



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154

Rathdrum Idaho

Volume 1 Issue #6

July 2015

Important: Please make a note that the Post 154 email is now
rathdrum154@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar!

July 3rd – Membership early renewals will be in the mail – Adjutant has the 2016 cards

July 4th – 4th of July Parade in Coeur d'Alene 11 am – Honor Guard Marching

July 8th – 12th - Department of Idaho Legion Convention.

July 11th – Post Falls Parade 10 am – Honor Guard Marching.

July 17th – 19th – Rathdrum Days with music, classic car cruise, food, etc.

July 18th – Rathdrum Parade 10 am, Lakeland HS all day activities.

July 22nd – Membership Meeting & Gun Raffle Drawing 6 pm @ Lion's Den!

July 25th – Medal of Honor Highway 3 Dedication Noon - St Maries

July 27th – End of Korean War in 1953

Commander's Message:

Good day fellow Legionnaires and other Legion family/community members July 2015 I really want to start out by saying BRAVO ZULU to everyone involved with the first Flag Day/Retirement Ceremony in Rathdrum. The City of Rathdrum was very supportive and I want to personally thank the Mayor and the City for supporting this event, our past events and the future ones we are working on. A very big shout out goes to the Post 154/Post 143 Honor Guards and Post 143 Legion Riders for putting the icing on the cake. I also want to say thank to First-Vice Commander Mike Warren for all of his work and time to make this event a truly great success. Without his hard work this event would not have taken place. I also want to say thank you to Lew Allert for building us a burn barrel and Jeff Broadhead for tending the fire for the flags every little thing makes big things happen.

The event went very well and I am so proud to belong to such a great organization and a great group of people that are willing to sacrifice their time for the community and veterans.

It would be great to see more people come to the monthly membership meeting; I promise I will not ask you to volunteer for anything or take all of your money. (Please buy raffle tickets) It is a great time for comradery and to express your thoughts on what we have been up to and what you would like to see the Post do and participate in.

Rathdrum Days is July 17th, 18th, and 19th. We will be there with our trailer, promoting all the beneficial things the Legion does. Please come by and see us (we need volunteers to help man the Legion trailer).

We will be participating in the parade and I would love to hear a big roar of supporters when we go by, flags flying! Thank you and have a great month of July. - Dee Sasse, Commander

Adjutant:

Post 154 was formed in January with 16 members and we now have 59 members. There are a few items that are important for all members to be aware of. Of the \$35 annual dues only \$7.50 remains with our Post to provide services to veterans, their families and the community. You will be receiving an early renewal notice for 2016. If you renew at that time it saves National the cost of mailing future renewal notices.

There is a Post 154 raffle in progress for a Glock 19 pistol plus 500 rounds of ammunition to go with it. We need the help of everyone to sell the tickets. The drawing will be at our monthly meeting July 22nd. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5, 12 for \$20 or 60 tickets for \$100.

Please check some tickets out to sell or buy some for yourself. Contact Bryan Bledsoe at 509-990-6739 or BryanDBledsoe@gmail.com. Thanks to all those that already have done so. Charlie Till has already sold 377 tickets himself – at last count. A special thanks to Bob Hunt, Jim Karlstrand, and other DAV members who have helped so much with the ticket sales.

A Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Margaret Ogram, our 2nd Vice Commander, is underway. She is inviting any member that would like to participate to contact her at 208-762-8219 or email her at <mailto:mfogram@gmail.com>. Everyone's input is needed and welcomed.

Our Honor Guard and Color Guard has recently participated in three funerals, four Memorial Day Ceremonies, Vietnam Veterans Ceremony and a number of other ceremonies in the community including flag raising and education in one of the schools. We are a combined Honor Guard with the American Legion in Post Falls in order that we have enough people to properly perform the ceremonies.

The Honor Guard is looking for men and women that would be interested in joining or finding out what is required to participate. Current members range in age from their mid-fifties to early eighties. Many have some limiting physical conditions but even with that all say they are having fun doing this and find it extremely rewarding. To find out more contact Todd Halvorson by phone at 509-953-0885 or email keltod11@gmail.com

Everyone is welcome to attend the membership meetings at 6 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Rathdrum Lions Club on the NE corner of Highway 53 and Meyers Road. The meeting this month is on Wednesday July 22nd. - Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

Chaplain's Pew:

We, as Americans, live in a country where we have freedoms to speak, worship, and live. Be sure to take some time to give heartfelt thanks especially in July as we celebrate the birthday of our nation. Give thanks to those who had a vision for our nation, thanks to those who support those ideals, thanks to those who have died bravely for our nation. And be bold enough to say out loud to someone....God Bless American....land of the free. Look around and find someone who needs your help and lend a hand. Waiting in the pews. - Paula Atwood, Chaplain

Service Officer:

Most of us are aware of the changes that will soon take effect in health care because of the Affordable Care Act. The following information is *very* important and should be shared with our comrades, as in all veterans you come in contact with. In my travels I ask if the person I'm talking to is a veteran, then ask if they are enrolled in the VA Health System. A good fifty percent are not taking advantage of the benefit they have earned and the number of veterans in the program is the basics used in funding VA health care. Those not enrolled are short changing their comrades who are less fortunate and in need of VA Health Care.

What is the Affordable Care Act?

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the Health Care Law, was created to expand access to coverage, control health care costs and improve health care quality and care coordination. *The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.*

Five things you should know:

1. VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being.
2. If you are enrolled in VA health care, you don't need to take additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. The health care law does not change VA health benefits or Veterans' out-of-pocket costs.
3. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time.
4. Starting this year, 2015, U.S. taxpayers will need to declare that they have health coverage on their federal tax forms.
5. A special enrollment period will be open for certain individuals and families who did not have health coverage in 2014 and are subject to a fee when they file their 2014 taxes in states that use the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFM). The special enrollment period will begin March 15, 2015, and end April 30, 2015. Consumers who want to take advantage of the special enrollment period can find out if they are eligible by visiting <https://www.healthcare.gov/get-coverage/>

Veterans Enrolled in VA Health Care

The good news is that Veterans enrolled in VA health care programs have health coverage that meets the new health care law's standard. You do not have to take any additional steps to have health coverage. Read more if enrolled...

<http://www.va.gov/health/aca/EnrolledVeterans.asp>

Veterans Not Enrolled in VA Health Care

Veterans not currently enrolled in VA health care program can apply for enrollment at any time. (cont. below)

Veterans Health Administration

Apply for your VA Health Benefits or update your information using VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits or VA Form 10-10EZR. Following the link below will get you there:

A very important link to follow: <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/#main-content>

The fastest and easiest way to apply or update your information is online! Submit or update your personal, insurance, and financial information here. If you encounter computer problems try Internet Explorer. First time enrolling for benefits or already enrolled? You will need Adobe Reader or newer to open the 10-10EZ form.

Other ways to apply or UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION...

Apply for VA Health Benefits Now!

By Phone:

You can apply for enrollment of your benefits or update your information by phone by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time). A VA representative will have your completed form sent to you for verification and signature.

By Mail:

Print the 10-10EZ form or 10-10EZR form or call to have the form mailed to you. Complete and sign the application, then mail it to: Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

In Person:

Visit a VA Medical Center or CBOC nearest you to apply for enrollment or if you are already enrolled, to update your information in person.

Need Help?

Give us a call at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).

IMMEDIATE / EMERGENCY HELP

Emergency Help:

If you need **IMMEDIATE/EMERGENCY** help for medical, mental health, or crisis concerns, please call 911 or contact the **VETERANS CRISIS LINE AT 1-800-273-8255 AND PRESS 1**. You do not need to be enrolled in the VA to access **IMMEDIATE HELP** from your local 911 Center or the Veterans Crisis Line. – Charlie Till, Service Officer



Memories of My Service

I am both a military veteran and the mother of two military sons. I understand how precious is time; both the 'hurry up and wait' and time not counted as your own when you are in uniform. When my youngest son, intelligence squadron/Air Force, went to Korea, I furnished him a parcel of mail helps. Not only self-addressed, stamped envelopes, but also a "form letter" with a number of multiple choice things like ...'The weather is sunny/fair/rainy' or 'I'm feeling fine/ok/like crap'....all he had to do was circle the appropriate answer, stuff the envelope and mail it to 'the mom'.

Did I get many of these? Not. Did I get phone calls? Not. Of course, this was before I had a computer or SKYPE or pre-paid phone cards...all I could do was wait. I wrote every week or two with tidbits of home life. Around November, I started hinting big time that 'all I wanted for Christmas was a phone call.' Every letter, I repeated this request.

Well, as things often happen, Christmas came and went with no phone call. I was not worried at first. My son was in a unit that often did things on the spur of the moment or was ordered to operational silence. Anyway, I figured give or take a day, I'd hear from my son. Not. By the time New Year's Day came and went, my worry bell was ringing hard.

How worried? I called the Red Cross for a health/wellness report. First question they asked me was...what unit was he in. When I answered the intelligence unit, all I got was a big laugh at first. But, they took my information and said they would do what they could.

Do you know how a health/wellness report is taken care of? The Red Cross contacts the head of the Air Force Command, who then contacts the Pacific Fleet Command, who contacts the base commander, who then contacts the commander of your unit, who then contacts your own sergeant who calls you into his office to yell into your face "CALL YOUR MOTHER"!!!

Guess what? I got a phone call! Whoopie! My son, mortified by that experience, asked me to never call the Red Cross again. OK, I said. But whenever my worry bell went off when I didn't hear from him, all I had to say was 'do I need to call the Red Cross again' and bam! I had a phone call pronto! No, I never had to call the Red Cross again. A mom smiling in the wings – Paula Atwood

Volunteer of the Month

Each month the Executive Committee will select a member as Volunteer of the Month. The VOM will be someone who has shown themselves to be dedicated to the principals of the American Legion and Post 154, veterans and their families, and the community. They will have gone beyond their "job description" as a member and will be recognized at the membership meeting, in the newsletter (here) and on the website [here](#).

The Volunteer of the Month for June is Finance Officer Len Crosby; for his expertise and dedication to detail in keeping Post 154 in the black, for his accuracy and detail in keeping the financial records and maintaining transparency for the membership. And under his second hat as Legislative Chairman, for keeping abreast of legislative issues impacting veterans and passing the information – and calls to action – along to all of us. Thank you Len.

Last Wednesday night Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 was honored by having the permanent charter from The American Legion presented to the membership by Area 'A' Vice-Commander Jerri Stevens. The temporary charter for Rathdrum Post 154 was issued in January and after 90 days the Post requested a permanent charter under the name Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154. Gary and his mother Gladys had given permission to use the name of Manuel Schneidmiller in connection with naming the Post at the first of the year. Gladys passed away at age 97 just a couple of months ago.

Gary Schneidmiller who is the son of Manuel Schneidmiller for whom Post 154 is named, was in attendance. He said that his father "Mannie" would have been honored to have his name associated with a legion post, but would have said that it should have gone to some other more deserving individual.

Gary presented Commander Dee Sasse with a check for \$25,000 from the Schneidmiller family which he said was to help build the Post and carry on its programs. What a surprise it was to Dee and all of the members and guests in attendance. A big thanks to Gary and his family for their generosity and support.

For more of Mannie Schneidmiller's story, follow this link: <http://goo.gl/mXHl8L>



From left: Area 'A' Vice-Commander Jerri Stevens presenting the Charter to Post 154



From left: Post 154 Commander Dee Sasse and Gary Schneidmiller with the Charter



From left: Commander Dee Sasse receiving gift of \$25,000 from Gary Schneidmiller.



From left: Commander Dee Sasse reacting!

In June our Honor Guard was invited to Twin Lakes Elementary in Rathdrum to perform a flag ceremony and teach the students about proper flag etiquette. This is one of the things the Post does to support Americanism in the community. Below are some pictures from that event in which Bryan Bledsoe, Al Ogram, Margaret Ogram, and Mike Warren participated (pictured in the upper right photo.) They are pictured saluting the flag, lowering the old flag and raising the new one. Follow this link to read the thank you letter from the school's principal, Elizabeth Keyes:

<http://www.rathdrumpost154.org/files/TwinLakesElementary.png>



Medal of Honor Highway Dedication

Coming July 25, 2015!

Post 25 is hosting the Dedication of North Idaho Highway 3 as a Medal of Honor Highway.

All are welcome to come and enjoy this historic event. Follow this link to read more details:

<http://www.lgmccarterpost25.com/index.php>

Rathdrum Days!!

July 17th, 18th & 19th

Lakeland High School, Rathdrum, ID

Three days of family fun! Rathdrum Days will be on Friday, July 17th, Saturday, July 18th, and Sunday, July 19th. Friday Night kicks off this annual event on Main Street. Enjoy live music, street dancing, beer garden, classic car cruise, great food and fun.

Be there on Saturday morning 10:00 sharp on Main Street for the annual community parade.

Lakeland High School, located at the intersection of Highways 41 and 53 will be the hot spot for food and craft vendors of all sorts. With entertainment throughout the day, it's a can't miss opportunity! Enjoy;

- ★ Magic Shows
- ★ Watermelon Eating Contests
- ★ Wiener Dog Races
- ★ Lawn Mower Races
- ★ Ronald McDonald Big Wheel Races
- ★ 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

and so much more!

Lakeland Jr High campus will host the Lion's Annual Classic Car Show. Dedicated community volunteers have been busy making wonderful plans for this year's event.

**Bring Your Family, Friends, and Neighbors to
Enjoy This Fun-Filled
Celebration of the Great Community of Rathdrum!**

July 2015

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	9 Department of Idaho Legion Convention	10 Department of Idaho Legion Convention	11 Department of Idaho Legion Convention <hr/> Post Falls Days Parade 10:00 AM
12 Department of Idaho Legion Convention	13	14	15	16	17 Rathdrum Days	18 Rathdrum Days Rathdrum Days Parade 10:00 AM
19 Rathdrum Days	20	21	22 Membership Meeting 6:00 PM <hr/> Gun Raffle Drawing 6:00 PM	23	24	25 Medal of Honor Highway Dedication 12:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30	31	