

126 Atlantic Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-435-2218 vetsclub.org
vetsclub21@gmail.com

One of our essential business items for 2021 is to get our election process moving forward. The first step is to get our Post 21 Elections Committee installed. We are seeking one person to chair the committee plus a small number of volunteers on the committee to ensure a smooth nomination and election process.

If you are interested in helping out with this critical piece of our Post operations - either as chairperson or to be on the committee - please reply or send email to [Post21 email address] as soon as possible with your contact information. We must have our committee in place prior to our next scheduled general meeting on Feb 17.

Duties of the Elections Committee:

- Nomination Committee Chairperson: Appoint committee members, report to membership on nomination process, appoint vote counters, coordinate with Department for installation ceremony.
- Nomination Committee members: Work as a group to develop nomination process, help as vote counters (in addition to appointed vote counters as needed), and generally help our election process move along smoothly and transparently as a team.

Adjutant: Thank you for sending in your dues. Post 21 is now 87%, only need 46 members to renew their membership to put us at 100%. Are you one of those 46 members who haven't renewed? Please consider renewing sooner rather than later. To renew your membership, you can stop by the Post and drop it in the dues box, or you can renew in the comfort of your home by visiting <https://legion.org/renew>.

Adjutant, Shirley Brown

PART TIME COOK WANTED

Post 21 is looking for 2 part time cooks, with some cooking experience. Must have current food handlers license, and open availability.

Please contact Debra at 503-435-2218, or swing by the Legion and pick up an application.

Wage negotiable depending on experience.

Auxiliary: Not much happening with our Unit, due to the COVID. I am really missing getting out in the community and helping our Veterans. Can't wait to start having meetings with our members again.

It is nomination for Unit Officers again. So if anyone is interested in becoming an Officer or would like to nominate someone please contact Sim Sears.

Please if you have not renewed your membership please do so. Just a reminder if you are not a current member you will not receive your post or National benefits.

I would personally like to thank all the amazing volunteers that put down the new floor, fixed, painted, and put a new front on the bar. What a difference all your hard work has made. Our post would not be as amazing as it is without our volunteers. THANK YOU ALL!

And a great big thank you to the community, and members who have supported our post through the freeze. Stay healthy and safe my American Legion Family.

*Debra Godwin, Department of Oregon VP
Unit 21, Auxiliary President*

House Committee: You might notice a new look when you walk in the Legion. This was accomplished with the help of many....The E-Board setting aside funds to purchase the flooring; Volunteers – Terry Naig, Randy Webb, Jim Smith, Rick Ferris, Steve Randles, Stan Kosmicki, Jim Baker, Dan Jones, Jan Fourier, Mike Paul, Justin Smith, AND our local floor expert, Pete Goodman. Thank you all for your hard work! Also thanks to Deb and Theresa for keeping us fed and hydrated. I hope I didn't leave anyone out – but I usually do. If so, Please let me know.

Our next project is installing radiant heaters on the patio. This will be accomplished largely through donations. I hope it will be done in 2-3 weeks.

Thanks again for everyone's help.

*Dan Brown,
House Committee Chair*





The most recent identified POW/MIA.

World War II

U.S. Army Air Force Technical Sgt. Alfred Turgeon – 23. Lost August 1, 1943. While serving as a radio operator during Operation Tidal Wave his B-24 Liberator aircraft crashed as a result of enemy fire. His remains were not identified following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section of the Civilian and Military Cemetery of Bolovan, Ploitsi, Prahova, Romania. He was accounted for January 13, 2021.

Army Pvt. Alevein Hathaway – 20. Was killed in action on November 6, 1945 when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces in the Hürtgen Forest. His remains could not be recovered because of the on-going fighting. Accounted for January 14, 2021.

U.S. Army Air Force Technical Sgt. Frank Norris – 23. Lost August 1, 1943. While serving as an engineer during Operation Tidal Wave his B-24 Liberator aircraft crashed as a result of enemy fire. His remains were not identified following the war. The remains that could not be identified were buried as Unknowns in the Hero Section of the Civilian and Military Cemetery of Bolovan, Ploitsi, Prahova, Romania. Accounted for January 19, 2021.

Navy Water Tender 1st Class, Oliver Burger – 26. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 5, 2020. Announced December 1, 2020.

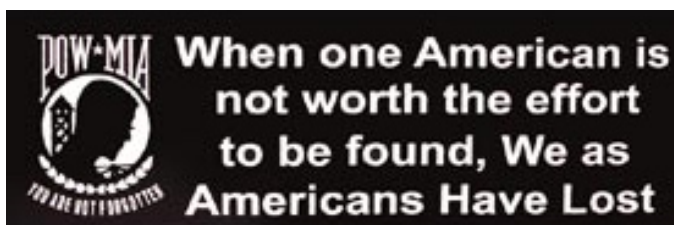
Navy Fireman 1st Class, Wesley Brown – 25. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for December 3, 2020. Announced December 8, 2020.

Navy Fireman 1st Class, Beoin Corzatt – 24. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 24, 2020. Announced December 10, 2020.

Navy Seaman 1st Class, Gerald Bailey – 24. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 24, 2020. Announced December 10, 2020.

Navy Shipfitter 3rd Class, Robert Bailey – 21. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 24, 2020. Announced December 10, 2020.

Navy Radioman 3rd Class, Earl Ellis – 23. Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 24, 2020. Announced December 10, 2020.



Legion Riders: Riders ride! Some of our Riders have already turned in miles towards their 2021 3,000-mile patch. Check your forecast, unplug your battery tender, grab another Rider friend and get out on the road. There are several upcoming group ride opportunities over the next couple of months beyond casual excursions. Keep sharing them to our Facebook group and let's talk about getting out to some of them! The key to getting to 3,000 miles is starting early.

In the meantime, know that while we are still unable to have larger group meetings, the Rider officers are your representatives and meeting regularly to address any issues. If you have any concerns or items of interest for our group, don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the leadership team.

On that subject, our election process begins soon with first round nominations. Now is a good time to head over to vetsclub.org and visit the ALR - POST 21 RIDERS tab. There you'll find our Standard Operation Procedures which detail the officer positions and our election process. We'll soon send out instructions on how to get your name in front of the nominations committee.

And for the Riders and other volunteers that worked on the new floor at the Post...GREAT WORK! It really is beautiful and makes the club look brand new. Thank you all.

From ALR Membership:

Grace period time is running out for paying your 2021 Post 21 ALR dues. Please get them in as soon as possible and if having trouble please contact the Director Paul Schnell to see if something can be worked out.

It looks like we will not have a full membership meeting at this time in February, but if it changes, we will let you know. Officers will meet to take care of the business end and if you have anything you want to bring to the membership's attention please contact Paul or one of the officers. Thanks and be safe and well.

Steve Randles
Membership Coordinator

The Post Honor Guard and Legion Riders had the Honor of escorting Kenneth Whiting to his final resting place on January 28th. The Honor Guard provided full military honors and at the family's request The Honor Guard and Legion Riders acted as pall bearers and carried the casket to the gravesite.



The Four Chaplains



One of the more extraordinary acts of heroism during World War II occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after a U.S. Army transport ship was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains each removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with the ship.

February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was filled to capacity, carrying 751 passengers, 130 crew members and 23 naval personnel on a journey from Newfoundland to an American military base in Greenland.

At one o'clock in the morning of February 3rd, the ship's bell struck twice. It would never sound again. The periscope of German submarine U-223 poked through the water's surface and spotted the ship in its cross hairs.

The *Dorchester* was blasted on its starboard side near the engine room killing a hundred men and knocking out all power and radio contact. Captain Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. Lifeboats quickly became overcrowded to the point of capsizing. Rafts were tossed into the sea but drifted away before anyone could get into them. Only two lifeboats out of 14 were successfully launched.

Amid the disorder, the four Army chaplains quietly spread out among the soldiers, preaching courage to the frightened, offering prayers to the wounded, and guiding the disoriented.

After most of the survivors had struggled up on deck, the four chaplains opened a storage locker and began handing out life jackets. Soon they ran out.

"Padre," a young soldier hollered, "I've lost my life jacket and I can't swim!"

One of the four chaplains removed his life jacket and said, "Here, take mine. I won't need it. I'm staying." The other three chaplains followed his example.

Just 27 minutes after the torpedo struck, the ship was about to go down. The four chaplains locked arms together and braced against the deck with its heavy starboard list. They prayed, each in the tradition of his own faith, as the water reached their knees. A wave swept over the ship, then another, and



another. The *Dorchester* fought to right herself but failed and plunged into the seething ocean.

Special Medal for Heroism



Presented posthumously to the Four Chaplains

"Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty.... Never be a coward... and have the strength, courage and understanding of men.

Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Chaplain Poling to his father before boarding the *Dorchester*.

Of the 902 men aboard, 675 died, leaving just 227 survivors. News of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains caused a sensation in America. On December 19, 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism" and the Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains' next of kin. In 1961, Congress authorized a Special Medal for Heroism which had never been given before and is never to be given again.

COVID-19 VACCINE!

Veteran's 65 and older are encouraged to watch for a phone call from VA Portland Health Care System Staff to schedule their COVID-19 vaccinations. Staff asks that veterans please DO NOT call to inquire about vaccinations. The VA encourages veterans to check for COVID vaccination information updates at www.portland.va.gov or call the designated VA Portland COVID-Vaccination Information Line at 503-220-3434.

Any member who needs a ride can contact Leroy Brown at (408) 835-1807.

Please help us by leaving a great review for our restaurant and lounge. Visit <https://g.page/Legion21/review?rc> or just search for American Legion Post 21 on Google Maps and click "write a review."

February 2021

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
	1	2	3 SON's 6:30 PM	4	5 Prime Rib Dinner Special 5:00 PM	6
7	8	9 House Committee 5:00 PM	10	11	12 Prime Rib Dinner Special 5:00 PM	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day	15 Finance Committee 5:00 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM	16 Auxiliary 6:00 PM	17 Activities Committee 5:00 PM General Membership 6:30 PM	18	19 Prime Rib Dinner Special 5:00 PM	20
21	22	23	24 Legion Rider Meeting 7:00 PM	25	26 Prime Rib Dinner Special 5:00 PM	27
28						



AMERICAN LEGION – POST 21
126 ATLANTIC STREET
MCMINNVILLE, OR 97128
503-435-2218
VETSCLUB21@GMAIL.COM



OFFICERS

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Steve Farley
1st Vice – Paul Schnell
2nd Vice – Vacant
JAG – Steve Randles
Finance – Gale Sears
Adjutant – Shirley Brown
Sgt at Arms – Jim Connelly
Historian – Vacant
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton
At Large – Robert De Kar
At Large – Jeanne Clayton
At Large – Dan Brown

AUXILIARY

President – Debra Godwin
Vice – Glenna 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
1st Vice – Steve Kindel
2nd 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

Please help us by leaving a great review for our restaurant and lounge.
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