



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

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Commander:

Hello Legionnaire Family, I wanted to bring us back to the basics with this month's comment. I just wanted to remind us why we belong to such a great organization and work hard to keep it going. Does everyone know what the four pillars of the American Legion are? No? It is our foundation upon what everything we do is based on. In laymen's terms it means "why there is a post in my town and what does it stand for." Well, this is what it stands for:

- Fostering a Strong National Security
- Taking Care of Veterans
- Mentoring the Youth of Our Nation
- Promoting Patriotism and Honor

At Post 154, we support the Legions four pillars with these goals giving us direction for who we are and what we do. Please let me know if you have a goal that we can add to this list. Thank you for your support and have a great month of June.

Goal 1: Take care of our local soldiers, sailors and marines

Goal 2: Identify and support Veterans programs

Goal 3: Communicate with our members and our community

Goal 4: Recruit new members so we can do even more

Goal 5: Raise funds to support our activities

Goal 6: Work with our schools to promote patriotism. – Dee Sasse, Commander

"Waters Deep"

"In Ocean waves no poppies blow
No crosses stand in ordered row
Their young hearts sleep beneath the wave
The spirited, the good, and the brave,
But stars a ...constant vigil keep,
For them who lie beneath the deep,
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer,
On a certain spot and think he's there
But you can to the ocean go
See whitecaps marching row on row;
Know one for him will always ride,
In and out with every tide,
And when your span of life is passed
He'll meet you at the 'Captain's Mast'
And they who mourn on distant shore,
For sailors who will come home no more,
Can dry their tears and pray for these
Who rest beneath the heaving seas,
For stars that shine and winds that blow
And whitecaps marching row on row
And they can never lonely be,
For when they lived They choose the sea."
- by Eileen Mahoney

1st Vice-Commander:

Hello Post 154 members and family. I am John Fevold, and my very supportive wife Sue. I thought I would take a moment to share a little bit about us. I am a North Dakota boy who joined the Navy five months after graduating from Rolla High School in 1962. The Army sent me an invitation to join, otherwise known as a draft notice, but as I already knew how to dig a hole, I declined the Army's invitation and enlisted in the Navy. It was off to boot camp and Enginemen School in Great Lakes, Illinois. The photo is me in boot camp. I spent the next four years on three different ships. The Hissem, the Mills and the Calcaterra. All were DEs that had been converted to DERs. I was fortunate enough to travel around the world three times and loved every minute of my service time. Sue was still in high school in California while I was in the Navy. We didn't meet until many, many years later, is my second wife (saved the best for last) and we don't have any children together but that is a story for another time. Remember, I said I would share a little bit. I'll share more in the future. Wait, Sue wants to say something. Ok, this is Sue. John's final discharge date was November 12, 1968. Now remember, we didn't know each other then and didn't meet until the mid 70's, but, we were married on November 12, 1977.

Neither of us knew of the significance of this date at the time, but I think it's kind of cool. I really don't know why I think it's cool, I just do. Now fast forward to 2015. Around July or August of 2015, we met Paula in front of North 40 in Coeur D Alene where she was selling raffle tickets. To make a long story short, we bought some raffle tickets and I inquired about the American Legion. Next, we attended one American Legion meeting and soon realized that Post 154 was not only a group of proud men and women veterans with whom I had a common bond, but a group of honest, down to earth, professionals who share our personal and professional standards as well. Your commitment to God, country and community is evident. Thank you for that. We enjoyed working on the Easter Egg Hunt and the Poppy program. I am looking forward to serving as First Vice Commander. Sue is looking forward to helping out where and when she can, but I'll bet you knew that already. In fact, you have probably realized that she is a little like that credit card commercial-- I don't leave home without her.



This is my boot camp photo. Haven't changed much have I?

2nd Vice-Commander:

The House of Representatives earlier this week passed four important veteran-related bills.

The bills are as follows:

- H.R. 2460 would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to pay costs associated with veterans receiving adult day health care services in state veterans homes (Resolution 101);
- H.R. 3989, the Support Our Military Caregivers Act, would establish a special appellate-like program to enable a family caregiver of a severely disabled veteran to challenge VA's decision to reduce or deny caregiver supports and services (Resolution 106);
- H.R. 5229, the Improving Transition Programs for All Veterans Act, would authorize a new study to evaluate the effectiveness of transition services for new veterans, with a special focus on women veterans (Resolutions 129 and 138); and
- H.R. 3956, the VA Health Center Management Stability and Improvement Act, would require VA to develop a plan to ensure each VA medical center is assigned a permanent chief executive (Resolution 126).

These bills will now be referred to the Senate for further consideration and – hopefully – quick passage. – Len Crosby, 2nd Vice-Commander

Finance Officer:

Finance Officer Report: Our finances continue to be in good shape. We had two days of Poppy distribution and netted more than \$1,800 and we still have two more days this weekend to add to that total.

A HUGE thank you to Paula Atwood and Maryellen Decker for their work in manufacturing the Poppies from kits, and helping the volunteers who came to make them understand the process. An equally HUGE thank you to those who volunteered to hand them out to members of the Community at Super 1, Stein's Market and Ace Hardware in Rathdrum, which allowed us to hold our distribution at their stores. Those who participated in this program are indeed "the FEW and the Proud". Our Post needs each of our members to step up to help with programs of this type. Many hands make light work! - Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Historian:

My name is Lonnie Morse and I am the new Historian for our Post 154. We are an active post and I'll need your help in keeping track of all we do. Take pictures of your activities and send to me via email or let me know of the date and I'll try to be there for pictures and a write up. I gather info at our meetings but I probably cannot be present at all meetings. We have a Historian section on our Post website that I will try to keep current.

I can always be contacted at lionlonnie@gmail.com or 777-5157.

Editor's Note: Please try to identify people in the photo and the event.

Chaplain's Pew:

May has come and gone. And along with May, we have hosted our first Memorial Day poppy event for our Post. How did it go? Were you there? And our Memorial Day ceremony at Pinegrove Cemetery....did you have a chance to attend? It was special for everyone.

Any event we promote or participate in needs.... guess what.... participants, that's what. If you helped in any way, a huge thank you goes out to each and every one. If you did not have a chance to volunteer, you missed a great opportunity to meet people and have a good time.

Our poppy program took a huge amount of time and effort on so many fronts to get ready this year (because it was our first year for sure). Be sure to take a look around and thank each person you can. A special thank you goes out to Maryellen Decker and her husband Vern Decker for hosting two poppy evenings at their home. What a great way to gather together as a Post with a common project and have fun doing it! And, let's do it again!!!

As you start your summer months, whether planting, working or vacationing, please remember to pray for each member of our Post. We have so many jobs on our 'to do' list that takes a lot of our energy and time. Pray that we do our jobs well and that our eyes are open to seeing and assisting a veteran in need.

If you know of someone who is ill or needs a call, please contact me. I am available as our Post Chaplain.

waiting in the pews. - Paula Atwood, Chaplain

Adjutant:

Flag Day is June 14th here is a list of the top 10 myths concerning the US Flag.

Top Ten Flag Myths:

1. The Flag Code is The American Legion Flag Code.

On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, The American Legion and representatives of 68 other patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations met in Washington, DC for the purpose of drafting a code of flag etiquette. The 77th Congress adopted this codification of rules as public law on June 22, 1942. It is Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1.

2. A flag that has been used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display purpose.

A flag that has been used to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

3. The Flag Code prohibits the display of a United States flag of less than 50 stars.

According to the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry the United States flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

4. The Flag Code does provide for penalties for violations of any of its provisions.

The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

5. You must destroy the flag when it touches the ground.

As long as the flag remains suitable for display, the flag may continue to be displayed as a symbol of our great country.

6. The Flag Code prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag.

There are no provisions of the Flag Code, which prohibit the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.

7. There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

8. The mayor, a town official, or the Post Commander can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff.

The gesture of placing the flag at half-staff means that the Nation or the state mourns the death of a highly regarded National or state figure, hence only the President of the United States or the Governor of the state may order the Flag to be half-staffed in accordance with Flag Code section 7(m). Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.

9. The Flag Code states that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be disposed of by burning in private.

The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.

10. The Flag Code prohibits the "fringing" of the flag.

Fringing of the flag is neither approved of nor prohibited by the Flag Code. The American Legion considers that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment to the Flag. Additionally, the courts have deemed without merit and frivolous, lawsuits that contend that the gold fringe adorning the flag conferred Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction. – Provided by Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

Mark Your Calendar:

June 7th – 6 pm – Purple Heart City Proclamation. For details see article in “Bits & Pieces”.

June 8th – 6 pm – Open Executive Committee Meeting

June 14th – Flag Day – Fly your flag proudly.

June 22nd – 6 pm Open General Membership Meeting

July 4th – Independence Day

July 13th – 16th – Department of Idaho Convention – See more information on pages 8 & 9 of newsletter.

July 15th – 17th – Rathdrum Days. More details coming next month.

Bits & Pieces



Post Falls will be proclaimed a Purple Heart City. This is a way of honoring those killed the action of enemies of the United States during time of war.

Put it on your calendar and plan to attend the June 7th City Council at 6pm in the Post Falls City Council Chambers (408 N Spokane St).

- Lonnie Morse has completed the roster of Post 154 members. Please go [here](#) and check your information. If it is as you want it, do nothing. If changes are needed, please email Lonnie here: lionlonnie@gmail.com with the changes you would like.
- Bryan Bledsoe was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from District 1 Commander David Cooper for his work as District 1 Adjutant during David's term.

From Lt: District 1 Commander David Cooper, Bryan Bledsoe



- Newly elected and returning officers of Post 154 were installed at the May Membership meeting by District 1 Commander David Cooper.



From Lt: District 1 Commander David Cooper, 3-Year Committee Person Todd Halvorson, 1st Vice-Commander John Fevold, Chaplain Paula Atwood, 2nd Vice-Commander & Finance Officer Len Crosby, Commander Dee Sasse, Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe, Judge Advocate Jeff Broadhead, Service Officer Charlie Till. Not in attendance: Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Kinder, 1-Year Committee Person Helen Kinder, 2-Year Committee Person Lew Allert, & Historian Lonnie Morse



LEGIONNAIRE
INSURANCE TRUST



From Your American Legion Department

LEGIONCARE PROGRAM NOW IMPROVED!

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) has been working hard to provide valuable benefits to your entire family. The LIT is pleased to announce some important changes to the [LegionCare](#) program:

NOW ONE AND DONE

The first of these exciting updates - starting for enrollments after 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in [LegionCare](#) will be covered for as long as they remain a member of The American Legion. No need to re-enroll every 5 years!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

LEGION FAMILY NOW ELIGIBLE

The second change, and what we think is the most important - All "Legion Family" members - Legion, senior ALA, and senior SAL - in good standing are now eligible for the coverage.

How do I spread the word? If you know someone in the Legion Family that should have this coverage, [forward this email!](#)

[CLICK HERE TO ACTIVATE YOUR LEGIONCARE](#)

Reminder: What is LegionCare? LegionCare provides up to \$1,000 of 24-hour free accidental death coverage to an enrolled member. And if an enrolled member suffers a covered loss while performing "official Legion Family business", there is an additional \$4,000 benefit* --bringing the total to up to \$5,000. Remember, this coverage is FREE to American Legion, senior auxiliary, and senior SAL members. All you have to do is enroll. [ENROLL TODAY](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR YOUR CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE](#)

* Additional \$4,000.00 benefit paid if covered person is traveling to, attending, or returning from a function at which the member represents his/he local, state, or national Organization in an official capacity.

Why Should I Volunteer?

One of the biggest benefits people get from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives - not to mention making a difference in their community. The intangible benefits alone—pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve. Did you know that when we share our time and talents we:?

- Solve Problems
- Strengthen Communities
- Improve Lives
- Connect to Others
- Transform Our Own Lives

There are also health benefits related to volunteering. It is noted that those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering, whether because they are more likely to face higher incidence of illness or because volunteering provides them with physical and social activity and a sense of purpose at a time when their social roles are changing.

Please send me your volunteer hours at jeffrey.broadhead@gmail.com

Memorial Day Remembrance Program

200 plus people enjoyed a moving Memorial Remembrance at the flag-bedecked Pinegrove Cemetery in Rathdrum on Monday. Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154 Commander Dee Sasse acted a Master of Ceremonies, with an opening welcome by Rathdrum Mayor Vic Holmes.

Colors were posted by the very sharp Rathdrum police Honor Guard. The crowd was then treated to Lakeland H.S. student Kylie Paquette's rendition of the National Anthem and America the Beautiful, and a poetry reading by Post 154 Chaplain Paula Atwood.

Len Crosby, Army veteran and Post 154 member and John McClure, Air Force veteran gave very emotional keynote speeches. The Memorial Day Wreath in Remembrance of all Veterans was place by Mayor Holmes, N.W. Guardian Riders, and Combat Veteran Riders.

The names of the five Rathdrum veterans who have passed in the last year were read by the Post Commander and the bell was tolled for each man. They were: Floyd M. Keyes, National Guard; John Emory Mullins, U.S. Army; Kenneth Ray Shields, U.S. Marine Corps; Dylan Small, U.S. Army; Vernon Sylte, U.S. Navy; and Marvin Vanderhoof, Army Nation Guard.

The program was closed with a benediction by Pastor Larry Parker of New Beginnings Bile Church, followed by a rifle salute by members of the Post 154 & 143 Honor Guard and the playing of Taps. To view a photo gallery of the day's event, click [here](#).

Schedule of Events
AMERICAN LEGION
98th Annual Department of Idaho Convention 2016

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

1:00 pm	Finance Commission - - - - - Regents room
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	40&8 Steak Dinner - - - - - Legion Cabin 317 S. Howard

Thursday, July 14, 2016

8:00 am-3:00 pm	Registration - - - - - University Inn WEST Lobby
7:30 am-8:30 am	Commander's Breakfast (by invitation only) - - - Silver room
9:00 am-4:00 pm	Finance Commission - - - - - Regents room
10:00 am -11:30 am	DEC Meeting - - - - - University/Empire
1:00 pm -3:00 pm	American Legion Riders - - - - - University/Empire
3:00 pm- 4:00 pm	Sons of the American Legion. - - - - - University/Empire
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Veterans Awareness Walk - - - - PALOUSE MALL

Friday, July 15, 2016

7:30 am-8:30 am	Registration - - - - - University Inn WEST Lobby
9:00 am-4:00 pm	Finance Commission - - - - - Regents room
8:30 am-10:00 am	Joint Opening - - - - - University/Empire
10:00 am-10:30 am	Legion Convention - - - - - University/Empire
10:30 am-12:00 pm	All Committees- - - - - University/Empire
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Americanism - - - - - University/Empire
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Legislative - - - - - University/Empire
10:30 am-12:00 pm	Service Officer School - - - - - Appaloosa room
1:30 pm-2:30 pm	Legion Convention Reconvenes - - - - - University/Empire
2:30 pm-2:45 pm	Gem Boys State Stockholders meeting - - - - - University/Empire
2:45 pm-3:00 pm	American Legion Baseball meeting - - - - - University/Empire
4:45 pm-9:00 pm	2 Baseball Games - - - - Bear Field at 1410 East D St.
5:00 pm-6:00 pm	No Host Social Hour - - - - - Courtyard
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Dinner / BBQ - - - - - Courtyard
8:30 pm	District Caucus - - - - - University/Empire

Saturday, July 16, 2016

7:30 am-12:00 pm	Registration- - - - - University Inn WEST Lobby
8:00 am-4:00 pm	Finance Commission - - - - - Regents room
8:30 am-11:30 am	Legion Convention Reconvenes - - - - - University/Empire
	National Delegates Elections - - - - - University/Empire
	Boys State Directors Meeting following - - - - - University/Empire
1:30 pm-2:30 pm	Legion Convention Reconvenes-
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Boys State Directors Meeting - - - - - University/Empire
6:00 pm-7:00 pm	No Host Social Hour - - - - - University/Empire/Palouse
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Commander's Banquet - - - - - University/Empire/Palouse

Sunday, July 17, 2016

8:00 am-9:00 am	Past Department Commanders Breakfast - - - Appaloosa rooms
9:00 am-12:00 am	Finance Commission - - - - - Regents room
9:00 am-10:00 am	God and Country Service - - - - - Silver/Gold
10:00 am-12:00 am	New DEC meeting - - - - - Silver/Gold

Subject to Change

