



# Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

## Rathdrum Idaho

### Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue #11

November 2021

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Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe



#### 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:

November brings another busy month for our Post. First of all, Election Day is Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please go to your polling station and exercise your right and privilege and vote. On Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. we will be conducting our annual Veterans Recognition Event. It will be held this year at the Shepard of the Hills Church in Rathdrum. Please come and support this wonderful event. On November 11<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Veteran's Day. There are several local grade schools that have ceremonies if you haven't attended one you should. It will make your heart very happy.

As the year comes to a close in December, I remind those you have not renewed their membership to please do so before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Remember, you are considered delinquent as of January 1<sup>st</sup> according to the Constitution of the American Legion. We need you. I want to thank all members who have renewed their membership for this year. With new/renewals we are over halfway to meeting our suggested goal for the year. At this time, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving. Also, please remember our Military Personnel serving throughout the world. Thank you.

For God and Country - Dee Sasse, Commander

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

Here it is the 1st of November already and I hope everyone is doing well. I am asking all of you that have not done so, to renew your membership for 2022 as we are getting close to December 31<sup>st</sup>. As of October 27<sup>th</sup>, our paid membership is at 82 for 2022. This places us at 57.75% of our goal, with our total membership goal set at 142. Remember membership is everyone's responsibility. Jinny Cash, the Department of Idaho Commander and the Department Membership Committee have announced a new membership incentive program that can earn money for our Post. In order to earn \$400.00 we need to attain 100% of our membership goal before January 31, 2022, as set by the Department, based on the size of our Post. If we do this the Department will send us a check for \$400.00 (100% Post size 126-300 members= \$400.00)

Once again, I highly recommend your use of the On-Line Renewal feature. It's fast and easy. Dues remain at \$45.00. Go to [legion.org](http://legion.org), click renewals. Make sure you have your ID card and credit card available for this transaction. This takes less than 24 hours to process vs. nine days if you mail in. If you wish to mail in your dues send to: Rathdrum American Legion Post 154, PO Box 1116, Rathdrum, ID 83858.

- Bill Kinder 1st Vice Commander, Membership Chairman.

## Finance Officer:

During the month of September, the Post had income of \$990.26 (primarily income from donations to the Honor Guard - \$350 and proceeds from the Mission Blue Assistance Grant Program of the American Legion - \$550). The Legion grant came from COVID funds distributed to the National American Legion Organization by the Federal Government to assist Posts who were impacted by the pandemic. Thank you, Bryan for applying for this grant.

Expenses for the month were \$222.05 (primarily membership expenses of \$75.00 and Honor Guard expenses of \$73.60).

Net income for the month was a positive of \$768.21. Our Capital Reserves total \$65,280.98 at the end of September.

The reserves are invested in three one-year CD's which are laddered over a six-month period, and in a money market account. The IRS recently advised that all non-profit tax returns must be electronically filed. This rule apparently applied to our tax filing for 2020, which we made in early February – on paper forms, of course. That return was kicked back to us, and I am having to refile it. - Len Crosby, Finance Officer



## Legislative Chairman:

**Veteran Proof of Housing History Bill Introduced:** Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) has introduced Legion-supported [H.R. 5402](#), the *VET RENT Act*, which would provide service members and veterans with a standard record of housing history. For those who have lived only in military-provided housing, this document would provide the needed tenant history to be competitive in the civilian rental market.

**October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** On average, 700 women veterans are diagnosed with breast cancer annually. Although rare, male veterans make up 1% of breast cancer cases. Congress introduced Legion-supported [H.R. 4794 / S. 2533](#), the *Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options for Veterans Act*, which would require VA to develop a breast imaging strategic plan, upgrade to 3D digital mammography, create tele-mammography, and streamline veterans' electronic medical records. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many people postponed or canceled annual preventive care services, such as mammograms. As more individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions lift, veterans who are overdue for preventive care should schedule as soon as possible.

**Congress is Leaving Veterans Behind:** Congress is voting now on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. Amendments have been added to the NDAA for [H.R. 1115 / S. 535](#), the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*, and [H.R. 1282 / S. 344](#), the *Major Richard Star Act*. Post-9/11 veterans deserve to be honored with a GWOT memorial on the National Mall and Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move these two important pieces of legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress TODAY and demand they pass this crucial legislation. [TAKE ACTION!](#)

**VA Resumes Overpayment and Medical Copayment Collections:** VA is resuming over-payment notifications for new debts and debts that were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic from Apr. 6, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021. Although debt collections and collections on medical copayments restarted on Oct. 1, 2021, VA will not begin to deduct debts from benefits payments until Jan. 2022. Options to request debt relief due to financial hardship will be included in debt notification letters that will be sent to veterans.

**VA #FightFlu Initiative:** VA has expanded flu vaccine availability to more than 70,000 in-network community providers. Eligible veterans can now receive at no cost a standard, high dose, or preservative-free flu shot at their local VA health care facility, in-network community retail pharmacy, or an urgent care location without prior authorization. If you are eligible, you need to present a valid, government-issued ID at a covered location. [Learn more](#) about eligibility and location options. (cont. below)

**Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster shot available from VA.** In line with recommendations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), only people who have already received a full series of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months ago have been authorized to receive a Pfizer booster shot.

The FDA and the CDC continue to review data to determine whether and when it might be recommended for recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine(s). VA will plan to offer boosters of these vaccines if authorized and recommended.

Who is eligible for a booster shot?

Here are the Veterans, spouses and caregivers who have been authorized to receive the Pfizer booster:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits, and;
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits.

Veterans who receive care in VA and are due for booster shots will be contacted and advised of the recommended shots, which may be offered by appointment or on a walk-in basis.

**Get your flu shot, too:** You can get both the COVID-19 vaccine and your annual flu vaccine at the same time. Veterans receiving care at VA who wish to get a booster shot can get both shots together during the same visit.

- Veterans who would like additional information can visit the [VA COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage, visit their [local facility's website](#) or contact their care team. If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the [VA COVID-19 questions web page](#).

**VOW to Hire Hero's Extension Act:** On May 4, Representative Julia Brownley (CA) reintroduced H.R. 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act. Originally introduced by Brownley in October of 2013, H.R. 2963 would provide businesses a tax credit for hiring unemployed and service-connected disabled veterans. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who hire and retain individuals from certain targeted groups who have consistently faced significant barriers to employment—including unemployed and service-connected disabled veterans. Improving and extending the WOTC incentivizes workplace diversity, facilitates access to good jobs for veterans, helps veterans move towards self-sufficiency, and allows participating employers to reduce their income tax liability. Under the existing WOTC, employers claim about \$1 billion in tax credits each year, making the tax credit a win-win for both businesses and veterans.

**H.R. 5293 and Senate Bill 189:** Both of these bills passed the House of Representatives unanimously and are headed to the president for his signature: **H.R. 5293 – Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021.** This bill would extend a program (Sep 30, 2022) that pays for veterans who travel from underserved rural areas to the closest veterans center, along with a pilot program which allows the VA to accept donations of facilities and related improvements (Dec 16, 2026). Finally, the bill would extend permanently the VA's authority to offer dental insurance for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans. (cont. below)

**S. 189 – Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021.** This bill would increase the rates of veteran’s disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependent and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses and children. It would do so by tethering increases in such payments to cost of living adjustments (COLA) for Social Security recipients.

**PENDING VA DISABILITY CLAIMS:** Starting in October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will hire and train new staff to ensure Veterans’ claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days. VA is taking the following proactive steps to help in the reduction:

- Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.
- Leverage authority to transfer CARES funding to VBA and utilize the American Rescue Plan to fund overtime to ensure timely claims processing.
- Deploy requested Fiscal Year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

As of October 11, there were more than 204,000 backlog claims in an inventory of 603,000 total claims. VA identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism. Many of these will enter the backlog in October, which is projected to reach 260,000 pending claims.

“VA is committed to ensuring timely access to benefits and services for all veterans. This includes making sure that veterans who may have experienced adverse health effects from military related exposures can get access to the benefits they need,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “As we process claims such as those for three new disabilities presumptively linked to Agent Orange exposure, including proactive application of [Nehmer provisions](#), as well as three new Gulf War particulate exposure presumptives, we anticipate the claims backlog to increase this fall. The hiring of new employees will help us resolve these claims more quickly.”

Several factors have contributed to the recent backlog. Beginning in March 2020, operational changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an untimely delay of the [Federal Records Centers’](#) retrieval of documents and suspended [Compensation and Pension \(C&P\) examinations](#). While these actions were necessary to protect the health and safety of employees and veterans, they slowed the processing time for claims. VA workload has also increased as a result of the aforementioned recent decisions and actions, including [a court order](#) mandating the review of previously denied Veterans on the basis of qualifying service in the 12 nautical miles surrounding Vietnam.

The backlog has decreased by more than 14,000 claims since the end of August 2021. With continued improvement of VA’s ability to obtain C&P examinations and Federal Records, and with all requested resources received, VBA plans to address the impending increase and then further reduce the current claims backlog to 100,000 claims by April 2024.

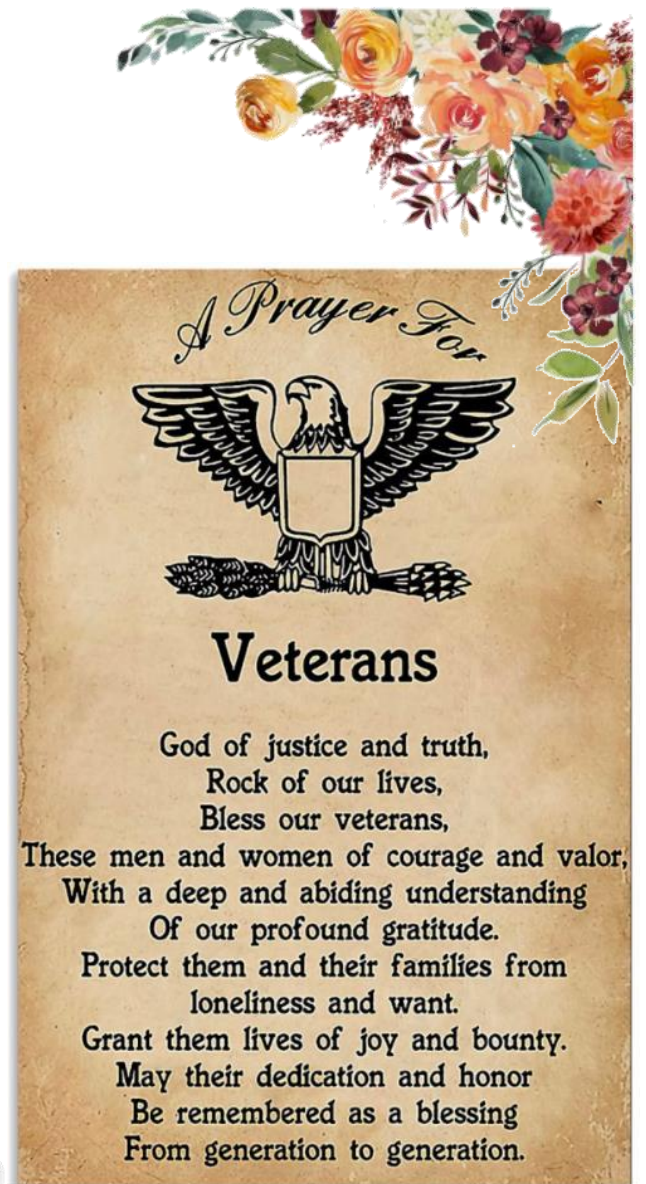
**Congress Passes Maternity Care Bill:** The Senate passed VFW-supported [S. 796, Protecting Moms Who Served Act of 2021](#). This legislation would require VA to coordinate maternity care programs with community providers to meet the unique needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans. It would also require a report on maternal mortality rates, and racial and ethnic disparities in care. The bill, which passed the House in May, now heads to the president’s desk for signature.

**Senate Passes Buddy Check Bill:** The Senate passed the American Legion-supported [S. 544](#), to direct VA to designate one week each year as “Buddy Check Week.” This legislation would promote outreach and education concerning wellness checks for veterans. In addition, VA would provide scripts as well as online and in-person training for veterans service organizations to facilitate successful buddy checks. - Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

**Chaplain's Pew:**



Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain



## Service Officer:

As a reminder, the VA's Debt Management Center will resume recouping debts owed to the VA on October 1, 2021. The Veteran's Health Administration is also resuming collecting co-pays for VA Medical Care to include pharmacy co-pays if applicable. Remember, if you receive a VA Debt Letter, you have 30 days from the date of the first letter to request a waiver of the debt due to extreme financial hardship. If done within the 30 days, the VA will suspend actions on collections while considering the request for the waiver of the debt. The VA will still consider the request for the waiver after the 30 days, but recoupment will take place.

**Effective October 1, 2021, the new VA Plot Allowance Rate is \$828.00.** If a veteran is interred in a private cemetery and eligible for the Non-Service-Connected Burial Rate of \$300, the VA will also pay the Plot Allowance Rate. If the veteran is interred at one of the two Idaho State Veteran's Cemeteries or the Snake River National Cemetery in Buhl, or is eligible for the Service-Connected Burial Allowance of \$2,000, the VA will not pay the Plot Allowance to the claimant, as there is no cost of interment at the State or National Cemeteries. Spouses can be interred with the veteran at the State Veteran's Cemeteries and the family will be charged the current plot allowance rate (The VA will not pay the Plot Allowance for spouse's).

**The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** has determined approximately 115,000 veterans may be eligible for a refund of their unused Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) contributions totaling up to \$2,700, but VA only has contact information for 25% of them. They want to reach the other 75% and they need your help. While they search other VA databases for contact information, you can notify those members who might be eligible so they can reach out to the VA and request a refund of their VEAP contribution. In general, veterans have ten years from their date of discharge to use their education benefits. Some ineligible veterans still have unused contributions and are entitled to a refund. Veterans potentially eligible for a refund would have entered active duty between January 1, 1977, to June 30, 1985; contributed to VEAP while on active duty and before April 1, 1987; not used all their contributions; not have been dishonorably discharged (for VA purposes); completed 24 months of continuous service or have been discharged early due to Convenience of the Government within three months of the end of their enlistment (an "early out" under Title 10, Section 1171), Hardship (under Title 10, Section 1173), Service-connected disability (this includes those rated for a compensable service-connected disability even if they were not discharged for that disability). If you have unused VEAP funds, they should submit VA Form 22-5281 after completing sections 1-6, 14, 15, and 18. It will take 3-4 weeks to receive a response and/or refund via U.S Treasury check. If you are unsure whether you are eligible for a refund or whether you participated in VEAP, you can call the Education Call Center at 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442 4551) Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. CT. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



## Training Officer:

You probably know about the WWI armistice which went into effect “on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month”. But do you know the full history of what we all know as Veterans Day? Well, here is an interesting lesson for November:

### History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd



Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the [first "Veterans Day Proclamation"](#) which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent [a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs \(VA\)](#), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was

elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968 and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. - Taken from VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

- Submitted by Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

## Toxic Exposure:

So many veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during their military service are now seeing their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren suffering from birth defects, cognitive disfunction, and cancers as a result of the veteran's toxic exposure. **MORE ACTION IS REQUIRED!**



**VA Secretary to Read Entirety of Toxic Exposure Research Act (TERA) as Required by Law**

**Our last battle is for the future generations of innocents. We will go to our graves without honor if we abandon the future generations.**

**If we lose this battle for P.L. 114-315, the child victims die without recognition of their veteran ancestors' service causations.... How many generations must suffer?**

**Our human dignity is at stake.**

**The world will benefit from this research.**

The American citizens and signers of this formal petition for just reconsideration do hereby demand Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Dennis McDonough personally read the entirety of *The Toxic Exposure Research Act (TERA)*, Public Law 114-315, Sections 631 through 634. Upon reading this law, we further demand the VA Secretary read and understand the DVA-contracted report issued by NASEM (IOM) dated 2018, *Gulf War and Health, Volume 11: Generational Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War*, specifically the sections within the report that stipulate the research mandated by TERA, Public Law 114-315, is both feasible and necessary. Most importantly, we demand the VA Secretary follow the specific, written intent of TERA, Public Law 114-315, and based upon NASEM's declaration of feasibility, certify to both Veterans Affairs committees of Congress his understanding of the research feasibility, and certify it is his honorable intent to proceed with the specified research and implement the remaining provisions of that noble law, as specified and intended for the wellbeing of and for the American people.

**5,401 have signed.** Let's get to 7,500!

**At 7,500 signatures,** this petition is more likely to get a reaction from the **decision maker!**

Bryan & Jean Bledsoe signed this petition

Sign this petition by going [HERE!](#)

## BUDDY CHECK IN PROGRESS!

This past week, we began our Buddy Checks to find out how our members and their families are doing. If we have already called, thanks for taking the time to speak with us and if we haven't contacted you yet, WE WILL! Buddy checks are an important aspect of The American Legion, hopefully we can put you in touch with someone to assist you with VA benefits and any other questions you may have.

National Commander Paul Dillard has initiated a Suicide Prevention policy for his term in office. With all that has been going on we are seeing an increase in the number of suicides nationally. If you know someone who may need assistance, here is the Veterans Crisis Line call 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1  
Bill Kinder 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Membership Chairman

### **Another Post 154 member is being honored!**

Our Chaplain, **Helen Kinder**, has been named as the City of Hayden's Distinguished work for veterans and the community. She will accept the award at the Veterans Day Ceremony being held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at the McIntire Family Park which is next to Hayden City Hall. Helen will also participate in the Hayden Lights Parade on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and the Hayden Days "Hometown Heros" Parade on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations Helen, for this richly deserved award! - Jean Bledoe, Editor



Helen Kinder





**National Forget-Me-Not Day** on November 10th reminds Americans of the sacrifices returning soldiers have made of body, blood, and limb. Created in 1921 to remind Americans of the National Forget-Me-Not Day originally raised funds for services for returning injured soldiers. At the time, there was no program in place to support them. The Forget-Me-Not is a flower symbolizing remembrance.

### **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](mailto:keltod11@gmail.com) or by phone at 509-226-5355.

From Sep 24 to Oct 28:

This month the Honor Guard provided Military Honors for 8 veterans, three US Army veterans, four US Navy veterans, and two US Air Force veterans. Each memorial service requires between 3 and 8 volunteers. The Honor Guard also participated in a flag presentation ceremony at Real Life Ministries. This month required forty nine (49) volunteers, and they logged in 167 volunteer hours. Once a month the Honor Guard travels to the Washington State Veterans Cemetery and provides Military Honors for any requests made by veteran families for services that day and there was one this month that is included in the above totals. Idaho veterans are interred there as well. These statistics run monthly from the Membership Meeting a month ago to the last Membership Meeting - Bryan Bledoe, Honor Guard Member

## Did you know...?

### **New Veterans Benefits Guide now available**

VA partnered with Stars and Stripes to create a special edition insert for the publication called "The Veterans Benefits Guide." The print and digital publication, which highlights VA benefits and services available for transitioning service members and their families, is available now.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **New Post 154 Members:**

Paul Tilton	Grenada/Lebanon	Air Force
Randy Noziska	Vietnam	Navy
Phillip Stevenson	Grenada/Lebanon	Army
Richard Cackowski	WWII	Navy 70-year American Legion Member!

Please greet these new members when you see them at our meetings and make them feel welcome.

### **Mark Your Calendar:**

November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Election Day

November 6<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Recognition Event @ Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church 13541 W Hwy 53 - see details page 15

November 7<sup>th</sup> - Daylight Savings Time ends

November 10<sup>th</sup> - Marine Corps Birthday

November 10<sup>th</sup> - National Forget-Me-not Day

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veterans Day

**November 11<sup>th</sup> - Executive Committee Meeting 6 PM Lions Club Rathdrum**

November 21<sup>st</sup> - National Family Week

**November 25<sup>th</sup> - NO Membership Meeting this month**

November 25<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving

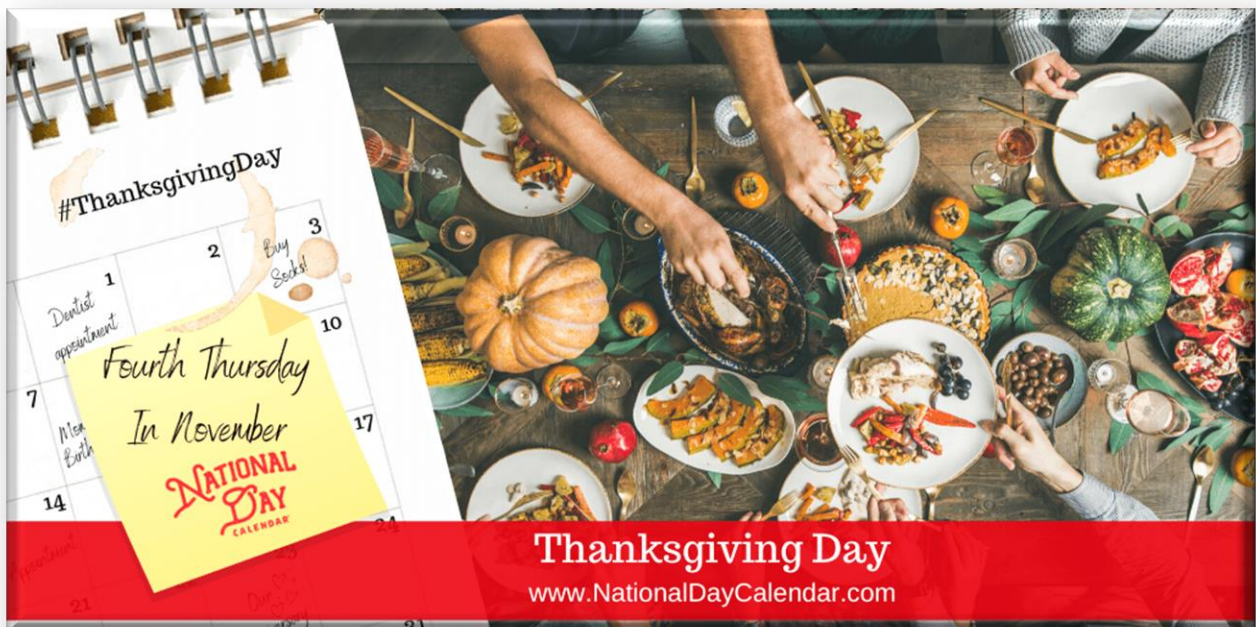
November 29<sup>th</sup> - Hanukkah

November 30<sup>th</sup> - National Day of Giving (Tuesday after Thanksgiving)

December 11<sup>th</sup> - SAVE THE DATE for the Post Christmas Party. More details to come

## Bits & Pieces

- VA Tops 15,000 COVID Deaths Since the Start Of The Pandemic Read the story [HERE](#).
- You can read the minutes of the September membership meeting [HERE](#).
- 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



## A Healthier You:



**Exercises for a Healthy Back**  
Back 5:38

### Exercises for a Healthy Back

Most people will have back pain at some time in their lives. But you don't always need the help of a doctor to fix it. Sometimes exercise is all that you need to relieve the pain. Watch and learn exercises to keep your back feeling good.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 5 ½ minute video

**2021**  
***Veterans Recognition***  
***Ceremony***

***Honoring all Veterans***

**Shepherd of the Hills  
Lutheran Church**

**Saturday November 6th, 11:00 AM**

**Ceremony Starts at 11 AM**



**For more information go to [rathdrum.org/rec](http://rathdrum.org/rec) or  
call Rathdrum Parks and Recreation at 208-687-2399**

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is located at 13541 West Highway 53.**



## **OPERATION VETERAN SMILES:**

### **A FREE DENTAL CARE EVENT**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th 2021**

**8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Free dental services offered to homeless & in-need  
United States veterans.

Doctors & Team will be available at the following location:

*Generations Dental*

Dr. Justin Rader

1223 N. Government Way,

Coeur d'Alene, 83814

**208-664-9225**

**Please call for an appointment!**

General dental care provided by Dr. Rader & other volunteer team on site.

**Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be accepted.**

Veterans will need to bring proof of status: DD214 (Separation from military)  
or valid military identification (VA or military retired card).





# **FREE VETERENS SUPPORT GROUP**

**Safe Waters Mental  
Recovery is offering a FREE  
support group for area  
veterens.**

*When: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm*

*Where: VFW in CDA, 406 N 4th ST.*

Please contact : If you have any questions:

Katie( Safe Waters) at 208-626-9852

VFW at (208) 667-5236

**Hello,**

We would like to introduce and share our program **PAWS 4 VETS**, a Veteran run, Non-Profit Organization. Our Mission: Create a connection, loyalty, and direction through specialized training for Veterans and family with their K9 partners, to improve emotional wellbeing.

Co-founder and veteran Nathan Botts found healing in a dog he named Angel when he retired after 22 years and 5 tours of combat. She is the cornerstone of our program to heal hearts, one veteran, one dog at a time.

We currently offer 2 program classes per year. We accept up to 10 veterans per class. We personally assess and pair a proper K9 to a veteran in need. Our class is 8 weeks long, meeting once per week for approximately 3 hours. This includes basic obedience training by Nathan Botts, (who is now a Master K9 trainer) and co-founder & wife Kristen, followed by a support group session guided by amazing veteran counselors from the Veteran Outreach Center. Upon completion, our vets and k9s can test to receive and graduate with their K9 Good Citizenship certificate, but more importantly, a lasting bond together and with their new extended veteran family.

This is all at NO cost to the Vet! It is our hope that you will share our mission to help as many veterans as we can.

Please contact us for more information!

Kathy Withey

[srk9tc1@hotmail.com](mailto:srk9tc1@hotmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/PAWS-4-VETS-120390636427600/>





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**THE POST 154 CHRISTMAS PARTY THIS YEAR WILL BE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, AT 1:00PM AT KTEC SCHOOL ON LANCASTER. IT WILL BE A POTLUCK LUNCH/DINNER. BRING YOUR BEST POTLUCK DISH, SALAD, OR DESSERT. DRINKS PROVIDED. ALSO PROVIDED ARE PLATES, CUPS, NAPKINS, EATING UTENSILS. HOPING ALL WHO DO NOT LIKE DRIVING AT NIGHT CAN MAKE IT TO THIS AFTERNOON PARTY. MORE DETAIL AS THE DATE APPROACHES.**