



Legion Post 21 September 2026 Post News

126 NE Atlantic St

McMinnville, OR 97128

www.vetsclub21.org and email vetsclub21@gmail.com



Post 21 Commander

Welcome to September 2026. As the second Vice commander remains vacant and our activities committee is not being well attended limiting planning depth for our Post family activities. Consider your involvement within our membership as well as leadership.

Post membership as of 08-21-26. 5 new members, 2 Paid Up for Life, 130 Renewals, 2 HQ Transfers for a total 182 members. Several renewal requests have been submitted and welcome each of our new members. Our final report falls to National for the United States which will take a while. Thank those of you who have renewed and joined as you continue to support the American Legion.

A great deal of effort and focus is being given to the development of our website and newsletter.



Members and Leaders:

As social media has become an uncontrollable source for expression of individual publication, and as a proud member of American Legion Post 21, I am dismayed by the post on Facebook concerning funding of the McMinnville Veterans Day parade intended to disparage Post 21 and all the good work it does.

To set the record straight here are a few facts. It is not a Legion parade! It is a Veteran's Day Parade. For many years the Legion has been involved in the planning and facilitation of the parade as well as paying for the insurance and permits. The members of the current parade committee chose to exclude the Legion from any of the planning and are only interested in the Legion paying for their parade. The parade committee, consisting of former members of Post 21 or related to former officers, knows that no one individual can "assure" them that the Legion will pay for anything without a full executive board vote on the matter. The parade is not scheduled to be held on Veteran's Day. Knowing all of the above, the executive board of Legion Post 21 voted unanimously to not be responsible for the permits for a non-Veteran's Day parade.

American Legion Post 21 will continue to support our veterans within our community. We are setting records for helping homeless vets find housing and have paid out thousands of dollars for community veterans who need our assistance and local student Scholarships. Our membership is growing and our restaurant, open to the public, is thriving. We wish the Veteran's Day parade committee the best of luck and recommend that next year the parade be held on Veteran's Day.

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1st Vice Commander

Nicholas McCleskey (Nick) nickair@ymail.com

Regarding Membership: I'm moving forward with an approved, dedicated "JOIN" KIOSK/table @ restaurant entrance West wall. Manager, Deb, has discussed this with me and supports these changes. This month's meeting we had discussion and approved the Primary Mission: A dedicated area for Membership, sign up, renewal, assistance, discussion, membership brochures, forms and information for all the American US Legion family, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. Secondary Purpose: This table will be available to the restaurant as an overflow table, which potentially adds two seats of revenue to the post. A real nice wooden table has been donated. More on that and other details next month.

Another project I am working on was approved by the restaurant/bar manager and approved at our last meeting. This will be seen, as you walk in the front entrance: ABOVE THE BAR VIEW. NEW approved SIGNAGE: Above bar view will be our website: www.vetsclub21.org
Family official seals: American Legion; Auxiliary; Sons & Riders.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact me any time.

Juan M. Palacios, Post Adjutant

Hello Comrades,

I want to thank everybody that "stepped up" in paying their membership dues for 2027. By renewing your dues, we can achieve our Post 100% goal. By meeting our 100% membership goal we will receive a 100% Post Steamer for our Post Flag.

By paying your dues earlier, it eliminates the renewal notice that comes from National. You can also consider going Paid Up for Life (PUFL). Contact National Membership and ascertain the amount for your age. It's a monthly payment for one year or lump sum. When completed, you are now a PUFL. No more yearly dues.

Also, the foremost is having the honor of displaying our Post Flag at the American Legion State Convention. It shows how proud we are about our Post.

May God Bless you all. Semper Fi.

Service Officer Paul Krutsch

Another busy month for helping veterans in need.

Thank you for being a member of Post 21 as we are very active in assisting our community and our veterans. This month we helped two veterans reach their appointments by providing gas for their vehicles as they needed to travel further than their means permitted. We also referred another veteran to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency for housing assistance. And finally, we procured a proper vessel for the ashes of a deceased veteran and are working for his interment at the National cemetery in Portland. This gentleman passed away 6 years ago but his remains were never discovered until recently. He has no immediate family so Post 21 is his family.

Your membership in Post 21 helped us take care of these 9 vets. Thank you for making it possible.



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Chaplain's Corner:

Chaplain Thomas Clayton 503-550-8044 armynavy6782@gmail.com

There were 4 members mentioned during our general meeting as needing prayer please keep them in prayers. Susan Hally, Glenna Smith, Becki Berweger and Steve Kindel.

I for one would like to list one prayer that I believe is very much needed at this time. Please pray for the members of the SAL = SONS OF THE AMERICA LEGION. Let it be stated that the sons of members that have served are very important to our post, reach out and let them know.

We need all to reach out to young vets to become part of our post. We need the young that can help with our future growth. It's hard to say but it needs to be said as a lot of us is getting older and want to move on to retirement. We look to younger blood to take our post into the next years of growth. Please reach out our younger vets to step up and help the post move on for the future. If you are a younger vet and you are reading this newsletter, please step up and move into leadership for the post. All are welcome to help us to move into a bigger time for our Mac American Legion Post 21.

Well, that is all I have for our September newsletter, if you have anything to say for the betterment of our post please talk to me or anyone else on the E-Board. Chaplain Thomas Clayton armynavy6782@gmail.com MAY GOD KEEP YOU SAFE Psalms 117

Cheryl Saville-Miller

Finance Report:

Things in the office are moving right along. We finally got our taxes filed after getting an extension while we pulled everything together. Unfortunately, expenses were much higher last year than in 2024. Last year after expenses we ended with a negative \$40,000 hit. Working with Deb, we are looking to ensure that doesn't happen this year.

We are hoping to have our audit completed soon and a report generated by our next meeting. Then we need to find a company locally who will come and audit us annually as required by our bylaws. If anyone knows of any firm taking on new clients, please let me know.

More to come next month. If anyone has a particular topic or interest you would like me to cover in my report, please let me know.

House Committee:

I had the opportunity to go with our Judge Advocate to meet with an attorney on our RV park lease. Laws have changed so drastically when it comes to landlord/tenant laws that we felt the need to meet with an attorney to make sure we were compliant with Oregon laws on housing. We now have an updated lease and will be getting updated leases for all of our tenants. As part of that we will be reminding tenants of our park rules and enforcing compliance for the safety and health of all of our tenants.

The house committee will also start a list of projects that we need volunteers to help with around the Post. If you see something that needs fixing or sprucing up, please put a note in the house committee box by the patio door so it can be addressed.

That's all for now.

Club Manager

I hope this finds you all healthy and in good spirit!! Unfortunately, due to the continuous increase in consumable and non-consumables costs we will be raising our menu prices. We changed our main food distributor to Sysco, which saved us on food costs. But not enough to maintain any kind of profit. I have worked hard to control costs and keep our menu prices low, but at this time it is necessary. If anyone has any concerns or questions, please come and talk to me. The menu price increases will take affect September 7th. I want to thank each and every one of you that continue to volunteer your time to help us on Friday nights. Without each family working together we would not be a successful as



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we are. If anyone is planning any kind of event, please get with me before you set the date. I schedule meetings and events in the backroom all the time. All events must go through the club manager and added to the calendar. Don't forget the post activities committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5pm. All families should have a representee at the meeting. Communication and Teamwork is key to success.

Debra Godwin

American Legion Auxiliary

Hello from you Auxiliary,

It is renewal time!!!! Make sure you are getting your renewals in for the 2026-2027 year. We continue to serve our veterans lunch the 2nd Thursday of every month from 11am until 12:30 pm. September 10th will be the next lunch. We will be serving lasagna, salad, French bread, and dessert. We hope to see you all there. We are hoping to hold an open house in October, more information will be coming out. It is that time again to start thinking about the holidays. If anyone knows of a veteran and their family that could use a little extra help for Christmas please send them our way. Debra Godwin Unit 21 President

Sons of The American Legion Angel Mendoza



The SAL program was started in Portland, Oregon in 1932 at The American Legion Convention. The purpose of the SAL is to honor the service of Veterans, to support the Mission of The American Legion. SAL Squadron 21 is proud to participate adding names of American Legion to the Honor Stone's in American Legion Rose Garden. SAL is always ready for volunteer to assist the American on third Friday of every month in serving Prime Rib Dinners. SAL also provides at least four SAL Fundraisers in a twelve-month period at the American Legion Post 21. The American Riders is also supported by SAL members; SAL will keep the light on for you until you return to your SAL meeting on first Wednesday of every month at 6:30p. in the American Legion Honor Room. God Bless

Legion Riders: Via General Meeting minutes

The Riders were honored to open the McMinnville Air show 14-16 August. And hosted their annual poker run the 22nd. The director will travel to Angel Fire, New Mexico, to place a memorial brick for Jim "Coach" Conley at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Riders also completed the raffle auction for the motorcycle donated by Coach Connelly's family adding funding to the 2027 local scholarships.

On 3 August Sharon Brenier with others representing the presentations of the **Quilts of Valor** honoring Post 21 Members and Riders:

Brian Shirley: Vietnam veteran - Petty Officer 2nd Class, US Navy - Navy band member with Admiral J.J. Highland

Randall David: Petty Officer 3rd Class - US Navy - member of Legion Riders

Keith Weldon: Petty Officer 3rd Class - US Navy - member of Legion Riders

Russell Young: Staff Sgt - US Marine Corps and US Army member of Legion Riders

Sauna Young: Sgt. 1st Class - US Army - member of Legion Riders

Robert De Kar: Lance Corporal - US Marine Corps - member of Legion Riders





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