

# AMERICAN LEGION

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

**Commander:** Hello again, I am pleased to see that the good lord has kept us in good health and granted us another day. Thank you, lord.

Today I want to write about the Vietnam War also known as Nam or in-country. The Vietnam War ended on March 29, 1973 when the last U.S. combat troops left South Vietnam, ending direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War. Military advisers to the South Vietnamese Army remained, as did Marines protecting U.S. installations, and thousands of Defense Department civilians.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., also known as the Wall, was dedicated on November 10, 1982 with 57,939 names. Since then, 379 names have been added for the total of 58,318.

I visited the Wall several years ago a black granite V-shaped Wall inscribed with the names of the men and women who were killed or missing in action in Vietnam. Looking at the Wall, a feeling of sadness came over me just seeing all the names inscribed there. As I stood there looking at the wall, I did not hear any noises or voices. Just peacefulness.

I then walked along the Wall touching the names as I walked. The Wall was cold but yet warm. I felt at peace with myself as I walked. After I finished walking, I noticed a group of high school kids walking behind me who were also touching the Wall, not talking and not being disrespectful.

After I finished walking the Wall, I stepped back to let them pass, each one of them touched my arm and in a low voice said, "Thank You". They walked up the hill, looked back at me and waved good-bye. Their kindness brought big tears to my eyes.

I walked a short distance up the hill, turned and said "good-bye." I then stood at attention and saluted them. I left with a feeling of peacefulness and contentment. God bless the Veterans on the Wall and rest in peace my fellow Veterans.

On March 29, 2023, the post celebrated National Vietnam War Veterans Day. A local Vietnam Veteran, Jesse Anderson, wrote a song about the Vietnam Memorial Wall. His brothers Tom and Doug served in Vietnam, but sadly Doug has passed from Agent Orange. Jesse and his wife Cheryl sang Jesse's song on Vietnam Veterans Day

I will end here as this was hard to write. God bless you and your family. Until we meet again, Semper Fi.

*Juan M. Palacios, Post 21 Commander*

As we look back to the Greatest Generation, Korea and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war in Viet Nam; we now have a new generation of veterans who for 20 years fought to ensure the safety of the United States in the war on terrorism. Those who served and gave their lives and suffer through what is now known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD,) veterans and legion members need to support them as we have for those who served before us.

As the new year of Legion leadership elections are upon us; we need a Legion Service Officer who understands the needs of this generation of American soldiers. If you feel you have the compassion to embrace their needs, I ask for your attendance at our next Post officer nominations general meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1830.

*Gale Sears, Past Post Commander & Finance Officer*

## MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as the Month of the Military Child. With its creation in the mid-1980s, the Pentagon and other military support organizations and agencies use the month to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front.

The term "military brat" is a badge of pride worn by generations of kids who traveled the world with their parents, moving into adulthood with the knowledge that they have the strength to handle anything.

Military children shoulder the burdens of service, facing unique challenges from a young age. They move frequently leaving friends, schools and communities behind. They say goodbye to deploying family members, not

knowing when they will see them again. Some of these children endure deployments and separations, spending months or even years away from their parents. Birthdays, holidays, graduations and other important milestones are celebrated with just a phone call or virtual hug.

*"Purple Up Day is an opportunity for our schools to visibly show our support and thank our military children for their strength and sacrifice."*

The military family averages nine moves through a 20-year career. And in doing so, their children must say goodbye to friends, change schools and start all over again.

Because purple is a color used to represent all military services, the theme "Purple Up" is used over the course of the month.

We join with the Army, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard in recognition of our military kids.



## THE DANDELION

The official flower of the military child. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures new lands, and new friends.



Unit 21 Auxiliary welcomed spring on March 21 with a potluck and new member drive. Five guests were hosted as prospective members.

The Juliette House CEO, William Lindemann also presented a volunteer opportunity to help with the annual gala held at the Abbey Road Farm on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Auxiliary supports the Juliette's House child abuse awareness as one of the many community involvements. The membership also hosted national Auxiliary president, Vicki Koutz, on March 29 with a lasagna dinner.

### Upcoming events:

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Easter egg hunt from 12-1 p.m.

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Cinco de Mayo dinner at the Post, featuring Gregoria Hernandez's famous chicken Verde enchiladas!

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Poppy Day at Evergreen Museum.

Nominations were accepted for the first round of officers and appointments. Final nominations will be done in April with installation of new officers in May. The meeting closed with good food that was enjoyed by all. Join us April 18 to elect new officers and plan fund raiser opportunities for the summer!



**Riders:** On a semi warm Saturday afternoon four riders set out on a journey, a journey that only few have endured, but all who have attempted have returned triumphant. On this sunny Saturday afternoon in Mid-March 2023, these four brave souls had more than a simple mission, they rode in alliance on a mission of pride, ownership, and a combined belief in each other's capabilities. On this sunny Saturday afternoon these riders were on a mission to search out and regain the elusive American Legion Rider Totem. Then do whatever it took to return the prize trophy to its preferred resting place, behind the bar at American Legion Post 21.

***What is this Totem one might ask? And why are they in search of it?***

On March 17, 2017, the "TOTEM" had its inception at Post 21, alongside its ugly stepbrother the "Hot Potato". ***"The Hot Potato shall be discussed in a future newsletter."*** The coveted totem was designed to encourage riders to visit other posts around our region, remain involved and support each other. The idea and rule is that a group of 3 or more riders from any post head out to wherever the Totem may be located and bring it back to their home post. Once brought to the Rider's post it shall be displayed as a "trophy", an "accomplishment", until another post's rider group visits and retrieves it at the future date.

The Totem has changed post hands 46 times since its origination at Post 21 in McMinnville on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017, and since that day it has been faithfully returned safely to its homeland at Post 21 over 14 times by your American Legion Riders. In its history, the Totem has been pilfered by a Viking Hoard, otherwise known as ALR, Post 83 of the Eugene/Santa Clara area, and 11 times by the Pirates to our North from Post 158 in Tigard, Oregon. Over the past six years the Totem has also been retrieved after being abducted by posts from Vernonia, Portland, Milwaukee, Stayton, and Newberg, all very brave and honorable riders, but none more Galant, then the mighty heroes of ALR Post 21, who will be vigilant in their continued quest to remain victorious in their never-ending search for the American Legion Rider Totem.

***Bill Lindemann, Post 21 - ALR Assistant Director***



**Sons:** The Sons were honored to work together with Unit 21 Auxiliary serving dinner to the National Auxiliary President on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

The month of April is Child Abuse Awareness month, the SAL has adopted Juliette's House as the Sons philanthropic organizations. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> the SAL will be having a fundraiser for Juliette's house following their motorcycle run Following the "Wheels and Spinners" motorcycle run on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Juliette's House. The Sons will be having a brisket dinner fundraiser for Juliette's House. We would appreciate everyone to come out and have a good meal.

***Terry Naig, Commander***

**Chaplain:** To all my vet friends and family as I come to you this month, I wish to let you know that we had one of our Vets to move on to his reward. He had a hard time walking and keeping the fight going on till the Great Commander of us all called him to his reward. **"Frank Bert"** has moved on to his time of rest. He was given the call to his reward on March 7, 2023 and he will be missed.

It's that time of year to place the people that will stand up and help run the post. If you haven't heard the call, please think about becoming part of the Legion Executive Board, we can use your help. The War may be over for us, but we still need to keep working for the Veterans that need us. Stop by and see how Post 21 has done so much. Next month we will install the men and women that have stepped up to help our post to be better than ever.

**Sick call :** please keep the following members in your prayers. Terry Ward in the fight with cancer. Jeanne Clayton is looking forward to surgery to repair a broken wrist. Mike Morris needs your prayers also.

If I may I ask for your prayers as I'm trying to get the VA to give me a **FreeStyle Libre** system for the testing for my diabetes. And if you have even had to get something from the VA you know that it can be a fight. But we all need to stand together in the walk that we take.

In closing I will be praying for all of you. And if you need prayer, please let me know and I will put you on the list.

**Chaplain Thomas Clayton**  
[armynavy6782@gmail.com](mailto:armynavy6782@gmail.com)



The most recent identified POW/MIA.

## World War II

**Army Pvt. Leroy Slenker – 28.** Lost December 1941 when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands. Slenker was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II. Accounted for February 3, 2023.

**Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Edgar Mills – 25.** Lost July 15, 1944 when the B-17G Mills was an armorer gunner on was shot down by enemy aircraft fire. His body was not recovered, and the Germans never reported him as a prisoner of war. Accounted for February 2023.

**U.S. Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. Frack Ferrel – 31.** Lost August 1, 1943 when the B24 Liberator bomber he was on as an engineer was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and crashed during Operation TIDAL WAVE. His remains could not be recovered, and there is no evidence that he was ever a prisoner of war. Accounted for March 8, 2023.

**Army Air Forces 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William Montgomery – 24.** Lost June 2, 1944 when the B-24H Liberator he was piloting was struck by anti-aircraft fire during a bombing raid on a German airfield near Versailles, France. Accounted for January 10, 2023. Announced March 13, 2023.

## Korea

**Army Cpl. Carmen Carillo - 20.** Lost May 17, 1951 during a battle with the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces in Gangwon Hongchun Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered, and there is no evidence that he was ever a prisoner of war. Accounted for February 3, 2023. Announced March 1, 2023.



**Quilts of Valor**  
Quilting to Honor & Comfort

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

The Oath of Enlistment states, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

All enemies, foreign and domestic. These Veterans vowed to lay down their lives for you and me, no questions asked. We cannot judge what being "touched by war" means to a Veteran. It will be different for each one, no matter where or when they served.

Trust that these Veterans have been touched by war. Trust that they will tell you if they do not feel they should receive a Quilt of Valor. Be inclusive, not exclusive, for who today has not been touched by war, veteran or civilian, abroad, or in our own country?

I will always tear up when I think about their words, "this is the first time anyone has thanked me for my services," fifty years after they served. War demons live and remain with Veterans for all of their lives.

Quilts of Valor are groups of volunteers who get together to sew quilts for veterans to say, "Thank you for your service".

The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all service members and veterans with a comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

Then our members award the QOV to the service member or veteran in a group event or privately with family and friends present.

To nominate a veteran, please go online to [WWW.QOVF.ORG](http://WWW.QOVF.ORG) and put in the information for the veteran.

WWII veterans, veterans in Hospice, and medically fragile veterans are on our top priority list.



| Su   | M  | T   | W  | Th        | F  | Sat  |
|--|--|---|--|-----------|--|--|
|  |  |   |  |           |  | <b>1</b><br><a href="#">Cancer Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM  |
| <b>2</b><br><a href="#">Marine Breakfast</a><br>8:00 AM<br><a href="#">Legion Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><a href="#">SONs</a><br>6:30 PM                  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br><a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner</a><br><a href="#">Special - Legion KP</a><br>5:00 PM     | <b>8</b><br><a href="#">Easter Egg Hunt</a><br>12:00 PM  |
| <b>9</b><br><a href="#">EASTER</a><br><a href="#">Legion Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM                      | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br><a href="#">House Committee</a><br>5:00 AM | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br><a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner</a><br><a href="#">Special - Auxiliary KP</a><br>5:00 PM | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>16</b><br><a href="#">Army Breakfast</a><br>8:00 AM<br><a href="#">Legion Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM  | <b>17</b><br><a href="#">Activities Committee</a><br>5:30 PM<br><a href="#">Executive Committee</a><br>6:30 PM | <b>18</b><br><a href="#">Auxiliary</a><br>6:00 PM       | <b>19</b><br><a href="#">General Membership</a><br>6:30 PM   | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner</a><br><a href="#">Special - Sons KP</a><br>5:00 PM      | <b>22</b><br><a href="#">Spinners &amp; Wheels - Juliette's House</a><br>11:30 AM<br><a href="#">Tri-Tip Dinner</a><br>5:00 PM |
| <b>23</b><br><a href="#">Legion Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br><a href="#">Legion Rider Meeting</a><br>7:00 PM | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br><a href="#">Prime Rib Dinner</a><br><a href="#">Special - Riders KP</a><br>5:00 PM    | <b>29</b>  |
| <b>30</b><br><a href="#">Legion Bingo</a><br>1:00 PM   |  |   |  |           |  |  |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Donald Barnett, Mike Billings, Joseph Birch, Jim Black, William Boyce, John Branch, Sam Fields, Michael Gillespie, Ronald Grose, Eldon Hodapp, Robert Laddusaw, Bobby Laron, Brandon Lepkowski, Edward Lisle, Margaret Lutz, Marty Martinsen, Robert McMillan, Michael Sandels, Carlos Neitch, Jerome Paul, William Post, Stephen Randles, Mack Reid, James Shaw, Lonnie Seizer, Eugene Smith, Glenn Smith, Morris Spawn, Lee Vasquez, Robert Wittrock, Michael Whelan, Floyd Zumwalt



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## OFFICERS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander – Juan Palacios  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Vacant  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – Sim Sears  
Historian – Glena Smith  
Service Officer – Carol Doege  
Chaplain – Susan Haley  
Sgt at Arms – Gail Wilson

### Sons of the American Legion

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

### The American Legion Riders

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





American Legion Auxiliary's  
Annual





**Cinco  
de  
Mayo**  
May 5

**\$15 per person**  
**126 Atlantic St. Mac**  
**American Legion Post #21**

**Friday 4:00 to 7:00pm**

**Salsa Verde Enchiladas**  
**Rice / Beans**  
**Chips & Salsa**

Support American Legion Unit 21 Auxiliary and Local Veterans.

**We are on the Web!**

**Visit us at: [Vetsclub.org](http://Vetsclub.org).**

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."