



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

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COMMANDER DEE SASSE'S MESSAGE:

Good day Legion Family.

Well, I want to say again thank you to all of you for a very successful year and a darn good one too. I am looking forward to all of the up and coming events and new adventures that we are planning. Keep up the great work. I don't have much to say this month so I thought I would share my hero with you. His name was Master Chief Horsley. I was a young puppy on my first cutter when he crossed our brow and made a difference in every sailor's life aboard that ship. Master Chief Boatswains Mate Horsley was larger than life and for an older sailor he was a spry as the sea is blue. He barked out commands to the deck force like a hurricane and knew what they were capable of. He was sharing his knowledge every time he spoke. Sometime it was just a little bit overwhelming. I was glad that I was an engineer down in the engine room. When he barked orders even the captain took heed. I first met him when he reported about our ship in Juneau Alaska in 1986. He looked like he had sailed the seven seas because he had. He had been in the Coast Guard longer than anyone, ever. He was like having John Wayne on board.

We were on our way to the Bering Sea aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Morgenthau, a 378 foot ship. It was heading north when it got tangled in a very large drift net out in the middle of nowhere. We had dispatched both of our small boats to try and pull it out from under our ship, hoping that it had not gotten tangled in our screws or on our sonar dome. They tried and tried until one of the boats got the net caught in its screw. We hauled the small boat aboard and that is when I really saw him in action. I was responsible for the care of the small boat so immediately wanted to see if the propeller shaft bearing had been compromised. He is yelling for a knife to cut the net and I whipped mine out and handed it to him. He looked at me and said "Oh Lord, what do we have here. It's a snipe with a sharp knife and it's a woman too. Take heed gents. On the boat deck there is nothing more embarrassing than an engineer on deck showing up the decky's.

Whenever I was around Master Chief he would teach me something new and instill in me what it really meant to be a sailor and Coastie. He was my hero and there is not enough room in our newsletter to tell you all of the reasons why. He told us how it was in the wars and how lucky he was he made it. He came aboard our ship knowing he was dying of cancer. He had spoken with the Commandant and requested that he spend the rest of his life/career at sea. He finally had to go to shore due to his health but soon after we buried him at sea. – Dee Sasse, Commander



Requiem

Under the wide and starry sky

Dig the grave and let me lie:

Glad did I live and gladly die,

And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you 'grave for me:

Here he lies where he long'd to be;

Home is the sailor, home from the sea,

And the hunter home from the hill.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Coast Guard Hero: Donald H. Horsley

(Cont. below)

Coast Guard Hero: Donald H. Horsley

Master Chief Petty Officer Donald H. Horsley served the Coast Guard through 44 years of continuous service from age 17 to 62, enlisting Aug. 4, 1942. He served on active duty for 44 years, four months and 27 days. His career spanned three wars and saw service aboard 34 vessels.

During World War II Horsley served aboard Coast Guard Cutter Cepheus as a coxswain on landing craft and participated in Operation Dragoon, the invasion of southern France, and Operation Iceberg, the invasion of Okinawa. Following the war, Horsley had successive tours aboard six cutters. After a tour of duty ashore at Loran Station Ulithi, he served at sea aboard five more cutters, and had a return tour aboard the sea-going tender Planetree.

During the Vietnam War, Horsley served 41 months as the senior enlisted person assigned to Division 13, Coast Guard Squadron One out of Cat Lo, Republic of Vietnam. This Division of 82-foot patrol boats was tasked with the maritime interdiction of the reinforcement and re-supply of Communist forces fighting in South Vietnam. During this assignment, Horsley was awarded the Bronze Star with a Combat "V."

After Vietnam, Horsley served throughout the Pacific, including assignments aboard the sea-going tender Basswood and as the officer-in-charge of the Coast Guard Buoy Depot on Guam. In 1976, he was assigned as the officer-in-charge aboard the river tender Wyaconda, out of Dubuque, Iowa. He returned to sea aboard the cutter Sherman and was transferred to Morgenthau when Sherman was decommissioned in early 1986. At his retirement ceremony in January 1987, Horsley was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

2nd Vice-Commander Margaret Ogram's Message:

Al and I plan to go to Mountain Home on Friday February 26th to attend the state's oratorical contest and offer moral support to our contestant, Jason Whitehead. Our post is obligated for \$74.51 for six medals (two each gold, silver and bronze) purchased this year. One silver was awarded to Daniel Banks for the District, and one gold presented to Jason Whitehead for each District and Area contests. Both District and Area officials arrived at the contests without medals and used ours. Post 154 should replace these since we can't predict next year's needs now. I am willing to continue to work for next year's contest for Post 143 if they ask me to. **Editor's Note:** Margaret informed us that Jason was awarded 2nd place at the Department competition. Congratulations to Jason!

Planning is going well for Kootenai County Veterans Stand Down. We have 43 confirmed service providers so far, and more are considering. I plan to go to the Post Falls Labor Department's Hiring Event in April and hope to sign up 12 to 14 employers to interview veterans for jobs. The Post probably will not need volunteers for Stand Down since only a table or booth is available. A table for two people is normal. This space is normally occupied by Post officers. Volunteers should go to the local United Way website to volunteer for services that are needed for the event.

It has been a good month for ESGR (Employers Who Support the Guard and Reserve). Five Statements of Support (SOS) have been signed, and we have an appointment for a sixth next week.

One of the service providers for Stand Down, Juanita, makes elegant bags for walkers with a preference for veterans. Al and I have agreed to help her get established. Last week she gave away 11 bags to residents at the Renaissance. We visited Honeysuckle Place today, and they are getting a count of walkers for her there. When we have numbers, Juanita will make bags and we will go over for lunch to meet residents and present bags to them. I plan to arrange presentations at Garden Plaza and Heritage House for later this year. The Hayden Veterans' Commissioners provide a program at Garden Plaza on Veterans Day. I would like to make bag presentation a part of this program. In a similar way, our Honor Guard conducts a program at the Heritage House where bags could be presented to veteran residents. Some residents receiving bags last week actually cried when they received the beautiful and useful gift from Juanita. Honeysuckle Place will help get a donation for her to help buy materials.

Bryan Bledsoe, Lew Allert, Charlie Till, Al and I attended the check presentation ceremony at Newby-ginnings last week. Theresa Hart had asked me to send out notices about the event to veterans two weeks earlier, which I did to more than 100 veterans. It was a disappointment to see such a small turn out after such a large notification. – Margaret Ogram, 2nd Vice-Commander

Post Elections

Post 154 elections will take place at the April General Membership Meeting. A nomination committee has been appointed and is chaired by Jeff Broadhead. Every officer position is open and available to any Post member with the exception of the 2-year and 3-year Committeeperson positions.

Even though there is a nominating committee anyone may be nominated from the floor at the March meeting as long as the individual being nominated agrees to accept the position. Those in positions shown in **BOLD** need to be filled. The others have agreed to continue but those positions are also available for nominations and election.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Commander | Dee Sasse (current will stand for re-election) |
| 1st Vice Commander | |
| 2nd Vice Commander | Margaret Ogram (stepping down) |
| Adjutant | Bryan Bledsoe (appointed – would like to train someone) |
| Service Officer | Charlie Till (would like to train another person) |
| Finance Officer | Leonard Crosby (current and will stand for re-election) |
| Historian | Al Ogram (stepping down) |
| Chaplain | Paula Atwood (current will stand for re-election) |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Bill Kinder (current will stand for re-election) |
| Judge Advocate | Jeffrey Broadhead (current will stand for re-election) |
| 1 Year Committeeperson | Rod Engel (term expiring position needs to be filled) |

If you have any interest in one of these positions, contact Jeff Broadhead at jeffrey.broadhead@gmail.com. To find out the duties and responsibilities of a position, read about it here: <http://goo.gl/Xsnnpk> (Article IV).
- Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

FINANCE OFFICER LEN CROSBY'S MESSAGE:

Our finances continue to be strong, and our 2016 tax return was filed (both Federal and State) prior to the end of January, so we should get an "A" for efficiency.

We are planning some outstanding fundraising activities in the coming year, but they will only be accomplished if we have the full support of the members of the Post. If we each contribute some of our time to assist in these efforts, it makes these fundraising activities more successful, less stressful and more fun. We are blessed to live in a wonderful Community that continues to show its support for our troops and our veterans. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN LEN CROSBY'S MESSAGE:

No major issues in the Idaho Legislature and our local legislators continue to support us in our efforts to secure a Veterans Home for N. Idaho. Senator Nonini has been the point person in these efforts, assisted by several others who voiced their support. Senator Nonini has arranged several meetings between those working on our Community (including your humble Finance and Legislative Officer) to move our application along.

One of the most pressing issues was the need an expansion of the land donated for construction of the home. We believe that that issue is close to being resolved. We also now have a commitment that the application for the facility WILL be submitted by the April deadline to get on the funding list, and that the final application can be completed and forwarded to VA by August. That gets us on the list of applicants for the VA construction grant (65% of the overall cost), and since we have a donated site, and a commitment from the State for the balance of the construction cost, we will qualify as being "Shovel Ready". Sen. Nonini has worked closely with the Idaho Division of Veteran Services and the Governor's office, and insured that our needs and efforts received the priority they deserve.

Once we get the application to VA, we will focus our efforts on our Congressional delegation to insure that VA knows we are anxious and active. Senator Crapo, Senator Risch and Representative Labrador continue to support our effort and to make this a priority for their staff.

REMEMBER: The Primary elections for Presidential candidates take place on March 8, and the primary election for local, and State offices takes place on May 17. Exercise your RIGHT and PRIVLEDGE to vote in these elections. – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Note: The American Legion has just completed a week of testimony in front of Congress as well as meetings with VA Secretary Robert McDonald. Here is a link to the National Legislative Agenda <http://goo.gl/2vHNtK> - Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

Chaplain's Pew:

Let's Honor the Heroes of our Nation! Easter and springtime is almost here. As a part of my celebration for Easter, I want to share some special thoughts:

'Easter is a time of love, of family and of peace.
It is a time when we say a quiet thanks
for all that we have and for all that
the future holds.
Easter is a feeling in our hearts of hope and faith and trust.
It is a day of miracles;
a say when our dreams seem a little closer;
a time of retrospection
for what has been and anticipation of all that will be.
And it is a time for remembering with love and appreciation
the people in our lives who make a difference...
people like you.' - written by: Anna Marie Edwards

Remember this special time of year in your own way. However you choose to celebrate Easter, be sure to include all our American Legion family in your thoughts and prayers. Sitting in the pews - Paula Atwood, Post 154 Chaplain

SERVICE OFFICER CHARLIE TILL'S MESSAGE:

Crisis, Suicide, Are You Concerned?

Crisis can affect us personally in many ways. It can be our own state of mind or a maybe a member of our immediate family, but most likely it's one of our comrades. These days with so many of our brothers and sisters home from combat (and combat support), the prospect of living a normal life can be very difficult. Learn to recognize the signs and find out how you can support Veterans in crisis.

Veterans who are considering suicide often show signs of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and/or hopelessness. Their behavior may be dramatically different from their normal behavior, or they may appear to be actively contemplating or preparing for a suicidal act.

If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran who is showing any warning signs, please call the Veterans Crisis Line, chat online , or send a text message today.

Dial

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

to talk to someone NOW

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/SignsOfCrisis/Identifying.aspx>

Other Sources for Help:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

- Charlie Till, Service Officer

Mark Your Calendar:

Tuesday March 8th – Idaho primary election for presidential candidates

Wednesday March 9th – 6:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday March 19th - 1st District Meeting – Mountain Lakes Bible Church, 2215 N. Seventh Street in Coeur d'Alene

Wednesday March 23rd – 6:00 PM Membership Meeting – Officer nominations can be taken from then floor.

Saturday March 26th – 10:00 AM Rathdrum Easter Egg Hunt – See flyer on page 9 of this newsletter.

Sunday March 27th – Easter

Tuesday March 29th – 11:00 AM Commemoration of the End of the Vietnam War. See flyer on page 10 of this newsletter.

Important Future Events:

Wednesday April 20th – 6:00 PM Membership meeting – Election of officers

Saturday May 7th – 8:00 AM-2:00 PM North Idaho Veterans' Stand Down

Tuesday May 17th – Primary election for local and state governmental offices.

Bits & Pieces:

Schneidmiller Foundation Donation.

In December I was talking to Gary Schneidmiller and he asked what was going on with the Post. As a part of that discussion I told him that we needed to purchase a gun safe [to store Honor Guard rifles]. He volunteered to buy it for the Post. Lew Allert picked one up at COSTCO and with a \$50 discount it turned out to cost around \$320.

When I told Gary about it he was surprised that it wasn't quite a bit more so offered to donate \$500, which I gladly accepted on behalf of Post 154.

Gary has been very generous to our Post. Last year \$25,000 and now this year \$500. – Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant

Commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War in 1975

Tuesday March 29th at 11 am – 11:30 pm at the Veterans Memorial at McEuen Park. The combined Post 154 and Post 143 Honor Guard will participate. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. This is being sponsored by the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). See further information at the end of this newsletter.

Missing Man Table

Rod Genter came up with the idea for this traditional Missing Man Table and Lew Allert and Sue Fevold put everything together. Many of the items came from Newby-ginnings according to Lew. The table will be in place for every meeting as a remembrance and show of respect.

To read about the history and symbolism, go here:

<https://goo.gl/OQnaji>



Adjutant Bryan Bledsoe's Message:

Rathdrum Easter Egg Hunt

The Post needs volunteers to come out and help with the Rathdrum Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 26th at Majestic Park which is located at 5750 W Majestic Ave, Rathdrum. Please arrive by 8:30 to help distribute a few thousand eggs. Everyone is needed to turn out and make this happen quickly plus it is a fun morning. Bring your spouse, neighbors, friends, kids, grandkids, etc. The Commander also needs prizes for children. If you can help with this please email her at dndsass@frontier.com or call (208) 755-1607. See the informational flyer on page 9 of this newsletter.

District 1 Meeting

Saturday March 19th 2215 N Seventh Street Coeur d'Alene. Registration begins at 9 am. \$3 per person registration fee and \$7 lunch. Pay at the door. Post 14 needs a head count. Let Bryan Bledsoe know if you are planning on attending by emailing bryandbledsoe@gmail.com or 509-990-6739 or call Ray Hooker at 208-889-0042. – Bryan Bledsoe, Adjutant



The oldest living crew member of the battleship USS Arizona to have survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor has died in Northern California at the age of 100.

Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Langdell died February 4th at a nursing home in Yuba City, according to his son, Ted Langdell. A tally maintained by the USS Arizona Reunion Association, for which Langdell had served as President, identified him as not only the oldest Arizona survivor, but also the last surviving officer from the naval ship that lost 1,177 men - nearly four-fifths of its crew - when it was bombed on December 7, 1941. Langdell was an ensign on an assignment that had him sleeping on a military base adjacent to the ship in Honolulu on the morning Pearl Harbor was attacked. He spent the following hours and days trying to rescue shipmates from the burning water, preparing for another possible air assault and leading the survivors tasked with removing the remains of the dead from the partially sunken ship, his son said. – Submitted by Lonnie Morse

Anchors Away

Hello Post 154 members and families. My husband, John Fevold is a navy veteran and member of Post 154, and I am a supportive spouse. We were invited to attend one American Legion meeting and soon realized that Post 154 was not only a group of proud men and women veterans with whom John 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.

Although I am not a veteran, I have been attending Legion meetings with John over the past few months, and have heard Commander Sasse make reference to an Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary is a separate sanctioned organization comprised of women only. Likewise, there is another organization within the umbrella of the American Legion known as Sons of the American Legion, or SAL, and this organization is comprised of men only. I believe that Post 154 could benefit from a support group made up of both men and women.

I believe that each member of Post 154 has a unique family and that these family members or extended family members have skills and talents that can be utilized in support of the Post's goals and endeavors. In other words, I'd like to use all the tools in the toolbox and therefore, am proposing the formation of a "co-ed" support group, ground crew or Anchor group (Did you catch the Navy/Coast Guard reference?) comprised of Post spouses, family members and Post members themselves--- men and women. I am not proposing another monthly meeting because I know many people are just not meeting goers, and would rather work "behind the scenes" ---we just have to be willing to help out now and then as needed. Here are some ideas or examples of how this Anchor/Ground Crew could work:

1. Judges for Oratorical contest.
2. Ground support for Color Guard at parade participation---pick them up at end of parade and transport back to staging area.
3. Assembling poppies for Memorial Day
4. Operate snack shack at events—Easter Egg Hunt; County Fair or
5. other approved events
6. Help decorate a float for parade—Rathdrum Days, Athol Daze, other events.
7. Drive the truck that pulls the float in the parade
8. Participate at Stand Down--
9. Help with preparations for the District Meeting in October. --- maybe center pieces are needed and you are a crafty person.

So, are you a 'behind the scenes' person? Do you have skills and talents that you can offer to Post 154 in support of their goals and endeavors? Are you willing to give a couple of hours of time here and there as needed? Do you want to be one of the tools in our toolbox? If so, please contact me, Sue Fevold [\(208\) 916 5149](tel:2089165149) or at schoolmarm66@hotmail.com

INTERESTING BUT SAD FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

Hard to believe it was so long ago!

In 1956 the US Military Assistance Advisor Group took over the training of South Vietnamese forces from the French.

The first US combat troops were sent to Vietnam in March, 1965. By the end of the year there were 200,000 US troops there.

The last known US combat troops left Vietnam in March, 1973.

Interesting Veterans Statistics off the VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL.

The Vietnam War Memorial was dedicated on November 13th 1982.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

- There are 58,267 names now listed on the polished black wall, as of 2010
- There are three sets of fathers and sons
- 39,996 names on the Wall were just 22 or younger
- 8,283 were just 19 year's old
- 33,103 WERE 18 YEAR'S OLD
- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 year's old
- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 year's old
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 year's old
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall
- 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia
- 8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War -153 of them are on the Wall
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation - there are 711 West Virginians on the Wall
- In the Arizona copper mining town of Morenci (pop. 5,058), all nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 - 245 deaths
- The most casualty deaths for a single month was in May 1968 - 2,415

-Submitted by Lonnie Morse

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 26TH

Majestic Park

5400 W Majestic Ave Rathdrum ID, 83858

Egg Hunt Starts at 10 AM

Age Groups:

4 & Under, 5-7, 8-10, 11-12

**FREE EVENT! Prizes & Eggs
Special Appearance Provided By
By The Easter Bunny**



**For More Information Please Call Rathdrum Parks &
Recreation at 208 687-2399
www.rathdrum.org**

**Coeur d'Alene Lt. George Farragut Chapter of
The Daughters of the American Revolution**

presents a

Commemoration of the End of the Vietnam War in 1975

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Veterans Memorial at McEuen Park

420 E. Front Avenue

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**Please come and invite your family and friends, as we honor our
Veterans and give our thanks for those who returned home.**