

EDITOR CINDY NESS

c.ness75@gmail.com

April 2021

PO BOX 568 - 106 S. MAIN STREET, KITTITAS, WA – 509-968-4004

VOLUME MMXXI ISSUE 3

WEB SITE: www.vfw683.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/VfwPost683



Next Business Meeting Tuesday, April 6 th, 2021 @7:00 PM



Kelleher Motor Company

"Our family serving your family since 1911"



Gatherings of WWII vets and public recognition are a yearly event that have taken on more importance in the past few years at Kelleher Motors in Ellensburg. Kelleher's have a long history of serving in the military. Ford Motor Company has a proud history of supporting the military, dating as far back as 1919, when Henry Ford began to hire disabled veterans returning from World War I. This philosophy of inclusion made the company one of the first to hire people with disabilities, adapting the work environment to their specific needs.

Al Bragg **Commander**

Dennis Cort
Senior Vice Commander

Rod Beck
Junior Vice Commander

Ron Ness
**Quartermaster
District 7 Commander**

David Winecoff
Chaplain

Thomas Scoffle Jr.
Judge Advocate

Surgeon
Norman Hansen

Michael Frierya
1 Year Trustee

Norman Hansen
2 Year Trustee

Frank Silva
3 Year Trustee

Ron Ness
Adjutant

MILITARY APPRECIATION \$500
***** Saluting Those Who Serve.

FORD SALUTES THOSE WHO SERVE

Our Military Honor

Ford honors military servicemen and servicewomen who serve our country. Now with the enhanced Ford Military discount, active and retired members of the U.S. Military, Veterans within 24 months of separation, and their families are eligible to receive \$500 military Appreciation Bonus Cash. It's good toward the purchase or lease of an eligible new Ford vehicle.



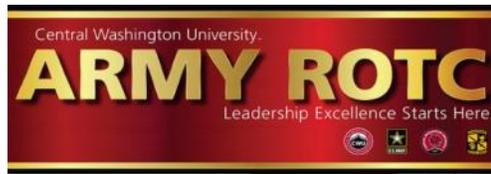
In an effort to cut postage and printing costs, please send email address to:

vfwrodeopost@fairpoint.net

Commander	Al Bragg	509-260-0534
Quartermaster	Ron Ness	509-899-0498
Chaplain	David Winecoff	509-933-1778
President	Pat Cort	509-929-4069
Treasurer	Kim Beck	509-306-9078
Chaplain	Tamara Fogg	

Featured in This Issue:

Ford Supports Veterans.....1
 Commander’s Corner.....2
 ROTC Support.....2
 Chaplain’s Corner.....3
 Action Corp4
 Calendar5



Commander’s Corner

We did one fund raiser and Buddy Poppy drive at Bi-Mart collecting \$1100.00 of donations. Service Officers Nadine Warren from Yakima and Todd the head of the service officers division from the west side served nine veterans this last month. We cannot help veterans if they do not contact us to make appointments. Call 509-968-4004 at the Post, 509-206-0534 Commander Al Bragg and 509-654-7191 Nadine Warren. They can also arrange phone and video appointments. The next Veterans Service Officer appointments will be at the post, 106 South Main in Kittitas, on April 21, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Red Horse Diner is hosting a Poker Run fundraiser in May for the VFW Post 683 to support veterans.

VFW All American is in the sites of the post again this Year. The last All American recognition was 2014 when Ron Ness went to Charlette, North Carolina to receive award from the VFW Commander-In-Chief. The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs. All-American Post Criteria: Achieve your Division Qualifying Percentage; Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria: Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging, Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging; Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100.

VFW Membership Mission:

To recruit, retain, and mentor a stable membership base, including all generations of veterans. To cultivate a membership that is well versed in institutional knowledge and actively involved at all levels of the organization and in the local community. To establish Posts with a strong tradition of service, leadership, and community outreach.

2020-2021 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – ROTC Award recipients are Air Force Cadet **Jace C. Duckworth** (AS400) and Army MS I Cadet **Jacob W. Barnert**.

This awards celebration will be limited to Air Force and Army Cadets and Cadre members only; kept to small groups of five at a time intervals and rotating Air Force and Army Cadre presenting ROTC awards.

We hope you and Veterans of Foreign Wars – Rodeo Post 683, Ellensburg Chapter know how much your support means to us. With that being said, we really do appreciate you sending these VFW ROTC Awards to us and allowing our Air Force and Army ROTC Cadre present on your behalf.

CPT James Ahn Memorial Scholarship

Captain James Ahn, a graduate of UC Riverside and the Claremont McKenna College Army ROTC program, died in 2015 during a parachute training operation while participating with his Special Forces unit in Washington State.

For all of us who knew and loved James, he will never be forgotten. He was the consummate person and professional who was respected by everyone he came in contact with. In James’ honor, we are sponsoring an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to a Special Forces Veteran who is working towards the completion of a higher education degree.

“He had a big smile and would always grin ear to ear,” Master Sgt. Dan Linderman said. “He always found time to smile about something and made friends with our Asian counterparts. They latched onto him.” Requirements:

Former Special Forces Service Member.

Full time student pursuing degree/certification completion at an accredited post secondary institution including graduate school, university college, community college or vocational/technical institution. Applicants must complete the application in full by June 1, 2021.



Go to: vfw683.org to access form.

The Fight you need

To fight is to physically resist someone or something attacking you; as opposed to not fighting back. Many of us seem to give up too soon or show no resist at all. Why are some born with this fight back quality, and others go to the other extreme. Jesus Christ spoke very clearly of the world's hatred for us. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Most Christians believe the first part of this verse having a natural fear of the evil they can not see. But many seem to question the second half of this verse: God's love for them. Why? Because we all experience trials and tribulations in this life and in spite of prayers for help it seems our prayers aren't answered. Does God really love me? Yes, he does! And he has given us all the help we need to be overcomers in this life. But God spoke through Hosea that "My people perish for lack of knowledge." A knowledge he has already provided us in his written word. We must study God's written word and act on it to obtain all God wants for us in this life. I have tried to provide in my writings for those who want to know spiritual wisdom and information they might not be hearing Sunday mornings from the pulpit on how to

appropriate God's help. In our culture children are taught from an early age to look to the teachers and other experts for the help they need. It wasn't always this way. Self reliance and the Bible use to be more important in past generations. There is a reason the Bible tells us "to trust no man." Interestingly the Bible tells us not to resist evil. (Matthew 5:39) God speaks very clearly in 14 verses about resisting. His ways are higher than our ways. Deuteronomy 9:3 tells us he goes before us as a consuming fire unless we block him through sin or unbelief. How is your knowledge of spiritual warfare? Are you interfering with his desire to defend you? Like a good father he has great plans for you.

Dave Winecoff, Post 683 Chaplain

❖ Did you know?

- In 1917, Theodore Roosevelt became the first U.S. President to join the VFW.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



- 1. SAVE LIVES Act Signed Into Law**
- 2. VFW Testifies on C&P Exams**
- 3. Backlog VFW Testifies Before Senate**
- 4. Press Conference on Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill**
- 5. Senate Introduces Bill to Extend and Improve Care and Benefits for Gulf War Illness**
- 6. Legislation Introduced to Recruit Separating Medical Personnel**
- 7. MIA Update**

1. President Biden signed into law VFW-supported H.R. 1276, Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse (SAVE LIVES) Act. The law allows VA to provide a COVID-19 vaccine to all veterans, their spouses, caregivers, and Civilian Health and Medical Program recipients regardless of their eligibility for VA health care.

2. The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing to discuss VA compensation and pension (C&P) exams. VA paused C&P exams in April 2020 due to health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic and, although exams are now taking place, there is a considerable backlog causing delays to the entire VA disability claims process. VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci recommended VA use all its available resources and tools to address the backlog, consider private medical evidence when making rating decisions, and improve communication with veterans and veterans service organizations about claims status and scheduling for exams.

3. VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Tammy Barlet testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs regarding veterans' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of the VFW supported Hannon Act. Barlet spoke about VFW ATLAS locations and the VFW's work with VA and Philips to leverage VA's anywhere to anywhere authority to expand telehealth options for veterans who live in rural areas, or who may lack access to the internet, necessary equipment, and knowledge to facilitate VA Video Connect. "Making eye contact and seeing facial and body cues is essential to successful appointments," Barlet said on the importance of the VA Video Connect appointments.

4. VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Kristina Keenan participated in a press conference held by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) to

introduce S. 927, the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act. This legislation aligns directly with the VFW's priority to establish a permanent framework to address past, present, and future toxic exposures in the military at locations both domestic and abroad. Unlike other bills which address toxic exposures in a piecemeal fashion, the VFW believes the TEAM Act will not only take care of a significant number of veterans but would provide VA the guidance necessary to address all toxic exposures in the military.

5. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a bill that addresses the VFW's concerns surrounding care and benefits for Persian Gulf War veterans outlined in the Independent Budget. Although U.S. military operations in the Persian Gulf are currently ongoing, the authorization to provide benefits will expire on December 31, 2021. The Improving Benefits for Gulf War Veterans Act would permanently extend VA's authority to grant benefits for Gulf War Illness and would broaden the definition of Persian Gulf veteran to include those who served in Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan.

6. Sens. Mike Braun (R-IN) and Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH) introduced VFW-supported S. 894, Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021. This legislation would require VA and DOD to identify military personnel in health care occupations who are interested in pursuing employment in a related field after separation from military service. The bill would also require the referral of such personnel to a VA recruiter for consideration of open positions in the specialty and location of interest to the service member.

MIA Update:

-- Army Pvt. Lyle W. Reab, 22, of Phillips, Nebraska, was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action as of Nov. 9, 1944.

-- Marine Corps Pfc. John F. Middleswart, 19,

-- Navy Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class George L. Paradis, 23,

-- Navy Seaman 1st Class Wilbur F. Ballance, 20,

-- Navy Fireman 1st Class Harold E. Bates, 27,

-- Navy Seaman 1st Class Elmer P. Lawrence, 25,

-- Navy Signalman 1st Class Eugene M. Skaggs, 33, were all assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941.

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5	6 Potluck 6pm Business Meeting 7:00 PM	7 Lunch Noon to 2pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Lunch Noon to 2pm	15	16	17 District 7 Business meeting, 1:00pm
18	19	20	21 Lunch Noon to 2pm VSO 9am to 3pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Lunch Noon to 2pm	29	30	

*Future
Events*

District 7 Business Meeting, April 17th.