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**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY**

**Commander:** We had our first meeting in a while on 17 June it was nice to see the members that were there. With us now being able to hold our meeting I want to make sure that we get more members involved so please set the date 15 July and plan to attend. At the meeting our members voted to go ahead with replacing the flooring in the lounge area. Also, our First Vice Mr. Robert Berweger has decided that he can no longer hold an office at this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Berweger for his service to the post. Mr. Terry Ward our 2nd vice has agreed to move up to take the 1st vice position. The position of 2nd vice will be filled at a later date.

*Steve Farley, Commander*

**2nd Vice:** Finally, we are again becoming normal. Last month the Post sent a request for assistance on Friday's. Let Gina know if you can help.

Our activities are still dependent on the COVID-19 restrictions. The Activities meetings are still at 5:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All are welcome.

*Terry Ward, 2nd Vice*

**Riders:** Finally, some kind of "normal" coming back to routine. Great to see Post 21 activities awakening. Let us remember traffic is beginning to pick up, we who ride motorcycles need to be more aware of our surroundings and the children who are out there playing and may not be giving 100 % of their attention to what's going on around them. We have some activities as a rider group coming up and look forward to working again with our Families in the Legion. I wish to thank those who have kept the Post going through these times, thank you Bob B. for continuing your love and dedication for the work you put into the Memorial Rose Garden. I am very proud to be a member of American Legion Post 21 and the families that make up our Post, we should all be proud of who we are and our membership.

Riders it's once again time to get back to work and plan activities for the coming year, especially the Scholarship Poker Run. We will need some serious help and planning to make it as successful as it has been in the past. We are only as strong as the weakest link on the chain.

*Terry George, President.*



**Auxiliary:** A note from your favorite Auxiliary Unit!! We will be holding our regular Auxiliary meeting July 21st at 6 p.m. I can't wait to see everyone! I need to send out a special thank you to Paul and Leann Schnell for taking charge of the drive by parade! It is very heartfelt to see our Legion family step up when a member is in need!

I am looking for volunteers to help put the flags on the bridge for the 4th of July. We will be meeting at the post at 5:30 am. Please contact Debra at the post before the 4th if you would like to give her a loving hand! This will be my first time taking care of the flags, so if there is anyone who would like to go over the steps with me on what works best, I would really appreciate it! The Auxiliary was asked to host a BBQ at Lum's Dealership. Thank you, Dan Brown, for doing all the cooking. Thank you to Becky Berweger. Sim and Goya for helping even with the COVID restrictions we had a great time!

I can't wait to get back to normal, hold regular meeting, get out in the community, and most of all help our Veterans. These past few months have been very difficult when you know there is so much that needs to be done, and people are telling you no. I ask everyone to keep our mission, and who we stand for deep in your hearts! There will be a day soon that our American Legion Post and Unit 21 Auxiliary will march the streets again! I miss you all terribly!

*Debra Godwin, President Unit 21 Auxiliary.*



## BINGO IS BACK!

*Bingo at the Legion has re-opened! Bingo is back again every Sunday.*

*Bingo packs start selling at 12:30. First ball will be called at 1:00 pm*

*Both blackouts are over \$200.00.*

*Everyone is welcome.*

*Food and beverages available.*

*Face masks and social distances are required.*



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 Pfc., John Sitarz – 19.** Lost November 3, 1944 when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces in the Hürtgen Forest, Germany. Accounted for May 27, 2020.

**Navy Radioman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Thomas E. Griffin, 20** – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for March 27, 2019. Accounted for April 21, 2020, Announced June 8, 2020.

**Navy Radioman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Irvin Rice, 22** – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for June 12, 2020.

**Navy Seaman 1st Class, Wesley Graham, 21** – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for June 12, 2020.

**Navy Seaman 2st Class, James Flanagan, 22** – Lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941 – USS Oklahoma. Accounted for November 19, 2019. Announced June 12, 2020.

**Marine Corps Pfc. John Fahy – 19.** Lost November 22, 1943 after several days of intense fighting at Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert Islands. Accounted for June 5, 2020.

## Korean War

**Army Cpl., Billie Hash – 18.** Lost December 6, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Accounted for May 17, 2020.

**Army MSgt., James Hart, Jr – 25.** Lost December 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. May 28, 2020.

**Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Anthony Mazzulla – 26.** Lost December 2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. May 28, 2020.

**Army Sgt., Stanley DeWitt – 18.** Lost December 6, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. June 5, 2020.

**Army Cpl., Pete Conley – 19.** Lost December 12, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. June 5, 2020.

**Army Cpl. Francis Rochon – 21.** Lost September 1, 1950 when he was reported missing in action. Accounted for June 18, 2020

**Army M.Sgt. James Quong – 30.** Lost December 12, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. June 18, 2020.



## DPAA Impacted by COVID-19

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the COVID-19 pandemic requires that they take the necessary precautions to prevent and mitigate the impacts of the virus, while ensuring we remain mission ready.

All investigative and recovery missions have been completed or terminated earlier than planned and personnel have returned home. Teams were in Kiribati, the Philippines, Poland and Vietnam. Other than a privately-funded underwater investigation off the coast of Latvia, there are no other field missions across the globe.

All future missions are currently postponed or canceled. Teams that were cancelled were scheduled for missions in Austria, Belgium, Italy, Laos and the United Kingdom. Teams that were postponed are scheduled for missions in Austria, Cambodia, Germany, Guam, Italy, Kuwait, Laos, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Poland, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sweden and Vietnam.

The DPAA announced that despite the challenges imposed in mitigating COVID-19, the DPAA remains committed to accomplish the solemn mission of accounting for our missing service members and civilians from past conflicts and provide answers to their families.

**Chaplain:** I pray that all of our members are in good health at this time. It has been a long time waiting for all things to get better. I'm happy to say that we had a meeting this past week. It was so good to see the members that made it out. I need to say that because of everything going on with the "CORONAVIRUS" I can't make any visits to anyone in the Hosp. But let me know anyway so that I can pray for you. Remember you are important to me. I would like to list our members and family members that we are keeping in prayer.

**Steve Randles' Mother**  
**Mike Morris**  
**Wendy Hyde had foot surgery**  
**Paul Schnell's mother**

Please help pray for all of them. In God's Love,

*Thomas Clayton, Chaplain*



**Jr. Auxiliary:** During the pandemic our Junior Auxiliary Unit have been making ear savers for essential personnel, our post volunteers and best of all our veterans! Over 300 were delivered to McMinnville hospital, 50 to Vineyard Heights veterans, 350 to Lebanon Veterans home which will cover both veterans & every staff member, and over 100 throughout McMinnville & Carlton small businesses. They are currently working on 350 for the Dalles Veterans Home. Each ear saver has "Handmade with Love" on the buttons. They have received \$111.00 in donations to help fund their endeavor and would like to continue! Becky Berweger, Glenna Smith and myself have helped with the sewing. That's 2000 hand sewn buttons while online learning and staying quarantined! I have seen news reports of young people stepping up, but these young ladies went above and beyond their local community to make a difference!

To Lilly & Harley Riha we would like to say, "Thank You for being our Covid-19 Hero's!" You have made your Auxiliary Unit and post proud!

*Jeanne Clayton, Jr. Auxiliary*

#### **Post 21 Legion Riders Awarded Large Rider Charter of the Year for 2019**

During calendar year 2019 McMinnville Legion Riders were recognized by the State American Legion Rider committee as Large Rider Charter of the Year and were presented the award at the June meeting.

To be nominated for Large Charter of the Year consideration is given in a number of categories; paid membership, volunteered hours recorded, supporting the Post and community, monetary donations and miles traveled.

Milwaukie Post 180 has received the Charter for calendar year 2020.

Congratulations to both Riders groups.

*Gale Sears, Department  
ALR Committee Chair*



#### **Your Membership Renewal Begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>**

The 2021 Membership Year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> and our renewal dues remain \$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.

#### **JULY MOMENTS IN HISTORY**

07/01/1863 – Battle of Gettysburg begins.  
07/02/1881 – The Civil rights act is signed into law.  
07/04/1776 – US Declaration of Independence is signed.  
07/04/1959 – A 49<sup>th</sup> star is added to the US flag for Alaska.  
07/04/1960 – A 50<sup>th</sup> star is added to the US flag for Hawaii.  
07/11/1965 – President Eisenhower signed a bill requiring "In God We Trust" to be inscribed on all US Money.  
07/14/1914 – Liquid rocket fuel is patented.  
07/16/1999 – John F. Kennedy, Jr. dies in a plane crash.  
07/20/1969 – Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the moon. "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"  
07/23/1999 – Colonel Eileen Collins becomes the first woman to command a space shuttle.  
07/24/1929 – President Hoover announces the Kellogg-Briand Pact which renounces war. (A lot of good that did.....)  
07/27/1953 – The Korean War Armistice.  
07/28/1914 – World War I began.



#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

##### **Cash Management**

*Post 21 is accepting applications for experienced cash management and QuickBooks personnel.*

*In order to support veterans' outreach, local youth sports programs, Christmas food Donations and educational scholarships, it is imperative that we manage our assets to the fullest extent possible.*

*Experience has proven that without trustworthy, capable cash management and accounting personnel our assets cannot be managed with confidence.*

*Please consider your personal experiences or through known contacts to help us fill these positions. If you are interested, or know someone who is please contact Gale Sears at [searsjng@yahoo.com](mailto:searsjng@yahoo.com)*

*Respectfully,  
Gale Sears, Finance Officer*





## The Worst Naval Disaster in US History The USS Indianapolis

At 12:14 am on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sank in 12 minutes. Of the 1,196 men on board, 300 went down with the ship and the remaining 900 were left floating in shark infested waters with no lifeboats, no food and no water. The ship was never missed, and by the time the survivors were spotted by accident four days later only 316 men were still alive.

The ship's captain, the late Charles Butler McVay III, survived and was court-martialed and convicted of "hazarding his ship by failing to zigzag" despite overwhelming evidence that the Navy had placed the ship in harm's way, despite testimony from the Japanese submarine commander that zigzagging would have made no difference, and despite the fact that, although over 350 navy ships were lost in combat in WWII, McVay was the only captain to be court-martialed. Materials declassified years later add to the evidence that McVay was a scapegoat for the mistakes of others.

A hastily convened closed-door court of inquiry had been convened in Guam on August 13 with the Judge Advocate (prosecutor), Captain William Hilbert, stating that they were "starting the proceedings without having available all the necessary data." Little was done to add to such data prior to the court's decision.

As the first witness, Captain McVay was asked, among other things, whether he had been zigzagging the night the ship was sunk. His answer was simply, "No, sir," but apparently little weight was given to the fact that he was under orders to zigzag at his discretion.

Testimony by survivors that visibility was severely limited the night of the attack, thus explaining Captain McVay's orders to cease zigzagging, was heard but never considered again (either then or at the subsequent court-martial).

The Surface Operations officer at Guam who had sent the *Indianapolis* across the Philippine Sea without a destroyer escort and who was responsible for advising Captain McVay of any perils in his path testified that the danger was "practically negligible." (It is very likely that the Surface Operations officer was indeed aware of the dangers in the path of the *Indianapolis* revealed by the ULTRA code-breaking but not known to the court-martial board. Thus, his testimony that the dangers were "practically negligible" had the self-serving impact of diverting attention from his own culpability for not heeding Captain McVay's request for a destroyer escort.)

The Navy finally had decided on two charges against Captain McVay. There was no evidence to substantiate the first charge which was failure to issue timely orders to abandon ship. The fact

that it was even lodged against him was curious. Well before the trial began, the Navy was aware that the torpedo attack had knocked out the ship's electrical system and that orders to abandon ship could only be shouted by word of mouth in the din and confusion aboard the sinking ship.

The second charge against Captain McVay was that he had hazarded his ship by failing to zigzag in good visibility. Here are the facts which made this charge shamefully unjust.

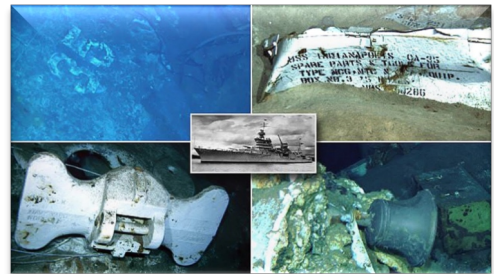
The Navy court-martial found Captain Charles Butler McVay III guilty of hazarding his ship by failure to zigzag in good visibility, thus diverting attention from so many others whose negligence and misjudgments were the real cause of this tragedy, humiliating Captain McVay and damaging his promising naval career beyond repair.

In October 2000, following years of effort by the survivors and their supporters, legislation was passed in Washington expressing the sense of Congress, that Captain McVay's record should now reflect that he is exonerated for the loss of the *Indianapolis* and for the death of her crew who were lost.

It can be stated unequivocally, that by exonerating McVay for the loss of the ship and the lives lost, the Navy Department has at last conceded that he was innocent of any wrong-doing. His exoneration is tantamount to an admission that he should never have been court-martialed in the first place.

The survivors are thankful that the good name of their captain had been cleared.

## More than 72 years after it was sunk, The USS Indianapolis has been found.



In August 2017, researchers announced they had found one of history's most significant—and sought-after—shipwrecks. More than 72 years after it sank in July 1945, the final resting place of *USS Indianapolis* has been discovered in the Pacific Ocean. But the heavy cruiser isn't just a cool maritime find; it's a graveyard.

Previously undiscovered information on the potential location of the wreck from a nearby vessel that saw the ship on the day it went down recently came to light.

The *Indianapolis* was found more than 18,000 feet below the surface. Now, at least, there's one fewer mystery in the tragedy of *USS Indianapolis*. Though the site is now known to the crew of the research crew and the U.S. Navy, it will remain confidential and the remains of the ship will be treated as a war grave, in keeping with U.S. law. One of the researchers said, "When a ship goes down, a little piece of the country goes with it."

# July 2020

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Scott Allen, Bob Allen, Jack Bailey, James Baker, Larry Beaudry, Harley Bowlin, Carol Brown, Teddy Campbell, Leslie Buckner, Sheri Colon, Robert Cox, Donald Cronin, Randy Douglas, Alan French, James Galbreath, Debra Godwin, Richard Gregory, Mindy Grimaldo, Robert Harmon, Edwin Harris, Jack Hathaway, Dorothy Henderson, Steven Hesseling, Bill Hurliman, Gary Jewett, Rory Lay, Matthew Leis, Kathy Lucht, Terry MacLean, Chester McDonough, Richard McJunkin, Vernon Medeiros, Wallace Mekkers, Gene Menke, Richard Mofitt, Jeffrey Monahan, Ursula Niedzialek, Kevin O'Connor, Juan Palacios, Wade Pankey, Christopher Parks, Chuck Pattishall, Bruce Petersen, Armand Pilotte, Phil Prater, Richard Randall, Robert Rapp, Lyman Reed, Teri Richards, Douglas Ridgeway, Kenneth Rogers, Allen Schmidt, Thomas Self, Michael Slipper, Curtis Talmadge, Rudy Taron, Shawn Taylor, Chris Trudo, Austin Warner, Harold Weinrich, Jonni Whitney, Joann Wilgus, Jay Wilson.

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 – Glenna Smith  
Treasurer – Becky Berweger  
Secretary – Tracy Wittrock  
Chaplain – Jeanne Clayton  
Historian – Goya Hernandez  
Sgt at Arms – BJ Wilgus  
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 – Jerry George  
Asst. Director – Paul Schnell  
Secretary – Leanne Schnell



Arrowhead Acres  
122345 NE 152 Avenue.  
Brush Prairie, WA 98606

**VOLCANO RIDGE**  
*Mounted Archers*

## **VOLCANO RIDGE MOUNTED ARCHERS AMERICA'S WARRIOR PROJECT**

Giving back to our US Veterans through our exclusive Americas Warrior Project is a heartfelt honor we take seriously.

A heart felt thank you to each person in uniform that has served or is currently serving this mighty America. Thank you for being our watchmen, and for your selfless service and sacrifice to this country we are so blessed to call our home. Your actions ensure we can live in peace.

**Veterans** you are invited to join us for 2 nights & 3 days for "Americas Warrior Project."

**July 10-12, 2020** *(No-charge to U.S. Veteran)*

**August 7-9, 2020** *(No-charge to U.S. Veteran)*

You will be provided with a horse, archery equipment and gear, hearty meals, hot showers, roaring fires, live entertainment and warm, sturdy cabins to be your home away from home.

This program is currently the only organization, world-wide, that offers what we teach and share through Mounted Archery.

*Brian Parr*  
503 - 476-7013

Check them out on Facebook or for more information go to  
[volcanoridgemountedarchers.org](http://volcanoridgemountedarchers.org).

*We're on the Web!*  
*Visit us at:*  
**Vetsclub21.org**