



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho

Newsletter

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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:

Summer greetings to the Manuel Schneidmiller American Legion Post 154 Family. May this letter find you and yours healthy and safe.

For God and country, we associate together for the following purposes.... These last couple of months have been difficult for Post 154 and Covid19 outbreaks and requirements have made it difficult for us to conduct normal business. We did not have an in-person executive committee meeting in July and did not have a general membership meeting. Again, for this month we will be having our executive committee meeting using Zoom and we will see what the numbers are before we have the August general membership meeting in person. I feel that as time drags on, we are unable to assist our American Legion family. Please, if you know of someone who is in need please contact us and we will see what we can do. We will be conducting another Buddy Check to reach out and see how everyone is doing. If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Bill Kinder.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our annual summer picnic. I wish to thank John and Sue Fevold for their dedication to this great event and will look forward to next summer's picnic. Also, I want to thank Rich Hannah for all his assistance with our technology issues and keeping us up to date on how the wild world of IT works. Without him we would not be able to do the work of our post.

If you have concerns about coming to the meeting, we are open to any ideas as to how we can have you participate. Maybe by Zoom or by being on the phone.

Please stay safe and Healthy - Dee Sasse, Commander



Finance Officer:

During the month of July, the Post sold a number of flags to the City of Rathdrum not only reducing the City's cost of the flags but making a small profit for the Post. The Honor Guard received one donation from the family of a Veteran for whom they provided military honors. The majority of income and expense was to process membership renewals for members. Thank you Bill Kinder, Helen Kinder and Bryan Bledsoe for the great job you are doing on processing member renewals. Our Post consistently leads in this important process both within our District but also in the State.

Our inability to have member meetings has reduced our normal donations to the Veterans Home and to the Boys and Girls State programs. If you feel called to make a small donation to these important programs, please make your check out to the Post with a note telling me how to apply the funds, and send those donations to Len Crosby, Finance Officer, 1209 S. Riverside Harbor Drive, Post Falls, ID 83854. – Len Crosby, Finance Officer



Legislative Chairman:

TRICARE Select Enrollment Fees Beginning 2021: Starting in 2021, some military retirees will have enrollment fees for the first time. This group includes those using TRICARE Select, who are under 65 years old, and who joined the military before 2018. The monthly fee for an individual is \$12.50 and \$25 for a family. Defense health officials stated these veterans will receive communication from their regional contractors with instructions on how to set up payments. It is important to note that failure to pay will mean loss of coverage until the following open enrollment period.

Idaho Approves "Veteran" Designation on state Driver's Licenses: Veterans who present valid documentation showing proof of an honorable discharge from military service will be provided with a "Veteran" designation on their Idaho Driver's license or state-issued identification card. There is no charge to add the veteran designation to a new or renewed Idaho driver's license or ID card. There is a \$15 duplication card fee to add the Veteran designation at any other time.

You can now access your DD-214 online: DD-214 documents are now online. The National Personnel Records Center has provided a website for Veterans to access their DD-214:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. This may be particularly helpful when a Veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. Military Veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request service documents. Other individuals with a need for such documents must still complete Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the website.

Proposed amendment to Senate Bill 4049: The Senate will vote on an amendment (#1972) to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA - S. 4049) that would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange. The amendment would add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, hypertension, and Parkinson's-like symptoms to the list of veterans' diseases (cont. below)

Legislative...

associated with Agent Orange. The amendment mirrors the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020 (S. 3444)

The amendment has 40 cosponsors, showing interest for inclusion in this year's NDAA. Votes are planned when the Senate returns from recess July 20, but there is limited time to gain the support required to get the provision passed in the chamber. The amendment making the short list is a promising sign, but it does not guarantee inclusion.

If passed by the Senate and adopted in the final version of the NDAA, tens of thousands of veterans suffering from these conditions would be able to service-connect their illnesses to their service in Vietnam.

Please contact your Senator and ask they support NDAA amendment (#1972) that expands the list of service-connected presumptions under the Agent Orange statute to include Bladder cancer, Hypothyroidism, hypertension, and Parkinsonism.

COVID-19 Antibody Testing Available with Blood Donations: For a limited time, the American Red Cross will provide free COVID-19 antibody testing for all blood, platelet, and plasma donations. The antibody test is intended to determine whether your immune system has responded to the COVID-19 infection, not to diagnose illness. The Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood to help maintain a sufficient supply for those battling COVID-19, other infections, and trauma victims. Please schedule an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor app, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), or calling 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767)

Who's Got YOUR 6??

2020 has been a hell of a year, and we are only halfway through it!

It is important that we all take the time to connect with each other and to be able to rely on each other in times of need. In Vietnam, when you left the perimeter and "went outside the wire" on patrol, you knew that your team members would watch out for each other and that you could rely on them.

As Legionnaires we can still count on each other and to trust our brothers and sisters to have our "6". Look to the members of our Post to be there when you need us and call on us when you need assistance or help. - Len Crosby, Legislative Chairman





We have started our renewal drive with a bang! As of July 22, our paid membership is at 39 for 2021, plus one new transfer into the post. This places us at 30% of our goal. With our total membership at 132. Let's keep it up.

Once again, I highly recommend your use of the On-Line Renewal feature. It's fast and easy. Go to legion.org, click [renewals](#). Make sure you have your ID card and credit card available for this transaction. Take an extra minute and go to Mylegion.org and sign up for this section. Some interesting items to view.

**New
Members**
W · E · L · C · O · M · E

With the passage of the Legion Act in July 2019, membership has opened for many veterans previously not eligible. The Act basically states that any veteran that has served at least one day on Federal active duty since December 7, 1941 is eligible to join The American Legion. I am asking each Post 154 member to recruit at least one new member between now and December 31, 2020. In early August, I will be sending out emails to those on my Post contact list with an attachment containing a Post 154 Application Form, for your use in getting new members to sign up. The only other item you will need to pick up is a copy of their DD-214. (Required by Congress) That's it!

There are awards given by National for your recruiting efforts. The most common is the National Commanders Incentive pin given to those who recruit at least three new members. Recruits cannot have been members in 2020. Give it a try and see what happens.

Remember, there are many people who do not know there is an American Legion post in Rathdrum. Nor do they know what we do! Be informed so you can inform. - Bill Kinder, 1st Vice-Commander, Membership Chairman



Graves & Registration Chairman

Veterans Cemetery to receive \$3.5 million for expansion

Grant will help rebuild burial sites

By Samone Blair

FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded nearly \$3.5 million in new funding Thursday for the expansion of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake.

The funding is part of the VA Veterans Cemetery Grants Program and will finance the construction of nearly 2,500 more burial sites, memorial walls, landscaping and related infrastructure.

“This is welcome news, with the priority being adding additional vaults as soon as possible,” said Rudy Lopez, Cemetery Director of the Washington State Veterans Cemetery. “It was necessary for us to be able to receive this grant before we run

out and exhaust the capacity in the vaults, to be able to extend the life of the cemetery.”

Lopez said the cemetery’s vaults, which are pre-placed crypts, would’ve reached capacity in approximately a year without funding for the expansion.

“This expansion will ensure thousands of Veterans and family members can continue having peace of mind knowing they will have a burial option close to home,” said Randy Reeves, under-secretary for memorial affairs, in a statement. “The Veterans Cemetery Grants Program allows the Department of Veterans Affairs to partner with the states to offer our Veterans increased accessibility to the burial benefit they’ve earned – not just in Washington, but across our great Nation.”

The cemetery, which is one of 143 VA national cemeteries, opened in June 2010. The initial \$8.8 million development of the cemetery was funded by the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Cemetery Administration. The cemetery underwent a \$2.3 million expansion in 2018 to add over 3,500 columbarium niches, which are single compartments that hold cremains, and fencing.

According to Lopez, approximately 6,000 veterans have been interred since the cemetery’s opening. He explained the cemetery is continuously growing to fit the need in Eastern Washington.

“We have the property to be able to extend the life of this cemetery for about 90 years,” said Lopez. “So every two to three years, we’ll go and secure more funding to expand, based on our need.”

According to the VA, the expansion will allow the cemetery to serve approximately 55,780 veterans and their eligible family members. Lopez and others say expanding the cemetery is a benefit to Eastern Washington.

“Anyone who has visited knows how beautiful, humbling, and special the cemetery is,” said Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, a Republican, in a statement. “Thank you to Secretary Robert Wilkie and the Department of Veterans Affairs for supporting our community, our veterans, and their families.”

In addition to receiving grants from the VA, the cemetery also receives funding from the sale of armed forces license plates across the state. In 2019, proceeds from the license plates provided \$546,000 to the cemetery for its operations and maintenance expenses.

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Submitted by Helen Kinder, Graves & Registration Chairman



Chaplain's Pew:

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.

The author of this beautiful prayer is unknown except to the Lord.

Submitted by Helen Kinder, Chaplain



Gaps in federal oversight add to virus woes at veteran homes

WASHINGTON — Big gaps in federal oversight of long-term care facilities for aging veterans may have contributed to rampant coronavirus infections and more than 200 deaths at state-run homes, according to a congressional watchdog agency.

The Government Accountability Office found the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs failed for years to require robust inspections at over 150 state run veterans homes nationwide and to make sure all deficiencies were rectified, even as it regularly doled out federal dollars for the care.

That could have made a bad situation worse in places like the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts, one of 50 veterans' homes nationwide where the VA is the only federal agency monitoring it, according to GAO. A recent investigation conducted for the state of Massachusetts found the superintendent there was not qualified to run a long-term care facility, and that officials with a state agency were aware of his "shortcomings," but failed to do enough about it.

By law, the VA is barred from making federal payments until facilities meet standards of quality care. The "VA needs to continue to strengthen its oversight," Sharon Silas, director of health care at GAO, told a House panel Wednesday. Her team is conducting a wider investigation of the VA's oversight into the facilities in light of surging coronavirus deaths.

From wire reports

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Service Officer:

...and now it's August. I don't even know what to say. So let's just move on....

The July Bulletin from the Idaho Division of Veteran Services is now online, so check it out... lots of good stuff. If you have a VA appeal pending (via video conference hearing), see pages 3 - 4 of this bulletin.

There have been many different changes that have been released by the VA since the COVID-19 situation began. The VA has pulled all Disability Benefit Questionnaires (DBQs) off the VA websites. The DBQs used to allow veterans to take the blank exam to their own doctors and have them complete the exams for them. In theory, once the completed DBQ was submitted with the disability claim, a rating decision could be made much sooner, but a recent VA Office of the Inspector General Report found that there was fraud being committed by some doctors who were completing the DBQ. The VA also ended the 48-hour Service Officer Review Period of Rating Decisions that had been in effect since 1956. The VA had determined that with the various options under the Appeals Modernization Act, the 48-Hour review period was no longer needed. As of June 22, 2020, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education (VR&E) has changed their name to Veterans Readiness and Employment Service. They still conduct the same mission, but as of June 30th, the VA.gov website is replacing the eBenefits.va.gov website.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launching of a digital COVID-19 screening tool to streamline veteran access to medical care during the coronavirus pandemic. The tool, designed with veteran and staff input, enables the screening of more than 10,000 people each day.

Veterans, their caregivers, and VA health care employees can use this tool on their mobile phones before entering facilities. It takes less than a minute to complete and helps reduce wait times, lowers exposure risk, and eases patient stress. It also helps veterans gain confidence with increased digital interactions as part of their VA health care experience. "This screening tool emphasizes the ongoing importance of VA's investment in digital modernization, as it went from initial concept to national availability in less than two weeks," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "In addition to providing a broad range of innovations and improvements that significantly benefit the veterans we serve; our culture of innovation allows us to respond quickly to urgent and evolving needs."

To protect patients and staff, the VA screens everyone for coronavirus symptoms and exposure each time they enter a health facility. VA staff uses the information received to direct people to either enter the building or go to a designated area for additional screening. Veterans, caregivers, and staff can use the tool by texting the word "SCREEN" to 53079 or scan a dedicated QR code with their mobile phone to get a link to the tool. They then answer a series of simple questions and share their results at the VA facility entrance.

NOTE: For anyone currently serving in the National Guard or the Reserves and has a VA disability rating, the VA is currently working on Fiscal Year 2019 Drill Pay recoupment. The VA's Debt Management Center has suspended collecting debts owed to the VA during the COVID-19 crisis. - Ruth Aresvik, Service Officer



New Post Members:

Nicholas Craft a former Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, recently moved to the Hayden area. He transferred his American Legion Membership to Rathdrum Post 154. We want to give him a big welcome from everyone at Post 154. Nicholas is 29 years old. Yeah, a mere youngster. Nicholas has started a new business called Craft Tree Care. If you are in need of any kind of tree services give Nick a call and be sure to tell him you are a veteran and a member of our Post. Nick and his wife Nici recently happily found out they are expecting their first baby. Congratulations to you both. Nick said he and his wife both want to be active in the Post and volunteer wherever needed. Thank you Nick and Nici Craft. Welcome to Post 154.



Did you know...?

If you have VA co-pays, the VA is no longer sending out monthly statements. Those will resume, apparently, in 2021. Your co-pays will accumulate until then and you will be expected to pay them in full at that time. Or, you can contact the Billing & Co-Pay department at Spokane VAMC through Secure Messaging on MyHealthVet each month to find out what your current balance is and pay it monthly as usual. They can also be reached by phone here: Health Resource Center 7 am - 7 pm central time, Monday thru Friday at (866)-290-4618.



Perfect activity for social distancing! Hehehe....



Misadventures of Mask Making

Like most of you, I'm finding it responsible and necessary to wear a face covering when out and about. I have a few disposable units - the basic black and/or light blue. Nothing fashionable. Quite boring. So with all this free time at home, it only makes sense to haul out the sewing machine and make a few masks. This is my story.

Let me start by saying that sewing is not one of my skills. I also lack a good deal of patience when it comes to this type of task. In high school Home Economics, I took any short cut I could manage...a raw hem, no interfacing. Forget stay stitching. My teacher was not impressed. So, it's pretty much a miracle that I even made the decision to do this. But I am a military veteran and I had made up my mind. From sea to shining sea, I was determined. I can do this.

I rummaged through my fabric. All two pieces. Now some ladies are graced with sewing passion and talent. Ask Paula Atwood. Or well-organized beautiful stacks of fat quarters and color coordinated cottons and threads in an entire ROOM. Ask Char Carstensen. Me? I have one tote bag. An old flower-power bag from the 70's with my maiden name written on the inside. And two bits of fabric, probably leftover from making a pillow cover. With a raw hem.

I pull out the fabric - a small checkered green, and a bright yellow/black with a slight cross design. My sewing machine is on the table, threaded and ready to go. It's black thread so I'm good. It could have been neon green and I would have been good. It really doesn't matter. I lay out the fabric and cut out two rectangles. And I start to sew. Mistake #1: I realize I'm sewing the "wrong" sides together. So when I turn it inside out - or RIGHT side out, it's going to be on the WRONG side (I already have a headache). Plus, I didn't even leave any room to turn it inside OUT. I basically sewed all around the rectangle. Sigh. So I cut out another piece and proceed to do it correctly. I'm on the second mask and ready to iron them out. But I can't find the first piece. I look over and see Sailor (my dog) chomping and chewing on my half-made mask. Great. I cut out another piece and continue. I dig around into my little sewing basket assuming I have some elastic. Why would I assume that? I rarely sew. Is this mistake #2? I think I'm on #3 now. Anyway, I don't have any elastic. But I have a lot of elastic hair bands, so I take two and cut them in half, thus having four which means two for each mask, i.e. one on each ear. I'm sorry but I had to think it out this way.

I make the appropriate pleats and sew - making sure the band is secure. I'm about two inches away from completion. And run out of bobbin thread. This has happened too many times in the past, and I lose patience and become quite verbally abusive to BW. Doesn't everyone have a name for their sewing machine? Mine is Bitching Whore. I apologize, but it is what it is. SIDEBAR: BW obtained her name many years ago when I was sewing something, ran out of bobbin thread with inches to go, and went into a fit of rage. The window in my "sewing room" was wide open as I screamed "YOU B... W...!" Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a neighbor lady passing the house walking her dog and she glanced up with horror on her face. All was explained days later when I saw her again. No harm, no foul. (

Finally, I've completed the masks. I try one on. And my ears stick out like Prince Charles. Like Mickey Mouse. I dare not continue this effort. For one thing, I don't think I have enough wine in my house. Sigh. I shove everything back into my flower power tote and store BW in the dark closet where she belongs. I have sent an email request to my five sisters, who all possess sewing talent, to have pity on my poor pathetic face. Please make and send masks. If possible, I'd like something in red/white/blue. Maybe a battleship because I'm Navy, of course. Fabric showing a variety of sauvignon blanc would be nice. Or a warrior in a loincloth. I'm just sayin'.... I truly hope all of you are healthy and surviving during these strange times. I hope everyone has a sufficient supply of masks to wage this war. But if you don't...please don't ask me to make you any.... – Submitted by Ruth Aresvik

Training Officer:

Mission

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.



Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. American Legion Baseball is one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs, educating young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship and fitness. The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Here is a 12-minute video entitled *To Strengthen Our Nation: Prelude*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfpz6PpJYV4&list=PLHMR9MmnivfNhSkkWYIBiLM7rNFq8sehZ&index=10>

Submitted by Jean Bledsoe, Training Officer

94% of Vets at VA Don't Qualify for Dental Care - Congress is Considering a Change

As reported July 23 by Abbie Bennett for Connectingvets.com, about 534,000 veterans qualify for dental care from the VA. But that leaves about 94 percent of veterans without dental care from VA. Members of Congress want to change that, but VA leaders objected, arguing the department doesn't have the capacity, staff, or money to provide more dental care, which they said could cost tens of billions. Rep. Julia Brownley, D-Calif., introduced a bill, H.R. 96, which would require VA to furnish dental care to eligible veterans like any other medical care.



[Read More...](#)

A previous VA report also showed that providing dental services "could result in a reduction of overall medical costs," Brownley said. That report noted that neglecting oral health can contribute to health problems, cardiovascular diseases, some cancers, and other health concerns.



Post 154 Honor Guard:

For those of you not aware, our Post has an Honor Guard. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. Starting this month there will be an account of the honors and hours given by the men and women in our Honor Guard. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Harold Markiewitz at 208-691-3039.

10-Jul	St Thomas	7 Honor Guard Members
14-Jul	Wash State Veterans Cemetery	3 Honor Guard Members
15-Jul	Mary Immaculate Queen	2 Honor Guard Members
18-Jul	Post 143 Ceremony	9 Honor Guard Members

A few days after the July 18th ceremony, a member of our Honor Guard was hospitalized with covid-19 and pneumonia. The remaining 8 members were exposed and forced to get tested and self-quarantine. That effectively side-lined the Post Honor Guard for the rest of July. Thankfully our member has returned home and is recuperating there.

Mark Your Calendar:

Due to the coronavirus, there is not much going on these days. Watch our website and your email for cancellations and postponements. The decision regarding the next membership meeting will be made at the executive committee meeting. Note the annual Post Picnic has been cancelled.

August 4th – Coast Guard Birthday

August 7th – Purple Heart Day

August 13th – Virtual Executive Committee Meeting

August 14th – V-J Day

August 21st – Senior Citizens Day

August 22nd – Post 154 Picnic has been CANCELLED!

August 26th – National Women's Equality Day

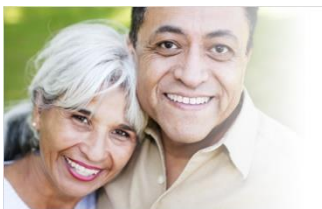
August 27th – Unconfirmed General Membership Meeting



Bits & Pieces

- Things to do at home:
 - U.S. MARINE BAND
[It's the 222th Anniversary of the U.S. Marine Band. Watch one of their weekly live performances or replays here.](#)
 - STRESS RELIEF
[Feeling stressed during these uncertain times? Try this accupressure video for a bit of relief.](#)
 - NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY
[July 19 is National Ice Cream Day! Try making some at home. Add in berries, brownie bits or coconut for a treat.](#)
- 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:



A bit different *Healthier You* this month. Do you know about the VA video library? There are approximately 235 videos covering 13 topics ranging from cardiovascular, respiratory & cancer to wellness, diabetes & orthopedics. A tremendous amount of information presented in an easily understood format. Here is the link to the library: <https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/Resources/VideoLibrary/?e=0#landing>



Thanks to all who sent a birthday greeting to Catherine Chapman, who recently turned 100 years old. She is a resident at St. Joseph Manor in Meadowbrook, PA. Three years after graduating from high school in 1940, Chapman enlisted in the Navy WAVES. She served as a pharmacist's mate at San Diego Naval Hospital, tending to sailors and marines who were wounded in the Pacific Theater. Chapman still has vivid memories of the day World War II ended in August 1945. "All hell broke loose" is how she describes the scene in San Diego — an experience Chapman almost missed as she was on duty back at the base at

the time. But an officer who felt sorry for her took her on an ambulance call into the city. "And the ambulance could hardly get through the traffic because the streets were jammed with people. I don't know where they all came from. We had to just crawl through all the people," she said. Chapman was saluted for her service Thursday by state Rep. Tom Murt, Congresswoman Madeleine Dean and a member of the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

Ms. Chapman was very excited to receive the cards, and her family was very appreciative because Catherine, like so many others in these facilities, has been quite isolated these last few months. Birthday greetings started arriving several days before her birthday and she was so surprised that so many people who did not know her would write, and that there were so many WAVES still around.



Submitted by Ruth Aresvik via WRTC Bainbridge Facebook Group



Yay!!



Military History Anniversaries 1 thru 15 August

Events in History over the next 15-day period that had U.S. military involvement or impacted in some way on U.S military operations or American interests

Aug 01 1801 – Tripolitan War: The schooner USS Enterprise defeated the 14-gun Tripolitan corsair Tripoli after a fierce but one-sided battle.

Aug 01 1907 – Air Force Day: The Aeronautical Division in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army was established.

Aug 01 1942 – WW2: Ensign Henry C. White, while flying a J4F Widgeon plane, sinks U-166 as it approaches the Mississippi River, the first U-boat sunk by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Aug 01 1950 – Korean War: Lead elements of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division arrive in country from the U.S in defense of Pusan/Naktong Perimeter.

Aug 01 1957 – The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

Aug 02 1943 – WW2: Motor Torpedo Boat PT-109 is rammed by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri and sinks. Lt. John F. Kennedy, future U.S. President, saves all but two of his crew.



LTJG Kennedy (standing at right) on PT-109 in 1943

Aug 02 1964 – Vietnam War: Gulf of Tonkin incident – North Vietnamese gunboats allegedly fire on the U.S. destroyers USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy.

Aug 02 1990 – Iraq: Iraq invades Kuwait initiating Operation Desert Shield which became Desert Storm on 17 JAN 91 when it became clear he would not leave.

Aug 03 1958 – Cold War: The first nuclear submarine USS Nautilus passes under the North Pole.

Aug 04 1790 – Coast Guard: The Revenue Cutter Service, forerunner of the COAST GUARD was established by Alexander Hamilton.

Aug 04 1873 –Indian Wars: whilst protecting a railroad survey party in Montana, the United States 7th Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer clashes for the first time with the Sioux near the Tongue River; only one man on each side is killed.

Aug 04 1914 WWI: Germany invades Belgium. In response, the United Kingdom declares war on Germany. The United States declare their neutrality.

Aug 04 1952 – Korean War: Battle for Old Baldy (Hill 266) which commenced on 26 JUN ends.

Aug 04 1964 – Vietnam: Gulf of Tonkin Incident .The USS Maddox and Turner Joy exchange fire with North Vietnamese patrol boats. As a result Congress authorizes the use of military force in Southeast Asia

Aug 04 1969 – Vietnam: At the apartment of French intermediary Jean Sainteny in Paris, American representative Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese representative Xuan Thuy begin secret peace negotiations. The negotiations will eventually fail.

Aug 04 1992 – WWII: Yōhei Kōno, Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, issued a formal apology for forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.

Aug 05 1861 – Civil War: Congress adopts the nation's first income tax to finance the Civil War.

Aug 05 1864 – Civil War: Admiral David Farragut, USN, exclaiming "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead," ran through a Confederate minefield at Mobile Bay, Alabama, and captured a defending group of Confederate ships.

Aug 05 1951 – Korean War: The United Nations Command suspends armistice talks with the North Koreans when armed troops are spotted in neutral areas.

Aug 05 1995 – Operation Storm begins in Croatia.

Aug 06 1777 – American Revolution: The bloody Battle of Oriskany prevents American relief of the Siege of Fort Stanwix. Casualties and losses: US 465 - GB & Indians 93.

Aug 06 1862 – Civil War: the Confederate ironclad CSS Arkansas is scuttled on the Mississippi River after sustaining damage in a battle with USS Essex near Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Aug 06 1914 - WWI: First Battle of the Atlantic - two days after the United Kingdom had declared war on Germany over the German invasion of Belgium, ten German U-boats leave their base in Heligoland to attack Royal Navy warships in the North Sea.

Aug 06 1945 – WWII: Hiroshima is devastated when the atomic bomb "Little Boy" is dropped by the United States B-29 Enola Gay. Around 70,000 people are killed instantly, and some tens of thousands die in subsequent years from burns and radiation poisoning.



Little Boy Atomic Bomb and her deliverer Enola Gay today at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

Aug 06 1945 – WWII: USS Bullhead (SS-332) missing. Most likely sunk by Japanese Army aircraft (73rd Chutai) off Bali in the Java Sea. 84 killed.

Aug 06 1990 – Gulf War: The United Nations Security Council orders a global trade embargo against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Aug 07 1782 – American Revolution: Purple Heart day. General George Washington authorizes the award of the Purple Heart for soldiers as an award for military merit. Only 3 were given. As we know it today it was reestablished in 1932 to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

Aug 07 1789 – The United States War Department is established.

Aug 07 1791 Northwest Indian War: United States troops destroy the Miami town of Kenapacomaqua near the site of present-day Logansport, Indiana. Casualties and losses: Indians 43 - US 3.

Aug 07 1794 – U.S. President George Washington invokes the Militia Law of 1792 to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania.

Aug 07 1942 – WW2: The U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. First American amphibious landing of the war.

Aug 07 1964 – Vietnam: Congress overwhelmingly passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, allowing the president to use unlimited military force to prevent attacks on U.S. forces.

Aug 08 1918 – WWI: Hundred Days Offensive - Battle of Amiens begins a string of almost continuous victories with a push through the German front lines. Casualties and losses: Allies 1,070,000 of which 127,000 were US - Ger & Aus-Hung 1,172,075

Aug 08 1942 – WW2: U.S. Marines capture the Japanese airstrip on Guadalcanal.

Aug 08 1944 – WW2: U.S. forces complete the capture of the Marianas Islands.

Aug 08 1950 – Korean War: U.S. troops repel the first North Korean attempt to overrun them at the battle of Naktong Bulge, which continued for 10 days. Casualties and losses: US 1,800 - NKA 3,500.

Aug 08 1990 – Gulf War: Iraq occupies Kuwait and the state is annexed to Iraq. This would lead to the Gulf War shortly afterward.

Aug 08 2000 – Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley is raised to the surface after 136 years on the ocean floor and 30 years after its discovery.

Aug 09 1862 – Civil War: Battle of Cedar Mountain – At Cedar Mountain, Virginia, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson narrowly defeats Union forces under General John Pope. Casualties and losses: US 2,353 - CSA 1,338.

Aug 09 1877 – Indian Wars: Battle of Big Hole - A small band of Nez Percé Indians clash with the United States Army. Casualties and losses: US 69 - Indians 70 to 90 killed.

Aug 09 1942 – WW2: Battle of Savo Island - Allied naval forces protecting their amphibious forces during the initial stages of the Battle of Guadalcanal are surprised and defeated by an Imperial Japanese Navy cruiser force. Casualties and losses: US & AUS 1,077 - JP 58.

Aug 09 1945 – WW2: The B-29 bomber Bock's Car drops a second atomic bomb (Fat Man) on Nagasaki, Japan killing 39,000 people. It was this second atomic bomb that induced the Japanese to surrender.



Aug 10 1861 – Civil War: Battle of Wilson's Creek – The war enters Missouri when a band of raw Confederate troops defeat Union forces in the southwestern part of the state. Casualties and losses: US 1,317 - CSA 1,232

Aug 10 1944 – WW2: American forces defeat the last Japanese troops on Guam.

Aug 10 1950 – Korean War: President Harry S. Truman calls the National Guard to active duty to fight in the War.

Aug 10 1961 – Vietnam: First use of the Agent Orange by the U.S. Army.

Aug 11 1972 – Vietnam: The last U.S. ground forces withdraw from Vietnam.

Aug 12 1898 – Spanish American War: Conflict officially ends after three months and 22 days of hostilities.

Aug 12 1948 USS Nevada (BB-36) is struck from the naval record.

Aug 12 1950 – Korean War: Bloody Gulch massacre - 75 American POWs are murdered by North Korean Army.

Aug 12 1952 – Korean War: The 4 day Battle of Bunker Hill (Hill 122) began. First Major Marine Combat in Western Korean

Aug 12 1969 – Vietnam: American installations at Quan-Loi come under Viet Cong attack.

Aug 13 1779 – American Revolution: Penobscot Expedition - United States' worst naval defeat prior to Pearl Harbor. Casualties and losses: GB 86 – US 474 + all ships (43) lost

Aug 13 1898 – Spanish-American War: Spanish and American forces engaged in a mock battle for Manila, after which the Spanish commander surrendered in order to keep the city out of Filipino rebel hands.

Aug 13 1906 – The all black infantrymen of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Regiment are accused of killing a white bartender and wounding a white police officer in Brownsville, Texas, despite exculpatory evidence; all are later dishonorably discharged.

Aug 13 1918 – Women enlist in the United States Marine Corps for the first time. Opha Mae Johnson is the first woman to enlist.

Aug 13 1942 – WW2: Major General Eugene Reybold of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorizes the construction of facilities that would house the "Development of Substitute Materials" project, better known as the Manhattan Project.



Oak Ridge K-25 plant, Hanford B Reactor, and S-50 Plant

Aug 13 1944 – WW2: USS Flier (SS-250) sunk by a Japanese mine south of Palawan in Balabac Strait. 78 killed, 8 survived and were rescued.

Aug 14 1842 – Indian Wars: Second Seminole War ends, with the Seminoles forced from Florida to Oklahoma. Casualties and losses: US 1,600 military, civilians UNK – Seminoles UNK



Osceola, Seminole leader

Aug 14 1912 – United States Marines invade Nicaragua to support the U.S.-backed government installed there after José Santos Zelaya had resigned three years earlier.

Aug 14 1941 – WW2: Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt sign the Atlantic Charter of war stating postwar aims.

Aug 14 1945 – WW2: Japan accepts the Allied terms of surrender in WW2 and the Emperor records the Imperial Rescript on Surrender (August 15 in Japan standard time).

Aug 14 1965 – Vietnam: Advance units of the Seventh Marines land at Chu Lai, bringing U.S. Marine strength in South Vietnam to four regiments and four air groups.

Aug 14 1973 – Vietnam: The United States ends the "secret" bombing of Cambodia.

Aug 14 2013 – National Navajo Code Talkers Day

Aug 15 1812 – War of 1812: The 15 minute Battle of Fort Dearborn is fought between United States troops and Potawatomi at what is now Chicago, Illinois. US Militia defeated and taken prisoner. Casualties and losses: Indians 15 - US 93.

Aug 15 1942 – WW2: Operation Pedestal - The SS Ohio reaches the island of Malta barely afloat carrying vital fuel supplies for the island's defenses.

Aug 15 1942 – WW2: The Japanese submarine I-25 departs Japan with a floatplane in its hold which will be assembled upon arriving off the West Coast and used to bomb U.S. forests.

Aug 15 1943 – WW2: Kiska Island, Aleutians - An invasion force of 34,426 Canadian and American troops landed on Kiska to find it abandoned. Under the cover of fog, the Japanese had successfully removed their troops on 28 July. Allied casualties nevertheless numbered 313 as the result of friendly fire, booby traps, disease, or frostbite. As with Attu, Kiska offered an extremely hostile environment.



US military propaganda poster from 1942/43 for Thirteenth Naval District

Aug 15 1944 – WW2: Operation Dragoon - Allied forces land in southern France.

Aug 15 1945 – WW2: Japan surrenders to end the war.

Aug 15 1950 – Korean War: Two U.S. divisions are badly mauled by the North Korean Army in the 5 day Battle of the Bowling Alley in South Korea.

Aug 15 1973 – Vietnam: The United States bombing of Cambodia ends.

[Source: Various Jul 2015 ++]

Submitted by Dee Sasse, Commander

