



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue #9

September 2017

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Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum

Editor: Jean Bledsoe

YOU'RE INVITED!

**Join us for breakfast on
September 30th at Applebee's
Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene
from 9:00-11:00 AM.**

This is an important fundraiser for our Post. The tickets are \$10 with half of that staying in Post 154. Tickets can be bought at the door or – better yet – ahead of time, so Applebee's knows about how many to expect.

YOU can help your American Legion Post by buying tickets (even if you can't go), selling tickets (*most important*), or working at the event. Pre-sales must be completed by the 13th. Call Bryan Bledsoe at 509-990-6739 or Bill Kinder at 208-661-6850. They will get tickets to you. Thank You!

Finance Officer:

We received some donations at the Center Target customer appreciation day. Thank you to those members who manned the booth at Center Target. I think their efforts may result in several additional members for our growing Post.

Expenses this month were higher, as we approved funds to assist our Service Officer attend the annual training and update in Boise. The Executive Committee also approved the purchase of a new banner to be used when we attend events or fundraise. Thanks to 2nd Vice Larry Carstensen for his work in getting this new banner completed by the vendor, StandOut.

Our financials continue to be stable, and we are on budget through the end of July. Lots of work by several members of the Fundraising Team, including Bill and Helen Kinder who are overseeing the Applebee's Legion Breakfast and John and Sue Fevold who continue to oversee the Pumpkin Patch. Hopefully those efforts will result in positive additions to our Capital Reserves and our operating budget.

Each month, at our Membership Meeting you receive an Income / Expense Statement for the prior month, an updated Balance Sheet and Net Worth Statement and a record of all the transactions (both income and expense). If you have any questions I am always glad to hear them and to provide you with more detail. If you don't come to the meetings, YOU SHOULD! - Len Crosby, Finance Officer

Chaplain's Pew:

We all have our challenges, upsets and victories. Wherever your life is on this day, be sure to give thanks.

And, maybe also think on this bit of wisdom:

Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes, courage is the quiet voice
at the end of the day saying,
"I will try again tomorrow."
- Author Unknown

If you know of a veteran who needs a card of cheer, a visit or a silent prayer, please give your Chaplain a call. She's always waiting in the pews ready to be of service.

Respectfully, Paula Atwood, Chaplain

From the Editor:

Below is a link to web-sites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans, the only catch is: you must ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask. You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors open for you and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests.

<http://rathdrumpost154.org/index.php?id=94&number=4>

2nd Vice-Commander:

Theresa Hart is scheduled to present a short program at the general membership meeting on September 27th. She is planning on "telling the story" of how Newby-Ginnings got started and what their mission is. She will have handouts for everyone, will speak for about 15 - 20 minutes and will then leave time for questions. Larry Carstensen, 2nd Vice-Commander

Editor's Note: Larry is arranging speakers to give presentations at the general meetings about once a quarter. Some will be from the VA hospital in Spokane, and some from the community. All will be of interest to veterans and their families. An email will go out before the meeting giving the topic. As always, the public is invited to attend all the meetings of Post 154.

Legislative Chairman:

Two important Veterans' Bills passed this month in Congress:

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, H.R. 3218, passed by the House and Senate was signed by the President on August 16, 2017. Also known as the Forever G.I. Bill, the legislation improves provisions in the existing G.I. Bill and provides more flexibility for using educational benefits. The measure contains a number of provisions that specifically impact disabled veterans and their families, including:

Increases monthly Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) payments by about 40 percent effective October 1, 2018 (note: effective August 1, 2018, DEA decreases from 45 to 36 months to be consistent with other VA educational programs);

Eliminates the 15-year limit for using the G.I. Bill, allowing for the use of the educational benefits for life, for those who were discharged after January 1, 2013;

Grants full G.I. Bill benefits to Purple Heart Recipients, regardless of total time in service effective August 1, 2018;

Provides G.I. Bill eligibility for reservists undergoing medical care for active duty injuries effective August 1, 2018;

Restores used G.I. bill benefits to enrolled students whose school permanently closes after January 1, 2015, effective November 14, 2017; and

Allows veterans who are National Guard members and Reservists who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits, to "pause" their eligibility so their time under the VR&E program is not negatively affected while called up for active duty orders. This provision takes effect immediately.

The House passed the **Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017** during a pro forma session Aug. 11 in Washington, D.C., marking the final step for the bill before it's signed by the president and becomes law.

The bill, also known as H.R. 2288, would modernize the appeals process at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by creating a:

Local Higher Level Review Lane in which an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor;

New Evidence Lane in which the veteran could submit new evidence for review and have a hearing; and a

Board Lane in which jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans Appeals. – Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman

Service Officer:

Hello members of Post #154! As your Service Officer, I find it my duty to keep you informed with a variety of important information. Did you know that September is National Chicken Month? It is also Save the Koala month. Go to brownielocks.com for the entire list of things you can celebrate in the month of September.

While you embrace the thought of chickens and koalas, it is also Pain Awareness Month. Remember that Coeur d'Alene has a VA Clinic located at 915 W Emma Avenue, phone number [208-665-1700](tel:208-665-1700).

Services Offered:

Primary Care, Blood Draw, Addiction Counseling, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Combat Related Post Traumatic Stress Counseling, Military Sexual Trauma Counseling, Psychiatry, Social Work, Metabolic Clinic covering diabetes and lipid management, Nutrition for diabetics and lipid management, Depression Counseling, and Patient Orientation every Thursday morning.

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30am - 4:00pm

Blood Draw Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30am - 2:30pm

Parking Free on premises and street parking is available.

ATTENTION ON DECK!! Our Post has a newly organized storage closet! All bins and boxes are labeled for easy access, i.e. - events, float décor, pins/decals, etc. The notice board and framed photos are on the wall - more to come. Still working on getting resource info, booklets and pamphlets set up for easy take-out. If you remove something, please return it to its appointed space. Thanks to Paula and her dear husband for the help!

** Did you know that North Idaho College has a Veteran Resource Center? Director Carl George ([208-666-8027](tel:208-666-8027)) does an excellent job helping veteran or military students and family members with support information. If you know of any NIC veteran student in need of assistance, refer them to Carl, or go to www.nic.edu - click on "student resources"; scroll down on the left and click on "veteran and military family services".

The American Legion website has added a state-by-state listing of benefits for veterans and their families. Go to www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/state and find IDAHO.

Thank you for your support in allowing me to attend the annual Service Officer training conference in Boise, August 27th - 29th. I promise to learn heartily, knowing that September is ALSO International People Skills Month. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer

Memories of My Service:

The helicopter touched down at the field hospital for the 25th Infantry Division in Cu Chi Vietnam, 50 years ago today, August 15, 1967. The bubble was splattered with blood and there was a line of soldiers waiting to enter the hospital about 30 yards away. I started screaming for a stretcher, trying to be heard over the noise of the helicopter, unbuckling my safety harness and pushing the M60 machine gun to the side as I stepped onto the landing pad.

Everything seemed to be moving in slow motion as I walked around to the other side of the helicopter to help the captain, covered in blood, who was slumped over in the left seat. Nothing could be done for him as he had been hit by a bullet in the femoral artery and he bled to death quickly on the flight back to the base.

Two medics arrived and slid him out onto the stretcher as I picked up his .45 pistol which was laying on the floor of the helicopter, cleared the round from the chamber, ejected the magazine, and placed it on the stretcher with him.

I didn't even know his name. He was along for the ride as we patrolled the road to Tay Ninh. He had just arrived eight days earlier in country.

I got back in, buckled up and the pilot flew us a short distance to our assigned area for D Troop 3/4 Cav. The word spread fast as other crew chiefs came to find out what happened. One of them told me to go clean up, as I was covered in blood as well, and that he would take care of the helicopter. I was numb and probably in shock. No one asked me to write to his family.

It bothered me over time that I didn't know his name and that I had never contacted his wife. Eleven years ago, I sat up most of the night searching the internet and finally figured out who he was; Captain David Bujalski. A West Point graduate, father, husband, son, brother and friend to many.

I did contact his brother, who put me in touch with his widow who had remarried, a cousin and his children. It brought closure for me and I hope it did for them too.

On the 50th anniversary of his sacrifice I would like to recognize him along with the other 58,220 who were killed in Vietnam. <http://www.west-point.org/users/usma1964/25106/> I will give him a toast or two tonight - Bryan Bledsoe

A Healthier You:

[What Do You Need to Know About Lyme Disease?](#) Lyme disease isn't always easy to diagnose, and it can cause serious long-lasting damage. How can you be alert for this tick-borne infection? There's been a big increase in mouse populations in many places over the past year. As a result, the number of ticks is booming, and you have a greater chance of being bitten when you go outside. Could a bite put you in danger from Lyme disease? The Basics of Lyme Disease: Lyme disease is the name given to a constellation of symptoms in reaction to infection with a tick-borne pathogen called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. [...] > [Read Article](#)

Mark Your Calendar:

September 1st – The Legion works with the Department of Homeland Security in the promotion of disaster preparedness & response

September 4th – Labor Day

September 10th – 1st Annual Veteran's Run. See page 8 for details.

September 11th – Patriot Day (9/11). Day of Service & Remembrance Post Falls City Hall.

September 13th – Washington State Cemetery abandoned/unclaimed remains ceremony 1 pm.

September 13th – Foundation Fitness Live & Silent Auction. See page 9 for details.

September 14th – Post Executive Committee Meeting @ 6 pm.

September 16th – National POW-MIA Recognition Day with dinner in honor of the day at Christ the King Lutheran Church – see Larry Carstensen or Ruth Aresvik for tickets \$14 each.

September 17th – Citizenship Day – commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the US on September 17, 1787.

September 17th – Post 154 Picnic. See page 10 for details.

September 18th – Employ the Older Worker Week – recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce.

September 18th – Chili Cook Off @ Cabela's.

September 19th – Honor Guard participating in up to 7 veteran service at Washington State Cemetery.

September 23rd – 25th – National Americanism Conference (baseball, Boys State, Oratorical, chaplains, Girls State.

September 25th – Gold Star Mother's Day (last Sunday in September) – honors those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the US Armed Forces.

September 28th – Post Membership Meeting @ 6 pm.

September 30th – Flapjack Fundraiser for Post 154. See page 11 for details.

October 7th – Inland Northwest Honor Flight Fundraiser. See page 12 for details.

October 7th & 8th, 14th & 15th & 21st – Post 154 Pumpkin Patch sales. See page 13 for details.

October 21st – Post 154 Fall Festival. See page 13 for details.

Bits & Pieces

- In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the beginning of WWII, Museum of North Idaho, in CDA is featuring an exhibit The Military and Community which explores the influence of the military in our region. Since North Idaho was the home of Fort Sherman and Farragut Naval Training Station, the military had a direct impact on the social and economic development of the area. The exhibit will run April thru Oct 31st. Go to museumni.org for more info.
- Peaceful Warriors....a free ranch retreat for women veterans...Sep 28-Oct 2, Wolf Springs Ranch, St Maries, ID www.lifeskillsranchprogram.org
- Are your outdated American Legion magazines stacked in a corner gathering dust? Let's add them to the Post "library". We need January 2015, August through December 2015...April through December 2016...and all of 2017. Please bring them to one of the meetings. Thank you!
- Denise Rohan elected 2017-2018 American Legion National Commander – the first female Commander of The American Legion. See her address here: <https://goo.gl/8QWL74>

Fellow Legionnaires:

Our membership now stands at 82 Post members. Out of these only 15-20 regularly attend the meetings each month. They are the same members who volunteer for our projects to raise funds to assist veterans in our community. There are many members who have not attended any meetings. We need your help!!!

There are several projects coming up in the next two months. On Saturday, September 30th, a Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast will be held at Applebee's Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene from 9:00-11:00 AM. Tickets are \$10.00 of which the Post will get \$5.00 per ticket. Please call me Bill Kinder-208-661-6850 for tickets. This is a very large fundraiser and we do need your help. We invite all to attend and support our Legion Post. Tickets will be available at the door but pre-sales give Applebee's an idea of how many people to plan for. These sales must be completed by the 13th. If you can help by buying or selling tickets, please contact me or Bryan Bledsoe at 509-990-6739.

Another important event is our Pumpkin Patch located on Hwy 53. Like any garden, weeds grow and need to be pulled. If you can donate even 2 hours for this endeavor each week call: Bill Kinder at 208-661-6850. We will be selling pumpkins on the following weekends; Oct 7th & 8th, and 14th & 15th from 11-4 pm. On Saturday, October 21st we will have a Fall Festival at the Pumpkin Patch with games for the kids from 11-4 pm. This is the only pumpkin patch in our area of North Idaho. Again, we need the help of our members to sell pumpkins and to man the children's game booths. Thank you. - Bill Kinder, Sergeant-at-Arms

1ST ANNUAL VETERANS RUN

PRESENTED BY



FOUNDATION
FITNESS



REGISTER AT ACTIVE.COM OR CALL 208.660.9378

10K • 5K • 1 MI. | 9.10.17 | 9:00AM

STRENGTH. SKILLS. SUPPORT.



**They fought for you, now
Save the Date – for them.**



Silent & Live Auction
September 13th, 2017 at 5:30 pm
Coeur d'Alene Resort

Benefitting Fitness Programs for our local Veterans through powerful practices that change physiology and give empowerment to heal past wounds, creating a more embodied, joyful life.

For more information call Pat Wardian (208) 691-4378 or Lauren Ketner





You and your family are invited to the Summer Picnic, September 17

**1:00—4:00 p.m. at Rathdrum City Park.
(Corner of Hwy 53 & Latah Street)**

The Post is providing: Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, coffee, plates, napkins & plastic ware.

Please bring a side dish to share such as: Potato salad, Jell-O salad, fruit salad, dessert, deviled eggs, beans or whatever your specialty dish is.

Please RSVP by September 8th & any questions to John or Sue Fevold at

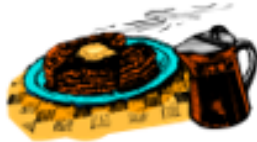
**208-916-5148, 208-916-5149 or
schoolmarm66@hotmail.com**



Please remember to RSVP by September 8th!

**American Legion
Post 154
Rathdrum, Idaho**

**Flapjack
Fundraiser**



**Saturday
September 30, 2017
9 - 11 A.M.**

**at Applebee's 
280 W. Hanley Ave.,
in Coeur d'Alene.**

**Menu: Scrambled eggs, Pancakes,
sausage,
orange juice or coffee.**

Tickets are \$10 each

**To purchase tickets in advance, call
Bill Kinder (208) 661-6850
wakinder@roadrunner.com or thru the
American Legion Post 154
email: rathdrum154@gmail.com**

****Tickets will also be available
at the door. Cash or check.
Sorry, NO credit cards****

Sixth Annual
Inland Northwest Honor Flight
Fundraiser

Saturday, October 7, 2017
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.



Spokane Convention Center
334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Tickets: \$65 each

To make your reservation, donate,
or become a sponsor, go to:
www.blacktie-northwest.com and
enter **Event Code INHF2017**.

Our fundraiser helps send our veterans, free of charge, to Washington, D.C., to thank them for their service and to visit the memorials erected in their honor.

Inland Northwest Honor Flight is a 501(c)(3) organization.

www.inwhonorflight.org

The next scheduled Honor Flight to our nation's capital will leave Spokane on October 23rd and return on October 24th. Any man or woman serving on active duty anywhere or anytime during the following dates is a veteran of the war/conflict. Priority is given to veterans of earlier war/conflicts and to any terminally ill veterans.

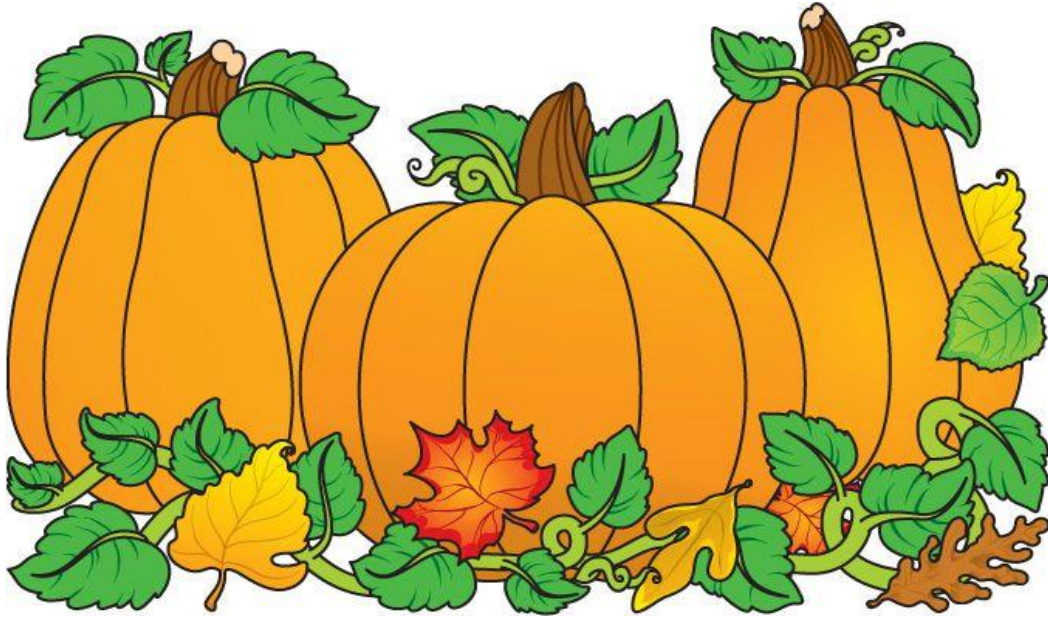
Korean War: June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

Vietnam War: February 28, 1961-May 7, 1975

Lebanon/Grenada: August 24, 1982-July 31, 1984

Panama: December 20, 1989-January 31, 1990

If you are interested in going on a trip to Washington DC, or would like to go as a guardian, follow this link to the applications page: <http://www.inwhonorflight.org/applications/> Note that there is usually a waiting list for each flight, so it's important to get your application in early.



Rathdrum

*American Legion Post 154
Pumpkin Patch*

Pumpkins on sale October 7th & 8th, 14th & 15th and 21st from 11 – 4 pm on the corner of Highway 53 and Ramsey Road in Rathdrum. A Fall Festival with fun and games for the kids will be held on the 21st from 11 – 4 pm. Come to the only pumpkin patch in our neck of the woods and join in the fun!

