



# Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

## Rathdrum Idaho

### Newsletter

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Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



**“Old Glory”**

**Happy Flag Day June 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### American Legion 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's Comments:

It is a good feeling to see the weather getting warmer and new flowers after what seems like a year and a half of fear that filled our hearts like a deep winter with the covid pandemic. Making contact with friends and especially with fellow veterans is important to improve physical and mental health. I welcome all to start participating in our Post activities again.

For starters we just had our annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Pine Grove cemetery. The city did a wonderful job and the cemetery looked great with all the flags. Thank you to all that worked on this annual project and for making it a success again this year. Also, the Honor Guard did a fantastic job!

Now, we start working on our summer and fall projects which include our Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Then the Rathdrum Day Parade and booth in July. We will be having our annual picnic - sorry I don't know the date yet. Next, will be our first 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11<sup>th</sup> in front of the Rathdrum City Hall. Then in November we will do our Veteran's Recognition event.

These events are what makes this Post so great. We do so much for our veterans and our community. Thank you all! As you can see, we are busy supporting the mission of the American Legion and getting involved in our community and I really appreciate it. But I have a very big problem that I want to address to the folks that think things magically happen. Without the hard work of a small pool of volunteers these things would not be able to be accomplished. I know some of our volunteers are getting very tired and WE NEED YOUR HELP! I need ideas on how we can get more volunteers out there to support our mission. Do you want us to call you when we need help? Do you want us to put together a volunteer list with names and numbers that we can call when we need help? How can we make this heavy lift easier with more hands? I need folks to step up and be committee chairpersons. Please let me know what you think by sending me an email at [dsasse1962@gmail.com](mailto:dsasse1962@gmail.com). It is an honor serving as Commander of the greatest group of Legion Family Members. For God and Country. - Dee Sasse, Commander



## Finance Officer:

As I write this on May 27, we have not closed the books on the month. We have also not had our final days of Memorial Day Poppy distributions. Over the past two weekends that we have been doing Poppy distributions to remind folks about the meaning and importance of Memorial Day - **It seems that MANY folks under the age of 30 simply have no idea what Memorial Day means, except the start of summer and a three day weekend!!**

Those few members of our Post (15 I believe who manned 40 slots) who signed up for this key fundraiser for our Post, had to repeatedly explain what the Poppy represented, when and what Memorial Day means, etc. Most of those over 40 remember what the day stands for, and the symbolism of the Poppy. Some remember their fathers or uncles distributing or wearing Poppies when they went to Memorial Day events. Unfortunately for the two most recent generations that seems to have been lost.

THANK each of our members who came out to help with Poppies and work this important event to maintain the memory of those who died by going in harm's way to preserve and defend our Country. Most of our volunteers had to do multiple shifts, because we had too few volunteers from our membership to maintain the program over the three weekends that we do this. That is simply tragic and definitely not acceptable. It is not enough to join and pay your annual dues. You need to come to our meetings, participate in our Community events and support Veterans through our programs.

Oh yes, Financials – If you want to know about our finances come to the next Membership meeting. We ALWAYS hand out and review our monthly financial reports and answer questions from the members.

- Len Crosby, Finance Officer

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## Legislative Chairman:

**Idaho Legislature Adjourns (We Think??):** The Idaho Senate adjourned, but the Idaho House went into “recess” on Wednesday, May 12, reserving the ability to call themselves back into session to “help” the Governor spend the money that Idaho will be getting from the latest COVID stimulus bill. This session has lasted 122 days (the longest session in the State’s history) and cost the taxpayers an average of \$22,000 per day (\$2.684 Million to date). If the House calls itself into back into session later this year, our legislators will continue to collect their pay, travel pay and benefits. A number of Legislators are now complaining about the high prices they have to pay to lease housing in Boise, so don’t be surprised if one of the things they quickly consider is a raise for themselves....! ☹

**Senate Hearing on Toxic Exposure:** The Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation. Veteran Service Organizations testified and stressed the importance of combining the best pieces of each bill to cover as many veterans as possible. “Since we seem to expose nearly 100% of our troops to hazardous substances and environments, it is entirely unreasonable that almost 75% of them have their claims denied for exposure. It is time we establish a new framework to take care of veterans who were exposed to hazards both foreign and domestic, now and in the future.”

**Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program Open Now:** Veterans who are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic now have the opportunity for education or training for high-demand jobs with the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). Veterans can use VRAPP for assistance with programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses to include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. If eligible, veterans can receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and a monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates. VRRAP will stop making payments on Dec. 11, 2022, or when the funding limit or the participant limit is reached.

**New VA.gov Website for All Benefits and Services:** Veterans can now access all their VA benefits and services through one website, [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov). All the functions previously found on eBenefits are now available on the new website, however, eBenefits will remain functional until March 31, 2022. According to VA, the site usability and security has been improved, especially with the addition of two-factor authentication. Veterans are encouraged to log on and explore the new site.

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month:** To spotlight mental health in May, VA is sharing [10 ideas](#) to help improve mental health and overall well-being:

- Find inspiration in fellow Veterans.
- Create something
- Try, then try again
- Connect with People
- Spark your Passion
- Open up
- Talk to a professional
- Discover what help is available
- Get active
- Learn to forgive.

VA encourages veterans to use one or more of these ideas to bring about a better quality of life. Veterans can find more mental health resources [online](#). Caregivers can connect with VA mental health resources by contacting the Caregiver Support Line (855.260.3284). For any veteran in crisis you are not alone, you can contact the [Veteran Crisis Line](#) at 1.800.273.8255, press 1. - Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

[Editor’s note: Yes, May is over but mental health is such an important issue, we’ve chosen to remind everyone once again of resources available through the VA.]

## Service Officer:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will readjudicate claims for Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

This review is part of the Veterans Benefits Administration's implementation of the November 5, 2020, U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decision to readjudicate previously denied claims as applied in *Nehmer vs. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*.

Veterans who were previously denied service connection for an herbicide related presumptive condition due to lack of in-country Vietnam service will automatically have their claims readjudicated.

Readjudication means VA will review the evidence of record and provide replacement decisions in the cases of Veterans who were previously denied service connection for one or more herbicide related conditions on the basis that military service was not performed on the landmass of the Republic of Vietnam or on its inland waterways. This review will also apply to eligible survivors of deceased Vietnam era Veterans. VA is dedicated to ensuring all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

VA ensures that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of the Veteran community. Eligible survivors of deceased Veterans may also benefit from the policy and may be eligible for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

Veterans who have a condition caused by herbicide exposure during military service can learn more about Agent Orange exposure at this [website](#). - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

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## Chaplain's Pew



Helen Kinder, Chaplain



Thank you to Dr. Richard Mansfield of New Beginnings Church in Albuquerque for this prayer.....

In observance of Flag Day here in the United States, I pray that every person that comes across this prayer I have scribed will read it and lift their voice unto the Lord:

Father, as we observe Flag Day here in the United States of America, we are reminded of more than a piece of material but of the great nation that was started in Your honor. We thank You for the men and women of the original thirteen colonies that stood together in the formation of this great nation. We thank You for the thousands that have fought and stood to defend the Constitution of our country. We are reminded that we are to stand united with the 50 states of America as we continue to live out our lives with valor, vigilance, innocence and justice. Throughout scripture, You have always used symbols to remind Your people of the great things You have brought us through. Let us never forget that it's not about a piece of cloth but instead about the greatness we have become as a nation because of You. You Lord, have truly shed Your grace upon us and we ask most especially now for Your wisdom, guidance and covering as Americans for the challenges we are facing as individuals and as a nation. Please keep Your covering over us today and always. So on this Flag Day, we give a You thanks and praise for the Flag of the United States of America and all that it represents. I pray in Jesus name, Amen!

**June 6, 1944** is known most commonly by the term D-Day. It refers to the landing of Allied forces on the beaches of Normandy, France staging one of the pivotal attacks against Germany during World War II.

The codename Operation Overlord became known as the beginning of the end of World War II. Following the Battle of Normandy, which began on June 6, 1944, along a 50 mile stretch of beaches, including Utah and Omaha Beach, the attack became known as D-Day. While there are many explanations for the name, one reason may be due to the **military countdown** to the designated day and hour of the assault. D represented Day and H represented Hour in the military.

The battle liberated Northern France with more than 160,000 Allied troops from Britain, the United States and Canada under the leadership of General Dwight Eisenhower. The troops manned more than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft the day of the initial landing.



World War II museums, memorials, and ceremonies will be honoring the American, British, and Canadian forces who landed along the 50 mile stretch of beaches that day over 75 years ago. Learn more about the Battle of Normandy by exploring World War II museums. Read books about the Battle of Normandy or listen to a podcast such as:

- *D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II* by Sarah Rose
- *The Longest Day* by Cornelius Ryan
- *Normandy '44: D-Day and the Battle for France* by James Holland
- *Pegasus Bridge* by Stephen E. Ambrose
- *The Bedford Boys* by Alex Kershaw



**Our Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. But first! We will have a grommet cutting party on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. at the Lions Club. Bring a chair and a sharp pair of scissors. All are welcome, as many hands make short work.**

**Bill Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**



**The American Legion Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 of Rathdrum, Idaho invites you to attend our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony.**

**Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 10:00 AM Rathdrum  
Lions Club, Northwest corner of  
Meyer Road & Hwy 53**

**Worn and tattered flags may be brought to the flag receptacle in front of Rathdrum City Hall, 8047 W Main Street, by noon Friday, June 11, 2021 or bring to the Saturday morning ceremony.**

**New flags may be purchased through the Rathdrum American Legion Post 154 by calling Vice Commander Bill Kinder 208-661-6850**

## Member Training: United States Flag Code

Flag Day, observed annually on June 14<sup>th</sup>, is an opportunity to remind everyone about our United States flag - how to honor and respect it. This is just a small portion of the United States Flag Code, but the entire code can be found on the [rathdrumpost154.org](http://rathdrumpost154.org) website. Follow this [LINK](#).

### Respect for the flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

(a) The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

(b) The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

(c) The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

(d) The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

Bunting of blue, white, and red always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of the platform, and for decoration in general.

(e) The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

(f) The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

(g) The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(h) The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

(i) The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkin or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

(j) No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

(k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (Disposal of Unserviceable Flags Ceremony)

### § 9. Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing of flag

During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, those present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

### May an unserviceable flag be reused or recycled?

No. The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. (cont. below)

### How are unserviceable flags destroyed?

The Code suggests that, "when a flag has served its useful purpose, it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." For individual citizens this should be done discreetly so that the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration. Many American Legion posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day, each year. This ceremony creates a particularly dignified and solemn occasion for the disposal of unserviceable flags.

**Our Post chooses to hold a Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremony around Flag Day every year. This year it will be held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the Lions Club parking lot. We invite the public to attend.**

Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

### Post 154 Honor Guard:

In May, the Honor Guard provided rifle salutes for five (5) US Army veterans (one was a 100-year-old WWII female veteran and one had been a POW during WWII), two (2) US Navy veterans and one (1) US Air Force Veteran. The Honor Guard also participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Pinegrove Cemetery. Each memorial service requires between 3 and 8 volunteers. This month required forty-eight (48) volunteers, and they logged in 164 volunteer hours. Once a month the Honor Guard travels to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery and provides rifle salutes for any requests made by veteran families for services that day. Idaho veterans are interred there. - Bryan Bledsoe, Honor Guard Member

If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Todd Halvorson at [keltod11@gmail.com](mailto:keltod11@gmail.com) or by phone at 509-226-5355.

**Post 154 and Lions Club member Lonnie Morse** has organized a GoFundMe account to benefit Rathdrum Lions Club Foundation.

They are raising money to benefit the Rathdrum Lions Club Foundation, a 501c (3) organization. Any donation will help make an impact and it is tax deductible. In Lakeland School District #272, the councilors and nurses have identified 160 students that are returning to school on Mondays being malnourished and nonattentive in class. The Lions Club Foundation raises funds to purchase nutritious food for the weekends of the entire school year for these students. They have no overhead, payroll or operating expenses because all labor, the storage facility and food delivery is volunteered. 100% of your donation is used to purchase the food selected by a child nutritionist. Any donation would be appreciated to help our community's children. You can donate [HERE](#). **Thank You!**

### Did you know...?

A suggested \$1 donation is collected at each Post 154 meeting. Half of this donation goes to send deserving high school juniors to Boys & Girls State each year. The other half goes into a fund to provide additional enrichment to the residents who will live in the Post Falls Veterans Home when it is built in 2022.

### Sick Call:

Post member Rich Hannah's sister Laura is in the hospital struggling with kidney failure and liver disease, and...

Member Paula Atwood's husband Dale was hospitalized with a serious urinary tract infection. Please keep Laura and Dale, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



## Mark Your Calendar:

June 5<sup>th</sup> Flag grommet cutting at Rathdrum Lions Club @ 10 a.m.

**June 10<sup>th</sup> Post Executive Meeting Rathdrum Lions Club @ 6 p.m.**

June 12<sup>th</sup> Flag Retirement Ceremony at Rathdrum Lions Club @ 10 a.m.

June 14<sup>th</sup> Flag Day

June 14<sup>th</sup> US Army Birthday 1775 when the Second Continental Congress formed the Continental Army under General George Washington's command to unite the 13 colonies in their fight against Britain.

June 20<sup>th</sup> Father's Day

June 21<sup>st</sup> Summer Solstice - Longest day of the year, summer begins

June 25<sup>th</sup> Beginning of the Korean War (1950)

**June 24<sup>th</sup> Post 154 Membership Meeting Rathdrum Lions Club @ 6 p.m. - dinner @ 5:30**

June 27<sup>th</sup> National PTSD Awareness Day



## Bits & Pieces

- Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) has unveiled a plan to extend disability benefits to veterans of all eras who suffer the effects of toxic exposure, with a particular focus on veterans who served in overseas conflicts since 1990. Read more [HERE](#).
- Senate Veterans Affairs Committee's mammoth toxic exposure package will deliver presumptive care for 11 conditions for veterans sickened by exposure to burn pits and other toxins. Read more [HERE](#).
- Post 154 now has a phone which will be carried by Post officers to facilitate communication with members. The new Legion Phone Number is 208-210-9840. Call if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.
- 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](mailto:crosbylenmary@frontier.com)



## A Healthier You:

The VA website provides a video library covering many health conditions. Here is one on the signs of melanoma, a serious and very common type of skin cancer. You can watch the video [HERE](#).

Proud winners of the Amateur Bacon award were Helen Kinder and Ruth Aersvik who represented American Legion Post 154 in the Hayden Chamber of Commerce - Bacon, Bloody's and Brews Festival. Their winning entry in the Bacon category was Maple Bacon White Chocolate Fudge!



Helen brought the rest of their award winning fudge to the membership meeting and it was delicious! We're lucky to have such clever and dedicated ladies in our membership.



**Poppy's** Our Poppy Extravaganza has come and gone, and I feel we did well. I would like to personally thank our volunteers for their time and dedication – thank you Len, Mike, Holly, Bryan, Butch, Paula, Bob & Leona, Kelly, Bud, Ruth, Rod, Mike & Sharon, Dee, Matthew, Darrell, Bill & Helen and Rick and Patti. During the high winds we were able to go inside at Trading Post Hardware and Ace Hardware. The worst day was Friday at Bi-Mart with extremely cold winds. I have not received the count for the 29<sup>th</sup> at Super-1 and Trading Post but I wanted to get this out in the Newsletter and time is running short. Our total count thus far is \$5,531.11. To that total we will add the income from Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> and a large zip lock bag of coins. Again, thank you all for what you have accomplished.

*Lonnie Morse, Chairman*

I always toss my garden gloves.  
 They're bulky, stiff and hot.  
 They're pink and sweet, but I don't like  
 these garden gloves I bought.  
 They take away the earth connection.  
 They take away the pleasure  
 of fingers running through the dirt.  
 That feeling is a treasure.  
 I don't mind touching worms or snails.  
 It's common, to be sure.  
 I like dirt under my fingernails.  
 It's Mother Nature's manicure.  
 So I'll still toss my garden gloves  
 when I'm down on my knee.  
 Around my flowers, plants and shrubs  
 the farm girl's still alive in me.



- Ruth Aersvik 1 May 2021



**From the Legion magazine.** Article regarding the need to recognize those who helped us in the Middle East and provide them with an opportunity to come to America as we exit Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gerald Keen's Afghan interpreter is running out of time. One relative was assassinated by the Taliban a month ago. Another was killed by an IED last Sunday. Both also worked as translators for U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

"It's like he has a bounty on his head," Keen says of the Afghan national he worked closely with during his 2016 deployment. "The Taliban has no remorse. They will torture, rape and kill his kids, his wife, mom and dad, brothers and sisters – whoever they can find – in front of him. Then they will behead him." (The interpreter's name is not being used because he and his family are at risk.)

There are more than 17,000 interpreters and their families mired in the same bureaucratic quagmire of the U.S. Special Immigration Visa application process. Their peril is exponentially greater now that the United States has announced it will withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan in a little more than four months. "The clock is ticking," says Keen, a 36-year Army veteran and member of American Legion Riders Chapter 28 in Grand Haven, Mich. "Sept. 11 will be here before you know it."

It's a haunting reminder of the situation faced by the Montagnards who risked their lives and their families' lives to support U.S. operations in the Vietnam War. The American Legion has asked the president and Congress through a 2018 National Security Commission resolution to recognize the crucial contribution Afghan and Iraqi interpreters have made and ensure they are able to come to the United States. "Our wartime allies saved countless American lives and directly contributed to every level of tactical, operational and strategic success during the mission in Iraq and Afghanistan," according to **Resolution No. 16, passed by Legion's National Executive Committee in October 2018.**

Earlier this week, the International Refugee Assistance Project also called for the mass evacuation of Afghans at risk to Guam or another location while they slog through the lengthy visa process, much like what was done for Iraqi Kurds as part of Operation Pacific Haven in 1996.

**Impossible bureaucracy**

The United States created a limited visa program in 2006 for Afghan interpreters who assisted the U.S. military. But the Special Immigrant Visa program most Afghan nationals are using was established in 2009 when Congress created the Afghan Allies Protection Act, says Julie Kornfeld, an attorney with the International Refugee Assistance Project who represents several Afghan interpreters. The statute calls for visa applications to be processed in nine months. The reality is far worse. Kornfeld has clients who have been waiting as long as 10 years.

"The U.S. mission in Afghanistan recruited Afghan nationals with a promise of safety, but we've made it bureaucratically impossible for them to access safety," she says. "It sends a message to them that we aren't fulfilling our promise to protect them."

"It's very frustrating," Keen adds. "We couldn't have made it through this without these interpreters."

Special Immigrant Visa applicants are required to undergo extensive background checks even though they have already been thoroughly vetted by the U.S. military. Translators initially had to show they worked with U.S. forces for more than 12 months. That was doubled to more than 24 months as of Sept. 30, 2015. Now, it's become far more difficult for Afghan nationals to obtain the documents to prove they have worked with the United States as troop withdrawal gets underway. "Former employers are burning their sensitive files to protect the Afghans," Kornfeld says.

Then there are problems with visa application processing in the United States. Kornfeld visited the National Visa Center in Portsmouth, N.H., in 2018. "The person in charge of the Special Immigrant Visa Program could barely tell me what SIV was," Kornfeld says. "She wasn't able to tell me any of the requirements or what the department's role in the program was. The reason is that it's primarily staffed by contractors."

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on Kornfeld's description of the problems at National Visa Center. More generally, the Biden Administration is "committed to supporting those who have helped U.S. military and other government personnel perform their duties, often at great personal risk to themselves and their families," a State Department official said in response to questions about the problematic visa program. "Everyone involved in the Special Immigrant Visa process, whether in Washington or at our embassies abroad, is aware of the threats our Afghan and Iraqi colleagues face. The department constantly seeks ways to improve the SIV process while ensuring the integrity of the program and safeguarding national security."

### **Like family**

Keen connected with his interpreter, who is the same age as his youngest son, soon after he arrived in Afghanistan in early 2016. "He lives up to the Army values as much as any soldier, if not more," Keen says. As they got to know each other – through work, and over dinners and breakfasts – Keen learned the interpreter worried about his children's future in Afghanistan, in part because of the lack of educational opportunities. Not to mention the risks working with the U.S. Army posed to the interpreter and his family. "We were right in the middle of Taliban country," Keen says. "We hired people from the local village as day laborers – emptying trash and cleaning latrines. Everybody who worked on the compound was considered an infidel." Taliban leaflets distributed in the village warned that anyone who worked with the U.S. military would be killed.

Keen wrote a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul a month before he left Afghanistan, pledging to support the interpreter and his family financially in the United States. He did not receive a response. He and his wife, Lynnette, have continued to help the interpreter and his family pursue Special Immigrant Visas over the past five years, talking to them weekly, becoming so close that the interpreters' children consider the Keens their grandparents.

Lynnette regularly calls U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., only to learn that the visa applications are somewhere in the administrative process. "I want to break through this," Lynnette Keen says of the red tape. "The Taliban is around there all the time. He may die waiting. I don't care if it's administrative. His file has to move."

The interpreter and his family only need to pass medical examinations before they are cleared for visas, Keen says. "Failure is not an option. I can't leave him behind."

But there's ample evidence, beyond the casualties in his extended family, that Keen's interpreter is in tremendous danger. One of Kornfeld's clients was killed by the Taliban in January, just weeks after he received word he had been approved to move forward with his Special Immigrant Visa application after 10 years of effort. "He felt he finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel," Kornfeld says.

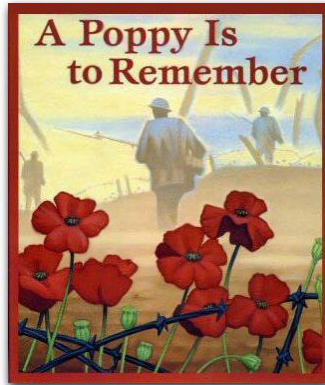
Identifying him only by his middle name, Mohammad, she describes how his car was surrounded by Taliban as he was driving his son to school. His son, who survived the attack, later recounted that the Taliban attackers taunted his father before shooting him multiple times with things such as, "Where are the American forces to save you? You are an infidel, a traitor. You helped them for a decade. Where are they now?"

"It's devastating to find the Taliban rendered the decision before the U.S. government," Kornfeld says. "His death could have been avoided."

In the aftermath, she's focused on getting Mohammad's widow and six children out of Afghanistan. They've applied for humanitarian parole, which would allow them to come to the United States while they work on getting visas or asylum. It's the Hail Mary of the Immigration program, Kornfeld says. "They have already received threats. My worst fear for his family is we won't be able to get them to safety and they will suffer the same fate as Mohammad."

Using money from a GoFundMe campaign, the Keens are working to secure visas and safe transport of the interpreter and his family to the United States.

Submitted by Post member Len Crosby



### *From Receiving to Giving*

*As we remember those who have fought and died to keep our country free, another memory came to mind.*

*As a young child I was told about these courageous men and women who put aside the things they would like to do for a much greater cause.*

*I was told about the love they had for our country and they were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend all that we hold dear.*

*They told me that the freedoms we enjoy did not come without a price and as a family we always attended the Memorial Day Parade and would go to the cemetery to honor the ones that were buried there.*

*My uncle who was the Brigadier General over the National Guard in Minnesota would tell me how proud he was of all who served and how important it was.*

*Even as a child it was the Poppy that I received every year that created a long lasting memory. I wore it proudly and told anyone who asked what it was for.*

*How special it is for me now to be able to give out Poppies to others and share why we wear them. May we continue to honor all of those who faithfully served our country, and may we continue to share with our children so they will also understand why we give out Poppies and someday do the same.*



Written by Sharron McPhail, wife of Post member Michael McPhail

**You always hear** about Betsy Ross and the American Flag, but did you know that George Washington had a different 13-star flag?

The now faded and fragile blue silk flag, also known as the Commander-in-Chief standard, that marked General George Washington's presence on the battlefield, was on exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution. Due to its fragility, it is very rarely seen.

The rare flag measures approximately two feet by three feet and features 13 white, six-pointed stars representing the 13 colonies on a blue field. It is believed to be the earliest surviving 13-star American flag.



The faded and fragile blue silk flag, also known as the Commander-in-Chief standard, that marked General George Washington's presence on the battlefield during the Revolutionary War was on display over Flag Day weekend in 2018, marking its first public display in Philadelphia since the war itself and its first appearance in Pennsylvania in decades.

The rare flag measures approximately two feet by three feet and features 13 white, six-pointed stars

representing the 13 colonies on a blue field. It is believed to be the earliest surviving 13-star American flag. Due to deterioration that results from light exposure, the flag can only be displayed on special occasions.

"Revolutionary Americans adopted various symbols to represent the new republic that they created after the Declaration of Independence," said Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, then-Vice President of Collections, Exhibitions and Programs for the Museum. "Washington's Standard includes a blue field with thirteen white stars representing a new constellation, which Congress adopted in 1777 as a component of the now familiar 'Star-Spangled Banner.'"

In the early 20th century, descendants of George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis, donated the flag to the Valley Forge Historical Society. The society transferred the collection, including the Standard, to the Museum in 2003.

The Museum displayed a replica of the Commander-in-Chief's Standard, which traveled into space with astronaut John Glenn as part of the lead up to the 1999 bicentennial commemorations of Washington's death in 1799. He and the other members of the Discovery crew traveled 3.6 million miles and orbited the earth 134 times. The flag accompanied them on the entire journey.

Write up from the Museum of the Am Revolution and submitted by Paula Atwood, Post Member.



## MEET A FARMER

**June 24, 2021**  
**4:00pm - 8:00pm**

### FARM DINNER

**Kootenai County Fairgrounds**

Register by June 16th through the  
Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber.

**Cost - \$40 per person**

(includes educational workshops, social time and dinner)

### Come Meet a Farmer!

Spend some time learning about local farming in short interactive workshops. Then sit with local farmers and ranchers, visit, learn about their families, operations, what they produce, and enjoy a wonderful farm dinner.

Food is important! For most of us at least three times a day. Everyone, by virtue that we eat each day, participate in agriculture – we are the end user of what farmers and ranchers produce. Yet, less than 2% of the nation's population are ag producers and that allows the other 98+% of us to go about our days doing other things and using less of our disposal income for our food than in any other country in the world.

What do you know about farmers, what they do and how food gets to your table?

Come meet local farmers who will help you understand what it took to produce the food that will be served for dinner that evening. Each will share their "farming" story and answer your questions during short interactive workshops. Learn about the production of beef, potatoes, local produce and veggies, wheat, dairy, and apples plus local wine and beer. Then sit with the farmers, visit, and enjoy a wonderful farm dinner.

#### Why the Fairgrounds?

The History of Fairs are based on agriculture – a place for farmers to show off their livestock and crops.

With this new twist we are highlighting local farmers and ranchers as well as what they produce.



**Coeur d'Alene**  
REGIONAL CHAMBER

**RESERVE YOUR  
SEAT TODAY!**



**POST FALLS CHAMBER**  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Idaho**  
Farm Bureau



2021

**RATHDRUM COMMUNITY CENTER**

June



Community Lunch Menu on the Back of Calendar

8037 Montana St. Rathdrum (208) 687-2028

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lunch @ Noon Bingo 6:00 PM Buddy Training 1:00 PM	2 Line Dancing 11:00 "Remembering" Grief Sharing 1:00	3 Lunch @ Noon	4 Line Dancing 11:00 Painting 5:00-8:00	5 Rental 11:00
6	7 Rental 5:00 PM	8 Music 11:00 Lunch @ Noon Bingo 6:00 PM	9 Line Dancing 11:00 "Remembering" Grief Sharing 1:00	10 Lunch @ Noon Board Meeting 1:00 Gold Prospectors 5 PM	11 Line Dancing 11:00 Painting with Hannah Miller 5:00-8:00	12
13	14 Rental 5:00 PM	15 Lunch @ Noon Bingo 6:00 PM	16 Line Dancing 11:00 "Remembering" Grief Sharing 1:00	17 Lunch @ Noon Family Bingo 6:00 PM	18 Painting with Hannah Miller 5:00-8:00	19
20	21 Rental 5:00 PM	22 Music 11:00 Lunch @ Noon Bingo 6:00 PM	23 Line Dancing 11:00 "Remembering" Grief Share Class 1:00	24 Birthday Lunch Lunch @ Noon	25 Line Dancing 11:00 Painting with Hannah Miller 5:00-8:00	26
27	28 Casino Excursion 10:00 AM	29 Lunch @ Noon Bingo 6:00 PM	30 Line Dancing 11:00 "Remembering" Grief Share Class 1:00			

**Meal Donations:**  
\$5.00  
For Seniors 60 and Older  
& Children 10 and Under  
\$7.00  
For Adults under 60  
  
**Drive Thru Meal Service:**  
For those who are not  
ready for social  
interactions.

**Facility Rentals :**  
  
Our Center is available for  
Special Event Rentals:  
  
See Rhonda for  
Future Availability  
Rental Agreement & Fees

  
Every Tuesday @ 6 PM  
18 and Older  
Cash Prizes  
  
Family Night Bingo  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 6 PM  
All Ages Welcome  
Great Prizes!

**Other Events in June:**  
Casino Excursion – Last Monday of  
Every Month @ 10:00  
Line Dancing - 11:00 – See Calendar  
"Remembering" Grief Share Class:  
Every Wednesday @ 1:00  
Quilling Resumes In September



RATHDRUM COMMUNITY CENTER

June - Menu - 2021

1st	TUESDAY	Sloppy Joes, Macaroni Pasta Salad, Green Salad, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit Parfait
3rd	THURSDAY	Slow Simmered Spare Ribs, Baked Potato, Corn Cassarole, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll, Lunch Lady Bars
8th	TUESDAY	Chicken Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Bean Medley, Green Salad Coffee Cake
10th	THURSDAY	Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Green Salad Fresh Fruit, Dinner Roll, Slab Dutch Apple Pie
15th	TUESDAY	Baked Potato Bar with Chili & Cheese, Chili, Cold Rice Salad, Green Salad, Fruit Salad, Molasses Cake
17th	THURSDAY	Hamburger Pie, Potato Salad, Green Salad, Corn, Fresh Fruit Cup, Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies
22nd	TUESDAY	Ham Steak, Macaroni & Cheese, Mixed Vegetables, Green Salad Brownies
24th	THURSDAY	Birthday Dinner, Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwiches, Green Salad Fruit & Yogurt Parfait, Birthday Cupcake
29th	TUESDAY	Spahetti & Meatballs, Breadsticks, Green Salad, Peaches Oatmeal Cookie

We will continue drive through option until COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.

If you have restrictions or food allergies and need to substitute, please let us know ahead of time.

The menu is subject to change based on supply & demand.

**CONSUMER HEALTH REMINDER OF UNDERCOOKED FOODS:** Consuming raw or undercooked, meat, poultry, shellfish or eggs (such as sunny side up) may increase your risk for foodbourne illness: especially if you have certain medical conditions