huge amount of personal time to our Post and to our Community.

As of December 31, our Post has contributed a total of 10,233 hours of Service. Service to Veterans (6,119 hours), service to our Community (2,038 hours), and service to Youth (1,409 hours). In addition, our Honor Guard has provided 667 hours of service by participating in Veteran funerals, Veteran ceremonies and other Community events. Volunteer hours are valued at \$22.00 per hour, so our Post in one year has donated the equivalent value \$225,126 this year.

Our Audit Committee has met and reviewed our bank accounts, bank statements, finance officer reports, all the checks we have written, and all receipts for those expenses and all our deposits and has found no problems or discrepancies.

Our Budget Committee will meet later this month to finalize our 2020 operating budget for our Post and present it to our members for their consideration.

We still need volunteers to step up to help run our major Community fundraiser – our Poppy Distribution. Much to do from lining up the stores where we distribute Poppies, coordinating Volunteers, etc., etc. At the Commander's request I have prepared a Standard Operating Procedure for this program complete with exhibits of all communications, etc. That should make it easier for a Committee to get on top of this project. Please step up and take advantage of this great opportunity to become more involved in our Post!! – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

Certain Veterans Can Now Be Part of a Class Action Lawsuit: The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who in a 6-3 decision, correctly granted the plaintiffs' motion for class certification. The plaintiffs in this case were service members who were involved in the cleanup of radioactive plutonium in Palomares, Spain, after a B-52 Stratofortress bomber collided with a KC-135 refueling tanker on January 17, 1966. The collision caused two thermonuclear bombs to impact the ground and detonate, spreading radioactive debris for miles. More than 1,400 service members were sent to assist in cleanup and monitoring efforts, some of whom were exposed to very large quantities of radioactive material. This is the first time the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has permitted a class action lawsuit in an individual appeal of a Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) decision. After this decision, it will be easier for other classes of veterans with similar claims to file appeals from decisions of the BVA. (cont. below)

Disabled Veterans Authorized Access to Commissaries, Exchanges and MWR Retail Activities: The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 provides certain veterans and certain caregivers of veterans access to Department of Defense commissaries, exchanges and morale, welfare and recreation retail facilities beginning Jan. 1, 2020. DoD and the departments of Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and the Treasury have worked out details and logistics to implement this act on Jan. 1. (cont. below)

Who is Eligible: Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with 100% service-connected disability ratings documented by the VA already enjoy DoD installation and commissary, exchange and MWR access under DoD policy. This act extends access to military commissaries, exchanges and MWR retail activities to the following additional categories of veterans and caregivers of veterans: Purple Heart recipients, former Prisoners of War, Veterans with VA-documented service-connected disability ratings of 0% to 90%, Veteran caregivers approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

How to Access Installations and Privileges: To access DoD installations and privileges starting Jan. 1, these newly authorized patrons will need to present the following DoD-approved credentials as proof of eligibility for access:

VETERANS: Current VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, that displays their eligibility category: PURPLE HEART, FORMER POW or SERVICE-CONNECTED.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: If ineligible to obtain a VHIC, DoD will temporarily accept the VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A indicating placement in Priority Group 8E, paired with an acceptable identification credential, like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport until DoD and the VA identify a long-term credential for this small group of veterans. Driver's licenses that are not REAL-ID-compliant will not be accepted for entry.

CAREGIVERS: Current eligibility letter from the VA Office of Community Care that indicates they are designated as the primary family caregiver for an eligible veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and are eligible for these privileges, paired with an acceptable identification credential, like a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. Driver's licenses that are not REAL-ID-compliant will not be accepted for entry.

Eligible veterans and caregivers will have to stop at the visitor control center the first time they visit an installation to be vetted. The vetting process includes identity, purpose and security checks. The above credentials are required for proof of identity and purpose. In addition, a security check for criminal history and terrorism will be conducted. After identity, purpose and security are all verified, the installation may enroll the veteran or caregiver into the electronic access control system for recurring access on subsequent visits if: (1) the installation has access control system enrollment capabilities; and (2) the identity credential presented is enrollable in the system. VHICs and REAL-ID compliant driver's licenses are enrollable credentials. By being enrolled in the system, the individual will avoid having to check in at the visitor control center each visit.

These credentials will also need to be presented at either entry or point-of-sale locations at commissaries, exchanges and MWR retail activities to use these benefits.)

Privileges

Newly eligible veterans and caregivers of veterans will be authorized to use military commissaries. Commissaries offer an average savings over commercial grocery stores of 23.7%, inclusive of a mandated 5% surcharge on all commissary purchases that pays for commissary construction, equipment and maintenance. All commissary shoppers pay this 5% surcharge. In addition to the surcharge, veterans and caregivers eligible solely under this act must also pay a small user fee if they pay for their purchase with a commercial credit or debit card. This is a requirement of the act to offset any increased expenses incurred by the Department of the Treasury associated with the use of credit or debit cards. To avoid this credit/debit card user fee, patrons can opt to pay with cash, check or the MILITARY STAR card, which is a credit card available exclusively to individuals who are eligible to access military commissaries and exchanges. The credit/debit card user fee rate will range between 0.5% and 1.9%, depending on the type of commercial credit or debit card used, so that average savings will still be more than 21.8%. (cont. below)

All of the military service exchanges will be accessible, including the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Marine Corps Exchange, Navy Exchange and Coast Guard Exchange. These retail stores offer great deals on apparel, home goods, electronics, sporting goods, office supplies, seasonal products and more.

MWR retail activities such as golf courses, bowling centers, entertainment, clubs, restaurants, marinas, equipment rental, movie theaters, vehicle storage, recreational vehicle parks, recreational lodging, resorts and kennels will also be available. These MWR activities receive little to no appropriated fund support and are intended to be self-sufficient. The MWR activities that more closely support service member readiness and resiliency and are primarily supported by appropriated funds such as fitness centers, libraries and child development programs, will not be available for use by these new patrons.

In addition to these in-person privileges, veterans and caregivers eligible under this Act will have access to online exchanges and AmericanForcesTravel.com. Online options are convenient and offer the same great deals as in-store whether you are far from an installation or just prefer to shop from the comfort of home.

Congress Passes NDAA Conference Agreement: The week of Dec. 16 Congress passed the finalized version of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020* (NDAA). The Conference Report includes a 3.1 percent pay raise for troops and improving occupational license portability for relocated military spouses. Other important Veteran supported provisions include expanding Arlington National Cemetery, granting full military honors for Medal of Honor and Prisoner-of-War Medal recipients, directing DOD to conduct post-deployment medical assessments for burn pits, toxic airborne chemicals, and other airborne contaminants, and incorporating blast exposure history into service members' medical records. The bill now goes to the president's desk, who has indicated he will sign it.

Congress Strikes Budget Deal: On Dec. 18, Congress also passed a bipartisan bill that provides \$91.9 billion in discretionary funding for VA. It would provide \$153.6 million for VA for implementation of the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019*, increase VA medical care funding to implement the supported *VA MISSION Act of 2018*.

Three-Digit Suicide Prevention Number Approved: The Federal Communications Commission has approved a new three-digit phone number, 988, that will connect callers with the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Once 988 is working, calls to 988 will be routed to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Veterans can already call 1.800.273.TALK, and press 1 for specialized support.

VA Now Processing Blue Water Navy Claims: On Jan. 1, VA began processing claims under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The act restores VA benefits to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability benefits taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. It benefits veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ with an earlier start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested — to Sept. 1, 1967, instead of April 1, 1968 — and expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent's exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. For assistance in filing claims, contact a County or American Legion Service Officer.

– Len Crosby, Legislative Officer

Editor's Note: For complete information, follow this link, which was submitted by our Service Officer, Ruth Aresvik

<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-fact-sheet.pdf>

Service Officer:

The following information is brought to you by the good folks at the Idaho Division of Veterans Services in Boise....veterans.idaho.gov. Their quarterly bulletin gives up to date vital news and help. We all know how complicated and difficult veteran benefit changes can be...Rules and regulations. Policies and procedures. By laws and conditions. Paper or plastic. Always contact your VA folks if you have any questions about pending claims or appeals, especially with the new Blue Water legislation.

Claim processing for herbicide presumptive conditions under The Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 will begin on January 1, 2020. These claims will be worked by one of eight different VA Regional Offices: Cleveland, Phoenix, Roanoke, St. Louis, St. Paul, St. Petersburg, Salt Lake City, and Waco. With these claims, the veteran or survivor must file a supplemental claim (20-0995) in order for the VA to re-look at a claim that was previously denied and assign an effective date as of the original claim under the Blue Water Navy Act. The VA will not be reviewing previously denied claims unless a claim was filed that has been stayed, or a supplemental claim is filed. If a veteran was denied compensation or a survivor was denied Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) between September 25, 1985, and January 1, 2020, at least in part due to lack of qualifying herbicide exposure, and the veteran's service now qualifies under the Blue Water Navy Act, retroactive benefits can be awarded to the original claim date. The only reasons the VA will deny benefits to an earlier date is if the condition was not claimed, or if the veteran did not have a diagnosis or symptoms of the condition at the time of the denial. Complications (such as complications of diabetes mellitus) and residuals (such as residuals of cancers) will be considered to have been claimed if the veteran claimed service connection for the primary condition. As a reminder, this law now grants presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange exposure to veterans who were onboard vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, to veterans who served on or near the DMZ in Korea between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, and grants spina bifida as a birth for children of certain Thailand service veterans. As a reminder, if a veteran is rated 100% service connected as of January 1, 2020, owns and lives in a home in Idaho that was the primary residence before April 15, 2020, and has a current homeowner's exemption, the veteran can apply for the property tax reduction of up to \$1,320 that will come off of the December 2020 bill. This program is different than the "Circuit Breaker" Property Tax Reduction Program and some veterans may qualify for both. This program does not automatically renew so even if you qualified for 2019, you must re-apply for this benefit between January 1, 2020, and April 15, 2020. Applicants will need the VA Benefit letter showing they are 100% service connected on or after 1 January 2020. The VA benefit letters can be obtained in the eBenefits.va.gov website, at the Boise VA Regional Office Public Contact Team Office, by calling the VA's phone number (800) 827-1000, or by contacting your assigned Veteran Service Officer. Please note, this benefit does not currently apply to veterans who are approved for Individual Unemployability (I.U.) through the VA. Arguing with Veteran Service Officers or employees of the County Assessor's Office concerning Individual employability being the same as being rated 100% (which it is not) will not change the current State Law that is in place. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Editor's Note: Click on this, [New Interactive Map Helps 'Blue Water' Vietnam Veterans Locate Ship Positions](#)





Faces of AGENT ORANGE

Msgt LeRoy Foster By Jim Belshaw

LeRoy Foster never set foot in Vietnam. He didn't serve in the blue water Navy off the coast of Vietnam, either. In fact, he didn't come within about 2,400 miles of Vietnam. But the chances are good that he spent as much time in the company of Agent Orange as those who came into contact with it in Vietnam. He was the scrawny little guy with a "wand" in hand, working his way along a pipeline or security fence on Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. When he showed up, someone would see him from afar and say, "Here comes that little bastard spraying again." He spent 10 years on Guam. He first got there in 1968, a fuel specialist working with the B-52s of Arc Light. But the Air Force found other work for him, too. In the stifling heat and humidity of Guam, he wore rubber boots that came up to his knees, rubber gloves that came up

to his elbows, and a rubber apron that ran from his neck down to his feet. "After a while, you'd start shedding that stuff, because it got too hot," he said. "I had a face shield, but it only covered the front of my face. It didn't cover the sides." "I had a face shield, but it only covered the front of my face. It didn't cover the sides." He hand-sprayed Agent Orange from a 750-gallon tank on a trailer. The Air Force wanted security fences and pipelines kept clear of vegetation. The trailer had a 50-foot hose with a wand on the end to spray Agent Orange. The guys who saw the "little bastard" coming to spray felt sorry for him. "A sergeant named Ralph Stanton remembered me," the retired master sergeant said. "He remembers me spraying that stuff. He remembers me wearing the rubber boots and gloves and sweating to death in all that heat. He said he felt sorry for me." Foster started spraying Agent Orange in September 1968. In October, the outbreaks of chloracne began. Marked by eruptions of blackheads, cysts, and pustules, chloracne has been linked to dioxins, including those connected with Agent Orange. Nobody told him much about Agent Orange. Nobody told him there was anything to worry about. "I've got a re-enlistment photo from March 1971 at Guam, and you could see the chloracne down the sides of my face," he said. "I was covered with the acne. It was all over my body – my chest, my buttocks, the upper part of my thighs, my back. It started in October 1968. I didn't know it at the time, but it wasn't a coincidence. There I was breaking out all over my body, and I didn't know what it was. I thought it was the heat or something." **To read the full story, [go here.](#)**

If you would like to share your story, email me here: toxicexposure.stories@gmail.com



The **Toxic Exposure** article this month covers the health risks involved in exposure to radiation. Information courtesy of US Department of Veterans Affairs. ([VA » Health Care » Public Health » Military Exposures » radiation](#))

Military Occupational Exposure to Radiation

Various military occupations include routine and usually safe exposure to radiation. Servicemembers in these occupations receive special training and are monitored to ensure radiation exposure remains at safe levels.



Photo: U.S. Navy

This group includes Veterans who:

- Served on nuclear submarines and other nuclear ships or in shipyards
- Were involved in nuclear weapons handling and maintenance, including clean-ups after accidents
- Served as X-ray or dental technicians

Potential health risks

VA recognizes [certain cancers and other diseases](#) as linked to exposure to ionizing radiation during military service. Eligibility for VA compensation depends on a number of factors, such as the radiation dose and when the disease develops.

Health concerns?

If you are concerned about radiation exposure during military service, talk to your health care provider or local [VA Environmental Health Coordinator](#).

Veterans not enrolled in the VA health care system, [find out if you qualify for VA health care](#).

Need help determining exposure?

VA can help determine exposure during military service after you [file a claim for compensation benefits](#) for health problems associated with radiation exposure during service.

Faces of Agent Orange & Toxic Exposure articles submitted by Jean Bledsoe. If you would like to share your story, email me here: toxicexposure.stories@gmail.com



Chaplain's Pew:



Valentines Day Prayer 1

Praise to the One whose love stirs the ancient embers
Sparks the breath of prayer

Praise to the One whose love entices the wandering
Beckons the confused

Praise to the One whose love grows wings on the weary
Dreams hope in the discouraged

Praise to the One whose love soothes with the ointment of mercy
Transforms with the touch of compassion

Praise to the One whose love threads the energy of friendship
Stitches the strength of fidelity

Praise to the One whose love tickles the soul with laughter
Urges the heart toward joy

Praise to the one whose love embraces the untamed
Dances with the passionate

All praise to this Gracious One
All gratitude to this Beloved
All love to this Mentor of Friendship
All devotion to this Shaper of Hearts.

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain

Mark Your Calendar:

February 1st - Americanism Month

February 2nd - Four Chaplains Sunday

February 10th – National Clean Out Your Computer Day – See Bits & Pieces below.

February 11th – National Peppermint Patty Day – see page 12

February 12th - President's Day Membership Target Date (85%)

February 13th – Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting 6 pm Lions Club Rathdrum

February 14th - Valentine's Day

February 17th - Ash Wednesday

February 20th – State of the Community luncheon – see page 13

February 26th - President's Day

February 27th – General Membership Meeting & Potluck 5:30 pm Lions Club Rathdrum

Bits & Pieces

- **We have a new county Veterans Service Officer in the Post Falls Office. Here is his card:**



- **National Clean Out Your Computer Day**

Observed on the second Monday in February, National Clean Out Your Computer Day is a day to take some time out of your busy schedule to do needed care on your computers. Over time, files and programs that are unused on your PC clog the memory and cause confusion during retrieval and use of other data. They may also slow down your computer.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Take a look at your files and programs on your computers:

Organize your files and folders.

Delete junk files.

Delete duplicate files.

Delete old files and programs not being used.

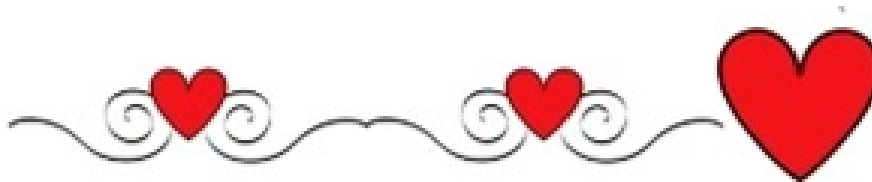
A Healthier You:



Can You Lower Your Blood Pressure With Cherries?

Researchers have found that people can lower their blood pressure with cherries, specifically 60 ml of tart cherry concentrate daily. Many people would like to find a way to manage their blood pressure without taking a lot of medications. Although they should try this only with their physicians' knowledge, it is quite feasible. In essence, a conscientious person can often use non-drug approaches successfully. One reader wants to control blood pressure with cherries.

[Read this article](#)



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Free Concert, Sport Tickets from VET TIX

Vet Tix provides free event tickets to currently serving members of the military, Veterans, their families, as well as immediate family of those that have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving. More than 6.7 million tickets have been distributed to date. *Eligibility is determined through ID.me, a third-party identify verification service that is also available to use on VA.gov.*

SIGN UP

LEARN MORE

National Park Passes

Veterans, with a service-connected disability rating, are entering Federal recreation lands and national parks for free with an America the Beautiful-the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands lifetime Access Pass.

LEARN MORE

DORCHESTER CHAPLAINS:

**Lieutenant George Fox, Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode,
Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, Lieutenant John P. Washington,
1943**

The **Four Chaplains** were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other soldiers during the sinking of the USAT *Dorchester* during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out; 230 of the 904 men aboard the ship were rescued. Life jackets offered little protection from hypothermia which killed most men in the water. Water temperature was 34 °F (1 °C) and air temperature was 36 °F (2 °C). By the time additional rescue ships arrived "...hundreds of dead bodies were seen floating on the water, kept up by their life jackets."

The chaplains, who all held the rank of lieutenant, were the Methodist [Reverend George L. Fox](#), the Jewish Rabbi [Alexander D. Goode](#), the Roman Catholic Priest [John P. Washington](#) and the Reformed Church in America Reverend [Clark V. Poling](#). They were sailing on the USAT *Dorchester* troop transport on February 3, 1943, when the vessel, travelling in convoy, was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-223* in the North Atlantic. As the vessel sank, the four chaplains calmed the frightened soldiers and sailors, aided in the evacuation of the ship, and helped guide wounded men to safety. The chaplains also gave up their own life jackets.

As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets.—Grady Clark, survivor

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. The Four Chaplains' Medal was established by act of Congress on July 14, 1960, and was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.

The chaplains were also honored with a stamp, issued in 1948 and by an act of Congress designating February 3 as "Four Chaplains Day."

Goode, Poling and Washington had served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

— *from Wikipedia*

Chaplains Fox, Goode, Poling, and Washington responded to a high calling from God to represent his love among men of war. On the day they died, they personified the words of Jesus found in John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

— *from Holy Women, Holy Men*



George L. Fox



Alexander D Goode



Clark V. Poling





Peppermint Patties

Prep 4 minutes - Cook 10 minutes - Ready In 2 hours & 55 minutes – Yield 28 patties

Ingredients

3/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 1/2 teaspoons peppermint extract
4 cups confectioners' sugar
3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
2 teaspoons shortening

Directions

In a large mixing bowl, combine condensed milk and peppermint extract. Beat in enough confectioners' sugar, a little at a time, to form a stiff dough that is no longer sticky. Form into 1 inch balls, then place on waxed paper and flatten with fingers to form patties. Let patties dry at room temperature two hours, turning once.

In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt chocolate with shortening, stirring often. Remove from heat. Dip patties, one at a time, into chocolate by laying them on the tines of a fork and lowering the fork into the liquid. Let cool on waxed paper until set.

Editor's Note: Try rolling and cutting these with a small heart cookie cutter for a Valentine's treat!



2020 STATE OF ★ THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

RATHDRUM AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Rathdrum

Mark your calendars and plan to attend, the 2020 Rathdrum Chamber's State of the Community Luncheon on Thursday, February 20, 2020! Our members can purchase tickets before we release them to the general public. Tickets to this event will go on sale to our membership starting January 20 - two weeks before it is open to the public. Don't wait to reserve your seats as this event ALWAYS SELLS OUT QUICKLY!!!! Tickets are \$20 for Rathdrum Chamber Members and \$25 for Non-Members. Tickets will be available online ONLY at www.rathdrumchamber.com. Lunch catered by Chartwell's Dining Services. The 2020 Rathdrum Chamber's State of the Community Luncheon is presented by:

P1FCU

your community, your credit union

We thank P1FCU for their support of this program.

Building the community we LOVE, one business at a time!