

126 Atlantic Street  
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## ***A Thank you from the family of PFC ALEXANDER KLASS***

Share this for Alex, and our family so that all these patriots know!  
And thank you very much!!

To The Army, The Oregon National Guard, and the Vets - Thank you!  
To the hundreds of firefighters today - Thank you!

(All those overpasses...oml our whole family was smiling at every overpass)

To the hundreds of police and emergency response teams we seen everywhere today - Thank you!  
To the hundreds of bikers who rode today - Thank you!  
To the dozens and dozens of hot rod clubs escorting today - Thank you!

To the couple hundred cars today - Thank you!

To the thousands and thousands of Patriots and caring citizens standing on the side of the road... from Portland all the way to McMinnville... (not even 100 yards of bare pavement anywhere for more than 60 miles... really!?! So many of you) Thank you!

And ODOT? Where the heck did you guys come from!?! Oml! Were you serious today? You guys were awesome! We clapped for every one of you! And there were dozens and dozens of you guys. Ya'll just came out of the woodwork.... amazing hustle too! You guys got Alex escorted home so efficiently! Whoever you guys are... Thank you!

To all our friends and family, and Alex Klass friends - Thank you!  
To the general public... Thousands of you! Thank you!

*Thank you to the hundreds we know, and the several thousand we don't!*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice:** The American Legion Department of Oregon recently sent out the 2020 Membership Awards & Trophies that were expected to be presented at The Convention this year. Post 21 received the following awards.

**Gold Ribbon & Certificate  
American Legion Family Award  
Top Post Highest Over Goal  
Department Recruiter of the Year**

Thank you everyone for your efforts, looks like Post 21 is still going strong!

*Terry Ward, 1st Vice*

## **Post 21 – McMinnville American Legion 2020 Rider of the Year**

Post 21 - McMinnville American Legion Riders (ALR) announced the 2020 Rider of the Year. The person nominated for this honor is a Rider who shows dedication not only to the Riders, and The American Legion, but to Veterans and the community.

### **JIM CONNELLY 2020 RIDER OF THE YEAR!**



Jim goes above and beyond the requirements to be selected as Rider of The Year. Jim is a dedicated rider who regularly attends ALR meetings along with Veteran and community events.

Jim is a member of Post 21 Executive Board, the ALR Scholarship Committee and chairman of the Oratorical Committee. His Riders yearly history books alone shows a dedication to our organization that few have. This year, during the pandemic lockdown, Jim went on the gravesite ride to local cemeteries on Memorial Day and played taps at each cemetery.

Jim is a highly respected member of not only the Riders but the American Legion who gives to our organization in more ways than we know.

**Chaplain:** Well here we go once again with the lock down. I hope that everyone is staying safe during these trying times. This past week I had the honor of standing on the side lines to honor PFC Klass as he made his way home. Please pray for his family.

I was also happy to see the write up in the local paper on the junior Aux members and the work that has been done in helping our Vets and Hospital staff. These young ladies are working to help everyone during this time. Take the time to thank our staff at the post who have been at the post during all the down time.

My prayers have been going out each day for all the Legion members to stay strong and look toward the day when all of us can come back to the post and our meetings. Please once again if you need prayer please give me a call. I'm here for you.

*Chaplain Thomas*

**Riders:** Thank you to Jerry George for his 2-year service as Director of the Post 21 Riders. We look forward to his continued humility, kindness, and leadership from the ranks.

The Riders were very active in July and we're expecting to stay busy in our mission to support veterans in August. At the end of June and beginning of July, we delivered ear-savers for masks to the residents and care workers at the Oregon Veterans Homes in The Dalles and Lebanon. Riders also escorted family and friends of dearly departed veteran Ray Neubig to a Celebration of Life at Post 21 where they were saluted by our Honor Guard and attended to by the Auxiliary.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Riders were called on by the McMinnville Police Department to take part in a procession to bring PFC Alexander Klass on the final leg of his journey home, from Portland to McMinnville, for his funeral services and honors on Sunday. This was a massive escort that left us in awe as we rode under overpasses manned by firefighters from throughout the area, past the many police officers and ODOT workers controlling intersections, and through the amazing turnout of patriotic supporters on the route, particularly in front of Evergreen Aviation. It was both heartbreaking and heartwarming at once. I was one of many Riders that had to fight to focus on the mission at hand.

Thank you for all the families of our Post – and even some from other Posts – that support our efforts to raise awareness for veterans and their needs. It's humbling and fulfilling to be a part of this group.

*Paul Schnell, Director.*

**Jr. Auxiliary:** First our Juniors would like to say THANKS once again to the riders for delivering the ear savers to both Veterans' homes.

A special thanks to Sim Sears for delivering 500 to our Native Veterans on the reservation.

This month we are in the process of making 500 more for the Mac hospital, the need is great so if anyone wants to help call Jeanne 503-550-2095.

The Juniors have been recognized by the News register and Department president of Oregon.

Our Covid-19 Heroes Lilly Harley & Delaney would like to say thank you for all your support!



They have made and delivered 1,700 ear savers so far! Go Juniors!

*Jeanne Clayton, Jr. Auxiliary*

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RIDERS

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**American Legion Riders**  
**Scholarship Poker Run**  
McMinnville American Legion Post 21

BENEFITTING AREA GRADUATING STUDENTS  
**Saturday, Sept 12, 2020**  
Open to ALL Bikes, Cars & Passengers

**Breakfast available for purchase**

- Registration: **8:30am**
- Last Bike Out: **10am**
- **\$15.00** Per 1<sup>st</sup> hand per person
- **\$5** additional hands

**BBQ and Raffle after the Run!**  
**BIG Raffle Prizes including:**  
Motorcycle Gear, Wine and Booze Baskets,  
Apparel, Gift Cards, Grill, Pendleton Blanket,  
And MUCH MORE!

126 Atlantic St, McMinnville, OR, 97128

**Adjutant:** Remember Membership Renewal Began on July 1<sup>st</sup>  
We are almost at 40% membership renewal. Thank you to everyone that has already paid their dues. The 2021 Membership Year began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and our dues remain at \$45.00. You can renew by mailing your payment to the Post, online with your mylegion.org account, or in person. Please consider renewing sooner than later.

**Auxiliary:** On July 27<sup>th</sup> a few members of our auxiliary had the honor of joining the Honor Guard in performing a Flag raising ceremony for a 95 year old WWII Veteran as a surprise from his family!!! What an honor to have met him. Thank you, Post 21 Honor Guard, for all you do!







Following is a summary of News Stories of the most recent identified POW/MIA members from World War II, Korean War and Vietnam.

## World War II

**Army Air Forces 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William Melville – 20.** Lost October 28, 1943 on a combat mission over the Island of New Guinea – Australian Territory. Accounted for July 3, 2020.

**Marine Pfc Joh P. Langan – 18.** Lost November 22, 1943 after several days of intense fighting at Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. Accounted for July 15, 2020.

## Korean War

**Army Cpl., Richard L. Henderson, Jr., – 18.** Lost December 6, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Accounted for July 2, 2020.

## Vietnam War

**U.S. Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alva Krogman – 25.** Lost January 7, 1967, while flying a reconnaissance mission when his aircraft was hit by enemy fire in the left wing and went down over Savanna khet Province, Laos. Accounted for July 2, 2020.

## National Purple Heart Day August 7th

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7<sup>th</sup> each year and is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day.

**The Revolutionary War: 3 Purple Hearts** - The Purple Heart award was originally established by George Washington in 1782 and then



designated as the Badge of Military Merit. It is thought that only three soldiers were ever awarded the Badge of Military Merit during the American Revolutionary War—Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut Regiment of

the Connecticut Line, Sergeant Elijah Churchill of the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons and Sergeant Daniel Bissell of the 2nd Connecticut Regiment of the Connecticut Line. All three personally received the badge from General Washington himself in 1783.



**World War I: 320,000 Purple Hearts** - The Purple Heart was officially established in 1932. So how is it that an estimated 320,000 military personnel who served during World War I - which ended in 1918 - received an award established in 1932? The answer is that General MacArthur signed General Order No. 3 establishing the Purple Heart, the medals were awarded retroactively to U.S. Army personnel who were wounded in combat action or who received a "Meritorious Service Citation Certificate" for actions during World War I.

**World War II: 1 Million Purple Hearts** - While there is no official military record of how many purple hearts were awarded, it is estimated that just over a million American service members received Purple Hearts for their service in World War II. The U.S. service members who were awarded the most Purple Hearts during World War II were Army Officer Robert Frederic, with eight, and Albert Ireland, who earned five during World War II and four in the Korean War.



**Korean War: 118,600 Purple Hearts** - An estimated 118,000 Purple Hearts were awarded to brave service members during the Korean War. Renowned recipients include the war horse "Sergeant Reckless," who earned two Purple Hearts, Medal of Honor Recipient Red Millett and the most decorated Marine in American military history, Chester Puller.

**Vietnam War: 351,000 Purple Hearts** - Vietnam War estimates are 351,000 Soldiers earning Purple Hearts. Three soldiers earned eight Purple Hearts each during the Vietnam War – Joe Ronnie Hooper, Robert L. Howard and Special Forces Soldier Billy Waugh.

**Persian Gulf War: 607 Purple Hearts** - A little over 600 Purple Heart awards were given during the Gulf War that lasted from August 2, 1990 – February 28, 1991, spanning 209 days.

**War in Afghanistan: 50,000 Purple Hearts** As of 2011, an estimated 50,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded to U.S. military service members who have sacrificed their lives or were wounded in combat during the War in Afghanistan October 7, 2001 to present day. The most notable Purple Heart recipient is Salvatore Giunta, who was the first Soldier since the Vietnam War awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. As the War in Afghanistan continues to this day, the number of Purple Heart recipients will continue to rise until the conflict ends. The American service member with the most Purple Hearts during this conflict is Staff Sergeant Brandon Camacho, who earned five Purple Hearts during his service in Iraq and Afghanistan.



# Battle of Savo Island

Worst 37 minutes in Naval History



Bombs hit the waters of Savo Island in the wake of a cruiser during the Battle of Savo Island.

The USS *Astoria* provided fire support and air cover during the invasion of Guadalcanal supporting the Marines as they landed on Guadalcanal and several smaller islands nearby.

Twelve US and Australian ships were attacked by eight Japanese warships near Savo Island on August 8, 1942. The Japanese came through the channel to the west of Savo Island in two separate groups passing on either side of *Astoria* and her two consorts, the USS Vincennes and the USS Quincy. The enemy began firing on all three ships. The *Astoria* took a hit from the Japanese salvos, turning her into an inferno amidships. In quick succession, enemy shells started a serious fire in the plane hangar that burned brightly and provided the enemy with a self-illuminated target.

In the span of thirty minutes The *Astoria* was hit with more than 65 shells. The *Astoria*'s crew waited for the Japanese to finish the ship off, however the enemy had withdrawn. *Astoria*'s crew immediately began firefighting but by the time they could steer her to safety The *Astoria* was engulfed and the fires burning deep within *Astoria*'s hull began to grow out of control and crews topside began hearing numerous explosions below deck. Shortly thereafter *Astoria* began listing to Port. The order to abandon ship onto awaiting Destroyers was given and after rolling fully onto her Port side and she disappeared beneath the waves with more than half of her crew.

The Japanese Navy suffered only minor damages than that inflicted to the Allies. With 3 heavy cruisers sunk, *Astoria*, Quincy and Vincennes, the Battle of Savo is often considered to be the worst naval defeat in US history.

America did achieve a parting shot, though. While the Japanese fleet was able to avoid the air screen sent to find it August 9-10, the U.S. submarine S-38 spotted them on August 10 and managed to bring down one of their heavy cruisers with a torpedo.

# USS Astoria Discovered

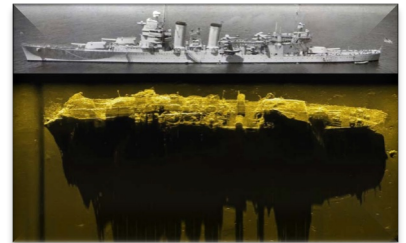
The Solomon Islands, a Pacific archipelago comprising 992 islands, is what one thinks of when you look for an untouched South Pacific island paradise. However, during WWII, it was the location of a major decisive battle that changed the tide of war with Japan. The result was a huge loss of life on both sides and the sinking of an estimated 50+ ships. It is precisely why the area off Guadalcanal after WWII was referred to as Iron Bottom Sound—the iron ships sitting on the seafloor.

Iron Bottom Sound is located 1,300 miles northeast of Brisbane Australia. It is bounded by the Island of Guadalcanal to the south and the Florida Islands to the north. To the northwest is Savo Island, around which the major naval battles took place during WWII. Water depths within the area to be surveyed range from 600 to a maximum of 1,350 feet.

After ten days of sonar mapping in January 2015 a total of 29 wreck locations, 7 wreck debris fields, and several possible plane locations had been found. Of the 29 wrecks located, 6 were positively identified: USS *Astoria*, USS Quincy, USS Vincennes, USS Northampton, HMAS Canberra, and the USS Atlanta. The remaining wreck locations were not identified and require further investigation to classify them.

Select wrecks were chosen for closer inspection. They included the previously unfound USS Vincennes and the USS *Astoria*, both New Orleans class heavy cruisers. When

photographs of the ship were compared with the sonar image, every physical attribute of the ship seen in the photograph could be identified clearly in the



Astoria Sonar Image compared to Photo Image

sonar image. The streaming video from the deployed ROV showed a record of the battles and the horrific destruction of the ships and, of course, the men that manned them.

Seeing the huge battleship turrets and the anti-aircraft guns ready for action told part of the story. Seeing the USS *Astoria* name clearly visible on her

stern made it even more personal for the operations team knowing the violent history of her sinking. Shell and gun holes littered the vessels everywhere, and hulls could be seen ripped apart from massive explosions.



Each of the team members found moments during the mission to reflect on the sacrifices made by the men involved in these battles. It left an impression on each and every one of us.

# August 2020

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
						<b>1</b> <a href="#">Scholarship Motorcycle Auction Begins</a> <a href="#">Cancer Bingo</a> 1:00 PM
<b>2</b> <a href="#">Bingo</a> 1:00 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">SON's</a> 6:30 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">America's Warrior Project Prime Rib Dinner Special</a> 6:00 PM	<b>8</b> <a href="#">America's Warrior Project</a>
<b>9</b> <a href="#">America's Warrior Project Bingo</a> 1:00 PM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <a href="#">AMVETS</a> 6:30 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner Special</a> 6:00 PM	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <a href="#">Bingo</a> 1:00 PM	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Finance Committee</a> 5:00 PM <a href="#">Executive Committee</a> 6:30 PM	<b>18</b> <a href="#">Auxiliary</a> 6:00 PM	<b>19</b> <a href="#">Activities Committee</a> 5:00 PM <a href="#">General Membership</a> 6:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner Special</a> 6:00 PM	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <a href="#">Bingo</a> 1:00 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <a href="#">Legion Rider Meeting</a> 7:00 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner Special</a> 6:00 PM	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <a href="#">Bingo</a> 1:00 PM	<b>31</b> <a href="#">Scholarship Motorcycle Auction Ends</a>					



Nancy Amodeo, Timothy Anderson, Al Arguedas, Bob Berweger, Ronald Black, Thomas Campos, Steve Carey, Alex Clemens, C. Sue Davis, Joseph Denhof, James Densmore, Darrel Dierck, Willard Dodds, Jerry Druery, Acie Dunlap, Albert Endres, Ed Errand, Shane Farley, Christine Gephart, Ian Houston, Craig Hudson, Kathryn Hunter, John Januscheitis, James Kennedy, Kyle Krutsch, Earl Ladassor, Edward McCallen, Cliff McMurray, Eugene Nelson, Gary Perkins, Lori Ridgeway, G.M. Sarge Riha, Harley Riha, Robert Rogers, Brian Russell, Gale Sears, David Schroetke, Chris Sieber, Donald Sieler,



AMERICAN LEGION – POST 21  
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## OFFICERS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Steve Farley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Terry Ward  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Cody Pankey  
JAG – Steve Randles  
Finance – Gale Sears  
Adjutant – Shirley Brown  
Sgt at Arms – Jim Connelly  
Historian – Leroy Brown  
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton  
At Large – Paul Schnell  
At Large – Jeanne Clayton  
At Large – Vacant

### AUXILIARY

President – Debra Godwin  
Vice – Glena Smith  
Treasurer – Becky Berweger  
Secretary – Tracy Wittrock  
Chaplain – Jeanne Clayton  
Historian – Goya Hernandez  
Sgt at Arms – Mike Gregory  
Membership – Sim Sears

### Sons of the American Legion

Commander/Finance – Terry Naig  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Steve Kindel  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Jim Vansoyck  
Adjutant – Del White  
Sgt at Arms – Brandon Lepkowski  
Chaplain – Pete Jenson

### The American Legion Riders

Director – Paul Schnell  
Asst. Director – Gale Sears  
Secretary – Leanne Schnell  
Treasurer – Mike Paul  
Sgt at Arms – Jack Bailey  
Historian – Jim Connelly  
Chaplain – Rod Moore

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

**Vetsclub21.org**

## RIDERS SCHOLARSHIP MOTORCYCLE AUCTION

**August 2020**

*100 % of all proceeds go to the Legion Riders Post 21 Scholarship fund to assist graduating seniors of Amity, Dayton, McMinnville, Willamina and Sheridan.*



### **2013 Suzuki Boulevard C50**

two helmets, battery tender, 400 original miles

This will be an online auction and will be open to anyone who wants to bid. The Riders encourage everyone to share the link abundantly, even if you're not going to bid. Check the Post Riders and Legion website for the link.

**Purple Heart Day**  
**Friday, 7 August 2020**

