



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

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

Want a chance to win \$100?



Renew early for 2023!
See the RULES on page 14

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:

Anyone who has been a member of The American Legion for some time, or has recruited someone to join, can quickly list a few good reasons to become part of the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans – and to renew. When someone asks you why you belong to the Legion you can say:

The reasons may be national in scope, such as:

- Strengthens the veteran voice in Washington for a more effective VA health-care system.
- Keeps the GI Bill updated and relevant for new generations.
- Provides substantial veteran oversight of congressional committees and agencies.

The reasons may be specific to an American Legion department, such as:

- Adds to the network of like-minded Legion Family members in Idaho.
- Ensures support, resources and training for American Legion department service officers who assist others who served.
- Builds future leaders through American Legion Boys State and other youth programs.

They may, of course, be local, such as:

- Legion Baseball and Boy State, fostering good will by supporting the largest Easter Egg hunt in our county, teaching Flag etiquette at the grade schools, our Poppy program, Memorial Day, and other programs.
- Community memorials to those who served before must never be forgotten and Wreaths across America at Pinegrove Cemetery.
- Supporting the community's veterans with an annual Veteran's Recognition Day during Veteran's Day

And, they may be individual, such as:

Camaraderie with fellow veterans and patriotic Americans.

The Legion helps me understand my VA benefits.

The discount programs are valuable.

The Flag Retirement Ceremony was great. Thank you to all that worked hard putting it together.

As we enter the 2023 membership year it is my honor to be serving as your commander. We accomplished our goal of over 100% again in 2022, I know we can do it again in 2023. We not only need to retain current members and gain new ones; we need to get more of our members actively involved in our activities. Let's get those renewals in as soon as you can so we can focus on new goals for our post and win the Departmental membership contest.

Once again thanks for making our Post the best in Idaho! God bless our country, our families and our men and women serving.

Commander Dee


Finance Officer:

June Financial Report: During the month of May, Post 154 received income of \$6,448.11 and had expenses of \$630.76. Income was from membership (\$135), donations to our Honor Guard (\$300), Member donations to Boys State and the Veterans Home (\$42), Hat sales (\$17) and donations received from the distribution of Poppies (\$5,953.17). Expenses were for membership (\$112.50), Honor Guard expenses for repair of the bugle (\$31.60), Purchase of Post 154 hats (\$214.76), Flag purchases (\$221.90) and delegate fees to the State Legion for the annual convention. We successfully resolved the fraudulent charges made to our Debit Card and recovered all of those charges from Washington Trust Bank (\$1,999) and changed out our Debit Card to a more secure Credit Card.

As of the close of the month, our Post had a net worth of \$73,076.20.

A HUGE Thank YOU goes out to the few, the proud and the amazing folks who ran (Lonnie and Bryan) and those who volunteered to distribute the Poppies to the public. As always, the public responded very favorably to our Poppy distribution and expressed their gratitude that Post 154 continues the tradition of distributing Poppies to remind people of those who sacrificed all in the protection of our freedoms. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Legislative Chairman:

- 1. Idaho Tax Legislation:** Legislation was passed during the 2022 Legislative session, that will provide refunds to taxpayers in 2022 of the **greater of** 12% of their 2020 tax amount or \$75 for each taxpayer and dependent. Property taxes continue to be a divisive issue in Idaho, and many legislators are determined to reform the system. There was no consensus on how to accomplish reform during the 2022 legislative session. We are likely to see more legislation next year.
- 2. Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremony:** The Coast Guard change of command ceremony was held at the US Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. in early June. Admiral Linda Fagan, the first female officer in charge of a U.S armed forces branch, took command as Commandant of the Coast Guard from Admiral Karl Schultz. In her comments, Admiral Fagan shared she was wearing the shoulder boards of the late Admiral Owen Siler who was the first Coast Guard Commandant to allow women to attend the Coast Guard Academy. 
- 3. Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans:** VA is offering [free online training](#) to teach veterans the skills needed to contribute to a safe and welcoming environment at all VA facilities. This training provides practical techniques that veterans can use to recognize, respond, and prevent situations of harassment or sexual assault. You do not need to register, and the training takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.
- 4. PRESIDENT SIGNS VETERANS LEGISLATION INTO LAW:** VFW Washington Office Executive Director Bob Wallace and VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Tammy Barlet were in attendance at the White House as President Biden signed into law three VFW-supported bills. The [Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act](#) will expand eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain (cont. below)

areas during specific time periods. The [Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act](#) will address provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA. Lastly, [Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021](#) gives the VA Office of Inspector General the authority to subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses as needed.

5. VA Implements COVID-19 Protection Levels: To ensure patient safety, VA has introduced COVID-19 Health Protection Levels to provide clear and accommodating guidelines regarding community spread. Low, medium, and high levels based on the local CDC's community transmission rate are monitored and updated weekly. Notifications will be placed at all facility entrances, and on the local facility website and social media channels.

6. Caregiver Program Reassessments Suspended: The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) annual reassessments have been suspended by VA. Stipends will not be discharged or reduced during the suspension period. The PCAFC program continues to review its requirements and procedures to ensure the program benefits veterans and caregivers. All other application processes, assessments, appeals, and reviews will continue while the procedures are under evaluation.

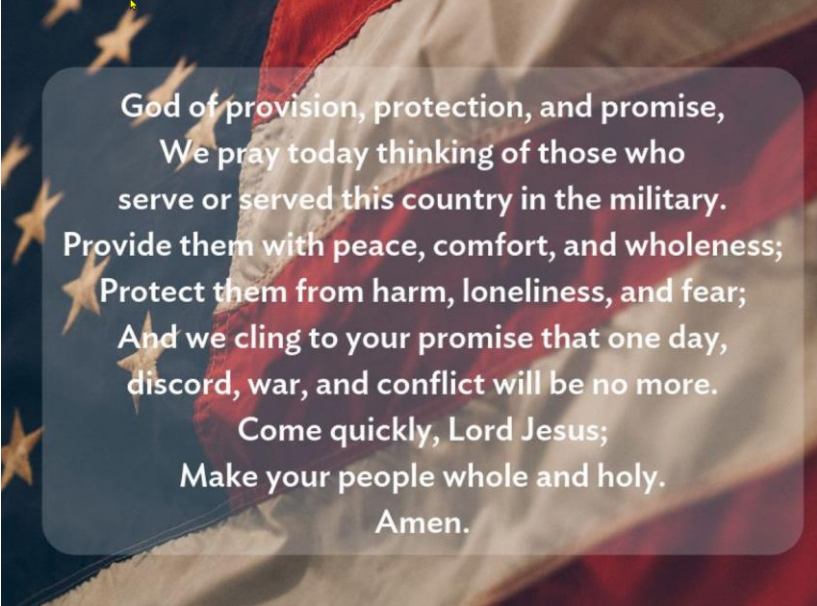
7. PACT ACT PASSES - On Thursday, June 16, the Senate voted 84 to 14 to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act, which will expand access to care and benefits for over 3.5 million veterans exposed to toxins. **Unfortunately, both of the Senators from Idaho (Crapo and Risch) voted against the bill because of "budgetary concerns".** *Editor's Note: Interesting, since they did not have any "budgetary concerns" about other spending bills or about sending our military to Iraq and Afghanistan for 20 years...*

Since the bill was modified, it will have to go back for a vote in the House before it is sent to President Biden's desk for his signature. During this campaign, the Legion's National Commander traveled to seven states, ranging from Alaska to Georgia, to build grassroots support for the PACT Act by doing a number of media interviews and holding a press conference at National Headquarters in Indiana. After the final Senate vote, Legion Commander Dillard released the following statement: "Today, the U.S. Senate has saved lives and truly delivered for veterans. By passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, the 117th Congress has put substance behind the phrase, 'Thank you for your service.'" If you see Senators Crapo and Risch ask them about their vote opposing this important legislation!!

8. Senate Armed Services Committee increases Military Budget: The Senate Armed Services Committee has endorsed a \$45 billion increase to President Biden's military spending plans in its annual defense policy bill, blowing past the administration's Pentagon budget for a second straight year. The recommendation comes after lawmakers added roughly \$30 billion to the White House's previous defense spending proposal. This week's boost brings the bill's topline budget figure to \$847 billion, according to Armed Services Chair Jack Reed (D-R.I.). The goal, he said, is to counteract runaway inflation, aid Ukraine, replenish weapons sent into the fight against Russia, and fund military priorities left out of the Pentagon budget request. The bill also authorizes \$1 billion for the National Defense Stockpile to shore up military access to critical materials *Editor's Note: Speaking with several serving members of active duty units, I have heard that a lot of equipment sent to Ukraine has drawn down equipment from these units leaving them without vehicles and weapons they need to be deployment-ready. Those vehicles and equipment need to be immediately replaced to retain our military readiness.*

Beware of Predatory Loans: Interest rates as high as 189% are impacting military-connected consumers and families who are using certain loans to pay for auto repairs and even pets. In some cases, loan terms appear to violate or sidestep existing laws like the [Military Lending Act](#) (MLA), which caps many consumer loan interest rates at 36% for those serving on active duty. All consumers are reminded to exercise caution when making financial choices. – Len Crosby, Legislative chairman

Chaplain's Pew:



God of provision, protection, and promise,
We pray today thinking of those who
serve or served this country in the military.
Provide them with peace, comfort, and wholeness;
Protect them from harm, loneliness, and fear;
And we cling to your promise that one day,
discord, war, and conflict will be no more.
Come quickly, Lord Jesus;
Make your people whole and holy.
Amen.



A Fourth of July Prayer

Heavenly Father,
We thank you for this Nation.
We thank you for the freedom we enjoy daily.
May we never take for granted the liberties we have been given.
May we remain humble and conscious of the blessings we enjoy
because of the sacrifices made by countless men and women.
We thank you for the abundance we enjoy.
May we be sensitive to those around us who are in need,
and may our hearts be quick to help
when we have the means to do so.
We pray for our leaders.
For those placed in authority over us.
Father, we ask that you guide every decision they make.
May they lead us with wisdom, humility, and grace.
Father bless our Nation with Your peace.
May Your love flow through each one of us,
and may we never forget to give You thanks, always.
May you receive the glory, honor, and praise.
In Jesus Name we pray,
Amen.

Sick Call & Taps:

- Duane Smith-back surgery
- Sue Fevold-cataract surgery
- Char Carstensen will have shoulder surgery on July 6
- Chuck Packham-back surgery

Condolences to the family of Jim Vanvoorhis Post 154 member passed on June 26. Funeral July 13. Our Honor Guard will be in attendance.

Condolences to the family of Fred Hutchinson Post 154 member passed on May 27. Services were June 21 with our Honor Guard in attendance.

Condolences to Chuck Packham Post 154 member in the loss of his wife Carol on May 30. Services were June 15.

Please keep these members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

If you know of a member who could use a card, phone call, or visit from our Post Chaplain Helen Kinder, you can contact her by calling 208-772-7736 or emailing hlkinder41@gmail.com.

Helen Kinder, Chaplain

Service Officer:

There's a little piece of me that goes back in time and connection when I pull up to a red light and the vehicle in front of me has veteran license plates. My mind immediately starts with the questions. When did they serve? Where were they stationed? Why did they join that particular branch of service? What story do they have to tell?

I love going to our Legion meetings and seeing so many cars and pickups with military plates. Do YOU have them? If you don't, here is the information and application form.

Ordering Military License Plates

NOTE: Veteran license plates are available to active duty or honorably discharged applicants only.

1. Clearly print all requested information on the application form.
2. Use one form for each vehicle.
3. Six characters are allowed if personalizing your military plate. You must have at least one alphabetic character, which cannot be an "O" by itself. A space counts as a character and you cannot use any special characters or symbols. Motorcycle plates are limited to 5 characters.
4. Attach the required military documents, which could include:
 - DD214, Honorable discharge certificate or equivalent
 - Paperwork for a citation, commendation or medal awarded, transfer paper or ordersMilitary license plates will **not** be issued without the required documentation.
5. **Do not send fees** with the application. You will be billed or you may include your MasterCard or Visa card information and authorize its usage.
6. Under certain circumstances, credit may be given for unexpired registration fees when special plates are issued before an applicant's current registration is expired.

Personalized plates, in any language, may not carry a sexual term that is vulgar, obscene, or in poor taste, not consist of a term or reference a term that is considered to be one of obscenity, contempt, prejudice, hostility, insult, racial degradation, ethnic degradation, profanity, or vulgarity.

Personalized plates that are allowed to expire will become immediately available for reissue to another applicant. There is no grace period.

Questions – contact us at:
208-334-8649

Mail applications to:
Idaho Transportation Department
Special Plates
PO Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129

E-mail applications to:
specialplates@itd.idaho.gov

Fax application to:
(208) 334-8542

You can obtain additional application forms via the Internet at:
<http://www.itd.idaho.gov/dmv/>

Application form follows

This can be printed, filled out, and mailed. Or follow this [LINK](#) to fill out and submit online.

Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity

Military License Plate Application

ITD 3682 (Rev. 7-21)
Supply # 019638758

Step 1 – Owner/Vehicle Information

Applicant's Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Idaho Driver License No., SSN, or EIN	
Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		Idaho Driver License No., SSN, or EIN	
Physical Idaho Address				City		State	Zip
Mailing Address (if different from above)				City		State	Zip
Daytime Phone Number (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)				Applicant's E-Mail Address			
Current Idaho License Plate Number		Expiration Date		Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)			
Idaho Title Number	Vehicle Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color		

Step 2 – Select a Plate

Plate Type	Supporting Documents Needed	Program Fee	Can I personalize this plate?
<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Vehicle	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected)	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Commercial Truck (8,001 and 26,000 pounds GVW) weight	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected)	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Truck (8,001 and 26,000 pounds GVW) weight	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected) Must have applicants name on title	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorhome weight _____	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected)	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Camp Trailer	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected)	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle	DD-214 or Equivalent (must show conflict status if selected)	\$25 Initial Year/ \$15 renewal	Yes * Extra \$25/\$15

Step 3 – Select Branch of Service and Conflict if applicable (Not applicable for motorcycle plates)

Complete for Armed Forces Plate	
Branch of Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> USAF <input type="checkbox"/> USMC <input type="checkbox"/> USCG
Choose Only One	<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran (no conflict designation) <input type="checkbox"/> World War II <input type="checkbox"/> Korea <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> Persian Gulf <input type="checkbox"/> Afghanistan/Iraq (post 9/11/01 service)

Step 4 – Optional Personalization (limit 6 characters – numbers, letters and/or spaces) Additional charges apply

The text must have at least one alpha character (cannot be an O) and no punctuation marks. A space counts as a character.
Motorcycle plates are limited to 5 characters

First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 1 2 3 4 5 6 Meaning Required	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 1 2 3 4 5 6 Meaning Required	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 1 2 3 4 5 6 Meaning Required

Do Not Send Money! You will be billed for your fees or you may authorize payment with your Credit Card.
Credit card purchases are subject to a 3% Access Idaho service fee.

Credit Card Number	Expiration Date	Security Code	Authorized Signature
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Check here if purchasing Idaho State Parks Passport: Extra \$10.00 for 1 Year Extra \$20.00 for 2 Years

This is a great day for veterans as the US Senate voted to approve the comprehensive veterans bill commonly known as the Honoring our PACT Act. The vote was 84 Yea, 14 Nay and 2 not voting. Two of the 14 Nay votes came from Idaho US Senators, Crapo and Risch.

Every major veteran's organization was in favor of this Bill such as the DAV, VFW, American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc.

The legislation will provide presumptive benefits for 23 diseases and disabilities suffered by veterans exposed to open air burn pits in Southwest Asia. The bill will also cover radiation veterans in Eniwetok, Palomares Spain and Uzbekistan. Additionally, it will provide coverage (Agent Orange presumptives) for those veterans who served during the Vietnam Era in Guam, American Samoa, Johnston Island, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

The PACT Act will also help some Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans. For those Navy and Marine Veterans whose ship stopped in Guam during the Vietnam War. Those Veterans will now be considered presumptively exposed to Agent Orange.

A lot of Navy ships and submarines stopped in Guam both coming and going from WestPac.

As well as providing long overdue compensation and medical benefits, it provides a framework for the Department of Veterans Affairs to use in determining other presumptive disabilities caused by military toxic exposure.

The bill now goes back to the House where swift passage is expected. – Bryan Bledsoe

Some of the above came from John Wells of Military Veterans Advocacy (MVA).



Training Officer:

This month we begin Basic Training. Sound familiar? Don't worry, this requires no physical activity at all. As many of you know if you've read previous newsletters, The National American Legion values the education of its member post, districts, and departments. Organizations only survive as long as the members understand the workings of all levels of the institution and feel a dedication to its missions. Therefore, the Legion has provided all materials needed for training of our members. This starts with Basic Training.

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online, here. <https://www.legion.org/alei/basic-training>. The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. However, your drill sergeant is understanding and recognized that sometimes it hard to find a few free hours for this kind of training. So, she has patiently broken it up into small chunks. We begin with The History & Organization part 1. It is only 4 pages, including pictures. This segment is a small part of Chapter 1, but easily handled in a short period of time.

In the following months I will provide the entire Basic Training course in these small segments. Each chapter will have a short quiz at the end. There is a final test also, when you've completed all the chapters. If you keep each month's segment in a notebook, you'll have it to refer to for quizzes. When you are ready, follow the link above to complete basic training online. It should be quick and easy as you'll have all the information and completed quizzes at your fingertips.

Now, here is the [LINK](#) for the first segment. - Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

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 509-226-5355.

For the first six months of 2022 the Honor Guard participated in 69 ceremonies, which required 1201 volunteers' hours. The volunteers drove 5,939 miles.

This month there were twelve (13) Military Honor ceremonies for veterans: 6 Army, 1 Air Force, 4 Navy, 1 Coast Guard and 1 Marine. In addition, they participated in 3 Memorial Day Ceremonies. St. Thomas Cemetery in Coeur d'Alene, Submariners Ceremony at Honeysuckle Bay on Hayden Lake, and Pinegrove Cemetery in Rathdrum. They also participated in the Flag Retirement Ceremony at Post 154 in advance of Flag Day.

These ceremonies collectively required 67 volunteers, who drove 1179 miles, and spent 276 hours to accomplish their missions.

With the number of requests for Military Honors for veterans and other types of ceremonies the Honor Guard needs to add additional volunteers. Three American Legion Posts were visited for recruiting. Post 14 in Coeur d'Alene, Post 149 in Athol, and Post 143 in Post Falls. From those efforts there are 10 people that expressed an interest in joining the Honor Guard. Next month it is planned to recruit for the Honor Guard and Post 154 in front of the Super 1 store in Rathdrum and at the Rathdrum Days booth on July 16. – Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard

North Idaho Veterans Home

Last week, the local board members of Idaho Veterans Assistance League (IVAL) were invited to tour the new Veterans Home under construction here in Post Falls. Post members Bryan Bledsoe and Len Crosby were on the tour. When Bryan returned, he was so enthusiastic, calling the 85,000 square-foot home “beautiful, and “amazing” and “like a resort”!

He took a library full of pictures and pointed out fireplaces, courtyards and garden spaces, state-of-the-art kitchens, a huge activity room, and an equally impressive physical therapy department, and a sports bar with 11 TVs and root beer and Near Beer on tap. There are various options for dining, from wheelchair height bars, a large communal table, or smaller, more intimate tables. The main kitchen will provide the prepped food to smaller kitchen in each dining area, including a bistro where select foods will be available.

The rooms, all private, will be furnished with high end furniture for comfort and durability and the look of home. All have large private bathrooms with showers. A separate tub room will be available so residents can have an in-your-dreams soaking experience.

The rooms are all fitted with an air flow system that prevents the transfer of contamination. There is also a special staff entrance which will provide a place for staff to change in and out of facility-provided uniforms, again, to protect residents from outside contamination. If a lockdown is ever required, family members and friends can still visit across a glass barrier. The rooms on both sides of the barrier are large sitting rooms which will be furnished with comfortable seating for all, and conversations can be easily conducted through the glass wall, no yelling necessary.

The home, as noted, is still under construction and is projected to open next October-November. But the pictures still show so much. If you would like to see a slide show of the facility, go [HERE](#), to the home page of our website. Jean Bledsoe, Editor



HONOR A VETERAN AND HELP THE NEW NORTH IDAHO VETERANS HOME:

The North Idaho Veterans Home is currently under construction on a 7.5 acre site in Post Falls. The Home will be available for occupancy in November of this year. At the entrance of the Home we are creating a “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. You can honor a Veteran (living or passed) or a person currently serving in our Armed Forces, by purchasing a Brick in that walk for \$200. The Brick will be inscribed with the Veteran’s name, Branch of Service and Dates served or other messages. There are three lines on the Brick, and each line has spaces for only 16 characters. Businesses can purchase a Brick with the Business Name and a message of support for our Veterans. We have a limited number of bricks available. If you want to order one or several bricks, please go to the IVAL website (www.idahoveteransleague.com) and go to the “Donation” page. You will see a space to print out the brick order form under the tab “Walk of Honor and Appreciation”. Send the completed form and your check to North Idaho Veterans Assistance League, Inc. Post Office Box 187, Post Falls, ID 83877. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Len Crosby, Treasurer, Idaho Veterans Assistance League at 208-651-0697 or crosbylenmary@frontier.com. THANK YOU!

It's time to renew

Time flies when you're having fun! One membership year down and another one starting today! We ended the year 2022 on a high note, total membership was 175. Yesterday we had to drop 9 members who did not pay dues for 2022. This put us at 166 paid for 2022, with 13 Paid Up For Life members.

Today our enrollment is at zero, as National starts each year with a blank slate. However, with our Department of Idaho early enrollment contest we could be back at 150 members by tomorrow (hopefully).

I'll let all of you know where we stand, in next month's newsletter. Until then enjoy the summer and don't forget the August picnic.

-Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

Due to our very hard-working membership committee – Bill & Helen Kinder – and diligent membership, we are happy to introduce the 35 new members who joined our Post in the 2022 membership year. Please let them know how welcome they are when you see them at meetings. – Jean Bledsoe, Welcome Committee

Cnt	First	Last	Branch	Era	Cnt	First	Last	Branch	Era
1	William	Banek	Navy	Vietnam	19	Christopher	Matthews	Air Force	Persian Gulf
2	Fred	Barnwell	Navy	Korea	20	Melissa	McPartland	Marines	Persian Gulf
3	Dale	Bates	Army	Persian Gulf	21	John	Merwald	Marines	Panama
4	Robert	Brooke	Army	Panama	22	Larry	Miller	Army	Vietnam
5	Richard	Cackowski	Navy	WWII	23	Michael	Morlan	Army	Persian Gulf
6	Douglas	Carson	Army	Persian Gulf	24	Randy	Noziska	Navy	Vietnam
7	Frank	Castle	Army	UNKNOWN	25	Bradley	Onken	Army	Vietnam
8	Lee	Coppess	Air Force	Vietnam	26	Jimmy	Shuler	Marines	Vietnam
9	Stefanie	Cove	Air Force	UNKNOWN	27	Penn	Siegel	Coast Guard	UNKNOWN
10	Charles	Fenton	Army	Vietnam	28	Charles	Somers	Air Force	Vietnam
11	Gary	Fraize	Army	Vietnam	29	Phillip	Stevenson	Army	Lebanon/Grenada
12	Kenneth	Henderson	Navy	Vietnam	30	Wayne	Stocker	Navy	Vietnam
13	Michael	Hill	Army	Vietnam	31	William	Sturges	Navy	Vietnam
14	Charles	Husband	Army	Vietnam	32	William	Sturges	Navy	Vietnam
15	John	Johnson	Navy	Korea	33	Paul	Tilton	Air Force	Lebanon/Grenada
16	Donald	Ladwig	Navy	Vietnam	34	Pete	Williams	Army	Vietnam
17	John	Lamb	Navy	Persian Gulf	35	Charles	Zeits	Navy	Vietnam
18	Larry	Larson	Navy	Lebanon/Grenada					



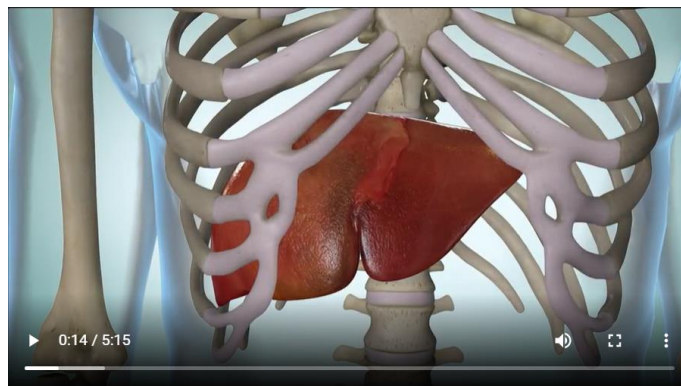
Love blueberry muffins? There's a great recipe at the end of this newsletter.
You're welcome! Jean

A Healthier You:

World Hepatitis Day on July 28 raises global awareness every year concerning hepatitis. The day encourages prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Hepatitis infects more than 350 million people worldwide. While it is one name, it's a group of infectious diseases. Five types of hepatitis infections are possible: A, B, C, D, and E. Hepatitis A is always an acute, short-term disease, while hepatitis B, C, and D are most likely to become ongoing and chronic. Hepatitis E is usually acute but can be particularly dangerous in pregnant women.

Below is a link from the VA about hepatitis A. Click on the picture to go to the video site. You'll find several more videos about different types of hepatitis, as well as other liver diseases.



Bits & Pieces



Learn To Tie Fishing Flies! Rathdrum Grange is offering classes the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6PM to 8PM. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced tiers welcome! We can all learn from each other. 14353 Highway 41 Rathdrum, ID

- 'Forever Chemicals' Linked to Hundreds of Military Bases Are Unsafe at Any Level, EPA Warns [Read More...](#)
- 'I Am the Curse': 'Stranger Things' Deals with Agent Orange. [Read more...](#)
- *Vet Tix is open to Veterans of all eras. Vet Tix is a national nonprofit organization that provides free event tickets to give something to those who gave. [Read more...](#)*
- *Also, please remember to send your volunteer hours to Len Crosby so he can compile them. These include hours devoted to Veterans, Youth, Honor Guard and Community. His email is: crosbylenmary@frontier.com*

**Renew Your
Membership
TODAY!!**

JULY 1st. EARLY RENEWAL STARTS TODAY!

We are beginning another renewal year. Starting today, July 1st, we can begin processing early renewal membership for 2023. National will be sending out letters reminding us to start renewing. The sooner we renew the less renewal mail we get from National. Also, see the flyer on the following page for the renewal raffle which starts today and goes through July 15th. Our Post could win \$500 and one Post 154 member could win \$100.

You may renew online at www.legion.org/renew. You will need your Legion ID # and your credit card. This is the easiest and quickest way to renew, (within 24 hours) or you may mail your \$45.00 dues to: Rathdrum Post. 154, PO Box 1116, Rathdrum, ID 83858. This still takes nine plus days to process.

PUFL's or *Paid Up for Life* members will automatically be renewed today. We have 13 members who are PUFL's. Thank you.

– Bill Kinder, 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman



\$100 RAFFLE 2023 EARLY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

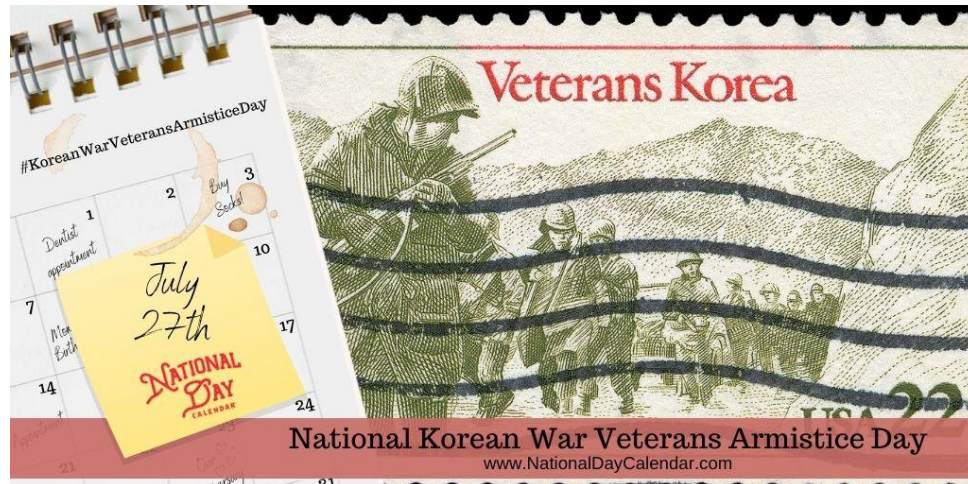
To be entered into the raffle just renew your 2023 \$45 annual membership online at <https://www.legion.org/renew> or give a check or cash to Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe. Renewal must be made between July 1 and July 15 to be entered in the raffle. Drawing to be held at the General Membership Meeting on Thursday July 28 (**need not be present to win**).

Help us win The Department of Idaho prize of \$500 as an early renewal incentive to the 11 Posts our size in the state. The Post has a very good chance of winning if you renew your membership during this time.

Rules:

1. Each member who renews their membership between July 1 and July 15 will have a raffle ticket entered for a chance to win the Post prize of \$100.
2. For this contest, renewals must be made starting July 1st and ending July 15, 2022, at 5:00pm.
3. Dues can be paid online at <https://www.legion.org/renew> (which is the preferred method) or received in hand by Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe not later than Tuesday July 15th, at 5:00pm. You may call or text Bryan at 509-990-6739 or email bryandbledsoe@gmail.com
4. Any renewals that are mailed and not received in our Post PO Box 1116, Rathdrum, Id 83858 by July 15th will be ineligible for the prize. We have no control over how long it takes the Post Office to deliver the mail. Any received after the cutoff time will not be entered for the \$100 prize, but it will still be appreciated!
5. PUFL's are not eligible for the raffle but they do receive our gratitude for their commitment. (They are automatically renewed on July 1st.)

Please Note: Everyone's membership runs from January 1st through December 31st, no matter what date they join. Early renewal is for calendar year 2023



In honor of all the men and women who are veterans of the Korean war, here is an unforgettable story.

Jesse L. Brown & Thomas Hudner

No Man Should Die Alone! - Written by [C. Douglas Sterner](#)

Eight thousand badly outnumbered Marines shivered in the sub-zero temperatures of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea on December 4, 1950, as eight F4U-4 Corsairs left the deck of the carrier USS



Leyte. Each of the eight heavily armed but outdated fighters was piloted by a Naval aviator rushing to defend their comrades on the ground. Most of the pilots were young, in their early twenties, but all were dedicated "brothers in arms" who would risk their lives for the soldiers on the ground, men they didn't even know, but defended because they were Americans at great risk.

Lieutenant Commander Richard Cevoli led his squadron inland, over the rugged mountains of North Korea just north of the Chosin Reservoir. The eight fighters skimmed 1,000 feet above the snow-covered terrain, eyes alert for the movement of enemy troops. It was a general support mission, one of many Naval pilots had been flying recently to give air cover to the withdrawing Marines below. Cevoli's pilots had been flying over Korea for only about two months, but in that

short time, they had become skilled combat veterans. They had also become close, like brothers.

Off in the distance flying "wing" for Ensign Jesse Brown was Lieutenant (j.g.) Thomas Hudner. Hudner was senior to Brown, but the Ensign had more experience. In the perilous skies over North Korea, rank didn't matter. It was experience that counted. The two pilots were good friends, though they had little more in common than a boyhood fascination with airplanes and a determination to someday soar above the clouds. Their dream had come true. That dream had also become a nightmare of death and destruction. On this day they would confront the nightmare once again, and Lieutenant Hudner would do all the wrong things because it was right.

Thomas Hudner was born in Massachusetts on August 31, 1924, the son of a successful Irish businessman. Though by no means rich, the family lived comfortably in their hometown of Fall River where Tom's father ran Hudner's Markets, a chain of grocery stores. In school, Tom was a fair student whose primary interests were athletic. His grades were sufficient to qualify him for the U.S. Naval Academy where he graduated in

1946. After serving time on the USS Helena, Tom finally made his dream of flying come true. He received the wings of a Naval aviator in August 1949, and in November he joined Fighter Squadron 32 aboard the USS Leyte in the Mediterranean.



One of the "old hands" Tom Hudner met upon joining Fighter Squadron 32 was Jesse LeRoy Brown. As Tom came to know Jesse, the two became good friends. Two years younger than Tom, Jesse had earned his wings a year earlier, in October 1948. Seven months before Thomas had joined the squadron, Jesse was commissioned an Ensign. But despite the boyhood dream of flying both young men shared, the two could not have been more different. It was this difference that generated Tom's immense respect for the junior officer, and that cemented a bond of brotherhood between the two.

Jesse LeRoy Brown - An American Hero

Jesse LeRoy Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a world away from Tom's New England state. The son of a hard-working but poor sharecropper, he grew up in a home that offered little comfort other than love and dreams for the future. The Brown home didn't have electricity, running water, or even an indoor toilet. Racial prejudice stood as a wall to any young, black boy's dreams in a community that preached and practiced segregation of white citizens from its black residents.

As a boy, Jesse had watched airplanes fly over the cotton fields. He would look to the sky and say, "That's where I want to be." He refused to be denied this, or any of his other dreams, by a society that judged him by his color. He excelled as both an athlete and a student, graduating second in his high school class. Scholarships afforded him the opportunity of college education, provided he was also willing to work full time. He began his college education at the age of 17. He had been told that the right thing to do would be to enroll in a black college. Instead, as a personal challenge, Jesse enrolled at Ohio State University. Less than 1% of the students there were black. Jesse had done the wrong thing....because it was right. To afford that education, he also worked a full night shift. Through his long days of study and the hard hours of his night shift loading boxcars, Jesse continued to dream of flying.

In 1946, the same year Tom Hudner was graduating from the Naval Academy, Jesse Brown enlisted in the Naval Reserve. The following year he was appointed a Midshipman. Undaunted by the kind of prejudice voiced by an ROTC instructor at Ohio State who told Jesse, "No nigger would ever sit his ass in a Navy cockpit", the courageous young pioneer was the only black American among the 600 cadets when at last he entered flight school in Pensacola, Florida. Despite continued prejudice, even outright harassment by some officers, on October 21, 1948, Jesse LeRoy Brown received his wings. Jesse LeRoy Brown became the Navy's first black pilot.

Living with Jesse Brown on the USS Leyte, and flying with him from its decks, Thomas Hudner became privy to the more intimate details of Jesse's struggle to overcome racial prejudice and follow his dreams. The more he learned about the 23-year-old pilot, what he had been through and how he had risen above it, the more his respect for the young man grew. He also found Jesse to be a devoted husband and father. Back home, awaiting his return, was his young wife, Daisy, and a year old daughter, Pamela. Jesse spoke of them often and wrote to them almost daily.

The Leyte was anchored off the coast of France on Sunday, June 25, 1950, when nearly 100,000 North Korean soldiers swarmed south to smother the free Republic of Korea. Shortly afterward, Leyte was ordered home for repairs before being dispatched to the Sea of Japan. The interlude afforded Jesse a five-day visit with his wife and daughter before facing the dangers of combat on foreign shores. Even the simple task of returning to his ship was marred by lingering racial prejudice. As the Navy's first black

aviator traveled to Birmingham to catch his plane, he was almost denied a seat on the bus because he was black.

After stops in San Diego, Hawaii, and Japan, the USS Leyte arrived off the coast of Korea in October 1950. The pilots of Fighter Squadron 32 were quickly thrown into the cauldron, flying missions over enemy-controlled territory almost immediately. By the morning of December 4th, as Lieutenant Commander Cevoli's Corsairs skimmed the mountains along the Chosin Reservoir, Jesse Brown was already flying his 20th combat mission. His wingman, Thomas Hudner, flew just a short distance away. Everything seemed to be going smoothly and the calmness of Ensign Brown's voice on the radio announcing he was losing power didn't register an immediate alarm. Then his voice came across the radio again and the other pilots in the formation knew something was seriously amiss when he said: "I think I may have been hit. I've lost my oil pressure and I'm going to have to go in."

Lieutenant Hudner watched in fear and hope as Jesse Brown fought the controls of his Corsair. The engine was out, there was no power, and no place to run. The terrain was simply one mountain after another. As Ensign Brown's plane neared the side of the nearest mountain, the other pilots began a circling pattern. The mountains were swarming with camouflaged Chinese Communist soldiers, and if Jesse was able to land his crippled craft successfully they would need to move in swiftly to provide cover fire to protect him. Flying into the wind, it was going to be a "wheels up, dead stick landing" on a near-vertical, snow-covered mountain slope. The other pilots held their breath, then watched in horror as Jesse Brown's aircraft slammed hard against the mountainside. The impact created an immediate cloud of flying snow that momentarily masked the other pilots' view of the crash scene. Then, as the snow cleared, they could see Jesse Brown's shattered plane lying in ruins. The engine had been ripped away and the fuselage was ruptured at the cockpit, twisted at an almost 45-degree angle. Sunlight glinted off the glass of the closed cockpit and Jesse Brown's wingmates released a sigh of despair, fully aware that the Navy's first black pilot had died in the crash on a North Korean mountainside. Before turning away, they circled a second time. Suddenly Tom Hudner noticed something. The canopy was now open! He descended for a closer look and there, sitting in the open cockpit, Jesse Brown waved back at his wingman. Somehow he had survived the impact.

Lieutenant Commander Cevoli quickly broke away from the other fliers to gain altitude and radio for a rescue helicopter. The other pilots continued a low altitude circle of the downed airman to ensure that the enemy didn't reach their comrade before the rescue crew. As they anxiously watched the surrounding terrain, they also kept an eye on Jesse Brown. Something was wrong. He was sitting up, waving from time to time, but he wasn't making any effort to get out of the ruptured cockpit. Then Thomas Hudner noticed smoke rising from the nose of the Corsair. The plane appeared to be on the verge of erupting into flames which, because of the direction of the wind, would quickly engulf the cockpit, and Jesse Brown. The fact that his friend hadn't got out of the plane meant one of two things. Either Jesse was too badly hurt to extricate himself, or he was somehow pinned in the wreckage. Without a second thought, Lieutenant Hudner prepared to do the wrong thing, because it was the right thing to do.

"I'm going in," Tom radioed his commander, knowing that there was only one way to do that. Any landing would be disastrous, but Lieutenant Hudner had just decided to crash a perfectly good American fighter plane on a steep mountainside heavily controlled by the enemy. He didn't wait for approval from anyone, he just did it.



The other pilots watched from their tight circles as Lieutenant Hudner headed his Corsair toward the steep mountain slope, searching for anything resembling a level area to land. Flying into the wind and up the slope in a carrier-like approach, he settled towards the ground. It would be a planned, wheels-up crash landing. Then he was down about 100 yards slightly upslope from his friend. As he hit the rock-hard ground and bumped to a

stop his thought was, "What in the hell am I doing here!" And then he was out of the cockpit and running to the side of his "brother".

Jesse Brown was in horrible pain. Tom could see it in his eyes and on his face. But Jesse remained calm, speaking to his wingman from time to time. Lieutenant Hudner could see that the brave Ensign was indeed trapped. The buckling cockpit had pinned him beneath the hard metal of the instrument panel. And Jesse was cold. He had been on the ground for almost half an hour, exposed to sub-freezing temperatures at more than a mile above sea level. In working to free himself from the wreckage he had removed his flight helmet exposing his head to the wintry blasts that hung over the mountain. He had also removed his gloves to release himself from his parachute harness. They dropped from his numb fingers. He had struggled to retrieve them but, pinned as he was, they were out of his reach. "By the time I got there," Hudner says, "his hands were like claws, totally frozen."

Lieutenant Hudner worked to release his friend from the metal tomb but to no avail. The wreckage held him too tightly. The helicopter that would be coming to rescue the two men would be useless unless they could free the trapped man. He knew his radio was still operational, knew also that by turning on the battery to power it, he risked igniting the fuel that leaked about the plane. So once again Lieutenant Hudner did the wrong thing because it was the right thing to do. Returning to his own Corsair he powered the radio and told the rescue helicopter to bring an ax to chop the wreckage away and free Jesse, as well as a fire extinguisher.

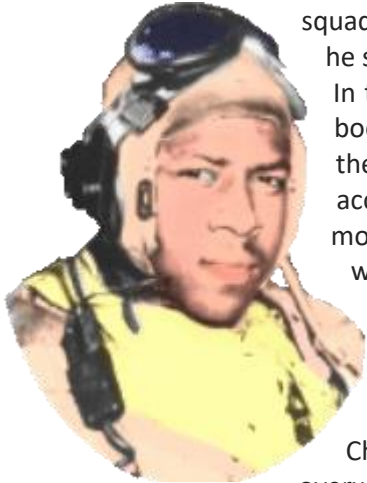
After sending the message, Tom Hudner returned to his friend's side. He had retrieved a wool scarf and cap that he had carried in his flight suit for emergencies, and now he gently lowered the cap over Jesse's head. "Wrapping the scarf around his frozen hands was more of a gesture than a remedy," Hudner says. "Everyone knows when limbs are already frozen that a wrap won't warm them back up. But it was all I could do."

Jesse was still conscious and spoke from time to time, but he spoke very slowly. It was apparent that his body was broken up inside, but Jesse never cried out or complained. Meanwhile, Tom Hudner began to scoop up the cold snow and tossed it at the spot where the smoke was coming from under the cowling, but the smoke didn't diminish. After about half an hour both men could hear the throb of the rescue helicopter arriving, then landing on the steep slope. Marine Lieutenant Charles Ward brought the fire extinguisher and ax to Tom Hudner. The extinguisher was small and quickly expanded. Then the two men began frantically beating against the metal cockpit with the ax without any effect. It was getting dark, time was running out. Jesse spoke less and less frequently, more and more slowly, and began to fade in and out of consciousness as the two rescuers vainly attempted to free him. The ax simply bounced off the metal. They made no headway.

As the sunset over the cold mountain, Lieutenant Ward informed Tom that his helicopter was not equipped to fly at night. They would have to give up soon, or at the very least fly out for additional help. Everything they had done was fruitless. Perhaps if they could fly back and get torches to cut the metal. Lieutenant Hudner sensed Jesse was trying to say something and leaned closer to his friend. "If I don't make it," he whispered, "Please tell Daisy I love her."

Tom Hudner promised his friend that he would. Lieutenant Ward informed Tom it was time to go, that nothing more could be done. In the fading twilight, Lieutenant Thomas Hudner peered once more into the shattered cockpit of the Corsair. Jesse no longer spoke. He was unconscious and fading fast. Tom Hudner had crashed his plane on a mountainside to rescue a friend, something the Navy would certainly frown on. In the end, it had been for naught. As the helicopter lifted off Thomas Hudner looked back one last time at the crash site, and Jesse Brown sitting motionless in the open cockpit.

"One of the worst things, when something has happened to you, is the feeling that you're alone," Thomas Hudner later said. "Just being with him to give him as much comfort as we could be worth the effort." Tom Hudner is also quick to point out that he would have done the same for any of the other men in the



squadron, and they for him. "I just happened to be the one that went on that day," he says. "If it hadn't been me, it would have been one of the others (pilots)."

In the days that followed, it became impossible to recover either Jesse Brown's body or the two downed Corsairs. When Tom returned to his ship, he reported the circumstances to the ship's captain. Then, to prevent the Chinese from gaining access to the crash site, the captain dispatched a flight of aircraft to the mountainside where they dropped napalm on the two aircraft and Jesse's body. It was the most dignified burial the men of Fighter Squadron 32 could have afforded their brother. As the napalm blanketed the hillside, Jesse and his Corsair vanished into history, a hero that we can not afford as a Nation to ever forget.

Tom Hudner and Lieutenant Ward landed in Hagaru-ri at the foot of the Chosin reservoir through which thousands of Marines were withdrawing from an overwhelming Chinese force, then flew to Koto-ri where the weather held them for three days. When the weather lifted, Tom was flown back to the USS Leyte, where he was informed upon arrival that Captain Thomas Sisson wanted to see him on the bridge. Lieutenant Hudner approached uncertainly, convinced that he was about to be reprimanded for his actions. "There are still people who think I did the wrong thing," he told me recently. "They say I destroyed a perfectly good, multi-million dollar fighter plane for one man. But what is a life worth!"

Captain Sisson listened to the brave Lieutenant's account of that horrible day on the mountainside and understood. Sometimes it takes more courage to do that which you know is right than to simply give in and do what others think is right. Captain Sisson recommended Navy Ensign Jesse Brown for one of our Nation's highest awards, the Distinguished Flying Cross. He submitted Jesse's wingman and friend, Lieutenant (j.g.) Thomas Hudner for the Medal of Honor.

Four months later on April 13, 1951, President Harry S. Truman invited the Hudner family to the White House where he presented the Medal of Honor to Navy Lieutenant Thomas Hudner. It was a moment of great joy for the Hudner family. Attending the ceremony and standing quietly to the side holding a large bouquet of roses was a young black lady. She smiled through her tears and shook hands with Lieutenant Hudner. He had delivered the message, "Tell Daisy I love her." When Lieutenant Hudner returned home, Fall River proclaimed "Thomas Hudner Day" and hosted a wonderful celebration. The appreciative citizens presented the young pilot with a check for \$1,000, a considerable sum in 1951. Lieutenant Hudner didn't cash it. Instead, he endorsed the back and sent it to Daisy Brown who had returned to school.



On March 18, 1972, the Navy christened a new member of its fleet: USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1089) It was the first time in our Nation's history that a Naval vessel was named for a Black American. Daisy Brown and Thomas Hudner were there to remind us all of the brave young pilots for whom it was named. In November 1998, the first full biography of Jesse Brown was published. Written by Theodore Taylor with full cooperation by Daisy Pearl Brown Thorne and Jesse's brothers.

This electronic book is available for free download and printing from www.homeofheroes.com. You may print and distribute in quantity for all non-profit, educational purposes.



Best Blueberry Muffins

Servings: 12 muffins

INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled-off
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 cup milk
2-1/4 cups fresh or frozen blueberries*
2 tablespoons turbinado sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners. Spray the pan and the liners with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt.
3. In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar for about 2 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, scraping down the sides of the bowl and beating well after each addition. Beat in the vanilla extract and almond extract. (The batter may look a little grainy -- that's okay).
4. Gradually add the flour mixture, alternating with the milk, beating on low speed to combine. The batter will be very thick. Add the blueberries to the batter and fold gently with a spatula until evenly distributed. Do not overmix.
5. Scoop the batter into the prepared muffin tin (an ice-cream scoop with a wire scraper works well here); they will be very full. Sprinkle the turbinado sugar evenly on top of the muffins.
6. Bake for about 30 minutes, until lightly golden. Let the muffins cool in the pan for about 10 minutes. Run a knife around the edge of each muffin to free it from the pan if necessary (the blueberries can stick), then transfer the muffins to a rack to cool completely.
7. Share with someone you love!

* Keep berries frozen when adding to batter.