

AMERICAN LEGION

McMINNVILLE POST 21 - 126 NE ATLANTIC STREET – McMINNVILLE, OREGON 97128 – 503 435-2218

Commander: Seasons greeting Legionnaires, I am hoping that the Good Lord has kept you in his grace.

We will NOT be having a general membership meeting in December. The next one will be on January 18, 2023.

We are trying to bring back the Christmas Tree program next year. The trees have to be ordered in February 2023 and picked up in November. We have people to help with sales and picking up the trees. Yes, they are always the same people who are willing to help but they are dedicated to the American Legion cause, but we need more people to get involved. Let's remember that we are here to help our Veterans and also our community.

I am embarking on a project to help our homeless Veterans. I am building a bicycle camping trailer that will look nice and functional. If our Veterans are sleeping on the ground, this will be giving them a warm and dry area to sleep in. This way we can identify our homeless Veterans and get them the help they need.

I attended our Unit 21 Auxiliary meeting again; boy they have a great time and get things done. Their meeting is filled with a lot of members, and they all get involved. Very respectful to each other no matter the topic. It is nice to attend their meeting and they do not care if I am there without notification.

I was asked by the Auxiliary to help present the winning class coloring contest winners at two local grade schools. Two classes in Dayton and one in Lafayette. This was a great honor and privilege to do this. The kids were happy to see us, and we had a great time.

I told them that I was told that I had to take a bath and wear clean clothes. Boy, they had a good laugh.

It's always a good feeling to see children be happy. That is what it is all about

I will end here, wishing you a happy holiday!
GOD Bless you all. Semper fi.

Juan Palacios, Commander

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE PARADE

I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Truly, it took about 6 months to form it up. It was my first time organizing a parade. Many people and places were very excited to join in, in our celebration (**Veteran's Day**). Many helpers, many thanks to all.

People from outside the Post are interested in helping us do more next year. If you are interested, please let me know.

A very special thank you to **Debra Godwin**, Oregon District President of The American Legion Auxiliary for being the MC for our brief closing ceremony. **Mr. George Humlie** for his rendition of the National Anthem and providing the sound system. **Juan Palacios** our Post 21 commander for his words and, **Dr. Professor and Commander Eric Schuck**, our primary speaker from Lindfield College, a sincere pleasure to have him. Our Parade Grand Marshal, WWII Wave, **Peggy Lutz**, like the energizer bunny still going strong at 100, plus 6 months.

As I'm writing this there are so very many to say thank you to. The Praise Assembly Church at 3rd and Johnson, what a great group of people. They would like for us to come back next year and help more. Oregon Mutual Insurance for the use of their parking lot. The McMinnville Fire Dept. that ladder truck flying that huge American Flag is very special. Not only that, the McMinnville, Department contacted other Fire Departments to join in.

Another to thank, is the News Register, if not for them we would not have gotten the coverage we did.

Thank you, to all that participated.

submitted by Bob Berweger





Sons: I would like to say thank you to all Veterans for their service to all the people in this country, for they are the ones that keep us free.

The Sons served 161 meals for Veterans Day and would like to thank Bert's Chuckwagon BBQ for furnishing all the great food.

This December on the 11th, the Sons will have a breakfast to Honor Pearl Harbor, all WW2 Veterans will eat free. Join us as we Honor our Veterans and remember the day that will live in infamy! Breakfast will be from 8 to 11 am, come and enjoy the company of other Veterans.

Have a great day.

Terry Naig, Commander



Service Officer: The Executive Board and members present at the general meetings in the month of November approved \$604.30 as our portion of a multi service agencies donations and grants to have a disabled member have his car repaired.

Another donation of \$435.68 was approved by the Executive Board and members in attendance at the General Membership. This amount was approved to help a disabled Veteran get the donated 5th wheel in livable condition.

Armond Pilotte, Service Officer



Riders: The ALR had a great time at the Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday in McMinnville. We try to ride in and participate in as many events as we can.

Many of our riders help out with other Rider groups in our area to keep them growing.

The Riders will not have a regular meeting in November or December but combine the two and meet on December 6th at 1900 or 7pm.

The Riders will be helping the Auxiliary in December with their Christmas Baskets. Basket preparation is scheduled to start on December 12th, with distribution on the 17th. Please set aside some time to help.

Terry Naig Director



REMEMBER the Fallen. . .

HONOR those who Serve. . .

TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

On December 17, 2022 at 1:00 pm, Wreaths Across America will be at Willamette National Cemetery to Remember and Honor our Veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every Veteran aloud.

Please help our location lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by going to <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org> to learn how to sponsor a wreath. You can also sign up to volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony on the same website. There is also an option to invite your friends and family to join you.

Thank you so much for supporting Willamette National Cemetery and Wreaths Across America!



WORLD MARK VALENTINE'S DAY RAFFLE

Thank you all for participating in the raffle for the one week stay at Depoe Bay over Valentines week. Because of your generosity, the Post was given over \$1500.00 for the general fund. I know it will be used wisely by the Post.



John Ambrose was the lucky winner of the trip.



The most recent identified POW/MIA.

World War II

Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. James Triplett – 36. Lost September 27, 1944 when the B-24H Liberator Bomber he was serving as a radio operator was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Accounted for October 25, 2022.

Army Air Forces Pvt. John Ropp – 31. Lost April 9, 1942 when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands and was captured and was subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March. Ropp died as a prisoner of war at Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Accounted for October 25, 2022.

Army Air Forces Cpl. Charles Eeds – 23. Lost April 9, 1942 when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands and was captured and was subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March. Ropp died as a prisoner of war at Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Accounted for October 25, 2022.

Army Pvt. James Tash – 20. Lost April 9, 1942 when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands and was captured and was subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March. Ropp died as a prisoner of war at Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Accounted for October 25, 2022.

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. David Holeman – 39. Lost July 19, 1942 when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands and was captured and was subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March. Ropp died as a prisoner of war at Cabanatuan Prison Camp. Accounted for August 23, 2022. Announced November 7, 2022.

Army Pfc. Francis Martin – 25. Lost January 17, 1945 when the convoy he was on was ambused by German forces. Martin was not among those who escaped. The fighting was too severe to recover Martins remains. Accounted for June 21, 2022. Announced November 14, 2022.



Army Staff Sgt. James Rotunno – 27. Lost January 20, 1945 when his unit was engaged with German forces during the Battle of Reipertswiller in France and were surrounded, along with four other companies. The surrounded companies were ordered to break-out, only two men made it through German lines. The rest were either captured or killed. Rotunno was among those killed. Accounted for September 27, 2022. Announced November 14, 2022.

Army Cpl. Joseph Gunnoe – 21. Lost November 6, 1944 when he went missing as his unit attempted to withdraw from the Hürtgen Forest. He was declared killed in action after the war. Accounted for September 14, 2022. Announced November 22, 2022.

Korea

Army Sgt. Allen Tuttle – 23. Lost December 2, 1950 after his unit attempted to withdraw from Kunu-ri, North Korea when he was reported missing in action. Tuttle died as a prisoner of war in March 1951. Accounted for October 26, 2022.

Army Sgt. Alfred Sidney – 23. Lost May 18, 1951 when his unit was attacked near Hangye, South Korea and Sidney was captured. Sidney died as a Prisoner of War at Camp #1. Accounted for August 23, 2022. Announced November 4, 2022.

Army Cpl. Tommie Hanks – 27. November 26, 1950 when he went missing as his unit was attempting to withdraw from east of the Ch'onch'o River near Anju, North Korea. Accounted for August 2, 2022. Announced November 9, 2022.

Vietnam

Army Staff Sgt. Sanford Finger – 29. Lost October 26, 1971 when the CH-47B Chinook helicopter he was a passenger on crashed while flying from Tuy Hoa to Cam Rahn Bay in Vietnam. Remains of four of the 10 soldiers on board were recovered but Finger was not accounted for. Accounted for August 23, 2022. Announced October 27, 2022.

Army Reserve Chief Warrant Officer Larry Zich – 24. Lost when the Uh-1H Iroquois on which he was the co-pilot did not return from a combat support mission. Accounted for October 25, 2022. Announced November 8, 2022.



FIVE WORLD WAR II US BOMBERS FOUND OFF CROATIA

Searchers have located the wrecks of five B-24 bombers that crashed into the Adriatic Sea during World War II, three of which are associated with 23 still-missing crew members.

The search mission – conducted over a two-week period in August off the coast of Croatia – was a partnership between Project Recover and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. It was the culmination of a lengthy process of researching military records and obtaining needed permits from Croatia.

Along with the B-17, the B-24 Liberator was a mainstay for U.S. strategic bombing in the European theater, with almost 19,000 of the heavy bombers built during World War II. It was utilized by all the American service branches in Europe and the Pacific.

The wrecks of an estimated 30 U.S. warplanes are believed to lie submerged in what was a frequent “ditching area” for crippled warplanes in the vicinity of the search area in the Adriatic Sea, which lies between Italy and the Balkans.

Most of those aircraft took off from Italy and would bomb Europe. Then, if they were attacked and limping and couldn't make it back to Italy, they didn't go directly back across the Adriatic. Instead, the pilots flew down the coast of what was then Yugoslavia – now Croatia – and ditched the aircraft in waters not controlled by the Nazis. Some crews made it to safety; others did not.

The finding of five B-24s is the largest underwater aviation discovery to date. Divers were able to positively identify three of the bombers, which are associated with 23 crew members who remain missing since World War II.

Decisions about further missions to search for remains of crew members would be made by DPAA. The wrecks were found in waters roughly 300 feet deep, which is near the safe maximum depth for divers.

Project Recover hopes to return to waters off Croatia for further searches.

There's quite a bit of local knowledge from fishermen, other divers, that kind of thing on potential new areas to look at. There's a lot more to be found.

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR

The Japanese plan was simple: Destroy the Pacific Fleet. That way, the Americans would not be able to fight back as Japan's armed forces spread across the South Pacific.

On December 7th Japanese planes filled the sky over Pearl Harbor. Bombs and bullets rained onto the vessels. An 1,800-pound bomb smashed through the deck of the *USS Arizona* and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than 1,000 men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship *USS Oklahoma*. With 400 sailors aboard, the *Oklahoma* lost her balance, rolled onto her side and slipped underwater.

Less than two hours later, the surprise attack was over, and every battleship in Pearl Harbor—*USS Arizona*, *USS Oklahoma*, *USS California*, *USS West Virginia*, *USS Utah*, *USS Maryland*, *USS Pennsylvania*, *USS Tennessee* and *USS Nevada*—had sustained significant damage. (All but *USS Arizona* and *USS Utah* were eventually salvaged and repaired.)

The attack on Pearl Harbor killed 2,403 U.S. personnel, including sailors, soldiers and civilians. Additionally, 1,178 people were wounded. 129 Japanese soldiers were killed.

The day after the attack President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress. “Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.”



Auxiliary: Greetings Legion Family, I hope this finds you and yours well. Unit 21 members have been doing some great things for our Veterans and community this past month.

Some have been involved in cleaning and providing essentials for a "Street to Home" Veteran. He was able to move in his new home and was very appreciative for all the help he received.

On November 10th, several members visited some amazing Veterans at Parkland Village Retirement Community. While there, the Veterans were acknowledged with a boutonniere hand-crafted by Jenni Burkhead and gifted with beautiful crochet lap blankets made by Carol Doege. It was such a touching experience, the Veterans were reminded that they mattered, and we learned that a simple visit and a "Thank you for your service" made those honored realize they are not forgotten.

Along with our Post 21 Family, we had another awesome day as we honored our Veterans and 1st responders with the parade on Nov. 12th. Thank you to all that donated their time to decorate the wagons and participated in the parade.

The Auxiliary sponsored a Veteran Day Coloring contest with 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students from the elementary schools in Dayton, Lafayette, Amity, Perrydale and the McMinnville Christian Academy participating. We received 244 entries and with the Veterans at the Veterans Day Dinner voting, the winning pictures were chosen. Commander Juan Palacios and Auxiliary President Gregoria Hernandez made a trip to Dayton elementary to present the winners Gage-3rd grade and Lea- 4th grade with totes full of art supplies for each of their classrooms. They also traveled to Lafayette to present art supplies to Hannah, the 5th grade winner, for her classroom to share.

Auxiliary Service Officer, Carol Doege, donated 150 crochet hats to Dept. of Oregon Auxiliary President, Debra Godwin, for distribution to the Veterans at the Dalles and Lebanon Veteran homes and White City rehabilitation.

The Auxiliary voted to help Veterans by donating money to the Portland VA's gift shop and to help our community by donating funds to the McMinnville High School Cheer Team for their trip to the Texas Nationals.

On November 16th at the Post 21 General Meeting, Commander Palacios drew the winning ticket for the Depoe Bay Vacation Raffle. John Ambrose, a Post 21

member, was the winner. The proceeds from the raffle were split evenly between the Legion and the Auxiliary. Bob Berweger presented Commander Palacios a check for \$1,500 and Becky Berweger presented a check for \$1,500 to Auxiliary President Gregoria Hernandez.

As we now move into December, we have several events coming up, and before we know it Christmas will be here. The Auxiliary will be selling bags of Hazelnuts during the month of December. The Auxiliary Christmas Basket Project is progressing. Donation flyers have been posted with PIC Florian Raqueno contact information listed if there are questions.

12/1/22 Unit 21 will be meeting at 3:00pm to decorate the Legion Christmas tree and to participate in making holiday swags/decorations.

12/13/22 Unit 21 will be meeting at 12:00pm to set up for the Christmas Baskets.

12/17/22 Christmas Basket distribution day 8:00am – 4:00pm

REMINDERS: It's time to pay Annual Auxiliary Membership Dues. No December Auxiliary meeting.

Please contact Auxiliary Chaplin Susan Haley at 503-348-7703 if you know of any Auxiliary members who are sick or in need of assistance.



👉 Gage



Hannah 👉



👉 Lea



Food & Toy Drive

American Legion Auxiliary
Post #21

Helping Veterans First

Please help us with non-perishable food items such as:

- *Canned meat: ham, tuna, chicken, spam*
 - *Meal kits that don't require extra ingredients: instant potatoes, rice, instant soups/ramen*
 - *Pancake and muffin mix*
 - *Cereal*
 - *Pasta sauce, pasta*
 - *Canned soups, chili and pasta meals*
 - *Canned fruits and applesauce*
 - *Pudding, Jell-O, fruit cups*
 - *Peanut butter, jelly/jam*
 - *Canned/boxed juices*
 - *Flour, sugar, rice, dry beans, pasta*
 - *Seasoning, oil*
- **And** •



Toys for all ages, unwrapped
Gift Cards
Books

Please Help Us Help Veterans, their Families and the Community!

Contact: Florian Raqueño (503) 530-6909,
or the American Legion (503) 435-2218, for more info!



American Legion Auxiliary
126 NE Atlantic St.
McMinnville, OR 97128





DECEMBER

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1 Christmas Food/Gift Box App. Deadline	2 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Legion KP 5:00 PM	3 Christmas Decorations; Swags & Wreaths 9:00 AM
4	5	6 Legion Rider Meeting 7:00 PM	7 Pearl Harbor Day SON's 6:30 PM	8	9 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Auxiliary KP 5:00 PM	10
11 District 2 Meeting Pearl HarborBreakfast 8:00 AM	12 White Elephant Christmas Party 4:00 AM	13 Auxiliary Gift Box Prep 9:00 AM	14	15	16 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Sons KP 5:00 PM	17 Christmas Food Gift Box Pick-up
18	19	20 Auxiliary 6:00 PM	21	22	23 Prime Rib Dinner Special - Riders KP 5:00 PM	24
25 Christmas Day - Closed	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year Eve Party 12:00 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kenneth Ashby, Michael Bilbrey, Roy Bonnett, Jesse Brown, Steve Candela, Raymond Carlson, Kenneth Chastain, Edward Cos, Richard Davis, Gordon Fahey, Bobb Fleming, Lawrence Floyd, George Francis, Thomas Gallagher, George Harding, Ed Gormley, Christopher Kopf, James Lash, Steve Macy, Richard McAllister, N. McCleskey, Rich Pimm, Steve Sandercock, Steven Smith, Kelly Smothers, David White, Del White, Gene Zinda



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

OFFICERS

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Juan Palacios
1st Vice – Joe Gallagher
2nd Vice – Jim Connelly
JAG – Steve Randles
Finance – Gale Sears
Adjutant – Shirley Brown
Sgt at Arms – Robert De Kar
Historian – Leroy Brown
Chaplain – Thomas Clayton
Service Officer – Armond Pilotte
At Large – Bob Berweger
At Large – Dan Brown
At Large – Rich Pimm

AUXILIARY

President – Goya Hernandez
Vice/Treasurer – Becky Berweger
Secretary – Diane Heaton
Membership – Simm Sears
Historian – Glenna Smith
Service Officer – Carol Doege
Chaplain – Susan Haley
Sgt at Arms – Gail Wilson

Sons of the American Legion

Commander/Finance – Terry Naig
1st Vice – Bill Lindeman
2nd Vice – Jim VanSoyck
Adjutant – Del White
Sgt at Arms – Brandon Lepkowski
Chaplain – Pete Jenson

The American Legion Riders

Director – Terry Naig
Asst. Director – Bill Linneman
Secretary – Leanne Schnell
Treasurer – Sim Sears
Sgt at Arms – Robert De Kar
Road Capt. – Tony Amodeo
Historian – Jim Connelly

We are on the Web!

Visit us at: Vetsclub.org



Remember Pearl Harbor – December 7, 1941
Sons of the American Legion

Present

Pearl Harbor Breakfast

Sunday, December 11, 2020

Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Hash browns,
toast, juice, milk coffee.
\$8.00 per person

WWII Veterans eat for free!!

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE & POTLUCK

DECEMBER 12TH - 6:00 - 9:00

Bring a
wrapped
gift \$15-
\$20 value



Bring your
favorite
dish to
share!



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."

DECEMBER 2022