



# Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

## Rathdrum Idaho

### Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue #7

July 2018

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#### Independence Day (Fourth of July)

Almighty God, we pray to You to help us have faith in God and our country, and to keep the freedom we have cherished for well over two centuries. With this freedom, may we continue to grow in all of our undertakings. Also, help us with the friendships we have made to learn to love one another so that harmony may be with us always in this great land of ours. We ask this in

Your name. Amen.

Helen Kinder, Chaplain

## Finance Officer:

Finances are looking good, however much of what we made will be spent in the near term to purchase a Conex container to provide additional storage and to purchase the Poppies for next year.

Thank you to Sue Fevold for arranging to secure a new set of American Legion Post 154 T- and Polo shirts for purchase. You will see a lot of our member sporting these at meetings and at events that the American Legion participates in around town. They always look sharp with the Legion patch and embroidered Post name and Post number and make our Post members stand out. Please contact Sue at [schoolmarm66@hotmail.com](mailto:schoolmarm66@hotmail.com) to choose your shirt or hoodie so she can put in our order.

We also have received a new set of the dark blue Post 154 baseball caps. These are available at any of the post meetings for the CHEAP price of \$17.

If you have ANY questions regarding the Post's finances, please do not hesitate to bring it up at a meeting or call the Finance Officer directly. We are totally transparent, we provide monthly reports showing our financial position, each check we write with an explanation of who the check was paid to and for what, and all of our income and deposits. We also do an annual audit of our books and an annual inventory in conjunction with the preparation of the Federal tax return for the Post. The audit is conducted by a group of members who are not involved in the collection or disbursement of Post funds, so they are totally independent of the financial reporting process. If you have any interest in volunteering to be on the Audit Committee, please let the Commander know.

Thanks again for all those Post members and spouses, who distributed Poppies. We got a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the public for this program and each of the Stores indicated that they were very pleased with the program, the manner in which we conducted the Poppy distribution, and our courtesy and professionalism. Several folks mentioned to us and to the Store managers, how pleased they were to see Poppy's being distributed in remembrance of Memorial Day.

**WE NEED SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE POPPY COMMITTEE FOR NEXT YEAR, SO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP – YOU CAN EVEN BE THE CHAIRPERSON!! – Len Crosby, Finance Officer**



## **Legislative Chairman:**

The American Legion testified June 13 before the Subcommittee on Health to voice the Legion's support for four pieces of pending legislation, which included bills addressing the severe staffing shortages plaguing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The American Legion has identified and reported staffing shortages at every VA medical facility and reported these critical deficiencies to Congress, VA Central Office, and the president of the United States.

[H.R. 5521](#), the VA Hiring Enhancement Act, seeks to address the shortcomings in the recruitment and retention of qualified medical professionals. The bill will speed up the hiring of newly recruited doctors and allow them to immediately begin treating veterans at the completion of their residency by allowing VA to make binding job offers of up to two years before a physician completes their residency program.

The shortage of medical professionals — particularly those with highly specialized skillsets such as orthotics and prosthetics — requires Congress to ensure that resources and funding are available to continue the education and training of such clinicians.

[H.R. 3696](#), the Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act, requires the Secretary of the VA to award grants establishing and expanding master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics. By admitting more students, providing better training faculty, expanding facilities and increasing cooperation with VA and the Department of Defense, this bill addresses the needs of the approximately 90,000 VA patients with amputations.

[H.R. 5693](#), the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act. H.R. 5693 authorizes VA to enter into contracts to place veterans who cannot live independently in non-VA medical foster homes. Currently, veterans enrolled in Home Based Primary Care through the VA can choose to receive care at a medical foster home, but veterans eligible for nursing home care through the VA are not eligible to receive care at these homes, nor does the VA cover the expense. This bill requires VA to provide nursing home care at a veteran's request and the veteran can then be placed in a medical foster home that meets VA standards.

[H.R. 5938](#), the Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018 expands an existing database to include members of the armed forces in the talent pool to meet VA's occupational needs. The recruiting database covers every vacancy in the VA with the ability to select applicants for positions different than the one for which they originally applied. To be known as the "Recruitment Database of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs," the database will provide the military occupational specialty or the skillset corresponding with each vacant position, as well as qualified service members who could be recruited for these vacancies before separating from service.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act H.R. 299, This bill was supported by both sides of the aisle and passed unanimously out of the House June 25, with a vote of 382-0. The legislation will extend disability benefits covering medical conditions associated with Agent Orange to Blue Water Navy veterans.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange if diagnosed with a medical condition associated with the herbicide, according to the Agent Orange Act of 1991. However, this act applied only to veterans who served on land and in Vietnam's inland waterways, excluding those who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam known as "Blue Water" Navy veterans. H.R. 299 will extend these benefits to the Blue Water Navy veterans.

H.R. 299 will now go before the Senate for a vote. PLEASE CONTACT SEN. CRAPO AND RISCH AND TELL THEM TO SUPPORT THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT. — Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

## **Service Officer:**

Happy July. Which starts with "J". I have spent nearly two weeks researching veteran issues...and can I find anything that starts with "J"? Nope. My subconscious automatically surfaces when I hear anything that starts with "J". Something HAS to be out there. Deadline is approaching...what to do...what to do... Then I hear someone say "Jimmy". I laugh. Yeah, right. What does JIMMY have to do in relationship to veteran service issues? But hold on. Did you know that Jimmy Carter, Jimmy Stewart, and Jimmy Dean served in the military? These are their stories...because "J" is for JIMMY.

### **JIMMY CARTER**

After high school, Carter applied to the United States Naval Academy and, after taking additional mathematics courses at Georgia Tech, he was admitted in 1943. Carter graduated 59th out of 820 midshipmen.

Carter served on surface ships and on diesel-electric submarines in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. As a junior officer, he completed qualification for command of a diesel-electric submarine. He applied for the US Navy's fledgling nuclear submarine program run by then Captain Hyman G. Rickover. Rickover's demands on his men and machines were legendary, and Carter later said that, next to his parents, Rickover had the greatest influence on him.

Carter has said that he loved the Navy and had planned to make it his career. His ultimate goal was to become Chief of Naval Operations. Carter felt the best route for promotion was with submarine duty since he felt that nuclear power would be increasingly used in submarines. During service on the diesel-electric submarine USS Pomfret, Carter was almost washed overboard.

After six years of military service, Carter trained for the position of engineering officer in submarine USS Seawolf, then under construction. Carter completed a non-credit introductory course in nuclear reactor power at Union College starting in March 1953. This followed Carter's first-hand experience as part of a group of American and Canadian servicemen who took part in cleaning up after a partial nuclear meltdown at Canada's Chalk River Laboratories reactor in 1952. Upon the death of his father, James Earl Carter, Sr., in July 1953, Lieutenant Carter immediately resigned his commission, and he was discharged from the Navy on October 9, 1953. This cut short his nuclear powerplant operator training, and he was never able to serve on a nuclear submarine, since the first boat of that fleet, the USS Nautilus (SSN-571), was launched on January 17, 1955, over a year after his discharge from the Navy.

### **JIMMY STEWART**

When the U.S. entered World War II, Stewart was drafted into the Army but was rejected because he was underweight for his height. He worked with colleagues to put on the necessary pounds, and successfully enlisted with the Air Corps. He was stationed at Moffett Field, California as an enlisted man. During his nine months of training at that base, he also took extension courses with the idea of obtaining a commission. His college degree and extensive flight time played to his favor, and he received his commission after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Because he had logged over 400 hours as a civilian, he was permitted to take basic flight training at Moffett and earned his pilot wings. During the next nine months, he instructed in AT-6, AT-9, and B-17 aircraft and flew bombardiers in the training school at Albuquerque, N.M. In the fall of 1943, Stewart went to England as Commanding Officer of the 703d Bomb Squadron, equipped with B-24s. He began flying combat missions and on March 31, 1944, was appointed Operations Officer of the 453rd Bomb Group and, subsequently, Chief of Staff of the 2nd Combat wing, 2nd Air Division of the 8th

Air Division of the 8th Air Force. Stewart ended the war with 20 combat missions. He remained in the USAF Reserve and was promoted to brigadier general on July 23, 1959. He retired on May 31, 1968.

**JIMMY DEAN**

Dean dropped out of high school to help provide for the family. He joined the Merchant Marines at age 16, and two years later he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. During his time as a serviceman in World War II, Dean was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base. There he also continued to perform music in Washington, D.C., nightclubs. He first performed publicly with a band called the Tennessee Haymakers and, after his discharge from the military in 1948, remained in the area to form the band the Texas Wildcats. He eventually scored a record deal with Four Star records and, in 1953, his first single, "Bummin' Around," became a Top 10 hit. His charming, folksy personality and business-savvy then helped him land his own radio show on WARL, in Arlington, Virginia, where he performed music and interviewed music stars. – Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



**Mark Your Calendar:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| July 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | Independence Day  |
| <b>July 11<sup>th</sup></b>              | <b>Post 154 Executive Committee Meeting 6 pm</b>                          |
| July 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> | Idaho American Legion Department Convention                               |
| <b>July 14<sup>th</sup></b>              | <b>Honor Guard marching in Post Falls Parade 10 am</b>                    |
| July 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | North Idaho Military Appreciation at Triple Play – Noon to 3pm            |
| July 20 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> | Boys Nation (2 delegates elected to attend from each state at Boys State) |
| <b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>              | <b>Rathdrum Days Parade 10 am – Post 154 Float &amp; Honor Guard</b>      |
| <b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b>              | <b>Post 154 Membership Meeting – 5:30 Potluck</b>                         |
| July 27 <sup>th</sup>                    | Korean War ends   |



## New Members:

The following members have joined Post 154 since January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Some transferred in from other posts and some are new to the American Legion. Please make them feel welcome. If you see a name you know, call and invite them to one of our potluck dinner meetings. If you see someone at a meeting you don't know, introduce yourself and let them know you're glad they came.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Era</u>
Thomas Anding	Army	Panama
James Blaine	Marines	Vietnam
Robert Boynton	Army	Korea
Rick Chadwick	Air Force	Vietnam
Eric Dolge	Army	Vietnam
Jon Dyer	Air Force	Lebanon/Grenada
Heather Hiebert	Air Force	Persian Gulf
Robert Kernan	Navy	Korea
Don Latuseck	Army	Vietnam
David Lofton	Army	Vietnam
Theodore Nutterville	Army	Persian Gulf
Margaret Ogram	Air Force	Korea
William Ogram	Army	Korea
Danny Olson	Navy	Vietnam
Chad Osborn	Marines	Panama
Byron Pruiett	Navy	Vietnam
Rick Stafford	Marines	Vietnam
Don Ward	Army	Korea



## A Healthier You: From "The People's Pharmacy"

### Will Apple Cider Vinegar Relieve Gout Pain?

Gout can cause excruciating pain. In this condition, uric acid builds up in the bloodstream until the crystals precipitate out in a joint and cause swelling, redness and extreme tenderness. While doctors can prescribe medications to calm the inflammation and relieve gout pain, not everyone tolerates them well. Are there nondrug approaches to controlling gout? [...] [> Read Article](#)

## Flag Retirement June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018



coeurdalenepress • Follow

coeurdalenepress American Legion Post 154 volunteer Michael Montee retires a worn American flag in honor of Flag Day, Thursday, June 14, 2018 in Rathdrum. (Photos by Loren Benoit) #cdapress #coeurdalene #idaho #photography #photojournalism #americanflag #flagday

On Flag Day, our Post ceremonially retired about 100 worn American flags. Bill Kinder, Sergeant-At-Arms, organized the event. It was attended by 12 post members and support crew. If you have flags that are tattered or worn, you can bring them to meeting or put them in the flag box located in front of city hall on Main Street in Rathdrum. If your flag is just dirty, you can take them to the dry cleaners. Some will even clean them for free.



From Lt: John Fevold, Dee Sasse, Bud Nutterville, Craig King, Jean Bledsoe, Helen Kinder, Jeff Broadhead, Bill Kinder, Michael Montee, and Bryan Bledsoe. Photographer Sue Fevold



## Bits & Pieces

**American Legion Weekly Online Update Newsletter:** Every Thursday an E-Newsletter (email) goes out to over a million subscribers. It is a great way for Legion members and military supporter to access relevant information. If you would like to subscribe follow this link <https://www.legion.org/newsletters>

**Membership Update:** Over the next month or two you will begin receiving 2019 Early Renewal Notices from the American Legion National mailing campaigns. If you are a 2018 paid member you are paid up through December. It reduces costs to the Legion if you renew early. You can do it online or mail a check in the envelope provided. Post 154 values your membership and appreciates your renewal.

**Majestic Park – Park Bench Donation:** Lew Allert donated \$300 to the City of Rathdrum for the placement of a park bench at Majestic Park on behalf of Post 154 American Legion. A big Thank You to Lew for making this donation!

**Are you interested in promoting our Post?** The Public Relations committee includes postings to social media, the website, the newsletter, and community sources such as newspaper, radio, and TV releases. As the chairman of this committee, I'm asking for someone to help with the community aspect of our public relations. If you have any interest in this, please contact me at [jeanbledsoe@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbledsoe@gmail.com).

May the morning  
sun bring hope and  
luck to our nation  
today as we are  
celebrating more  
than 200 years of  
our Independence.  
Happy 4th of July to  
all you proud  
Americans.





## The Berlin Express.

The fighter pilot who flew through the Eiffel Tower in 1944 has died. In the spring of 1944 Bill and his P-51C, the 'Berlin Express' were near Paris when the scene that is immortalized in the artwork by Len Krenzler of Action Art that leads this article took place. Bill had followed a German Bf109 from the bombers he was escorting when most of the German fighters left. The two planes had been in a running dogfight.



The German pilot flew over Paris hoping that the heavy German anti-aircraft artillery would solve his problem and eliminate Overstreet and the 'Berlin Express', though Bill managed to get some hits in at about 1500 feet.

The German's engine was hit, and Bill stayed on his tail braving the intense enemy flak. His desperation undoubtedly growing, the German pilot aimed his plane at the Eiffel Tower and in a surprising maneuver, flew beneath it.

Undeterred, Bill followed right behind him, scoring several more hits in the process. The German plane crashed, and Bill escaped the

**heavy flak around Paris by flying low and full throttle over the river until he had cleared the city's heavy anti-aircraft batteries.**

**WWII fighter pilot who flew THROUGH the Eiffel Tower to take down a German plane dies in Virginia aged 92. William Overstreet Jr., a former captain in the U.S. Air Corps, passed away on Sunday at a hospital in Roanoke, Virginia.**

**He famously flew his plane beneath the Eiffel Tower in Nazi-occupied Paris in 1944, lifting the spirits of French troops on the ground. In 2009, he was presented France's Legion of Honor.**



Hero: World War II Aviator Bill Overstreet Jr., best known for flying beneath the Eiffel Tower in pursuit of a German plane, is pictured in his military days.

© Warbirds News

**Before the ceremony, Overstreet had previously said that, if he lived long enough to receive the Legion of Honor, he would be accepting it in memory of his fallen brothers. In particular, he wanted to pay tribute to a friend, Eddy Simpson, who died fighting the Nazis on the ground so his comrades, including Overstreet, could escape. (cont' below)**

**After the award was pinned to his lapel, Overstreet said: 'If I said, "Thank you," it wouldn't be enough,' before adding: 'What more than "thank you" do you need?'**



Remembered: Overstreet was presented with France's Legion of Honour in 2009.

**He was born in Clifton Forge, Virginia in 1921 and after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Air Corps as a fighter pilot.**

**By February 1942, he was a private and sent to California for flight training; there, his instructors prepared him for the unexpected mid-flight by cutting the engine as he landed. (cont' below)**



Aircraft: Overstreet is pictured by his P-51 'Berlin Express', the plane he flew beneath the Eiffel Tower.

© Warbirds News



Proud: Overstreet is pictured in 1943 with his cherished 1938 Buick in California, where he was trained.

© Warbirds News



Close call: The wreckage of his Bell P-39 Airacobra which spun out of control mid-air as he completed combat training in 1943. He managed to force his way out of the craft and walked away unhurt.

Story submitted by Craig King